

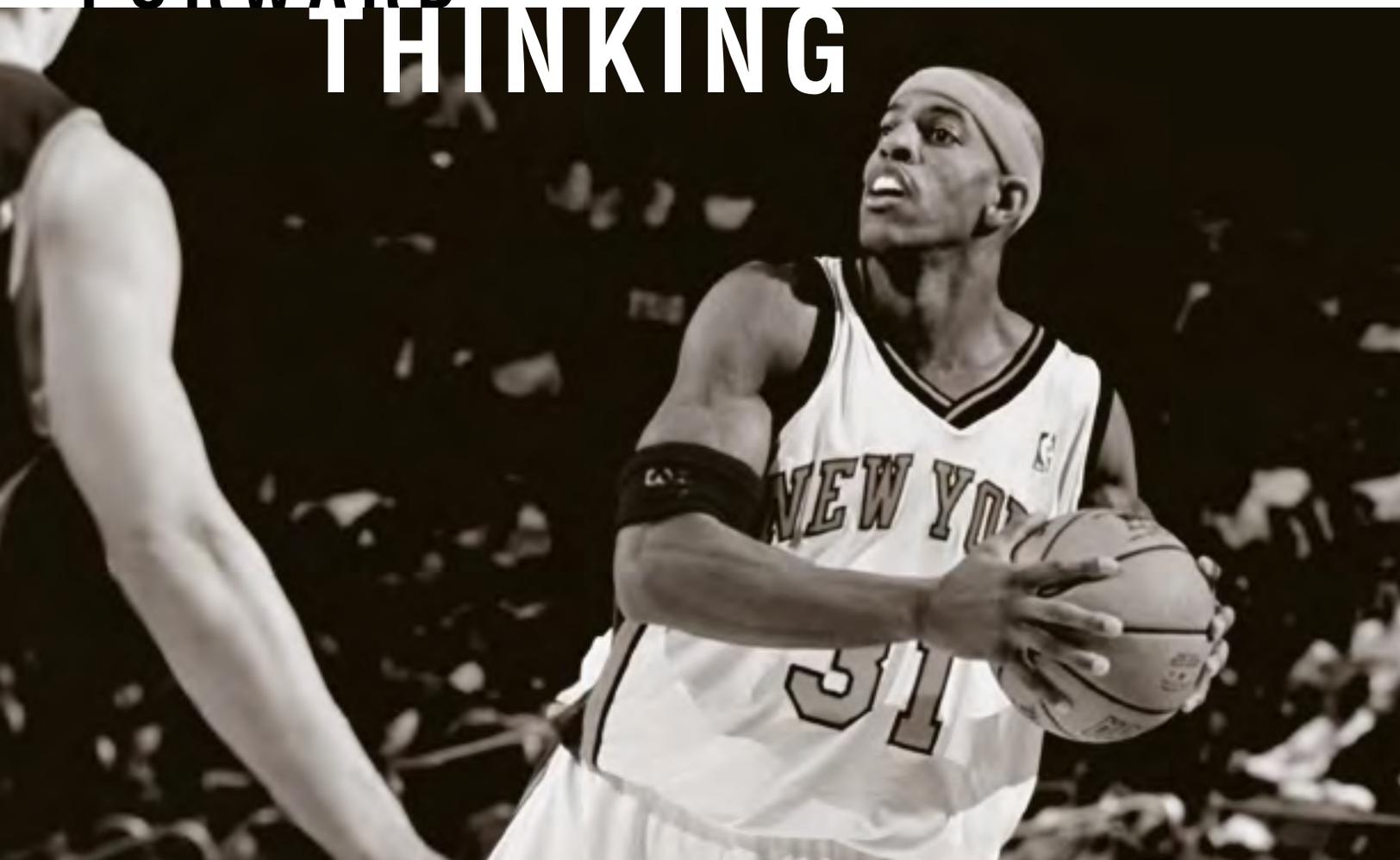
INSIGHTS

The Magazine for Montgomery College Alumni and Friends • Spring/Summer 2006

FORWARD

THINKING

JEROME WILLIAMS '94



MONTGOMERY COLLEGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EXHIBITS

BEGINNING IN AUGUST

Communication Arts Technologies Faculty Exhibition

August 21–September 29

Featuring artwork from the Communication Arts Technologies faculty in the areas of advertising art, communication and broadcast technologies, photography, and computer graphics. Communication Arts Technologies Gallery, Technical Center, Rockville Campus. Gallery hours: Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.; Fridays, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.–1 p.m. 301-251-7535.

www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/vctdept.

ENDING IN SEPTEMBER

Compositions 2006

Student Show

May 19–September 22

The Fine Arts Department presents the Compositions 2006 Student Show in the Gallery of the Pavilion of Fine Arts, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. Gallery hours: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Admission is free. For more information, contact Maureen Kohl, 301-650-1393, or e-mail maureen.kohl@montgomerycollege.edu.

BEGINNING IN OCTOBER

Portrait Photography

Communication Arts Technologies Faculty and Student Exhibition

Featuring the digital and traditional photographs of students and faculty in the photography program of the Communication Arts Technologies Department. Watch the Communication Arts Technologies Web site for more information and future updates. www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/vctdept.

FILM

JULY

AFI Film Workshops at Montgomery College Summer Movie Production Workshop 2006 July 8–30

Participants of this three-week session at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus will work as a group to conceive, develop, write, prep, shoot, and edit a short narrative video project. 301-650-1407. www.afi.com/education/montgomery.aspx.

SUMMER DINNER THEATRE

JULY

“Thoroughly Modern Millie” July 14–15, 21–23, 28–30



Illustration courtesy Summer Dinner Theatre

Friday and Saturday performances: buffet opens at 6:30 p.m.; show begins at 8:15 p.m. Sunday performances: buffet opens at 12:30 p.m.; show begins at 2:15 p.m. Tickets: \$34.50 adults; \$24.50 children (12 & under). 10% discount for groups of 20 or more, or for those who buy tickets to both shows. Theatre Arts Arena, Rockville Campus. 301-251-7676. www.montgomerycollege.edu/summerdinnertheatre.

EVENTS

JULY

Chautauqua “Creativity and Imagination” July 11–14



Illustration courtesy Maryland Humanities Council

Actor-scholars portray famous figures from history. An Evening with Paul Robeson—Tuesday, July 11, 7 p.m. An Evening with Henry Ford—Wednesday, July 12, 7 p.m. An Evening with Leonardo da Vinci—Thursday, July 13, 7 p.m. An Evening with Coco Chanel—Friday, July 14, 7 p.m. Free. Presented by the Maryland Humanities Council. Outdoor Tent, Germantown Campus. Rain location: Globe Hall. 301-353-7746.

AUGUST

Piano Sale August 18–20

Special deals on new and used pianos as the Music Department receives new instruments for the academic year. Rockville Campus Music Building. August preview appointments may be scheduled. Watch the Alumni Web site for details.

Student Services Center Dedication August 29



Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus dedicates the Student Services Center at Fenton Street and New York Avenue. Watch the College Web site for details.

Montgomery College's 60th Anniversary Celebration and Alumni Awards Banquet October 19

Join the festivities at the Indian Spring Country Club as Montgomery College celebrates its 60th anniversary and honors its outstanding alumni. Watch the alumni e-newsletter, *Happenings at Montgomery College* for details.

SPORTS

SEPTEMBER

21st Annual Montgomery College Foundation Golf Classic September 11

Woodmont Country Club. \$350/person. Sponsorships available. 301-279-5378 or 301-251-7974.

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



INSIGHTS

2

Forward Thinking

5

The Rockville Campus:
Celebrating 40 Years

6

Engineering Success

8

Alumni Chapters

8

Faculty Focus

9

MC Kudos

10

Class Notes

11

In Memoriam

12

Bliss Beat

13

MC Couples



This is a year of milestones and turning points for Montgomery College. In April, I joined 400 other friends of MC at the North Bethesda Marriott Conference Center to wish a happy 40th birthday to the Rockville Campus. If you were there, you know it was a tough act to top—and that's what will happen on October 19, when we honor our 2006 outstanding alumni, induct new members into the Athletic Hall of Fame, and mark the 60th anniversary of the College. It's one of the final events at Indian Spring, so if that club holds memories for you, get your reservations in early.

We also saw another kind of turning point. For the first time in more than 20 years, Montgomery County's budget will let the College freeze next year's tuition at the current rate. Alumni know better than anyone what this break means to students scrambling to cover the cost of books and classes. I'm proud to say our local Alumni Association members played a key role in ensuring passage of that budget, and I'm grateful for their efforts.

Last fall, I wrote about plans to expand the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. This spring, a brand new Student Services Center opens on Fenton Street. It completes the pedestrian link between the original campus and Jesup Blair Park, the gateway to the Campus' Silver Spring section. If you'd like to join us for the building's August 29 dedication, watch our electronic newsletter, *Happenings at Montgomery College*, for details.

Successes like those we celebrate this year are rarely one person's story. The achievements of students, faculty, and supporting employees—past and present—woven together make Montgomery College so special to all of us. Still, I have to note the leadership of one individual: Dr. Charlene Nunley, who has announced her plans to retire after 27 years at MC.

It speaks to the caliber of the College's staff (and its commitment to their development) that the trustees chose one of MC's own administrators to serve as president in 1999. And they couldn't have done better. In the last seven years, Dr. Nunley not only led MC's growth locally, she became a leading advocate of community colleges nationwide. She now is the only community college representative serving on the U.S. Education Department's Commission on the Future of Higher Education. (It's called the Spellings Commission, after Education Secretary Margaret Spellings, who capped the academic year by speaking at MC's commencement ceremony.)

The good news is that we aren't losing Dr. Nunley completely. Once her successor is chosen, she has offered to help champion a major fundraising effort for the Montgomery College Foundation, whose scholarships enable over 400 students to attend MC each year.

So the next time we contact you about helping MC, remember that you may be talking with a student who depends on our scholarship contributions to stay enrolled—or it might just be a retired president. And either one can tell you how much your support means to Montgomery College.

Robert J. Hydorn '71
Alumni Association President

FORWARD THINKING

BY STEVE SIMON AND JILL FITZGERALD

NBA Icon Says MC Prepared Him for Off-Court Success

In a workmanlike fashion—not unlike his steady and scrappy, if not superstar-like NBA career—Jerome Williams '94 was patiently working his way through the dozens of questions being fired at him by an audience of kids and adults gathered in a Montgomery College gym to hear a classic local-boy-makes-good story.

How hard was it to get to the next level each time...when you went from Magruder High School to Montgomery College-Germantown...to Georgetown University...and, ultimately, to the NBA?

How did you get so tall? What was it like growing seven inches after high school?

What advice would you give to a young person who wanted to make it as a professional basketball player?

And then it came—as only it could, from a bright-eyed youngster not yet experienced enough in the world to realize that one generally never asks such blunt questions of another person, at least not in a public forum.

How much money have you made in your lifetime?

“Over the course of my career...about \$50 million,” fires back the man whose tenacious work ethic on the court was so legendary that his former NBA teammates nicknamed him “the Junkyard Dog.”

“Not bad for a guy who used to pump gas,” he adds, with a laugh and a mischievous gleam in his eye.

That’s the playful side of the “JYD,” as he beams with both pride and his own sense of wonderment about how he managed to beat the odds, time and time again, to reach the next level in his career. To get from “pumping gas and bussing tables” to help pay for his own tuition while going to school and playing ball at MC-Germantown, to being recruited by legendary Georgetown University Coach John Thompson and playing alongside superstar Allen Iverson, to making his mark on the NBA in an impressive career that spanned four teams in nine years.

After all, if you asked anyone 16 years ago whether they thought all that was possible, they might have laughed you out of the room. Back then, Williams was a talented, but certainly not spectacular, high school senior under the tutelage of first-year Magruder coach (and fellow MC Athletic Hall of Famer) Dan Harwood '79.

And yet on this given day, as he returned to the school where both the level of his basketball game and his resolve for getting a college education came together to make all things possible, it was Williams who was laughing all the way to the bank. He was not the skinny 6'2" kid who graduated from Magruder, but the prototype NBA power forward who had grown by more than seven inches and 70 pounds after high school, and who wore his “Junkyard Dog” moniker like a badge of honor.

Today, in this first year since he retired as a player and transitioned into the life he planned so well for “after basketball,” the next level now seems to imply that the sky’s the limit for a still young man of 33, who is reaping the ben-

efits of having followed the mantra emphasized by his mom and dad of “education first.”

In the fall of 1991, when Williams first started attending Montgomery College and walked onto the Germantown Campus court to play for coach Steve Hobson (now head coach at the Rockville Campus), it’s safe to say that he was unheralded—having not received any scholarship offers to play at the collegiate level.

That, of course, included MC, which plays in the National Junior College Athletic Association’s Division III, schools without athletic scholarship programs. Yet it was there that he truly began to grow—as a student, as a ball player, and as a man.

Reflecting on his days at Montgomery College, Williams has fond memories of the many faculty and staff members who were always there to keep him on track with his studies, including professors such as Dr. Lucy Laufe, who still teaches archaeology and coordinates the honors program at the Germantown Campus.

And along the way to averaging 23 points and 17 rebounds while playing basketball there, he remembers well the valuable lessons learned on the hard court from Coach Hobson, who he says was “tough and discipline-oriented.” At the same time, he credits Hobson for reminding him that he wasn’t just there to play basketball, but to get an education—“to get a degree.”

Today, the newly retired Williams has taken on a front-office post as the community repre-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



For Williams, life after the basketball court includes his celebrity auto-makeover show, *Make It Hot*.

Photo courtesy Jerome Williams

FORWARD THINKING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

sentative for one of his former NBA teams—the Toronto Raptors—and is continuing to build on the success of a myriad of projects in which he's involved, including a variety of business interests, media endeavors, and charitable efforts.

One such effort closest to his heart is the JYD Foundation, Positive Shades of Black. Co-founded by Williams and his brother Johnnie, the organization provides educational incentive programs for young people and underprivileged kids in the United States and Canada.

He's been an executive producer for a rap CD entitled *Mission Possible and Change the World*, which aimed to provide kids with positive messages, countering so many they might receive in other forms of rap music. He opened a clothing store in Toronto. He's appeared in two movies and was seen participating in a charity event with other Hollywood celebrities on last year's edition of Donald Trump's NBC TV show, *The Apprentice*. He also was executive producer of his first television series—a celebrity auto-makeover show premiering this summer on the MSG network, *Make It Hot*.

And he's also helping the College do for other students what it did for him. Williams and his wife Nikkollette have established the Williams Family Scholarship Fund, an endowment to support MC students who demonstrate financial need.

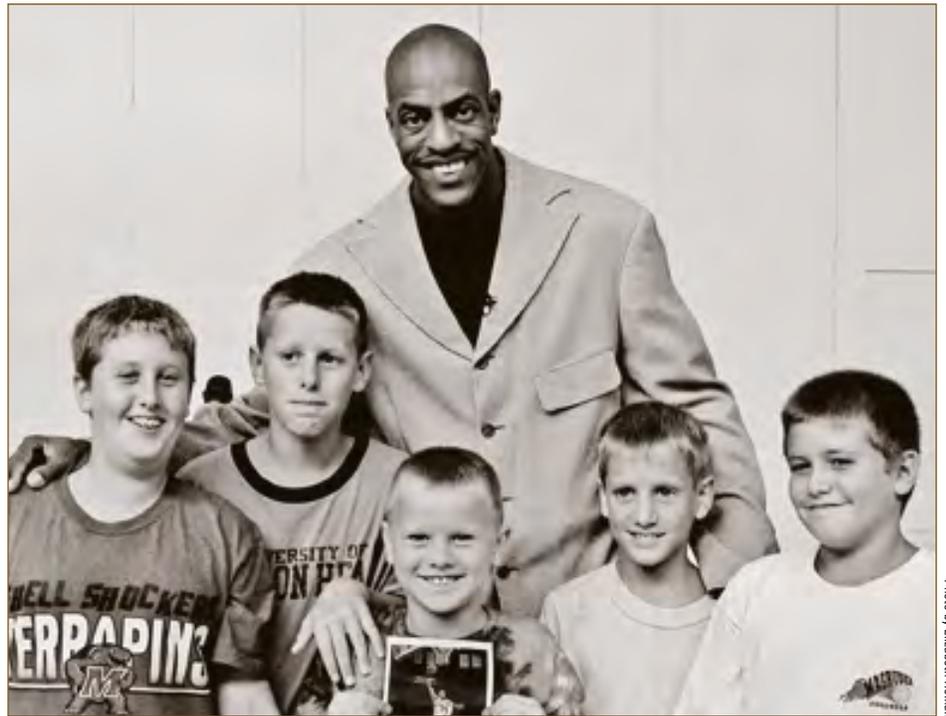


Photo by Elizabeth Homan

Jerome Williams met local fans at MC's Rockville gym to discuss education, goals for life...and sometimes basketball.

"Through my church, I know a lot of kids who are doing well in school and raising their hopes of going to college," he says, "only to have their hopes dashed because of a lack of funds. I want to give these kids an opportunity to get a college education because I know how important it is."

It always seems that something positive comes out of virtually everything that Jerome Williams touches, and most notably for all those who have been touched by this gentle giant of a man.

Still, the man they like to call "Junkyard Dog" knows that maybe none of these accomplishments would have ever been realized if he had not made that important decision 16 years ago to continue his education and play basketball at MC-Germantown.

"Places like Montgomery College... facilities you can come to after high school to further your education... I would not have been able to have this opportunity had it not been affordable and had I not decided, for myself, that I needed an education—for me."

REUNIONS

Florida alumni got together for all-class reunion events this winter.



Photo by Jessica Warrick

Frieda Orlowski '91 (left) and Sidney Faber '78 (pictured) attended the Boca Raton reception, hosted by Ruth '82 and Wally '56 Becker.



Photo by Jessica Warrick

In Orlando, Dr. Winnie King '77 (center) and husband John Fuld caught up with Cherie Riechers '68.

THE ROCKVILLE CAMPUS CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

Friends of the Rockville Campus took a brief trip back in time to the 1960s in April, at the Rockville Campus' 40th Anniversary Gala. Surrounded by reminders of the opening era of the campus—including cheerleaders and football players, homecoming royalty, and vintage cars—alumni, employees, retirees, donors, and community members danced the night away to the music provided by the Hubcaps.

The evening honored several MC friends for their support of the Rockville Campus, including professor Donald K. Day; the Latino Student Union; financial aid scholarship coordinator Patricia E. Lopez '91; the Marriott Corporation; and Montgomery County councilmember Michael L. Subin, a past College trustee.



Several attendees, including English instructor Barbara Hollis, reported Elvis sightings.



Photo by Gwen Lewis

Dr. Barbara Enagonio and Connie Tonat, professors emeritae, joined in the celebration.



Homecoming queens and classic cars evoked the Rockville Campus' 40-year history.



Photo by Gwen Lewis

Latino Student Union members honor the organization's achievements: from left, Froy Luna '06, Danielle Tropper '06, Jessica Gomez '06, Brenda Cisneros '06, and Claudia Soto '06.

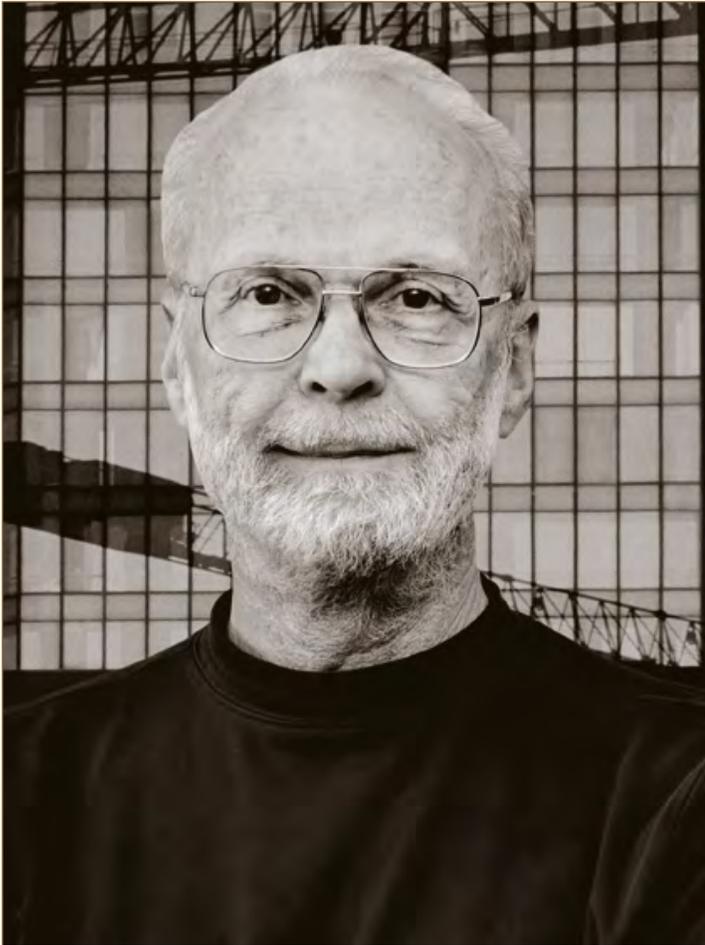


Honoree Michael Subin advises master of ceremonies Ken Weiner on the risks of quitting his day job.

ENGINEERING SUCCESS

BY DIANE BOSSER

Photo illustration by Clint Wu



Dr. Don Day has taught, advised, and mentored the College's engineering students for 38 years.

What's one of the hottest majors at MC? Engineering. In fact, MC boasts the largest engineering program at a two-year school in the nation. So, what is driving the enrollment up? Looking beyond pie charts and bar graphs reveals a refreshingly simple explanation.

What goes up doesn't necessarily come down. Case in point: Engineering enrollment at Montgomery College has grown by 25 percent since 2001, from 598 students to 745. What makes this data so compelling is the fact that during the same time frame, the country as a whole experienced a marked decline in engineering enrollment—down 20 percent. (The second largest two-year engineering program is at Miami-Dade Community College with 350 students.)

"Engineering enrollment is up in India and China, and a strong shortage of engineers is predicted for the U.S.," said Sanjay Rai, dean of science, engineering, and mathematics at the Rockville Campus. "Lockheed Martin expects 100,000 of its 135,000 employees to retire in the next eight years. Our students will be prepared to fill those jobs."

This distinction shines a spotlight on the importance of community colleges in higher education. For the College in particular, it demonstrates a shared commitment among administrators and faculty to provide engineering students two important advantages: a curriculum geared toward transfer and the personal support they need along the way.

No story about the department's success would be complete without mentioning long-standing professors such as Dr. James O'Brien, Dr. William Davis (retired), Dr. Muhammad Kehnemouyi, Dr. Alex Hou, and Dr. Don Day. They have been deeply involved with the growth of programs and equipment, and legions of students—some of them since the opening of the Science East Building on the Rockville Campus in 1967.

After more than 40 years, promoting student transfers remains the goal. "We send about 45–50 students to College Park each year,"

said Day. The Aerospace Engineering Department there offers scholarships targeted to MC students. "Others go to Georgia Tech, Texas A&M, Johns Hopkins, George Washington, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and Rochester Institute of Technology."

All in a Day's Work

For 38 years, Day has taught, advised, and mentored students at the Rockville Campus, where the majority of the College's engineering courses are taught. When he retires to his 60-acre farm in rural Maryland this year, he will leave a long list of professionals—former students with bachelor's and master's degrees and Ph.D.s—employed in fields ranging from information security to biological research to urban planning.

One of Day's top priorities before departing is securing better transfer deals for his students, especially among Maryland transfer schools: "Although a majority of MC engineering students transfer to College Park and UMBC," said Day, "they sometimes find the financial support lacking, and they lose credits." At the same time, he is casting a wider net, hoping to secure more opportunities at schools like Georgia Tech, which are receptive to MC students.

"I faced a lot of trouble transferring to the University of Maryland," said Mandana Ahmadi, a 4.0 student majoring in physics. "Dr. Day listened to me, contacted several people at Maryland and MC, arranged meetings, and

exchanged e-mails to help me. It was because of him that I got to where I needed to be."

"Mandana is an exceptional student," said Day. "Because she is here from her native country on a J2 student visa, she was charged the out-of-state tuition rate. She and her husband have little financial resources right now, but she wants to get her Ph.D. and work as a neuroscience researcher. She deserves the chance."

Ongoing negotiations with UMCP and UMBC are expected to result in a new degree option for engineering students at the Universities at Shady Grove. This arrangement would enable transfer students from Montgomery College to take their junior and senior years of engineering courses at Shady Grove, thus completing an entire four-year program close to home and at a significantly reduced cost.

More Good News

This year, the Engineering Department received a \$506,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education for mobile computer labs—an instructor's workstation, a set of 25 laptops with all the necessary software for engineering and mathematics courses, and Internet capability—which can transform any classroom on campus into a computer lab.

Day is hoping to help establish an alumni group for MC engineering students who transfer to the University of Maryland, thus creating a support system for them in their new environment.

FROM DAY ONE

Students know Dr. Day not only as a professor, but also as a mentor and an adviser who stays involved with helping them reach their goals in education—often beyond MC.

"I didn't even know what engineering was when I entered MC. I met Dr. Day when I took Calculus I—as a curious liberal arts/painting major! Dr. Day saw something in me and suggested I try engineering.... Now with my degree, I will be able to work in urban planning, which requires engineering and artistic skills."

Se Jong Cho '01 earned a B.S. in civil engineering from Northwestern University. She now teaches math at the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth and is preparing to attend graduate school.

"Dr. Day's greatest talent, in my opinion, is the ability to truthfully explain what lies ahead [in the undergraduate engineering curriculum], then extend a helping hand to make sure that every student that can possibly succeed, does."

Brad Stephensen '02 earned a B.S. from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY. He is currently an information security engineer/scientist at The MITRE Corp. in McLean, Va.

"Dr. Day helped me apply for financial aid and scholarships, and with his guidance, I transferred to UMCP without difficulty.... Dr. Day's support and guidance continued even when I was in my senior year deciding on continuing for a Ph.D."

Roya Bahreini '97 earned a Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology in 2005. She is a visiting research fellow at NOAA-University of Colorado, CIRES.



Ezinne Uzo-Okoro '02 (left), Michelle Clarke '00, and Se Jong Cho '01 announce the creation of an engineering scholarship honoring Dr. Don Day at the Rockville Campus' 40th Anniversary Gala.

ALUMNI CHAPTERS

Former students are using chapters to stay in touch with fellow alumni from their field of study. Groups representing the following interests have begun forming alumni chapters.

> Engineering

Professor Don Day offered the usage of his farm for a July 16 chapter kick-off event, coinciding with his retirement this year. Engineering alumni in attendance will be asked to complete surveys from which a leadership group can be formed and decisions for future activities determined.

This year, four engineering alumnae spearheaded an effort to establish a scholarship honoring Dr. Day. News of the scholarship was presented to Dr. Day during ceremonies honoring him at the Rockville Campus 40th anniversary celebration in April; see stories beginning on page 6.

Dr. Day recently visited with Renaud Moussounda '05, Gilles-Arnaud Bleu-Laine '03, Jules Adjete Ameh '05, Mayumi Kiyono '04, Niloo Ghaemi '04, Levis Koloko '04, and Oumou Ba '04, all of whom are engineering alumni who transferred to Georgia Tech.

> Business

Macklin Business Institute (MBI) alumni gathered May 12 to celebrate the seventh graduating MBI class and the birthday of the institute's founder and benefactor, Gordon Macklin.

> Nursing

Graduates of the nursing program are preparing to meet during the College's 60th anniversary celebration week in October.

> Retirees

In April, retirees of the College, who are eligible for Alumni Association membership, held their annual spring luncheon reunion in Gaithersburg, Md. Professor Emerita Helen Youth has begun work to produce a retirees chapter newsletter.

Alumni association members interested in joining their respective chapters may contact Jill Irey, chapter liaison, at 301-251-7293, or e-mail alumni@montgomerycollege.edu.



Photo courtesy Dr. Don Day

Dr. Day visits with engineering alumni. Pictured: from left, Renaud Moussounda '05, Gilles-Arnaud Bleu-Laine '03, Jules Adjete Ameh '05, Dr. Day, Mayumi Kiyono '04, Niloo Ghaemi '04, Levis Koloko '04, and Oumou Ba '04.



Photo by Allison von Bergen

Members of MBI's first graduating class celebrate Gordon Macklin's birthday. Pictured: from left, Oana Udrea '00, Asiya Ourmanova '00, Mr. Macklin, retired MBI director Jeffrey Schwartz, M. Reda Hachani '00, and John Rueger '00.

FACULTY FOCUS



> Crowder Wins Prestigious Helen Hayes Award

Dr. Jay Crowder, chair of the Music Department at the Rockville Campus, won the coveted 2006 Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Musical Direction for his work on Signature Theatre's production of *Urinetown*. The Helen Hayes Awards were hosted this year by Brad Oscar '83, an award nominee himself for his recent appearance in the Arena Stage production of *Damn Yankees*.

"I feel so honored to receive this award," said Crowder. "It was a great night and so exciting for all of us who had the opportunity to be involved in this show. It was just a really special experience."

For seven years, Crowder has worked full-time at the Rockville Campus. He teaches piano, musical performance, and ear-training, plus music directs student productions at the College.

Crowder is an accomplished music director in the Washington metropolitan area with a number of credits at Signature Theatre, including *Side Show*,

a 2001 Helen Hayes nominee for Outstanding Musical Direction. Crowder also music directed *A New Brain* at Studio Theatre; *Starting Here*, *Starting Now* at Metro Stage; and *A Year with Frog and Toad* at Round House Theatre.

At the Kennedy Center, Crowder serves as the music director of the Overtures program, a summer training program for young music theater students, and he served as associate conductor for *Company* and *Passion*, two productions staged as part of the 2002 Kennedy Center's Sondheim Celebration. He recently served as the associate conductor for the Kennedy Center's production of *Mame*.

The winner of many piano competitions such as the Music Teachers National Association Piano Competition, Crowder holds a doctorate in piano performance from the University of Maryland, College Park, a master of music from Northwestern University, and a bachelor of music from Ouachita Baptist University in Arkansas.

—Elizabeth Homan

MARYLAND TRANSFER ADVANTAGE PROGRAM

> New Transfer Program Opens Door to UM

The University of Maryland (UM) has joined with the College to create the Maryland Transfer Advantage Program (MTAP), which guarantees UM admission to qualifying Montgomery College students.

The two-year pilot program will begin in fall 2006 with applications open to students who meet specific academic standards at Montgomery College. MTAP students will be eligible for early access to UM advisers and other resources, including tuition discounts, to put them on track to a bachelor's degree from the start. They will

transition to UM after completing program requirements and enroll in degree programs at College Park or the Universities at Shady Grove.

Visit www.montgomerycollege.edu/mtap for more information on the MTAP.

MC KUDOS

> Kendall Scholarships Awarded to Students

Seven students attending classes full-time at Montgomery College and the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) are the recipients of the 2006 Clifford and Camille Kendall Endowed Scholarships.

The scholarship program awards full scholarships at in-county rates to first- and second-year students at the College and full scholarships at in-state rates to students in the third or fourth year of a baccalaureate program offered at USG. To be eligible, students must begin their studies at Montgomery College and complete their baccalaureate degree through one of the state universities offering programs at USG.

Montgomery College recipients of the scholarships include Mary Vargas '06, Natalya Safronova '06, and Parissa Youssefi '06. USG recipients are John Arcilla '04, Roberto Lopez '05, Toneka Ogburn '04, and Emily Nelson '05.



Pictured: from left, Roberto Lopez '05, Emily Nelson '05, Toneka Ogburn '04, scholarship benefactors Cliff and Camille Kendall, Mary Vargas '06, Natalya Safronova '06, and John Arcilla '04.

> MC, UB Create Path to Bachelor's Degree in Gaming

Montgomery College and the University of Baltimore (UB) have created a new partnership

that will improve the transfer process for students who wish to pursue a bachelor's degree in computer gaming.

Montgomery College President Charlene Nunley and UB President Robert Bogomolny signed an articulation agreement ensuring that qualified Montgomery College graduates with an associate's degree in computer gaming and simulation will have their course credits transfer seamlessly to UB's baccalaureate program in simulation and digital entertainment.

For more information about the College's gaming program, contact Professor Deborah Solomon at 301-279-5136 or visit www.studygaming.com.



Highlighting the popular field of game design, a live-action version of the classic video game *Zelda* was held at MC's day-long Game Expo this past May.

> Student Team Wins National Essay Competition

Montgomery College construction management students Mary Lowe and David Basham recently won the National Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) Student Essay Competition. ABC and its educational affiliate, the Trimmer Education Foundation, awarded the team \$1,000 in prize money.

Lowe and Basham's essay, "Seeing Green: Making Money in Green and Sustainable Building,"

is one of four winning entries in the third annual competition. Other winners include the University of Southern Mississippi, University of Wisconsin-Stout, and Louisiana State University.

> MC Students and Recent Graduates Can Earn Awards for "Civic Engagement"

Montgomery College students who participate in civic engagement activities—such as organizing voter registration drives or volunteering for non-profit organizations—will have the opportunity to earn awards from the College's Paul Peck Institute for American Culture and Civic Engagement.

MC students will have the opportunity to earn either a Gold or Silver Civic Engagement Award for their activities. Also eligible to apply for these awards are Montgomery College alumni who may have graduated the previous year.

Applications will be accepted in the spring of each year. The application form is available online at www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/americanculture/.

> Insights Wins National Award

Your alumni magazine, *Insights*, earned one of three national awards presented to Montgomery College this spring by the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR). NCMPR is the premier industry association for the nation's more than 1,200 community and technical colleges.

Insights earned a Silver Award at this year's NCMPR Paragon Awards. The College also earned a Gold Award for the promotion of its "Portraits of Life" photography exhibit, honoring Holocaust survivors from Montgomery County. "Montgomery College Today," a newsmagazine program seen on Montgomery College Television, Cable 10, earned a Bronze Award.

—Elizabeth Homan

CLASS NOTES

> **Hugh Falconer '39** began working for the C&P Telephone Company in 1939 upon graduating from the Bliss Electrical School. He spent two years in the Army Air Corps during WWII and married in 1941. He has two children, two grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. He retired from C&P in 1978 and moved to Florida in 1981 where he is "continuing to enjoy life" in Port Orange.

> **Russell Painter '47** retired from Westinghouse in 1979. He writes that he is "now living the good life in [Hampstead] North Carolina, playing golf twice a week."

> **Kaytee Mizell '49** received the Marriott Spirit to Serve Award which recognizes outstanding Montgomery County volunteers. She is the founder of the Modelling Moppetts and Stage II Teen Models programs. These programs have donated more than \$100,000 to children's charities and provide entertainment at local nursing homes, senior centers, and hospitals.

> **John Altmann '66** writes, "I have managed to remain in the Washington, D.C., area and be self-employed, concentrating on interior design-oriented products." He is living in Laurel, Md.

> **Cheri Riechers '68** has earned recognition as a professional artist, including a listing in Mayer's International Auction Record. She is living in Longwood, Fla.

> **James Campbell '69** retired from the federal civil service after a 30-year career in data processing and applications development. He has been living in Daytona Beach, Fla., but is moving to South Carolina.

> **Kenneth Guthrie '72** works as a computer systems architect for Electronic Data Systems in Lakewood Village, Tex.

> **Stu Knazik '72**, a local performer, sang the national anthem at the beginning of a Washington Nationals game last summer.



> **Esther Newman '75** was honored in April for a career of community service, notably her 18 years as executive director of Leadership Montgomery and her support for Jubilee

Association of Maryland. She has also served as director of the Family Life Center of Montgomery County, public relations consultant for Montgomery General Hospital, program director for the YWCA of Montgomery County, executive director of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, and Montgomery College Alumni Association president from 1999 to 2000.

> **Richard Banks '77** earned bachelor's and master's degrees, and worked in information technology for 40 years, starting in 1963. Formerly a manager of consulting services at IBM, he is now retired and living in Tampa, Fla.

> **Randi Kristensen '79** is an assistant professor of English at George Washington University. She recently published an essay-memoir on girlhood and race in the United States as part of the book *Under Her Skin*.

> **Eric Krasner '81** owns Cinegraphic Studios in Frederick, Md. He had the opportunity to sing opera for President Clinton and in Washington's Pageant of Peace.

> **Christopher Stack '81** graduated from Old Dominion University with a degree in engineering. He now resides in Broomall, Penn.

> **Carol E. Laumeier '83** is the general business specialist/outreach coordinator at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Polymers Division in Gaithersburg, Md.

> **Emilia Izquierdo '84** is a senior manager for JBG Rosenfeld Retail. She currently resides in Frederick, Md.

> **Priscilla H. Scott '84** works as an onsite coordinator/office supervisor with Heleco. She is active with First Baptist North Brentwood, PTA and team-mom duties, and is a Notary of the State of Maryland. She currently lives in Laurel, Md.

> **Debbie Lantzy Sponsler '85** earned her B.S. from Towson State University in 1987, and now works for the Orange County Government. She is living in Ocoee, Fla., with her husband, **Curtis Sponsler '86**, and their two children. Curtis recently published a book on animation software called *Focal Easy Guide to After Effects*. He is the owner and president of AniMill, a motion graphics/3D animation production company.

> **Wayson P. Lee '86** performed his first paid stage hypnosis show in December 2005. He also has been acting as an extra in television and movie productions.

> **Georgianna Rouleau '87** is working as a registered nurse at the Washington Hospital Center. She currently resides in Northampton, Md.

> **Jeff Kreyszig '91** is working on a screenplay for a 50's horror spoof titled "The Turtle That Ate Fairfield," and is planning a photography venture at his local ski area. He currently resides in Fairfield, Id.

> **Rob Moxley '91** has been hired as the Associate Head Coach of the University of Charlotte's basketball team. He recently served as assistant coach under head coach Gary Williams at the University of Maryland.



> New York State native **Amy Riolo '93** developed culinary interests in her childhood and a love of Egypt in her college years. While studying textile management at Cornell University, she became passionate about Islamic design motifs from Cairo. Currently a freelance food writer and guest speaker, Riolo is completing work on a book, *A Taste of Egypt: 7,000 Years of History & Three World Religions at the Heart of One Cuisine*. It weaves literature, photography, history, and culture with recipes. Riolo returned to MC this spring to share her research during the College's celebration of Arab American Heritage Month.

CLASS NOTES



Photo courtesy Anna Soderberg

> **Anna Soderberg '94** is founder, director, and producer of Radiant Theatre Productions in Portland, Ore., where she performs as

a clown at local festivals and celebrations, and has recently topped off her 20-year performing career by performing as the

MoonFool for The Portland Revels. She writes: "My first memory at MC was taking a class as a high schooler and honors scholar—it was a big deal! When I attended, I had many wonderful hours in the Fine Arts Building and the Performing Arts Center, as an actress. Roberta Gasbarre was an inspiration. Other professors I recall with love (from Rockville) are Marvin Watts, Bob White, Paul Peck, and Kurt Borkman at Germantown. The MC theatre program was superior to any university program—it really prepared you for real theatre work."

> **Marc Bashoor '95** is director of Mineral County's Office of Emergency Services in West Virginia. Bashoor directs 11 fire companies and 6 ambulance services in response to disasters and terrorism. He has worked in a variety of positions in emergency services for 24 years.

> **Michael S. Connors '96** teaches physical education for the Montgomery County Public School system, and is living in Mt. Airy, Md.

> **LaMont Nowlin '99** is serving in the Navy Reserves. As part of his duties, he had the

opportunity to support the Presidential Inaugural activities.

> **Mamadou Doucoure '00** earned a double degree (B.S.) in finance and logistics, and supply chain management from the Smith Business School at the University of Maryland in 2002.

> **Sharon Beth Kravitz '02** earned a Regents B.A. degree in 2005 from Shepherd University. Employed by NASD as a customer service representative, she resides in Gaithersburg, Md.

> **Gonzalo Gilardi '04** has earned a hospitality management degree and hopes to open a bed and breakfast in Italy. He is a library assistant for the College and resides in Kensington, Md.

Share your accomplishments with your classmates. We will highlight them in future issues. Send us a note in the enclosed reply envelope or e-mail us at alumni@montgomerycollege.edu.

IN MEMORIAM

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

> **John Council, Jr. '41** died January 21, 2003. He lived in Havertown, Pa.

> **Douglas Yohe '52** died January 26, 2004. A resident of Jacksonville, Fla., he was student body president while attending the College.

> **Janice M. Enagonio '75** died in January 2004. She took her first physics course with Professor Dick Fahey while she was a senior at Gaithersburg High School. She received a partial scholarship to Princeton and worked during her summer vacations at Fermilab in Illinois. She later earned her Ph.D. in physics from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She is survived by her mother, Dr. Barbara Enagonio, professor emerita.

> **Robert F. Eldridge** died July 2, 2005. He worked at the Bliss Electrical School, as a secretary in Professor Bliss' office, between 1937 and 1940. At the same time, he was studying law at Columbus University (now known as the Catholic University of America Law School). He had a long career with the Army and Air Force as a reservist and a civilian intelligence officer.



Photo from MJC's 1961 yearbook, *The Shield*

> **James T. Waters Ross**, professor emeritus, died November 18, 2005. He taught chemistry at the Takoma Park Campus

from 1958 until 1965, when he moved to the Rockville Campus to start the chemistry program there. He returned to Takoma Park and served as dean of natural science before retiring in 1980.

> **Darwin R. ("Dock") Drewyer**, trustee emeritus, died March 14, 2006. A dentist in White Oak, Md., for 40 years, he served as a trustee of the College from 1973 to 1975. An active participant in the youth sports of Montgomery County, Drewyer coached several teams, served as a mentor to the players he coached, and helped to form the White Oak Athletic Association. He retired in 1991 to his summer home on the Outer Banks of North Carolina.



1969 Photo from Montgomery College's Archives

> **Jean G. Ross**, trustee emerita, died March 18, 2006. She began her service to the College in January 1969. Among her numerous activities

in support of the Montgomery County community was her longtime service as a trustee of the College, chairing the Board of Trustees from 1970 to 1979. During that time, she helped publish what may be the only trustee-supported underground student newspaper—using the board's photocopier to circulate news between issues of the Rockville Campus student paper.

If you wish to make a donation in memory of the deceased, please make your check payable to the Montgomery College Foundation. You may use the return envelope provided in this magazine, or mail your check to the MC Foundation, 900 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850.

BLISS BEAT

> Never Say 'Never'

Richard (Dick) Deardorff '42 fondly recalls his year at the Bliss Electrical School and beginning each day in chapel. "You always knew, when we sang the hymn 'I Need Thee Every Hour,' that we were in for an all-day exam. Also, I enjoyed when Professor Bliss would have us over to his home to celebrate our birthday. He'd choose one day each month to host a dinner for those celebrating birthdays that month."

It was a very different environment back in those days. It was a somewhat strict school. Students were required to be in their dorms by 8 p.m., a rule reinforced by a proctor who conducted room checks each evening. Deardorff was a member of the last civilian class. It was at Bliss that he heard President Roosevelt's speech to Congress over the radio on Dec. 8, 1941, the day after Pearl Harbor.

It also was there that he began his career at C&P Telephone. "We were hired by the telephone company to work weekends the last few months while at Bliss. We received \$10 for the two days. Once I completed the program and was awarded a certificate, I began working five days a week for \$17—but meals were only 25 cents then."

Deardorff worked for C&P Telephone Company for 20 years. They wanted to transfer him to the New York/New Jersey area, but he didn't want to make that transition. He resigned and began



Photo courtesy Dick Deardorff

Dick and Muriel Deardorff were married in 1944—18 months after Dick finished Bliss Electrical School.

working for the Department of Defense. His career there lasted another 20 years and provided him ample opportunity to travel around the world.

Upon his retirement in 1984, Deardorff and his wife, Muriel, sold their home in Arlington, Va., purchased a motor home, and set out on a planned two-year venture to travel the United States and Canada. After two years, they found themselves still on the West Coast. So, they decided to extend their journey another five years.



Photo courtesy Dick Deardorff

Dick and Muriel Deardorff marked their 60th anniversary in 2004.

In 1990, just after the fall of the Berlin Wall, Dick and Muriel toured 17 European countries via Eurail and BritRail in four months.

Deardorff's government travel took him to Orlando, Fla., in 1980. The intense May humidity hit him as soon as he walked out of the Orlando Airport, and he remembers saying, "I'll never live here!"

Dick and Muriel Deardorff currently reside in Casselberry, Fla.—seven miles from downtown Orlando.

—Jessica Warnick

PRESIDENT EMERITUS HONORED



Photo courtesy Dr. William Strasser, Jr.

Dr. Strasser served as MC president from 1966 to 1979.

> President Emeritus Strasser Honored by UM College of Education

Dr. William C. Strasser, Jr., president emeritus of Montgomery College, was recently honored at the alumni awards ceremony for the University of Maryland's College of Education. The awards recognize university alumni who made significant contributions to the community.

In 1966, Dr. Strasser became president of what was still known as Montgomery Junior College. When he began, the College was run by the Montgomery County Board of Education. Under his leadership, "MJC" came under the direction of its own Board of Trustees and was renamed

Montgomery College. When he retired as president in 1979, enrollments and course offerings had quadrupled, a new campus had opened in Germantown, the Takoma Park Campus had expanded and undergone a renovation, the Rockville Campus had more than doubled in capacity, and an adult continuing education program was established.

In total, Dr. Strasser spent 35 years in the administration of public secondary and higher education. He once served as a visiting scholar at the University of California-Berkeley and as a Carnegie postdoctoral fellow in the administration of higher education at the University of Michigan.

—Elizabeth Homan

MC COUPLES

> Chance Encounters

On her way to a party, Mary Lang stopped by a store in Quince Orchard. The cashier engaged her in a conversation and they discovered they both attended Montgomery College's Rockville Campus. At the time, Timothy Durst was a criminal justice major and played soccer—an All-American his second year. Mary was a business administration major and a member of the pom pom team. After that initial meeting, they kept running into each other. Several weeks later, Tim asked Mary for a date. That was in October 1982. They continued to date after Tim transferred to West Virginia University and later married in November 1986.

Tim currently works for Rommel Engineering and Construction, and is also a part-time men's soccer coach at Hagerstown Community College, where he coached against his former coach, Tom Bichy, prior to Bichy's retirement from MC. Mary is a manager for the American Legion in Funkstown. They are also very active in Therapeutic Foster Care. They have two daughters and reside in Hagerstown.

Meanwhile, in the spring of 1983, Mary's twin sister, Angela, was in the Campus Tower lobby with her friends flipping through a College catalog. They spotted a photograph of an attractive

student. Jokingly, Angela said that she was going to find and marry the guy in the photograph.

Mary and Angela both worked at the Financial Aid Office (Job Opportunity Bureau) with Michael McAllister (Veteran's Affairs). Mary told her sister that she had met Mike's brother, Joe, and thought that his photograph was in the *College Catalog*. As it turned out, Joe was indeed the guy Angela had seen in the catalog! Soon after, Mike arranged for Angela and Joe to meet. They have been married since 1985.

Angela is currently an elementary school teacher in Frederick County and is pursuing a master's degree in educational leadership at Hood College. Joe retired as a senior chief petty officer from the U.S. Coast Guard. He recently earned a history degree and certification in secondary education through UMBC and now works for the National Park Service. The couple resides in New Market with their three children. Their daughter, Mary Grace McAllister '06, is in her second year at MC.

—Jessica Warnick

We'd like to hear your MC couple story! If you met your spouse at Montgomery College, send us your story in the enclosed reply envelope, or e-mail us at alumni@montgomerycollege.edu.



Photo courtesy Joe and Mary Lang

Mary and Tim Durst first met by chance at a local store and learned they both attended MC.



Photo from MC's 1981-83 Catalog

Joe McAllister's photo appeared in the 1981-83 *College Catalog* and in other College publications.



Photo courtesy Joe and Mary Lang

Joe and Angela McAllister met because of a photo in MC's catalog.



Photo courtesy Joe and Mary Lang

Joe and Angela McAllister have watched their daughter continue a family tradition—attending MC.

We Can Change Lives



Since 1971, Dr. Ken Weiner has contributed to Montgomery College's excellence as a professor in the Rockville Math Department and through his varied supporting roles as department chair, research associate,

co-director of the Biomedical Scholars Program, and author/consultant on outcomes assessments and outcomes management within the College and in the community.

Ken has also acquired the role of master of ceremonies and humorist at major College functions and as auctioneer at the annual MC Foundation Golf Classic, where he enjoys, in his words, "gently coaxing—but when necessary, coercing and humiliating—participants into donating thousands of dollars for scholarships for needy Montgomery College students."

Now, after 35 years of service at MC, Ken has announced the ultimate show of support: an endowed scholarship. With his wife, Myra, he will establish the Kenneth S. Weiner Endowed Scholarship to benefit future MC students, with a generous gift designated through their estate plan.

"While it's true that Montgomery College has changed an enormous number of student lives," Ken says, "it's also changed mine as well. It's become far more than just a place of employment for me. It's become a huge part of my life and my identity and so to be able to give back to the institution in this way and support future students at MC is personally gratifying and just feels very, very good."

We gratefully acknowledge his generosity and applaud his dedication to our students today and tomorrow.

For more information about planned giving or any other giving opportunity, call Kayran C. Moore, director of development, at 301-251-7493, or e-mail kayran.moore@montgomerycollege.edu.



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