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# THE EVENING WEEKEND NEWS

A Newsletter for the Part-time Montgomery College Faculty

October 2006

Charlotte Jacobsen, Editor

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## You *Can* Go Back To High School

By Mitch Orgel

I don't know about you, but every time I see a movie about high school (think *Grease*), and see how much fun everyone is having, I think "Boy, high school was so good, wouldn't I love to do it all over again!" So, when I got a call from Janet Johnson, the College Institute Director at Montgomery College, to teach Introduction to Business, BA 101, I jumped at the chance. The College Institute is a partnership program between MC and MCPS which provides high achieving high school seniors with the opportunity to take college courses at the high school campus during the regular school day. Courses are all taught by Montgomery College faculty. The program offers college classes at four high schools to 300 students.



Lots of current events, lots of class involvement (give them a problem, put them in groups, and let them figure it out). And, lots of food! That's the key. Feed the kids whenever you can. What students don't have from life experience, they make up for with critical thinking, hard work and determination. They're not angels - just bright, hard working seniors wanting to make the most of their senior year and stretch with college level classes.

Teaching business to 40 energetic, enthusiastic, and smart high school students sounded great...no more "no shows," and no disciplinary problems. And, remember those high school holidays, vacations, and snow days? Last year school was closed one day when it rained hard! College Institute classes close for Montgomery College's spring break, as well as Montgomery County's spring break. Holding classes one week longer with final exams during the first day of professional week was a small price to pay for having two spring breaks.

I also get my own parking space. And, not that I don't miss Lornelle Blankenship, our administrative aide, but Joanne Allen, College Institute Coordinator at Gaithersburg High School, and Jane Storck, College Institute Coordinator at Wootton High School, put most others to shame. If they even *think* I need something, it's done. I kid you not. Once, Joanne noticed I was cold in the classroom last winter and she loaned me her sweater (cashmere, no less)! You need coffee, water, supplies? Just ask.

And, the students are the best part. They (most of them) really seem interested. After all, they are seniors in high school, and everyone has fun in high school, right? I teach the course exactly as I do any other college class regardless of location. After all, this is no watered down course.

I bring in guest speakers from business and industry whenever I can. Two reasons - one, less work for me (kidding!); and two, to give the students a different perspective. What better way to learn about "legal" than from a lawyer?

And, of course, where would my class be without jokes? I want the kids to have fun while they are learning. I think when a subject is supplemented with a story, or amusing anecdote, it is remembered better. Like, how do you tell the difference between a high school student and a college student? When the professor enters the classroom, and says "good morning," the high school students answer "good morning." The college students write it down.

Last April my students entered the Entrepreneurship Expo competition sponsored by MCPS Division of Career and Technical Education and the Montgomery College Macklin Center for Entrepreneurship. College Institute BA 101 students presented their business plans as part of the college student division and won top prizes two years in a row (April 2006 won first and third prizes in college student division). Way to Go! The competition included several hundred Montgomery College students. Get ready for even bigger and better this year!

Still not convinced? O.K., tell you what! Come visit my College Institute class. Just send an email ([mitch.orgel@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:mitch.orgel@montgomerycollege.edu)) and we'll schedule a time. Be prepared! If you come to class, I'm going to put you to work, but I'll also feed you!

## Focus on Part-Time Faculty

*Dorothy Phaire, English*

*Charlotte Jacobsen*

Dorothy Phaire wants to do community outreach by promoting the arts through the mission of her theater company called Heralds of Hope. Dorothy has been an adjunct instructor at Montgomery College in the English Department for the past seven years and is currently teaching for the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus. During my interview with Dorothy I discovered that her method of promoting the arts is a bit different; she writes novels and plays, which she produces after conducting 8-week summer theater workshops with students and aspiring actors. She has produced two plays: *This Side of Jordan* and *Saving Us Saints*. They were staged in Washington D. C. and Maryland in 2004 and 2006. Her plays covered teen peer pressure, sexual infidelity in marriage, and choosing a lifelong soul mate. Dorothy's plays attack deep social issues in a humorous story and are set to music. All of her plays are in a series that feature the Jordan family.

Her new play that she is currently writing is called *Mama Pearl Gets Engaged*. She says that some of the future issues that she'd like to write about are loneliness and depression, teen pregnancy, gang violence, religious intolerance, drug abuse, and HIV/AIDS in the African American community. Dorothy says that the Jordan family storyline offers a rich vehicle for displaying these issues because audiences really respond to the strong Mama Pearl character, the matriarch of the Jordan family. Dorothy sums up her purpose in a quote, "in creating a series of storylines with the Jordan family in turmoil and facing new challenges, my purpose for the plays is to provide a "slice of life" showing real-life dilemmas that people often face."



Dorothy Phaire

While Dorothy loved writing as a child, she wasn't always in the arts. She wrote computer code for a living for various companies including MCI and IBM. She attempted to write computer code and fiction simultaneously, but found she couldn't easily make the linear thinking switch to using her imagination for her novels. In addition to her play projects, she is working on two categories of novels: a contemporary fiction series and a novel in the historical fiction genre.

Her plans for the future: Dorothy wants to convert her theater company to a 501(3C) in order to qualify for grants. She has learned that the major problem to producing her plays is funding, funding, funding. She is looking for volunteers with excellent leadership and marketing skills that would love to get involved in theatre projects at the ground level. Visit the author, playwright at her website at [www.dorothyphaire.com](http://www.dorothyphaire.com)

### IMPORTANT DATES

Nov. 22	No Classes
Nov. 23—26	Thanksgiving; College closed
Dec. 17—23	Exams
Dec. 24—Jan 1	Winter Holidays; College Closed
Jan 22	Spring Semester Classes Begin



# Welcome to the Center of Teaching and Learning

By John Coliton

Director, Center for Teaching and Learning



John Coliton

I would like to welcome all faculty, full-time and adjunct, to come and visit the Center for Teaching and Learning. Whether you are familiar with our services or not, please stop in for some coffee and conversation. Our role at the college is to provide professional development opportunities for faculty. These opportunities tend to fall into one of two categories, either using technology in support of classroom activities or discussing strategies and "best practices" for teaching our changing student population. We offer workshops on all three campuses covering many different topics in many different formats, as well as a place to drop-in at Rockville for one-on-one assistance.

The staff of the CTL includes Marlinda Boxley, a full-time Instructional Designer at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus, Carol Annink-Lehman, a full-time Instructional Designer at the Germantown campus, and at the Rockville campus we have Alan Vincent, the CTL Coordinator, Kim Emery, the Instructional Assistant, and the effervescent June Clarke as our Administrative Aide. I am John Coliton, the CTL Director, and have the opportunity to spend time on all three campuses each week. In addition to our full-time staff we also have a group of wonderfully qualified volunteers, faculty fellows, and paid assistants. We are all available to assist you both individually as well as in small groups such as department meetings or workshops. Our phone numbers and offices are listed on our Web site (more about that below) or if you are at the Rockville Adjunct Faculty Office you can just walk across the hall to HU008 and come on in!

In October alone we will be presenting workshops on how to use Google to locate resources for your classes, how to use the built-in course tools in the MyMC portal, commenting on student papers in Word, and using Excel to help manage grades among others. We are also offering workshops on how to incorporate writing into the discipline, holistic teaching strategies, how to maintain a climate of civility in the classroom, and strategies for teaching courses that blend on-line with face-to-face delivery. Although we would love to have everyone attend every session that is obviously not possible, so we do try to re-

peat sessions at different times and days on different campuses throughout the semester. The key to finding out what we have to offer is to visit our website (<http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/ctl>) and choose the "CTL Workshops" link. While you are at the website you might also want to visit the links to "Resources for Faculty" which includes handouts on how to build a learner-centered syllabus, how to build a Web toolkit for classes, and even how to deal with disruptive students. These three examples are just a quick sample of the hundreds of tutorials, presentations and handouts that have been collected on the Web site.

I hope I have piqued your interest enough to stop in to the CTL, or visit the Web site to see some of the many resources we have collected over the many years we have been in existence. I can also assure you from first hand experience that the coffee is above average and the conversation is definitely worth the visit. Welcome to the CTL, I hope you stop in some time and say "hi."

CENTER  
FOR  
TEACHING  
AND  
LEARNING

**NEED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN  
YOUR INSTRUCTION?**

**Come into the CTL, Humanities Room 008  
or...**

**Sign up for a CTL workshop**

[http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/ctl/  
workshops/workshop.htm](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/ctl/workshops/workshop.htm)

**NEED HANDOUTS, PROGRAMS,  
RESOURCES?**

Go to [www.montgomerycollege.edu/ctl](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/ctl)

## A Closer Look at Ourselves

By Sharon Fechter and Karen Roseberry

*Chairs, Montgomery College Middle States Accreditation Self-Study*

Our decennial re-accreditation is upon us and we have begun an in-depth exploration of our institution -- a self-study process that will culminate in March of 2008 as a team of peer evaluators from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education visits us and makes recommendations regarding the status of our institution. Our Self-Study report will provide the foundation for this effort.

We have identified several important goals for this initiative:

- To craft a document grounded in solid research and based on data that will lead to the College's re-accreditation by the MSCHE and will serve as a blueprint for the continued integration of planning and assessment to guide us in the future enhancement of College operations
- To involve and inform all constituencies in the ongoing process of self-evaluation
- To affirm the currency of the College's Mission, Goals, and Objectives
- To further integrate systematic assessment into College programs and operations, including educational programs, student services, administrative units, Workforce Development and Continuing Education, and leadership and governance
- To demonstrate the strength of the College's educational programs, to determine areas where change is mandated, and to begin the process of implementing those changes
- To assess the utilization of resources in support of the educational and institutional goals as articulated in the College's Goals and Objectives and in its evolving Learning College focus
- To identify appropriate steps to address the challenges facing the institution in the near and long terms, including issues of access, capacity, and student achievement

Five work groups have been established to ascertain how Montgomery College meets the 14 Standards of Excellence articulated by the Commission in the publication *Characteristics of Excellence*. Work Groups members were carefully selected from all areas of the College community. The Work Groups are charged with evaluating their standards in light the College mission goals, and objectives, as framed, in our case, within the context of the Learning College. This comprehensive review will allow the College to measure progress to date on priorities and issues that have



Sharon Fechter

been identified by the institution and to determine how we are poised programmatically and structurally to address these.

Work Group members are hard at work carrying out their research this term and we hope to have a preliminary draft of the Self-Study early in the spring. For example, Work Group II is specifically concerned with status of faculty at the institution and Work Group IV is charged with examining the educational programs at the College. Of particular interest in this round of accreditation is the increased emphasis on assessment and accountability,

as seen in the charges developed by Work Group V. Work Group membership, standards, and charges may be found on the Self-Study website.

Our general timetable for this complex and comprehensive process follows:

<b>Fall 2006</b>	Self-Study Design submitted to Middle States
<b>Fall 2006</b>	Self Study Research and Analysis
<b>Spring 2007</b>	First Draft of Self-Study Report completed College discussion of first draft of Self-Study Report
<b>Fall 2007</b>	Second draft of Self-Study Report completed College discussion of 2nd draft of Self-Study Report Self-Study reviewed by Cabinet, President & BOT Self-Study Report sent to Team Chair for review Visit by Evaluation Team Chair Final College discussion of Self-Study Report Final Self-Study Report approved by Cabinet, President, and Board of Trustees Self-Study Report sent to Evaluation Team Evaluation Team Chair visit
<b>Spring 2008</b>	Evaluation Team Visit
<b>Summer 2008</b>	Commission Action (June)

As Dr. Nunley noted in her letter to our Middle States liaison upon submission of our Self-Study Design, "The College has been energized by the self-study process and we have wide participation from all constituencies. We are looking forward to a successful and useful self-study that will move us forward in our mission of changing lives."

Please visit the Self-Study website ([www.montgomerycollege.edu/msss](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/msss)) for more detailed information and feel free to contact us if you would like to participate.