

INSIGHTS

The Magazine for Montgomery College Alumni and Friends • Spring 2007

PRESIDENTIAL ARRIVAL

DR. BRIAN K. JOHNSON



MONTGOMERY COLLEGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EXHIBITS

May

GRADUATING STUDENT EXHIBITION

May 14–30

Gudelsky Gallery, School of Art and Design
10500 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Md.
301-649-4454

ANNUAL STUDENT SHOW

May 18 through summer

Gallery of the Pavilion of Fine Arts, Takoma
Park/Silver Spring Campus. 240-567-1368

June

ARTWORK FROM MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

June 11–27

Gallery of the Paul Peck Art Building,
Rockville Campus. 240-567-5115

August

“UNITY AND DIVERSITY”

FACULTY ART FROM FOUR CAMPUSES

August 31–October 2

Glenview Mansion Art Gallery, Rockville Civic
Center Park. 240-314-8682



“Old Strawberry Field” by Ed Ahlstrom

THREE CAMPUSES FACULTY EXHIBITION

August 28–September 28

Salisbury University Gallery at Fulton Hall,
1101 Camden Ave., Salisbury, Md. 410-543-2430

EVENTS

September

Montgomery College Foundation 22ND ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

September 10

Rockville, Md.
240-567-5378

October

INAUGURATION OF DR. BRIAN K. JOHNSON AS THE SEVENTH PRESIDENT OF MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

October 9, 2 p.m.

Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and
Conference Center

THE MORRIS AND GWENDOLYN CAFRITZ FOUNDATION ART CENTER GRAND OPENING

October 19

Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus

PERFORMANCES

May

Spooky Action Theatre

THE LATHE OF HEAVEN

Thursdays–Saturdays, May 31–June 23, 8 p.m.

Sundays, June 3–24, 2 p.m.

A man discovers that his dreams can affect reality.
Black Box Theatre, Takoma Park/Silver Spring
Campus. Donations requested. Reservations:
240-567-1368

June

Summer Dinner Theatre’s 30th Anniversary DAMES AT SEA

June 15, 16, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, and July 1

Friday and Saturday performances at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday performances at 12:30 p.m.

A group of New York City actors deal with the
loss of their theater in the middle of rehearsal.
\$35.50 adults; \$25.25 children 12 and under;
Alumni & MC Retirees Night (June 15) discount:
\$31.95 adults; \$22.70 children; Theatre Arts Arena,
Rockville Campus. 240-567-7676. www.montgomerycollege.edu/summerdinnertheatre



Illustration courtesy Summer Dinner Theatre

July

CHAUTAQUA

“Living History” portrayals of
Upton Sinclair–July 10, 7 p.m.

George Washington Carver–July 11, 7 p.m.

Cesar Chavez–July 12, 7 p.m.

Julia Child–July 13, 7 p.m.

Supported by the Maryland Humanities Council.
Outdoor tent, Germantown Campus. 410-685-4185
or e-mail jdobbs@mdhc.org



Illustration courtesy Maryland Humanities Council

Summer Dinner Theatre’s 30th Anniversary RAGTIME

July 13, 14, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, and 29

Friday and Saturday performances at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday performances at 12:30 p.m.

Based on E. L. Doctorow’s novel, three struggling
families deal with the social challenges of early
American life.

\$35.50 adults; \$25.25 children 12 and under;
Alumni & MC Retirees Night (July 13) discount:
\$31.95 adults; \$22.70 children; Theatre Arts Arena
Rockville Campus. 240-567-7676. www.montgomerycollege.edu/summerdinnertheatre



Illustration courtesy Summer Dinner Theatre

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

A Message from the President of the Alumni Association

INSIGHTS

2

Academic All-Star

3

Presidential Arrival

4

A Fond Farewell

7

Banking on Education

8

Advantage Laplanche

9

MC Kudos

10

Class Notes

11

In Memoriam

12

Bliss Beat

12

MC Couples

13

The Campus Scene



There's a misconception that "alumni" must have graduated from a college, that anyone who doesn't have a diploma doesn't rate the title. That isn't true here, because of what Montgomery College does. MC credits transfer smoothly to higher institutions, and many students take advantage of that benefit without graduating. Yet they got their start at MC, a first college experience that has made a lasting impression on so many of us. Today's students are pursuing such diverse educational goals, it doesn't make sense to limit Alumni Association membership only to those who earn an associate's degree. Thus, I often explain that you don't have to be MC graduates to be MC alumni.

Here's why I brought up that distinction. To align our membership data with College records, we revised some of the "class years" assigned to past students. For those who put on an MC cap and gown, your class year is the year you graduated. Others have class years based on some standard assumptions about credit loads. Look at the mailing label on this issue of the magazine, and you'll see a class year by your name. If it seems off the mark from the time you know you spent at MC, please take a moment to send us a correction in the envelope provided inside. (Of course, that envelope is not just a way to update us on your latest milestones, it's also an easy way to support the scholarship programs that a growing number of MC students depend on to complete their studies.)

You may be seeing your class year on something else this spring. We've partnered with Harris Connect to revise our alumni directory, the first update in six years. This is a lengthy process, necessary to get everyone's information up to date. You should have received a postcard about this last month. I hope you'll take time to make sure all of your contact information is correct, because the directory makes a great tool for networking, as well as for keeping in touch with classmates.

Last fall's issue described the achievements of Tom Doyle '83, and I recalled his father, Joseph Doyle. One person we didn't mention—and I'm happy to do so now—was Elizabeth Doyle, who led in establishing the scholarship in her late husband's memory and who remains involved in the selection of students benefiting from it. Mrs. Doyle's tireless effort is another example of the deep commitment that grows in everyone who sees what Montgomery College does for its students.

Also last fall, I mentioned that MC was changing its list of student (and former student) ID numbers to help protect your privacy. Fast on the heels of that change, another has come. By the time you receive this issue, the College will have changed its telephone numbers. For the first time in decades, every phone at the College has the same area code and exchange. The Alumni Office, for example, can be reached at 240-567-5378. And there is one brand new number, set up for callers seeking to make a contribution to any of MC's scholarship programs. It connects to the Montgomery College Foundation, and I hope you'll have an opportunity to use it. The number is 240-567-4483—or 240-567-GIVE.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Robert J. Hydorn". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Robert J. Hydorn '71
Alumni Association President

BY ELIZABETH HOMAN

ACADEMIC ALL-STAR



Vanessa Coleman is the third MC student to have been named to the All-USA First Team since the program's inception. The College last placed a student on the All-USA First Team in 2005, with Gabriela Molinolo, and in 1996, when Maureen Harrigan earned the honor.

Montgomery College student Vanessa Coleman '07, of Potomac, Md., has been named to the 2007 First Team of the All-USA Community and Junior College Academic Team. The honor is given each year to only 20 students nationwide for their academic achievement and community and college involvement. Sponsored by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, and USA Today, the award carries with it a \$2,500 cash award.

Montgomery College President Brian K. Johnson said, "Vanessa Coleman is an extraordinary young woman, who has succeeded not only in the classroom, but also as a student member of the Board of Trustees. We're so proud of her accomplishments and know that she has a great future ahead of her."

Coleman first took Montgomery College classes while she was still a student at Wootton High School in Rockville, through the College Institute. A joint program of Montgomery College and Montgomery County Public Schools, the College Institute brings college courses on site to select county high schools.

"...Though it may seem like a tough choice, I did not hesitate to turn down an exciting educational opportunity abroad, in order to help my family save costs by attending community college locally. I know I made the right decision. I have been able to grow intellectually in a challenging and encouraging environment, with people helping me each step of the way," said Coleman.

At Montgomery College, Coleman has participated in two special programs—the Takoma Park Scholars, an honors program located at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus, and the Biomedical Scholars, a program designed for students planning to pursue a career in the biomedical sciences.

Through the Biomedical Scholars program, Coleman secured a research internship at Virion Systems, Inc., where she worked alongside a prominent immunobiologist, performed research, and learned about infectious diseases. As a result, Coleman has decided to pursue a career in medicine, focusing on global health and infectious diseases.

"I have no doubt that she will succeed," said Dr. Barbara Hoberman, Montgomery College professor of biology and director of the Biomedical Scholars program. "She has exceptionally high ideals, high standards, and absolutely no fears about reaching for the highest attainable goals."

This summer, Coleman will attend a six-week summer medical program at Duke University, sponsored by the Association of American Medical Colleges. At Duke, Coleman will take preparatory courses for the MCAT exam and accompany physicians on clinical rotations.

Outside the classroom, Coleman spends countless hours serving Montgomery College as a student member of the College's Board of Trustees. She also serves as a member of the Student Ambassadors club, whose members help to support College events by serving as greeters and in other volunteer capacities, and as vice president of the Rockville Campus chapter of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, advised by Professor Sue Adler.

In addition, Coleman holds a paid job as a software tester for a local company and volunteers at a community art gallery.

In addition to the All-USA Academic Team honor, Coleman was named Maryland's New Century Scholar for receiving the state's highest All-USA Academic Team application score. For this honor, she will receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship. The New Century Scholar award is sponsored by the AACC, the Coca-Cola Foundation, and Phi Theta Kappa.



Dr. Brian Johnson greeted the MC community in December 2006, when he was named the College's seventh president.

PRESIDENTIAL ARRIVAL

Of all the factors that led Dr. Brian K. Johnson—already a rising star in community college leadership circles nationally—to apply for the presidency of Montgomery College, he credits among them the suggestion of a gentleman he had never met.

The man who played such a quietly influential role in motivating Johnson to apply for the post—Howard Weiner—is actually an alumnus of Montgomery College from some 40 years ago and the husband of one of Johnson's closest colleagues from his most recent institution, the Community College of Allegheny County (CCAC) in Pennsylvania. Weiner had heard his wife, Dr. Wendy Weiner, speak of Johnson's talents and suggested that maybe he should look at Montgomery College, which had just launched a national search to replace retiring president Dr. Charlene Nunley.

Johnson said he was struck by the fact that someone who had gone on to enjoy a success-

ful professional career and had long since moved away from the area of the two-year school where he began his college education, still had such an affinity for the College. He said it indicated to him that even beyond what he knew about Montgomery College in education circles, it must be a truly "special place."

Dr. Wendy Weiner, who encouraged Johnson to apply for the MC presidency, observed: "Brian was just presidential. He understood the big picture. As the chief executive officer of the Allegheny Campus [of the multicampus CCAC], he supported people, respected the process of governance, and excelled at community outreach. All that and at the end of the day, for him, it's all about the students."

Lessons Learned Early

That passion for helping students and, specifically, to ensuring student success, goes back

to Johnson's own childhood, as a young boy—the seventh of 10 children in his family—growing up in Jersey City, New Jersey.

"As a young kid, I thought I had a great education," said Johnson. But in looking back, Johnson, now 50, admits the environment may not have allowed him to maximize his potential. "I may not have known that I was capable of more if it weren't for a teacher tapping me on the shoulder and saying, 'We think you're capable of doing more, and I want you to access a better opportunity for yourself.'"

Through A Better Chance, a program sponsored by Dartmouth College, Johnson relocated to New Hampshire to attend a prestigious and academically challenging high school. That, to Johnson, was the real beginning of his educational journey.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



The College community gathered in April for a farewell gala honoring Dr. Charlene Nunley. Among those wishing her well upon her retirement were 2006 Presidential Scholar nominee (and Takoma Park/Silver Spring Student Senate president) Olukemi Onigbinde '07, above right; Erik Grazetti '91 and his mother, Linda Shipe, lower right.

BY ELIZABETH HOMAN

A FOND FAREWELL

Montgomery College President Leaves a Lasting Legacy

Dr. Charlene Nunley still remembers the day she discovered community colleges. She had a student job working in the library of Penn State's Center for the Study of Higher Education, when she came across books that described the institutions and their open access mission. The idea that the colleges were created to educate everyone, no matter his or her educational background or wealth, appealed to Nunley, who overcame her own financial challenges on the path to her bachelor's degree.

She never imagined that working in the library would lead to the job of a lifetime—president of Montgomery College. Her path to the presidency included 20 years of increasing leadership roles at the

College, starting as the director of institutional research in 1979 and leading to executive vice president/chief administrative officer.

In her various roles, Nunley consistently touched the lives of students around her. She encouraged Etienne Takougang '98 to attend the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and even helped him obtain a scholarship there.

"She inspired me to achieve academic excellence at UMBC and promised to see me through to the end," says Takougang, who spent two years of his time at the College as the student member of the Board of Trustees. "She made good on that promise in 2003, when she attended

my UMBC graduation. Because of her encouragement, I have continued my education and my pursuit of knowledge."

In May, Takougang will graduate again—with a master of science degree in computer information systems. He hopes to turn his internship at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) into a full-time position.

While Takougang is still relatively early in his career, Nunley is nearing retirement. After eight years as the president of Montgomery College, Nunley turned over the reins to the new president, Dr. Brian K. Johnson, on February 1. She will officially retire from the College on June 30.

"I've been so fortunate to work here in Montgomery County, where people value education and care about those who do not have as much as they have," she says. Under her leadership, Montgomery College forged a partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools to improve college readiness for all students graduating from high school, assisted in developing the Universities at Shady Grove for the University System of Maryland, created transfer and scholarship opportunities for transfer students, and developed a range of signature honors programs for high-achieving students on all three campuses.

"Community colleges are becoming first choice institutions for students pursuing higher education," says Nunley. "Students receive excellent quality of instruction for the value of their investment."

While president, Nunley also led the College into the largest community college

expansion project in Maryland history with the expansion of the Takoma Park Campus into Silver Spring. The multi-phase project adds four new buildings and allows for future enrollment growth.

"I have to be honest with you and say there are no accomplishments that are mine," she says. "Everything that Montgomery College has achieved has been because of the work of many people, many, many dedicated people who have worked with me both inside and outside of the college to help us do wonderful things."

Despite her modesty, Nunley's leadership at Montgomery College caught the attention of leaders in Washington, D.C. In 2005, she was asked to serve on the National Commission on the Future of Higher Education by Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings. The commission of 19 education, government, and

business leaders spent a year developing a strategic plan for higher education in America. For Nunley, the experience was a "career highlight." She was the only community college representative—and one of only two sitting college presidents—to serve on the commission.

Like the College's mission statement, Nunley considers students the center of her universe. She says they have brought her the most pride and the fondest memories of her career.

"It is probably the greatest joy I have when I get to see a student who has been a foster child [Maureen Harrigan '96] named one of the top 20 community college students in the country. I don't think you have that experience in any other form of higher education, except community colleges, and that's why I say there is no other place that I would rather be or want to work than in community colleges."

Clockwise from top left: Dr. Nunley is inducted as MC's first female president in 1999; is named 2002 Woman of the Year by the Montgomery County Business and Professional Women; marks the 2004 opening of a pedestrian bridge on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus that links the main campus with the newly expanded section in south Silver Spring; and establishes the Isiah "Ike" Leggett Endowed Scholarship in 2003 to benefit MC students.



PRESIDENTIAL ARRIVAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

He is keenly aware that most students are not able to reap the benefits of such an educational experience; that is why he is so passionately devoted to the access afforded by the nation's community colleges.

"The community college mission represents one of the best examples of American opportunity—access to a system wherein a student from an economically poor family or neighborhood can gain access to higher education," said Johnson.

Inspired to Help

Originally interested in the field of journalism, Johnson said he discovered his true calling while working as a graduate student in Arizona. "I found work tutoring and helping under-prepared students in adult education programs," he said. "Many of them were students who had English as a second

language, others were dropping back in, trying to find their way back. So it was a literacy program on a college campus that led me into this...I fell in love with what I was doing and the fire caught on."

Johnson followed up the B.S. he had earned in psychology from Ottawa University in Mesa, Arizona with an M.A. in counseling/human relations and an Ed.D. in educational leadership from Northern Arizona University.

The Path to Leadership

From 2004 until this past February, Johnson served as chief executive officer of the Community College of Allegheny County's Allegheny Campus in Pittsburgh and as the multicampus system's senior vice president for student and community services.

While serving in that role, Dr. Johnson established integrated enrollment services and coordinated \$1 million worth of improvements to the campus student lounge and theatre. He also launched the college's Achieving the Dream Initiative, which joined CCAC with 57 other colleges in a nationwide initiative to raise the bar of student achievement.

Prior to his promotion to CEO, Dr. Johnson was vice president of the Allegheny Campus.

Prior to CCAC, Johnson spent 17 years at Mesa Community College, part of the Maricopa Community College District, serving as vice president of student and community services. While there, he spearheaded a public campaign to gain voter approval for a \$386 million statewide bond issue for capital projects, then the largest bond issue in community college history.

Johnson was selected by MC's Board of Trustees as the College's seventh president from more than 70 applicants, 10 of whom were selected for confidential interviews by the 20-member presidential search advisory committee composed of MC students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, trustees, and community leaders.

"I expect that no two days will be the same," said Johnson, in reflecting on his new role as president of Montgomery College. "That's why it is so exciting to be here, a place that means so much to so many. It doesn't really seem like work when you love what you are doing."



SHOW YOUR SCHOOL SPIRIT

Montgomery College Alumni merchandise is available through the campus bookstores. To view or order your sweaters, jackets, travel mugs, card holders, or other items, visit www.montgomerycollege.edu and click on **Bookstores**.



IT'S NOT TOO SOON TO SEND YOUR KIDS TO COLLEGE

Montgomery College offers Summer Youth Programs from June 18 to August 17. Over 200 classes are available for grades K-12 in half-day or full-day camps!

Have questions or need registration information?

Call 240-567-7264 or 240-567-7917.





MC student and Chevy Chase employee Kyle Chapman hopes to pioneer developments in prosthetics for others like himself.

BANKING ON EDUCATION

BY DIANE BOSSER

Before his job at Chevy Chase Bank, MC sophomore Kyle Chapman struggled with a sporadic and demanding schedule at a big-box electronics retailer. The 20-year-old double amputee, father of two, and full-time student realized that something had to give, and it wasn't going to be his education. So, he sought help at his campus Career Center—a smart move for him, the College, and the bank.

Chapman now works part time at the bank's Urbana Branch, close to home and the Germantown Campus. His peak-shift hours make attending college much easier, and as a result he is on track with his plans to transfer next fall to a four-year school, to pursue a degree in prosthetics and orthotics.

According to Eric Myren, MC director of Student Employment Services, Chapman is far from alone in facing the push-pull demands of work and school. "About 80 percent of MC students work while attending school. Because of their class schedules, they often take jobs with little financial stability or professional benefits."

In comes Chevy Chase Bank with its robust corporate growth plans and staffing needs. "In planning to open 25–30 area branches, we knew we needed to talk to Montgomery College about our staffing needs," said Russell McNish, senior vice president and human resource director for Chevy Chase Bank.

Since 2002, Chevy Chase has hired more than 250 Montgomery College students, including 160 this year. By extending perks like flexible hours, a \$12/hour starting wage, and up to \$5,000 tuition reimbursement for those who qualify by working at least 20–29 hours per work week, it has created a model recruitment program that other area employers hope to replicate.

"Our partnership with MC continues to prove itself a win-win for everyone involved," said McNish. "Now in our third year, employee retention of MC students is twice as high as other employees."

In turn, Chevy Chase makes a donation to the Montgomery College Foundation for each successful hire, funding future scholarships. To date, the bank has contributed \$72,000 to the foundation.

"We'd love to hire hundreds more," said McNish of their MC student employees. "One of our big needs now is for bilingual employees. We hope to meet those needs through our ongoing relationship with Montgomery College—and keep our eyes open to future opportunities to work together."



Anne-Gaelle Laplanche, with the MC-Rockville Women's Tennis Team, won the 2006 Division III NJCAA Women's Tennis Championship, edging out the defending National Champion, Mercer County College, by a win of one point.

BY MICHAEL BROWN

ADVANTAGE LAPLANCHE

Advantage, Anne-Gaelle Laplanche. That tennis term is appropriate for a student/athlete who has taken advantage of every opportunity that came her way at Montgomery College—on the tennis court, in class, and in preparation for her future.

Laplanche was born in Port au Prince, Haiti. Her goal was always to come to the United States for college. The daughter of an architect and an accountant, she chose Montgomery College because she had an aunt living in the area and because her brother graduated from MC.

Laplanche has enjoyed every aspect of her Montgomery College experience. As she puts it, "I've liked it a lot. It's really cozy here. Everybody is so kind and willing to help. MC gives you a lot of opportunities in and out of the academic field; you can volunteer, play tennis, work, and join clubs. I'm taking advantage of everything I can do."

Starting in the classroom, Laplanche achieved a 3.0 GPA in general studies and will graduate in May. She's especially loved her English and psychology classes. After graduation she'll move on to a four-year institution. She's still looking at schools and deciding whether to major in hospitality management, English, history, or psychology.

She also took the opportunity to try out for the tennis team at MC. She started playing when she was six and says, "I don't see my life without tennis." She quickly assumed the pressure packed role as the team's #1 singles player. Not bad for someone who didn't play high school tennis.

In Laplanche's first season, Coach Bob Finney's team won the Women's National Championship for Division III Junior Colleges in Arizona in May 2006. Even though she lost in the semifinals of her bracket, nothing could diminish the thrill of the team winning it all. "It felt great to win, like we've really achieved something," Laplanche says. The team has the opportunity to repeat this May. With Laplanche again playing number one singles, they sailed through this season undefeated and easily won the Regionals for the chance to return to Arizona and defend their title.

In addition to school and tennis, Laplanche also works 20 hours a week for Chartwell's Catering Services on the Rockville Campus. She got that job because she took advantage of the school's mentoring program. Her mentor introduced her to the Chartwell's manager and she got the job.

And there's more. She also volunteers every Saturday at the Gilchrist Center for Cultural Diversity in Wheaton. She got involved with that while taking a Service Learning honors class that requires students to volunteer in the community. She likes giving back to the community so much that she's continued volunteering at the Center even though the class has long since ended.

But that shouldn't surprise anyone who knows Laplanche. She has taken advantage of every opportunity she can handle since she first stepped onto the Rockville Campus. She's embraced the endless possibilities at Montgomery College and maximized them all.

Game, set, match...Anne-Gaelle Laplanche.

Joan Naake Named Maryland Professor of the Year

MC Professor Joan Naake was named the 2006 Maryland Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, a national foundation dedicated to supporting teaching, and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), the largest international association of education institutions.

The U.S. Professors of the Year program salutes the most outstanding undergraduate instructors in the country and is one of the most prestigious awards honoring professors.

"I believe in the potential of every student to achieve at the highest levels," said Professor Naake. "Perhaps this is the reason I have spent most of my life, over 30 years, teaching



Montgomery College English professor Joan Naake was recently named the 2006 Maryland Professor of the Year.

in a community college, a hallmark of democracy, where all students—no matter their economic or social status, no matter their high school record or SAT scores, no matter their race or ethnic background—have an opportunity to fulfill their potential."

Professor Naake has taught English at the Germantown Campus since 1992. She is currently the chair of the department and teaches two online English courses and one literature course.

—Elizabeth Homan

> MC Professor Named Apple Distinguished Educator for the Class of 2007

Montgomery College Professor Harry St. Ours of the Communications Arts Technologies Department has been named an Apple Distinguished Educator (ADE) for the Class of 2007. The award is presented by Apple, Inc.

Apple Distinguished Educators are a select group of education professionals possessing an identified expertise in educational technology leadership. The Class of 2007 spans the globe with membership in the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Latin America, and Asia.

The ADE Program will give St. Ours the opportunity to interact with educators around the world who are delivering similar courses, and to enhance his course offerings at Montgomery College, through the Apple Education network.

St. Ours believes he was selected for the award because of his iLife for Communication Design class at Montgomery College and his accompanying podcasts. St. Ours plans to offer the class again in spring 2008. For more information, visit his Web site at www.profsaint.com.



Photo courtesy MC Chess Team

MC's Chess Team holding their trophy. Left to right: Warren Golston, Vladimir Klimenko, Ben Yastrov, Jose Luis Guardado.

> Chess Team Earns Title At "World Series of College Chess"

Montgomery College's chess team took home a trophy at the nation's most prestigious intercollegiate chess tournament, the Pan American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship. The team won its ratings division, earning its fourth trophy in five years.

The team members are Ben Yastrov, Jose Luis Guardado, Warren Golston, and Vladimir Klimenko. Harry Cohen, a former president of the Maryland Chess Association, coaches the team, and Professor David Lott serves as faculty adviser.



Photo by Stephen Levitas

MC students raised thousands of dollars to benefit organizations that work to stop violence against women.

> MC Students Raise Money To Stop Violence Against Women

The Montgomery College Women's Studies Program and the Women's Studies Student Group raised thousands of dollars at special benefit productions of *The Vagina Monologues*. *The Vagina Monologues* is a collection of monologues by playwright Eve Ensler that celebrates women and raises awareness about issues affecting women.

All proceeds benefited organizations that work to stop violence against women, such as the Montgomery County Victim's Assistance Program.

—Elizabeth Homan

CLASS NOTES



Photo courtesy Hill Printing

- > **Charles Grigsby '42** founded Native American Healing Ointments, a company that employs herbal remedies for joint pain and arthritis relief.
- > **Wayne Green '43** publishes *NH ToDo* magazine and hosts a television show called "Wise Up with Wayne" in Hancock, N.H.
- > **Robert Branigan '52** spent 40 months on the destroyer escort U.S.S. J.D. Blackwell after graduating from the U.S. Navy Pilot Program. He now lives in White Plains, N.Y.
- > **Larry Bubes '56** retired from teaching in the Prince George's County School System. Currently living in Fort Washington, Md., he reports that "the UPC still gets together, though frequency is down."
- > **Don DiMaggio '60** recently retired from his consulting firm, Tri-star Mathematics, in California.
- > **Virginia Jarrett '62** recalls going with friends to Gifford's Ice Cream in Takoma Park to "celebrate or drown our sorrows depending on the class."
- > **James Secor '66** earned an M.A. from Johns Hopkins, and a Ph.D. in theatre from the University of Kansas. In 1987, he moved to Japan to teach and study. He now teaches American literature and drama at Sun Yat-sen University in China, in addition to working as associate editor for MWC News.
- > **Earl Lauer '68** retired in March after 35 years of teaching and coaching for Howard County Public Schools. He was recently inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Okla. for lifetime service to wrestling.
- > **Tom Tipp '68** is a licensed clinical social worker in private practice near Richmond, Va.
- > **Jerry Menear '70** earned his law enforcement degree from the University of Maryland in 1974 and a master's in criminal justice from Nova University in 1980. He has retired from the Prince George's County Police Department, but is "still active in law enforcement and the Fraternal Order of Police" at his home in Cape Coral, Fla.
- > **Walter Butkus '71** earned a B.S. and an M.Ed. from Frostburg State. He retired in 2002 after 30 years teaching in Montgomery County Public Schools. Currently, he resides in Burtonsville, Md.
- > **Joseph T. Hurley '71** received degrees from the College of San Mateo, Calif. in 1976, West Virginia University in 1978, University of Orlando School of Law in 1998, and Barry University School of Law in 2000. Currently, he is developing real estate with Prudential Pro Realty in Tampa Bay, Fla. He also is an airplane and helicopter pilot.
- > **Karla Walker '74** received her B.S. and M.Ed. from the University of Maryland, College Park. For 20 years she has served as a classroom teacher, reading specialist, consulting teacher, and new teacher mentor/coach with Montgomery County Public Schools. She has three children and lives in Silver Spring, Md.
- > **Stephen Dick '75** became a Unitarian minister after studying at Manchester College. In April, he became the first non-native chief executive of the Unitarian denomination in the United Kingdom.
- > **Geraldine Champa '76** left Montgomery College in the fall of 1976 to work retail. She is currently semi-retired and hopes to come back to MC to finish her degree.
- > **Cara Burke '77** salutes Dr. Waters Ross, whose passing was noted last year. "What a fine, kind person he was. For that matter, he, Coley, and Breedlove were tops!" she wrote.
- > **Bernard Higgins, Jr. '77** earned a B.A. in business management from the University of Maryland. He now has his real estate license and is a mortgage broker and branch manager for Bankstar Mortgage Company in Bethesda, Md.
- > **Harley (Hamid) Seyedin '78** is president of the American Chamber of Commerce in South China.
- > **Greg Hourigan '79** was named vice president of membership services for the Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce.
- > **Shahrouz Niaki '83** works as an architect in West Hempstead, N.Y.
- > **Austin Herrington '84** is a teacher in the Osceola County Public School System. He currently resides in St. Cloud, Fla.
- > **Alejandro Carrasco '85** is the owner of Radio America 1540 AM, a Spanish radio station in Washington, D.C.
- > **Krishnan Chettiar '85** was named principal of Reznick Group's Bethesda office.
- > **Fred Hamilton '85** received the Peter J. Carpentieri Award as the Dapper Dan Man of the Year. He is president of the Cumberland Democrat Club and has coached Little League baseball, YMCA basketball, and girls softball. Since 1999, he has owned and operated Hamilton Dental Lab.
- > **Alfred Eisner '86** recently completed over 9,000 hours of volunteer work with the Montgomery County Police Department. He has over 45 years of active federal service for the military and the Department of Defense, and spent four years contracting in Saudi Arabia. Eisner has also published over 190 editorials and articles in six local newspapers.
- > **Jeff Abrams '87** is the guitarist/keyboardist for Onyx, a popular Washington, D.C. wedding band.



- > **Usa Bunnag '87** opened Thai Crossing, Inc., a boutique of handmade jewelry, clothing, wood carvings, ceramics, and other treasures, in Kensington, Md. Profits

go toward helping the people of Thailand through Smile on Wings, her humanitarian organization. In her professional life, she recently was inducted as a fellow of the Pierre Fouchard Academy, an international dental honor society.

- > **Mary Rives '87** is the director of Riverview Senior Center in Springfield, Mass., and president of River Valley Consulting for non-profit organizations. She is living in Amherst, Mass.

- > **Rick Gardiner '88** created The American Colonist's Library, a Web-based collection of historical sources that has been praised by professional historians and referenced by over 250 other Web sites.

- > **William Sims '89** has been promoted to executive vice president at SunTrust Bank. He is responsible for all branches in the Central Virginia region.

CLASS NOTES

> **Daniel Ingraham '90** is the executive producer and owner of Glass Asylum Productions, which released its first movie, "Night," to DVD on November 7.



Photo courtesy haxan | films

> **Ed Sanchez '90** released his newest film, "Altered," via the Internet in December. Fans of "The Blair Witch Project" won't want to miss this.

> **Anne K. Baron '92** has been living with her daughter and keeping busy since her husband of 61 years passed away.

> **Mark Levine '93** is currently managing director of Core Capital Partners. He was recently elected a director of the Mid-Atlantic Venture Association of Timonium.

> **Alison Rothenberg '94** is the Area Marketing Manager for Auctionpay in Portland, Ore.



> **Alice Settle-Raskin '94** was recently named the communications manager of the Howard County Economic Development Authority of Columbia.

> **Mohammad Beiraghdar '96** graduated from Ross University medical school and is now doing his residency in neurology at Howard University.

> **Iona Brown '96** spent six months in Japan courtesy of a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to study Japanese culture as it relates to her art and music.

> **Johan Matos '99** is playing for the American Basketball Association's Newark Express.

> **Manuel Pineros '99** and **Juan Carlos Castillo '03** operate Tierra Floral Design in Bethesda, Md.

> **George A. Muzyk '01** is continuing his psychology studies at the Universities at Shady Grove.

> **Sheng Huang '02** is a computer programmer at Computer Science Corporation and a volunteer for New Tang Dynasty TV.

> **Vida Bampoe '04** is a health care coordinator at Sunrise Senior Living in Montgomery Village, Md.

> **Kevin O'Meara '04** is studying painting, video, sound, and light at the Maryland Institute College of Art. He has toured the East Coast and Canada with his two-person group "Videohippos."

> **Chris Bacon '05** writes rap and hip-hop songs with positive messages, performing them in the Washington, D.C. area. He also teaches children through the National Organization of Concerned Black Men and the American Poetry Museum.

> **Anthony Muzzatti '05** is working on his degree at Emerson College in Boston, Mass.

> **Josh Basile '07** founded Determined2Heal to help those with spinal cord injuries, to support spinal cord research, to promote beach safety, and to increase awareness of paralyzing injuries.

IN MEMORIAM

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



> **Joshua Freeman**, who was awarded an honorary degree at the College's 60th Anniversary Gala, died in an aircraft accident December 14, 2006. While serving as CEO of Carl M. Freeman Companies and chairman of the Freeman Foundation, he helped support local community organizations. He was an ardent supporter of the College, donating over \$90,000.

> **Joseph Greblunas, Bliss '51**, died May 13, 2005.

> **John Davis Finch '50** died May 18, 2005.

> **Christopher Barlow '82** died July 6, 2005.

> **Marjorie Miller '71** died July 16, 2005.

> **David Swanner '63** died January 22, 2006.

> **John William Leister '39** died January 29, 2006. He was a lifetime member of the Telcom Pioneers, and was also a member of the Moose and the Elks.

> **Monika Slamen '74** died April 28, 2006.

> **Kevin MacDonald '66** died June 2, 2006. A prominent artist in the Washington, D.C. area, his work was displayed at the Corcoran Gallery, the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art, and the Baltimore Museum of Art.

> **Wilda Mullinix '74** died July 29, 2006.

> **Kenneth Wantling** died November 3, 2006.

He was head of the math department of a technical college and a high school assistant principal in Chattanooga, Tenn. After moving to Maryland so his daughter could attend the Maryland School for the Blind, Wantling became an academic dean at Montgomery College and a math professor at Washington College in Chestertown, Md.

> **Richard Deardorff '42** died November 17, 2006.

He worked for the Department of Defense for 20 years, retiring in 1984 to travel throughout the United States and Europe.

> **Sandra Reece** died February 6, 2007. She was a professor in the Nursing Department at the Takoma Park Campus.

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

BUILDING THE PAST

When W.B. Souder '47 received last fall's *Insights* magazine, he noticed the photo of Professor Irvin Schick, his classmate at Bliss Electrical School. Souder retired from his job as a supervisor at AT&T 22 years ago and is currently enjoying his retirement in Walkersville, Md.

Dr. Schick, who later was dean of administration and vice president of the College, recently donat-

ed historical Takoma Park Campus memorabilia to the College. One of the items donated is a souvenir brick from an early building that was demolished in the 1970s to enable the construction of a new building on Takoma Park's New York Avenue. The brick is mounted on a plaque inscribed, "Yesterday's clay makes way for tomorrow's pavilions. MC TPC, 1973," and is accompanied by a framed building permit for the new pavilion.

—David Foote



Bricks and building permits were souvenirs of an earlier Takoma Park Campus renovation.

MC COUPLES



Photo courtesy Allison Karmel

Allison Karmel and Bart Brown married 37 years ago, after meeting at the Takoma Park Campus.

FALLING FOR THEATRE

As a freshman enrolled at Montgomery Junior College's Takoma Park Campus in the fall of 1965, Allison Karmel's goal was to explore her career possibilities. She had planned to become a dental hygienist, but after meeting with her adviser, they both agreed she should take a different track. Never would she have thought that this would lead to meeting her husband.

As a business major, she signed up for a variety of classes, including Miss DeSpain's speech class. For extra credit, students were encouraged to assist backstage in a play the professor was directing—"She Stoops to Conquer." Rehearsals were to be held on the Takoma Park Campus. The play was to be performed at the Rockville Community Theatre (now the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre). Allison volunteered to do makeup.

Occasionally, Allison chatted with a gawky, geeky, young cast member, Bart Brown, during rehearsals. It wasn't until a crowded cast party at the end of the performance's run that Allison and Bart found a spot under a table to sit and chat. "We talked for hours and started dating shortly after that. Seeing 'Carousel' at the the National Theatre was our first real date," recalls Allison. The couple started working at Woodward and Lothrop at Wheaton Plaza while attending classes.

Allison transferred to the Rockville Campus where Bart was attending the next semester. They both became art majors and continued as cast and crew members in Theatre Department productions. Allison continued to do makeup despite the urging of the current director, Dr. Kenneth Campbell, to try out for an acting role.

During the second night of a variety show to raise funds for the Drama Department, Bart, portraying Batman, waited on a catwalk listening for his cue from the band to climb down to the stage. Instead of the expected band music, the emcee decided to speak. Bart started to descend and tried to catch himself, but his hands slipped. He fell 15 feet to the stage, shattering his arm. Bart was unable to attend his classes or continue his stint on the stage.

Because of his accident and the impending military draft, Bart joined the Army in 1968 to gain greater control over his choice of occupation and in hopes that he would not be sent to Vietnam. After speaking with a recruiter, he became a medic and was sent to Vietnam. Prior to his departure, Bart spoke to Allison's father about marrying Allison, but was encouraged to wait until he returned. While overseas, Bart asked Allison to select an engagement ring—she will-

ingly obliged. Allison stayed in town and worked for AT&T.

Bart returned to the U.S. in March 1970, one month prior to their wedding at Walter Reed Army Medical Center Chapel. The couple moved to New Jersey for Bart to complete his last year of military service before returning to Maryland.

Allison went back to work at AT&T. Bart enrolled at the University of Maryland to earn his bachelor's degree. He then transferred his credits back to MC to earn his associate's degree before earning his master's degree in radio and TV production. Bart continued to work in retail until he was hired by the federal government. In 2004, Bart retired from the Department of Agriculture as a space management specialist.

In September, their daughter Kristen, who also attended MC prior to graduating from University of Maryland University College, will marry. Her fiancée also attended MC.

"Although we've lost track of our MJC theatre friends—Rusty Thacker, Rick Sparks, and Barbara Fisk—we think of them often," says Allison.

"Theatre continues to be a passion. We are still patrons of the arts. We are both members and volunteer at the Rockville Little Theatre," says Bart.

"I can't believe we will be celebrating our 37th wedding anniversary in April," exclaimed Allison earlier this year. "While we were dating, we'd break up every Monday and get back together by Wednesday, because we had season tickets for the National Theatre."

—Jessica Warnick

THE CAMPUS SCENE

GERMANTOWN CAMPUS



FUN FRIDAY Germantown students enjoyed Friday afternoons on campus playing board games, watching movies, listening to music, and trying out the new Nintendo Wii game system at Fun Friday events offered once a month this spring. Inspired by a university program, student senator Gabe Spiro wanted to provide fellow students free activities in a safe environment: “We advertised by word of mouth, and people came and brought friends.” Next year, by request, Fun Fridays will be offered twice a month.

ROCKVILLE CAMPUS



CULTURAL CELEBRATION In April, MC hosted special events celebrating Arab American Heritage Month. Among the events was a book discussion, cosponsored by the Women’s Studies Program and the International Education Program, on the novel, *Fantasia: An Algerian Cavalcade*, by Assia Djebar.

TAKOMA PARK/SILVER SPRING CAMPUS



DARGAN’S DIDGE Ash Dargan, an Australian indigenous recording artist renowned for his mastery on the didgeridoo, visited the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus during his recent U.S. tour, as part of the World Arts Festival, sponsored by the Montgomery College Arts Institute.

An annual year-long celebration of music, dance, literature, storytelling, film, and visual arts from around the world, the World Arts Festival, produced by music professor Dawn Avery, promotes multicultural events on all three campuses and across the greater community.

Resident Artist Makes Donation



Sarah Silberman

Art students will soon have a newly renovated gallery in which to showcase their work at the Rockville Campus, thanks to a \$500,000 gift by longtime sculpture student Sarah Silberman. The gift will be used to install new floors, walls, and lighting in the gallery of the Paul Peck Art Building and provide new display cases for the first and second floors of the building.

With more than 170 MC art classes to her credit, Silberman is a resident artist and mentor to many younger students. "I'm with creative people, which is stimulating," she said. "Being my age, I'm the grandmother to most of the 'kids'... Some of their artwork is unbelievably beautiful and wonderful."

MC held a retrospective exhibition covering Silberman's 75-year journey as an art student in 2004—the same year she

received the Milton F. Clogg Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award as a lifelong learner. She was awarded an honorary degree at the College's 2006 Commencement.

This fall, in honor of Silberman's generosity and commitment to the College, the gallery will be renamed the Sarah Silberman Art Gallery. "Through this wonderful gift, she will continue to inspire and support our students and Art Department for generations to come," said MC President Brian K. Johnson, "just as she has for more than 25 years."

To learn more about Montgomery College scholarships, including ways to honor someone important with a new scholarship, 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.



**Montgomery College
Alumni Association**
51 Mannakee Street
Rockville, MD 20850

**Alumni: Please check
your class year!**

**See Robert Hydorn's
letter on page 1.**

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rockville, MD
Permit No. 97