


big Dreams

Winter 2016 



STEM-strong foundation

Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing programs bolster STEM pipeline

U.S. Army combat veteran, best-selling author, social entrepreneur and youth advocate Wes Moore was the speaker at Montgomery County Community College's 2015 Presidential Symposium on Nov. 9, 2015. During the symposium, Moore shared the details of his journey to find employment that is both meaningful to him and helpful to others, as he describes in his book, *The Work: My Search for a Life That Matters*.

Photo by Sandi Yanisko

Montgomery
Community

bigDreams

VOLUME 10/NUMBER 1

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On the Cover:

Montgomery County Community College leads the way in biotechnology and biomanufacturing education and training for the 21st century workforce.

Montgomery County Community College's Mission

Montgomery County Community College is a place where the future is created and desire and knowledge are combined to yield opportunity. The College reflects and responds to the needs and aspirations of those who live, work and conduct business in Montgomery County and beyond. Grounded in a set of values that teaches us to encourage, listen, respect and treat fairly those whom we serve, those with whom we work and those who work with us in service, the College strives to ensure that all Montgomery County residents have access to the highest-quality and most affordable higher education possible. Most importantly, the College is dedicated to fostering the growth and success of everyone we serve.

The College believes that learning is a lifelong activity requiring constant adaptation of programs, courses and learning support services to reflect social, technology and workforce changes and to ensure that all learners reach their unique goals.

Believing in the right of everyone to have access to a quality education, workforce training, opportunities for personal and professional growth, and culture and recreation, the College translates the values of its community and reaches out to it, inviting involvement, offering learning and fostering understanding.

Montgomery County Community College produces biannual issues of bigDreams magazine, which are distributed to alumni, faculty, staff, administrators, parents and friends of the College. If you are not receiving copies of bigDreams, send your name and email address to bigdreams@mc3.edu, and we will add you to our list.

inside

Cover Story

STEM-strong foundation..... 16-19

Features

English professor looks back on 36 years with Montgomery County Community College 12-15

University Center provides pathways to advanced degree completion 20-22

Alumni share stories of success & gratitude 24-26

Departments:

President's Corner..... 4

College Kudos 5

College News 6-7

Faculty Spotlight & Accomplishments..... 8-9

Student Success 11

Alumni News 27-29

Foundation News 30-33

Arts 34-35

Athletics 36-37

Calendar..... 38-39

Editorial Policy

We will consider all letters, stories and photographs for publication and ask that written submissions be kept to 400 words or less.

When submitting material, include your name, address, email address and/or telephone number. All letters to the editor must be signed. We will not publish unsigned letters or letters from individuals whose information cannot be verified.

We reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity, to correct grammar and punctuation and to add an explanatory note to clarify or correct misinformation or to explain the College's policy, if necessary.

We also reserve the right to reject anything that can be construed as libelous; letters endorsing a product or person; form letters; any material that contains profanity or inflammatory or discriminatory material; unintelligible prose; or a vendetta against an individual, organization or Montgomery County Community College.

Submissions will be published in the next edition of bigDreams in which space is available.





Dear Friends,

On any given day at Montgomery County Community College, you can feel the energy and excitement of the students, as they grow through learning and serving, as well as participating in a plethora of activities, from athletics to the arts to science competitions.

It's an exciting time of growth for the College, too.

At West Campus, construction work continues at the Schuylkill Riverfront Academic and Heritage Building

for the creation of a Sustainability and Innovation Hub, which will feature an aquaponics and hydroponics laboratory, engineering learning laboratory and a collaborative community area. Meanwhile at Central Campus, the construction sounds signify the transformation of our Physical Education building into a state-of-the art Health Sciences Center, which will feature new health career programs and more career opportunities for our students.

In our Advanced Technology Center, the College continues the vitally important work of the Northeast Biomanufacturing Center Collaborative (NBC2) upon the receipt of an \$2.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation, the fourth grant received during the past decade. This funding will enable NBC2 to fill the workforce demand for advanced technology technicians by providing the needed hands-on skills and knowledge for our students.

With this growth and new opportunities, I am appreciative of the good work and dedication of the faculty, administrators and staff. Furthermore, I am appreciative of the support of our donors, volunteers and friends, who generously give to the College to continue our mission of providing quality higher education for all who seek it. Through our collaborative work, we open doors for students, provide the support they need along their journeys and celebrate in their successes.

Sincerely, .

Dr. James J. Links
Interim President

Join us on Twitter: @MCCC

BOARD of TRUSTEES

The College is governed by a 15-person Board of Trustees, the members of which are appointed to renewable six-year terms by the Montgomery County Commissioners. The Board of Trustees is a policy-governing body that focuses its planning and decisions on achieving results that advance the core mission of the College.

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Middle States Re-Accreditation

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) has re-affirmed the College's accreditation through academic year 2024-25 after an intensive self-study evaluation and review process. The College met all 14 Characteristics of Excellence required for re-accreditation and is among only 20 percent of MSCHE accredited institutions to secure accreditation without required follow-up.

EDUCAUSE Grant Awarded

The College was one of 24 institutions in the country to be awarded up to \$225,000 from EDUCAUSE as part of a grant competition designed to help two- and four-year colleges and universities develop integrated approaches to student success. The grant initiative, Integrated Planning & Advising for Student Success (iPASS), will allow the College to further develop its educational planning platform to include career and financial planning, as well as its use of predictive analytics in order to develop more customized interventions to help ensure student success.

Awarded for online teaching and learning

Montgomery's Virtual Campus received its first-ever "Learning! 100" award from *Elearning!* magazine, which recognizes innovative learning programs in public and private sectors across the country. The College ranked 24th in the public sector category and was recognized, specifically, for the collaborative way faculty prepare for and engage in online teaching and learning.

Building STEM Literacy through PA Space Grant Consortium

Montgomery recently became the first community college in the commonwealth to join the Pennsylvania Space Grant Consortium under a three-year, \$36,000 project, which is funded in part by the National Aeronautics and



Space Administration (NASA) and developed in coordination with Temple University. For this project, the College will equip educators with additional strategies, tools and resources to engage students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics literacy.

White House 'American Campuses Act On Climate Pledge'

Montgomery was one of 218 colleges and universities representing 3.3 million students across the country to sign the White House's American Campuses Act on Climate Pledge in November 2015. The pledge calls on participating institutions to make three commitments over the next two years to further reduce their carbon emissions. The College's pledges build on its eight years of sustainability efforts taken as a charter signatory of the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment. They include piloting a Green Classroom certification program for faculty; supporting faculty in their exploration of open source and online materials; and promoting sustainable organizations in the community through job fairs and guest lecture opportunities.

Military Friendly School

For the sixth time, Montgomery County Community College is designated a Military Friendly School by Victory Media, positioning it among the top 20 percent of colleges and

universities in the country for its veteran support services. The College offers students a Veterans Resource Center, featuring services like VA benefits counseling, academic advising, tutoring, a peer support network and even yoga. Plus, the College offers professional development opportunities that inform faculty and staff about issues faced by student veterans making the transition from combat to college.

Fire Science, Emergency Management & Planning Accreditations

In 2015, Fire Science and Emergency Management & Planning earned reaccreditation and initial accreditation, respectively, from the International Fire Science Accreditation Congress (IFSAC). The College is one of only 30 degree-granting institutions in the U.S. accredited by IFSAC.

Children's Center NAEYC Re-Accreditation

The College's Children's Center earned reaccreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the nation's leading organization of early childhood professionals. Accredited institutions must meet all 10 of the NAEYC Early Childhood Program Standards. Not only did MCCC fully meet NAEYC standards, but the institution also scored over 100 percent in six of the 10 standards.

Health Sciences Center Construction Starts

The ceremonial shovels, hard hats and pile of dirt signified the ground breaking ceremony on Sept. 3, 2015, when the College kicked off the transformation of its existing Physical Education facility at Central Campus in Blue Bell into a state-of-the-art Health Sciences Center. The project scope includes both a full-scale renovation, as well as a 76,000 square-foot expansion of the building.

“This facility will help to position Montgomery County Community College as the regional leader in health and wellness education. Ultimately, our goal is to transform the lives of those we serve,” said Dr. James J. Links, interim president.

When completed in late 2016, the Health Sciences Center will house many existing Health Sciences programs—Nursing, Dental Hygiene, Medical Laboratory Assistant, Phlebotomy, Medical Assisting, Health and Fitness Professional, Exercise Science and Wellness, Medical Office Assistant, and Medical Coding—as well as its Mustangs intercollegiate athletics teams and fitness facilities.

The expanded Center also enables the College to introduce several new programs

in high priority occupations that will expand health care career options for students in the region. These include associate’s degree programs in Occupational Therapy Assistant, Physical Therapist Assistant, and Public Health; a credit certificate program in Massage Therapy; and a Specialty Certificate in Expanded Function Dental Assistant.

The Center’s learning spaces—which include a modern Dental Hygiene Clinic, 24 classrooms and seminar rooms, and program specific laboratories and instructional facilities—will contain the latest innovations in health care education to best prepare students for their clinical experiences and, ultimately, for employment upon graduation.

In addition to state-of-the-art learning spaces for Health Sciences programs, the new Center will allow the Mustangs intercollegiate athletics program to expand. Reintroduced in 2008, Mustangs student athletes currently compete in men’s and women’s soccer, men’s and women’s basketball, women’s volleyball, men’s baseball and women’s softball as part of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA), Region 19.

The Center’s key fitness and athletics features will include a new multipurpose competitive gym with seating for 1,100 people; a renovated educational gym; a 7,000 square-foot fitness center; a large exercise studio; and a healthy café in a large, sky-lit atrium.



Donors Make the Difference

While the College has secured funding for the construction of the Health Sciences Center, philanthropy will add to and enhance the spaces inside. Donor gifts will help the College meet essential needs and anticipate the future for the growth and addition of programs and educational spaces. Named-giving opportunities will enable the Division of Health Sciences and the Athletics Department to build out shared spaces, laboratories, classrooms and clinics; install state-of-the-industry equipment; and enhance the simulation technology that creates incomparable learning opportunities for all students.

To discuss funding and naming opportunities or personal goals in making a gift, please contact the Foundation at 215-641-6324.



Montgomery County, Whitpain Township and Montgomery County Community College officials broke ground on Sept. 3, 2015, for the new Health Sciences Center at Central Campus in Blue Bell. Pictured (from left) are Fred Conner, Whitpain Board of Supervisors Chairman; Kathryn Hall, nursing student; Ed Mullin, Board of Trustees; Andy Cantor, Board of Trustees Vice Chairman; Trudy Mann, Board of Trustees Secretary; Michael D’Aniello, Board of Trustees Chairman; Bruce Castor, Montgomery County Commissioner; Dr. James Links, Interim President; Dr. Val Arkoosh, Montgomery County Commissioner Vice Chair; Geoff Brandon, Board of Trustees; Dr. Bev Welhan, former Dean of Health Sciences; Richard Montalbano, Board of Trustees; Bruce Bach, Athletics Director; and Anthony Greco, Whitpain Board of Supervisors Secretary.

Sustainability and Innovation Hub to open in Pottstown

Montgomery County Community College ceremonially broke ground on June 2, 2015, to mark the beginning of the final renovation phase of the Schuylkill Riverfront Academic and Heritage Center at West Campus, 140 College Drive, Pottstown.

The restoration is transforming the building into a Sustainability and Innovation Hub that will feature an aquaponics and hydroponics laboratory, engineering learning laboratory and a collaborative community area.

The spaces will be ideal for experiential learning and collaboration with community partners, said Dr. David DiMattio, Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

The first phase of the renovation project started in 2010 when the College created a 202-space parking lot. The second phase involved replacing the leaking roof with an environmentally friendly green roof, installing a handicap-accessible entrance ramp and energy-efficient windows and updating the water and sewer lines.



From left, Dr. David DiMattio, Dean of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math; Dr. Steady Moono, former Vice President of West Campus; Dr. Karen Stout, former President of Montgomery County Community College; and Dr. Vicki Bastecki-Perez, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, break ground for the Sustainability and Innovation Hub in Pottstown.

New Partnership with Ursinus College

Montgomery County Community College graduates can now count Ursinus College among their seamless transfer options, thanks to a new transfer articulation agreement signed by college officials on Dec. 3, 2015. The agreement encourages and facilitates the transfer of qualifying Montgomery graduates to Ursinus, located in Collegeville, Pa., to complete their baccalaureate degrees.

Under the agreement, Montgomery students who graduate with Associate of Arts (A.A.), Associate of Science (A.S.), Associate in Fine Arts (A.F.A.), Associate in Applied Science (A.A.S.) or Associate in General Studies (A.G.S.) degrees and have a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) may transfer to Ursinus with junior status, given they meet Ursinus admissions requirements and complete a transfer admissions intent form prior to applying.



Montgomery County Community College Interim President Dr. James Linksz shakes hands with Ursinus College President S. Brock Blomberg after they sign the transfer articulation agreement that will allow qualifying Montgomery graduates to transfer to Ursinus to complete their baccalaureate degrees.

A behind-the-scenes look at the reaccreditation process

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) reaffirmed Montgomery County Community College's accreditation through academic year 2024-25 after a lengthy, intensive self-study evaluation and review process that involved numerous people from the college community. This vital, time-consuming process was spearheaded by co-chairs Associate Professor of English Dr. Catherine Carsley and Dr. Steady Moono, the former Vice President of West Campus (Dr. Moono currently serves as President of Schenectady County Community College in New York). The following is a brief overview by Dr. Carsley of the behind-the-scenes work of this college-wide project.

Q: Did you have any prior experience with the MSCHE's reaccreditation process?

Dr. Carsley: No, I was totally new to the process. However, Steady and I attended MSCHE training seminars and conferences throughout the almost three-year process.

Q: When did the process start? Can you provide a summary of the various steps?

Dr. Carsley: The kick-off meeting for the Steering Committee members was held in December 2012. The members met bi-monthly to craft research questions and perform a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) analysis. A self-study design document was prepared and presented to MSCHE.

After MSCHE approved the self-study design document in June 2013, the working groups—comprised of more than 120 faculty members, administrators, students and staff—gathered evidence, discussed findings and prepared preliminary reports for the Self-Study Report. Throughout 2013-14, the Steering Committee members continued to meet to discuss and resolve any concerns or issues.

In September 2014, a draft of the Self-Study Report was presented to the Board of Trustees



Associate Professor of English Dr. Catherine Carsley co-chaired the self-study evaluation and review process for the Middle States Commission on Higher Education to reaffirm Montgomery County Community College's accreditation through 2024-25.



Photos by Sarah Yankis

Dr. Steady Moono, former Vice President of the College's West Campus in Pottstown, co-chaired the reaccreditation evaluation and review with Dr. Carsley. Dr. Moono currently serves as the President of Schenectady County Community College in New York.

Curriculum Committee and posted for public comment on the College's website. Several open forums were held to include input from the entire College community, including the Student Government Association.

In January 2015, the final Self-Study Report (after review by the All-College Governance Committee, President's Leadership Cabinet and Board of Trustees) was submitted for approval by MSCHE.

Q: In addition to managing the project, what specific roles did you and Dr. Moono have?

Dr. Carsley: We worked well together as a team. Steady researched and wrote the section on integrity, as well as coordinated the staff and kept the project on schedule by obtaining the feedback, etc. by the set deadlines.

I was focused on writing and revising the 180+ page Self-Study Report, which was a huge task. However, I continued to teach during this time (with a reduced course load) because teaching

and working with students energizes me. Without teaching, I would feel empty.

Q: To get an idea of the magnitude of this overall process, would you mind sharing some of the numbers with us?

Dr. Carsley: Sure, the process involved:

- 40 members on the Steering Committee
- 10 working groups of 120+ faculty, administrators, staff and students
- 14 Characteristics of Excellence to analyze
- 22 meetings over 2.5+ years
- 12 presentations
- 30+ revisions of the Self-Study Report

Q: What does reaccreditation mean to students? The College?

Dr. Carsley: Reaccreditation means students can apply for financial aid, transfer their credits to other colleges and universities and know their degrees and certificates have value. For the College, it means we are a strong

institution. Additionally, the Self-Study Report prepares the groundwork for the next Strategic Plan.

Q: Anything else you would like to share?

Dr. Carsley: Yes, I would like to thank everyone involved in this process, especially the Steering Committee: Lee Bender, Joan Brookshire, Vicki Bastecki-Perez, Deborah Dalrymple, Stephen Blumm, Andrew Kosciesza, Deborah Greenspan, Fran Lassiter, Jill Beccaris-Pescatore, Jerry Yarnetsky, Wendy Zoll-Fillgrove, Francisca Bye, Rhoda McFadden, Tracey Brown,

Stefanie Crouse, Michael Ondo, John Vassiliou, Megan Sneeringer, Brent Woods, Charles Scandone, Joshua Mitchell, Cindy Haney, Kathleen McGirr, Pamela Borkowski-Valentin, Diane VanDyke, Lianne Hartmann, Susan Arnhold, Luke Weber, Michele Woodward, Kimberly Murphy Garvey, Deborah Rogers, Leon Hill, Yvette Raven, Cindy Fricker and Abu Chowdhury.

On June 25, 2015, the MSCHE acted to reaffirm the College's decennial accreditation as the result of a successful team visit in March, 2015, which confirmed the findings of the

College's own self-study. The MSCHE visiting team's report, authored by team chair, Dr. Gail Mellow, President of LaGuardia Community College, verified that the College met all 14 Characteristics of Excellence necessary for accreditation; additionally, the College was found to comply with all relevant Federal regulations. This finding represents the best possible result of the Self-Study process, as the College is not required to follow up with any additional reports to the Commission. Only 20 percent of institutions accredited by MSCHE secure an action with no follow-up required.

Highlighting our faculty's work and achievements

Assistant Professor of Microbiology

James Bretz, who is the faculty advisor to the Beta Tau Lambda chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society in Pottstown, was one of only 30 educators in the country to earn Phi Theta Kappa's Paragon Award for new advisors.

Instructor of Health Care Professions

Marion Bucci obtained her Registered Medical Assistant credential. Bucci worked diligently for three years to complete the Medical Assisting Certificate and passed the national certification examination.

Associate Professor of Biology Dr. Jerry

Coleman was selected as a Pennsylvania Environmental Resource Consortium 2015 Campus Sustainability Champion.

Assistant Professor of Spanish Georgina

Elortegui received the Philadelphia Area Spanish Educators association's 2015 Teacher of the Year award for excellence in the classroom and dedicated service to the language teaching community.

Counselor/Assistant Professor Kristin

Fulmer recently received her licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor in Pennsylvania.

Associate Professor of Art Cheryl

Gelover's music video, "Blinks First," which she co-directed and animated, was selected for inclusion in six international film festivals, three of which are British Academy of Film and Television Arts qualifying and one of which is Academy Award qualifying.

Communications Lecturer David Ivory

recently was elected co-chair of the National Membership Committee for The Recording Academy, the organization that produces the Grammy music awards. David was also selected as a member of the newly formed rock Nomination Committee for the Grammys.

Assistant Professor of Sociology Dr.

Garvey Musumunu is the co-author with Temple University faculty member Dr. Ama Mazama of the recently published book *African Americans and Homeschooling: Motivations, Opportunities and Challenges* in the Routledge Research in Education series.

Accounting Lecturer Joanne Tempone

is the chair for the Federal Committee of Tax Executives Institute (TEI), a global organization of in-house tax professionals with more than 7,000 members. She co-chaired the regional TEI Conference in Philadelphia in October 2015.

Assistant Professor of Geography Samuel

Clay Wallace is one of only 30 educators in the world selected as a Phi Theta Kappa Faculty Scholar for 2016-17. As such, Wallace is part of an elite team of scholars charged with developing curriculum for PTK's honors study topic, "How the World Works: Global Perspectives."

Assistant Professor of Surgical Technology Dr. Erin White-Mincarelli

successfully defended her dissertation in September 2015 and graduated summa cum laude from Alvernia University with a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership in December 2015. She also received recognition from the National Board of Surgical Technology & Surgical Assisting for reaching 15 years a Certified Surgical Technologist.



Your gift can make big dreams come true.



Jeremiah Garcia ('15)

Photo by Anita Jerva

Please Support the Montgomery County Community College Foundation Annual Fund Campaign

Thousands of men and women who never dreamed that college was in their future have achieved a successful path in life through educational opportunities at Montgomery County Community College.

Your support of the Annual Fund enables the College to provide the scholarship assistance, maintain the quality facilities and support the programs that enable student success.



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To learn more, visit www.mc3.edu/giving or call the Foundation Office at 215-461-1139

Shadowing experience shapes future leaders

By Diane VanDyke

Montgomery County Community College's Legislator Shadowing Program provides a unique opportunity for female students to shadow female legislators at the State Capitol in Harrisburg to learn firsthand about their careers.

Currently, more men than women serve in legislature. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, only 1,800 women, or approximately 24.2 percent, serve in the 50 state legislatures as of September 2015. In Pennsylvania, there are only 46 women, or about 18.2 percent, who serve in the legislature.

To help introduce women to this career field, Representative Marcy Toepel invites several female students each semester to spend a day with her as well as Representatives Kate Harper, Mary Jo Daley, Pam DeLissio and Madeleine Dean. Montgomery's Executive Director of Government Relations and Special Projects Peggy Lee-Clark and Assistant Professor of Political Science Jodi Empol-Schwartz coordinate the program.

Additionally, the College Foundation's Leading Women in Philanthropy giving circle provided a grant to cover the transportation costs for the students this year to allow the program to continue.

During shadowing day on Oct. 27, 2015, students Erin Donovan, Collegeville; Chelsie Lomax, Upper Dublin; Taylor Snisky, North Wales; Maria Sariano, Collegeville; Shugyr Stull, Plymouth Meeting; and Christa Walls, Collegeville, initially met with Representative Toepel, who shared information about her background and responsibilities. Donovan, Sariano and Walls are dual enrollment students, who are taking classes at both Montgomery and Perkiomen Valley High School.

"We hope this visit provides a snapshot of what it's like to work here," Representative Toepel said to the students as they arrived. "Whether you decide to run for an elected office or not, this experience provides a general understanding of the legislative process and highlights the importance of becoming engaged in the community, building a network and learning about different professional opportunities."

After meeting with Toepel, they attended a Judiciary Committee Meeting held in the

Majority Caucus Room during which committee members discussed a proposed bill. The students were required to research the bill before their visit to familiarize themselves with the issues. Following the meeting, they visited the House floor to observe the legislators in session.

During lunch, students participated in a roundtable discussion with Representatives Harper and Toepel and professional staff to learn more about their careers. Guests included Jen Weeter, research staff member; Abbey Haslam, communications staff member; Ashley DeMauro, lobbyist; Tricia Harris, director of communications for the Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry; Jill Vecchio, senior legal counsel; Kelly Fedeli, director of special events for the Speaker; Jen Gregorits, special events for the Speaker; and Amber Somershoe, House intern.

The guest speakers' discussion about their career paths impressed the students.

"It was really interesting to hear about the different jobs and to get the inside view about what they do and their experiences," said Donovan, who will graduate in spring 2016 from Perkiomen Valley High School with her diploma and the College with her associate's degree. "I could see myself being a Communications specialist like Abbey Haslam. The job would combine my two passions, writing and politics."

For Snisky, the visit was invaluable. "It was a great experience to observe the House and the

Senate and then to hear about all the different areas of government and how everything happens," she said. "I feel like I have a much better understanding of the process that is involved with bills, which is important because I want to work as a pharmacist one day, and I will need to know how different policies and bills will affect healthcare."

The Legislator Shadowing Program enhances the existing Legislator in Residence Program, which was started in 2012 by Lee-Clark and Empol-Schwartz. For the residence program, members of the Montgomery County State Legislative Delegation and their staffs are invited to Empol-Schwartz's American National Government and American State and Local Government classes and Assistant Professor of Economics Jill Beccaris-Pescatore's Introduction to Economics class during the semester to provide insight of the concepts students read in their textbooks.

During Montgomery County Community College's Legislator Shadowing Program, female students spent the day at the State Capitol in Harrisburg with female legislators. From left: Representative Mary Jo Daley, Representative Madeleine Dean, Erin Donovan, Taylor Snisky, Chelsie Lomax, Maria Sariano, Christa Walls, Shugyr Stull, Representative Marcy Toepel and Representative Kate Harper. Missing from the photo: Representative Pam DeLissio.

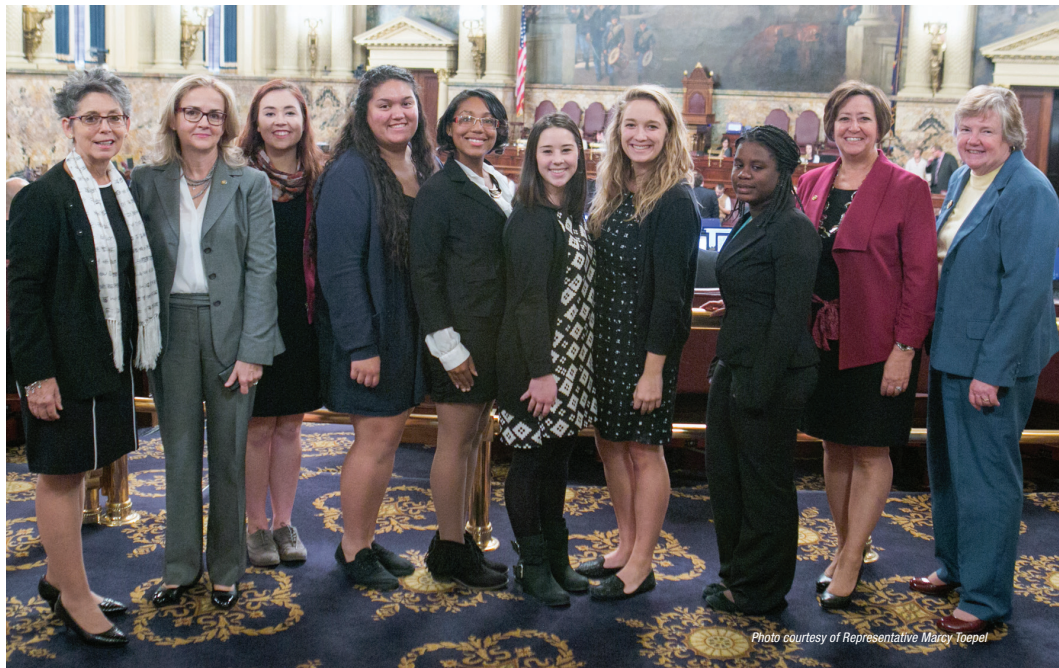


Photo courtesy of Representative Marcy Toepel

36 English professor looks back on years with Montgomery County Community College

By Dutch Godshalk '10

Montgomery Media News Editor

Reprinted with permission from *The Ambler Gazette*

Looking around Patricia Nestler's fourth-floor office in Parkhouse Hall before she retired, one found photographs of a remarkable roster of authors—Kurt Vonnegut, looking professional in a tweed jacket; Tim O'Brien, wearing his trademark baseball cap; John Updike, aged and dapper, with a massive grin on his face—each image framed and displayed on a shelf or tabletop somewhere around the room.

What's more, in each of these photographs—right beside Vonnegut or Updike or leaning in close to hear something Joyce Carol Oates is saying—sits Nestler, smiling sweetly in a red sweater or blazer, a name tag pinned to her lapel. She's pictured with Edward Albee, Alex Haley, Jean Shepherd; the list goes on and on.

For retired associate professor of English, these photos make for some serious souvenirs.

"They were amazing experiences," Nestler said of meeting each of those authors over the years.

Nestler has made quite a name for herself on campus. For the last 36 years, she's been a mentor to leagues of students, an advisor to a community of writers, a trusted colleague to countless teachers and a dedicated event organizer for the school's perennial Writers Club. And yes, she's also rubbed elbows with more than a few literary giants.



Associate Professor of English Patricia Nestler (center) with the executive committee members of the Edward Albee Writers' Club Spring Forum in 1991. *Photo courtesy of Patricia Nestler*

Want to hear a story about Norman Mailer? Nestler can recount the time she was on her hands and knees in College Hall scouring the carpet for the 81-year-old, Pulitzer Prize-winning author's hearing aid. It was 2006, and Mailer was just moments away from taking the stage in the school's packed auditorium.

"[Mailer] was wonderful, so eloquent," she said. "When I met him and first walked in the room, I was really steeled up, because I didn't know how he was going to be. [Before I came in] he had just dropped his hearing aid, and suddenly I'm down on the floor looking for it. When he got up on stage, he couldn't really hear what people were asking him," so Nestler stayed close by, in case he needed assistance. "I felt like we had a real partnership," she said. "He was really sharp, a really amazing man."

Authors like Mailer came to the College almost every year to impart their wisdom to hordes of blossoming writers from all over the region. They came as keynote speakers for the annual Writers Club Conference, Nestler's brainchild, a three-day series of writing seminars and workshops.

Nestler started the Writers Club Conference in 1988, and it soon became something of a mecca for area poets, novelists and essayists; anyone who put pen to paper was interested in the event. That year, however, the conference was barely anything at all, just some people gathered in the basement of the school's cafeteria.

"That was my concept of a conference," Nestler said with a laugh, shaking her head behind her desk.

Modest as it was, that first conference was a success, and it drew yet another crowd the following year.

"But in 1990, I got this brainwave," Nestler said. "Why don't I apply for money and get a big speaker?" That year, I applied for six internal and external grants. I thought, 'If I can get one grant, we can bring in somebody big.'"

In an unexpected turn of events, Nestler got every grant she applied for. It was by far more money than she had expected—and perhaps a bit more than she knew how to spend.

continued on page 15



Associate Professor of English Patricia Nestler with author John Updike, who was the keynote speaker for the 2004 Writers' Club Conference.

Photo courtesy of Patricia Nestler



Author Norman Mailer was the keynote speaker during the 2006 Writers' Club conference.
Photo courtesy of Patricia Nestler



In 2005, the Writers' Conference featured Tim O'Brien. From left: former College President Dr. Karen A. Stout, O'Brien and Patricia Nestler.
Photo courtesy of Patricia Nestler

"You'll never get the money again if you don't spend it, and I knew that," she said of the grants. "So we sprang from six workshops [per year] and a coffeehouse in the basement of the cafeteria to a three-day conference, with 18 writers in addition to the keynote speaker," who happened to be Pulitzer Prize-winning author Joyce Carol Oates.

From that point on, it became almost common for a legendary writer to make a brief stop at the College every couple years or so.

"My goal became to make MontCo a cultural center for writers. That's what I always said, and it got to be the slogan; it summed it up," she said. "I always had this idea of participatory learning. I really didn't want students to just be in the classroom. So I was determined to get the college out in the community and the community into the college. Former President Karen Stout had a vision and could see that."

In fact, Stout said she knew from day one what Nestler was capable of accomplishing.

"Pat [Nestler] had all the ingredients for a successful Writers Club Conference before I was president," Stout said. "When I started, I realized [the conference] was one of the many solid anchors for this institution. I was an English major as an undergraduate, so I share Pat's passion for reading, for exposing students to contemporary literature, for exposing the community to the power of the written word — and I just wanted to give her all of the support that she needed to move forward with her passion. So, for me, it was an easy decision to support her."

Decades after she first started the humble conference, Nestler has amassed a wealth of anecdotes about writers who for most people are merely the subjects of lore. Following up her story about Mailer, she relayed the time Kurt Vonnegut helped a student during a pre-conference dinner at the William Penn Inn.

The student, who she said by no means came from money, had been anxious about dining in the Inn's opulent Commonwealth Room.

"Some of the students who worked on the conference had backgrounds where they were either impoverished or had never really been in an elegant dining room," Nestler said. Taking her aside, the student "says to me, 'I don't go

anywhere where I don't eat off of take-out trays.' Well, Vonnegut overheard him. So, later, when the dessert came out, Vonnegut reached across the table and put his finger into the student's chocolate and said, 'Mmm! It's good!'" This weird, random gesture "really disarmed the student" and eased his nerves. Not to mention the little vignette brings to life the sort of bleakly playful sense of humor Vonnegut has become known for in his work.

"What I'm trying to say is Vonnegut was so impressed with the students and what we were all doing," Nestler continued. "He spoke at a lot of different venues, but he put in extra time with us. People just couldn't ask him enough questions."

The success of the annual Writers Club Conference still amazes Nestler.

"I never thought I'd be doing this," she said. "I just like working with students. I never thought I'd be in charge of a production like this. It's amazing ... I think it's very important to have activities that have writing in them. I think you're a writer even if you don't get published. It's a solitary activity. So having all these people at workshops and conferences gives writers a support system."

More than anything, though — more than meeting a literary icon; more than adding another photo to the shelf — Nestler said the Writers Club and the annual conference were just ways to engage her students and help them see the world differently.

"To me, education shouldn't be something that's just a vocational certificate," she said. "I didn't ever see college as just something that you were taking to learn a skill or learn a job. Education is a way of learning to think and approach life. I think it's very important to get that out there to students in the community."

Nestler retired from her post at the college in spring 2015.

Even though the Writers Conference was discontinued in recent years due to lack of adequate funding, the Writers Club itself has endured beyond Nestler's retirement, with Assistant Professor Susan Buchler taking over as faculty advisor.

Not surprisingly, though, Stout had expected her colleague to leave quite a void.

"It's going to be hard to fill her shoes," Stout said prior to Nestler's leave. "It's rare when a faculty member leaves and you're really critically thinking about succession planning . . . That's how far her work has risen. I just know how much heart and soul she has put into it."

Continuing her Commitment

For years, Patricia Nestler dedicated her time and energies to help students follow their passions, develop their skills and succeed at their endeavors. She continues her commitment by creating The Patricia Nestler Excellence in Creative Writing Award to celebrate exceptional students who have demonstrated excellence in creative writing. Thank you, Pat, for transforming the lives of thousands of students.



Alumnus Dutch Godshalk '10 is a multimedia journalist for Digital First Media, serving as a news editor and feature reporter for two of the company's area news outlets, *Montgomery Media* and *The Reporter* of Lansdale. He is also the managing editor of two weekly publications, *The Ambler Gazette* and *The Springfield Sun*. Dutch is the recipient of four Keystone Press Awards - including two First Place prizes under the Personality Profile and Feature Beat Reporting categories - and a 2014 Philly DoGooder film award. His work has appeared in *MensHealth.com*, *Time Out London*, *Ticket Entertainment*, *Apiary Magazine*, *Philadelphia Stories*, *The Times Herald*, *The Souderton Independent* and *Main Line Media News*. Dutch graduated from Montgomery County Community College in 2010 and was a former student of Pat Nestler.



Student Diane Posavec injects a sample into the high-performance liquid chromatography instrument for analysis while Biotechnology Assistant Professor Margaret Bryans and student Ngan Phan watch.

Photo by Sandi Yanisko

STEM-strong foundation

Biotechnology and biomanufacturing programs bolster STEM pipeline

By Diane VanDyke

Today's competitive global economy calls for the United States to develop a stronger workforce in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). To meet this need, Montgomery County Community College is making strides to strengthen the STEM pipeline, particularly in biotechnology and biomanufacturing fields.

In recent months, Montgomery received a notable \$2.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to continue this vital work as part of the Northeast Biomanufacturing Center and Collaborative or NBC2. This is the fourth round of grant funding, bringing the total amount awarded to more than \$10 million during the past 10 years.

"For the past decade, NBC2 has worked with local biomanufacturers, educators and organizations to create, pilot and publish a suite of instructional materials for the development, education and training of the technical workforce for this advanced technological industry," said Dr. Margaret Bryans, professor of Biotechnology at Montgomery and Principal Investigator for the NSF grant.

"During this time, NBC2 has developed skill standards and competencies for biomanufacturing technicians, textbooks and laboratory manuals for students and instructors, as well as many professional development activities," she added. "With this recent grant, we will continue to expand our work."

As an NSF Advanced Technology Education center, NBC2 consists of five strategically



Students Hetal Doshi and Sean Heron check the status of a gel electrophoresis experiment.

placed hubs in Pennsylvania, New York, North Carolina, Indiana and California. Each hub works with local industry professionals and educators to prepare students for careers in biomanufacturing. Montgomery, together with Bucks County Community College, make up the Pennsylvania hub. Dr. Bryans and Dr. Linda Rehfuss, Associate Professor of Biotechnology at Bucks, will co-lead the grant during the next three years.

Community colleges play a key role in the education and training of the 21st century workforce, says Dr. Bryans. Their partnerships with local biotechnology and biopharmaceutical industry provide a stable, local supply of entry-level and replacement technicians, who have a career pathway that begins in high school,

continues to a community college and then to employment or four-year institution.

"The biomanufacturing industry is continually changing and expanding, and it is necessary to update training and education so students are well-prepared to enter this field," Dr. Bryans said. "This grant provides opportunities for students interested in STEM careers to learn advanced technology skills in our laboratories using the same equipment used by biopharmaceutical companies."

In biomanufacturing, living organisms are used to produce biopharmaceuticals such as monoclonal antibodies and therapeutic hormones. The manufacturing process is complex and involves growing cells in large scale bioreactors and purifying these protein drugs

continued on next page

through a series of chromatography and filtration steps. Further, since biologic drugs are injected instead of swallowed, Dr. Bryans explains, the manufacturing process is strictly controlled to prevent any contamination and ensure patient safety.

“In recent years, more pharmaceutical companies are moving toward the development and production of biologics instead of traditional, chemistry-based medications because they are yielding better results often with fewer side effects,” says Dr. Bryans. “Biologics are used to treat diseases such as cancer, rheumatoid arthritis and multiple sclerosis.”

Biopharmaceuticals is the fastest growing segment of the pharmaceutical industry—with a world market of more than \$165 billion and a 15 percent annual growth rate, according to the *Tenth Annual Report and Survey of Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing Capacity and Production*.

During the past decade, NBC2 has made significant progress with fostering partnerships with biotechnology and biopharmaceutical companies and educational institutions. With each round of NSF funding, NBC2 continues to broaden its partnership network.

In the first phase of grant funding, NBC2 created curricula around and based on 10 major biomanufacturing jobs areas. They began hosting annual professional development workshops and conferences for community college faculty and high school teachers to support educators in their efforts to incorporate biomanufacturing into existing courses or create new courses and programs.

In the second phase, NBC2 published the first comprehensive biomanufacturing textbook, *Introduction to Biomanufacturing*, which was authored by 15 pharmaceutical scientists from eight companies. They also developed virtual learning modules for biomanufacturing students and continued to provide professional development workshops for educators.

During the third phase, NBC2 created additional hands-on curricular materials and updated and validated biomanufacturing skill standards for the development of a certification exam for students. Additionally, NBC2 hosted professional development activities, including a biofuels workforce summit.

The fourth phase of the grant will enable NBC2 to continue to build upon and expand the accomplishments of the prior phases. It

additionally will focus on high school students in the form of annual one-week hands-on summer workshops. Students will learn about and practice advanced biotechnology techniques, gaining knowledge about the field so that it can be considered as a career option.

With these activities combined with cutting-edge curriculum, NBC2 will fill the pipeline of advanced technology technicians who are trained in the skills and broad knowledge necessary for success in the biotechnology and biomanufacturing industry.

Montgomery County Community College offers a 64-credit Associate in Applied Science degree in Biotechnology designed to transfer to our institutional partners, as well as a 16-credit Certificate of Completion in Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing, which is designed to provide hands-on, industry-relevant training to students who already hold associate's or bachelor's degrees and who wish to train for careers in the biotech field. For more information, visit mc3.edu. For more information about NBC2, visit biomanufacturing.org.

NBC2 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Professional development workshops for high school teachers

NBC2 will continue to partner with high schools across the country, offering *Protein is Cash* workshops for high school teachers, which already has had positive results. These workshops provide educators with hands-on laboratory experiences and activities suitable for high school students and designed to increase students' interest in biotechnology and biomanufacturing.

In the summer of 2012, Hatboro-Horsham High School teacher Greg Poruban participated in Montgomery's *Protein is Cash* workshop and was inspired to start a biotechnology course for his

students. Collaborating with Dr. Bryans, he applied for and received grant funding in both 2013 and 2014 through the Hatboro-Horsham Educational Foundation (HHEF) to purchase laboratory equipment and offer the biotechnology course as an elective. The class was successful and Hatboro-Horsham now offers a full credit elective course at the honors and college prep level.

“Other high school teachers are interested in starting similar classes,” says Dr. Bryans. “These hands-on lab classes help students develop a passion for science and think about it as a career.

Hatboro-Horsham High School teacher Greg Poruban participated in Montgomery's *Protein is Cash* workshop and was inspired to start a biotechnology course for his students.

BIOMAN Conference will become a series of mini-BIOMAN Conferences

In 2013, science educators from across the country converged at Montgomery County Community College to engage in hands-on lab work involving stem cells, biofuels, biochemistry and molecular biology as part of the 8th Annual NBC2 BIOMAN Conference. BIOMAN Conferences are designed to update community college faculty on the latest techniques, training and education in biotechnology and biomanufacturing. Educators from 19 community colleges and eight high schools participated in the conference.

In addition to the workshops, three keynote presentations featured scientists from local pharmaceutical companies who talked about new initiatives and training required for the

workforce. Participants toured local companies GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen and Merck to see the facilities and interact with industry professionals.

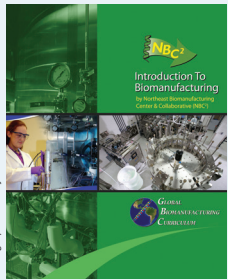
In this next phase, NBC2 will be offering nine mini-BIOMAN conferences, each of which highlight a specific areas of biotechnology or biomanufacturing. The three-day hands-on professional development workshops will provide an in-depth knowledge of and experience in the most cutting-edge technologies. At the conclusion of the conferences, participants will have a curriculum module that can be readily inserted into an existing course. Three mini-BIOMAN conferences are planned for summer 2016.



In 2013, science educators from across the country attended a BIOMAN Conference at Montgomery County Community College to learn the latest techniques, training and education in biotechnology and biomanufacturing.

Photo courtesy of NBC2

Creating industry-endorsed, cutting-edge curriculum & textbook



Photograph courtesy of NBC2

Working with an industry subject matter expert, The Northeast Biomanufacturing Center Collaborative (NBC2) created the textbook, *Introduction to Biomanufacturing*, which is used by 15 colleges and three biomanufacturing companies.

To date, 15 college programs have adopted the textbook and three biomanufacturing companies—Genentech, Astra Zeneca and GlaxoSmithKline—have used the textbook to train incumbent technicians.

Future plans call for an updated and expanded second edition of *Introduction of Biomanufacturing* with a new unit on the manufacture of a drug product. Three new chapters will cover formulation, fill and finish of a drug product, making *Introduction to Biomanufacturing* the only comprehensive textbook on biomanufacturing.

The curriculum module materials are available through a hard copy laboratory manual, containing all the necessary standard operation procedures, batch records and instructor's guide, as well as electronically through NBC2's website at <http://biomanufacturing.org>.

To train the workforce in biomanufacturing and biotechnology, NBC2 has produced a suite of curricular materials, including a biomanufacturing laboratory manual, three individual upstream/downstream production laboratory manuals an industry subject matter expert (SME) authored *Introduction to Biomanufacturing*

Top-notch curriculum and equipment prepares students for research opportunities



Photos by Sandi Yanisko

Montgomery student Sean Heron participated in the Ursinus Pilot Program for Community College Research in the summer of 2015. He describes the project at the signing event of the Montgomery-Ursinus articulation transfer agreement in December 2015.

In summer 2015, Montgomery County Community College Biotechnology major Sean Heron had the unique opportunity to participate in the Ursinus College Pilot Program for Community College Research. The 24-year-old student from Royersford became part of a research team that studied neurological degeneration in a microscopic, worm-like organism, *Caenorhabditis elegans*, in order to understand and analyze the degeneration that occurs in Parkinson's disease. Although he was still a sophomore, Heron had learned the skills,

techniques and knowledge required to participate in this research through Montgomery's cutting-edge, hands-on Biotechnology program.

When Heron graduates from Montgomery in spring 2016, he plans to transfer into an accelerated partnership program with Thomas Jefferson University that will enable him to earn his bachelor's and master's degrees in two years.

Similarly, Chris Bray transferred from Montgomery's Biotechnology program to Thomas Jefferson University as part of the 3+1 program that allows students to complete three years at Montgomery and one year at Thomas Jefferson to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Bioscience Technologies. Bray is

currently employed at Charles River Laboratories as a research technician.

Another option is the 3+2 program that allows students to complete three years at Montgomery followed by two years at Thomas Jefferson to earn a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Bioscience Technologies. Recent graduates Eric Amereld and Viral Amin pursued this pathway; Amereld works as a research assistant at Thomas Jefferson and Amin works as a research technician at Rockland Immunochemicals.



University Center of Montgomery County Community College

Montgomery Community



Jenna Saylor of Pottstown finished her master's degree in Administration of Human Services through Chestnut Hill College's program at the University Center in December 2015.

Photo by Diane VanDyke

University Center

Provides pathways to advanced degree completion

By Diane VanDyke

Following his graduation from Boyertown Area Senior High, Thomas Schiel was undecided about what he wanted to do, so he got a maintenance job with Boyertown Area School District. Then, in 2001, he started taking classes at Montgomery County Community College's West Campus in Pottstown when he was 21 years old. However, after the birth of his daughter, life got busier, and he stopped taking classes.

Fast forward a few years, Schiel decided to return to Montgomery when he was 28 years old, and he finished his associate's degree in Liberal Studies in 2013, graduating summa cum laude and a proud member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Motivated by his accomplishment, he decided to continue with his bachelor's degree. With two young daughters, however, he needed to continue working full-time to support his family while taking classes part-time with minimal commuting time.

Fortunately, he found his solution at the University Center at Montgomery County Community College.



Thomas Schiel of Boyertown earned his associate's degree at Montgomery County Community College, his bachelor's degree through Albright College at the University Center and is pursuing a Master of Science in Administration of Human Services through Chestnut Hill College at the University Center.

"A counselor recommended Albright College's Bachelor of Science in Applied Psychology and Organizational Behavior program held at the University Center," Schiel recalls. "Located right in Pottstown, it was convenient, and with the accelerated classes, I could see the end."

Albright's 24-month program involves classes one evening per week from 6 to 10 p.m. at the University Center located at 95 S. Hanover Street, only a short distance from

Montgomery's South Hall building at 101 College Drive.

Schiel enrolled in the program, and two years later, he graduated in December 2015 with a 4.0 GPA and a member of the Alpha Sigma Lambda Honor Society.

"I was in a nice cohort of about 13 students," he said. "The program was challenging at times, but do-able, and I was able to work and still spend time with my family. I would recommend this program to anybody. If you do the work and stay on top of the assignments, you can accomplish your degree."

Schiel's story doesn't end with this recent achievement, though. He soon will be starting Chestnut Hill College's Master of Science in Administration of Human Services in spring 2016 at the Pottstown University Center. Similar in structure to Albright's program, this accelerated program will enable Schiel to have his master's degree by 2018, he says.

The University Center was formalized in 2006, although Albright College offered programs at both campuses for a few years prior.

continued on next page

In August 2012, the College moved the West Campus classes to 95 S. Hanover Street into a renovated 10,500 square-foot building, which was the formerly used by the American Automobile Association. The Center houses six classrooms with smart boards and videoconference technology and has a comfortable student lounge. The entire facility is secured with electronic key-card access and a front desk concierge to greet students and visitors.

Through the University Center's partnerships with select four-year institutions, students can now choose from 13 degrees and programs with Albright College, Chestnut Hill College, Immaculata University or Temple University. Programs are held at the University Center in Pottstown and in Parkhouse Hall at Central Campus in Blue Bell.

While Schiel continues his studies to earn his master's degree, Jenna Saylor of Pottstown finished her master's degree in Administration of Human Services through Chestnut Hill College's program at the University Center in December 2015.

"I started in September 2013 and usually took one accelerated course during each eight-week semester," said Saylor, who graduated from Owen J. Roberts High School in 2005 and from York College with her bachelor's degree in Sociology in 2009. "I worked full-time for a few years to pay off my school loans. I looked at other colleges for my master's, but they were not as flexible or convenient."

Furthermore, Saylor found the University Center's environment to be supportive and encouraging.

"The classes are small and intimate, with the average size around 10 students," she explains. "The classes are not lecture-based, but more like a roundtable discussion with everybody engaged."

The small class size also appealed to Dr. Mark McFadden, an Associate Professor of Mathematics at Montgomery, who recently completed his Doctorate of Education in Higher



Photo by Diane VanDyke

Marta Pecharo of Limerick completed her associate's degree in Human Services at Montgomery, followed by her bachelor's degree in Human Services from Chestnut Hill College and is now working on her Master of Science in Administration of Human Services through Chestnut Hill at the University Center.

Education through Immaculata University at Central Campus.

"I was part of Immaculata's inaugural Ed.D. in Higher Education, which began in fall 2011," McFadden's explains. "The program follows a cohort model, which really fostered a strong connection between my classmates and me. All the classes were run in a hybrid format. In the spring and fall semesters, we met one night every other week for about 4.5 hours and much of the work was completed online."

The convenience of the location and format of the program made his goal possible, he explains.

"Prior to this program, if I wanted to complete a doctoral degree, I would have to travel to Philadelphia or the Lehigh Valley. Because of my work and family requirements, I limited my search to local universities within a half hour from my house," he said, noting that he needed his doctorate for advancement in his career.

"Now that I am finished, I am overwhelmingly excited and proud that I did it. The fact that for the rest of my life, my students will call me 'Dr. McFadden' is just a great feeling, and I am glad I finished."

Convenience was a key factor for Calista Boyer to earn her master's degree in Curriculum

Instruction and Technology from Temple University in Pottstown in 2005.

"I reside in Pottstown, and Temple provided everything I needed at the Center, including counseling, testing and making payments. The classes were offered at convenient times, so I was able to continue working full-time as a teacher," said Boyer, who is the principal at Lincoln Elementary School in Pottstown. "The degree opened more opportunities for me."

After obtaining her master's, she became an instructional coach teaching reading programs to elementary school teachers throughout the district. She also continued her education, earning her principal certification from Alvernia University in 2006 and then her reading

specialist certification from Cabrini College. She became a principal for Edgewood Elementary School in 2011, and when the school closed, she moved into her current position.

"The program was phenomenal and the professors were great," she said.

For other students, like Marta Pecharo of Limerick, the University Center allows her to pursue her encore career. She completed her associate's degree in Human Services at Montgomery, followed by her bachelor's degree in Human Services from Chestnut Hill College and is now working on her Master of Science in Administration of Human Services through Chestnut Hill at the University Center in Pottstown.

"The transition has been smooth, and it's great to be able to complete my degrees at an accelerated pace," she said. "The advising is extraordinary with advisors who will guide and reassure you. This is truly the jewel in the crown for Montgomery County."

**For more information:
mc3.edu/universitycenter**

For updates, like and follow the University Center on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/UniversityCenterMC3.

"I owe all of my academic and professional accomplishments to Montgomery County Community College. This was the place that transformed my life. Making a planned gift was as easy as adding the College to the list of beneficiaries on my 401(k). Now, I have a whole career ahead of me to work toward creating my legacy."

—Jan Kargulewicz '09

You can begin planning your future gift to Montgomery County Community College at any time during your life. And you don't need to be wealthy to make a big difference. By creating a legacy through a planned gift, you can help make the dreams of academic achievement for many of our students a reality beyond your lifetime. Moreover, planned giving can offer significant financial benefits to you as a donor, too.

For more information about planned giving, the benefits and the difference you can make, call 215-641-6529 or email lbuesto@mc3.edu.



Montgomery County
Community College
Foundation



Alumni share stories of success & gratitude

By Alana J. Mauger '97

Standing from left: Montgomery Interim President Dr. James Links, Rising Start Alumnus Jan Kargulewicz, Patrick Cunnane and Alumni Board Chair John Caperilla. Seated from left: Mary Ann Pitts and honorary alumni Joseph and Kathy Gallagher. Plymouth Township Police Officer Bradley Fox was honored posthumously.

Photo by Sandi Yanisko

Passion. Service. Respect. Dedication. Gratitude.

These are the themes connecting each heartfelt presentation as this year's honorees—Patrick Cunnane, the late Bradley Fox, Mary Ann Pitts, Jan Kargulewicz and Joseph and Kathy Gallagher—were inducted into Montgomery County Community College's Alumni Hall of Fame.

Officiated by Alumni Association Board Chair John Caperilla ('01), the November ceremony at the College's Central Campus in Blue Bell was filled with celebration, as inductees were introduced with short biographic videos before taking the stage to share stories of their success and to offer thanks to those who helped them along the way.



Patrick Cunnane

Patrick Cunnane, or PJ as he is known, turned a lifelong passion for riding bikes into a successful career in the bicycle industry. Today, he is president and CEO of Advanced Sports International (ASI), headquartered in Philadelphia, best known for its Fuji brand of bicycles.

“This is a job I dreamed of as a 12-year-old kid sweeping floors at Keswick Cycles in Glenside,” said Cunnane. “It’s a dream that would have never come true had it not been for Montgomery County Community College.”

A first generation college student, Cunnane spent four semesters at the College en route to earning a bachelor’s degree from Temple University.

“I’m humbled by this unlikely honor,” shared a grinning Cunnane during his induction. “In high school, I didn’t think about taking the SATs or going to college. I had a job; I worked at the local bike shop!”

He’s come a long way. Under his leadership, ASI has grown to over \$100 million in sales with distribution in more than 50 countries.

Cunnane serves on Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter’s Bicycling Advocacy Board and as Chairman of the National Foundation for The Presidents’ Council on Fitness Sport and Nutrition, earning awards from organizations like the Bicycle Product Suppliers Association and the League of American Bicyclists for his advocacy efforts.

Plus, in a very recent claim to fame, Cunnane was instrumental in giving Pope Francis a Breezer bike as a way to highlight the Pope’s commitment to sustainable, affordable transportation. during the Pope’s recent visit to Philadelphia.



Bradley Fox

Police Officer Bradley Fox ’07 was inducted into the Hall of Fame posthumously in honor of his distinguished career, which was cut short when he was killed in the line of duty on Sept. 13, 2012.

“I know that Brad would have loved this award,” said New Hanover Township Chief of Police and 2008 Hall of Fame inductee Kevin McKeon ’00, who accepted the award in Fox’s honor.

McKeon shared that being a K9 officer was Fox’s “dream job.”

Fox was serving as a K9 Officer with the Plymouth Township Police Department at the time of his death; he and K9 partner Nick, a Belgian Malinois, graduated from the Philadelphia Police Canine Academy seven months prior.

Nick, who was also injured in the shooting, has retired and lives with Fox’s wife Lynsay and their children Kadence and Bradley.

Before graduating from Montgomery County Community College’s Municipal Police Academy and joining the Plymouth Township Police Department in 2007, Fox was a decorated Staff Sergeant with the United States Marine Corps for 10 years, during which he saw two tours of duty in Iraq.

“Bradley Fox is a true hero and role model,” Caperilla offered during the ceremony. “The College is deeply proud to honor his service and sacrifice.”



Mary Ann Pitts

In 1975, Mary Ann Pitts ’78 was nervous registering for her first classes at Montgomery County Community College. Twenty-eight years later, she retired as a beloved professor from the very place she got her start.

“I always loved math,” said Pitts, who went on to graduate with advanced degrees in mathematics from Gwynedd Mercy and Arcadia universities.

In what she describes as being “a very rewarding career,” Pitts taught mathematics for 25 years at College, including several years spent as Math Lab administrator. After her retirement 2003, she was given “professor emerita” status.

“I would never have had this wonderful career, with wonderful experiences and wonderful people, if it hadn’t been for Montco,” she shared during her Hall of Fame induction.

Today, Pitts divides her time between Pennsylvania and Florida, and she enjoys playing golf and bridge and spending time with her grandchildren.

Of course, she is still making an impact on the College’s students through a Foundation scholarship she established for female math majors.

“You can be very proud of your community college,” she shared. “It’s a wonderful place.”

“I know that Brad would have loved this award,” —Kevin McKeon ’00



Jan Kargulewicz

Jan Kargulewicz '09 may be this year's "Rising Star" inductee, but don't let that fool you. He has shined academically and professionally since enrolling at the College in 2007.

His Montgomery County Community College resume is impressive: Honors Program participant, Coca-Cola Silver Scholar, All-Pennsylvania Academic Team member, *The Montgazette* editor-in-chief, Writers' Club vice president and Commencement Speaker, among others.

These activities, Kargulewicz said, helped build confidence. But even more important are the relationships cultivated along the way. In gratitude to those who offered their support, he shared five "thank yous" during his induction speech, the first of which he delivered to now-retired professor of English Patricia Nestler.

"In my second semester at Montco, Pat Nestler picked me out to help with the executive committee of the Writers' Club. I was taking a creative writing class, and she told me she identified in me some leadership qualities," explained Kargulewicz.

Nestler's words made a significant impact on his future.

"She was the first person to ever say something like that to me," he noted.

Kargulewicz transferred to Columbia University and graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Magna Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in sociology. Today, he is a project manager at Vanguard, where began his career as a participant in Vanguard's Accelerated Development Program.

He's also still connected to the College and currently serves as Vice Chair of the Alumni Board of Directors.



Joseph and Kathy Gallagher

The Gallaghers, Joe and Kathy, believe in the power of education. Their strong support of Montgomery County Community College's mission to expand student access and success earned them a place in the College's Hall of Fame as Honorary Alumni.

"It's my pleasure to volunteer for such an incredible organization that's doing such valuable work and getting results for its students," Kathy offered during her acceptance.

The couple served as co-chairs for the Foundation's Futures Rising campaign, which raised \$10.5 million in support of student scholarships and services. Joe is also a member of the Foundation's Board of Directors, and he co-chaired the College's Strides for Scholarships 5K for several years, raising more than \$20,000.

In 2014, the Gallaghers received the Council for Resource Development's national Community College Benefactor Award for their commitment and service to the College.

"Thank you so much to Montgomery County Community College for this great honor," Joe told event attendees. "It's rather humbling."

When they're not working on behalf of the College, Joe is owner and president of Gallagher Fluid Seals in King of Prussia, and Kathy is the executive director of institutional advancement at the Country Day School of the Sacred Heart in Bryn Mawr.

In addition to College officials and family and friends of the inductees, the evening was attended by several dignitaries, including Pennsylvania Senators Arthur Haywood and

Bob Mensch; Pennsylvania Representatives Mary Jo Daley, Madeleine Dean, Kate Harper and Tom Quigley; MCCC Board of Trustees Chairman and 2003 Alumni Hall of Fame inductee Michael D'Aniello '78; and President and CEO of Achieving the Dream Dr. Karen A. Stout.

With the new inductees, a total of 74 individuals have been selected from the College's 55,000-plus alumni for induction into the Alumni Hall of Fame during the past 13 years.

Minute-long biographic video introductions of this year's Hall of Fame inductees can be viewed on the College's You-Tube channel at youtube.com/mc3media.

"In my second semester at Montco, Pat Nestler picked me out to help with the executive committee of the Writers' Club. I was taking a creative writing class, and she told me she identified in me some leadership qualities...she was the first person to ever say something like that to me."

—Jan Kargulewicz '09

Alumni Chair's Message



As the new Chair of the Alumni Association, I look forward to serving you and the College. I also want to express my sincere thanks to Patti Thomas for her service as Chair for the past three years. I look forward to continuing the progress that was made under her leadership, particularly with our new strategic plan which is detailed below. For me, the role of leading an alumni association is not new. I have served as president for my other alma mater with both the Temple University Young Alumni and College of Engineering Alumni Associations, and I look forward to bringing those experiences to Montgomery County Community College.

Several months ago, we completed a Comprehensive Strategic Plan, with short-and long-term goals to connect and engage our alumni. We also defined our mission as follows: "The Montgomery County Community College Alumni Board establishes life-long relations between the College and its Alumni. It fosters fellowship through activities that promote recruitment, retention, advancement of, and relationship with the College community. The Board commits to maintain a culture of engagement and philanthropy among students, transitioning them into dedicated alumni."

Additionally, to work on our engagement goals, we created four committees:

- **Technology Committee.** Members of this committee will expand our social media reach to locate and engage alumni and develop an overall communications policy.
- **Alumni Outreach and Engagement Committee.** Members will attend College events, develop and assist with alumni trips and activities and overall help promote the College, Alumni Relations and Foundation and spread the word about our expanding Alumni Benefits program.
- **Student Outreach and Engagement.** Members of this committee will participate in College Open Houses, high school outreach events, become involved with student clubs, serve as mentors and offer assistance to the College's Career Services.
- **Alumni Board/Foundation Board Ad-Hoc Committee.** Members will primarily work with the Alumni Board Executive Committee on activities that require the Foundation Board's coordinated direction, guidance, and acceptance/approval.

If you are interested in getting more involved with any of our committees, please free to contact me by e-mail at alumni@mc3.edu. I look forward to seeing you at one of our future events.

Sincerely,
John Caperilla '01
Chair

Current Board Members

John Caperilla '01
Chair

Jan Kargulewicz '09
Vice Chair

Nicholas Natale '11
Secretary/Treasurer

Andrew Bender '96

Louise Linden '74

Jeanne LaSorda '82

Nicole Reggia '08

Alexander Short '09

Rodolfo Tellez '93

Patti Thomas '01

Keith Tobin '11

Jeffrey Vietri '99

William Ziegler '91



Alumni Board welcomes new members & appoints officers

Montgomery County Community College's Alumni Association Board of Directors elected the following officers for the 2015-16 year: John Caperilla '01, Perkiomenville, as Chair; Jan Kargulewicz '09, King of Prussia, as Vice Chair; and Nicholas Natale '11, Pottstown, as Secretary/Treasurer.

Additionally, the Board appointed two new members—J. Alexander Short '09, Washington, DC, and Jeffrey Vietri '99, Bridgeport.

After serving as Vice Chair for the past three years, John Caperilla is eager to serve in his new position as Chair of the Board. He has been a member of the Alumni Board since 2012. Following his graduation from Montgomery in 2001, he continued his studies at Temple University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering Technology in 2003. He currently works as a project manager of transportation at Borton Lawson Engineering in Bethlehem.

Following his graduation from Montgomery in 2009, Jan Kargulewicz earned his bachelor's degree in Sociology at Columbia University in 2012, graduating magna cum laude. He has been a member of the Alumni Board since 2013 and currently works as a project manager for The Vanguard Group, Malvern. While a

student at Montgomery, Kargulewicz was an All-Pennsylvania Academic Team member, a Silver Medal Coca-Cola Scholar winner, student commencement speaker and editor of *The Montgazette* student newspaper. At Columbia, he received the Dean's Citation for Service for three years and was awarded the Alumni Key Award.

Nicholas Natale was a dual enrollment student at Montgomery's West Campus in Pottstown, where he majored in Liberal Studies and earned his associate's degree while completing high school. He then earned his bachelor's degree in Computer and Information Technology with a concentration in software engineering and systems analysis in May 2013 from Harrisburg University of Science and Technology. While a student at Montgomery, Natale was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, worked as a peer mentor and was an All-Pennsylvania Academic Team member. He has been involved with the Alumni Board since 2012.

Following his graduation from Montgomery in 2009, Alexander Short continued his education at the University of Virginia College of Arts and Sciences, where he earned his bachelor's degree in Politics and American Government.

After interning for Congressman Fitzpatrick in Washington, DC, Short then worked as a Proctor for the United States Senate Page Program for a year. Currently, he is studying for the LSAT and preparing applications for law school, which he will begin in the fall of 2016. While a student at Montgomery, he was served as Senate Chairman for the Student Government Association, contributed to *The Montgazette* student newspaper, served as editor of the Contributor literary magazine and participated in the Honors program.

Jeffrey Vietri graduated from Montgomery in 1999 with associate's degree in Social Science. He then earned his bachelor's degree in Psychology from St. Mary's College of Maryland, followed by his master's and doctorate degrees in Psychology from Rutgers University. He is currently the Director of Health Outcomes Research for Kantar Health. Additionally, he has taught psychology courses at Albright College, Rutgers University and Princeton University.

Members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors can be elected to serve up to three two-year terms. Through officer and committee positions, Board members help to increase alumni support, conduct alumni outreach and participate in College and alumni events.

Great Benefits for Montgomery County Community College Alumni!

Free Career Services, including counseling, free e-job searches, and free résumé postings. Call 215-641-6577 for an appointment, and find area jobs at collegecentral.com/mc3.

Ten percent discount on Performing Arts for any ticketed event at the College. Call 215-641-6518 for ticket sales or visit mc3.edu/livelyarts.

Free library and computer access, available on a walk-in basis with your Alumni Association membership card. Call 215-641-6596 (Central) or 610-718-1864 (West) for more information.

PerksCard Program, which includes discounts for auto and home insurance through Ameriprise Auto & Home Insurance, as well as local discounts at stores and restaurants. Visit member.perksconnect.com and create a login ID and password with the group code "MCCCalumni."

Ameriprise Auto & Home Insurance - Montgomery has teamed up with Ameriprise Auto & Home Insurance to offer high-quality auto insurance at very competitive rates. Call 1-888-554-9669 or visit <http://ameriprise.com/mccc> for free, no-obligation quote.



For more information, visit mc3.edu/alumni.

Class Notes

1969

John P. Kolb, Jr., Las Vegas, Nevada, is the owner of Wizard Stones, LLC, since 2001. Wizard Stones are individually produced soap dishes, coasters, incense burners, carvings and tumbled stones from southern Utah. During the past 15 years while he was pursuing his astronomy passion, he created miniature galaxies and nebulas similar to what he saw when using a telescope. He and his wife Betsy started by taking a glass-working course. They then ventured into flame-working using a gas-fueled torch to melt rods of clear and colored glass and adding powder for additional dimensions. After perfecting their technique, the Kolbs started participating in various shows and have won several awards for their artwork.

Prior to Wizard Stones, Kolb was the president/CEO of Snow Canyon Clinic for three years and the Regional Vice President for Coca-Cola Bottling Company in Philadelphia where he was employed from 1967-1998. After graduating from Montgomery County Community College, Kolb earned his bachelor's degree in business from Delaware Valley College and his master's degree from Drexel University in urban management and labor relations. Kolb was inducted into Montgomery County Community College's Alumni Hall of Fame in 2009.

1979

William Andrew Leneweaver of Tacoma, Washington, was recently transferred to the U.S. Army Retired Reserve after a 33-year career in the U.S. Army – Active Duty, Reserve & National Guard. He is currently employed as the Deputy Washington State E911 Coordinator for Enterprise Systems and is responsible for the statewide E911 system in Washington state.

1988

After graduating from Montgomery, **Debbie Dickinson** of West Chester, PA, obtained her bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Pennsylvania in 1991 and then her law degree from Harvard Law School in 1995. She practiced law in Georgia for several years in the areas of labor, employment and employee benefits. She is currently an entrepreneur with several business interests and is pursuing her passion for teaching.

1989

Union Community Bank has hired **William Hoyer**, Windsor, as vice president of residential mortgage origination. Hoyer previously was a retail mortgage sales manager for Santander in York and Lancaster counties.

2006

Alex Fizz was recognized as an unsung hero in *The Mercury*, a Pottstown-based newspaper, for his dedication and work as the camp director of Camp Rainbow in Schwenksville—a

summer camp for children ages 7-16 who are financially, emotionally and/or socially challenged. The seven-week camp serves 70 campers per week and operates on donations and grants. Fizz also works as an educational consultant for Thom Stecher & Associates, the agency that provides staffing for the camp. He often checks in with campers throughout the school year to see how they are doing and works on fundraising and training counselors.

2011

Caroline DiLorenzo of King of Prussia is a registered nurse at Paoli Hospital. She graduated from Montgomery's Nursing program in 2011.

Alexander Komatick was sworn in as an officer for the Allentown Police Department in September 2015. In addition to graduating from the College's Municipal Police Academy, Komatick also attended DeSales University.

Jocelyn Moye became editor of *Radius Magazine* in August 2015 and produced her first issue in September 2015. Founded in 2008 by Pearson Publishing, *Radius* was initially known as *tdown* and promoted the artistic culture Doylestown and central Bucks County. The magazine was then merged with sister magazines, *54* and *Latitude*, and now represents a wider region of cultural communities, including Bucks, Hunterdon and Northampton counties. While a student at Montgomery County Community College, Moye served as editor of the College's student newspaper, *The Montgazette*. She earned her bachelor's degree at Bryn Mawr College.

2012

Joe Sapienza and Tyrone Brown debuted their documentary, "Broken Dreams, the Man I Always Wanted to Be," featuring renowned artist James Dupree and his fight to save his studio from eminent domain, on Nov. 4, 2015, at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia. As shown in the video, the City of Philadelphia tried to take Dupree's property in Mantua (West Philadelphia) where his art studio is located by exercising its eminent domain rights. Dupree fought the City and won and continues to work and teach classes in his studio. Sapienza, who now works at NFL Films, and alumnus Sean King created "The History of Montco, a Documentary," which they shared with the College during its 50th anniversary. Copies of the Montco documentary are available at the College's libraries and on vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/144588493> and <https://vimeo.com/145379651>.

2013

Leonard Bazemore donated the house he owned at 52 W. Basin Street, Norristown, to Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County and donated \$50,000 to help with the costs of renovating it. The house was the former home of his childhood best friend. Bazemore is the owner and gallery director of the Bazemore Gallery in Manayunk and formerly served on the College's Foundation Board.

Stephanie Matthews and business partner Allison Mildenberg opened a new dance studio, Dance Time Dance Academy, in Upper Dublin in September 2015. Matthews has been dancing since the age of 7, is a Hatboro-Horsham High School graduate and has an associate's degree in early childhood education and a certificate in entrepreneurship from the College in 2015.

2014

Jason Kesack was sworn in as an officer for the Allentown Police Department in September 2015. In addition to graduating from the College's Municipal Police Academy, Kesack holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Kutztown University.

2015

John Beck, Hatboro, was sworn in as a Middletown Township's newest police officer on Oct. 5, 2015. He graduated from Upper Moreland High School in 2009 and from Temple University in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice, and then graduated from the Police Academy at Montgomery County Community College in March 2015. Beck is also a sergeant in the U.S. Army Reserve and is a member of the Reserve's 485th Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Battalion.

In Memoriam

Ryan A. Shackelford '09 (July 28, 1988-June 20, 2015) of Annapolis, Maryland, graduated from Abington Senior High School in 2006. He then attended Montgomery County Community College, where he graduated Cum Laude with associate's degree in Liberal Studies. At Montgomery, he served as the African American Student League President (2007-08). In 2008, he mentored high school seniors in the Upward Bound Program. He then transferred to Temple University to pursue a degree in kinesiology. During this time, he entered the United States Air Force. Because he excelled in languages, he was selected to enter into an intensive 64-week program at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California, where he successfully completed a grueling program obtaining a certification as a Cryptologic Linguist in 2012. He earned "Distinguished Graduate" honors, attaining a 97 percent grade point average.

As a Senior Airman in the United States Air Force, he distinguished himself by meritorious service as Distributed Common Ground System Cryptologic Operator, 94th Intelligence Squadron, 707th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Group, 70th Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Wing, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland. He provided overwatch during 98 reconnaissance sorties, tipping over 1,300 insurgent locations to friendly ground force commanders, directly resulting in at least 14 terrorists and insurgents being removed from the battlespace. His efforts uncovered over 165 potential ambushes and saved the lives of over 10,000 deployed service members and Coalition Forces.

Established in 1983, the Montgomery County Community College Foundation operates exclusively to provide support and assistance to the College in developing the programs, facilities and services to carry out the mission and functions of the College. The Foundation carries out this purpose by encouraging, soliciting, receiving, holding, investing and administering gifts of funds and property, and making expenditures to, or for the benefit of, the College. For more information, visit <http://www.mc3.edu/alumni-donors/foundation>

Foundation Board Members

Foundation Board Members

Dolores M. Lare, Chair

Joseph W. Gallagher, Vice Chair

James King, Treasurer/Secretary

Rob Ayerle

Kenneth D. Baker

Richard D. Cottom, CPP

Michael J. D'Aniello, Esquire

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Kwan Morrow

Melissa Motz

Scott Rau

Anisha Robinson Keys

A. Stephen Rosa

Anthony Rosado

Karen A. Stout, Ed.D.

Lena Tella Gelenberg

Maureen S. Thompson

Roger Willig

Honorary Board Members

Alma R. Jacobs

Joseph P. Mann

William E. Strasburg

Message from Foundation Chair



Dear Alumni, Friends and Supporters,

During recent months, construction work is transforming the Physical Education building at Central Campus into a state-of-the-art Health Sciences Center. It is an exciting time for the College to see this transformation, knowing it will add new in-demand health care programs for students.

As students enroll in these and existing programs, they do so with unique life circumstances. Montgomery's varied student body includes veterans returning from military service, first-generation college students learning how to navigate new processes, working parents juggling myriad family responsibilities and career changers seeking additional courses and credentials. The College welcomes and supports all students with an array of customized programs to ensure their successes.

In addition to updating facilities and providing support, the College strives to meet the workforce needs of the County by networking with professionals and employers and enhancing curricula and programs that will educate and train students for 21st century employment demands. Because of its workforce development record, the College received a generous matching grant from the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) in 2015 to continue its work.

Updating facilities, supporting student success and providing for workforce needs—the College accomplishes all these tasks while prudently managing its resources. We deeply appreciate the support we receive from generous alumni, supporters and friends.

However, with the vast amount of ongoing work, philanthropic opportunities continue to increase, including named-giving opportunities for funding interior spaces at the Health Sciences Center, supporting specialized programs and matching donations for MCEDC's grant. We invite you to share the news about the College's work, visit our campuses and consider investing in our students and Montgomery County's economy.

Thank you,

Dolores Lare

Chair

Montgomery County Community College Foundation

Leading Women in Philanthropy Giving Circle Offers Opportunities



Photo by Sarah Yamisko

From left, Vice President for Development and External Relations Arline Stephan (far left) with several grant recipients—Hetal Doshi, DySheena Donerson, Christine Fariss, Winsome Grenyion-Smith and Lavinia Soliman—and Leading Women in Philanthropy Co-Chair Dolores Lare (missing from photo: Leading Women Co-Chair Melissa Motz).

The Leading Women in Philanthropy (LWIP) giving circle awarded more than \$13,000 in grants for several programs that will assist female students achieve their educational goals and more.

Created in 2013, Leading Women in Philanthropy is a region-wide network that focuses on developing women's leadership and philanthropic skills. Through their combined contributions, members of LWIP are making an impact at Montgomery by creating new opportunities for achievement, connecting and collaborating with like-minded female leaders and changing the lives of other women.

The 2015-16 grant-funded programs include:

- Support for the Legislator Shadowing Program conducted by Political Science Assistant Professor Jodi Empol-Schwartz and Executive Director of Government Relations and Special Projects Margaret Lee Clark.
- A Biotechnology Summer Internship conducted by Assistant Professor of Biotechnology Margaret Bryans and Trade

Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Grant Project/Director Biomanufacturing John O'Neill.

- A Rising Star Female Chef Culinary Scholarship for a student at The Culinary Arts Institute. This scholarship covers the costs of tuition and related costs to attend CAI.
 - Child Care Tuition Support for Single Mothers at the College's Children's Center at Central Campus in Blue Bell.
- For the students, the grants provided more than programs and internships.

"This grant gave me the confidence to apply for a part-time position in the Microbiology Department at the College," said Winsome Grenyion-Smith, who participated in the Biotechnology Summer Internship. "Not only did the summer internship help me re-enter the workforce, but it also has given me the opportunity to make a presentation at the Advanced Technology Education Principal Investigator's meeting in Washington D.C."

"For me, stability and routine are the two things I knew I needed to make it through school as a single mother and that is what this funding has provided me," said DySheena Donerson. "I am able to focus more on my studies, because I know my son is in good hands at an excellent child care center when I am in class."

LWIP members include alumnae, parents, community members, employees, and friends who recognize that women as donors have the capability of making a tremendous impact on the College and students. While women who wish to participate in LWIP may join at any time, an annual membership event is held each spring. All contributions are appreciated; members who give \$1,000 or more will be invited to participate in the voting process to determine how proceeds are spent each year.

For more information about Leading Women in Philanthropy, contact Brad Smith at 215-461-1139 or bsmith@mc3.edu.

Honoring a Vision

An anonymous gift honors a supporter of women and education

The first gift was small, a few hundred dollars, enough to sponsor a school song competition. From there, the gifts grew—scholarships for female veterans, STEM students, minority students, and nurses, as well as support for the College’s Lively Arts Series. Individually these gifts were impactful, but together they totaled a groundbreaking \$1 million in support.

This incredible stream of generosity was inspired by Dr. Pamela Jean Jackson Malik. Dr. Malik, a strong believer that anyone, young or old, could pursue and education, found the College to be a place where students of all backgrounds and interests could discover opportunities for success.

Thanks to an anonymous donor, Dr. Malik’s support for education will live on at Montgomery. The \$1 million in gifts will support programs and scholarships for female students— all named for important individuals in Dr. Malik’s life.

A long-time Montgomery County resident, Dr. Malik briefly attended the College, studying statistics to prepare for her doctorate in nursing at the University of Pennsylvania. She loved the campus and was inspired by the students she met, but she also saw the great need for scholarships support. After she passed away in 2014, an anonymous donor decided to continue her legacy at Montgomery County Community College.

Campaign video captures CASE Circle of Excellence Gold Award

A video relating the stories of Montgomery County Community College students pursuing the dream of higher education captured the sole Gold award for long video in the Council for Advancement and Support of Education’s (CASE) 2015 Circle of Excellence Awards Program. The video, Futures Rising: The Campaign for Montgomery County Community College, was produced by SteegeThomson Communications of Philadelphia for the College’s first ever institution-wide fundraising campaign.



Dr. Pamela Jean Jackson Malik during a visit to the College in 2014.

MCEDC matching grant invests in education and training of tomorrow's workforce

In 2015, Montgomery County Community College received the largest private matching grant in its history: \$2,177,471 from the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC). This exceptional gift establishes an endowment supporting the College's expertise in educating and training students for regional jobs and careers while challenging the philanthropic community to match the funds.

The result of the combined philanthropy will be a \$4 million endowment will provide a reliable income for the College to continue its work, including:

Creating new programs to meet the workforce needs of constantly evolving industries, such as technology, pharmaceuticals, engineering, culinary arts, and health care;

Providing certificate and training programs to assist incumbent employees with learning new

skills, earning credentials for advancement and making career transitions; and

Scholarships for students, especially veterans, pursuing careers in high-demand industries that spur the future growth of Montgomery County's economy.

As of Dec. 31, 2015, approximately \$1,071,348 of the total needed to match the \$2,177,471 grant has been received. To successfully meet the requirements of the grant, the remaining approximately \$1,106,123 must be obtained by May 31, 2020.

The first distribution--a total of \$108,000--went to four initiatives: Innovation & Sustainability Hub Learning Lab for Hydroponics and Aquaponics, Advanced Manufacturing Training and Support, Workforce Skills Modules in Info Technology and Manufacturing and Software Developer Academy. MCEDC's grant starts a new chapter



in community college philanthropy, and its matching gift challenge presents the community with the opportunity to invest in tomorrow's workforce.

To discuss funding opportunities or personal goals in making a gift, please contact the Foundation at 215-641-6529.

11th Annual Leading Women Symposium and Golf Experience raises more than \$40k for scholarships, programs



The 2014-15 Leading Women committee members included (back row, from left): Nanci Ziegler, Carolyn Carluccio, Cindy Diccianni and Crista Lowrie. Front row, from left: Regina Lowrie, Alma Jacobs, Karen A. Stout, Renee Chesler and Suzanne Holloman. Not pictured: Carol Crisci, Denise Gargan, Kim Levin, Susan Markham and Melissa Motz.

A few showers did not dampen the efforts of Montgomery County Community College Foundation's 11th Annual Leading Women Symposium and Golf Experience held at Talamore Country Club in Ambler in June 2015. The successful event raised more than \$40,500 with 139 participants and 33 sponsors.

Since its inception, the Leading Women

leadership and networking event has generated more than \$300,000 for scholarships and career and leadership development programs for female students.

The Foundation decided last year to rename the popular event the Karen A. Stout Leading Women Symposium and Golf Experience in honor of the College's former long-time president, who was one of the event founders. Additionally, Dolores Lare was honored with the 2015 Leading Women Award for her leadership and service as the chair of the Foundation Board and as co-chair of Leading Women in Philanthropy.

Another highlight of the symposium was keynote speaker Pennsylvania's Secretary of Transportation Leslie S. Richards, who spoke about her leadership roles and managing the responsibilities her career and family life. Participants also heard from Jennifer Kim, one of the 2014-15 Leading Women in Philanthropy grant-funded internship recipients.

The Foundation thanks the generous sponsors

of the event: Wilmington Trust, Annodyne, PNC, Fox Rothschild, Bryn Mawr Trust, Huntingdon Valley Bank, Baker Tilly, Gwynedd Mercy University, RML Advisors, Diccianni Financial Group, Merle Norman Cosmetics, Nance Diccianni, Independence Blue Cross, Lifestyles Design, Wendy G. Rothstein, Saul Ewing LLP, SteegeThomson Communications, Karen Stout, Tompkins VIST Bank, Vesper Property Group, Allied Barton Security Services, CRW Graphics, Kate Harper, Horizon Health Care Consultants, In Memory of Elva Legere Clements, Innovative Print and Media Group, Alma Jacobs, Barbara Kahn, Motz Wealth Management, Movad, Maria G. Weston, Whole Foods Market and Univest Bank and Trust Co.

SAVE THE DATE: The 2016 Karen A. Stout Leading Women Symposium and Golf Experience will be held on Monday, June 6, 2016, at Talamore Country Club. For more information including sponsorship opportunities, email foundation@mc3.edu or call 215-461-1139.

Art highlights importance of preservation

Forests with trails to travel and explore, rolling meadows for birdwatching and pristine streams for fishing—these are just a few of the special aspects of the region’s unique open spaces highlighted in the artwork of more than 50 artists in Natural Lands Trust’s “Embrace Open Space” art exhibition held at the College’s Fine Arts Center Gallery at Central Campus in Blue Bell, Sept. 9-25, 2015.

The original artwork featured in the exhibit showcased the natural features found in the

region’s preserved areas, connecting visitors to nature and emphasizing the importance of keeping these open spaces. The show reflected the nonprofit conservation organization’s mission “to protect the forests, fields, streams and wetlands that are essential to the sustainability of life in eastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey.”

“Our natural lands, trails and greenways persist as valued community treasures to be protected and enjoyed. They provide

opportunity for recreation, contemplation, and as seen in this exhibition, inspiration,” said Dulcie F. Flaharty, Natural Lands Trust Vice President of Community Partnerships.

The show was sponsored by Univest Corporation, Harvest Seasonal Grill & Wine Bar and Valley Forge Tourism and Convention Board, which support Natural Lands Trust and its conservation efforts and increasing public awareness about the importance of preserving open spaces.



Photo by Sandi Yanisko

Embrace Open Space’ art exhibit highlighted beauty and specialness of the region’s open space areas. Back row, from left: former Montgomery County Commissioner Bruce Castor, Univest Corporation President and CEO Jeffrey Schweitzer, Univest Sr. Financial Advisor Gary Brown and Montgomery County Community College Interim President Dr. James Links. Front row, from left: Natural Lands Trust President Molly Morrison, Natural Lands Trust Vice President of Community Partnerships Dulcie F. Flaharty, Harvest Seasonal Grill & Wine Bar General Manager Paul Camacci and State Representative Kate Harper.



Philadelphia-based sculptors Shane and Julia Stratton installed “The Apartment” sculpture by Helen Mirkil in Thompson Circle in front of the Fine Arts Center at Central Campus in Blue Bell. Mirkil is loaning the sculpture to the College for display. From left: Artist Helen Mirkil, Galleries Director Holly Cairns and sculptors Julia and Shane Stratton

Photo by Diane VandVye

Art around campus

A new sculpture now graces Thompson Circle in front of the Fine Arts Center at Central Campus in Blue Bell, thanks to painter, sculptor and poet Helen Mirkil of Lansdale, who is loaning the artwork to the College.

“The Apartment” stands nine feet in height and weighs approximately 350 pounds. It is symbolic in many ways to Mirkil, including the time period when she first lived in an apartment with her stepfather and sister.

“When I made ‘The Apartment,’ I was studying the architecture of Antonio Gaudi. I admired the organic design sense he had

for windows. I also was studying sculptors who were making large works out of earth, rocks and trees,” said Mirkil, who holds a BFA from the University of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (Sculpture), as well as an MFA from the Pennsylvania Academy (Painting). Additionally, she attended Barnstone Studios in Coplay, PA, where she studied composition and design.

To create the piece, Mirkil used plaster and burlap over wire mess with steel armature for support. She hired Shane and Julia Stratton, who have more than 40 years of combined

experience in mold making, bronze casting, modeling and enlarging, to cast the sculpture in bronze with a patina finish.

The Strattons—who have done sculpture conservation and patination work on collections at Lehigh University, Ursinus College, Grounds for Sculpture, Curtis Institute of Music, among others—installed the sculpture on a customized base. Their work appears locally and across the globe, from mold making and bronze casting Steve Layne’s 10-foot Joe Frazier monument in Philadelphia to modeling Han Haacke’s 14-foot Gift Horse in London, England.

Strong season for Mustangs Women's Volleyball

By Robert Kent



Photo by Bob Kent

The women's volleyball team advanced to Region XIX, Final Four under second-year Coach Rita Rivera and finished 13-7 overall; 10-3 in the Eastern Pennsylvania Athletic Conference. Players included: Victoria "Tori" Biggins (Plymouth Whitmarsh HS / Nursing); Hiba Elrhanjaoul (Upper Dublin HS / Liberal Studies); Katelyn Geiger (Perkiomen Valley HS / Early Education); Courtney Gill (North Penn HS / Business Admin); Emma Hagel (Norristown HS / Business Admin); Samantha Lamina (Bishop McDevitt HS / Social Science); Anna Morgan (Wissahickon HS / Exercise Science & Wellness); Colby Shackelford (Wissahickon HS / Liberal Studies); and Chelsea Smyrski (Pottsgrove HS / Liberal Studies).

For a second consecutive year, the women's volleyball team advanced to Region XIX, Final Four.

The Mustangs met their match, however, as the top-seeded Northampton Community College Spartans won in the Region XIX semifinal match on Oct. 24, 2015, at the Arthur L. Scott Center on Northampton's campus.

After managing a mere nine points in the first set, Montgomery showed remarkable resiliency in posting 15 and 18 points as they were swept by the Spartans (25-9, 25-15, 25-18).

Montgomery's three second-year players made the most of their final match as Mustangs. Outside hitter Courtney Gill registered 11 kills to go along with 13 digs and 5 service aces,

while fellow outside hitter Colby Shackelford had 10 kills and 10 digs. Setter Victoria Biggins had 16 assists.

Northampton, meanwhile, went on to secure its fourth Region XIX Championship later that afternoon, downing third-seeded Bergen Community College.

Still, Head Volleyball Coach Rita Rivera and her team left the gym Saturday with heads held high following a season which included a quarterfinal win over Harrisburg Area Community College; a trip to the Region Final Four; All EPAC honors for Biggins and Gill; and All Region honors for Biggins, Gill and first-year player Anna Morgan.

"Regardless of Saturday's outcome, this was

a special season with a special group of young ladies," said Rivera. "By recruiting well and adding a new influx of talent to this nucleus, hopefully we can build off this and become a contender for the region title."

Montgomery last won the Region XIX Championship in 2011. Since then the Mustangs have been unable to overtake the Spartans. Montgomery was eliminated in straight sets by Northampton in the first round of the tournament last year. This season the Mustangs played the Spartans tough at times, but were swept in both regular-season matches.

Rivera and Co. finished the season 13-7 overall; 11-4 in region play.

Accolades aplenty at fall sports banquet



From left, All-Region Team members include: Julie Primavera, Shelby Poston, Marisa Christensen, Ariel Gaviria, Jordyn Ehrich, Anna Morgan and Victoria Biggins.

The Athletic Department celebrated the accomplishments of its three fall sports teams during a special Fall Banquet on Thursday, Nov. 12, featuring food, laughs, a few tears and some special Region XIX, EPAC and team awards.

It was an evening to honor ALL of the student-athletes from the men's and women's soccer teams as well as the volleyball team.

Fall 2015 was a special season as all three teams qualified for the postseason. Special kudos to second-year volleyball coach Rita Rivera and first-year men's soccer coach Tom Haney and first-year women's soccer coach Ben Winderman.

Running for a good cause



Photo by Bob Kent

Thank you to all those who participated in the 2015 Mustangs 5K held on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2015, benefitting the College's student-athletes. Congratulations to all the winners, especially 13-year-old Dylan Reid, the overall winner, and Anabelle Broadbent, the top female finisher. Special thanks to several of the Mustangs' players, College staff, and members of the Christopher Dock High School basketball team who took part in the event, as well as the Mustangs 5K "Bronze Level" sponsors: Allergy & Asthma Specialist, BJ's Wholesale Club & Modell's Sporting Goods. The event grossed more than \$4,100.

On the Calendar



The McCartney Years

February 3-19

Art Faculty and Invited Art Alumni Show

"Meet the Artists" Reception: Feb. 10
Fine Arts Center Gallery, Central Campus
5-7 p.m.

February 6

Lively Arts Series: The McCartney Years

Science Center Theater, Central Campus
8 p.m.

February 13

Lively Arts Series: An Evening with Ruthie Foster

Science Center Theater, Central Campus
8 p.m.

February 17 - March 4

Third Annual Tri-County High School Art Show

"Meet the Artists" Reception: Feb. 17
Fine Arts Gallery, West Campus
5-7 p.m.

February 20

Lively Arts Series: Cyrus Chestnut "African Reflections"

Science Center Theater, Central Campus
8 p.m.

February 26

Getting the Most Out of Governmental Programs in Retirement Social Security and Medicare Benefits

Panelists Kara Kessinger, CPA, MTAX, PFS and Charles A. Laskey, Jr.
151 College Hall, Central Campus
RSVP by Feb. 19 – Linda Pileggi at 215-641-6530 or lpileggi@mc3.edu
8-10 a.m.

February 27

Lively Arts Series: Philadanco

Science Center Theater, Central Campus
8 p.m.

March 4

Monnette Sudler's 7th Annual Philadelphia Guitar Summit "Bass Off" Featuring Gerald Veasley and Cedric Napoleon

Science Center Theater, Central Campus
8 p.m.

March 6

Lively Arts Series: Maestro Thomas Hong conducting Mozart Requiem

Science Center Theater, Central Campus
4 p.m.

March 7

The Richard K. Bennett Distinguished Lectureship for Peace and Social Justice

Featuring: Paul Peterson, Child Rights Activist
Science Center Theater, Central Campus
12:30 p.m.

March 8

Alumni Networking Event West Campus

The Brick House, Pottstown
6 p.m.

March 9-25

38th Annual Montgomery County High School Exhibition and Competition

"Meet the Artists" Reception: March 9
Fine Arts Center Gallery, Central Campus
5-7 p.m.

March 12

Lively Arts Family Series: San Jose Taiko

Science Center Theater, Central Campus
11 a.m.

March 12

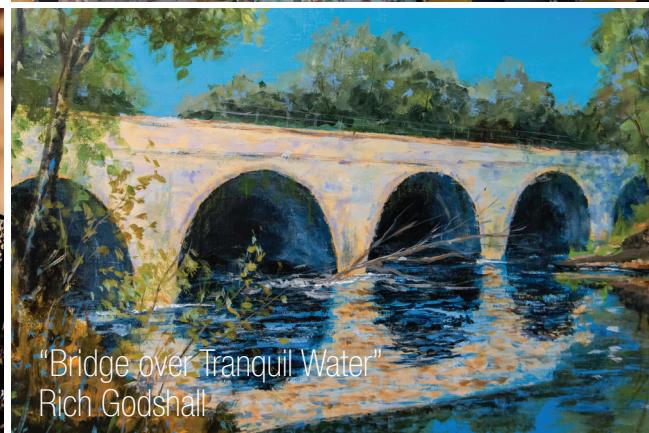
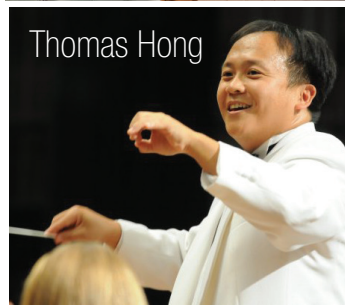
Lively Arts Series: San Jose Taiko

Science Center Theater, Central Campus
8 p.m.

March 26

Lively Arts Series: Anat Cohen Quartet

Science Center Theater, Central Campus
8 p.m.



March 29

**Salute to Excellence
Scholarship Reception**
6 p.m.

April 1

Lively Arts Series: Black Violin
Science Center Theater, Central Campus
8 p.m.

April 6-29

**11th Annual Art Students
Exhibition and Competition**
"Meet the Artists" Reception: April 13,
Fine Arts Gallery, West Campus
5-7 p.m.

April 11-29

**49th Annual Montgomery County
Community College Art Students
Exhibition**
"Meet the Artists" Reception: April 20
Fine Arts Center Gallery, Central Campus
5-7 p.m.

April 14, 15 & 16, 8 p.m.
April 15, 12:30 p.m.
April 16 & 17, 2 p.m.

"The Visit" by Friedrich Durrenmatt
Theatre Arts Program and the Drama Club
MCCC Student Performance
Black Box Theatre, Central Campus

April 21, 22 & 23, 7 p.m.
April 22, 12:30 p.m.

"A Lie of the Mind" by Sam Shepard
Theatre Arts Program
& West End Student Theatre
MCCC Student Performance
South Hall Community Room, West Campus

April 23

Dance Ensemble Concert
MCCC Student Performance
Science Center Theater, Central Campus
8 p.m.

April 24

Chamber Strings Concert
MCCC Student Performance
Science Center Theater, Central Campus
4 p.m.

April 25, 12:30 p.m.
April 27 & 28, 8 p.m.

Spring Performing Arts Showcase
MCCC Student Performance
Science Center Theater, Central Campus

May 6

Alumni Bus Trip
Location – to be determined

May 7

**Lively Arts Series:
Betzwood Silent Film Festival**
Science Center Theater, Central Campus
8 p.m.

May 11-26

Courting Art
Fine Arts Center Gallery, Central Campus
Science Center Theater, Central Campus

May 18

Commencement Picnic
Central Campus

May 19

Commencement
Central Campus

June 6

**Karen A. Stout Leading Women
Symposium and Golf Experience**
Talamore Country Club

For more information,
visit Montgomery County Community
College's website at mc3.edu.
To order tickets for Lively Arts Series
performances, visit mc3.edu/LivelyArts
or call the Box Office at 215-641-6518.



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Photo by Sandi Yanisko

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