

INSIGHTS

The Magazine for Montgomery College Alumni and Friends • Fall 2006

ALYSON

ALYSON PALMER '80

RULES



\$3 MILLION GIFT BENEFITS THE ARTS AT MC PG.5

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EXHIBITS

Closing in January

Faculty Works: The Annual Faculty Exhibition Now Through January 27

Gallery of the Pavilion of Fine Arts,
Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. 301-650-1368.

Closing in February

Annual Juried Student Exhibition Now Through February 4

Gudelsky Gallery and Auxiliary Gallery, School of
Art and Design, 10500 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring.
301-649-4454.

"Vintage Krueger and the Middle North"

New Paintings by David Krueger January 29–February 23

Art Gallery, second floor of the Paul Peck
Art Building, Rockville Campus. 301-279-5115.

Closing in March

Brubaker Collection:

African Art from the Continent and Diaspora February 5–March 10

Gallery of the Pavilion of Fine Arts,
Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. 301-650-1368.

April

Artist: R. L. Croft

April 2–29

Gudelsky Gallery and Auxiliary Gallery, School of
Art and Design, 10500 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring.
301-649-4454.

MUSIC

March

Music Scholarship Gala Concert Featuring Alvin Trask and Friends Friday, March 23, 8 p.m.

Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center,
Rockville Campus. \$10 suggested donation.

April

MC Composers Concert

Featuring Works by MC Students and Faculty Thursday, April 5, 8 p.m.

Music Recital Hall, Rockville Campus.

MC Chamber Singers Molly Donnelly, Conductor

Friday, April 27, 8 p.m.

Music Recital Hall, Rockville Campus.

PERFORMANCES

January



Photo courtesy Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center

Jane Eyre

Thursday, January 18, 8 p.m.

After an acclaimed run in London's West End,
The Acting Company, an award-winning touring
repertory of young actors and teaching artists,
presents Polly Teale's adaptation of Charlotte
Bronte's novel. Tickets \$30. Robert E. Parilla
Performing Arts Center, Rockville Campus.
301-279-5301.



Photo courtesy Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center

Le Nozze Di Figaro (The Marriage of Figaro) Saturday, January 27, 8 p.m.

Founded in 1996 by Ivan Kyurkchiev, the Bulgarian
State Opera is one of Europe's leading operatic
companies. This performance is part of their fourth
United States tour. Tickets \$40. Robert E. Parilla
Performing Arts Center, Rockville Campus.
301-279-5301.

March

Cinderella Moscow Festival Ballet Company of 50

Thursday, March 15, 8 p.m.

This dance company features principal dancers
from across Russia. They will perform the fully
staged, full-length production of Cinderella.
Tickets \$45. Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts
Center, Rockville Campus. 301-279-5301.

April



Photo courtesy Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center

Spring Dance Concert

Friday and Saturday, April 27 and 28, 8 p.m. Sunday, April 29, 2 p.m.

Original dance works by students and faculty are
featured in this diverse showcase of ballet, jazz,
and tap. Tickets are \$10 regular, \$8 for Alumni
Association members. Robert E. Parilla Performing
Arts Center, Rockville Campus. 301-279-5301.

EVENTS

President's Retirement Banquet Wednesday, April 12

Montgomery College will celebrate Dr. Charlene
Nunley's 28 years of service to the College.
Bethesda North Marriott Conference Center.
301-610-4006.

Alumni Awards Dinner Thursday, April 20

The Alumni Association celebrates the achieve-
ments of past students. We will recognize
Milton F. Clogg Outstanding Alumni Achievement
Awardees and welcome new inductees to the
MC Athletic Hall of Fame. Theatre Arts Arena,
Rockville Campus. 301-279-5378.

*For a complete calendar of upcoming events,
visit www.montgomerycollege.edu and click
on Calendar of Events.*

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A Message from the President of the Alumni Association



Remember the old warning that something you did would be put in your permanent record? Colleges really do keep permanent records, even decades after you've left school. And they need to protect those permanent records more carefully than ever. One way Montgomery College is doing that is to change to a new student identification code that reduces its use of Social Security numbers. If you notice this change at all, it should be in small ways. Alumni Association members who use their borrowing privileges at the College libraries next year will need to obtain a membership card with their new ID code. And if you want to activate your user account on the College's secure Web site MyMC, you may need your new ID to do that. Otherwise, this step to protect your identity should happen behind the scenes. If you have questions about your new ID, just contact the Alumni Office.

A few months ago, I predicted (correctly) that MC would top its own past successes by throwing a memorable party to mark its 60th anniversary. I was proud to be a part of that October celebration, presenting the 2006 Sonny Clogg Outstanding Alumni Achievement Awards to two MC stars: NIH researcher Juan Mendoza '03, who recently joined our Alumni Association's Board of Governors; and Alyson Palmer '80, about whom you'll read more in this issue. Dr. Tom Walker '57 was on hand to induct four new members into MC's Athletic Hall of Fame: Rudy Meredith '88, Jack Curling '68, Bill Goodman '63, and Ted Lenesi, who paid a moving tribute to the College—bringing along his 1955 diploma to show what he credited with starting him on a successful business career.

Speaking of athletics, I have to add a personal aside to an item in this issue. When I had a job on the Takoma Park Campus in the early 1970s, my boss was the late Joseph Doyle, dean of students. Dean Doyle's son Tom attended MC in the 1980s, and now he is owner of an ABA basketball team, the Maryland Nighthawks, which plays its home games at the Rockville Campus. It's good to see the MC connection continue to another generation.

You might not notice it otherwise, but three articles in this issue have something in common: student authors (or, as we like to think of them, future alumni). David Foote '07, who prepares our monthly alumni e-newsletter; Robin Hilmantel, an MC intern last summer, visiting from the University of North Carolina; and Claire Satter, a 2006 graduate of MC's Gateway to College program—each contributed to this magazine. Their work is a reminder of the tremendous potential MC can bring out in students—and of the need to enable as many students as possible to realize their own potential at MC. The Alumni Association supports the College through fundraising and scholarship programs, but its efforts are only as good as your participation. So as you make your year-end giving plans, I hope you'll remember that a gift to MC will help change the lives of even more of our future fellow alumni.

Robert J. Hydorn '71
Alumni Association President

A New President for Montgomery College...

As we go to press, Montgomery College is in its final stages of its nationwide presidential search. Please visit www.montgomerycollege.edu and click on the "Presidential Search" button for an update.

BY DAVID FOOTE

ALYSON RULES



Alyson Palmer (center) has been one-third of the feminist pop/rock trio BETTY for more than 20 years—a remarkable feat for any band. “From the minute Alyson stepped out of her car to audition with my sister and me,” says bandmate Amy Ziff (left), “I knew we were in trouble! She is my best friend and my artistic-life-long partner.” Palmer’s accomplishment as a musician was shaped by her experiences at Montgomery College.

Alyson Palmer '80 and Tony Salvatore '81 had lived in their Big Apple apartment for 17 years when a developer bought the building and kicked them out. Most New Yorkers would have been content to negotiate a buyout to pay for a new home, but Palmer opted for a more public financing plan.

She became a contestant on *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*.

That move—she took home \$50,000 from the game show appearance—is hardly surprising to those who have seen Palmer in action. A recognizable figure in Montgomery College,

Rockville Campus activities from 1978 to 1980, Palmer co-chaired the Program Council, or ProCo, performed in the Summer Dinner Theatre program, and occasionally deejayed on the campus radio station. She booked a film series and coffeehouse concerts, helping to bring in acts such as Monarch, Facedancer, and Tommy Keene. “You couldn’t be in the circle of people who were involved with student activities and not know her,” said Steve Simon '81, a student newspaper editor in those days and now the College’s director of communications. “Alyson’s energy was amazing.”

Faculty member Susan Hoffman, now chair of MC’s Speech, Dance, and Theatre Department,

recalls Palmer's stage presence: "Alyson was a wonderful performer.... Along with other productions, I truly enjoyed working with her in *Blithe Spirit* by Noel Coward, when she was Madame Arcadie."

Palmer, who says she was "painfully shy," credits passionate teachers at Montgomery College for her early inspiration. She recalls, in particular, the 1978 Summer Dinner Theatre production of *Godspell* (which cast her alongside another now famous singer, Tori Amos '83). *Godspell* was "an incredible, emotional, and extremely well-cast show that literally changed my life," says Palmer. "Before being cast in that show, I'd never seriously considered a career in theatre or music."

But it was a gig in a campus variety show that sealed her fate. Cast as a backup singer in an act called "Stevie Stud and the Stilettos," Palmer was called to fill in for bass player JJ Schoch '80. "I strapped on JJ's bass, cranked it up, and fell in love," Palmer said. "It was by far the easiest habit I've ever picked up." The chance pairing of Alyson Palmer and the electric bass marked the beginning of her musical career as a bassist and vocalist.

Steve "Stevie Stud" Campanella returned to his day job—with three decades at MC behind him, he's now the master carpenter for the campus's theatre productions—but he remembers Palmer and the rest of the band had so much fun they stuck together. "Since most of our songs were around two minutes, it was a job to learn a full set," Campanella said, "but they put in the work and learned three sets."

In 1981, while still at MC, Palmer answered an ad from sisters Amy and Elizabeth Ziff seeking a bass player. The three women immediately recognized shared interests, and started playing together under the names Quiver and On Beyond Zebra. "She is a hilarious and true friend in the deepest sense of the word and an amazing songwriter, singer, and bassist," said Elizabeth Ziff, reflecting on their 25 years of sharing the stage.

Five years later, the trio tried out a new identity at the birthday party for Dodie Bowers, owner of Washington's 9:30 Club, where Palmer tended bar. Performing as BETTY, their stylistic combination of techno beat, a capella singing, and spoken word found an enthusiastic audience, and their appeal continued as they

relocated to New York. Along the way, BETTY appeared in concerts with Jane Siberry, Living Colour, James Brown, Patti LaBelle, and the B-52s.

BETTY has recorded seven albums so far. Their most recent is the original cast soundtrack for their own off-Broadway autobiographical musical *BETTY RULES!*, directed by Michael Grief, the award-winning director of *Rent*. The play is a sassy, tongue-in-cheek recounting of the band's struggles during their 25 years together. *BETTY RULES!* opened in New York in 2002 and has also played in Washington, D.C. and Chicago to excellent reviews.

Palmer made her first television appearance in 1987 when BETTY was chosen as the house band on the HBO program *Encyclopedia*. The band has since appeared on MTV, the Food Network, Comedy Central, and PBS's *TV411*, in addition to writing the theme for (and making several cameos in) the hit Showtime series *The L Word*, for which Palmer is musical director. BETTY also has a New York cable show called *BETTY: Off the Record*. Palmer has had movie roles in Paramount's *The Out of Towners*, Touchstone Pictures' *It's Pat!*, and Disney's *Life With Mikey*. BETTY songs have been featured on the soundtracks for *The Out of Towners* and Miramax's *The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love*.

Throughout their career, Palmer and BETTY have identified with women's causes. Since 1988, they have supported the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival, a campout in the woods of Michigan that draws thousands of women each year. Palmer has been the musical director for three festival productions, two of them tributes to influential women in the music industry. "Thirty Years of Rock Chix Lix" in 2005 saluted rock-and-roll icons Pat Benatar, Blondie, Melissa Etheridge, Queen Latifah, and others. This year's "Southern Fried Chix Lix" acknowledged "Queens of Country and Soul Sisters from the South." Palmer emceed opening night of this year's festival with her BETTY bandmates.

The band has made other notable appearances through the years, including Eve Ensler's V-Day at Madison Square Garden, with guests Oprah Winfrey, Jane Fonda, and Teri Hatcher. They played to a million people at a pro-choice march

Palmer (shown with guitarist Elizabeth Ziff) got her first taste of the electric bass at the Rockville Campus.



Tony Salvatore and Alyson Palmer are about to become stage parents: Ruby Salvatore Palmer (resting after MC's 60th Anniversary Gala) will soon make her nationwide singing debut on Showtime.

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MC CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

Montgomery College celebrated its 60th anniversary with an October gala at Indian Spring Country Club. The event honored alumni, faculty, staff, and friends who have contributed to the institution's growth and success over the last 60 years. Among the honorees were current and past faculty members Dr. Robert Coley, Dr. Myrna Goldenberg, Jo Anne Hanlon, and Paula Matuskey '67; along with Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award recipients, Athletic Hall of Fame inductees, and community supporters.

Clockwise from top left:

> one MC Athletic Hall of Fame inductee Ted Lenesi '55 held up his Montgomery Junior College diploma, crediting it for his success as a business owner.

> two Chemistry Professor Dr. Carolyn P. Schick celebrated with her parents, Professor Emeritus Irvin Schick (electronics), Bliss '47, and Marjorie Schick.

> three MC President Dr. Charlene Nunley (left) and Trustees Chair Dr. Sylvia Crowder with honorary degree recipient Josh Freeman, president and CEO of Carl M. Freeman Associates.

> four Current students from Takoma Park/Silver Spring, from left: Student Senate president Kemi Onigbinde '07, Honors Society representative Jason Acosta '07, and African Student Association president Funto Oluyede '07.

> five State Senator Patrick J. Hogan (left) and Delegate Henry Heller '62 were honored for their work to ensure increased state funding for community colleges.

STATE OF THE ARTS



“The Cafritz Foundation’s gift will help the new arts center become one of the premier places for arts education in the region.”

— Dr. Brad Stewart
Vice President and Provost
Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus

In September, Montgomery College President Charlene Nunley announced the donation of \$3 million, the largest single contribution that the College has received, by The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation. This gift will go toward equipment, technology, and furnishing for the new state-of-the-art visual arts center, scheduled to open in 2007 at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus.

In honor of the gift, the center will be named The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Art Center. It will be home to Montgomery College arts programs, including the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus’s Department of

Visual Arts, the School of Art and Design at Montgomery College (formerly the Maryland College of Art and Design), and the Montgomery College Arts Institute.

“The Cafritz Foundation’s gift will help the new arts center become one of the premier places for arts education in this region,” said Dr. Brad Stewart, vice president and provost of the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus.

Montgomery College honored The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation for its donation at the College’s 60th Anniversary Gala on October 19.

Maryland Nighthawks team owner Tom Doyle and young fans, joined by "Dunkin," the team mascot.



COURT OF APPEAL

BY ROBIN HILMANTEL

Attorney Tom Doyle '83 first became interested in the Maryland Nighthawks, Montgomery County's own professional basketball team in the upstart, resurrected American Basketball Association (ABA),

through his civil litigation work. At the time, he was representing streetball legend Randy "White Chocolate" Gill and former Washington Wizards guard Lawrence Moten. Both men convinced him of the team's potential and their

commitment to the league. A few months later, Doyle became the team's owner, and recently he was named ABA president.

"I've always had a Robin Hood perspective," he said. After hearing about the team's dire financial troubles, he decided he would help keep the team alive. That was the Nighthawks' first season, and they were playing in Prince George's County. As soon as Doyle signed on to the project, he began planning how to shore up their financial footing. "I realized the only way it was going to survive was to bring it here to Montgomery County," said Doyle. He found the team a new home at the "Knights Arena" at Montgomery College's Rockville Campus, where they finished the 2005-06 season with a record of 25-10.

"I call him Mark Cuban," said Moten, the Nighthawks' vice president of basketball development, likening Doyle to the community-minded owner of the NBA's Dallas Mavericks. "He [Doyle] loves the game, and does whatever he has to do for the team." On occasion, his team contribution has included spending the day as Dunkin', the team mascot. "I would do it more often," said Doyle, "I love that."

Like his NBA equivalent, Doyle is intent on making the team's presence felt in the community—and not just for the success of the franchise. "I'm trying to show my kids that it's not just about making money or having money," Doyle said. "It's about giving back, and who you're helping along the way."

Under Doyle's direction, the Nighthawks sponsor and provide player appearances at charity fundraisers and youth outreach events, including free-throw contests and a Hoops for Homeless tournament. "We tell them it's all about 'believing to achieve' and helping them reach their goals," said Gill. Nighthawks team members appreciate those opportunities to give back: "All [the kids] know is we're professional basketball players, and they're just happy to be around us. But, we're way more happy to be around them," said Moten.

With little free time in his schedule, Doyle has taken on another sports orphan: the new Sports Council of Montgomery County. Motivated by his own experience coaching and attending

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BY CLAIRE SATTER

SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS



The Gateway to College program at Montgomery College serves at-risk youth, 16 to 20 years old, providing students who have stopped attending county high schools with the opportunity to earn a high school diploma, while transitioning to college. Participants can earn both high school and college credits, including the opportunity to pursue an associate's degree. The initiative, supported in part by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is modeled on a program originally launched at Portland Community College in Portland, Oregon. The writer of this piece was the first student in Montgomery College's Gateway program to have earned her high school diploma through this initiative.

In April 2003, I ran away from home. I hated school and my parents and being told what to do. My relationship with my peers was not much better. At 16 years old I found myself sleeping under bridges and in abandoned buildings. I had a false sense of independence, and when I made the decision to return home six months later, I never intended to go back to school. I thought it would be a short transition before I was working and on my own once again.

I worked as many hours as I could, but no one took me as seriously as I was taking myself. I finally decided to return to school—in my case, Bethesda–Chevy Chase High School (BCC). Going back to school was a half-hearted decision, and I soon began skipping classes. I managed to finish one semester but dropped out in the middle of the next, a year and a half away from graduation.

BCC is considered to be a very good school. It offers a full International Baccalaureate (IB) program and Advanced Placement classes that are taught on a college level. Students

in the IB program have very little contact with less talented or motivated students. While this has a very positive effect on those who do well in school, it can be hurtful for those who struggle.

In addition, there were many rules that I perceived as not logical or necessary. It seemed like their enforcement took priority over student/teacher relationships. In fact, it seemed to me that the entire public education system was set up in a way that created a strong “us-against-them” mentality.

The Gateway to College program changed everything for me. The rules were strict, but clear, and although we were warned if we were at risk of losing our scholarship, we were not disciplined by the staff. Our performance was considered our own responsibility.

The teachers were very open, friendly, and easy to trust. (We had their phone numbers and could call them at home.) For the first time, I felt like I was being talked to, as opposed to talked at.

For the first semester in the Gateway Program, we worked in groups (“cohorts”) of 20. We each were there for a different reason, but we all got along. What had the most significant impact on me was not so much receiving a second chance, but getting a better chance. The fact that someone was ready to give *me* money to go to school boosted my self esteem. I felt as though I was recognized for my ability and given an option that I could take or leave. The decision was mine.

On August 17, 2006, I graduated from high school, something that many people predicted would never be possible. I have also completed nearly one year of college. I am looking forward to traveling abroad and taking courses in either London or Toulon, France. I am going to pursue a four-year degree. How could I not when I'm already off to such a good start?

For more information about Gateway to College, visit www.gatewaytocollege.org, or www.montgomerycollege.edu/gatewaytocollege/. You may also contact Amy Crowley, program director at Montgomery College, at 301-610-4052, or e-mail amy.crowley@montgomerycollege.edu.

CLASS NOTES

> **Raymond J. McFadden, Bliss '40**, now retired from Dow Chemical, writes from Sun City West, Ariz.: "I fondly and gratefully remember my experience plus the excellent education." Ray recently shared with us his original lecture notes and assignments from the Bliss Electrical School.

> **William P. Murdock '51** retired from IBM after 39 years, and now lives in Midlothian, Va., "enjoying hunting, fishing, bowling, and antique cars," in addition to spending the summer at Smith Mountain Lake.

> **Margaret Marino Shaffer '60** is on the IT team at Northern Virginia Community College, Manassas Campus. She is an active member of the 99s, the International Organization of Women Pilots, and has flown in all-women air races from coast to coast.

> **James Mead '66** served for four years in the Navy Special Forces and fought in Vietnam. He later earned a B.S. from the University of Maryland and an M.A. from Western Maryland College. From 1972 to 1997, he taught physical education for Montgomery County Public Schools. Now retired, he lives in Phoenix, Ariz.

> **Mary Jane Dempsey '73** worked for the state of North Carolina as the program supervisor for the Guardian ad Litem program in Duplin and Samson counties until her retirement, and is still volunteering for the program. She was recognized by the state for outstanding volunteer service in Duplin County.

> **Jeffrey Reiter '73** earned a B.A. and an M.A. from the University of Northern Colorado. He retired in 2004 after spending 26 years as a library media specialist with Eagle County School District in Vail, Colo.

> **Sarah M. Read '75** worked in a doctor's office in Rockville until her retirement in 1994. She moved back to her home state of Maine in 2003, to "a greatly improved quality of life."



By permission of Randolph Wolfson

> **Randolph Wolfson '75**, who was Takoma Park student president during his time at MC, was a candidate for judgeship in Arizona. Wolfson recently filed a court

challenge to Arizona judicial ethics rules constraining speech by judicial candidates. He runs his own law practice, the Wolfson Law Center.

> **Kyra Gaunt '81** recently published her first book, *The Games Black Girls Play: Learning the Ropes from Double Dutch to Hip-Hop*. She is a recording artist, singer/songwriter, and associate professor of ethnomusicology, and is currently living in Brooklyn, N.Y.

> **Michael E. Jackson '81** works as the director of bicycle and pedestrian access at the Maryland Department of Transportation. In March, he traveled to Cape Town, South Africa, to speak at the Velo Mondial Conference regarding his work in promoting bicycle transportation in Maryland.



Photo by Kurt Markus

> **Tori Amos '83** has released *A Piano: The Collection*, a compilation of classics, rarities, b-sides, and unreleased songs. She is also judging the first ever RAINN Art and Poetry Contest.

> **Kevin Kimura '86** worked for a nonprofit organization that provided free legal assistance to the impoverished until starting his own family law oriented legal practice in Hawaii. He reports that **Michael Kalish '87** also worked at the Legal Aid Society for a number of years, and has now begun his own private practice.

> **Phyllis Leins '88** was awarded a lifetime membership in the Society of Roller Skating Teachers of America in 2006.

> **Edwin Vargas '89** earned his B.S. in health care administration from Southern Illinois University in 1989 and now works as command and equipment manager at the Naval Hospital in Cherry Point, N.C.

> **John Kaleo '91**, a former star quarterback at MC, began his arena football quarterback career in 1993. He has played for 10 teams, most recently the Columbus Destroyers, and has passed for 30,013 yards and 502 touchdowns.

> **Rebecca Borman '92** has been a make-up artist for 15 years. She was recognized with an Emmy for outstanding make-up on a daytime talk show

for her work on *The View*. She was a contestant on this fall's season of *Survivor*.

> **Terri Kaufman '95** is the communications director at Asbury Services, Inc. in Gaithersburg. She has also led public education campaigns for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and has worked with AARP and the American Occupational Therapy Association.

> **Edward Zacharek '95** has joined the Frederick office of Real Estate Teams LLC.

> **Robert Dyer '96** was a candidate for the Maryland House of Delegates in District 16 in the November 2006 election. He is currently residing in Bethesda, Md.

> **Tim Hamulack '96** made his major league pitching debut for the New York Mets in 2005.

> **Iris Young Zimmerman '97** is currently working as an administrative assistant for a funeral home in Lake Worth, Fla., where she lives with her husband and adopted son.

> **Tracey Hooks '98** was a candidate for the Montgomery Village Foundation Board of Directors, in addition to serving on the NAACP Parent Council and citizen's advisory board for the 6th District Police. She is also the owner and director of TLCH Family Day Care.

> **Julian Tait '98** is working as a commercial investment specialist at CapStar Commercial Realty of Rockville.

> **Scott Dyer '99** works as assistant to Maryland's Deputy Secretary of Transportation. He also is serving in an at-large seat on the Montgomery County Republican Central Committee.

> **Mark Namdar '00** became the general manager of the Sheraton Hotel in Rockville.

> **Samuel Quarcoo '00** earned a B.S. in communications from Johns Hopkins in 2004. He is pursuing a graduate degree in teaching at Trinity University.

> **Caroline Wilson '01** received a B.G.S. from Wichita State University in 2003. She currently resides in Wichita, Kan.

> **Heidi York '01** received an M.A. in experimental psychology from Towson University, becoming

CLASS NOTES

the first student from the Montgomery Scholars program to earn a postgraduate degree. While there, she was president of the Psychology Postgraduate Students' Association and was awarded the Academic Affairs Leadership Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year Award.

> **Christie Parrish '02** is working as a manager of the Creative Solutions Group for the Corporate Executive Board in Washington, D.C.

> **Carlene Presbury '02** earned a B.S.W. in 2004 and an M.S.W. this year from the University of Maryland, Baltimore. She currently works for the Prince George's County Department of Social Service as a social worker/CPS sex abuse investigator. She resides in Silver Spring, Md.

> **Brandon Scivolette '02** is the president and founder of Pacific West Moving LLC, Interesting Proposals, and YGG Investment Fund, as well as AS Acquisitions LLC and the non-profit group We Are Here.

> **Darryl Toquinto '02** has been deployed in both Iraq and Afghanistan as a Marine. He earned a Purple Heart after being shot in Afghanistan. He now resides in Columbia, S.C.

> **Jainaba Ceesay '04** is currently working as a banking officer at BB&T.

MC Alumni Earn Academic Awards at Shady Grove

Among the transfer students recently receiving academic achievement awards from the University of Maryland were these MC alumni who continued their studies at the Universities at Shady Grove center in Montgomery County:

Towson University

Ashlie Grasso '04, elementary and special education

University of Maryland, Baltimore

Douglas La Tourette, School of Nursing

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Jeny Carrasco '03, information systems

Becky Wedemeyer '04, psychology
Paul Listrani '01, biological science

University of Maryland, Eastern Shore

Maria E. Tondo '04, hotel and restaurant management

University of Maryland University College

Wanessa Alves '04, business administration
Isabelle Doucet '01, information systems management

University of Maryland, College Park

Adina Obstfeld '04, international business
Nathalie Orellana '01, marketing

Joey Larman '04, University of Maryland, Robert H. Smith School of Business, was awarded the Leadership and Service Award from the Universities at Shady Grove.

> **Charles Overly '06** accepted an internship at the investment banking firm Friedman, Billings, Ramsey Group, Inc.'s Arlington headquarters as he prepared to attend Georgetown University this fall. He received the Alumni Association's Transfer Recognition Scholarship.

If you'd like to share your notable accomplishments with your classmates, please send us a note in the enclosed reply envelope. You may also e-mail alumni@montgomerycollege.edu. We will highlight the achievements of former students in future issues.

IN MEMORIAM

The Alumni Association notes the passing of faculty, staff, and alumni of the College.

> **Tibor Gajary** died December 6, 2005. He was a professor of business administration and economics at the Rockville Campus from 1974 to 1993.

> **Frank Brannigan** died January 10, 2006. He was a long-time instructor in the fire sciences program at the Rockville Campus.

> **C. Peter Thomas '90** died May 3, 2006. His work as a sound engineer for movies and television included *Armageddon*, *The Coral Reef*, *Gods and Generals*, *The West Wing*, *The Wire*, and *The District*.

> **Richard Gallo '80** died May 8, 2006. He worked as a property manager and real estate agent.

> **Dr. Michael A. "Mickie" Carlson** died May 26, 2006. She was dean of student development at the Takoma Park Campus from 1995 to 2003.

> **Joyce Gray** died May 30, 2006. She was an administrative aide in the College's Office of Information Technology.

> **Devereux Saller, Bliss '41**, died June 1, 2006. After serving in World War II as an electrician's mate in the U.S. Navy Seabees, he became a specialist in fire alarm and intercom systems in the Philadelphia area.

> **Jeremy Wechsler '04** died June 26, 2006. He was one of Montgomery County's seven known victims of this summer's heavy storms.

> **John Riley '74** died July 6, 2006. He was an acclaimed musical theater performer who also

worked as a hairdresser and cosmetologist for more than 35 years.

> **James W. Houck, Sr., Bliss '26**, died July 30, 2006, at age 100. After working as an assistant engineer for Potomac Edison and as an equipment buyer for Bendix Radio, he began his own company, JH Electronic Sales, and was active in Maryland's Rotary Clubs.

> **Michael D. Joffe '77** died September 18, 2006. He was a longtime manager of recreation programs for the District of Columbia.

Memorial donations in the name of the deceased may be made to the Montgomery College Foundation. Use the return envelope provided in this magazine, or mail your donation to the MC Foundation, 900 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850.

SHIPMATE FOUND

In 1952, Hugo ("Doc") Dachenhausen and John Gustin graduated from the U.S. Navy's Electrician's Mate training program, which Montgomery Junior College continued when it acquired the Bliss Electrical School. Doc and

Gustin were deployed together from 1952 to 1955 on the U.S.S. Loeser, a destroyer escort responsible for anti-submarine warfare. After their service, they parted ways and lost touch.

This year, Doc, living in Lake Katrine, N.Y., wanted to locate his shipmate. He contacted the Alumni Association, and with its help he found Gustin

living in Maine. The two are catching up on each other's lives since their Navy service a half-century ago.

Doc sent pictures of himself and his Navy classmates at Montgomery Junior College from 1952.

—John Libby



The February 1952 Navy class assembles at MJC. Hugo "Doc" Dachenhausen is in the second row, second from left. John Gustin (front row, far right) and Jack Savio (back row, second from left) would join Doc aboard the U.S.S. Loeser.



Photos courtesy Hugo Dachenhausen

Doc (left) and George Bebee pose with a rear view of MJC's building in the background.

ALYSON RULES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

in Washington and appeared in a Carnegie Hall celebration for composer and lyricist Stephen Sondheim. They've sung the National Anthem at Wrigley Field and played their own song, "It Girl," at a Women's Political Caucus event to announce Senator Hillary Clinton. In their hometown, BETTY has played for Capital Pride Festivals and performed a benefit showing of *BETTY RULES!* for Vote DC. They also have supported fundraisers for Planned Parenthood and the Human Rights Campaign. Through their benefit concerts, the band has helped raise millions of dollars for causes such as equal rights and finding cures for breast cancer and AIDS.

In 1995, BETTY added two members: Mino Gori on drums and Palmer's longtime companion, Tony Salvatore, on guitar. Palmer and Salvatore have collaborated on an array of side projects, including their music production company, a graphic

design service, and an adult-contemporary pop act, Tony & Alyson. They're also working on a CD of songs and stories for kids—a genre called tot rock—under the name Tone Alley. A Tone Alley song, "Sunny Day," featuring vocals by 18-month-old Ruby Salvatore Palmer, will be aired on *The L Word's* next season. Salvatore also plays in The Tony Salvatore Trio, and runs his own record label, Groovedigger.

Palmer is associate producer of Mamapalooza, an international festival celebrating motherhood through music and art. For the 2005 festival, Palmer performed until 10 days before Ruby's arrival, then returned to finish the season after a quick maternity break. (She's planning the same with Ruby's younger sibling, scheduled to debut in February.) She was the event coordinator for this year's New York Mamapalooza Outdoor Extravaganza. "She's a real powerhouse. I feel privileged to have been involved with her," said Joy Rose, executive producer of the festival. Palmer's dedication to public service was recognized recently, when Broadcast Music

International—or BMI—presented her with its Excellence in Career Award for her work with BETTY. This fall, MC's Alumni Association honored her with a Milton F. Clogg Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award. At the award ceremony, she got her chance to do something she's waited 25 years to do. She used her acceptance speech to publicly thank a professor who changed the course of her life—that same Susan Hoffman who directed her in *Blithe Spirit*. "I am so happy about her success with BETTY that I actually cried when I saw her perform in *BETTY RULES*," said Hoffman.

Through it all, Palmer has managed to not only make a strong impression on women's music, but satisfy herself as well. "The only career goal I ever had was to be happy and have no regrets," she says. "I have been extremely fortunate to have achieved that goal."

Want to learn more about Alyson Palmer, the band BETTY, or the musical BETTY RULES? Visit www.hellobetty.com.

CHOICE CONVERSATIONS

Jose Hernandez's decision not to drop a class changed his life forever. In the fall of 1999 Jose needed only three more credits to graduate. He had been taking classes at Montgomery College part time for years, while working full time at Chevy Chase Bank, and he was anxious to get his degree.

On advice from his counselor to take an elective with a lab, Jose chose a health course. Why he chose that course, he himself wasn't quite sure, but after attending the first class, he knew without a doubt "it was meant to be."

During the first class introductions, Jose was mesmerized by one student, Patricia Ventura. Jose recalled: "She told the class she was from El Salvador—my homeland—and I knew I wanted to talk with her."

Just a few weeks later, Jose learned that this health class would not meet his graduation requirement. For a brief moment, he considered dropping it, then just as quickly realized he wanted to stay to get to know his classmate better. "I knew there was no way I was going to leave that class," he said, "even though it meant I would have to stay another semester."

Under the guise of needing help with an assignment, Jose called Patricia for the first time. She enthusiastically agreed to help him. Ironically, Jose had already completed the homework assignment; Patricia had not.

Both recall having many long conversations with each other. Jose remembers three- to four-hour phone conversations. Patricia remem-



Jose and Patricia Hernandez now reside in their second home and are anticipating the arrival of their second son.

bers the time they decided to get together to study and ended up talking for five-and-a-half hours.

For Jose, it was love at first sight. When he learned they came from the same country and shared strong Christian beliefs, he knew Patricia was the person he wanted to marry.

The two became engaged, and continued at MC. While she attended part time, Patricia worked full time for Aspen Systems (recently purchased by Lockheed Martin). She needed a few more classes to graduate, so Jose stayed at MC so they could graduate together.

They did enroll in one more course together after the engagement: "Stress Management." Yes, it was a much-needed class, as they were planning their wedding.

master plan for funding the needed maintenance and repair." Now he is exploring the feasibility of building a new sports arena in Montgomery County, and representing the Sports Council in media interviews and at County Council meetings.

Doyle admits his involvement in sports has gone way beyond that of the average soccer Dad or sideline basketball team owner, but looks at it as



Photos courtesy Jose and Patricia Hernandez

It was love at first sight when Jose met Patricia at his health class. The two married in 2002.

While juggling their careers and ministries at their church (Jose had become a youth leader), Jose and Patricia married in 2002. Pooling their savings, they purchased their first home, then faced another big decision: whether Jose should attend university or study for his real estate license.

Talking it through, the couple ultimately decided on the real estate license. While working full time at Chevy Chase Bank, Jose successfully completed the required Realtor coursework and exam, and started working part time at Weichert Realtors.

Just a few years later, Jose and Patricia Hernandez now reside in their second home, and are anticipating the arrival of their second son in January. Patricia is able to stay at home with their children. And both of them agree: life is all about making the right choices.

—Jessica Warnick

COURT OF APPEAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

soccer and lacrosse games for his two boys, Doyle saw the failing condition of sports and recreation facilities countywide. "Anyone can see how over-used the fields are," said Doyle. "The county has more than 200,000 participants each year and no

a healthy obsession. "People that knew me [in high school] knew how fanatical I was about playing basketball, so now here I am," Doyle said. "Some things never change."

For more information on the Nighthawks and for this season's schedule of Nighthawks games at MC-Rockville, visit www.marylandnighthawks.com.

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**Deceased*

Joseph T. Doyle Memorial Endowed Scholarship

Joseph T. Doyle



Photo from the 1988 MJC Yearbook, The Shield

"One of the things that I'll always remember is that my father was at every single sporting event I ever did—from the time I first played [as a kid] to the time after college when I did power lifting, and he used to come and watch."

—Tom Doyle '83

Tom Doyle credits his father for cultivating his love of sports—a passion that led the Montgomery County attorney to become an owner of the Maryland Nighthawks basketball team (see page 6). To preserve his father's memory, he established the Joseph T. Doyle Memorial Scholarship.

Joseph Doyle was dean of students at Montgomery College's Takoma Park Campus (now the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus) for more than 20 years. Now, each year, Tom Doyle and his family select a student attending that campus as a scholarship recipient. The most recent Doyle Scholarship winner was affiliated with the Nighthawks. "He started interning with the Nighthawks," Tom said. "He's just a terrific kid."

For information about the Joseph Thomas Doyle Memorial Endowed Scholarship, or for information about creating or contributing to a scholarship fund, please contact Kayran Moore at 301-251-7493 or email: kayran.moore@montgomerycollege.edu.



**Montgomery College
Alumni Association**
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