Foundation Receives Bequest from Holocaust Survivor, Alumna

Bella Mischkinsky ’91 was a Holocaust survivor. Born in Poland in 1922, she suffered harrowing experiences at the hands of the Nazis—she was imprisoned in ghettos, concentration camps, and a slave labor camp.

Yet Mischkinsky, whose first name is Italian for “beautiful,” lived a beautiful life. When speaking to schoolchildren about her experiences, she always said, “I tell them not to hate, never to hate.”

The stories Mischkinsky heard about Montgomery College students who overcame adversity to get an education moved her to donate more than $300,000 to the Montgomery College Foundation.

Her gift will help fund the Global Humanities Institute, an initiative that will prepare the College’s students to become global citizens and workers who understand other cultures, speak other languages, and envision creative and transformative solutions to serious conflict.

In her 80s, Mischkinsky volunteered at Montgomery College. She also lent her powerful story to the College’s first-ever Portraits of Life: Holocaust Survivors of Montgomery County. In the exhibit, she recounted her escape to freedom from Nazi persecution and eventual reunion with her sister, Irene Glassberg, also featured in the exhibit.

Mischkinsky became involved with the College while taking classes here and later joined the Board of Governors for the Alumni Association.
Athenaeum Symposia Lecture Series Named in Recognition of Frank Islam

The Frank Islam and Debbie Driesman Foundation provided a $15,000 grant to the Montgomery College Foundation to support the 2013–2014 Athenaeum Symposia, an annual lecture series held at the Germantown Campus. The funds will enable the College to bring nearly a dozen nationally known experts to talk about timely issues in international affairs, the arts, politics, and economics. To recognize the generous support of the foundation, the lecture series was named the Frank Islam Athenaeum Symposia for the 2013–2014 academic year.

This year’s series features six lectures. Islam, the first speaker, delivered a lecture on “Working the Pivot Points: To Make America Work Again.” Former congressman Vic Fazio spoke about “Polarization: The Present State of Congress.” Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, discussed “Gandhian Nonviolence: A Pathway for Resolving Modern Day Conflict.”

“Community colleges are pivotal to the future of America... Montgomery College, through opportunities like the Athenaeum Symposia, is playing a leadership role,” said Islam, president of the Frank Islam and Debbie Driesman Foundation. “Our grant recognizes that education happens inside and outside the classroom, and for students to be successful in the workplace and in the global economy, they will need to be lifelong learners about an array of topics.”

Islam is the chairman and CEO of FI Investment Group LLC (FIIG), an investment firm he founded in 2007 after he sold his information technology company QSS Group for $300 million. He has authored two books, Renewing the American Dream and Pivot Points: To Make America Work Again, and is a regular contributor to the Huffington Post, Indian Express, Economic Times, and India Abroad. In addition, he hosts a TV show, Washington Current Review, on MHz Networks.

A well-known philanthropist, Islam and his wife founded the Frank Islam and Debbie Driesman Foundation in 2007 to support educational, cultural, and artistic causes worldwide.

Remembering Miriam Becker

Montgomery College friend and donor Miriam Becker passed away September 5 at the age of 89. She was the wife of the late Arthur Becker. Miriam, with her husband, Arthur, established the Miriam G. and Arthur P. Becker current use and endowed scholarship funds. The Beckers’ connection to Montgomery College ran deep, as it was Arthur Becker and his business associates who were instrumental in securing the land that is now home to the Rockville Campus.

Over the years the Beckers’ support and service to the College became a family tradition. Arthur Becker previously served on the Montgomery College Foundation board, on which son, Kenneth, now serves as vice chair.
Foundation Welcomes New Board Members

This academic year we welcomed a number of new members and a new chair to the Montgomery College Foundation board.

What contributes to making a successful foundation board?

Dr. Pollard: I am pleased to welcome our new foundation board members, Sally Rudney, Catherine Scott, and Jeffrey Slavin; and to welcome back Martin Colburn, who is our new chair, and Kenneth Becker, our new vice chair. We are blessed to have such an accomplished group of business and community leaders, and philanthropists, who are willing to dedicate their own time to make college an attainable dream for every member of our community.

In my view, a successful foundation board has a mix of individuals as diverse as the students it serves. Our board is a wonderful blend of different backgrounds, races, ethnicities, professions, skills, and talents. Just look at our new chair and new board members:

In Martin Colburn, chair, we have an engaged and active Montgomery College alumnus and former member of our alumni board. His leadership helps create a synergy between the two boards, for the betterment of both. He is a managing partner of a technology company, a long-time business leader, a retired corporal, special services with the US Marine Corps, a Harvard Business School graduate, and a member of the Universities at Shady Grove Foundation Board.

In Sally Rudney, we have the former founding executive director of the Community Foundation for Montgomery County, who now works as an advisor to local philanthropic families. She is an alumna of the Yale School of Management, a former trustee of the Sidwell Friends School, and a resident of Takoma Park, Maryland.

In Catherine Scott, we have a College professor emerita, a driving force behind a number of our academic programs, a top donor to the College with her own endowed scholarship, as well as a board member on a local nonprofit dedicated to supporting adults with psychiatric disabilities.

In Jeffrey Slavin, we have a mayor of a local municipality, the president of a successful business, a generous philanthropist, a political and community activist, and a proud participant in our recent Portraits of Life: LGBT Stories of Being exhibit.

Our newest foundation board members, combined with our exemplary returning members, illustrate that the power of our foundation board rests in each individual’s unique and varied backgrounds. Come to think of it, that’s what makes Montgomery College such a special place.

From the Executive Director

I am proud to work for an educational institution that consistently exceeds the community’s expectations for what a community college can be.

Global Learning

One good example of this is the creation of a new Global Humanities Institute at Montgomery College. This program will be nationally recognized for its quality and innovation, whereby faculty co-teach and collaborate as they revamp courses for the 21st century and teach our students to analyze and research with a global perspective.

Your support … provides opportunities for our students to enter a global workforce …

Students will emerge from our program with the abilities to communicate clearly, solve problems creatively, and operate with ease among diverse peoples from cultures across the globe—all sought-after skills by today’s employers.

Supporting Innovation

A model program cannot develop on its own. When you donate to the Global Humanities Institute, a prestigious challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities—the largest awarded to a community college in 2012—will provide 50 percent matching funds to the foundation. Your support of the Global Humanities Institute provides opportunities for our students to enter a global workforce and, just as importantly, to be better informed citizens of the world.

—Carol Rognrud
Executive Director
Montgomery College Foundation
From the Chair

I feel tremendously privileged to serve as the new chair of the Montgomery College Foundation Board.

My Montgomery County roots run deep: I grew up in Rockville, I graduated from Robert H. Peary High School, and I live in Clarksburg. While I joined the foundation board in 2005, I’ve been associated with Montgomery College for 32 years. After serving in the Marine Corps, I needed to work—and I needed an education—so I enrolled at Montgomery College in 1981. It was the most affordable and flexible option for someone working long, unpredictable hours in the computer field. Like many of our students, I worked full time.

As an electrical engineering major, my professors made sure that what I was learning was practical and relevant. One of my engineering professors, a working professional, gave us hands-on assignments that were immediately transferable to the workplace.

From MC to the Ivy League

After MC, I transferred to the University of Maryland, where I majored in finance. There’s no question that the solid foundation I received at Montgomery College enabled me to succeed at College Park.

With a BS in finance, I began to work on the technology side of the financial industry. Fannie Mae sent me to the Harvard Business School to pursue an advanced business management degree, an intensive, seven-day-a-week, 12-hour-a-day program.

After Fannie Mae, I joined the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA). Currently, I am a managing partner at Cloud Partners, a consulting firm that provides enterprise users with technology solutions.

A Vital Mission

Here at the Montgomery College Foundation, we are proud of the support we provide to advance the College’s mission. My top priority is securing and stewarding private support for the College to help students through scholarships, program enhancements, and workforce-relevant training. In addition, as chair, I look forward to working and collaborating with the leadership of the Alumni Association and the Montgomery College Life Sciences Park Foundation. The foundation seeks to do all it can through philanthropy, real estate projects, and investment management of its assets to support student completion and success.

Return on Investment

I am grateful for the dedication and hard work of the foundation board. Just as important, I am thankful for the hundreds of Montgomery College friends and supporters who know that an investment in Montgomery College is an investment in the economic and social wellbeing of our county, our state, and our nation.

I hope you will join us by investing in Montgomery College today.

—Martin Colburn ’90, Chair

Montgomery College Foundation

New Members Serve on Montgomery College Foundation Board

The foundation welcomes new board members, Sally Rudney, Professor Emerita Catherine Scott, and The Honorable Jeffrey Slavin. Read about their backgrounds in Dr. Pollard’s “Ask the President: Q&A” column on page 3.

Foundation Welcomes New Chair, Alumnus Martin Colburn

Portraits of Life Exhibit Opening

Montgomery College’s three-part exhibit, Portraits of Life: Holocaust Survivors of Montgomery County; Portraits of Life: Student Experiences; and Portraits of Life: LGBT Stories of Being, opened last month at Pepco Edison Place Gallery. The exhibit was dedicated in memory of the late Bella Mischkinsky, Holocaust survivor, alumna, volunteer, friend, and donor. The foundation paid tribute to Mischkinsky at the president’s opening reception, celebrating her life, and expressing gratitude for the gift of more than $300,000 from her estate.

Arun Gandhi, Mahatma Gandhi’s Grandson, Speaks on Nonviolence

Arun Gandhi, author and sociopolitical activist, spoke at the Frank Islam Athenaeum Symposia in October on lessons about nonviolence learned from his grandfather, Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi, center, stands with Dr. Sanjay Rai, interim senior vice president for academic affairs, left, and Frank Islam, right, whose generous gift has enhanced the lecture series with distinguished speakers, such as Gandhi.
Donor Karla Berg Walker ’74 and husband Frank Walker, left, with Montgomery College President DeRionne Pollard, second from right, and Melanie Folstad, right, who serves on the foundation’s planned giving advisory council, joined other donors, alumni, friends, and the foundation at Montgomery College’s Summer Dinner Theatre performance of The Wiz.

The Honorable Carol Schwartz, center, with Portraits of Life: LGBT Stories of Being participants, The Honorable Jeffrey Slavin, left, and Montgomery College President DeRionne Pollard.

Professor Emerita Catherine Scott, donor, second from left; with her friend, Mary Robinson, left; and Montgomery County’s First Lady, Catherine Leggett, pause with Holocaust survivor, Emanuel Mandel, right, in front of Mandel’s panel in the Portraits of Life: Holocaust Survivors of Montgomery County exhibit.

Professor Emerita Myrna Goldenberg, left, with Carol Rognrud, executive director of the foundation, shared the remarkable story of survival and the giving spirit of her late friend, Bella Mischkinsky, at the reception.

Mayorga Coffee Founder, Alumnus Establishes Latino Leadership Scholarship

Martin Mayorga made a generous gift to the Montgomery College Foundation to establish the Mayorga Latino Leadership Scholarship, which will support need-based scholarships for Latino students who are business majors at Montgomery College. The gift will cover annual tuition for one student per year for at least five years. Look for more about Mayorga in the next issue of Foundation Focus.

SAVE THE DATE

March 3, 2014
Scholarship Luncheon
Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center
Donor and Guest Speaker

Martin Mayorga ’97
Founder and President
Mayorga Coffee

For more information call Melanie Kandel, donor relations and board stewardship director, at 240-567-8062.
Foundation Awards More Than $125,000 in Grants from Two Funds

Innovation Fund Awards

The Montgomery College Innovation Fund was established by President DeRionne Pollard in 2010. The fund is primarily supported by the Webber Family Foundation, along with individual donors.

The foundation awarded 2013 Innovation Fund grants to five faculty members.

Dr. Debra Bright received an award of $3,000 for the Mentoring Project for Women at MC to promote an intergenerational community of women at the College to guide and support first-year female students.

Dr. Eun-Woo Chang received an award of $4,400 for his STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) project for Teaching Certification and Mentorship for Adjunct Faculty.

Professor Margaret Latimer received an award of $3,500 for “The Block Party,” which will support students enrolled in a block of developmental courses for the current academic year.

Professor Amina Rahman received an award of $4,830 for the Peer Tutoring project in the Writing, Reading, and Language Center to train and certify peer tutors.

Director of Libraries Tanner Wray received an award of $5,000 for the development of an ethnography and participatory design for the MC libraries as a way of aligning the College’s assessment goals with the library service needed by students in the 21st century.

Holy Cross Hospital Fund Awards

Through the generosity of Holy Cross Hospital, a fund was established with the Montgomery College Foundation to support educational programs that assist students seeking hospital-related jobs, including those in nursing, bioscience, health science, and the technical fields.

A total of $105,000 was awarded during this grant cycle.

Corrine Smith received an award of $7,350 for an American Health Information Management Association Virtual Lab.

Dr. Theodore Tadese received an award of $13,000 for a laboratory capacity expansion for nursing and preprofessional students.

Amanda Williams received an award of $14,850 for her development of a biomedical careers pathways program.

Barbara Nubile received an award of $22,483 for the new nursing curriculum for fall 2013.

Dr. Beverly Walker-Griffiea, Uma Ahluwalia, director at Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, and Resa Levy, executive director of the Family Justice Center Foundation, received an award of $48,000 for tuition and child care scholarships for citizens participating in the county’s Neighborhood Opportunity Network and for the clients of the Family Justice Center who want to take credit and noncredit health sciences courses.

Acacia Foundation $50,000 Gift Supports Boys to Men Program

The Acacia Foundation provided a generous $50,000 commitment for Montgomery College’s Boys to Men program. The gift will enhance existing academic and social empowerment program activities and provide a significant number of student scholarships over a five-year period.

Through this gift, Boys to Men will officially launch its first pathway to education, a partnership with Springbrook High School in Silver Spring and the Family Justice Center in Rockville. The program will provide direct support to black and African American male participants in Springbrook’s Coaching Boys to Men program. The focus of the collaborative is using K–12 and community college education as a means to preventing and escaping the trauma of family violence.

Montgomery College implemented the Boys to Men program in 2008 to serve black and African American male students. The program strengthens academic success, retention, and graduation rates. Components of the program include mentoring with professional role models, guest lectures, and other activities that promote individual development. Participants attend biweekly meetings, lectures, extracurricular activities, and engage in social networking. Since the program’s inception, more than 160 students have benefitted.

“We are elated to once again partner with Montgomery College to support higher education . . .”

and African American male students. The program strengthens academic success, retention, and graduation rates. Components of the program include mentoring with professional role models, guest lectures, and other activities that promote individual development. Participants attend biweekly meetings, lectures, extracurricular activities, and engage in social networking. Since the program’s inception, more than 160 students have benefitted.

“We are elated to once again partner with Montgomery College to support higher education in Montgomery County,” said Salene Hitchcock-Gear, president of the Acacia Foundation. “As the Acacia Foundation supports diverse and underserved populations, we are proud to showcase this program.”
Grant to Increase Nursing Grads Delivers Just the Right Medicine

Montgomery College will receive nearly $208,000 in grant funding over three years from the Who Will Care? Fund for Nurse Education campaign. The campaign is an initiative established in 2008 by a group of stakeholders, including the Maryland Hospital Association and health care and academic leaders, to double the number of nursing graduates in Maryland by providing funds to the state’s nursing schools. The grant program is administered by the Maryland Healthcare Education Institute, an affiliate of the Maryland Hospital Association.

Montgomery College will use the Who Will Care? grant to expand the use of simulations in its nursing program. The newly developed simulations will be in medication administration scenarios and home health nursing, and will be recorded and made available, free of charge, to nurse educators via the College’s Nursing Simulation Scenario Library website.

The funding for nursing simulations is the College’s second Who Will Care? grant. The first grant of nearly $235,000 enabled the College to create three new nursing laboratories, a seven-room simulation suite, and to train faculty and staff in the use of simulation scenarios. As a result, Montgomery College increased its nursing enrollment from 296 to more than 400 per year, helping to meet the Who Will Care? campaign’s goal of addressing Maryland’s nursing work force shortage.

Wells Fargo Grant Supports Entrepreneurship Program for Military Veterans

A generous grant from Wells Fargo will make it possible for 20 military veterans to develop their ideas for a new business through a targeted entrepreneurship program offered by Montgomery College’s Workforce Development & Continuing Education division.

The $10,000 award from Wells Fargo will cover costs for veterans who participate in the Kauffman FastTrac® NewVenture for the Veteran Entrepreneur program. Military veterans often face unique financial difficulties continuing their education, despite benefits offered by the post-9/11 GI Bill. For example, veterans taking noncredit classes to complete job licenses or certifications are not reimbursed by the government. This grant ensures that financial barriers will not prevent enrollment by veterans looking to establish a business.

The initial course will be held during the spring 2014 semester. The 10-week Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation program focuses on participants in the early stages of business development, enabling them to build skills, develop start-up plans, and learn how to access financial and networking resources. Topics include networking, securing veterans’ benefits, and doing business with government agencies.

“The program will enable veterans to bring new businesses to both Montgomery County and Maryland, creating jobs and boosting the local economy,” said Steve Greenfield, Workforce Development & Continuing Education dean. “We appreciate Wells Fargo’s vision and generosity in supporting this initiative.”

Anna Powell Bard, Wells Fargo’s community affairs manager for Maryland, Washington, DC, and Virginia, said, “We are pleased to combine our focus on workforce training and job-readiness skills, with our interest in supporting the success of military veterans who served our country so well.”
Holocaust Survivor Bella Mischkinsky Leaves More Than $300,000

Continued from cover

where she served for seven years. She is remembered for her spirit and joy.

She passed away June 22, 2013.

“We are forever grateful to Bella for her participation in our Legacy Society and for remembering the Montgomery College Foundation in her estate,” said Carol Rognrud, executive director of the foundation. “Her thoughtfulness and generosity will help support the Global Humanities Institute. … She was truly a remarkable woman who made the world a better place.”

The College paid tribute to Mischkinsky last month at the president’s opening reception for the Portraits of Life exhibit series at Pepco Edison Place Gallery in Washington, DC. (See center pages.)

Make Your Year-End Gift Count

Portraits of Life and other projects in the humanities are important to our society. The College received a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to launch the Global Humanities Institute (GHI). For every dollar you give, the GHI receives $1.50.

To make a gift to the GHI, call Carol Rognrud at 240-567-7493, or complete the envelope inside and mail your gift by December 31. To give online, visit:

www.montgomerycollege.edu/onlinegiving

Portraits of Life on View at Pepco Edison Place Gallery Through December 18

Montgomery College’s Portraits of Life: Holocaust Survivors of Montgomery County; Portraits of Life: Student Experiences; and Portraits of Life: LGBT Stories of Being, are on view together for the first time. The three-part exhibit celebrates the human experience and rich diversity of our community through photos and words.

Holocaust survivors and sisters, Bella Mischkinsky, right, and Irene Glassberg, were separated, but eventually reunited after the war when Irene found Bella in a displaced persons camp in Germany. Their stories are featured in the Portraits of Life exhibit series. Photo by Professor Brian V. Jones, from Portraits of Life: Holocaust Survivors of Montgomery County.

Bella Mischkinsky stands in front of the Children’s Tile Wall in 2001 at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, where she was a volunteer.