

INSIGHTS **M**

The Magazine for Montgomery College Alumni and Friends • Fall 2007

CRITICAL CARE



MONTGOMERY COLLEGE'S NURSING PROGRAM TURNS 40

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PERFORMANCES

January



Photo courtesy Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center

THE PIPES, DRUMS, AND DANCERS OF THE ROYAL SCOTS DRAGOON GUARDS AND THE BAND OF THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS

Tuesday, January 22, 8 p.m.

Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Rockville Campus. \$44; \$42 seniors, students, and alumni. 240-567-5301

February



Photo courtesy Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center

A COMPÁS!

Paco Peña Flamenco Dance Company
Saturday, February 2, 8 p.m.

Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Rockville Campus. \$40; \$38 seniors, students, and alumni. 240-567-5301

March

GISELLE

St. Petersburg Ballet Theatre
Yuri Petukhov, Artistic Director
Wednesday, March 12, 8 p.m.

Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Rockville Campus. \$44; \$42 seniors, students, and alumni. 240-567-5301

MUSIC

March

MC SCHOLARSHIP CONCERT

Layenda and the MC World and Jazz Ensembles
Friday, March 7, 8 p.m.

Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Rockville Campus. \$10 suggested donation. 240-567-5209

April

BALTIMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Distinguished Chamber Music Series
Jane Marvine, oboe and English horn
Tuesday, April 1, 7:30 p.m.

Music Recital Hall, Rockville Campus. 240-567-5209

EVENTS

March

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LONDON THEATRE TRIP

March 10–16

240-567-5378

April



OUTSTANDING ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS/ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME DINNER

Friday, April 18, 6:30 p.m.

The Alumni Association honors Theodore L. Jarboe '67, Dr. Gordon C. Johnson '99, Harley Seyedin '78, Mirna Ostchega R.N. '90, and Dr. Mark E. Thompson '75 for their career achievements. Also that evening, MC's Athletic Hall of Fame will welcome new members John A. Division '83, Tyrone R. Neal '73, Harold E. Walker '79, and Coach Tom Bichy, 1968–2005. Theatre Arts Arena, Rockville Campus. 240-567-5378

EXHIBITS

Closing in January

FACULTY EXHIBITION FOR THE SCHOOL OF ART + DESIGN AT MONTGOMERY COLLEGE AND TAKOMA PARK/SILVER SPRING VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

December 3–January 13

Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center Gallery, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. 240-567-1368

Closing in March

TAKOMA PARK/SILVER SPRING VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT SCULPTURE INVITATIONAL

February 11–March 16

Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center Gallery, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. 240-567-1368

March

50/50=100%

50th Anniversary of the School of Art + Design
March 24–April 27

The Maryland School of Art began in Silver Spring in 1957; it later became Maryland College of Art and Design and, in 2004, the School of Art + Design at Montgomery College.

Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center Gallery, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. 240-567-1368

April

MC ROCKVILLE ART DEPARTMENT STUDENT EXHIBITION

April 14–May 2

Sarah Silberman Art Gallery in the Paul Peck Art Building, Rockville Campus. 240-567-5115

SPRING DANCE CONCERT

Friday–Saturday, April 25–26, 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 27, 2 p.m.

Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Rockville Campus. \$10; \$8 seniors, students, and alumni. 240-567-5301

For a complete calendar of upcoming events, visit www.montgomerycollege.edu and click on Calendar of Events.

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Bliss Beat

A Message from the President of the Alumni Association



Baby Boomers watching the latest Ken Burns documentary saw a history of World War II that few of us could have imagined. Mr. Burns filmed “The War” knowing that we were fast losing the firsthand experiences of that era. Many of those veterans’ stories now are told, if at all, in obituaries.

One such story is that of Laurence Enlow Sr. '41, whose passing last summer almost went unreported here. His family wrote us that we must have sent our magazine to the wrong person. They knew him as an Army veteran, not the typical Navy electrician who trained at the wartime Bliss Electrical School. As it turns out, Mr. Enlow had found a way to serve out his hitch back home in Georgia. He opted to switch assignments and volunteer for a brand new kind of fighting group. And that’s how a Bliss graduate became one of the very first Army paratroopers.

We’re also helping a new generation discover our own past. This issue’s Bliss Beat article is a little different; it’s written by the *granddaughter* of an alumnus, who found us while researching her family history.

Don’t let these stories suggest that all the Blissters are gone. Austin Russell '42 recently visited Victor Squadrito '47, with whom we’d lost touch. They live less than three miles apart. I mention this to encourage you to reconnect with your own classmates. Our alumni directory update project may help you with that; if you ordered the book, it should be delivered to you in early 2008. Please make good use of it—and when you do make those connections, let us share the news!

Now, let’s move on to the history we’re making today. This fall, I took part in the formal inauguration of Dr. Brian K. Johnson as Montgomery College’s seventh president. Dr. Johnson remarked that the education MC offers locally must prepare students to transform our world. If that sounds like a tall order, remember that our student body represents more than 170 nations—a potential for global reach that few colleges can claim.

Then, 10 days later, we celebrated three events in one evening—the naming of the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Student Services Center for MC’s recently retired president, Dr. Charlene R. Nunley; the public launch of a \$25 million fundraising campaign for the College; and the establishment of the 1946 Society, in recognition of alumni and friends whose generosity to the College has included gifts totaling \$100,000 and more.

As amazing as those major gifts have been, the smaller ones are just as important to the continued successes of the College. You may soon see a letter inviting you to support the Annual Fund, which enables the College to distribute extra resources where they are most needed. To draw on Dr. Johnson’s theme, I hope you’ll consider how your gift supporting Montgomery College students locally can help them transform globally.

And one more thought...your Alumni Association invites you to become more active by serving on one of our committees. Check us out on the Web at www.montgomerycollege.edu/alumni/committees.html.

I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tookie Gentilcore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tookie Gentilcore '94
Alumni Association President

CRITICAL CARE

BY DIANE BOSSER

Montgomery College's nursing program turns 40 years old this year. What's made it so successful in preparing students to work in a career field known for high stress, long shifts, and burnout? Several nursing graduates provide some answers.



▲ Ralph Tuason '02 is pursuing a specialization in nursing anesthesia. His experience at Georgetown University Hospital not only solidified his career choice—but it also provided tuition assistance for his continuing education.

▼ Faculty and staff mark the nursing program's 40th year. An alumni reunion will be in the spring.

People are surprised to learn that Ralph Tuason '02 attended MC. In his line of work, employers look for applicants with a four-year degree. So how did he get started as a critical care nurse with “just” an associate's degree? The answer lies in his choice of nursing programs.

“MC's nursing program was a crash course,” said Tuason, who earned his associate's degree and became a registered nurse at age 18. “The teachers were amazing, and my training was very applicable: I do the same work as the other nurses who have a four-year degree.”

After completing high school in the Philippines a year ahead of his U.S. contemporaries, Tuason enrolled at Montgomery College. At the advice of an aunt, also a nurse, Tuason sidelined his original plan to become a doctor, and chose instead the less expensive and more expedient path into the medical profession: nursing.

“As soon as I took the classes and saw my first patient,” said Tuason, “I loved it. When I saw what little time doctors have with patients,

I knew I wanted to stay in nursing. I wanted to be involved in supporting my patients.”

After working clinicals at Shady Grove Hospital as a student, Tuason landed a staff position at Georgetown University Hospital, a 609-bed, not-for-profit, acute care teaching and research facility in northwest Washington. Now, he is pursuing a four-year degree for his desired specialty: nurse anesthetist.

Tuason, like many working nurses, qualified for employee tuition reimbursement benefits at Georgetown's nursing program, but chose instead to study at the University of Maryland, College Park (UMCP). “Other nursing school programs would have taken twice as long due to credits lost in the transfer,” he said.

Tuason's MC credits conveyed seamlessly to UMCP, thanks to “articulation” agreements between the two schools. By applying his tuition assistance from Georgetown and continuing to work his “day” job, Tuason will complete his four-year degree without the burden of debt from loans or other financial aid.





Originally from Nigeria, Patience Mbulu '97, '00 came to the United States at the age of 18 with "one little box" of belongings. Today, she is the clinical coordinator for NIH's urology clinic and will finish a master's degree in May 2008.

Patience Mbulu '97, '00 parlayed her nursing school clinical experience into a healthy career as a clinical coordinator at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda. The 2005 Nurse of the Year, featured in *Oncology Nursing Society's* magazine, recalled a smooth transition from MC's nursing program into the workforce.

"NIH told me: 'We don't hire new grads with associate's degrees unless they have long-time work experience, but since you are an MC graduate we will see you for an interview. [MC graduates] have never disappointed us.'"

"As a research hospital, we tend to go for people with baccalaureate degrees because [if not] we have to send them back to school," said Dr. Claire Hastings '75, NIH's director of nursing and herself an MC alumna. "Montgomery College is an exception."

Registered nurses top the list of professions in projected job growth through 2012. As the population ages—including working nurses who are themselves retiring—Montgomery College plays a critical role in supplying the Washington, D.C., area with health-care professionals.

In fall 2006, the program had a 95.7 percent pass rate on the registered nurse licensing exam known as NCLEX-RN. This success rate eases the recruitment burdens on area employers—they know they have a steady source of reliable employees.

"Since there is a shortage, our nursing students can pick the site and unit they would like to work in," said Barbara Nubile, director of Montgomery College's nursing program.

What makes MC's program work? Its success can be attributed to several factors, including skilled faculty and staff, state-of-the-art technology housed in the 65,000-square-foot Health Sciences Center on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus, and mandatory clinical rotations that provide hands-on experience.

Before she graduated, Mbulu had already put in a year at Takoma Park's Washington Adventist Hospital, first as an intern, then a nurse technician, then a staff nurse. In 2001, NIH hired Mbulu as a bedside nurse. She then advanced to her current position as a clinical coordinator. Despite her demanding administrative tasks—she oversees three employees and makes schedules for several doctors—she

remains the only nurse on staff able to perform certain procedures for urology patients.

Mbulu came to the U.S. from Nigeria at age 18. She expected hard work, but nursing was not in her plans. She married and, later, endured extended hospital stays as a high-risk maternity patient. That's when she found her true calling.

"During my second pregnancy, the nurses at Holy Cross threw a baby shower for me. The doctor's daughter babysat my daughter for free! When I asked how I could repay this kindness, the doctor said, 'Become a doctor or a nurse. You can help someone else in need.'"

After completing a general studies certificate in 1997, Mbulu returned to finish the nursing program in 2000. She has earned a B.S.N. from the University of Maryland and will finish a master's degree in May 2008. "I never dreamed I'd be where I am now, able to help people—in my job and in my family—to have a better life."

The nursing program's 40th anniversary celebration is planned for Saturday, May 3, 2008. For more information, contact Melissa Sprague, 240-567-5596, or Sabrina Beroz, 240-567-5547.

BY DIANE BOSSER

NURSING A CAREER



Lab coordinator Patricia O'Meara '84 and faculty members Karen Sullivan '80, Mirna Ostchega '90, Gail Bolling '82, and Melissa Sprague '86 are helping to guide a fifth decade of students through the nursing program. O'Meara, Ostchega, Bolling, and Sprague each graduated from the program.

Returning to college to teach other nurses was a calling Mirna Ostchega '90 never dreamed of when she entered Montgomery College's nursing program in the late 1980s. "It was a dream of mine to be a registered nurse. MC made it a reality for a barely English-speaking poor immigrant. A number of individuals helped me along the way. First and foremost, my husband, then a number of faculty members, among them Sandy Schuler and Judy Hogan [retired]."

Ostchega went on to earn a master's degree in nursing education from the University of Maryland in 1998 and joined the MC nursing faculty shortly thereafter. She now is a Ph.D. candidate at the School of Nursing at the Catholic University of America. She hopes to finish in 2008 or early 2009.

"After I finished my master's," Ostchega said, "I had the opportunity to go and teach at other institutions. I chose Montgomery College because I felt that I needed to give a little back to the institution that gave me so much as a student."

Alumni like Ostchega are helping to ease the strain on a program that sees many more applications each semester than it can possibly accommodate. For fall 2007, for example, the College's nursing program received 547 applications for its 88 maximum capacity.

Ostchega, who teaches Medical/Surgical Nursing II, notes that nearly 70 percent of her students are foreign-born, reflecting the broad demographics of the MC student body and the larger Washington metropolitan area.

Though diverse, these students share what she calls "a burning desire to study" and, despite any odds, to succeed and become professional nurses.

"Overwhelmingly the Montgomery College nursing student is the person who is going to college, working, and supporting a family," said Barbara Nubile, director of the nursing program. "Students and families all sacrifice to get the student through the program and graduation."

Patricia O'Meara '84, another nursing program alumna-turned-faculty member, called the student diversity "a definite benefit for nursing" and an "opportunity to incorporate multi-cultural perspectives into our patient care and daily interactions from direct experience."

O'Meara earned an M.S. from Georgetown University. She worked at the Washington Hospital Center from 1984 to 1992 and at Georgetown University Hospital from 1992 to 2007, settling on a general surgery unit in 1994. She eventually became coordinator of that unit.

From O'Meara's perspective, nursing students now need to have more knowledge than ever before as they begin to practice in a complex health-care delivery system. As an instructor, she encourages as much critical thinking as possible. "This helps to prepare students for the 'real world,'" she said, "so that no matter

what situation they encounter, they are equipped to handle it."

"Working at MC as a nursing simulation lab instructor is a great opportunity to blend experience with theory and to help prepare our students to be competent caregivers," said O'Meara. "The simulation lab provides an excellent opportunity for students to become proficient in a safe environment with gradual increases in the complexity of what they're absorbing."

"The resources and facilities at MC are incredible. What we have here is quite similar

to facilities I've observed at area universities, and MC students use these resources to their full advantage."

Both Ostchega and O'Meara have found teaching nurses an experience that enriches their careers. "MC also gives me the opportunity to contribute to my immediate community, and to the nursing profession as well, in a way that's very meaningful to me," said O'Meara. "I work twice a month in direct patient care," said Ostchega. "In fact, two of my former students work with me as RNs at the Washington Hospital Center's intensive care unit. This is truly a pleasure."



Q&A WITH MIRNA OSTCHEGA

Students who took Mirna Ostchega's medical/surgical nursing class appear to recognize her dedication to the College. The nursing program's entire 2003 graduating class nominated her for the Milton F. Clogg Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award, which she will receive from the Alumni Association in April. Insights magazine spoke with her this fall.

Insights: What do you like best about your nursing career?

Ostchega: Despite the cliché sound of this statement—[nursing] gives me the chance to help people in a meaningful way. I am very sensitive to the need of vulnerable individuals. This is especially true in the intensive care unit, where I have been practicing nursing for the last 15 years.

In addition, nursing is a profession rich in history. To practice it with competence and love, one needs to know both science and art. Very few professions besides nursing can claim this wonderful combination.

Insights: What do we do to prepare students for the "real world"?

Ostchega: Nursing practice is grounded in reality. During the entire program, we provide clinical experiences for our students with real patients in various health care environments. It is true the patients

are sicker, but I strongly believe that our students are prepared for real work.

Insights: How dire is the workforce crisis for health-care employers?

Ostchega: The shortage will continue for a long time. There were around 300 open positions at Washington Hospital Center during the summer of 2007.

Insights: Any other comments?

Ostchega: The MC faculty must understand and reach out to our foreign students—help them reach their professional goal. We are a nation of immigrants, and our biggest treasure is our human capital.

Nursing alumni who have returned to teach now include: Gail Bolling '82, Mirna Ostchega '90, Melissa Sprague '86, Patricia O'Meara '84, and part-time clinical instructors Linda Rosier '96, and Cynthia Paulter '05.

LEARNING LOCALLY TRANSFORMING GLOBALLY

President Johnson's Vision for the College

Montgomery College celebrated the inauguration of President Brian K. Johnson at a mid-day ceremony October 9. Dr. Johnson is the seventh chief executive officer in the College's 61-year history.

Framed by a gathering of students bearing the flags of their native countries, representatives of colleges and universities, the Alumni Association, Foundation directors, College trustees, and the community came together to congratulate Dr. Johnson.

Following are excerpts of Dr. Johnson's inaugural address.

Our Responsibility

Forty-four years ago, on a day much like this one, on a college campus not far from where we now meet, a young man gave what was perhaps the finest speech of his brief and brilliant career. He spoke of hope, and he spoke of peace. He spoke of change and of resistance to change. But mostly, he spoke of responsibility. My responsibility and yours. The nation's responsibility. Our challenge, he said, is to make the world safe for diversity.

American University was the site of that speech, just down the road. And the speaker was President John F. Kennedy.

Celebrate Diversity

We learn locally. We transform globally.

Our students are black and white and brown and red and yellow. They are able-bodied and physically challenged. They are rich and poor, old and young. They speak English and Farsi and Mandarin and Bengali. Their iPods carry the music of Tchaikovsky...and the music of Shakira. They appreciate the poetry of Dante ...and they appreciate the poetry of India Irie. And when they pray, they pray to Jesus and Allah and Yahweh and Brahman.

They come to us from more than 170 different countries. We welcome them all. And we say to them: Let us help you. Let us help you help yourself.

Ensuring Access to Higher Education

We offer literacy for all, the necessary prelude to liberty for all.

This is the right thing to do, and it is the smart thing to do. Ensuring access to affordable higher education is an ethical imperative. But it is also an economic imperative.

Communication for a Better Community

I am committing Montgomery College to a communications offensive: We will communicate more often, more clearly, more candidly, and with better technology than ever before. Better communication will mean a better community. Better communication will remind us of our interdependence. And that is critical—because interdependence is the defining fact of our time.

A Commitment to the Workforce

While this College works to meet our state's workforce shortages in nursing, in engineering, in the hospitality industry, and in biotechnology, we will sustain and we will enrich our legacy of excellence in the liberal arts. We will demonstrate one more time what this faculty has proven again and again: Expanding access does not mean diluting quality.

It is our joint commitment to access and excellence that gives us a national reputation few can match. And it is by sustaining this joint commitment that we will get the state of Maryland the workforce it deserves—a workforce of lifelong learners.

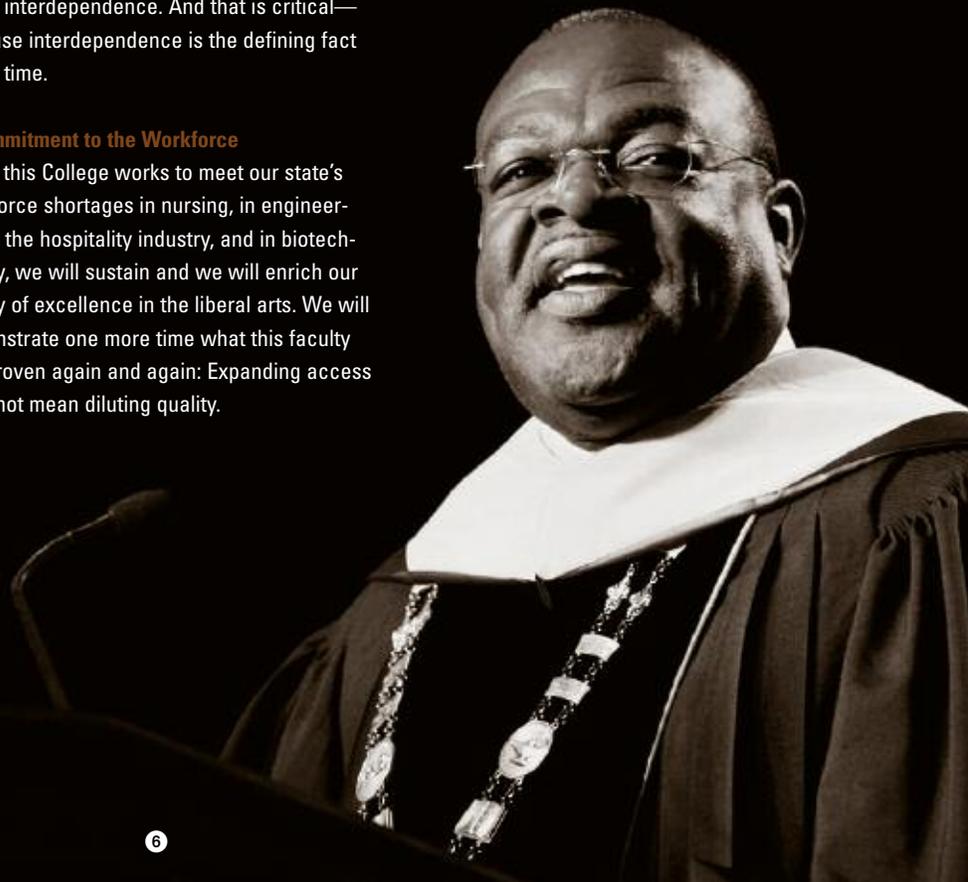
Social Responsibility

We will do more to take our community college into the community. We will dig into our souls, and we will reach out to the most vulnerable among us. We will make it our mission to lift up those who have been left out.

A Call to Action

Let us begin today to shape a better tomorrow. Let us begin today to finish the unfinished work of making the world safe for diversity.

The complete text of Dr. Johnson's inaugural address and photos of the inaugural ceremony can be found at www.montgomerycollege.edu/inauguration.



> College Recognized by Alliance for Workplace Excellence

For the third consecutive year, Montgomery College won the Workplace Excellence Seal of Approval from the Alliance for Workplace Excellence, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to position workplace excellence as a competitive advantage in the public, private and nonprofit business community by building and recognizing ‘Excellent Places to Work.’

The College also was honored for a second time with the 2007 Health and Wellness Trailblazer Award. The award recognizes employers that show exemplary commitment to the overall physical and mental health of their workforce.

> College Brings Driver Education Class To the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus

The Workforce Development and Continuing Education division has brought its popular driver education class to the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. The classes help prepare students to take the Maryland driver’s license examination.

Driver education classes are also offered at the College’s Gaithersburg Business Training Center. Over the past three years, the College has taught more than 300 students at this location.

For registration and general information about driver safety courses, call 240-567-5188 or visit www.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce.

> Student Appointed to Board of Trustees



Cristian E. Barrera has been appointed to serve a one-year term as the student representative on the College’s Board of Trustees.

A native of El Salvador, Barrera is a member of the Montgomery Scholars honors program. Last summer, Barrera joined fellow scholars at the University of Cambridge in England, where he attended summer college classes. After Cambridge, he volunteered at Hôpital des Enfants de Rabat, a children’s hospital in Rabat, Morocco, as part of Cross-Cultural Solutions, a nonprofit international volunteer organization.



Soul Searchers by Kay McCrehan

Art Faculty United For Exhibit

Fine arts faculty from all three campuses took part in a joint art exhibit, Unity and Diversity, at Rockville’s Glenview Mansion Art Gallery.

The exhibit showcased the range of media, techniques, and subject matter used by MC’s fine arts faculty. The art mirrors the teaching philosophy of the faculty, who focus on encouraging students to develop confidence in their own artistic identity.

“The strength of this exhibition and of MC’s faculty is its diversity,” said exhibit curator Virginia Mecklenburg. “Multiple ways of seeing reveal multiple ways of thinking about time, place, and the way we understand the world.”

—Elizabeth Homan



Some Assembly Required by John Carr



Kroll by Michael Sellmeyer

> College Partners with Haryana, India

Montgomery College and the state of Haryana, India, signed an agreement that will pave the way for replicating the community college model of education at the Government Polytechnic School in Haryana.

The College will help Haryana adopt practices in professional development, curriculum sharing, and faculty and student exchanges. Together, the College and the government of Haryana will develop new curricula or adapt existing curricula for the Government Polytechnic School that aligns with Indian students’ career or transfer goals.

> Adult ESOL and Literacy-GED Program Receives National Career Grant

The Adult ESOL and Literacy-GED (AELG) Program, part of Montgomery College’s Workforce Development and Continuing Education division, is one of five sites nationwide chosen to participate in the U.S. Department of Education’s Adult Basic Education Career Connections project. The project aims to put the College at the cutting edge of developing new and innovative strategies for assisting adult ESOL and GED students as they transition to postsecondary programs and careers in high-demand fields.

—Elizabeth Homan



Ann Stillwell '07 (top) and Professor Bhramara Heid formed a fast friendship during the one semester they shared in the College's interior design program. A joint scholarship memorializes their kinship and supports future scholars.

BY JILL IREY

KINDRED SPIRITS

Ann Stillwell always dreamt of getting a college degree. Although she was happily married to a man with four grown children and had led an amazing life, she never completed a college degree. So in spring 2004, she enrolled at Montgomery College as an interior design major, beginning with the basic introductory course taught by program coordinator Professor Bhramara Heid.

Stillwell enjoyed the class and Professor Heid, whom she found passionate, funny, and deeply caring. When the semester ended, Stillwell was hooked; she fully intended on taking additional courses with her new mentor. Just before the fall semester was to begin, however, Professor Heid passed away suddenly, the victim of an aggressive form of cancer.

Returning in September, Stillwell was shocked by the news, as was much of the College community. Interior Design Professor Jill IreY and members of the Heid family held a memorial service to help returning students like Stillwell grieve their loss, and to announce the foundation of the Bhramara Heid Memorial Scholarship.

Stillwell then pursued her interior design studies while continuing to form friendships with classmates and with Professor IreY. "Ann had an almost charismatic enthusiasm about her—for the program, the College, and her classmates.

She always brought a shining smile and joyful approach and dedication to her school work," said IreY.

The following spring, Stillwell was diagnosed with cancer and given three months to live. In the months ahead, she managed to complete her course requirements—with a 4.0 GPA—and earn her associate's degree. She and Professor IreY, also coping with grave health issues, offered each other support and friendship.

During one of their many social visits, Stillwell told IreY she had decided to donate her jewelry to the Bhramara Heid Scholarship. "She loved the program, the teachers, and her classmates," said IreY, "and she was so thankful that she had accomplished her dream of having a college degree."

Profoundly moved by this generosity, Professor IreY arranged a visit with Professor Heid's daughter, who quickly realized the powerful connection between her mother and this extraordinary student. During the visit, Heid's daughter announced her wish to change the scholarship's name to the Bhramara Heid and Ann Stillwell Scholarship. "This had a profound impact on Ann," said IreY.

Ann Stillwell died on the Sunday morning that followed Montgomery College's 2007 Commencement. Her gift to the College, presented by her husband Lee Stillwell and her sister Sandy Gaver, totaled nearly \$50,000.

BY LAURIE WHITE

HARD SCIENCE

Addressing STEM Challenges for Community Colleges

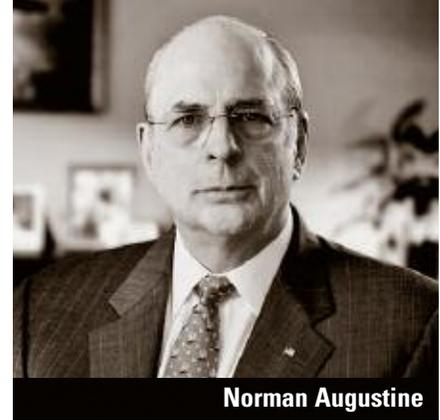
If community colleges don't keep pace with the science and math education needs of a growing workforce, students and the economy will suffer.

So said many of the 200 people who gathered at the Rockville Campus on October 30 for a day-long roundtable on the role that community colleges have in preparing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) professionals.

The roundtable combined brainstorming and action planning with discussions among panelists who hold leadership roles in higher education and in workforce and business development.

Discussions covered access to educational programs, transfer scholarships for students, and early education in the sciences. Faculty, staff, and administrators shared Montgomery College's vision of becoming a national leader among two-year colleges in science, engineering, and mathematics through such projects as the construction of a new science center at Rockville and a bioscience education center at Germantown.

Dr. Sanjay Rai, Rockville's dean of science, engineering and mathematics, co-hosted the event with Norman Augustine, retired chairman and CEO of Lockheed Martin Corporation. Augustine had led a blue ribbon panel whose 2005 report, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*,



Norman Augustine

described shortfalls in science preparation across America.

"That report has accelerated funding for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and Department of Education," said Rai, adding that NSF statistics show that 48 percent of students who earned bachelor's and master's degrees in science and engineering in 2004 and 2005 had attended a community college.

"Augustine said that if we want to succeed in the global economy, we need to double the number of STEM graduates by 2015," said Rai. "If community colleges help prepare half of the nation's science graduates, then they must be given resources in similar proportion."

BY LAURIE WHITE

BECOMING CEO

Pete Linsert began working with Martek Biosciences Corporation in 1989 on a handshake. Almost 20 years later, the company, which specializes in the development and sale of products made from microalgae, is close to 700 employees strong, with two production plants.

The child of a multilingual immigrant who was a math professor, he had a model for hard work and success from an early age. "I wanted to make something of myself," he said, because of the high standards his parents set for him. Linsert wanted to get Martek on the commercial road and wrote a viable business plan. In 1988, he raised money from one of the premier biotech venture capital firms in Colorado. Now, Martek products

have a lot to do with the health of babies and children.

Linsert shared his story and experiences with the Montgomery College community during the Macklin Business Institute's Distinguished Lecture Series. The late Gordon Macklin, along with Macklin Business Institute advisory board member Libby Labash, had been instrumental in connecting Linsert to Montgomery College.

Linsert recently formed a new company to develop technology in medicine, diagnostics, and biomedical research.

"Making things happen," he says, is one of the joys of business.

You CAN Make A Difference in the Lives of MC Students

The Montgomery College Foundation has gone live with online giving. Now, you and your friends can visit www.montgomerycollege.edu/giving, and in minutes make a gift to MC.

We ask that you consider a gift. Each year MC provides scholarships for more than 600 students. Yet 3,000 students could not enroll for financial reasons. Please help us bridge this gap—and fulfill our students' dreams and goals—with a gift to scholarships.

For more information, please contact Valessia Samaras at 240-567-7493 or e-mail valessia.samaras@montgomerycollege.edu.

CLASS NOTES

- > **Darrell L. Ost, Bliss '48** retired in 1977 as a senior electrical engineer after 47 years of service with the American Electric Power Company. He now lives in Louisville, Ohio.
- > **Jeanne Mayberry Jameson '49** is a retired special education teacher living in Bowie, Md. She was secretary of the class of 1949, and writes that she is "always glad to hear of the school's success."
- > **Joseph Oleinik '50** recalls Dean Price, Athletic Director Frank Rubini, Sadie Higgins, Freda Malone, and others from his time at MC. "Thanks again for two great years," he writes.
- > **Howard N. Leighton, Bliss '51** is now on the board of directors of the Vermont Electric Cooperative in Johnson, Vt.
- > **Marilyn Shaffer Weaver '55 and David L. Weaver '55** returned to the Washington, D.C. area to retire after living in New Orleans for 32 years. They recently celebrated their 50th anniversary.
- > **Steven Elliott Ness '64** is the owner of Canvas Creations, in Key West, Fla.
- > **Alan Friedman '68** retired from the D.C. public school system in 2003.
- > **James Campbell '69** moved to Florida in 1977 to work for Orange County Public Schools and returned to government service for the departments of the Army and Navy in 1987. He retired in June 2000 and has spent his time since then as a real estate broker.
- > **John Harkins '70** is currently living in Hawaii.
- > **Deborah Post Hunter '71** received a B.S. in special education/elementary education in 1977 from the University of Maryland and a master's in special education in 1985 from West Virginia University. She currently teaches specialized pre-school in Pennsylvania, and has "been in Special Ed. long enough to retire but has not stayed put long enough!" She has been married for 25 years and has a daughter attending McDaniel College.
- > **Gilbert Thompson '71** has spent 22 years teaching theatre to high school students at Sidwell Friends School in Washington. He is also resident sound designer at Studio Theatre and has been nominated six times for a Helen Hayes Award for sound design, winning in 2000 for the play "Indian Ink."
- > **Judy Farmer '72** is working for Colonial Heights Public Schools in Virginia.
- > **Michael Toomey '72** is special assistant to the general manager of the Kansas City Royals.
- > **Dave Coffin '73** went on from MC to play football at Oregon Tech in 1974. He now lives with his wife and two daughters in Winchester, Va.
- > **John Wallace Combs '74** is living in North Hollywood, Calif., and acting in theatre, film, and occasionally television.
- > **Oscar Fuster '74** is now the vice president of marketing and strategic alliances at Epok, Inc. in Bethesda, Md.
- > **Stephen Martz '74** graduated summa cum laude from the University of Maryland in 1976. He earned his M.Div. from Catholic Theological Union and a D.Min. at Chicago Theological Seminary and completed psychoanalytic training at the C.G. Jung Institute of Chicago. He is now both an Episcopal priest and a Jungian analyst.
- > **Bob Mitchell '74** started his career with Vitro Corporation in 1961. He retired from IBM in 1997, and from Lockheed Martin in May 2007. He now lives in Silver Spring, Md.
- > **Patricia A. Sappe '74** is residing in Ocala, Fla.
- > **George "Buzz" Thompson '74** owns First Impressions Dental Lab in Mesa, Az.
- > **Shahnaz Davar '75** is the owner of Mona Clothing in Hannover, Germany.
- > **Deborah L. Goode '75** has been working at the U.S. Naval Academy since 1989 and has been the media director in USNA Public Affairs since 2001.
- > **Michael Krawic '75** appeared in the premiere of David Henry Hwang's "Yellow Face" at the Mark Taper Forum Theater in Los Angeles. He is a member of the Apartment A Theater Company.
- > **Jill Wolf McCrory '75** is the president of Leadership Outfitters, a national leadership training and team building company, a part-time Baptist minister, and an active volunteer with the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists.
- > **Evelyn Stein '76** is working with a label designer and acquiring organic certification for the food product she is preparing to launch.
- > **Eric Engelberg '77** is a data processing functional analyst for the Maryland Department of Planning. He is living in Germantown, Md.



Photo courtesy Lon Anderson

- > **Lon Anderson '70** organized a reunion of editors from *The Spur* from around 1967 to 1971. Anderson was joined by Don Bowman '69, Les Henig '68, Len Jaffe '70, Joe McCary '69, Ray Boss '71, and Henry Zecher '68.

CLASS NOTES

> **Richard Schwartz '77** published *Hurricanes and the Middle Atlantic States*, the first reference book to examine the region's hurricane history. Written for a general audience, the book includes human-interest accounts of storms that date back to the Jamestown colony. Rick's interest in the topic grew from his membership in MC's Meteorology Club. Book information is available at www.midatlantichurricanes.com.

> **Mitchell Cowan '78** is a file clerk with the Department of Veterans' Affairs. He is living in Wheaton, Md.

> **Carl Wright '78** has a collection of his abstract stone sculptures and his wife Jody's paintings featured as a two-person show this December at the Ed Chasen Fine Art Gallery in Washington.

> **Betty Hemby '79** is the president of Events by Ann Carrie Simon, LLC.

> **Donna Cassidy Porreco '80** is alive and well and living in Frederick, Md.

> **Leah Joppy '80** owns a leadership and management development company, Leah M. Joppy and Associates.

> **Moselle Milner '80** has been a library page at the Wheaton Library for three years. She reports, "My son's wife, Gena, is expecting a baby in August, and it looks like I will be a grandma!"

> **Ann P. Wagner '82** is curator of the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown, Md.

> **Doreatha Bush '86** earned her master's in management information systems from the University of Maryland and self-published the book *Inside Me: the Softness Within*. She works as a program analyst for General Services Administration in Washington, D.C.

> **Kendie Reich '86** earned her degree from the University of Maine in 1991 and worked for 15 years as a public health nurse. Along with her husband, she now owns and operates Sickler Service, Inc., a plumbing, heating, and AC company in Burtonsville, Md. She also sponsors the humanitarian organization Reaching Hearts 4 Kids.

> **John Monte '87** leads a new media Web site, thefullmonte.com, and speaks at schools and colleges about the Taliban and Afghanistan.



> **Florence Ashby** has retired after teaching math for 40 years at MC's Rockville Campus. She will continue to serve on the board of directors

of Peerless Rockville Preservation Society, the Florida State University Board of Trustees, and the Kappa Alpha Theta and Sigma Alpha Iota alumnae boards. She said, "I won't be 'board' in retirement!"

> **Helmuth Froeschle**, who retired as MC's director of public information, is living in Lakewood, Colo. with his wife. He directs a play readers performance once a month and conducts a bi-monthly program called "This Is My Life" with his neighbors in Meridian Retirement Communities.

> **Malcolm Kovacs**, professor emeritus of sociology, recently served as delegate to the International Convention of the Orthodox Union of Jewish Congregations in Jerusalem.

> **Roger Chavez, MCAD '90**, received an M.F.A. in painting from American University.

> **Daniel Ingraham '90** has been busy with his company, Glass Asylum Productions. Glass Asylum Productions is seeking distribution for the film *Ghost House* and is in preproduction on another film, *The Coffin*.

> **Mike Anthony, MCAD '91**, created several fish sculptures for the Lure of Baltimore street sculpture series and a donkey sculpture for the D.C. Party Animals exhibition. One of his pieces was featured in the recent National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts exhibit in Washington, D.C.

> **Tom Doucet '92** is the clinical coordinator for University Psychological Center, Inc., in College Park, Md. He is living in Greenbelt, Md.

> **Kristina Dodson '93** is employed by Children's Center of Monrovia, Md.

> **Heidi Williams Hoffman '93** is working as an interior designer for House Works Interiors of Alexandria, Va. She currently resides in Bethesda, Md.

> **Matthew Nielson '95** won a Helen Hayes Award for his performance in "A Prayer for Owen Meany" at the Roundhouse Theatre.

> **Paul Pincus '95** had his sculpture on display at the Gaithersburg Arts Barn. His work has also been displayed at Brookside Gardens, the Strathmore Hall Arts Center, and the BlackRock Center for the Arts.

> **Jason Foster '98** and his 2004 film about Hurricane Charley won an Audience Choice Award for Best Documentary at the Miami International Film and Video Festival in 2005.

> **Kristi P. Foster '98** is a legal secretary with Keefer, Wood, Allen, and Rahal, LLP, in Harrisburg, Pa.

> **John Barber '99** has been named the men's basketball head coach and program coordinator at Gallaudet University.

> **Joanne Gordon Wilson '00** is working on a master's degree in United States foreign policy at American University.

> **Garth Gerhart, MCAD '01**, has had his comic strip featured in *Mad* magazine.

> **Inaki Basauri '02** is now a professional rugby player in France. He played with the U.S. team at the Rugby World Cup in fall 2007.

> **Cynthia Davis '04** has transferred to the University of Maryland, Baltimore County School of Social Work where she has organized charity events. She has also served as the president of the Shady Grove Social Work Student Association.

> **Laurie Garcia '04** graduated from the University of Maryland, College Park criminology and criminal justice program. She currently works part time at the Shady Grove Adventist Hospital.

> **Sylvia Lopez '05** works as a patient service technician at the Laboratory Corporation of America. She lives in Bethesda, Md.



Photo by Jessica Wernick

Residing in Poolesville, Gustavo and Susana remain devoted to each other and their four children, ranging in ages from 5 to 11. Both have returned to the classroom at UMUC.

WAR AND PEACE

In 1990, Susana Carvajal began working at MC's Human Resources Office, and was enrolled in classes part time in pursuit of a degree. Gustavo Gilardi was attending classes full time and working part time at the Rockville Campus' Writing Center.

Jackie Jaffe '87, one of Gustavo's colleagues, knowing he was from Peru, asked him if he knew Susana Carvajal from Ecuador. When he said no, Jackie insisted he meet her.

Gustavo found a minor reason to visit Human Resources, but recalls, "My main mission was to meet Susana." Although it was a cordial encounter,

Continued on next page

IN MEMORIAM

The Alumni Association notes the passing of faculty, staff, and alumni of the College.

> **Joanna L. Kieffer '57** died November 17, 2004.

> **Gustave D. Miltzer '88** died June 26, 2005.

> **Laurance A. Sullivan, Jr. '69** died June 20, 2005.

> **Charles Ambuske, Bliss '49** died February 7, 2006. He worked for International Telephone and Telegraph in the Radar/Countermeasures Department until 1960 after serving with the Army in Frankfurt, Germany. He also worked for the United States Air Force and the Georgia Institute of Technology Research.

> **Laurence Enlow Sr., Bliss '41** died July 7, 2006. He served in the Army's first paratrooper unit. He told his family that all of his unit's guidelines for jump altitude, rip cord timing, and other procedures were established by trial and error, and that he had the hip and knee injuries to prove it. Had he not joined the paratroopers, he would have been sent to Normandy on D-Day.

> **Charles Starmer, Bliss '38** died July 27, 2006. He worked in the elevator business for 65 years. He passed away nine days before his 90th birthday.

> **Helen T. Forlenza '76** died October 1, 2006.

> **Joan DeBold '81** died November 10, 2006.

> **Andrew V. Roderick, Bliss '42** died December 12, 2006. He worked as an engineering manager for Verizon before retiring.

> **Constance E. Farrell '81** died December 20, 2006.

> **Doris Burnley Strong '78** died December 27, 2006.

> **Donald Reed '72** died January 5, 2007. He worked for the U.S. Postal Service.

> **Alice Hazelton Searle '88** died January 28, 2007.

> **Ellen Vincent** died February 24, 2007. She taught at the Maryland College of Art and Design from 1974 to 1989, served as chair of the Fine Arts Department, and later as acting dean for two years. She went on to teach at the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design.

> **Laura L. Cacho '86** died April 12, 2007.

> **Daniel Hess '98** died May 4, 2007. He was co-operator of Rude in D.C., a company that promoted concerts and printed merchandise for local bands. He performed as the singer for D.C. ska bands Ready Steady Go! and the Ratchet Boys.

> **Shirley S. Kirschenmann '82** died July 21, 2007. She was a switchboard operator at the Rockville Campus Information Center from 1975 to 2001.

> **Travis Todd '80** died August 22, 2007. She recently retired from the Visual, Performing, and Communication Arts Department at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus.

> **Dorothy "Dottie" Whalen** died September 9, 2007. She was a food service worker on the Rockville Campus from September 1967 until her retirement in July 1984.

> **Roberta "Bertie" Bryan** died September 22, 2007. Before her retirement, she worked for 23 years as secretary to the registrar on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus.

> **William C. Tomlinson** died September 25, 2007. He was the registrar at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus from 1967 until his retirement in 1983.

> **Philip McClean** died October 19, 2007. He was a former adjunct professor of mathematics at the Germantown Campus.

> **Arthur R. Mohr, Bliss '37** died October 20, 2007. Before retiring in 1981, he was a telephone central office switchman at several of the Bell companies.

Memorial donations in the name of the deceased may be made to the Montgomery College Foundation. Use the return envelope provided in this magazine, or write to the MC Foundation, 900 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850.

WAR AND PEACE

Continued from previous page

not much happened after that. Gustavo was busy with his studies and working; he had little time to initiate a new relationship.

In January 1995, a war broke out between Peru and Ecuador. Concerned, Susana called Gustavo and said, "Did you hear our countries are at war?" During the 1940s and 1950s the two countries had boundary issues, and once again they were fighting.

Susana's call was an opportunity for Gustavo to ask her for a date. Before coming to the U.S., Gustavo had earned a bachelor's degree in forestry sciences and worked to preserve Peru's tropical rain forests. Their first date was

an ecotourism lecture at the National Zoo. "It was freezing, and his VW bug didn't have heat," Susana recalled. "Even the hot chocolate was cold." Although they would talk on the phone for hours, they didn't go out again for two months. It was at a staff professional day in March that they had lunch together, decided to see the movie "Rob Roy," and something clicked.

Gustavo said, "We were both 36. We shared the same values and beliefs, and neither of us had ever been married." By November that same year, they were married.

By 1996, Gustavo and Susana had started their own business, Gilardi Lawn Maintenance and Gardening. Susana left MC in 1998 to become a stay-home mother, but returned to work at MC's

HR Office in 2003. Gustavo left the College in 2000, returning from 2004 to 2007.

"MC is a special part of our history. We met at the College, graduated, married, and then had children while we were employed at the College," said Gustavo. "We experienced growth in our lives thanks to the positive influence of MC."

Susana piped in, "We always said if we have children, they will definitely go to MC!"

"When we were establishing our marriage, our two countries signed a peace treaty," said Gustavo. Peru and Ecuador signed a historic peace treaty in October 1998, ending a 57-year dispute over a slice of Amazon jungle.

—Jessica Warnick

BLISS BEAT

GRANDDAUGHTER'S RESEARCH LEADS THROUGH BLISS SCHOOL ARCHIVES

I am from New York City, but my mother's family came from Selma, Ala. I spent several years searching unsuccessfully for a photograph of her father—my grandfather—by trying to locate his high school yearbook. One day, my cousin, Charlie Hughes, who still lives in Selma, mentioned to me that my grandfather attended the Bliss Electrical School near Washington, D.C.

I eventually learned from research on the Internet that the Bliss School had closed and that Montgomery College had purchased its physical plant. By amazing coincidence, I also learned from the Internet what year my grandfather graduated, when I found a graduation pamphlet from the Bliss class of 1923 for sale on eBay. I contacted the seller and asked her if Francis Donovan from Selma, Ala., was listed. She said he was, and I purchased the pamphlet.

I contacted Montgomery College's Alumni Association and spoke with John Libby, who offered to help me search the Bliss Electrical School materials for a 1923 yearbook or class photograph. Together, we looked through every box, and we found class pictures for the years 1918, 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922, 1924, 1925—but nothing from 1923.

I thought I had reached the end of my search, but then I decided to try the Internet one more time. I went to a different search engine and looked for anything relating to Bliss Electrical School and 1923. That was when I found a family history Web site that a man had put together, which mentioned that his grandfather graduated from Bliss Electrical School in 1923. I sent him an e-mail asking if he happened to have the 1923 yearbook, and if he did, whether my grandfather was in it. He said he would check and get back to me the next day. The following morning, when I checked my e-mail, I found his reply, which included the yearbook page containing my grandfather's photograph.

Now, when I look at his photograph, I not only know what he looked like, but I also know from my perusal of the Bliss archives that he attended a fine institution, where he received excellent training in electrical engineering, at a time when that technology was just being developed.

—Susan Epstein

The Bliss Memorial Room is being renovated and will reopen as the Bliss Conference and Innovation Center on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus.

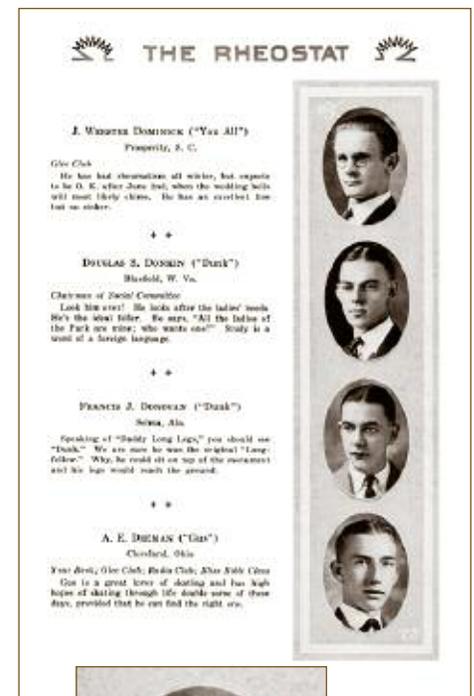


Photo from *The Rheostat*

Susan Epstein's search turned up this photo of her grandfather, Francis J. Donovan, Bliss '23, in the Bliss Electrical School yearbook, *The Rheostat*.

Campaign Gala Honors Those Whose Funds Support Students



Adi and Iris Shmueli congratulate Razak Abudu, the first recipient of the scholarship bearing their name, at an October 19 reception honoring charter members of the 1946 Society, comprising leaders in giving support to the College.

The Montgomery College Foundation officially launched the public phase of its \$25 million fundraising campaign with a gala reception on Friday, October 19, before a crowd of over 200 members of the College and greater community. The foundation celebrated having raised so far \$17.4 million of its \$25 million goal.

The foundation started the campaign in July 2005. It will conclude in June 2009. The campaign raises funds for scholarships, programs, and facilities at Montgomery College's three campuses and Workforce Development centers.

Scholarship recipient Razak Abudu who studies nursing at the College, received the

Adi and Iris Shmueli Scholarship. Abudu, a father of three, is originally from Ghana. Thanks to the Shmuelis' generosity he can focus on pursuing his educational dreams. Dr. Adi Shmueli congratulated Abudu and discussed how it came about that he and his wife made a bequest commitment valued around \$3 million to Montgomery College.

The gift amount matches what had been previously the largest gift to Montgomery College and the largest ever to a Maryland community college—that of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation. Dr. Adi Shmueli noted how a *Wall Street Journal* article regarding philanthropy and making an impact changed their way of thinking and spurred them to give to Montgomery College to have a transformative effect on more students in their own community.

To learn more about Montgomery College scholarships and other giving opportunities, contact David Sears at 240-567-7492, or e-mail david.sears@montgomerycollege.edu. Visit www.montgomerycollege.edu/giving for general information about giving to MC.



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