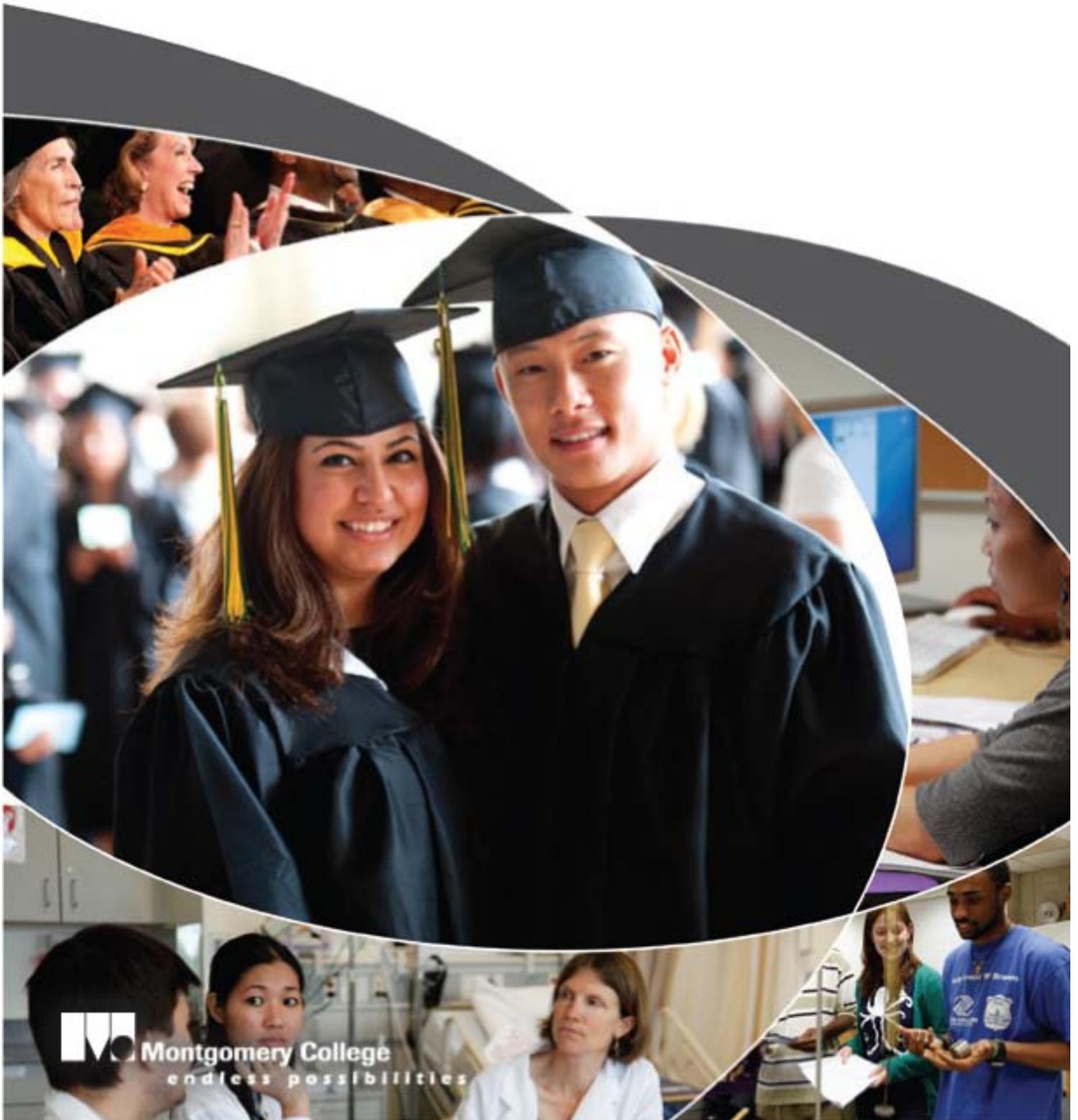


PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

May 2011





President's Report to the Board



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It is an exciting time to be a member of the Montgomery College community! The class of 2011 will soon be Montgomery College alumni, leaving our institution to continue on their individual journeys. Some graduates will transfer to four-year institutions; others will enter the working world. With their Montgomery College education and the assistance they receive from the many schools and businesses with which we have articulation agreements and partnerships, our students now have endless possibilities.

Our students thrive in the workplace, and they also transfer—and succeed—at prestigious four-year universities. They are prepared to tackle the rigorous curriculum, largely thanks to our award-winning faculty. From developmental to advanced courses, we meet the individualized needs of our students. That is why they have transferred to universities near and far, including The University of Maryland, Georgetown University, Columbia University, Smith College, and the list goes on and on.

Too often, the success of community colleges is limited only to those who receive degrees from our institutions. At Montgomery College, we also measure our greatness based upon how well we prepare our students to successfully walk across the stage to receive their bachelor's degree at another institution. As I have mentioned, Montgomery College is one of 40 colleges piloting a new accountability system developed by a national group that does understand us: the American Association of Community Colleges. I am hopeful this new effort will measure outcomes and processes that are specific and relevant to community colleges. In the interim, this month's report focuses on the success stories that abound on our campuses, during this season of transferring and graduating.

I invite you to read about what our College does to ensure student success once they leave our doors. You also will meet students. Students like Su who, as a 22-year-old with two young children, suffered a traumatic brain injury that erased her memories. Years later, she leaves Montgomery College as a Phi Theta Kappa honors student bound for Smith College in her pursuit of a music degree. You will meet Tierra, who writes that she grew up with a verbally abusive father and absent mother. After years of battling insecurity, she is the first in her family to complete college. After receiving her associate's degree this year, she plans to transfer to Frostburg State University to earn a bachelor's degree in communication, and hopes to one day receive a master's degree in social work.

And at Commencement, I invite you to meet Steven Duggan, who went from a Domino's Pizza store manager and firefighter to successful graduate of our four-year apprenticeship program through the Air Conditioning Contractors of America, National Capital Chapter. Throughout his apprenticeship, he worked at Mallick Mechanical Contractors and rapidly advanced to manager of some of the larger jobs for the company.

This is what we do. We change lives. We are Montgomery College. I hope reading what our students have accomplished this year will inspire you to continue dedicating the long hours you already do in order to help us fulfill our mission.



Board Discussion Questions:

1. Over the last year, I've learned this board is interested in better understanding the student experience at Montgomery College and learning more about the students who attend this institution. As trustees, what types of student experience are you most interested in hearing from me in the next academic year?

From the Field

Maintaining high academic standards that provide transferring and graduating students the foundation on which to build further academic and/or workplace success is the cornerstone of what the College does to benefit our graduating and transferring students. Articulation agreements (commonly known as transfer agreements) that permit students to transfer all earned credits are affirmation that the academic rigor at the College is no less than that at the transfer institution. Employers, like Human Genome Sciences, who seek graduates of our programs, affirm the quality and currency of our curriculum and the expertise of our faculty. The acceptance of our students at prestigious four-year schools and the success of the students when they attend is testimony to the quality of our curriculum and instruction. Competitive scholarships awarded to our students corroborate the excellence of scholarship cultivated on campus. Ongoing efforts as well as special events build on the foundation of academic excellence to support transfer and graduation goals.

Students are preparing for the real world challenges and opportunities that come with graduation and/or transfer to a four-year institution as well as learning real world skills to help them pass licensing exams and gain valuable experience in their chosen fields. Several examples include the following:

- Diagnostic Medical Sonography (DMS) Medical Director Dr. Brian Garra, who works at the FDA, and Gail Heaton, who is a MC clinical instructor and supervisor at Washington Hospital Center, have spearheaded a wonderful opportunity for the faculty and student in the DMS program through a new partnership with Imaging the World (ITW). ITW and the DMS program will provide training to “trainers” who will travel to underserved areas in the world. Our students and faculty will be involved with the project and will receive training, provide training, and travel to underserved countries. This new initiative integrates technology, volunteering, and education to bring medical expertise and high-quality health care to remote and underserved areas worldwide. The hope is to provide imaging to women who do not receive obstetrical care in their villages. A single, “very simplified” ultrasound that provides baby position, baby number, and other basic information would give expectant mothers enough information to know whether to make the 100-mile trip (often times longer) to the hospital to have the baby delivered by c-section by a surgeon. This should reduce the very high percentage of fetal mortality rate during delivery. MC students will have the opportunity to travel to under developed countries to assist in this worthwhile project while learning real life skills in sonography.
- Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) students are – thanks to a Perkins Grant – receiving an intensive two day board review exam course in how to pass the PTA exam so that they can begin practicing in their new profession. The course, which is offered free of charge, will help the students to pass the licensing test on the first attempt. Taking and earning passing grades on practice exams positively correlates with passing the actual exam. Nursing students receive a similar competitive edge when sitting for their licensing exams because of exam simulation software that has dramatically raised the NCLEX nursing exam scores of Montgomery College nursing graduates.

The Transfer Scholarship Coordinating Committee (TSCC) is a collegewide work group whose goal is to seek and help students obtain transfer scholarships to continue their higher education. Committee members, which include faculty and staff representation from all campuses and central administration, identify and promote scholarship opportunities, facilitate the application process, initiate and maintain partnerships with transfer institutions, and coordinate campus visits for our students. The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, the Transfer Academic Excellence Scholarship sponsored by the



University of Maryland, the University System of Maryland Regent Scholarship Program, and the Wilson Scholarship from the University of Baltimore are some of the collegewide scholarships that are publicized and facilitated by this committee. In addition, the TSCC coordinates an annual College Scholarship Conference. The fall 2010 conference was held at the Universities of Shady Grove. Over 1,000 participants attended a variety of workshops and met with representatives from 19 programs at regional colleges and universities to learn about existing MC financial aid as well as transfer scholarships. Keynote speaker Marianne Ragins offered scholarship advice.

Transfer Days each fall and spring assist students whose goal is to transfer to a four-year college or university. Organized by the Student Development faculty and staff on their respective campuses, this three-day event features representatives from colleges and universities from Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. Students have the opportunity to meet college representatives and learn about scholarships, transfer requirements, resources, and program offerings.

The Renaissance Scholars Program, coordinated by Germantown English faculty member Professor Joan Naake, began in fall 2007 and combined the Germantown Millennium Scholars Program and the Takoma Park Scholars. This selective honors program makes challenging curricula accessible to both part-time and full-time high-achieving students. Team-taught, interdisciplinary courses are offered in the evening and weekends to accommodate working adults. This year's Renaissance Scholars will select from their acceptances at the following colleges and universities:

- **Jana Burke**, the 2011 Board of Trustees Scholar for the Germantown Campus, has been accepted at Smith College, Mount Holyoke College, and St. Mary's College.
- **Susan Wu** has also been accepted at Smith College, Mount Holyoke College, and St. Mary's College. Susan won the Germantown President's Award and the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship.
- **Demi Diaz**, whose father – confined to a wheelchair – moved his daughters from El Salvador to Maryland to give them opportunities not available in their homeland, has been admitted to The American University, College of Notre Dame, and St. Mary's College.
- **Zaheen Fatima** has been admitted to Smith College, Mount Holyoke College, and awaits letters from others. With three acceptances to Smith College this spring, and other successful Montgomery College graduates currently in Northampton, Massachusetts, a community of support is developing for these young women. And Montgomery College graduates are known as students with enormous potential.
- **Cristina Gatica** has been admitted to Mount St. Mary's College.
- **Seth Lessans** awaits word from Columbia, his first choice, but has been admitted to Drexel, The University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), and Stevenson.
- **Martha Moreira** has been accepted at The American University, Hood College, and is waiting on Georgetown University, her first choice and where she was selected as an MC preferred candidate.
- **Brian Morowitz** will attend the University of Maryland.
- **Stav Nave** has been accepted at the University of Miami, The University of Maryland, The University of North Carolina, and he awaits word from Yale University, his first choice.
- **Olu Oluduro** was accepted at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and the University of Pennsylvania. Upon receiving admission to the University of Pennsylvania, he wrote in an e-mail, "I'm completely thrilled, I'm thoroughly scared, I'm suddenly anxious and I think I'm ready to start doing the Ivy Leaguer dance."
- **Mery Rivas** grew up in Peru, walked hours a day to school with one pair of shoes a year and no electricity in her house until her senior year of high school. She is married, has a three-year-old child, and will attend UMBC to study social work.
- **Tracy Vargas** will attend Hood College, part-time. It has taken this brilliant and dedicated single mother of three small children several years to finish her associate of arts degree with a 4.0 GPA.
- **Philomena Walsh** has been admitted to Virginia Intermont College for equine studies.



- **Mary Wilkinson** who has only recently discovered herself after not fulfilling her potential in high school will attend The University of Maryland.

Honors students have transferred to the following schools:

The University of Maryland; select universities at the Universities at Shady Grove; The University of Maryland Baltimore County; St. Mary's College of Maryland; Towson University; Stevenson University; Goucher College; Hood College; The University of Baltimore; The University of Maryland University College, The American University; The George Washington University; Georgetown University; Dickinson College; Catholic University; Drexel University; Mt. Holyoke College; Smith College; George Mason University; McDaniel College; Morgan State University; Salisbury University; Washington College; Marymount University; The University of Miami; The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Beloit College; The University of Texas, Austin, The College of William and Mary; Columbia University, School of General Studies; The University of Pennsylvania; The University of Pittsburgh; and Georgia Institute of Technology.

Full- and part-time faculty have written **letters of recommendation** in support of students who transfer or seek employment: one, dozens, and over 200 in some cases.

Early Placement benefits high school students

Dr. Zhou (Jojo) Dong's student, Ishmael Amegashie, graduated from high school early so that he could take multivariable calculus at Germantown. He will attend Notre Dame University in the fall. Dr. Dong, who also took a course at her local community college because it was not offered at her high school, considers these opportunities valuable for capable high school students. It affords them the opportunity to earn transferable credits, experience a college-paced course prior to their freshman year in college, and provides exposure to courses not available in high school. As a faculty member, it encourages her to "be just as rigorous as the top engineering universities. We would be doing them a disservice by not keeping our standards high."

Advising and mentoring

Counselors and faculty provide on-going academic advising, planning, and mentoring, from brief conversations explaining course content to mapping out a multi-year plan, to pointing out that with the number of "prerequisite" classes they have taken, a student could earn an associate's degree. Connection to a faculty member outside of the classroom is a leading predictor of success. Germantown counselors have increased their efforts to target students with transfer advising information using MyMC e-mail notifications.

Student Employment Services provides students and graduates with assistance with resume writing; interviewing skills; access to employment opportunities through eJobs, a technology based database that connects students to job opportunities that are posted with the College; career information; job fairs and internships. The demand for Student Employment Services continues to increase each year. Eighty percent of our students work. Without employment assistance, many students would not be able to complete their educational goals, especially given the current economic conditions and reduction in financial aid.

Student success stories

- Last May, Ms. Halima Ahmed graduated with a degree in international studies and transferred to Mount Holyoke College. Read her amazing story of personal challenges and academic success at <http://www.spokenstories.org/thus-i-seek-education/>.
- Printmaking student Cristina Goncalves was accepted to the University of Connecticut to pursue an MFA with a full scholarship and stipend for two years. Cristina prepared her portfolio for graduate school applications under the guidance of Professor Carr.



- Former Rockville Art Department student Sheila Bell was recently accepted to the undergraduate honors program for rising senior-level art students at the University of Maryland. Sheila was one of only ten students selected to have access to a semi-private art studio on campus. She also will have one-on-one time with faculty in preparation for her senior thesis show. Sheila credits much of her success to the instruction and support of Rockville Art Department Professor Carr.
- Adjunct Professor Michaele Harrington's color theory student Yeona Kim has just been accepted as a freshman to Maryland Institute College of Art. Another art student, West Clancy, was accepted to MICA as a transfer student with a scholarship of \$15,500 for his junior year.
- Su Meck has attended Montgomery College for almost four years during which time she became a music major. When Su was 22 years old with two young children, a ceiling fan fell on her head, putting her into a coma from which she awoke with a traumatic brain injury that took away all of her memories. Su lived in a rehab facility for about three months, after which she had to relearn how to cook, read, write and care for her family. During her adult life, Su had never sat in a classroom that she remembers until she came to Montgomery College in 2007 as a nontraditional, older student. She is graduating this May with an associate of arts degree in music with honors (Phi Theta Kappa) and is interested in pursuing ethnomusicology, musicology, and music history. Having recently interned at the Library of Congress and studying world music with Professor Dawn Avery, she is determined to pursue an education and career in music scholarship. So far, Su has been accepted to Smith College, Mt. Holyoke College, and Simmons College. She will attend Smith College in the fall.
- Javier Godinez, a violin major who graduated last fall, was recently accepted into Catholic University to pursue music education and performance. He has been awarded a substantial scholarship. Javier has a four-month old baby girl named Maia and is teaching violin private classes at Black Rock. He is a first-generation college student.
- Television student Imani Muleyyar received a \$2,000 transfer scholarship for two years to the Electronic Media and Film Department at Towson University.
- Computer Graphics alumna Claudine Stone recently won the William E. Royer Sculpture Award, Mark Giarratana Memorial Sculpture Award, and the Orest Poliszczuk Sculpture Award.
- Computer Graphics student Julio Osuma recently won the Rotary Club of Rockville's Academic Scholarship.
- Computer Graphics student Khuon Duy Le received the University of Baltimore's 2011 Wilson Presidential Scholarship.
- Computer Graphics alumnus Roland Womack's award-winning film entitled "Daydreamer" was featured at the 2010 London International Animation Festival.
- Computer Graphics alumnus Nick Worthey won the Intel Indies Film Contest Grand Prize (\$25,000.00) for his animated film entitled "The Wand".
- Guitar student Marvin Arias and piano student John Viera were admitted to the highly competitive New School Jazz Studies Program at the University of Maryland.
- Ms. Cansu Celik did not speak English when she moved from Turkey in 2008 to attend Montgomery College. After successfully completing English as Second Language classes and honors level courses, Cansu will graduate in May with an associate's degree in international studies as a Phi Theta Kappa



inductee. Dr. Nathan Zook stands out from among the many “wonderful professors,” according to Cansu. Dr. Zook introduced Cansu to the International Studies Club where she served as president. Cansu and ten other members of the group visited the United Nations with Dr. Zook. This was a pivotal experience that helped Cansu decide to continue her undergraduate studies at the American University of Rome this fall.

- Student success stories abound at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus, but one student who will be graduating this May has had a remarkable and difficult journey to get to the graduation tent on May 20. Tierra came to Montgomery College underprepared for higher education but is graduating prepared to take on the world. This is her story:

“Growing up with low self-esteem caused by an abusive father and an absent mother was a major obstacle in my life that I had to overcome. As a child, I was mentally and physically abused by my father because of his alcohol addiction. He would frequently call me degrading names and attack my character. At the time, I did not understand how someone who was supposed to love, guide, and nurture me could say and do the things he did to me. As I matured, I realized that the way I was treated was not my fault, or a result of my own actions. My mother was absent in my childhood because she was addicted to drugs. I remember wishing that my mother was there to see me achieve all of my adolescent milestones such as my first day of school, my first school play, and learning how to ride my first bike.

My father’s abuse strengthened me and has shaped my life in many ways. My father did not graduate from high school, nor did he try to further his education. My mother graduated from high school and attended college, but shortly after dropped out. I am the middle child of three female children and I am proud to say that I am the first of the three children to graduate from high school and to attend college. It is crucial for me to graduate from college so that I can have a successful, fulfilling career. After earning my associate’s degree in May 2011 from Montgomery College, I plan to transfer to the University of Maryland where I will pursue a bachelor’s degree in communication with a minor in philosophy or rhetoric. Upon receiving my bachelor’s degree, I plan to continue my education and pursue a master’s degree in social work.

There are millions of children who experience abuse similar or worse to what I experienced as a child and I want to provide a safe place for them to run to, an ear to listen to their problems and guidance for them to overcome tribulations. I want abused children to have security, love, and positive role models; a few key things that I never received growing up.

While I struggle in life, I never lose hope and never give up on reaching my dreams. I am very thankful to have responsibility, determination, deep spiritual beliefs and discipline. I have high expectations for myself and will excel in all that I strive to accomplish in life. I trust that integrity, self respect, good moral ethics, and self control will be the core components in achieving my goals for the future.”

Activities to assist students with graduation and transfer

You can watch a recent video of several grads of the gaming and web program talking about their success and how MC helped them at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFcBf4icqTI>. Faculty members from the Communication Arts Technologies and Art Departments assist students with preparation of portfolios for submission to colleges and art schools. The Rockville Theatre Department coaches students for auditions for bachelor of fine arts programs and other four-year degrees. The Rockville Music Department provides recording services to students to prepare audition CDs for colleges and universities.

November is Career Month. A Germantown career month committee ensures that students are exposed to information pertaining to career and major options. This past year’s activities included a health science panel, a



workshop featuring federal jobs, a major's fair, a resume workshops for career transition and adults twenty-five and over, an international transcript evaluation workshop, an on-campus recruitment of interns provided by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and an orientation workshop on the College's Cooperative Education and Internship Program. These activities and the ongoing opportunity to meet with a career counselor are in response to the literature that supports students making major and career choices early in the college experience as being instrumental to students' goal attainment and graduation. Such efforts are part of the campus's response to the College's commitment to the completion agenda.

Honors and Phi Theta Kappa were consolidated at the Germantown Campus in 2002 by combining the roles of Campus Honors Coordinator and Phi Theta Kappa advisor, sending a consistent message to high-achieving students about the importance of focusing on academic opportunities, preparing for transfer, and applying for scholarships. Dr. Lucy Laufé, advisor, offers programs about transfer and scholarship, workshops on writing transfer /scholarship essays, and encourages students to become involved in service opportunities—many of which are sponsored by the chapter. Professor Audrey Hill and Joan Naake collaborate to ensure a rich academic experience. Additional Germantown honors-related activities include:

- Dr. Laufé regularly contacts admissions departments to inquire about their Phi Theta Kappa transfer scholarships. One result: Montgomery College became one of Dickinson College's five community college partners.
- Two students each year from Germantown are nominated to the All-USA Academic team, which resulted in winners/members three times. Germantown nominees received Coca-Cola Scholarships for their service activities.
- As the College Representative to the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, Dr. Laufé creates teams at each campus to mentor students through the scholarship application process.
- The College's participation in regional and national organizations such as the Beacon Conference, the National Collegiate Honors Council, and the Maryland Collegiate Honors Council provide opportunities to learn about transfer, scholarship, and completion, and give the College statewide and national exposure, which has resulted in transfer institutions seeking MC students.
- Dr. Laufé has served as a reader for two national scholarships: JKC and in 2010 she was one of two community college readers for the Hites Foundation Scholarship. She serves on the Executive Committee of the Maryland Collegiate Honors Council, and is the first co-chair from a committee of the Prestigious Scholarship Committee at the National Collegiate Honors Council. She has presented at the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference and at the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Conference.

Noncredit Contributions

Each year thousands of noncredit students complete their programs of study, which vary by duration, location, and format.

Apprenticeship students complete their four year related instruction program of study and receive their United States Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeship completion certification along with their Montgomery College program completion certificate. Students who wish to continue toward an associate's degree may receive up to 28 credits toward a Montgomery College two-year degree.

Health career students complete their certification programs twice a year and each cohort is celebrated at a completion ceremony that is well attended by family, faculty, and friends. For many of these students, these shorter duration programs provide a valuable means to prepare for a new career, obtain the necessary certification, and enter the workforce in the high demand healthcare field.

TechLEAP program completers spend up to a year focusing on programming, networking, or Web technologies. Most students participate in an optional internship working not only with a prospective employer but also in applying the course material to actual workplace environments. Most TechLEAP students have four



year degrees already and are wishing to be retrained in a information technology career area.

Throughout the Workforce Development & Continuing Education programs, there are many closing celebrations that bring students and family, and frequently employers together to celebrate these milestones in our students' lives.

Celebrating Students

Elysa Marchicelli, a second-year student at the Germantown Campus, received acceptance to the Second Annual Women and Leadership Program, a program that focuses on the empowerment of women from East to West. These young women are exposed to instruction through a university course designed to advance their skills in communication, negotiation, and critical thinking. Elysa will travel to Prague, Czech Republic, to participate in the program, which runs from July 1 through August 15. Being one of only 20 students selected from hundreds of highly qualified applicants from around the world, her participation in the program is viewed as not only an honor for her but also an honor for her community.

Aubrey A. Smith, Ph.D. assistant professor of biology, and Manuela Plazas, a former Montgomery College student, presented the results of a student-faculty research project at the Experimental Biology 2011 national meeting held in Washington, D.C., from April 9–13. The project entitled “In Silico Characterization and Homology Modeling of Cyanobacterial Phosphoenolpyruvate Carboxylase Enzymes Using Computational Tools and Servers” generated the first viable models of the carbon fixation enzyme from marine and fresh water cyanobacteria. The results of the study will be published shortly.

A TV production company, out of Boston, is developing a concept for a reality television show about the lives of student/volunteer firefighters. They love that idea of students by day, firefighters at night, and have connected with two MC students who volunteer for the Hyattsville Fire Department. These young men are an inspiration and balance their busy lives brilliantly. The students are Nick Bailey and Nick Zupancic. Nik was also a recent recipient of a Medal of Valor Award. He, along with others, was recognized for his work at an apartment fire on Toledo Place in February 2010, a rescue that including MC alumnus HVFD Deputy Chief Matt Leonard.

On April 16, the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Ethics team competed in the Eighth Annual Maryland Ethics Bowl, sponsored in part by the Hoffberger Center for Professional Ethics at the University of Baltimore. Philosophy professor Dan Jenkins served as the coach for the team and as the planning committee chairman for the event. This year, the campus had the honor not only to see the campus host so many philosophy students and faculty from across the region, but to see its students take home the state championship trophy for the second year in a row. This marks the first time that the same campus has won first place in two consecutive years. Students Harold Levy, Miquel Resendiz, Martin Seitz, Maraki Shimelis and Daniel Williams beat teams from Anne Arundel Community College, Baltimore City Community College, Carroll Community College, the Community College of Baltimore County, Howard Community College, and Montgomery College - Rockville.

Two of Professor Michael LeBlanc's journalism students have recently been published in the Takoma Park community newspaper, The Takoma Voice. Chantal Beale, who is also a student at The George Washington University, wrote an article about Montgomery County exploring other solutions (public power) to deal with the problems they have had with Pepco. Tony Beers, a returning adult student, wrote a profile on Katy Gaughan, a hand percussionist and drum circle facilitator in the Washington, D.C. area, who brings community together through music and also performs with the bands Firewheel and Djesben.



Nursing instructor Raquel Bertiz and her students volunteered at an event during Opening Day at the Cherry Blossom Festival. The program is called the “corner store,” where people of all ages “shop” for prop food and then meet with a nutrition advisor to go over their choices. The students served as nutrition counselors to the children and their parents, focusing on caloric intake and awareness of sodium requirements. It was an excellent public health exposure and community outreach and communication skills practice for the clinical group.

The Germantown Math Club, sponsored by Professor Steve Wheatley, fielded two teams at the Prince George’s Community College Math Competition on April 2. The team of John Gallagher, Mayuri Khotri, Stephanie Meshel, and Julian Mesick took first place out of 18 teams from 11 community colleges. This is the second year that a Germantown team has won this competition. Michael Varghese, Jeremiah Seligman, Joy Roos, and Yi Shen comprised Germantown’s other team and also had an excellent showing. Dr. Jojo Dong and Professor John Hamman also helped prepare students for the competition.

Six Rockville students are serving as interns through the Paul Peck Humanities Institute’s Internship Program. This semester students are placed at the Smithsonian Institution and the Library of Congress. These students include Natalie Berry, Francine Caldeira, Nicolle Gamez, David Jacobson, Erica Snow, and Corinne Wilhelm-Glab.

The Marriott Hospitality Center sponsored a successful bake sale with all proceeds going to a fund to address hunger in America. Hospitality students prepared the treats and raised \$700.

The Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) will compete in the national SIFE competition in Minneapolis this month after winning the regional championship in March. Throughout the year, MC SIFE members participated in service learning projects and present their activities in a timed presentation using PowerPoint.

On April 15 the Student Construction Association of Montgomery College (SCA) received The Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) National Student Chapter of the Year. This is a competition open to all two- and four-year programs that have an ABC Student Chapter. The award recognizes student chapters based on their overall range of activities and interaction with ABC local chapters. The award was presented to SCA president Miroslava Papinova at the recent ABC Educational Conference in San Antonio, Texas.

A class of 20 postdoctoral students successfully completed the first-ever Chief Science Officer Development course and received certificates of completion; the ceremony was held on April 9 in the Germantown Innovation Center. This 12-week course is designed to address the critical needs of the biotechnology industry and to provide scientists with basic skills in the areas of leadership, people development, team building, execution and achieving results, communications and conflict management, building and maintaining external relationships, first line supervision, finance, project management, negotiations, and career planning. The campus worked collaboratively with Workforce Development & Continuing Education, NIH, Human Workflows, LLC, and the county’s Department of Economic Development to create the Chief Science Officer program that will provide a boost to the County’s biotechnology industry that has a revenue impact of \$2.36 billion, 9,200 direct private sector jobs, 5,000 federal employment, and \$92,000 average salary—double the County’s average salary.

In conjunction with Montgomery Works, Workforce Development & Continuing Education’s first successful LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Associate Preparation class ran with 12 students at the Montgomery Works Germantown Upcounty Center on Tuesday, March 8.

Sixteen students successfully passed the noncredit Basic Principles and Practices of Real Estate for Salespersons class and will be going on to take the Maryland State examination. Nine students are prepared to sit for the Maryland State examination on Home Inspection as a result of coursework through Workforce



Development and Continuing Education. Eleven students have completed the Starting a Successful Business class and 14 students have learned new ways to handle accounting principles in their small business.

Celebrating College Faculty, Staff, and Administrators

Professor John Hamman, Germantown Math Department chair and program chair for the MD-DC-VA Mathematical Association of America (MAA) Section, organized an impressive slate of speakers, including Dr. Zhou (Jojo) Dong, Germantown math faculty, for the Spring Section Meeting at Randolph-Macon College on April 15 and 16. Dr. Dong presented a probability problem related to geometry: “Three Chords and a Circle.” Germantown math faculty Jon Scott (past Section Chair) and Steve Wheatley also attended the meeting. The faculty were accompanied by eight Germantown math students: John Gallagher, Michael Varghese, Julian Mesick, Joy Roose, Jeremiah Seligman, Yi Shen, Catherine Shelton, and Gauri (Sai) Jayasinghe. Professors Chad Kuhns and Ariana Dundon from the Rockville Math Department also attended. In recognition of his decades of service to the MAA, Professor Scott was honored with a surprise retirement celebration.

Under the leadership of Dr. David Hall, networking professor, the cybersecurity program has received Information Systems Security (INFOSEC) Professionals, NSTISSI No. 4011 national certification. The Information Assurance Courseware Evaluation (IACE) Program evaluated the College’s certification application and validated that Montgomery College courseware meets all of the elements of the Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS) National Training Standard for Information Systems Security (INFOSEC) Professionals, NSTISSI No. 4011. The IACE Program provides consistency in training and education for the information assurance skills that are critical to our nation.

Several Montgomery College online courses received Quality Matters (QM) recognition in April. MS 210 Breast Sonography, MS 212 Abdominal Sonography II, and MS 213 OB/GYN Sonography II each met the QM standards of good instructional design. All three courses were developed by Dr. Linda Zanin of the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. EN 218 Introduction to Creative Writing and Fiction, developed by Jill Kronstadt, has also been recognized. MC has five other courses in the process of receiving QM recognition.

Dr. Glenda Hernandez Baca recently became a QM K-12 peer reviewer. This certification is a new QM initiative that focuses on the quality of K-12 online courses. Dr. Baca is in one of the first group of higher education faculty members to receive this K-12 certification.

Dr. Michael Chase, biology professor, attended the iPlant Genomics workshop at Bowie State University on May 6-7. This workshop trains faculty on new ways and methods to incorporate genomics into teaching and research. Dr. Chase will also attend ASMCUE (American Society for Microbiology Conference for Undergraduate Educators) on June 2-4. ASMCUE is an interactive four-day conference on scientific updates and effective teaching strategies in microbiology.

Kevin Hluch, professor of art, and his wife, Margaret, were invited to participate in the annual *16 Hands Studio Tour and Exhibition* in Floyd, Virginia, held on April 30 and May 1. Professor Hluch exhibited his recent porcelains and his wife exhibited encaustic paintings as well as textile art. Professor Hluch recently conducted a field trip to the Freer Gallery with 10 practicum ceramics students. This was a free curator-led experience, where students were able to inspect and handle historical pottery in the storage collection.

Adjunct Art Professor Maggie Gourlay will be participating with the MicroWave Project to create an installation as part of *Uncapped Live featuring G40*, from May 20 to June 17, at 2213 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Adjunct Art Professor Matthew Freel will have a two-person exhibition, *Manifested Destiny*, at Jordan Faye Contemporary in Federal Hill in Baltimore from May 6 to June 11 .

Adjunct Art Professor Paul Reuther had three drawings accepted to the juried exhibition, *Embodiment* at the Sundry in Vienna, Virginia, from April 8 to May 8.

Dr. Sanjay Rai, vice president and provost of the Germantown Campus, and Eileen Cahill, vice president for government and community relations of Holy Cross Hospital, gave presentations on the Germantown Development Project and Holy Cross Hospital to the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board on April 11. The UCAB is made up of citizen representatives appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council; members come from Shady Grove, Dickerson, Darnestown, Damascus, Gaithersburg, Germantown, and Clarksburg. Following the presentations, the group asked excellent questions and was very impressed with the relationship planned between the College and Holy Cross Hospital. The group expressed much thanks for the plans to bring jobs and a hospital to the upcounty area and the anticipated positive synergistic relationship between Montgomery College and Holy Cross Hospital.

Dr. Tacy Holliday, director of the Germantown Science Learning Center, has published an article in the National College Learning Center Association newsletter. The article is entitled, “Technology Took-Kit: Podcasting,” and is about using podcasting to serve students and engage in learning center staff development and management. She has been asked by the organization to write a regular feature on emerging technologies supporting work in learning centers.

April has been an exceptionally fast-paced month at the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL). The Spring 2011 Professional Development Saturday Series Conference: Engaging Faculty in Student Success Pt. 2 was held on April 16. Dr. Darrin Campen, instructional dean for history, education, health, exercise science, and Physical education at Rockville, was the featured speaker for the conference. Dr. Campen’s presentation, “Ethnocentrism and Dimensions of Worldview,” was offered as part of the CTL’s ongoing commitment to “adapt and improve our program of diversity education and professional development opportunities for faculty, staff, and students” as documented in the *Montgomery College Diversity Plan*.

The following faculty and staff presenters were among those who volunteered their time at the Professional Development Saturday Series to conduct the individual workshops offered:

- Diane Cockrell (GT); Kathy Swanson, Takoma Park/Silver Spring; Christine King Tracy, Rockville; faculty outreach librarians (*Collaborating with Campus Librarians for Course Design Options*)
- Marcia Bronstein, professor, Takoma Park/Silver Spring (*Learning Communities*)
- Catherine Mund, acting registrar (*Registration Tools that Promote Enrollment and Completion*)
- Ijeoma Otigbuo, Ph.D., professor, microbiology and director, AIDS Awareness Resource Center Montgomery College, Takoma Park/Silver Spring (*Science Inquiry: A New Way of Achieving Student Success and Retention*)
- Diane Switlick, professor/chair, School of Education, Rockville (*Expanding Your Teaching Skills: Using Active Learning Ideas to Engage Your Students*)
- Windy Jefferson-Jackson, professor, TP/SS Reading, English Language, World Language and Philosophy; Barbara Jean Van Meter, professor, Reading, English Language, World Language and Philosophy; Christina Devlin, Ph.D., assistant professor, English, Germantown (*Enhancing Student Performance by Integrating Academic Literacy in Reading and Writing across College Disciplines*)
- Joan Naake, professor, English and director, Renaissance Scholars Program, Germantown (*Designing Rubrics*)
- Tony Hawkins, Ph.D., instructional dean, Humanities/Social Sciences/Education, Germantown, (*Student Panel*)
- Ellen Olmstead, professor, English, Rockville (*Developmental English for Faculty*)



- Carol Annink, Ph.D., instructional designer, Center for Teaching and Learning, Germantown (*Collaborative Learning Techniques*)
- Joseph Nwoye, Ed.D., instructional designer, Center for Teaching and Learning, Rockville (*Culturally Responsive Teaching*)

Workforce Development & Continuing Education Professional Skills Exchange program presented a series of two Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) workshops in partnerships with the College's Center for Professional & Organizational Development (CPOD). These workshops were designed to help the WD&CE staff members to understand themselves and improve communication and team work.

The department's Operations and Finance worked on several actions to improve registration processes and new program development such as creating cosmetology program brochures, working on "Shopping Cart" Technology for noncredit student registration, and executing a Westfield lease renewal. All initiatives were performed well, despite staff shortage.

Speakers and Events

March

The Paul Peck Humanities Institute was a co-sponsor of the March 24 event at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus featuring author Marge Piercy, who discussed her new historical novel *Sex Wars*. The Institute also collaborated closely with MCTV this year and produced a series of video presentations by the 2010 Smithsonian Faculty Fellows. Go to <http://www.youtube.com/user/montgomerycollege> and search Smithsonian to view project presentations on faculty and students' museum visits. Additionally, MCTV produced a six minute video called Montgomery College Smithsonian Testimonials. Watch that at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CXyUk9voDMI>. Two printed reports are now available upon request: The 2010 Faculty Fellowship Report and the Paul Peck Student Internship Report (2010), from Professor Sara Ducey.

Mr. James A. St. Pierre, deputy director, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), was the guest lecturer at the March 30 Spectrum Lecture series held in Globe Hall, Germantown Campus. His lecture, *Smart Grid Technology*, provided an overview of NIST's efforts to make the Smart Grid a reality. Today's electric power grid ranks as one of the greatest engineering achievements of the twentieth century. Tomorrow's Smart Grid will be one of the greatest achievements of the twenty-first century. Mr. St. Pierre earned a master of science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Maryland and a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from Rutgers University in Piscataway, NJ. Before joining NIST, he worked as a technical project leader within Loral Space Systems semiconductor design group and worked for IBM on the development of hardware and software for submarines. Like all Spectrum Lectures, this presentation was aimed at a general audience and admission was free.

The Rockville Campus Annual Health and Wellness Fair, sponsored by the Health Enhancement, Exercise Science and Physical Education Department was a great success. Over 600 participants attended the fair that featured 34 vendors from a variety of agencies such as the Rockville Police Department and the Lion's Club. Eleven of the booths were designed and run by students from health and physical education classes. This service project provided students an opportunity to demonstrate how healthy behaviors can improve lives.

April

With funding from a Perkins grant, the Computer Science and Information & Interactive Technologies (CSIIT) department sponsored Computer Game Day and Web Conference on April 4. Over 300 people attended, including students and teachers from local high schools, MC students, and students from other area colleges to learn more about computer gaming. President Pollard welcomed the attendees and the day was filled with news



on the latest technology in the computer gaming industry, information on computer gaming academic programs and careers. Professors Melissa Lizmi and Deb Solomon organized the event, assisted by several faculty members in the department.

The Germantown Library celebrated National Library Week (April 10-16) with a variety of activities and displays designed to bring attention to the importance of reading. In addition, after acquiring a \$10,000 grant from Holy Cross Hospital, the library is identifying resources needed to meet the needs of pre-clinical nursing students.

On April 12, Business, Science, Math, and Technology (BSMaT) faculty and administrators welcomed representatives from the U.S. Department of Energy Council on Women & Girls STEM Mentoring Program to the Germantown Campus. These representatives met with students who are majoring in STEM fields who are interested in exploring opportunities to have a scientist or engineer from the Department of Energy as a mentor.

On April 14 Student Employment Services held its annual Career Information and Job Fair (CIJF) on the Germantown Campus. Thirty employers participated in this year's CIJF, which represents a 33 percent increase over last year.

The Center for International and Multicultural Students hosted an information session/open house themed, *Montgomery County English Language Programs: Which is Best for Me*, on Wednesday, April 27. During the event, participants received information differentiating between the three types of English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs offered by Montgomery County including the American English Proficiency Program (AELP). Speakers representing all three areas—Adult ESOL, Continuing Education, and AELP—were on hand. In addition, the director of the World Education Service discussed the process of credential evaluation.

For the second year, the Germantown Campus has provided a site for the MAA American Mathematics Competition (AMC). More than 80 young students (grades 3–12) sat for one or more of the AMC exams at the Germantown Campus this year. Four students who participated in early rounds of the contest at Germantown qualified for the USA Junior Mathematical Olympiad (USAJMO). On April 27 and 28, the campus hosted the USAJMO for Kundan Chintamaneni, a 13-year-old eighth grader at Middletown Middle School who is one of only seven students in Maryland and one of only 222 students in the country to have earned this honor. The contest consisted of six essay-proof questions to be solved in nine hours over the two days.

The USA Mathematical Olympiad and the USA Junior Mathematical Olympiad are prestigious events. Approximately 500 students from 12,000 American Invitational Mathematics Examination participants take the USAJMO or USAMO. The top 12 participants of the USAMO will be honored at ceremonies on June 6 at the National Academy of Sciences and the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) Headquarters in Washington, DC.

The Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus has been event central during the month of April. On April 27, President Dr. DeRionne Pollard, Vice President and Provost Dr. Brad Stewart, and the campus welcomed Dr. Jill Biden, wife of the vice president of the United States; Representative Chris Van Hollen; the U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan; Under Secretary of Education Martha Kanter; and others involved in higher education policy to discuss a variety of topics related to the community college mission and challenges. The Community College Virtual Symposium was broadcast live across the nation from Theater 1 in the Cultural Arts Center.

Takoma Park/Silver Spring part-time faculty received recognition at a reception celebrating their significant contribution to the success of the College's mission and their commitment to our students. Takoma Park/Silver Spring part-time faculty who received recognition for their outstanding service to the campus and to our



students included Dr. Benjamin Early, math; Tym Wowk, English Language and Learning Communities; Myrna King, mental health; and Mary Ann Hayunga, nursing.

In April, the Health Enhancement, Exercise Science and Physical Education Department hosted the screening of the video *The Truth About Suicide* followed by a panel discussion on depression and suicide. Members of the panel included mental health counselors and representatives from the National Capital Area Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

Sixty students competed in the Computer Science and Information & Interactive Technologies (CSIIT) Department's fifth annual MC computer competition. Eight high schools brought 31 teams that had to demonstrate programming skills and problem-solving capabilities. Three UMUC faculty, MC faculty, and advanced MC students were judges and several publishers contributed prizes. Professors Grigoriy Grinberg, Alla Webb, and Dr. Andy Yao, who also serves as chair of the Computer Science and Technologies Department, organized the competition. Professors Jeannette Myers and Carol Decker, administrative aide Ms. Lisa Johnson, and several IT personnel provided assistance.

Students flocked to the Careers in Criminal Justice Day held in April on the Rockville campus. Thirteen agencies participated, including representatives from probation/parole, corrections, law enforcement (federal, state, and local) and the clerk of court's office. Earlier in the month, the Criminal Justice faculty sponsored a lecture featuring Officer Marc Verde, Montgomery County Police Department, who discussed the hiring process and qualifications of the Montgomery County Police Department with students. Professors Kevin Stone and Sean Fay were on hand to provide information on background checks and oral board stages.

May

Portraits of Life, the traveling photographic exhibition, took part in two Holocaust Commemoration events. The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) organized the exhibition at the B'nai Tzedek synagogue in Potomac followed by the May 3rd commemoration at Montgomery College that included more than 40 MC students as readers, escorts, and volunteers.

External Support and Recognition

The Information Technology Institute (ITI) completed all preliminary work with the Montgomery County Department of Corrections Prerelease Center to initiate the Technology Careers Grant that was received from U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) last year. This grant will allow Montgomery College WD&CE to provide digital literacy and high-end computer training to offenders who are about to return to the community, giving them crucial job skills.

The University of Maryland Extension Master Gardeners of Montgomery County group provided \$100 scholarship funds for the Garden Educator Training course. Under this scholarship, Montgomery College will train Montgomery County Public School (MCPS) teachers in green gardening techniques that they will then share with their K-12 students.

In Other News...

WSSC has approved a contract to repair and repaint the two million gallon water storage tank on the Germantown Campus, and the 1980 award-winning design will remain. The water tank won the "Steel Tank of the Year" award in 1980, and pictures of the tank have been exhibited in numerous magazines.

