

THE EVENING WEEKEND NEWS

A Newsletter for the Part-time Montgomery College Faculty

December 2007

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Don Smith, Director EWO

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Focus on Part-time Faculty Comedian/Professor Dave Moktoi



Dave, as a way of entertaining and educating audiences on socio-political issues in Cameroon, started a theater company called Uhuru Drama in 1977. His theater company was described by the Non-Profit NGO web site described as, "This was happening in an environment totally deprived of any sort of democracy and freedom of speech. Not many dared speak their mind like this

'crazy guy'. Often dubbed subversive by the despotic regimes in power, his awareness-raising performances and audi-cassettes earned him lots of trouble on one side, prompt and popular success on the other side. Fifteen years later he was referred to by the media in his native Cameroon as 'the most visionary and corrosive activist entertainer of the eighties'." Since this period Dave has drawn upon his unique experiences and skills to create cultural awareness and sensitivity through performances, films, workshops, and one-on-one encounters. As a consultant and creator of cross-cultural programming for the education community, he produced plays, comedies, and films aimed at HIV/AIDS prevention for WHO, UNAIDS, UNESCO, the British Council, and other international organizations.

Dave has a plan to share the power of comedy with MC students. He will do this through "The Funniest Student Show." The season will consist of a weekly 30-minute three-installment field production aiming to enhance student success while promoting the arts at MC. It will feature gifted student comics using the theme "academic success knows no excuses" as they meaningfully participate in the competitive, educational, and entertaining sharing of ideas and information poking fun at those students that make excuses for late homework, missed exams, etc.

In the spring semester, Dave plans to facilitate workshops for students to craft their comedy art. These will be conducted by a Master Teacher from a Washington DC Comedy Club. Upon completion of the workshop, finalists will engage in a Comedy Contest culminating in an awards ceremony taped in front of a live audience. Cash prizes, awards, and the title "Funniest Student at MC" will be forthcoming for winners. The title winner may get to represent Montgomery College at the Annual DC's Funniest College Comedy Contest. In addition, all participants will increase their mastery of the fundamentals of stand-up comedy by creating, developing, and performing funny jokes. In addition, students will establish new roles and connections and learn to communicate more effectively with people from cultures different from their own. Dave thinks that the experience will provide students with experiences that will increase their chances of success in any area.

Dave plans to have a "live-on-tape" production in mid-April which may be co-sponsored with ITV10 and Access Montgomery TV. This show will provide a new spin on community television.

Welcome Lolly Aquino

Lolly Aquino is the bright new face in the Evening/Weekend Office (EWO). She is in a busy first semester at MC where she is taking courses leading to being accepted in the Nursing Program and also works in the Reading/Writing Lab. She left the Philippines a little over a year ago where she did marketing for a bank and an insurance company.



Focus on Part-time Faculty Author/Professor Dorothy Phaire



Adjunct Professor, Dorothy Phaire, has had a busy year as a novelist, playwright, and educator teaching online English courses at Montgomery College.

This summer, after conducting her second annual 8-week "free"

drama workshop, Dorothy produced and staged yet another successful run of her original play *Saving Us Saints*, which debuted last year in August 2006 at the University of the District of Columbia. Theater majors and aspiring actors from the community performed this year at the University of Maryland (Aug. 17-18) and the Greenbelt Arts Center (Oct. 26-28; Nov. 2-4). The play opened and closed with great reviews. After the opening night's show on October 26, Greenbelt News Review staff writer, Edit Beauchamp wrote, "Music and a strong sense of humor keep this show moving and fun as the play realistically addresses some tough issues: teen peer pressure, a family struggling to raise their gifted teenage daughter, an unexpected baby on the way, job pressures, sexual infidelity in marriage and issues of faith." The final show on Nov. 4 was taped and has since been aired on Greenbelt Access Television. Dorothy says that she and the artistic director, Dr. Percy Thomas, are collaborating on a movie version of *Saving Us Saints* and plan for a 2010 release date of the film. While most would say Dorothy's summer teaching and play production schedule was more than enough to consume a hectic workday, that's not all! In October of this year, her new novel was released.

Murder and the Masquerade is the first book in the Dorothy Phaire Romantic Mystery Series. Set under the backdrop of our nation's capital, Murder and the Masquerade is a story of self-discovery for an attractive yet lonely psychologist who feels trapped in an unfulfilling life; the character then goes through an emotional and sexual awakening to reclaim her inner strength and passion for life. Through a series of unfortunate circumstances, she finds herself involved in a murder case, where initially she is a suspect. She then becomes conflicted about her ethical oath as a psychologist to protect her patient, who later becomes the prime suspect, and a growing passion for her young lover, who is investigating the murder case.

Recently, Dorothy was asked by an English major at the University of Maryland to give an interview for an assignment the student was doing on local writers. Dorothy recalled one of the UMD student's interview

questions was particularly difficult to answer: [What are some of the benefits to being a writer?](#) Dorothy says she gave the student's question a lot of thought before answering. She didn't want to discourage this student from becoming a writer, but she also needed to present a realistic picture. The fact is, most unknown writers do not get a six figure book deal or get on Oprah's Book Club Selection list! Dorothy answered the only way she could--from her own perspective.

"For me writing is like a compulsion because that's who I am, a writer. However, the writer's life is not necessarily as glamorous as some people may think. Like many women writers today and in the past, I strive to balance a busy teaching schedule with writing. Trying to juggle life's many obligations to spirit, family, self, and work is an ongoing challenge for me. Sometimes at the end of the day there's simply no energy left to draw on my creativity. But when I get discouraged about not being where I want to be in my own literary writing pursuits I remind myself that when chasing one's dreams, "It's All About the Journey." I have this quote tacked on my office wall at home, with a picture of a winding road as the backdrop. It reminds me to maintain balance in life and consequently not to feel frustrated if I can't write a poem, a play, or a new chapter in my novel. This quote also reminds me that no matter how long I am away from writing I know that, *When you turn your attention away from what you love most, it comes to sit on your shoulder.* So for me the important thing to do is to build my writer's altar inside my soul and know that it's all about the journey. It's not about tangible 'benefits'. It's about recognizing self."

(continued on page 3)

IMPORTANT DATES

December 15-21	Final exams
December 21	Last day of classes
Dec 24-Jan 1	Winter holidays; College closed
January 16	Part-time Faculty Information Session
January 22	Spring semester classes begin
March 10-16	Spring recess
April 30	Part-time Faculty Appreciation Affair
May 6-12	Final week of classes - exams
May 16	Commencement
May 27	Summer session I
July 7	Summer session II



January 14, 2008 Workshops

Grades in Excel	Carol Decker	CS016	1:00—2:30
Literacy	Samantha Veneruso	HU111	3:00—4:30
Library Resources	Pat Semple	TC231	5:00—6:30

CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING

Need technical assistance in your instruction? Come into the CTL, Humanities Room 008 OR sign up for CTL workshops at:

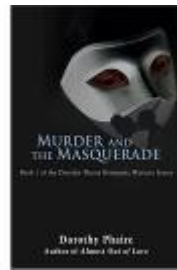
<http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/ctl/workshops/workshop.htm>

Need handouts, programs, resources? Go to:

<http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/ctl>

(DOROTHY PHAIRE continued from Page 2)

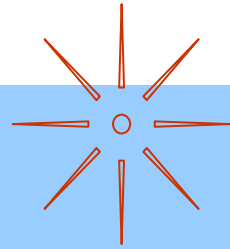
Sidebar About Dorothy Phaire. She is the president and founder of a non-profit called Heralds of Hope Theater Company (HHTC). HHTC's mission is to promote, mentor, and provide a platform of artistic expression for aspiring actors and technicians of all ages. HHTC is a community theater company whose aim is to offer a fertile training experience for aspiring actors, writers, producers, set designers, choreographers, and lighting/sound directors. Dorothy now teaches online writing courses for Montgomery College's Distance Learning program. In past semesters, Dorothy has taught a range of courses, namely; first year composition, women literature and world literature. Visit Dorothy's website at: www.dorothyphaire.com.



Murder and the Masquerade is available through www.amazon.com, www.barnesandnoble.com, and through the publisher at www.iUniverse.com. Dorothy can be reached at dphaire@aol.com.

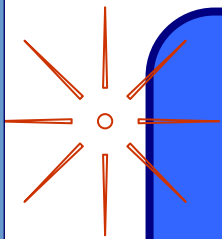
Announcements:

- ◆ Click on the "Inside MC Online" icon on the campus computers for daily happenings. "Inside MC Online" can also be accessed on the web at <http://insidemc.montgomerycollege.edu>
- ◆ Part-time Faculty: If you are having difficulty making copies in the Evening/Weekend Office or need classroom supplies during those mid-day times that no staff are on duty in the EWO, please visit your department for assistance.
- ◆ If something's bugging you...don't just fret and complain, drop a note in the box inside the EWO office.
- ◆ Don Smith, EWO Director, is available most nights and Saturdays to assist with questions and campus matters of any kind. He can be reached at his office, TC 220, on 240-567-7525. Dial Security directly at **240-567-5111** - for emergencies. Security tip: enter MC Security into your cell phone: 240-567-5111 for emergency situations.
- ◆ 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>
- ◆ Want to make it easier for your students and colleagues to reach you? Then sign up for a Montgomery College e-mail! Your department administrative aide will assist you.
- ◆ Part-time faculty will be able to make contributions to a 403(b) plan at MC beginning January 1, 2008. 403(b)'s are supplemental retirement plans where contributions are made on a pre-tax basis which reduces taxable income and earnings grow tax-deferred. You will pay taxes at the time the funds are distributed which will likely occur during your retirement years when you are most likely in a lower tax rate. Details will follow.
- ◆ Would you like post-holiday exercise opportunities between classes? Part-time faculty with a full semester assignment may participate in MC Wellness offerings. These offerings include gym use, Yoga, kickboxing, etc. Part-time faculty must pay the cashier at the same rate as current faculty and staff with benefits and provide a paid receipt to HR. Everyone must complete a registration/waiver form and submit it to HR. For information go to MyMC, click on the Human Resources link, and then click on the Wellness Connection link.



**Rockville Part-time Faculty
Spring 2008**

Information Session



*Please join us for the
**Rockville Part-time Faculty
Information Session.***

This session is designed primarily for new part-time faculty, but it will also be useful for returning faculty who would like to refresh their knowledge of the College's policies and resources. Please come and network with peers while enjoying refreshments.

Date: Wednesday, January 16th

<i>Time:</i>	<i>5:30-7:00</i>
<i>Refreshments:</i>	<i>5:00</i>
<i>Location:</i>	<i>SW 122</i>
<i>Phone:</i>	<i>240-567-5242</i>