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Choir Performs at Phillies Game



Photo by Heddy Bergsman, courtesy of the Philadelphia Phillies

By Nikeisha J. Williamson

They rehearsed on the campus quad to get used to performing outdoors. And they also sang in stairwells to experience the echo.

So by the time they stepped onto the field at Citizens Bank Park on Sept. 29, Montgomery County Community College's West and Central campus choirs were ready to give a Major-League-worthy rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Included in the 45,082 fans that paid to see the Philadelphia Phillies play the Houston Astros were about 400 students, staff, faculty and alumni. They also attended the game to support the singers. The sold-out game was not only a success for the Phillies, who won 7-4, but also for the 40-member combined choir, which had been preparing for the performance since last spring.

At that time, the choir collaborated with the communications department to make an audition recording of "The Star Spangled Banner," which they sent to the Phillies front office. They were picked in the late spring and scheduled to sing in the fall.

As soon as the spring semester began, the choir began rehearsing a new arrangement of "The National Anthem."

Choir director and Assistant Music Professor Andrew Kosciesza said he wanted the performance to be as polished as possible, and had the group rehearse on the quad and in stairwells.

In this Issue

- News.....pgs 1-9
- Opinions / Editorials.....pg 10
- Sports.....pgs 11-13
- A & E.....pg 15
- Campus & Community.....pg 16

Faculty/Staff Campaign Benefits Students

By Shauna Gallagher

With the recession on everyone's mind, the "Faculty Staff Annual Giving Campaign Kick-Off" on Sept. 30 was needed more than ever.

The event helped raise money for the Montgomery County Community College Foundation, which provides scholarships and emergency loans.

Student Donna Kulp recalled how an emergency loan helped her buy a chef's uniform and shoes for her culinary arts program.

The mother of seven had been attending classes at the college's West Campus but her financial aid package hadn't yet arrived. She credited the loan with getting her one step closer to becoming a pastry chef.

Stories like Kulp's are far too common, according to college administrators.

Even the Student Government Association president has her own story of dealing with challenges. At the fundraiser, Patricia O' Malley expressed her one-time dream of becoming a professional dancer.

"My aspirations were cut short when my mother was diagnosed with a brain tumor," O'Malley shared, adding that she decided to attend the college and major in biology. She said she found her decision to be very rewarding, adding she appreciated the foundation's work helping students.

Dr. Kathrine Swanson, vice president of institutional effectiveness and enrollment management, spoke on behalf of college President Dr. Karen Stout.

cont. on page 3...

cont. on page 2...