

THE MACKLIN BUSINESS INSTITUTE AND CENTER FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP AT MONTGOMERY COLLEGE



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Academic Partnership Benefits Students and Institutions

UM's Smith School of Business, Montgomery College Create Win-Win Pact

by Rosemary Faya Prola

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For many years, community colleges have served as an important source of students for baccalaureate business programs. Articulation agreements between two-year and four-year schools, which delineate the course work that will be accepted toward degree requirements at four-year schools, help facilitate the transfer of students. Recently, a unique partnership between the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business and Montgomery College's Macklin Business Institute has eased the transfer process and helped both institutions attract outstanding students. The program now serves as a model for other two- and four-year institutions.

The Macklin Business Institute, an honors program for second-year business students at Montgomery College — established with a \$1.26-million gift from Gordon and Marilyn Macklin — offers full scholarships and mentoring from faculty and from local executives. Macklin scholars serve at least two months in a business internship, which provides outstanding opportunities to develop their business skills.

The Macklin Institute invited Smith School Dean Howard Frank to join the MBI Board, and "In the three



Macklin Scholars at Montgomery College, Carolina Lasso (l) and Michael Somerville have continued to excel at the Smith School of Business. A junior, Lasso is a vice president of the Global Business Society and maintains a perfect 4.0 GPA. Somerville was named Top Graduating Senior in Decision and Information Sciences this spring. In August, he'll join Lockheed Martin as an associate systems engineer.

years since then, our schools' relationship has blossomed," notes Patricia Cleveland, assistant dean for undergraduate studies at Smith. "The trusting partnership we have developed has proven a fertile ground for improving communications between the two schools," Smith's Cleveland states. "As a result, we have been able to consult on curricular changes and ensure a smooth transition for transferring students."

The first class of Macklin Scholars matriculated at Smith in fall 2000. Their record demonstrates the partnership's benefits. Macklin Scholars have distinguished themselves among the top Smith students, in terms of scholarships and awards, including

the Tyser Regents Scholarship, the Maryland Transfer Merit Scholarship, the Smith School Mullen Scholarship, and the Maryland Business Transfer Scholarship.

Tyser Regents Scholarship recipient and former Macklin Scholar Carolina Lasso is now in her first year at the University of Maryland studying international business. Lasso completed her first semester with a 4.0 GPA. "I applied to the Montgomery College honors program because it offered everything I was looking for as a high school graduate," Lasso says, "including a small community, interdependent studies, a challenging curriculum, full scholarship, close relationships with faculty, honors

classes, and a study abroad program.

"Macklin students are also actively involved in 'college life,' taking on leadership positions in student organizations, participating in special programs and activities, and maintaining close contact with each other as they progress toward their degrees," Cleveland states.

The Macklin Business Institute continues to flourish at Montgomery College, providing business honors

students with new opportunities, including the launch of an MBI-run gourmet coffee business on campus. And the relationship with the Smith School continues to prosper.

MBI Director Professor Jeff Schwartz and Dean Cleveland presented a workshop on the schools' successful partnership at the 2002 AACSB International Undergraduate Pro-grams Conference in St. Louis last fall.

Student "Free Enterprise" Team Earns Honors in National Tourney

A group of enterprising students representing Montgomery College participated at the 2003 SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) USA National Exposition, hosted by the Kansas City business community, May 11-13 in Missouri.

The Montgomery College SIFE Team competed in the two-year division against 46 teams, representing nearly 500 students from around the country. Earlier in the school year, each team competed and won at one of twenty-two regional competitions. The MC/MBI SIFE team was named regional champion at the Washington, D.C., regional competition held in Reston, Va., on April 1, 2003.

During national competition, SIFE Teams presented 24-minute multi-media summaries of the educational outreach projects they developed and implemented throughout the year. The teams were judged by panels drawn from the nation's top business and community leaders.

Keynote speaker at the SIFE USA National Exposition was Bernard Marcus, cofounder and chairman of the board of The Home Depot, Inc.

The Montgomery College team, competing nationally for the first time, won a second runner-up trophy and cash prize, placing themselves in the top 18 two-year teams in the country.

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