

MACKLIN BUSINESS INSTITUTE

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MACKLIN BUSINESS INSTITUTE

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Freshmen Scholars Look Forward to Challenges of the MBI Program

After five separate orientation sessions, including the ropes challenge course with Project Ascent at Seneca Creek State Park in Germantown, the incoming freshmen and the returning sophomores at the Macklin Business Institute (MBI) were busy learning well before classes started at Montgomery College on August 31.

We caught up with three of the first-year Macklin Scholars as they shared some of their thoughts on what attracted them to the MBI program, the challenges they foresee, the team-building exercises they experienced, and their futures beyond the MBI program.

Joel Castillo, freshman from Germantown

On what attracted him to the MBI:

I first learned about the Macklin Business Institute at Montgomery College last summer. The first thing that attracted me was that I did not have to leave home yet still attend a prestigious business institute. Also attracting me were the competitions and various experiential learning activities at the MBI.

Challenges: After hearing from (MBI director) Steve Lang and the second-year students, I think the biggest challenge I foresee is time management. And I'm excited about managing the MBI Cafe. I believe I can learn many lessons running the Cafe.

Team building: The orientations have helped us bond with our classmates. We have learned a lot about each other in just a short time.

Future: I would like to go to the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, or Georgetown University after my two years in the Macklin program at Montgomery College.

Sina Ranje, freshman from Bethesda

On what attracted him to the MBI:

I was attracted to the MBI after researching the criteria of the program along with the overall activity included with being a part of the program. The very concentrated and supportive atmosphere is a perfect learning atmosphere that is complemented with very enjoyable projects and activities. This is an ideal experience that very few students are lucky enough to participate in.

Challenges: There are numerous commitments in regard to the projects, individual class assignments, and personal responsibilities, so time management is going to be a challenge. On the other hand I am very excited about the experiences I will share with my classmates and I look forward overcoming the challenges together.

Team building: The orientations were helpful in creating quick relationships. Group bonding activities placed us in situations where we had to interact

with others which made everyone familiar. Efforts put forth by our program to help us learn to work together are truly helpful and appreciated.

Future: My aspirations after graduation are to take my developing passions and skills to the next level at the Smith Business School in College Park. I plan to build on the degree from MC, using this foundation to get highest level degrees in possibly administration, marketing, or international business studies.

Paola Castillo, freshman from Germantown

On what attracted her to the MBI:

After reading what the MBI program offered, I became really excited. When I received the letter of acceptance, I screamed so loud that I lost my voice for the night! My dad sent the letter via email to friends and family to boast about my achievement and my parents were very proud.

Challenges: One of the challenges I foresee may be the Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) projects. Creating ideas for the project will be a challenge, but I just have to sit down, think, and brainstorm like every other class.

Team building: Bonding with the group has been amazing. I met so



Steve Lang (far left), director of the Macklin Business Institute at Montgomery College, talks with first-year students, from left to right, Sina Ranje, Paola Castillo, and Joel Castillo.

many people with different backgrounds that have the same interests as me. We went to Seneca Creek State Park and we got to know each other by solving silly but fun problems. In a few instances, I was also able to show my true self because everybody is so accepting. I have a feeling I'm going to love the next two years.

Future: During the summer I worked for a swimming club that teaches kids how to swim. As a result, teaching has become a big interest of mine. As of right now, I plan to earn a bachelor's degree in business and then a master's in education with a focus in music. Hopefully, this presents many job opportunities... life is full of surprises so all I can do is live in the moment.