

# INTERSECTIONS

THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CHRONICLES

## Message from Dr. Rai

Happy spring! For some the welcoming signs of this warming-up season bring to mind images of cherry blossoms and greener grass; for others, it bares the rush and excitement of the last weeks of the academic year. Spring is all of these things, but it also brings with it the highest tide of budget season, the crucial weeks each year when the College's operating and capital budget is determined.



Montgomery County Council Member Craig Rice meets Montgomery College students at Education Forum, March 23, 2015.

Throughout the month of March, Dr. Pollard and I partnered with Councilman Craig Rice on his Education Budget Forums. Rice hosted these forums to inform county residents about the budget process and to seek their active engagement as advocates for the county's education systems.

I was very happy that so many

of our students attended the forums, and gave Councilman Rice and attendees their perspective on the impact Montgomery College has on their lives, and what the county's support of the College means to our students.

Earlier this month County Executive Ike Leggett issued his budget proposal for the county, which includes Montgomery College's budget. The proposal, which is now under review by the County Council, does not fund the important initiatives that the College included in its request to strengthen our academic offerings and support for our students.

While most of the College's budget request was reserved for employee compensation, five academic priorities were advanced: Closing the Achievement Gap, Academic Advising, Education Program Enhancements, Workforce Development, and the Part-time Faculty Center. If you are interested in helping advocate for these funds while our council members consider the county executive's budget proposal, contact my office to learn about outreach opportunities.

MC academics had a real chance to shine last week. We hosted a successful showcase of our career programs to the US Department of Education, and the Global Humanities Institute hosted an important conversation on STEM and the humanities. I also had the opportunity to present the College's impact on economic and workforce development at the Select USA Investment Summit. Thanks to all involved!

Looking ahead, there are many happenings that you should keep in mind. The State of the College address will take place this Thursday at 11 a.m. I encourage faculty and academic staff to attend. Make sure to RSVP whether you plan to attend in person at the Bioscience Education Center or tune in remotely.

Also in the coming weeks, nominations for the Faculty Outstanding Service Awards are due. I encourage you to nominate any faculty member that has illustrated the spirit of this award. Please send in your nomination materials to [my](#)

[office](#) by 5 p.m. on April 22.

Lastly, I want to remind you that the General Education Transform and Restructure Committee will host final presentations at each campus as follows:

RV—April 13, 3-5 p.m.

GT—April 14, 3-5 p.m.

TPSS—April 15, 3-5 p.m.

Faculty voting on the proposals will run for 10 days, ending in early May. This follows several feedback opportunities hosted throughout the academic year.

You may find all of the presentations and comments at the General Education [lib guide](#). Please attend the April presentations to remain fully aware of the direction that general education will be taking. As the cornerstone of the College's academic offerings, the general education redesign is crucially important to our success.

Thank you for your commitment to MC.



## INSIDE

- MyMC Redesign
- Online Catalog Launch
- US Department of Education Visit



## MyMC Course Tools/Groups Change Coming

By: Isabelle Doucet

As a result of the scheduled fall 2015 MyMC portal upgrade, MyMC Course Tools and MyMC Groups will be replaced with Blackboard tools.

Every credit course will automatically receive a Blackboard shell. This will result in a common student experience, with access to course content, discussion boards, an electronic gradebook, and other Blackboard tools selected for use by instructors.

For those of you who are users of MyMC Groups, you will be able to use Blackboard Organizations to perform the same tasks as MyMC Groups. A Blackboard Organization is similar to a Blackboard course and shares the same layout, tools, and features.

Like a Blackboard course, an Organization allows authorized participants who have MyMC accounts to access documents and collaborate with other organization participants in a secure-access environment.

### *What does that mean to me?*

#### **MyMC Course Tool**

During the **Spring/Summer** of 2015, MyMC Course Tools will continue to be available to faculty.

Those faculty choosing to use Blackboard will still need to complete Blackboard Essentials training and request a supplemental course site using the electronic form found on the ELITE [website](#).

However, instructors will only be able to use one platform or the other. Simultaneous sites on Course Tools and Blackboard will not be a possibility.

For the fall 2015 semester, instructors teaching non-credit courses will continue to request Blackboard supplemental course sites, using the form referenced above.

**\*\*MyMC Course tools will no longer be available for fall courses after July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015. All fall courses will be made available on Blackboard at that time.**

#### **MyMC Groups**

If you already have a group in MyMC, you can start immediately making use of Blackboard Organization.

To get started, you just need to complete the Blackboard Essentials online training. Please note that the groups cannot be migrated between platforms and will need to be recreated.

**\*\*MyMC Groups will no longer be available when the new MyMC portal goes live on October 5, 2015.**

#### **How do I get trained?**

Between now and fall 2015, ELITE will be providing ample opportunity (both online and face-to-face) for everyone to participate in the training. For more information and to review the upcoming training schedule:

1. Log in to MyMC.
2. Click on the Training and Dev tab.
3. In the center of the Training and Dev page, click the link to Visit MC Learns.

4. All ELITE offerings are listed under the 3rd column, Pedagogy/Instruction.
5. Register for the **Blackboard Essentials** class to learn about Blackboard Course Tools and Organizations.

Please share this information and direct any questions about Blackboard training to [dl@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:dl@montgomerycollege.edu) or 240-567-6000.

The upgrade to MyMC is scheduled to go live October 5, 2015. You can follow the progress of the collegewide project team at: <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/MyMCRedesign/>.

*Isabelle Doucet is the IT Project Manager overseeing the MyMC redesign effort.*

# INTERSECTIONS

THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS CHRONICLES

## It's coming! The Acalog online catalog will be launching April 13<sup>th</sup>!

Montgomery College's first online and interactive catalog will be available for registration for the Fall 2015 semester. Our new system developed by Digital Architecture will be more than an exhaustive list of courses, programs, and policies. It will make program and course information as well as admissions processes accessible on the web to our students. The 'My Favorites' feature will provide the added benefit of allowing students to create personal course portfolios, which they can save and share with advisors and others. The catalog's powerful search engine will give users all the information they need at their fingertips. Acalog also presents the College's curriculum and key academic policies, and provides a means of connecting students directly to registration information and personnel.

Over the next month the implementation team, which is led by Dr. Rai's office and includes representatives from the faculty, the Office of Information Technology, the Collegewide Curriculum Committee, and the Communications Office, will be conducting final edits and quality assurance of the new catalog. While printed catalogs will continue to be available, Acalog will give Montgomery College an agile catalog management tool that's always relevant and never out of date. For more information about Acalog please visit <https://www.digarc.com/solutions/academic-catalog-management>.

Stay tuned and watch for more information and announcements to be posted on the campuses regarding our new online catalog. **Registration for Fall 2015 begins on April 13<sup>th</sup>**. If you have any questions or comments please contact Scott Price, the Catalog Production Coordinator at [catalog@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:catalog@montgomerycollege.edu).

Montgomery College  
endless possibilities

Montgomery College's New  
**ONLINE CATALOG!**

Available April 13<sup>th</sup> for  
Fall 2015 Registration

[catalog.montgomerycollege.edu](http://catalog.montgomerycollege.edu)

MOBILE ACCESS

The graphic features the Montgomery College logo at the top, followed by the text 'Montgomery College's New ONLINE CATALOG!' in large, bold letters. Below this, it says 'Available April 13<sup>th</sup> for Fall 2015 Registration'. A green banner contains the website URL 'catalog.montgomerycollege.edu'. To the right is a QR code labeled 'MOBILE ACCESS'. The background shows a laptop, a tablet, and a smartphone, suggesting mobile access.

## *The College's Career Programs Shine*

Representatives from the U.S. Department of Education, including deputy director of academic and technical education Margaret Romer, visited the College earlier this month to learn about the College's career programs. After Dr. Pollard welcomed the crowd, the visit began with a presentation on the use of Perkins funds at MC and Montgomery County Public Schools, including our use of data to inform programmatic decisions related to Perkins. Attendees also heard about our 2+2+2 pathways for the hospitality management and construction programs, and saw a demonstration on students using Career Coach to research career opportunities.

A panel of College administrators, employer partners, and students from the College, MCPS, and Universities at Shady Grove described specific career programs, including hospitality management, construction management, biotechnology, cyber security, and health sciences; and Dr. Rai gave a lunchtime talk about the College's strong partnerships with employers and industry leaders. Needless to say, Department of Education guests were enormously impressed with the College's programs and representatives. Kudos to Dr. Clarice Somersall, Dr. Amy Gumaer, and all of the contributors to the visit!



Questions? Contact [MCAcademics@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:MCAcademics@montgomerycollege.edu)