

# MICUA *Matters*

*The Newsletter of the Maryland Independent College and University Association*

## MEMBERS

Capitol College

Goucher College

Hood College

Johns Hopkins University

Loyola University Maryland

Maryland Institute College of Art

McDaniel College

Mount St. Mary's University

Notre Dame of Maryland University

St. John's College

Sojourner-Douglas College

Stevenson University

Washington Adventist University

Washington College

## AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Ner Israel Rabbinical College

St. Mary's Seminary & University

## ***Maryland College Access Challenge Grant Supports First-Generation Scholars at Notre Dame***

**NOTRE DAME OF MARYLAND UNIVERSITY** received a Maryland College Access Challenge Grant through the Higher Education Persistence Program to continue and expand the Trailblazer Scholars program for first-generation students. Trailblazer provides academic and co-curricular services to support the success of first-generation students who often face financial, cultural, family, and academic hurdles to graduation.

Notre Dame's Trailblazer program began in fall 2010 with a group of first-year, first-generation students in the University's Women's College. The program includes a three-credit career exploration course, seminars on how degree options and majors relate to subsequent career choices, experiential learning opportunities, tutoring, and peer mentoring. In addition, a Parents' Academy was created to support students' families, who play a key role in the program design and in the eventual success of the students. The College Access Challenge grant will support more than 80 students who comprise the first three student cohorts in the program.

During the students' fourth year, the Trailblazer program will emphasize career choice clarity and transition to the workplace. The strong academic foundation, mentoring, and support provided by the Trailblazer Scholar Program will enable the students not only to graduate on time, but to be fully prepared for career success.

In the first two years of the program, Trailblazer scholars have consistently performed at higher academic levels than their first-generation peers, and, in some cases, higher than all students at Notre Dame.

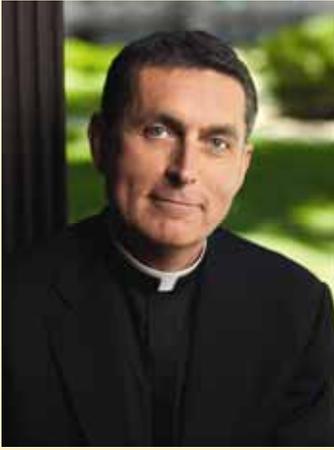
## ***FAST FACT:***

***Taxpayer cost per degree***

***MICUA average: \$4,000***

***USM average: \$36,000***





## *STEM at Loyola University Maryland*

*By Rev. Brian Linnane, S.J., President*

AS WE WERE PLANNING THE RENOVATIONS of the Donnelly Science Center at **Loyola University Maryland**, we knew we were embarking on a project that would have a lasting impact not just on Loyola, but also on our entire community. We wanted to create a true center for scientific exploration, discovery, and a thriving community of intellectually curious scholars. This magnificent facility would have the potential to influence our science students and faculty—along with the rest of the world.

When we celebrated the opening of the renovated building in 2011, a line from one of my favorite poems by the Jesuit Gerard Manley Hopkins was etched on the façade: “The world is charged with the grandeur of God.” Nowhere is this conviction more true than in the work we do as a university to increase the opportunities for our students and faculty in the sciences.

We continue to ensure our faculty and students have access to the most current technology available, most recently adding a laser scanning confocal microscope, which will also be used by faculty at Towson University, **Mount St. Mary’s University**, and **Washington College**.

It is also our responsibility—and a welcome one—to ensure that we implement initiatives that offer exceptional science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs, which are accessible to students of many backgrounds. Recognizing the importance of ensuring that our students are learning from an outstanding and diverse group of professors—including women and minorities—Loyola received and is matching a grant from the Clare Boothe Luce Program to create two new women faculty positions, one in computer science and one in engineering. Meanwhile, using a grant from the National Science Foundation, Loyola is working with other universities across the country to develop a mentoring network for women professors in STEM fields at predominantly undergraduate institutions.

Appreciating the challenges our science students—and students at colleges throughout the country—face when they want to study abroad and graduate on time, Loyola formed a new partnership with Newcastle University in England, opening a science-focused study abroad center on the campus there. Loyola also participates in programs to bring Baltimore middle and high school students from minority backgrounds to participate in STEM summer programs on campus. They have the opportunity to interact with our Hauber Fellows, STEM students who conduct original research projects working alongside faculty mentors. And of course, our science faculty work closely with faculty in Loyola’s School of Education to make sure that the teachers who study here are receiving the preparation they need to prepare future leaders in STEM fields.

The day we celebrated the reopening of the Donnelly Science Center, a member of Loyola’s Class of 1981, Gloria Flach, corporate vice president and president of enterprise shared services for Northrop Grumman, addressed the crowd. “Take the power of one facility and multiply it by the many minds that will experience its offerings,” she said, “and it will equal the extraordinary.”

The extraordinary. It’s a lofty goal, but one we are honored to take on each day as we bolster our STEM programs at Loyola University Maryland. Our world, after all, is charged with the grandeur of God. And we, in turn, are charged with educating the minds of our future scientists, mathematicians, technology experts, and engineers.

*“We wanted to create a true center for scientific exploration, discovery, and a thriving community of intellectually curious scholars.”*



LEFT: **McDaniel** student Alan Lyons and **Goucher** student Kiara Bonner briefed IHED participants on meeting with legislators on February 14. RIGHT: Senator Edward Kasemeyer and Delegate Norman Conway presented MICUA President Tina Bjarekull with an official citation.

## ***Governor Declares February 14 “Maryland Independent Higher Education Day”***

GOVERNOR MARTIN O’MALLEY DECLARED February 14 “Maryland Independent Higher Education Day” in recognition of the vital role Maryland’s independent colleges and universities serve in the State, which boasts one of the best educated workforces in the nation. MICUA brought 200 college students and administrators from across the State to Annapolis on February 14 for a day of special activities and to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Sellinger Program, the State grant program for eligible, independent colleges and universities.

MICUA colleges and universities have been educating young men and women in Maryland for over 230 years, and have received State support throughout their history. In 1973, the State of Maryland established the Sellinger Program to preserve and strengthen a dual system of higher education, which includes public and private, nonprofit colleges and universities working collaboratively to meet the State’s higher education needs.

In the proclamation, Governor O’Malley commended the independent institutions for their significant contributions to higher education and recognized the broad public benefits these institutions provide by contributing to social mobility, economic prosperity, workforce development, scientific discoveries, global competitiveness, civic participation, and service to community. With the highest graduation rates in Maryland, MICUA institutions are committed to meeting the college completion agenda of the State and nation.

Maryland Independent Higher Education Day began with a student briefing at 10 a.m. in the Historic Inns of Annapolis. Students Kiara Bonner (**Goucher College**) and Alan Lyons (**McDaniel College**) briefed participants on what to expect

when meeting with elected officials. Following the briefing, students visited with State legislators. At noon, MICUA hosted a lunch for elected officials, students, and campus administrators in the Miller Senate Office Building. Senator Edward Kasemeyer offered congratulations on behalf of the Senate and Delegate Norman Conway offered congratulations on behalf of the House of Delegates.

As part of the 40th anniversary celebration, MICUA developed a 16-panel exhibit featuring photographs of students and illustrating the benefits of higher education. The exhibit is on display in the main hall of the Lowe House Office Building.

In addition, MICUA launched its first YouTube video in partnership with **Washington College**. The two-minute motion graphic video provides an overview of MICUA institutions and their contributions to the State. Every year, MICUA colleges and universities serve 64,000 students, award 28% of all degrees conferred by a Maryland four-year institution, and attract \$2.5 billion in research grants.

Twenty-first century jobs require high-level skills and education. Maryland’s higher education institutions, public and private, are the cornerstones of Maryland’s knowledge-based economy and quality of life. Today, Maryland is one of the most highly competitive states in the nation, with the most PhD scientists and engineers per capita, and at \$70,004, Maryland has the nation’s highest median household income.

***To view the YouTube video, scan the QR code or go to [www.micua.org/celebrate](http://www.micua.org/celebrate).***



# MICUA CAPITAL PROJECTS:

## BUILDING THE COLLEGE COMPLETION PIPELINE

THE GOVERNOR'S FISCAL 2014 CAPITAL BUDGET includes \$10.5 million in capital improvement grants to support construction and renovation projects on three MICUA campuses. The projects will enable the colleges to increase enrollment, address workforce needs, and attract research dollars. Increasing the number of college graduates is a key part of the national and State agenda, and with the highest graduation rates in the State, MICUA colleges and universities play an important role in building the college completion pipeline. The MICUA member institutions will use the State grants to leverage over \$41 million in private capital investments.

The Governor's budget provides \$2.5 million for **Hood College** to renovate 6,000 square feet of unfinished space in the Hodson Science and Technology Center and renovate the 52,000 square foot Tatem Academic Building. The total project cost is \$5.5 million. "The objective of this project is to accommodate the space needs of new and growing programs," says Hood President Ronald Volpe. "More specifically, the College will build-out the unused space on the third floor of the Hodson Science and Technology Center to meet increased demand in the State of Maryland for programs in environmental and coastal studies, information technology, and nursing, and renovate the Tatem Academic Building to better serve the needs of the teacher education, foreign language and literature, and art and archeology departments."

Continued growth in the science programs, coupled with the College's new Bachelor of Science in Nursing completion program, has placed increased demands on all

existing classroom and laboratory spaces. The planned build-out of the Hodson Center allows the College to add classrooms without constructing a new facility. (In 2001, Hood constructed an addition to the Hodson Center, leaving two unfinished wings on the third floor for future expansion on the College's campus in Frederick.) The three new classrooms and two laboratories in the Hodson Center will provide scheduling options for 40 additional class sections.

The Hood undergraduate major in Environmental Science and Policy and the Master's degree in Environmental Biology prepare graduates to work in positions that address sustainability policies and practices. In Maryland, coastal issues and watershed concerns are critical. The new facilities will allow the College to expand its program offerings to include a Bachelor of Science in Coastal and Watershed Studies. In preparation, Hood is collaborating with Morgan State University to develop a consortium that will permit several Maryland colleges to jointly provide opportunities on the Eastern Shore for studying the State's water quality, sustainability of water organisms, and erosion.

Hood's computer science program has experienced a 200 percent increase in the number of students pursuing a Master of Science in Management of Information Technology degree and a Master of Science in Information Technology degree. Increased laboratory space is needed to accommodate these programs and meet the anticipated demand over the next few years.

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*MICUA capital projects will enable colleges to increase enrollment, address workforce needs, and attract research dollars.*



*Hood College will renovate the Hodson Science and Technology Center and Tatem Academic Building to create more classroom space.*

In fall 2011, Hood College partnered with Frederick Community College and Frederick Memorial Healthcare System to offer a Bachelor of Science in Nursing completion program (RN to BSN). The two-year upper division program was developed to address a critical shortage of nurses with bachelor's degrees in the region and is designed to assist registered nurses develop skills for the increasing complexity of healthcare. Currently, Hood does not provide any dedicated laboratory space for the nursing program; the construction will allow Hood to expand its offerings to include a comprehensive four-year nursing degree.

The Tatem Academic Building houses space for teacher education. Hood continues to graduate a significant number of K-12 teachers, who can help fill the State's critical teacher shortage, particularly in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

The Governor's Capital Budget provides \$4 million for **Johns Hopkins University** to construct Malone Hall, a new 70,000 square foot facility to serve the Whiting School of Engineering. Located on the Johns Hopkins Homewood Campus in Baltimore City, Malone Hall will enable the consolidation of the Department of Computer Science and Johns Hopkins Information Security Institute and will house three new interdisciplinary institutes: the Hopkins Extreme Materials Institute (HEMI), the Systems Institute (SI), and the Individualized Health Initiative (*inHealth*). The total project cost is \$37.5 million. Malone Hall will provide the infrastructure to spawn new cross-disciplinary research programs, a model created by Johns Hopkins' highly successful and nationally acclaimed biomedical engineering program. This new building will empower new engineering research efforts to solve some of the most pressing health problems and ensure that Maryland is a leader in the computer modeling of human physiology to design new drugs and therapies.

Johns Hopkins is an important economic engine in Maryland. It attracts research grants, creates the innovations of tomorrow, and commercializes those innovations by creating start-up companies or passing on intellectual property to be advanced in other ways. For example, HEMI was created using a \$92 million research award from the U.S. Army Research Laboratory to develop lighter, more protective materials to better protect soldiers and vehicles. This is just one example of how Malone Hall will

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make the realization of such partnerships and research grants possible for other institutes and will continue to benefit Maryland's economy.

"At Johns Hopkins we have taken our commitment to Baltimore City and the neighborhoods surrounding our institutions extremely seriously," says Ronald Daniels, President of The Johns Hopkins University. "That commitment has led our leadership to make great strides in enhancing the level of MBE/WBE/DBE participation required for our construction projects." For Malone Hall, the University has established a goal of 20% minority and local business participation. Furthermore, in compliance with the Johns Hopkins University Board of Trustees and Baltimore City requirements, this project will be LEED certified.

The three new institutes—HEMI, the Systems Institute, and *inHealth*—will be located in Malone Hall in space that will allow each of these programs to become fully operational. Malone Hall will also house the computer science department, which is currently housed in four separate buildings, none of which were originally envisioned to be occupied by computer science disciplines. The new facility will provide state-of-the-art research space and bring together faculty, clinicians, professional staff, and students from the Schools of Engineering, Medicine, Public Health, Arts and Sciences, and the Applied Physics Laboratory.

HEMI will provide government, industry, and national institutions with science-based tools for designing protection and mitigating risk in an increasingly insecure world, bringing together military, academic, and industrial partners to create high-tech protective materials of the 21st century. The Systems Institute will foster systems research and education and will focus on issues in medicine, health care delivery, network-enabled systems, information assurance, national infrastructure, and education. The *inHealth* institute will facilitate collaboration across Johns Hopkins to develop a better understanding of disease pathogenesis, discover potential targets for drug therapies, and make patient-specific treatment a reality.

The Governor's Capital Budget includes \$4 million for **Maryland Institute College of Art** to acquire and renovate a former warehouse at 1801 Falls Road; erect a bridge to connect to the Studio Center; and renovate the Fox Building, all of which

*(Continued on page 7)*



*Johns Hopkins will construct Malone Hall to house three new institutes and the computer science department.*



*Maryland Institute College of Art will renovate a former warehouse to provide classroom and studio space for students in the graduate program.*

are located on the College’s campus in Baltimore City. The 33,000 square foot warehouse will provide classrooms, studios, and faculty offices for graduate programs, and 10,000 square feet of space in the Fox Building will serve undergraduate art programs. The total project cost is \$9.1 million. MICA is the only institution of its kind in the State and has been preparing students for careers in art and design for over 180 years. The renovation of the 1801 Falls Road facility will accommodate growth, improve the quality of facilities, advance MICA’s graduate programs, and consolidate them under one roof.

Over the past decade, MICA’s undergraduate enrollment has grown 16% and graduate enrollment has increased 86%. In Fall 2011, the freshman undergraduate enrollment was the largest in history. MICA projects an additional 22% increase in enrollment by 2021. Without this renovation project, MICA would have no other choice than to cap new enrollments due to space constraints.

Graduate programs at MICA are the vanguard of creativity and innovation. MICA’s top-ranked Master of Fine Arts graduate programs are national models, and the College’s focus on research is revolutionizing the way that creative individuals approach art-making. In addition, graduate programming at MICA has proven to attract top artists and designers who are seeding Maryland’s creative and technical industries throughout the region. Upgraded and highly equipped graduate facilities will enable the College to meet its goals to produce highly skilled, creative workers and teachers who are ready to be integrated into businesses and institutions throughout the region.

“The commitment to building a multi-building graduate complex reflects MICA’s unwavering commitment to also elevating the quality of art and design education, developing a cadre of creative professionals for evolving industries, supporting urban renewal and economic revitalization, and contributing to energy and space efficiency through the preservation and invigoration of historic, underutilized spaces,” says MICA President Fred Lazarus.

Because the 1801 Falls Road building is located in a protected and architectural historic district, razing this facility to create a new building or expanding the current building would be cost prohibitive. In the absence of available new land for such a facility, adaptive re-use is MICA’s best option.

*Upgraded and highly equipped graduate facilities will enable MICA to meet its goals to produce highly skilled, creative workers and teachers who are ready to be integrated into businesses and institutions throughout the region.*



## *THE LIBERAL ARTS: Not Just for the Unemployable Anymore (You don't have to major in science or engineering to get a valuable education)*

*By Jim Salvucci, Stevenson University*

LET'S START WITH SOMETHING I, as a university administrator, am not supposed to say or even think. The humanities and social sciences, the heart of the liberal arts—its students, its graduates, its practitioners—are doomed. They are doomed to irrelevancy. Doomed to shrinking numbers. Doomed to unemployment and under-employment. Doomed to live eternally in mom and dad's basement, playing video games, dining on chips and salsa, and delivering stuffed crust pizza for a living.

That is what we are constantly told, at least. That sociology majors cannot make a living, that theater majors will end up waiting tables while pining vainly for audition callbacks, that no one wants to hire graduates in philosophy or political science or ethnic studies, whatever that is. And English majors ... well, they are and always will be the butt of every burger-flipping joke conceived—beef tallow on the sheepskin.

Just this past summer, the University of Virginia, founded by that champion of the broadest liberal learning, Thomas Jefferson, made headlines because its board fired President Teresa Sullivan in part for having the temerity to defend liberal arts programs from elimination. Yes, she was subsequently reinstated, but the message about the current valuation of the liberal arts was loud and clear.

Lately, Bill Maher, the comedian and self-appointed pundit, has taken to calling liberal arts degrees self-indulgent “BS” (only he does not abbreviate on his cable TV show). Bill Maher should know. He went to Cornell. Bill Maher double majored in English and History.

Even more recently, a letter writer to *The Baltimore Sun* disparaged majoring in the liberal arts as “a four-year lifestyle choice.” Such criticism suggests that life's only purpose is to survive and succeed in the crudest sense, that those best poised for achievement are those most ready to get naked and run into the woods with sharpened sticks—no need for sharpened minds.

Obviously, with such cocksure criticism of the humanities and social sciences, we can conclude that few if any truly

successful people ever have a liberal arts background. Right?

It must be just dumb luck or some sort of freakish anomaly, then, that many of the most successful among us—such as the CEOs of some of our most prestigious corporations—majored in burger-flipping fields. I will not bore you with the list. Just Google “fortune 500 CEO majors” or “successful liberal arts graduates” if you are curious.

Speaking of successful liberal arts grads, two high-achieving sociologists, Richard Arum and Josipa Roksa, measured learning over the course of 2,300 students' college careers and reached some devastating conclusions. In *Academically Adrift*, Arum and Roksa show that one-third of the students they studied “did not demonstrate any significant improvement in learning” after four years. That said, they also found that liberal arts majors showed “significantly higher gains in critical thinking, complex reasoning, and writing skills over time than students in other fields of study.”

What's more, the Association of American Colleges and Universities' 2010 employer survey found that employers rate skills such as written and oral communication, critical thinking, complex problem solving, ethics, teamwork, and innovation at the very top of their college graduate wish list. A 2012 survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers had remarkably similar results. Notice that the skills that employers crave correlate closely with those *Academically Adrift* identifies as the metier of the liberal arts. Conclusion: if your “four-year lifestyle choice” is to learn the habits of mind employers value, then the liberal arts are for you.

I frequently speak with successful professionals who, like Bill Maher, imagine their careers have nothing to do with their liberal arts degrees. They overlook the direct benefits of those degrees, the skills and practices they developed. So what if they did not become an anthropology professor or a historian? They succeed because of their liberal arts background, certainly not despite it. And, evidence and

*(Continued on page 9)*

common sense suggest that their employers and clients greatly appreciate their “soft” skills.

But we as a society insist on telling them and their humanities and social science brethren they are wasting their time. Wasting their lives. Why? Because they have not sharpened enough sticks? An aphorism often attributed to Albert Einstein (or was it William Cameron?) comes to mind at this moment: “Not everything that counts can be counted,

and not everything that can be counted counts.” Sharpened sticks are all too easy to count, and they will never be a match for a sharpened mind.

*This op-ed originally ran in the Baltimore Sun on November 17, 2012. Dr. Jim Salvucci is a gainfully employed English major working as a professor of English and as the Dean of the School of the Humanities and Social Sciences at Stevenson University.*

## ***JHU, MICA Partner with Maryland Film Festival to Create Film Complex***

THE PARKWAY THEATRE—an abandoned relic from the silent movie age located at the corner of North Avenue and Charles Street—is poised to play a key role in the development and presentation of film in Baltimore in the 21st century. **Johns Hopkins University** and the **Maryland Institute College of Art** are partnering with the Maryland Film Festival, a Baltimore nonprofit that presents independent and historical films, in its nearly \$17 million plans to bring back the Parkway as a three-screen, 600-seat film center and live performance complex. The redevelopment also will include facilities for use by the faculty and students of the two schools’ film programs, which began holding joint classes last year, with the anticipation of further collaborations.

This City-owned “white elephant” hasn’t been a working movie house since the 1970s and has been subject to numerous fruitless restoration schemes over the past decade. The Baltimore Development Corp., a nonprofit that provides economic development services to the city, spent much of last year evaluating the latest round of rehabilitation proposals for the theater and a pair of adjoining buildings before selecting the Maryland Film Festival plan. Depending on the success of design and fundraising efforts, hammers could start swinging here in 2014, with a reborn Parkway opening in September 2015 (almost exactly 100 years after the theater’s grand opening, in October 1915).

But beyond the academic and artistic opportunities the Parkway project affords, its successful redevelopment falls perfectly in line with the goals of the Homewood Community Partnership Initiative, a collaborative effort that Johns Hopkins launched in 2011 with area civic and business leaders aiming to enhance conditions within 10 neighborhoods near Homewood, including Charles North, where the Parkway sits. Johns Hopkins has pledged to spend \$10 million over five years on projects in line with the initiative’s goals, with the hopes that this investment could

serve as leverage to attract another \$50 million in public and philanthropic support for neighborhood needs.

The Maryland Film Festival, formed in 1999, holds an annual four-day festival that draws thousands of attendees and scores of films and filmmakers from around the world. But the group also screens films, often in conjunction with talks and seminars, all year long—and all across town, including in Johns Hopkins’ Shriver Hall and MICA’s Brown Center.

The Parkway resides within the Station North Arts and Entertainment District, a roughly 20-block area created in 2002 that benefits from City and State tax breaks and other incentives as a means to spur arts-related redevelopment. In 10 years’ time, an area largely marked by disinvestment and grime has bloomed with a new creative vitality as galleries, studios, music venues, and storefront theatrical groups have sprouted within its boundaries, along with cafes, restaurants, and nightspots. Last fall, MICA unveiled its \$18 million Graduate Studio Center at 131 W. North Ave., carved out of a former garment factory a block west of the Parkway. And the momentum continues, as a block east of the Parkway, a 60,000-square-foot North Avenue building erected in 1939 as a theater and radio studio is now slated to become a multipurpose arts space.



## *New Study Released on Economic Benefits of College Degrees*

THE ASSOCIATION OF STATE HIGHER EDUCATION Executive Officers (SHEEO) has released a new State Policy Resource Center report, *The Economic Benefit of Postsecondary Degrees: A State and National Analysis*. The report shows that postsecondary degree attainment clearly results in higher earnings for the vast majority of individuals in all 50 states. Moreover, the evidence indicates that almost without exception, despite variation across states and disciplines, each successive level of higher educational attainment yields additional economic benefit. According to the analysis, those who obtain a bachelor's degree have a

median income of \$50,360 compared to a median of \$29,423 for people with only a high school diploma. An associate's degree leads to a median income of \$38,607, more than \$9,000 higher than a high school diploma. Those with a graduate degree have a median income of \$68,064, 35.2 percent more than those with a bachelor's degree.

SHEEO President Paul Lingenfelter comments, "This study digs beneath the anecdotes to give an in-depth look at the financial returns to graduates by discipline and among the states. The more deeply and completely one examines the evidence, the more compelling the conclusion—higher education is a great investment for both the student and society as a whole, no matter where you live, no matter what you study."

Over the past four years, with support from the Lumina Foundation, SHEEO has developed the State Policy Resource Center to provide rapid, easy access to data and analytical studies to help state leaders identify priorities and develop strategies for improving policies and performance. The project has assembled a data warehouse that includes IPEDS data and other data sources for the past ten years, and it has produced a series of analytical reports.



## *McDaniel Volunteer Tax Assistance Program Benefits Community and Students*

FOR MCDANIEL ACCOUNTING PROFESSOR Susan Milstein and her dedicated band of 35 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) students, tax season is in full swing. In this, the 22nd year of the program Milstein conceived and created, the 21 newcomers and 14 veterans are already training to help some 200 clients with income-tax return preparation.

Rooted in Milstein's love for doing tax returns and desire to give back to the community, the **McDaniel College** VITA program serves moderate- to low-income families and individuals by having students help answer questions, prepare tax returns, and file electronically. The students receive credit for training hours and time spent with clients. Certified public accountants, most of whom are alumni, volunteer at each of the 21 sessions to check returns and help students respond to questions.

Junior Katherine Chen, a Business Administration-Economics dual major from Fallston, Md., is overseeing the tax preparation schedule and has been volunteering since her first year at McDaniel. "I get no greater joy than knowing that I've made a difference. This program gave me the opportunities to refine my organizational and leadership

skills with hands-on practice with tax preparation—something I hope to build a career on," says Chen, noting personal growth, a sense of accomplishment, and recognition and feedback from her professors as additional benefits of her participation with VITA.

Clients return year after year for help with their tax returns, and acting director of Financial Aid Ellie Geiman provides training in the computer side of electronic filing. Many of the McDaniel students who have worked with VITA have been hired by accounting firms immediately after graduation due in part to their expertise in tax preparation.





## *GOING GREEN: Mount St. Mary's University*

FOR YEARS THE FIELDS ON THE EAST CAMPUS of **Mount St. Mary's University** produced soy beans and corn. Today the fields produce a 21st century crop—solar energy. The 100-acre solar farm at the Mount is a unique partnership between the State of Maryland, private industry, and two universities. Owned and operated by Constellation Energy, the project began as a response to the State's Generating Clean Horizons initiative. The 16.1 megawatt photovoltaic installation began providing clean energy to the grid last summer. The State's Department of General Services and the University System of Maryland purchase the electricity under a 20-year agreement with Constellation.

"In Maryland, many people like to say: 'fear the turtle,' but at the Mount, we power the turtle," said President Thomas Powell during the ribbon cutting ceremony in August, referring to the University of Maryland's famous Terrapin mascot.

The project recently earned the 2012 "Best Solar Project" honors by Solar Power Generation USA, which said: "(the project) demonstrates the potential of public-private partnerships in furthering renewable energy and sustainability goals." The grid-connected system is producing more than 20 million kilowatt hours of emissions-free electricity per year. Generating the same amount of electricity using nonrenewable sources would result in the release of 17,981 metric tons of carbon dioxide annually, according to U.S. EPA data.

When first introduced to the opportunity, Mount officials saw the solar farm as an impressive leap into the future of locally mass-produced green energy and realized the potential for more. During the planning stage, Powell asked

Constellation Energy to construct a second array of solar panels that would feed energy back to the Mount. Today, that array sends 1.3 megawatts of clean power directly to the campus.

The farm is just one of the Mount's many sustainability initiatives. The University was a charter member of the American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment, signing a pledge in 2007 to become climate neutral. Two major campus buildings, the Delaplaine Fine Arts Center and Bicentennial Hall—the newest residence hall—use geothermal heating and cooling systems. Additionally, coal furnaces on campus were recently converted to cleaner burning natural gas.

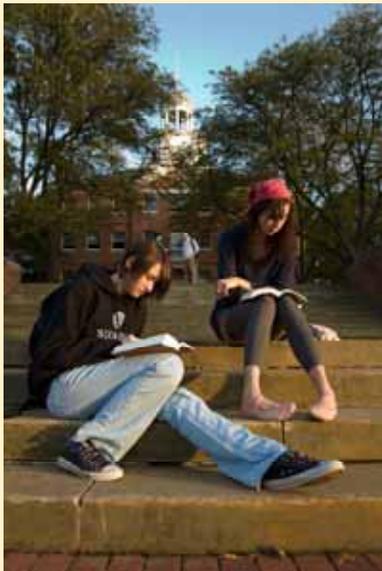
Faculty and student-led projects reflect the commitment to promoting a greener environment. The Mount participates in an annual Recyclemania challenge saving thousands of pounds of recyclables from landfills. The student-led RATS (Recycle All That Stuff) event collects unwanted furniture, clothing, and household appliances from campus residence halls at the end of the academic year, which are then put up for sale or donated to Goodwill, rather than filling a dumpster. Sustainability projects involve the local community as well. Last fall, the Mount's Environmental Club partnered with the Catoctin Forest Alliance on a tree planting project. Students wrote a grant to purchase the trees, and planted them to form a riparian buffer to help the tributaries feeding into St. Mary's Run. The trees help keep the soil in place and catch runoff during heavy rains, keeping pollutants out of the tributaries and the Run.

"Our commitment to being good stewards of the environment is steadfast," Powell said.

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## ***Capitol College Welcomes Hundreds to FIRST Robotics Kickoff Event***

ON JANUARY 5, **CAPITOL COLLEGE** welcomed more than 450 high school students, family members, and mentors to the Avrum Gudelsky Auditorium for the 2013 Maryland FIRST Robotics Kickoff Event. During the kickoff, high school students from Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. received the kit of parts with which they will design their robots for the 2013 FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC). The Chesapeake Regional FRC will be held in Baltimore April 11-13.

Before picking up their kits, the students gathered and watched a live feed from NASA-TV that provided them information on this year's competition. FIRST Robotics students from across the globe received the information through the NASA-TV feed. Student teams have six weeks to build their robots and strategically prepare for the FRC.

This year's competition is titled "Ultimate Ascent," and according to FIRST Robotics "[The competition] is played by two competing alliances on a flat, 27 x 54 foot field. Each alliance consists of three robots, and they compete to score as many discs into their goals as they can during a two-minute and 15-second match."

This was the ninth consecutive year that Capitol has hosted the FRC Kickoff. Capitol College is one of the largest providers of scholarships to FIRST students in the United States, with more than \$500,000 in scholarship offers to date.