

AAUP NEWSLETTER

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Montgomery College Chapter

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Presidents Corner

By Harry Zarin

Negotiations

Most of you want up-to-date information about negotiations. As you know, because the specifics of what is happening at the table are confidential, there is only so much that I, or any member of the Executive Committee, can tell you. Although frustrating to members, this is the reality of the process.

The numbers we have placed on the table reflect what we feel is a reasonable salary increment. These numbers have been discussed by the BOT and the Administration of the College.

I am writing this article one hour before the next negotiating session. By the time the newsletter arrives in your hands, there may have been more progress towards a settlement on this issue. As soon as we have reached a tentative agreement, we will inform the membership. We are hopeful that an agreement can be reached prior to our end-of-the-year meeting in May.

You need to be aware that a tentative agreement has already been reached by the MCPS teachers, Montgomery County employees, and the Montgomery County Police Department. Steps aside, these three groups reached a 3 year agreement that reflects a cost of living adjustment (COLA) as follows:

FY '05-2%

FY '06-2.75%

FY '07-3.0%/1% (This means that they will receive a 3% increase at the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1,2006, and a 1% increase in January, 2007)

Obviously, this information is excellent news for us. During negotiations, we have always argued for and striven for parity with the MCPS system. Last year, the other county unions agreed to a concession, reducing their current year's previously negotiated COLA by 38.3%. We concurred with the same 38.3% reduction in the COLA we had negotiated for the current year. An adjustment increase to our current income by 1.39% will be made in August.

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Identity Theft Issue Resolved

By Stephen Newmann

As I opened my college pay stub during the Spring Break and saw that the first 5 digits of my Social Security number had been Xed and my bank account number had been removed, I breathed a huge sigh of relief.

Now I feel relatively safe from Identity Theft—a serious and growing concern for Americans everywhere. At least now, should my identity be stolen, it won't be as a result of information that Montgomery College made readily available to any potential thief.

The faculty and staff owe a debt of thanks to a. Jim Williams, retired AAUP member and Professor of Math at the Germantown campus, for bringing this potential problem in our pay stubs to the attention of AAUP.

We also thank Carl Young of Finance for seeing that this sensitive situation was attended to. On March 2nd, Carl wrote me that a request had been made to the third party vendor who needed to effect the changes and that that vendor had indicated that a little more than two weeks would be needed to correct the problem. However, the changes were in place in about a week—half the projected time!

Now we should all be able to breathe easier knowing that, when we wake in the morning, our money is still safe in our bank accounts.

Who's Who in 2004

President	Harry Zarin – (G)	353-7767
Secretary	Rose Sachs – (R)	279-5077
Treasurer	Bill Talbot– (R)	279-5014
VP – G	Tammy Peery –(G)	353-7768
VP – R	Judith Prask –(R)	279-5126
VP – TP	Marcia Bronstein –(TP)	650-1369
Past President	Ken Weiner -- (R)	279-5203
Governance	Jim O'Brien --(R)	279-5233
Liaison		
Grievance Officer	Don Day – (R)	279-5235
At-large Member	Joe Thompson (G)	353-7751
At-large Member	Trudy Cohen – (TP)	650-1412

AAUP Chapter Treasurer: Bill Talbot

By Jack Suruda

With a strong handshake and a welcoming smile, Bill Talbot—Business Administration & Economics Department instructor—greeted visitors to his second floor Humanities Building office.

His work station would resemble a monk's windowless cell were it not for the numerous colorful family photos clustered on his wall and desk top, along with the morning's *Washington Post* and *Baltimore Sun*, a George Bush coffee mug, and neatly piled papers.

Hired in the fall of 2002, Talbot has served as AAUP's Chapter treasurer since summer, 2003, taking over from his mentor Jeff Schwartz, former Chapter treasurer. Bill oversees the Chapter's books and finances, its records and disbursements.

Backed by an ROTC scholarship, Bill Talbot earned his MBA in Management from Golden Gate University in 1983. During his Air Force service (1978-84), he flew an F4G, the Phantom, also termed "the Wild Weasel" ("#304, my plane for two years...."). Armed with HARM, an air-to-ground missile, the F4G (with Bill in the cockpit) targeted mobile radar and tanks with radar.

Dressed in business casual—a bright blue shirt and gray slacks—Bill smiles as he describes his service years in Texas, "I entered without a wife and left with one, Laura—a Travis AFB nurse—and two kids."

After owning his own business, Bill taught at Texas Woman's University at Denton, Texas, and Hood College in Maryland.

He views his commitment to AAUP as an opportunity to learn about the three campuses, about MC's overall operation, and about other faculty. "You meet the best of the best," he

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Newsletter Writer: Katherine Smith

By Jack Suruda

At ease in a turquoise Italian-style turtleneck sweater, black skirt, and silver earrings, Katherine Smith—English (G)—talks about the difference between verse and prose. The author of a recent slim volume of poems, *The Dynamics of Writing*, Smith explains, “Poetry requires solitude and quiet. Yet I am almost astonished at how easy it is to write prose. You can do it in a lot of noise.”

Hired in the summer of 2001, Katherine Smith teaches main line courses like EN001, 101 and 101A, 102 and the American Novel, as well as Poetry Writing and Fiction Writing. She also volunteers articles for AAUP’s newsletter (see Anita Crawley).

Having earned a BA at the University of Tennessee and an MFA in Poetry at the University of Virginia, Smith attended the University of Paris, one credit shy of receiving a *license en lettres moderne*. After marriage, eight in years in France, and one in Germany, she returned to the United States where she taught French at Cleveland State Community College and English as an adjunct at Pellissippi State Community College in Tennessee.

A clear-eyed member of MC’s AAUP Chapter, Professor Smith recalls no previous connections with unions, “We don’t have unions in Tennessee, a right-to-work state. It’s cheap to live there but rough to earn a living.” She strongly supports the AAUP faculty association.

She and her daughter, Justina, live in a townhouse not far from the Germantown campus.

explains, “the cream of the faculty.”

Bill lives in Dayton, Maryland, north of Clarksville, with his wife, Laura, two sons, Paul and Christopher, a daughter, Lauren, and an obedient cocker spaniel, Buddy. There they enjoy four acres of maples, oaks, spruce, cedars, apple trees, and cherry trees.

The oldest son Mark works for IBM in Austin.

In his spare time, Bill jogs, bicycles, and camps with his family.



AAUP Newsletter Montgomery College Chapter

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MEA CULPA

We’ve heard from deans, faculty, and staff about our new Chapter name, **AUUP**, and want to assure our readership that we remain the American Association of University Professors, **AAUP**.

Our only excuse is that, in striving to strain out verbal gnat gaffes, we allowed an enormous camel to pass through the eye of the needle.

We apologize and appreciate the careful reading of our members.

You can find an explanation of our current year's salary agreement published on the Chapter website.

Several other issues on the table are being negotiated. If you only knew....

Testimony

I mentioned in a recent e-mail to the faculty, that I have been asked to testify, once again, on behalf of the membership. I will be submitting written testimony and speaking for about 5 minutes. I plan to detail accomplishments of faculty and students. If you know of good stories, instances, or data regarding our current students or recent graduates please send me a brief e-mail. Stories about how students have overcome problems, how MC helped them, scholarships they may have received, degrees they have earned, fit the types of accomplishments that the Council needs to hear about. We have a talented group of faculty members at MC. If you have written a book, published an article, received an award, or accomplished other noteworthy things, please send me an e-mail. I will try to include all that I can either in my written or spoken testimony.

Elections

As the academic year winds down, it is time for us to begin thinking about Chapter officers for next year. I have asked Tim Kirkner (Counseling-R) to chair the Chapter's Nominations Committee. At the end-of-year meeting in May, members will vote for president, secretary, treasurer, and campus vice presidents (G,R,TP). If you are interested in running for an office or want to nominate another faculty member for one of these positions, please call or e-mail Tim. The slate of nominees will be published in an April newsletter.

WEBMASTER: Anita Crawley

By Katherine Smith

Anita Crawley, recently hired (Fall of 2003) as Distance Learning Counselor, has volunteered to maintain the AAUP Chapter Web Site. In her office, tucked into a corner of the Applied Sciences Building on the Germantown campus, Anita exudes the competence of a woman completely at ease with the computer technology that constitutes her domain. She praises the current AAUP Web Site as being in "great shape" and requiring only occasional maintenance, such as uploading the AAUP newsletter and other union information.

Teaching and organizing online courses in Illinois since 1999, Anita worked a full-time job, house-hunted, packed, and moved from Chicago to Maryland, all while launching an online Master's degree in Educational Technology from George Washington University, her second Master's degree (she already held an MA in Counseling and Human Services from Roosevelt University in Illinois.). Beginning her degree in Chicago and submitting her final paper from Maryland, she states "I am the poster-child for the advantages of on-line learning." She is a true believer in the benefits conferred upon both students and faculty by computer technology and was even involved in developing a faculty needs based technology plan at her previous institution.

A member of the union "from the get go," Anita worked with her previous faculty association, The American Federation of Teachers, to develop a technology plan. A native of the West Coast, Anita has lived all around the country and expresses enthusiasm for Montgomery County, where her counseling tasks encompass all three campuses of Montgomery College. Full of curiosity and energy, Anita, through her contribution to the AAUP web site—which she calls, with habitual modesty, a "tiny responsibility"—fills a critical Chapter need.