

INSIGHTS

The Magazine for Montgomery College Alumni and Friends • Fall 2008

LEVELING UP

MATT SHAW '81



MYTHIC

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PERFORMANCES

December

Monday, December 1, 7:30 p.m.

COLLEGE ENSEMBLE SERIES MC WORLD ENSEMBLE

Directed by Dawn Avery, featuring music from Latin America, West Africa, Hawaii, and other countries.

Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Rockville Campus. Suggested music scholarship donation: \$5. 240-567-5209

February

Thursday, February 5, 7:30 p.m.

INSCAPE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Includes premiere compositions by music professor Justin Boyer.

Music Recital Hall, Music Building, Rockville Campus. 240-567-5209

March

Wednesday–Saturday, March 4–7, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 8, 2 p.m.

COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS SERIES “TOMMY”

Pete Townshend’s classic rock opera marks 30 years since its London premiere—and 40 since The Who’s original double album. Contains mature themes and/or language.

Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Rockville Campus. 240-567-7536

EVENTS

December

Thursday, December 4, 6–8 p.m.

UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE AND MC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WINTER CELEBRATION

MC alumni and current students considering transfer opportunities are invited to mingle with USG students, faculty, and staff. Enjoy the culinary delights of MC and USG catering students.

Multipurpose Room, Building II, Universities at Shady Grove. Free to alumni and students. However, a reservation is required. RSVP to 240-567-5378.

EXHIBITS

November

FREE!

November 3–December 21 SNAPSHOT OF THE MONTGOMERY COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Portrait exhibition of MC students by MC students.

CAT Gallery, Technical Center, Rockville Campus. 240-567-7521



Poster design by Valerie Burghardt. Photo by Johannes Markus

FREE!

November 12–13, 10 a.m.–7 p.m.

STUDENT ART SALE

Check out new works by MC art students. Purchasing optional but encouraged.

Sarah Silberman Gallery, Paul Peck Art Building, Rockville Campus. 240-567-5115



Ian Bradshaw

December

FREE!

December 11–January 30

FACULTY EXHIBITION

Featuring works by Takoma Park/Silver Spring Visual Arts Department and School of Art and Design faculty.

King Street Gallery, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. 240-567-1368

January

January 19–February 27

ART EXHIBIT

“SEASONS”

An invitational exhibition of flower illustrations, metaphoric and otherwise.

CAT Gallery, Technical Center, Rockville Campus. 240-567-7521

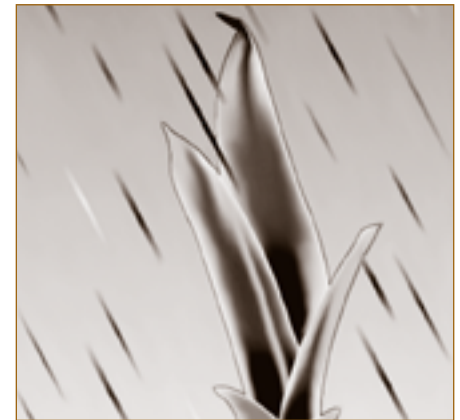


Illustration by Martine Vaughan

March

FREE!

March 9–April 3

ART EXHIBIT

“A VISUAL FEAST”

An exhibition of food-related imagery by the Rockville Campus Art and Communication Arts Technologies Departments.

CAT Gallery, Technical Center, and Sarah Silberman Gallery, Paul Peck Art Building, Rockville Campus. 240-567-7521 and 240-567-5115

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



On August 1, 2008, Montgomery College became tobacco-free. Tobacco use is prohibited on campuses and in College buildings.

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A Message from the President of the Alumni Association



Welcome to the fall '08 edition of *Insights*. You'll find many amazing stories between the covers.

Montgomery College takes seriously its role as a community resource. In that spirit, this issue features a visit with Carmen Schloner '97, whose work with single parents has touched many lives in and around Montgomery County. Meanwhile, students from our computer gaming program are using their skills to develop tools for middle school children learning about how to protect the environment—one of many innovations the College has been able to make using new technology. You'll see more examples of MC's progress in the information age throughout this issue.

As energy prices skyrocket, everyone looks for opportunities to stay in touch with our families and friends as efficiently as possible. Your Alumni Association is no different—we have been working to find new ways for you to interact easily with the Association and with the College.

That's why I'm happy to announce that the College's secure online portal, *MyMC*, has a new section for past students. *MyMC*, which students have used for several years, now offers alumni a one-stop shop for news and publications, membership benefits, and links to services such as job information. Alumni Association members were the first to learn about the new alumni section when it debuted in June for our annual election. You'll find more information about the new *MyMC* alumni section inside this issue.

One of the new features in *MyMC* is a link to information about the leaders you've elected to your Alumni Association's governing board. I'm proud to be working with this wonderful team, and I want you to be able to learn more about them. I hope you'll take a minute to visit the "Meet Your Board of Governors" page. (It's online in the "Your Alumni Association" box on the left side of the Alumni page.)

Beyond meeting your *current* board, I'd also like you to know how we find *new* board members. Our future leaders are alumni who succeed in our committees. These groups drive our business—from recommending alumni benefits, to honoring successful classmates, to advising how best to fund and manage our scholarship program. Committee chairs are responsible for spotting new talent and bringing forward nominees for election to the board.

If you're interested in helping to shape our programs, benefits, and future directions, then the easiest way to build your involvement with the association (and to make your leadership skills known) is to lend your expertise on a project. For more information or to volunteer, I invite you to contact us at alumni@montgomerycollege.edu, or drop us a note using the enclosed envelope.

I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at our events!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tookie Gentilcore". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Tookie Gentilcore '94
Alumni Association President

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION **President:** Tookie Gentilcore '94 **Vice President:** Joyce Knight '91 **Secretary:** Connie Tonat, Professor Emerita **Treasurer:** Gabe Derosier '01 **Board of Governors:** Lon Anderson '70, Rosemary Arkoian '05, Robert Costello '63, Susan Fisher '91, Sue Faltow '72, Robert Hydorn '71, Donald Krueger '63, Carol Leahy '74, Ida McAuliffe '83, Anthony McCann '63, Juan Mendoza '03, James Murdock '94, Julissa Reyes '00, Etienne Takougang '98, Lori Thomas '99, Marvin Thomas '75, Jorge Urrutia '74, Judith Vaughan-Prather '69, Dr. Lucy Vitaliti '77, Stacy Wood '74, Helen Youth, Professor Emerita **Alumni Director:** Jessica L. Warnick '86 **Alumni Coordinator:** John Libby '80 **Alumni Assistant:** Bernice Grossman, Hon. '07.

INSIGHTS **Editorial Staff:** Jill Fitzgerald, John Libby '80, Jessica L. Warnick '86 **Contributing Writers:** David Foote '08, Elizabeth Homan, John Libby '80, Marcus Rosano, Jessica L. Warnick '86 **Photo Credits:** Photography by Donald Rejonis, unless noted otherwise **Cover:** Photo illustration by Clint Wu **Page 3:** Photos.com **Page 4:** Illustration courtesy MC Gaming Program **Page 8:** Photos.com **Design:** Clint Wu **Interim Vice President, Institutional Advancement:** Dr. Brian Baker **Director of Development:** Valessia Samaras *Insights* is produced by the Office of Institutional Advancement. Send correspondence, general announcements, inquiries, address changes, and wedding and death notices to alumni@montgomerycollege.edu or to *Insights*, MC Alumni Office, 900 Hungerford Drive, Suite 200, Rockville, MD 20850. Visit www.montgomerycollege.edu.

LEVELING UP

BY MARCUS ROSANO

Upon entering the lobby of the Mythic Entertainment office in Fairfax, Va., visitors see stacks of computer boxes, unopened FedEx packages, a friendly face at the front desk—and a “Squig” sitting atop a corner shelf. The ghoulish, nearly three-foot-tall creation is a goblin-like monster, absent of arms, with big feet and a wide, toothy grin of huge, rotting, bloody teeth.

“He was dropped off one day,” said Matt Shaw ’81, the chief technology officer at Mythic Entertainment, a computer game developer that is a subsidiary of Electronic Arts, Inc. (EA). “Fans made him and he’s been here ever since.”

Squig, short for Squiggly Beast, is not the company mascot. Squigs are a fictional species found in *Warhammer*, a massive

multiplayer online role-playing game, or MMORPG. Shaw explains that fans, akin to those who covertly planted an “EA Mythic Is Ours!” banner in Mythic’s office, had hoped to become beta testers—people who test products before release.

To understand how Shaw and his colleagues acquired their groupie-style following, look

A Squig (left), created by dedicated fans of the online game *Warhammer*, stands watch at EA Mythic Entertainment, where Matt Shaw ’81 is chief technology officer.



no further than Mythic's parent company. Headquartered in California, EA is the world's premier interactive entertainment software company earning \$3.67 billion in revenue last year. EA purchased Mythic in 2006.

Shaw's steady rise to the pinnacle of gaming was not without a few twists, a lot of determination, and some help from his family.

After graduating from Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda, Shaw followed his interest in working on cars to Montgomery College, where he took a few automotive classes. He achieved a master level and says he still knows enough to "not be taken at the shop." But he also had an itch for computers that started with *Pong* and grew to Atari games, such as *Pac-Man* and other classic 1980s titles. Atari also produced the 800, which allowed users to engage in game play and basic programming. Shaw used an Atari 800, a gift from his parents, to teach himself the basics of how computers worked.

Shaw did not consider his skills with cars and computers to be all that different. "Automotive [work] and computer programming are not as much a contrast as you might imagine," he said. "They are both about using logic to deduce a situation."

After working as a mechanic full time and using nights and weekends to launch his first software business, Shaw returned to the Rockville Campus to upgrade his already-expanding knowledge of computers by taking two programming courses. Meanwhile his wife Paula was plotting a surprise for him that, in some ways, changed their lives. "When the [Commodore] Amiga came out,

my wife secretly saved up the money and bought it for me," Shaw said. "Of course the only thing I could do to thank her was to use it to make several public domain programs and eventually team up with some others to make and sell our own games and make a career out of it. It turned out to be a good investment on her part. The moral of this story: always get your husband the things he wants!"

Shaw and a partner created two game companies that self-published for years. An admitted World War II aircraft buff, Shaw helped create the *Fighter Duel* series. It was widely considered the most realistic World War II air combat simulator of the early and middle 1990s.

Like most start-ups, Shaw's company had its share of tough times at the onset. But with a strong family base to support his aspirations, Shaw kept climbing the ladder in the by-then booming world of video games.

"My family was very supportive," Shaw said. "We did go through some lean times, we had two young kids. My mother and my father-in-law helped us a lot—with encouragement as well as financial support. I eventually made enough with my own companies to do okay, but my partner and I decided that we would like to try working for some other game companies for awhile."

In 1999, Shaw joined Kesmai, a game-developing heavyweight known for its *Air Warrior* flight simulator games. He quickly rose to a technical director role. Later, Shaw worked as a principal engineer at Lodestone Games.

In 2003, Shaw made the jump to Mythic, working alongside game-producing pioneers Mark

Jacobs and Rob Denton. Mythic had struck it big with one of the most popular MMORPG games to date, *Dark Age of Camelot*. In 2002, just a year after it was introduced, *Dark Age* had 250,000 subscribers; now, six years later, subscribers remain steady at 50,000.

"When EA purchased Mythic, that's when I knew—not just me, but also Mythic—had really made it," Shaw said. "We now had the might of the world's largest game publisher on our side. We're in the major leagues now."

Today, Shaw is a 19-year veteran of the games industry. And Mythic Entertainment, which will grow to near nearly 400 employees by next year, released another series in the gaming blockbuster *Warhammer*, *Warhammer Online: Age of Reckoning*, on September 18. *Age of Reckoning* became the fastest-selling new MMORPG of all time, registering 500,000 new players in its first week. Shaw says the massive project has taken three years, 200 employees, and millions of dollars to produce.

From Montgomery College technical classes to one of the most respected labels in the game-development industry, Matt Shaw seems satisfied to be the family man who has never worn a tie to work and has a penchant for "turning hobbies into professions."

"I've never regretted working on games," Shaw said. "Not everyone gets to work at what they enjoy—I consider myself pretty lucky. One's career often is not what one expects. I've never been particularly career minded. My motto was work hard, and do a good job, and rewards will come to you. That's worked out well for me."

GETTING TO THE NEXT LEVEL



Valerie is the heroine of the educational video game *Waterlife* designed by MC students. Recently, the College's gaming program formed a partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Students in Montgomery College's computer gaming program have partnered with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to develop an educational game for kids called *Waterlife: Where the Rivers Meet the Sea!* The game teaches middle school students about protecting estuaries, those places where fresh river water meets the ocean water. The partnership is funded by NOAA and the Montgomery College Foundation.

"We are trying to go into a new direction, adding interactivity and gaming to get students more excited about science and environmental stewardship," said NOAA's Marina Kraus. "It's a pilot project for us, but we believe letting older kids design for younger kids might be something new, so we would like to explore this approach."

NOAA heard about the College's gaming program and approached Professor Deborah Solomon, the program coordinator, about creating an educational game to teach kids about the environment. Solomon quickly assembled a team of her best students, and they began designing the concepts of the game.

"NOAA liked our ideas," Solomon said. "And we have been working together over the past few months on a Flash game that features a 14-year-old heroine named Valerie, a talking otter, a giant turtle, and pollution monsters."

Waterlife team member Chris Krawiec '09 relishes the idea of combining the fun of a video game with teaching young people. Says Krawiec, "There's something satisfying about working on an entertainment game that educates about such a serious issue as the environment and how to clean it up."

The gaming program at Montgomery College provides students with a wealth of technology. Students can learn Web skills, animation, game design, 3-D modeling, and computer programming—all skills that can be applied to a variety of career paths beyond gaming, including Web design, film animation, and advertising.

"The (NOAA) project is going smoothly," said Solomon. "The game will have four scenes and three mini-games, and we are on track to release the game early next year. NOAA has been thrilled with the students' creativity, and we are now talking about doing a sequel."

—Marcus Rosano

"2+2" PATH TO A BACHELOR'S DEGREE: A STEPPING STONE FOR ASPIRING GAMING PROFESSIONALS

Montgomery College and the University of Baltimore have created an academic path for students who wish to pursue a bachelor's degree in computer gaming. Students can complete their associate's degree at Montgomery College and then transfer to the University of Baltimore (UB) for their final two years.

An added benefit is that the UB classes can be taken at the Universities at Shady Grove in Rockville, which allows Montgomery College students to obtain a bachelor's degree without leaving Montgomery County.

Matt Shaw '81, chief technical officer for Mythic Entertainment, says getting into the

gaming industry isn't all about saturating yourself in computer classes in college.

"The message I stress the most is that all aspects of schooling contribute to making good games—math, social studies, art, English, music, you name it," he says. "You have to do more than play games to be able to make them."

Brian Perry '08 used the "2+2" path to transfer to the University of Baltimore, where he majors in simulation and digital entertainment. Perry worked at Bethesda Softworks as a quality assurance intern and is currently the lead writer for the College's game project for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"Everyone thinks they have the next big video game mapped out in their head, but that's not how it works," said Perry, who looks forward to designing and writing games after graduating from UB. "The important thing is to develop useful skills... the industry is a unique blend of several creative, computer science, and other professional vocations. Both programs at MC and UB require exploration into a specific avenue of game production."

For additional information about Montgomery College's computer gaming transfer program, contact Professor Deborah Solomon at 240-567-5136 or visit www.studygaming.com.

—Marcus Rosano

MYMC ALUMNI

Montgomery College operates *MyMC*, a secure portal on the College's Web site that gives students a convenient way to register for classes online, track grades, and keep up with campus news. This year, *MyMC* extended its services to former students as well. Here is a look at some of the features of the new alumni tab. To enter *MyMC*, a login is required. A tutorial is available for new users on the site. For questions related to Alumni content, contact the Alumni Office, 240-567-5378, or e-mail alumni@montgomerycollege.edu.

—David Foote

Happenings at MC

Check here for the latest news and your monthly update on programs open to alumni.

The Alumni Tab

Alumni can log in to *MyMC* and then click on the new Alumni tab to access features designed specifically for past students.

Class Notes

Insights has a "Class Notes" section for alumni to share what they have been doing. Now you can submit your personal updates conveniently online.

How I Can Give Back to MC

There are many opportunities to support the College, whether by mentoring students, volunteering your time, or supporting scholarship programs. Check here for more information.

Giving to MC

You can find more information on making immediate gifts to support Montgomery College.

The Campaign for MC

This section features *Foundation Focus*, the MC Foundation's newsletter.

Lifelong Learning

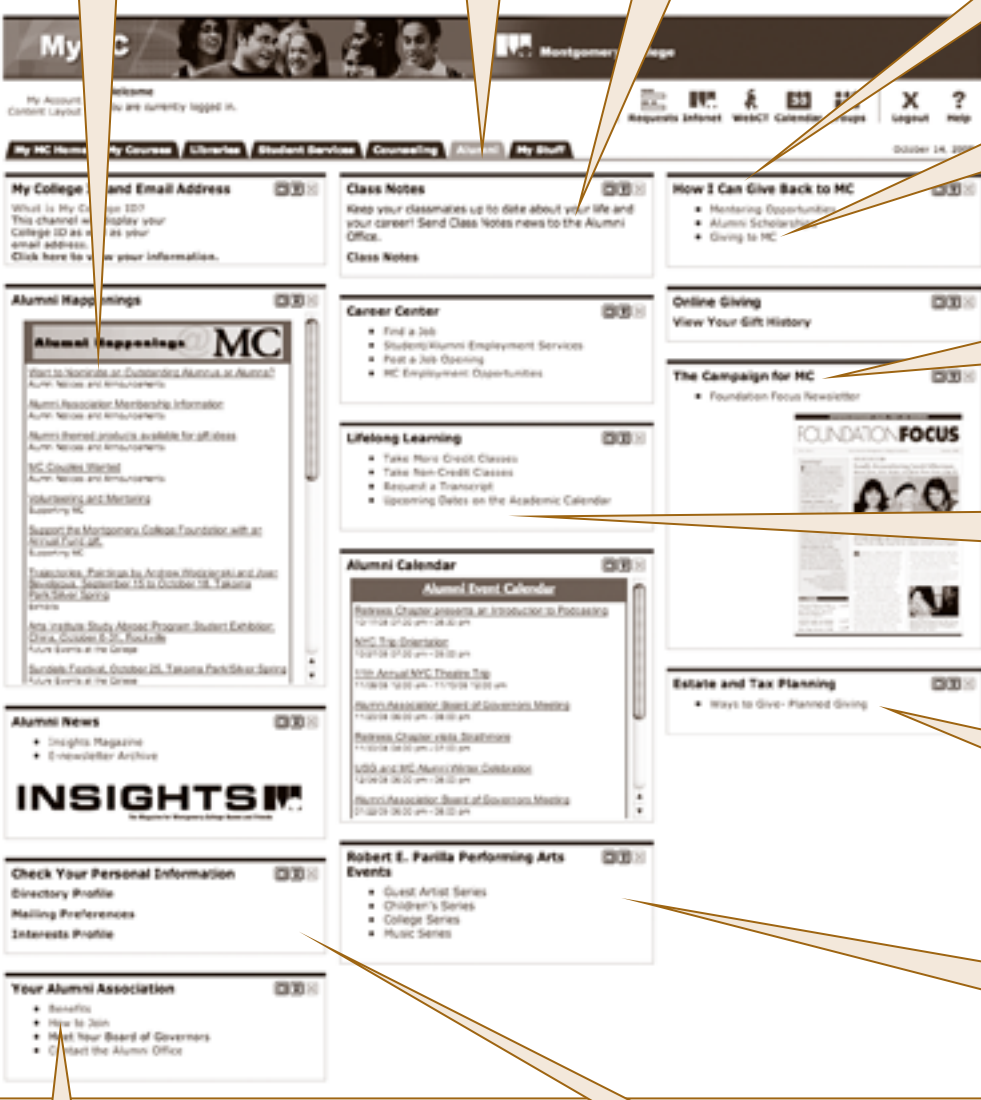
Graduation doesn't mean you have to say goodbye to MC. Use these links for taking more classes at the College.

Estate and Tax Planning

You can find more information on planned gifts to support Montgomery College.

Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Events

MC hosts a range of shows, plays, and musical performances. Check this space for upcoming events.



Your Alumni Association

Wondering what Alumni Association membership means for you? Check these links for a list of benefits, information on joining, brief biographies of the Alumni Board of Governors, and contact information for our office.

Check Your Personal Information

The address, e-mail, and phone number that the College has on file for you are listed here. To view this information or make changes, click here. Recent students or alumni planning on taking classes may have to fill out a change of address form with Student Services.

Carmen Schloner '97 has used her own experience to help women in Montgomery County become self-sufficient.



CARE PACKAGE

BY DAVID FOOTE

Carmen Schloner '97 considers helping others to be second nature. Since moving to the United States from Costa Rica, she has been helping friends and acquaintances with translating, job hunting, housing, and even health issues. In 2002, she made her charitable nature official by founding the non-profit Caridad, Inc., "to help single mothers and their families with guidance to live a better life and to get ahead."

Schloner has her own experience with the difficulties of being a single mother. For years, she worked multiple jobs while trying to support herself and her children. Over a period of eight years, she earned a computer science degree at Montgomery College by attending part time. Now remarried and working full time for Computer Packages, Inc., the patent and trademark management company that sent her to MC, she spends her spare time helping other moms in difficult situations.

Schloner's methods are straightforward. She finds women who need help, either through word-of-mouth or by recommendations from the Montgomery County Commission for Women, and focuses on each case one at

a time. Once she has a woman lined up, Schloner submits a written request to the owner of Computer Packages, who provides her with funding to buy what is necessary to help that family. Schloner handles the use of these funds personally. Early in the process, she meets with the family once a week, giving them instruction and assistance with financial difficulties; over time, she decreases the frequency of the meetings, encouraging independence and enabling the women to take care of themselves.

She has helped about 15 families so far. "Some are easy, some are difficult, but I don't want to give up," she says. "I just have to try different things." One of her success stories, Delmi Ramirez, went from being a waitress in Rockville to co-owning a restaurant of her own—Sol Azteca, a South American and Mexican restaurant in Olney's town center.

In addition to funding her assistance efforts, Computer Packages sponsors Caridad's Christmas present distribution campaign, which has become a tradition each December since 2003. Schloner personally delivers presents to families that might not otherwise have any.

Recently, she has been working on expanding her project. One phase of this is a fundraising campaign called Women Helping Women, supported by Schloner's friends and women she has assisted. When one of them hosts a get-together such as a Mary Kay party, they donate a portion of the proceeds for use in assisting needy women. Schloner also helps her clients organize these parties on their own for some added income apart from their regular jobs.

Schloner now runs a series of monthly workshops in her home. She aims to educate women about life after college and how to handle difficult times on their own, especially in the event of a divorce or separation.

Schloner continues to do the majority of the Caridad work on her own, with occasional volunteers or assistance from her coworkers.

For more information on Caridad, Inc., e-mail cschloner@computerpackages.com or call 301-312-3435.

BY JESSICA WARNICK

CHARTING A DIFFERENT COURSE



“Dad has been always been an inspiration,” says Emily Brown Weigel '89 of recently retired Dr. O. Robert Brown. “He held the bar high, but I am just learning the impact he’s had on MC. He ruled with a ‘soft hand,’ and set a good example himself.”

I wanted to be either a teacher or a nurse,” says Emily Brown Weigel '89. She initially enrolled in the University of Maryland’s biology teaching program.

For many students, college is a season of discovery. “Although I really enjoyed the interaction as a teacher,” Weigel said, “I felt compelled to combine science with my need to nurture—I wanted to make a difference.”

That realization motivated her to transfer out of Maryland and enroll in the nursing program at Montgomery College. Why MC? “My Dad,” Weigel fondly recalls, “spent the majority of his career at MC.”

Dr. O. Robert Brown began teaching mathematics at the Takoma Park Campus in 1972. He became the lone full-time math faculty member at the Germantown Campus, when it opened in 1975. He advanced to dean in 1977, and by 1982, moved back to Takoma Park as its provost. For the last 15 years, he was back in the classroom full time. He retired in May.

Family ties, of course, weren’t the only draw. “MC’s nursing program had an excellent reputation nationwide,” Weigel says. “It was a good place for me to transfer—and pursue a career that offers incredible opportunities, flexibility, and satisfaction through meaningful work. As a nurse, dealing with life-changing situations is serious—it’s human nature to doubt—yet decisions and actions have to be immediate and leave no room for doubt or second guessing. Most nurses don’t give themselves enough credit

for their knowledge and specialized skills. The MC faculty had a positive impact, like one clinical instructor who left me with an indelible quote: ‘If you ever feel insecure, just remember, you know more than you think you do.’”

“Nursing has been a very satisfying and accommodating career while raising a family. I worked the night shift for 10 years, which afforded me the opportunity to coach my daughter’s swim team, chaperone field trips, be involved with my children’s lives, and participate in triathlons with my husband Bob,” she says.

When her mother was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, Weigel’s nursing training proved invaluable. A flexible work schedule was a bonus.

When she moved out of the area in 1996, Weigel continued her education, earning a B.A. in nursing from the University of Colorado at Boulder. She cites a list of excellent training experiences here, including assistant manager of intensive care units at Holy Cross and Shady Grove hospitals, and her experience as clinical coordinator at Boulder Community Hospital (BCH)—as leaving her well-equipped for her current position as BCH’s director of education.

For additional information about MC’s nursing program, contact Dr. Barbara Nubile, associate dean and nursing director, barbara.nubile@montgomerycollege.edu, or visit www.montgomerycollege.edu.



MC ANSWERS THE (911) CALL

Community colleges train the lion's share of "first responders"—and many of those professionals are in short supply.

Montgomery College itself is responding with new health- and safety-related programs. One of the College's newest curricula is an associate in applied sciences degree program for Emergency Medical Services—Paramedic, to be offered starting in 2009.

A paramedic extends the services offered by a medical doctor, responding to and treating medical and trauma emergencies before and during transportation to a medical facility. Paramedics can treat patients out of the hospital setting when transportation to a hospital is not necessary, and they provide continuing

care when moving a patient from one healthcare facility to another. Increasingly, fire departments are adding paramedics cross-trained as firefighters to staff fire trucks.

As the "graying of America" continues, paramedics are among other health care and safety careers, including nursing and radiologic technology, in which trained professionals are scarce. Locally, for example, Montgomery County has a shortage of about 50 paramedics—a number that may grow with retirements and attrition. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that employment for paramedics will grow by one-third by 2012, representing 59,000 new jobs nationwide.

Montgomery College also offers two additional fire science programs this year—Fire Protection and Fire Prevention. Fire science alumni or others interested in learning about the fire science and emergency medical services curricula may contact Kathleen Dayton at kathy.dayton@montgomerycollege.edu.

***UPDATE:** *Please see correction note at the end of this document.*

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Germantown Campus marked its 30th anniversary with a grand opening celebration for the campus' Goldenrod Building. State legislators, Maryland's secretary of business and economic development, and county officials joined to celebrate the official opening of the facility which houses an academic center and a business incubator.

Classrooms, computer labs, and offices are on the first floor. The College shares the building with Montgomery County Department of Economic Development, whose newest business incubator, the Germantown Innovation Center, is located on the second floor.

The Goldenrod Building is the first step toward creating an integrated academic, business, and research environment on the Germantown Campus. The goal is to develop bioscience education and technology training from the middle school to post-doctoral levels.

Future plans call for a bioscience education center and a science and technology park.



The Germantown Campus marked its 30th anniversary with the opening of the Goldenrod Building.



Left to right: Dr. Hercules Pinkney, vice president and provost, Germantown Campus; Dr. Brian Johnson, president, Montgomery College; Isiah Leggett, Montgomery County executive; David Edgerley, Maryland secretary of business and economic development; and Dr. Pradeep Ganguly, director, Montgomery County Department of Economic Development during a symbolic check presentation that represented the state of Maryland's \$1.4 million investment in the Germantown Innovation Center.

THE THIRD TIME'S A CHARM

Michael David Brown '01 came to Montgomery College to change his career. He had no idea it would change his life.

In 1998, with a bachelor's degree from Ohio State, a master's degree from the University of Ohio, and a 30-year retail industry career behind him, Michael took the advice of colleagues and friends and decided to pursue the field of broadcasting. He enrolled in the College's communication and broadcasting technology program. After graduating from the program in 2001, he took a position with Montgomery College Television.

Michael's first major assignment as a producer was a video about the College's new telephone Response Center. He and his crew went to the center to plan their on-location taping. When he walked through the door, Kim Sanders Watkins was the first person he saw. He thought to himself, "Wow, she's pretty." The interview process

piqued his interest—and gave him a chance to learn more.

"He knew all about me," Kim says. "I was divorced and had a couple of kids." Kim, a Response Center referral specialist, was relatively new to the College at the time of the interview. Last year, she became one of MC's student recruiters.

After the project was complete, Michael asked Kim out on a date. They went out several times, but both, recently divorced, were not ready for a serious relationship. A year later, Kim invited Michael to the College's Summer Dinner Theatre production of *Me and My Girl*.

"I accepted, we had a great time, and the rest is history," Michael says.

"He asked me to marry him three times," Kim recalls. "The first time, we'd just finished work-

ing out, and he popped the question at his house. It took me by surprise. I just was not ready." Michael conceded and said, "Okay, we'll revisit it."

"The second time he proposed," says Kim, "Michael took me out to dinner, to Strathmore for a concert, then back to his place for a nightcap—complete with music, beautiful white flowers, candles, and dancing. Again, I was surprised and not expecting the question—it had only been two weeks."

There is something to the old adage, the third time's a charm.

"Michael is the romantic one," Kim says. "We went to Dumbarton Oaks. It was gorgeous. When we came upon a bench, he got down on one knee and asked me if I'd marry him. I'm sure I surprised him this time. I said yes."

The couple married—on June 2, 2006, in a small, family ceremony performed by colleague Carol Burbage, who is also a wedding officiant, in the building where they first met.

—Jessica Warnick



Michael and Kim Brown married in 2006, in the same building where they met during a television interview at the telephone Response Center.



Courtesy Kim Brown

Michael is a video producer/director for the College, and Kim is a student recruiter.

SECOND CHANCE

Last year, Austin Russell '42 sent word that he had caught up with Victor Squadrito '47. We invited him to tell us more—about Vic and about his own career—and he obliged.

Vic and I worked for AT&T in Hartford, Conn., for years and knew of our Bliss Electrical School connection. I retired over 20 years ago, and Vic and I had lost touch. We recently met at an anniversary party for a mutual friend, and as we brought each other up to date, we discovered that Vic was out of touch with Bliss.

Having lived 84 years, I can evaluate the many things that have shaped my life. The most important period was that of my school years, climaxed by my year at Bliss in 1941–1942.

In the 1920s and 1930s I lived in a good home in George's Mill, N.H. Our village was on the shore of

Lake Sunapee, a famous summer resort. The area was busy and did well during the summer.

After the crisis of 1929, the area suffered a severe setback, and as the Depression deepened, the vacation trade slowed to a trickle. Jobs were scarce. Families lived by barter, sharing what they had.

There was no future for me in New Hampshire. College was not an option. I had to find a skill or trade and go elsewhere to practice it. I found an ad for Bliss Electrical School in *Popular Science Monthly*, and with a carefully saved thousand dollars, I gave it a try. It was to become my salvation.

Bliss gave me the ability to begin a new life. I joined the Navy in 1942. In 1944, I married. I then went to work for AT&T in 1945. We raised four children and had a fine home. I retired with good benefits after 38 years. My life has been a happy and successful one. The key to it all was what Bliss gave me.

—Austin W. Russell, Bliss '42



Courtesy Austin Russell

Austin Russel in the year he entered Bliss; and with his wife, Nancy, last year.

The Bliss tradition continues through the Louis D. Bliss Memorial Endowed Scholarship, established by Bliss alumni for students of electrical engineering (and now computer science). For more information, contact Nell Kane, 240-567-7491, or e-mail nell.kane@montgomerycollege.edu.

CLASS NOTES

> **Jeanne Mayberry Jameson '49** recalls, "When I attended Montgomery College in 1947–49, we were in trailers behind B-CC High School. Dr. Hugh Price was the dean. We had a wonderful time—made good friends, too."

> **Richard L. Yauger '58** published a book surveying the use of communion tokens from early Christianity through the 17th century. He is living in Martinsburg, W. Va.

> **Lynn Norgang '73** is the new administrator of the Lincoln Home, an assisted living community in Newcastle, Maine.



Jessica Wannick

> **Barbara Walsh '75** is currently appearing in Washington's Studio Theatre production of *Grey Gardens*. [An alumni group is being organized to attend the December 7 matinee; call 240-567-5378.]

> **Moselle Milner '80** became a grandmother last August when her son Alan and daughter-in-law Gena had a son.

> **Marc Parsont '80** and his wife Heidi had their second child, Lindsay Kate, in May. Their first, Brandon Michael, was born in April 2007. Marc is the assistant director of exhibition sales for the Water Environment Federation and is living in Alexandria, Va.



Dan Rejouis

> **Brad Oscar '81** spent much of the summer as half of the cast in Charles Ludlum's comedy play, *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, at Washington's Arena Stage.

> **Bart Weisman '83** is living with his wife in Cape Cod, Mass. He is a musician and his group recently opened for the Boston Pops. He is the founder and executive producer for the annual three-day Provincetown Jazz Festival.

> **Lt. Col. Alfred Eisner '86** recently completed 10,000 volunteer hours with the Montgomery County Police Department. He has served in the military, worked for the Defense Department, and served as a military adviser to the Saudi Arabian Army National Guard Program.

> **Michael Godby, MCAD '86** has worked for Walt Disney Imagineering for 19 years.

> **Billy Coulter '90** released his second CD, *Dose*, this summer.

> **Robert E. Dorsett Jr. '90** lives in Elkton, Md., with his wife and two children. He has been a teacher and coach at Perryville High School for 12 years, earning the title of Cecil County Football Head Coach of the Year.

> **Cassandra Okechukwu '98** earned a Ph.D. this year at Harvard University. She is in a University of California Berkeley postdoctorate program, funded by the Robert Woods Johnson Foundation.

> **Erica Bermudo '00** received a B.A. in government and politics from the University of Maryland, College Park in 2006. She resides in Quezon City, Philippines.

> **Jean-Paul Petit '00** won an Aurora Award for *The Brownstones* at Park Potomac, one of the architectural design projects on which he worked.

> **Tom Hoopengardner '02** produces and distributes *America's Best Student Shorts*, collections of college student-made short films.

CLASS NOTES

- > **Patrick McGann '02** received a certificate of appreciation from the U.S. Marshals Service in recognition of his assistance to Circuit Court Judge Joseph A. Dugan.
- > **Brad Beck '03** signed as a left-handed pitcher for the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs.
- > **Campbell A. Cobb '04** now works for The Rosen Group in Baltimore, Md.
- > **Amy Pasek '05** is a project manager for Jennifer Gilmer Kitchen and Bath in Chevy Chase, Md.
- > **Jensen Pupa '07** is the top designated hitter and one of the starting pitchers for the University of Maryland's baseball team.

- > **Jong Sun Lee '04** earned the Best in Show designation as part of an international art exhibit at the Soho20 Chelsea Gallery in New York City, and recently exhibited her works at the Sarah Silberman Art Gallery at Montgomery College's Rockville Campus. She is currently working towards an MFA at the Maryland Institute College of Art.



Courtesy Jong Sun Lee

IN MEMORIAM

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



Courtesy Family of Sarah Silberman

Sarah Silberman '82 died May 29, 2008. She began taking art classes at Montgomery College in 1980 at the age of 71.

Silberman became an unofficial artist-in-residence and mentor as she continued her studies at the Rockville Campus for nearly 25 years. Earlier this year, the Rockville Campus Art Department finished renovations on the gallery of the Paul Peck Art Building, and in honor of her years of dedication and her family's contribution that made the renovations possible, officially dedicated the Sarah Silberman Art Gallery.



Montgomery College Archives

> **Sheldon Oremland '49** died April 8, 2007. He worked for Mobil Oil for 28 years. He was MC's first All-American in any sport, and was a member of the MC Athletic Hall of Fame.

> **Daniel Smith '79** died May 29, 2007. He was a casualty insurance broker affiliated with Bogart and Brownell Insurance in Bethesda, Md.

> **Philip M. McClean** died October 11, 2007. From 1999 to 2007, he was a math professor at the Germantown Campus. He is survived by his wife Sally, who continues to teach part time at the Germantown Campus English Department.



Courtesy Montgomery College Library

> **Doug Williams** died January 26, 2008. In addition to his work as a reference librarian on the Rockville Campus, he was an adjunct faculty member in the Art Department.

> **Helen F. Lyons '79** died April 12, 2008.

> **Carroll L. Mathews** died May 12, 2008. For more than 37 years, he taught in the Rockville Campus Mathematics Department.

> **Gary Hong** died May 26, 2008. He had been the program director for MC's Lifelong Learning Institute since 1998. He previously worked as a writer and editor for the American Health Care Association and served on the Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee.

> **Howard S. Geer Jr. '56** died May 30, 2008. He was the provost of Community Services,

now known as Workforce Development and Continuing Education, until his retirement in 1988.

> **Madeline R. Turkeltaub** died June 21, 2008. She became a nursing professor at MC in 1981 and later served as nursing program director at Takoma Park until 1992. She also served as president of the Maryland Board of Nursing and the Maryland Nurses Association, as chair of the Montgomery County Commission on Health, and as a board member for Suburban Hospital and Mobile Medical Care. She was a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. Most recently, she worked at NIH as a research administrator.



Montgomery College Archives

> **John Shearer '54** died July 1, 2008. He signed with the Baltimore Colts after college and then entered the Marine Corps, where he was named World Military Service Champion.

In 1989 he founded a steel technology and manufacturing company. He was a member of the MC Athletic Hall of Fame.

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



Courtesy Macklin Business Institute

Left to right: MBI faculty adviser Professor Brian Baick, MBI Director Steve Lang, Steven Church '08, Nick Sergon '08, Dmitriy Gulik '08, Jeremy Ben-Zev, and Ivan Salas-Orono '08.

Business Teams Shine at Regional, National Competitions

Macklin Business Institute (MBI) students competed against teams from prestigious four-year colleges and universities around the world, on their way to earning regional and division championships at two recent business competitions.

Steven Church '08, Ivan Salas-Orono '08, Nicholas Sergon '08, and Dmitriy Gulik '08 formed the first two-year college team to advance to the final round at Loyola Marymount University's National Intercollegiate Business Ethics Competition in Los Angeles. The MBI team won a Kerrigan

Award, which was presented to the four teams that finished as runners-up to the champion, McGill University in Canada.

At the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) Regional Competition in Philadelphia, a second MBI team became regional champion. Joyce Krintz '08, Arjun Achreja '08, Kumbi Mahari '08, Steffi Siegmund '08, Ayesha Qadeer '08, and Tabby Enam '08 advanced to the SIFE USA National Exposition in Chicago. Judged by business leaders, the team showcased the effect of outreach projects in their communities in five topics: market economics, success skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and business ethics.

Barbara Bush Foundation Supports College with Language Literacy Grant

The Montgomery College Foundation received a grant for nearly \$50,000 through the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy Fourth Annual Maryland Grant Competition. The funds will support the Side by Side: English and Spanish Dual Language Literacy Program, which helps adult English language learners transfer the language skills they learn at MC to their preschool children and better prepare them to begin school.

The Side by Side program will serve 10 limited-English-proficient families who have children under age five and who have an adult enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESOL) classes at the College. The program will be run by the College's Workforce Development and Continuing Education division.

It's a Four-peat for Montgomery College in Workplace Excellence Honors

Montgomery College received the Workplace Excellence Seal of Approval and the Health and Wellness Trailblazer Award from the Alliance for Workplace Excellence, a nonprofit organization that recognizes Excellent Places to Work. This is the fourth consecutive year MC has won the Seal of Approval and its third year receiving the Trailblazer Award.

The Seal of Approval recognizes workplaces where employees are able to achieve success in their professional and personal lives while enhancing the business' bottom line.

The Trailblazer Award recognizes employers that demonstrate exemplary commitment to the overall physical and mental health of their workforce.

NASDAQ OMX Foundation Endows Business Scholarships

Montgomery College secured a two-year grant totaling \$400,000 from the NASDAQ OMX Educational Foundation to create an endowed scholarship fund for students in the Gordon and Marilyn Macklin Business Institute (MBI) honors program at MC. Arranged with the help of past Alumni Association President Bob Costello '63, this is the foundation's first grant to a community college business program.

The foundation made the grant in memory of the late Gordon Macklin, former president of the National Association of Securities Dealers and founder of the NASDAQ stock market. Macklin's own generosity helped start MBI. Originally a one-year program for sophomore students, MBI expanded this fall to add a two-year program for recent high school graduates.

MBI provides an innovative, high-quality business honors-level educational program. The program features honors coursework, seminars, internships, a student-run business, community service opportunities, and scholarship support.

The NASDAQ OMX Educational Foundation receives financial contributions from the NASDAQ OMX Group, Inc., the world's largest exchange company. The foundation promotes learning about capital formation, financial markets, and entrepreneurship through innovative educational programs.



Don Rejouis

Spiro Joins Board of Trustees

Montgomery College student Gabriel J. Spiro '08 is serving a one-year term as the student member on the College's Board of Trustees.

A native of Romania, Spiro moved to the United States after being adopted at age three. Spiro, who was home-schooled through high school, entered Montgomery College's Early Placement program in 2005. His career goal is to teach history or government at a high school or community college. After completing his education at Montgomery College, Spiro, 20, plans to transfer to the University of Maryland Baltimore County, where he will double-major in political science and history.

CAMPUS SCENES

> Germantown Campus



Courtesy Office of Student Life—Germantown Campus

Montgomery College Students Join Relief Effort

Toritseju Aldore '08 joined fellow Germantown Campus students on an "Alternative Spring Break" trip to Mississippi in March. The students traveled with a Maryland team of Habitat for Humanity volunteers to help rebuild housing lost during Hurricane Katrina.

> Rockville Campus



Renee Laine

> Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus



Marcus Rosano

Nearly 400 Children Celebrate Earth Day at Montgomery College

Nearly 400 elementary school students participated in Montgomery College's fourth annual Earth Day event at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus in April. Organized by the campus' Biology Department, the event featured Montgomery College students, faculty, and staff educating school children about the environment with a series of fun, hands-on activities.

These activities included building terrariums out of recycled materials, learning about natural resources, taking a trip to the College's planetarium on campus, and getting an up-close look at reptiles from Michael Shwedick of Reptile World.

Dr. Johnson, Students, Faculty, and Staff Cook Meals for Homeless

The Marriott Hospitality Center came alive in June with the sounds of cooking and the sweet smells of lasagna, as students joined Montgomery College President Brian Johnson, faculty, and staff members to bake food for a local homeless shelter. The event marks the third time that student clubs have worked together to cook and donate food.

Ian Henderson, vice president of the MC Student Ambassadors, invited Dr. Johnson to the cooking event, which was a collaboration between the following student clubs: MC Student Ambassadors, MC Green, Nutrition Club, Hospitality Club, and the Student Senate from the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. The cooking event was funded by the Montgomery College Foundation.

More than 10 pans of lasagna and brownies were frozen and later donated to the Men's Emergency Shelter, located on Gude Drive and operated by the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless.

The event was such a success that President Johnson, students, faculty, and staff, gathered again in October. For the fall event, the lasagna meals were donated to Bethesda Cares.

DAVIS Establishes Building Trades Scholarship

DAVIS Executive Vice President William Moyer (left) congratulates Wolford Memorial Scholarship recipient Med Chal. They are joined by David Stein of Montgomery College.



Courtesy: James G. Davis Construction Corporation

In 2005, a motorcycle accident claimed the life of Steve Wolford, a longtime employee of the James G. Davis Construction Corporation (DAVIS), one of the premier construction contractors in the Washington region.

DAVIS worked with the Montgomery College Foundation to establish a scholarship in Steve Wolford's memory. This annual scholarship supports students studying building trades and construction technology at the

College's Homer S. Gudelsky Institute for Technical Education.

This summer, DAVIS hosted a luncheon at its Rockville offices to recognize Mehrdad Minavand (Med) Chal '09, a student in the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning program, who is one of the first recipients of the new scholarship.

Through the Steve Wolford Memorial Scholarship, DAVIS is helping to preserve

the memory of a beloved and talented colleague while providing future students an opportunity to pursue their own careers in Mr. Wolford's industry.

To learn more about MC scholarships and other giving opportunities, contact Valessia Samaras, 240-567-7493, or e-mail valessia.samaras@montgomerycollege.edu. Visit www.montgomerycollege.edu/giving for general information about giving to MC.



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Alumni Association**
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UPDATE

The Fall 2008 issue of *Insights* magazine included an article on the College's proposed Paramedic Program, which was scheduled to begin in Spring 2009.

After the story went to production, the program was placed on hold. The College needs to provide additional information, for the State approval process, before moving forward with the proposed Paramedic Program.

We regret any inconvenience this may have caused.

The Montgomery College Alumni Association