

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE BOARD

June 2012



Montgomery College
endless possibilities



With the academic year officially behind us, I am cherishing the opportunity for self-reflection. It is a valuable time to think about the year's successes, as well as the challenges. During the College's closing meeting, I told our faculty and staff that I am grateful for the journey we have traveled, both the ups and downs, and I wanted this report to focus on that same theme.

We celebrated major successes as a College: a new governance structure, a new Office of Compliance, a new plan to develop the Common Student Experience, and more. But what I will mark as the biggest success is the collaborative nature of so many of our initiatives this year. We came together as one College to boldly reexamine ourselves and make some tough decisions. For that, I am incredibly grateful.

But, I am also grateful for the lessons learned. I truly believe it is better to try and fall short than to never try in the first place. Personally, my biggest challenge has been to continue encouraging our College community to keep up the momentum. Change can be difficult, and there is a natural inclination to want to slow down and fall back on what feels comfortable. I hope to instill a sense of urgency for the future and a drive to keep moving forward because the results will be that much sweeter on the other end!

The College soon will release our annual Report to the Community, which will reiterate the major milestones and initiatives we achieved in fiscal year 2012. This report will focus on the successes and challenges at our campuses that may not have received as much attention. To me, these issues are just as equally important to celebrate and honor. In particular, the student stories demonstrate that, no matter the successes and the challenges, we continue to focus on our mission of empowering our students to change their lives.

Board Discussion Questions:

- As members of our board, what do you see as our College's biggest successes from this past year? What about the board's biggest accomplishments?
- What do you see as a lesson-learned moment from this past academic year, both for yourself and for the College as a whole?



Successes

- This spring students in the Visual Arts program and those taking Professional Practice for the Visual Artist from the School of Art + Design joined together for the first time to present their portfolios and transfer pieces to visiting representatives from 10 major art schools, including the Maryland Institute College of Art, the Columbus College of Art and Design of Ohio, and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. This two-hour show has become the capstone event, but, more importantly, it signifies the growing relationship between these two programs within the newly formed [Department of Visual Arts and Design](#).
- The Renaissance Scholars Program inaugurated a [new summer study/travel experience](#). Sixteen Renaissance Scholars from the Germantown and Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campuses will travel to Kentucky and Tennessee as part of an interdisciplinary studies course that will explore the history, ecology, politics, economics, and culture of Appalachia.
- In response to an increase in the number of students who are on the autism spectrum and struggle with the development of social skills, the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Disability Support Services (DSS) counselors have developed a structured event targeting these students. DSS hosted two “socials,” which were well attended by a number a students, including those who are blind, learning disabled, or who have psychiatric disabilities. Next year, the plan is to have the social club meet once a month and to develop student leaders who will help organize the activities.
- Throughout the academic year, the College organized and participated in experiences designed to support greater understanding about the Holocaust.
 - o The Paul Peck Humanities Institute and Art Professor Ken Jassie, the coordinator of this project, organized a [Portraits of Life: Holocaust Survivors of Montgomery County](#) traveling photography exhibit and presentations by Holocaust survivors for more than 2,000 middle and high school students from Montgomery County Public Schools. The program also provided an opportunity for hundreds of students to participate via video link.
 - o Dan Rankin, MCTV producer/director, and his team worked with Professor Jassie, Holocaust survivors Nesse Godin and Manny Mandel, and three Paul Peck Humanities Institute student interns—Kristin Hoover, Martha Moreira, and Zolani Ncube—to create a [video](#) for MCTV: “Access to History: Holocaust Survivors.” The video received the prestigious [Communicators Award of Excellence](#) from the International Academy for Visual Arts.
- In addition to opening a new Science Center, the Rockville Campus also encourages learning in the science, engineering, and math (SEM) fields with a new [SEM Special Lecture Series](#). The series, which brought nationally-known speakers to campus, addressed key issues such as undergraduate research in community colleges and



innovative teaching pedagogies in SEM. The campus is developing additional SEM programs, including a “You Teach on YouTube” video contest to generate student interest in SEM and to encourage student-faculty collaborations. Funding for the project will be provided by a Montgomery College Foundation Innovation Grant.

- This semester the Rockville Campus opened its gym to all interested students during a student activity period in the PE building. While other campuses have offered similar programs, this marks the first time the Rockville Campus has provided open student access to the gym or fitness center. Embracing the One College ideal for equity in the student experience, many members of the campus worked together to align the necessary financial and human resources required to implement this endeavor.
- The College now offers six courses through Workforce Development & Continuing Education (WD&CE) Community Education and Extended Learning Services (CEELS) for Casa de Maryland. In addition, a presentation by Liliana Arango of the College’s Hispanic Business Institute and Nelida Andres of the CEELS program to Montgomery County Health and Human Services resulted in contracts for instruction in early childhood education and in food safety.
- The Nonprofit Leadership Institute (NPLI), through WD&CE, launched a reconfigured program, thanks, in part, to feedback provided by nonprofit directors through focus groups. The program now reaches mid-level directors. A College partner helped underwrite tuition, bringing the cost per participant to \$50. NPLI also partnered with Maryland Nonprofits to offer a Nonprofit Bootcamp.
- At the historic property of Falling Green, home of some of Montgomery County’s earliest settlers, students in the Human Evolution and Archaeology course had a unique opportunity to learn about the past. Participating in a community project with the Olney Boys and Girls Club, the students excavated areas near the house and [found remains](#) of farming and domestic activities dating back to 1770.
- Two members of our Graduate Transition Program (GTP) secured positions with the National Institutes of Health’s [Project Search](#), a program “dedicated to providing education and training to young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.” Meaghan Jones, a 2012 program graduate, classifies herself as a “computer whiz who types at 120 miles per hour.” Prior to enrolling in GTP, she worked at Giant. Jeremy Williams, a first-year student skilled at data entry, will balance his last year of GTP with his new work responsibilities.
- This past January, the College implemented VERBA, a software program that works in conjunction with our point-of-service provider’s database to ensure that prices of textbooks are competitive with online booksellers and other competitors. The College also greatly expanded its textbook rental program, which allows students to rent books at nearly half the cost of buying a new book. In the spring 2011 semester, students rented nearly 600 books; the number jumped to more than 2,000 rentals in spring 2012.



- To help our students with the high cost of textbooks, the bookstores sponsored a unit-wide, one-day promotion called Text-O-Rama in August 2011 and January 2012, offering a 10 percent discount on all in-store textbook purchases. Approximately 4,400 students participated in these special sale days, saving more than \$55,000 on textbook purchases. Due to these positive results, the College will offer Text-O-Rama again in August.
- The College successfully implemented the Printing at MC initiative this year, removing 39 free printers and installing 61 print kiosks across the three campuses. Print data analysis indicates that the College is on target to print fewer than two million pages in FY12, as compared to an estimated 10.7 million pages just a year ago.
- This year the [interior design \(ID\) program](#) participated in a design project sponsored by the Hyatt Regency Baltimore to create a design solution for the employee cafeteria/lounge. The College structured the project as a group design competition for students in the Commercial/Contract Design course. Hyatt is judging the designs, and the winner will see his or her concept utilized this summer as a guide for the remodel. In addition, the ID program will participate in another design competition next spring, sponsored by Made in America.
- This spring semester, seven students participated in the [Paul Peck Humanities Institute \(PPHI\) Humanities Internship Program](#) at the Library of Congress (LOC) and the Smithsonian Institution. Students Lyudmila Anderson, Ruth Bright, Samantha Cameron, Lesli Flores, Veronica Mason, Rolland Tagyen, and Ertan Tuncer had rich and rewarding experiences. One student recalled feeling a sense of awe after opening a book from Thomas Jefferson's personal library and discovering a pressed, dried flower inside. Ertan Tuncer had such a positive experience that he was asked to stay on at the LOC as paid staff to assist in the Turkish Studies section. Faculty mentors Dr. Mary Furgol, Dr. Lucy Laufe, Dr. Michelle Moran, Professor Bette Petrides, and PPHI Intern Coordinator Kelly Rudin support the internship program.

Academic Challenges

- The College's Disability Support Services (DSS) collegewide face the challenge of meeting the needs of an increasing number of students with disabilities. For example, this fall, the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus had 315 students reporting disabilities, up by more than 100 students since 2007. In response to the demand for services, counselors reorganized their structure within the department so that there are now walk-in hours designated for DSS students only. Additionally, DSS added a part-time counselor to help meet the demand.
- Due to the passage of Maryland [House Bill 104](#), which refined the tuition waiver for students with disabilities in noncredit classes, the College experienced unintended challenges, which could have negatively impacted our Workforce Development & Continuing Education programs for developmentally/intellectually disabled students. WD&CE notified students of the change, created a scholarship fund to address the needs



of some of these students, and proactively and patiently worked with families and students. Thanks to these efforts, service levels for students were only minimally impacted.

- A major challenge on the Rockville Campus was planning the moves into the new Science Center. The College had to quickly move the Biology Department, followed by physics, engineering, and computer science, in preparation for retrofitting Science West. Faculty, staff, and deans all stepped up to help facilitate this move by staying late and coming in on weekends. Because of everyone's hard work and dedication, the College was able to teach the scheduled summer classes in the new Science Center and the science and engineering classes scheduled for this past fall. Without teamwork from faculty, staff, administrators, facilities, and IT, this would not have been possible.
- Challenges facing Auxiliary Services during this past year included remaining competitive and relevant in the ever-changing college textbook industry; increasing the percentage of student-parents served by the three Early Learning Centers; and moving forward to develop a declining balance debit card for MC students.

Student Stories

- With an undergraduate liberal arts degree in hand, Sommer Sheffield came to Montgomery College to pursue her dream of being a full-time artist. She studied in the Department of Visual Arts and Design, taking foundation courses in drawing, design, and sculpture before beginning a course of independent study with Assistant Professor Megan Van Wagoner. At the end of the fall semester, Sheffield applied to master of fine arts programs across the country. After being accepted to the School of the Arts Institute of Chicago, the Maryland Institute College of Art, and other prestigious art schools, Sommer decided to return to her home state of California. She received a full scholarship and a teaching assistantship with stipend from the University of California, San Diego. She will begin her M.F.A. studies there in the fall.
- A DSS student diagnosed with dyslexia graduated last month, despite facing challenges with reading comprehension and writing. DSS counselors encouraged him to take a lighter course load, but the student was sure he could handle a full load. He proved he was right! He completed a difficult set of courses in two years, earning all A's and two B's, while volunteering one to two days a week for 12-hour shifts at the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Station. He was accepted to the respiratory therapy program at Salisbury University at the Universities at Shady Grove.
- Originally from Nigeria, Ezenwa Dike enrolled at the College in fall 2010. During his time at MC, he says he experienced financial difficulties, which resulted in his inability to support himself and his studies. Thanks to the College's Student Employment Services, he secured a scholarship and obtained an on-campus job. Since he cannot repay the College with donations, he showed his appreciation in a different way. He has volunteered every year at the Strathmore Music Center as well as at different College events and with the MESA+ Ambassadors, a program in which volunteers provide help



for middle school students. He has been an active MESA+ participant, even presenting on behalf of the program at a local conference. He plans to transfer to Alabama State University on a full scholarship, to which he credits Job Developer Rolf Barber. Dike writes:

Right now, I am no longer worried on how to pay for my tuition at the College. I am transferring too because of Mr. Rolf's help. I am proud to say that MC made me what I am today, and the College has supported me right from the day I became a student in the College to this time I am transferring.

It was a great experience studying here and I will never regret my decision to study at Montgomery College. I believe that, on the College motto that says endless possibilities, it really is what I have seen and experienced at Montgomery College.



COLLEGE BULLETIN

June 2012



Celebrating Students and Alumni

Seven criminal justice students participated in the First Annual Maryland Consortium of Criminal Justice College Educators Conference held at the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission in Sykesville, Md. Students Stephanie DeRiso, Vjollca Elshani, Erich Jampolsky, Jose Lizama, and Raquel Mejia presented in a poster session and recruitment event.

Elana Tchernomazova, a student of Ceramics Professor Kevin Hluch, exhibited her work recently at the Touchstone Gallery in Washington, D.C.

This spring semester, seven students participated in the Paul Peck Humanities Institute internship program. Interns at the Library of Congress were Lyudmila Anderson, Ruth Bright, Lesli Flores, Rolland Tagyen, and Ertan Tuncer. Samantha Cameron and Veronica Mason served at the Smithsonian Institution.

Celebrating College Faculty, Staff, and Administrators

Foods and Nutrition Professor Sara Ducey will be inducted into the Washington, D.C. chapter of Les Dames D'Escoffier International, an international organization of women leaders who create a supportive culture in their communities to achieve excellence in the food, beverage, and hospitality professions, in June.

The Rockville Biology Department contributed to the second annual USA Science and Engineering Festival held in late April. Several full-time and part-time faculty, along with the College's Biomedical Scholars, hosted a booth about genetics, which attracted a large number of festival visitors.

Bill and Jane Anderson, retired faculty members, recently [gifted \\$120,000](#) to Montgomery College in support of the Montgomery Scholars program.

Nursing Professor Sylvia Stevens graduated from Catholic University of America in May with a doctorate in nursing science. She also received the dean's award for excellence in doctoral studies.

Dr. Rita Kranidis, English professor, was named to the board of the Developmental Education Association of Maryland, as representative for two-year colleges in the state.

Dr. Jeanann Boyce presented a paper, "Ethical Paradigms in Biomechanical Innovations in Nanotechnology and Neurotechnology for Organ Replacement and Human Enhancement: An Analysis of Bioprinting Algorithms," at the Fifth Annual World Congress of Industrial Biotechnology in Xian, China. More than 500 attendees, including 10 Nobel laureates, presented at the conference.



Additionally, Dr. Boyce assisted in the State Leadership Conference for the Maryland Future Business Leaders of America held in Hunt Valley, Md. As a member of the board of directors, she worked on organizing the conference, as well as serving as a judge. The conference hosted more than 800 high school students.

For the last three semesters, the Gateway to College program has worked with instructional librarians on all three campuses to create a five-session library research series that orients students to the library resources. Gateway to College Language Arts Professor Rebecca Razavi worked with both Lisa Clarke and Metta Lash from the Germantown Campus Library, to help design and support these classes. Many of the activities and lessons are available to all instructional librarians and to the faculty in a toolbox format to help make all students' trips to the library as meaningful and useful as possible.

In addition, Professor Razavi will present on this collaboration at the upcoming National Gateway to College conference in Portland, Ore., to share the process, materials, and lessons learned for future replication across the country.

English Professor Robert L. Giron presented at the Conversations and Connections Conference editors' panel, entitled Eyes on the Prize: What Contest Judges Look for in a Winning Entry, at the Johns Hopkins University-D.C. campus.

English Professor Adele Brown contributed a chapter on ephrastic poetry to the Maryland Arts Council's book of writing workshops, *Words Fly*.

English Professor Cathryn Carroll edited the flagship publication, *Odyssey*, for Gallaudet University's national mission programs. This publication goes to approximately 25,000 readers in education and deaf education throughout the United States.

Yahoo!'s education news division recently interviewed English Professor Tammy Peery for the article, "[Degrees Shy People Can Earn From Home.](#)"

English Professor Katherine Smith read at the Gaithersburg Book Festival from *Amazing Graces: Yet Another Collection of Fiction by Washington Area Women*, to which she contributed a chapter. In June, she will take part in a juried workshop at the Westchester Poetry Conference in Pennsylvania. Professor Smith also has two poems and a drawing forthcoming in [Mixitini Matrix](#), an online journal of collaborative literature.

Adjunct Art Professor Amelia Hankin exhibited her artwork in a solo exhibition in the West Gallery at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. The exhibition explores microscopic imagery in a series of drawings and prints, and runs through July 7.

Adjunct Professor Maggie Gourley exhibited her work in the exhibition, *Boundless: New Works in Contemporary Printmaking*. The exhibition was held in May at the Creative Arts Workshop in New Haven, Conn. Professor Gourley also participated in the *Creature Comforts Exhibit* at



Workhouse Arts Center, in Lorton, Va., in May. The sculpture/installation exhibit explores artists' take on society's dependence on the luxuries in life and their residual effects.

Art Professor Percy North served as guest curator and wrote a catalog for the exhibition *Max Weber on Long Island* at the Heckscher Museum in Huntington, N.Y.

Dr. North also presented a lecture, "The Vestments of Amalie Rothschild," in a symposium on the artist at the Maryland Institute College of Art. The symposium and related exhibitions were designed to highlight a major book to which Dr. North contributed essays, on the Baltimore artist's long career,

Assistant Art Professor Judy Stone organized the first annual student *Artwalk* exhibition. Students from her Three-Dimensional Design class worked collaboratively with the Facilities Department at the Rockville Campus to develop outdoor, architecturally integrated sculptures and designs, which were installed on campus.

Associate Art Professor Robin Meyer exhibited her work in a group exhibition, *Impressions from the Press Room*, in the Washington Printmakers Gallery at Pyramid Atlantic in Silver Spring, Md.

Art Professor Komelia Okim had a solo exhibition of her work at the MK Gallery in McLean, Va. The exhibition, titled [*Sculpture for Space and Humanforms*](#), included 48 works. Professor Okim gave a gallery talk at the opening reception.

Professor Okim also organized and participated in the exhibition *ARIRANG* for 17 female Korean artists at the Korean Cultural Center in Washington, D.C., and gave a curator talk.

Professor Michael Farrell exhibited his work in a group exhibition at VisArts in Rockville. Titled _____scape, the contemporary landscape exhibition runs through August 10.

Montgomery College's Transportation Safety Institute now offers an in-county training program for Class B commercial driver's licenses, which will meet the area's employment demand for operators of passenger and school buses, light freight tractor-trailers, and construction vehicle operators. In the past students in the College's program traveled to the Community College of Baltimore County for hands-on training. This spring, the College brought the training to its Gaithersburg Business Training Center. The College's program is the only driver's license training in the state of Maryland to offer hands-on school bus training through a loaner vehicle from Montgomery County Public Schools. The next course for the commercial driver's license program begins in early July.



Speakers and Events

April Events

The student club Immigrants' Rights Organization helped organize a presentation entitled *The Maryland Dream Act: A Civil Rights Perspective*. Speakers included Rommel Sandino of Casa de Maryland, student speakers, and Maryland state legislators.

As part of the *Intersections: Where Art Meets Science* exhibition series, Arthur Harrison, maker and designer of theremins, presented "The Science of Sound: On the Music and Technology of Theremins." A short concert on the instruments followed the lecture.

Students in Keith McKelphin's Health and Fitness for Teachers course developed and ran a [Wellness Fair](#) for students of Beall Elementary School in Rockville. This annual fair provided students with an opportunity to teach current health topics to elementary students.

Dr. Tobias Herman, physicist with the National Institute of Standards and Technology Center for Neutron Research in Gaithersburg, gave a general audience talk, "Cryogenics: the Science and Engineering of the Very Cold," at Germantown.

Nearly 60 students, faculty, and friends of the College gathered at Germantown to hear Dr. Ilhan Izmirlı of George Mason University speak about connections between mathematics and music.

All three campuses held celebrations and activities to commemorate the [42nd annual Earth Day](#). Working with the Offices of Student Life, organizers and student volunteers raised awareness about global environmental issues and provided resources for the community to make greener life choices. Student organizations on each campus were also involved in raising funds to support the construction and installation of smokeless cook stoves in rural India through [Help Kids India](#).

The Hispanic Business and Training Institute celebrated the final class in its first Solar PV Installation and Design training. Students provided a summary of what they learned in the 60-hour class through a presentation and a final project that conveyed the complexity of the training.

The annual [Graphic Design and Illustration Student Exhibition](#) featured digital and traditional work of students in the Graphic Design and Illustration program. The exhibit, sponsored by the Communication Arts Technologies Department, runs through September 21, 2012.

May Events

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author Caryle Murphy spoke at the Rockville Campus in May on the topic of the political transitions and social protests taking place in the Middle East. In her presentation, "The Arab Awakening Reaches Saudi Arabia," she referenced her expertise as a correspondent in the Middle East and predicted how the political protests would impact the Saudi Arabian nation.



The Paul Peck Humanities Institute collaborated with the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Education and Museum Studies to sponsor a reception at the Smithsonian Castle. The reception celebrated the College's 15-year partnership with the Smithsonian that supports the Smithsonian Faculty Fellowship program.

Dr. Sanjay Rai, vice president and provost of the Germantown Campus, gave a talk entitled, "A Conversation on the Life and Mathematics of Sonya Kovalevsky" at the High Technology and Science Center at the Germantown Campus.

June Events

On Wednesday, June 20 the College will host a special opening reception at the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus for the third photography exhibition in the collaborative Portraits of Life series. Opening during LGBT Pride Month in June, Portraits of Life: LGBT Stories of Being features lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals who contribute to the success of Montgomery County.

