

Macau Millennium College Liaison

- Since the summer of 2004, eleven full and part-time faculty members have been sent to teach English and English as a Second Language to students attending Macau Millennium College (MMC) in Macau, China. For six successive summers, Montgomery College (MC) faculty members have taught in Macau. In fact, three faculty members just returned from their stint in China in August 2009. With approximately 80 students being taught each summer, the number who have benefitted from instruction in American English language skills is approaching 500 students. Montgomery College and Macau Millennium College share the perspective of fostering the creation of students who are globally aware and globally competitive.
- This relationship evolved from a Memorandum of Understanding that was formerly signed in Macau, China in January 2004. In China, Montgomery College's Board of Trustees was represented by Dr. Michael Lin. The senior academic administrator, Dr. Mary Kay Shartle-Galotto, was accompanied by Dr. Clarice Somersall, the Director of Academic and Student Services. Dr. Somersall has had managerial responsibility for the partnership since that time.
- To say that an army of people—both in China and the United States—has been involved in sustaining this vibrant partnership—is a gross understatement. From the initial planning to on-going attempts at launching a student internship program in Macau to mounting a cultural excursion to the Pearl River Delta, many people throughout Montgomery College have been involved in discussions. Macau Millennium College's personnel have extended a hand of friendship and accommodation to the eleven visiting scholars. Without a doubt, the one, fruitful aspect of our liaison—as specified by the Memorandum of Understanding—has been the deployment of faculty to teach in Macau.
- Not to be deterred by setbacks, two of our remaining goals will be to send Montgomery College students to Macau to serve as interns in their vibrant tourism industry while attending Macau Millennium College for short-term, targeted programming. Macau could serve as the jumping off point for exploring China's thriving economy. The second goal would be to have Macau Millennium College students participate in our biotechnology program that is situated at the Germantown Campus. The groundwork has already been laid for both of these objectives to be achieved. Financial and human resources need to be allocated in each instance.

Hallmarks of a Successful Alliance

- Consistent, dedicated leadership—Dr. Wai-Yee Chan (MC), Dr. Michael Lin (MC BOT Chair), Dr. Mary Kay Shartle-Galotto, former Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Services, Dr. Somersall (MC), Dr. Gail Forman (MC, now retired—consultant since 2007)), Dr. Fok (MMC Vice President), and Dr. Rufino Ramos (Registrar at MMC)
- Willingness to be flexible and creative in negotiating terms for the faculty who have taught in Macau
- Generosity of Macau Millennium College in providing salaries, airfare and lodging for faculty teaching in Macau since the summer of 2004

- Evolving process for identifying faculty to teach in Macau. Because of the success of the program through the years as a rare professional development opportunity for Montgomery College faculty, a competitive environment now exists throughout MC. With the issuance of a memo to all English composition and ESL faculty collegewide in January of each year, a process is initiated which results in the selection of two or three faculty to teach in Macau. Interested faculty members submit letters of intent; a small committee reviews the letters and identifies a pool of applicants to be interviewed. For the first time this year, two of the prior members of the faculty who had taught in Macau provided an orientation/overview of Macau to anyone interested in teaching in Macau. They did this of their own volition. Once the faculty members were interviewed, Dr. Forman and I select three members from the pool to teach in Macau. We then work with our internal offices and the business office at Macau Millennium College to insure that the travel and lodging arrangements and program schedules are synchronized. Upon their return, the faculty members who have taught provide a detailed report of their work and provide suggestions for modifying the curriculum and teaching assignment. Through this process, each group has strengthened the foundation for subsequent groups.

Other Activities (pictures available upon request)

- 2006—Dr. Somersall represented Montgomery College on a Presidential Mission to China. Other members of the delegation included: Presidents of Goucher College, Towson University and the University of Maryland Eastern Shore; the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Higher Education Commission, and the Executive Director of Maryland’s Independent Colleges, including Johns Hopkins.
- 2007—The relationship with Macau Millennium College became the centerpiece of Dr. Somersall’s doctoral dissertation entitled, “Forging a Transnational Higher Education Alliance: Triumphs and Challenges.”
- 2008—Dr. Somersall hosted a delegation from Anhui Province, the Sister State to the State of Maryland.
- May 2008—Nine scholarship recipients from the Montgomery College Arts Institute participated in a trip to China to study visual and performing arts. (See attached itinerary.)
- 2007, 2008 and 2009—Montgomery College’s central administrative processes (role of the president and the interface with governmental agencies regarding finances) and the Rockville Campus served as the discussion points for high-level officials from:
 - Guangdong Province (2 delegations of university presidents) – (See attached documents); and Southern Yangtze University-- (See attached documents)
- On September 14, 2009—Drs. Pinkney, Ackerman and Somersall participated in hosting visitors from Jiaxing, China. There has been mutual interest expressed by the City of Rockville and the City of Jiaxing in establishing a “Sister to Sister” relationship. Montgomery College, because of its past experiences, became the venue for this key discussion.

Submitted by Dr. Clarice A. Somersall, September 29, 2009