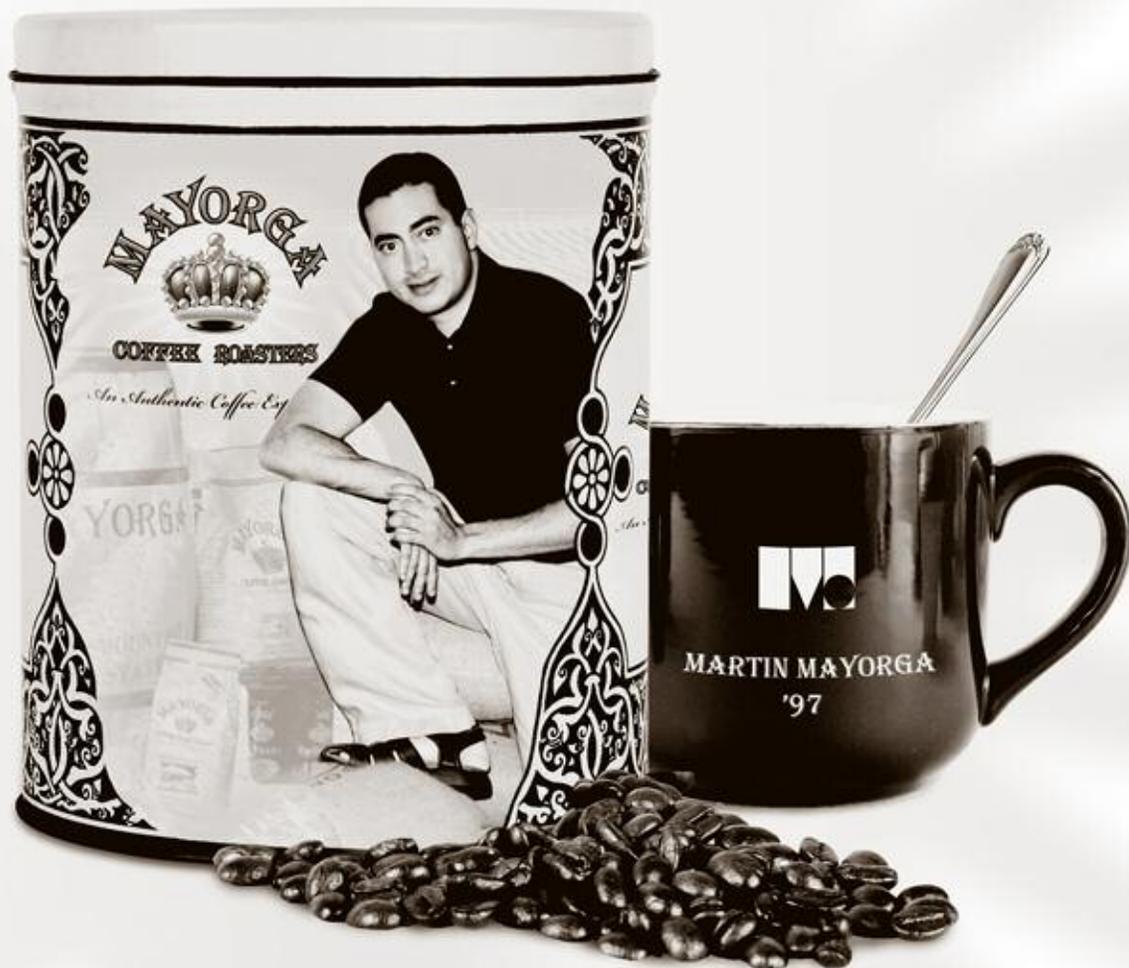


INSIGHTS

The Magazine for Montgomery College Alumni • Spring 2009



GLOBAL PERKS

ON AMERICAN GROUNDS

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PERFORMANCES

July

July 11–12, 17–19, and 24–26

Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, 8 p.m.

Sundays, 2 p.m.

ALL SHOOK UP

Combines Elvis hits with a story that takes place in a Midwest town in the 1950s. A Summer Dinner Theatre 32nd Season Presentation. *Theatre Arts Arena, Rockville Campus.* \$37 adults; \$27 for children 12 and under. *Alumni and Retirees Night (July 17) 10% discount for Alumni Association members.* 240-567-7676. www.montgomerycollege.edu/sdt



Courtesy Summer Dinner Theatre

EVENTS

July

FREE!

Wednesday–Friday, July 8–11, 7 p.m.

CHAUTAUQUA

"Rights and Reformers"—living history portrayals of historic figures. Sponsored by the Maryland Humanities Council. July 8, Woody Guthrie; July 9, Jackie Robinson; July 10, Eleanor Roosevelt. *Outdoor Tent, Germantown Campus.* 240-567-7746. www.montgomerycollege.edu/chautauqua



Courtesy Maryland Humanities Council

October

Saturday, October 17

F. SCOTT FITZGERALD LITERARY CONFERENCE

The Paul Peck Humanities Institute and the F. Scott Fitzgerald Society present the 14th Annual F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in American Literature will be presented to poet, novelist, and essayist Julia Alvarez. *There is a registration fee for the conference, which will include breakfast, lunch, a workshop, panel discussion, reception, and awards ceremony.* 301-309-9461. www.montgomerycollege.edu/potomacreview/fscott/index.htm

EXHIBITS

Through September 6

STUDENT ART EXHIBIT

Artwork by students from the School of Art and Design and the Visual Arts Department at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. *Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus.* 240-567-1368

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



PLAY SO THAT OTHERS CAN LEARN

THE TOM LADD MEMORIAL MONTGOMERY COLLEGE FOUNDATION GOLF CLASSIC

September 21, 2009

Rockville, Maryland

For more information or to make a reservation by phone, call 240-567-5378.

Proceeds benefit the Montgomery College Foundation Scholarship Program.

ARETHA FRANKLIN

Friday, September 11, 2009
8 p.m.

Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus
Performing Arts Center

More details to follow at www.montgomerycollege.edu/pac.

A large black and white portrait of Aretha Franklin, looking slightly to the side. She is wearing a white top with lace-up details. The portrait is set against a light background with a faint circular pattern.

Message from the President of the Alumni Association

INSIGHTS

3

Global Perks
On American
Grounds

4

From Combat
To College

6

If At First You
Don't Succeed

9

Artful Balance

10

Alumni
Chapter News

12

Bliss Beat

12-13

Class Notes

14

In Memoriam

15

MC Kudos

16

Campus Scenes

17

Message from
The President of
Montgomery College



Welcome to the spring 2009 edition of *Insights*. I have just had the honor of inducting all of the new graduates into the Alumni Association. While I know you join me in wishing them continued success, there is something much more tangible that we can continue to do. It is so good to see that alumni are helping today's students hone their competitive edge—by returning to the classroom to offer their perspectives, by creating student internships at their companies, and by looking to Montgomery College as the best source of new talent when a vacancy comes open. We'll share some of their stories in this issue, and I hope they will inspire you to find your own ways to reach back and help some of our more recent students succeed.

In our ongoing effort to involve more past students in our work, I invite you to put on another hat, as a reporter for this magazine. If you've recently been in touch with MC classmates or have seen the accomplishments of your fellow alumni on the job or in the community, then you are the best eyes and ears we could hope to find. Please share your own news as well, by sending us an update for our Class Notes. For more information, or to volunteer as a writer, contact us at alumni@montgomerycollege.edu, or drop us a note using the enclosed envelope.

I'm happy to update a story from our last issue: the national launch of *WaterLife: Where the Rivers Meet the Sea*. This online educational game for fourth- through seventh-graders was created for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) by Professor Deborah Solomon's computer gaming and simulation students. NOAA debuted the game in March, at the annual meeting of the National Science Teachers Association. *WaterLife* is online at <http://games.noaa.gov>.

In the past, a few very special and rare individuals have demonstrated exemplary service and dedication to the Alumni Association and the College, and we have recognized them by making them honorary members of the Alumni Association. I'm pleased to report that one of them now qualifies for regular membership in our Retirees Chapter. Don Rejonis, the College's photographer, is hanging up his camera bag after four decades. Don has provided many of the images you've seen in this magazine, as well as a visual record of MC's major events since the 1970s. While we'll miss his contributions from the staff side, we welcome him as one of the association's newest members.

Finally, in this last issue during my term as your president, I extend thanks to my outstanding fellow board members for their continuing dedication to the College, and for their service to you, our association members. I also want to acknowledge the talent, dedication, and hard work of Alumni Director Jessica Warnick, and staff members John Libby and Bernice Grossman. A long-time reader of *Insights* will spot a familiar face on this page in the fall, as Bob Costello has agreed to return as president for the year ahead. Please show him your support—by participating in our annual elections, by joining us at association events, and by supporting our scholarship efforts to help our current students complete their studies at Montgomery College.

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as your president.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tookie Gentilcore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tookie Gentilcore '94
Alumni Association President

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION **President:** Tookie Gentilcore '94 **Vice President:** Joyce Knight '91 **Secretary:** Connie Tonat, Professor Emerita **Treasurer:** Gabe Derosier '01 **Board of Governors:** Lon Anderson '70, Rosemary Arkoian '05, Robert Costello '63, Susan Fisher '91, Sue Flatow '72, Donald Krueger '63, Carol Leahy '74, Ida McAuliffe '83, Anthony McCann '63, Juan Mendoza '03, James Murdock '94, Julissa Reyes '00, Etienne Takougang '98, Lori Thomas '99, Marvin Thomas '75, Jorge Urrutia '74, Judith Vaughan-Prather '69, Dr. Lucy Vitaliti '77, Stacy Wood '74, Helen Youth, Professor Emerita **Alumni Director:** Jessica L. Warnick '86 **Alumni Coordinator:** John Libby '80 **Alumni Assistant:** Bernice Grossman, Hon. '07.

INSIGHTS **Editorial Staff:** Jill Fitzgerald '83, John Libby '80, Jessica L. Warnick '86 **Contributing Writers:** Jeanne Blackburn '97, Fritz Bodenheimer, Diane Bosser, Elizabeth Homan, Jordan Johnson '10, Marcus Rosano, Josefino Sabio, Helen Youth **Photo Credits:** Photography by Donald Rejonis, unless noted otherwise **Cover:** Photo illustration by Clint Wu **Pages 2 and 3:** Photo illustrations by Clint Wu **Page 4, right:** Courtesy Sarah Vandy '07 **Page 5, top:** Rachael Spiegel **Page 5, bottom:** Marcus Rosano **Page 7:** Marcus Rosano **Page 10, top:** Photos.com **Page 17:** Rachael Spiegel **Design:** Clint Wu **Vice President, Institutional Advancement:** Bruce Berman **Director of Communications:** Brett Eaton *Insights* is produced by the Office of Institutional Advancement. Send all correspondence, general announcements, inquiries, address changes, and wedding and death notices to alumni@montgomerycollege.edu or to *Insights*, MC Alumni Office, 900 Hungerford Drive, Suite 200, Rockville, MD 20850. Visit Montgomery College online at www.montgomerycollege.edu.



Martin Mayorga '97, president and founder of Mayorga Coffee Roasters, savors the aroma of freshly roasted coffee beans.



BY DIANE BOSSER

GLOBAL PERKS ON AMERICAN GROUNDS

Entrepreneur Martin Mayorga '97, founder and president of Mayorga Coffee Roasters, talks about building his business and staying afloat in a competitive coffee market.

While visiting his native Nicaragua nearly 12 years ago, Martin Mayorga made an impulsive offer to help his uncle sell coffee beans in the United States. It made sense to the 20-year-old business student after hearing how unpredictable business was each year. Mayorga's plan was simple: his uncle would ship a container of coffee stateside. He would easily find buyers, and they would split the profits.

"I was a naive kid when I proposed the idea. What did I know?" says Mayorga.

The simple plan worked. Before long, Mayorga quit school at Georgetown University, where he was majoring in international business and finance, and began selling coffee full time. In 1999, he formally established Mayorga Coffee Roasters.

Having lived in Montgomery County since age 10 (his parents fled Nicaragua with him and his three siblings in the 1970s), Mayorga spent his first year out of high school at Montgomery College, basically filling in his schedule with

transfer credits and deciding what to do next. "In high school, I had great SAT scores," says Mayorga, "but terrible grades...Montgomery College helped me gain confidence in my abilities, and realize that I could do well in school. After a year, I transferred to Georgetown."

The self-made coffee entrepreneur now runs a significant Rockville-based corporation without pretension. He relies on a small core of dedicated staff, his family, employees recruited from Montgomery College, and his own business sense.

Although the company's annual sales are not disclosed publicly, Mayorga says it has experienced growth averaging 25 percent per year for the last seven years. In addition to roasting, the company now includes a wholesale operation and a chain of retail cafes throughout the Washington metropolitan area. In total, Mayorga employs nearly 80 people.

Small-Town Appeal

Mayorga customer and Rockville resident Tina Kramer remembers reading a *Washington Post* article about the Mayorga Coffee Roasters factory years ago. At that time, the company was moving from Wilkins Avenue to Southlawn Lane, near her home.

"Being a coffee fanatic, I gave it a try," says Kramer. "I enjoyed my twice-a-month visits to the factory to stock up on different blends—it was a small family operation then, with Mrs. Mayorga working the front desk and her baby playing in a crib next to her. The employees were so proud of their new operation; they'd happily give anybody a tour of the factory."

For some buyers, like Kramer, the Mayorga appeal lies in its direct connection to small farmers and local employees.

"I liked the idea of supporting a local company that supported small family farms in Latin America," says Kramer, "and I soon became hooked on the brand. After all these years, I'm still a fan. It's the only brand I buy."

Fair Trade Suppliers

Mayorga stands behind his suppliers in coffee-producing countries as companies that treat their employees fairly and regard their country's agricultural resources with great respect. "Our bags don't have the label," says Mayorga, "but we are operating under fair trade practices, with fair-minded people. It costs money

Continued on page 8



MC alumna and U.S. Army veteran Sarah Vandy '07 transitioned from soldier to student at Montgomery College.



Vandy's seven years of active military duty gave her unique skills and discipline. At MC, she found like-minded classmates and advising suited to her needs.

BY MARCUS ROSANO

FROM COMBAT TO COLLEGE

Shortly before navigating Montgomery College parking lots and wandering the halls of the Humanities Building, Sarah Vandy '07 and Rebekke Sanchez '08 were United States Army soldiers serving in Iraq.

Vandy, a staff sergeant and Humvee mechanic on vehicle convoys, enlisted in the Army after high school and was immediately deployed to Bosnia. After seven years of active duty—including 15 months in Iraq—Vandy enrolled at Montgomery College and earned a spot in the College's Macklin Business Institute.

"I came into college having already developed a lot of skills and discipline in the military," said Vandy, who has transferred to New York University's Stern School of Business.

But not all returning veterans transition easily to college. MC started Combat to College (C2C) in 2008 to help veterans identify the services and courses that best fit their needs. The program offers counseling, mentoring, academic advising, and a first-year seminar course for veterans, plus open gym hours, assistance in developing veterans clubs, and coordination

with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Vandy believes, "A program like this lets all returning veterans know their options, both at the College and with outside agencies."

The C2C program was developed by College staff and faculty, the National Rehabilitation Hospital, the National Center for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, and the Veterans Administration Medical Center.

"Our goal is to say thank you and create a welcoming environment for all veterans, as

well as to educate our community about the experience of the veteran, in combat and in transition,” said Rose Sachs, C2C coordinator. “Our focus, unlike that of many other programs, is not clinical but rather, adaptive: assisting veterans in adapting their military training and combat experience skills into a successful college experience.”

Sanchez, a combat medic who spent time based in Korea (Camp Casey), Central America (Soto Cano, Honduras), and Iraq’s Camp Taji, was more concerned with the social transition than the academics at college.

“I had taken college credits while in the military, so academically, I wasn’t nervous,” said Sanchez, who recently transferred to the University of Maryland, University College, and currently works in the Financial Office at the Germantown Campus. “I did have a little trouble relating to my classmates as far as

personal experiences go. With a program like C2C, having automatic camaraderie with others who understand your experiences greatly eases the transition.”

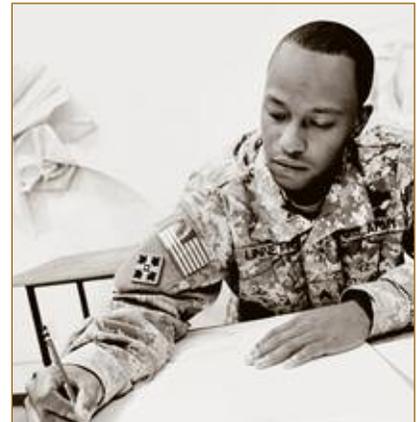
Vandy says the “military culture” that bonds veterans is often lost when they return to civilian life. “It helps to be around people who can get your bad jokes, or make fun of each other, in ways only we can relate to,” she said. “That’s an important bond.”

In addition to the C2C program, the College collaborates with Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the American Council for Education to support wounded warriors seeking a college education. They can enroll in credit or non-credit classes at Montgomery College.

For more information on the C2C program, visit www.montgomerycollege.edu/combat2college.



Through the Germantown Campus veterans club, Rebekke Sanchez '08 enjoyed the camaraderie of fellow student veterans at the College.



College Receives \$100,000 Grant from Wal-Mart Foundation To Assist Veterans

Last fall, the Wal-Mart Foundation awarded Montgomery College a \$100,000 grant to support veterans and veteran programs. The College is one of 10 higher education institutions selected to receive a grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation because of its successful veteran educational assistance programs.

The grant will support the development of new and existing programs and provide resources to assist veterans with access to education, adjustment to civilian life, and success in completing their degrees. Currently, over 360 identified veterans are enrolled in credit classes at Montgomery College.

“This country owes a debt of gratitude to our veterans for their service,” said College President Brian K. Johnson. “With the grant from the Wal-Mart Foundation, the College will be able to further develop our programs for veterans to ensure they get the support they need to attain their educational goals.”



Linda Lotzi '08, a self-described reluctant returning student, earned a degree and a career in the federal government through hard work and the College's Student Employment Services' Workforce Recruitment Program.

BY MARCUS ROSANO

IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED

Giving up has never been part of Linda Lotzi's pedigree, but she admits to throwing in the towel once while studying at Montgomery College. Just a few classes shy of earning her associate's degree in general studies, she hit a roadblock in the form of constants, variables, and coefficients. For many adult college students, math courses are often the most challenging. For Lotzi '08, algebra at the College was no exception.

"I withdrew from that class twice because I just felt like I wouldn't have a chance and it was going to hold me back," Lotzi said from her office at the Defense Logistics Agency in Fort Belvoir, Va. "My son was pushing me to finish up, and it was about five years later before I decided to go back to college."

Not only was Lotzi a single mother with a home and a mortgage, but she also had to cope with a disability. Graduating would be one of life's great challenges, but she couldn't

afford to wait any longer. Lotzi's decision to resume her quest for a college degree was influenced more by her motherly instinct rather than foresight into what would become the nation's worst financial crisis since the Great Depression.

At Montgomery College, students of all ages and levels of education are afforded opportunities to succeed. But according to student development counselor Harry Zarin, it takes much more than the College opening doors, it demands a strong-willed student. And Linda Lotzi was ready to prove herself.

"My personal philosophy when I work with students is that I truly believe that they all can succeed as students and become employable," said Zarin, who along with the late Dr. Harry Hardin, Lotzi credits as her guides and mentors at the Germantown Campus. "Linda needed someone to believe in her and encourage her to believe in herself. She really learned how to succeed by working hard."

When Lotzi decided to return to Montgomery College, she enrolled in only one course: algebra. She spent countless hours working with student tutors in the labs, asked questions after class, and made a concerted effort to show her professors that she was serious about succeeding.

"I was fortunate enough to get Professor Gail South for the class, and her teaching techniques were wonderful," Lotzi said. "I went from not being able to pass, to passing with an A. That gave me a lot of self-esteem."

Today, Lotzi is trying to reinvent a career while staring into the face of a severely weakened economy. The nation's financial woes began to affect people close to her. A lifelong friend was forced to close the doors of his business after 37 years.

"I was seeing it all around me. People are getting laid off, losing their jobs—it's scary," she said. "But I studied for many years at the

College all the while thinking my education would get me somewhere.”

Lotzi spent the early 1990s working as a mail carrier with the U.S. Postal Service before landing a position at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), but was forced to resign to care for her ill mother. By 2006, Lotzi had earned enough credits to be hired as a part-time paraeducator, or teacher’s assistant, for Montgomery County Public Schools.

She felt her education was beginning to pay off, and gained confidence. As the road to graduation from Montgomery College drew closer with every successfully passed class, Lotzi thought about how much she enjoyed her work with the government agencies.

Lotzi turned to Patricia McGlone, the job opportunity coordinator at the Germantown Campus, who suggested she apply for an internship. Through Montgomery College’s

Student Employment Services (SES), Lotzi filled out an internship application for students with disabilities. Initially, she was hesitant to fill out the application for fear the stigma might accompany her to a new office.

SES coordinates the Workforce Recruitment Program (WRP) for students with disabilities

Continued on page 8

INTERN APPEAL

Just 19 and needing a translator, Guatemalan immigrant Jorge Urrutia '74 walked onto the Rockville Campus with nervous jitters and a dream of becoming an engineer. Now, after earning three degrees, including a master’s in public administration from Harvard, and building a multimillion dollar company, Urrutia can tell future MC alumni a thing or two about seizing opportunities.

“I had two objectives: the first was to learn English and the second was to become an engineer,” said Urrutia, the CEO and president of Management Solutions Inc., also known as MSI Universal. “By the time I transferred to University of Maryland [College Park] and years later to Harvard, I realized it was Montgomery College that opened doors, allowing me to become successful.”

Established in 2002, MSI is an engineering, consulting, and construction management firm with clients that include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Today, Urrutia is capitalizing on a valuable business resource: Montgomery College students. Potential clients visiting his Gaithersburg office are greeted by the smiling faces of MSI employees Claudia Rios '06 and Monika Kurosz '08, both continuing their studies at MC. In the past, Urrutia has offered internships to MC engineering students.

“The students have a great deal of enthusiasm and interest,” Urrutia said. “They get very involved ... they look at a set of engineering plans and want to know everything.”



MSI Universal CEO and president Jorge Urrutia '74, pictured with employees Claudia Rios '06 (left) and Monika Kurosz '08, gives back to Montgomery College through student employment and internship opportunities.

At MSI, employees are afforded flexible schedules to attend classes, and Urrutia even picks up the tab for employees who want to attend Montgomery College.

“For the company to be a success, we must reinvest in our employees. It’s good business practice to ensure that employees continue to gain skills,” Urrutia said. “What better institution to get an education than Montgomery College?”

.....

Gincy Stezar '01 earned her physical education degree from the University of Maryland and went to work as a fitness director in NASA’s Greenbelt office. Stezar returned to college after taking time off to raise her family, and enrolled in MC’s physical therapist assistant program. Today, she is a clinic coordinator for National Rehabilitation Hospital’s Regional Rehab, an outpatient center in the Medstar Health System.

“I received a good foundation of knowledge at MC, and our professors were committed to our success,” said Stezar, who continues her affiliation with the College as a clinical instructor for student interns at NRH Regional Rehab. “Upon graduation [from Montgomery College], job opportunities were plentiful.”

.....

Defense Logistics Agency Disability Program manager Eric Spanbauer has interviewed Montgomery College students applying for federal government internships. Spanbauer came away impressed with their preparation, but made a point to tell them that furthering their education should be a top priority.

“These [MC] students were prepared for the interviews, eager to work, and not afraid to try out new avenues,” Spanbauer said. “The more education you can attain, the better the advantages.”

—Marcus Rosano

GLOBAL PERKS

Continued from page 3

to get the fair trade certification—for inspectors to come in. Not everyone can afford that. I have seen how our suppliers operate, and I know they treat their people well. For example, our coffee in Nicaragua has been shade grown for centuries. It just makes sense to treat the environment well—and the families that have been employees for generations.”

Mayorga believes U.S. shoppers are conditioned to react to packaging, regardless of where the goods originate or the quality inside. “It was eye opening to shop in other countries,” he says, “where locally produced goods sit in open bins at markets. Everything’s out there. Here, in the U.S., corporations spend incredible resources on packaging and marketing goods so that the branding appeals to a large audience, whether or not the product is superior.”

According to John McGlothlin, Mayorga’s director of business development, even as the economy shrinks, coffee does not necessarily fluctuate with other economic indicators.

“Coffee demand usually remains consistent,” he says. “Right now, we haven’t seen any falloff. To stay competitive, we are always trying new strategies,” McGlothlin adds. “We have to be creative because we’re smaller. We’re up against some tough competition with pretty big pockets.”

The signature gold and red “crowned” bags of Mayorga Coffee stand alongside national brands on the grocery store shelves of Giant, Sam’s Club, Costco, Bloom, Whole Foods, and Balducci’s. The company also sells coffee products at BWI airport, the National Institutes of Health, Lockheed Martin (Bethesda), and Bowie State University. Each week, the company opens new wholesale accounts.

“We’ve worked very hard over the years to achieve a roast profile for each coffee,” says

Mayorga. The result is more than 35 blends. They also accommodate requests for specialty roasts for large-account retailers. “But,” says Mayorga, “we’re not a discount wholesaler.” He acknowledges that his brand of freshly roasted coffee, among his competitors, costs more than, say, a cup of Folger’s.

Mayorga says the company’s next push will be to reach more people with specialty products, like the teas, syrups, sauces, and smoothies sold in the coffee stores.

The Mayorga team also recognizes the value and importance of consumer education, and will continue conversations on sustainable development, coffee production, customer service, and the Mayorga story through the company Web site.

When asked if he wants to be Starbucks, Mayorga shakes his head. “It’s good where it is now,” he says. “We’ll stay on the East Coast.”

IF AT FIRST YOU DON’T SUCCEED

Continued from page 7

and provides training sessions including resume development, interview skills, and one-on-one coaching to prepare students for their interviews. After the applications are processed, the College hosts four days of on-campus interviews with federal recruiters. Last year, 49 percent of the Montgomery College students who participated were hired by federal agencies for internships. This is more than double the national percentage for all WRP candidates.

WRP is a wonderful program for people with any kind of disability,” Lotzi said. “Sometimes you can see [a person’s disability], sometimes you wouldn’t even know. Realizing your disabilities is the first step to learning to work with them, and then you learn to overcome your disability.”

Filling out the application was one of the best decisions Lotzi ever made. In just a few weeks she received 12 calls from government agencies.

“I went from not being able to pass, to passing with an A. That gave me a lot of self-esteem.”

—Linda Lotzi

The first job that called Lotzi was the Defense Logistics Agency. The travel distance from her home in Germantown to Fort Belvoir was a concern, but the benefits of making the trek for 14 short weeks silenced those thoughts. After some research, Lotzi decided this office was the best fit to offer a wide array of on-the-job education and experience.

Lotzi started her internship in May 2008 and was tasked with setting up files for more than 14,000 law enforcement agencies that received weapons. The files had never been set up at the office, and Lotzi had to start from scratch. It didn’t take long before her coworkers and supervisors noticed her hard work and meticulous attention to detail.

“She has been such a joy and a diligent worker,” said Donna White, Lotzi’s supervisor. “Linda always comes in with a smile and is eager to work.”

Not long into her internship, it became apparent that Lotzi and her new office might just be a perfect match. With Lotzi slated to graduate in the fall 2008 semester, the Defense Logistics Agency asked her to become a full-time employee once her internship was complete.

“The travel was quite a distance, but I was getting to know the people I was working with and I really liked them,” she said. “And I could tell they really liked me. I liked what I was doing. It was great experience. This is what I wanted. It was the chance of a lifetime.”

Today, Linda Lotzi has a degree, great experience, a job with a federal agency, and a budding resume.

“I’ve succeeded in ways I never thought I could,” she says with a smile. “I’ve come a long way. I’ve been through a lot of struggles and I got through them. I’m at a different stage in life now.”



ARTFUL BALANCE

BY DIANE BOSSER

Today, Bobbi Shulman '66 strokes colors onto a canvas in an oils *en plein air* painting excursion. Later, she might pen an article on managing transitions. By evening, she will sit as chair of the Montgomery College Board of Trustees. On any given day, Shulman wears a lot of hats.

An alumna of both Montgomery College and American University, Shulman considers herself a typical MC student. "Growing up, I was a serious student," Shulman says. "I got good grades and worked hard in school. But there was no money for college." As bright-eyed high school graduate Roberta Friedman, she ventured into one of the few paths available to her in Portsmouth, Virginia, in 1962—secretarial school.

Toward the end of secretarial school, recruiters from government agencies came to offer jobs in

Washington. Shulman took a job at the CIA. By 19, she was living alone in Silver Spring, supporting herself entirely on modest administrative wages. After a year of the 9-to-5, she enrolled at Montgomery College.

"I think the tuition then was \$11 per credit hour (or something like \$33 per course)," she says. "I could afford to take only one class at a time."

Shulman started night school at the Takoma Park Campus in 1964; her first class was English 101. She pressed forward each semester, accumulating general education courses, and unable to resist a few of Professor Robert Cohen's art courses.

Shulman married and moved to Rockville, continuing to work full time and take evening courses at the Rockville Campus. Eventually, she accrued enough credits to transfer to the University of Maryland. Supported by her husband, she enjoyed just one semester as a full-time student before her first child was born. Three children later—and many more night courses—Shulman never veered from her dream of obtaining a college degree. By the late 1970s, she discovered an outreach program at American University (AU) that offered returning students placement in a degree program, based on a written proposal, prior courses, and their skills and experiences.

"So, I wrote a proposal," says Shulman, "expecting them to create a major for me."

The AU counselor who reviewed Shulman's accumulated credits and experiences—equaling about two years of college—recommended heading right into the journalism program. Two years later, she graduated AU with a bachelor's degree in communication.

She has been working nonstop ever since. Shulman went from journalism instructor at AU to reporter and editor for area newspapers, to public information officer in the Montgomery County government. Over the years, she held a variety of communications positions before moving into the area of workforce development.

As president of the Montgomery County Workforce Development Corporation, Shulman managed and directed a complex public-private partnership that set the county's workforce development agenda, oversaw training programs, and worked to ensure that local employ-

ers had a trained workforce. Montgomery College was a strong partner in this effort.

Shulman was a senior program officer for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Center for Workforce Preparation. There she managed the Workforce Innovation Networks initiative, a \$1.2 million grant from the Ford Foundation and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The national initiative was designed to assist local chambers develop programs to help employers meet their workforce development needs. Shulman parlayed the concept into a contract with the U.S. Department of Labor.

Shulman has since earned a master's degree in management and marketing from the University of Maryland University College School of Management and Technology and a certificate in leadership coaching from the Georgetown University Center for Professional Development.

Applying the "Shulman principles" of redirection to her own life, she has lately returned to art—one of her first and enduring loves. Like her other pursuits, she has jumped in with both feet. After a nearly 40-year gap, she once again began taking art courses at Montgomery College, and studied extensively with Professor Ed Ahlstrom at the Rockville Campus. She has exhibited her paintings locally and last year had her first one-person show.

"Through the years, I came back to Montgomery College many times for new skills, particularly in the computer area," Shulman says. "My children (now grown) participated in enrichment programs, courses, and other activities at the College. MC provides opportunities for people at all levels and with a variety of interests to increase their education, provide new opportunities, and satisfy their curiosity."

And she is not the only one in her family passionate about higher education. Her husband, attorney Larry Shulman, recently served on the Commission to Develop the Maryland Model for Funding Higher Education.

Decades after entering her first English 101 class, Shulman was named a trustee of the College, and is now serving her second board term and recently completed her second year as board chair. Her many roles at MC have enabled her to strongly identify with the dreams, challenges, and successes of MC students. In truth, she is—and will always—be one of them.

ALUMNI CHAPTER NEWS

To enhance your networking and career development opportunities, the Alumni Association partners with academic departments to build chapters focusing on specific majors. On these pages are some of our recent activities.

BY JEANNE BLACKBURN '97

“GREEN” DESIGN A HOT TOPIC FOR INTERIOR DESIGN CHAPTER

The interior design alumni chapter hosted a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) for Homes specialist as a guest speaker at its May meeting at the Rockville Campus. Co-chairs Susan Ives and Emilia Lipsman welcomed David Kaiser, LEED AP, a sustainability specialist with Steven Winter Associates, Inc., building systems consultants in Washington, D.C.

Kaiser described how LEED for Homes, the U.S. Green Building Council's newest rating system, focused on reducing the environmental impacts of residences. A 136-point rating system determines how “green” a residence is. “We need to be conscientious about our natural resources,” Kaiser said, “and reduce what we use.” Innovation in design is one way professionals in the interior design field can

make substantial contributions, he said, because “fifty percent of the total energy America produces is in buildings”—not transportation or manufacturing.

“We don’t want to lead by legislation,” Kaiser said, “but rather by example.” Speaking as a “green interiors” advocate, he encouraged designers to stay abreast of the market in terms of product development, and to seize the opportunity to work with their clients toward these ecological ends.

“Most people want to be green,” Kaiser said. “They are interested, and the market is responding. Quality is a part of ‘being green,’ and if you don’t do it that way, you lose credibility. It’s a team effort—no matter how large or small the project.”



Courtesy Helen Youth

David Kaiser explains how the LEED for Homes rating system determines how “green” a residence is.

Macklin Business Institute

The Macklin Business Institute Alumni Chapter marked the Institute's 10th year with an elegant reunion in May. Joining Macklin Board members in greeting the 75 alumni and friends was Dr. Patricia Cleveland, dean of the Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland.

MBI Director Steve Lang introduced Professor Emeritus Jeff Schwartz, the Institute's founding director, who discussed his relationship with the late Gordon Macklin and how Macklin's passion for helping students led to the program's creation.

Schwartz described the progression of the Institute from the first class in fall 1999—when there were just eight students holding meetings with Gordon Macklin—to its current prominence welcoming more than double that number and expanding the original sophomore-level Institute to a two-year program. Alumni from the first and most recent graduating classes spoke, followed by a video remembrance and tribute to Gordon Macklin.



Courtesy Helen Youth

May's Macklin Business Institute reunion marked the Institute's 10th year.

Montgomery Scholars

The Montgomery Scholars hold an annual summer reunion each year at the Rockville Campus. Traditionally, these alumni gather to catch up on their friends' accomplishments, life changes, and educational advances. The Scholars are a tight-knit group, as each entering class stays together as a cohort throughout their required core courses over two years. These courses are supplemented with field trips, and most classes offer the

chance to study at Cambridge University. Diane Ganz Scheper, the program's first director, joined current director Mary Furgol at last year's reunion. Plans are underway for an August 22 celebration of the program's 10th incoming class.



Courtesy Helen Youth

At the Montgomery Scholars annual reunion, alumni catch up on each other's lives.



Courtesy Helen Youth

Montgomery Scholars program director Mary Furgol at the 2008 Montgomery Scholars reunion.

Nursing

The Nursing Alumni Chapter held a panel discussion in June. Four registered nurses shared their expertise on job opportunities and professional development. Suggestions included volunteering, becoming a nurse technician, and receiving advanced certification. Gail Bolling '82 offered her insight as both a program graduate and a past faculty member. Attendees were encouraged to actively participate in internships, volunteer activities, and their current positions to show initiative. Tips on job hunting included visiting hospitals in addition to applying online and checking for open houses in newspapers and trade magazines. Obtaining personal insurance in addition to employer provided insurance was also recommended.

Program coordinator Dianna Matthews announced that the College has completed an articulation agreement with Stevenson University in Baltimore for nursing graduates who plan to continue studying for their bachelor's degree. Many courses will be offered at MC or online. New nurses may want to take advantage of this opportunity.



Courtesy Helen Youth

The newly expanded Nursing program graduated 124 nurses this academic year.

College Retirees

Seventy staff and retirees attended the annual spring chapter luncheon in April at Normandie Farm restaurant. The event was emceed by Ken Weiner. Information was supplied by College HR staff and others. A planning group will be called together to determine future activities and direction of the chapter.



Courtesy Helen Youth

Retirees attended the annual spring chapter luncheon in April at Normandie Farm restaurant.

For more information about Alumni Association membership or about chapter activities, e-mail alumni@montgomerycollege.edu, visit www.montgomerycollege.edu/alumni, or call 240-567-5378.

—Helen Youth

ELECTRIC CHARGE

Clarence Carpenter, Bliss '47, was in the area last summer for a meeting of the Maryland State Firemen's Association, of which he is a past president. He spent a few minutes remembering his time at the Bliss Electrical School, now the site of the College's Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus.

Carpenter was drafted into the Navy early in World War II. He had hoped to specialize as an aviation mechanic. Since two of his uncles were electricians, he picked electrical work as his second choice—and got it. He spent four months in basic electrical study in Detroit, then went to Brooklyn for gyrocompass training. Even after serving three years as the sole electrician on a troop ship, the private sector didn't see him as having enough training to be an electrician when he came home Christmas 1945.

When he was laid off from a civilian job, Carpenter decided to attend Bliss Electrical School on the GI Bill. Unlike many of his classmates, he commuted from his home in Indian Head for the eight-month program, catching up on his work during lunch

hours and returning home each night to do homework and raise a family.

The Bliss campus then amounted to two or three academic buildings and a dormitory. Carpenter's most vivid memories are of Professor Frank Mueller, who did advanced multiplication in his head (and enjoyed watching the students try to check his work), and the fact that practically everybody at the school built their own radios.

When he took hiring exams at the end of his term at Bliss, the fact that he had both Bliss and Navy training impressed his examiner, and he signed on with Western Electric. A few years later, he joined the Naval Research Lab as their first electronic technician. He later transferred to the lab's Physical Science-Metallurgy section—a job he got because he had worked on their electrical equipment. He enjoyed doing the research there, so he stayed around, climbing the ladder, for 30 years.

Carpenter recalls telling shipmates that electronics would continue to advance. Today's technology "just blows my mind," he said. Having been retired from the Naval Research Lab for 28 years, he



Ronald Watkins

Clarence Carpenter '47 chats with Jordan Johnson '10 during a 2008 visit.

misses being able to keep up with it. Said Carpenter, "The key to it all was what Bliss gave me."

—Jordan Johnson

The Bliss tradition continues through the Louis D. Bliss Memorial Endowed Scholarship, established by Bliss alumni for students of electrical engineering and now computer science. For more information, contact Nell Kane, 240-567-7491, or e-mail nell.kane@montgomerycollege.edu.

CLASS NOTES



Dirk W.

> **Milton F. "Sonny" Clogg '48** was named 2008 *Lion of the Year* by the Rockville Lions Club.

> **Douglas DuBois '52**, a part-time machine operator for the Fanwood Recycling Association, has been actively involved in the Boy Scouts for 65 years.

> **Bruce B. Earnshaw '59** retired as a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Air Force. A former Rockville Knights point guard, he has expressed his hopes for a 50th year reunion with his 1958–1959 teammates.

> **Shirley Hess '72** was contracted for a painting for the Maryland Democratic Party; that painting is currently on display at the Annapolis State House.

> **Alan Dixon '73**, a general radiotelephone engineer, is a member of Alpha Chi National Honor Society, the American Radio Relay League, the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, NOAA/Skywarn, and REACT. In 2003, he was awarded the Congressional Order of Merit for "dedication of service" during the War on Terrorism. Currently retired, he is contributing editor of *Popular Communications*.

> **Jon Enten, MCAD '73**, is president of Enten and Associates, an advertising and marketing firm in Bethesda (www.enten.com).

> **Jack K. McElfish '74** earned his B.S. and M.S. in fire science and a master's degree in public administration from the University of New Haven, Connecticut. He was named 2008 Fire Chief of the Year by the Southeastern Association of Fire Chiefs. He is fire chief of Sandy Springs, Ga.

> **Patrick Pepper '74** wrote the book *Temporary Apprehension*, published by Washington Writers' Publishing House. He is also the owner of Pond Road Press.



Courtesy Gregory Wims

Then-candidate Barack Obama's grandmother "Mama Sarah Obama" meets with Gregory Wims in Kenya, October 2008.

> **W. Gregory Wims '70**, founder of the Victims' Rights Foundation in Gaithersburg, Md. was recipient of the 2009 Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award, in recognition of contributions "toward the elimination of racial prejudice, inequality and injustices in America."

CLASS NOTES

> **Dr. Burton A. Clark '75** earned a B.S. in business administration from Strayer University and was chosen as its outstanding alumni awardee last year in recognition of his leadership as management science program chair at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Md. He is currently operations chief for the Department of Homeland Security.

> **Dalya Luttwak '77** distinguished herself as a metal artist with a major art installation at American University.

> **Marla Silverman '78** earned her B.A. in history at the University of Pennsylvania and an M.F.A. from Indiana University. She initially worked as an artist in a *kibbutz*, and later had several art shows in major Israeli cities under the name Marla Slott.

> **Tracy W. Messer '79** earned his bachelor's degree from Dickinson College, in Carlisle, Pa., and his master's degree in counseling from Colgate University, N.Y. A public relations professional with more than 20 years' experience, he was named Web development and communications manager for the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center in Washington, D.C.



Randy Sager

> **Mike Dupuy '81** and his wife, Christine, attended the 2008 general meeting of the International Association for Falconry in South Africa.

> **Kathlene Collins '82** went on to earn a degree from Catholic University of America and was one of the founders of *Inside Higher Education*. She spent 20 years in the recruitment advertising department of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, developed *The Chronicle's* recruitment site, won several industry awards for excellence, and is a leading authority on recruiting in higher education.

> **Jeff Barr '84** holds a B.S. in computer science from American University, was a former National Institute for Safety Research (NISR) employee, and now manages his own blog on computers, www.jeff-barr.com/.

> **Lewis "Mark" Corfman '88** has accumulated more than 20 years of experience in construction and owns Green Shade Builders in Poolesville, Md.

> **Norris '88 and Joan Hekimian** have a grandson who is studying at Montgomery College. Norris founded Hekimian Laboratories, a Rockville-based electrical engineering firm that manufactures highly specialized voice and data traffic monitoring equipment.

> **Maggie Gourlay '90** and her husband, Mark Wong, both worked for the U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong. She earned a certificate from the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore and is working on a M.F.A. at Towson University. Her latest solo exhibit, *Patterns of Dislocation*, was held earlier this year at School 33 Art Center, Baltimore.

> **John Kaleo '90**, former Maryland Terrapins quarterback and 14-year veteran of the Arena Football League, was named quarterbacks coach at Towson University. He played two seasons at the Rockville Campus, leading the Knights to a 10-0 record and the NJCAA national title in 1990. He went on to play two seasons at the University of Maryland, earning the Most Valuable Player title in 1992.

> **Charles H. Parker '91** is an account executive at Sharp Electronics Corporation. He holds a graduate certificate in human resource management from the University of Maryland, University College. He just completed the graduation requirements for a master's degree and plans to continue toward a doctorate in the same field at Thomas Edison State College, N.J.

> **Fred Romberg '96** entered Yale University School of Medicine.

> **John M. Putnam '97** served on the Rockville Campus Student Senate and wrote for the *Spur*. He transferred to the University of Baltimore and is now editor at the Public Affairs Office of NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. He is working toward a master's degree in communications at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland in Baltimore.

> **Andres Garcia '02** was chosen to deliver the winter commencement address at the University of Maryland's main commencement ceremony. A native of Santiago, Chile, he is fluent in Spanish, German, and English. He was named Most Valuable Player of the 2002 Montgomery College soccer team, which won regional and state championships.



Courtesy Claudia Soto Orozco

> **Claudia Soto Orozco '06** earned her B.A. in international studies and economics from American University in 2008. She was accepted in the master's program on international economics at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva.

> **Juan Carlos Granados '07** recorded a rap CD titled *Sangre, Sudor y Lagrimas* (Blood, Sweat, and Tears). The project drew on influences from both his Salvadoran heritage and experiences living in the Washington, D.C. area.

> **Darshawn Johnson '07** former Germantown Campus basketball standout and current Fayetteville State University business administration major, was named a Player of the Week in January 2009 by the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA).

> **Eden Shaira Daniel '08**, an office administrator for United Rentals, has worked two jobs while attending school and has a child serving in the military.

Keep your friends and classmates posted on your achievements! Let us know what you're doing now. Use the return envelope provided in this magazine, write to the Alumni Association, 900 Hungerford Drive, Suite 200, Rockville, MD 20850, or e-mail alumni@montgomerycollege.edu. Got a Web site? Don't forget to include it!

SHOW OFF YOUR SCHOOL SPIRIT

Montgomery College Alumni merchandise is available through the campus bookstores.

To view or order your sweaters, jackets, travel mugs, card holders, or other items, check out the Alumni tab in My MC—or visit www.montgomerycollege.edu and click on "Bookstores."

The advertisement features a black and white photo of a baseball cap with "MONTGOMERY COLLEGE" and "ROCKVILLE, MD" printed on it. The text is set against a dark background with a light-colored border.

IN MEMORIAM

- > **Donald N. Coupard '48** died January 5, 2008. He was chief executive officer of DNC Architects, Inc. of Rockville until his retirement in 1990.
- > **John J. Phillips, Bliss '39**, died March 25, 2008. Upon graduating from Bliss Electrical School, he was hired by IBM. After a short stint in the Army Air Corps, he rejoined IBM as a customer engineer, rising to manager of card manufacturing in its Information Records Division.
- > **Laval Scott McRae** died June 1, 2008. He was Human Resource Specialist in the Employee and Labor Relations Office since 1986.
- > **Patrick D.E. McGrath, Bliss '49**, died July 3, 2008.
- > **Robert O. Walker** died July 19, 2008. He worked at Montgomery College from September 1971 until his retirement in July 1975.
- > **Anita Groover** died July 22, 2008. She was program assistant in the Workforce Development and Continuing Education Health Sciences, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus.
- > **Allen Bruce Forsbacka '64** died July 31, 2008.
- > **Ankush Gupta '08** died August 27, 2008. He was about to enter his junior year at the University of Maryland College Park.
- > **Lillian Lukaczer** died September 6, 2008. She was a faculty member in the Political Science Department, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus.
- > **Samuel R. Blate** died September 15, 2008. He was a professor in the English Composition, Literature, and Professional Writing Department, from 1967 to 2004, and continued to teach the honors program after his retirement in 2004.
- > **Martha W. Turner** died October 1, 2008. She worked as a librarian until her retirement in 2004.
- > **Jorge A. Zamorano '78** died September 11, 2008. He worked in pop bands in the Washington, D.C., area, performed at presidential inaugurations and social events on Capitol Hill, and later specialized in Brazilian-influenced jazz.
- > **Florence Esther Adams Rimel Isackson '67** died October 24, 2008. She played professional women's basketball, distinguished herself in tennis, and continued swimming into her late 80s.
- > **Francis Paul Solomon, Bliss '46**, died November 22, 2008. He rose to the rank of Army captain during World War II, and retired from the Pennsylvania Electric Co. in 1982 as superintendent of its Warren and Seneca power stations.
- > **Eric G. Mohn '77** died November 25, 2008. Left a quadriplegic after a 1963 car accident, Mohn learned to translate his vision to canvas through precise strokes by a brush held in his mouth and was best known for his watercolors. He was a recipient of the Milton F. Clogg Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award.
- > **Dr. Patrick G. Feeney** died December 3, 2008. He was a professor of sociology, anthropology, and criminal justice at the Rockville Campus.
- > **Bruno P. Zanin, Bliss '42**, died January 9, 2009. He worked at the U.S. Army's Harry Diamond Laboratories and was head of a special test and calibration division at the Washington Navy Yard.
- > **Lester Heller** died January 11, 2009. He worked at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus for 17 years, and was head of the Multimedia Center in 1964. He made films for the College's English, physics, and dental assisting programs. He was also faculty advisor for the campus Folk Music Club.
- > **H. Ann Ciszek**, also known as Sister Mary Hillary, died January 22, 2009. A member of the Felician Sisters for 39 years, she taught studio art and art history before retiring to Naples, Fla.
- > **Marie J. Burke '75** died January 23, 2009. She worked as a secretary in the War Department during World War II, and was a member of the Washington Cathedral Choral Society.
- > **Quentin W. Mellander, Bliss '42**, died January 29, 2009. He was a U.S. Army Air Force veteran and a Telephone Pioneers of America member.
- > **Scott David Brown '99** died February 1, 2009. He received a degree in heating and air conditioning from the College and was employed as HVAC technician with Comfort Air of Sykesville, Md.
- > **Nicholas Edward Sweadner, Bliss '74**, died February 13, 2009. He served in the U.S. Army reserve and U.S. Air Force. He retired as a lieutenant of the Bethesda Fire Department in 1984. He was also a member of the Gaithersburg-Washington Grove Volunteer Fire Department.



Montgomery College Archives

Remembering Catherine Grant

Most people avoid public speaking. But for 10 years, Montgomery College Professor

Catherine Grant eased jitters and allowed her students to find their voices.

"She put everyone at ease," said Roberta Mandrekas '07. "Her kindness and inclusiveness proved infectious."

Grant's cheerful smile was no less evident after being diagnosed with colon cancer in 2007. She continued to teach while undergoing radiation treatments. "She came to class early just to talk with her students," said Karl Herchenroeder '09.

Hospitalized last spring, Grant insisted from her hospital bed that someone help her calculate her students' final grades.

Grant lost her battle with cancer on May 17, 2008. In her memory, Grant's book club donated textbooks to the speech department and Grant's favorite novel, *I Capture the Castle* by Dodie Smith, to the Rockville Campus library.

—Fritzi Bodenheimer

- > **William R. Sharpe, Jr., Bliss '50**, died February 15, 2009. A state senator from Weston, W. Va., he represented Braxton, Lewis, Gilmer, and Harrison counties for 44 years.
- > **Melvin G. Catlett '49** died February 26, 2009. He served as communication specialist in the U.S. Army's 35th Infantry Division, Third Army, and took part in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a partner of George Seidl and Sons for more than 50 years.
- > **William J. Hussong** died April 4, 2009. He taught in the Rockville mathematics department following a career as a U.S. Navy marine engineer.

Memorial donations may be made to the Montgomery College Foundation. Use the return envelope provided, or write to the MC Foundation, 900 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850.

Students Honored for Academics And Community Service

Three Montgomery College students—Daniela Pila '09, Sheena Austria '09, and Nadia ElFallah '09—recently received national recognition in *USA Today* as members of the 2009 Coca-Cola All-State Community College Academic Team. As a Silver Scholar, Pila earned a \$1,250 scholarship and a special medallion. Finalists Austria and ElFallah each earned \$1,000 scholarships.

The Coca-Cola All-State Academic Team is a scholarship program that recognizes outstanding students who are dedicated to academics and their communities. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation sponsors the awards in partnership with Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, an international honor society for two-year colleges. Pila, Austria, and ElFallah are all members of Phi Theta Kappa at Montgomery College.

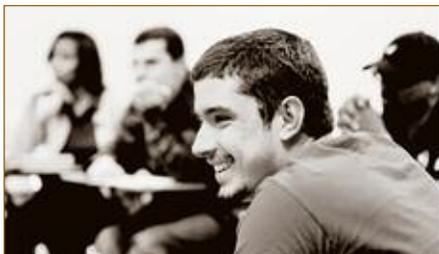


Don Rejouis

Left to right: Nadia ElFallah '09, Sheena Austria '09, and Daniela Pila '09.

College Offers High-Demand Courses At the Universities at Shady Grove

Montgomery College and the Universities at Shady Grove developed a new partnership to provide students with high-demand MC courses at USG, the University System of Maryland site for programs in the Montgomery County area. The partnership started in the spring 2009 semester to ease the transition of students from MC to baccalaureate degree programs at USG.

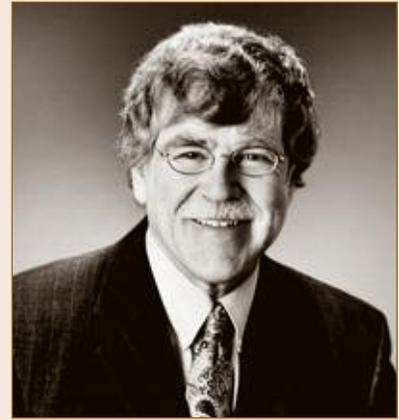


Rachael Spiegel

Philanthropist Paul Peck Donates \$1 Million to Montgomery College

Philanthropist Paul L. Peck recently made a \$1 million contribution to the Montgomery College Foundation to support students pursuing education and training in the field of biotechnology.

Funds from Peck's gift will go toward the creation of the Paul Peck Center for Applied Science and Technology at the Germantown Campus. Among the center's primary initiatives will be the expansion of the College's current biotech program and the addition of a two-semester biotechnology certificate program, which will position students to fill entry-level biotech manufacturing jobs and



Randy Saeger

to work toward an associate's degree or bachelor's degree. The gift will also support student scholarships and the purchase of biotech equipment.

Shartle-Galotto Honored as One of Maryland's Top 100 Women

Dr. Mary Kay Shartle-Galotto, MC's executive vice president for academic and student services, was named one of Maryland's Top 100 Women by *The Maryland Daily Record*, a statewide business newspaper. The Top 100 Women are recognized for their professional achievement, leadership in their community, and a demonstrated commitment to mentoring.

Dr. Shartle-Galotto, who retired June 30, has served as the College's chief academic officer, and has administrative oversight for the Workforce Development and Continuing Education unit.



Don Rejouis

Germantown Hosts Tryouts For the Jeopardy! Game Show

Montgomery College hosted auditions for the popular television game show *Jeopardy!* on the Germantown Campus.

The event drew approximately 2,000 people from Montgomery County and beyond. Around 1,000 hopefuls took the written test, and some went on to play a mock game to win prizes with the *Jeopardy!* Clue Crew. An open house showcasing the College's unique programs, various departments, and giveaways rounded out the day. College representatives were on hand to talk and answer questions.



Don Rejouis

> Germantown Campus

MC Students Shine at Student Excellence Expo

Twenty-two budding scholars from all three campuses and from various academic programs showcased some of their top work this spring at the second annual Student Excellence Expo at the Germantown Campus. Students shared their research and knowledge gained from academic courses, learning communities, cross-discipline independent research, and the College's service learning connections in the community.

Faculty mentors worked with the students on their projects, which ranged from the demonstration of a student-designed robot to a study of the moral development in Harry Potter novels; from an exploration of the turmoil in Gaza to an examination of linguistic forensics; from a chemical perspective on food processing and allergies to a study of *Slumdog Millionaire*, to name just a few.



Don Rejouis

> Rockville Campus

Scholarship Benefit Concert Features Award-Winning Jazz Artist Marcus Johnson And Student Jazz Ensemble

Montgomery College presented an evening with award-winning jazz artist Marcus Johnson '89 and the Montgomery College Student Jazz Ensemble earlier this year. Concert proceeds benefited student scholarships for the College's Music Department.

Johnson has released more than 10 CDs, all reaching the Top 20 on Billboard's contemporary jazz charts. From his first independent release, *Lessons in Love*, to his latest, *Phoenix*, Johnson has generated loyal fans and garnered high praise from jazz critics.



La Verne Gordon

> Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus



Don Rejouis

Children Celebrate Earth Day At Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus

Nearly 250 elementary school students participated in Montgomery College's fifth annual Earth Day event at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus in April. Organized by the campus's Biology Department, the event featured Montgomery College students, faculty, and staff educating school children about the environment with a series of fun, hands-on activities.

These activities included creating terrariums from recycled materials; making Earth Day crafts; learning about natural resources; participating in beetle races; visiting with various critters such as geckos, lizards, turtles, and spiders; and touring the campus greenhouse.

Message from the President of Montgomery College



As the fall approaches, I look forward to welcoming new students to our campuses. These students have such enthusiasm for the journey before them. They know Montgomery College will provide valuable opportunities to earn a college degree, advance in their career, learn a new trade, or receive professional training.

This knowledge comes from our students' interactions with you, our alumni. You run local businesses, teach our children, lead our government, build our homes, and serve our community. You are essential to our College's continued success. With your support, Montgomery College strengthens the local economy by \$1.8 billion.

We will have greater support in the years ahead because our Alumni Association continues to welcome new members. At this year's commencement, Alumni Association President Tookie Gentilcore led the graduates in the recitation of the alumni pledge, marking the end of this chapter at the College and the beginning of their lives as alumni.

We were honored to have several of our elected officials, including County Council President Phil Andrews, in attendance at our commencement ceremony. Just one day earlier, the Council approved more than 99 percent of the College's requested fiscal year 2010 operating budget and more than 96 percent of the requested capital budget.

These results would not have been possible without your support and advocacy. The operating budget ensures that the College will meet its top three priorities for the fiscal year: provide affordable access to higher education, meet the increasing costs for energy and employee benefits, and fund new facilities.

The capital budget will allow the College to start construction of the Bioscience Education Center on the Germantown Campus in 2010, to relocate Workforce Development and Continuing Education programs at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus, and to expand the Health Sciences Center for the growing health sciences programs.

This fall, the College will open its newest facility at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus—a breathtaking performing arts center, which will serve as a showcase for world-class performers. The center will complement the outstanding productions that you have come to expect at our Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center on the Rockville Campus. Our first performance in the new center will be none other than the Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin, on September 11. I encourage you to check for ticket information at: www.montgomerycollege.edu/pac.

As the College evolves, I will focus on that which is mission-critical and mission-centric to ensure we best serve our students. Upon the recent retirements of Dr. Hercules Pinkney and Dr. Mary Kay Shartle-Galotto, it was essential to fill their positions on an interim basis with talented professionals who would continue moving our College forward. Congratulations to Dr. Sanjay Rai, interim vice president and provost of the Germantown Campus, and Paula Matuskey '67, interim senior vice president for educational services. Thanks go to them for stepping in at this time and to Dr. Pinkney and Dr. Shartle-Galotto for their dedicated service to the College and our students.

In addition, the College welcomed Bruce Berman as the new vice president of institutional advancement. Through the efforts of Bruce and his team, the Montgomery College Foundation will reach its \$25 million goal for the capital campaign. If you have not yet given to student scholarships, I invite you to contact Bruce or the Alumni Office.

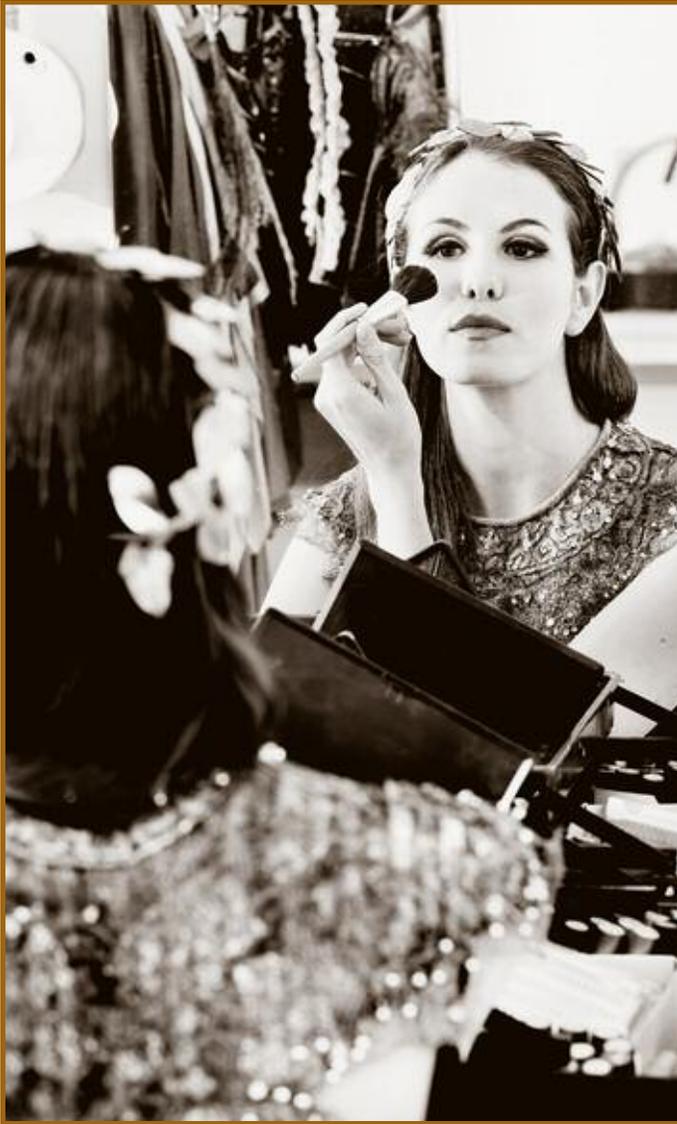
Your gifts allow Montgomery College students to have educational experiences that they would not find elsewhere. *The Chronicle of Higher Education* recently featured one of our new alumni, Ron Makawa '09. He managed to hold down a full-time job, attend classes full time, and participate in a Library of Congress internship through the College's Paul Peck Humanities Institute. Now, he is enrolled in an honors program in legal studies at the City College of New York.

Success stories like Ron's make me appreciate the impact our alumni have on this College, our community, and the world. You do have the power to make a difference. I encourage you to contact the College's Alumni Office or to speak to your new Alumni Association President Bob Costello to learn how you can get involved. The active involvement of our alumni is essential for Montgomery College's future growth and success.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian K. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian K. Johnson
President, Montgomery College



THE 12th ANNUAL NEW YORK CITY THEATRE WEEKEND

NOVEMBER 7–9

The Alumni Association offers the latest in its hit series of Broadway theatre trips! Here's your chance to enjoy a whole weekend in the Big Apple—for just \$675* per person! Your trip includes:

- A pre-trip orientation talk on New York and the theatre
- Round-trip transportation from the Rockville Campus to New York
- Two great nights at the Hilton New York
- A ticket to the Tony Awards' **Best Musical for 2009—*BILLY ELLIOT!***

A deposit of \$350 per person must accompany your reservation, with the balance of \$325 per person due by **September 1, 2009**.

For more information or to make a reservation by phone, call the Alumni Association at 240-567-5378.

**This cost is based on double occupancy. Single occupancy is an additional \$230.*



**Montgomery College
Alumni Association**
51 Mannakee Street
Rockville, MD 20850

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rockville, MD
Permit No. 97