Third Annual MCRPA Retreat

Susan Blumen, Professor of Business and Management, Rockville Campus, led the 3rd Annual MCRPA retreat titled, Compassionate Communication: Managing Conflict Inside and Out. Opening remarks were provided by Germantown Provost, Margaret Latimer, and MCRPA President, Chauncy Butcher.

Thirty-seven participants engaged in an interactive workshop where they completed a personal conflict style inventory to help understand their preferred method of dealing with conflict; learned to identify and properly utilize non-violent communication techniques; and prepared for real life application through role play. Group discussions, video activities, and the 4 ears non-violent communication exercises were well received by those in attendance.

Ninety-five percent of all participants indicated that they were very satisfied with the day’s events, with 84 percent of those surveyed rating Ms. Blumen a 9 or a 10 on a possible 10-point scale for her facilitation skills. Participants reported, Ms. Blumen “spoke clearly, had a distinct and well-regulated plan and related well to participants,” and that the session was “very interactive and enjoyable”.

MCRPA’s annual retreat brings members together while at the same time introducing non-members who are not familiar with the association. Workshops are often facilitated by internal employees giving staff and faculty an opportunity to learn from their colleagues and expand their knowledge of diversity.
MCRPA Mission, Vision, and Core Values

Our Mission
We empower our members to write their own career stories and to advance themselves into bright professional futures. We collectively seek out opportunities to learn and grow as individuals and as rising professionals.

Our Vision
The Montgomery College Rising Professionals Association seeks to identify, serve, and involve employees mutually interested in guidance, support, and mentoring. These individuals, all in the early stages of their careers, are mutually interested in guidance, support, and mentoring. We endeavor to inspire, connect, engage, and propel our members forth into meaningful relationships and leadership positions within the College and throughout the community.

Our Values
ACHIEVEMENT
INITIATIVE
PROFESSIONALISM
SERVICE
GROWTH
CONTINUITY

Did You Know?
Each month MCRPA features a member in our Members Spotlight. The spotlight is a great way to get to know each individual member outside of their work life. Visit the website and click on Members Spotlight for more information.

Chats With the Chiefs
MCRPA hosted Dr. Janet Wormack, Senior Vice President for Administrative and Fiscal Services, for our fall semester Chats with the Chiefs.

Twenty-eight were in attendance at this event. Dr. Wormack shared her career pathway and expressed the importance of having mentors in your career.

Attendees gained valuable information on how to develop and maintain positive working relationships with internal and external constituents.

For the spring semester, we hosted Nancy Nuell, Associate Senior Vice President of Advancement and Community Engagement. We had 11 in attendance.

Ms. Nuell stressed the importance of putting our best foot forward and being open to new opportunities as we continue down our career path. Members enjoyed her warmth, insights, and stories.

Annual Potluck With Dr. Pollard
MCRPA held its annual potluck with Dr. DeRionne Pollard last August. Members enjoyed great food, and played an icebreaker game for prizes.

The Committee Chairs provided a report of past year’s events in addition to giving an overview of upcoming events for the academic year.

Dr. Pollard gave updates on the College and offered some recommendations for the group. One of these recommendations was recruiting more male and faculty members.

MCRPA incorporated some of the President’s recommendations into our goal plan this past year.
**Chat and Chill Events**

MCRPA offered two Chat & Chill Events focused on bringing members together to connect in a more social environment at an offsite location.

The Fall event took us to Summers Farm in Frederick, MD, for an evening of Fireworks, S’mores, and Corn Mazes. Despite the bad weather members had an opportunity to connect, explore the corn maze, and just have fun!

A private Karaoke room at East Dumpling House in Rockville, MD, was reserved for the Spring event. We had a great turnout and discovered some shining stars as MCRPA members sang their hearts out.

**Next Generation at Work Program**

In April, MCRPA partnered with Holy Cross Hospital and Next Generation Wellness at work to bring two dynamic programs which helped kick start the spring season. This was the first year we planned this dual-event series for our members.

On day one, members learned how to limit harmful sugars and sodium while also crafting satisfying meals. On day two, members learned how to utilize their own body weight for high intensity interval training.

These events were such a success that we plan to make them an annual event series!
**Retirement and Home Buyer Seminars**

During the fall semester, MCRPA hosted two seminars: Retirement Planning for Generation X and Millennials, facilitated by VOYA, and First Time Home Buyer, facilitated by the Montgomery County Employees Federal Credit Union.

The Retirement Planning seminar provided information for Generation X and Millennials on how to save for retirement. Members learned about the different retirement options available, including at Montgomery College.

Information was provided at the First Time Home Buyer seminar on how to find a real estate agent, save for a down payment, and prepare for unexpected expenses. The seminar helped attendees understand the importance of home ownership.

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**Annual Holiday Potluck and 70th Anniversary Celebration**

Naturally, the holidays make for a great time to come together and celebrate. MC’s 70th anniversary milestone made the annual potluck even more festive. We decorated BE 151 in winter wonderland motif and incorporated lots of silver decor.

We partnered with Special Events to create a 70th anniversary networking bingo trivia and they also provided giveaways. We had a photo booth and gave members an opportunity to make donations for Stepping Stones Shelter. MCRPA Leadership delivered 10 bags of donations for the shelter residents.

This is just a small example of the impact MCRPA has at MC and beyond! This was one of our best events of the year!

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**Leadership Montgomery’s Emerging Leaders Program Information Session**

In March, we held our first information session for the Leadership Montgomery’s Emerging Leaders (LMEL) program. LMEL focuses on fostering the county’s leaders of tomorrow.

“Program participants advance their own personal and professional goals through the program. The intensive experience is designed to inform, educate, and connect emerging leaders between the ages of 25 and 35, living or working in Montgomery County, to the resources and expertise of other local leaders. They play an active role in helping to improve the neighborhoods people live in and the organizations where they work.

“Once-per-month, for nine months, participants engage in a blend of professional development and mentoring to help prepare them as well-rounded future leaders. Topics include Montgomery County 101, Business Environment, Communication, Relationship Building, Leadership Fundamentals, and Civic Engagement.”

Tracee Matthias, graduate of Leadership Montgomery’s Core Program, joined us for the information session. Ms. Matthias also brought some graduates from previous LMEL cohorts to provide an overview and answered questions from the attendees.

MCRPA invited members to apply by the August 14th deadline. Susan Ucanay, active MCRPA member, applied and was selected for the 2017 - 2018 cohort this fall.

Visit the following website for additional information about LMEL - [https://www.leadershipmontgomerymd.org/programs/emerging-leaders-program](https://www.leadershipmontgomerymd.org/programs/emerging-leaders-program)
MCRPA Wins Award During Spirit Week

Montgomery College celebrated its 70th anniversary last year with Spirit Week during the fall semester. Spirit Week was a fun week for the entire College community!

Faculty, staff, and students were encouraged to celebrate their College’s pride by participating in various activities including wearing MC’s colors, compete in special Spirit Week contest, and participate in a pep rally with food and giveaways at each campus.

Dr. Pollard and the Raptor judged contests and awarded prizes!

For the photo contest, MCRPA won the Most Spirited Team award with its group photo.

MC Governance

MCRPA wants to congratulate the following members who will be serving on the MC Governance councils this upcoming year, 2017 - 2018. Some of our members were also elected for officer positions in their respected council.

- Shakenna Adams (Staff Council, Vice Chair)
- Diana Benson (Staff Council, Secretary)
- Chauncy Butcher (Employee Services Council)
- Maria Davidson (Student Services Council)
- Shane Doyle (Staff Council, Chair)
- Britney Green (Germantown Campus Council, Vice Chair)
- Jenny Hatleberg (Academic Services Council)
- Alejandro Leopardi (Employee Services Council, Secretary)
- Ja’Bette Lozupone (Administrator Council)
- Tracee Matthias (WDCE Council)
- Joel Martinez (WDCE Council, Chair)
- Maria Moreno (Staff Council)
- Angie Moy (Staff Council)
- Nghi Nguyen (Staff Council)
- Tilandra Rhyne (Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus Council, Chair)
- Kimberly Robinson (Operational Services Council)
- Laurie Williams (Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus Council, Secretary)

If you are a member of MCRPA and are interested in serving on the leadership team please contact the chair of any of the committees above.
Member Updates

René Argueta:
● Pursuing a Masters

Kani Bassey:
● Completed a second Bachelors degree in Digital Media and Web Technology (May 2017)
● Promoted to Administrative Manager for the Vice President & Provost for Collegewide ABEESS
● Completing dissertation, Social Media and Community College International Student Engagement, for Doctorate of Education at Morgan State University
● Served on the 2018 Middle States Self-Study Committee: Standard 7 Workgroup

Diana Benson:
● Attended AAWCC Leaders Institute 2017
● Served as Acting Student Life Director Fall 2016

Chauncy Butcher:
● Presented at annual Maryland Association for Adult, Community, and Continuing Education (MAACCE) conference

Tiffany Copeland:
● Awarded the Smithsonian Faculty Fellowship through the Paul Peck Humanities Institute at Montgomery College for 2017

Colleen Dolak:
● Served on the Appointed co-chair, Social Media Spirit Week
● Appointed volunteer coordinator, Spirit Week
● Transferred to Alumni Office as Alumni Relations Manager
● Received M.S. in Nonprofit Management from University of Maryland, University College
● Appointed as Service Unit SHARE Leader for the Girl Scouts of America
● Appointed as Service Unit delegate for annual meeting
● Elected Vice President to the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville
● Co-chair of the Future Planning Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Rockville
● Served on 60th Anniversary Committee
● Served as a mentor for FutureLink
● Served on the Montgomery Coalition for Adult English Literacy’s (MCAEL) Spelling Bee event planning committee
● Chaired MCAEL Letter sponsorships subcommittee

Shane Doyle:
● Accepted to the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law part time evening program working toward a J.D
● Awarded the Maryland Law Scholars Award, a merit based scholarship

Ramon De La Cruz:
● Became Central Services (CT) Building Coordinator
● Awarded the 2017 Leadership Development Institute (LDI) Joyce Gray Outstanding LDI Participant Award
● Mentoring for Achieving Latino Male Advancement (ALMA) and the MC Outdoor Adventures club

Britney Green:
● Appointed by the President’s Office, Member of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Planning Committee for Montgomery County
● Attended The Special Event Conference, Long Beach, CA, January 9-12, 2017
● Member of International Live Events Association (ILEA)
● Pursuing a Certified Special Events Professional (CSEP) certification
● Awarded a Service Excellence Recognition Award for Spirit Week
● Received Appreciation Certificates from Dr. Pollard and County Executive, Ike Leggit;
● Planned and coordinated nearly 50 events for the Department, Campus, College wide and Montgomery County Community, during FY 17
MCRPA Membership and Member Services would like to recognize the following individuals for promoting MCRPA and encouraging new members to join.

As a result of your referrals, we’ve had eight new MCRPA members and three returning members renew their membership since October 2016.

We couldn’t have done it without you!

Shakenna Adams
Thanh King
Miriam Laufer
Alejandro Leopardi
Tracee Matthias
Maria Moreno
Nghi Nguyen
Carroll Rollman
Kathleen Taltavul

Cindy Huyynh:
- Job title change from Cybersecurity Lab Coordinator to Cybersecurity Center Coordinator.

Michele Knight:
- Presented at the Maryland Distance Learning Association (MDLA) 2016 Fall conference.

Alejandro Leopardi:
- Accepted into the second cohort for the Faculty Honors Fellowship in the fall.

Ja’Bette Lozupone:
- Promoted to Director, Achieving the Promise Initiatives

Kaylin Nguyen:
- Received the Staff Recognition Award for the 2017 Staff Enrichment Day

Nghi Nguyen:
- Received the Center for Professional and Organizational Development’s (CPOD) Learning Pathway certificate for completing the Career Development Learning Pathway
- Presented at the MDLA 2016 Fall Conference
- Served as a mentor for FutureLink
- Served as Secretary for the 2016-2017 Staff Council

Tracee Matthias:
- Selected as a member of the second American Association for Women in Community Colleges (AAWCC) 40 Under 40 class and received the award at the AAWCC National Awards Breakfast held during the annual American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) Annual Convention this past April

Maria Moreno:
- Became the Administrative Aide for the Office of Public Safety, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus
- Received NARCAN Certification through Department of HHS: Maryland Overdose Response Program

Matthew Ratz:
- In August 2016, was cast in the role of Anthony Weiner in the premier of Weiner: the Musical
- In October 2016, played Sweeny Todd at the LaTiDo cabaret’s "Halloween Spook-tacular"
- Played the Prefect, the King, and other named roles in Montgomery Playhouse’s An Evening with Edgar Allen Poe
- In April 2017, sang as Maui (from Moana) at LaTiDo’s "Movies and TV Night" and played Inspector Farady in Montgomery Playhouse’s staged reading of Boston Blackie
- Chapbook of poems, Lightning Bugs in Fragile Jars, was released in June 2017
- Will play the role of Crazy Cubicle Man in the short film Live Fish
- Will also play the priest in the Montgomery Playhouse One-Act Swimwear in July 2017
- Will be reading selections of his poetry at the upcoming LaTiDo “Doo-Wop and ’50s Hearthrob” night on July 24, 2017

Carroll Rollman:
- Received the CPOD’s Learning Pathway certificate for completing the Career Development Learning Pathway

Tilandra Rhyne:
- Attended the American Association for Women in Community Colleges LEADERS Institute Conference, June 2017
- Elected Campus Liaison of the Montgomery College Chapter of American Association for Women in Community Colleges (AAWCC)
Vacant Leadership Positions

The following MCRPA leadership positions are currently vacant:
- Vice President
- Campus Representatives

This is ONLY for MCRPA members!

If you are an active member of MCRPA and interested in serving in one of the leadership positions mentioned above, please contact Chauncy Butcher, MCRPA President.

Did You Know?

Currently, MCRPA has 74 members.
- 59 members have earned a Bachelor’s degree
- 25 members have earned a Master’s degree
- 2 members have earned a Ph.D

• Accepted into American University’s Master of Science in Organizational Development program
• Served as the 70th Anniversary Spirit Week Campus event planning co-chair
• Awarded Service Excellence Recognition Award for 70th Anniversary Spirit Week
• Completed MC’s 24th Leadership Development Institute
• Served on the MC Libraries Organizational Redesign Task Force
• Served on the Workday Project Team
• Appointed chair of 2017 Staff Enrichment Day

Susan Ucanay:
- Accepted into 2017-18 Cohort for Leadership Montgomery’s Emerging Leaders Program.

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