



A Message from Dr. Sanjay Rai

As events, new and old, have transitioned to the virtual environment, October and November have been rich, rewarding, engaging – and busy. Advising Day (see below), Humanities Days, the Academic Affairs Planning Session: *Now and for the Future*, Raptor Tank, and the opportunities to engage with colleagues and students on issues of equity and inclusion, the election, and the pandemic illustrate the important role we play in providing information and a platform for informed discussion as we ensure continuity of operations at the College. I have the privilege of working with so many remarkable people who make this possible.



Thanks to the work that all of you are doing, our fall semester has been very successful. It is clear to me when I look at Extended Winter Session enrollments that we are doing something right. Enrollments are at a record high, approaching 3,000. Students are telling us that they want the opportunity to continue on their academic pathway. We are listening. Completing a certificate or a degree a little faster or distributing their academic course load to achieve a work-school-life balance are important considerations. The Extended Winter Session enrollment is nearly 1,000 higher than last year's combined 3-week Winter Session and 5-week Extended Winter Session. The deans and chairs are also keeping a close eye on spring enrollments, and will continue to add sections to meet student demand.

We have learned so much this past year about our students, about pedagogy, about ourselves, and

most importantly, about our capacity for adaptability, flexibility, innovation, generosity, and kindness. Just as much of what we had done prior to the pandemic positioned us well to meet the challenges of 2020, I know that what we have learned and accomplished this year has prepared us for the year ahead.

As the fall semester draws to a close and we look forward to winter break, please continue to consider the safety of your family and friends as you plan celebrations. Covid vaccines, now being distributed, give us cause to be very optimistic about 2021. I am so amazed and grateful that vaccines were developed in less than one year. I know we must continue to be patient, but that seems a little easier knowing that the precautions we continue to take now will result lives saved – so much to celebrate in the new year.

For all that you are doing, I remain so grateful.

Sanjay

Nomination Opportunities

Outstanding Faculty/Staff Awards: Nominations are open, due **March 1**

New Cyber Pathway for MC Students

The SANS Technology Institute (STI) and Montgomery College have established a pathway that enables graduates of Montgomery College's **A.A.S. program in Cybersecurity** with a GPA of 3.0 or greater to directly transfer into the SANS.edu for a bachelor's degree in professional studies in applied cybersecurity (BACS). MHEC approved the new BACS degree last month. **It is the nation's first professional cybersecurity college degree**, and now MC students can complete up to 70 credits at the College prior to completing the third- and fourth-year requirements at STI which include earning their industry desired certifications. This development grew out of a collaboration with SANS in 2017 in which the College developed a cybersecurity course, based on a SANS curriculum. MC has partnered with them on other events informing and engaging students interested in pursuing a career in cybersecurity. SANS specializes in developing skills in those who have a foundation in cybersecurity. The STI, which is a regionally accredited college in Maryland, offers degree programs.



Scholarship for Excellence in Teaching 2021 Cohort

Congratulations to the 2021 cohort of the Scholarship for Excellence in Teaching:

Tito Baca, Health Sciences
Cecilia Evans, Mathematics
Michelle Harrell, Nursing
Sirisha Kollura, Mathematics
Marie Lofton, Psychology
Omwale Elson, Communications
Patricia Freitag, Biology

during which faculty shared their own academic and career paths. Students were also encouraged to reach out to their faculty/academic program advisors. Students were notified about the events held for their academic programs through class meetings, emails, and departmental webpages. Information on the actual number of participants is being collected, but sessions across the College were well-attended. Many faculty continued to work with students well into the evening, and several specific sessions targeted evening students, students interested in selecting a major, making an academic plan, transfer, dual enrollment, and parallel studies. Group sessions were followed by students attending individual meetings with faculty/academic program advisors. This was an excellent opportunity for students to complete their academic plans in SAPC, and prepare their schedule for the spring semester.

AAS and AAT Information • Transfer Information • Scholarship Opportunities for ECE

Professor Sonia Pruneda-Hernandez | Collegewide Chair, Early Childhood Education Programs
Dr. Marsha McLean | Professor, Early Childhood Education
Professor Maria Artola | CCCPDF Coordinator
Professor Maria Eid | Advisor, Early Childhood Education Student Success Hub



Please send recognitions to laurie.savona@montgomerycollege.edu

Early College and Dual Enrollment Update

Early College Update:

The Early College Program increased fall 2019 to fall 2020 enrollment by 119% and has increased the number of students participating in Early College programs from 153 in fall 2019 to 356 students in Fall 2020. Early College students were academically successful over the course of the 2019-2020 academic year by earning a 3.51 grade point average with the program having its first graduates earning their A.S. degrees in May 2020. The program added new programs as well as expanding existing programs to a second MC campus location. The General Engineering A.S. program was added at the Rockville Campus with the A.A.T. in Elementary Education/Elementary Special Education degree program new to the Germantown Campus. Opportunities to participate in the Biological Science and Business degree programs were expanded and brought to the Germantown campus. We are looking ahead to begin recruitment in October when we will add the Biotechnology A.A.S. degree program at the Germantown Campus and expand access to the Computer Science program by bringing that Early College program to the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus next year.

Dual Enrollment:

Dual Enrollment at MC provides a great opportunity for high school students to be admitted and enrolled in college courses while earning their high school diploma. Through a strong partnership with MCPS, dual enrollment has seen significant growth in many key areas, with continued academic success amongst its participants. In spring 2020, 667 students were enrolled in 902 courses increasing enrollment by 30% from last spring. This fall, 973 students are enrolled in 1,400+ courses, increasing enrollment by over 40% from last fall. Similarly, the Middle College programs continue to grow with a 78% enrollment increase from last year, while maintaining over a 90% ABC rate. Additionally, dual enrollment offered more course sections designated solely for HS students than ever before. This fall there are 48 sections in 18 disciplines. Lastly, the number of students applying for and receiving the dual enrollment grant has also gone up significantly, with over \$110,000 awarded to 184 students.

697 students are projected to graduate through the Early and Middle College programs by AY23

437 of those are students of color

Department Detail

Part-Time Faculty Institute

The Institute was designed to better incorporate the contributions of part-time faculty into the essence of the College's operation. It serves as a central hub for new and current part-time faculty seeking general college information, as well as an avenue to support part-time faculty professional development. Adjuncts have the opportunity to serve as Senior Part-time Faculty Associates, Part-time Faculty Associates, and/or Project Coordinators within the Institute.

Senior Part-time Faculty Associates serve as campus liaisons, responding to adjunct inquiries that may be campus specific. They also spearhead some of the Institute's larger projects (e.g., conferences and awards banquets). Additionally, they support part-time faculty in their role.

Part-time Faculty Associates serve as liaisons between the Institute and adjuncts within their assigned academic department, ensuring that adjuncts receive timely information pertaining to their role. They also serve as liaisons between the department leadership team and adjuncts, supporting the efforts of the chair and dean, as requested.

New for this semester, the Institute restructured the process for appointing a Part-time Faculty Associate to incorporate participation from provosts, deans and chairs into the selection process. Deans worked with their chairs to nominate an adjunct who demonstrated leadership capabilities, collegiality, and enthusiasm for helping to keep adjuncts connected and engaged, with the goal of better supporting departmental initiatives.

Project Coordinators work directly with the Institute on specific projects necessary for helping to expand its reach and effectiveness.

For more information about the Part-time Faculty Institute and its leadership team, please visit the PFTI webpage.

Part-time Faculty Spotlight for November 2020 - Reginald Cyntje

Powerful. Sweet. Soulful. Cerebral. These are just some of the emotions people may experience when they listen to Montgomery College part-time professor Reginald Cyntje. It is not Cyntje's words that evoke such a potent response, but it is the dazzling music he plays on the trombone. He began his teaching career at Montgomery College in 2013. He is a member of the Music Department on the Rockville campus. He teaches a variety of courses that include 'Trombone Studies', 'Jazz History', and 'American Popular Music' to name just a few.

Besides teaching at the College, Cyntje is the Director of Jazz Studies at The Duke Ellington School of the Arts in Washington, D.C. He is an award winning musician, composer, and producer. He has performed at a number of venues including the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage. He has been playing trombone for 32 years.

"Since March, I've done my best to stay present, be resourceful, be creative, and be flexible. My students appreciate that I'm present and energized during our Zoom meetings," Cyntje said. While this is a challenging time, Cyntje helps to inspire his students. He said he tries to use music as a way to "address healing, social justice, and career goals despite the hindrance of our Covid-19 world."

Cyntje has his own YouTube channel that features some of his performances. You can check it out

here: <https://www.youtube.com/reginaldcyntje>



Congratulations to Brian Kotz

on his article "The opportunities of two-year college data science," *Harvard Data Science Review*, October 29, 2020

<https://hdsr.mitpress.mit.edu/pub/safie31p/release/3>