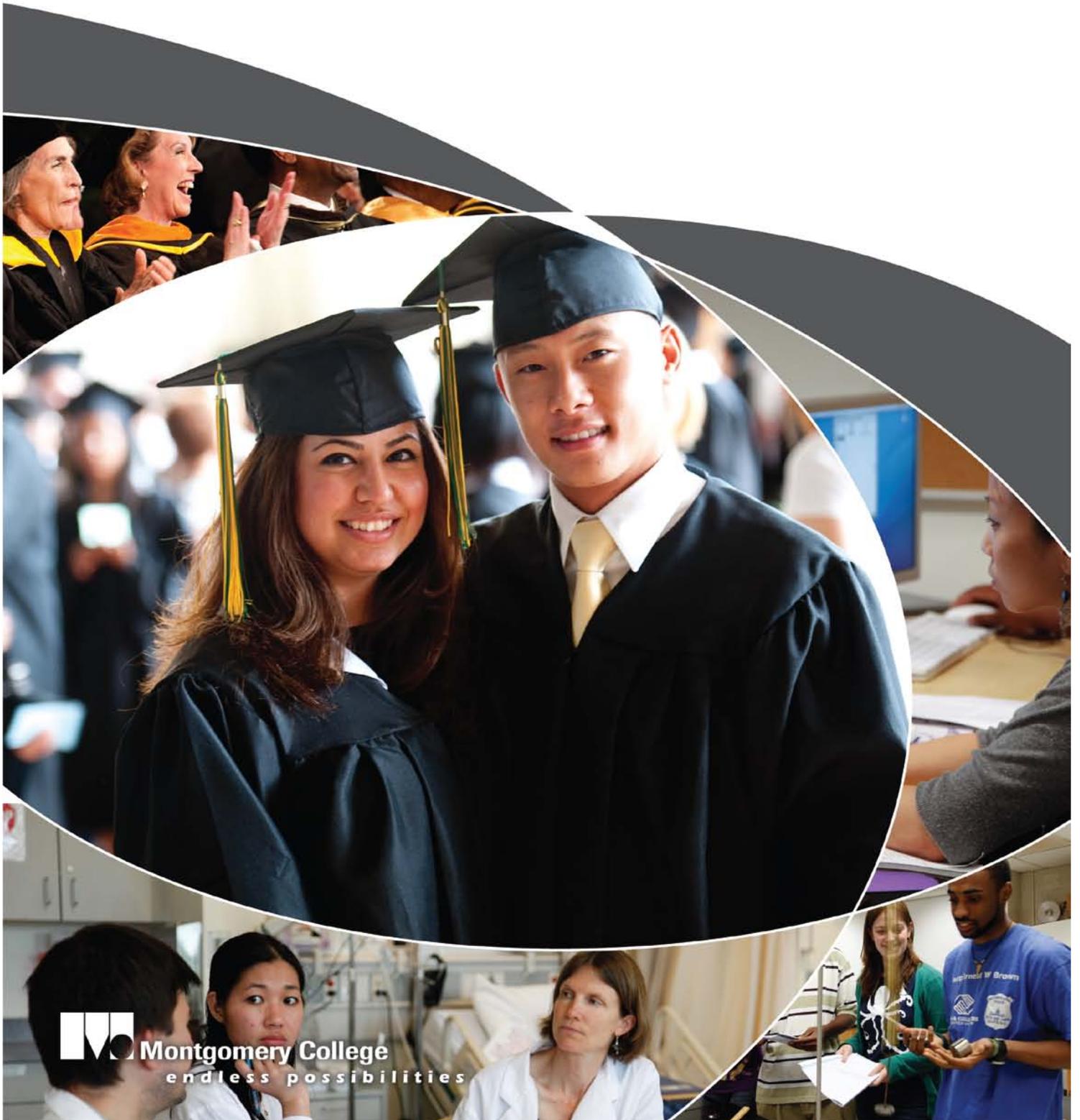


PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

December 2010



Montgomery College
endless possibilities



President's Report to the Board



DeRionne P. Pollard, Ph.D.
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The Budget Forecast

The semester here at Montgomery College is coming rapidly to a close, and like most years, faculty, staff, and students are preparing to spend special time with family members and loved ones. But before the College community leaves for the holiday break, it is extremely important that we begin an intense and deliberate discussion about the serious fiscal challenges we face now and in the months to come.

The state of Maryland's budget shortfall has rapidly grown to \$1.6 billion due to rising Medicaid costs and a loss in federal stimulus funding. Cuts are expected across all state-funded organizations to ensure balanced budgets.

At the county, our executive communicated recently to all local agencies that a midyear savings program will need to be implemented to address the loss of anticipated emergency medical transport (ambulance) fee revenue and tax revenue. For the College, this means a reduction of more than \$980,000 from our current operating budget. We expect to realize savings through our current and previous spending reductions, but additional savings requests may be necessary later in the year.

The county's projected budget shortfall is now at \$300 million, which grew rapidly over the last few weeks. Given the deficits at both the county and state, I have asked each unit within the College to revise its FY12 operating budget to reflect two scenarios: a two percent and a five percent reduction. This does not mean that every unit will receive a budget reduction of the same amount; instead, the scenarios will assist in the planning and final preparation of the FY12 budget.

From my own experiences addressing budgetary challenges in California, I know these decisions cannot be made alone, and I look forward to the feedback from the College as a whole. Additionally, I have asked the senior vice presidents to solicit feedback from their units and review the budget enhancements proposed in the recent Budget Review Advisory Committee (BRAC) process. We may also consider developing a similar process to continue addressing the changing budgetary climate.

I have promised the College that I will continue to inform them of the developments we hear from our elected leaders. What I know for sure at this point is that Montgomery College is in this together. Each and every member of the College community—and each member of the Board of Trustees—can play a role in reducing costs. As we move forward with the budget, I ask that we all remain mindful of our mission to keep students at the center of everything we do.

Board Discussion Questions:

1. In tight budgetary times the College community must focus on its core mission and allocate funding accordingly. As we survey our constituents for opinions, we ask: what do our board members think are the most fundamental services we provide for our community?
2. As members of the greater Montgomery County community, how can we learn from local corporations, nonprofits, and government agencies about their efforts to solve budgetary shortfalls, and how can their best practices be adapted to Montgomery College?

From the Field: Spending Wisely, Raising Revenue, and Communicating to College

Communication Strategies

Across the three campuses and in Workforce Development and Continuing Education, the senior leaders are committed to explaining the budgetary challenges and their impact on the academic and workforce units. Budget e-mails from the president and senior leaders are circulated throughout the faculty. The budget is also discussed on a regular basis at campus opening and closing meetings. The provosts speak to deans, faculty council members, and campus leaders to provide budget updates. The campus deans also meet with individual departments and faculty throughout the semester to discuss updates and other pertinent information. At Rockville, the budget is a standing agenda item on monthly area chairs meetings; the Student Development area will launch an e-newsletter to serve as a vehicle of communication for new, updates, and budget concerns.

The campuses also recognize the need for advocacy on the budget. Faculty Council and council members at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus are planning ways to mobilize students, faculty, staff, family, and community members to contact state and county elected officials about the budget situation once the governor and the county executive have released their proposed budgets.

The Montgomery County and state budgets have been a topic of discussion at the recent Greater Silver Spring Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs and Economic Development Committees, which the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus vice president and provost attends. Several members of the county council and members of the state legislative delegation have attended these meetings including Montgomery County Council President Valerie Ervin and Maryland Senator Richard Madaleno, who sits on the Budget and Tax Committee in the legislature.

Campus leaders also encourage employees to listen to the president's weekly blog and e-mails that appear from the president and senior vice president, which include relevant, new budget information.

Cost Containment Strategies

- Prioritizing the allocation of funds to departments based on student impact.
- Reducing salary costs by severely limiting the use of overtime pay. At Rockville, the Humanities Department has implemented a new practice regarding the request for substitutes, which requires faculty members to set alternative assignments for first absences in classes and to receive advance permission from the dean before scheduling a substitute. The change has decreased the department's use of substitute pay by more than 40 percent.
- Continuing to implement the cost savings measures outlined by the senior vice presidents such as the staff hiring freeze and distant travel restrictions.



- Renegotiating contracts with vendors, eliminating catering and printing costs and using free resources wherever possible.
- Eliminating the purchasing of refreshments for meetings or gatherings with College funds and money, and when catering an event for outside visitors, asking the campus to “self-cater” by purchasing food from local retailers on sale or from Costco. At the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus, the provost office caters the traditional holiday party with donations from faculty and staff.
- Delaying the purchase of replacement furniture.
- Reducing printing costs by aggressively using MyMC’s e-mail and announcement service and campuswide e-mails to spread the word about events. Students in all disciplines use online support materials, syllabi, and electronic assessments to offset copying expenses. Television monitors are used throughout campus to quickly and affordably announce information. Mid-term progress reports are emailed to students to reduce mailing and printing costs.
- Conserving the budgets for copying and supplies in credit and noncredit programs. At Rockville, the Mathematics Department reduced copying costs by 50 percent in July and August; Biology, Chemistry, and PEG saved 22 percent, 20 percent, and 33 percent, respectively, with 38 percent of fiscal year completed. The Potomac Review negotiated a yearly contract with its printing contractor, which provided for the printing costs of three editions in one fiscal year rather than two, a savings of 33 percent. The Arts Institute reduced its number of publications. The Rockville Writing and Reading Center has set the printers to print two-sided rather than one-sided copies, saving an estimated \$7,448 since the change was made in July 2009. The Rockville Evening and Weekend Office is reviving its tracking of copier use and paper consumption with a goal of reducing consumption by the 300 or so part-time faculty who use the office.
- Reducing the Workforce Development & Continuing Education course offerings of low-productivity course sections. Approximately ten percent fewer open enrollment course sections were built for the fall semester yet open enrollment activity is higher than the prior fall term. This activity reduced production costs, printing and web promotion costs, and reduced the likelihood of having to move a student from a canceled course section due to low enrollment.
- Conducting more multicampus meetings for administrators, faculty, and staff through the use of technology (teleconferencing) and hold Webinars and teleconferences in lieu of attending off campus conferences.
- Using local discipline experts for guest speakers and faculty professional development to reduce or eliminate the need for honoraria. When local resources are not available, sharing the expense of vital training with community colleges statewide. Utilizing Webcasting as a means to access training in lieu of distance travel and contracting trainers for onsite delivery.
- Encouraging environmentally-friendly practices such as turning off the lights when classrooms are unoccupied, turning off computers in offices at the end of each day, using recycled paper, and buying only absolutely needed supplies.
- Cross-training administrative aides to handle various office tasks that include the handling of general questions that are common to multiple areas. For example, it is estimated that Student Development saves \$2,000 a month in temporary funds by cross training and consolidating administrative support in counseling.
- Extending the maintenance and replacement cycle for gym equipment.



- Reconfiguring wind ensemble and orchestra to reduce the number of paid performers and combining Rockville's WillPower! Shakespeare Festival with spring academic show to save \$16,000 by not paying for an external production.
- All collegewide programs in Rockville's Humanities, as well as the departments and support center, have coordinated events to maximize honoraria budgets along with eliminating refreshments costs.
- Significantly reducing the number of full-time Rockville Campus faculty who are tutoring in business statistics and accounting
- Reducing the need for repainting walls in the Germantown art gallery after each show by installing a new hanging system.
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- Barbara Nubile, director of nursing, negotiated with nursing software providers to cut the testing product costs by 50 percent. This saves almost \$100,000 a year.
- The Jefferson Café events have moved toward a policy of engaging only speakers who require no honorarium.
- Radiologic Technology has not purchased any new, large equipment items through College funds since the Health Sciences Building was built, as any new item has been purchased through grant funding. The current equipment is used carefully and the program always stays within the budget allotted.
- Renegotiating leases for two WD&CE sites. One site is completed resulting in a savings of approximately \$30,000 per year in lease costs. The second site proposal is being drafted with a similar savings per year being anticipated.
- Continuing to develop more noncredit contract training class opportunities for CPR, Certified Nursing Assistants and Physical Therapist Aides.
- Developing additional noncredit scheduling including Sunday scheduling which capitalizes on busy schedules of potential registrants and down time in terms of space on campus.

Revenue Generation Strategies

- Increasing student retention through student success. The success and completion agenda is an integral part of campus conversations.
- Developing budget scenarios for FY12 with two percent and five percent reductions. The Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus deans have also been tasked with finding additional suggestions for increasing revenue and decreasing costs in their units and across campus.
- Increasing enrollment beyond budget projections. This fall at the Germantown Campus enrollment exceeded projections by more than 2,000 hours, which produced more than \$30,000 beyond projections.
- Holding conversations between deans and their units about class sizes and identifying where it might be possible to add seats and increase the student/faculty ratio.
- Looking at the "efficiency" of classes and the schedule.
- Encouraging campus representatives to participate in the College's student recruitment events to increase enrollment.



- Brainstorming ideas to generate funds, which range from charging students to obtain extra catalogs, print documents or take more than one placement test to inviting organizations to utilize our space for a fee. Other ideas include conducting a more robust Summer Bridge Program for students for a reasonable fee and decentralizing some fundraising activities among the three campuses.
- Adding online sections for winter session 2011, summer 2011, and fall 2011.
- Securing grants to fund credit and noncredit academic programs and faculty professional development.
 - Health Sciences grants continue to support programs and faculty professional development. To date, the unit has totaled more than \$775,000 for FY11. Many areas within Health Sciences are actively pursuing grant funding for initiatives. Health Sciences employees have decided to donate to the Foundation Nursing Fund rather than buy each other holiday gifts.
 - The WD&CE AELG Program continues to seek out and apply for grants that will help serve students better while providing for innovation and overall infrastructure development. For example, a grant from the Department of Homeland Security provides for citizenship classes, which are free to enable a larger number of students to enroll, in turn expanding services for the community and providing additional transition opportunities for students to attend Montgomery College.
 - In addition, the AELG Program will be taking the lead on a grant from the Anne E. Casey Foundation and the Maryland Workforce Development Corporation that will support the creation and implementation of ESOL vocational classes that are team-taught by ESOL and content area faculty, enabling students to acquire basic English and workforce training simultaneously.
 - Intensifying responses to grant proposals exemplified with the College securing \$195,000 for its India Initiative.
- Seeking cost-sharing opportunities with other units and departments throughout the College.
- Recommending an increase in the applied music fee for the first time in at least 14 years (still under review).
- Revising the management certificate to attract more students.
- Beginning a music prep division for K-12 students to take noncredit music lessons.
- Raising money for the Montgomery College Foundation through the Rockville Theatre Department by selling merchandise at the production of Harry Connick Jr.'s "The Happy Elf."
- Publicizing course offerings in computer science, computer applications, and management to local business and government agencies to increase enrollment.
- Holding an engineering alumni event on 12/9/10 to reinforce connection with MC and recruit potential donors.
- Using MC Copies to print the lab manuals for Rockville fitness classes.
- Attracting new students through a new "green" program in Automotive Technology for alternate fuel vehicles and in Building Trades Technology. The first classes will be offered in January 2011 for Hybrid/Electric cars and Solar Technology. A new program for Certification in Apartment Maintenance began in October of 2010.
- Not hiring a full-time temp in the Rockville Psychology department for the spring, and filling the position with adjuncts instead.



- Raising funds yearly through Germantown's Landscape Technology Program spring and fall plant sales and by working at a regional conference. The funds were used for scholarships and to purchase equipment outside of the operating budget.
- Securing donations and equipment from industry in place of College expenditures or winning equipment in competitions to replace College expenditures.
- Securing funds for scholarships from private organizations such as the MdBio Foundation that provided \$10,000.
- Partnering internally and externally to create additional capital subsidies, access to new constituencies, and meet the needs of our community. Leveraging resources including scholarships and grants for students who would otherwise not be able to attend. Collaborating with nonprofits such as the Trawick Foundation who will be underwriting the College's Nonprofit Leadership Institute program this spring, which reduces the out of pocket costs for attendees. Another corporate example would be GEICO who underwrites drivers' education training for students who may require additional behind the wheel driving experience.

Celebrating Students

The Rockville Campus Student Ambassadors represented the College as the only student group to present at the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) Annual Conference October 2–6 in Orlando, Florida. NACADA, the second largest member organization in the United States, promotes best practices in academic advising as the path to success, retention, and completion. Lorain Santo, Farid Vata, Shannon Sparks, Cecilia Nicolich, Diane Lameira, Priscilla Wiafe, and Mohammad Moaddab presented a concurrent session, entitled “Let a student be your guide: What I wish I had known.” The presentation focused on college transition issues among new students at MC. Student ambassadors also interacted with over 3,000 conference attendees while volunteering at the registration booth, checking badges at meals, directing attendees around the conference center, providing participant counts for sessions, and collecting and processing evaluation forms. Counseling Professors Dana Baker and Amanda DeMarco accompanied the students. Students Ambassadors will present the session again at the Community College Showcase at Frederick Community College. The Community College Showcase is sponsored by the community college vice presidents and deans of student affairs and development.

On October 8, Montgomery College participated in the Frontiers in Science and Medicine event sponsored by Johns Hopkins University System's Shady Grove Campus. There were about 600 middle school students in attendance. Chemistry Professors Virginia Miller and Nevert Tahmazian along with three MC chemistry students, Beth Hellman, Jennifer Paraboschi, and Alex Feith, presented several engaging demonstrations using disappearing ink, dry ice, the maglev demo, and a common polymer, silly putty.

Philip Bennett, a long-time art student had a one-person show, “Mindscape II,” at the Glenview Mansion Gallery at Rockville Civic Center Park from November 4–30, 2010.

MC Health Sciences graduating nursing students conducted an educational health fair on December 7 in the Student Services Center first floor atrium. The nursing graduates have provided this service for three semesters, and the fair is very well received by the student community. In addition to providing educational materials about common health risks and prevention, the nursing provided some noninvasive preventative health screenings to students and community members.

George Carrillo, RN, B.S., sent an update on his journey since his graduation from Montgomery College in nursing two years ago. For the past two years, he has worked in Progressive Care at Holy Cross Hospital, received Advanced Cardiac Life Support certification, and more recently received certification to administer chemotherapy. Carrillo has had an interest in oncology nursing since he began his studies at in nursing at MC. He recently interviewed for and was offered a



position at Penn State Cancer Institute. He wrote to Dean of Health Sciences Angie Pickwick to thank the health sciences educators for their guidance and to let them know that he thinks often of his experience at the College and the strong foundation in nursing that he received.

Two School of Art + Design (SA+D) students, Jackie Imirie and Melissa Fox, received \$250 awards for their award-winning Avoid Teen Pregnancy poster designs designed last spring semester, in partnership with the Student Life Office at Takoma Park/Silver Spring and the National Campaign initiative to end unintended pregnancy among teens and young adults. Of the five award recipients recognized nationally in the design competition, sponsored by StayTeen.org, two award winners were Montgomery College SA+D students mentored by Art Professor Bob Helsley. Plans are in place for the posters to be reproduced and placed in select county schools and offices.

Students Ambassadors will be sponsoring a Service Learning Project at the Interfaith Clothing Center in Rockville. Students who attend will help to sort and display donations as well as help individuals and families using the service to locate items they need. In conjunction with this event, the ambassadors will sponsor a gently used baby item and toy drive for the center.

Four Rockville men's soccer team members were selected for the NJCAA Region XX All-Region Team. First team selections were Pablo Torrano, sophomore forward; Juan Casal-Valero, sophomore defensive sweeper; and Wilber Diaz, freshman goalkeeper. The second team selection was Yannick Diese, freshman midfielder. Congratulations to Coach Nakamura and his team.

Celebrating College Faculty, Staff, and Administrators

Takoma Park/Silver Spring Assistant Professor Dan Jenkins and his ethics course were featured on a national podcast that contains excerpts from a conversation he had with students in his class a few weeks ago. The discussion was part of a class project connected to the National Campaign Project to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. It featured student discussions on ethical issues surrounding sexual conduct in preparation for their culminating term paper assignment, and the podcast host's interviews with Professor Jenkins and Takoma Park/Silver Spring Student Life Director Jim Walters. The podcast can be located at <http://sexreally.com/>.

Dr. Tony D. Hawkins, instructional dean of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Education; Dr. Debra Bright, director of articulations, transfer, and academic services; and Ms. Clevette Ridguard, College area review coordinator, completed the National Council for Black American Affairs (NCBAA) Leadership Development Institute (LDI). The LDI provided the latest information about the current state of leadership in America's community colleges and articulated the skills, challenges, expectations, and rewards of these institutions. The NCBAA is an official council of the American Association of Community Colleges.

Dr. Sanjay Rai, Germantown Campus vice president and provost, has been appointed to the board of directors of the Global Alliance of Indian Biomedical Professionals (GAIBP). GAIBP promotes collaborations, networking, and professional development among bioscience professionals working in academia, the bio/pharmaceutical-industry, and government. The organization primarily focuses on the needs of bioscience professionals of Indian origin working in the United States and in India, and also promotes transnational opportunities for individuals and their companies in both India and the United States. Additionally, Dr. Rai was appointed to the executive committee of the board of directors of the Gaithersburg Germantown Chamber of Commerce.

Food and nutrition professor and 2010 Paul Peck Humanities Institute Fellow Sara Bachman Ducey recently published a book chapter, "Presence of Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products in the Environment—A Concern for Human Health?" along with co-author Amir Sapkota of the University of Maryland in the book, *Contaminants of Emerging Concern in the Environment: Ecological and Human Health Considerations*.



Dr. Michael Mills, director of distance education and learning technologies (DELT), was recently interviewed for a story on "County Report This Week." The story was about the Office of Distance Education and Learning Technologies having recently been awarded first place in the Communications Suite division of the Center for Transforming Student Services contest for innovative approaches to student services. DELT won for its Course Information Pages, which provide information about class textbooks and faculty contacts to students who are interested in distance education.

As the program chair for the MD/DC/VA section of the Mathematical Association of America (MAA), Professor John Hamman was responsible for the section meeting held November 5 and 6 at George Mason University. During this three-year assignment, Hamman will be responsible for planning two section meetings a year and will serve on the section's executive board. At this meeting, Vice President and Provost Sanjay Rai co-presented with Dr. Terry Quinn from Middle Tennessee State University on the topic, "A Variation in Making Sense of Variation of Parameters."

Tara Wallace, adjunct instructor in Applied Geography and chief of the Nautical Branch-NOAA, gave a presentation at the National Council on Geographic Education conference in Savannah, Georgia, on September 30.

Tanya Allison, professor and program coordinator of Applied Geography, received an award at the National Council on Geographic Education conference for 17 years of service as the Gamma Theta Upsilon (International Geography Honor Society) advisor for Montgomery College.

Karen DeLong, instructional assistant of Applied Geography, was recently nominated as the treasurer for the Mid-Atlantic division of the Association of American Geographers.

Germantown Paralegal Studies Professor and Chair Jackie Middleton was selected as the keynote speaker for the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) for their Alternative Dispute Resolution and Equal Employment Opportunity Symposium held at the Washington Navy Yard, Washington D.C., on November 10. The theme for this symposium was "Managing Conflict a Bridge to Peace," and the topic for Professor Middleton's speech was "Incivility and Bullying in the workplace." The symposium was for senior managers and senior executive service (SES) personnel.

Dr. Percy North, art professor, presented a gallery talk for a group of scholars at the National Gallery of Art on November 7 in conjunction with the museum's weekend celebration of American Modernism that highlighted the exhibition, "American Modernism" for which Professor North contributed a catalogue essay.

Adjunct Art Professor Michaele Harrington was accepted to the 2011 Smithsonian Faculty Fellowship program co-sponsored by the Paul Peck Humanities Institute and the Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies.

Adjunct Art Professor Julia Langley will be presenting a paper at the twenty-first annual Association of Faculties for the Advancement of Community College Teaching conference in Baltimore in January 2011. Her talk, "From Bamiyan to Brooklyn: Visual Literacy as a Key to Cross Cultural Understanding," will explore the idea of integrating visual art into the educational curriculum.

Adjunct Art Instructor Jean Hirons won first place for her painting, "Autumn in Burkettsville," at the Maryland Pastel Society's recent members show. She also had a painting included in the highly competitive Web show of the International Association of Pastel Associations.

With the help of faculty, the Center for Teaching and Learning, and administrators, the Germantown Library is continually adding titles to its campus professional development collection. The library currently has on public display the responses from English Assistant Professor Dr. Christina Devlin's National Day on Writing project. The focus of the project was on the importance of writing.



English Professors Tammy Peery and Jill Kronstadt served as cochairs of the Northeast Regional Two-Year College Association (TYCA) of the National Council of Teachers of English conference held in Washington, D.C., November 4–6.

Counseling Professor Audrey Hill participated in the taping of a television show for Montgomery County Public Schools called, “Our Schools Today,” with Community Superintendent Dr. LaVerne Kimball. The show was called, “Going to College: How to Do It.”

Counseling Professor Denise Simmons Graves attended the College Board Forum to learn more about data on the College Completion Agenda.

Counseling Professor Sue Adler held 17 Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) orientation sessions this fall. On Nov 17, the College inducted 174 new members into PTK.

Counseling Department Professors Aggie Harrell, Fabian Drain, and Dana Baker presented a preconference workshop at the National Academic Advising Association national convention, entitled “It’s in their eyes: Using neuro-linguistic Programming (NLP) techniques to facilitate student commitment to change.”

Counseling Department Professor Joan Hawkins organized the recent Transfer Day program that featured 40 colleges and universities and attracted over 900 students. She also worked in collaboration with UMUC on a Veterans Transfer Event held on November 11.

Ms. Liliana Arango, program director of the Hispanic Business Training Institute, and Ms. Eunice Montilla, program assistant of the Workforce Development & Continuing Education, have organized the III Business Seminar for two years in a row.

Dr. Brenda Coleman Williams, director of employment services for Workforce Development & Continuing Education, has hosted the Annual International Education once again, something she has done for two years in a row.

Speakers and Events

October Events

Professor Jenny Polm, math department assistant professor and chair of Germantown Faculty Council, coordinated the effort to enable faculty, staff, and administrators to watch the White House Summit on Community Colleges on October 5 and followed up with a survey encouraging a campus conversation on the issues raised in the summit.

The Rockville Office of Student Life held voter registration on October 11 in the cafeteria area of the Campus Center Building.

Maryland State Senator Nancy King was a guest at the October 13 meeting of the Germantown Student Senate. The students were well prepared with excellent questions and left the meeting with a strong desire to vote in the state and local elections that took place on November 2.

The 2010–11 Psychology Brown Bag Series got off to a great start. On October 20, Rockville’s Psychology Department sponsored its second brown bag discussion of the fall semester led by Dr. Deborah Stearns on “I do–no, you don’t! The controversy over same-sex marriage.” Professor Joanne Bagshaw presented “The Girl Effect: Is Educating Girls the Answer to the Global Crisis?” to an audience of over 80 people. On November 4, Dr. Gregory Ryan led the kick-off of the 2010 Psychology Goes to the Movies Series with a viewing and discussion of the classic film, “One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest,” to a crowd of 70 enthusiastic students and faculty.



The National Day on Writing was celebrated at the College on October 20 with a full day of activities featuring free-writing exercises, cake, and prizes. The event was sponsored by the Writing in the Disciplines program and hosted by English Assistant Professor Dr. Christina Devlin, the Collegewide coordinator.

Steve Roberts gave a talk on his 2009 book, *From Every End of This Earth: 13 Families and the New Lives They Made in America*, at Montgomery College on October 21. This event was sponsored by Peace and Justice Studies, the Philosophy Program, the Arab American Heritage, and Montgomery County Committee for Ethnic Affairs.

Members of the Engineering Club volunteered at the Annual USA Science and Engineering Expo on October 23 and 24 at the National Mall.

As a panelist at the October 25 meeting of the National Defense Industry Association/Aeronautical Industry Association (NDIA/AIA), Dr. Sanjay Rai, vice president and provost of the Germantown Campus, spoke on the need for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education in community colleges. The main focus of the meeting, held at the Universities at Shady Grove in Rockville, was to coalesce those working on STEM and allow different state and federal programs to highlight the good work being done in the STEM arena.

The United States Department of State sponsored a U.S.-India People to People Conference on October 28. Dr. Sanjay Rai, vice president and provost of the Germantown Campus, was an invited panelist for the session on Education that was moderated by Ann Stock, assistant secretary of the State Department's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs.

On October 30 members of the College's Transfer Scholarship Coordinating Committee organized the fifth annual Scholarship Conference at the Universities at Shady Grove. Approximately 900 people participated in the conference and MC students comprised the majority of conference attendees. At the conference, participants took advantage of a variety of workshops, visited the scholarship information tables, and received scholarship advice from Marianne Ragins, the nationally recognized keynote speaker.

Salvadoran writer Mario Bencastro spoke about his life and writings as a part of Hispanic Heritage Month in October. Bencastro's novels, short stories, and plays explore the drama of the Salvadoran civil war, the Latin American diaspora, and struggles of young bilingual and bicultural Latinos in the United States. This event was sponsored by the Germantown Office of Student Life and coordinated by Carla Naranjo, World Languages.

November Events

The Paul Peck Humanities institute welcomed Dennis Zotigh and Emil Her Many Horses of the National Museum of the American Indian to the Rockville Campus, on November 1 when they presented "Redefining America's First People," a lecture and performance in honor of Native American History Month.

Montgomery College President DeRionne Pollard joined club leaders, student senate officers, and first year experience ambassadors on November 2 to pack Smart Sacks as part of the collaborative efforts between the College, Manna Foods, and Fox Chapel Elementary School to build and promote strong relationships with the MC, students, and the community.

On November 3, the Jewish Student Union sponsored its first event of the year; a viewing and panel discussion of the award winning film "Live and Become." The panel featured Susan Pollock, cofounder of the organization Friends of Ethiopian Jews, and Political Science Associate Professor Nathan Zook. Pollock lived in Ethiopia with the Jewish community for more than a decade and then traveled to Israel to assist in their resettlement.

A November 3 Spectrum Lecture Series featured Dr. David Asai, director of precollege and undergraduate science education at the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. He spoke on the topic, "Cells in Motion," providing an overview of eukaryotic cell motility and presenting some current understanding of one molecular motor, dynein, which drives the beating of sperm flagella.



Over 90 middle school students and their parents and teachers participated in the Montgomery College Biotechnology Day on the Germantown Campus on November 6. The daylong program included hands-on workshops, lunch with visiting scientists, and workshops for parents on student success and preparing for college.

Peter Rogen presented the work of Jalaluddin Rumi, thirteenth century Sufi mystic and one of the world's poetic geniuses, to a rapt audience at the Theatre Arts Center on November 8. Rogen has presented more than a hundred Rumi lectures and dramatic readings at colleges, universities, churches, and synagogues, including performances at the Washington National Cathedral. Local musician Stream Ohrstrom accompanied the reading with his "complaining" nay flute, the same instrument Rumi heard in his own lifetime and memorialized in his signature piece, "Song of the Reed." The event at Montgomery College was part of 15-program tour that includes presentations at Boston College, Duke University, University of South Carolina, and the University of Central Florida.

Montgomery College had 10 people attend the Maryland Distance Learning Association Fall Event on November 9 at Anne Arundel Community College's Arundel Mills Campus. The event was entitled, "Tools of the Trade," and featured workshops on Web 2.0 tools used in distance education. Attending were administrators, faculty, and staff members Tom Cantu, Michele Knight, Tammy Peery, Dawn Downey, Dr. Buddy Muse, Dr. Linda Zanin, Lee Shryock, Ann de Jesus, Gloria Barron, and Dr. Michael Mills.

Lewis Carroll was the inspiration for a Math Talk on November 11. Organized by Mathematics Professor Stephen Wheatley, the "Mathematical Wonderland of Topology" was the topic of the Math Talk by Dr. Susan Goldstine from the Math Department of St. Mary's College. The 100 students, faculty, and guests who attended were treated to a colorful, textured introduction to topology in which sewn, beaded, and painted ceramic objects illustrated gluing diagrams, tori, mobius strips, and Klein bottles.

Montgomery College/Adventure Theatre's co-production of Harry Connick Jr.'s "The Happy Elf" was featured in stories in the Washington Post, DC Theatre Scene, Playbill.com, WTOP, and the Gazette. Many of our acting students, who were in the show's ensemble, were interviewed and pictured for the articles. In addition, 10 performances of "The Happy Elf" took place November 12-28 at the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center on the Rockville Campus. With music and lyrics by Harry Connick Jr., the holiday musical was directed by Tony Award-winner, John Rando.

The Hispanic Business Training Institute sponsored a very successful business seminar at the Rockville Campus on November 13 in collaboration with the University of Maryland's Maryland Small Business Development Center. Approximately 80 people were in attendance and enjoyed the excellent presentations and the great opportunity for networking that seminar offers to small business. Breakfast and lunch were offered, thanks to the sponsorship of Allen Law Offices, and Verizon Wireless. Liliana Arango, program director, Hispanic Business Training Institute, and Eunice Montilla, program assistant, Workforce Development & Continuing Education, have organized this III Business Seminar for two years in a row.

The Professional Development Saturday Series: Engaging Faculty in Student Success, Part 1, was held on Saturday, November 13, with over 150 individuals in attendance. This Collegewide event was for faculty, staff, and administrators from the College and for faculty and staff from Montgomery County Public Schools and the Universities at Shady Grove. This event was well-organized, well-attended, and well-executed. With the support of the Office of the President, the Office of Equity and Diversity, the Office of Distance Education and Learning Technologies, the Office of the Germantown Vice President and Provost, JR Caterers, Germantown Facilities, ITV and IT, the Center for Professional and Organizational Development, Human Resources, and Institutional Advancement, the Center for Teaching and Learning was able to provide an unparalleled professional development opportunity and demonstrate the wisdom of partnering with other units to provide outstanding service.

The Refugee Training Center celebrated the Second Annual International Education Week on November 19 with two guest speakers from Ethiopia, Genet Aklilu and Martha Tsegaye, both employees from the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Facilities office. International Education Week is "an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and



exchange worldwide. This joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education is part of our efforts to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences in the United States.” They shared their stories and journey to America as immigrants and how they had to study hard and work hard to reach the American dream of employment, home ownership, families, and citizenship. Two Ethiopian students presented the speakers with small tokens of thanks for coming to speak. There were approximately 100 RTC students, faculty, and staff in attendance in the Black Box Theater on campus.

On November 20 Dr. Harold Williams provided a friendly introduction to the Theory of Relativity suitable for general audiences at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring planetarium. Audience members did not have to know technical terms, they just needed an inquiring mind and imagination. Dr. Williams explained black bubbles, black holes, gravity, and time asymmetry in terms a third grader could understand.

The Germantown Campus 2010 Career Month planning committee sponsored numerous activities in November that included resume workshops for career transition and adults aged 25 and older, a cooperative education and internship program orientation, a National Institute of Standards (NIST) recruiting event, a Health Sciences panel, a career panel entitled “What Can I Do With A Major In?” and an international transcript evaluation session.

December Events

Each semester, the School of Art + Design's (SA+D) second-year students have their portfolios reviewed by premier art schools for transfer admission—and significant scholarships—to their programs. This exciting event is called the *SA+D Transfer Portfolio Show*. This semester, the event took place on Wednesday, December 8, and featured faculty members from a variety of prestigious art institutes. Among the participants were faculty members from:

- The Art Institute of Washington (AiW)
- University of MD, Baltimore County (UMBC)
- George Mason University
- School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC)
- Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA)
- Art Center College of Design
- Chester College of New England
- Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts

In addition to the scholarship offers, SA+D showcase students benefit from constructive critiques from art faculty from across the country.

Counseling Professor Karissa Silver led test anxiety/test preparation and speaking anxiety workshops in October and December. These were interactive workshops where students had a chance to discuss their issues about test-taking, as well as share tips and suggestions with other students.

Counseling faculty members at all three campuses arranged Transfer Academic Excellence Scholarship (TAES) information sessions featuring the coordinator of Transfer Scholarships and Special Programs at the University of Maryland, College Park. The program attracted many students, and College students have consistently done well in receiving TAES scholarships in years past. The College looks forward to continued success as a result of these information sessions. The campuses have also sponsored information sessions and campus visits from The University of Maryland Baltimore County's Minority Access to Research Careers Undergraduate Student Training in Academic Research and Scholarship program and the Sherman Teacher Education Scholars Program.

The Takoma Park/Silver Spring Office of Student Development, in conjunction with Student Life, hosted a series of workshops and events designed to promote awareness among students, faculty and staff about how to mitigate violence against women by examining stereotypes and choice making. “Stopping Rape before It Starts” examined traditional understandings of sexual assault and risk reduction. “Who's the Real Man?” focused on the intersection of masculinity



and violence to get behind traditional definitions of masculinity and contrast it with a healthier version that allows men to challenge violence against women. Melinda Cole, director of community education from the DC Rape Crisis Center, presented "Sexual Assault 101: Reducing Violence Against Women." All of the workshops were delivered to standing room only audiences.

The Renaissance Scholars are involved in one-credit Honors Seminars this semester. The topics include, "How Big is Infinity?," "The Intersection of Mythology, Art, and Five Epics," "The Future of Oil, Genetic Testing, and Climate Change," "World History through Star Trek," and "Introduction to Religion: Five World Traditions and Globalization Issues." Next fall, the Global Politics of Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation will be added. In addition, the scholars attended Shakespeare's "All's Well That Ends Well" at the Shakespeare Theatre, went on a Tour of Mount Vernon and listened to a special lecture on the life of a slave, and participated in a guided tour of mythological art at the National Gallery of Art and the Sackler and Freer Galleries.

Additionally, they contributed to the community by packing Smart Sacks for children in local elementary schools. Finally, the Renaissance Scholars participated in roundtable discussions with representatives from Columbia University, Goucher College, Dickinson College, Smith College, and Mount Holyoke College. On Friday, November 12, ten Renaissance Scholars visited Dickinson College for their Open House, sitting in on several classes and discussing curriculum options. On November 18, Renaissance Scholars attended movie night featuring the film, "Hotel Rwanda, which was followed by a discussion led by faculty members Kelly Rudin, Dr. Benedict Ngala, Jennifer Haydel, and Joan Naake.

External Support and Recognition

The Jim and Carol Trawick Foundation will support the spring 2011 Nonprofit Leadership Institute with a generous gift of \$8,600. The funding will cover the registration fees for 24 nonprofit applicants who will attend a five-day, intensive workshop. This year, the Leadership Institute has been reconfigured to address the needs that nonprofits are facing in this difficult economic climate.

Along with learning effective leadership skills, participants will come away from this workshop with an understanding of mission fulfillment and program alignment; awareness of community resources through board development, business and volunteer connections, and fundraising strategies; comprehension of finance fundamentals and collaboration and communication; and knowledge of different models for measuring impact. They will also hear from experienced nonprofit executive directors. The workshop culminates in a networking luncheon with invited funders, county government representatives, and others who have an investment in the services that the local nonprofit community provides.

