



The Globe

A Student Life newspaper

Montgomery College - Germantown Campus

**UPCOMING
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GERMANTOWN BASEBALL STARTS WITH TOP 10 RATING

Germantown's baseball team begins its season ranked 10th in the nation by the National Junior College Athletic Association.

The team finished 2011 with a 32-21 record and came within a game of making the NJCAA College World Series. Baseball at Germantown has a proud history that has included several top performances over the past ten years.

No doubt with that in mind, Germantown's team will become the sole Montgomery College baseball team in the fall of 2012. Although there are currently other MC campus baseball

teams, under the new "One College, One Team" concept, launched last fall in response to new regulations by the NJCAA, there can be no multi-campus athletic teams. Students from other campuses who wish to play baseball will have to come to Germantown. Germantown students who wish to play basketball, soccer, etc, will have to go to other campuses.

In connection with this change, MC also plans to announce a new mascot and a new team name. (For more information, see the December issue of *The Globe*)

Students interested in trying out for any Montgomery College Athletic team must meet the following requirements: full-time student currently enrolled in 12 credits or more (for credit, not audit) and have a valid physical on file. Other requirements include: a valid high school diploma or GED; if international, a copy of I-20, I-9, Green Card, or passport; if a veteran, date of enlistment and discharge; if a transfer student, copy of your transcript; if you have not been attending college, a record documenting what you did outside college.

MC IS ONE COLLEGE, POLLARD STRESSES

by *Katy Wheaton*

Dr. DeRionne Pollard, who recently celebrated 18 months at the helm of Montgomery College, says she has a secret for managing this 60,000-student complex, now the largest college in Maryland: "Give people what they need and get out of the way," Pollard explains. "I'm committed to actively engaging people."

And engage them she does, spending a typical day moving from meeting with governmental contacts, tapping messages to students and faculty, teaching a class, and dealing with community leaders.

Her emphasis since arriving here from a similar post in California has focused on articulating a vision ([click for link](#)), developing a new governance structure, and publishing a seven-year strategic plan. But in all areas, there are certain values that shine through her

approach to shaping MC's future.

"We want to ensure that we are fully inclusive, egalitarian, and (have a structure) that solicits feedback and provides active leadership across all levels," she says. "Our structure should come from the people, not from the President," she believes.

One program that Pollard is focusing on for the future is the "One College" concept. In the past, she says, "we talked as if we were one college, but we really didn't act like it." Today, MC has a fluid, mobile student body and faculty, and we should provide students with a common experience and opportunities no matter which campus they attend. There will always be unique flavors and different programs on the three campuses, but the facilities, support services, and

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TRANSFERRING? BETTER START NOW

by Mehreen Khan

Have you started preparing for the March 1st transfer deadline? If not, it would be a good idea to start now. March 1st is the priority deadline for transfer students for many colleges.

Since many students apply to in-state colleges there is much competition and limited spots for transfer students. Anne Schleicher, a transfer counselor at MC, advises, "Start applications sooner for maximum transfer consideration – see each school's Transfer Admissions page. Submit applications early BEFORE the actual deadline!"

Applying to at least six schools would be a good idea to have options. Most schools have a transfer checklist. Be sure to have all the necessary items when applying because an incomplete application may delay the process. Submitting applications online is easier, faster, and allows online tracking.

The Common Application (www.commonapp.org) can be used to speed up the application process and save time when applying to a variety of schools. Over

450 schools use Common Apps. Have a professor or someone from the Writing Center review your essays before submitting them. Don't forget to request an official MC transcript to each college. Each transcript costs \$7.50.

What makes a good transfer student? Having a high GPA, strong transcript, and resume can help your chances of getting accepted. A GPA of at least 3.0 is the minimum for many but not all schools.

Taking honors courses and joining honors program can help when applying to competitive schools. Some schools, such as the University of Maryland, limit admission to some specialty majors such as business or journalism. If that's the case, being able to present a history of extracurricular activities and positions can be important to winning admission.

Volunteer activities and participating in clubs always look great on the resume because it shows leadership and community involvement. There are many clubs at MC, so go join a few of them. They are fun and you can be a part

of the campus. A volunteer opportunity held at MC is the Smart Sacks. Come take part in packing food for children every Thursday this month.

Teacher recommendations can really help getting into highly competitive schools or obtaining scholarships. Ask for one ahead of time. Choose a professor who knows you well and is able to highlight your strong points. Provide your professor with your most updated and current resume. For those who are not transferring for the Fall 2012 semester can start thinking about building a good teacher relationship.

Make sure to apply for FASFA (Federal Student Aid) so that you can be eligible for receiving scholarships and aid. The deadline for this is March 1st. The FASFA forms are available at www.fasfa.org. Visit the Montgomery College transfer page (www.montgomerycollege.edu/transfer) for more information regarding transfer dates and a step-by-step guide on how to start the transfer process as well as help on financial aid.

8 FUN DATES FOR UNDER \$25

by Hilary Sacks

1. Build a fort and make a day of it. This can be done inside or outside, depending on how warmly you dress. When the construction is complete, have a picnic inside the fort. Afterwards, play cards and board games. If you're outside, sidewalk chalk is also a great idea.

2. Scavenger Hunts: Create a list of places and objects for your significant other to find, with yourself either being the last item on the list, or making sure that you are at the final location when they get there.

3. Spend the day at some of the Smithsonian museums or bundle up for the National Zoo.

4. Have a video game day: If you both love a specific game, spend the day playing it. If your loved one enjoys playing video games, let him/her teach you to play a favorite game.

5. Great Backyard Bird Count: You can help support the research of the declining number of songbirds. Keep track of the birds you see in your area for anywhere from 15 minutes to 4 days. For more information, visit www.birdsource.org/gbbc.

6. Hike up Sugarloaf Mountain.

7. Movie Day: Choose some of each of your favorite movies and have a marathon together.

8. Rockville Town Center has some fun activities. The movies will cost you up to \$11 each, plus food. Ice Skating on the square will cost you \$8 each and then \$3 for skate rentals. You could go to Color Me Mine and paint some pottery. Each piece is at least \$10 and there is a \$10 paint fee per item on top of the price of the piece.

IS THERE A FUTURE FOR E-TEXTBOOKS?

Would downloading texts for all your courses onto an e-reader be less expensive? Reporter Benjamin Parker decided to explore the efficiency and cost of these popular electronic devices that already have gained a foothold in the consumer marketplace.

Looking at most e-readers, one thing is the same: they are expensive! When it comes to an e-reader, the better the features they have, the higher the price.

For example, a basic Amazon Kindle (not a Kindle Fire) with no touch screen feature is \$20 cheaper than one with a touch screen. On top of that, if you want a Kindle with a keyboard, that will cost \$100 more. If you want a color display and more built-in memory, the price goes up again.

The e-readers that would be most compatible with use for textbooks usually cost at least \$200.

Then there's the price of the texts that are downloaded. Both Amazon and Barnes and Noble, which also offers an e-reader, discount books bought for e-readers.

In the consumer market, best-sellers are discounted only slightly and aren't available immediately, but books that have been around for awhile cost very little. However, there still is a cost associated with buying books for e-readers. And while printed textbooks are expensive too, they can be resold and part of their price recovered, something that is forbidden by copyright laws in the case of e-books.

For students who have tried out e-readers in their classes, the main issue students have is that they lack the features needed when it comes to e-textbooks.

An article in *The Wall Street Journal* titled "Book Smarts: E-Texts Receive Mixed Reviews from Students" reports that 75 percent of the students tested disliked the e-

readers and e-textbooks because they couldn't flip to random pages, take notes inside the textbooks, and even highlight critical text. Those students preferred printed textbooks to e-textbooks.

Another issue with e-readers is the advisability of spending large blocks of time staring at an electronic screen and their visibility in less than optimum lighting. Some readers are not back-lit, making them difficult to read.

And of course, can you imagine the stress if you lose your e-reader or inadvertently delete a critical text? What if it stops working right before final review time?

In conclusion, it seems that digital textbooks have a way to go before they can expect to replace printed textbooks.

HER SECRET: GET OUT OF THE WAY

(Continued from page 1)

quality of instructors should be equal. "We have to be sure we are using our resources appropriately," she stresses. Pollard says MC is not there today, but increasingly will move in that direction in all areas. One of the first examples involves establishing sports teams with a single mascot and school colors that take students from all campuses (see related story on Germantown's baseball program).

Of course, the future is not without challenges, Pollard maintains. "We have increasingly limited resources. We get 44 percent of our revenue from Montgomery County, and in recent years, there has been a decline in public support." Her goal is to keep higher education accessible and affordable, even in this environment, and also balance the MC budget. But, she adds, it will probably be necessary to raise tuition in the



President DeRionne Pollard meets regularly with MC students

near future by about \$2 per credit hour.

Another major challenge is what Pollard calls the completion agenda. Both President Obama and Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley have challenged MC and other community colleges to increase the percentage of Americans who hold at least an Associate's degree. "An Associate's degree gives students an important credential, no matter whether they transfer to a four-year institution or go out into the working world. It

shows they can finish something," Pollard says.

Pollard tends to reject problems regarding public perception of Montgomery College, pointing out that 60 percent of Montgomery County Public School high school graduates who stay in-state choose to attend MC. MC graduates are some of the most sought-after transfer students in the state. The most valuable asset we offer our students is our "phenomenal faculty and superb staff," she concluded.

The Globe

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BE HEARD BE INFORMED BE INVOLVED

by *Zach Tyaba*

As a student at Montgomery College, you might consider learning as your primary obligation. Well, you're right, but you can also make your stay here a lot more exhilarating. Help yourself and other students by attending Open Senate meetings; you will meet the Senate representatives, Club leaders and the rest of the Student Life staff. Remember, these meetings are not exclusive so bring your friends or anybody who would like to voice their opinions.

The Student Senate needs your input and ideas to make student-life at the Germantown Campus an even more fantastic experience for you and students yet to come.

Meeting Dates:

- ⇒ February 22nd
- ⇒ March 28th
- ⇒ April 11th

MORE PARKING...

Effective immediately, overflow parking will be available at the Hampton Inn located at 20260 Goldenrod Lane. Parking will be available from 9am–6pm, Monday–Friday, on each side of the hotel. Do not park in the spaces in front or in the rear.

SPREAD THE WORD & BRAG

by *Katy Wheaton*

I recently had the opportunity to meet and interview our College President, Dr. Pollard (see article on page 1). She is the essence of intelligence, grace, wit, and charisma. We spoke about many things, but one point I wished we could have spent more time discussing was the image of Montgomery College. I come at this from two sides: a parent, and now an MC student. I have gone from a somewhat critical and condescending attitude to one of respect, gratitude, and humility.

I have lived in Germantown since 1995 and have raised four children in the MCPS. When my kids were in high school, they picked up the attitude that Montgomery College was only for the less intelligent. They called it "MK," because kids who attended there were too "dumb" to spell "college." I had also heard Montgomery College referred to as "grade 13," just another year of high school.

I did see the advantage of attending here when a student had financial problems, needed more time to mature, or faced disabilities.

My epiphany came last fall, when I decided to pursue a new direction and become a nurse.

Since my bachelor's degree was in an unrelated field (studio art), I needed to take the math and science courses required to gain entrance into nursing school. Montgomery College was perfect! I quickly saw how wrong my kids and I had been. My professors were excellent teachers who really wanted me to succeed and would help me in any way they could. My courses were challenging and I excelled. The students I have met here have been intelligent, thoughtful, interesting and motivated. I LOVE it here and would recommend attendance here to anyone with any goal.

Let's come together and spread the word. Brag about the school, the professors, the opportunities, the facilities, low-cost of tuition, and superb guidance and counseling. Brag about how much we've all learned so far.

Montgomery College is a jewel that too many local high school students, their parents, and perhaps even some of their teachers and guidance department staff overlook. It's not the cost or exclusivity of going to a four-year institution that matters. It's what kind of people we all have the chance of growing into and becoming.



by *Mehreen Khan*

A SECRET PLACE?

No. It's what one sees in fields adjacent to the campus.