

Got Books?

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Survive

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on campus. [page 8](#)



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a student publication

The Montgazette

FREE

The Students' Voice

Issue 31

Serving Montgomery County Community College and the Surrounding Community

September 2011

College Hall's Brand New Look!

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renovation photos at:
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from the Editor

The Fall 2011 semester will feature exciting changes. A new musical theater course, transfer agreements with Bryn Mawr College and Bellevue University, and opportunities to go green by carpooling (www.zimride.mc3.edu) are all new and available to MC3 students. For the cellphone-conscious, Blackboard now has a mobile app.

The Montgazette is new too. We have a new look, thanks to layout artist Joshua Woodroffe, and we will have a mobile phone app. Our blog (www.montgazette.wordpress.com) is now maintained with current content, and we have some new features.

Fear not T-Mobile subscribers. Although the Montgazette now has multiple digital venues, we are still in print. We are still physically in your hands. You

can read each issue on campus, or anywhere, in any format that you choose. No cell phone service issues can limit our readership.

This issue welcomes new students with freshman survival guides, highlights education travel opportunities and introduces some new content. Among the Op/Ed's and news features, the paper will now include student creative writing. Throughout the semester there will be poetry as well as short stories.

The Montgazette has a little something for everyone, and we hope to cover other areas of content throughout the semester.

Jocelyn Moyer
Editor-in-Chief

Visit us at:

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About

The Montgazette is published on the first Tuesday of every month from September through December and February through May by the students of Montgomery County Community College.

The Montgazette is printed by Montgomery Newspapers in Exton, PA.

WANTED!

Student Journalists

The Montgazette is looking for Central & West Campus writers.

Report on a wide range of content:

- news
- sports
- arts
- entertainment
- music
- community events
- ...and more!



For more information, email Jocelyn Moyer at jmoyer1307@students.mc3.edu

Let Your Voice Be Heard!

We are always looking for news about the college, but we can't keep track of it all without your help.

We welcome contributions and suggestions from students, faculty and staff of Montgomery County Community College. Whether it is a notice of an upcoming event, a special accomplishment by one of our own or just a "heads up" about something newsworthy, please let us know.

Thanks!

All content is subject to approval by our editors.

Advertise

If you would like to advertise in The Montgazette, please contact montgazette@gmail.com or visit montgazette.wordpress.com for pertinent information.

All clubs chartered through the Office of Student Leadership and Involvement may advertise in The Montgazette free of charge.

An MCCC library with fewer books?

'Extensive pruning' to the stacks in Brendlinger Library reflects the movement from the printed page to the screen. About 40,000 traditional books are stored in New England while the library is renovated.

by **Jocelyn Moye**
Staff Writer

Walls replaced hallways and plywood staircases replaced walls during the renovations to College Hall and the Brendlinger Library.

But unlike the outdated classrooms or meeting spaces that were quarantined entirely during the construction, the library had to shift inventively every few months in order to adapt.

The library got rid of many books – many of them for free. So is the collection shrinking due to the construction, or a lack of readership?

Reference librarian Robert Erb calls the continual construction “a special experience” in his 40 years at MCCC.

“We had an extensive evaluation, renovation, and pruning of our collection based on what’s been circulating,” Erb says.

The books that Erb says were part of the “pruning” were sent to Better World Books, an online bookseller that donates a portion of its profits to develop libraries worldwide. Better World, in turn, credited the college for the donation – a credit the college can take to its book supplier.

In addition to donating books, the library has been recycling unused materials, Erb says.

Student volunteers removed the glossy covers of thousands of magazines so that the contents could be recycled. Librarians said they even discovered a way to recycle old VHS tapes.

Though the Brendlinger Library still keeps many books in print form, it also circulates e-books, according to Lianne Hartman, a librarian at the Central Campus.

Materials offered through the “EBSCOhost” database give students many journals and magazines for research, she said. E-books in a library may seem strange, but they benefit institutions that have multiple campuses like MCCC, Hartman said.

She says students at both West and Central campuses, as well as students online, can use e-books. She notes the advantage of using EBSCOhost. She said using the database eliminates the need to order duplicates of research magazines and journals.

Through EBSCO’s e-book collection, libraries can choose which books they will have available digitally. This past April EBSCO released an iPhone app. Students can now access what books their campus library offers on mobile devices.

In addition to using EBSCO e-books, librarians converted already discarded magazines

that were kept on microfilm into “e-journals.” So fear not you non-music majors, issues of Rolling Stone from the 1990s are still available – just easier to access online.

Although the Brendlinger Library has clearly shifted to offering more e-books, librarians said there are no more plans for discarding books in print. Books that don’t circulate much are in storage because of the constraints of space during construction. For example, there are 40,000 volumes being held temporarily in New England. And a librarian can borrow a stored book from another library if a student needs it.

Because of e-reader technology, book enthusiasts have raised several questions about readership, Erb says. How do people want information presented to them? In their home? On their computer? On their iPhone?

“Print is still with us,” he says, adding that he does not see digital formats as an overbearing replacement for physical books.

“As far as who reads, why do they read, I still think the physical book has a place in the scheme of things,” says Erb. “The whole notion of the library has changed from a collection to service-orientation. Even in this age,

where we can stay where we live and do so much, man is still a social animal.”

The Brendlinger Library still gets a lot of foot traffic. Students study in groups or alone. Some use the computers while others feel comfortable enough to nap in a chair. “The library is still a cozy environment,” student Dorian Williams says. “It still has a lot of resources throughout the construction.”

Internet availability and free printing also attracts students. “The computers are the most useful thing in the library,” says Lindsay Gochin, who’s majoring in fine arts. “They are a more flexible source.” Gochin says she sees e-readers as a good thing, especially for older adults.

Continued on page 5

Peer Mentors: We're here to help!

Peer Mentors are students who can help you on campus.

Look for Peer Mentors around campus during the first week of the semester, handing out handbooks, directing students to classes, and helping to print out schedules. You can also find Peer Mentors in the Registration Lab in Room 230 of College Hall at the Blue Bell Campus and in the Student Success Center in South Hall at the Pottstown Campus.

Peer Mentors can help you:

- Find and Register for classes online
- Learn how to use WebAdvisor, Blackboard, etc.
- Tour our campuses
- Find where to get help (tutoring, workshops, etc.)
- Improve your study skills
- Meet people on campus
- Explore clubs and activities on campus
- Find answers to all your questions!

Contact us at:
peermentors@mc3.edu or (215) 461-1134

We look forward to helping you!

College Success Guide

Tips from two students who *have been there and done that.*

How to Succeed at Montco Without Really Trying

Tips on making Montco enjoyable yet worthwhile

by **Samantha Berk**
Staff Writer

You want to succeed, right? You've taken a few steps in the right direction already—signed up for classes and bought your books. But there is more to college than just showing up every day.

Montgomery County Community College (aka “Montco”) is a melting pot of people brought together by a common thread: the desire to become more educated. Whether you are a first-time college student, a transfer, or just taking classes for enrichment purposes, you will be able to succeed if you just “*think big*” (and listen to my advice).

1. Take some fun classes. To avoid dreading school, make sure to schedule some course you are actually interested in taking. Montgomery County Community College offers a variety of art and fitness classes sure to bring excitement to the semester. Being able to look forward to fun classes will make the hour and a half of calculus fly by.

2. You've probably heard this before: you need to get involved. There are student organizations to join, trips for you to go on, and, frequently, live entertainment. Commuting to a school doesn't mean you can't spend more time there than required. You might even find your niche writing for The Montgazette.

3. Get to know your professors. Being a teacher's pet has its benefits, such as letters of recommendation (you never know when you might need one). All teachers have office hours during which you can discuss your course material.

4. Be prepared to do work. Yes, sample the pastries from the coffee shops and join a game of Frisbee in the Quad. But remember why you are here: to learn. If you want to pass your classes, then you should study the night before an exam instead of playing “Call of Duty” with friends. You can still have a social life, but stay on top of your studies by reviewing notes every night, completing homework (even when it doesn't count as part of your grade) and paying attention in class.

5. Try your best to ignore the construction. Sure, it is everywhere and noisy, but our campus looks more modern and nicer since this work began. It might feel like all of the construction isn't worth it until we see the end product, which in a way is a metaphor for life.

All of your hard work will be worth it when you end this term with good grades and more knowledge. This article's title is a bit misleading. You WILL have to try at this institution. But if you are motivated to learn, then you will end the semester proudly. Success will be in your future if you give Montco the good ol' college try.

Freshman Success Formula: Follow Deadlines, Don't Cry

Tips for making this a successful year

by **Julia Tasca**
Staff Writer

College is absolutely nothing like high school. Assignment deadlines in high school are usually negotiable whereas college deadlines are, well, deadlines.

But it's not as bad as it sounds. When you apply the proper attitude, college can be a breeze. Based on my mistakes and successes, I've formulated a pretty accurate manual to making it out of freshman year alive.

The last time you were scrambling aimlessly in search of your classrooms was probably your high school freshman year. It's pretty overwhelming to step onto campus for the first time and see a huge mass of people who all look like they know where they're going and what they're doing. You may even want to curl up into a ball and cry.

Don't do that.

There's no need to be afraid of your surroundings on campus. Either make a new friend or find someone you already know to pal around with for the first week or so. This will definitely cut back syllabus-week anxiety.

Like I mentioned before, college deadlines are blunt. Your teachers couldn't possibly care less where you are if you're not in class, and they sure as hell aren't going to re-

mind you that you are missing work. Generally speaking, professors don't normally give lots of little assignments and a few larger ones; it's the other way around. Say you miss one 60-point paper out of four assignments with similar point values. Now take a look at your GPA and tell me how you feel. Oh, yeah, I almost forgot about earning extra credit. That opportunity is rare. So doing actual class work is the best engine to rev.

On a lighter note, I highly recommend a proper diet and exercise. Hot Pockets and gas station burritos do not make for a Breakfast of Champions. And walking around campus from class to class usually doesn't pass as a workout. Seriously though, pursuing a healthy lifestyle can affect your education. I'm not telling you to go join a gym and enter a bodybuilding competition, but there are subtle things you can do to stay healthy. Having some Raisin Bran instead of Frosted Flakes or lifting some free weights while watching television can have a tremendous impact on your mood.

The line between high school and college is fine yet defined. If you follow some of the guidelines described above, you should be in good shape. Try bending some rules, finding yourself, and, above all, having yourself the time of your life. College is like educational limbo hovering between adolescence and the real world.



Montgomery County Teen Parent Task Force

in collaboration with MCCC's Student Support & Referral Team

invite you to a **FREE** information session

Straight Talk

about

"Understanding the Teen Brain"

For Parents, Guardians, Teachers, Counselors,
Healthcare Providers, and Others Working with Young People

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Judith W. Herrman, RN, ANEF
Associate Professor,
School of Nursing: University of Delaware

Wednesday, October 26, 7:00-9:00pm

Montgomery County Community College
Science Center Auditorium, Room 214
Central Campus, 340 DeKalb Pike, Blue Bell

Register by Oct 19:
LaRue Emmell
215-679-3086
lemmell2@comcast.net



Montgomery County
Community College

Library Continued from page 3

"It helps them get used to new technology." She adds that the singular focus of the e-reader – as a replacement for printed books – is an easier way for older adults to get used to using electronics. The Internet and personal computers contain a vast host of possibilities that can overwhelm older adults, she says.

The library's director, Diane Lovelace, sees benefits through advancing technology and finds an "incredible opportunity" amid the construction. When work on the current phase of construction is finished – in January, tentatively – the AV Library and a new café will be on the main floor. The entire project should be completed by next summer.

Lovelace and other librarians say they are open to using new technology to help students. "If we didn't change with the times, we'd become irrelevant very quickly," she says.

Lovelace's Apple iPad and iPhone are testaments of her viewpoint. She says she uses the devices to read books because holding a print book for a long time can be uncomfortable. Additionally, she says technology has helped her track down old books from her childhood. She has been able to read the 1920s-era Girl Scout novels that were read by her mother.

"I don't think people are going to stop reading," adds Lovelace. "The format changes, but content is still there."

Although some articles have published doom-and-gloom theories about the future of readership, the library doesn't seem to be going away anytime soon.

"The library is inert," Erb, the reference librarian, says. "We have to do something to get the benefits."

He sees the library as a place where people "gain exposure to an awareness of possibilities which we follow ourselves." And he says a student who chooses to become a scholar will enjoy the "possibility, fun, and satisfaction of information and its role in our lives." By reading, he says, a student discovers "where it [information] is taking us, and where it allows us to go."

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by Norman Detweiler



Souderton is 15 miles north of Central Campus and the photographer's home.



Lyannie Molina (Business Management) "Went home to my pool and swam, stayed hydrated and enjoyed the air-conditioning during class."



Romeo Capriotti (English Lit.) "Stayed inside and kept movement to a minimum."

What did you do to keep cool during the summer heat waves?



Victor Onyeizo (Biological Sciences) "Nothing, I am enjoying it. I am an international student from Nigeria. I'm glad the cold weather is over."



Marisa Dormer (Occupational Therapy) "Drank lots of water and stayed indoors."



E.K. Wehner (Radiology) "Went wherever the airconditioning was: movies, indoors studying."



Justeix Collin-Cropper (Works in the Upward Bound program) "Stayed indoors with the kids. Tried to beat the heat by staying anywhere that the AC was."

OPINION



The Montgazette
The Students' Voice

MCCC Study Abroad:

Gearing Up for Next Summer's Trip to Spain

by Jocelyn Moye
Staff Writer

Summer for a college student can be almost too ordinary. Some students work overtime to try to pay off loans. Some “veg out” on their parent’s sofa. Others get lost in a sea of internships.

Getting involved with Montgomery County Community College’s Study Abroad program can make your summer memorable. For the past four years, the program has sent students to study at the University of Salamanca in Salamanca, Spain.

Interested students can attend the first of several information sessions on Sept. 14.

Georgina Elortegui, an MCCC assistant professor who coordinates the school’s Spanish program, has organized the trip for the past two years. “It is a way for students to live and learn,” she says.

Students participate in what the study-abroad program calls a “full-immersion environment” to learn the Spanish language and culture. Students live with local families selected by Professor Elortegui.

“Their whole environment becomes a language laboratory,” she says of the importance of the experience.

Student Pete McManus said Study Abroad provided him with a truly memorable experience.

“I learned an incredible amount about Spain and the Spanish language,” he said.

The trip takes place during Salamanca’s art festival. There, many cultural activities are held in the Plaza Mayor. The festival features dancing, free art exhibits and walking tours. There are also popular films to watch – in Spanish, of course. “Salamanca is a great spot for

this program. Salamanca is safe and highly pedestrian-friendly,” says McManus, adding that many streets in the town are closed to automobile traffic.

Aside from sight-seeing and events, students take Spanish language, cooking, and history courses. The history course also features lectures on art.

McManus said he found the challenge of being in a Spanish-speaking classroom rewarding.

Kimberly Libby found that the experience directly affected her field of study. “I am a nursing major,” says Libby. “As the Spanish speaking culture is growing drastically here in



Provided by Dr. Georgina Elortegui

Professor Georgina Elortegui and students at welcome dinner in Salamanca.

the U.S., I feel that knowing the language will help me in my career in order to communicate better with Hispanic patients.” Libby’s desire to learn Spanish was strengthened on the trip. She found the Spanish classes and cultural activities enjoyable and educational. Both were beneficial to her goal of becoming fluent in the language, she says.

Libby also remains close to her host family who had a key role in her studies. “I enjoyed spending time with the family I lived with,” she says, “They helped improve my Spanish conversation and listening skills drastically.”

Typically, eight to 10 students go on the trip. Elortegui plans to hold several meetings to help with trip planning and budgeting.

The Benjamin Gillman Scholarship is one of several opportunities for students to raise money.

The program’s first information session will be held 12:20 p.m. to 1:20 p.m. Sept. 14 in Science Center 303. West Campus students interested in studying abroad can attend the session via a video conference held 12:20 p.m. to 1:20 p.m. Sept. 14 in South Hall 132.

For more information, contact Georgina Elortegui at GElorteg@mc3.edu.

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CALENDAR


 The Montgazette
 The Students' Voice

CURRENT

Art Show

Perkiomen Valley Art Center
 Members Show
 Fine Arts Gallery, Blue Bell Campus

(Mixed Media) "Meet the Artists"
 Reception: 5-7 p.m. Wed, Sept. 14.
 Runs until Sat, Oct 8. Additional
 Artwork will be for sale on Oct. 1
 during MCCC's Community Day.

**Celebrating the Schuylkill River
 Heritage Area through Art**
 Art Gallery, Pottstown Campus

(Mixed Media) Runs until Fri, Oct.
 21. Special gallery hours during
 the Schuylkill River Festival: 11
 a.m.-4 p.m. Sat, Oct. 8.

SEPTEMBER 2011

Thursday, Sept. 1**Men's Soccer**

Home vs. Camden
 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 8**Women's Volleyball**

Away @ Passaic
 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 10**Women's Soccer**

Home vs. Salem
 Noon

Men's Soccer

Away @ Passaic
 Noon

Monday, Sept. 12**Open Observatory Night**

Advance Technology Center
 8:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m.

Community nights are free of charge
 and are open to the public. Astron-
 omy clubs are welcome. Attendees
 are invited to bring their own tele-
 scopes to set up on the Observation

Deck, or they can observe the night
 sky using the College's telescope
 and equipment. For more informa-
 tion, call 215-641-6460.

Tuesday, Sept. 13**Women's Soccer**

Away @ Bucks
 3:30 p.m.

Men's Soccer

Away @ Bucks
 3:30 p.m.

Women's Volleyball

Home Vs. Union
 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 14**Career Fair**

Park House Hall, Blue Bell Campus
 and South Hall, Pottstown Campus
 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

All Blue Bell Campus Career Fairs
 are held in the Parkhouse Build-
 ing Atrium.

All Pottstown Campus Career
 Fairs are held in the South Hall
 2nd Floor Lobby.

**Student Involvement
 and Club Fair Picnic**

Quad, Blue Bell Campus
 South Hall, Pottstown

Featuring: BBQ picnic, games,
 Student Government, Student
 Clubs, SLI Office and Athletics.

Issues & Insights

The 10th Anniversary of 9/11
 Science Center, Blue Bell Campus
 12:30-2 p.m.

Participants: Dr. Karen Stout; Presi-
 dent of Montgomery County Com-
 munity College and Dr. Peter Sche-
 ponik; Poet and Professor of English.

Thursday, Sept. 15**Men's Soccer**

Home vs. Manor
 3:30 p.m.

Women's Soccer

Away @ Manor
 3:30 p.m.

Women's Volleyball

Home vs. Atlantic Cape
 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 17**Women's Volleyball**

Away @ Lehigh Carbon / Delaware
 Noon / 2 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 19**Women's Volleyball**

Home vs. Northampton
 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 20**Men's Soccer**

Home vs. Sussex
 4 p.m.

Women's Soccer

Away @ Sussex
 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 21**Issues & Insights**

**The Civil War
 Sesquicentennial Anniversary**
 Science Center, Blue Bell Campus
 12:30-2 p.m.

Participants: Dr. Catherine Par-
 zynski; Professor of History and
 Dr. Jeff Prushankin; Author, Civil
 War Historian, and Professor of
 History.

Women's Volleyball

Away @ Bergen
 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 22**Women's Soccer**

Home vs. Bergen
 4 p.m.

Men's Soccer

Away @ Bergen
 4 p.m.

Women's Volleyball

Away @ Manor
 7 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 24**Men's Soccer**

Home vs. Middlesex
 Noon

Women's Soccer

Away @ Middlesex
 Noon

Tuesday, Sept. 27**Women's Soccer**

Home vs. Gloucester
 3:30 p.m.

Men's Soccer

Away @ Gloucester
 3:30 p.m.

Women's Volleyball

Home vs. Passaic
 7:00 p.m.

Where will the
students & community
 of Montgomery County Community College
be this year?
 They could be at
Your Event!

All college related events are welcome on our calendar.*
 Please contact montgazette@gmail.com or call 215-461-1143

*with approval by advisors

Wednesday, Sept. 28**Issues & Insights****The 400th Anniversary of the King James Bible**

Science Center, Blue Bell Campus
12:30–2 p.m.

Participants: Dr. Catherine Carsley; Author and Professor of English and Rev. Marek Zabriskie; Rector of the Whitmarsh St. Thomas Episcopal Church.

Thursday, Sept. 29**Women's Soccer**

Home vs. Ocean
4 p.m.

Men's Soccer

Away @ Ocean
4 p.m.

Women's Volleyball

Away @ Union
7 p.m.

OCTOBER 2011**Saturday, Oct. 1****Women's Volleyball**

Home Vs. Harrisburg / Harcum
Noon / 2 p.m.

Lively Arts Event**Paul Taylor 2**

Science Center, Blue Bell Campus
8 p.m.

(Dance) Paul Taylor is the last living member of the pantheon that created America's indigenous art of modern dance. At an age when most artists' best work is behind them, Taylor continues to win acclaim for the vibrancy, relevance, and power of his recent dances as well as his classics. Info and Tickets available at www.mc3.edu/livelyarts.

Tuesday, Oct. 4**Men's Soccer**

Away @ Atlantic Cape
4 p.m.

Women's Volleyball

Away @ Bryn Athyn
7 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 6**Men's Soccer**

Home vs. Cumberland
3:30 p.m.

Women's Soccer

Away @ Cumberland
3:30 p.m.

Women's Volleyball

Away @ Atlantic Cape
7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 8**Women's Soccer**

Away @ Camden
Noon

Women's Volleyball

Away @ Bergen / Manor
Noon / 2 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 10**Men's Soccer**

Home vs. Union
3:30 p.m.

Open Observatory Night

Advance Technology Center
7–9 p.m.

Community nights are free of charge and are open to the public. Astronomy clubs are welcome. Attendees are invited to bring their own telescopes to set up on the Observation Deck, or they can observe the night sky using the College's telescope and equipment. For more information, call 215-641-6460.

Tuesday, Oct. 11**Women's Volleyball**

Away @ Middlesex
7 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 12**Career Fair**

Park House Hall, Blue Bell Campus

All Blue Bell Campus Career Fairs are held in the Park-house Building Atrium, from 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Set-up time is 11 a.m.

Women's Soccer

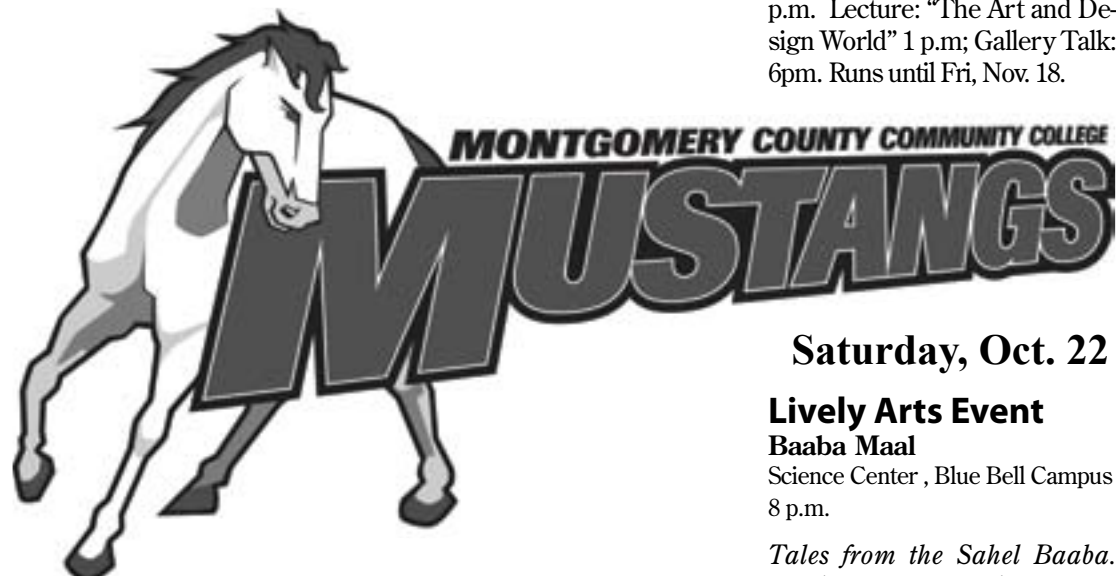
Home vs. Raritan Valley
3:30 p.m.

Men's Soccer

Away @ Raritan Valley
3:30 p.m.

Women's Volleyball

Home vs. Penn State Abington
7:00 p.m.

**Saturday, Oct. 15****Women's Soccer**

Home vs. Brookdale
Noon

Men's Soccer

Away @ Brookdale
Noon

Lively Arts Event**Billy Harper**

Science Center, Blue Bell Campus
8 p.m.

(Jazz) Billy Harper is one of a generation of Coltrane-influenced tenor saxophonists who actually built upon the master's work, rather than simply copy it. Recognized by the National Endowment of the Arts he is a gifted composer, and has received the International Critics Award for Tenor Saxophone for two years consecutively. Info and Tickets available at www.mc3.edu/livelyarts.

Fine Art Fair**PA Guild of Craftsmen**

Fine Arts Center, Blue Bell Campus

Discover one-of-a-kind handmade works by more than 100 craftsmen. This fabulous show will be inside and outside of the Fine Arts Center. Runs Through Sun, Oct. 16. Visit www.pacrafts.org for details.

Monday, Oct. 17**Men's Soccer**

Home vs. Morris
4 p.m.

Women's Soccer

Away @ Morris
4 p.m.

Women's Volleyball

Away @ Northampton / Morris
6 p.m. / 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 18**Women's Volleyball**

Home vs. Middlesex
7 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 19**Men's Soccer**

Home vs. Northampton
3:30 p.m.

Women's Volleyball

NJCAA - Preliminary
TBA

Thursday, Oct. 20**A Poster Retrospective**

"Off the Wall, On the Wall"
Fine Arts Gallery, Blue Bell Campus

Reception: Thurs, Oct. 20 5–7 p.m. Lecture: "The Art and Design World" 1 p.m.; Gallery Talk: 6pm. Runs until Fri, Nov. 18.

Saturday, Oct. 22**Lively Arts Event****Baaba Maal**

Science Center, Blue Bell Campus
8 p.m.

Tales from the Sahel Baaba. Maal is a Senegalese master musician. Maal's performance will feature ancient Fula stories from Senegal, a discussion about how such tales have inspired Africa, and related songs.

Updated monthly...

Lively Arts

Fall 2011 Schedule



Paul Taylor 2 Oct 1 @ 8:00pm

Billy Harper Quintet Oct 15 @ 8:00pm

Baaba Maal Oct 22 @ 8:00pm
Tales From the Sahel

**Monnette Sudler's
Guitar Summit** Oct 28 @ 8:00pm
*Featuring: Pat Martino, Carlos Rubio, Charles Ellerbee,
Gerald "Twig" Smith, Tom Giacobetti, and Matt Davis*

Writers' Conference Nov 4 & 5 @ 7:30pm
Keynote Speaker: Junot Diaz

Dobet Gnahore Nov 5 @ 8:00pm

**Ragamala Dance
Company** Nov 18 @ 8:00pm

Kurt Elling Dec 3 @ 8:00pm

**Choral Society
of Montgomery County** Dec 4 @ 7:30pm
Performing Handel's MESSIAH

For info & tickets, visit www.mc3.edu/livelyarts.

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Norm's Niche

What I Did on My Summer Vacation

by **Norman Detweiler**
Staff Writer

I went for a walk – a 117-mile walk along the Appalachian Trail from just north of the Hudson River to the Delaware Water Gap.

Why?

I wanted to see some beautiful scenery, get a little exercise and have an adventure.

I wanted to get back to the most basic elements of my existence and to a place where I feel at home and where I am in awe of the world around me. The mountains and the woods are a very peaceful place for me and help remind of who I am.

I think Henry David Thoreau said it best when he talked about his time at Walden Pond.

"I went to the woods because I wanted to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I die, discover that I had not lived. I wanted to live deep and suck all the marrow of life..."

Thoreau had a way with words that is rarely seen today.

I met a lot of friendly people on the trail. Everyone was helpful

and willing to share information as to where to find good water or the best ice cream.

Water, food and shelter highlighted most conversations. It doesn't get much more basic or deliberate than that.

I spent most days walking 10 to 15 miles and enjoying the greenery and its soothing effects. Around every turn there were beautiful views and something new to distract me from the 50-pound-plus backpack I was carrying. There were miles of rocky ridgelines overlooking remote lakes and distant mountains. The scenery was always changing and it pulled me onward. Yes, I did walk through swamps. But there were boardwalks on which to tread.

The people I saw every day ranged in age from a reluctant group of youths from a YMCA camp to two older women, one who – I'm guessing – was in her 70s. One of the women happened to be taking a picture of a butterfly when our paths crossed, and she said the other woman's husband had died recently.

The majority of the hikers I spotted looked to be in their 20s, an age bracket that seems good for through-hiking.

Through-hiking is to hike a trail in its entirety. The Appalachian Trail is more than 2,170 miles long and runs from Maine to Georgia. The thought of walking this entire distance never even crossed my mind until my first night on the trail when I camped with several people who were doing just that. They'd been on the trail for a couple months and were well versed in the art of living off the land. They gave me a crash course on surviving the next 11 days.

They showed me where the spring was at our campsite. It was barely a puddle, but it was flowing. The water was cold and, after being filtered or otherwise treated, safe to drink. They told me the section that I was hiking was one of the driest on the trail.

Water is the most precious commodity and making sure that I had enough for each leg of the journey was foremost in my mind. I only ran out once but knew that I would come across some early in the next day's hike.

It's a strange feeling taking that last cool sip and knowing that it would be a three-mile walk the next morning before I'd wet my palate again. And it was even more surreal when I came off of the trail one night and stayed in a motel.

The first thing the desk clerk asked me was if I had heard that the stock market had fallen 500 points.

Here I was wondering where my next source of water would come from while he worried about the market. It's as if we lived in different worlds.

It was also quite strange wading across rivers full of yellow taxi cabs in New York City one minute and then wandering through the lush green vegetation of the Appalachian Trail an hour later.

I was able to take public transportation to get to the start of my walk. I took SEPTA to New Jersey Transit, which dumped me in Penn Station. From there I walked to Grand Central Station and took the Metro-North to Peekskill, N.Y. From there it was a five-mile hike to the Appalachian Trail.

There are a couple of reasons I decided to make this my first column. Students here at Montco may be in position to tackle an adventure like this because it's fairly inexpensive and a long section of the trail could fill a summer break. The other reason is that I attribute my physical well-being to a course I took at a community college almost 30 years ago. By the way, I turned 50 on July 29. The course provided me

with the knowledge that has kept me in good-enough shape over the years. Here at Montco, the course is ESW 146: Conditioning, Weight Training and Weight Control.

The Appalachian Trail is physically challenging. It's rocky and, according to people I met along the way, the hardest of the big three trails in America (the other two are the Pacific Crest and Continental Divide trails). My feet are still sore and my legs still ache as I type this. But the beautiful and diverse landscapes and the interesting people made this one of the best trips I've ever taken. I can't recommend hiking enough to anyone who wants a challenge and an adventure.



Tangible, Traveling Slavery Exhibit Shocks MCCC Students

Students in the Upward Bound program learned about the nation's disturbing history after viewing artifacts from the transatlantic slave trade.

by Norman Detweiler
Staff Writer

Their expressions spoke of disbelief and shock. A few even joked lightly about the disturbing objects on the table.

There were leg and branding irons and shackles – a small sample of the many tools of dehumanization used in the transatlantic slave trade. There were posters and signs, games and figurines that demeaned and disparaged African Americans during the Jim Crow era.

Students in Montgomery County Community College's Upward Bound program viewed "Lest We Forget" – the Traveling Slavery Exhibit on July 29.

Producer and screenwriter Gwen Ragsdale brought the display to Central Campus because she wanted students to see, touch and learn from this horrific history.

She's the president of Lest We Forget Productions, which maintains the artifacts from the larger Lest We Forget Black Holocaust collection and Jim Crow memorabilia.

"The ability to see and touch items from that period brings history alive and gives meaning to the pain and suffering endured by Africans in America," the Lest We Forget Website says. "Our presentation provides a clear understanding of how coming to America for enslaved Africans was far differ-

ent from other ethnic groups who willingly immigrated to America and were free to take part in the 'American Dream.'"

Ragsdale engaged students in a discussion and demonstration of some of the slaveholding objects. She pulled a student volunteer from the group and let him try on the manacles. His arms fell as though exhausted once they were removed.

She described the squalid conditions in which the slaves were transported across the Atlantic and said some of the native people of Africa were somewhat responsible for capturing their brethren into slavery.



Photo by Norman Detweiler

Slavery artifacts at traveling slavery exhibit are exhibited

The students listened attentively and answered questions throughout the lecture. Later, Ragsdale was asked by a reporter if there had been any especially memorable reactions to her presentation. She said that most of the reactions she got ranged from horror to sadness and everything in between.

She said that once during a presentation to elementary students she informed them that if slave children learned

to read or write they were severely punished, sometimes even blinded by their owners. Afterward, a white child came up to her with tears in his eyes and told her that he loved to read and was sorry for the little slave children.

Asked to say the one thing that she wants people to get from the presentation:

"That slavery is American history, not just black history."



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The Hollow Flame

A creative writing piece by Jocelyn Moye

The hollow sound of flame rose in front of her.

She watched it moving, both transparent and dangerous. It met Lois' cigarette and disappeared. Lois drew her breath through the cigarette, and exhaled neatly.

"So," she said, "I put all the dirty dishes in boxes on the lawn until he bought me a dishwasher."

Lois laughed as Clara watched.

"This lasted about three weeks," said Lois. "Wouldn't you know that did the trick? He couldn't stand the sight of his precious lawn covered in miniature Leaning Towers of Pisa."

Clara smiled faintly, ghostly. She laughed and smiled when she knew she was supposed to. She talked little, but watched Lois' hand cradling the scalding cigarette. It was better than being in the house. Both women looked up when a rhythmic thumping came from the ceiling overhead.

Lois frowned. "They're awake."

"I'd better go," Clara said. She stood up and smoothed her full-skirted housedress.

Lois walked her to the door. They could hear the children laughing upstairs, still jumping on the mattress. Clara tried to remove the sound from her mind and pretend it wasn't there.

"If you ever need anything," said Lois, no longer laughing or frowning, "or you just want to get out of the house, don't hesitate to call or just come here."

Clara stared at Lois' red-nailed hand resting on the door frame.

"Yes," she said. "Yes, I know. Thank you."

Lois' mischievous eyes had softened, and she briefly rested a hand on Clara's shoulder.

"Goodbye," Clara said and turned to walk to her car. The neat, square houses with five-windowed faces, brick pathways and white fences passed Clara as she drove. The radio was on as usual, playing some girl group or another. She always listened, but never noticed.

At the supermarket, Clara passed through the labeled aisles to buy ingredients for yet another well-done dinner. She thought, 'Richard likes red-skinned potatoes. I can pair these with the green beans and roast chicken.' She spent each evening deciding what to make for another four-star meal. 'Just keep going' was her mantra. 'Keep things normal, for him.'

She checked out the red-skinned potatoes, box of Corn Flakes and carton of milk. At her car, Clara tipped a nickel to the boy who carried her bags. He said to her a genuine "Thank you, Ma'am" and clumsily put the coin in the breast pocket of his clean white uniform. She could only smile. Her blond coif and makeup were in the same state as when she primped that morning. She saw a shade of red creep over his face as he stared at her before turning to walk back into the store.

At home Clara averted her eyes from the furnace as she

brought the groceries in. She'd stared at it too long that morning. The ashes were moving. It almost disturbed the calm reserve she kept for Richard. Another night. Another meal. Another perfect meal.

She repeated the words in her mind as she walked back and forth from the car to the kitchen.

The custard pie she made that morning was chilling in the fridge. On its surface the whipped cream on top was still a perfect, cloud-like fluff. She timed her preparation, putting the groceries away, boiling the potatoes and string beans, so that everything would be ready for Richard. Opening the hot oven sent a cloud of that morning's memory over her. Still, she slid the casserole dish with the chicken onto the squeaky, wire rack and listened to the echoing thunder of noise before swiftly closing the door.

Richard came home on time. As usual, Clara had dinner already on the set table, just in time for everything to still be hot. An emerald green bottle of Heineken was in its place next to his plate. She greeted him at the door. Standing next to each other, they looked like a little girl's Barbie and Ken couple. After a kiss, Clara waited, hands open, for him to remove his suit jacket and hat. While he relaxed in a chair at the table, she hung them on the hooks by the door. At the table she smiled and laughed at her husband's stories about the day's work.

While Richard retired to the living room sofa and televi-

sion, she washed the dishes and thought of Lois.

That night, her eyes opened. She woke undisturbed in an hour beyond midnight. The frosty blue glow of the full moon illuminated the room with icy light. Then she heard it. The cries were muffled, away but not far. Clara rose carefully, not wanting to disturb Richard. She slipped her feet into her feathered house slippers and gathered her robe from a corner chair. As she descended the hallway, the high-pitched cries became louder beyond the stairs. Icy moonlight fell into the house in sharp slats and crooked rectangles. She stopped halfway down the stairs to stare into the living room. The fire stove was glowing red and orange. She walked more still, feeling the heat in the room. The flames moved as if they would roar, but the fire only cried. Then she saw the small hand touch the glass inside. Clara began to moan and cry like a wild mother animal. She tore open the furnace door, and dug into the flames.

"I'm coming! I'm coming for you!" She was on her knees like an animal. "I didn't mean it! I tell you I didn't mean it!" Ashes piled on the floor as she dug. She could feel her nails breaking against the iron rack inside the furnace. Still she dug through the endless flames.

"Darling?"

She paused for only a moment when she heard Richard's quiet voice.

"Darling, what are you doing?"

She turned and saw him midway down the stairs. In the moonlight his eyes were restraining fright. "Come back to bed."

"But it's in the fire!"

"Darling, there is no fire."

She turned away from him and began to weep with her ashen hands covering her face. She felt Richard's arm around her shoulder. "Darling, you just need to rest, and these things will all stop happening."

"But I killed it! I killed it!"

"The doctor said it happens to nearly every woman once in their life."

"I didn't know what I was doing. I did something wrong. It was me!"

"No, no darling. There is nothing wrong with you. Just go to sleep."

"Just go to sleep? Just go to sleep! That's all you have to say to me?"

"The doctor said—"

"The doctor? The doctor! I'm sick of doctors. What does he know? What does any man know—"

"You need rest. Let's go back to sleep—"

"I am asleep Richard! So asleep I cannot live."

BIO 299: An Eco Adventure of 'Multitudinous' Proportions

Richard Meyers was among the MCCC students who took part in Dr. Jerry Coleman's Field Biology class this past summer in West Virginia.

by **Richard Meyers**
Special to the Montgazette

In early June, I took part in a holistic, meaningful and enlightening experience as part of Dr. Jerry Coleman's class: "Bio 299 Field Biology in West Virginia."

It's an under-the-radar course I heard about from my cousin, who had taken the class in 2010. Her description enticed me to go on the trip, which is now in its 12th year.

Bio 299 is a field-bio course in the environmental issues, ecology and geology of West Virginia. The state is perfect for this kind of learning. The two-

week field trip included visits to deep caverns, multitudinous uninhabited grazing land, forested ecosystems and – and this is my favorite – the sound of Jerry's recorder echoing off the walls of some ancient moonshiner's cave-den.

My expectations were surpassed tenfold by this two-week sojourn. Dr. Coleman, a long-time resident of Morgantown, W.Va., was once a professor at West Virginia University. Not only does he know everyone, he knows the area like the back of his hand. At no point did we students feel lost or scared, except when Jerry would jokingly grab our ankles in the dark, causing us to freak out thinking

we were being attacked by a rattlesnake or other wild animal.

To fully understand the course's objectives, you have to look at West Virginia's history of ecological imbalance because it's a place of constant logging and coal-mining. There are many controversial arguments about what these industries have done to the state's biodiversity and the health of its residents.

West Virginia is the second-most mined state in the country. Acidic mine drainage, for example, pollutes and even destroys drinking water supplies and fish habitats. Logging has wiped out species that once lived in the forest canopies.



Photo provided by Richard Meyers

Modern day coal mining in West Virginia

To explore and learn about these topics, we met and talked to several environmental activists, watershed volunteers, geologists, foresters and even an organic farmer named Jim (my favorite person).

All were aware of the environmental issues facing the state. We learned an intense amount, and I'm glad we were required to keep a journal.

Continued on page 15



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Continued from page 14

Each day started around 8 a.m. in a new location with a new issue and required a certain amount of physical labor. We took water and organism samples from Decker's Creek; introduced "discouragement" around state park trails (which involved moving scary looking stumps and branches to form protective barriers around young tree saplings and organic matter – to decrease human trekking, erosion and increase foliage); identified the trees that surrounded us; and learned the names of the wildlife we were trying to protect.

We arrived back to the campsite around 5 p.m. (or much later) and enjoyed a sunset at either Coopers Rock or my beloved Seneca Rocks. Then, we had nights of discussion, dancing, jamming and campfire shenanigans. Midnight van snacking was not an uncommon occurrence. Note: if you do go, make sure you take double the amount of food you think you will need.

We went spelunking in the Sinks Gandy, talked to cows in a nearby pasture, went bouldering (no ropes just powder) and delighted in boulder jumping upstream in the Dolly Sods Wilderness Area. And there was the all-day whitewater rafting extravaganza down the Upper Yough (Youghiogheny) River.

I strongly encourage everyone to consider taking this life- and mind-changing trip. Throughout, I have to say we connected with our creator, his children, a bearded man named Jerry and the natural world that is often wrongly thought to be a

separate entity from us. As a result, I've come back full of inspiration for further involvement in protecting our earth, which cannot be refreshed with the click of a button, and to share my experience of true education outside the binding of a dead tree or screen powered by rare earth minerals.

Peace.

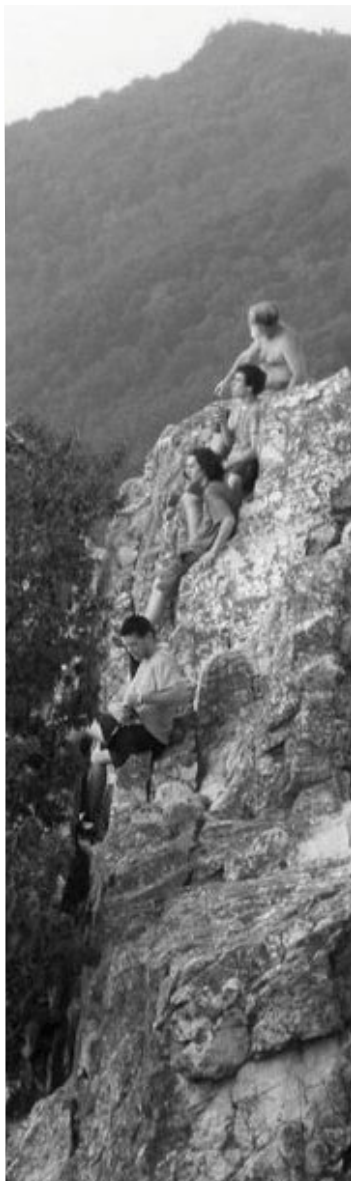


Photo provided by Richard Meyers
Students taking a break and enjoying the scenery



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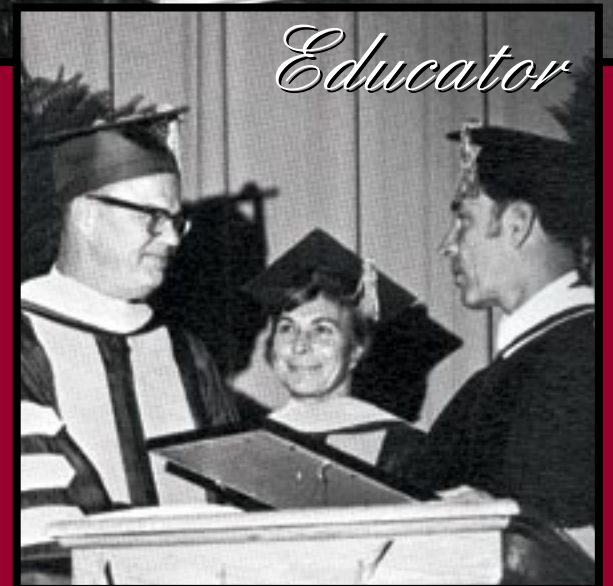
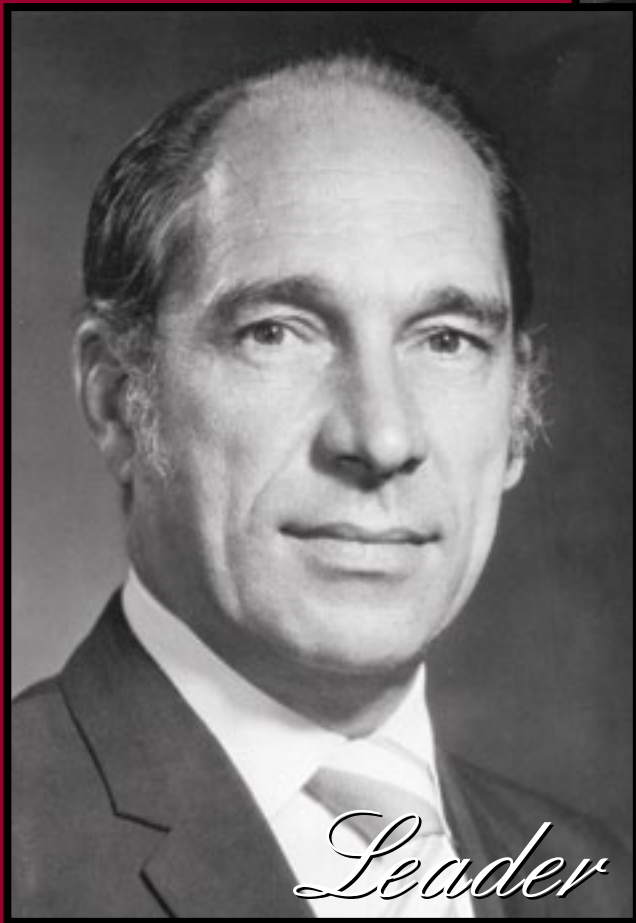
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Dr. Leroy R. Brendlinger believed in the life-changing impact of education. The World War II veteran was the superintendent, teacher and principal of several local schools before becoming the president of Montgomery County Community College.

He served as president from the college's opening in 1964 until his retirement in 1981. The College Hall library was renamed in his honor in 2003.

Dr. Brendlinger's advocacy for the community college has led MCCC to serve more than 200,000 students.