

# MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

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SEVENTY-SIXTH  
COMMENCEMENT  
EXERCISES

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2023  
COMMENCEMENT



May 19, 2023

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Germantown, Rockville, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campuses  
Workforce Development and Continuing Education

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## A MESSAGE TO THE CLASS OF 2023

DR. JERMAINE F. WILLIAMS  
*President of Montgomery College*

Congratulations to Montgomery College's Class of 2023! I am honored to celebrate your achievements and I am excited about the possibilities that await you. You had the wisdom to seize this fantastic opportunity and the determination to pursue your dream even in the face of obstacles. Whether you are headed to another institution of higher learning or into the workforce or both, you can rely on the knowledge and skills you now possess to contribute to our community—and transform our world.



Although we are celebrating your achievement today, I know that you will want to remember a parent or relative who encouraged you, a professor who guided you, or a special friend who supported you. Take a moment to thank and acknowledge the people who helped you make this day possible.

As you make your way in the world, I encourage you to help change the lives around you: mentor students, volunteer your time, and give back to the community. And please stay in touch with us. Join the Alumni Association. Continue to support Montgomery College, and tell your family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues that Montgomery College helps transform lives.

On behalf of the College's Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and administrators, it has been a privilege to serve you.

All my best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jermaine F. Williams".

Jermaine F. Williams, Ed.D.

# Montgomery College

## 2023 Commencement

Friday, the nineteenth of May  
Two thousand twenty-three  
Ten o'clock in the morning  
Rockville Campus Athletic Field

### PROCESSIONAL†

*Pomp and Circumstance*  
Sir Edward Elgar

### ACADEMIC PROCESSION

Ms. Kimberly F. Jones  
*Chief Marshal*

Professor Michael P. Carretta  
Professor Joan M. Naake  
Professor Melissa A. Sprague  
Dr. Anestine Theophile-LaFond  
*Montgomery College Faculty Marshals*

Dr. Michelle T. Scott  
*Montgomery College Central Services Marshal*

Ms. Natalya H. Bah  
*Bearer of the Mace*

### PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS

Rockville City Police Honor Guard

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

Mr. Daniel F. Velado, Soloist  
*Student, Montgomery College Department of Performing Arts*

Ms. Stephanie L. Rodriguez, Interpreter  
*Student, American Sign Language Program*

### WELCOME

Dr. Jermaine F. Williams  
*President, Montgomery College*

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Dr. Michael A. Brintnall  
*Chair, Montgomery College Board of Trustees*

### VIDEO

Mr. Rico Newman  
*Elder, Choptico Band of Piscataway-Conoy Indians*

†The audience will please stand during processional and recessional marches.

# Montgomery College

## 2023 Commencement

*Continued*

### PRESENTATION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Dr. Michael A. Brintnall

### APPRENTICESHIP ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD *Applied Technologies, Gudelsky Institute for Technical Education, and Workforce Development and Continuing Education*

Mr. Simon A. Alvarado Jr.

*Presented by Mr. Robert F. Levey, Trustee*

### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD *Arts, Business, Education, English, and Social Sciences*

Mr. Hollis Xavier Zimmerman

*Presented by Ms. Deepica Premaratne, Student Trustee*

### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD *Communications, Health Sciences, Health and Physical Education, and Humanities*

Mr. Nathaniel Y. Lim

*Presented by Mr. Omar A. Lazo, Trustee*

### ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD *Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*

Ms. Richa Carmel D'Mello

*Presented by Ms. Annice Cody, Trustee*

### PRESENTATION OF THE HONORARY DEGREE OF THE ASSOCIATE OF ARTS IN PUBLIC SERVICE

#### CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Dr. Jermaine F. Williams

#### AWARDING OF DEGREES

Dr. Michael A. Brintnall

# Montgomery College

## 2023 Commencement

*Continued*

### PRESENTATION OF THE HONORARY DEGREE CANDIDATES

Presentation of candidate by Dr. Frieda K. Lacey, *Trustee, First Vice Chair*

MS. KIMMY DUONG

*Refugee, Tech Entrepreneur, Philanthropist*

Presentation of candidate by The Honorable Michael J. Knapp, *Trustee*

MS. SUZANNE BRENNAN FIRSTENBERG

*Social-Practice Artist*

Presentation of candidate by Dr. Kenneth J. Hoffman, *Trustee*

MR. C. RICHARD MATTINGLY

*Founder and President, The Luv u Project*

Presentation of candidate by Ms. Gloria Aparicio Blackwell, *Trustee, Second Vice Chair*

THE HONORABLE CRAIG L. RICE

*Former Montgomery County Councilmember*

### COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Dr. Jermaine F. Williams

### PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

Dr. Sharon Ahern Fechter

### CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Dr. Jermaine F. Williams

### AWARDING OF DEGREES\*

Dr. Michael A. Brintnall

\*Please withhold applause until all diplomas are awarded.

# Montgomery College

## 2023 Commencement

*Continued*

### RECEIVING OF DIPLOMAS AND CERTIFICATES

Dr. Eric M. Benjamin

*Interim Vice President and Provost for Rockville Campus*

Dr. Muhammad H. Kehnemouyi

*Interim Vice President and Provost for Germantown Campus*

Dr. Carolyn S. Terry

*Interim Vice President and Provost for*

*Workforce Development & Continuing Education*

Dr. Brad J. Stewart

*Vice President and Provost for Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus*

Dr. Jamin K. Bartolomeo

*Collegewide Dean of Student Access and Germantown Student Affairs*

Dr. Tonya R. Mason

*Collegewide Dean of Student Success and Rockville Student Affairs*

Ms. Janeé K. McFadden

*Collegewide Dean of Student Engagement and*

*Takoma Park/Silver Spring Student Affairs*

Dr. Donna A. Kinerney

*Instructional Dean of Adult ESOL and Literacy Programs*

### TURNING OF THE TASSEL

Dr. Jermaine F. Williams

Board of Trustees Academic Excellence Award Honorees and Student Trustee

### INDUCTION OF GRADUATES INTO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Mr. Jon W. Pointer '89

*President, Montgomery College Alumni Association*

### RECESSIONAL<sup>†</sup>

*Pomp and Circumstance*

Sir Edward Elgar

*Please note that your attendance at commencement constitutes consent for Montgomery College taking photographs and video, and using those photographs and video for promotional and other purposes.*

<sup>†</sup>The audience will please stand during processional and recessional marches.

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## HONORS AND AWARDS

### *Board of Trustees Academic Excellence Award*

The 2023 Board of Trustees Academic Excellence Award is bestowed upon Mr. Simon A. Alvarado Jr. for Applied Technologies, Gudelsky Institute for Technical Education, and Workforce Development and Continuing Education (GITE); Mr. Hollis Xavier Zimmerman for Arts, Business, Education, English, and Social Sciences (ABEESS); Mr. Nathaniel Y. Lim for Communications, Health Sciences, Health and Physical Education, and Humanities (CHSHPEH); and Ms. Richa Carmel D’Mello for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) by Dr. Michael A. Brintnall, chair, Montgomery College Board of Trustees.

To be considered for nomination for a Board of Trustees Academic Excellence Award, students must be eligible for spring commencement by having earned an associate’s degree or by having in progress final requirements for an associate’s degree; must have taken at least 25 of the required credit hours at Montgomery College; and must have maintained a cumulative grade point average of 4.0 on all courses at the College. Students will receive a cash award to be applied to future tuition or educational purposes of their choice.

The Board of Trustees also recognizes outstanding runners-up for the 2023 Board of Trustees Academic Excellence Award: Ms. Ayesha Adnan for ABEESS; Mr. Adiam D. Asgedom for CHSHPEH; and Ms. Swechchha Shrestha for STEM. Each runner-up will receive a cash award to be applied to future tuition or educational purposes.

### *Presidential Academic Excellence Award*

The 2023 Presidential Academic Excellence Award is bestowed upon Mr. Normand R. Bayigamba, Germantown Campus; Ms. Ayesha Adnan, Rockville Campus; and Ms. Summer Mai Li Suliman, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus.

Students nominated for the Presidential Academic Excellence Award must exhibit evidence of outstanding scholarship in the form of a 3.5 grade point average or above at the time of nomination. The nominee must also show evidence of outstanding leadership in the College and/or in the community, evidence of outstanding service to the College and/or in the community, and matriculation in a curriculum and completion of at least 28 semester hours of credit earned at Montgomery College. The scholars will receive cash awards to be applied to future tuition or educational purposes of their choice.

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## HONORS AND AWARDS

### *Honors Program*

The honors program distinction is given to students who graduate in one of the Montgomery College honors programs—Macklin Scholars, Montgomery Scholars, Renaissance Scholars, or the Collegewide Honors Program—with at least 15 honors credits in at least three different disciplines and a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.4.

### *Graduating with Honors*

Students earn the honors distinction by graduating with at least a 3.4 grade point average in any Montgomery College curriculum.

### *Phi Theta Kappa*

Phi Theta Kappa is the national honor society for students at two-year colleges. To be considered for election to Phi Theta Kappa, a student must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.5 for at least 15 credit hours of course work at Montgomery College and be enrolled in a degree program or transfer curriculum. A cumulative grade point average of 3.4 must be maintained to retain membership. Election to Phi Theta Kappa represents one of the highest honors that can be bestowed upon a student at Montgomery College.

### *Gamma Theta Upsilon*

Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), the international honor society in geography, was founded in 1928 and became a national organization in 1931. The purpose of this organization is to encourage professional interest in geography; to strengthen student and professional training through academic experiences; to stimulate research; to award scholarships for students pursuing geography as a major at the undergraduate and graduate levels; and to advance the status of geography as a cultural, physical, and applied discipline. Members have met academic requirements and share a common interest in the geographic field of study. The majority of these members are applied geography, cartography, geographic information systems, and geographic education majors.

In 1993, the applied geography program at Montgomery College's Rockville Campus became the first two-year program to be awarded a chapter of GTU, Theta Eta. The members of Theta Eta volunteer throughout the academic year for various activities. Some of the activities include performing community service; participating at national and international conferences; engaging in city, county, state, and federal government projects, as well as private industry; conducting fundraisers; and hosting special events and activities. GTU is proud to be celebrating 30 years of scholarly achievements at Montgomery College.



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## 2023 ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD HONOREES

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPRENTICESHIP ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD *Applied Technologies, Gudelsky Institute for Technical Education, and Workforce Development and Continuing Education*

#### MR. SIMON A. ALVARADO JR.

MR. SIMON A. ALVARADO JR. is completing a two-year apprenticeship program as an automotive technician. He is graduating with a 4.0 grade point average in his apprenticeship coursework.

He is enrolled in the Washington Area New Automobile Dealership Association apprenticeship-related instruction program. He is currently a light-service technician at DARCARS Toyota Silver Spring. He has achieved industry certification with Automotive Service Excellence.

When he was young, he loved to play with remote control cars—and was curious about how they worked. MC Professor Jon Bourgstein says Mr. Alvarado’s energy and engagement in class often sparked discussions that helped other students better understand certain concepts. “Simon is an example of what a student can accomplish if they are willing to apply themselves,” says Bourgstein.

In his spare time, Mr. Alvarado likes playing soccer, going to the gym, and spending time with his family. He is grateful for the support he received from his parents and his co-workers. He hopes to become a master diagnostic technician someday.



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2023 ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD HONOREES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD  
*Arts, Business, Education, English, and Social Sciences*

MR. HOLLIS XAVIER ZIMMERMAN

MR. HOLLIS XAVIER ZIMMERMAN, a radio broadcast media production major and member of Phi Theta Kappa, is graduating with a 4.0 grade point average.

While attending MC part time, he interned and volunteered at five radio stations in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. He is a Saturday morning personality at WRGG 93.7 in Pennsylvania.

He volunteers at the New Market Grange, Days End Farm Horse Rescue, and at his church. He also milks cows at a dairy farm in Smithsburg.



He earned the Excellence in Broadcast Media Production and Presidential Volunteer Service awards at MC. He was the interim general manager at the College radio station, WMCR, a student senator, Student Council member, and Phi Theta Kappa president. He participated in Alternative Spring Break for two years, going to Puerto Rico this year.

Mr. Zimmerman will attend Shippensburg University this fall to pursue a bachelor's degree in communication and radio broadcast media production and enhance his broadcasting career.

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2023 ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD HONOREES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD  
*Communications, Health Sciences,  
Health and Physical Education, and Humanities*

MR. NATHANIEL Y. LIM

MR. NATHANIEL Y. LIM, a general studies STEM major, is graduating with a 4.0 grade point average.

As a dual enrollment student, he will earn his high school diploma and an associate's degree. At the beginning of his sophomore year in high school, he began taking classes at the Rockville Campus. He hopes that by sharing his experience as a dual enrollment student, he will inspire other high schoolers to take advantage of similar opportunities to get a head start in their college education.

Outside class, he enjoys doing volunteer work. He earned the Certificate of Meritorious Service from Montgomery County Public Schools for completing more than 260 student service learning hours. He sees volunteering as a chance to help others and meet new people.

This fall, Mr. Lim will attend the University of Maryland, College Park, to earn a bachelor's degree in biochemistry. He plans to go to dental school and pursue a career in dentistry like his dad.



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## 2023 ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD HONOREES

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD *Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics*

#### MS. RICHA CARMEL D'MELLO

MS. RICHA CARMEL D'MELLO, a computer science major and member of Phi Theta Kappa, is graduating with a 4.0 grade point average.

She serves as treasurer of the Student Senate and writes for the Rockville Campus newspaper, *The Advocate*. She is one of two students selected for the Phi Theta Kappa All-Maryland Academic Team on the Rockville Campus.

She also participated in Montgomery College's Alternative Spring Break and provided the student speech at Dr. Williams's inauguration ceremony last year. This year, she had the honor of speaking at Student Advocacy Day.

At Montgomery College, she received the Excellence in Writing Award.

Outside school, she interned with the National Institute of Standards and Technology last year. She currently tutors students with special needs at MC's Disability Support Services Office.

Ms. D'Mello plans to transfer to Amherst College. Her career goal is to become an AI developer, helping integrate differently abled groups into society.



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## 2023 ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD HONOREES

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD *Arts, Business, Education, English, and Social Sciences* OUTSTANDING RUNNER-UP

#### MS. AYESHA ADNAN

MS. AYESHA ADNAN, an international studies major and member of Phi Theta Kappa and the Renaissance Scholars honors program, is graduating with a 4.0 grade point average.

Born and raised in Pakistan, she moved to the United States in September 2021 and enrolled at the Rockville Campus in spring 2022. While at MC, she won the Excellence in Anthropology Award, Excellence in Equity Award, Dr. Harry Harden Jr. Student Academic Excellence Award, and 2023 Presidential Academic Excellence Award.



She worked as a student aide at the Rockville Campus Office of Disability Support Services and completed an internship at the Library of Congress. She also served as editor in chief of the *Montgomery Advocate*, senator at large, chair of the Student Activities Board, vice president of the Muslim Student Association, and co-chair of the Community Service Committee.

Ms. Adnan plans to complete a bachelor's degree in international affairs and start a career in her favorite city, Washington, D.C.

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2023 ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD HONOREES

BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD  
*Communications, Health Sciences,  
Health and Physical Education, and Humanities*  
OUTSTANDING RUNNER-UP

MR. ADIAM D. ASGEDOM

MR. ADIAM D. ASGEDOM, a general studies/  
STEM major and member of Phi Theta Kappa, is  
graduating with a 4.0 grade point average.

Born and raised in Ethiopia, he came to the United States  
after high school and enrolled at the Takoma Park/  
Silver Spring Campus. In addition to being a full-time  
student, he worked as a student assistant at the front  
desk of the Counseling and Advising Department.

He received the Dr. Harry Harden Jr. Student  
Academic Excellence Award and Richard S. and  
Carol Will Endowed Honors Scholarship, and was a  
nominee for the All-USA Academic Team. He served as an officer of Phi Theta Kappa,  
vice president of the STEM Club, and participated in the Ethiopian Student Association  
Club and Career Prep Club.

This summer, he will shadow physicians at Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical  
Center to gain insight and experience for his future career. He wants to pursue a career in  
medicine as an internist. Mr. Asgedom will attend Johns Hopkins University in the fall.





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## 2023 ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD HONOREES

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD *Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics* OUTSTANDING RUNNER-UP

#### Ms. SWECHCHHA SHRESTHA

MS. SWECHCHHA SHRESTHA, an information science major and member of Phi Theta Kappa, is graduating with a 4.0 grade point average.

She is Student Council chair, Student Senate vice president, Student Activities Board chair, and Phi Theta Kappa president at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. She also is a student representative on the Montgomery College Foundation Board of Directors.

She currently volunteers with Manna Smart Sacks, which provides nutritious foods for children and their families between Friday and Monday. Previously she helped with PeaceJam Mid-Atlantic, teaching high school students about Nobel Peace Prize winners, and Conversation Partners, helping students learn English. She also served as an IT intern at the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office.

Her honors include the Dean's List, the President's Volunteer Service Award, the Outstanding Service Leader Award, and the MC Spirit of Service Medallion.

Ms. Shrestha will transfer to the University of Maryland's information science program at the Universities at Shady Grove. Her career goal is to be a data analyst, UX/UI designer, or IT specialist.



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## HONORARY DEGREE

### *Honorary Degree for the Associate of Arts in Public Service*

Montgomery College's first honorary degree was established in commemoration of the 50th anniversary and was awarded to the late Milton F. (Sonny) Clogg, Esq., class of 1948, at the 50th Anniversary Convocation on November 20, 1996.

The Board of Trustees awards the 2023 honorary degree of associate of arts in public service to Ms. Kimmy Duong, Ms. Suzanne Brennan Firstenberg, Mr. C. Richard Mattingly, and The Honorable Craig L. Rice.

The honorary degree program was established to formally recognize contributors, philanthropists, distinguished friends of the College, and honorary speakers at commencements, convocations, or other appropriate occasions. The Board of Trustees approves each recipient eligible to receive an honorary degree. The degree honors people who have risen to a position of prominence, have acquired a national or international reputation in a selected field, hold a distinguished record of public and community service, or have made a notable donation of time, talent, or a gift to the College.



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## 2023 HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

### **MS. KIMMY DUONG**

*Refugee, Tech Entrepreneur, Philanthropist*

MS. KIMMY DUONG is an accomplished tech entrepreneur, philanthropist, and refugee who has overcome countless obstacles to achieve success in life. Born in Nha Trang, Vietnam, in 1945, Ms. Duong earned a bachelor's degree in economics and law from the University of Saigon in 1966. She started her career working for the Ministry of Social Welfare before joining IBM in 1968, where she worked until she escaped from the communists in 1975. She came to the United States with just \$30 in her pocket.



Despite the challenges she faced as a refugee, Ms. Duong's belief in education, hard work, and family guided her. She secured employment with IBM through a representative at the refugee camp. She moved to Northern Virginia and worked for IBM until 1994 while raising seven nephews and nieces as a single parent, all while pursuing multiple side jobs to make ends meet.

In 1994, Ms. Duong joined Pragmatics, where she currently serves as vice chairwoman and CFO. Over the past 30 years, she has overseen finance, legal, facilities management, and HR departments, playing an instrumental role in growing the company.

In addition to her professional success, Ms. Duong has been active in philanthropy for over a decade. In 2011, she and her husband donated \$5 million to George Mason University for the engineering building. In 2015, she established the Kimmy Duong Foundation (KDF). The KDF supports health, education, and welfare initiatives in the U.S. and Vietnam and has established multiple scholarship programs administered by local universities with endowments of over \$4 million.

Ms. Duong's commitment to philanthropy is evident through the KDF's scholarship program centered in the Washington metropolitan area, which has awarded 218 scholarships to date—and plans to award 150 more in 2023. During the pandemic, the KDF started a program to support families dealing with economic hardship, which has benefited 160 families since 2020.

Ms. Duong believes that America's investment in her has been rewarded with a legacy of good works. She hopes to inspire others to pay it forward. Her resilience, perseverance, and dedication to making a positive impact on society make her a true inspiration.

She is married to Dr. Long Nguyen and resides in Virginia.

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## 2023 HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

**MS. SUZANNE BRENNAN FIRSTENBERG**  
*Social-Practice Artist*

MS. SUZANNE BRENNAN FIRSTENBERG is a social-practice artist. When asked what her medium is, she replies, “Empathy.” She champions human dignity through the topics she explores, including homelessness, gun safety, drug addiction, and politics.

She begins each new art series with research, reading, and interviews. Then, she chooses materials best suited to communicating her messages. Ms. Firstenberg ventures beyond traditional media, employing buffalo skulls from her native South Dakota, concrete rubble, even shipping containers to effect social change. Her artworks lure viewers with beautiful aesthetics, then deliver powerful messages.

She discovered her artistic skill after earning an M.B.A. at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and working in pharmaceutical new product development and in the United States Senate. Once she realized that art could be a powerful communications tool, she focused on learning the craft—drawing, painting, metal casting, welding, stone carving, woodworking, and ceramics. She honed many of these skills at Montgomery College, which she credits with giving her a wonderful foundation from which to wield the power of art.

She represented the United States at the 2016 Harbin (China) International Ice Sculpting Competition, bringing home the Creativity Prize. For her *Empty Fix* art series to destigmatize drug addiction, she traveled more than 57,000 miles, interviewing hundreds of people suffering or recovering from addiction. Her art ranges from microscript drawings to 20-acre public art exhibitions. Images of her art have appeared in the press on six continents.

Her latest work, *In America: Remember*, an art installation of more than 701,000 white flags honoring those lost to COVID, appeared on the National Mall in September 2021 and has been replicated in communities across the country. Google included the art in its 2021 Year in Search. *Artsy Magazine* honored *In America: Remember* as one of 12 exhibitions considered the Best Public Art for 2021 worldwide. *Washingtonian Magazine* named Ms. Firstenberg a Washingtonian of the Year in 2021.

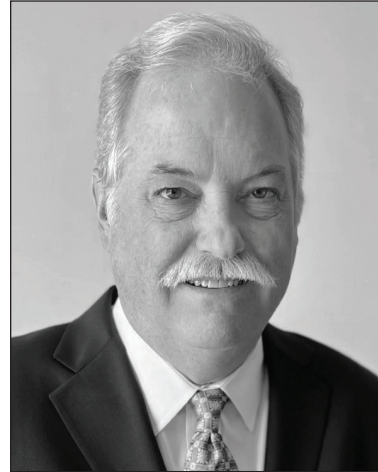
She and her husband, Doug, a former chair of the Montgomery College Foundation Board of Directors, live in Bethesda. They have three children. The Firstenbergs have generously given of their personal resources on behalf of Montgomery College students.



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## 2023 HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

**C. RICHARD MATTINGLY**  
*Founder and President*  
*The Luv u Project*



MR. C. RICHARD MATTINGLY is highly regarded for his more than 37-year career as a professional within the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (CFF). He was rapidly appointed to various leadership positions, including vice president of field operations and executive vice president. In 1993, Mattingly was named executive vice president and chief operating officer of the CFF. He also served in the same capacity at its subsidiaries, Cystic Fibrosis Services, Inc. and Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Therapeutics, Inc. He also was secretary of the Board of Trustees.

He is nationally recognized for his innovative fundraising strategies, program development philosophy, and state-of-the-art nonprofit management structure. The CFF is widely regarded as the most innovative nonprofit of the modern era and the creator of venture philanthropy, which led to the development of life-saving therapies for many with CF.

Among his many honors while at the CFF was the permanent establishment of the Carolyn and Richard Mattingly Award to honor CF-related medical professionals who excel in the mental health field.

In 2015, Mr. Mattingly retired from the CFF to establish The Luv u Project, Inc., a 501(c)(3) public charity, to honor his late wife, Carolyn, a passionate volunteer and philanthropist. As founder and president, Mr. Mattingly serves in a total volunteer capacity. The Luv u Project mission focuses on building a quantifiable agenda and responsible actions that advance the understanding of, and treatments for, mental health issues.

Among its initiatives, The Luv u Project presents the annual Carolyn C. Mattingly Award for Mental Health Reporting, recognizing the best in mental health reporting among all written, broadcast, or digital mediums. It is now considered the most prestigious award for mental health journalism in the United States. It also presents the annual Carolyn C. Mattingly Award(s) for Mental Health in the Workplace, which recognizes and celebrates exemplary organizations that advance the mental health and well-being of their workforce while serving as role models for other employers.

In 2017, Mr. Mattingly founded and began serving as principal of CRM Advisors, LLC, which specializes in the nonprofit sector. He serves on several boards, both in the profit and nonprofit sectors, including the Eastern Kentucky University Foundation, at his alma mater.

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## 2023 HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

**THE HONORABLE CRAIG L. RICE**  
*Former Montgomery County Councilmember*

THE HONORABLE CRAIG L. RICE is a former member of the Montgomery County Council, serving from 2010 to 2022. He was the youngest African American ever to serve on the nine-member council and the second African American man to serve in that role. Elected in 2006 to the Maryland House of Delegates, he served one four-year term and represented District 15 in western and northern Montgomery County.



Mr. Rice chaired the council's Education and Culture Committee. He served as the council's representative to the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo), chairing MACo's Education subcommittee. He also served on the Maryland Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education (known as The Kirwan Commission), leading the Early Care and Education workgroup.

During his tenure, he helped MC: protect and sustain affordable tuition; expand the Achieving Collegiate Excellence and Success program; form the Achieving the Promise Academy; implement MC community engagement centers throughout the county and Welcome Centers on each campus; create and expand the Montgomery Can Code camps and programs; and construct and open the ignITe Innovation Hub, a partnership with Apple, at the Rockville Campus. His advocacy supported Montgomery College's efforts to expand in the East County.

Mr. Rice strengthened MC's STEM education by backing several facilities, including building the Bioscience Education Center and renovating the Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard Student Affairs and Science Building on the Germantown Campus, as well as funding the Rockville Campus Science Center. He also supported the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus's Catherine and Isiah Leggett Math and Science Building and the Long Nguyen and Kimmy Duong Student Services Center on the Rockville Campus.

In 2019, he received the Montgomery County Board of Education's Award for Distinguished Service to Public Education Community Individual. He won the 2022 MACo Marilyn J. Praisner Public Service Award for his outstanding service to his county and his constituents.

Mr. Rice is a graduate of Blair High School. He attended Montgomery College and the University of Maryland. Prior to serving in elected office, he worked for Marriott International and Aramark Corporation. He is married to Tineshia "Tia" Rice and has three children.

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## ACADEMIC TRADITIONS AND SYMBOLS

### *Academic Regalia*

The academic procession in modern university life embodies a relic of medievalism. The somber gowns and colorful hoods are not unlike those worn by scholars and churchmen perhaps as early as the 12th century. The garb in those times had an element of utility. The robes were warm; the hoods could be drawn up to protect against drafts in unheated buildings.

Traditionally, the hood's silken lining has been in the color of the wearer's university. The color of the bordering velvet indicates the special area of study. White velvet represents arts, letters, and humanities; dark blue, philosophy; light blue, education; purple, law; dark green, medicine; apricot, nursing; lilac, dentistry; olive, pharmacy; pink, music; orange, engineering; citron, social work. Tassels on the "mortarboards," or caps, of the candidates for degrees correspond in color to the velvet borders of the hoods.

Gowns representing the master's and doctor's degrees vary in style. The master's gown has long, narrow closed sleeves, which extend below the knees. The doctor's gown has full bell-shaped sleeves with three bars of velvet and a front opening faced with wide velvet bands in either black or the color indicating the area of study.

There is no general rule for the position of the tassel on a mortarboard. However, it has become customary for candidates for degrees to wear the tassels on the right side before the degrees are conferred and to shift them to the left at the moment the degrees are awarded to them.

### *Montgomery College Mace*

The mace is the official symbol of the College's power and authority. The bearer of the mace for the 2023 commencement procession is Ms. Natalya H. Bah, instructor of management and leadership in Workforce Development and Continuing Education.

The fluted mahogany staff is adorned with antique silver-colored rings with engravings honoring past Montgomery College presidents. The base of the 42½-inch mace is fitted with antique silver to match the rings. The mace is capped by two black marble disks encasing antique silver panels that form an octagon. The panels are engraved with the names of the Montgomery College campuses. The finial is composed of a 3½-inch antique silver-plated medallion embossed with the College's seal, which is mounted on a diagonal mahogany surround.

The previous mace was designed by George Hatzenbuhler, an art student on the Rockville Campus in 1976. The original Montgomery College mace was designed and executed by professors emerita M. Gloria Monteiro and the late Dr. LaVerne W. Miller in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the College.



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## ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INDUCTION

### *The Induction Pledge*

I am a graduate of Montgomery College.

I have achieved my goal of graduation through my own hard work and dedication, and with the support of my family, friends, and faculty.

As a graduate, I am now a member of the Montgomery College Alumni Association. In this capacity, I have earned the privilege of a mutually beneficial and lasting relationship with the College and its community.

Today, I move forward to embrace new opportunities and to meet the challenges that lie ahead. But as I do, I also recognize that my Montgomery College experience will remain forever an important part of my life.

The opportunity of a Montgomery College education confers upon me a responsibility to help ensure the continued strength of this great institution. I will not forget this responsibility.

I am a graduate of Montgomery College.



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**MONTGOMERY COLLEGE**

*Germantown, Rockville, and Takoma Park/Silver Spring, Maryland*

Montgomery College is an academic institution committed to promoting equal opportunity and fostering diversity among its students, faculty, and staff.

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