

bigDreams

Summer 2015



Dr. Karen A. Stout: A Transformational Leader

bigDreams

VOLUME 9/NUMBER 1

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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.

**On the Cover**

Dr. Karen A. Stout,
Montgomery County Community
College President, 2001-2015

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 celebrated its 50th birthday on Dec. 8, the day it was founded, with a special cake created by Chefs Joseph Jacques and Francine Marz of the Culinary Arts Institute of Montgomery County Community College. From left: State Senator John Rafferty, Jr., Mustangs mascot, County Commissioner Bruce Castor, former County Commissioner Vice Chair Leslie Richards, College President Dr. Karen A. Stout, County Commissioner Chair Joshua Shapiro, Board of Trustee Treasurer Chair Regina Lowrie and Board of Trustee member Sean P. Kilkenny.

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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.



President's Corner



Commencement marks a time of celebrating achievements and embarking on new journeys. As I complete my final days here as President, I share our recent graduates' mixed emotions of excitement and accomplishment mingled with the sadness of leaving Montgomery County Community College.

I will soon be starting my new position as President and CEO of Achieving the Dream, Inc., a non-profit reform network that helps financially challenged and minority students gain access to and succeed in our nation's community colleges. Indeed, the mission of Achieving the Dream is at the heart of the reason I chose a career in community colleges. Because of our collective work in support of student access,

success and completion and the urgent need for colleges to do more around issues of equity, I feel it is time for me to continue this work in a broader way by leading Achieving the Dream.

Notwithstanding the excitement of the new challenges ahead of me, I will deeply miss this College I have grown to love and treasure. This College is special in so many ways. The idea of leaving a campus environment, where all the really hard work around teaching and learning is accomplished, is difficult for me. I will miss Montgomery County Community College—our students, faculty, administrators and staff, alumni and the community at large.

During the past 14 years we have accomplished much together, and I leave Montgomery County Community College knowing it is in a great position with accomplished faculty and dedicated staff to continue our work in support of student access, success and completion.

While much work has been done to grow and expand our campuses to enhance the physical learning environment, I am particularly proud of the work we have done to improve students' college readiness, persistence and overall outcomes, including reshaping our developmental education, developing and expanding the Minority Student Mentoring Initiative, participating in the Gateway to College network and launching the Student Success Network.

Furthermore, I am proud of the success of the College's first comprehensive fundraising campaign, Futures Rising. When it launched in 2013, the goal of the campaign was to raise \$9 million for student scholarships, and to date, we have exceeded that goal and anticipate raising more than \$10 million through the generous support of donors. The campaign has connected the College with numerous community and business partners, who share our vision and goals to provide access to a high-quality education for everyone.

Thank you for all your support and investment in the College, and thank you for your encouragement and personal support during these past 14 years.

Fondly,

Karen A. Stout
President Emerita

Speakers Bureau



Through our Speakers Bureau, a free community service, knowledgeable College faculty and staff volunteers are available to speak on a variety of topics, including specific academic subjects, a college overview, current events and community issues.

For more information or to discuss the possibility of arranging a speaker for a custom-tailored topic, please contact Joshua Schwartz at 215-619-7419 or speakers@mc3.edu. For a list of speakers and topics, visit <http://www.mc3.edu/about-us/speakers-bureau>.

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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One of the Top Community Colleges in Nation for Technology

DIGITAL
**COMMUNITY
COLLEGES** SURVEY
2014-2015 WINNER

Montgomery County Community College is ranked second in the country for its use of technology, according to a recent Digital Community Colleges Survey issued by e.Republic's Center for Digital Education

(CDE). The 250 data-point survey analyzes how community colleges use digital technologies to improve services to the college and community.

The College has ranked in the survey's top 10 large community colleges since CDE introduced it a decade ago.

During the past year, the College has implemented technology tools in several key student success areas—advising and student planning, financial literacy and mobile ac-

cess—and has introduced academic certificate programs in key STEM disciplines like cloud computing, cyber security and biotechnology.

To further improve student admission and advising processes, the College launched the Student Success Network, which includes an academic planner, early alert, and a success dashboard, through which students are able to see and connect with faculty and staff from other support programs, like veterans' resources and disability services.

RecycleMania: Top in PA, 6th in U.S. for Minimizing Waste



Montgomery County Community College's efforts to cut waste during the last decade have propelled it to the top of RecycleMania's 2015 competition. In the category of waste minimization, the College ranked first among higher education institutions in Pennsylvania, fifth among public two-year colleges nationally, and sixth overall among all colleges and universities in the country.

RecycleMania's Waste Minimization category measures an institution's total waste—trash and recycling collected during the eight-week competition—and divides it by the number of students, faculty and staff on campus to calculate the amount of waste per person. The College collected only 8.395 pounds of waste per capita—almost half of the per capita amount collected in 2014.

To learn more about the College's Sustainability Initiative, visit its "Think Green" blog at mc3green.wordpress.com.

Recertified as Achieving the Dream Leader College



By continuing to position itself at the forefront of student learning, Montgomery County Community College earned recertification as a Leader College by Achieving the Dream (ATD): Community Colleges Count, a national non-profit organization committed to helping more community college students succeed. The College is one of only 79 Leader Colleges in the country.

According to ATD, Leader Colleges demonstrate the way in which data can inform policy and practice to help community college students achieve their goals, resulting in improved skills, better employability, and economic growth for families, communities, and the nation as a whole.

Bicycle Friendliness Brings First Bronze Award

Montgomery County Community College joined Santa Monica College as the first community colleges



in the country to achieve the bronze Bicycle Friendly University (BFU) designation by the League of American Bicyclists on Oct. 22, 2014. Last year, senior network engineer and avid cyclist/Ironman tri-athlete Gregg Heimer and fellow College cyclists formed a Bike Advocacy Committee, which works with the College's Climate Commitment Advisory Council to promote biking safety and best practices at both campuses.

National Honor Roll for Community Service



Montgomery County Community College earned a place on the Corporation for National and Community Service's 2014 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for its outstanding community service volunteer efforts.

To achieve this recognition, students engaged in 24,172 hours of community service and service learning projects in 2013. Most of those hours involved the integration of community service activities into academic courses—a total of 6,456 students engaged in service learning activities in 225 courses taught by 73 faculty.

Welcome Interim President Dr. James Links



Interim President Dr. James Links

Montgomery County Community College's Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that Dr. James J. Links has agreed to serve as interim president for Montgomery County Community College effective July 1, 2015.

Dr. Links had a successful career at Bucks County Community College, where he served for more than 20 years as the institution's president from 1992-2012. Following his retirement in 2012, Dr. Links briefly served as interim CEO of the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges.

"It is a tremendous accomplishment that the College was able to secure a former community college president to serve during our nationwide search for a new college president," said Board of Trustees Chairman Michael J. D'Aniello.

Dr. Links spent June in transition with Dr. Stout prior to her departure. She was tapped to serve as the President and CEO of Achieving the Dream, Inc., which works to increase access and improve success at more than 200 member community colleges that serve more than four million community college students nationally.

Dr. Links earned an A.B. in Art and Architecture from Dartmouth College and a master's and doctorate in higher and adult education administration from Columbia University. He was also a W.K. Kellogg Doctoral Fellow in Community College Administration

The business of creating and serving cuisine

Entrepreneurial Settings Offer Students Real-Life Experiences



From left, Montgomery County Community College Dean of Business & Entrepreneurial Initiatives/Strategic Advisor Philip Needles, Culinary Arts Institute Director Chef Francine Marz, College President Karen A. Stout, College Board of Trustees Chairperson Michael D'Aniello and Culinary Arts Student Jennifer Rejniak cut the ceremonial ribbon for the new student-operated Forty Foot Café at the Culinary Arts Institute.

Photo by Sandi Yanisko



To provide aspiring chefs with real-life restaurant experiences, the Culinary Arts Institute (CAI) of Montgomery County Community College opened two new student-operated businesses in 2014-2015.

On Oct. 15, 2014, CAI opened its retail bakery, Forty Foot Café. The new café offers baked goods, coffee, sandwiches and other items prepared and sold by students.

"The bakery café provides a hands-on opportunity for students to learn the soft skills of operating a business, including how to handle customers and any issues that may arise, like running out of coffee," says CAI Director Francine Marz. "The students operating the café are enrolled in the Retail Service and Operations I, in which students learn these invaluable customer service skills, along with how to produce culinary items and baked goods on a large scale."

On March 24, 2015, CAI opened its student-run restaurant, Bistro 1400. The restaurant offers both a buffet-style lunch and a prix-fixe menu. Through the experience, students who are enrolled in the Quantitative Foods and Retail Service and Operations II classes learn front-of-the-house skills, such as customer service, professionalism and management.

Revenue from the bakery and bistro will help support the Culinary Arts programs, and tips will help students pay for competition and event fees, aprons and other program-related items.

For the specific hours and days of operation for Forty Foot Café and Bistro 1400 and/or to rent the facilities for private events, call the Culinary Arts Institute at 267-646-5970 or visit mc3.edu/culinary.



Photo by Sandi Yanisko

The Culinary Arts Institute of Montgomery County Community College recently opened its new student-operated Bistro 1400 restaurant for lunch. For hours of operation, call 267-646-5970 or visit mc3.edu/culinary.

Dental Hygiene Program Celebrated 40-Year Milestone

By Kara Aiello

The College's Dental Hygiene Program's origins extend back more than 40 years to the early 1970s, when students, faculty and staff were just getting settled at the new campus in Blue Bell after moving from Conshohocken.

In 1972, a group of local dentists and hygienists from Montgomery and Bucks counties approached the College to start the program. Following discussions with accrediting agencies and consultants, the College's Board of Trustees Curriculum Committee searched for a program director and hired Kathy Silko Miller, who was a professor of Dental Hygiene at Columbia University.

"I was hired to plan the facility, write the curriculum, select faculty and work with admissions officers, Veryl DeCamp and Marguerite Borzellica, to select the first class of students," Miller said. In turn, Dr. Alan Carlson, Director of Learning Resources, began preparing the Learning Resources Center to support the program by purchasing instructional materials, specialized textbooks, journal subscriptions and camera equipment. An advisory committee was formed, and the Dental Hygiene Program was launched in fall 1973.

As an Associate in Applied Science (AAS) 70-credit hour degree program, the Dental Hygiene Program is designed to prepare graduates to become licensed dental hygienists capable of employment in private dental offices and other professional settings.

"The opportunity to be involved through the College was challenging and exciting," said Miller. She notes there have been many well-qualified, outstanding faculty who have taught courses in the program over the decades.

An integral part of the Dental Hygiene Program is the Dental Hygiene Clinic, a live learning laboratory, where students obtain 500 to 600 hours of hands-on treatment time on patients of all ages.

"Students and family members came as patients, and students spoke at schools, senior



Alumni, faculty and students celebrated the 40th anniversary of the College's Dental Hygiene Program with a special event on Oct. 25, 2014. Alumna Lillian Caperilla (1980), who is a Manager of Professional Education at Premier Dental, and Debbie Fleming (1993), who is Academic Relations Manager for Colgate Oral Pharmaceuticals, served as guest speakers, along with Rebecca Wilder, Director of the Master of Science Degree Program in Dental Hygiene Education at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

centers, churches and community events to help the Dental Hygiene Clinic become known," Miller said.

Throughout the years, the clinic has become a valuable resource for the community. Services range from teeth cleaning, initial periodontal therapy, and radiographs to sealants and fluoride treatments under the supervision of licensed dental hygiene faculty and dentists. Additionally for the past 10 years, the Dental Hygiene Program offers grant-funded sealant and educational programs as a free service to the community.

After Miller retired in 1996, Dr. Victoria Bastecki-Perez became program director from 1996 through 2003, when she became Dean of Health and Physical Education followed by Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs in 2006 and currently serves as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost.

Then, Jenny Sheaffer, current Director of the Dental Hygiene Program, took the reins. Sheaffer was hired by the College in 1993 as full-time dental hygiene faculty and second-year clinic coordinator. Prior to coming to the College, she taught at Thomas Jefferson University.

In October of 2013, the Dental Hygiene Program was reaccredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association. The Program was awarded full approval without reporting requirements for seven years, the maximum accreditation status that can be achieved.

Looking ahead, the Dental Hygiene Program will be moving into the new Health Sciences Center (former Physical Education building) along with other healthcare programs at the College in the next few years. As part of the move, the program will be expanding, both physically and in terms of the number of students enrolled.

"We occupy about 3,000 square feet and have 15 chairs in our current location," Sheaffer said. In the new space, the program will occupy about 7,000 square feet and have 25 chairs.

"I also look forward to an environment that will enable the dental hygiene students to collaborate with other healthcare professional students and prepare them to work in a variety of settings that will increase access to dental care for the community," she said.

For more information about the Dental Hygiene Program or clinic, visit mc3.edu.

Kudos to Our Faculty

Jill Beccaris-Pescatore, Assistant Professor of Economics, presented her Library of Congress grant work at the 94th Annual National Council for Social Studies Conference on Nov. 21-23, 2014, in Boston, MA.

William Brownlowe, Associate Professor and Coordinator to Engineering, was honored by FIRST Tech Challenge membership during the annual robotics competition for his dedication, inspiration, and leadership to the FIRST Tech Challenge for the last five years.

Professors **William Brownlowe, Dr. Gayathri Moorthy, Jean Jacques Reymond** and **Gary Landes** from the College's Engineering program served as judges in the FIRST Tech Robotics Challenge at Wissahickon Middle School.

Francisca Bye, Assistant Professor of Radiography, and **Debra Poelhuis, Director of Radiography**, accompanied the second-year Radiography students to the West Coast of Florida Educators/Students Annual Conference in Orlando, FL from Feb. 22-27, 2015.

Barbara Lontz, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, presented at the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges Conference in Nashville, TN on Nov. 13, 2014 on "An Arithmetic Course Redesign with Proven Positive Results."

Lisa Maisonet, Dental Hygiene Lecturer, was elected Vice President of the Pennsylvania Dental Hygienists' Association at its 91st Annual Session in Monroeville, PA.

Teal Mercer, Assistant Professor of Dental Hygiene, was installed as a member of the Blue Bell Rotary Club on Jan. 6, 2015, at the Normandy Farms Hotel and Conference Center.

Paul Johnson, Instructor of Management/Marketing, received a



Culinary Arts Institute's Chef Julia Quay, with the assistance of culinary arts students, created this gingerbread replica of Laurel Hill Mansion for the Fourth Annual Gingerbread House Display of The Historic Houses of Fairmount Park in Philadelphia. From left, Chef Julia Quay; Chef Francine Marz, director of Culinary Arts Institute; Alma Jacobs, honorary College Foundation Board Member and chairwoman of the board of Women for Greater Philadelphia; and Alice Nugent, music chairwoman for Laurel Hill Mansion.

25-year coaching award from the American Baseball Coaches Association at a ceremony in Orlando, FL, which was reported in *The Philadelphia Tribune*. In addition to coaching several area youth teams, Johnson also served as an assistant coach to the Mustangs.

At the Community College's Innovations Conference on March 8-10, the League for Innovation awarded the John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Award to **Diane Biddle, Assistant Professor of English; Dr. Catherine Carsley, Associate Professor of English; Deborah Dalrymple, Coordinator of Curriculum and Assessment, Professor of Nursing; Dr. Catherine Parzynski, Assistant Professor of History; Jennifer Fewster, Instructor of Biology; Samuel Wallace, Assistant Professor of Geography; Dr. Thomas Kolsky, Professor of History**

and Political Science; Dr. Lee Bender, Professor of Economics; Dr. Debbie Levin, Professor of Education; Rhoda McFadden, Professor of History; Jill Beccaris, Assistant Professor of Economics; and Dr. Beverly Welhan, Dean of Health Sciences.

Clarification

In response to the "Highlighting Our Faculty Through the Decades" series in the 50th anniversary issue of fall 2014 *bigDreams*, Jean Hill Macht, retired Chair (1993) of the Social Science Division, provided us with additional information. When the Human Services practicum program was initially proposed in 1970, the two practicums were included as an integral part of the program, and Macht and several others were instrumental in performing fieldwork supervision.

Wilde & Whitman Meet at ‘Mickle Street’

By Lauren Sommers

In early 2015, the Philadelphia region experienced its own “Oscarmania” by focusing on the life and artistic works of celebrated author Oscar Wilde with numerous events including the world premiere of “Mickle Street,” a play written by playwright and Associate Professor Michael Whistler and performed at the Walnut Street Theatre in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia’s first Oscarmania occurred in 1882, when a crowd of 1,500 flocked to hear a lecture by Wilde. The next day he traveled to the Camden home of writer Walt Whitman. What could the two have talked about? Thus was born the idea for “Mickle Street.” Using an agent’s brief notes from the conversation and extensive research, Whistler created a dramatic fictional take on where these legends’ views may have intersected or diverged.

Whistler is a New York native and Philadelphia resident who earned his bachelor’s degree in English and theater arts from the University of Pennsylvania and a master’s degree in fine art from New York University’s Tisch School of the Arts. “Mickle Street” was the ninth play for Whistler, who has acted in and directed numerous productions.



Playwright and Montgomery County Community College Associate Professor/Theatre Arts Coordinator Michael Whistler.

‘Where there is smoke, there is chicken’

By Diane VanDyke



Chef Stephen Latona, an instructor at the Culinary Arts Institute of Montgomery County Community College, and his business partner Chef Mark Bellini competed on CNBC’s “Restaurant Startup” show to garner an investment for their restaurant venture, “Smoke Kitchen.”

Chef Stephen Latona, who teaches at the College’s Culinary Arts Institute, and his business partner Chef Mark Bellini competed with 20 restaurant entrepreneurs on CNBC’s Season Two of “Restaurant Startup.”

“Restaurant Startup” features restaurateur and TV personality Joe Bastianich and chef and restaurateur Tim Love who vie to invest their own money in restaurant concepts they believe could make them millions. Each week two teams were invited to pitch their food ideas to the investors.

Latona and Bellini own Smoke Kitchen—a culinary enterprise that features wood-fired rotisserie chicken. Their dishes highlight the use of fresh, locally grown vegetables and free-range chicken. The episode featuring Smoke Kitchen aired on Feb. 24, and the chefs successfully earned the investment of Tim Love to secure a location, permits and a liquor license for their restaurant venture.

A graduate of The Restaurant School in Philadelphia, Latona has worked in variety of food service sectors in the industry, including fine dining restaurants, catering and food styling. He has held a variety of chef positions and has worked in France, New York City and some of the top restaurants in Philadelphia. Latona also has worked with some of the premier catering companies in the suburban Philadelphia area and worked on a national cable television show coordinating all the food styling.

Latona teaches several classes at CAI, including the Retail Operations and Service classes, and he plans to continue teaching after the restaurant opens. Prior to teaching at the CAI, he taught at The Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College in Philadelphia for almost a decade.



Dr. Karen A. Stout: A Transformational Leader

After serving as Montgomery County Community College's President for more than 14 years, Dr. Karen A. Stout recently assumed the role of President and CEO of Achieving the Dream, Inc., a national, non-profit student success reform network that serves more than 200 community colleges and nearly four million students in 35 states.

by Alana J. Mauger ('97)

In his book, *Transforming Leadership: A New Pursuit of Happiness*, Presidential biographer and Pulitzer Prize recipient James MacGregor Burns coins the phrase “transformational leadership” to describe a set of principles by which “leaders and followers make each other advance to a higher level of morality and motivation.”

Transformational leaders inspire others to change expectations, perceptions and motivations and to work together toward a common goal.

In 2000, Montgomery County Community College was searching for such a leader.

“More than 14 years ago, when we embarked on the process of finding Montgomery County Community College’s fourth president, we sought a leader who would take the College into the 21st century,” shared Michael J. D’Aniello ('78), current Board of Trustees chairman who was serving his first Board term at the time of the search.

“For me—as an alumnus with firsthand experience of how a community college can

change lives—the single most important goal was to find an individual whose character embodied our core mission: to provide the citizens of Montgomery County and all of our students access to the highest quality education at the most affordable tuition possible.”

In January 2001, the College found that person in Dr. Karen A. Stout.

Shifting to the Community's Center

Talk to those who worked beside Dr. Stout—from the trustees, faculty and staff to students and alumni—and examples of transformation soon emerge: revitalized facilities, entrepreneurial business models, redesigned

curricula and streamlined student support services, all of which position the College to serve today’s (and tomorrow’s) students.

But before those things could happen, Dr. Stout had to boost the College’s profile.

“When I arrived, the College was not well known in the community,” reflected Stout.

As a result, she set out to make the College “famous” in Montgomery County.

“I have always thought that our College should take the form of the community, with programs aligned to transfer, workforce, civic and cultural needs. A key goal of the first strategic plan was to move the College to the community’s center.”

To learn about the community, Dr. Stout held dozens of listening sessions during her first year with as many stakeholders as possible: College employees, students, alumni, school district superintendents and principals, state legislators, municipal and county officials, and business and non-profit leaders.

Fourteen years later, Montgomery County Community College is not only recognized

Continued on next page >



Photo by Sandi Yanisko

Photo by John Welsh



Student leaders led the signing of the "College Completion Challenge" pledge in 2011. From left, Dr. Karen A. Stout, President; Chris Jensen, Phi Theta Kappa President; Grace Pusey, West Campus Student Government Association President; Antonio Marrero, Central Campus Student Government Association President; and Michael J. D'Aniello, Board of Trustees Chair.

as a leader in the county, but throughout the region, state and country.

"Dr. Stout has helped [the College] to not be the 'hidden gem' in Montgomery County, but to be a bright and shining star in the field of education and the achievements of its graduates," shared Rev. Patti Thomas ('01), who had the opportunity to work with Dr. Stout both as a student and as current chair of the Alumni Board of Directors.

To be that "shining star," the College needed to become part of an education pathway that

starts in elementary school and continues through graduate studies. Dr. Stout built relationships with regional K-12 leaders, and today, students from more than 40 high schools earn college credits through dual enrollment classes.

Under her leadership, the College also built strong transfer partnerships with dozens of four-year colleges and universities, like Lehigh, Saint Joseph's and Bucknell, and forged its first international transfer partnership with Dongseo University in South Korea. A University Center framework, introduced in 2006, expanded

regional access to undergraduate and graduate degree programs offered by select college and university partners at Montgomery's Central and West campuses.

During a press conference in 2013, Dr. Stout expressed the College's commitment to building as many transfer pathways and opportunities for students as possible.

"We're working to expand the way our students think about transferring—to look beyond what they ever thought was possible when they enrolled at a community college," she said.

Continued on page 14 >

Timeline of Accomplishments

2001

Dr. Karen A. Stout becomes the fourth President.

2002

The College establishes its Alumni Hall of Fame and a comprehensive Honors Program.

2003

The College opens its Health Care Careers Suite at West Campus.

2004

Dr. Stout earns King of Prussia Chamber of Commerce's Herbert Middleton Award for Excellence in Community Service, Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Authority's Community Leadership Award, and Blue Bell Rotary's Service Leadership Award.

2005

The College launches Study Abroad program in Florence, Italy.

Dr. Stout is elected as President of the PA Commission for Community Colleges Presidents' Leadership Group; is named Educator of the Year by the Human Relations Commission and the Tri-County YWCA; and is inducted into University of Delaware's Alumni Wall of Fame.

2006

An accelerated GED preparatory course is introduced in partnership with the Montgomery County Workforce Investment Board.

Human Services faculty develop a Partnership on Work Enrichment and Readiness (POWER) Program for people in mental health recovery.

Eight students participate in the first Alternative Spring Break.

The University Center framework is created for students to earn bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees through partnerships with select four-year colleges and universities.

North Hall (former Kiwi Shoe Polish factory) opens at West Campus.

The College hosts Fulbright Scholar-in-Resident (as of 2015, hosted four scholars).

Dr. Stout is named American Student Association of Community Colleges' President of the Year and Tri-County Area Chamber of Commerce's Educator of the Year.

2007

Dr. Stout is a charter signatory of the American College & University President's Climate Commitment.

The College is named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service (as of 2015, has been on the Honor Roll six times).

The Advanced Technology Center opens.

A pedestrian underpass opens at the West Campus, connecting North and South halls.

The College enters into a partnership with Bucknell University's Community College Scholars Program through the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation.

The College joins "Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count."

Dr. Stout is appointed to the PA Governor's Tuition Assistance Programming Advisory Board and to the American Council on Education Commission for Women.

2008

Center for Digital Education names College as one of top technologically advanced community colleges nationally (as of 2015, has been in the top 10 every year).

The Mustangs Intercollegiate Athletics program is re-launched.

Dr. Stout is named Bel Air High School's Alumnae of the Year.

2009

Victory Media designates College a "Military-Friendly School" (as of 2015, earned designation five times).

The Fine Arts Center renovation is completed and Associate in Fine Arts degree program starts.

The College introduces Minority Male Mentoring Program (later expanded into the Minority Student Mentoring Initiative).

Dr. Stout is elected Vice Chair of the American Council on Education's Commission for Women; is appointed to the American Association of Community Colleges Commission on Emerging Trends, Technology and Research, and the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship Board of Directors; and earns the International Club of the Lansdale Public Library's Mayor Michael Di'Nunzio Award for Excellence and Montgomery County's Woman of Distinction Award.

2010

The College receives a federal grant to start Upward Bound Program for at-risk high school youth in Norristown and Pottstown.

The College begins work on the Riverfront Academic and Heritage Center in partnership with the Schuylkill River Heritage Area on the site of the former PECO building in Pottstown.

Assistant Professor of Mathematics Barbara Lontz creates "Concepts of Numbers," a new curriculum that changes how developmental math is taught nationally.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children awards the Children's Center exemplary status for Engaging Diverse Families.

The Center for Entrepreneurial Studies and Business Incubator open at Central Campus.

A new Children's Center, Black Box Theater and music suites open at Central Campus.

A campus shuttle begins operating between Blue Bell and Pottstown.

2011

Achieving the Dream designates Montgomery as a Leader College for its work to improve student learning outcomes.

Second Nature presents Climate Leadership Award in 2011 and 2014.

The College joins the national "College Completion Challenge" and pledges to increase graduation rates by 50 percent by 2020.

The American Association of Community Colleges' Voluntary Framework of Accountability selects the College as a pilot site.

University Business magazine names Call Center as national Model of Efficiency.

College receives Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association's Sustainability Leadership Award and a platinum-level sustainability designation for the first of four times.

Dr. Stout earns the President's Award for Education from the Upper Merion Chamber of Commerce.

2012

At Central Campus, College Hall is renovated and Veterans Resource Center opens.

At West Campus, Phase II of the Riverfront Academic & Heritage Center is completed, and the University Center opens in the former the East Penn AAA building.

West Campus Career Services earns bronze (2012) and silver (2013) certifications from OUTforWORK for developing career resources for Lesbian, Gay, BiSexual, Transgender and Questioning students.

The College receives NJCAA's Region 19 Champion of Character Award.

Dr. Stout earns the Association of

Community Colleges Trustees' North East Region Chief Executive Officer Award and the University of Delaware's Presidential Citation Award.

2013

The Virtual Campus is introduced.

Dongseo University in South Korea becomes the first international transfer partner.

The College is one of 43 institutions selected to join the Gateway to College National Network.

The Mustangs' mascot is introduced.

The Culinary Arts Institute opens in Lansdale.

Dr. Stout earns Montgomery County Commission on Women and Families' Changing Lives Through Education Award.

2014

U.S. President Barack Obama invites Dr. Stout to the White House College Opportunity Summit on Jan. 16 to share the College's initiatives to help low-income and economically challenged students attain access to higher education.

The College receives Achieving the Dream's Leah Meyer Austin Award for ongoing work to improve access and success.

Dr. Stout serves as a panelist for U.S. News STEM Solutions National Leadership Conference.

College installs wind turbines and solar panels as part of Siemens Industries, Inc.'s Guaranteed Energy Savings Agreement.

Achieving the Dream Leader reaffirms the College's "Leader College" status.

Plans are developed to renovate the Physical Education Center into a comprehensive Health Science Center at Central Campus.

The College earns League of American Bicyclists' Bronze Bicycle Friendly University designation.

The College earns Star Award from GVF Foundation's Communities in Motion for its sustainability work.

2015

The College is named to Military Advanced Education's list of Top Colleges & Universities.

Dr. Stout receives Bethlehem Baptist Church's Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Peace and Justice Award, Phi Theta Kappa's Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction, Greater Valley Forge Transportation Management Association's Career Achievement Award and Andrew J. Paravis Award for Excellence in Government and Education from TriCounty Chamber of Commerce.

That strategy helped pave an impressive pathway for alumnus Antonio Marrero ('11), who transferred to Dickinson College on a full tuition honors scholarship and who is currently studying to become a doctor at Penn State's College of Medicine.

"Without [Dr. Stout] as a guide when I was starting my education, I know for sure I would not have kept my ambitions unbridled. I would have set my sights on something most people would agree was 'more realistic,'" he shared.

Dr. Stout also led the College to develop career pathways that are connected, specifically, to the community's workforce needs. Early in her tenure, amid a well-documented shortage of health care professionals, the College developed new programs in Radiography, Surgical Technology and Medical Assisting, which were housed at the West Campus in Pottstown to meet needs specific to the tri-county region.

She continued to elevate Montgomery's profile by encouraging student, faculty and staff

participation in community events and service activities, and she instituted the now-annual College-Wide Day of Service.

"I met Dr. Stout for the first time soon after she arrived at the College [when] we were assigned as partners to clean out a basement in a Habitat for Humanity house renovation project," shared Barbara Lontz, assistant professor of Mathematics. "I was impressed that a college president had no problem getting dirty and working for the good of the community in which we live."

One could also find Dr. Stout engaged with the arts community, and she set out to establish Montgomery as the community's destination for the fine and performing arts. Today, the College's Lively Arts Series and Fine Arts Galleries host more than 12,000 patrons annually, and its academic programs in Music, Dance and Theatre Arts—established during her tenure—continue to thrive.

"Dr. Stout embraced the idea of allowing

student performing groups to grow into an established part of our college community—not simply as an artistic outlet, but also as a fundamental part of what the College values in its curriculum," explained Michael Whistler, assistant professor of Theatre Arts and faculty advisor to the student Drama Club.

Focusing on Student Access and Success

Each of the College's three strategic plans developed during Dr. Stout's tenure starts with the same key goal: improve student access and success. Those aren't buzzwords; student access and success became woven into the institutional culture, and members of the College community began connecting their daily work with the top strategic priority.

"We have a responsibility to do everything

Launched in 2010, the campus shuttle provides transportation for students between West and Central campuses, and now from the Ambler train station to the Culinary Arts Institute in Lansdale, enabling students to take the courses they need for completion.

Photo by John Welsh



we can to help students leave with a degree or credential that supports transfer or moves into a career that pays a life sustaining wage,” explained Stout.

An Achieving the Dream Leader College, Montgomery is recognized nationally for many of its programs and initiatives designed to improve access and success. Examples include a Minority Student Mentoring Initiative, financial literacy education, reimagined student entry and advising processes, educational planning tools, peer mentoring, and a new approach to developmental education, to name only a few.

Many of those initiatives resulted from Dr. Stout’s frequent engagement with students. She added student representation to all college-wide committees and held “Wraps with the President” every fall and spring semester, during which she invited students to share their ideas and concerns with her over lunch. She also worked with Student Government leaders to tackle issues on their annual Top 10 lists.

“Dr. Stout is well respected and loved by students,” shared Grace Bako, president of the West Campus Student Government Association. “I have learned that being a leader is not about the position, but about being passionate about what you do and, at the same time, respecting the people you work with.”

On any given day, one could find Dr. Stout directly supporting students: cheering for the Mustangs athletics teams, attending music and dance performances, participating in GED graduation and Phi Theta Kappa induction ceremonies, stopping by classroom presentations, and even trading places with students during an annual “President for a Day” program.

She also hosted more than 500 episodes of “Montgomery County Community College On The Air,” a weekly radio program produced by Communication students at the Central Campus.

“Working on ‘MCCC On The Air’ with Dr. Stout gave me real world experience and helped me learn the ins and outs of producing interesting and relevant radio programming,” recalled alumnus Patrick McCabe (’05), who continued to work in radio, and now publishing, after earning a bachelor’s degree from Chestnut Hill College. “Thank you to Dr. Stout and MCCC for such a great experience!”

Faculty, too, benefited from Dr. Stout’s passion for student success.

“Dr. Stout was very open to the faculty and our thoughts because she knew that we were working with the students every day,” shared Jill

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Top: Student speaker Antonio Marrero meets Second Lady of the United States Dr. Jill Biden and College President Karen A. Stout prior to the graduation ceremony. Dr. Biden served as the commencement speaker in 2011.

Middle: Students Grace Bako and Jeff Chernesky switched roles with Dr. Stout and became “President for the Day.” They followed her schedule as president, while she attended their classes and activities.

Bottom: Throughout her 14-year tenure, Dr. Stout was actively engaged with students through campus activities and as a mentor, always encouraging them to achieve their goals.

Beccaris-Pescatore, assistant professor of Economics and a graduate of the College's Leadership Academy that was developed and facilitated by Dr. Stout. "Her work ethic, honesty and candor were so appreciated. It made me want to do more for the College and the students. She made me want to be a better teacher and leader."

Barbara Lontz, whose "Concepts of Numbers" curriculum is changing the way developmental math is taught at community colleges across the country, agrees.

"Faculty were encouraged and supported to think outside of the box and to work on projects, both individually and in groups, to create and develop new strategies with the goal of improving student outcomes," she said.

With a 47-year tenure that began during the

institution's early Conshohocken days, Dr. Lee Bender, professor of Economics, reflects on Dr. Stout's leadership.

"The College has become a national leader in academic excellence among community colleges. Dr. Stout actively engaged the faculty, staff and students to move the College forward to rebuild and strengthen our already solid academic programs and our support for students," he shared. "New and revised courses and programs, and improved administrative processes with clearer pathways to transfer or to employment have benefited thousands of students."

Dr. Bender cites another important student benefit facilitated by Dr. Stout: the return of on-campus child care.

"Dr. Stout clearly understood the necessity of

providing educational opportunities for young parents, who otherwise would be unable to attend college. [She] conceived the greatly-expanded Children's Center, now a permanent part of our [Central] Campus and college life," he shared.

Another critical and now permanent part of the College's identity are integrated Student Success Centers, which allow students to receive academic advising, counseling, job placement support and transfer evaluation in a central and prominent location at each campus. The Student Success Centers serve as visible reminders of the College's strategic focus on student access, success and completion. Because these hallmarks defined Dr. Stout's presidency at Montgomery, the Central Campus center now bears a new name: The Karen A. Stout Student Success Center.

Dr. Stout is an ardent supporter of the arts. Under her direction, the Fine Arts Center renovation at Central Campus was completed in 2009, and the Associate in Fine Arts degree program was started. Today, the College's Fine Arts Galleries and Lively Arts Series host more than 12,000 patrons annually.

Photo by Lou Liguori





The Culinary Arts Institute opened the doors to its 15,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art facility in Lansdale in 2013 to support career opportunities in the food service industry.

Building for the Future

The redesigned Student Success Center and expanded Children's Center are just two of the many impressive physical transformations completed through a comprehensive facilities master planning process, led by Dr. Stout.

In 2007, the College opened a state-of-the-art Advanced Technology Center—its first new Central Campus classroom building since 1972. A major renovation and expansion of the Fine Arts Center—formerly the Art Barn—and a complete overhaul of Parkhouse Hall and College Hall soon followed.

In Pottstown, the College's West Campus grew from one building to four. The expansion is helping to anchor revitalization efforts in the Pottstown Borough, especially since North Hall, the University Center and the Schuylkill Riverfront Academic and Heritage Center are repurposed historic landmarks.

The Culinary Arts Institute opened in Lansdale in 2013 to support growing career opportunities in the food service industry. A Virtual Campus, which provides critical wrap-around services like advising, career services, disability services and tutoring for online students, was also introduced that year.

"What were once very utilitarian campuses

have been magically—through an abundance of hard work by Dr. Stout and many others—transformed into beautiful, technologically advanced campuses with numerous welcoming student, faculty and staff spaces. You want to come here... and to stay!" shared Dr. Bender.

That welcoming vibe Dr. Bender describes is the real impetus driving the College's physical transformation. It's not about the buildings; rather, it's about the teaching and learning—both face-to-face and virtual, inside the classroom and out—that makes the biggest student impact.

The College is positioned to continue Dr. Stout's work in these areas, guided by a comprehensive strategic plan through 2016 and a facilities master plan through 2022.

"The College is poised to build new partnerships, new programs, new markets and new ways to reach those markets. We are working to develop new programs in high demand areas like health sciences and STEM, and these new programs will be strengthened by new facilities that are now funded and nearly ready to begin building," said Dr. Stout.

In fact, in early June, the College broke ground on phase III renovations to its Sustainability and Innovation Hub in Pottstown and will soon begin the expansion and transformation of its Physical Education Center into a state-of-the-art Health Sciences Center in Blue Bell.

The College is also in the early stages of de-

veloping new offerings for adult students whose employment goals are re-entry, job updating or career transitioning. Other initiatives include growing and supporting the College's Latino population, building Virtual Campus offerings, and growing dual enrollment and accelerated learning opportunities.

Of course, the College—and all of higher education—will face challenges. Enrollment pressures, completion rates and student success tracking are all top-of-mind issues. But the biggest challenge will likely be keeping college affordable while preserving both access and excellence.

"Preserving affordability while preserving academic excellence will be at the heart of the challenges going forward, as public funding will most likely remain strained," suggested Stout. "This will require the College to continue to be entrepreneurial and nimble even at the risk of taking on efforts that might seem to 'business like' to some traditionalists but are important for maintaining relevancy of our programs."

"I believe you can remain true to the liberal arts and general education core while also remaining workforce relevant. In fact, the best colleges will figure out an innovative way to do both and thrive in this duality of purpose," she added.

Once again, Dr. Stout's vision and leadership have laid the groundwork for what she calls a "culture of philanthropy." The College's Foundation is wrapping up "Futures Rising," its first comprehensive campaign to support student scholarships, which has exceeded its initial \$6 million, then \$9 million goal.

"Establishing a culture of philanthropy, where donors think of the community college as a first option for charitable giving, is important for the future viability of the College in maintaining affordable access for all students," said Stout.

Along with the College's work to improve student success, the "Futures Rising" campaign is among Dr. Stout's proudest accomplishments during her tenure.

"Every private gift to this fund is a vote of confidence in the College as well as in the potential of the hundreds of thousands of students we serve. The campaign sets the stage for future success in the next private fundraising effort and it has raised awareness of the excellence of the College within our community," she explained.

Dr. Stout cast her own vote of confidence with two "Futures Rising" contributions: a Phi



Dr. Stout hosted more than 500 episodes of "Montgomery County Community College On the Air" – a weekly radio show produced by Communication students at Central Campus.

Photo by Sandi Yanisko

Theta Kappa Challenge Fund, which helps qualifying, Pell-eligible students pay half of the honor society membership fee, and an Endowed Scholarship Fund awarded annually to a student pursuing a career in Communication.

Celebrating a Legacy

Dr. Stout's legacy at Montgomery County Community College is vast, and her impact—on both the institution and on individuals in the College community—will reach far into the future.

What is her biggest impact? It depends on whom you ask.

For Michael D'Aniello, it's her unwavering commitment to the community college mission.

"Dr. Stout's biggest impact, which she shared throughout her tenure, is her understanding and appreciation that community college students need and deserve the best education, in the finest facility, delivered to the broadest student base," he reflected.

For Michael Whistler, it's her inspiring leadership.

"Dr. Stout is tireless, focused, generous, excitable, visionary, unafraid of challenge and joyful.

disabilities, to achieving excellence in my education and transferring to Lancaster Theological Seminary where I earned my Master's of Divinity. [Dr. Stout] was ready and willing to encourage me in my seminary education as well as my role as Associate Pastor and now Pastor in a local church setting," she explained.

For Jill Beccaris-Pescatore, it's her thoughtfulness.

"Dr. Stout always took time to ask me about running, [and] she made a real connection with me as a new faculty member. When I ran my first Boston Marathon, the year of the bombing, she tweeted and emailed me with great concern on behalf of herself and the entire College community. I was so touched at such an emotional time," she reflected.

For Antonio Marrero, it's her drive to be the best.

"Her leadership pushed MCCC from being 'another community college in Pennsylvania' into becoming a national player in higher education. When people see how my alma mater is gaining national attention, they are both surprised and impressed. Because of this, her impact has made it easier for me to break the stigma that a community college education is a handicap when I am competing for higher stakes," he said.

I have worked harder at my job at [MCCC] than I have at anything in my life, and because of her talents and the community it inspires, I have become a stronger teacher, artist and a more confident man who knows what he can do in the face of challenge. I consider her one of my great mentors, and it has been my great joy to work with her for as long as I have," he shared.

For Rev. Patti Thomas it's her encouragement.

"She has been a great supporter of my journey—having started at MCCC as a 40+ woman learning to live with

In addition to renaming the Central Campus Student Success Center, Montgomery County Community College has commemorated Dr. Stout's legacy in a variety of other ways.

One of the Foundation's hallmark events—the Leading Women Symposium and Golf Experience—now bears her name. The annual Karen A. Stout Leading Women Symposium and Golf Experience, held each spring, raises funds for women's scholarships and programming while facilitating valuable networking opportunities for its participants.

At Commencement, the Board of Trustees presented Dr. Stout with an honorary associate's degree in letters, making her an official alumna of the College. The Board also named her President emeritus effective July 1, 2015.

Starting a New Chapter

Both Dr. Stout and Montgomery County Community College have embarked on the next chapter of their journeys.

Today the College is in the capable hands of Dr. James Links, who retired from his post as Bucks County Community College's President in 2012. Links will serve as interim President over the next year while the College's Board of Trustees leads a national presidential search.

Meanwhile, as President and CEO of Achieving the Dream, Inc., community colleges from across the country are benefitting from Dr. Stout's sincere passion for student success.

"No other sector of higher education has a reform network that allows colleges to experiment and incubate and bring to scale new ideas. This is the power of Achieving the Dream," she shared.

Dr. Stout is beginning her tenure at Achieving the Dream, headquartered in Silver Spring, Md., the same way she did at Montgomery: by listening.

"My vision for Achieving the Dream will emerge as I listen to the leaders of colleges, inside and outside the network, speak about challenges they face in moving their colleges

forward in this important completion work. I want to co-design, with my colleagues, this next generation of reform work,” she explained.

Dr. Stout plans to develop Achieving the Dream’s capacity to help colleges across the country improve their completion rates in a way that is customized, allowing them to leverage their strengths and address their most pressing needs.

“I want our highest performing community colleges to get support to continue to build capacity. I also want to get our most under-resourced colleges in our most under-resourced communities into this network. All of our nation’s community colleges are on this journey. All of us are facing obstacles. All of us have important lessons to share with one another. And we all need help no

matter how far along we might be.”

While Dr. Stout will have a greater impact on a larger number of students in her new role, she will miss the daily and direct interaction with students that was such an important part of her presidency at Montgomery.

“I will miss the students the most. I will miss their energy, their curiosity and their spirit,” she admitted. “When I am around the students, I feel a deep affirmation of the value of this work, and I feel grateful that I have had this wonderful opportunity to help them reach their potential.”

“Community college students are very special,” she continued. “You see that when you meet with them in groups or see them in action as athletes, artists, advocates for causes and as student leaders. They come from so many backgrounds, yet

they immediately are able to get past any differences and mobilize toward a shared goal. I learn something in every student interaction.”

One of those former students, Antonio Marrero, offers a unique perspective on the changes ahead.

“Although Dr. Stout is leaving [Montgomery County Community College], she is not leaving our family. She is going somewhere in which she will have an even greater impact on community college education,” he shared. “We, as Mustangs, don’t stop running until the herd behind us has it better. We will continue doing what [makes] this college great—and that is studying, working together, helping our own and championing our shared experience wherever we go.” ■



To encourage students to join Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges, College President Karen A. Stout pledged \$30,000 to establish a Phi Theta Kappa Annual Challenge Fund. The fund will pay half the cost of a membership, while challenging students to match the remaining cost. Students must be eligible for Pell Grant funding, maintain a 3.5 GPA and complete at least 12 credits. Dr. Stout (center) stands with officers from Montgomery County Community College’s Alpha Kappa Zeta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. Student officers include (from left) Reginald Harris, secretary; Michelle Sikora, vice president of service; Jennifer Cutler, vice president of scholarship; Mamata Tharima, president; Raymond Straughter, vice president of fellowship; Thomas DeLucia, secretary; and Wilfredo Montijo, vice president of leadership.

Photo by John Welsh



Celebrate Our Past & Launch Our Future

50th Anniversary Celebration Highlights Alumni & Launches \$9 Million Fundraising Campaign

By Diane VanDyke

As a capstone celebration of its 50-year milestone, Montgomery County Community College honored 50 of its exceptional alumni and publicly launched Futures Rising—a comprehensive fundraising campaign to raise \$9 million.

The evening of Nov. 14, 2014, started with a formal awards ceremony for the outstanding alumni, who gathered by decades on stage, followed by a melodious duet by Erin Reilly of Theatre Horizon and Peter Schmitz, adjunct lecturer, and a heartwarming video of student scholarship recipients sharing their stories.

The ceremony concluded with a bang of confetti, as the announcement was made that \$6 million was raised as of that date for student scholarships.

“The scholarships created through this campaign address critical funding gaps that our students cannot fill by themselves,” said President Dr. Karen A. Stout to a full auditorium of more than 350 attendees. “Almost 90 percent of our students are already working, and 60 percent are supporting families. Last year, students’ unmet needs totaled almost \$29 million. Scholarships created through this campaign can help 500 additional students every year.”

To address these needs, the College set the bar high with a goal of \$9 million for its first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign. The campaign has been in a “quiet” fundraising phase for the first 18 months, during which time the College’s Foundation Board and Futures Rising Campaign committees raised \$6 million.

The campaign ensures students will continue to have access to higher education and have opportunities to excel, like the College’s many alumni.

Since 1964, the College has opened the doors of education to students from all walks and stages of life and supported them on a path to success and achievement. More than 55,000 alumni have gone on to higher education and/or pursued careers in a variety of professions from attorney to artist, cardio-perfusionist, business leader, architect, judge, Major League umpire and others.

“Our alumni are a reflection of the excellent work of our dedicated faculty and the high quality of our programs,” Stout said. “Many of our alumni have taken non-traditional paths to their careers, but each of them is an inspirational success story that exemplifies persistence and determination. The vast majority of them

choose to live and work in Montgomery County, and they advance our regional economy as visionary leaders, innovators and creative decision makers in the workforce.”

One of the many notable alumni is the College’s Board of Trustees Chair Michael D’Aniello (’78), an attorney with law offices in Norristown. “The College gave me an opportunity I otherwise wouldn’t have had,” says D’Aniello, who has served on the Board since 2001 and as Board Chair since 2011. “The reason I’m here is to give back by supporting the College’s students. Montgomery County Community College is an incredible asset to our community.”

Scholarships provided the entryway for many alumni, including science teacher Peter Grove (’74), whose life was transformed when he earned his associate’s degree at the College on a full scholarship. He then transferred to the University of Pennsylvania for his bachelor’s and master’s degrees, and has taught science classes for 27 years, transforming the lives of his students at Friends’ Central Lower School in Wynnewood.

For Pennsylvania State Rep. Mike Vereb (’86), the College allowed him to follow his passion for law enforcement. “Montgomery

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As of November 2014, the *Futures Rising* comprehensive campaign raised more than \$6 million of its \$9 million goal.
Photo by Anita Jerva



Fifty Fabulous Alumni

Fifty of Montgomery County Community College's outstanding alumni gathered on stage in the Science Center Theater at Central Campus to be honored for their achievements.

Photo by Anita Jerva

Fifty of Montgomery County Community College's outstanding alumni were honored during a special ceremony on Nov. 14, 2014. The College has more than 55,000 alumni—some were the first in their families to attend college. Others emigrated here from other countries. Many persevered through challenges to finish their education or to make career changes. All of them have made important contributions to their industries, their families and to the community.

1970s

Clark DeLeon (1970)
Celeste Schwartz (1970)
George Marin (1971)
Thomas Rogers (1971)
Sheila Wallace (1971)
James Wallace (1972)
Jane Flanagan (1973)
Robert Cominsky (1974)
Peter Grove (1974)
Ross Mitchell (1974)
Eileen Behr (1976)
Brian Lamoreaux (1976)
Cynthia Diccianni (1977)
Susan Nicholas Gephart (1977)
Oscar Vance (1977)
Michael D'Aniello (1978)
Sam Davis (1978)
Melissa Motz (1978)
Scott Rau (1978)

1980s

Lillian Caperila (1980)
Lena Tella Gelenberg (1980)
William Carroll (1981)
Cathy Heckler (1981)
Joseph Tumolo (1981)
Michele Kraynak (1982)
George Marks (1982)

George Heming (1984)
James Vlahos (1985)
Michael Vereb (1986)
Kevin Geiss (1987)
Michael Webb (1987)
Timothy Briggs (1989)
Patricia Nunan (1989)

1990s

Charles Yarnall (1990)
William Ziegler (1991)
Jeannine McKnight (1993)
Tracy Reinhart (1993)
Rodolfo Tellez (1993)
Megan Kratz (1994)
Alan Porter (1999)

2000s

Michele Fonte (2000)
John Caperilla (2001)
Patti Thomas (2001)
Christian Sheehan (2005)
Nicola Manning-Davenport (2007)
Michael Pflueger (2007)
Debbie Zlomek (2007)
Sherrylynn Marshall (2008)
Jan Kargulewicz (2009)
Antonio Marrero (2011)
Myrtle Williams

Celebrate Our Past & Launch Our Future
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County Community College helped me to get an affordable education and my first job as a police officer," says one of the youngest members to be elected to the Pennsylvania House leadership. "The College is economical, convenient and second to none academically."

While some students know their direction, others find it while attending classes at the College, as was the case for Nicola Manning-Davenport ('07). Starting as a single mom, she enrolled in a computer class, and then persisted until she earned her associate's degree and a full scholarship to Bucknell University, as part of Bucknell's Community College Scholars Program. After earning her bachelor's degree in Economics, she was hired as a Pennsylvania Information Management System Client Support Specialist at the Central Susquehanna Intermediate Unit. Now, after completing her master's degree, she is thinking about pursuing her doctorate. "I was nurtured at the College, and it's where I became a lifelong learner," she says.

As part of the anniversary program, the College presented the President's Award to the Pennsylvania legislative delegation and Montgomery County Commissioners, whose actions honor the spirit of the Community College Act and support the belief that the College serves as a vital stepping stone to economic well-being. Their support has enabled the development of state-of-the-art facilities at two campuses, the Culinary Arts Institute, a Municipal Police Academy and the University Center.

"Montgomery County Community College serves as a vital gateway to opportunity and success," Stout said. "Through private philanthropic investment, we can ensure the gateway remains accessible for all students today and for future generations. Investing in a Montgomery County Community College education is life-transforming for students, their families, our community and the region."

For more information about the Futures Rising Campaign, mc3.edu/futuresrising. ■



Photos by Anita Jerng

College Receives Largest Gift of Record: \$2 Million

By Denise Portner

Montgomery County Community College announced the receipt of the largest private gift in its history—\$2 million from the Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation—on Jan. 30, 2015. Making the announcement were (from left) Montgomery County Commissioner Val Arkoosh; Nursing student Mis Kulsum; President Dr. Karen A. Stout; Engineering Science student Nick Silva; Montgomery County Commissioner Chairman Josh Shapiro; and Board of Trustees Chairman Michael J. D'Aniello.



Photo by Sandi Yanisko

The Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) presented a \$2 million check—the largest private gift ever given to Montgomery County Community College—on Jan. 30, 2015 during a special ceremony attended by county officials.

The gift will establish an endowment within the College's Foundation, and annual interest from the endowment will fund workforce development programs and scholarships for students pursuing high-demand careers in industries that support the continued prosperity of the County and its citizens.

"This is a gift that will keep on giving," said Montgomery County Community College President Dr. Karen A. Stout. "The gift provides important new dollars to ensure student access to education and training programs that build the workforce pipeline in key areas."

The gift comes as the result of an April 24, 2014, vote by the MCEDC Board of Trustees to dissolve the private, independent nonprofit organization and distribute some of its assets to the Montgomery County Development Corporation and the College to create efficiency in the administration of the County's economic development programs.

MCEDC has requested that the College leverage its gift by raising an additional \$2 million in matching funds.

The endowment created by the MCEDC gift and matching funds from the challenge will support workforce projects at the College such as:

- Seed money for new programs and student scholarships in critical health sciences fields and other high-demand industries such as culinary arts, entrepreneurship, biotechnology, information technology, and environmental studies;
- Funding for innovative incumbent worker training to attract and retain businesses in the County; and
- Stipends for books, transportation, and childcare for veterans pursuing their education in STEM and other high-demand fields, or for use of the College's Center for Entrepreneurial Studies incubator to start a business.

"Montgomery County is strongest when we create an atmosphere to promote job growth, while at the same time having well-trained

individuals to fill those positions," said Josh Shapiro, chair of the County Board of Commissioners. "The generosity of MCEDC and the proven ability of Montgomery County Community College to create programs to answer the needs of its students and our workforce will help ensure a bright economic future for our county."

The gift recognizes the longstanding productive relationship between the County and the College and their joint ability to align training to business needs. One of only 50 institutions in the nation to offer training through the Global Corporate College international network, the College's Center for Workforce Development partners with dozens of businesses annually to provide training.

The College recently added a Pennsylvania Real Estate Pre-licensing Fast Track Program and a Medical Office Assistant course, in addition to new certificate programs in fall 2014 in the high-demand occupations of Biotechnology/ Biomanufacturing, Cloud Computing, Cyber Security, and an expanded Dental certificate. Currently under development are training programs for Physical and Occupational Therapy Assistants.



The Nicholas J. D'Aniello Nursing Scholarship helped to make it possible for student Mis Kulsum to pursue her dream of becoming a nurse. From left: Eric D'Aniello, Nick D'Aniello, Carol D'Aniello, Mis Kulsum and Michael D'Aniello.

Scholarship Provides Pathway for Future

"To accomplish great things in life we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe," said freshman Nursing student Mis Kulsum, quoting French poet Anatole France, as she stood at the podium in front of an atrium full of people who were gathered for the announcement of MCEDC's \$2 million gift.

"It is almost never possible for us to reach our fullest potential until we have found something that gives our lives meaning," she continued. "I found the meaning of life, faith, opportunities, and hopes by observing underprivileged people living their lives with the combination of diseases and both fear and hunger every day in Bangladesh."

Kulsum moved to the United States from Bangladesh in 2009, and she is the first in her family to attend college. In addition to her studies, she volunteers her time helping other international students get the support they need to stay in college. Additionally, she serves as vice president of the Muslim Student

Association, and is an active member of the International and the Religious Tolerance clubs.

After observing her mother struggle with severe sickle cell anemia and the lack of adequate care, Kulsum became motivated to study nursing so she could help others.

"As a nurse, I will have the opportunity to interact with patients, medical staff, doctors, and administrators every day," she said. "This will give me the opportunity to learn from other careers and add to my knowledge base, while sharpening my interpersonal skills. By being a nurse, I will have the opportunity to make swift decisions, learn each day and never get bored, as each day is different."

She selected Montgomery County Community College because it was affordable and close to her home. Since she started in fall 2014, she feels very happy about her choice.

"Here at the College, each student is valued and the faculty create a welcoming learning environment for everyone," she said. "I feel fortunate to be receiving an education from

a College whose faculty genuinely care about their students and want them to succeed."

As a way to help finance her education, she applied for scholarships and was awarded the Nicholas J. D'Aniello Nursing Endowed Scholarship.

"Receiving this scholarship reduced a great deal of pressure and has allowed me to focus on studies rather than wondering how I will pay tuition, buy books, help my parents at home and manage the money for transportation. With the money, I was able to help myself and step forward in my journey," she said.

"After receiving this scholarship, I strongly believe that it reinforced my self-confidence and I feel a greater power of resilience within myself. It encouraged me to study even harder and make my journey here at Montgomery County Community College, as well as my next four year college, a successful one."

Following her graduation, she plans to get her bachelor's degree in nursing and eventually study to become a nurse practitioner.

Students Awarded Merit Scholarships for Academic Excellence

By Alana J. Mauger ('97)

The Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges recognized 44 students from across the Commonwealth—including four from Montgomery County Community College—as members of the All-Pennsylvania Academic Team on April 13 in Harrisburg. The awards honor community college students who have a grade point average of 3.5 or higher and are involved with their colleges and communities.

In partnership with the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE), All-PA Academic Team honorees are awarded two-year scholarships to any of the PASSHE institutions. Additional scholarship money is awarded by Coca-Cola to students based on their All-USA Community College Academic Team application scores.

Two of the College's students—Kendra Houck, Pottstown, and Heidi Hunsberger, Norristown, were named Coca-Cola Silver Scholars, which awards them an additional

\$1,250 in scholarship funds. They are joined by Caitlin Moser, Schwenksville, and Angelina Sirak, Green Lane, in representing Montgomery County Community College on the 2015 All-PA Academic Team.

As a dual enrollment student, Kendra Houck, 18, earned her associate's degree from the College only a few days after graduating from high school. She served as president of the Beta Tau Lambda chapter of Phi Theta Kappa honor society and as a senator with the West Campus Student Government Association, and she was a member of the West End Student Theatre drama club. She plans to transfer to West Chester University in the fall to study clinical psychology.

Heidi Hunsberger, 33, graduated from the College in June with an associate's degree in liberal studies and will transfer to Thomas Jefferson University to study occupational therapy in an accelerated bachelor's and master's degree program. She is a member of the Alpha Kappa

Zeta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, and is a dedicated volunteer with the Special Olympics Bowling League.

Caitlin Moser, 24, discovered a passion for history at the College's West Campus, citing late Assistant Professor of History Ryan Johnson as inspiring her to pursue a career as a history professor. She graduated from Montgomery County Community College in December 2014 and was a member of the Beta Tau Lambda chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. She is currently enrolled in a Bachelor of Arts/Master of Arts degree program in history at LaSalle University.

Liberal Studies major Angelina Sirak, 20, was an Honors Program Scholar and a Mustangs Scholar Athlete. She was a three-sport student athlete—playing soccer, basketball and soccer, and she served as the treasurer of the Honors Club and was a member of the Alpha Kappa Zeta chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and the Hola Club. Sirak plans to transfer to Kutztown University to study sports journalism.



Montgomery County Community College President Dr. Karen A. Stout (center) stands with the College's All-Pennsylvania Academic Team honorees: (from left) Caitlin Moser, Angelina Sirak, Kendra Houck and Heidi Hunsberger. The students were honored during an awards banquet on April 13 in Harrisburg.

Photo courtesy of the PA Commission for Community Colleges



Photo courtesy of Theatre Horizon

Collaboration Shines Spotlight on Homelessness

'Imagine No Homelessness' was an Alternative Spring Break Project involving the Central Campus Phi Theta Kappa honor society chapter, West End Student Theatre and the Drama Club, working with Theatre Horizon and Coordinated Homeless Outreach Center of Norristown. During the project, students worked side by side with theatre artists and members of the housing insecure community to create a conversation and generate awareness about homelessness in Montgomery County. Together they created original artwork using items that represented "home." The collaboration was done in coordination with Theatre Horizon's production of "In the Blood," during which the artwork was on display in the Theatre Horizon lobby to continue the conversation among visitors. The traveling artwork also will be on display at Central and West campuses and beyond.



Culinary Arts Students Share Cooking and Baking Talents

Culinary Arts Institute students volunteered their talents to assist TV celebrity chef Robert Irvine with a special Valentine's Day program held at the Keswick Theatre in Glenside, Pa. They arrived on the morning Feb. 14 at Gerhard's Appliances, located across the street from the theatre, to prepare for the pre-show event and to assist with set-up for the show. On Presidents Day, the students baked a cake for George Washington's birthday and hundreds of cupcakes for the visitors at Valley Forge National Historic Park, where the celebration was held.

Photos by Sandi Yanisko



Serving the Community

For Alternative Spring Break, 11 students and staff volunteered at The Samaritan Woman in Baltimore, Md., a transitional residence program for victims of human trafficking. In addition to doing chores and repairs at the residence, the volunteers learned more about human trafficking and its impact on society.



Photo by Robert Kent

Mustangs Men's and Women's basketball teams hosted the Lansdale Titans and Conshohocken Stars Special Olympics games on Jan. 22, 2015.

Special Night of Hoops as Mustangs Basketball Teams up with Local Special Olympics

Hoop dreams were realized on Thursday, Jan. 22, 2015 as the Mustangs men's and women's basketball teams hosted the Lansdale Titans and Conshohocken Stars Special Olympics basketball teams for a fun-filled night.

Approximately 25 Special Olympics athletes and their families filled the gym of the

Physical Education Center for this annual event. There were smiles galore as the teams maneuvered up and down the court. The Mustangs' best were no match for the Stars and Titans squads, who dispatched their opponents before meeting in the Championship Game that capped off the evening.

In the end, the Titans and Stars players' real passion and joy for the game reminded Mustangs coaches and players alike that playing basketball can be more than just a game. That was certainly the case on this cold January night.



Baseball Champs

Congrats, Mustangs! The Mustangs Men's Baseball team won the regular season Eastern Pennsylvania Championship for 2015. The team included Vince Catagnus, Dante DeBrigda, Chuck Delagol, Mark Ferrier, Robert Gerofsky, Don Halbrunner, Adam Hennessey, Jake Hoffman, Matt Kellar, Jake Mascio, Paul Meagher, Kevin Neumann, Joe O'Brien, Josh Persson, Luke Pollock, Jason Smith, Donovan Squartino and Remi Wachsmuth.





Photo by Robert Kent



2014-15 Women's Basketball Team

Kneeling (from left) Julie Primavera (11), Tayler Nicholson (13), India Williams (2) and Stephanie Sirak (3). Standing (from left) Head Basketball Coach Francine Roseman, team manager Alexandria Somers, Colby Shackelford (22), Emily Smith (35), Bryanna Lacey (10) and Assistant Coach Darby Callahan. Not pictured: Evelyn Ogden (5), scorekeeper Maddie Paone and assistant Angelina Sirak.

Photo by Robert Kent



2014-15 Men's Basketball Team

Kneeling (from left) Vince Casciello (30), Tyreek Magruder (5), Louis Dennis (42) Matt Krewson (10), Nicko Balis (14), and Trevino Hall (23). Standing (from left) Head Coach Denny Surovec, Assistant Coach Patrick Boylan, scorekeeper Maddie Paone, Chris Uhrich (24), Shane Iselt (22), Harris Griffin (15), Ryan Brennan (20), Kevin Woods (12), Ryan Casper (3), and Assistant Coach Jeff Hurst. Not pictured: Eric Gainor (44) and Assistant Coach Koran Prince.

MUSTANGS SPORTS CAMPS

Baseball Camp

July 6th - 9th

Basketball Camp

July 13th - 17th

Soccer Camp

July 20th - 24th

Tennis Camp

July 27th - 31st

Softball Camp

Aug. 3rd - 7th

Volleyball Camp

Aug. 10th - 14th

Visit MustangsAthletics.com to learn more.





Think Pink & Salute to Second-Year Women's Basketball Athletes

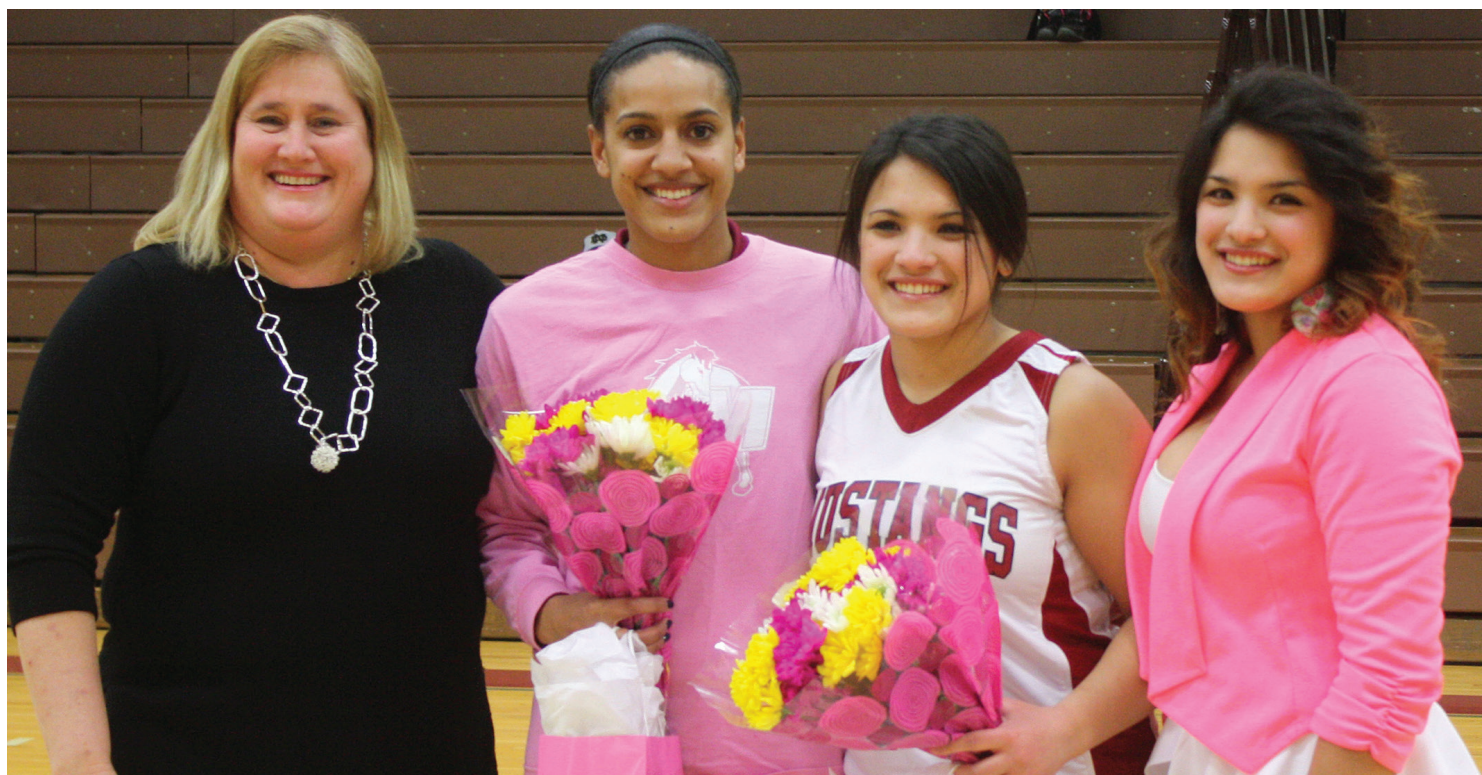


Photo by Jessica Tolton

As part of the annual Think Pink Game on Feb. 3, Mustangs Athletics saluted the achievements of second-year women's basketball student-athletes Bryanna Lacey and Stephanie Sirak, joined in this photo by Head Basketball Coach Francine Roseman and Stephanie's sister, Angelina.

Salute to Second-Year Men's Basketball Athletes



Photo by Jessica Tolton

Prior to the Feb. 3 game against Delaware County Community College, Mustangs Athletics saluted the achievements of second-year men's basketball student-athletes Ryan Casper, Shane Isett, Tyreek Magruder, and Chris Uhrich, joined by family as well as Athletic Director Bruce Bach, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Kathrine Swanson, Head Coach Denny Surovec and the Mustang Mascot.

Alumni Chair's Message



Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends,

Congratulations to our recent graduates of the Class of 2015! We are proud of your accomplishments and wish you the best as you embark on the next chapter in your lives.

We invite all of our alumni to join us throughout the year for events and activities, such as Community Day, Alumni Hall of Fame, Lively Arts performances, art exhibition openings, bus trips and more. Additionally, we host several networking events at area restaurants—a great way to stay connected with your former classmates and meet new friends. To learn more about our upcoming events, like our alumni Facebook page at facebook.com/MC3Alumni, follow us on Instagram at instagram.com/mc3.alumni and visit our web page at mc3.edu/alumni.

Furthermore, being a member Montgomery County Community College's network of 55,000 alumni automatically entitles you to special benefits—check out the information for some new benefits, including discounts on insurance rates, listed page 33.

As you continue on your journeys, share your news with us, and we'll share your information here on the pages of bigDreams and on our Facebook page. Email your updates to bigDreams@mc3.edu. We want to hear from you!

Go Mustangs!

Patti Thomas '01

Chair, Alumni Board of Directors

Class Notes

1971

Jeff Meade has been a professional journalist for more than 40 years. He started his career in newspapers and then branched out into national magazines, including *Prevention* magazine, and online publications. He was the news and features editor of the Webby Award-winning *inteli-health.com* in Blue Bell. He retired in mid-April 2015 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, where he was a member of the Web team for 13 years. He also wrote articles and published photos and video for irishphiladelphia.com, a blog he co-founded with Denise Foley. He got his start in journalism as the news editor of the College's student newspaper, *The Montgazette*. Recently, he launched his own health and medical editorial consulting business.

1974

Ross L. Mitchell recently was appointed Director of the Barnes-

de Mazia Education and Outreach Programs for The Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia.

1975

Dr. Raymond P. Findlater recently published a book, "Victory Through Surrender."

1999

Cindy Merback continued her education and obtained her bachelor's degree in Dental Hygiene followed by her Master of Arts in Education in Curriculum and Instruction. She also took courses to earn numerous Zumba certifications, so she can continue to teach health and wellness as an adjunct faculty member at the College.

2001

John Caperilla recently was promoted to Project Manager—Transportation at Borton Lawson Engineering, Bethlehem.

2009

Jan Kargulewicz recently was promoted to Project Manager at The Vanguard Group, Malvern.

2013

Dave Engle, who graduated from the College's Municipal Police Academy, was recently sworn in as an officer with Lower Southampton Police Department.

2014

Carlito Cortez, who graduated from the College's Municipal Police Academy, was hired as a part-time police officer for Yardley Borough Police Department.

Joshua Samuels, who graduated from the College's Municipal Police Academy, was hired as a Norristown Borough police officer.

Alumni Association Board of Directors

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.

Current Board Members

Rev. Patti Thomas '01
Chair

John Caperilla '01
Vice Chair

Andrew Bender '96
Secretary/Treasurer

Lynn Holtzman '87

Hilda Hynes '13

Jan Kargulewicz '09

Louise Linden '74

Jeanne LaSorda '82

Sarah Munson '12

Nicholas Natale '11

Nicole Reggia '08

Rodolfo Tellez '93

Keith Tobin '11

Mark Wolfrey '01

William Ziegler '91

Annual Art Show is a Campus Favorite



More than 40 full and part-time faculty members and about 35 artist alumni were invited to participate in the Annual Faculty and Invited Alumni Art Show, which opened Jan. 26, and continued through Friday, Feb. 13, at the Fine Arts Center Gallery, Central Campus in Blue Bell.

Wittig Promoted to Director of Alumni Relations and Special Programs

Stephanie Wittig was recently promoted to the position of director of alumni relations and special programs. She previously served as associate director of annual and alumni programs for the College since 2013, and prior to that position, she was the assistant director of development with Penn State University.

In her new role as director of alumni relations and special programs, she coordinates the Foundation's annual giving programming, organizes cultivation events, and oversees Alumni Association activities, among other responsibilities. Wittig holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Penn State University. To contact Stephanie, email swittig@mc3.edu or call 215-461-1139.



Photo by Sarah Yanisko

Stephanie Wittig, Director of Alumni Relations and Special Programs.

Alumni and Friends Enjoy a Holiday Tour of Fairmount Park



The Alumni Association organizes several bus trips each year to visit destinations such as Longwood Gardens, Winterthur Estates, Fairmount Park in Philadelphia and Mohonk Mountain House in New York, to name a few. All alumni and friends are invited on the trips. For more information about upcoming trips and to sign up for emails, contact Stephanie Wittig at swittig@mc3.edu or call 215-461-1139.

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 Athletic and Wellness Center membership, which entitles you to use the College's fitness center and tennis and racquetball courts, free of charge. Call 215-619-7314 to make reservations.

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 "MCCAlumni."



For more information, visit mc3.edu/alumni.

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.



Montgomery County
Community College
Foundation

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



Message from the Foundation Chair

At our annual Salute to Excellence event in March this year, the banquet room at Normandy Farm overflowed with lively conversation of more than 300 donors and scholarship recipients! The heartwarming atmosphere generated smiles and applause throughout the memorable evening.

In addition to creating an opportunity for donors and scholars to become acquainted and share their experiences, the event provided a chance for the College and the Foundation Board to express our gratitude for the generous support of our donors, particularly since the launch of the *Futures Rising*

Campaign. We expect to reach and even exceed our initial goal of \$9 million by June 30, 2015.

In fiscal year 2015, we gave \$522,595 in 586 scholarships to 305 students—more than we have ever awarded previously.

In keeping with the College's original mission, we clearly are on a path to help students overcome financial barriers to help ensure higher education remains available to all students.

Many thanks to you for helping to make our students' educational dreams come true and for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Dolores Lare, Chair

Montgomery County Community College Foundation

Wells Fargo Provides \$20,000 for Student Mentoring Program



Photo by Sandi Yanisko

Wells Fargo recently presented a \$20,000 grant to Montgomery County Community College to provide scholarships for students participating in the College's Minority Student Mentoring Initiative. Back row, from left: Student Zachary Collier, Philadelphia; Tara A. Brady, Wells Fargo Assistant Vice President/Senior Relationship Manager; student Fernando Garcia, Pottstown; Edward Brown, College Academic Advisor; and Dr. Steady Moono, Vice President of West Campus in Pottstown. Front row, from left: Dr. Karen A. Stout, College President; student Jacori McEachnie, Eagleville; student Diahann McIntyre, Norristown; Anthony Rosado, Wells Fargo Area President for Montgomery County; student Clifton Ford, Pottstown; and Wilson Gonzalez, Souderton.

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 mc3.edu/alumni-donors/foundation.

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

Cynthia Diccianni

John A. Koury, Jr., Esquire

Regina M. Lowrie, CMB

Kwan Morrow

Melissa Motz

Scott Rau

Steve Rosa

Anthony Rosado

Karen A. Stout, Ed.D.

Maureen S. Thompson

Lena Tella Gelenberg

Roger Willig

Honorary Board Members

Alma R. Jacobs

Joseph P. Mann

William E. Strasburg

TD Bank Supports Gateway to College Program with \$65K Donation

Maguire Foundation Provides \$30K for Student Scholarships



TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank®, recently donated \$65,000 through the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit program to support the Gateway to College program at Montgomery County Community College. From left: Kathrine Swanson, College Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management; Paige Carlson-Heim, TD Bank Community Development Group Manager; Laura Krueger, Gateway to College Valedictorian; Robin Garis, TD Bank Retail Market Manager, Montgomery Region; Geoffrey Brandon, SVP, Regional Vice President, TD Bank; David Rink, TD Bank Store Manager, Whitpain Store; Karen A. Stout, College President; Thomas Rosa, Gateway to College Transition student speaker; and Keima Sheriff, Gateway to College Director.

TD Bank, America's Most Convenient Bank®, donated \$65,000 through the Pennsylvania Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) program to support the Gateway to College program, as part of the bank's commitment to giving back to the community.

Gateway to College is a national initiative that helps students who are at risk of not completing or have disengaged from their high school education. Through the program, students complete the requirements to earn their high school diplomas while earning college credits at the College.

The donation will be used for operational support for the Gateway program. Regional

Vice President for TD Bank and member of the College's Board of Trustees Geoffrey Brandon attended the graduation ceremony, where he presented the ceremonial check to the students and director of the program, Keima Sheriff.

"This program gives young people who may have gone off course, a second chance," said Brandon. "We are extremely proud to support an organization that strives to improve the quality of life for our community and provides the tools necessary to achieve success."

In addition, The Maguire Foundation has provided \$30,000 for student scholarships. These funds will be used to provide support

to students from Pottstown and Norristown school districts and will target students who will graduate with a high school diploma in one year. These students will have the opportunity to compete for Maguire Scholarships to continue their education at Montgomery County Community College and into other participating colleges.

Earlier in 2014, PECO donated \$10,000 through the EITC program to assist students with these expenses for the 2014-15 school year. Similarly, in 2013, Waste Management donated \$5,000 through EITC to cover these expenses for students in the prior school year.

Salute to Excellence Scholarship Event Highlights Students and Supporters

College Foundation Awards the Most Scholarships in its History

The annual Salute to Excellence Scholarship event embodies the College's solid commitment to access to higher education, student success and community engagement. This year, thanks to the support of generous donors and the success of its Futures Rising comprehensive fundraising campaign, the College's Foundation awarded 305 students with more than \$522,500 from nearly 150 donor-funded scholarships—the largest number of recipients awarded and the most scholarship money raised in the Foundation's history.

This includes more than 80 new scholarship funds established since July 1, 2013, when the College's Foundation initially launched its ambitious Futures Rising campaign to raise \$9 million for student scholarships. The Foundation expects to reach and even exceed its goal by June 30, 2015.

"The support of the Futures Rising comprehensive fundraising campaign enables the College to keep the doors to higher education open to everyone who desires an education," said Dr. Karen A. Stout, president. "Every year, we see an increase in the number of students who require financial aid to cover their educational expenses; in 2014-15, the total unmet need of our students exceeds \$29 million. Scholarships enable our students to complete their education and graduate debt free, and we are grateful for the generosity of our donors and community partners."

At the Salute to Excellence event held at Normandy Farms in Blue Bell on March 31, the College's Foundation honored more than 320 donors and students. The evening provided an opportunity for scholarship recipients to share their experiences and personally thank the donors who helped them achieve their educational goals.

For students like Jeremiah Garcia, 21, of Plymouth Meeting, scholarships not only provide financial security, but a message of encouragement and assurance.

"Last year, I was awarded the Alumni Association Scholarship, and this year I was awarded the KVB Foundation Endowed Scholarship," Garcia said. "Because of these scholarships, I was given some financial stability that allowed me to



Donors Kenneth and Valerie Baker are proud to award the 2014-15 KVB Foundation Scholarship to Jeremiah Garcia, a Liberal Studies major who graduated in May 2015.

concentrate on my studies. A giant weight was lifted from my shoulders and allowed me to have time to get involved in campus."

Following his graduation, Garcia plans to continue his education, majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Entrepreneurship at Drexel University.

"I will always remember the difference these

scholarships made in my life, and some day, I hope I will be able to pay it forward for someone like me to succeed," he added.

For more information about student scholarships or about establishing a named fund, contact Stephanie Wittig, Director of Alumni Relations and Special Programs, at swittig@mc3.edu or 215-461-1139.



Ambler Rotary Presents \$25,000

Ambler Rotary Club presented Montgomery County Community College with \$25,000 for student scholarships. From left, Ambler Rotary Club Vice President Leslie Heffernen, College Major Gifts Officer Lynette Zimmerman and Ambler Rotary Club President Peter Phillips.

Students Receive \$25,000 in STEM Scholarships from PECO

50 Students Received \$500 Scholarships in Commemoration of College's 50th Anniversary

In honor of its recent 50th anniversary, Montgomery County Community College received \$25,000 from PECO on April 7, 2015, for 50 scholarship awards to students to support their education in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

"As we conclude the celebration of the College's 50th anniversary, we look ahead to ensure the continued success of our current and future students," said Dr. Karen A. Stout, president. "The growth and competitiveness of our country's economy requires an educated, skilled workforce in high-demand STEM career fields, and as a result, we have strengthened our STEM program to provide more opportunities to engage students through hands-on learning experiences both on campus and through community partnerships. PECO's generous donation will help our STEM students with their financial needs and further support their achievements."

The scholarships will help high-achieving STEM students—including veterans, active duty military or reservists, single parents, women, minorities and nontraditional students—defray the cost of tuition, textbooks, lab supplies, technology fees and other program-related costs.

For Computer Science major and Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society member,

Victor Hall, the scholarship will help him pursue his passion for writing code, particularly for electronic game and simulation design. While attending classes, Hall hopes to participate in the QuadForge Undergraduate Research Program and wants to pursue internships in his field. Upon graduation, he plans to continue his education at the University of Pennsylvania's College of Engineering studying Digital Media Design.

"I am thankful to receive the PECO STEM scholarship," Hall said, noting that this will help him to pay for tuition and avoid accruing debt. "This award has inspired me to continue to think big about my education and potential."

The College's STEM programs integrate the key areas of experiential learning, professional development, connections with local businesses and academia, and direct access to defined col-

lege and career pathways.

"Thanks to the generosity of PECO, students in the STEM programs can build solid mathematical and scientific foundations that will stabilize their future pathways. Through STEM courses, students become familiar with scientific methodology and analytical skills that are critical in today's STEM related workforce," said Dean of STEM Dr. David DiMattio.



Photo by Sandi Yanisko

In honor of Montgomery County Community College's 50th anniversary last year, PECO presented a check in the amount of \$25,000 for \$500 scholarships for 50 students majoring in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics fields. Thirty-one of the 50 students were available to attend the luncheon event on April 7, 2015, to receive their certificate of awards. Photo by Sandi Yanisko

Council for Resource Development Honors Supporters

In November 2014, the Council for Resource Development (CRD) presented Kathleen and Joseph Gallagher of Ambler with its 2014 Community College Benefactor Award during the CRD annual national conference in Washington D.C.

The national CRD Benefactor Award recognizes individuals, foundations, or businesses/corporations for outstanding contributions to community colleges. The award embodies the ideals of philanthropy, leadership and volunteerism in the service of community, technical, and junior colleges.

The Gallaghers are active, dedicated supporters of the College and its mission. In 2014, they volunteered to take a lead role in the College's inaugural Futures Rising comprehensive fundraising campaign. Under their leadership, the campaign raised more than \$6 million during the first year. Additionally, Joe has served as a Foundation board member since 2011, and he chaired the annual Strides for Scholarships 5K and Fitness run for two years.

The Council for Resource Development connects, educates, supports, strengthens, and celebrates community college development professionals. As an affiliate of the American Association of Community Colleges, CRD serves more than 750 institutions.



Photograph: Council for Resource Development/ Edele Amosi Photography

From left, Joseph and Kathleen Gallagher, standing with Montgomery County Community College President Karen A. Stout, received the national 2014 Community College Benefactor Award from the Council for Resource Development.

PECO Presents 50th Anniversary Picture



In commemoration of the College's 50th Anniversary, PECO presented this digital artwork and \$25,000 for 50 STEM scholarships. From left: College Dean of STEM Dr. David DiMattio, PECO VP of Electric Operations Eric Helt, College President Karen A. Stout and PECO Regional External Affairs Manager Suzanne Ryan.

Art Students Create Commemorative Plaque



Students in the Summer 2014 class, Art 161 – Ceramics I, under the direction of Marlene Serafine Gaudio, Senior Lecturer, collaborated to create this special 50th anniversary ceramic plaque. The plaque was presented to President Dr. Karen Stout at Montgomery County Community College's 50th Anniversary Birthday Celebration on December 8, 2014. A photograph was placed in the time capsule, which will be opened in 2064. Students included Kaitlyn DeJohn, Jerel Jones, Sonja



Kline, Allison Kowalski, Linda Landis, Christie Martin, Jennifer Maxin, Ada Nuss, Jennifer Nuss, Jessica O'Hara, Teresa Perotti, Jessica Sbarbaro, Sarah Schunder, Natalie Torrente and Katelyn Toussiant.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
50TH
ANNIVERSARY



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Make big dreams come true.

Montgomery County Community College has helped thousands of men and women, many of whom never dreamed they could go to college, find success through higher education.

Your support enables the College to meet growing needs for scholarships, maintain quality facilities and continue to be a beacon of opportunity in our community.



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