

# INSIGHTS

Montgomery College Alumni and Friends Magazine • Spring 2005

GENTLE

USA BUNNAG '90

DENTISTRY



# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

## JUNE

### Saturday 4

#### ARCHAEOLOGY IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Dr. Mary Gallagher and Dr. Eugenia Robinson provide a hands-on look at archaeological research. This continuing education course is available free to Alumni Association members.

*Limited availability. Members—watch your mail for more details! To register, call 301-279-5378.*

### Monday 6

#### RECENT ART FROM MONTGOMERY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The art exhibition runs through June 30.

*6 p.m. Opening reception in the gallery of the Paul Peck Art Building, Rockville Campus, June 6. Free. For information, call 301-279-5115.*

### Friday 17

#### "ANNIE GET YOUR GUN"

Summer Dinner Theatre offers a special Alumni Night on opening night!

*6:30 p.m., Rockville Campus Theatre Arts Arena. Additional performances June 18, 24, 25, and 26 (matinee), July 1, and 2. Adults \$32.95; 10 percent off with your Alumni Association membership card. For ticket information, call 301-251-7676.*

## JULY

### Tuesday 5–Friday 8

#### CHAUTAUQUA

Historical presentations by scholars representing photographer Margaret Bourke-White, author

George Orwell, Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, and President Abraham Lincoln.

*7 p.m. each evening, Germantown Campus. For information, call 301-353-7746.*

### Friday 15

#### "THE MUSIC MAN"

Summer Dinner Theatre offers a special Alumni Night on opening night!

*6:30 p.m., Rockville Campus Theatre Arts Arena. Additional performances July 16, 22, 23, 24 (matinee), 29, 30, and 31 (matinee). Adults \$32.95; 10 percent off any show with your Alumni Association membership card. For ticket information, call 301-251-7676.*

## AUGUST

### Thursday 18–Sunday 21

#### PIANO SALE

Special deals on new and used pianos as the Music Department receives new instruments for the academic year.

*Rockville Campus Music Building. Preview appointments may be scheduled in August. Watch the Alumni Web site for details.*

## SEPTEMBER

### Monday 12

#### MONTGOMERY COLLEGE FOUNDATION 20TH ANNIVERSARY GOLF CLASSIC

This annual event at a Rockville country club benefits the Foundation's scholarship program for Montgomery College students.

*10 a.m., sign-in; noon, shotgun start; 5:45 p.m., dinner. Individuals \$350. Sponsorships available. For information, call 301-279-5378.*

## OCTOBER

### Thursday 27

#### 2005 ART STARS AWARDS

Montgomery College celebrates the revitalization of the Silver Spring Arts and Entertainment District. Proceeds from the event, held at the AFI Silver Theatre, benefit the Montgomery College Arts Institute.

*6:30 p.m., 8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring. For information, call 301-279-5287.*

## NOVEMBER

### Saturday 12

#### NEW YORK THEATRE TRIP

Reserve early to join friends and classmates on this always-sold-out weekend excursion to Broadway! This year's featured shows are *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* and *Spamalot*! Buses depart 8 a.m. from the Rockville Campus. \$585 per person (double occupancy). 301-279-5378.

*For a complete calendar of upcoming events, visit [www.montgomerycollege.edu](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu) and click on Calendar. For more information about performances at the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, visit [www.montgomerycollege.edu/PAC](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/PAC) or call the box office at 301-279-5301.*



## Montgomery College Alumni Association Wine

Choose from an assortment of custom-labeled wines produced by Elk Run Vineyards in Mt. Airy, Md. A portion of the proceeds from each sale go to fund programs and scholarships.

**Knight's Cheer Merlot**

**Shepherd's Blush**

**Germantown Riesling**

**Sonny Clogg Chardonnay**

**Sweet Charlene**

(red dessert wine)

**Sarilla**

(white vin de glace)

A wine tasting event at Elk Run Vineyards will be announced during the summer.

Phone orders: 800-414-2513

Information: [www.montgomerycollege.edu/alumni](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/alumni)



## Show Off Your School

The Campus Bookstores now offer a selection of alumni apparel and merchandise through a link on the Alumni Web page. From polo shirts to desk sets, you can display your Montgomery College connection proudly!

To view featured items, visit the Alumni Web page, [www.montgomerycollege.edu/alumni](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/alumni), and click on "Bookstore."



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Student Spotlight



When a committee met last summer to review nominations for the Sonny Clogg Outstanding Alumni Award, they had no idea that a December tsunami would ravage the coastlines of South Asia. One of the alumni they chose for recognition, Dr. Usa Bunnag '90, has since led medical volunteers on two missions to her native Thailand. Read our cover story about her work and you'll understand the caliber of the alumni we honor with our annual awards.

At a college that draws students from more than 170 nations, others also felt the disaster's effects personally. Student leaders met during the winter break to plan fundraisers for relief programs in countries many of them call home. One of them, Dilini Sumanaweera '05, will continue the effort into the summer through a student government Web site. She shares her thoughts with us in this issue.

Any update on MC's creative spirit must include Alyson Palmer '80, whose musical *Betty Rules* recently finished a sellout Washington run (she nonetheless made a point of arranging for MC student seats) and already plans a return engagement later this year. Alyson is one of many alums who have built their inspirations and passions into uniquely successful careers. You'll meet more of them in this issue as we spotlight past students who have launched their own businesses. We'll also introduce the College's program to train new entrepreneurs.

When Montgomery College employees travel, we encourage them to meet our members along the way. They've turned business trips (and a few vacations) into opportunities to host alumni receptions from Florida to California and beyond. But we're also creating a system of regional ambassadors—members providing local expertise for reunions in places we can't visit regularly. If you'd like to help strengthen your association while meeting other MC alumni in your own corner of the world, send me a note in the enclosed reply envelope and let me know of your interest.

This spring, at the initiative of Amal Fallah '05, we brought together current and former MC engineering majors to develop mentoring opportunities through an engineering chapter of the association. Several student participants came away with prospects for internships, thanks to alums who have established careers in the field. I hope we can do more of that in the years ahead.

I hate to misspell names, but that's what I did last fall to Daphnee Cherubin '03. Since then, Daphnee has launched Van Ministry, a program to extend community access to health screening and referrals, all while completing her second year at Michigan's Andrews University. I'm sure we can expect to hear a lot more about Daphnee in the future.

Montgomery College lost a good friend November 13, with the passing of Arthur Becker. He was not an alumnus, but he had a lasting effect on many of us who are. He donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to the College, as well as a piece of land a mile north of the county courthouse. He liked to tell friends not to buy him birthday gifts, but rather to make contributions to MC's Arthur P. and Miriam G. Becker Endowed Scholarship. That would be a great way for all of us to honor the man who gave us the Rockville Campus.

**John Libby '80**  
**Alumni Association President**

BY DIANE BOSSER

# GENTLE DENTISTRY

**“With fearful but hopeful hearts, we left our lives and loved ones behind to travel half way around the world for an unknown mission.”**

— Usa Bunnag

**H**er digital pictures from northern Thailand resemble scenes out of *National Geographic* or *Conde Nast Traveler*—breathtaking mountain peaks shrouded in mist, lush tropical vegetation, straw-topped huts, and wild pigs by the roadside. Not to be mistaken for an American tourist, Dr. Usa Bunnag '90, a Bethesda dentist, travels with forceps, medications, a supply of toothbrushes, T-shirts, and loads of goodwill—the necessary accoutrements for her missions.

Twice a year, Bunnag leads a team of volunteers who leave behind family, careers, and the comforts of home to bring donated supplies and medical care to people in rural areas of

Thailand. They operate as Smile on Wings, a charity Bunnag established in 2003. “I used to be afraid to fly, but I got over it. Now I want to do good while I can.”

Pointing to one picture, she laughs at the deep ruts carved into the dirt road. “Look! We rode for hours, up 5,000 feet above sea level to the tribal people in the northern villages. Sometimes the only transportation is an elephant—so this was OK.”

On her recent trip in February, Bunnag led the Smile on Wings team to the northern Thai-Myanmar border. Far from the tsunami-scrubbed resort beaches, they treated dozens of patients each day in a makeshift clinic pre-arranged by a local doctor. “Until a few years ago, this was a very dangerous area,” said Bunnag, who brings an interpreter with her to communicate. The region has been disrupted for years by Myanmar’s antigovernment guerrillas, drug smugglers, and Thai military protecting the


country’s autonomy. According to the World Health Organization, they may have as many as one million undocumented migrants living there, many with no access to health services. “In an emergency here,” said Bunnag, “forget it, you just die.”

Before 2002, Bunnag hadn’t been back to Thailand since she was 14, when she was sent to live with her father in the United States. By then, she had spent a lifetime away. She learned English during high school at Montgomery Blair, in Silver Spring, Md., where she graduated with honors. From age 18, she supported herself working odd jobs then, as a dental assistant. She married, studied at Montgomery College, and graduated from Howard University Dental School with honors—while raising three sons.

Bunnag recalls: “I just didn’t sleep a lot then. I would put the kids to bed, sleep a few hours, and study from midnight to 3 a.m. every day. Then get up at 5:30 a.m. and go back to school.



Photos courtesy Usa Bunnag



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**For the future, Usa sees her role changing from the director role to being the facilitator: “I don’t have to be out front. In Thai culture, in fact, my husband commands more respect, and he is able to get things done easier. I don’t think about being the star or running the show, just getting more done.”**

My husband was such a big help. We worked together to achieve this goal. At that time, I didn’t know if it was going to happen because it took so long. Financially we were struggling.” When her mother died in Thailand, they had no money to fly her back for the funeral.

When she did eventually return to Thailand, Bunnag realized that as a trained dentist and an American, she had great resources to provide help to those in need there. She started by networking with her dental patients and colleagues, one a former adviser to the Minister of Health in Thailand. Just months later, she had enlisted her first Smile on Wings volunteers and put together the inaugural mission in October 2003.

To date, Smile on Wings has performed five missions, each with a new team of volunteer-professionals who pay many of their own expenses and use vacation leave to be absent from their jobs. “Whenever we return from a mission, the volunteers who went tell others about their experiences, and we always get new people who want to be part of it. That’s good because there’s always a need.”

“When we went for the tsunami relief work in January, we were a group of nine: four doctors, two nurses, two translators (in Thailand), a computer specialist/photographer, and a community outreach coordinator.” Bunnag had assembled the team in a matter of days after hearing about the disaster, no easy task

considering it was just days after Christmas when many doctors’ offices were closed.

The local ABC affiliate, WJLA-TV, picked up the story, aired a piece on the relief mission, and the phone started ringing. Bunnag suddenly found herself in charge of more than 700 pounds of donated medical supplies, toothbrushes, and dental tools, and upwards of \$20,000 in donations that Smile on Wings volunteers had hastily collected from local hospitals, family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers—plus a news crew that would be shadowing the mission.

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Photo courtesy N.J. Express-Times

# BRIGHT IDEAS

BY DIANE BOSSER

**F**act: Family owned and small businesses create more jobs and build wealth faster than any other economic segment in the United States.

Microsoft. McDonald's. Merrill Lynch. America's glamorous mega-corporations often eclipse the 23 million small businesses that the U.S. government says employ more than 99 percent of U.S. workers and power the economy. Amid those millions, you'll find several Montgomery College alumni-entrepreneurs operating various businesses. From cookies and computers to condos, coal, and custom printing, they deserve kudos for their contributions to the economy—and for sharing their advice with future MC entrepreneurs. Here are just a few.



## > Robert "Bob" Kolonia '59

Micro Molding, Inc., MedConnection LLC,  
Cadability LLC  
Phillipsburg, N.J.

**"If you're creative enough, and have a desire to do something, you can make it."**

In 1975, Kolonia invented a better axe, an idea that came to him one day while chopping wood in his back yard. At its peak, his company produced and sold more than 2,000 Chopper1 Axes every day. Distribution was handled through major retailers such as Sears, J.C. Penney, and K-Mart. He and his wife Joan sold the business in 1989, and later repurchased the rights to sell it online. Today, Kolonia (back row, second from left) and family members own or operate: a golf course (Sweet Water Golf Course and Driving Range in Pennsburg, Penn.); plastic injection-mold companies (Micro Molding, Inc., and MedConnection LLC); and a design firm (Cadability LLC) in Phillipsburg, N.J. Bob still holds 14 patents.

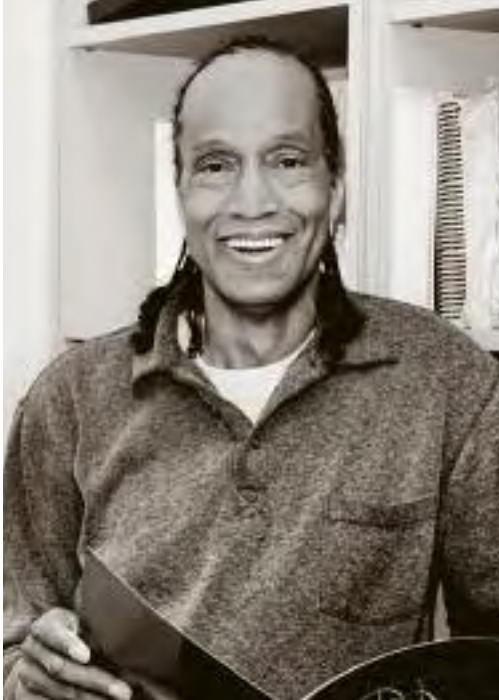


## > Peggy Wight '72

Uncle Ralph's Cookies  
Frederick, Md.

**"Ask questions. When we were starting out, I had to ask a lot of questions, and people were always willing to take the time to show us a better way."**

In 1985, Peggy Wight and husband Ralph started their Uncle Ralph's Not Yet Famous Cookies business from scratch. Encouraged by friends and family, they doctored their favorite cookie recipe, and started selling it "in town." Now operating out of a 22,000-square-foot facility, the Wights' cookie empire sells approximately 16 million cookies and brownies each year, with \$4.5 million in annual sales (2004). Frozen dough accounts for 75 percent of the business, in addition to retail sales and supplying fundraisers. Their cookies are served in gourmet shops, prestigious hotels, and bakeries in a seven-state area. They employ 57 people. "One of the things I'm most proud of is that we have so many longtime employees."



**> Rosco Lockhart '75**

Phoenix Printing  
Rockville, Md.

**"Survival in a competitive business requires figuring out what each customer values most and providing that: quality, service, price—or all three."**

Rosco Lockhart bought his first printing press in 1988, which he set up in a spare bedroom at home. Today, Phoenix Printing, a Rockville-based, full-service printing company, employs 15 people and averages \$1.6 million in annual sales, with a customer base of nearly 1,000 companies. "Printing is a loyalty business. I realized it wasn't enough to be a good printer—I had to know sales, accounting, management, and customer service. Montgomery College helped me with all of that." Lockhart, a high school dropout, calls himself a "worker that owns a business," giving due to his years of on-the-job training and evening courses at MC. The company opened a second location in Washington, D.C., last year, allowing Lockhart to bid on jobs inside the Beltway.



**> Sharrod Robertson '95**

RE/MAX 2000  
Silver Spring, Md.

**"Do your research: Whatever you want to do, find out about your competitors, and the positives and negatives about your industry. Find people who can help you make it happen. If you believe in what you want, don't give up."**

While studying business at MC, Sharrod Robertson got his first job in a bank through a campus employment services office. He transferred to Howard University to complete a finance degree, then worked in the corporate accounting department at Marriott International. Later, he owned a Subway franchise in Rockville, Md. As manager, Robertson worked from 9 a.m. to midnight for two years, until he and his partners sold the business for a 50 percent profit. Currently, Robertson is a real estate broker serving Montgomery and Prince George's counties. "I always wanted my own business but wanted to learn in corporate America first before I ventured out on my own."



**> Roger Lusby, Jr. '55**

Investor  
Naples, Fla.

**"I always made sure I had a good team of CPAs and lawyers on my side, and I only looked for sizeable deals that required minimal investment."**

Roger Lusby recently celebrated a 50th anniversary as an MC Junior College alum (class of 1955). Self-employed since January 1958 to the present, Lusby has been involved in insurance, real estate, construction, and mortgaging. "For my first 15 years in Silver Spring, the name 'Montgomery' helped me in business: I went to Montgomery College; and my partners and I traded as Montgomery Realty, Montgomery Insurance, and Montgomery S&L." His office building in Silver Spring—the Montgomery Building—has won design awards. Since moving to Florida in 1973, Lusby's "southern" ventures include an air-park project in East Naples, Fla.; commodities: coal in Kentucky and timber in Costa Rica; and off-shore banking. He and wife Margot reside in Naples, with no plans for retirement.

# BRIGHT IDEAS

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## > Jonathon Kendall '78

Kendall Design Group LLC/ideaReserve LLC  
Davidsonville, Md.

**"You have to be malleable or you won't make it. One thing I remember from engineering class at MC is Professor O'Brien's favorite adage: 'The only thing constant is change.' I might not use Ohm's Law from Engineering 101 directly in my work, but the concepts I learned at MC—how to think in an engineering way and how to understand the process of physics—have always been valuable."**

After a first attempt at running a new business failed, Jonathon Kendall reconsidered his plans—not that he *would* succeed, but *how* he would succeed. After a self-imposed "apprenticeship" lasting 10 years, followed by two successful mergers in 1988 and 1993, Kendall found himself atop a \$100-million company traded on NASDAQ with 1,000 employees nationwide. Ready to "move it up a notch," Kendall will soon take his current firm ideaReserve LLC forward as Kendall Design Group, specializing in high-level design facilities for educational institutions. "I feel strongly about the benefits of start-ups—the financial reward, flexibility, autonomy, and passion for your career."



## > Fredys Cedillo '02

Estrella  
Frederick, Md.

**"I always wanted to own my own business—it was my American dream. Before I got it started, I took the time to prepare. At Montgomery College, I learned how to write a business plan and how to manage a business."**

At 25, Honduran immigrant Fredys Cedillo owns and operates a successful food market specializing in international products, which opened July 2003 with help from the Center for Entrepreneurship (CFE) in the College's Macklin Business Institute [see story at right]. Until age 13, when his family came to the United States, Cedillo helped in the family's store back home. "They came seeking the American Dream," said Cedillo about his parents, "but when they finally arrived in Montgomery County in 1991, there was no money left to open a market." Using CFE as a resource, Cedillo wrote a business plan, secured funding, and now spends 14 to 15 hours a day at work. "Every hour is worth it," said Cedillo, who works with family members again. He plans to open additional ethnic grocery stores in the future.

## MACKLIN CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**T**he Macklin Center for Entrepreneurship (CFE), an arm of the College's nationally known Macklin Business Institute, brings students together to learn fundamental entrepreneurship concepts and gives them the opportunity to work with successful entrepreneurs in their specific fields to learn the challenges of business creation.

Open to all MC students, the CFE also provides transfer opportunities through a strong relationship with the Dingman Center for Entrepreneurship at the University of Maryland.

As an educational, training, and enterprise resource for the area's business community, the CFE partners with the local business community to provide:

- Conferences on small business planning and creation, economic development, and venture capital
- State-of-the-art resource support for growing companies
- Opportunities for business leaders to mentor students
- Executive-level training for CEOs and their teams

"The D.C. metropolitan area is a hotbed for entrepreneurs, whether focused on technology, biotech, Internet, services, or other industries," states Jonathan P. Shames, Partner of Ernst & Young. "The Macklin Center has provided many entrepreneurs with education, guidance, and advice, and plays an important part in the ecosystem that is available to young companies and their founders to ensure their success and growth."

*For more information on the Macklin Center for Entrepreneurship, please contact Nancy Nuell at 301-251-7958 or visit [www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/macbus](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/macbus).*

—Carrie Hurd



# LIVING HISTORY

BY LARRY MOFFI

In early July, the Germantown Campus will host no less than Abraham Lincoln, Margaret Bourke-White, Benjamin O. Davis, and George Orwell in the 2005 summer Chautauqua, sponsored by the Maryland Humanities Council and Montgomery College.

"If you ever wanted to ask Abraham Lincoln, 'Why didn't you *really* free anybody with the Emancipation Proclamation?' here's your opportunity," says Montgomery College Chautauqua Site Coordinator John Hare.

Of course it won't really be Lincoln, but a rather impressive looking stand-in who will, in the 16th president's own words, address the 2005 Chautauqua theme "Behind the Lines: The Intersection of War and Democracy." Lincoln and each of his fellow luminaries should "have a good bit to say about both war *and* democracy," said Hare, chair of the Germantown English Department.

Montgomery College is one of six Maryland community colleges participating in the touring presentations. This is the seventh year that Germantown will host the event.

The roots of Chautauqua go back to the 1870s on Lake Chautauqua in western New York

State. Initially offering training courses for Sunday school teachers, the three- to seven-day community lectures, held under tents, eventually addressed social, political, and intellectual concerns of the day in rural communities. They also served as ready-made forums for politicians. In his campaigns against Lincoln, William Jennings Bryan is said to have given the same speech at more than 3,000 Chautauquas. The first Chautauquas in Maryland were held at Mountain Lake Park in Garrett County and at Glen Echo Park in Montgomery County in the late 19th century.

The modern Chautauqua was reborn in the mid-1970s as a humanities program, in which scholar-actors assumed the costume and character of historical figures. Chautauquan personalities are chosen by the Humanities Council, as are the annual themes. Each evening's presentation, held under a 400-person tent on the Germantown Campus, follows a strict format beginning at 7 p.m. and includes 10 minutes of theme-appropriate live music by local musicians, a 60- to 90-minute lecture by the historical persona, and 15 to 20 minutes of questions and answers with the speaker in character, followed by the speaker answering questions as herself or himself.

Previous Chautauquas have drawn as many as 800 people to Germantown, including many senior citizens and families.

For organizers Hare and Stephen Poteat (director of Operations and Community Outreach at Germantown), and Senior Administrative Aide Cynthia Ray, Chautauqua is a labor of love. "It's a living memorial to Dale Johnson"—the late Dean of Humanities at Germantown who headed the event until his death in September 2003.

## Chautauqua 2005 Schedule

- July 5** Margaret Bourke-White, pioneer photojournalist who shot the first cover of *Life* magazine
- July 6** George Orwell, British novelist
- July 7** Benjamin O. Davis, Tuskegee Airmen commander and first African-American general in the U.S. Air Force
- July 8** Abraham Lincoln, 16th U.S. President

*Chautauqua 2005 is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact John Hare at 301-353-7756, Cynthia Ray at 301-353-7746, or Steve Poteat at 301-353-7718.*



A Montgomery College Chautauqua traditionally evokes passionate orators from U.S. history, including Abigail Adams ('Creating a New Nation,' 2001); Theodore Roosevelt ('Social Reformers,' 2002); and Thomas Paine ('Let Freedom Ring,' 2003).

# GENTLE DENTISTRY

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"The Thai news wasn't reporting much on the local people who lost everything. Instead, they were focusing on the death toll and the foreigners, so having the TV team with me was a great opportunity to get more help to them—although I didn't know really what to expect there."

When they arrived in Thailand with a loose plan "to help," Bunnag met with an official at the Provincial Public Health Center, who approved her proposal to work at Bang Muang, the largest refugee camp in the area. For seven days straight, the team worked morning to night among the camp's 5,000 survivors, including 300–400 children and 97 orphans, seeing 200 to 300 patients a day.

"I [was] so relieved that we had work to do there." In fact, the amount of work was daunting. In addition to various physical illnesses and injuries, the people suffered serious psychologi-

cal trauma: "It will never be erased from their memories. How can they go through life and not think about the loved ones who were lost and torn from their arms during the disaster?"

Bunnag likes to help in simple ways. In the northern villages, she bought out the local bakery each day, so she could hand out treats for the children. She bought up every handweaving she could find, and she has personally established scholarships for six children—girls who otherwise had zero academic options.

"At the refugee camp in Southern Thailand [the tsunami area], the people need activities while they wait for the government to build houses and bring in basic necessities. So, for example, we bought equipment for the physical therapy people who used to work in the resort areas. Once they had tables and towels, they could work and help

other people with wellness treatments. It's a great feeling to be able to bring the donations we receive directly to the people who need it most."

They also bought four fishing boats, which the fishermen will share until more can be provided, and delivered 18 bicycles for refugee children paid from donations by children at Watkins Mill Elementary School in Montgomery Village, Md. Bunnag's husband, Aurachun, a skilled artisan, will go back next time and teach people how to make knives, a skill they can use for work or just occupy their time.

Jet lag? What jet leg? Bunnag is buoyed up by the potential and the opportunity to do more. "I heard so many sad stories, and I just want to help while I am able to do it. I'm just a dentist, but I have a vision for what I want to do."

## TSUNAMI HITS HOME

*Montgomery College's diverse population includes many students whose homelands were struck by the South Asian tsunami in December. While Usa Bunnag was arranging direct assistance, student leaders were responding to the disaster with fundraising efforts to support relief agencies. Some of those students offer their comments here.*

### Dilini Sumanaweera

*Information Systems major, Rockville Tsunami Relief Committee chair, Rockville Student Senate*



When I heard that a tsunami had hit my homeland Sri Lanka that morning of December 26, I had no idea of the actual devastation that it had caused.

As I watched the news, the death toll kept rising beyond imagination. For several days, I sat in front of the television feeling helpless

not knowing what I could possibly do to help. Seeing videos of my fellow country men, women, and children being swept away by massive waves was heartbreaking.

As the magnitude of the disaster sank in, and as people around the world began to show their generosity through an outpouring of aid, I thought that we should do everything possible to help those who had lost so much. As a member of the Student Senate at Montgomery College, Rockville, I felt that involving the campus in this worthy cause was the best thing to do. And thus, the Rockville Student Senate started its fundraising campaign.

The Rockville Student Senate has set a goal to raise \$100,000 for the Save the Children Foundation to support their efforts with helping children left homeless and orphaned by the tsunami.

As time goes by, it is our hope that the innocent people left devastated by this natural disaster are not forgotten. Reconstruction efforts will take five years to complete. Our duty is to help them reach their goal. Join us to help save the children of the tsunami.

### Isabelle Janvlyn

*Business/Political Science major, Rockville*

Nature unleashed its unprecedented rage in my country, Indonesia, and several other Asian countries last December causing the death of thousands of people. It was very shocking to see such a disaster strike my country. I share my deepest sympathy with the tsunami victims, and hope that they will recover from this calamity soon.

### Joceline Tahardi

*Business major, Rockville*

Until I saw the news, I didn't realize that the impact from the tsunami was so devastating. The damage caused by the tsunami is unimaginable—cars rolled over like small rocks and houses were torn down like small blades of grass. Even though I was not in my home country at that time, the incident really affected my soul and spirit.

*For additional information about the Student Senate's fundraising campaign, please visit [www.mcstudentsenate.org/committees/trc.html](http://www.mcstudentsenate.org/committees/trc.html).*

### > MC, UM Partner in Bioscience Education

Montgomery College President Charlene Nunley and University of Maryland President C.D. Mote, Jr. signed an agreement that will expand opportunities for students in the bioscience field, including the ability to complete a bachelor's degree in life sciences on-site at the College's Germantown Campus.

Under the agreement, the University of Maryland will enable students to take the upper two years of its life sciences baccalaureate degree program at the College's Germantown Campus, after completing the first two years of their coursework as MC students.

### > Wireless Grants

Montgomery College will receive \$406,720 in federal funding to equip two wireless mobile classrooms that will serve its engineering and computer science programs, thanks to the efforts of the Maryland Congressional delegation—led by Senators Barbara Mikulski and Paul Sarbanes, and Congressmen Chris Van Hollen and Albert Wynn—to include the project in the FY 2005 Omnibus Appropriations bill.

The new federal funding will allow the College to transform two conventional classrooms on its Rockville Campus into high-tech laboratories, equipped with banks of notebook computers, printers, storage facilities, software, and related wireless equipment.

### > Construction Management Team Nails Down Big Win



(L-R) Jonathan Fox, Greg Ramirez, Parker Goodfellow, Kara Guthro, and Professor Mario Parcan.

A four-person student construction management team from Montgomery College took the grand championship title at the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) annual Student Construction

Management Competition in Orlando, Fla., in February. MC was the only community college represented at the competition.

The four-person team of Jonathan Fox, Parker Goodfellow, Kara Guthro, and Greg Ramirez also placed second in the construction estimating category. The competition required the students to perform a cost estimate, prepare a project schedule, and develop a safety plan for a specified project.

### > Interior Design Students Win Scholarships



(L-R) Montgomery College interior design students Emilia Lipsman, Chang-Ping Lin, and Jennifer Sparks

Four Montgomery College interior design students received top honors in a scholarship contest sponsored by the Washington, D.C., metropolitan chapter of the Network of Executive Women in Hospitality (NEWH). Student Chang-Ping Lin won first place in the design category and a \$4,000 scholarship.

Students Emilia Lipsman and Jennifer Sparks tied for second place with Svetlana Casey, an MC student who is also enrolled at Marymount University. Second place winners each received \$1,000 scholarships. The awards were presented at the NEWH-DC 2004 Scholarship and Holiday Awards Gala.

### > Montgomery College Television Wins National Telly Awards

Three Montgomery College Television producers—Thomas Denne, Francine Wyron, and Scott Youngblood—recently won Telly Awards, prestigious national awards for excellence in television commercials, videos, and programs.

Producer Thomas Denne's documentary, *Voices from the Tomb*, won two Silver Telly Awards in the history/biography and documentary categories. It also received two Bronze Telly Awards

as finalist in the education and information categories. *Voices from the Tomb* examines the history of the honor guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

Producer Francine Wyron received two Bronze Telly Awards in the public service announcement (PSA) and low budget categories for *Make the Right Choice*, a PSA funded by a grant from the State Highway Administration and the Maryland Highway Safety office. The PSA demonstrates the consequences of choosing to drink and drive.

Producer Scott Youngblood's promotional video for Montgomery College's radiologic technology program received a Bronze Telly Award in the colleges/schools/universities—commercials category.

### > MC-Takoma Park Men's Basketball Team Scores Big in Nationals

The Takoma Park Campus men's basketball team competed in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Division III men's basketball tournament, finishing with a sixth place overall win.

This is the second time the team has won a spot at the national championship. The Takoma Park men's basketball team finished the regular season with a record of 18-12. The Falcons knocked off Maryland's Anne Arundel Community College in the Region XX championship game with a 107-93 win. The team went on to win District VII in a 97-88 game over Oxford College of Emory University (Georgia).

### > Montgomery College Receives Grant to Teach Archaeology to Grade, High School Teachers

Montgomery College was recently awarded a \$30,000 grant to teach grade school and high school teachers how to use archaeology in their classrooms. With the "We the People" grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, archaeologists at the College will be able to hold two summer sessions where teachers get hands-on experiences at dig sites around Maryland.

*For more news about Montgomery College, visit [www.montgomerycollege.edu/news](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/news). Now it's easy to receive MC press releases via e-mail. See the Web site for details.*

—Elizabeth Homan



## Family Affairs

> **C.E. "Corky" Kirk '43** writes, "I always read the 'Class Notes' section first, and was pleased to see Wayne Green's name and comments. To answer his question, 'Am I the only one left?' I hasten to reply, 'Nope, I'm still here!' I too graduated from Bliss Electrical School in 1943 and joined the Submarine Service, flew airplanes, drove Porsches, and became a Ham radio operator. But I have something that he does not: my daughter Christine Kirk graduated from MC in 1969 after winning the title of Miss Montgomery College in 1968 and Miss Maryland runner-up the same year. She married Charles W. Mason—also of MC—and they now live in Glendale, Ca., with two grown sons. Can another alumnus top that?"

> **Joseph Lieberman '62** retired in January 2005 after 38 years as a senior economist with the U.S. Agency for International Development—the organization that operates the U.S. foreign aid program. During his career he worked in 40 countries to improve the income and welfare of the poor. The economics courses he took at MC sparked his interest in international economic development. He went on for a B.S. at the University of Maryland, an M.A. at American University, and Ph.D. coursework at American University. MC is a tradition in the family. His wife, Ann Newlin Lieberman, is a 1985 MC graduate; and his two sons, Matthew and Daniel both attended MC. Daniel was also an adjunct professor at MC's Rockville and German-town campuses.

> **Saul M. Honigsberg '55** became a writer and has a current book out entitled *Reflections of a Lifetime*.

> **John Papanicoas '61** retired after 31 years as a PE teacher, but is still active as a substitute teacher in Montgomery County.



Photo courtesy Consumers Union

> **Dr. R. David Pittle '61** retired as Consumers Union's senior vice president for technical policy in January. Earlier, while serving as one of the original commissioners of the U.S. Consumer Product

Safety Commission, he also served as a Montgomery College Trustee.

> **Duncan Tebow '65** is assistant dean for liberal arts at Northern Virginia Community College.

> **Maria Meredith '69** graduated from both University of Maryland, College Park and Syracuse University. She currently has a federal career in information technology.

> **Torrance Adcock '70** retired from Vitro Laboratories (now part of Rockville's BAE Systems). He remains active with the DAV in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area, serving as the commander of

Texas District 2 and commander of Grand Prairie Chapter 42; and he volunteers at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Dallas. He writes, "I enjoy the connection to my alma mater, Montgomery College-Rockville Campus.... For all veterans, ASAP (always say a prayer)."

> **Renee Zaal '74** is in her 22nd year as a legal secretary.

> **James Bosarge '75** is building a law practice in Birmingham, Ala., focusing on criminal defense and the civil court's guardian ad litem services. He earned his J.D. from the Birmingham School of Law, after receiving bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

> **Meredith Mancini '76** is a professional musician, performing on harp in the Washington, D.C., area.



> **Tim Gardner '77** earned a master's in environmental biology from Hood College, and now is president of Gardner Environmental Services, Inc.

> **Melanie Griffin '78** designed her own major in environmental studies at the University of Maryland, College Park. A lobbyist at Sierra Club on Capitol Hill for 23 years, she is now its national program director.

> **Kathlene Collins '82** after graduating from Catholic University, became one of the three founders of *Inside Higher Ed*.

> **Terence McArdle '82** has released his first CD, *You Better Believe It!*, with his blues band Big Trouble. He also does weddings.



Photo courtesy Terence McArdle

> **Kevin Kimura '86** earned his B.A. and M.A. in English from the University of Hawaii, and got his law degree in 1999. After working for a nonprofit legal services organization, he has opened his own legal practice focusing on family law. He writes: "I credit my criminal justice focus at MC for giving me an interest in the law. I received a good and well-rounded education at MC. Some of my fondest memories are of my days there. Attending MC was the first step toward fulfilling my dream of becoming an attorney."

> **Twanda Epps '88** recently earned her master's degree in human resource development from Towson University.

> **Frances Stanford '93** recently earned an M.B.A. in finance from Hood College.

> **Eija Toivonen-Wood '96** recently earned an M.S.N. from Florida Atlantic University (after a B.S.N. with honors in 2002) and plans to become a gerontological nurse practitioner.



## CLASS NOTES

> **John A. Konkus '97** is executive assistant (and 2004 campaign manager) for Congressman Sherwood Boehlert of New York. He serves on the MC Alumni Association board.

> **Funmilola Oshunleti '98** earned her graduate degree in health information systems. She is a health care vendor consultant in Kansas City, Mo.

> **Nicole Sheahan '98** is senior assistant manager of The Central Park Challenge, a 3K walk, 5K run, and family fun day in New York's Central Park on June 4, supporting YAI/National Institute for People with Disabilities.

> **Elizabeth Boniface '01** earned her M.A. in East Asian studies from Duke University in December, after completing her B.A. in international relations and international business (with a minor in political science and memberships in Phi Beta Kappa and Pi Sigma Alpha thrown in) at Trinity College in 2002. She remembers Dr. Joe Manno, who retired in 2003, as a major influencing factor in her life.

> **Lisa K. Hall '02** is a nurse in the Emergency Department at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital.

*If you'd like to share your notable accomplishments with your classmates, please send us a note in the enclosed reply envelope. We will highlight the achievements of former students in future issues of Insights magazine.*

### Reunions



Photo courtesy Leslie Round

Recent alumni receptions drew (shown above, standing) **Roger Lusby '55**, **Chuck Brown '72**, **Dr. Mary Kay Shartle-Galotto**, **Jane Hermansen** (retired faculty), **Susann Miller** (MC friend and donor), **Jack Galotto**, **Dr. Nancy Weiner** (retired faculty), (seated) **Ken '49** and **Irene Lubold**, and **Margo Lusby** in Naples, Fla.; and (shown at left) **San San Wint Bailey '70**, **Duncan McIntyre '91**, and **Leslie Round '80** in Honolulu.

## IN MEMORIAM

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

> **Elmer W. McPeak '32** died May 26, 2003. He had been a resident of Teaneck, N.J.

> **Clayton R. Hitch '37** died September 22, 2004. He had lived in Culpeper, Va.

> **Dr. Miguel Tejada**, a business and economics professor at the Rockville Campus, died December 2, 2004. He taught at the College since 1994.

> **Herbert T. Fichman** died December 9, 2004. He was an assistant professor of mathematics in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

> **Charles J. Dungee, Sr.** died December 26, 2004. He was an instructional lab supervisor in the Rockville Campus Computer Science Department until his retirement in 1991.

> **Harold M. Messer, Jr.**, director emeritus of personnel, died January 13, 2005. He retired in 1981 after 12 years at the College, during which time he was active in the College and University Personnel Association.

> **Gloria Halpern**, a business and economics professor at the Rockville Campus, died February 11, 2005. She taught accounting for 26 years.

> **William Orie (Bill) Potts** died February 16, 2005. He retired in 1990 after 16 years of teaching and

performing jazz in the Music Department at the Rockville Campus.

> **George W. Eiker '36** died April 11, 2005. He was a resident of Tall Timbers, Md.

> **Howard T. Wickert**, professor emeritus, died April 20, 2005. He taught English at the Rockville Campus from 1968 until his retirement in 1980.

*If you wish to make a donation in memory of the deceased, please make your check payable to the Montgomery College Foundation. You may use the return envelope provided in this magazine, or mail it to the Foundation, 900 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850.*

### Acting on a Leap of Faith

Long before Montgomery College's mission was known as "changing lives," the Bliss Electrical School set the stage for the College—and for Ray Cruet '54.

Born in New York City, Cruet spent most of his childhood in the paradise of the Panama Canal Zone. He'd occasionally return to his birthplace with his father to see a show or the Rockettes. The stage left an indelible impression, which resurfaced during his retirement years.

Cruet's dream was to become an electrician. He secured a job with the Navy in air conditioning mechanics. When he became frustrated with the inability to cut through the "good ol' boy system" to become an electrician, a trigonometry teacher recommended he attend a "very famous old Navy school during World War II—the Bliss Electrical School."

Heeding the advice of that wise educator, Cruet sold all his possessions to migrate to Washington, D.C., in 1954, traveling from the Canal Zone with a future classmate, Richard Mallet. He found a room to rent at 712 Philadelphia Avenue from "three angels"—Mrs. Dicky, Mrs. Ballard, and Miss Walker. He located the Bliss electrical program, which was then being taught under the auspices of Montgomery Junior College (MJC), and enrolled along with Hal Stephen, affectionately known as "Steve." And he got a job as a car hop at the Hot Shoppes, where he met another MJC student, Hans (Eddie) Rachie.

"I was kind of strange looking, with my slide rule hanging from my belt, and a red warm-up jacket for a coat," he said. Not strange enough, though, to keep MJC students Anne Arnold and later Katherine (Katie) Brunstetter from dating him. The MJC and Bliss experience was a rigorous, well-rounded, academic program, but it also provided a family atmosphere.

"We were like brothers at Bliss," Cruet said. "I had the highest regard for Professor Irvin Schick. He was a straight shooter, a great guy, and an honest teacher. He made students understand that if you worked hard and stayed focused, you would meet your goal."

Deciding to take advantage of a "free education" in California, Cruet and Stephen set out for

Santa Monica. They enrolled in UCLA, majoring in engineering. After several jobs, Cruet decided to begin his own fireproofing company. "I made a lot of money, but Uncle Sam caught me," Cruet said. Given the choice to be drafted or enlist in the Army to attend radar school in Texas, he chose the latter. Prior to leaving for a tour of duty in Germany, Cruet married Katie Brunstetter.

After his service in the military, Cruet returned to MJC in 1959. He graduated with an associate's degree and transferred to the University of Maryland's engineering program. Then he was "gainfully employed" at Vitro Laboratories.

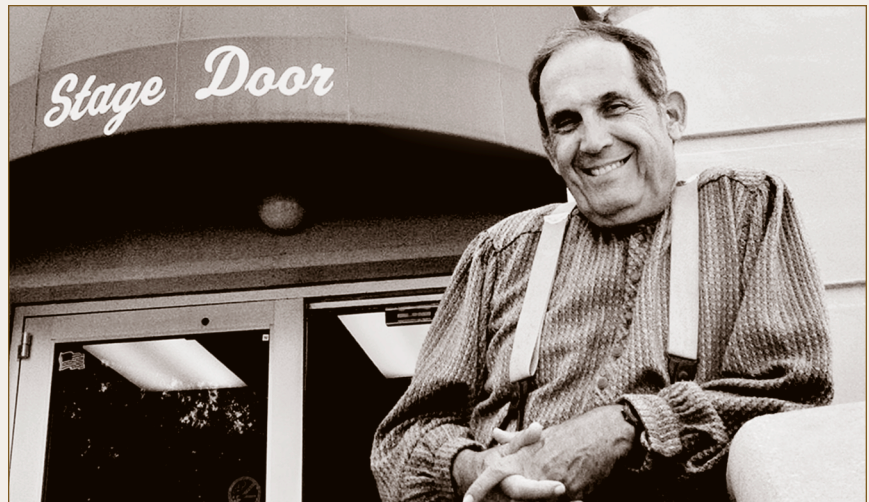
Cruet had a broad career. While working on the Polaris missile program, he decided he no longer wanted to be an engineer. He became senior sales coordinator at Vickers and held a succes-

sion of positions all over the world. He retired as their global communications director.

Retirement brought other changes for Cruet, including a move to Sarasota, Fla., with his second wife Sharon. He made regular appearances on the stage, reconnected with his love for theatre, and developed his acting skills. His first role in the Sarasota Players Theatre's 2001 production of *Cabaret* created a spark that continues to shine. He has appeared in more than 140 performances, including a return to his first stage last fall as *West Side Story*'s Officer Krupke.

Upon learning about the new Cultural Arts Center slated to appear on the Takoma Park Campus in 2008, Cruet exclaimed, "I am writing a one-man play about General Douglas MacArthur. I'd love to perform there!"

—Jessica Warnick



Photos courtesy Ray Cruet



Being surrounded by the "Kit Kat Ladies" (left) during Ray Cruet's first performance as the bartender in *Cabaret* may have provided the inspiration he needed. He took the leap of faith and rediscovered his passion for the theatre. Since then, his acting career has blossomed—he has appeared in more than 140 performances. Earlier this year, he appeared as Deputy Frank (above) in *The Front Page*.

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Molinolo Named to All-USA Academic First Team

To those in the Montgomery College community who know Gabriela Molinolo, it wasn't surprising that the 24-year-old honors student has been recognized for her academic excellence by being named to the First Team of the 2005 All-USA Community and Junior College Academic Team. Only 20 students a year receive this honor, which includes a cash award of \$2,500.

Molinolo's achievement was announced in Boston, Mass., at the April convention of the American Association of Community Colleges. Sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, *USA Today*, and the American Association of Community Colleges, the annual award recognizes a handful of outstanding two-year college students nationwide.

"As educators in the community college environment, we have the great privilege of working with students who have a passion for learning, a desire to succeed, and perhaps most notably, the willingness to give back to the College and the community," said Montgomery College President Charlene R. Nunley, who was on hand for the award ceremony. "Our mission states that we are in the business of changing lives—and that we do—but extraordinary students like Gabby Molinolo remind all of us how the wonderful stories and accomplishments of our students affect us, as well."

Beyond her 4.0 grade point average, Molinolo has demonstrated stand-out leadership in student life and as a community volunteer. She has worked as the assistant to the International Student Coordinators at the College's Rockville Campus and served as president of the Rockville Campus chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. Molinolo was nominated for the prestigious award by her Phi Theta Kappa adviser, Professor Sue Adler.

"I have gotten to know deans, department chairpersons, professors, and counselors," Molinolo said. "It's been an incredible experience. I have advocated for changes in services for international students and for permanent office space for the Honor Society. How can I attend a school that is giving me so much and not give at least a little back? How could I not help someone when it is in my grasp to do so?"



As an All-USA College Academic Team member, Gabriela Molinolo '05 has received national recognition in *USA Today* and a \$2,500 cash reward. She was among just 60 two-year college students recognized for their academic excellence.

Math Professor Debra Poesse was among several faculty and staff who recommended Molinolo for the award, writing: "Gabby is a warm, enthusiastic young woman who skillfully balances a hefty academic load, her work in the International Student Office, and her commitment to service in a wide variety of venues."

Molinolo's parents first brought her to the United States from Buenos Aires, Argentina, when she was five years old. She said she was "raised in a house full of books and knowledge," by parents who encouraged intellectual curiosity and research. "I knew I had excellent people skills, and I wanted to help people," said Molinolo, "but most of all, I enjoyed learning."

After her parents completed their postdoctoral work at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, and she had completed third grade, they returned to Buenos Aires. She excelled in school continually, but quit university at 19 for a full-time job at a fragrance factory.

She also worked as an on-air personality for a national radio show. In 2002, Molinolo came back to the United States permanently with her family and enrolled at Montgomery College.

After graduating this May, Molinolo will attend the prestigious Smith College in Northampton, Mass. Prior to receiving the All-USA Academic Team honor, she learned she had been accepted into Smith's Ada Comstock Scholars program for nontraditional students. The college also awarded her almost \$35,000 toward her education. Molinolo was also named Maryland's 2005 New Century Scholar, for which she will receive a \$2,000 scholarship, presented by the Coca-Cola Foundation and the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. Each state's highest-scoring nominee for the All-USA Academic Team is chosen a New Century Scholar, according to Phi Theta Kappa.

"I hope to excel at Smith, and give as much there as I have given Montgomery College, or more," said Molinolo, who is engaged to Jean-Baptiste Sankara, an MC alumnus and former president of the College's MC International Student Network—a student organization she helped launch.

Molinolo is one of three Maryland community college students named to the All-USA First Team this year. MC had last placed a student on the First Team in 1996, when Maureen Harrigan earned the recognition.

—Diane Bosser and Elizabeth Homan



## A Letter from the Planned Gifts Committee of the Montgomery College Foundation

### Montgomery College...

**T**he name means something different to the each of us. Some of us remember Montgomery College as "that technical school," while others think of the various campuses that are spread throughout the county. While both of these may be true, it is easy to lose focus on what the College means today for our community.

For more than 50 years, Montgomery College has been a dynamic presence in the community, growing and changing with the community. Today, Montgomery College is second in undergraduate student body, only to the University of Maryland. Every year 6,000 students transfer from Montgomery College to colleges and universities throughout the world to continue their studies. Currently, 62 percent of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) graduates have enrolled at Montgomery College.

In her State of the College Address of March 2004, Montgomery College President Dr. Charlene R. Nunley stated, "More of our children, families, and employers will need Montgomery College, but will we be there for them?...Without more resources...we simply will not be able to fully address the demand." This fall, more than 900 students were shut out because they could not enroll in the classes they needed, and more than 1,300 students failed to enroll due to the unavailability of grant and scholarship money.

What would the county do without Montgomery College? Where would these students go? Where would employers find their work-

force? Would MCPS students be able to find the high-quality jobs they need to survive in the new global economy?

The Montgomery College Foundation exists to help provide financial resources to meet the needs of the College and the student body. The Foundation is actively seeking tax-deductible gifts, but we understand that most people cannot afford to make a substantial gift now because they may need the funds for their own retirement and potential medical care. For that reason, the Foundation offers many different programs; some that allow gifts to be made in your memory, and others that allow you to make a current gift while preserving the income from those assets.

Many benefactors of the College have discovered that they can contribute current assets to fund the needs of the College while keeping and possibly enhancing their income from those assets. This is an income that they cannot outlive. Others have used the tax code to garner matching dollars from the IRS and Maryland to make their gift go farther at a minimal cost to their heirs.

As a member of the College community, will you join your fellow community members in helping both yourself and the more than 2,000 students who were denied the opportunity for "endless possibilities?" Will you help provide the resources needed for the current potential student population, so that they have the same opportunity as the hundreds of thousand of students since 1946? To find out how you can help, please contact the **Montgomery College Foundation Planned Gifts Committee** at **301-610-4009**, or write to us at **900 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850**.



**Montgomery College  
Alumni Association**

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