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a student publication

# The Montgazette

FREE

The Students' Voice

Issue 81

Serving Montgomery County Community College and the Surrounding Community

March 2020

This issue went to press as the College closed in compliance with Gov. Wolf's order to close county schools to stem the spread of the coronavirus. Check MC3.edu for updates.



**"from the Editor"**  
**Read on Page 2.**

## The Staff

Josh Young  
*Editor-in-Chief*

Michael Brown  
Chris Carr  
Margaret Cox  
Taylor Deimeyer  
Khushi Desai  
Gabe Evans  
Elijah Fennell,  
Patrick Farrell  
Avian Garcia  
Alim Howell  
Brian Lopez  
Russell Magee  
Britney Morales  
Shafi Nomari  
Joseph Oprysko  
Bryan Palicki  
Yana Petrova  
Michael Brown  
Loue Repsik  
Ethan Saffier  
Quinn Szente

*March Contributors*

Yaniv Aronson  
Robin Bonner  
*Advisors*

Joshua Woodroffe  
*Design & Layout*

The Montgazette  
The Students' Voice

# from the Editor

## Welcome back – to “both” of the Colleges’s campuses!

Josh Young  
The Montgazette Editor-in-Chief

Hello everyone, and welcome back to another semester at Montgomery County Community — and an extra special welcome to those who are in their first semester here at the College.

I would like to take a moment to talk about the need for Montgomery County Community College and its organizations to promote collaboration and unity between its campuses in Blue Bell and in Pottstown.

The College and its various clubs and organizations have made a concerted effort over the course of this school year to foster a sense of belonging and inclusiveness among the student body, in the hope of giving students the resources and help that they need to succeed. The Weeks of Welcome events, which are usually well-attended, and the urging of students to join clubs are just two of the initiatives implemented with student belonging in mind.

The Student Government Association is also starting a Peer Mentorship Program, where new students can connect with more senior students about getting the help, advice, and any other information that they may need to succeed (you can read more about this in this issue, on p. 4). The Montgazette itself has

also taken part in this initiative by making the theme of this year’s issues about belonging and publishing stories that engender that feeling.

Achieving a feeling of belonging is no easy task, however, since Montgomery County Community College is a commuter college (no students live on campus) and has two separate campuses that are more than 25 miles apart. Nevertheless, the College has done an exemplary job in encouraging students to reach out and get involved.

While all of this has helped to promote a sense of cohesiveness among students, the disconnect between the Blue Bell Campus and the Pottstown Campus still remains. One indication of this disconnect is in The Montgazette itself. During my time here as both contributor and editor-in-chief, we have published a few stories about events happening or related to the Pottstown Campus but most of our articles have been centered on happenings on the Blue Bell Campus. In addition, we have been unable to sustain the involvement of Pottstown students in the club.

I also suspect that other club presidents have also experienced difficulty recruiting Pottstown Campus students to their respective organizations. As a result, I believe that a lot

of students at the Pottstown Campus have possibly felt discouraged about participating in school activities and organizations.

With that in mind, I want to announce that it is The Montgazette’s intention, beginning with this article, to make a deliberate effort to feature Pottstown Campus activities and events more prominently in the College’s newspaper. Furthermore, I would like to encourage any student who may read this at the Pottstown Campus and be interested in writing for the Montgazette to reach out to me at [jyoung1551@students.mc3.edu](mailto:jyoung1551@students.mc3.edu).

It does not matter if you have written 50 articles for student publications in the past, or zero — I encourage you to be in contact. If there is an event happening at the Pottstown Campus or any other issue you think students might be interested in reading about, please reach out to me. We will work with you to help you produce a successful article.

My hope is that by featuring the events happening in Pottstown more prominently, The Montgazette will help to foster that sense of belonging and community that has been somewhat missing between the two campuses. Lastly, I wish everyone a good semester and good luck in all of your classes.

### Advertise!

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All clubs chartered through the Student Life office may advertise in The Montgazette free of charge.

### About The Montgazette

The Montgazette is published twice a semester from October to May by the students and advisory staff of Montgomery County Community College.

Printed by Journal Register in Exton, PA.

 The Montgazette is printed on recycled paper.

# Montgomery County Community College community event: Painting for Peace

Joseph Oprysko, Gabe Evans and Bryan Palicki  
MSP 111 The Montgazette Contributors

“I saw him!” said Ms. Stephanie Cuadrado, an advisor at the Student Success Center, “He would stand on the steps screaming at people, criticizing their religion, sex, looks, anything that might upset someone and start a fight so he can sue the college.”

The ACT 101 program at MCCC holds a Painting for Peace event at least once a semester. The activity originated with student Pierce Edwards, who came up with the name and idea. While it originally started

as an anti-protest against the “Hate Pastor,” who comes to protest on campus and spout hate speech, the Painting for Peace event has become a fun and relaxing event, where any student or staff member can participate.

ACT 101 is a program at Montgomery County Community College that aids students with various types of support to help them succeed in college. Support provided includes one-on-one academic and personal coaching, academic advocacy, laptop lending, and financial

aid counseling. The program also provides monthly skill-building workshops, “Dine and Dialogue” sessions, and tutorial services.

Previous Painting for Peace events on campus have included a focus on breast cancer awareness last October. The Painting for Peace event held Wednesday, January 28, 2020, facilitated painting the Mustang, the College’s campus mascot. Artwork from several previous events can be seen at the Student Success Center, where they

are mounted in the hallway.

At the Mustang-painting event, almost all the seats available were filled with students and staff. Director of ACT 101 Mo Ganey discussed what Painting for Peace meant to her: “It’s a very nice way to associate with people, as well as being generally low-key.”

Hospitality student Laura Butterworth preferred to mix her own colors, rather than using the premixed colors on her Mustang. She mentioned that painting was relaxing for her, adding, “I had done some

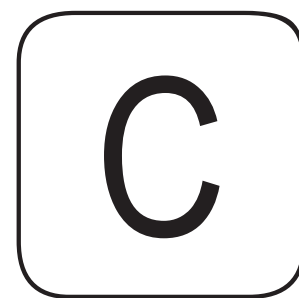
painting in the past, but not for a long time.”

“People with different struggles seem to come together to help each other,” says Laura. “The world is not as cold as some people make it out to be,” she adds.

Laura spoke about how she liked to notice the little kindnesses that people do, saying, “Most people see these small deeds as inconsequential, but if everyone just did something small, [these things] would all come together to be something remarkable.”



Staff and students, painting Mustangs.  
Photo bby Joseph Oprysko, Gabe Evans, Bryan Palicki



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# Student Government Association to begin Peer Mentor Program

Alim Howell

The Montgazette Contributor

Some citizens are just not interested in politics, but, to them, knowing information about political issues and problems people are facing in the world is very important. Here at Montgomery County Community College there is a group of students and faculty who assist the student body in making the college a better place. These students are members of the Student Government Association.

President Israel Harding explains what he believes is the primary function of student government, saying, "You can't have unity without Community!" Vice President Jacqueline Edelman echoes President Harding's thoughts, saying, "The Student Government Association is focused on how to connect peers."

Recently, the SGA undertook plans to help foster the sense of community and unity that President Harding and Vice President Edelman believe should be the foremost concern of student government. These two leaders, along with other members of the SGA, hope to accomplish this unity through the creation of a Peer Mentorship Program. This new program offered by Montgomery County Community College is designed to help students, especially new

ones, find the services and help that they may need to succeed.

Senator Shaday White explained the purpose of the program: "If you are feeling alone, the SGA will advise you. It will help students through a new support system. By creating this program, students can have a conversation, voicing their wants and needs."

"Some students are lonely, and connecting with the Peer

Mentor Program will give them family vibes," Senator Brigette Barrow stated.

Through the SGA, the Peer Mentorship Program will be a great addition to the college because it will be a productive resource for new students. Program attendees will be able to share real-life experiences, broaden their mindset for academics, strengthen skill sets, and increase school performance,

improving both academics and attitudes, which will allow for the creation of campus role models. A mentor will be assigned to each student after he or she submits an application and an interview takes place to find the best fit between mentor and student. There are no restrictions on becoming a mentee.

**Continued on Page 17.**



(left to right) Senator Shaun Woodling, Senator Brigette Barrow, President Israel Harding, Vice President Jacqueline Edelman, and Treasurer Barry Hunsberger of the Student Government Association.

Photo by Barry Hunsberger

ON CAMPUS



The Montgazette  
The Students' Voice

# Get involved at Montgomery County Community College: Hunting for clubs

Taylor Deimeyer, Michael Brown and Yana Petrova  
MSP 111 The Montgazette Contributors

Along the hallways in Parkhouse Hall there hang bulletin boards covered with flyers. Unsure where to look, Dani Bookheimer, a Psychology major, stares intently at the wall of papers. She is interested in doing an activity to get involved in the campus community, but how to choose?

There are more than 50 clubs available to join at Montgomery County Community College. Whether

students are interested in art, history, video games, or anything in between, there are a variety of clubs waiting for them.

College clubs are also linked to many campus programs and majors. For example, if a student is an incoming freshman entering the SRT music program, there is Montco Radio or the Electronic Musicians Club.

Diana McGuire,  
Administrative Support in

the Student Life Center, says, "Clubs offer friendship, scholarship and leadership opportunities for everyone." She recommends that students check out clubs through the Student Portal. From there they can click the Campus Life tab and scroll down to "Find Organizations." Here, students can see all of the various clubs the school offers and their meeting details.

**Continued on Page 16.**



Communicating Arts Production Group (CAPG) Meeting.

Photo by Taylor Deimeyer

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# The Rotaract Club:

## A way to give back to the community

Loue Repsik  
The Montgazette Contributor

The Montgomery County Community College Rotaract Club at Central Campus is an organization that strives to inspire young people to take control of the future by improving their community through service projects.

The club is an offshoot of Rotary International, a 1.2-million-strong service organization with a mission to promote peace, prevent disease, and provide clean water, sanitation, and hygiene. Members also advocate for increasing literacy rates, participate in building positive communities, and provide help for mothers and children through donations that increase access to skilled health professionals, distribution of clean birth kits, training to prevent HIV transmission, and promotion of immunizations. According to Rotary International's website, there are more than 35,000 clubs in action around the world.

Rotary clubs are passionate about finding solutions to problems through three levels of participation: local, national and international. Rotary International states that their main goal is to share ways

in which individuals can provide a lasting impact on their community and the world, and nurture skills, such as leadership, through community service.

Started in 1905, the goal of the organization was to connect professionals in different fields so they could share their ideas and foster friendships. There are no longer caps on the type of professional fields that can be involved, opening the doors to new members all over the world. Rotary consists of three levels of involvement, including local Rotary clubs, college Rotaract clubs and high-school Interact Clubs.

Dr. Yaniv Aronson, the advisor for the Montgomery County Community College Rotaract Club, explained his initial involvement with the Rotary Evening Club in Conshohocken.

"I was the founding Chairman of the Conshohocken Rotary Club's first evening club. We hoped that by starting an evening meeting, at a popular restaurant in town, we could attract young people to the club, and it worked! When I first started, I had no clue what Rotary was but then I

realized there was this vast network of Rotary Clubs all over the world as well as a tremendous group of new friends to do this great work with," Dr. Aronson said.

Because of his previous experience, Dr. Aronson is positive that he can help build the Rotaract club's infrastructure and agenda to help them accomplish big goals.

"This is a real passion of mine and something I want to continue. The club's leaders and I want to build up the club with a strong officer team and give students a chance to show leadership, plan events, and organize."

Dr. Aronson added that the Rotaract Club is also an excellent organization to have on a résumé because there are members to network with all

over the world."

The next few months will be active for the Rotaract Club: The group is going to volunteer at the Conshohocken 5K on April 25, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m., which benefits the ALS Association. Those who are interested can find the club's contact information below.

**Continued on Page 9.**



Members of the Rotaract Club at the Club Fair in February. Left to right: Leilani Kay Katz, Victoria Bastecki-Perez, Tori Brubaker, Yaniv Aronson, Lisa Berman.

Photo by Yaniv Aronson

# Getting to know her: Vice President Therol Dix

Margaret Cox  
The Montgazette Contributor

In September of 2019, Montgomery County Community College named Therol Dix as the new Vice President of the Pottstown Campus. Having served in other faculty and administrative positions at the College (see below) Vice President Dix is embracing her new role with a sense of purpose and excitement.

“I am very happy having made this move,” she explained during a recent interview. “I love to work with people to help them reach their goals. I am particularly glad to be at the West

Campus. I look forward to making a difference in a community that is in some ways similar to Camden, where I grew up—a community that has pride and great traditions and is seeking positive change.”

Dix has made several academic and career changes during her life. She holds a B.A. in Communication Studies from the University of California, an M.A. in Communication from the University of Pennsylvania, and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center.

She considered a career in academia but chose law as a “wage-sustaining” profession that would allow her to give back to her family and others.

After earning her law degree, she served as Assistant District Attorney for Montgomery County. She valued being a prosecutor but missed being part of the academic world, which led Dix to teach law classes.

Beginning as an adjunct faculty member at Montgomery County Community College and at Northampton Community College,

Dix eventually transitioned to a position as a full-time Montgomery County Community College faculty member, a department coordinator, and then Dean of Arts and Humanities.

“I really did long for academia,” she admitted. “I had the most eclectic background. I could teach all kinds of things based on that combination. Coming back in, I really enjoyed teaching and especially being an administrator.”

**Continued on Page 11.**

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# Sound Recording Technology at the College

Elijah Fennell, Patrick Farrell and Quinn Szente  
MSP 111 The Montgazette Contributors

There have been some exciting new developments at the Montgomery County Community College Blue Bell campus in the past three years: For one, the College has invested heavily in a new Sound Recording Technology (SRT) program.

Matt Porter, Senior Producer and Technical Services Manager at Central Campus, with 22 years on campus, reflected enthusiastically about the new developments in the program, saying, “We started with tape, and it is awesome to see the program come into its own with the addition of a \$2 million studio.” SRT also saw the construction of four other top-of-the-line studios that are accessible for students to produce, mix and record as professionals.

Porter attributed the recent popularity of the program to the strong staff of professors and the brand new state-of-the-art mix room, saying, “We have amazing, fantastic faculty and top-of-the-line facilities, and we offer students hands-on experience.”

SRT faculty members include Michael Kelly, Howard Gordon, Jen Mitlas, and Michael Lightkep.

David Ivory, coordinator of the SRT program, brings to Montgomery County Community College a long resume of producing music and working in the industry. He said, “We have seen tremendous growth in the last few years. We had 40 students in the beginning and now have over 150 students.” SRT has also seen a major increase in women’s enrollment. The program started with just two female students, yet women now make up a quarter of its enrollment.

Jen Mitlas, an SRT professor, is extremely excited about the growth of the program over the past 3 years. “We now have waitlisted up to 20 students,” said Mitlas. “The numbers have more than doubled.”

Mitlas said that the program’s growth comes from its faculty, as “each instructor brings something unique to the table.” This has allowed faculty to host “master classes” that bring to

campus music industry professionals who share their experiences and tips with students. Master classes have included Wonder Years guitarist Casey Cavaliere, Grammy nominee Stefon Harris and entertainment attorney Bernie Resnick.

Mitlas said, “There is no other local program like this; we are always looking to expand into the cutting edge.” Said Ivory, “In the future this will be the best two-year program in the country for recording technology.”



The Mix Room at Central Campus.

Photo by Quinn Szente



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## The Rotaract Club Continued from Page 6.

There is also a walk on May 2, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m., at the Blue Bell campus, for an organization called National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). NAMI is Montgomery County's mental health awareness program, which provides training about self-care and how to identify if someone is depressed or suicidal. It also provides resources on a range of mental health topics. "We are walking with hundreds of other people who are coming together to show solidarity and to start a conversation about mental health," Dr. Aronson said.

Looking toward the future, The Rotaract Club has expressed interest in teaming up with the food pantry on campus and also participating in an on-campus cleanup with the

Sustainability Club.

Life Science major Tori Brubaker is the current president of the Rotaract Club. She shared that the club is interested in gaining new members who would like to join them in their mission to make an impact on the lives of others.

"We strive to help our community in any number of ways, including holding fundraisers, volunteering for charity events, providing care cards for children, or helping on campus," she said.

"I've spoken with many students who struggle to create friendships. Going to events with other people opens that door to meet new people. They can meet others during events that could easily open up the network of people they know. There's also an

opportunity to be a part of something on campus. So many students just come to college, go to class, and then leave. Most people want to be a part of something, and this is a club where we welcome anyone and everyone," said Brubaker.

Brubaker explained that there are also opportunities available to become an officer in the club, since students rotate out of campus every two years or so, meaning there is always a chance for someone to take on a leadership role.

Nursing major Delmi Gonzalez is the vice president of the Rotaract Club. She said her favorite aspect of the club was knowing that the events and volunteer activities in which they participate are for a positive outcome.

"Whether it is a smile from someone, a cleaner environment, or raising awareness, the Rotaract Club is important to me because it is a club that better the community. To some people, it may be small things that we do, but it does go a long way. One person can make a difference, and several people together can make an even bigger impact," said Gonzalez.

The Rotaract Club holds their meetings on the first and third Monday of the month during common hour, 12:20-1:15 p.m., in Parkhouse Rm. 104. Anyone interested in joining can attend a meeting and contact the club at [mcccroract@gmail.com](mailto:mcccroract@gmail.com). The club can be found on Facebook @Montgomery County Community College Rotaract Club and Instagram @MC3 Rotaract.

# Kobe Bryant: The tragic loss of a legend

Ethan Saffier, Chris Carr, Shafi Nomari, Britney Morales, Brian Lopez, and Avian Garcia  
MSP 111 The Montgazette Contributors

In many ways 2019 was a year of great loss and many hardships. Students had hoped for 2020 to be different, but that seems to be a dream lost.

On the morning of Sunday, January 26, basketball legend Kobe Bryant died at the relatively young age of 41 in a helicopter accident, along with eight other victims, including his 13-year-old daughter Gianna.

While the tragedy of the iconic Bryant's untimely passing has affected people around the world, Bryant's roots to Philadelphia are planted at Lower Merion High School, Kobe's alma mater. It was there that Bryant started to attract national attention on his way to becoming the first high-school basketball player to bypass college and be drafted directly into the National Basketball Association (NBA).

Upon being selected 13th overall by the Charlotte Hornets, who shortly traded Bryant to the Los Angeles Lakers, he quickly became the face of the franchise. Starting in 2000, Bryant and teammate Shaquille O'Neal led the Lakers to four straight NBA Finals appearances and three consecutive titles in 2000, 2001, and 2002. Following O'Neal's departure at the end of the 2003 season, Bryant went to the Finals three more times in 2008, 2009, and 2010, with championships in 2009 and 2010.

Bryant retired in 2016 and scored 60 points in his final game against the Utah Jazz. At the conclusion of his 20-year career, Kobe Bryant was a five-time NBA champion, an 18-time All-Star, 15-time All-NBA Team member, a 12-time All-Defensive Team member, the 2008 NBA MVP, and a two-time NBA Finals MVP. Bryant also scored 81 points on Jan. 22, 2006, against the Toronto Raptors, the second-highest point total by a player in an NBA game.

With such close ties to the area and with

such an illustrious career, the death of Bryant has also affected many staff and students at the Montgomery County Community College.

Anthony Straface, a first-year business management student and dedicated basketball fan reflected on Kobe's passing by saying, "I was in shock when I heard the news. I remember his rivalries with the Spurs and Celtics and when he defeated the Orlando Magic in the NBA Finals."

Kobe had meant a lot to Anthony and many other students, like Khalid Atif, an SRT major, and a former student of Lower Merion High School.

Reflecting on Bryant's death Atif said, "I can't believe it. It was painful and really hit home."

The news of Kobe's passing has left many in utter disbelief, but, thankfully, he gave the world a trove of unforgettable memories.

Heather Plank, a Montgomery County Community College librarian, reflected, "Although I am not a basketball fan, I knew about Kobe and who he was from what I have seen of him in pop culture. I was in shock when I found out about his passing."

Stefanie Cuadrado, a student success

coach at Montgomery County Community College, was also affected by Kobe's passing. "My 13-year-old son is a huge basketball fan and player. He was hit hard; he idolizes Kobe a lot." What really made her sad was that her son's father is his coach and takes him to all his games, a similar situation to Kobe and his daughter Gianna.

Bryant's impact has gone further than the game of basketball, however. His death affected not only fans from the game of basketball, but it has also affected those he attracted through his personality and how he carried himself.

After his retirement, Bryant dedicated himself to his family and The Kobe and Vanessa Bryant Family Foundation. This foundation, founded by Kobe and his wife, was created to provide scholarships for Mamba FC, a youth soccer team that teaches young athletes how to be leaders and independent thinkers through sports.

Although the loss of Bryant is a tragedy to many, the memories he left with the people at Montgomery County Community College will be everlasting and will continue his legacy.



Well-wishers leave flowers outside Bryant Gymnasium the day of Bryant's death.

Photo by Ethan Saffier

EDITORIAL



The Montgazette  
The Students' Voice

## **Therol Dix** **Continued from Page 8.**

She looks forward to using her administrative skills in her new role, noting “I have always liked administrative work. I’m organized and I don’t mind meetings.”

Giving earnest credit to her family and her faith in God, Dix also expressed gratitude for those at the College who have helped her achieve her goals. “The leadership at all levels has been phenomenal,” she declared. “I appreciate my colleagues and mentors who were with me at every step of the way, all those people who have been alongside me.”

Reflecting on her “still evolving” vision for the Pottstown Campus, Dix described her views about the campus’s importance to the College and the community. “We’re dreaming big,” she stated. “My dream for the Pottstown Campus is that we are an integral part of every aspect of the Montgomery County Community College experience. I’d love to have us viewed as a premiere institution of higher education and training. I would love to see more engagement and partnerships with the community.”

In addition to being an integral part of the community, Dix hopes the Pottstown Campus will be a vital part of the lives of its faculty, staff and students. She envisions “a cohesive and vibrant

workforce, utilizing 21st-century resources, where employees feel that they are growing. I see them committed and dedicated, using their skills and talents, and feeling respected.” In the community Dix foresees, students will have a sense of belonging, and the knowledge that important resources, support and guidance are available. She also notes that moving forward, “working with internal stakeholders and community partners, we are looking at basic needs for students, as well as the extent and complexity of those needs.”

Dix believes that the Pottstown Campus has a “solid and strong academic profile” and plans on promoting and maintaining “a reasonable balance of liberal arts and STEM offerings.” She adds, “We may consider tweaking our STEM offerings to meet the needs of the 21st-century workforce.”

Some recent developments on the Pottstown Campus excite Dix. Influenced by her vision, the campus is implementing a fitness center pilot program, located in the South Hall. The center is equipped with a treadmill, elliptical, rowing machine, stationary bicycle, free weights, and assorted yoga equipment. Like the Blue Bell Campus, the Pottstown Campus now houses an eSports pavilion.

The eSports program is the College’s latest varsity sport and the first one to be open to students

who attend the Pottstown Campus exclusively. Many see the program as an opportunity for students at both campuses to come together. If anyone is interested in joining the eSports team, contact Ryan Plummer at [rplummer@mc3.edu](mailto:rplummer@mc3.edu). (For more on the College’s new eSports program, see the December 2019 issue of The Montgazette.)

Moving forward, Dix would like to see “more green space, more common space for faculty and students to just enjoy being here, connectedness to the campus, gathering spaces - things that make people feel proud about the campus and want to be here.”

Vice President Dix is more than an administrator; she is a fascinating person to get to know. First, she has been a resident, with her family, of Montgomery County for more than 25 years, so she truly knows and cares about the College’s student population. What’s more, during this interview, she shared a few “fun facts” about herself: First, the last book she read was “How to Pray for Your Adult Children.” Second, if she could have dinner with any three persons, alive or historical, she would choose her grandparents (collectively), Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and either Agatha Christie or Jane Austen. Finally, her last statement during a recent interview was, “I am very happy.”

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The  
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# Oscars roundup

**Josh Young**  
The Montgazette Editor-in-Chief

**Khushi Desai**  
The Montgazette Contributor

On February 9, the 92nd Academy Awards aired from the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, California, where winners were crowned in all their respective categories. This year's list of nominees was one of the strongest in recent memory, with several films being viable contenders for the Best Picture award. However, the ceremony was also not without its slam-dunk nominees. In this article, Khushi and I offer our analysis regarding the winners of the major awards, as well as our personal picks for those awards.

## Best Film Score

**Josh's Pick:** I think "Joker" had the best film score, with "1917" coming in second. The 37-year-old Icelandic composer Hildur Guðnadóttir (please do not ask me to pronounce her name) continued her rise after having previously worked on "Sicario: Day of the Soldado" and the HBO miniseries "Chernobyl." Guðnadóttir's score in "Joker" relied heavily on minor chords and discordant sounds that really reflected the protagonist's descent into madness as well as his own feelings of self-loathing and hatred toward the world. In my opinion, a great score is one that you can vividly remember from a particular scene and also associate the emotion that it evokes in that moment, and there are plenty in "Joker." From the almost euphoric swell following Joker's first murder and the subsequent celebration of his actions, to the

use of convicted pedophile Gary Glitter's "Rock and Roll Part II" (Glitter did not make money on it, as he has signed away the rights to all of his songs), when Joker gives in to his psychotic side, the score of "Joker" was simply superb. It was for all these reasons that I was extremely happy to see the Academy not succumb to all of the media-induced hysteria that surrounded the film's release and reward a deserving composer for her work.

**Khushi's Pick:** "Little Women" and "Marriage Story" were my top two choices for the best Film Score category. The film score in "Little Women" was phenomenal; it was extraordinarily romantic and very soothing. The music at Beth's death and her funeral scene was really emotional. I am a huge crier when it comes to romantic films, and this score had me crying like a baby.

**Oscar's Pick:** "Joker"

## Best Director

**Josh's Pick:** Bong Joon-Ho has remained largely unknown among general audiences in the United States. Make no mistake, however; he has proved himself to be one of the best film directors in the world over the past two decades, and this trend continues with "Parasite." Joon-Ho succeeded in creating a film that combines several genres, spanning comedy to suspense thriller, while also incorporating a multitude of tonal shifts, and it

delivered at every turn. The number of dark laughs that Joon-Ho is able to elicit, while at the same time holding onto the teeth-grinding suspense of the narrative is truly astounding, and there is simply no other person who should win this award. In "Parasite," Joon-Ho has created yet another genre-bending masterpiece. Once again, I really did not think there was any competition in this category. Joon-Ho is such a master of his craft that any year he releases a film, I believe that there is an argument to be made that he deserves the win. I was glad to see Joon-Ho win this and, also, to see "Parasite's" win for Best Picture. I really hope that this will encourage more people to seek out foreign cinema, as it is truly a monumental win for Joon-Ho personally, and also for directors from foreign countries, as a whole, who may begin to consider campaigning for the Oscars.

**Khushi's Pick:** Declined to answer

**Oscar's Pick:** Bong Joon-Ho

## Actress in a Leading Role

**Josh's Pick:** Renee Zellweger had been penciled in as the winner of this award since the release of the film "Judy," and deservedly so. Zellweger perfectly captures the mystique and aura that surrounded Judy Garland, and it is very clear that this is a deeply personal performance for the actress herself. If you want to see a master class in acting, watch Renee Zellweger in "Judy."

Zellweger has been somewhat overshadowed by others in more financially successful films, but anyone who saw the movie agreed on one thing: Hers was the best performance by an actress in 2019. I do not think anyone else could have realistically been considered here.

**Khushi's Pick:** Saoirse Ronan in "Little Women" deserved this Oscar. Ronan's performance as Jo was fierce, independent and passionate. In my opinion, she really portrayed her character well and could have pulled out the win, had Zellweger not been so heavily favored.

**Oscar's Pick:** Renee Zellweger for "Judy"

## Actor in a Leading Role

**Josh's Pick:** Speaking of people penciled in as the winner in a category for months, Joaquin Phoenix has been taking victory laps for his performance as the titular character since the release of "Joker" in October. Phoenix has swept virtually every major award for "Joker," winning at the Screen Actors Guild Awards, Golden Globes and BAFTAs, before his win at the Oscars. And he absolutely deserved every one of the accolades that came his way for his portrayal of the iconic joker.

**Continued on Page 18.**

## Book and film review:

# “Little Women”

Russell Magee  
The Montgazette Contributor

With the new film adaptation by award-winning director Greta Gerwig, the classic novel “Little Women,” by Louisa May Alcott, has made a resurgence in the hearts of readers everywhere. I decided to find out for myself what the hype was about, and so I grabbed a copy and dove in.

Published in 1868, “Little Women” is the tale of the four March sisters: Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy. It is set during the height of the Civil War, and it is all the March sisters can do not to worry about their father, who is away at war. But beyond their familial concerns, each

sister has her own storyline that differs uniquely from the others. Meg is destined for married life. Jo is the aspiring writer. Beth is the talented musician of the group. And Amy, the beautiful runt, seeks a future of elegance and art. Together with their next-door neighbor Teddy Laurence, their plotlines weave and tangle over the course of 700 pages to form an uncontested classic that retains its importance in the canon of literature today.

The film adaptation is nothing short of an achievement. The film fluctuates from a current timeline to flashbacks of up to

seven years earlier. Within each alternating transition, a portrait of the characters’ lives, with all their triumphs and losses, highs and lows, and trials and tribulations, is widened. Nostalgia, ambition, marriage, wealth, war, illness, and death are but a few of the themes explored in the story. However, love is what binds these themes together to form an eerily prescient picture of family.

In a little over two hours, the film manages to accomplish the impossible: capturing what makes the book a masterpiece. The atmosphere, emotions, and tone of the novel appear

in the film as colors, dialogue, and music. Greta Gerwig’s reimagining of Alcott’s classic tale, complete with impeccable acting and an evocatively crafted score, is remarkable. Saoirse Ronan’s performance as Jo, the character presumably based on Alcott herself, was astounding, as was Timothée Chalamet’s as Teddy Laurence. At the Academy Awards, the film was nominated for six different awards.

I highly recommend “Little Women” both to read and to see, as the novel stands an uncontested literary classic, and the 2019 film may just be as well.

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# 46th Annual Triangle Club of Montgomery County basketball tournament

Khushi Desai

The Montgazette Contributor

The 46th Annual Triangle Club of Montgomery County basketball tournament began on Friday, December 6, and ran Saturday, December 7. Four area high-school boys' basketball teams faced off in the annual tip-off tournament, which was held in Montgomery County Community College's state-of-the-art gymnasium, in Blue Bell.

This year the tournament opened its first night with Germantown Academy playing La Salle College High School. Following the first matchup, West Chester Rustin High School competed against Wissahickon High School. On night two, the runners-up battled it out in a consolation game, with the winners of the previous evening competing in the championship game.

A recent write-up recounting the scores of the tournament was posted on the Triangle Club website, [triangleclubmc.com](http://triangleclubmc.com). Mike Toth, one of the board members of the club, wrote about this year's tournament.

"The 46th Annual Triangle Club Basketball Tournament is in the books. And for the fourth consecutive year, there is a new champion. West Chester, Bayard Rustin, a runner-up in the 2018 tournament, prevailed with a 53-39 win over LaSalle College High School in the championship game. Rustin's IV Petit, a

sophomore guard, won the MVP award," Toth says.

According to Toth, the four games played in the 46th Tournament finished up as follows: In Game 1, the scores were 58 for LaSalle College High School and 39 for Germantown Academy. Game 2 resulted in 69 for Wissahickon High School and 67 for West Chester Bayard Rustin. In Game 3, the scores were 59 for Wissahickon High School and 66 for Germantown Academy. Last was Game 4, the championship round, where West Chester Bayard Rustin topped LaSalle High School, 53 to 39.

Regarding the players' performance on the court, about Game 1, Toth says, "LaSalle has one of the top high-school players in southeastern PA, Junior (6'4") guard Jordan Longino. Jordan has already scored over 1,000 points in his first two seasons on the hardwood." He continues, "Finally, senior guard Shane Holland (5'11") and Mike Dipietro (6'5") found the range and put LaSalle up 30-22 halftime."

In Game 2, according to Toth, "Junior Griffin Barauk was tossing in 5 treys on the way to 22 points. Sophomore guard IV Pettit added 15, and senior forward Dan Werthy had 11. Harrison Williams had a game-high 24 points, including 9 of 10 from the free throw line. Matt Compas, a very fluid (6'1") junior, had many key buckets and

slashed his way to 15 points." Toth recounts highlights of Game 3, saying, "Jordan Longino came to play for the Patriots. He put his teammates on his back and scored a tournament record 37 points." About the gripping, championship Game 4, Toth says, "This game was up for grabs with only 8 minutes left to play. West Chester Rustin then went on an 11-2 run and pulled away. LaSalle was held

to only two field goals and two free throws, all by Shane Holland, in the fourth period. Meanwhile, Rustin was making 11 of 12 free throws to go along with 3 field goals in the final period. IV Pettit played a very consistent game hitting 4 treys and ended up with 16 points."

**Continued on Page 17.**



The 2019 Triangle Club of Montgomery County Basketball Tournament Most Valuable Player, IV Petit, with board members Bill Willson and Councilman Derrick Perry.

Photo by The Triangle Club of Montgomery County

SPORTS



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## Hunting for clubs Continued from Page 5.

In addition, there is also contact information for each club. "I recommend joining a club that relates to your major for better understanding of material, networking and a more fulfilling semester," continues McGuire.

Carolina Braga, a student in Business Administration explained that she applied to become a member of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK). PTK is a nationally recognized Honors Society that hosts fundraisers and projects to better the community." The leadership and scholarship opportunities are the reasons why I joined," says Braga. "Now I'm

just waiting for my welcome letter."

Anthony Hayes, an Electrical Engineering student, is not involved in any campus organizations. "I would enjoy a Volleyball or Basketball Club. I know of the competitive athletic teams, but I would rather play leisurely," said Hayes. He also added another idea, for a chess club. None of his three suggestions is currently offered as a club by the College.

On Wednesday, February 12, the College hosted a Club Fair to spotlight all the organizations on campus. Officers of each club were available in Parkhouse Hall for questions and general information.

If, after attending all the various events, a

student is still hopelessly searching for the right fit, the final option is to start up their very own club. If they can find at least three other interested students and an advisor, they can officially have a club that fits them perfectly. The most important step is to meet with the Student Life Office to make sure no similar organizations already exist and to get their guidance on setting up the club officially.

Clubs are a great way for students to spend their free time. With enough passion and similar personalities, students might find their newest hobby and also make some great new friends. One of you might even be on the other side of the tables at the next Club Fair!

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## Student Government Association Continued from Page 4.

Director of Student Life Tyler Steffy explained, “Our program is currently set up to match mentors with mentees so that they can communicate about resources to help students achieve success. The main goals are to help students learn about the resources available at the College that may assist them in achieving the goals they set for themselves.”

Steffy continued, saying, “Also, we hope that the program will help students deepen their sense of belonging at the college and truly feel a part of the Montco community. This may include getting involved in clubs; developing relationships with students, faculty and staff; and becoming more engaged with the different activities sponsored by the College.”

Student Government Association President Israel Harding said, “SGA is here to help bridge the gap between students: to give motivation and purpose, to act as a liaison for change; to help students stand together, bond together.”

Director of Student Life Tyler Steffy said, “We are here to listen to you and to help make information accessible. We want to help create a more engaging population. When students are involved, there is a better chance of success.”

The Student Government Association officers are President Israel Harding, Vice President Jacqueline Edelman, Treasurer Barry Hunsberger, Secretary Katrina Boughter, Advisor/Director of Student Life Tyler Steffy and 6 senators. A branch of Student Government at both the West and Central Campus allows for student interaction with and promotes community involvement at the College. Officers or members can be reached at Central Campus Student Life Office, College Hall Room 103. Student Government meetings are held every Monday. Email [getinvolved.mc3.edu](mailto:getinvolved.mc3.edu) or call 215-641-6581 with questions, concerns, ideas.

For more information, SGA meetings are held Mondays from 12:20 p.m. to 1:20 p.m. in College Hall Rm 147.

## The Triangle Club basketball tournament Continued from Page 14.

The 2020 Triangle Club Tip-Off Tournament will be held at Montgomery Community College early in December 2020. The competing high school teams have not been announced yet.

The Triangle Club is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit volunteer organization that works in coordination with Montgomery County high schools to recognize students who excel in scholarship, sports, and service. Each spring, at the Dannehower Awards Banquet, the club presents college scholarships to high school seniors who are nominated by their high school’s administrators. The club was established in 1963 to promote service, sports, and scholarship among public, parochial, and private high-school students in Montgomery County. If you have any questions regarding the tournament or the efforts of the Triangle Club of Montgomery County, visit [triangleclubmc.org](http://triangleclubmc.org) or email [info@triangleclub.com](mailto:info@triangleclub.com).

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**Oscars****Continued from Page 12.**

There was not one scene in this film in which Phoenix does not play a major role, and he did not buckle once throughout the entirety of its run time. For me, the first scene of “Joker” contained one of the most memorable acting moments this year, as tears streamed down his face just trying to conjure up a smile. One of the most talented actors of an entire generation richly deserved this addition to his trophy cabinet.

**Khushi’s Pick:** Adam Driver’s performance in “Marriage Story” was breathtaking. Many people say that some of the scenes in which he performed were overacted, but I feel that he portrayed the character really well. Driver is known to have a serious face in public, but in this film, you can see his true range, including a tender side.

**Oscar’s Pick:** Joaquin Phoenix for “Joker.”

**Best Picture**

**Josh’s Pick:** The Academy usually comes under fire for unpopular choices when it comes to selecting the winner for Best Picture, but they made the right choice by selecting “Parasite” as the Best Picture of 2019. This is the type of film that I believe everyone should try and see at least once in their lifetime. It will be studied in film schools for years. It has amazing set design, an excellent script, superb acting, impeccable directing, and perfect film editing — all coming together to create one of the best films of this century. I would write more, but I am afraid that I would spoil too much for potential viewers. For that reason, I am going to leave off here and simply say that if you ever get an opportunity to see this film, seize on it. Do not be intimidated by the presence of subtitles. I promise you will not regret it.

**Khushi’s Pick:** Declined to answer

**Oscar’s Pick:** “Parasite”

# SPRING 2020 DINE & DIALOGUE WORKSHOPS

WEST CAMPUS, POTTSTOWN, PA  
MONDAYS 12:20 - 1:20 PM

*Lunch will be provided*

**FEBRUARY 24****RESUME AND COVER LETTER  
WORKSHOP**

Learn how to prepare and perfect your cover letter and resume.

Career Services – South Hall 218

**MARCH 2****MEDICAL ASSISTANT OR MEDICAL  
OFFICE ASSISTANT AS A PROFESSION**

Learn about the benefits of a rewarding career in the Medical Assisting field.

Kathy Schreiner – South Hall 218

**MARCH 9****VOTING AND CENSUS:  
WHY THEY MATTER TO YOU**

The 2020 Census. Primaries. General Election. 2020 is your year to vote and become civically engaged. Get all of your important questions answered about the Census and elections.

Michael Bettinger, Sean Hutchinson  
and Kelly Strunk – South Hall 218

**MARCH 23****NOTE TAKING 101**

Learn effective note-taking strategies to use in class, when reading your textbook and doing research.

Larra Ferris – South Hall 222

**MARCH 30****OVERPOWERING TEST ANXIETY**

Take the anxiety out of “test anxiety” by creating strategies to keep you calm and cool at test time.

Erin Duvinski – South Hall 222

**APRIL 6****MENTAL HEALTH 101**

Struggling with personal problems? Is your school work suffering? Need to talk to someone? Find out what services are available to you at West Campus. Learn where to find helpful mental health resources.

Erin Duvinski – South Hall 222

**APRIL 13****PLANNING AND PACING =  
BIG PAYOFF**

Planning for success will establish SMART goals, regardless of your original plan. Gain the skills to establish SMART goals that can be used in any situation to help you reach success.

Jae Hively – South Hall 222

**APRIL 27****STRESS MANAGEMENT**

Learn how to harness stress and make it work for you.

Erin Duvinski – South Hall 222



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### **RADIOGRAPHY AS A PROFESSION**

Everything you want to know about a career in Radiography.

**Cheryl DiLanzo** – College Hall 103  
Student Life Conference Room

## **MARCH 4**

### **BUILDING LEADERSHIP THROUGH COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Learn how to build leadership skills while participating in community service.

**Yaniv Aronson** – College Hall 103  
Student Life Conference Room

## **MARCH 11**

### **OVERPOWERING TEST ANXIETY**

Take the anxiety out of “test anxiety” by creating strategies to keep you calm and cool while testing!

**Anne Coyne** – College Hall 103  
Student Life Conference Room

## **MARCH 25**

### **SURVIVING YOUR 1<sup>ST</sup> SEMESTER: A TRICKY BALANCING ACT**

Learn strategies to balance school, personal affairs and campus life!

**Jen Gordon** – College Hall 103  
Student Life Conference Room

## **APRIL 8**

### **RESUME AND COVER LETTER WORKSHOP**

Learn how to prepare and perfect your cover letter and resume.

**Career Services** – College Hall 103  
Student Life Conference Room

## **APRIL 15**

### **FAQS ABOUT S-E-X**

Do you have questions about birth control, HIV/AIDS, STDs, STIs, pregnancy and your body? We have the answers!

**Mary Ellen Miller** – College Hall 103  
Student Life Conference Room

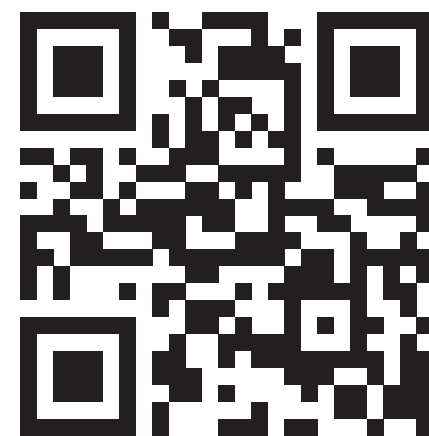


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