

# The Evening Weekend News

A Newsletter for Montgomery College Part-Time Faculty

Produced by the Rockville Campus Evening Weekend Office

Charlotte Jacobsen, Editor

March 2010

Katie Torkashvan, Layout

## A Special Warm Welcome

Dr. Judy E. Ackerman

Provost, Rockville

Although it's now the spring 2010 semester, it feels as if spring is pretty far off. In any event, a warm welcome to new and returning part-time for the spring semester. Back in December, just prior to the Blizzard of 2009, we knew that the end of the fall semester was ending in an unusual manner and that ingenuity and flexibility were going to be the order of the day with regard to the canceled Saturday final exams. Special thanks to the faculty and staff who worked out ways to accommodate the needs of students. Those of us who have been at the College for some time can only remember one other day when fall final exams were cancelled because of snow.

It seems that the spring semester is starting out pretty dramatically with the Blizzard of 2010 that was preceded by a number of storms and followed pretty quickly by one more. It turns out that there is more snow in Maryland than in the ski resorts out west! Following all of these storms, our campuses were up and running relatively quickly thanks to the extraordinary efforts of our Facilities staff for their yeoman's job of snow removal so that we could safely walk around the campus and have a place to park cars. Please be sure to express your appreciation to our amazing staff.



One of the goals for the Rockville Campus this year was "Our Campus Community." During the fall semester there were a number of activities and events to bring members of our campus community together. The Volunteer Fair in September, sponsored by the Office of Student Life, helped all of us to learn about organizations in our area that benefit the greater community and that can use our help. The campus food service, Chartwells, sponsored a Farmer's Market in October. Each day there was a different entrée cooked on the outside grill that used many of the vegetables and fruits that were also available for purchase from local farms. I particularly enjoyed seeing faculty, staff and students gathering on the area between the Humanities Building and Computer Science building to see what produce was for sale and to order and eat their lunch. Although the current budget limitations meant that end-of-semester holiday parties needed to be different, that didn't stop us from getting together on December 17 for a wonderful, festive holiday potluck with a room warming fireplace projected on a wall in the Faculty Staff Dining Room.

I hope that you are enjoying watching the progress on the Rockville Science Center. It is already an imposing presence on our campus that should be ready for classes for the fall 2011 semester. Dr. Pinkney and I have been taking elected officials, who approved the funding for this building, on tours of the site. It is an opportunity to say thank you and to talk about the role of this building which will be the College's first LEED certified building as part of the Rockville Science Complex that will include a renovated Science East and Science West.

The College's Director of Emergency Planning is Bob Wirth. During the fall semester he kept us informed on how to reduce our chances of getting sick in the event of a major H1N1 outbreak. He is also responsible for providing updates on the College's Emergency Procedures in *Inside MC Online* and emails with links to these articles. I encourage each of you to review the College's Emergency Procedures that can be found at <http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/EDU/Plain2.aspx?id=4191> so that in an emergency you are better prepared to respond appropriately. You can access *Inside MC Online* at <http://insidemc.montgomerycollege.edu/index.php>.

Continued on page 2

## A Special Warm Welcome

Continued

One of the ways that members of the College community can get information in the event of an emergency is through Montgomery College ALERT which is one of the groups available through Alert Montgomery. This system notifies those who are signed up if there is a potential or immediate threat to the health and safety of the College community. It also provides notifications about College closure or delayed openings due to inclement weather or other emergencies. If you are not already signed up, you can do so at <https://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov/register.php>. Please ask your students to sign up for this service too.

Speaking of students, enrollment has been very strong this year. Enrollment for both the fall and spring at Rockville was up approximately seven percent compared with last year. That means that there were a record breaking 17,000 credit students at Rockville in the fall and over 16,000 this spring. Winter session enrollment increased 29% from last year!

Throughout the spring semester you will hear about how we will need to find ways to balance our FY 2011 budget through revenue enhancement and cost savings. As we think of ways to address the current budget challenges, it is important to remember our mission and to work together in a constructive, realistic way. Although not everyone can serve on the Budget Review Advisory Committee or its task groups, everyone has the opportunity to participate by submitting suggestions on revenue enhancement or cost savings to the budget office through the Cost Saving/Productivity Improvement Suggestion Box <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/budget/>. The Budget Review Advisory Committee will consider all of the suggestions.

At the Rockville Campus opening meeting on January 19<sup>th</sup>, the Faculty Council Chair, Professor Joanne Carl, arranged a panel that addressed the topic, "What skills will help our student thrive in today's workforce?" Panelists included Mr. Karl Atlow, Manager, University Relations & Talent, Marriott International, Mr. Richard Bowers, Montgomery County Fire Chief, Ms. Betsy Thompson, Superintendent of Recreation, City of Rockville, and Mr. Mike Priddy, CEO, Intervise, Inc, Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association. Each of the panel members spoke about the need for their employees to demonstrate organizational skills, problem solving skills, communications skills, honesty, creativity, dedication, the ability to work as a member of a team, commitment and loyalty. They also spoke about valuing employees who exhibited passion for what they did. A common theme was integrity, which was described as what you do when no one is watching you.

Thank you for what you do for Montgomery College students. I look forward to seeing you at one of the events on campus this semester and like you hope that spring is not too far off.

### IMPORTANT DATES

March 15- 21	Spring Recess
March 26, 5 pm	Mid Term Grades Due
May 10-16	Exam Week/Final Week of Classes
May 21	Official end of spring semester
May 31	Memorial Day/College closed
June 1	Summer Session I begins
June 21	Midsummer session classes begin
July 5	Independence Day observed
July 12	Summer session II classes begin
August 20	Official end of summer sessions



# Getting Here From There

Dan Moskowitz

Professor of Mathematics

Rockville

As I reflect on the goals we set when we decided to organize, I am reminded of the quotation from the Chinese philosopher Lao-tsu, “a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.” Our journey has had its ups and downs, and at times progress seemed illusive. But anything worth having takes time and effort, and organizing is no different. Much has happened since we embarked on this path in 2007, and though we are in the early stages of our journey, let’s take a moment to recognize the significance of our accomplishments thus far.

In the spring semester of 2008, the part-time faculty began to evaluate forming a union. In June of 2008, the faculty overwhelmingly voted in favor to unionize with SEIU Local 500. We then began negotiations with the College in perhaps the worst economic conditions facing the County and State in decades. In December 2009, we ratified our first Agreement with the College. The most visible benefit has been the 2.37% increase of ESH rates, but there are other substantive elements including job security provisions. Most importantly, the Agreement provides a framework for increasing our role and recognizing our value in the college community.

With rights and recognition comes responsibility. Immediately after coming to terms on the Agreement, the College welcomed our involvement and reached out to us to participate in a number of committees. Part-time faculty have been appointed to the Employee Engagement Committee, the Presidential Search Committee, the Budget Review Advisory Committee, and the President’s Governance Committee; and this is just the beginning. In addition to the existing college committee structure, our Agreement calls for the establishment of two new committees, a Labor-Management Committee and another committee to address access to healthcare and the disparity between part-time and full-time faculty compensation for instruction.

There are a number of areas of the Agreement that will take time to implement. The language in our individual teaching contracts will need to be revised to reflect rights and responsibilities in the union’s Agreement with the College. One item of note is the right for part-time faculty to apply for an annual appointment once certain criteria have been met.

Take time to review and understand the

Agreement. I encourage you to take advantage of any opportunity to engage with SEIU and the Campus Coordinators. In February, SEIU visited each campus to discuss the Agreement and answer questions. There will be more opportunities to become involved and contribute to the union. The larger the membership, the more faculty involved, the stronger and more valuable we become. So I encourage you to join the union, become active and have your voice heard.

There are no shortcuts to any place worth going, and that is true with our union. Developing our operating structure will take time and member involvement. For now, we have designated Campus Coordinators. The contact information for the Coordinators and for the SEIU Local 500 office is below. All of us will do our best to assist you in whatever way possible.

In closing, one of the truly rewarding joys in forming this union has been getting to meet so many exceptional, gifted, and committed people – faculty, administrators and staff. We come from many different perspectives, but we share a passion for teaching and learning, a respect for students and colleagues, and an aspiration to help Montgomery College fulfill its mission. I look forward to our future together.

#### Campus Coordinators:

- Victoria Baldassano, English (TP), also serves as a member of the Employee Engagement Committee; [Victoria.Baldassano@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:Victoria.Baldassano@montgomerycollege.edu)
- Dick Foster, English (R); [Richard.Foster@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:Richard.Foster@montgomerycollege.edu)
- Jean Freedman, History & Women’s Studies (R); [Jean.Freedman@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:Jean.Freedman@montgomerycollege.edu)
- Dan Moskowitz, Mathematics (R), also serves on the President’s Governance Committee; [Dan.Moskowitz@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:Dan.Moskowitz@montgomerycollege.edu)
- Alan Stover, Computer Applications (R), Business (TP), also serves on the Presidential Search Committee; [Alan.Stover@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:Alan.Stover@montgomerycollege.edu)
- Lynn White, Mathematics (G), also serves on the Budget Review Advisory Committee; [Lynn.White@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:Lynn.White@montgomerycollege.edu)

#### SEIU Local 500:

Anne McLeer, Director of Research/Strategic Planning, 301.740.7100; [mcleera@seiu500.org](mailto:mcleera@seiu500.org)

# Through Veterans Eyes

## Adjusting To Student Life at Montgomery College

Michael D'Andrea, MA

Professor of Sociology

Germantown Campus

Brian is a full time student at the Germantown Campus, a student in my fall 2009 Introduction to Sociology class, and a veteran. As a veteran (US Navy 1968-1970) I could identify and I think assist Brian in his journey from military to civilian life. Brian shared some of his experiences as an enlisted US Army Iraqi combat veteran with our class. "The first three weeks were hard for me. I was learning a new social structure. I was getting rewired from my old status." Brian was experiencing culture shock.

Culture shock is a disorientation you experience when you come into contact with a fundamentally different culture and where you can no longer depend upon your assumptions about the way social interactions are suppose to happen. You develop a new way of thinking, talking, and believing. The military trains you to learn a new occupation; you become the property of the United States Government. After a while you embrace a new military identity. Brian shared his experiences of culture shock, "The subculture of the Army makes you feel wanted and needed at the same time." As a sociologist I believe this feeling of being needed and loved by others is necessary for humans.

When you enter the military you enter into a new society. Upon arrival at Boot Camp you are greeted by uniformed enlisted military personnel who yell at you to get off the bus and order you to stand in line and be quiet. During your first few days you are stripped of your old civilian identity. The military takes away your civilian clothes, cell-phone, I-pod, video games, etc. You are given a "buzz cut." All communications to your old civilian home life is limited and controlled. The military changes your orientation to a non-material culture. You are no longer addressed by your first name and your entire day is controlled by your military Company Commander and other military personnel. The word "I" is forbidden it is "we." You are stripped of your old identity and given a new one. Sociologists refer to Boot Camp as a total institution.

After boot camp, Brian received orders to report to a combat army command unit in Iraq but like all military personnel was allowed to go home for two weeks. In Iraq Brian drove a truck transporting supplies to field infantry personnel in combat zones. One day while driving his military vehicle Brian just missed an Improvised Explosive Device (I.E.D.) planted by the Taliban. "The I.E.D. was a shock of fear and death all rolled into one." About two weeks after the I.E.D. missed the army truck Brian was driving he began to feel this "shock" to his system. "This shock was with me all of the time. With a new wife and baby on the way, I

decided to change my life. I decided to get out of the Army at the end of my enlistment and start a new career." When Brian's commitment to the military ended he decided not to reenlist and submitted the necessary discharge paperwork for processing through the military chain of command. Sociologists would call this process of submitting discharge papers to the military chain of command the beginning of a role exit. Role exit is when a person changes their master status. One has to now learn new social rules of behavior in their new master status. Brian began a new re-socialization process back into the civilian world in college and in a new master status as a college student.

"One day I reported for Physical Training (reporting for work) and the next day I was a veteran." At first this was not a shock but after a month I began to feel as if I had abandoned my unit. I felt alone in my thoughts about not being told what to do. This feeling still to this day is not gone even after two years; my adjustment to civilian life is a lot harder than I thought. I feel alone because I let the Army take control of my social habits." Brian Smith thought he was going to have a career in the Army. "I am now studying at Montgomery College so I can become a Criminologist."

There are 600 plus student veterans attending Montgomery College. How can we as faculty members help to build veteran friendly campuses? At the Germantown campus in the SA Building Richard Berglund, Counselor makes space available for the Veterans Club. Brian has become a member of the Veteran's Club and enjoys his social interaction with other student veterans. Student veterans can contact Student Life at 240-567-7103 or email [Joanna.Starling@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:Joanna.Starling@montgomerycollege.edu). We can recommend veterans view the Department of Veterans Affairs video on the new Post 9/11 GI Bill <http://www1.va.gov/opa/feature/amvet/video/amvet2009-7-1.asx>. We can recommend marine veteran, Jason Franklin's, physical fitness instruction and activities for student veterans in PE 137B. Open Tuesday/Thursday 2:15- 5:00 PM, and Friday 1:00 -3:00 PM at the Rockville Campus. We can also recommend Jason Franklin's Free Acupuncture Clinic - which is approved by the Department Of Veterans Affairs which has improved clarity, focus, energy, and improved sleep for veterans.



## Add Service Learning to Your Class

Nik Sushka  
Service Learning Coordinator  
Rockville

In January of 2009, I joined the Rockville campus as its Service Learning Coordinator. In the past year, I've worked with faculty in a variety of disciplines to integrate community service projects with learning objectives, called Service Learning Projects, into their courses. These projects have ranged from designing Spanish-language children's books during a unit on the imperative form to direct service at local non-profits using newly-learned Microsoft Office skills, and have included courses like Spanish 202, Computer Applications 120, and an honors module in Biology 205.

One experience this year illustrates well the short- and long-term impact of these Service Learning courses. MC Student Kevin Connors found his way to my office last fall. Connors had taken classes previously on the Germantown campus, where Service Learning Coordinator Kris Borcharding had helped Professor Carla Naranjo use service-learning in Spanish 102. In that course, Connors had chosen to do an optional 15 hours of service at a pre-approved site in lieu of 20 hours in a language lab. One of the pre-approved sites was the Gilchrist Center for Cultural Diversity in Wheaton, where Connors began serving as a Computer Skills Workshop Aide and has been volunteering ever since.

When Connors registered for Professor Parvina Wyndham's Spanish 202 at Rockville last fall, he wanted to do service learning again. He told me that the in-person interaction with Spanish-speakers during the workshops had helped improve his conversational Spanish skills tremendously. And so, I helped Professor Wyndham design a way to evaluate Connors learning through the service placement and create a reflection paper for the course.

An excerpt from Connors' reflection paper illustrates the benefits of service-learning to students and the community partners they help:

90% of the people that enter the Center are Spanish speakers, so most of the services provided are for people who speak Spanish. After the Spanish computer classes ended, I started volunteering for other things at the Center because just being present there helped me work on my Spanish since it is spoken there so frequently.

The day is always very busy with hardly enough time to breath, but it is exhilarating. All of the clients that I work with speak English as a second language so it can very difficult to communicate, but it has really given me experience to be able to do so. Before I started to volunteer in the Center, I had little patience for people that I was not able to understand, but now I am able to understand the situation that they are in, and realize that patience it very important.

This spring, I continue to work with faculty using service learning, and students like Kevin Connors who want to make the most of the learning opportunities at Montgomery College. I am also offering trainings in Service Learning 101: Best Practices and College Resources through the Center for Teaching & Learning. Interested faculty may also contact me in the Office of Student Life anytime.

Office of Student Life, Campus Center 010A  
Montgomery College-Rockville Campus  
(240) 567-5261

[www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/stdactrv/](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/Departments/stdactrv/)



Center for Cultural Diversity

## News from the Germantown Campus



Esther Finder

The Germantown Part-Time Faculty Committee hosted the second in our series of lectures, "Adjunct Faculty Presents" in December with Esther Finder, who spoke on "Making a Difference Outside the Classroom", speaking about her work with Holocaust survivors. There will be at least two more lectures offered in the Spring semester, including Desiree DiFabio's upcoming talk entitled, "Frankly, my Dear, I'm too Busy Reading: How I Became the Book Club Queen". Please watch email and information on Inside MC for the dates and times of upcoming lectures. We hope to see you there!

The Part-Time Faculty Committee is starting to plan for the spring reception for adjunct faculty. If you have any comments or suggestions about this yearly celebration, please contact either Belle Scheibner or Dina Yagodich, co-chairs of the committee. Dates and other information will be published soon.

## News from the Takoma Park Campus

### The Takoma Park/Silver Spring French and Francophone Film Festival Keith Cohen

**Professor of English and French literature**

The Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus is a wellspring of French and Francophone language and culture, with many students from Africa and the Caribbean. Walking through the student center brings to the listener the lilt of global French. To support our Francophone students, educate the campus at large about French and Francophone culture, and spotlight our burgeoning World Languages and Afternoon Arts and Letters programs, the campus is holding a French and Francophone Film Festival in Spring 2010. I am curating the festival, which is made possible by a Make It Happen Innovation Grant.

The program of films represents the breadth of Francophone culture, with two films from France, one from West Africa (Senegal), one from North Africa (Tunisia), and one from the Caribbean (Martinique). The subject matter is wide-ranging, from ethnic strife and social inequity to broad satire.

All films are in French with English sub-titles. Each screening is followed by a discussion led by a French film expert. Admission is free. There will also be lots of Caribbean, French, and African food.

Screenings are on Tuesdays at 5:30 pm in the Little Theatre, TP/SS Performing (Cultural) Arts Center #208:

- Tuesday, March 9 – *Sugar Cane Alley (Rue cases nègres, 1983)* directed by Euzhan Palcy, from Martinique. Discussion leader: Prof. David Rothman.
- Tuesday, March 23 - *400 Blows (Les quatre cents coups, 1959)*, directed by Francois Truffaut, from France.
- Tuesday, April 6 – *Xala (1975)* directed by Ousmane Sembene, from Senegal.
- Tuesday, April 20 - *Weekend (1967)* directed by Jean-Luc Godard, from France.

Tuesday, May 4 – *Bye-Bye (1995)* directed by Karim Dridi, from Tunisia.

Brief assignments for your classes are available in French and English. Please come and enjoy our college's first Festival of French and Francophone Film!

## The Bible as the Literature of Social Justice

Dr. Richard Lederman

The First Year Experience theme of Social Justice inspired me to think creatively about EN209, The Bible as Literature, which I teach at the TP/SS campus in the Afternoon Arts and Letters program. In developing EN209 with a Social Justice theme, I discovered one central complexity, however. The Bible contains many inspiring images of what it means to create a society based on social justice, particularly in its concern for the poor and disenfranchised. At the same time, there are numerous other images that remind us of society's general enmity and hostility toward those who are outsiders: not part of the nation, the covenant community, or the church.

The Bible was written by real flesh-and-blood humans who used it to explore and understand what it means to be human, the nature of divinity, the relationship between the human and the divine, the struggle to form religious community and to understand the nature of leadership in the community, and our relationship to the "other" outside of the community.

Only when we begin to comprehend what these documents meant to the people whom they first addressed—within their own communal context—can we truly allow them to speak to us. It is with this approach in mind that my class and I are focusing on biblical views of Social Justice, understanding that these views represent an evolving struggle to balance the needs of different social, political, and economic groups in society and to regulate relations with people thought of as outsiders. With that understanding we can also use The Bible to help us tackle these same issues in our lives.



---

## News from the Rockville Campus

Jay Zawatsky, part-time professor in the Business Department, will be hosting a one hour show on 570 WTNT. The show, called ***Need to Know***, will be broadcast on Saturday mornings at 8 AM - 9 AM, starting March 6.

Jay will concentrate on business, finance and economic topics. As the show builds an audience, he plans to have guests from the world of business and economics. Jay also is planning to have an occasional segment in which he will interview business students, including outstanding MC students (as well as UM and Smith MBA students), about their view of the economy and their prospects for the future.

Based on his independent research and thirty years of being in a host of businesses, Jay believes that the US monetary system is irretrievably broken. In his estimation, payment obligations incurred by all levels of government, federal, state and municipal, including current debt, unfunded entitlements and unfunded pension liabilities, can never be met. As a result, Jay foresees years of reduced living standards and increased social unrest, as generations are pitted against each other for dwindling financial resources. Jay will discuss ways regular people can protect themselves from the economic hardships that he believes are headed our way.

Here is a link to the radio show's website: [www.needtoknowradio.com](http://www.needtoknowradio.com)

# French Film Festival



Coming 3/9!

## "Sugar Cane Alley"

A film from MARTINIQUE—IN FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES

### Winner

Best Actress, Best First Film—Venice Film Festival 1983

**Tues., March 9, 5:30-7:30pm**

**TPSS Campus—Performing Arts 208**

Discussion following the film led by Prof. David Rothman

The French Film Festival is made possible with a Montgomery College Make It Happen Innovation Grant