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The Montgazette

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The Students' Voice

Issue 79

Serving Montgomery County Community College and the Surrounding Community

October 2019



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'from the Editor'
on Page 2.**

Photograph by John Hain on Pixabay

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from the Editor

Welcome back to my Montgomery County Community College family

Josh Young
The Montgazette Editor-in-Chief

Hello, fellow Montgomery County Community College students and welcome back for another semester. I would also like to extend an extra special welcome to those students who are in their first semester here.

Recently, the College has put an emphasis on helping students develop a sense of belonging here, and this is something that I feel is particularly – important – especially with the negative, sometimes tragic way many young people appear to perceive themselves today.

According to Vox's Brian Resnick, 30 percent of millennials (people aged 23 to 38) say they always or often feel lonely. Additionally, Resnick states that 22 percent of millennials believe that they have no friends. Things are not much better for members of Generation Z, either. According to the same YouGov poll, 20 percent of people between 18 and 22 years always or often feel lonely.

Such feelings of loneliness have

contributed to a startling rise in depression and anxiety among young adults, especially those on college campuses. According to a 2018 survey from the American College Health Association, "More than six in 10 undergraduates experienced overwhelming anxiety in the prior year and four in 10 had felt so depressed that they had difficulty functioning."

Such statistics suggest that millennials and Generation Zers have a lesser sense of belonging, not just in their educational life but in their personal life as well. However, there is one thing that you can do, regardless of circumstance, if you are facing this problem: purposely put yourself in situations with people who share the same interests as you do.

In doing so, you will most likely find people with whom you can identify and find common ground in terms of shared interests. If just a few students did this, it would start the process of fostering a sense of belonging,

hopefully decreasing a person's depression and anxiety levels.

Fortunately, Montgomery County Community College offers a wide range of activities and organizations that will help a student find those with whom they share common ground. Clubs at the College run the gamut from ceramics and pottery to math and history. However, if you feel uncomfortable at the moment about joining a club, you can still take that first step by picking up this newspaper and reading what your fellow students have written.

I wish everyone a great rest of the semester.

For those who wish to seek help please visit www.preventsuicidepa.org or call 1-800-273-TALK. You can also contact Montgomery County Community College's academic counselor by visiting www.mc3.edu/choosing-montco/resources-for-students/health-and-wellness studentreferral@mc3.edu.

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An empty vase for every immigrant: Pouring only what they have

Sasha Yudin
Montgazette Contributor

It all comes back to origin, but what happens when someone does not know their origin? The discovery while growing up in realizing that I am not from this land of U.S. due to my accent, my way of thinking and not even knowing where I was born created an empty vase inside me. Here I am now before you, pouring all that I am into this empty vase within me and revealing to you what exactly is it that I am pouring.

I am something that flows and perseveres through time, I can be reflected as when light shines and my sound only welcomes those who know my hymn. What am I? This is my story.

I was placed into an orphanage for adoption after having been born in a small village within Siberia, Russia. Only my shoelace and teddy bear can comprehend the path I endured while emigrating to the U.S.

I was adopted by an American family at the age of 5 and then right after my graduation from the College in 2016, that summer I ventured back into the lands of Siberia with a one-way ticket. I accepted the risk of hopefully re-uniting with my native kin and heritage and eventually staying there for years – time where I could pursue my dream.

Throughout my journey living in Siberia for 50 days, I realized what my native family endured, the reason for my adoption, what my land and heritage meant to me, and the burden I carry. I was initially scared of the living situation. There was no electricity and

plumbing in my village. However, through my time there I became very accepting of the culture and lifestyle and began to embrace it.

However, the language barrier struck me hard, along with the realization that I could eventually become a potential burden to the family: if I were to continue living there not fully being able to comprehend the language, as well as not contributing to the family. My native cousin Annetta told me before going on my exodus to “only come visit, Sasha, because you will see how fortunate you already are.” I purchased a one-way ticket back to U.S. in that August of 2016.

Every immigrant who steps on U.S. soil carries his or her own unique story, with the weight of their struggles, burdens, truths, and an understanding that only he or she can bear. In the fall semester of 2018, Montgomery County Community College provided students with a glimpse of some of these immigration stories by presenting the Presidential Symposium on Diversity with guest speaker Rinku Sen. Sen is an Indian-American activist for immigration and globalization. Sen is also an award-winning author of the book “The Accidental American.”

In addition to sharing her incredible story and providing useful information about immigration, the College offered an opportunity for students, alumni, and employees to share their stories through a contest

known as “My American Story.”

I participated in this contest, because it spoke to my inner orphan who will always be a fragment deep within myself. I looked at this event as an opportunity for me to zest out some of the ingredients in “The Recipe on What It Means to Be an Orphan,” the title of my entry for the My American Story contest. And, much to my delight, my entry was announced as the winner!

The experience for me in discovering the My American Story contest, as well as learning how I won the contest, is deeply fulfilling. I often would visit the College as an alumni,

take slow walks around campus to reflect on my journey, and remain an active member of the International Club. After all, these are sacred grounds for me where my passion for theatre arts and storytelling came to life. As a student I performed in two theatrical shows, my first time acting, as well as danced in a show titled “Shadow Dance.”

Years have passed, but one day in the fall semester of 2018, during one of my campus walks, I spotted a world map in the library promoting the “My American Story” contest.

Continued on Page 10.



Former Montgomery County Community College student Sasha Yudin accepts his award upon winning the “My American Story” contest.

Photograph by Montgomery County Community College/Lou Liguori

College without constraint: Community college on the rise

Jason Roman & Jessica Yates
Montgazette Contributors

Every August, students rush into classes at Montgomery County Community College as the fall semester starts. Many see a familiar face or two while others welcome in the many new faces on campus. But what is the reason for why students choose to go to a community college?

Sure, community college has always been the more affordable option for those seeking a degree. However, what else is inviting students to turn away from the traditional four-year route? And, can community college be the better option in the long run?

Tom Landry, a Computer Science student, went to a four-year school, living on campus before attending Montgomery County Community College, but his grades were suffering. He decided to come to community college to focus more on school and escape the distractions of living on campus. With the experience Tom had at a four-year school he would recommend attending Montgomery County Community College as a cheaper alternative and for the quality of classes that

is provided to students.

“The professors are great. A lot of them are working at other schools, at the same time...I’m only paying 5,000 dollars and getting the same experienced professor.” Like Tom, more students are starting to realize that the quality of education does not change with the type of school.

Although attending a four-year university has mostly been the custom in the United States, going to a community college can also be a great asset. For those who want the full college experience, there are still more than enough clubs and intramural sports to keep them busy.

Community Colleges like Montgomery County Community College are also great for easing into the college lifestyle. Because most of them do not have dorms, the first two years out of high school can be used to focus on going to classes and studying alone.

“While dorms would be great, I don’t really mind not staying here my first year because I can just focus on myself and my studies,” says student Kennedie Licwinko.

Places like Montgomery County Community College

also offer great dual enrollment programs where students can continue their education after receiving their associate degree. Students who keep their grades up can also receive academic scholarships.

According to a Marketing major, Layton Green, on campus, this two-step process goes hand in hand with the school’s transfer program. “I’m a dual enrollment

student and can transfer my credits to Temple after two years,” Green said

Because most community colleges have agreement programs with four-year universities, students can save money and take their general education classes before transferring to another school. Plus, by the time they transfer to a four-year college, the pressure of being

out on their own has subsided and they have gained skills that help them be a bit more independent.

While going to a four-year college seems like the easiest route for school, it seems as though community colleges are becoming the norm and can possibly become the number one choice for students in the long run.



Montgomery County Community College’s “College Hall” where students can socialize and work in between class.

Photograph by Jason Roman

Health and wellness for everyone: Central Campus Fitness Center & programs

Khushi Desai
Montgazette Contributor

According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, less than five percent of adults participate in 30 minutes of physical activity each day. Additionally, only one in three adults receives the recommended amount of physical activity each week.

Exercise and fitness are also linked to the relief of stress, something that would greatly benefit college students burdened with a heavy workload. The good news is, many U.S. colleges and universities have fitness centers on campus for students and faculty to use.

Montgomery County Community College is one of those colleges. The College's Fitness Center is located

on Central Campus in Blue Bell in the Health Sciences building and is available to all students and faculty free of charge.

Mr. Zachary Hoffman, a part-time employee at Ambler YMCA, and a full-time employee at Montgomery County Community College, said, "The College officially built a new Health Science Center in 2017." Hoffman detailed that, "during the fall and spring semesters, the center is open Monday through Saturday – 6 am to 9 pm, but on Saturdays, the center is open from 9 am to 5 pm."

"Another great benefit that the fitness center provides are group fitness

classes for students and staff. Yoga and exercises will be provided and there is also personal training for a separate fee," Hoffman said. "The most surprising thing I have noticed is that after New Year's, there are more people that come into the center and work out because of their New Year's resolution."

That said, students and faculty should note that to use the campus Fitness Center, they will need to follow certain policies. Students can use the center if they are actively registered for classes at the College in any semester. Staff are required to have a valid Fitness Center access card to use the facility. To receive the Fitness Center access card, eligible participants should go to the front desk and present their school ID and complete the Fitness Center Membership Application and Release of Liability Waiver.

According to Hoffman, the membership is connected to the Ambler YMCA as well. "The students get a discount of sixty percent off, so if they are over 24 years old, it would be 26 dollars a month, and if they are under 23 years old, it would be 14 dollars a month."

For more information regarding the hours, rules, and policies, please visit the Fitness Center website: www.mc3.edu/for-the-community/facilities-and-services/fitness-center.

There are also other great opportunities on campus for students who are interested in sports.

Montgomery County Community College has three intercollegiate men's teams, four intercollegiate women's teams, and intramural sports on its Central and West campuses.

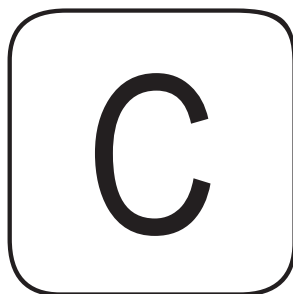
Mr. Nyere Miller has served as Coordinator of Athletics and Student Life for a year and four months at the College. Regarding sports offered at the College, Miller said, "We have sports throughout the year; our sports are Women's soccer and Men's soccer, women's volleyball, and in the winter, we have basketball, and last, in the spring, we have baseball and softball."

If an athlete gets injured on campus, a medical specialist is always available to help him or her get back in shape. Mr. Josh Walters is the person to handle any injuries an athlete may have while playing a sport.

"I work with student athletes; I am in charge of their medical need. Anything from sprains, bumps and bruises to cardiac issues. A lot of student athletes take advantage of our Fitness Center; they use it to help them with their fitness needs," Walters remarked. "They don't have to sign up for it."

For more regarding the athletics, please look to the Montgomery County Community College website for more information (mustangathletics.com).

The College has much to offer regarding fitness, so students and faculty should make sure to take advantage of all of these opportunities.



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Phi Beta Lambda national champions: The business club takes home multiple awards from San Antonio competition

Gavin Leigh
The Montgazette Contributor

In March 2019, Montgomery County Community College sent seven Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) members to the Pennsylvania Phi Beta Lambda State Leadership Conference in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. These members included Nicoletta Pelchat, Barry Hunsberger, Mike Antoine, Justin Ziegler, James Sovocool, Loymi Peralta Cruz, and Luka Vukoslavovic.

Throughout the course of the conference, the seven students won an unprecedented 15 awards in varying business and career-related events against the top schools of Pennsylvania. These schools included Temple University, Drexel University, and Pennsylvania State University.

These successes qualified the members to move on to compete against students from across the nation in the Phi Beta Lambda National Leadership Conference held in San Antonio, Texas. The six members who participated in the competitive events of this conference in June 2019 included Nicoletta Pelchat, Barry Hunsberger, Mike Antoine, Justin Ziegler, James Sovocool, and Loymi Peralta Cruz.

While in San Antonio, these members were able to network with both PBL and Professional Division members, as well as attend

developmental workshops, and take part in the “March of Dimes Walk for Babies”. The proceeds from the March of Dimes Walk for Babies helps fund research to prevent premature births, birth defects, and infant mortality.

To win at nationals, members must first compete in their competition’s preliminary rounds. Winning members may advance to the top 15 in their category; however, only the top 10 students in each category are selected as national champions. The top 15 competitors are selected to advance to the finals; however, only ten will win.

In 2018, only one of the six students who qualified made it to the top 15 in an event. Prior to this year, Montgomery County Community College had never won an award at the national conference.

Yet, on June 27, 2019, six members of the Montgomery County Community College chapter of Phi Beta Lambda walked across the stage to become national champions. Of the six members, two of these students won in both of their competitive events. As a result, Montgomery County Community College won a total of eight national awards.

Loymi Peralta Cruz, a first-

time competitor, who won awards for both Emerging Business Issues and Business Sustainability, said, “Stepping on a national stage felt like an accomplishment to me. Nothing

feels better than to be recognized for the many months of hard work that my team and I put into preparing for nationals.”

Continued on Page 7.



Phi Theta Lambda members (left to right) Justin Ziegler, James Sovocool, Barry Hunsberger, Damon Gray, Nicoletta Pelchat, Loymi Peralta, and Mike Antoine celebrate their respective award wins.

Photograph by Brianna Lake

Phi Beta Lambda Continued from Page 6.

Another student who won a national award was Nicoletta Pelchat. Pelchat came in fifth place for Business Sustainability and 10th place in Public Speaking.

“It was my second year competing, but it was an entirely different feeling going there as co-president

of my chapter,” Pelchat said “I felt incredible, not only for my personal success but for the success of each member of my chapter.”

Barry M. Hunsberger, the Small Business Management Plan award winner, called the feeling “electric.” After the event was over, Hunsberger reflected on the work and sense of accomplishment he and his team felt.

“It is a lot of work and a lot of stress to get

there, but once you’re there, for me the joy of competing takes over and it becomes fun. Win or lose at the National Leadership Conference, if you made it there, you are already a winner and a top competitor in the nation,” Hunsberger remarked. “The competitions were grueling but our team from Montgomery County Community College beat the odds and have returned National Champions.”

The 2019 Montgomery County Community College Phi Beta Lambda National Champions

Individual Event National Champions

Mike Antione

MCCC PBL Vice President

4th place in Financial Services

—

Justin Ziegler

MCCC PBL Treasurer

5th place in Macroeconomics

—

Loymi Peralta Cruz

8th place in Emerging Business Issues

—

Nicoletta Pelchat

MCCC PBL Co-President

10th place in Public Speaking

Team Event National Champions

Loymi Peralta Cruz

&

Nicoletta Pelchat

MCCC PBL Co-President

5th place in Business Sustainability

—

Jimmy Sovocool

MCCC PBL Secretary

&

Barry M. Hunsberger

MCCC PBL Co-President

9th place in Small Business Management Plan

—

2019 *Who's Who* award for the State of Pennsylvania

Damon Gray

Pennsylvania State Advisor of the year

Tyler Steffy

Profile of student life director

Kairav Amin, Lin Cen, Wachah Kadalem, Neima Khalil, Hasan Khan, Katia Lazili, Kim Lien, Mikhail Maiseyenko, Khalid Mubark and Daniel Secilio
Montgazette Contributors

Mr. Tyler Steffy is very interesting in his position within Montgomery County Community College where he serves as the director of student life. In this position, Steffy oversees clubs and offers leadership opportunities for students. He arrives for work at 8 a.m., checks his emails, attends many meetings and plans events such as the Weeks of Welcome.

Steffy's background is very impressive as he possesses three degrees already, including a bachelor's degree and two master's degrees. He is now working on a doctorate. Steffy also comes with a lot of experience as the director of student life. He worked at Florida State University, La

Salle University, and Philadelphia University before arriving at Montgomery County Community College.

In addition, Steffy has many skills. He is very organized because he must do many activities each day. He thinks that having good relationships with students, faculty and staff is extremely important. He is also creative, flexible and professional.

In brief, Tyler says that he loves his job because he can help students realize their dreams. His office is College Hall room 103, just behind the stairs. You can contact Tyler at getinvolved@mc3.edu.

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Broadway Babbles

Beetlejuice The Musical pleases the crowd

Mary Kate McHugh
Montgazette Contributor

Beetlejuice The Musical is loosely based on the Tim Burton film from 1988 starring Michael Keaton in the titular role. The movie's plot is simple: a recently deceased married couple are learning to cope with being dead, and in an attempt to get rid of the new occupants of their house, they hire a Bio-Exorcist named Beetlejuice. We see the couple, Barbara and Adam, who die and meet an undead stranger by the name of Beetlejuice. He attempts to assist the couple in haunting the home to frighten away the new, living occupants.

The musical starts off with a bang, as Alex Brightman steals the show as the eccentric, albeit crazy, bio-exorcist Beetlejuice. Brightman is best known on Broadway for playing the role of Dewey Finn in School of Rock in 2016, winning

the Tony Award that year for Best actor in a Musical. Now in 2019, Brightman takes the title role of this musical, and wins a nomination at the 2019 Tony Awards for Best Actor in a Musical.

Throughout the musical we are met with a wide array of jokes and gags that make the time between songs interesting and amusing, and, when a joke is said in a song, it brings the crowd to laughter. This was one of the liveliest Broadway shows I have had the pleasure of viewing, and it wasn't just the lead man who amazed me.

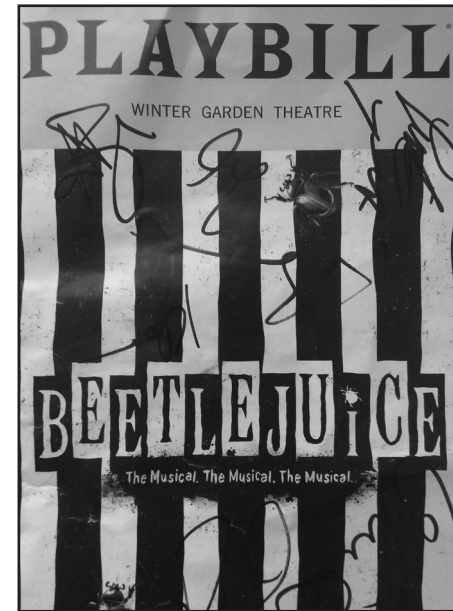
The promising Sophia Ann Caruso, only 18 years old, played Lydia Deetz, her astounding vocals gave the audience chills in the song "Dead Mom," and brought tears in Act 2 with her moving and emotional "Home." Sophia's talents truly shine in her vocal range, moving from alto

to soprano with ease. Her ability to captivate the audience with her voice in unrivaled.

The dynamic between Brightman and Caruso is lively, believable, and full of energy that can be felt by every person in the audience. Act 1 ended with a jaw-dropping number, and, during intermission, I found myself eagerly awaiting the second act. When the show ended, the crowd gave a standing ovation that was much deserved.

The show was not without its scattered misses, however. There was overuse of strobe lights, which could be headache inducing at the least and seizure inducing at its worst.

Overall though, this musical was an absolute joy to watch, and I highly recommend it to anyone who is a fan of the movie, or a fan of Alex Brightman.



Beetlejuice The Musical is a delight to watch and stars Alex Brightman in the leading role.

Photograph by Mary McHugh

An Empty Vase

Continued from Page 3.

After I put a pin on the world map, indicating the location of my Siberian village, my eyes then discovered the flyer for the Presidential Symposium on Diversity event and the My American Story contest instructions.

Standing there, after having graduated from the College in the spring of 2016, and then visiting Siberia, as an alum, I would never have imagined Montgomery County Community College influencing my life once again.

During the awards ceremony, my entry was read aloud. I felt something deep within me. A feeling

of such wondrous grace and happiness, someone reading what I created and having everyone perceive it in their own special way. It was in this moment that I experienced an epiphany. I wanted to be a playwright. I would finally fulfill this dream when I created my very first play, "Amade Nodir Sporsho: The Recipe on Our Nature's Journey." My play was first performed by the International Club's International Night in the spring of 2019 and was dedicated to someone very special.

When my story was announced as the winner, I gave a copy of my entry to Rinku Sen. She then gave me her book, "The Accidental American," with her signature. There was also an award that I was not aware of, and it was superfluous: a free Ancestry DNA kit.

Looking back, the entire experience illustrated the tears of my immigration story being poured into the empty vase of this contest, which allowed me to revitalize the inner orphan fragment part of me. The events of my past, and the essay contest, helped sculpture for me more of my purpose: giving back to immigrants.

Remember: Every immigrant has a story that no one will completely understand. Let us open further glimpses of immigration and diversity to this nation, because a beautiful vase can only be beautiful if passion, inner soul and story are being poured into it. Every immigrant has his or her own empty vase into which only his or her own inner fragments can be poured.

“Doctor Sleep” by Stephen King:

A review and preview of the upcoming film

Russell Magee
The Montgazette Contributor

In preparation for the new film adaptation of “Doctor Sleep,” which is scheduled to be released on November 8, I decided to read the source material. Unsurprisingly, as with many King novels, in no way could I have guessed what I was getting myself into.

As the sequel to King’s 1977 bestselling novel “The Shining,” “Doctor Sleep” picks up the story of little Danny Torrance, twenty years later, as an adult. Dan Torrance is a middle-aged, recovering alcoholic working at a hospice in New Hampshire. He uses his special gift, “the shining,” to

help the terminally ill pass on. This gives him the nickname Doctor Sleep.

All is fine and well until Dan meets a little girl named Abra, who possesses the same psychic gift. Abra, however, is much more powerful. Unbeknownst to both of them, there is a traveling gang of bloodthirsty psychic vampires known as the True Knot who hunt, torture, and sacrifice those who possess the gift. When the True Knot picks up on Abra’s scent, all hell breaks loose as they set off on a vicious hunt for the girl, which ends in a ferocious fight to the death.

“Doctor Sleep” is a

wild ride! King blends the unsuspecting innocence of a child with his trademark supernatural horror into a genre-jumping roller coaster. The trifecta of nonstop action, horrific suspense, and psychological terror fuse together to cement this book into the annals of horror history. It is no surprise that it won the 2013 Bram Stoker Award for best novel. Even three and a half decades later, it is a perfect sequel to King’s uncontested classic. This is Stephen King at his best.

I can only imagine what the movie will be like. The book itself is 635 pages, split into 20 chapters over four sections, complete with a lengthy prologue and epilogue. Within the pages, there are three major interweaving storylines, each one as complex and detailed as the next. It is a great feat to adapt this book to film, but it looks like they have the right person for the job.

Director Mike Flanagan is picking up the reins from original director Stanley Kubrick. Flanagan is best known as the creator of the widely popular Netflix series, *The Haunting of Hill House*, based on Shirley Jackson’s

1959 horror classic of the same name, as well as of the 2014 film “Oculus.”

Flanagan knows King’s books, and he and King reportedly have a great relationship. Flanagan adapted another of King’s novels, “Gerald’s Game,” which was released in 2017, and met with positive reviews. With a solid filmmaking

record in horror, and in close collaboration with the author himself, if anyone can pull a film with ties to Stephen King and Stanley Kubrick, it is Mike Flanagan.

The movie comes out in theaters on November 8, so you have plenty of time to pick up a copy of “Doctor Sleep” and give it a go. I highly recommend it.

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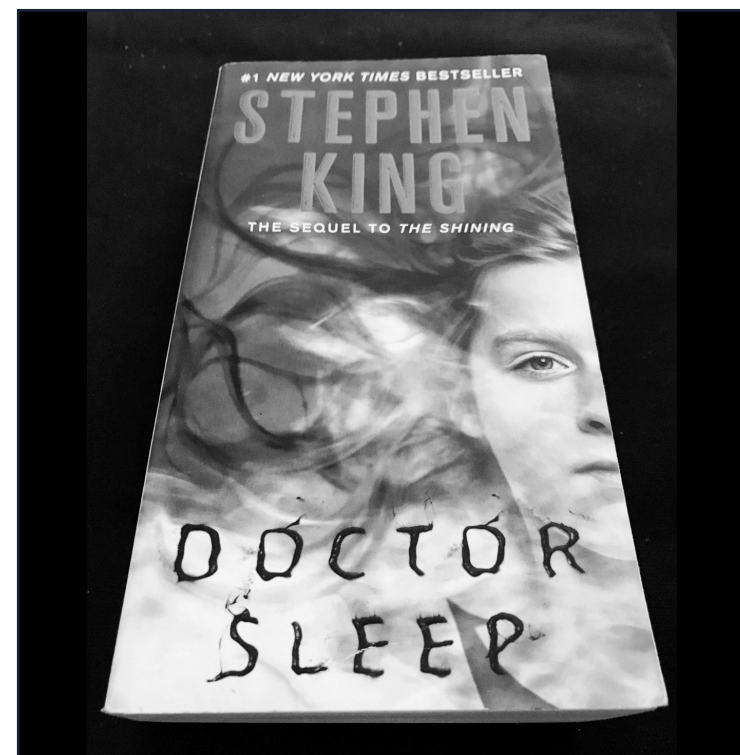
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A tale of innocence, bloodshed, and power; gripping from beginning to end.

Photograph by Russell Magee

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"M" IS FOR MOTIVATION

Find out how to stay motivated to achieve academic success!

Annemarie Coyne
Parkhouse Hall 323

OCTOBER 9

MINDFULNESS

Discuss how to use mindfulness as a tool to improve teaching effectiveness and support student success.

Lesley Williams
Parkhouse Hall 323

OCTOBER 16

FAQS ABOUT S-E-X

Do you have questions about birth control, HIV/AIDS, STDs, STIs, pregnancy and your body? We have the answers!

Maryellen Miller
Parkhouse Hall 323

OCTOBER 23

RADIOGRAPHY AS A PROFESSION

Everything you want to know about a career in Radiography.

Cheryl DiLanzo
Parkhouse Hall 323

OCTOBER 30

BUILDING A PERSONAL GROWTH PLAN

Learn how to create a plan to launch your future success.

Jay Browning
Parkhouse Hall 323

NOVEMBER 6

RECLAIM YOUR TIME

Learn helpful tools and strategies for staying organized and prioritizing your commitments.

Alecia Fields
Parkhouse Hall 323

NOVEMBER 13

OVERPOWERING TEST ANXIETY

Take the anxiety out of "test anxiety" by creating strategies to keep you calm and cool at test time.

Annemarie Coyne
Parkhouse Hall 323

NOVEMBER 20

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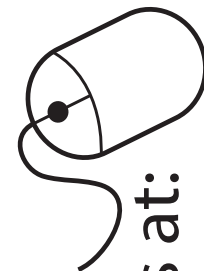
Take a break and de-stress before the end of the semester by making doorknob ornaments.

Mo Ganey
Parkhouse Hall 323



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OCTOBER 7

NOTE TAKING STRATEGIES

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Lara Ferris
South Hall 218

OCTOBER 14

NEVER GIVE UP

You have goals and dreams for your life. We know the shortest distance between two points is a straight line, so why do we get stuck in the spin cycle?

Jae Hively
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OCTOBER 21

A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES IN THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Find out what professions are available to you in the health field.

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OCTOBER 28

INVESTING FOR BEGINNERS

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NOVEMBER 4

BUILDING A PERSONAL GROWTH PLAN

Learn how to create a plan to launch your future success.

Jay Browning
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NOVEMBER 18

PREPARING FOR FINALS

Successfully prepare for and ace your final exams.

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Film produced by the college's staff and students: Students skills are put into action

Loué Repsik
Montgazette Contributor

“Daughter, Actually,” a movie written by Dr. Marc Schuster and produced by Professor Jen Mitlas was filmed over the 2019 summer semester. The production process allowed students the opportunity to expand upon their classroom knowledge, and to put their technical skills into action.

The movie is currently in post-production, a process that includes editing and sound mixing, and in which the students are also involved. The goal for the film is to be entered into film festivals and to be shown at a special screening on campus.

Dr. Schuster, an Associate Professor of English, explained that he decided to write the script for “Daughter, Actually” because his grandmother developed Alzheimer’s disease.

“I didn’t think much of it at the time, but now when I look back, I realize how difficult that must have been for my mother, having to worry about and take care of her mother. It’s not the story we usually hear,” Dr. Schuster said.

Dr. Schuster elaborated that the story was important to tell because people tend to believe in the storybook version of aging, rather than the real version.

“Parents raise their kids, the kids grow up and move out, and then the parents go off and celebrate their golden years playing tennis and bathing in hot-tubs,” Dr. Schuster elaborated.

“The movie is about a woman named Alison whose mother, Helen, is experiencing symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease. They don’t have the best relationship for a number of reasons, the biggest being that Alison did not follow in her mother’s footsteps and raise a family,” Schuster explained. “Helen feels like that’s a rejection of her own life choices, and as the movie progresses, Alison begins to gain a better understanding of why her mother feels the way she does.”

He added that the movie came to fruition because of Professor Mitlas, of the Sound Recording and Music Technology program, who had an interest in directing the film as part of the four-percent

challenge. As a part of “Time’s Up,” a University of Southern California Annenberg Inclusion Initiative, the effort is attempting to raise the percentage of women directing major studio films, which stands at just four percent between 2007 and 2018. The initiative also places an emphasis on promoting women of color.

“After I showed Jen my script, we both realized that turning it into a film could be an amazing learning opportunity for students from a wide range of backgrounds. That’s when we started talking to Sean Hutchinson, the Coordinator of Integrated Learning, and the project started to take off,” said Dr. Schuster.

Veronica Farrell, an MSP major from King of Prussia and president of the club CAPG, the TV broadcasting club, explained that she had become interested in film at the age of eight, making original projects with her sister. She described how she became a part of the film production.

“Jen contacted students who were apart of CAPG to help with the film, and my friends got me involved. I was the 2nd Cinematography Assistant. My job was doing the slate, you know, writing down the scenes and how many takes it is,” Farrell said.

Farrell also assisted the production in ways outside of her job description as well.

“I also assisted the camera operator, kept an eye out for continuity errors, and was responsible for transporting the lenses from their case, which is tedious because they are delicate and expensive.”

Farrell added that the shoot lasted only two days, although the post-production will be ongoing until the film is completed. She said it was exciting, but also a challenge because she had never worked on an actual film set.

“I didn’t know the terminology on set, so I would need clarification from the camera operator. I was intimidated, but now I have more knowledge about how productions work, like what to do and what not to do,” said Farrell.

Farrell said that Professor Mitlas gave her and

gave her and her fellow students contact with the professionals that they worked with to produce the film.

“That’s what is great about taking these opportunities. You get to know important people who can help you in the future,” Farrell said.

Heather Plank, an Academic Support Assistant, explained her role as the daughter, Alison.

“The movie takes place in the hospital, and during the evening the mother and daughter fight, argue and hurt each other’s feelings, but they also reminisce, share memories and discover their love for each other.”

Plank, who also performs in theater productions, explained the differences she noticed between theater and film.

“I do mostly theater, and it is very different from film. When you’re in a play you have a month of rehearsals, you cement your lines, you work with the other actors, and it’s an intense month-long period. For this film, I learned my lines on my own, and I only had one rehearsal. It was not a collaborative process getting ready for film day. However, on film day, it became very collaborative,” remarked Plank.

In her role as Alison, Plank had many emotional scenes to perform and found it difficult to be vulnerable in front of strangers. Plank credited the crew with helping her to overcome this difficulty.

“That being said, it was a very supportive crew and a great experience. I grew up with a passion for acting, but as I grew up, it got away from me. About three or four years ago, I found my way back to acting,” Plank said. “The great thing about acting is that you can do it at any age. At any stage of your life. As you grow older and gain more life experience, it only adds to the richness of the character.”

Plank continued stating, “Right now, we’re in post-production, and several students are involved in that process. Because our goal is to submit the project to festivals, we’re taking great care to put our best foot forward and to make sure that the film is as good as it can be.”

Do video games influence gun violence? These students say “No.”

Peter Lee, Emily Peters, Nickalas Carter
Montgazette Contributors

In the basement of College Hall, a group of students gather around to thrash, beat, and clobber each other. They taunt each other, throw punches, and scream. Onlookers surround the students as they jeer and watch the gruesome battle unfold. Of course, we're talking about video games.

When a discussion arises about video games and their influence, there are some who attribute recent mass murder sprees, school shootings to gun violence in video games. But how well placed is this mindset and what do some Montgomery County Community College students and faculty think of it?

Julia Ivanovski, an Art major, said that “It’s wrong to blame these violent acts on video games. Games are meant as an outlet for stress. If video games were to have any effect, it’s that

they’re pulling us away from violent acts.”

Shawnai Duboise, a Mass Communications major, said “Blaming these violent acts on video games is a misconception. Video games have gotten me through so many tough times in my life.” Nyasia Perry, another Mass Media major, compared it to “watching violent movies and then blaming the mass shootings on the violent scenes within the movies.”

Others felt that there were complex reasons behind the violent acts other than video games. Anthony Sanfelic, undecided major, explained, “It’s more of a preexisting mental health issue rather than the video games themselves. That person must have had mental health issues before even playing video games to even think about committing a mass shooting.”

Not all students

agreed with that sentiment, however. Matthew Nagy, Mass Media Major, said, “They may not always cause mass shootings, but they could lead to more common but smaller scale issues such as pulling away from friends and increasing depression.”

On the other hand, Mrs. Lin, one of the College’s librarians, explained, “I come from the viewpoint that consistently injecting yourself with negative media can influence your behavior in real life. However, I would like to believe that most people do not fall into this category and can regulate the amount of media they consume.”

On campus it seems students use games as a form of relaxation and meditation while others use it as a medium to connect with others.

Montgomery County

Community College has already embraced the video gaming culture by offering a gaming room for all students to use, both to game and to connect with one another. The Athletic Department is also creating its very

own E-sports team. The College has given students a productive foundation to stand on, but now it is up to us as a community to decide how we feel about video games and their impact on ourselves and society.



Montgomery County Community College students take a break in the game room in College Hall.

Photograph by Peter Lee

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