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### Giving Back to the Scholars Program

A number of alumni scholars and their parents have asked about giving back to the Scholars Program and Montgomery College. The easiest way to make a cash donation is to go to the Web site: <http://appserv.montgomerycollege.edu/onlinegiving>.

Under "Select an area of support" click on "Other" and type Montgomery Scholars Scholarship in the box.

**During these difficult economic times, donations are more important than ever. Thank you so much!**

## From the Director's Desk



### **Dear Scholars, Parents, and Friends of Scholars:**

*In higher education there is an increasing emphasis on the necessity to improve completion rates. From President Obama's office to the offices of college presidents across the country, the question is clear: How can we help a greater proportion of students complete their degrees? Now that we have passed our tenth anniversary, the Montgomery Scholars Program has a considerable amount of data that we are examining to ensure we are achieving our goals. To that end, I have studied the statistics from the first eight classes of scholars – the classes that attended Montgomery College between 2001 and 2008. I am delighted to report that 86 percent of all scholars who entered the program during that period have A.A. degrees, 82 percent have four-year degrees, and almost 30 percent are in graduate school.*

*To give these figures some context, an article on enrollment and graduation in The Chronicle of Higher Education reported in April last year that about 57 percent of students at four-year institutions in the United States complete their four-year degrees in six years or less (April 16, 2010). Another article in Liberal Education (the publication of the Association of American Colleges and Universities) outlined the main factors in student completion: student preparation and motivation, clear communication of a college's/program's expectations, and institutional support (summer 2010). There is, of course, always room for improvement, but it looks as if our program is definitely on the right track with its institutional support, our emphasis on critical thinking and student involvement, and our students' completion rates that are well above the national average.*

## Desde el Escritorio del Director

### **Queridos Becados, Padres de Familia, y Amigos de los Becados:**

*En la educación superior existe un creciente énfasis en la necesidad de mejorar el número de egresados. Desde la oficina del Presidente Obama hasta las oficinas de los presidentes de las universidades en todo el país, la pregunta es clara: como ayudar a generar una mayor proporción de estudiantes que completen sus grados? Ahora que hemos cumplido nuestro décimo aniversario, el programa de los Becados de Montgomery tiene como resultado una cantidad de datos que estamos examinando para asegurar que estamos alcanzando nuestros objetivos. Para ese fin, he estudiado las estadísticas provenientes de las primeras ocho clases de becados, es decir, las clases que asistieron a Montgomery College entre el 2001 y el 2008. Estoy encantada en decir que el 86% de todos los becados que entraron al programa durante ese periodo tienen grados de asociados, 82% tienen grados universitarios y casi 30% están estudiando su posgrado.*

*Para dar contexto a estas figuras, un artículo sobre la inscripción y la graduación en la Crónica de Educación Superior reporto en Abril del año pasado que cerca del 57% de estudiantes en universidades de 4 años en los Estados Unidos completan sus grados en 6 años o menos (Abril 16, 2010). Otro artículo de la Educación Liberal ( la publicación de la Asociación de Instituciones y Universidades Americanas) destaco los factores mas importantes en la graduación del estudiante: la preparación y motivación del estudiante, la clara comunicación de las expectativas de la institución o programa, y el apoyo de la institución (verano 2010). Existe siempre, por supuesto, algo que mejorar, pero luce como si nuestro programa esta definitivamente en la dirección correcta con su apoyo institucional, su énfasis en el intelecto critico y la participación del estudiante, y nuestros niveles de graduación que se encuentran mas altos que el promedio nacional.*

*Mary T. Furgol*

Director, Montgomery Scholars  
mary.furgol@montgomerycollege.edu

# Scholarly Pursuits Takes Third Place in National Honors Newsletter Competition!

Each year the National Collegiate Honors Council holds a competition for the best honors newsletter in the United States. We submitted *Scholarly Pursuits* and are delighted to announce we took third place in this national competition. Moreover, this is the first time a community college honors newsletter has been one of the winners. We extend a special thanks to our designer, Monika Zakrzewska, and all the Institutional Advancement team members who put so much effort into the design and layout. We are also grateful to all the Scholars whose compelling stories and photos bring the newsletter alive.



## Cover Photo Contest Winner

The winning photo was submitted by Viktoriya Ivanova '12. Congratulations! The picture was taken during a first-year class visit to the Freer and Sackler galleries in Washington, D.C., in October 2010.



## Schedule of Events

- **Skoal** for the sophomore class of 2011 and their families, Scholars faculty, and College administrators:  
Tuesday, May 17, 6:30–10 p.m.  
Gudelsky Building, Rockville Campus
- **Picnic** for all classes of Scholars (past, present, and incoming) and Scholars faculty:  
Thursday, May 19, 4–8 p.m.  
Bohrer Park, Gaithersburg
- **Graduation** for class of 2011:  
Friday, May 20, 9 a.m.  
Athletic Field, Rockville Campus
- **Alumni Fiesta** for all Montgomery Scholars alumni:  
Sunday, August 23, 5 p.m.  
Theatre Arts Arena



Class of 2011

## Clif's Notes

By Clif Collins (Core Professor of World Literature)

### Life Sandwiches

If necessity really is the mother of invention, then perhaps agitation is the sire of inspiration. In parenting, anyway. That's how I've squared it after all these years since the summer I was 14 years old. It was then that my father decided my vacation months would best be spent working for his older brother, Kenneth, a painting contractor. His reasoning, I now believe, stemmed chiefly from two points: his suspicion that my academic work lacked a certain focus (true enough) and that my idle hands had a tendency toward finding trouble (truer still). And just that fast, all hopes for a blissful summer were snipped from the vine.



Uncle Kenneth

Now, to be clear, I downright admired Kenneth. It's hard to find fault with a man who had his colorful history, some of which I'd learned on the sly while adult family members sat around rehashing the past. I could see him in his youth, an Army sergeant stationed at Fort Benning, home on a 72-hour weekend pass. I could easily imagine his two younger brothers sneaking into the living room where he slept off the effects of the night before on an Army cot set up in front of the fireplace in the old farmhouse. His father was there too, sitting on the couch, reading a newspaper. Howard, age 13, stood in the doorway holding two electrical wires that ran back to the kitchen and connected up with a magneto in the old-fashioned, wind-up phone. "If I was to wrap these wires around Kenneth's toes, what do you think would happen?" Howard asked. His father looked up from the newspaper and shrugged. "Not much of nothing. It'd kill a fish. But those Army guys ... they're tough."

Turned out, tough or not, those Army guys weren't immune to the tickle of electricity. A positive wrapped around one big toe, negative around the other, and one turn of the telephone's crank brought a small stir beneath the blanket.

That's when Howard gave the signal for Larry to give it a full-on crank. "At first I thought I was on fire," Kenneth recalled years later, "then maybe it was a swarm of bees. By the time I came out of that blanket and unwired my toes, they were clear out to the pasture gate, laughing their [heads] off." George Clifton had barely glanced up from his paper, mumbled something along the lines of "Who would've thought?" and gone back to checking wheat prices. Colorful ... it was hard to deny Kenneth that.

Some 20-odd years later, here I was, being handed the opportunity to work alongside the man, while broadening my mind and language in ways I could scarcely imagine. By then, Kenneth had swapped his Army uniform for a pair of bib overalls and stacked 50 or 60 pounds onto his 5'7" frame. He still had the same jet-black hair and swarthy complexion he'd drawn from the family's Native American end of the gene pool. He was a man known about town, from the dented, caulk-splattered truck he drove to the elaborate filing system he kept in the top pocket of his overalls: receipts, spare change, job bids, crushed cigarette butts, and box scores from the previous night's ballgame. Seeing him actually retrieve something from that pocket was like watching a kangaroo search its pouch for her missing young.

As for the painting business, it was mostly tedious: cleaning brushes, washing out hoses, swapping out spray nozzles when they became clogged. About the third week, I vowed I'd finally seen the light, would read *Silas Marner*, and learn the actual function of Cowper's gland, all the while wearing a pocket protector. I was transformed.

"Life is a sandwich, and every day you've got to take a bite" — one of Uncle Kenneth's sayings — the expurgated version. The following summer we had work on a couple of houses in an upscale enclave in Macon, in a tony neighborhood separated from the general riff-raff by an overpass that spanned the interstate and whose intersection was notorious for accidents. Twice a day, at lunchtime and five o'clock, we'd have to negotiate that intersection in the beat-up, formerly white pick-up, which by now had lost most of its brakes. Horns blared. I might've enjoyed the thrill if my palms and face hadn't been plastered to the passenger-side window like one of those Amazon tree frogs. Kenneth: "Amazing the respect you get when you drive the right vehicle."

Eventually I graduated to actually learning some of the trade, which also gave me the chance to



pick his brain about everything except painting. We talked sports, music, politics. He was of the opinion that Johnny Cash represented the pinnacle of American artistic achievement, a view that becomes more difficult to argue the older I get. On politics, his leanings were distinctly to the right, mine to the left, and we both wished the IRS would leave Willie Nelson the hell alone and get back to the business of spreading its general misery. He was, strangely, the only nonacademic I've ever known who could recite the Prologue to Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*—in middle and modern English.

Schoolhouses had a lot of closets and closed-in spaces that had to be painted with an epoxy base. Epoxy, by the way, is glue, which makes for much easier maintenance. Painting a closet with a mixture that's 50 percent glue, however, has its consequences. I don't know how many brain cells I left in those closets, but after about the third one, I came out with roadmap-red eyes singing Kris Kristofferson. The headaches came later in the day.

"You got to wade through the [muck] to get to the ice cream." I didn't give all this too much thought until it came time to take the SATs. Then I started to worry and began reading dictionaries. Kenneth tried to put my mind at ease. "Don't worry about it. If you blow the test and don't get into college, I'll always have a place for you right here." That evening, I went out and bought an SAT practice book with my own money. Baseball great Honus Wagner was once asked why he played so hard all the time. "Got to," he said. "There's a coal mine waiting for me back in Pennsylvania." There was a paintbrush waiting for me back in Georgia. I studied.

Today in middle age, exactly the same age as my uncle, in fact, when he first began calling for those five-gallon buckets to be brought up (in the most colorful language, mind you), I find my grasp of philosophy is often shaky. I have my friend and colleague Bob White to thank for whatever loose bits I've managed to grasp here and there, enjoying both the subject and the minds behind it. Still, I've yet to find one who's given me a more practical, all-encompassing perspective, let alone the language to express it, than Uncle Kenneth. Not Kant, not Sartre, not Husserl nor Wittgenstein. And definitely not Nietzsche, who wasn't even colorful but just plain crazy.

# Scholars Colloquium

By Alisa Tsaturov '12

As the Capstone Colloquium of 2011 convened, the atmosphere in the Theater Arts Building was buzzing with excitement, anticipation, and pride. Capstone can be seen as a “rite of passage” for students in the Montgomery Scholars Program. It all starts with sophomore Scholars selecting a topic from the expansive theme of “Globalization.” The research program, as Dr. Hessami put it, gives students a chance “to hopefully find something that has been ignored or forgotten” and then, in front of an audience of parents, peers, and teachers, to establish a need to address the issue. After much planning, innovative thought, digging in the library, and probably some sweat and tears (though no one knows for certain), not only did the students submit their findings in the form of a 20-page paper, they also faced the challenging task of condensing their research into an effective 15-minute PowerPoint presentation.

After a warm welcome to the colloquium from Dr. Furgol, the guests crowded around to view poster presentations by **Cathryn Calantano**, **Siomara Parada**, **Stephanie Palazzo**, **Monica Young**, and **Lea Antic**. The topics reflected a variety of interests among the Scholars and a good deal of creativity and insight. For example, **Calantano** spoke about how a long history of violence in some parts of the world has created ideal conditions for such atrocities to occur as the recruitment of child soldiers, while **Young** informed listeners about how hip-hop has had a positive influence on society by becoming an effective outlet for impoverished groups in the city of São Paulo, Brazil.

The Scholars also made sure to express gratitude to those who guided them on the long, arduous path toward this culminating accomplishment. They nominated their former high school teachers who had pushed them to take honors classes, exposed them to new ways of thought, and otherwise inspired them to excel in their educational careers. The entire room was able to participate in nostalgic, heart-warming moments as **Dr. Rodney Redmond**, acting dean of humanities, called each teacher’s name, while genuine pride showed on the faces of the students and their mentors.

The evening featured **Kristin Hoover’s** presentation “From Matter to Bits: The Metamorphosis of the Digital Mind,” which focused on the negative effects of technology on the human mind. When she took the stage, she asked listeners to turn in their cell phones at the front of the room. The resulting defiance or discomfort her request produced in the audience humorously emphasized the dependence of today’s society on technology. Hoover went on to articulate the degradation in the quality of human interaction and a shortened attention span as consequences of developments such as texting and Facebook. These observations prompted members of the audience to question their own lifestyle choices.

**Evan Ricucci** attracted a large audience as he spoke about the American policy of interventionism in countries around the world during the 20th century. Ricucci asserted that, if the United States does not cease to employ physical force as the ultimate method of solving conflicts in foreign nations, this could spell the end of things as we know them and eventually plunge the world into a global conflict. He used striking, graphic images as powerful visual aids to demonstrate the brutal effects of warfare on civilian life, thereby reiterating his message of peace.

**Kunal Arora** discussed the reasons why football has failed to become an international sport despite several attempts by the National Football League to increase its popularity on the world stage by bringing the game to London and Mexico City. Arora used the case of American Samoa, a tiny Pacific island, as an example. Even though Samoan players excel at football because the sport meshes so well with their cultural values, the sport has not caught on because the island remains in poverty. He explained that, for now, football is an almost exclusively American sport because of the high cost of materials, complex rules, and anti-American sentiment in some countries.

It is perhaps an understatement to say that the evening was a success. The Scholars exuded great confidence and true passion as well as a thorough understanding of the issues they presented. Despite several technical malfunctions, they carried themselves professionally, with humor and confidence. The bar is now set high for the class of 2012, and one can only hope that we will follow successfully in their footsteps.



Lea Antic's poster presentation



Kristin Hoover



Class of 2011 after the Colloquium

# Colloquium

## Heat, Food, Culture—A Cook's Perspective



**“Cooking is a delicious and unique trait of our humanity. The magic of the process and the reality of its necessity give reason to our imagination and propel our capacity.”**

—Mariano Ramos '01

On September 17, 2010, Mariano Ramos entranced the first-year Scholars, faculty, and guests with a roundtable presentation on the role of food and culture. Mariano, a Montgomery Scholar from the very first class of 2001, has a B.S. in computer engineering and

has worked as a chef for the past few years. He has also taught at L'Academie de Cuisine and was instrumental in revising the curriculum.

At the roundtable, Mariano discussed his path to cooking — a field that combines his interest in science, his family heritage, and his artistic expression. He emphasized the importance of fire and heat in culture and in cooking. Mariano arranged the first-year Scholars into groups of four, and each group helped build a freestanding brick grill while learning the

variables that let “the magic of fire and heat happen.” Mariano demonstrated the importance of the quality of ingredients combined with the chef's technique by making guacamole with a mortar and pestle that had been handed down to him by his father, as is customary in Mexico. The afternoon was a memorable experience for one and all. As Professor Furgol later commented, the program has come full circle, with one of the first Montgomery Scholars now conducting a roundtable for the 12th class of Scholars.



## The Room

By Sam Cameron '12

The only natural light in the room came in through the shaded, stained glass windows. Ghosts of leaves in the wind danced across the colored panes, making the deep reds and teals shimmer like water. With little sunlight to supplement, the incandescent bulbs cast their cozy amber hues over the lair like a heavy net, secluding the languid atmosphere within from the busy breezes of the outside world.

The bookshelves lining the walls emitted a faint aroma of salted timber, a result, no doubt, of both the caramel colored wood from which they were constructed and the endless volumes they housed, discoursing on a variety of topics, ranging from Einsteinian physics to shamanism.

The room was a treasure trove, and yet it was not excessive; there were no heaps of gold on which a greedy dragon lay, encrusting her soft under belly with an armor of doubloons. Large ornamental daggers hung from the walls in stark contrast to the many large sculptures of the Buddha. A reproduction of Carl Jung's legendary *Red Book* was propped open on an old-fashioned bookstand so that any passerby could admire the decadent illuminations and elegant German calligraphy. A crimson drum, which I could barely put my arms around, was stashed against the wall, daring a passerby to test its thunderous tones. Beside this stood a black, wooden wardrobe, inscribed with the signs of a zodiac. Anyone with an iota of curiosity

would be overcome by the desire to unlock it and find Narnia.

This is not the setting from my latest novel. This is Professor Robert White's basement, where he graciously hosts “Philo Café,” a convocation of Montgomery Scholars that hearkens back to a Platonic forum.

This Friday afternoon was something of a triumph: as freshmen Montgomery Scholars, my comrades and I had survived our first week of classes. Slightly “zombified” by the exertion of reading, writin', and 'rithmetic (and, in some cases, pulling all-nighters to converse on “oovoo”), we invaded the home of our kindly philosophy professor, armed with brownies, potato chips, and some mind-blowing Russian candy. We proceeded to drape our teenaged selves across a variety of armchairs and a much-loved couch (which sinks so far when you sit on it that your knees end up somewhere in the region of your navel).



Prof. Robert White with his wife, Martha

Professor White began the business of the gathering by striking up a room-wide conversation about the amazing neurological wisdom of the heart. From here, our discussion propagated through an array of seemingly unrelated subjects: from cognitive philosophy to the purpose of out-of-body experiences; from déjà vu to (my personal favorite) time travel. Though our discussions became sometimes heated and intense, we never ventured beyond the pleasantly collegial atmosphere.

This room has an old soul; the walls have ears. The room hears us, perhaps even laughs lovingly at how young and naive we all are. The room mediates for us, telling us to be calm when we become frustrated with our debates. If ever a room could tell stories, this room could. This room is alive, full of memory. When we all depart and turn out the lights, the room is not empty. The air is thick with echoes of the conversations of the Scholars who came before.

# Life After Scholars

One of the aims of this newsletter is to keep alumni Scholars connected to one another and to chart the paths Scholars are taking, often as a result of the projects done and visions absorbed while a student in the Montgomery Scholars Program. Below are two such stories.

## An Old Capstone Paper and Its Consequences



**Katie Linton '03**, a graduate of Rockville High School, is a nursing student at Valley Presbyterian Hospital in Los Angeles. Last summer she applied for the Nurse Scholars Program there, which includes a scholarship for the final two semesters of nursing school and the promise of a job with the hospital for the first two years after graduation. This is a highly competitive program — only six students are accepted each year. In September, Katie received word that

she was one of those few students selected. She wrote an e-mail to Dr. Furgol, who had provided one of her recommendation letters.

Here is what Katie wrote: “The program interview panel was very interested in my capstone research project, which I included in my resume as a publication since it was published in the online Montgomery College *Journal of Science and Mathematics*. I explained that my project, “Knowing By Heart: Cellular Memory in Heart Transplantation,” was an argumentative, thesis-based research project that I had presented in an honors colloquium as part of the Montgomery Scholars Program. I also talked about my trip to Cambridge University as part of the program. They were very impressed. I was accepted! I feel very lucky to have secured a job and a scholarship before I even graduate. Thank you again for all your help and support! And thank you, MC Montgomery Scholars Program,

for giving me a very diverse and well-rounded background of experience that I continue to reference in applications and interviews.”

In a strange coincidence, just a few days after Katie sent this e-mail, Dr. Furgol was contacted by a writer who is researching cellular memory. He had come across Katie’s capstone paper online and wanted to get in touch with her to discuss her ideas. So you never know where



Katie Linton and Luke Bradley

those capstone papers might lead! We also want to extend our congratulations to Katie on her recent engagement to Luke Bradley.

## Engineers Without Borders at Montgomery College and Beyond

By Bryce Hoover '09

I came into the Scholars Program a little hesitantly. Sure, I was ahead with AP credits, but pursuing an intense humanities curriculum while trying to fit in a full engineering curriculum seemed a little daunting. But after hanging out with 24 other Scholars at the Harper’s Ferry overnight and talking to Professor Furgol, my mind was put at ease about how everything was going to work out. The courses would be difficult, but my newfound community and curriculum structure seemed to provide the most ideal context for learning. Although I decided to start out in engineering, I didn’t really know what I wanted to pursue academically. So I came into the Scholars Program with no agenda. I just wanted to learn ... something.

During the second semester, we were assigned a group project to develop an “ideal community.” We had to work together to formulate the ideals, values, world views, work life, living arrangements, and so on that we collectively believed would

constitute an ideal living environment. The culmination of this thought exercise was a service project intended to reflect our community’s values. We had no clue what to do. I happened to hear from a friend about an organization called Engineers Without Borders (EWB) and decided I’d check it out on the Web to see if there were any opportunities for a service project for our group. The goal of this organization is to “partner with disadvantaged communities through the implementation of sustainable engineering projects, while training internationally responsible engineering students.” I got excited about this organization and pitched the idea to the group of starting an EWB club/chapter at Montgomery College. They loved it.

By the end of the semester, we had set up an official club on campus with 15 new members, mostly engineering students. After establishing

*Continued on page 8*



Brazil Team



Youth Center – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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this organization, I decided to continue a leadership role as the president. Through my church, I knew of an American in Guadalupe, Mexico, who runs a large orphanage just outside Ciudad Juarez. After much discussion with faculty and the dean of the engineering school, we decided that EWB at Montgomery College was ready to take the next step by actually pursuing an international engineering project in cooperation with the orphanage. We raised funds, communicated with the orphanage about our intentions, filled out lots of paperwork, bought plane tickets, rented a car, and soon found ourselves in the middle of the desert with a camera, paper, pencils, a guide ... and a LOT of potential projects. We stayed at the orphanage five days, gathering every bit of information that we could. Before leaving, we decided that construction of a storage facility was an important and feasible project for our organization. Upon returning to Montgomery College, I had to switch gears to complete my sophomore capstone project on the global water crisis and potential solutions.

I have since moved on from the Scholars Program and am in my last semester at the University of Maryland. Our Mexican storage project was put on hold because of escalating violence in the Juarez area. Despite this setback, I wanted more. When I got to Maryland, I immediately got involved in the EWB club on campus. In my first semester, I traveled to Ethiopia to help construct a youth center for a community about an hour north of the capital, Addis Ababa. After this experience, I led a water supply/purification project to a small fishing community on an island off the southeastern coast of Brazil. This project is still in progress and is expected to be completed by January 2012.

Why do I share these experiences with you? Because I want you to seriously consider the Scholars Program. My initial objection to enrolling in this program was that, "It's not relevant to what I want to do!" But let's face it, who *really* knows *exactly* what they want to do as a college freshman? The most valuable thing I ever did in college was not "doing what I wanted to do" but enrolling in a program that created a learning



Building in Process – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

environment that forced me to explore things that I never knew existed. As a fourth-year engineering student, I can honestly say that the best thing that ever happened to me in college was a freshmen philosophy class. In that class, I learned how to take what you're good at and use it to give good to others. That's the power of a learning environment like the Montgomery Scholars Program. If you want a college experience that can help you identify what you love and show you its relevance in our global environment, get into this program!

## New Faces

We welcome into the program Professor Effie Siegel, who is substituting for Professor Shweta Sen this year, and also Professor Kelly Kleine, who comes to us as a counselor working with the class of 2012.



Professor Effie Siegel

professor in the English department since 2003. She regularly teaches second semester English composition and has served as the EN102 coordinator for four years. Besides serving as a Smithsonian Faculty Fellow, Professor Siegel was the Fellowship coordinator for two years. She has presented at various local and national conferences, developed the WS Honors internship at the Sewall Belmont House and Museum, and currently serves as mentor for the internship. She also is a founding member of the Peace and Justice Studies community at Montgomery College.

### Professor Effie Siegel

Efstathia (Effie) Siegel is a Washington, D.C., native. She earned a B.A. in comparative literature from Northwestern University and an M.A. in comparative literature from San Francisco State University. Upon her return to the D.C. area, she worked for the U.S. Congress and was subsequently a writer and analyst for the Office of Personnel Management and a writer for the Office of Management and Budget. While working for the government, she wrote regularly for *Management* magazine. Professor Siegel taught at Montgomery College as an adjunct professor and has been a full-time



Professor Kelly Kleine

### Professor Kelly Kleine

Professor Kleine has been an adjunct faculty member of the Montgomery College Counseling Department since 2001. Before coming to MC, she was the assistant director of the Clark School of Engineering Student Affairs Office at The University of Maryland College Park. She is also a proud Tarheel, having earned a B.A. in history as a Morehead Scholar from The University of North Carolina. Professor Kleine also has an M.A. in college student personnel from Bowling Green State University in Ohio.





**Melissa Gilpin '05 (Poolesville HS)** is studying at Boston University in its master's in film production program; she will graduate in 2012.

**Todd Culliton '08 (Watkins Mill HS)** graduated with a B.S. in economics from the University of Maryland in December. Todd maintained a 4.0 GPA and was accepted to an impressive array of law schools: Wake Forest, William and Mary, Santa Clara, the University of Maryland, George Washington University, and Michigan State. He was offered a full scholarship at both GW and Michigan and has decided to accept George Washington's offer. Congratulations, Todd!

**Aaron Kaufman '08 (Walter Johnson HS)** was recently elected to the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee and the Maryland State Democratic Central Committee. Already vice chairman of the County Commission on People with Disabilities, Aaron is studying political science at the University of Maryland College Park. Congratulations, Aaron. We look forward to seeing the next chapter of your political career.

**Sheena Austria '09 (Churchill HS)** and **Javier Pena '09 (Magruder HS)** are currently attending Georgetown University. They will be co-leaders for a mission trip from Georgetown to Haiti during spring break (Sheena also spent her last spring break in Haiti). Javier is currently working as a research assistant at Georgetown's Berkley Center on Religion, Peace, and World Affairs.

**Sarah Lasko '10 (Rockville HS)** is studying communication at the University of Maryland and is playing the lead role of Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet* with the Artists' Initiative at Olney Theatre this spring.

**Cecilia Nicolich '11 (Richard Montgomery HS)** and **Diane Lameira '11 (Walter Johnson HS)** joined five other Montgomery College Student Ambassadors to present at the National Academic Advising Association's Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, in the fall. Their presentation focused on college transition issues among new students at Montgomery College. They will also present at a regional academic advising conference in Philadelphia in April.

**Jonathan Jayes Green '12 (Kennedy HS)** was featured on the front cover of the publication *Buene Gente*. The lead article described Jonathan's path from Panama to the United States and his volunteer work (over 1,000 hours) in the community and in local politics.



Aaron Kaufman '08



Sheena Austria '09 and Javier Pena '09



Sarah Lasko '10



Cecilia Nicolich '11, and Diane Lameira '11

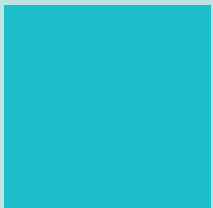


Jonathan Jayes Green '12

# News

# Thanks! ROUNDTABLE PRESENTERS & GUEST LECTURERS

The Scholars wish to thank the following individuals for their generous contributions of time and talents during this academic year.



Mr. Steve Di Girolamo



George Scheper, Ph.D.



University of Maryland archaeological field school with Mark Leone, right, at Wye Hall, 18th century home of William Paca, Summer 2010.

*The Archaeology of Wye House near Easton, Maryland, and Frederick Douglass*  
**Mark Leone, Ph.D.**

Professor, Department of Anthropology,  
University of Maryland

*Japanese Tea Ceremony*  
**Mr. Steve Di Girolamo**

*Latin America*  
**George Scheper, Ph.D.**  
Faculty Associate,  
Advanced Academic Programs,  
Center for Liberal Arts,  
The Johns Hopkins University,  
Coordinator of Humanities,  
CCBC – Essex

*Modern Dance*  
**Mauria Peckham**  
Dance Education,  
Performance and Choreography

*Quantum Physics: Perception and Reality*  
**Dr. Forrest Hall**  
Goddard Space Center

*The Holocaust and Memory*  
**Bjorn H. Krondorfer, Ph.D.**  
Professor of Religious Studies,  
St. Mary's College of Maryland

*Middle East Simulation*  
**Professor Rebecca Cartwright**

*Post-Modern Thought*  
**Aram Hessami, Ph.D.**



Mauria Peckham



Dr. Forrest Hall



Bjorn H. Krondorfer, Ph.D.



Professor Rebecca Cartwright



Aram Hessami, Ph.D.



## New Friends of the Scholars

Congratulations to our new Friends of the Scholars and return of an 'old' one. The following high school teachers were nominated by sophomore Scholars because of the influence they had on them during their educational careers:



(a repeat honor)

**John Bronson** Covenant Life High School  
Nominated by **Evan Ricucci**



**Christine Di Monte** Clarksburg High School  
Nominated by **Kunal Arora**



**Karen Tcheyan** Wheaton High School  
Nominated by **Rodrigo Castro**



**James Cappuccilli** Poolesville High School  
Nominated by **Catherine Calantonio**



**Maria Solemou** Richard Montgomery High School  
Nominated by **Cecilia Nicolich**



**Emily Willard** Watkins Mill High School  
Nominated by **Siomara Parada**

# Photo Contest, Spring 2011

*Thank you!*

Thank you so much to all those who submitted photos. The quality was very high and it was difficult to choose. Here are a few of the runners-up.



Photo submitted by Sarah Lasko



Photo submitted by Corinne Wilhelm Glab



Photo submitted by Pardeep Bhandari

# CONGRATULATIONS!



## Births

Congratulations to **Andrew Dodge '01** and his wife Erin on the birth of their son, Andrew Richard Dodge III, on September, 29, 2010; to **Megan Lara (Brittle) '01** and **Roberto Lara '01** on the birth of their second child, a son, Owen Santiago Lara, on January 27, 2011; to **Andrea Matthews (Mayer) '01** and her husband Ronnie on the birth of their second child, a daughter, Zoey Michelle Matthews, on September 25, 2010; and to **Diana Zeni (Gonzales) '01** and her husband Brenden on the birth of their daughter, Madelyn Allegra Zeni, on December 24, 2010. And a very special congratulations to our own **Professor Shweta Sen** and her husband Arup who welcome their son Anuraag to their family.



Anuraag Sen



Andrew Richard Dodge III



Zoey Michelle Matthews



Madelyn Allegra Zeni



Owen Santiago Lara



## Weddings/Engagements

We also congratulate **Katie Coursey '03** on her marriage to John Giganti on October, 16, 2010; **Amy Wayne '01** on her engagement to Derek Wisniewski; and **Adam Weidenhammer, M.D. '02** on his engagement to Jane Ho, who is studying medicine at New York Medical College.



Katie Coursey and John Giganti



Adam Weidenhammer, M.D. and Jane Ho



Montgomery Scholars Program Newsletter

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 14

# SCHOLARLY *Pursuits*



## Information

Montgomery Scholars Program  
[www.montgomerycollege.edu/  
admissions/MCScholars](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/admissions/MCScholars)

Montgomery College  
[www.montgomerycollege.edu](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu)

Comments, feedback,  
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 **Montgomery College**

*Produced by the Office of Communications, 04/2011*

Montgomery College is an academic institution committed to promoting equal opportunity and fostering diversity among its students, faculty, and staff.

