“Into the Fire,” sponsored by Combat2College, Examines the Struggles of Returning Veterans

By Marcus Rosano

On November 16th, the Theatre Arts Arena at Montgomery College-Rockville was the venue for a poignant and emotional two-person play called “Into the Fire.” Written and performed by Anthony Curry and Carrie Gibson, the play is an exploration of returning veterans with disabilities, combat-related trauma, and post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD. The content of the play is factual and represents a compilation of stories from a dozen vets’ efforts to integrate back to family, friends and the communities they had left behind.

For years, veteran actors Gibson and Curry performed plays about people with disabilities when they were asked to write a play about veterans with physical and emotional disabilities.

“We’ll never really know how this feels, but it’s the imagining that is important,” said Gibson, who, along with Curry, is not a war veteran. “For veterans to hear these stories live is beneficial because they can’t put up a wall or turn away like a movie...and now we feel like we are on a mission to get this message.”

It didn’t take long for Curry and Gibson to learn that returning soldiers need to tell their stories and that the “measure of the healing comes in realizing the value of their sacrifice.” The duo has performed Into the Fire over 40 times in the last year with one audience including a U.S. Army general. The actors said the Montgomery College audience included more faculty and administration than any other college they have presented to.

About Combat2College
Montgomery College’s Combat2College (C2C) program is a comprehensive program to welcome home veterans and provide support services, and academic and social opportunities for veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, in addition to all veterans, and active and reserve service members. C2C’s mission is to create a welcoming environment that assists veterans in transitioning and adapting the skills developed from military and combat experience to facilitate a successful college experience.

Upcoming Events at MC
- December 14 – In-person registration begins for Spring 2010 classes.
- December 14 - 20 – Fall final exams.
- December 14 - 20 – Holiday cookies in Adult Student Lounge. Stop by between classes!
- December 30 – Fall final grades available on MyMC.

Have a Safe and Relaxing Holiday Break!
Hi Marie! Tell us a little about yourself and how you came to MC...

Ten years ago, I came to DC to lobby about nontraditional students who are adults and working while in college. Statistics were also showing that 17% of those students were single parents. I was passionate about it because I was in that category and saw the needs first hand. While visiting, I fell in love with the Metro DC area and decided that when my kids left home I would move here. Fast forward ten years and I am here. I was fortunate to find a position at MC and doing what I love.

What do you do at MC-G, and what services do you offer to students?
I am the Supervisor for the Germantown campus Assessment Center. We offer the placement testing (ACCUPLACER and ESL ACCUPLACER), academic testing and the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS).

What is an interesting fact about you?
An interesting fact about me is that at the age of 16, I dropped out of high school to marry and start a family. As time progressed, I wanted more for myself and my daughters and I knew that getting an education was the route that I needed to take. I then got my GED and signed up at Valencia Community College in Orlando, Florida and continued on to get my BA. I am now pursuing my Master's and will continue on to earn my Doctorate in Educational Leadership.

When would it be a good idea for a student to meet with you?
Students can meet with me or any of the Assessment Center staff for information on how to prepare for the ACCUPLACER.

What is the best way for students to contact you?
Students can contact me via email marie.martin@montgomerycollege.edu or phone: 240-567-6972.

A Little Holiday Trivia

1. The real St. Nicholas was born in what modern-day country?
   A. Israel    B. Pakistan
   C. Turkey    D. China

2. Hanukkah, celebrated for eight days, is observed by lighting a menorah containing nine lights. This extra light, used for lighting the others, is called the:
   A. Kippah    B. Shamash
   C. Sukkot    D. Hatikva

3. Eggnog was first consumed in what U.S. city?
   A. Boston, MA   B. Jamestown, VA
   C. Milwaukee, WI  D. Rome, GA

4. Kwanzaa is Swahili for:
   A. Harvest   B. Unity
   C. Fresh Fruits   D. Faith

5. What year was Mrs. Claus first introduced to the world?
   A. 1889   B. 1902
   C. 1929   D. 1935

6. What traditional Hanukkah dish is the Jewish version of potato pancakes?
   A. Tzimmes   B. Halvah
   C. Latkes   D. Blintzes

(Answers on Page 3)
DID YOU KNOW....

...That MC Students are eligible for discounts on many products and services?

Entertainment
Regal Germantown Stadium 14
Germantown, Movie Theatre
Students receive $1 off tickets Sun – Thurs.

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra
An easy and affordable way to experience a world-class orchestra on a student-sized budget! Offering College Nights (concert and after party with free food and prizes), $10 rush tickets to all shows and 5 for $40 student pass and advanced tickets

Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, MC - Rockville
Students receive a $2 discount off regular single ticket prices.

Cell Phones
T-Mobile
T- Mobile offers discounts to students on wireless plans and phones when you call 1-866-464-8662, option 3.

AT&T
AT&T offers a 15% discount on monthly service charges to MC students.

Travel
Ride-On & Metrobus
(Montgomery County only)
Students ride free on Metrobus and Ride-On buses when boarding in Montgomery County between 2 and 7 p.m., Mon - Fri. To ride free, students must show a school ID.

Computer Services
Apple
Apple Computer has provided the College employees and students an opportunity to purchase equipment through the Apple Store for Education.

Dell
Dell offers students an opportunity to purchase equipment through the Dell University Program. To order by phone, call a Dell sales representative at 800-695-8133.

For either computer offer, please contact Resource Management at 240-567-3210 for more information.

For more information about the Germantown Options for Adult Learners (G.O.A.L.) Program, please contact Amanda McIntosh at 240-567-6976 or goal@montgomerycollege.edu

Final Exams have you stressed?
Stop by the Adult Student Lounge (SA 159) for cookies all week long and get back in the Holiday Spirit!!

December 14 - 20

Trivia Question
Answers from Page 2:
1. Turkey (C)
2. Shamash (B)
3. Jamestown, VA (B)
4. Fresh Fruits (C)
5. 1889 (A)
6. Latkes (C)