

**Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice**
Rockville and Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campuses

Shinta Hernandez, Editor Katie Torkashvan, Layout

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Greetings! I hope the spring semester is going smoothly for you, even though it certainly does not feel like spring. Despite the cold blasts and snow showers we have been getting, I hope you have been feeling the warmth of your work as you impact our students and our community every day. This 2018-2019 academic year has proven to be quite successful thus far for the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice. I am humbled and honored to be part of a department that understands our students' needs, appreciates our students' contributions to the community, engages our students in innovative ways inside and outside of the classroom, and empowers our students to be agents of change.

The faculty and staff in the Department remain committed to advancing the College's mission. We continue to seek ways to improve social justice and equity because as social scientists, we understand the implications of the changing demographics of our student population and the changing nature of higher education. The members of this Department have done tremendous work that we believe have positively impacted our students. The primary focus of this newsletter edition is to showcase the events that the Department has led or been engaged in to accomplish our student success goals. Please read on to find out what the faculty and staff have done during the academic year as well as upcoming events that they have planned that may interest you. Happy Spring!

All the best,

Shinta Hernandez, Department Chair**Congratulations are in Order!**

Please join us in congratulating **Dr. Eric Benjamin** as our Dean of Education and Social Sciences! He served as Interim Dean since December 2017 and has played an integral role in the successes you will read about in this newsletter. Dr. Benjamin empowers the faculty and staff in his area to innovate, to attempt, and to embrace failure. Without the safe space to try, we would not know what great success could look like. We all look forward to the many milestones we will experience together as we continue to "empower our students to change their lives... [and] enrich the life of our community" (Montgomery College Mission).



We have two additional reasons to celebrate this semester. **Dr. Katya Salmi** has accepted the new full time sociology faculty and sociology coordinator position at the Rockville campus. She previously served in a temporary full time status for a few semesters and as part time faculty since January 2016. She has taught on the Germantown, Rockville, and Takoma Park/Silver Spring campuses and thus has deep understanding of the student needs that may differ by campus. While in these previous roles, she gained the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute to the discipline, the Department, and the College in the most effective ways. In addition to her exciting new role at the College, she is also a new mom. Dr. Salmi and her husband Tom Colling welcomed their newborn daughter Freya on Sunday, January 20, 2019!





New Faculty

We are fortunate to welcome a group of new part time faculty this semester who are teaching at the Rockville campus, Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus, and the high schools in the Dual Enrollment Program. Our new sociology part time faculty are **Dr. Benita Rashaw, Dr. Maya Cameron, Dr. Gadis Effendi, Professor Andrea Lardner, and Professor Anas Askar**. We also welcome two new anthropology part time faculty: **Professor Christopher Partridge and Dr. Zev Cossin**. Please join us in welcoming them to the Montgomery College community!

The Gruenberg Scholarship Award Recipient

The Department would like to congratulate student Roula Kanios as the recipient of the 2018-2019 Robert Gruenberg Memorial Endowed Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded annually to a student in the social sciences that demonstrates high academic achievement and financial need. Roula is a General Studies major with a concentration in criminal justice and will be one of the College's May 2019 graduates. She intends to transfer to the University of Maryland College Park to study Criminology & Criminal Justice and is interested in eventually obtaining a Ph.D. in her field. She is also interested in the subfield of neurocriminology and hopes to apply her studies to become an interviewer in the intelligence field. Roula is an excellent student who said that she is very excited and very thankful to receive the scholarship. This award not only provides important funding for her studies but also acts as a great source of motivation for future classes. We would like to congratulate Roula for the hard work she has already accomplished and wish her the very best in her future endeavors!



As an Achieving the Dream (ATD) school, a group from the College, including **Department Chair Shinta Hernandez** (sociology) and **Dr. Bess Vincent** (sociology), visited Pierce College in December 2018. An ATD leader school and Aspen finalist, Pierce is located in the Seattle metropolitan area. This institution is considered to be an excellent national model of how an institution can engage its faculty and staff with data to improve its completion rates and align their ATD work with the strategic plan. During our visit, we spoke with leaders from Pierce about various student success initiatives, and ultimately, we learned from one another. While so much was learned during this trip, the key Montgomery College takeaways align with five main areas: mission fulfillment, data democratization, start2finish, professional development, and assessment.

Inspirational Events at the College

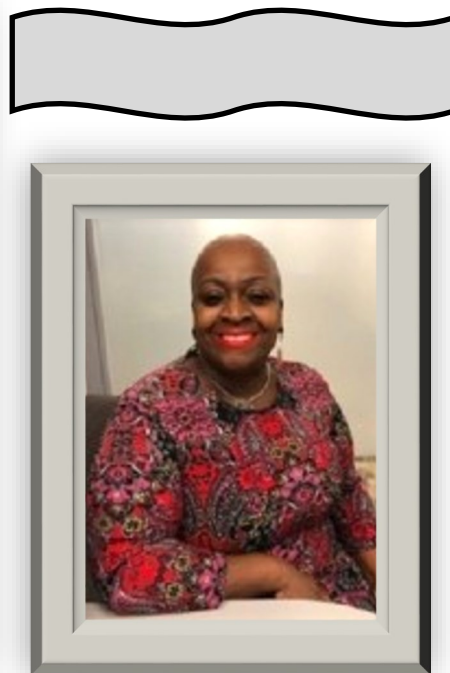
On November 16, 2018, the Department co-sponsored with the Department of History and Political Science and the President's Office of Equity and Inclusion to host its first-ever Diversity and Inclusion event as part of its Ethnic Social Studies Certificate. This event called "Stories from the Workplace" included a panel of three industry experts who discussed their opportunities and challenges with inclusion and exclusion at work. Among the panelists was Mr. Eliot Pfanstiehl, CEO and founder of Strathmore Hall Foundation and husband of **Professor Cindy Pfanstiehl** (anthropology). The other panelists were Ms. Hawa Camara from GlaxoSmithKline and Ms. Timea Webster from the University of Maryland College Park. This event was very unique because the panel was moderated entirely by students of the Ethnic Social Studies Club.



The Department co-sponsored with ELITE and the President's Advisory Committee on Equity and Inclusion to host the first-ever World Access to Higher Education Day (WAHED) event at Montgomery College on November 28, 2018. We joined institutions and colleges across the globe in celebration of equity in higher education. Led by **Dr. Katya Salmi** (sociology), this event consisted of five students who served on a panel and contributed their diverse stories and experiences. The student panelists discussed the challenges of accessing higher education, including the cost of tuition, transportation, and living, as well as scheduling and balancing multiple commitments, including work. The panelists also highlighted how the College reduces barriers for students through Z-courses and programs such as Achieving the Promise Academy, ACES, and Combat2College.

Part-time faculty member **Dr. Leszek Sibilski** (sociology) hosted an event at the College on December 3, 2018 to observe International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The guest of honor was 1992 Barcelonian Table Tennis Paralympian Sara Azizi. She presented on the challenges she faces as a disabled person but emphasized to the audience how she overcame and continues to overcome obstacles. As a token of appreciation, Dr. Sibilski's SOCY 100: Introduction to Sociology students were able to raise more than \$3,000 in just five days for a customized state-of-the-art multifunctional wheelchair for Ms. Azizi for which she is forever grateful.





Living the DREAM

Department Chair Shinta Hernandez (sociology) and **Dr. Bess Vincent** (sociology), along with many others from the College, attended the 15th annual national Achieving the Dream (ATD) conference called DREAM in Long Beach, CA. Montgomery College is in its third year as an ATD school. DREAM 2019 brought together more than 2,000 influential policy makers, thought leaders, and practitioners from colleges throughout the U.S. to talk about emerging strategies for critical issues such as equity, student success, data analysis, program evaluation, and many more. Dr. Jill Biden, former Second Lady of the U.S. and English professor at NOVA, delivered a powerful and inspirational speech at DREAM that left many of its attendees in awe. Each year, one of the highlights of DREAM is listening to a group of student scholars discuss their personal and academic journey. This year, one of the eight community college students from ATD network colleges is our very own student Carol Faye Walls. Carol began her life as an economically poor African American female in a male dominated family of eight in Washington, D.C. Her family was focused on the successes of her brothers, while she was told to get married, start a family, and maintain her household. At the age of 44, Carol experienced numerous setbacks, including three battles with uterine cancer and family loss. Despite this, she continued her journey to achieving her educational dreams. In 2015, she began attending Montgomery College and is a General Studies major. Carol plans to earn a degree in Social Work with an emphasis on female domestic violence.

Farewell and Good Luck

The Department wishes **Dr. Bess Vincent** (sociology) best of luck as she moves on to become the Director of Special Projects at the Johns Hopkins University Krieger School of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Vincent was a sociology professor and coordinator at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus until she assumed the position of Assistant Administrative Dean at the College a few years ago. Her enthusiasm, sense of humor, and dedication will be tremendously missed. Good luck, Bess!





The Department is fully committed to making higher education affordable, accessible, and equitable for our students. We have made great achievements with the number of sociology and criminal justice Z-courses that enable all students to receive a high quality education with no associated textbook costs through the use of open educational resources (OERs). To continue embracing the idea of "open" for our students, **Department Chair Shinta Hernandez** (sociology) partnered with Dr. Michael Mills, Vice President of ELITE, to launch the College's first-ever United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs) Open Pedagogy Faculty Fellowship in Summer 2018. Fifteen faculty from 12 disciplines were grouped into interdisciplinary and intercampus teams to create renewable assignments that would engage their students in achieving global justice through the UN SDGs framework. Faculty fellows from our Department include sociology instructors **Dr. Naliyah Kaya** and **Dr. Katya Salmi** who were each teamed up with instructors from other disciplines and other campuses. These assignments were delivered in 16 courses and 25 sections during Fall 2018 in which more than 570 students were enrolled. As a culmination, a student showcase was held on February 26, 2019 in which nearly 100 people listened to 16 students talk passionately about how they engaged in the community to transform the world through their open pedagogy coursework. During their presentations, some students discussed how powerful these assignments were to them, causing many to change their behaviors, mindsets, and even their career trajectory. Some of these students will continue to present at future events at the College and beyond. In just a short period of time, this fellowship has received international attention, including highlights at OpenCon 2018 at the United Nations Headquarters, a partnership with a university in Canada, and a possible collaboration with a university in Ethiopia.



Follow Us Online

Make sure to check us out on social media. **Dr. Naliyah Kaya** (sociology) has created the opportunity for you to know what is happening in sociology at the College. Use the following: Dr. Kaya's Sociology Page (Facebook), MC Sociology (Facebook), mc_sociology (Instagram), and @DrNaliyahKaya (Twitter). As part of the effort to place embedded classroom support through social media, she posts information about mobile food markets, the Academic Success Center, tutoring hours, job opportunities, transfer fairs, as well as other resources that support and empower our students.

Be sure to also follow **Department Chair Shinta Hernandez (sociology)** on Twitter to find out what is happening with our faculty, staff, and students. She also tweets about things happening in higher education across the country. Use this handle: @ProfHernandez2.



Around the World and Back

Part-time faculty member **Professor Tara Tetrault** (anthropology) went on the January 2019 Short-Term Study Abroad trip to Ghana, West Africa with a group of faculty and students. This opportunity allowed her to return to Ghana after many years. On this trip, she focused on the continuity and innovation in the Ghanaian art and culture. Among many things, this group examined the evolution of pottery and its use throughout the years. One of the most interesting lessons learned on this trip was that Elminan potters made vessels, especially the women. Men also crafted their own canoes since fishing continues to be a central part of the economy for many coastal villages. This group also had an opportunity to see traditional Kente cloth weavers in Kumasi. Kente cloth is a two-faced fabric with different patterns on both sides. Overall, this experience allowed the group to witness the thriving art industry in Ghana. Industrialization has certainly taken place in many areas. One evidence of this is that water pumps have now replaced the clay pots once used to catch water from rooftops. In fact, satellite dishes, electrical equipment, bicycles, and other modern items are now sold in shops and grocery stores.

What's New on the Horizon?

Please be sure to look out for information on our upcoming Social Sciences EXPO. The Department will play an integral role in the execution of these student centered events, but the events will include all of the social sciences: anthropology, criminal justice, economics, education, history, political science, psychology, and sociology. The EXPO will be held on each campus throughout the month of April and is designed to be an action-oriented, comprehensive one-stop shop for current and prospective social science students. Starting with a keynote speaker and a student panel, each EXPO will then move the students towards various tables where they can get information and assistance. One outcome of the EXPO is to increase student and community awareness of courses, degree programs, co-curriculars, and other activities in the eight social science disciplines. The EXPO is also designed to assist students in building a sustainable course schedule by appropriately incorporating counseling and program advising, financial aid, registration, and other units at the College at these events. Ultimately, students will be provided with information that will empower them to effectively advance their studies at the College and work toward successful and timely completion. If you would like to know how you can get involved, please contact **Department Chair Shinta Hernandez**.

Below are the dates, times, and locations for each campus EXPO:

- a. Germantown - Friday, April 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. In BE 151/152
- b. Takoma Park/Silver Spring - Tuesday, April 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. In ST Atrium
- c. Rockville - Wednesday, April 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. In Theater Arts Arena
- d. There will also be a mini version of the Social Sciences EXPO at the Rockville Open House on Saturday, April 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Professional Conferences, Fellowships, and Other Accomplishments

In addition to teaching, the faculty in this Department are passionate about engaging in work outside of the classroom in which the experiences will then be used inside the classroom. Some faculty have attended and/or presented at conferences, and others have become involved in various fellowships and other opportunities at the College or in the community.

Dr. Tracie Witte (sociology) was selected to be a faculty fellow in the MC-Smithsonian Faculty Fellowship Program. This semester's theme is "The Search for an American Identity: Building a Nation Together." This cohort of faculty fellows is spending this semester traveling to the Smithsonian for a series of seminars and tours. They will then implement relevant activities and assignments that incorporate museum objects with coursework. Through this fellowship, faculty and students have an opportunity to experiment with pedagogy that enables more sophisticated critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Dr. Naliyah Kaya (sociology) has done a number of speaking engagements, including a podcast with public radio station WYPR on how the arts, especially poetry, can be used for activism. She also served on a panel at the University of Maryland College Park, discussing the intersections of culture, faith, identity, and leadership development. Dr. Kaya has also co-written two articles on leadership that will make their way to academic resources.

Professor Ginger Robinson (criminal justice) served as a judge for the Baltimore City High School Mock Trial Competition in January 2019. In cooperation with the Maryland Judicial Conference and Maryland State Bar Association, an annual Mock Trial Competition is held and has involved almost 50,000 students from most counties in Maryland. The top four teams from Maryland advance to Annapolis for the semi-finals, and the top two advance to the state championship, which is held in the Courts of Appeals courtroom in Annapolis. In addition, Professor Robinson also attended the Montgomery County Commission for Women's Annual Women's Legislative Briefing.

Criminal justice faculty **Professors Debbie Grubb, Ginger Robinson, and Sean Fay** facilitated their Law, Government, Public Safety and Administration Program Advisory Committee meeting held on February 4, 2019. Discussions centered around the upcoming field trip to the Montgomery County Public Safety Training Academy in March 2019. Fifty Montgomery College students, along with MCPS students, will have an opportunity to tour police and fire training facilities and meet with recruiters. **Department Chair Shinta Hernandez** (sociology) enjoyed partaking in these rich conversations around student success, external partnerships, and industry alignment.

Part-time faculty member **Professor Terilee Edwards-Hewitt** (anthropology) engaged in an intensive one-year grant-funded project designed to recognize, celebrate, and increase public awareness of the current diversity of the City of Alexandria, VA. This project aimed to involve members of the immigrant community with the museums in Alexandria and to share experiences with the wider community. Interviewees discussed the culture shock they experienced upon moving to the U.S. Professor Edwards-Hewitt used oral histories as a way to get in-depth information about personal and cultural history and the immigration experience. Her article "Immigrant Alexandria: An Ongoing Oral History Project in Alexandria, Virginia" was recently published in the *Journal of Urban Anthropology*.

Upcoming Events: SAVE THE DATES!

Be sure to stop by and check out what we're all about at the following events:

13th Annual Poster Session – Our social science papers will be accompanied by visual representations on display during the week of April 8, 2019 in the Department Suite in Humanities 224 Rockville! This unique collaboration between our Department and the Department of Media Arts and Technologies is one you don't want to miss.

Inaugural Social Sciences EXPO – The College's first ever comprehensive one-stop shop for interested social science students will be held on each campus in April 2019. Bring a friend, or bring your entire class. At each campus EXPO, there will be a keynote speaker, a student panel, and tables of information with faculty and staff ready to help students progress through their time at MC!

Germantown - Friday, April 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in BE 151/152

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Rockville - Wednesday, April 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Theater Arts Arena

Rockville Open House – Saturday, April 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in HU 009 and 224

