

# THE EVENING WEEKEND NEWS

A Newsletter for Montgomery College Part-Time Faculty  
Produced by the Rockville Campus Evening-Weekend Office

Charlotte Jacobsen, Editor

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Gail Youth, Layout

## Don't Just Sit There — Laura Siegelbaum

by Charlotte Jacobsen



Students don't just sit in Laura Siegelbaum's classes... oh no, they're required to take a stand on issues and defend them! They are required to analyze and debate. Recently she assigned an article on merit pay for teachers and then the students debated the pros and cons in small groups.

In the past, Laura has taught elementary school, worked with gifted and talented students, devised curriculum, and trained teachers. She was the principal of the Beverly Farms Elementary School in Potomac for 12 years. She prefers being in the classroom or on the firing line. She has been teaching reading courses at MC for five years where her students range from those new to education to those with many years of teaching experience. She particularly enjoys working with students who have experienced difficulty learning to read.

She practices a theory expounded by Jeff Howard\* of Harvard that, "*Smart is not something you are; smart is something you get by working hard and working smart.*" Laura loves to bring out the best in her students. She thinks that students are responsible for their achievements and their instructors are responsible for providing strategies helping them to succeed. She assumes the responsibility of convincing the student that they can

measure up. She does this by assigning a small task, analyzing the results and then concluding with a plan for the student to learn from their mistakes. The major ingredient for making this process work is a liberal dose of humor.

Laura describes herself as a gangly kid, the one who was always chosen as the last on the baseball team and would feel particularly bad when she heard, "You take her, we took her last time." Consequently, she feels sympathetic to students who have to deal with challenges in the classroom.

As an adult, she decided, she wanted to change her fitness profile so she put extraordinary effort into becoming more fit, working first with 5 pounds weights then 10, 15, 20. She has been so successful that she's taking the next step and is enrolled in courses at MC to become a fitness trainer! She thinks her own success in overcoming obstacles with fitness enables her to empathize with her students.

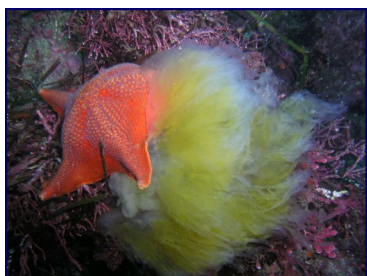
As an educator, she thinks the areas most important for improving one's teaching are (1) technology and (2) diversity and equity. She took a CTL course in podcasting to beef up her technology skills. For dealing with diversity issues, she recommends *Courageous Conversations* by Glenn Singleton.

*\* Jeff Howard currently leads the Efficacy Institute in Waltham, Massachusetts. He believes that all students are born with sufficient innate ability to achieve anything asked of them in school. This ability can be improved with effective effort. Whether students achieve and develop (get smarter) depends on their confidence in themselves and their willingness to invest effort effectively.*

## Germantown News

**Esat Atikkan** — Adjunct professor Esat Atikkan earned his doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania in molecular biology, then did research at NIH into the expression of the cancer cell genome, focusing in the area of transcription control mechanisms and computer simulation models for virus replication. His research has resulted in numerous publications in scientific journals.

Esat, who has been an adjunct at MC since the late 1980s, has taught courses at the Rockville campus which have included field ecology, marine biology, natural history of Chesapeake Bay and coral reef ecology. An avid diver who logs hundreds of dives per year, Esat, certified as a NAUI instructor, has also established courses in scuba diving at Germantown.



Esat combines his diving in locations as diverse as Indonesia, the Caribbean, the Red Sea and Mediterranean and the Chesapeake Bay (and local quarries) with spectacular underwater photography and the study of coral reef ecology. He exhibited some of his photography at a show with Professor Zeki Findikoglu at Germantown in 2007.

He graduated from Montgomery College's 8<sup>th</sup> Leadership Development Institute in May 2001, and was a CTL Faculty Fellow in 2008.

Esat's sense of humor and love of gourmet food have made him a focal point for conviviality among Germantown staff, especially since he has developed a reputation for knowing most of the outstanding restaurants located between Rockville and Frederick.

## Takoma Park/Silver Spring News

**Lisa Nevans Locke – Department of English, Reading, World Languages, and the American English Language Program, Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus.** One way I try to bring my professional work (as a journalist and freelance writer) into the classroom is to show my EN 102 students that the writing process I try to teach them isn't just an exercise, but is the way real writers and professionals operate. To that end, I have brought in examples of my own work as it has gone through various edits before publication. For example, I brought in page proofs from the guide book for which I served as editor last year, "Going Places with Children in Washington, D.C.," that were marked up with edits, corrections and comments. I showed them several versions of one or two pages, in various stages of editing, and the final pages as they appeared in the book.

Similarly, I brought in 4 or 5 of the edited versions of a recent cover story I wrote for *Bethesda Magazine*, showing how the lead of the story had evolved and how some anecdotes had been fleshed out and others dropped, as I continued to report on and then edit the story and discuss the evolving story with my editor. I then gave them the final, published, version of that same story.

I've brought these examples in as part of our discussions on editing and revising. Students often seem surprised by what they see. I point out that when I'm writing, I often make notes to myself that I will come back and fix later. For example, they'll see "Sept. xx, 20xx," and I'll tell them that I wasn't sure of the date when writing that early version of my draft and will show them in a later draft that I have filled in the correct date. Similarly, if I can't decide which word to use, I'll write both words down and bracket them, so I know that I have a word choice decision to make when I finish getting my thoughts down. Students are surprised to see that's really how it's done -- it isn't just something teachers preach about in class.

After I've done these exercises, students seem to have a clearer idea of what it means to revise a piece of writing. They make more changes in moving from draft to final version, and feel free to do more than tinker at the edges of their writing.

**Barbara Gleason's Re-Entry Program appreciated by MC part-time instructor, Jane Hall**

**Notice for Writing Program Faculty and Administrators**

Rita Kranidis, College Program Coordinator,  
*Writing in the Disciplines*

*Barbara,*

*If I can help in any way with this program please let me know. I graduated from MC (Germantown) with an associate's degree 1996, Phi Theta Kappa. I then went on to achieve my BS in Business Administration in 2002 from Strayer University, a Masters of Education from Strayer in 2006 and an Online Certificate from UMUC 2008.*

*All this while working full time, being a single mom for the last 10 years and being PTA president the last 3 years. During this my two older children graduated from the University of Delaware and Winthrop University respectively. While I was getting my BS, my middle child was in school and I had a baby.*

*I have been blessed to have a great job as Senior Vice President of American Bank and now this semester a part time adjunct professor at MC.*

*I would be more than happy to share my experiences with your students. It is not easy. I wanted to give up many times, but kept at it. My dream of teaching is being realized, while working full time as a banker.*

*I applaud your work and feel it is so important that people understand how difficult it is to go back to school while living life.*

*When I read your weekend news I felt compelled to let you know how important I think your work is for these adults.*

*Thank you for what you do.*

*Sincerely,*

*Jane Hall*

*Dear Fellow listers:*

*Last year, I created a survey for adjunct faculty working in a two-year or small four-year college where Writing Program Administrators or WPA-like person or committee was in existence. My goal was to better understand adjunct faculty attitudes toward and expectations of that Writing Program Administrators (WPA) or WPA-like person or committee. I presented the survey results at last year's National Writing Convention and Association (CCCC). This year, I want to follow-up on that survey with interview questions, either via email or phone, of a half-dozen people. My goal is to better understand and represent adjunct faculty experiences at such institutions to improve the working conditions of such faculty and the overall strength of all similar programs via CCCC, the writing program administrators conference (CWPA) , and the two-year arm of the CCC (TYCA).*

*If you are in such a position—as an adjunct faculty member at a two-year or small four-year college that has a WPA or WPA-like person or committee—I would love to hear from you. Especially, I'd like to hear from anyone who responded to the survey last year.*

*Sincerely,*

**Jeffrey Klausman**  
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**If you enjoy reading the Evening-Weekend News and would like to read past issues, go to:**

**<http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/ctl/Resources/newsletters.html>**

# Union News

by Jean Freedman



In June 2008, the adjunct faculty voted to have the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) as our representatives at Montgomery College. A bargaining committee, composed of adjunct faculty from all three campuses, is currently working with management to create our first union contract. As a member of the bargaining committee, I would encourage you to join the union -- the more adjuncts that join, the better the union can represent our needs. If you signed a card last spring saying that you were voting in favor of the union, you have NOT joined the union; to join, you need to complete a separate membership form, which you can get from any member of the bargaining committee or from union personnel. You can also download the membership form from the SEIU website: [www.seiu500cal.org/storage/MontgomeryCollege\\_card.pdf](http://www.seiu500cal.org/storage/MontgomeryCollege_card.pdf). I realize that many of you have questions about the union or may be interested in joining but do not know

how, so I have included the names of the bargaining committee members and their contact information. We are happy to answer questions, provide you with membership forms, and get your feedback so that we can bring your concerns to the bargaining table.

## **Rockville**

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## IMPORTANT Winter/Spring DATES



December 15-21	Exam Week
December 27, 5pm	Final grades due
December 24-Jan 1	Winter Holiday
January 5	Spring Semester starts
January 6	Winter session classes begin
January 19	College closed - MLK Jr. Day
January 26	Spring semester classes begin
March 16-22	Spring recess