

INTERSECTIONS

THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CHRONICLES

Congratulations to MC Professor KenYatta Rogers, 2014 Maryland Professor of the Year!

Message from Dr. Rai

I write to you having just returned from Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett's Sister Cities Mission to India. A College delegation that included Dr. Pollard, Ida Britton, Dr. Rita Kranidis, Margaret Latimer, George Payne, Amy Rozek, Martha Schoonmaker, and Marlon Vallejo joined our county colleagues to build strong relationships to promote economic and educational development.

The trip highlighted so many of the reasons we prioritize global relationships, not the least of which is to encourage the study of languages, cultures, and the humanities amongst our students and ourselves. Globalization offers a wealth of opportunities, not only for the U.S. and India, but for the smaller world as it is today.

In that regard, the College signed a Memoranda of Understanding with O.P. Jindal Global University that will bring opportunities for 15 faculty members to study and teach in India. You can read more about that in the pages that follow.

What I noticed during this trip is that India seems to be leap-

frogging in every area, with visible signs of swift progress in education, business, government, and beyond.

One company that we visited started with merely \$250 selling family-made jewelry, and now constitutes a multi-billion dollar global IT firm. To visit the company is to notice a very familiar environment, with talented up-and-comers who are beginning their careers in an environment rife with opportunity; it rather reminded me of our own campuses!

The entire trip was incredibly fast-paced, but we did manage to find time to see some of the amazing sights of India. Many in the delegation visited the beautiful Golden Temple in Amritsar, and the epic Taj Mahal in Agra.

A personal highlight was meeting one of our own students. Already having earned a PhD in genetics, he is taking the College's Clinical Trial Project Management course online via GoToMeetings!

While we were in India, quite a lot was happening right here at the College. We received the incredible news that our own KenYatta Rogers, professor of

theatre on the Rockville Campus, has been honored as the 2014 Maryland Professor of the Year by CASE and the Carnegie Foundation, a worthy recognition that demonstrates yet again that our faculty is among the very best. Amazing!

With Thanksgiving this week and the holiday season gearing up, I want to take this moment to thank each of you for the remarkable passion and service you show our students each day. Please take a moment before leaving this week to thank those around you who help you fulfill our mission of helping our students succeed.





Top: Sister City signing with Montgomery County Executive and Mayor of Hyderabad, India

Middle: Delegation visit to InfoSys

Bottom: Visit to Golden Temple

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Global Humanities Institute Facilitates Third International Partnership

By Dr. Rita Kranidis

I have the great fortune to direct the College's Global Humanities Institute, whose function it is to bring the globe into our classrooms and onto our campuses. The GHI creates campus events that provide public education on the role of globalization in studying and teaching the humanities, trains faculty to broaden the focus of their courses through year-long fellowships, develops new curriculum, and supports research and scholarship in global humanities through research grants and support for travel to conferences.

Another very exciting part of our project is to form partnerships with academic institutions abroad. Thus far, we have partnered with Xian University in China and the University of El Salvador. Our newest partner, and my motivation behind my recent trip to India, is O.P. Jindal Global University in Haryana, India.

Overseas partnerships are very important to GHI's objectives and to the College's long-standing commitment of bringing global studies to our students. The purpose of our academic partnerships with China, El Salvador, and India is both specific and broad:

1. As per our grant, groups of

faculty will visit each university in the next few years to hold seminars on teaching the humanities in our respective cultures and to exchange ideas on how we can best integrate global perspectives into our courses and programs; most likely, some conference presentations and publications will result from these conversations, to benefit our humanities colleagues elsewhere.

2. We will be receptive to our partners' needs and treat our Memoranda of Understanding as a promise to learn from one another in ways that are not prescribed. One example of this is the recent collaborative art exhibit featuring works by faculty and staff at Xian University and University of El Salvador, which resulted from a request from both partners. However, each country's needs requires that we approach each partnership on its own merits as well.

In addition to this reciprocity and commitment to learning, the GHI's long-term goals include student and faculty exchanges, virtual co-teaching, and faculty training both here and abroad.

India is an exciting addition to our global academics – it is a country that is rapidly changing and growing, with new employment sectors and new opportunities opening daily, and Jindal Global University promises to be an excellent partner. They have just launched their School of Liberal Arts and Humanities and are very committed to providing a top-notch education through a multi-national faculty. They are interested in our work on faculty development and the curriculum, and there is potential for scholarly collaborations and for enabling our faculty to live and teach in India.

My key takeaway:

The colleagues I met with at Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi, Hyderabad Central University, and Jindal Global University, understand that our disciplines are changing significantly in response to increased globalization. Our meetings, invariably conducted over tea and cookies, were open, honest and mutually enlightening; we saw that we are on the same page. We saw that we need to broaden our scope of histories, literatures, religions, philosophies, and languages so that we can address the transformations taking place in our cultures: Who are we today? What

elements of our identities are changing and how? What do we hold dear? How do we enact our values in this complicated context?

I am very excited about what the future holds for Montgomery College and happy to be facilitating some new opportunities for our faculty and students. In addition to bringing study of the world to our College, we can make possible experiential learning that, in the final analysis, is the most profound.



*Top: Entering the gates of the Taj Mahal, Agra, India
Bottom: Dr. Pollard and Y.S.R. Murthy, registrar, sign Memorandum of Understanding between Montgomery College and O.P. Jindal Global University*

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Meet Professor Christina Gentile

Tell us a little about yourself.

I was born and raised in Maryland, after my parents emigrated from Italy. I have dual citizenship in both countries.

I earned my bachelor's degree at the University of Maryland with a double major in English Language and Literatures and Romance Languages and Literatures, specializing in Italian and Spanish. I also earned a separate citation in Renaissance Studies. I went on to earn a master's degree at Johns Hopkins University in Romance Languages and Literature.

How did you become interested in teaching world languages?

Growing up bilingual, I always wanted to learn to speak Italian better and found that I wanted to study the language more. With so many Spanish-speaking countries, I chose to dually focus on both languages throughout my studies.

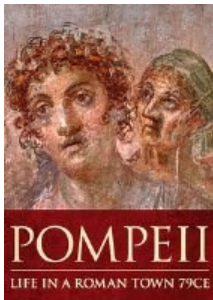
Describe your time at Montgomery College.

I joined the College in 2007 as a part-time faculty member, and I am now in my fifth year as a full-time professor, teaching Spanish and Italian. I also serve as the World Languages coordinator in Rockville and work to coordinate our digital language lab hardware and software collegewide.

What is new in your department?

We just hosted our first World Languages Film Festival this fall. The festival really drew interest from current language students and those in other disciplines. We showcased seven of our language offerings in this semester's film selections, and we hope to show films that feature the other six languages in the spring.

Fall 2014 Features:



- Japanese film "Departures"
- Arabic film "Wadjda"
- "Pompeii: Life and Death in a Roman Town"
- Spanish film "Volver"
- Italian film "Johnny Stecchino"
- American Sign Language film "Children of a Lesser God"
- German film "The Lives of Others"

What do you learn from your students?

They have so much fun in learning the different languages and cultures. It is nice to see how much they get into it. I have been so impressed as I watch them move on and use their language skills in their chosen fields.

What are your thoughts on the renewed emphasis in higher education on globalized education?

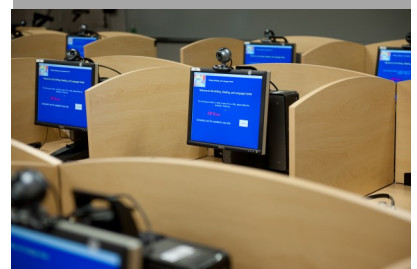
It is the right thing to do. With the technology available today, the world is getting smaller and that will continue. It makes sense to reach out and create those global connections that broaden possibilities for our students to learn about other cultures, study abroad, and generally understand the world more fully.



A little about the Digital Language Labs

Faculty can bring students to the lab to create video and sound recordings and do oral exams, among other activities.

Campus coordinators are working with faculty to use ReLANPro software and Cloud version. With the Cloud, students are able to use the mobile app for numerous functions. The College is one of the biggest users of the Cloud program.



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Update on General Education Redesign Process

By Professors Tammy Peery and Michael Farrell, co-chairs of the General Education Transform and Restructure Committee

The General Education Transform and Restructure Committee (GETRC) continued its work on the revision of the General Education Program this semester.

Twenty-three information sessions were offered to the College community. These sessions provided information about the current General Education program, the internal and external contexts driving the need for change, basic information about a proposed integrative model for General Education, and a summary of high impact teaching practices

that may be included in a revised program.

In addition, six work groups were formed in order to undertake additional research and make recommendations about key aspects of General Education:

- Assessment
- E-portfolios
- Co-Curricular Activities
- Introduction to General Education
- Articulation and Transfer
- High Impact Practices

More than eighty additional

faculty, staff, and administrators provided their expertise on these topics. Each work group has produced a report of recommendations, which can be found on the online GETRC libguide, along with the PowerPoint presentation from the information sessions, at <http://libguides.montgomerycollege.edu/gened>.

In addition, the members of the GETRC group focused our work this semester on developing potential themes for a revised program, working with the Faculty Council to establish a

standing General Education committee whose work will be to implement and manage the revised program, and discussing potential changes in program credit requirements.

Our next steps will be to incorporate the work group recommendations into several draft models for a revised program, which will be presented to the College community for input in late February/early March prior to a full-time faculty vote on the new program in May.

Accenture Hosts Career Exploration Event for Student Veterans

On Friday, November 7, Montgomery College joined corporate partner Accenture, the University System of Maryland, the Universities at Shady Grove, and the Montgomery County Veterans Education Partnership to host the Accenture Career Exploration Event for Veterans (see it here on [MCTV](#)). More than 150 students and veterans from each institution gathered at the College's new Bioscience Education Center in Germantown to network and meet with Accenture recruiters. The luncheon featured a presentation on transitioning from military to civilian work, and breakout sessions featured discussions on financial services, health, and modernizing the VA. Efforts of the College's Office of Academic Partnerships, Combat2College staff, and staff, faculty, and administrators across the College were integral to the event's success.

Events such as this are made possible because of the strong partnership the College has fostered with Accenture, a leading management consulting, technology, and outsourcing company with offices located in 200 cities and 54 countries. In 2011, the Montgomery College/Accenture partnership began with the common goal of creating well-informed business programs that prepare students for the current business environment. The company offers MC students their time and experience through presentations, discussion series, office visits with executives, and special class assignments. In return, Accenture plays a strong role in training the future workforce and can recruit students and alumni into positions both locally and abroad, representing a win-win college/corporate relationship model that is nationally recognized and replicable.

