

# AAUP NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 2

Montgomery College Chapter

April, 2007

## President's Corner

By Harry Zarin (G)

On Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, I was sitting in my office trying to put the finishing touches on this article. While I was doing so, someone came to my office and told me about the terrible events at Virginia Tech. I immediately logged onto a variety of news service websites, started listening to the tragic news, and thought about the student, faculty, and staff in the Virginia Tech community. I then sent an IM and a text message to my daughter and finally called her. She is a college student in Connecticut, and I just needed to hear her voice and wanted to know if she was OK. I am sure that many people around the country were doing the same thing, just checking in to make sure that their friends and loved ones were OK. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Virginia Tech community, to those who were injured, and to the families of those who lost their lives. We hope that those who were injured heal quickly and that family and friends of those who lost their lives use their many wonderful memories of those who perished to help them get through this tragic time.

### Nominations-Elections

Next month the semester will end, and we will again have our year-end meeting and annual election of

officers. At that meeting, all dues-paying members of the Chapter will have an opportunity to vote for our Chapter President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Vice-Presidents for each campus. If you are interested in running for an office or wish to nominate another Chapter member for one of these positions, please call Tim Kirkner, Counseling-R, at 301-279-5049 or e-mail [tim.kirkner@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:tim.kirkner@montgomerycollege.edu). Tim has agreed to Chair our Nominations Committee. A slate of officers will be announced in our May newsletter. All nominations must be received by close of business on May 1st. The end of the year meeting will take place at the Germantown Campus on Wednesday May 16<sup>th</sup>. Please plan on attending this meeting.

### Committees

Of the three committees, which were initially started with the Chapter's influence, one completed its work, and the other two are continuing to make progress this semester.

By the time you receive this newsletter, members of the **Chair/Coordinator ESH Committee** will have met with the Chapter's Executive Committee, Deans, Chair, Faculty Councils, and the Vice President/Provosts. During these meetings, the members of the Committee presented the work they have done to date and described the next stage in the process of creating a Coordinator ESH formula. They have created a formula that they feel can be used to calculate the amount of ESH Coordinators should receive. They have recommended a small modification to the currently used Chair formula. The Committee members are currently collecting data from Deans, Chairs, and Coordinators so that they can continue their work. We look forward to the next stage of this process and continued reports from the committee members. We will continue to keep you apprised of the progress of this Committee.

**The Distance Learning Committee** continues to make progress. The make-up of the Committee has changed some since last year, and at the present time the Deans and faculty representatives meet on a regular basis with the Office of Distance Learning and other Staff Members providing additional information and support when requested. The Committee members have developed draft standards for on-line courses and have distributed this draft to the Executive Committee and current DL faculty for review. The DL Committee is asking those who are reviewing the Draft Standards to submit comments to them. The Draft Standards

## In This Issue

President's Corner	Page 1
Thoughts on Retiring	Page 2
Who's Who in Chapter	Page 3
Zarin's Testimony	Page 3

*See President p. 2*

will be revised, eventually sent to the Assembly, and then forwarded to Mary Kay Shartle-Galotto for her review and approval.

**The Faculty Leave Committee** completed its work last year, and the new faculty leave policy was implemented last fall. We on the Executive Committee continue to hear complaints from faculty about their displeasure regarding the new policy. At our next Executive Committee meeting, we will meet with several members of the Committee in order to hear their thoughts on the development of the new policy and express the concerns we have heard regarding various parts of the policy. The Executive Committee plans on publishing our position on the new policy in our next newsletter. The full Committee is supposed to review the new policy and make recommendations for any changes to the Executive Vice Presidents later this semester.

### **County Council Hearing**

Each year, representatives of the College community are asked to testify before the Montgomery County Council during its budget hearings. This year, I was asked to represent the faculty and testify on your behalf. A copy of my full testimony is in this newsletter. Each person who testified was given three minutes to speak their peace and hopefully cover the most important parts of their written testimony. Along with my testimony, the College was represented by the Chairman of our BOT, Dr. Sylvia Crowder, Mary Furgol (History-R), one student, and two staff representatives. This year, MCPS employees packed the house, so there was quite a boisterous crowd. In order to help move some attention away from the MCPS crowd and onto the College, I decided to sign, as in use sign language, my full speech as a way of making sure I had the full attention of the members of the Council. Based on comments from some of the Council members, I think it worked. Several of the Council members had some very positive things to say about the College and the contributions we make to the community. We now need to wait and see if they are able to increase the amount of funds they will give us in our operating budget next year.

The budget the County Executive recommended to the full Council is \$7.5 million short of what our BOT requested. This shortfall, in addition to the pitiful capitol budget approved by the Governor, some \$40 million less than what the BOT requested, means that

new positions are threatened, construction of the new science building on the Rockville campus will be delayed, and there are no operational funds for the opening of any new building. We are, however, hopeful that our negotiated increases in salaries will be honored by the BOT. Members of the College's Administration will be working with members of the Council during the next month to in order to help convince them to increase the College's funding. ♣

## **Thoughts upon my Retiring**

by Judy Prask (R)

I started at MC in January 1971 on the TP campus. That summer I started teaching microbiology in a building of the old Bliss Electrical school - no air conditioning at first, but the College finally found us an air conditioned classroom in another building. Funny, in those days, even in those old dilapidated surroundings, we thought learning was going on, that we had always been a "learning college." But, alas, of late we are told to the contrary.

I spent 14 years as a part-timer at TP, teaching 16 different courses in both the Biology Department and the former Medical Lab Technician program. As a part-timer one semester, I had a teaching schedule that changed 4 times the first week of classes due to cancellations, etc. I certainly understand the plight of our part-time faculty. I turned full-time in 1984 and acted as the Director of the Medical Lab Technician Program until 1989.

After a "sabbatical" into the outside world, I returned to MC on the Rockville Campus in the fall of 1993. I'm basically a person who prefers staying under the radar, not really getting involved in high profile issues, so most people at MC have never heard of me. This includes the fact that the MC Biotechnology Program was my brainchild. I did the groundwork in 1987 - 1989 when the development of the Shady Grove site (Center for Advanced Research in Biotechnology [CARB], University of Maryland, etc.) was in the news. The program first appeared in the MC catalog of 1990-91 as "Takoma Park only" and continued there for several years. In the 1995-96 catalog it became "Germantown only," a move I recommended when I left the College in 1989.

In 1999 there was a vacancy on the AAUP Executive Committee, and I ran for the position. I didn't know much about the union because I had been a part-timer for so long, but there was one huge drawing card in this case: I'd get to

See Retiring p. 3

play with the Big Boys.

In alphabetical order they are Don Day, Jim O'Brien, and Ken Weiner. These three Big Boys have devoted decades of service to this College; they are examples of the true pillars on which this institution is built. Not paper mache, ethereal pillars as described for our newest learning initiative, these are solid, concrete pillars that have made huge differences in the College as a whole in their hundred-plus years of collective service.

Of the "founders" of the Chapter, they are the only ones still active today. They have demonstrated that faculty can keep a very definite line between themselves and the administration, but in an atmosphere of cooperation and civility. They have participated in negotiating many contracts over the years, from which all of us current faculty benefit. Whether one agrees with every item in the contract or not, the job security we enjoy in our 6-year rolling term contracts and the significant salary increases over the years are shared by all. In addition, our grievance officers (Don Day and now Tim Kirchner) have gone to bat for many faculty, whether to prevent illegal hiring as "temporary," to investigate whether terminations are done according to the contract or not, or to mediate unfair practices, both real and perceived.

The Big Boys have been more than generous in sharing their wisdom and experience with the newer officers of AAUP, Harry Zarin and Rose Sachs, who in the last few years have led the Chapter as well as a very successful negotiating team. Harry and Rose have served in this time-consuming effort because they also believe that faculty should be strong and quite separate from the administration, but able to work together in a congenial atmosphere. This takes a significant amount of surveillance, keeping eyes open for subtle "incursions" of faculty into what should be an administrative position, questioning whether faculty working in dean's offices should be in faculty governance positions, perhaps conflict of interest and all that? Surveillance and persistence by Rose Sachs on the parking issue means we did not have an increase in this fee.

Three task forces were formed at the urging of AAUP to address grievance issues regarding distance learning, ESH for coordinators, and faculty leave, all of which resulted from instances where faculty were treated differently/unequally across campuses.

We have a new college president, Dr. Brian Johnson, so the future is a clean slate. No matter what lies ahead, there is an urgent need for more new members to step up, to learn the ropes, to share in the surveillance, and to learn to work with the administration to achieve our common goals. If you are grateful for the new salary scale, if you have been served by the Chapter in a grievance issue, or if you welcomed the FICA refund, please consider getting more involved. Make no mistake; these accomplishments have been reached only through many hours of hard work. The Administration is not going to give out gifts. The choice is up to each of you. ♣

## Who's Who in 2007

President	Harry Zarin - (G)	353-7767
Secretary	Pat Feeney - (R)	251-7484
Treasurer	Bill Talbot - (R)	279-5014
VP – G	Abby Spero - (G)	353-7753
VP – R	Judith Prask - (R)	279-5126
VP – TP/SS	Tracey Smith-Bryant - (TP/SS)	650-1396
Past President	Rose Sachs - (R)	279-5077
Governance Liaison	Jim O'Brien - (R)	279-5233
Grievance Officers	Tim Kirkner - (R)	279-5049
At-large Member	Trudy Cohen - (TP/SS)	562-5544
At-large Member	Ken Weiner - (R)	279-5203

Harry N. Zarin, President  
American Association of University Professors  
Montgomery College Chapter  
Operating Budget Testimony  
Wednesday April 11, 2007

Good evening members of the Council.

My name is Harry Zarin. I am a counseling faculty member at the Germantown Campus of Montgomery College. As President of the Montgomery College Chapter of the American Association of University Professors, I am here today on behalf of my fellow colleagues, the faculty at Montgomery College. We are a proud group of professionals who truly believe in the mission of the community college and enjoy the nature of our careers at Montgomery College.

As I sit here today, I am thinking about the many wonderful people whose lives have been touched by Montgomery College. Some of these people may be in this room today, whether they be former students, current students, parents of students, or employees at the College. We are truly the community's college. In order for us to continue to serve the community in an affordable manner and change lives, we need the assistance of both the state and county governments.

I am here trying to convince the Council to put us on the "yes" list and fully fund the Board of Trustees' proposed budget so that we can continue to offer the range of programs and services your constituents desperately need. I know the Council is in an unenviable position; you can't say yes to

See Council p. 4

everyone, but I naturally feel that we need to be on that “yes” list because we are the community’s college. Without access to a higher education, today’s students and many of our future students may not be able to afford to obtain a college degree and enter the workforce earning a salary that will generate additional significant tax revenues for the County.

Who are some of those students, who, without Montgomery College or another community college, may not be where they are today? Germantown faculty members Dr. Kurt Borkman, Steve Newman, and Anne Schleicher all graduated from Montgomery College. Rose Sachs, Aggie Harrell, Albert Emulat, David Delmers, Aram Hessami, Elizabeth Pavlosky, Ed Riggs, and Joyce Jewell are faculty members at the Rockville Campus and are all MC alumni. Kathy Lewandowski, Evelyn Gonzalez-Mills, Teresa Bevin, and Rose Aehle are all faculty members at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus and are also MC alumni. Matt Walker is currently a part-time history teacher at MC Germantown, and he is following in the footsteps of his father, Tom Walker, a retired, 25-year plus MC history teacher and MC alum.

We can’t forget about the staff and administration. The following are also alumni from Montgomery College: Takoma Park Dean Paula Matuskey, Director of Financial Aid Melissa Gregory, Directory of Enrollment Management Sherman Helberg, Director of Annual Giving Isabella de la Puente, and Instructional Assistant Kim Potter. And, where would our community be without them—faculty, staff, and administrators who are now committed to changing the lives of the next generation of MC students?

Numerous other Montgomery College employees attended community colleges other than Montgomery College. Where would all of these people be if they had not had access to an affordable community college education and dedicated professional faculty and staff?

Our mission as a community college requires us to have an open admission policy; therefore, we accept not only the best and the brightest but also those on the lower end of the academic scale. In addition, many of our students do not have the financial means to attend a four-year university. A variety of support services are needed to help our students obtain their education. These services include tutoring, learning labs, libraries, counseling, disability support services, financial aid, and assistive technology. Fully funding our budget request will ensure that we can provide all of these services at the level our students need without further increases in tuition.

We can’t close our doors because our mission doesn’t allow it. We are trying to provide a variety of programs

and services for our community. Our joint programs with MCPS are expanding annually. Our Gateway Programs continues to fill up with new students each semester and we regularly accept early placement students into our classes.

The space we have to serve our students is not growing, and we are quickly running out of space on all of our campuses. We have already been turning away students because our classes are full. In order to continue to handle our growth in enrollment at the Germantown Campus, we entered into an agreement with the County to rent a building on the Germantown Campus. The College is supposed to use half the building for classrooms, offices, and other services while the County will use the other half of the building. Unfortunately, the operational funds to serve this expansion have not been included in the County Executives’ proposed budget. Paying rent on a building we may not be able to use doesn’t make much sense to me. There are also no operational funds on the County Executive’s budget to open up our new art building on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. How can we continue to grow and meet the needs of the county if we are not funded at an appropriate level to allow this to happen?

The College has been planning on beginning the construction of a new science building at the Rockville Campus. The State recognized that we need this building in order to accommodate our enrollment growth, so it helped to fund the design of the building. As you all know, the State has now decided not to fund the construction of this sorely needed building. We have already taken a hit at the State level, and I ask that you not allow this to happen at the local level.

The College is continuing to grow in size and scope, our operational expenses are increasing, and we are trying to keep our tuition increases to a minimum. I ask that you put Montgomery College on your “yes” list and fully fund the budget proposed by our Board of Trustees. Fund us, let us do our jobs, and we will continue to be the community’s college.

Thank you. ♣

## **AAUP NEWSLETTER** **MONTGOMERY COLLEGE CHAPTER**

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