

# INSIGHTS **M**

The Magazine for Montgomery College Alumni and Friends • Spring 2008

STEVE BLACK '05



## BACK TO HIS ROOTS

# MONTGOMERY COLLEGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## PERFORMANCES

### May



Courtesy Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center

**Saturday, May 31, 11 a.m.**

### WINNIE THE POOH

Join Christopher Robin, Eeyore, Rabbit, Piglet, Owl, Kanga, Roo, and everyone's favorite bear in this enchanting musical based on the stories by A.A. Milne.

Ages 5 and up. A TheatreWorks USA production.  
*Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Rockville Campus. \$7 adults; \$6 seniors and students. 240-567-5301*

### June

**June 5–29, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m.**

### THE MARRIAGE OF BETTE AND BOO

A Spooky Action Professional Theatre Production of Christopher Durang's play.  
*Black Box Theatre, Communications Arts Center, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. Tickets required. 240-567-1368*



Courtesy Summer Dinner Theatre

**June 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, and 29; July 5 and 6  
Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m.**

### EVITA

Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical based on the life of Eva Perón. A Summer Dinner Theatre 31st Season Presentation.  
*Theatre Arts Arena, Rockville Campus. \$37 adults; \$27 children 12 and under. MC Alumni and Retirees Night (June 20) discount: \$33.30 adults; \$24.30 children. 240-567-7676. [www.montgomerycollege.edu/summerdinnertheatre](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/summerdinnertheatre)*

### July



Courtesy Summer Dinner Theatre

**July 18, 19, 25, 26, 27; August 1, 2, and 3  
Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m., Sunday, 2 p.m.**  
**BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**

An enchanting love story comes to life on stage. A Summer Dinner Theatre 31st Season Presentation.  
*Theatre Arts Arena, Rockville Campus. \$37 adults; \$27 children 12 and under. MC Alumni and Retirees Night (July 18) discount: \$33.30 adults; \$24.30 children. 240-567-7676. [www.montgomerycollege.edu/summerdinnertheatre](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/summerdinnertheatre)*

## EVENTS

### June

**June 17**

### MC ATHLETICS AND ALUMNI GOLF DAY

Join friends and faculty in a tournament to benefit MC's athletic programs.  
*Hampshire Greens, Silver Spring, Maryland. 240-567-5378*

### FREE TO MEMBERS!

**June 26, 6:30–9 p.m.**

### GETTING ORGANIZED

Annual continuing education course for Alumni Association members.  
*Register with the Alumni Office, 240-567-5378, or e-mail [alumni@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:alumni@montgomerycollege.edu)*

### July



Courtesy Maryland Humanities Council

### FREE!

**Tuesday–Friday, July 8–11, 7 p.m.**

### CHAUTAUQUA

Living history portrayals of historical figures, sponsored by the Maryland Humanities Council.  
July 8, Rosa Parks; July 9, Martin Luther King Jr.; July 10, George Wallace; July 11, Malcolm X.  
*Outdoor Tent, Germantown Campus. 410-685-4185 or e-mail [jdobbs@mdhc.org](mailto:jdobbs@mdhc.org)*

### September

**Monday, September 8**

**MC FOUNDATION 23RD ANNUAL GOLF OUTING**  
*240-567-5378*

### December

### FREE!

**Thursday, December 4, 6:30 p.m.**

**UNIVERSITIES AT SHADY GROVE AND  
MC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HOLIDAY EVENT**  
*RSVP required. 240-567-5378*

## EXHIBITS

### May



By Desmond Decker II

### FREE!

**May 5–June 30  
STUDENT EXHIBIT**

Graphic design and illustration works from students in the MC Rockville Campus Communication Arts Technologies Department.

*CAT Gallery, Technical Center, Rockville Campus. 240-567-7521*

### June

### FREE!

**June 2–19**

### EXEMPLARY STUDENT WORKS

Works from MC Rockville Art Department scholarship winners.

*Sarah Silberman Art Gallery, Paul Peck Art Building, Rockville Campus. 240-567-5115*

### FREE!

**June 11–July 6**

Solo exhibition for the winner of the 2008 Ida F. Haimovicz Visual Arts Award of the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County.  
*Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center Gallery, Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus. 240-567-1368*

*For a complete calendar of upcoming events, visit [www.montgomerycollege.edu](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu) and click on Calendar of Events.*



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## A Message from the President of the Alumni Association



Your Alumni Association has been monitoring the fiscal decisions made in both Annapolis and Rockville over the last several months. The sluggish economy has marked a difficult year for community colleges, which rely on state and local funding to keep tuition costs low. Montgomery College has felt the slowdown in these revenues, even as its enrollment continues to grow. As your path crosses with your elected officials, please remember to mention the affordable, quality education you received at MC.

What your Alumni Association does is (sometimes) a simple matter, compared to how it operates. We are organized, for legal and financial purposes, within the Montgomery College Foundation. Our office services are provided to us by the College. And we must focus on how you, our members, wish to continue your relationship with the College and your classmates after your time as students.

That last point is where I need your help. Every four years, an alumni committee reviews your Association's bylaws, to ensure that we are doing the things that we really need to do. We're doing it again this year, but I've taken the process further. Our governing board will hold a special day-long discussion in June to examine what the Association does, how, and why. And I don't want that discussion to occur in a vacuum.

If you think your Alumni Association should be doing things differently, I'd like to hear from you. Whether you like our current mix of services, or you want us to consider doing new and different things, please tell us. If you have a comment, a suggestion, or a question, please send it to me at [alumni@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:alumni@montgomerycollege.edu), or to the Alumni Office using the enclosed envelope. If you send your thoughts by May 30, I will be able to use them in our planning.

I want to close on a note of pride. Each year members elect a Board of Governors, dedicated volunteers whose commitment to the Association, and to the College, seems boundless. I'm pleased to say that every last one of our board members, in addition to the generous gift of their time and talent, has made an annual financial gift to the College. I encourage everyone to follow their lead—especially in these difficult fiscal times. Your education at MC was affordable. A donation to the College supports scholarships and helps students afford the quality education Montgomery College offers.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tookie Gentilcore". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Tookie Gentilcore '94**  
**Alumni Association President**

P.S. Reserve Saturday, September 20 and watch your mail and e-mail for information on our new signature fundraiser at the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center. I would love to see you there!

# BRANCHING OUT

## A Farm Son's Journey to Iraq— And Back to His Roots

BY ELIZABETH HOMAN

**S**teve Black '05 grew up on a horse farm in Ohio. Every night around the dinner table, the family talked about the farm and its management. It was one way of life, but Black opted for another path. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in public policy and management from Carnegie Mellon. At the University of Pittsburgh, he received a master's degree in public and international affairs.

With his education and experience, Black became an expert in national security policy and arms control. Throughout the 1990s, he worked at the United Nations, specializing in weapons inspections in Iraq. But he wanted to "settle down and do something different."

So Black turned to a career he knew well—farming. But starting a horse or dairy farm "from scratch was not appealing," so he decided to start a tree farm because "horti-







**A Changing Landscape:** Steve Black '05, a former weapons inspector, left a hot zone in Iraq for the greenhouse at Montgomery College's Germantown Campus.

culture is a huge and booming business in Maryland." Around that same time, as he was looking for farms to purchase, Black started taking landscape technology classes at Montgomery College.

In June 2004 Black bought an old dairy farm in Adamstown, Maryland. He named it Raemelon Farm and began transforming the site to suit his needs. He cleaned out the barns, installed an advanced irrigation system, and erected an eight-foot exclusion fence to keep out deer.

"I'd be at the farm during the day, and then jump in my truck and fly down to Germantown, still wearing the farm," said Black about trying to start a farm and go to classes. "I was a mess...muddy footprints everywhere."

For Black, taking classes was essential to his success. "If you don't take classes, you're crippling yourself from the start for no reason." He believes his coursework formed the basis of everything he does at the farm. Among his most critical courses was pest management.

"If you can grow it, the bugs will want to come eat it," said Black. "Woe be it for anyone who thinks all bugs are the same." He admits that he has to continually read industry publications to keep up on the subject of pest management and weed control.

"There's a fun vision of 'you're a farmer, you go stuff an acorn in the ground, sit on the porch, have a mint julep and wait for the oak tree to

show up,'" adds Black. "It's nothing like that—not even close."

It took three years of hard work before Black had his first trees ready for sale in the fall of 2007. He grows large landscape-ready trees and shrubs. He sells the trees, once the trunk reaches two inches in diameter, to wholesale customers such as landscaping companies, community property managers, and garden centers. His current customers are from Frederick, Montgomery, and Howard counties in Maryland, and also from parts of Virginia. In the future, he plans to have more customers from the Northern states.

This season, Black has had some difficulties selling his "commodity" trees because they're typically used in housing developments. When the real estate market is down, tree business goes down too. Despite this, Black has been successful by making a niche for himself by growing unusual trees that are hard to find or in demand. His giant dogwood trees are sold out and he has sold all of his snake bark maple trees, which are known for their vertical white stripes on the trunk.

Looking back, Black is definitely pleased with his decision to change careers and start his Raemelon Farm.

"It's hard, physically demanding, and not easy, but at the end of the day, I actually created something," said Black. "I didn't take anything away from anyone to make something. It's just me and Mother Nature and we made a tree."

### Want to Dig In?

Based at the Germantown Campus, the landscape technology program trains students in landscape contracting or landscape design. Courses are offered on such topics as plants, pests, pesticides, and nursery management.

To learn more about the program, visit [www.montgomerycollege.edu/landscapetechnology](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/landscapetechnology) or call Steve Dubik, program coordinator, at 240-567-7803.

### Maryland Blooms with MC Landscape Technology Alumni

On a warm spring day, yards in this area likely bloom with flowers, grass, and trees grown or installed by MC landscape technology alumni. Some notable alumni include:

**David Angell '95** – vice president, Potomac Garden Center

**Carol Allen '08** – former supervisor, U.S. Botanic Garden

**Jonathan Coleman '08** – general manager, CLIP Lawn Care LLC

**Roger Galvin '03** – head gardener, Historic Annapolis Foundation

**Joel Hafner '05** – president, Fine Earth Landscape  
**Amanda Laudwein '03** – coordinator and nutrient management advisor, University of Maryland

**Dale Moyers '01** – co-founder and president, Moyers Lawn Service



At her home in Bethesda, Md., Connie Morella looks over a wall of memorabilia commemorating events and notable acquaintances throughout her career.

# THE ELEGANT ENVOY

## A Visit with Connie Morella

BY STEVE SIMON

*As you arrive to meet with Constance Morella—former U.S. ambassador, congresswoman, state delegate, Montgomery College professor, and current visiting fellow at Harvard University—you wonder whether you should properly address her as “Ambassador Morella,” “Congresswoman Morella,” “Professor Morella” (for old time’s sake)...or what?*

*But, when you enter the warmth of the Bethesda home where she and her husband Tony have lived for more than 40 years, you can’t help but greet her simply as “Connie.” Three decades in politics with an extraordinary reputation for stellar and uncharacteristically personal constituent service will do that.*

*The first thing that strikes you about “Connie” is that despite all of her career experiences—*

*including her past four years in Paris, serving as the U.S. Ambassador to the Organization for Economic Development—she has not changed one bit. Still warm, cheerful, thoughtful, humble and jovial.*

*This May, Professor/Congresswoman/Ambassador Morella returns to MC to deliver the commencement address to the 2008 graduating class and to receive an honorary degree from President Brian Johnson and the Board of Trustees.*

*Recently, we asked her to look back on her political career, on her days as an MC professor, and on what it was like raising nine children—her own three and six nieces and nephews after her sister’s 1976 death from breast cancer.*



## Early Life in Massachusetts

**M**y parents came from Italy and I'm first-generation—first in my family to go to college. In high school, I got a scholarship to a teacher's college. At that time, a woman was either a nurse or teacher or secretary. I wanted something different, so I went to Boston University and did general education, liberal arts. After two years, I got an associate's degree and I wanted to do something else. So I worked for TWA, which is now defunct. Afterward, I went back to college and got my bachelor's degree. And then, Tony and I got married. We came down here for his law school at Georgetown, and we got connected with the community.

## Teaching at Montgomery College (1970–1986)

**I** taught in the [Montgomery County] school system, then I taught for two years as an adjunct at American University. That's where I met the Yarnells [John Yarnell was English department chair at the Rockville Campus]. He hired me—he and his wife, Shirley.

He said: "You know Connie, you should teach at a community college...I think you'd like it." And that's how it happened. I started teaching at MC in 1970. I loved it. MC faculty work hard! You're teaching five classes. At a place like Harvard, you're teaching two classes, maybe, and giving a lecture at another point. I taught English. I even taught a few developmental classes, so you could see the progress students were making, the needs they had, and the opportunities they were being given. The students remember so fondly. I'll run into someone and I'll hear, "You were my teacher at MC. I loved the class and it helped me get a job."

## Motherhood and Raising Nine Children

**P**eople used to say to me, "How can you do so many things with such a large family?" I would say, "Well, it's so good to get out of the house." You had to have a sense of humor, and if the silverware didn't all match, so be it. Other things were more important.

The toughest part was that we had some high-school age kids, and the older ones had left their friends back in Massachusetts. One of my first strategies was to contact my friends who had kids their ages...and it helped.

What was difficult was having five children in high school at the same time, then five in college at the same time. I said I suffered from the disease "maltuition."

## Running for Elective Offices

**I** was appointed to the first Montgomery County Commission for Women. What do you do on the Commission for Women? Well, you look around at what needs to be done. I ended up doing a lot of lobbying of legislators and people in the business community for equity for women in housing, education, employment—and credit. If you were of age to be married or have a baby and you wanted to buy a home, your collateral, as a worker, was really not counted at that time.

That's why we should make people know about the progress that has been made, so they don't forget it. At that time, a woman could not be a Rhodes Scholar because she was a woman! This was at the time of the movement toward getting an Equal Rights Amendment in the Constitution—still hasn't happened. In the lobbying efforts, I thought I may have more influence if I was on the other side and at the table. That was my springboard. I can say the women's movement put the movement into me. The rest goes on from there.

## Being and Serving as a Republican in a Heavily Democratic County

**I** quickly found out I was in a minority party. I was a Republican because I wanted to vote for [former U.S. Senator Charles "Mac"]

Mathias. But I believed in fiscal responsibility. The Republican Party believed in "hands-off"—don't let government do what it doesn't need to do. The social issues [of Republicans at that time] were articulated not only by Mathias, but by [former Vice President and New York Governor Nelson] Rockefeller. My husband, once upon a time, was with [Mayor] John Lindsay of New York. These were the moderate Republicans, as I call them. Think about it, the moderates. That's the kind of study group that I now have [through her work as a visiting fellow at Harvard University]—it's on the vanishing moderate in Congress.

## Her Path to Serving in Congress

**I** served in the state legislature for eight years, and then there was an opportunity to run for Congress. I ran against a nice man [heavily favored Democrat Stewart Bainum]. I didn't know whether I could win. On election night the television cameras were all at his "to-be" celebration at the old Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza hotel in Rockville, and I had mine at the VFW. It was kind of funny because the reporters all had to rush back to our place to cover the story.

I won, and that's when I stopped teaching at MC. I had a good time in Congress. I spent 16 years there—eight years as a minority in the minority, and eight years as the minority in the majority.

I worked very hard, but it was a beautiful opportunity, in terms of legislation and in knowing my constituents and in serving them. I loved every minute of it.

# THE HONORABLE CONSTANCE MORELLA

## Career Highlights in Public Service

- Maryland State Delegate (1978–1986)
- U.S. Congresswoman, Maryland's Eighth District (1986–2002)
- U.S. Ambassador to the Organization for Economic Development (2003–2007)



# IMPARTING KNOWLEDGE

Montgomery College's artist-in-residence program provides students opportunities to observe, study, and query arts professionals. The new Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus has designated studio space for visiting artists.

**B**etween art shows in Orlando and Tokyo, artist and set designer Dawn Robyn Petrlik '87 shared snippets of her stint last fall as the College's artist in residence.

## First Impressions

"It's a little intimidating having 20 strangers walk into your creative space," said Petrlik. "Thankfully, they were lovely...curious and

attentive. They asked questions about my work and my history and my creative process. It was loads of fun talking with them, and I encouraged them to stop by on their own, which several did."

## Experiential Knowledge

While in residence, Petrlik gave a lecture entitled "Survival of the Artist," a topic she knows firsthand. Using recent projects as illustrations, Petrlik gave students an overview of jobs that artists could engage in, as well as the skills needed for each one, from handling a scale rule to organizing a solo show. "There are many applications for the skills the art students are learning, and it's up to them to really seek those opportunities; I just want them to know that the opportunities are out there."

## About the Artist

After graduating from Montgomery College with an A.A., Petrlik completed a B.F.A. at James Madison University, then an M.F.A. in design at Yale University School of Drama. She moved to New York, her launch pad for working, exhibiting, and traveling. In recent years, she has created the scenery for Radio City Music Hall's Christmas Spectacular and art directed the Tony Awards. She is a 1998 recipient of the Milton F. Clogg Outstanding Alumni Achievement Award.



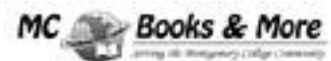
## College Establishes Text and E-mail Notification System for Campus Emergencies

Montgomery College can notify students and employees by text message and e-mail if a major emergency occurs at the College. MC will use its "Montgomery College ALERT" service in case of a potentially life-threatening emergency at any of the three campuses. Weather delays and closings are not announced through Montgomery College ALERT.

Visit [www.montgomerycollege.edu/emergency](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/emergency) for more information.

## SHOW YOUR SCHOOL SPIRIT

Montgomery College Alumni merchandise is available through the campus bookstores. To view or order your sweaters, jackets, travel mugs, card holders, or other items, visit [www.montgomerycollege.edu](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu) and click on **Bookstores**.







## PASCALE'S PRIMER

**U**ruguayan artist Sisto Pascale, MCAD '86, treated students to a painting demonstration in February in the School of Art + Design's new location in the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus.

Pascale's warm, folk culture-inspired paintings have earned him recognition far beyond his studio in Montevideo, where he teaches a new

generation of artists in Uruguay. During a hands-on lecture, Pascale gave examples of ways that the three primary colors interact with and accent one another in his work. He also explained the origin of his "brush-free" painting style.

Now part of Montgomery College, the School of Art + Design continues the 50-year history of the Maryland College of Art and Design.



## TAKOMA PARK/ SILVER SPRING PERFORMING ARTS CENTER TO DEBUT

**T**he final phase of the four-building expansion at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus is a new performing arts center, now well under construction and visible from its corner location at Georgia Avenue and Burlington Avenue/East-West Highway. That facility, scheduled to open for classes in fall 2009, will house a 500-seat theater for dance, music, films, and other entertainment, and a 100-seat theater for smaller performances, as well as classrooms, offices, and meeting space. To celebrate the diverse student population and surrounding communities, music, dance, concerts, and events for all ages will be offered.

◀ **Top: Construction on the Takoma Park/Silver Spring performing arts center, as viewed from the front entry to the Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center in February. Below: Rendering of the finished building.**

# A BLISS-FUL HOMECOMING

As a youngster in the south, Joseph L. (Joe) Williams '38 waited tables and worked as a store clerk. Those were two occupations he knew he didn't want to pursue as a career. One day a friend told him about a school near Washington, D.C., that trained electricians. His father took him to the bank and arranged a huge loan—just shy of \$800—to pay for his tuition for a year at the Bliss Electrical School.

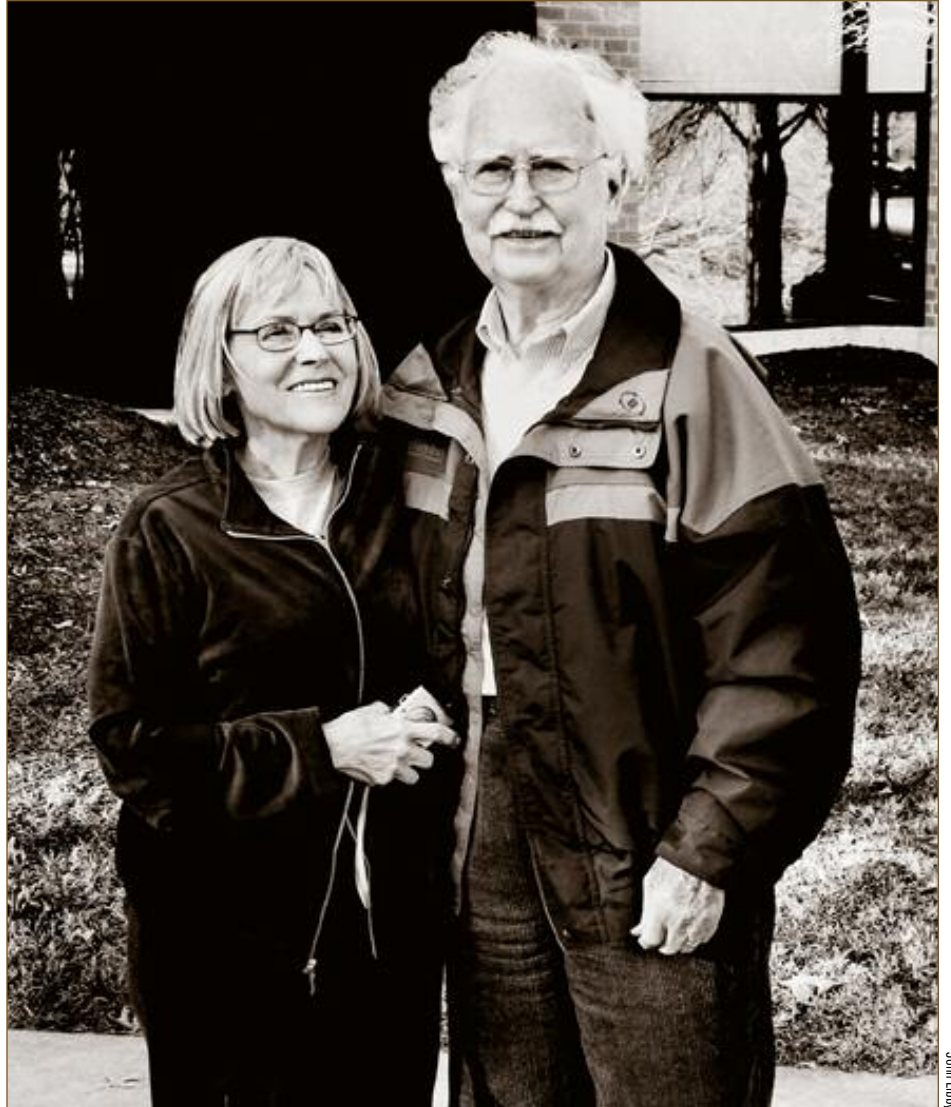
While visiting the Washington area last January, Joe and his wife, Elise, returned to Takoma Park, hoping to see some memorabilia of Joe's alma mater. Unfortunately, the Bliss Memorial Room collection had been put in storage during the renovation of The Commons building, which stands on the site of Joe's "C Dormitory" from the 1930s.

But Joe had his own souvenirs. He showed off a pocket notebook with autographs of classmates, several graduates who had returned to teach, and Professor Bliss himself. (A quick check of the newly published alumni directory turned up six classmates whose names appear in his notebook.) Joe recalls noting on a page in his textbook in the spring of 1938, when news arrived of Germany's invasion of Austria.

Joe described working in a full-sized house frame, a feature of the Bliss program where students practiced electrical wiring. He also had a memorable lecture from an engineering instructor who brandished a long pointer—Joe wondered momentarily if he was about to be attacked—to demonstrate the principle of torque.

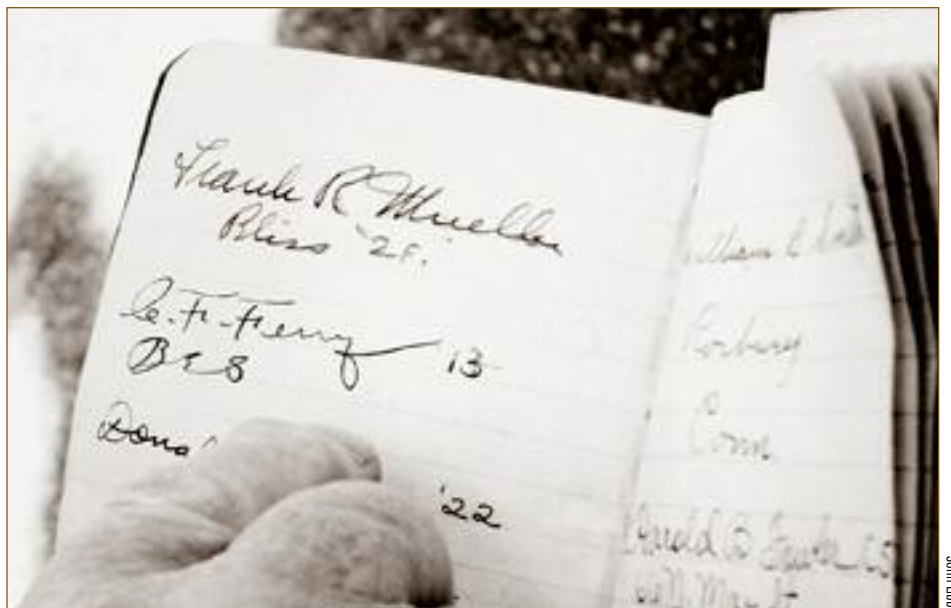
Along with about 45 fellow graduates, Joe went to work for IBM, where he remained until 1958. During World War II, he maintained a paper-tape inventory data system for the quartermaster depot in Charlotte, N.C. IBM management deemed his skills so critical that they arranged his deferment from military service—a wartime rarity not looked upon kindly by the wives of draftees who'd been sent to combat.

Continued on page 9



John Libby

Above: Joe Williams '38 and Elise Williams at The Commons building, site of Dormitory C, where Joe lived during his year at the Bliss Electrical School. Below: Joe reviews autographs of Bliss Electrical School instructors and classmates.



John Libby



## BLISS BEAT

Continued from page 8

Joe notes that a '38 grad became an executive at Westinghouse, and another led the electrification of the Panama Canal. He also remembers two women studying at the school—an intriguing detail that had not appeared in alumni records. He didn't socialize with them, and he said that they would have had separate living arrangements anyway.

After his first wife passed away, Joe met Elise

through some friends. They have several grown children and grandchildren between them, and one great-grandchild so far. He repairs and restores old engines as a hobby, including an Allis-Chalmers tractor. (Elise said his training comes in handy for more practical things, like fixing the washer and dryer.) He's delighted to hear that the College maintains a good engineering program.

On occasions when Joe regretted not pursuing further college education, he realized Bliss had

left him better trained than many college graduates he encountered throughout his career. The Bliss Electrical School, he said, was a turning point in his life.

—John Libby

*The Bliss Memorial Room at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus is undergoing renovation as part of the upgrade of The Commons building, which is scheduled to reopen in 2009.*

## MC COUPLES

### COLLEGE SWEETHEARTS

September 11 will never be the same—that's the date in 1979 when Jim Stargel and Lisa Macklin met in the Physical Education Center at the Rockville Campus. Although they fondly recall that date, they now celebrate their wedding anniversary—August 23. Two years ago, they celebrated their 25th anniversary with a trip to London and Scotland.

As a hospitality management student, Lisa Macklin met Ben Semiati, a Wheaton High School friend of Jim Stargel. One afternoon, Ben introduced Lisa to Jim—and before Jim could get away—Lisa said, "You don't mind if I give you my phone number, do you?"

"He didn't call me for three days!" exclaimed Lisa. Little did she realize, Jim's plate was full. He worked the midnight shift as a security officer at General Electric, he took classes at MC part time, he served in the Army Reserves, and he taught karate.

Jim finally called Lisa on a Friday. Their first date was that evening. They hung out at Lisa's family home, making milkshakes and talking until 2 a.m. Jim had to be at his Army Reserve post at 6 a.m. Four months later, Jim asked Lisa to marry him at G.D. Grafitti restaurant in Rockville, Md. Lisa kept gently kicking Jim under the table, which panicked him, as her engagement ring was in his sock. Once he popped the question, onlookers applauded with excitement at this memorable occasion.



Jessica Warnick

**Four months after being introduced to each other by a mutual friend, Jim and Lisa (Macklin) Stargel were engaged. The Montgomery College sweethearts have enjoyed 27 years of marriage and have raised four wonderful children.**

Jim and Lisa hold fond memories of MC, not only because they met there, but also because of the classes they completed. They completed two as a married couple—Psychology of Human Sexuality (with a professor whose name they could not recall—only that she had short, red hair), and Sociology with Professor Connie Tonat.

After graduating from MC with an associate's degree in criminal justice, Jim earned a master's degree in informational systems from Bowie State and a Ph.D. from Indiana University in martial arts. He has been a Federal Aviation Administration employee for 28 years. He retired from the Army

Reserves in 1999 as a sergeant major in the military police. Jim continues to teach martial arts twice weekly, as this has been his passion for 43 years. Jim's criminology background piqued his interest in Jack the Ripper, who is the subject of a book he is writing.

Lisa left her academic career to be a full-time wife and mom. Now that their four children are all nearly adults, Lisa may return to school to study marine biology. Education and family are very important to the Stargels.

—Jessica Warnick

## CLASS NOTES

> **Wayne Green II, Bliss '43**, is busy publishing a magazine, writing books, doing a weekly TV show, skiing, scuba diving, traveling, and lecturing. To see his work, visit [www.waynegrreen.com](http://www.waynegrreen.com).

> **Corky Kirk, Bliss '43**, met and married a local girl, and 18 years later they sent their daughter, **Christine Kirk Mason '69**, to study at the Takoma Park Campus. Christine placed second in the Miss Maryland contest and married fellow MC graduate **Chas Mason '68**. The Masons are currently living in Glendale, Calif.

> **Henry G. Giles, Navy '52**, achieved the rating of chief electrician's mate and the status of warrant officer. During his service, he earned the Navy Commendation Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, and the Naval Reserve Medal. He also spent more than 35 years with the Detroit Edison Company, retiring as a plant supervisor in 1993, and taught in the Related Trades Department of Henry Ford Community College for 23 years. He has been married since 1959 and has four children and 11 grandchildren.

> **Vince A. Pugliese '52** spent more than 30 years as a Montgomery County history teacher, football coach, and athletic director with Montgomery Blair and Rockville high schools. He is now retired and living in Columbia, Md.

> **Wallace Carter, Navy '53**, served on an APD during his Navy career. He later taught in Cecil County, Md., until his retirement in 1988.



> **John H. Fetty Jr. '63** sent a copy of his grandfather's Bliss Electrical School diploma to the MC Alumni Association. **E. Brook Fetty, Bliss '21**, went on to graduate from Catholic University with a B.S. in electrical engineering. He wired homes in the Takoma Park area, and later spent 40 years with the Washington, D.C. government as head of licensing and inspection.

> **Tim Shanley '71** is living on the north shore of Oahu at Sunset Beach. He writes that he is "blessed with a great family, living my dream, and surfing with my kids."

> **Jill A. Bochicchio '72** runs Bochicchio Photography in Rockville, Md., and is the official photographer for the National Philharmonic.

> **George W. Dabrowski '73** worked for 27 years for the U.S. Marine Corps and in the air traffic control division of the Federal Aviation Administration, until he retired in 2007. He is living in Sherwood, Md., and working part time for the St. Michaels Police Department. Aside from that, he spends time on his boat and owns a small woodworking business called Splinters Woodworks.

> **Peter D'Amour '73** will celebrate his 30th anniversary this year to **Beverly Merry D'Amour '75**. Peter was recently inducted into the Washington Area Fastpitch Softball Hall of Fame. He now lives in The Woods Resort, W.Va.

> **Gary Schindler '74** has been a real estate broker since 1980 and a real estate appraiser since 1982. "I owe my success to MC," he writes.

> **Eliot Frankeberger '75** teaches ESL social studies classes at Springbrook High School and has traveled to countries such as Japan, Bulgaria, Russia, and Turkey for both professional and personal reasons.

> **David S. Maloney '75** retired in 2006 from Verizon after 27 years in customer service. He earned a B.A. in history from the University of Maryland University College in 2007, and moved to Sedona, Ariz. that summer.

> **Mike Cullens '78** met his wife Noriko, in Tokyo while on tour with a blues/rock band. They now live in Teaneck, N.J., with their daughter Sayaka. Mike continues to play, teach, and record music in the New York area. Information on his studio can be found at [www.madhands.com](http://www.madhands.com).

> **Ray Sikes '78** teaches English at Delaware Technical and Community College. He has published two books—*Blues for a Dimestore Guitar*, a novel, and *Keeping It Between the Ditches*, a nonfiction work.

> **Kari Engen '83** is the president and executive director of Mi Refugio, which provides education, food, clothing, and medical assistance to children and their families in Guatemala City and the surrounding villages.

> **Steve P. Grimes '83** has retired after four years managing with Allstate Insurance Company and 17 years with United Services Automobile Association. He travels often with his wife, a traveling family nurse practitioner.

> **Mike Bartley '84** is now the coach of the Patuxent High School wrestling team. He works at Eagan McAlister Associates.

> **Doreatha J. Bush '86** started the Howard Brown Foundation, a nonprofit organization that assists low-income elderly individuals in Washington, D.C.



> **Beth Harbison '86** has published a number of books, including *Shoe Addicts Anonymous* and *Secrets of a Shoe Addict*, as well as 19 romance novels and four cookbooks. Information is available at [www.bethharbison.com](http://www.bethharbison.com).



Courtesy Beth Harbison

> **Wayson P. Lee '86** is a trainer with the Ultimate Stage Hypnosis Seminar in Las Vegas, Nev. Lee was trained by internationally known hypnotist Dr. Ormond McGill.

> **Anne Via Zakielarz '86** was named Maryland's 2007 female bodybuilding heavyweight champion by the National Physique Committee.



## CLASS NOTES

> **Carmen Schloner '97** founded Caridad Inc., which gives assistance to single mothers.

> **Phyllis Marcuccio '98** has served on the Rockville City Council since 2005.



Dana DeLisa

> **Dana DeLisa '01** starred as Eliza Doolittle in the National Theatre of Great Britain's *My Fair Lady*. The play's national tour included a run at the Kennedy Center Opera House in Washington, D.C.

> **George Lamptey '01** is working as a nursing shift supervisor for Asbury Methodist Village in Gaithersburg, Md.

> **Pam Parker '03** sings blues, jazz, folk, swing, and protest songs with her band. She released her third CD, *Bread and Roses*, last year.

> **Alexandra Toregas '03** has been attending the University of New England. She was named the school's athlete of the month in September.

> **Kyan Bishop '05** works as the resident artist at Red Dirt Studio in Mt. Rainier, Md.

> **Elena Chistik '05** is the full-time bookkeeper for the Euro Market and Willard Agri-Service, both in Frederick, Md. The Euro Market is owned by her husband, Vladimir Chistik.

> **Medina Birhan '07** is working full time in surgical technologies with Children's National Medical Center. She writes "I'm happy with the major that I picked. Thanks to MC for a very good education!"

> **Kemah Zinnah '07** is an RN in the Acute Medical Surgical Unit at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda, Md., and an EMT-B with the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department.

## IN MEMORIAM

The Alumni Association notes the passing of faculty, staff, and alumni of the College.

> **Edward D. Sohn, Bliss '42**, died December 3, 2006.

> **David Louis DuPre Jr. '50** died March 24, 2007. After serving in the Navy, he spent 17 years with Blue Cross Blue Shield in South Carolina.

> **Richard L. Porter '73** died May 31, 2007.

> **Michael Jeffries '70** died June 8, 2007. He worked for the CIA and as a consultant for engineering companies in the Washington, D.C. area.

> **Mary Anne Ernst '91** died August 31, 2007. She spent more than 23 years with the Marriott Corporation.

> **Florence Irene Price '76** died September 8, 2007. She volunteered for the Girl Scouts and St. Bernadette's School in Silver Spring, Md.

> **James Melvin Peet** died October 20, 2007. He taught classes from 1954 to 1986, spending the last 16 years of his career at MC.

> **George Muzyk '01** died October 30, 2007. After serving as a merchant marine, he helped run Threshold Services, a clinic for people with mental illnesses or substance-abuse problems.

> **John J. Schaming, Bliss '46**, died November 16, 2007.

> **Robert Daniel Smith '95** died November 22, 2007.

> **Samuel Francisco Trevino** died November 25, 2007. He was a part-time physics teacher at the Rockville Campus from 1991 to 2007. He earned international recognition for his research.

> **Anna Dorota Szklarz '02** died December 1, 2007.

> **Mery Cecilia Milla '89** died December 3, 2007. She was a staffing consultant at Acscys Inc. in Rockville, Md.

> **Lorraine Rodenbour Parsons '90** died December 12, 2007. She was the owner of a real estate firm.

> **Paul B. Duruz** died December 20, 2007. He was Rockville Campus security director in the 1970s and 1980s.

> **Nicholas Letsou** died December 21, 2007. He taught French for more than 20 years at the Rockville Campus, retiring in 1986.

> **Susan Fiel Thornton** died December 22, 2007. She taught chemistry at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus for 30 years.

> **Louis G. Chacos** died December 28, 2007. He was Coach of the Year for MC's NJCAA region in 1967. Later, he became chairman of the Takoma Park Campus's Health and Physical Education Department. (See remembrance on page 12.)

> **Rita F. Powell '68** died January 7, 2008. She began as an accountant at Jack's Roofing in Bethesda, Md., in 1965, retiring as business manager in 1995.



Montgomery College Archives

> **Maurice "Maus" Collins '53** died November 19, 2007. He was respected for his high school football coach-

ing career at Archbishop Carroll and Gonzaga between 1956 and 2000. Collins's teams collected 16 league titles and held an overall record of 322-74-9, making him the ninth winningest football coach in the country. Collins was a member of the Montgomery College Athletic Hall of Fame.

> **Lucia Gilbertson** died February 7, 2008. She worked at MC's public information office in the 1980s.

> **Jane A. Hydorn '82** died March 5, 2008. She was a project manager for Office Innovations.

> **Robert W. McHenry** died March 7, 2008. He was a professor in the Rockville Campus Political Science Department until his retirement in 2003.

*Memorial donations in honor of the deceased may be made to the Montgomery College Foundation. You may use the return envelope provided in this magazine, or write to the MC Foundation, 900 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD 20850.*

# REMEMBERING LOU CHACOS

*Sonny Gordon '60, a film and television writer in Los Angeles, was a student lounge denizen with Barbara Gooch and a member of the football team under Lou Chacos. When Sonny learned that Coach Chacos passed away in December, he sent us a reminiscence of a classic Chacos moment.*

**F**riday, October 4, 1957. I remember that date so well not only because of the team we were playing against, the Naval Receiving Station in Newport News, Virginia, but also because it was the day that the USSR launched Sputnik—the first-ever satellite in space.

Newport News being a basically military town, there was tension in the air. The Russians had beaten us into space. What next? Space war? So this team we were playing against—all of them older and a lot bigger—had all this angst to vent—on us.

It was a very physical game but we held our own. Late in the fourth quarter we were down by three but driving. Our quarterback, Dougie Thomas, had gotten us down to the 12-yard line with a first down. I played fullback/linebacker, but was sitting on the bench late in the fourth quarter because my helmet had cracked. Coach Chacos looked over at me and said, “Sonny, go in for JD.” He called a fake pitchout to me, with Dougie tucking it in for a draw up the middle.

“Coach,” I said, “My helmet’s cracked!”

No problem. He calmly eyed the guy sitting next to me, “Curly, give him your helmet.”

Curly—and to this day, I can’t remember his full name—had the biggest head any of us had ever seen. Describing him today, I’d say he looked like a six-foot bobblehead doll. On top of that humongous head was a small forest of thick, tightly-curled blond hair that made Jimi Hendrix look like he had a crew cut. I have no idea how coach ever found a helmet to fit him—maybe he had a relative at Spalding—or Wilson—or both.

You have to understand that those were the days when many helmets didn’t have face or nose guards; Curly’s didn’t have either.

Curly dutifully handed me his helmet, and I went running to the huddle with the play.

Fake fullback pitchout, quarterback draw—that was the play Coach Chacos called. I put the helmet on, and my vision almost disappeared. I didn’t care. We had a game to win. I got ready to break the huddle and get into position.

“Your helmet is on backwards!” It was Dougie. I looked up. He and the rest of the team were looking at me, giggling. The naval guys on the defense were also looking at me—and some also giggled.

I thought, “Damn! I put my helmet on backwards! No wonder it almost covered my eyes.” So, thinking it was on backwards, I quickly took it off, turned it around and put it on, and now it really was on backwards, covering most of my face. Our huddle and the defense across the line all burst out in laughter.

The referee called a five-yard penalty for delay of game.

I turned my helmet back around—actually, I spun it around to its correct side without taking it off—which, Dougie told me later, made it look like I’d just spun my entire head around! Everyone laughed even harder, which led to another delay-of-game penalty.

We finally got the play off and Dougie made it down to the three-yard line with time running out. Coach sent in another play with one of the receivers, who whispered it to Doug. The crowd was noisy, all of them rooting for the naval guys to hold us. Doug called out “fake kick.” When we practiced that play, Dougie became the holder, the fullback became the apparent kicker, Dougie took the hike, the fullback approached as if to kick, and Dougie stood and quickly threw a pass to the left or right end.



Courtesy Andy Chacos

On this night, though, I didn’t hear the word “fake.”

All I heard over the roar of the crowd was “kick.” I was a lousy kicker. On those rare occasions in practice when I fooled around and kicked the ball, if it went more than two yards, I considered it a breakthrough. So we all lined up. Dougie was kneeling, waiting for the hike. I stood in the kicker’s position yelling, “I can’t kick, Dougie! I can’t kick!”

Dougie started laughing again, but managed to call the hut-huts while I was still yelling, “I can’t kick!”

The play worked. We scored. When we all came back to the bench, coach grinned at me and said, “That ‘I can’t kick’ thing—nice touch.”

I do think Naval Receiving Station came back and scored a touchdown with time running out to win the game, but Coach Chacos congratulated us all on a great effort and promised to get me a new helmet.

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*Sonny Gordon’s first collection of short stories about growing up in Washington, D.C., is planned for publication in 2009.*



## CAMPUS SCENES

> Rockville Campus



Rockville Campus Provost Judy Ackerman, MC President Brian Johnson, and U.S. Senator Barbara Mikulski at a roundtable discussion with students in January.

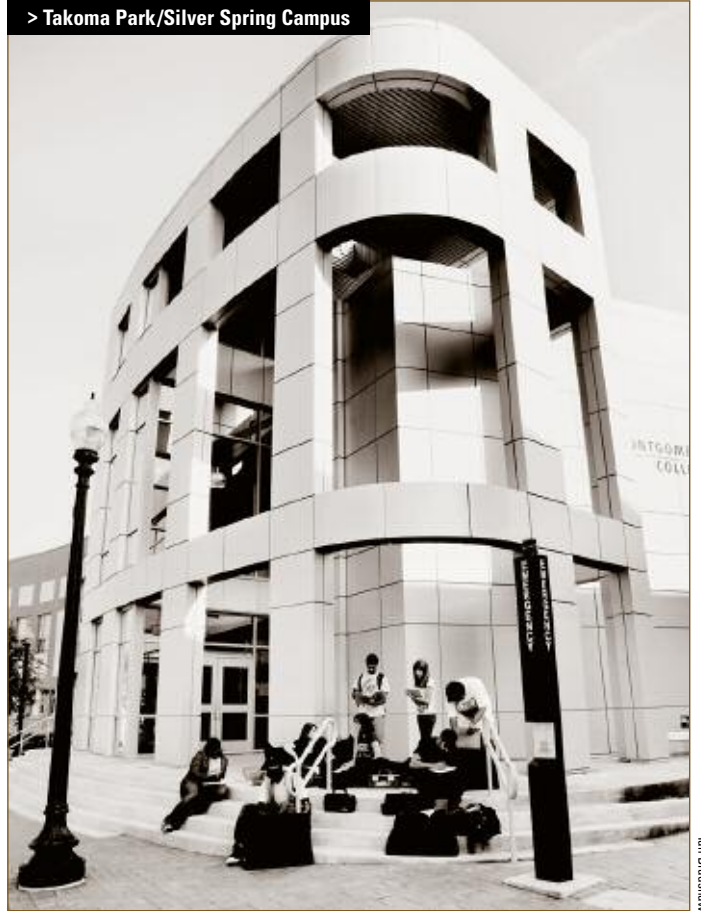
> Germantown Campus



Ian Bradshaw

Students in Professor Lori Kelman's biotechnology class conduct experiments in one of the lab's fume hoods.

> Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus



Ian Bradshaw

School of Art + Design students on the front steps of the new Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation Arts Center.

## MC KUDOS



Courtesy Sarah Silberman

### MC Dedicates Gallery in Honor of Lifelong Learner Sarah Silberman

Montgomery College dedicated its newly renovated Rockville Campus art gallery in honor of 98-year-

old Sarah Silberman, who generously donated \$500,000 for the gallery's complete renovation.

Silberman became an unofficial artist-in-residence and mentor when she began taking MC classes at the age of 71. She continued to study at the Rockville Campus for close to 25 years, building upon an artistic career that has spanned nearly a century. Silberman was classically trained in art at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and the Corcoran College of Art and Design.



Randy Sager

MC Board Member Gene Counihan, far right, salutes 98-year-old Sarah Silberman for her generous gift to the College.

In 2004 the College held an exhibit of Silberman's sculptures—the first-ever solo exhibit by a student in the gallery that now bears her name—and

in 2006 she was awarded an honorary associate's degree at the College's commencement ceremony.

—Elizabeth Homan

# Kendall Gifts Support Transferring Students



Kendall Scholars, from left: Shameeka Costley '07, Parissa Youssefi '06, Luis Lemus '08, George Zamora '07, Camille and Clifford Kendall, Nilam Hussain '08, Rashmin Patel '07, and Mary Vargas '07.

**C**amille and Clifford Kendall continued their longtime support of Montgomery College with a recent gift of \$500,000, which will be used to create a new scholarship at Montgomery College—the Camille and Clifford Kendall Scholars Endowed Scholarship. The Kendalls' donations help students transferring from Montgomery College to the Universities at Shady Grove (USG) or the University of Maryland,

College Park, where they will earn their bachelor's degrees.

In February, a luncheon sponsored by the USG Board of Advisors and the Montgomery College Foundation honored the Kendalls, along with other prominent donors, and recognized the recipients of their scholarships. The new USG student center was named the Camille Kendall Academic

Center in Camille Kendall's honor. The ribbon-cutting ceremony for this certified environmentally friendly building was held in November 2007.

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*For more information on ways to support MC students with scholarships, contact Valessia Samaras, 240-567-7493, or e-mail [valessia.samaras@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:valessia.samaras@montgomerycollege.edu).*



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