

Featured MCRPA Spotlight Member - January 2016



Matthew Ratz

1. What is your role at Montgomery College?

I am an adjunct professor of English Composition. I've taught the whole composition sequence, from ENGL 001 (Developmental English) to ENGL 103 (Business and Technical Writing).

2. How long have you been in the field?

I have been an educator for nearly ten years; I spent five years teaching middle and high school English. I'm currently a non-profit program coordinator working with adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

3. How long have you been at Montgomery College?

I've been teaching at MC since August 2010.

4. What are some of your hobbies?

I have two sons, five and two-and-a-half, so my hobbies are their hobbies: Legos, television shows, etc. When they're asleep, I enjoy reading nonfiction, specifically works on management and organizational behavior. I subscribe to the Harvard Business Review and relish the opportunity to read its articles every month.

5. What would be your ideal dream vacation?

I'm a closet adventurer, so I'd love to do some Indiana Jones-style exploring of remote sites. I'm not a big fan of guided tours, though, so it would need to be somewhere where I could roam about.

6. What is the first thing you would buy if you won the lottery?

Our house; I'd pay off our mortgage, car loans and student loans. Then, probably, a Tesla S-series.

7. What's the one thing you can't live without?

I'm finding, after almost nine years of marriage, that life gets really complicated when my wife, Naomi, is not around. She makes my life easier.

8. What's your favorite childhood memory?

I had a rough time in school. I was the victim of bullying for a long time. But, I had one teacher, Mrs. Rothstein, when I was in 4th grade; she saw something in me and made me the star of our end-of-year class play. That was (a) my first time performing on stage and (b) my most vivid memory of a teacher showing her compassion in a tangible way.

9. What was the last movie you watched? How many stars would you give it if you were a Movie Critic?

My son and I went to see The Good Dinosaur and it brought tears to my eyes. And my wife and I are watching The Big Sleep for her film class (which she's teaching). Both films would rate highly.

10. What was the last sport or music concert event you attended?

I'm not a big concert-goer, but for my birthday Naomi bought us tickets to Classic Albums Live at Wolftrap. The band played The Beatles' Abbey Road track for track. It was so awesome to hear those songs played live. We also love musicals and recently saw Cole Porter's Anything Goes which was fantastic.

11. If you could get a second chance for a “dream job”, would you still be doing what you’re doing right now or is there another job you would love to have?

I teach at MC part-time, but I want to be a full-time college professor. I love teaching, and I really love presenting at conferences and writing for publication (I have an article on Autism coming out this month). I'm hoping to start my doctoral program this summer to begin moving in that direction so I can actualize my dream.