

College Bulletin

April 2014



Celebrating Students and Alumni

Yael Tsitohay received the Maryland Collegiate Honors Council's Portz Award as the [2014 Outstanding Honors Student at a Two-Year Institution](#). Award parameters are grade point average, demonstrated initiative and leadership, and academic excellence in an honors project.

Students Randy Polanco and Felicia Wallace attended a White House briefing in March to hear President Obama speak about his efforts to expand overtime pay eligibility for millions of American workers. Dr. Clemmie Solomon, collegewide dean for student engagement, secured their invitations.

Education majors Shannon Carneal and Nicole Wagner joined alumna and Towson student Desiree Flores to speak on "Teaching as a Profession: From MCPS to MC and Beyond" for the [Young Professionals Conference](#), held at the Universities at Shady Grove in March. They answered questions from Montgomery County high school juniors.

Student Art League members Heruy Alemayehu, Katerina Oberg, and James Strohmeyer are exhibiting their artwork at Temple Emanuel's Gallery in Kensington through May.

More than 40 students displayed their photography in the [Communication Arts Technologies Department Gallery](#) during March. The exhibition featured both traditional and digital artwork.

The [MC Efficiency Contest](#)'s first round winners included students Filseta Ameha, Sarah (Katie) Herrington, and Kimberly Ventura. Faculty members Lori Kelman, John Phillips, and Shorieh Talaat were also among the winners in the first round. Sponsored by the MC Green Team, the contest sought [proposals](#) that described how the College can reduce energy and resource use while saving money.

The [Mental Health Club](#) put on a conference for students, faculty, and staff on April 17 entitled The Many Faces of Stress.

MC alumnus Mathew Calkins, now a student at the University of Maryland, has coauthored a [paper](#), "Is It Possible To Embed A 4D, N = 4 Supersymmetric Vector Multiplet Within A Completely Off-Shell Adinkra Hologram?" Mathew's research lies at the interface between math and physics, dealing with representation theory and supersymmetry.

In March, seven students from the International and Political Studies Club at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus participated in a Model United Nations Security Council conference at the Osgood Center for International Studies in Washington, DC. Conference organizers said MC students did very well for first-time participants and took their roles very seriously. Danait Debassai, an international studies major, admitted to hating public speaking; but by the end of the two-day conference, she was holding the floor and influencing her peers on key votes.

Last year's Presidential Scholar from the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus, Ngan Bao Le, was recently selected to participate in the 2014 Undergraduate Summer Research Grant Program at Texas A&M University. She is majoring in bioengineering.

Celebrating Faculty, Staff, and Administrators

Conference Presentations/Invitations and Special Speaking Engagements

Several members of the Montgomery College community presented at the annual American Association for Community Colleges' annual convention in Washington, DC, in April.

- Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffiea, senior vice president for student services; Karen Callender, director of Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success (ACES); Dr. Karen Roseberry, collegewide dean of student access; and Dr. Brad Stewart, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus vice president and provost, presented on "ACES: An Intentional Public School to Community College to Bachelor Degree Pathway for College Readiness and Completion." They also presented on the same topic at the League for Innovations 2014 Innovations Conference.
- Margaret Latimer, acting vice president/provost; Beatrice Lauman, academic operations and special projects director; and Scot Magnotta, professor of biology and principal investigator of the College's On RAMP to STEM grant funded by a National Science Foundation S-STEM grant, prepared a presentation with colleagues at Anne Arundel community college on "Innovations in Today's STEM Programs to Transform Tomorrow's Workforce."
- Dr. Sanjay Rai, interim senior vice president for academic affairs, joined a panel presentation on "Convening a Conversation about Contributing to Community Colleges in India." He joined Mr. Rishi Chopra, program manager at Wadhvani Foundation; Jillian Gross, doctoral student at the University of Michigan; and Sunil Kishore, special assistant to the chancellor at Kapi'olani Community College, and executive coach and strategic facilitator at Orgex Consulting Solutions..

Several members of the College also presented at at the League for Innovations' 2014 Innovations Conference in March. Dr. Walker-Griffiea, and Dr. Monica Brown, dean of student development, presented "Implementing College Culture Change with a Sense of Urgency." Dr. Brown, joined by Counselors Tim Kirkner and Julie Levinson, presented "Finding the Right Fit: Developmental Advising Solutions to Completion."

Jim Walters, TP/SS director of student life, presented a session entitled "Assessment of Experiential Education," at the [Experiential Education Academy](#) of the National Society of Experiential Education at Texas Woman's University in March.

John Carr, professor of art, hosted a daylong monotype printmaking workshop for the [Student Art League](#) in March.

Komelia Okim, professor of art, organized a three-day workshop with artist Shana Kroiz to introduce jewelry and metalsmithing students to electroforming and wax carving.

Laura Anna, professor and chair of chemistry, and Dr. Eun-Woo Chang, dean of science, engineering, and mathematics, presented "Addressing the Challenges at Montgomery College through GT-STEP Grant Initiatives" at the [American Chemical Society's](#) national meeting in Dallas, Texas, in March.

Dr. Chang also represented the College and the American Chemical Society for “[Congressional Visit Day](#)” events at the American Association for the Advancement of Science and on Capitol Hill. Meetings with seven senators and congressional staff focused on the federal government’s STEM education and research budget.

Dr. Chang; Debra Poese, professor and director of the Montgomery College School of Education; Carolyn Schick, part-time professor of chemistry; and student Danielle Van Horn attended the National Science Foundation Noyce Regional [Conference](#) in March. Together they presented a poster, “Teaching Pathways Opening Doors to STEM.”

Karen Ambrose, program director of the Business, Professional Licensure and Certification Programs, introduced the Kauffman FastTrac course, “The Intentional Entrepreneur.” This four-hour course, designed for aspiring entrepreneurs dreaming of business ownership, covered topics ranging from skills and abilities, to concerns and challenges during the process of defining a business concept.

Bryant Davis, professor of English, taught a daylong workshop on Writing Skills for Managers for the College’s Center for Professional and Organizational Development course, “[Developing the Skillful Supervisor](#).” Professor Davis also volunteered to teach a semester-long ESOL class, “Literacy Level,” at Emmanuel United Methodist Church, and taught a workshop for the Germantown Business Club on how to write cover letters and thank-you letters.

Stephen (Chip) Gladson, professor of English and coordinator of Writing in the Disciplines, conducted five days of workshops sponsored by the US Department of State’s Fulbright-Hays Grant for students and teachers in Croatia. In the city of Osijek, Professor Gladson held a workshop for university and high school instructors on writing in the disciplines. At the University of Zagreb’s Faculty of Teacher Education, 75 university students in the education faculty attended the workshops, which concentrated on teaching college-level writing and the writing process. An additional workshop in Zagreb, coordinated with the Institute for the Development of Education, focused on helping high school students to write more effective essays for US college applications.

Professor Susan Bontems, Coordinator of Admissions Recruiting Cathy Kwolek, Assistant Professor Kris Lui, and Instructional Dean Kathy Michaelian participated in the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Women’s History Month Tech Fair in March. More than 330 students from DC Public Schools visited their hands-on science display and witnessed demonstrations over the two-day event at the FCC Headquarters.

Kenneth Nelson, director of business and community outreach, initiated a pilot virtual job fair with Mount Jezreel Baptist Church’s Employment Ministry to target African-American youth between the ages of 16 and 22. Using the College’s GoToMeetings technology, eight employers made online presentations to about 20 online and onsite participants at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. Workforce Development & Continuing Education’s (WD&CE) information technology services and campus media resources supported the pilot.

Vice President and Provost Brad Stewart; Mary Sierra, director of student life; and Jim Walters, director of student life, presented at the [Maryland-DC Campus Compact](#) conference, held at the University of Baltimore in April. Their workshop discussed the Montgomery College–MCPS

Collaborative, which is a cascading model of service-learning for middle school through college-age students, with a focus on making good academic and personal choices.

Several American English Language Program (AELP) faculty—Mark Alves, Mike Berman, Jona Colson, Lori Edmonds, Robert Giron, Ray Gonzales, Sadi Sahbazian, and Heather Satrom—presented at the Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages annual conference in Portland, Oregon.

AELP Professor Robert Giron participated the “Poetry in Translation” reading at the Martin Luther King Library in Washington, DC, in April. He read from his translation of poetry by the late Mexican writer Jesus Gardea, entitled “Songs for a Single String.”

Professors Colson and Giron also presented “Strategies for Teaching Poetry in the ESL Classroom” at the [2014 Transactions and Transactions II: Literature and Creative Writing Pedagogies in Community Colleges Conference](#) at the Borough of Manhattan Community College in New York City.

Dr. Jeanann Boyce, computer applications and computer science professor, gave a paper at the [Euroment Conference](#) on Computer Engineering in Venice, Italy, over spring break. The topic was “Considering the Design of Cloud Computing Structures on Computer Systems: New Designs in Global Economic Development.” The paper was published in the proceedings of the conference, which are indexed in several European journals.

Art Instructional Coordinator, John Deamond, was a [New York Photo Awards](#) finalist, and won in the Student Book category for [A Field Guide to the Extinct and Extirpated Birds of North America](#) (previously shown at Montgomery College in the King Street Gallery).

Art Exhibitions/Performances

Studio art faculty from the College displayed their works in an exhibit at the Rockville Capitol Arts Network in March. Sponsored by the MC Arts Institute, and curated by Claudia Rousseau, professor of art, the exhibit addressed “[Critical Contacts: Significant Encounters and their Impact.](#)”

Judy Stone, professor of art, exhibited her artwork and gave an artist talk at the [Sarah Silberman Gallery](#) on the Rockville Campus in March. The exhibit, “Walkabout,” ran through early April.

Xiaosheng Bi, part-time professor of art, exhibited his ceramic artwork at the Common Ground Gallery in Rockville’s VisArts during March and April. The exhibition, “[Garden of My Mind,](#)” included an artist talk and reception in March.

Publications

Katherine Smith, assistant professor of English, recently had her poems and fiction published in *Gargoyle*, *Atlanta Review*, *Mezzo Cammin*, *The Cincinnati Review*, *Still: The Journal*, and *Measure*. Her second book of poetry, *Woman Alone on the Mountain*, is due to be released by Iris Press in late spring. Professor Smith has also been accepted as one of eight artists to participate as an associate-artist-in-residence at the Atlantic Center for the Creative Arts artists’ community in Florida this summer.

The [Journal of Electronic and Resources Librarianship](#) published an [account of the Internet Librarian 2013 conference](#) by Nancy Nyland, librarian, who continues to review books for the journal.

Judy Kelly, part-time professor of reading, published her first fiction novel, [That Ever Died So Young](#). The story explores the complexity of guilt and forgiveness and unveils the human need to see the truth and understand life.

Professor of Biology and MC/Smithsonian Fellow, Cyrus McFoy, is a newly published author. His [book](#) is entitled *Medicinal Plants and Traditional Medicine in Sierra Leone*.

Special Assignments/Appointments

The Cosmos Club has invited Dr. Francine Jamin, director of the Paul Peck Institute for American Culture and Civic Engagement, to become a member. Since its founding, the club has elected individuals in virtually every profession involved with scholarship, creative genius, or intellectual distinction.

Carla Naranjo, associate professor of world languages, received a faculty fellowship to enhance Spanish courses from the Global Humanities Institute.

Art Professor Claudia Rousseau received a semester sabbatical for spring 2015, during which time she will carry out two academic projects focusing on high renaissance art, for which she will conduct research in London and Italy.

Major Grant Awards and Gifts

The Montgomery College Foundation received a \$45,000 gift supporting scholarships from Lucy Kecker.

The Montgomery College Foundation has received a number of significant gifts designated to the Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success (ACES) program:

- The Community Foundation for Montgomery County awarded the Montgomery College Foundation \$50,000 for ACES, and \$40,000 for the Maryland Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (MI-BEST) program;
- The John Edward Fowler Memorial Foundation recently made a \$20,000 gift;
- The George Preston Marshall Foundation has awarded \$5,400 to be used for college visits by participating high school juniors and seniors.
- The MC Foundation secured an \$8,000 gift from Sandy Spring Bank, bringing the bank's total scholarship support to \$72,000 since 2010. This gift aims to help students in the College's ACES program.

Joe Herson donated \$5,000 to provide the necessary funding for reprinting of the *Portraits of Life: Holocaust Survivors of Montgomery County* book.

The HSC Foundation awarded a \$6,000 grant for [LEAP Awards](#) to assist cognitively disabled students to either take courses through the College's Challenge Program, or to enroll in the two-year Graduate Transition Program. Since 2010, the HSC Foundation has contributed almost \$40,000 to assist students in these programs.

While snow caused the cancellation of the MC Foundation's [Scholarship Recognition Luncheon](#), the foundation filmed a message from student speaker [Awa Sal Secka](#), a recipient of a Jack Kay Scholarship, announced a matching grant of \$10,000 from an anonymous donor, and invited the public to meet the match.

The College was recently awarded a \$71,000 Higher Education Student Persistence Program grant from the Maryland Higher Education Commission to replicate successful mentoring programs at the College. Dr. Clemmie Solomon, collegewide dean for student engagement, will use the grant to enlist faculty and student peer mentors working with a cohort of 60 students representing all campuses.

Interesting News to Note

Women's Empowerment held a [cell phone drive](#) in March to benefit women in the Hartley House Shelter.

Students participated in a service learning activity at Fox Chapel Elementary School in the Reading Corners program in March. The students planned and implemented a variety of learning activities for the children, and packed Smart Sacks for 40 Fox Chapel students.

The Montgomery College Rockville Student Senate hosted a [fundraiser at the Gaithersburg IHOP Restaurant](#) in March to fund scholarship awards for the winners of the College's Talent Show.

In concert with Operation Welcome Home Maryland, several student-athletes and coaches from the Montgomery College baseball team greeted service men and women who were returning home from overseas at BWI Airport. Additionally, the entire team had an opportunity to greet and thank service members from WWI and WWII for everything they did to serve and protect our country.

Academic News and Notes

Twenty-eight students received certificates for successfully completing WD&CE's Home Inspection: Make it Your Business, a 72-hour pre-licensure course that meets the requirements and covers the basics of home inspection as required to be a licensed home inspector in Maryland. Students will now move on to complete their Maryland State examination.

The MC Libraries Ethnography and Participatory Design project team gathered and analyzed data on what students need to succeed in their studies. The team is working closely with Dr. Nancy Fried Foster, the project consultant, to complete the first campus study this June. Five anthropology courses are completing complementary studies. The study will provide short- and long-term recommendations, as well as assess libraries on the other campuses.

The College's libraries acquired the web-based [Smithsonian Collections Online](#), including access to current and archive articles from the *Air & Space Magazine* and *Smithsonian Magazine*.

The [Student Art League](#) sponsored a student workshop, “Marketing Your Art Products Online,” to provide students with tools and skills for exhibiting and promoting their work through online venues.

The Macklin Business Institute (MBI) has partnered with Sustainable Missions Inc. (SMI), to launch [The Ibanda Project](#), an initiative that promotes financial self-sufficiency for women in the Ibanda district of Uganda. MBI freshman Abby Hollandsworth, a co-founder of the project, traveled with SMI representatives to the Ibanda district, where she gained a fuller understanding of the challenges the women face.

The Mathematics Department launched the [STEM Combinator Camp](#) (SC²) in March. This five-week mathematics and writing enrichment program—held on Saturdays in the Science Center at the Rockville Campus—offered fun, engaging, and diverse STEM experiences for Montgomery County middle school students. Mary Hopkins and Irene Moshesh, professors of mathematics; Rebecca Portis, professor of English; and College students Ali Jaafar and Katarina Kittelberger, created a rewarding learning environment for the middle school students.

The Hillman Entrepreneurs spent one day at the Arundel Hotel, owned by David and Suzanne Hillman, to get a behind-the-scenes view of all facets of the hospitality business, as well as to catch a glimpse into what opportunities exist for entrepreneurs.

Mathematics students and faculty gathered on the Rockville Campus in March to celebrate Pi Eve (the day before 3/14) and the mathematical constant Pi. During the event, participants measured circular objects and computer Pi values. The celebration included pizza Pi-es, Pi-related YouTube videos, and a Pi-raffle for mini-Pi-es. Sponsored by the National Science Foundation STEP Grant and First-Year Experience at Rockville, the event promoted mathematics to students enrolled in the newly designed developmental math program.

Concert pianist Efi Hackmey, who has performed at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and Carnegie Hall, launched Lifelong Learning Institute’s new [class](#), Piano Conversations: Four Giants of Romantic Music. Professor Hackmey performed piano pieces by Chopin, Schumann, Mendelssohn, and Liszt, and discussed the composers’ lives and the structure of their musical compositions.

The Latest from Student Services

The MC LEADS student cohort at Rockville, along with Student Life Specialist Jane Ssemanda attended the [International Student Leadership Conference](#) at James Madison University in March. Students set clear goals and dedicated themselves to leadership, change, and growth.

Ja’Bette Luisa Lozupone organized a series of roundtable discussions for the Office of the Vice President and Provost of the Germantown Campus in collaboration with the Office of Student Life. Lozupone facilitated a bilingual discussion with Latino students and the provost in March to kick off the series. The roundtables provoked candid conversations about the challenges facing specific student populations, promoted existing resources, and celebrated student and campus successes.

The College ran a program with The Universities at Shady Grove (USG) for counselors to learn about updates to the USG academic programs and student services. For the first time, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) resource counselors and college and career information coordinators attended this event. The event included updates from all of the partner University of Maryland institutions with programs at USG, a panel of current USG students who were former MC students, as well as a resource fair.

Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffea, senior vice president for student services, hosted episodes of “MC 101: On the Real” for MCTV in March. Each episode featured panelists who spoke about their areas of expertise and concern, and who fielded questions from the audience. Topics included “[Diversity at Montgomery College](#),” “[Staying Motivated to Complete Your Degree](#),” and “[How Social Media & Technology Affect Your Relationships](#).”

Tech Talk – from the Office of Information Technology

The Office of Information Technology deployed Proofpoint, a [new email spam filtering tool](#), that enables College employees to receive a summary of quarantined messages along with their daily emails.

The Learning Technologies Committee’s Technology of the Month for April is “[Use Your iPad to Go Paperless](#).” The College is offering workshops on all campuses to train users in a variety of apps and strategies for storing and sharing documents.

Speakers and Events

February

The [Sonya Kovalevsky Program](#) held a STEM Shadowing Day on the Rockville Campus for 27 middle school girls in late February. College female STEM students served as mentors. Four STEM-related activities were presented: *Alligators, Snakes, and Toads...Oh My!*, by Dr. Leah Allen, professor of biology; *How to Build a Cage for a Dragon (3D Printer)*, by Paul Bayhurst of Physics, Engineering, and Geosciences; *Black Box Discovery*, by Liz Brandenburg of the Biology Department; and *Architecture & Design Discovery Using SketchUp*, by construction management students Ingrid Argueta and Emilie Drouet.

Civil Rights Activist, [Jacquelyn Bond-Shropshire](#), reflected on her experiences in late February during Black History Month.

March

WILLPOWER, the College’s [annual Shakespeare festival](#), ran during March. Highlights included the National Players’ production of *Macbeth*, and the Adrian Webber Memorial Lecture, “Weyward Macbeth: Intersections of Race and Performance” by Dr. Ayanna Thompson, professor of English at George Washington University.

Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett was the guest speaker for the Lifelong Learning Institute class, "[Getting Pumped about Politics](#)." Students asked questions and engaged in discussion about politics and its processes.

The Center for International and Multicultural Students hosted a presenter and navigator from the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services to explain the Affordable Care Act guidelines and application process.

The Germantown Office of Student Life, the Psychology Department, and the Women's and Gender Studies Program presented a [screening](#) of the movie, *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*, as a part of the ongoing movies series and in recognition of Women's History Month.

Dr. Christine B. N. Chin, associate professor in the School of International Service and director of the International Communication Program at American University, addressed "[Cosmopolitan Sex Workers: Women and Migration in a Global City](#)" at a Global Humanities Institute and Women's and Gender Studies event.

Dr. Elizabeth Griffith, historian and author of *In Her Own Right: The Life of Elizabeth Cady Stanton*, delivered a talk, "[From Banners to Ballots to Setback: The Woman's Suffrage and the Equal Rights Amendment Campaigns](#)," with an introduction by the Honorable Connie Morella, former ambassador, US Representative, and MC faculty member.

Dr. Amy Shell-Gellasch, historian of mathematics and researcher for the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, gave a math talk on, "[Leveraging the Power of 2: An Exploration of How Different Cultures Have Used 2 to Facilitate Calculation](#)."

Twenty-four health providers participated in the Germantown Health and Wellness Fair and Blood Drive and shared valuable health information with students, faculty, and staff. The blood drive collected 23 usable pints.

April

The fourth speaker in the [Frank Islam Athenaeum Symposia](#), Sheila Kay Adams, performed ballad singing, Appalachian-style storytelling, and music on a five-string banjo. Ms. Adams received the 2013 National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Montgomery College's [Spectrum Speaker Series](#) welcomed Dr. Shirley A. Micallef, assistant professor in the Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, with a joint appointment at the Center for Food Safety and Security Systems at the University of Maryland, to discuss how to reduce risks of fresh produce contamination through improved good agricultural practices.

Eighteen contributors to *The Sligo Journal* provided a reading and spoke about their work. This community-based event included faculty, staff, students, and residents of Takoma Park and Silver Spring.