

# Gateway

Fulton-Montgomery Community College

April 2016

A STUDENT PUBLICATION OF THE FM COMMUNICATIONS CLUB

JOHNSTOWN, NEW YORK

## The gift of life: be someone's hero Humans of FM

by Kaitee Horstmann

Imagine depending on a machine to keep you alive and having to go to the hospital three times a week for hours a day.

This is the reality for many people around the world whose kidneys are failing, like Angela Mbamba, a student at West Virginia University.

Mbamba is originally from Kenya and came to the U.S. to attend a four-year school.

When Mbamba was just a little girl, she had to have one of her kidneys removed

because it hadn't been functioning correctly since birth.

"I guess I knew that something was wrong," Mbamba said. "I was doing things that normal children didn't have to do."

After having her kidney removed, she went back to living a relatively normal life. Mbamba left Africa and came to the U.S., in order to go to college.

"My mom wanted me to get a chance to integrate into U.S. culture," she said. "She wanted me to go to a community college first."

Mbamba and her family decided on FM because of its small size and came to the conclusion that it would be a good place for her to get used to American culture.



Photo of Angela Mbamba.

"FM was more than just a community college and more like a place I called home for my first few years in the U.S.," she said.

After FM she transferred to West Virginia University to begin working on her degree in Public Relations.

While attending the University, Mbamba received shocking news. While in the hospital for an unrelated reason, she was told that her kidney was failing.

"It was pretty bad," she said. "I was really, really heartbroken to say the least. It completely changed my life."

Her kidney is failing due to all of the strain it endures from working on its own. Mbamba is on a transplant list, but is in a position where she may not be able to get a kidney for another eight years.

"My doctors want me to find a living donor," she said. "They say if they could donate to me they would."

Mbamba is on dialysis and has to have her treatments three times a week.

"John Hopkins is a phenomenal hospital," she said.

Currently Mbamba is working on spreading the word about her story out and trying to find a living

donor.

"I think a lot of people are afraid of something like this," she said.

She wants more people to understand what it means to be a donor and realize what a miracle it can be for someone like her.

"If people are more aware and willing to learn, that's really all I'm asking," she said. "I really want to get better."

To learn more about Mbamba's story and how you can help, you can visit her website at <http://donorforangela.org/herstory/>.



Photo of Emory Cato by Robert Chapterlane and Briyanna Thomas-Price.

"...I had back problems because I hunched over a lot, and I went to the back doctor. They said, 'Oh that's not suppose to be there,' and they found it was cancer and it was really small. They monitored it once a year for seven years. In the end of 2014 they were like, 'That ribs gotta come out.' I had to spend three days in the hospital with a chest tube, and I don't have cancer anymore. It's been a year."

## "Woofing" for our warriors

by Winnie Blackwood

When former Marine Sgt. Bryan Purcell needed help getting wounded Marine Sgt. Eddie Ryan to Washington, D. C., local veteran Paul DuBois was called in to aid the project.

After being shot in the head twice and spending two years in a hospital Ryan, a former sniper, suffered a traumatic brain injury. He had a goal to participate in the Marine Marathon.

This was the start of Mountains to Miracles Veterans Foundation Inc., a non profit organization created to

help veterans in need, both locally and nationally. DuBois is the president and founder.

"It just keeps growing by leaps and bounds. Initially we just kind of figured on doing the basics. Helping them get benefits and food," DuBois said of MMVF.

Expanding across the country and becoming a full fledged veterans' agency, DuBois deals with cases such as getting food for those who need it to talking veterans out of suicide. The next project for the nonprofit is building a retreat.

"It takes them 400 to 450 days to get their benefits. By that time they've maxed out their credit cards, so the next step is drugs, alcohol or suicide," he said.

He added, "If you can save one life it's worth it. We've saved a lot more than that I think."

Brian Peck is an example of one of those lives. After his time in the service from 1996-2007, Peck, who suffered Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and brain damage, came home and chose alcohol in order to forget.

"I realized quickly that yeah this sucks I'm going down, and that's not what I wanted out of my life," he said. "I didn't sacrifice my health and my life to come back and be troubled. I didn't want to be a burden on society."

Peck was put in contact with DuBois and has been involved ever since, talking with the veterans and working for MMVF's program

Read "Woofing" for our warriors on page 2.



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## “Woofing” for our warriors cont.

Woofs for Warriors as their adoption director.

Woofs for Warrior pairs vets with emotional support dogs, after going through a screening process to ensure the house is suitable and there are funds to support the animal. The program does pay for the dogs and the training, which the veterans must partake in.

“Number one is the animal. Number two is to help the vet as far as his PTSD,” Peck said.

According to Peck it costs around \$1,000 to become an emotional support dog.

Woofs for Warriors has paired 29 dogs so far with veterans, and DuBois said the breeds range from the standard German shepherds

and black labrador retrievers to chihuahuas and standard poodles.

Peck, himself, has an emotional support dog, a German shepherd named Odin, who he wants to train to become a service dog.

“For me it’s just having the companionship. I like having that beast right next to me. It makes me feel good,” he remarked.

FM’s Community Outreach is holding a dog basket raffle to raise funds to donate to the organization, as well as a food drive.

If you would like to donate, volunteer or are a veteran in need of assistance, contact DuBois by phone at (518) 265-7345, or by email at [diplomatman2002@yahoo.com](mailto:diplomatman2002@yahoo.com).

*Photo by Catherine Hladik of Paul DuBois and Brian Peck.*



## “GoFMCC” is a “No Go”

by Cara Bas

The college’s blog and social media site “GoFMCC” was shut down.

“We gave it a try, but it did not get the response FM had hoped for so we are working on other marketing ideas. I did want to thank each of you for all of your blogging efforts and hope you continue to keep blogging about FM on your own social media.” Amy Radik said in an announcement on Mar. 17.

“GoFMCC” featured student blogs, social media links, and event announcements. It was designed to promote the college and publicize campus life. The site was maintained and designed by Shannon Rose, a graphic design firm.

FM’s Associate Dean for Student Recruitment and Admission, Laura

LaPorte said, “One of the main goals of GoFMCC.com was to serve as a student engagement site for prospective and current FM students. Students were encouraged to post to the site using

“We gave it a try, but it did not get the response FM had hoped for so we are working on other marketing ideas. I did want to thank each of you for all of your blogging efforts and hope you continue to keep blogging about FM on your own social media.”

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## New dorms open in 2017

by Tsugumi Mizutani

FM will close their international students’ dorm at the Microtel in Johnstown, and open a new dorm at Campus View in 2017.

The new dorms will be built across from Campus View.

FM started to house the international students at the Microtel two years ago. All the rooms on the third floor are used as their “dorm” rooms.

The rules are the same as those at Campus View: no alcohol, no smoking inside and frequent Public Safety checks. However, paying a more expensive fee, students have housekeeping twice a week and free hot water and coffee. Towels, toilet papers and tissues are also provided.

Students are living in a hotel with usual customers. Customers on the second floor have complained that the students are noisy and disturbing their sleep.

Yaxin Gao, who was lived in the Microtel last year said, “Me and my roommate stayed up late and were watching movies. Then a security man suddenly came to my room and

told us that they got complaints from the room right under my room.”

“They said our footsteps when we walked were so noisy and they couldn’t sleep, but we didn’t even move. When we walked [it] was only when we went to the bathroom,” she added.

As the number of international students are increasing every year, available rooms for students in Microtel are lacking, as well.

Students are complaining over the higher dorm fee than Campus View and the new requirement to ride the bus.

Considering these points, FM finally decided to end their business with the Microtel.

Arlene Spencer, FM’s international students advisor said, information concerning the new dorm is located at <http://www.fmcc.edu/admissions/student-housing/>.

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## FM recruits “fore” golf

by Nicholas Shafer

FM has a new sports team joining its athletic program and that sport is golf.

Competition for the new men and women’s teams are expected to begin in the fall with the official spring season beginning in 2017.

Kevin Jones, FM’s athletic director, said of the new program, “The area has had some great local gold in the high schools, and the addition would give us a well-rounded offering for students near and far.”

Richard Scott, the owner of Fox Run Golf Club in Johnstown and a PGA professional himself, was named coach of the team. Home matches will also be played at Fox Run course, which is a five minute drive from campus.

Jones said, “Rich has tremendous knowledge and is really well connected to the local golf circuit in high school. He also works with youth golfers in the area.”

“I have a passion for teaching and coaching golf, I thought it would be a great opportunity for myself and the community,” Scott added. “We have some great young golfers in the area that we can couple with recruits from around the country.”

One of those great young golfers is FM’s first commitment to the men’s team Alex Bond, who is now a senior at Broadalbin-Perth High School. Bond has been on Broadalbin’s varsity golf team since he was in seventh grade and held a handicap

of 2.

The young golfer remarked, “Rich told me about the school getting the program. It’s a good feeling. Hopefully the program will grow.”

Scott said of Bond, “I am extremely excited to have Alex as our first recruit. I have known Alex and his family for a long time now and know that he will be a great leader and representative of the kind of player we seek.”

Bond has already begun setting goals for himself for the upcoming season. His first is he wants to place medalist in every tournament.

Another question on the mind is who will FM play in the upcoming season, such as other SUNY schools or other colleges in and around the area. Jones noted that many schools already have golf as an athletic sports for their students.

Of the 23 schools in our region, 14 currently offer the sport of golf. Scott will have some time before the short fall season is upon us to add more players to the men’s and women’s team as well. He is recruiting daily and said they will field a full team by fall of 2016.

Although it will be hard to convince young golfers to come and play for a brand new program, Scott has a plan.

“My main message is that you can start your career here at FM and with hard work in and out of the classroom, you can achieve anything,” he said.

## FM’s basketball ends the season strong

by Nicholas Shafer

The FM men’s basketball season came to a close last month, with the Raiders finishing their season strong by winning the final two games.

The Raiders finished with a regular season record of 10-14 overall, with a conference record of 7-9. Their records weren’t good enough, though, to move them on into the playoffs or Regional tournament play.

They ended their season after the final regular season game, in which they beat one of the top teams in the conference, Mohawk Valley Community College.

Guard Ayodele Akinmola led FM averaging 19.2 points per game,

leading him to being named All-Conference 1st team and also All-Region 2nd team.

vForward Barceem Dukes was named top the All-Conference 3rd team, finishing the season averaging 12.6 points per game along with 4.8 rebounds.

With six seniors leaving after this season including Ayodele and Dukes, the Raiders have some key spots to fill, but they also have a lot of key returning players.

Hopes for this Raiders team should be high looking forward to next season.

## How Jackie Robinson changed the world

by Christopher North

On April 15, 1947, America had one of its most significant sporting events in history, when a black man wearing the number 42 stepped onto the grass at Ebbets field. Met by both boos and applause, he took to the field that day and changed the game and the country, forever.

That man was Jackie Robinson.

While people like, Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks did might have more of a remembrance, Jackie was the first to do such a courageous act. When he took to the field for the first time, surrounded by white players and white fans, the Dodgers General Manager, an Ohio born Methodist, Branch Rickey, set into action the greatest thing that a sport has ever done.

Many were against him. Some teams even claimed that they wouldn’t play with a black man on the field. Some of Robinson’s teammates even had problems with it and others tried to refuse to play, but Rickey’s mind was made up.

What many people often tend to forget about Robinson was just how fantastic of an athlete he was. He hit .297 his first season, with 12 home runs and 29 stolen bases while on his way to picking up the Rookie of the Year award.

He also lead the lovable losers

that were the Brooklyn Dodgers to the 1947 World Series, a series that would go on to be won by the New York Yankees.

Over his 10 year career he would hit .311 with 137 home runs and nearly steal 200 bases, including an incredible 19 steals of home.

He was never a spectacular fielder, moving around quite often from position to position, but his bat certainly made up for it.

The number of minorities in sports is still on the rise today.

Eight-point-three percent of baseball players last year were African American, an incredible 29.3% Latino players and 1.2% Asian players. All that can be attributed to when Robinson played for the first time.

For that reason, every major league baseball team has retired Jackie’s number 42. The number was last worn daily by Mariano Rivera, the future Hall of Fame close for the Yankees.

Robinson’s teammate Pee Wee Reese once had said, “Maybe tomorrow we’ll all wear 42 so they won’t tell us apart.”

Every year on April 15, every player throughout the major leagues dons the number on their backs to honor the great feat.

## “Step Up to Smart Money”

by Ejerlin Reinoso

Do you believe you’re financially healthy? If the answer is no, well then you’re in luck, because April is financial literacy month.

According to Mary Donohue, FM’s library director, “financial literacy is managing money to pay for what you need and saving for what you want.”

“Step Up to Smart Money” is a program provided by the Evans library at FM, which supplies financial literacy resources and expertise to the Fulton and Montgomery county communities.

The program consists of activities, presentations and online content that will help you understand your finances not only for college, but also for your entire lifetime.

Donohue advises students to be aware of their finances and they “Do not get caught up in the

simplicity of credit card spending.”

The program is made possible by a grant from the “Financial Industry Regulatory Authority Investor Education Foundation” through “Smart Investing @ Your Library”, a partnership with the American Library Association.

Log on to [smartmoney.fmcc.edu](http://smartmoney.fmcc.edu) for new activities everyday for opportunities to learn something new and incredibly helpful for the future, plus an opportunity to win prizes. Enter your name in their weekly drawing for every activity you attend.

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## Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice review

by Marissa Nellis

While this film is not great, it's still not nearly as bad as the critics are saying. It's actually fairly good, if you're able to wade through the first hour of the film.

The first hour is boring and a little weird. There's very little action and the plot is slow-moving.

Batman/Bruce Wayne, played by Ben Affleck, has dream sequences that get weirder and weirder as they go along and distract you from the plot.

While I had my doubts before the movie, Affleck actually surprised me and I quite enjoyed his performance. I think he's going to play a good Batman in the films to come.

Once you make it past the first hour, however, the film picks up and the action begins. The fight scenes are well choreographed and one of the Batman fight scenes echoes the fighting style seen in the "Arkham" games. The final fight scene, while frantic at times, is epic and



Photo attributed to Warner Bros. definitely the best of the film.

The highest point of the film is when Wonder Woman, played by Gal Gadot, finally shows up. She's quite absent for most of the movie, but once she's on, she steals the scene. For me, she stole the whole movie.

At one point during the fight, she's knocked to the ground, but she smirks and gets back up. The entire theater went wild for her; Gal Gadot proved that she is worthy of playing the super heroine.

While I am excited for "Justice

League" and all of the other films DC has lined up, this film left me more excited to see "Wonder Woman." I can't wait to see what Gadot brings to the heroine, but if this film is any indication, she's going to be great.

The theme music for Wonder Woman was equally as awesome and it really pumps you up. Hans Zimmer and Junkie XL, a.k.a. Tom Holkenberg, the guy that scored "Mad Max: Fury Road," did an amazing job and knew just how to capture Wonder Woman's power and spirit.

Sadly, Hans Zimmer has stated he's retiring from DC films. He's done an amazing job with this film and Christopher Nolan's "Dark Knight" series. Let's just hope that the next guy can live up to what Zimmer has done.

The cameos made by the other members of the Justice League, including The Flash (Ezra Miller), Aquaman (Jason Momoa), and Cyborg (Ray Fisher) give us a little insight into what's to come in the DC universe. While the cameos were short, I'm curious and excited for "Justice League," but their origin films as well.

"Batman v Superman" definitely needed some improvements, but it was a good film. I'm interested to see where the franchise goes. I think DC is going to do some pretty epic things with these heroes. Don't let the critics deter you and just go see the movie. You won't be disappointed.





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