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## Three Macklin Scholars Earn Prestigious Academic Scholarships

The University of Maryland, College Park recently awarded 2009 Transfer Academic Excellence Scholarships (TAES) to 12 transfer students. Three of those outstanding students are Macklin Business Institute (MBI) scholars who graduated from Montgomery College in May. The highly-competitive scholarship offers full tuition for four consecutive semesters at either College Park or the Universities at Shady Grove.

Recipients were chosen on the basis of overall academic achievement, demonstrated potential for community leadership, quality of written essay, recommendations, and, if selected as a finalist, a personal interview. Those selected to receive the scholarship are expected to enroll at the University of Maryland as full-time students.

The three Montgomery College graduates who earned TAES awards are:

**Dearborne Allen, 20, Montgomery Village**

Dearborne is a native of Liberia, a small country in West Africa. She immigrated to the United States in 1997 when she was just seven years old. She's lived in Montgomery County ever since with her parents and two younger brothers, ages 16 and 15, and her 18-year-old sister whom she calls her "little twin."

Dearborne attended Watkins Mill High School and was on the honor roll, and also won various awards in dance. Upon graduating from Watkins Mill, she was the Montgomery Village Middle School scholarship recipient for an alumna who demon-



**Left to right, Macklin Business Institute graduates and Transfer Academic Excellence Scholarship winners Dan Koutzoumis, Dearborne Allen and Shahin Shahrivar.**

strated excellent academics and extra-curricular activities. During her first year at Montgomery College, she was one of two Business Administration award recipients for the Germantown Campus. Dearborne entered the MBI program as a sophomore. At the University of Maryland, she will major in accounting, or seek a double major in accounting and finance in hopes of some day becoming an accountant.

"The [Macklin] program has been the best experience of my life," she says. "This program made my time at Montgomery College even more fun and meaningful."

**Dan Koutzoumis, 19, Gaithersburg**

Dan is a graduate of Thomas S. Wootton

High School where he graduated with honors in 2007. He graduated from Montgomery College with a 4.0 grade point average.

During the past two years at the College, Dan has earned several honors and awards. The honors include being named a member of National Dean's List and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

In addition to being named a recipient of the Transfer Academic Excellence Scholarship for the University of Maryland, he has received the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) Distinguished Scholar Award and the Professor Patricia Normile Scholarship Award. At the Robert H. Smith School of Business at

the Universities at Shady Grove, Dan will major in accounting.

"The experience that I've gained as a scholar in the MBI program has utterly surpassed any educational experience that I've had in my entire life," he said. "My résumé has nearly doubled in length due to participation in the MBI program during my sophomore year alone."

**Shahin Shahrivar, 22, Bethesda**

Shahin was born Tehran, Iran, and moved to Bethesda in 1992. He is a 2005 graduate of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. He enrolled at Montgomery College in 2007 and earned 74 credits, graduating Phi theta Kappa this May and earned an Honors Scholar Award.

Shahin is still deciding on attending either College Park or Shady Grove. After college, he wants to pursue a professorship in economics. He also wants to join Teach for America or the Peace Corps after he earns his degree from the University of Maryland.

"MBI has been absolutely incredible and I cherish my memories and relish any opportunity to boast about all the things that we accomplished," Shahin said. "The program, much like the real world, is about opportunity. You get out of it what you put into it. For my classmates and me, MBI represented a monumental opportunity, one which we took full advantage of."