



# The Advance

A Newsletter for Montgomery College Part-Time Faculty

Produced by the Institute for Part-Time Faculty Engagement & Support

Gail Youth, Editor & Layout

March 2016

## Spotlight on Faculty - Professor Reginald Cyntje

[By Jon Pointer, Part-time Faculty Associate, Germantown]

Reginald Cyntje is as comfortable in a classroom as he is in a jazz club. As a part-time faculty member at Montgomery College his role is to teach American Popular Music, History of Jazz and Applied Music for the Trombone. He is a graduate of the University of the District of Columbia and received his Master's Degree from the University of Maryland, College Park. As we discuss his approach to teaching, I quickly realize that his passion and extensive knowledge of history and social movements is easily and effectively conveyed through his deep appreciation of music.

As a young boy on Saint Thomas, USVI, Cyntje was intrigued by an older student playing the then unfamiliar trombone. As he grew, he saw other instruments being used to play a variety of Caribbean infused melodies, but was fascinated by the trombone in particular. At his urging, his father arranged to have a local man provide Cyntje with trombone lessons. The instructor offered to provide the lessons free if Cyntje came to class prepared -- his father never paid for a lesson. By the age of 15, Cyntje was playing well and providing lessons to others, starting him on a long path of teaching.

Twenty eight years later, Cyntje describes his music as cultural heritage mixed with jazz, with some Afrobeat, a touch of Salsa, and a little groove. One of his vocalists said his song "Orange" sounds like Bach and Frank Zappa mixed together. He has produced four albums, including his latest, "Spiritual Awakening," which was recently featured on National Public Radio's (NPR's) "Jazz Night in America." The NPR event was held at Bohemian Caverns, Washington DC's premier jazz club and a venue of national significance. He has performed numerous times at the Kennedy Center's

Millenium Stage, was named DC's best trombonist, has authored a book, *Stepping Stones: 15 Studies in Improvisation*, and just started a music school of his own.

Cyntje loves how performing live allows the artist and the audience to create something more than one could alone. He draws parallels between the "circles of energy" created in intimate jazz clubs to the "circles of sharing" in his classrooms.

He describes his classroom style as progressive teaching focused on learning rather than merely toward a grade. In the classroom, the ebb and flow of discussions about civil rights and social movements roll much like the jazz music Cyntje creates. The intertwining of music and history in his classes allows for the exploration of the links between, folk music and the labor rights movement, soul and the civil rights movement, psychedelic music and the hippie movement, and singer song writers' music and the women's movement, with the likes of legends such as Pete Seeger, Nina Simone, Janis Joplin and Carly Simon respectively. He speaks of "teaching" like "planting seeds," encouraging students to become more involved in society and to speak out when warranted.



photo by Herman Burney  
Reginald Cyntje

On the day we met after one of his classes, he shared how a student had just approached him to ask how one becomes an activist. Cyntje's response was, "What are you passionate about? What do you want to change? If there is an organization doing it, join it; if not, start one." He explained that social movements are started by individuals, individuals throughout society recognizing need or injustice, small pockets of people making big changes.

Small pockets of people making big changes, a lesson as timeless as the jazz music Reginald Cyntje produces.

# One-Stop-Shopping at Montgomery College's Libraries

[By Liz Feldman, Part-time Faculty Associate, Rockville]



One stop shopping! If you are thirsty for information, or want access to videotapes, music, books, magazines, you name it, you can find almost anything you want through the Montgomery College library system. It is simply one of the best in our region. The amount of sources and information available to students and faculty members is truly amazing.

Part-time faculty members can use these wonderful tools. Each campus has its own library. The Germantown library is located in the Humanities Building. The Rockville library is located inside Macklin Tower, and the Takoma Park/Silver Spring library is housed at the Resource Center. In addition, the Cafritz Art Library is located in the Cafritz Foundation Arts Center in Takoma Park/Silver Spring.

## Unique Features

Each library has its own unique features, and WiFi is available for all patrons. The **Rockville library** is the largest of the three. It is three stories tall. The second floor is designated as a silent study area, while the third floor allows patrons to move around. There are chairs, tables, and two white boards on wheels that students and faculty can use. Rockville has four study rooms, including one which houses the One Button Studio. The One Button Studio allows students and/or faculty members to create high-quality videos quickly and effortlessly.

The Rockville library has a robust collection that addresses every curriculum topic offered at the College. Its specialty is its collection of business, humanities, and theater material. The library also has a vast CD and video collection which circulate. The library has instructional videos, which are available for students to watch in the library. Faculty members may check them out for a week.

Rockville also is home for the Interlibrary Loan and Special Collections system. Any material that the Montgomery College Libraries do not own can be borrowed through the Interlibrary Loan service. Requests can be submitted electronically.

The **Takoma Park/Silver Spring** library is the second largest at Montgomery College. The library features streaming media, online journal articles, databases, and much more. All of this information can be accessed through the library's website. The Takoma Park/Silver Spring library also has a fantastic health sciences collection to help support programs such as Allied Health and Nursing. In addition, the library features a graphic novels section, a paperback books section, fiction and non-fiction videos, and a CD collection.

The Takoma Park/Silver Spring library offers more study rooms than Rockville or Germantown. The study rooms vary in size. Smaller rooms can accommodate two people while a conference room can host up to eight people. Rooms can be booked in advance through the online reservation system. These rooms are not just for students: part-time and full-time faculty members can use them as well. Similar to Rockville, the Takoma Park/Silver Spring library has a One Button Studio. It also has a collaborative work station available. This work station allows up to six people to use their electronic devices and share their screens on a large monitor.

The **Germantown** library is the smallest library; however, it has some distinctive holdings. The library's specialty includes its biomedical, technology, and bioscience materials. The library also features a Children's Literature collection, which helps support student projects and research. The library also has a collection of paperbacks, CD's and videos. Part-time faculty can check out these materials for one week.

The Germantown library has two study rooms available. Part-time faculty members can reserve these rooms if they want to meet with their students or provide tutorials.

In addition, the Germantown library has a close working relationship with the Mapel Center (Math Accounting Physics Engineering Learning), the Computer Lab, and the Writing Center. The library and the aforementioned learning centers offer joint workshops on research and writing skills. The Germantown library also has partnered with ELITE (E-Learning, Innovation, and Teaching Excellence) to provide workshops for part-time and full-time faculty members.

The **Cafritz Art** library features both print and media materials that focus on the fine arts. The library has four computers, and even some art supplies such as T-squares, and drafting materials that the other campus libraries do not have. The library also has a collection of pictures from magazines. Cafritz is very specialized, and unlike the other campus libraries, its hours are limited. Cafritz is open Mondays through Fridays from 8:00 AM-4:30 PM. It is closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

## MC's Libraries (continued)

[By Liz Feldman, Part-time Faculty Associate, Rockville]

### Resources Available

The library's holdings are vast at Montgomery College. Students and faculty have access to 246,000 books, 137 electronic databases and resources, more than 16,000 e-books, 40,000 e-journals, 8,000 streaming e-videos, and more than 21,000 audiovisual items. The databases cover a wide variety of topics. A small sampling from the library's A-Z directory include: 'American Song', 'Black Thought and Culture', 'Criminal Justice' and 'Films on Demand', to name just a few.

While the library offers so much material, not everyone takes advantage of its vast resources. Some people prefer to get their information from the Internet. Vickie Drake is the Faculty Services Librarian at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus. She says students and faculty alike should check out the library on their campus. "Much like students believe everything can be found on the Internet, many faculty members have that same expectation, but it is not true. There are still many physical resources, such as books and videos, which are only found in person. Further, an in-person session with a librarian can be invaluable, especially in determining what resources are best to use and to assist in crafting a research assignment that is feasible using the resources available. In addition, our study rooms can be reserved by faculty in need of a private location for a meeting with students. Finally, it allows a faculty member to experience what their students encounter when they use the library," Drake said.

Librarians are available on all three campuses to assist full-time and part-time faculty members. "Any campus librarian will be able to answer your questions. You could ask for assistance in designing effective research assignments, having a librarian conduct an information literacy instruction session to your class, helping you find the best databases for your discipline and how to use them, making recommendations on resources that would support the curriculum, and showing you how to incorporate research into your coursework. There are plenty of other things that we can help with, but these are among the most popular requests," Rockville Interim Campus Library Manager, Christine Tracey said.

### Registering Course Materials

Besides getting support to design research projects or lessons, part-time faculty members can turn to the library to register their course materials. "It is called reserve services, and it is very popular with students," Tracey said. "This is an excellent way to support student success, as the libraries do not have the resources to buy all the textbooks used in courses at the College. When a professor places a personal copy of a text on Reserves, it gives the students in their class access to the book in a controlled access environment," Drake added.

### Key Links to Library Services

General Information:

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/libraries/>  
<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/EDU/sub2.aspx?id=15681>

List of Databases:

<http://libguides.montgomerycollege.edu/az.php>

Information on Study Spaces and Reserving a Room:

<http://libguides.montgomerycollege.edu/studyspaces>

Placing Course Materials on Reserve:

<http://libguides.montgomerycollege.edu/books>



*Comments, questions, or are you interested in contributing to The Advance? Please contact the Editor, Gail Youth, at:*

*[gail.youth@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:gail.youth@montgomerycollege.edu) or 240-567-5340.*

*The next issue is scheduled to be distributed in April of 2016. All contributions should be received by April 15th.*

## Spotlight on Faculty — Professor Steve South

[By Jane Smith, Part-time Faculty Associate, Germantown]

Steve South, a part-time Business faculty member at the Germantown campus, has served on the campus for more than 20 years. He has watched the campus evolve from three buildings to the sprawling campus it is today.

Like most part-time faculty, Steve worked full-time elsewhere. He enjoyed a successful 39 year career at IBM Corporation until his retirement this past December 2015. During his career at IBM, Professor South worked in key areas of the company's infrastructure, including Finance, Sales Forecasting, Manufacturing, and Purchasing.

Most successful people can point to a mentor or someone who was influential in their lives; for Steve it was his father. He said, "My father taught me to stand on my own two feet and not to take any handouts." Obviously, his father's advice has worked very well for him.

Professor South received his undergraduate degree, Magna cum Laude, in Business Management from the University of Maryland and a Master's degree in Finance from Johns Hopkins University.

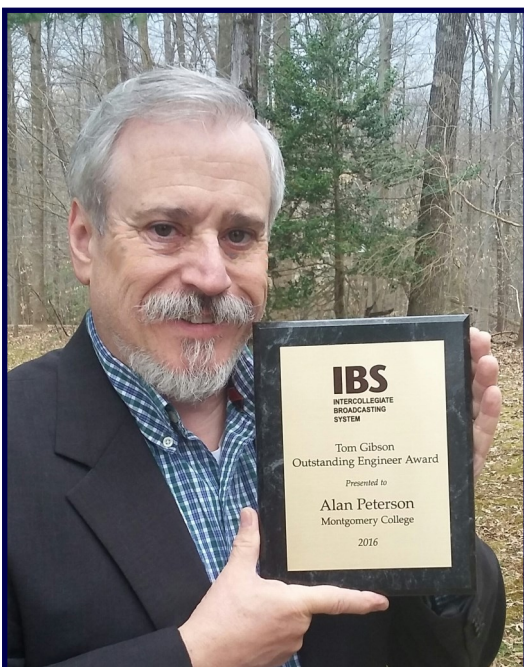
Although Professor South has retired from his full-time career, he continues to enjoy teaching at Montgomery College. When asked why, he said that at a large corporation, one often can't see how individual contributions affect the bottom line of the company. At the college, however, a professor has the ability to see that difference in students' lives. He says he makes a difference by keeping his classes entertaining, incorporating current events and applying various teaching techniques, with the key being to avoid student boredom. The advice he gives his students is to always apply themselves and to step up and take responsibility for their actions.

It is very clear that Steve enjoys teaching, but there's more to his interests. Steve gets up at 4:30 AM five days a week to go to the gym for a two-hour workout; he enjoys reading, completing about 25-30 books per year; and gardening - particularly, plant, water and vegetable gardens. Finally, he loves to travel with his wife Gail South, a math professor at Montgomery College. They have two daughters, two sons-in-law, and two grandchildren. One of Steve's goals is to travel to every MLB ball park in the U.S. and Canada.



Steve South

## Congratulations to Professor Alan Peterson



Congratulations to Professor Alan Peterson -- part-time radio faculty member in the Media Arts & Technologies Department at Montgomery College, and SBE Certified Audio Engineer and Broadcast Technologist Production Director at Radio America Network in Arlington, Virginia. He is the proud recipient of the 2016 *IBS* (Intercollegiate Broadcasting System) "Outstanding Engineering Award", recognizing his 20 years of dedication to the *IBS* and his support of college radio.

## ***AskUsNow!: Helping Students to Access Online Library Resources Has Never Been Easier***

*[By Monica Bracho Handyside, Ph.D.]*

Maryland educators and students alike now have access to free statewide library assistance with the virtual click of a button. By visiting <http://www.askusnow.info> or the Montgomery College Libraries "Ask Us" website, anyone can have a chat with a librarian who is available to help with assignments as well as research projects.

AskUsNow! is a chat service, available for at no cost, 24/7/365, thanks to its more than 200 Maryland librarians and back-up librarians from other states and countries who will answer your questions, or refer you to places to get more help. Partners include Maryland higher education institutions, Maryland public libraries, and Maryland subject-specialty agencies and organizations that include Maryland Nonprofits, the Maryland State Law Library, the Maryland State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Central Library.

Accessing AskUsNow! is easy and convenient. On <http://www.askusnow.info>, click on Montgomery College Libraries, decide whether you want to stay anonymous or identify yourself with an email address, and ask your question. After sending your question, a librarian will respond with a welcome message, and then usually ask for more information about the research topic or question. The chat conversation appears on the left side of the computer screen with the right side of the screen left free for any websites that the librarian might show. If the chat is joined on a smartphone or tablet, any websites the librarian sends will show up as links to click on and open. When the chat is over and the "End Session" link is clicked, a copy of the full transcript of the session including any links for resources that were sent by the librarian is automatically forwarded to your email address.

At Montgomery College, Metta Lash is our very own Askusnow! representative. Lash began participating in AskUsNow in 2006. According to Lash, she answers questions from patrons around the country and the world. "At

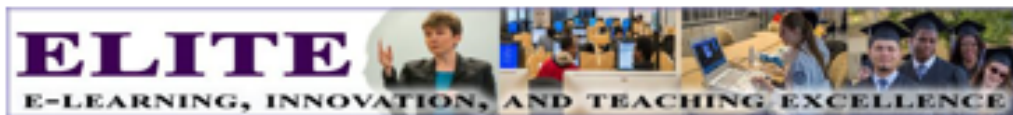
MC, we frequently receive survey input that indicates that users find AskUsNow! to be an excellent resource in providing them with the assistance in obtaining the needed information. One of the goals of our efforts is to ensure that Distance Education students have access to the same level of service as students on campus. The AskUsNow service is vital for our community college students who are often working full time, have family care

issues, and are trying to juggle their education goals with so many other activities. 24/7 access means they can get live reference service on whatever schedule they need." As a service provider, Lash has previously helped a faculty person who was on sabbatical leave in Africa track down several articles needed for his work, which highlights how one can get help anywhere in the world when you have internet access. 'Libraries are much more than brick and mortar buildings anymore' Lash added.

The support that AskUsNow! receives beyond its partners is tremendous. AskUsNow! is a project of the Division of Library Development and Services, Maryland State Department of Education, and funded through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Since the launch of AskUsNow! in 2003, this online chat service has answered over 449,000 questions by chat and over 124,000 questions in emails after chat.

You're encouraged to check out the operation of AskUsNow! See for yourself how this valuable online library service works, and then encourage your students to use this tool to assist them with their College assignments.





### AN INVITATION TO *"THE LOVE OF TEACHING: A FACULTY RETREAT"*

Part-time faculty members are critical to the success of our students. However, due to the competing demands on our time and energy, many part-time faculty members are forced to balance multiple commitments. Yet, we still rise to the challenge of being fully engaged and present in the classroom. ELITE and the Institute for Part-Time Faculty Engagement & Support would like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of our part-time faculty by hosting a Saturday morning retreat. This retreat is designed to refresh, revitalize, renew, and re-engage faculty members with colleagues, the college, and the classroom. Participants will enjoy a continental breakfast, featured speaker, stimulating discussions and activities to re-connect us with the original source of excitement and energy that inspired us to teach.

**Please join us on Saturday, April 2 from 9:00 – Noon, Germantown Campus, BE 151**  
Earn 3 hours of professional development credit toward advancement!

#### Register through MC Learns:

1. Login to your MyMC account and click on the "Training and Professional Development" heading.
2. Click "MC Learns" and then select "Schedule of Classes & Events" and then "Pedagogy & Instruction."
3. Scroll through the list to find "The Love of Teaching: A Faculty Retreat"; then click on the name of the event.
4. Click "Enroll" at the top right corner of the page.



You will receive an email confirmation as well as an Outlook calendar reminder.

#### Questions? Contact:

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Jane.Smith@montgomerycollege.edu

Eddie McReady, Part-Time Faculty Associate, Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus  
Edward.McReady@montgomerycollege.edu

Carol Moore, ELITE Instructional Designer  
carol.moore@montgomerycollege.edu

## ***Did You Know?***

*[By Antonio "Tango" Thomas, Ph.D., Director, Institute for Part-Time Faculty Engagement & Support]*

There are times when the Part-Time Faculty will have questions about or need to be made aware of key issues concerning Montgomery College, Community Colleges, or Higher Education. The questions/issues center on information related to Montgomery College Policy & Procedures, Federal Regulations, HRSTM, or IT just to mention a few topics. The "Did You Know?" section of the newsletter will be where Part-Time Faculty will find the latest information on the featured topic.

Moving about Montgomery College's on-campus and off-campus locations, Part-Time Faculty have approached me about a variety of issues concerning changes occurring at Montgomery College, both past and present. In this issue of the Advance Newsletter, the Director for The Institute for Part-Time Faculty Engagement & Support has decided to direct your attention towards Dr. Pollard's [Montgomery College 2020](#) initiative, which will be the subject of this edition's "Did You Know?" topic. This initiative will provide some answers to those many questions. Please keep in mind that this is only a starting point.

### ***"Did You Know?"***

The dramatic worldwide economic events of the last five years will continue to have a profound impact on higher education in the decades ahead. The recession has forever changed the relationship between governments and the publicly funded institutions they support. At the same time, new advances in technology drive our everyday activities in ways unimagined even just a few years ago. They have spurred significant changes in the ways we communicate, teach, and learn. Now educational institutions must constantly adapt and position themselves to be prepared for the technology of tomorrow [Taken from [Montgomery College 2020](#)].

### ***Question:***

The Part-Time Faculty members within your department are beginning to ask you questions about past and present changes; what should I do?

### ***Answer:***

In the past few years, there have been a number of dramatic changes that have occurred throughout Montgomery College. The changes are designed to have a positive impact on student success and have revolved around such areas as courses (curriculum and instruction), reporting structures, employment opportunities, etc.

Take the time and visit Dr. Pollard's website ([Office of the President](#)). On the president's website, you will be able to download the pamphlet pertaining to [Montgomery College 2020](#). This will ensure that you always have the latest and most accurate information. Here is a sample of the information you will find inside the pamphlet:

By 2020, Montgomery College will be an institution where:

- ◆ Students of all races and ethnicities succeed academically at the same high rate;
- ◆ Students are guided and mentored with personal attention appropriate to their academic needs;
- ◆ Students who need precollege or developmental instruction complete it expeditiously and successfully at high rates;
- ◆ Students choose from a comprehensive and comprehensible array of academic programs to prepare for transfer to earn a baccalaureate, and the majority of students who transfer earn an associate's degree before doing so;
- ◆ Students in career programs receive up-to-date curricula in industries needing new workers, and graduates find employment in their major at high rates;
- ◆ Students in all classes utilize technology routinely to learn and to communicate with their faculty members; and
- ◆ Graduates look back on their time at Montgomery College as being the most enriching moments of their lives.

## Did You Know? (continued)

[By Antonio "Tango" Thomas, Ph.D., Director, Institute for Part-Time Faculty Engagement & Support]

To achieve this vision of [Montgomery College 2020](#), five themes will drive the College's strategic planning for the next eight years:

1. Educational Excellence: Montgomery College will be a national leader for quality and relevancy of its academic programs.
2. Access, Affordability, and Success: Montgomery College will provide affordable access for its communities and ensure student success and completion.
3. Economic Development: Montgomery College will promote and support economic development by ensuring that rigorous and relevant regional and national workplace competencies are reflected in programs and curricula.
4. Community Engagement: Montgomery College will foster community building, civic responsibility, and intercultural understanding, and serve as the place for neutral public dialogue to advance social justice and enrich the life of the community.
5. Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness: Montgomery College will enhance institutional effectiveness and sustainability through ongoing assessment and responsible stewardship.

Montgomery College's part-time faculty play a very important role when it comes to student success, which means we have to become involved in the day-to-day conversations surrounding student success.

### Action:

Do not just take other people's word about [Montgomery College 2020](#). Download the pamphlet so you know exactly what is going on. Better yet, become part of and participate in the Montgomery College 2020 movement as well as other initiatives by attending related forums, meetings, and activities. You may be surprised to know that it might be as simple as redesigning activities within the courses you are already teaching this semester. More to come!

### Office of the President

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/EDU/Department.aspx?id=13322>

### MC 2020

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/WorkArea/linkit.aspx?LinkIdentifier=ID&ItemID=44148>

## SAVE THESE DATES

Mon — Sun	May 9—15	Final week of classes; exams
Mon — Fri	May 16—20	Non-instructional Duty Days; Commencement
Friday	May 20	Official end to spring semester and Academic Year
Monday	May 23	Official beginning of summer session
Monday	May 30	Memorial Day; College closed
Tuesday	May 31	Summer I session classes begin

