

News and Notes

Margot Chaffee '07 has been awarded the Mary Daniels Taylor Award for academic excellence and for an essay she wrote for the Master's in Professional Writing at Towson University. Margot says that through the Maryland Writing Project, she has learned how to write from the heart and it has truly paid off. Margot thanks her ISI instructors for their help in her reaching her goal of attaining her Master's Degree.



Margot's classroom was written up in the *Baltimore Sun*. Go to this link to learn more: The complete article can be viewed at: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/local/howard/bal-ho-educators22feb22,0,1668611.story>



Diantha (Diane) Mitchell '89 had her art work displayed at the opening of the 2nd Annual Attic Artists Exhibition on Friday, February 22, 2008 from 5-7 p.m. in Hebron Maryland.

The ATTIC ARTISTS are a group of 20 local watercolor artists who gather together to paint once a week. Although painting is their main focus, they are bonded together like a family. The ATTIC ARTISTS were organized in 1984. The oldest member is 94 and the youngest is 50. While they paint as a group, their work is unique to each artist to include landscape, still life, abstract, portraiture, florals and so much more. www.artinstituteandgallery.org

Erika Watkins, '05, is proud to announce that Myka, has joined Madison, aged 4. Myka Theresa Blackwell was born Oct. 19, 2007 at 2:36 p.m. She weighed in at 7 lbs., 4 oz. Erika says that she is doing well, although she still has not moved back into her house, which burned down in the fall but hopes to be back in soon.



Evan Balkan's '99 new book *Vanished! Explorers Forever Lost*, was published by the Menasha Ridge Press in October.



Heather Lageman '00 participated in this year's Polar Bear Plunge for the Special Olympics. Heather raised over \$1800. She enjoyed herself so much that she even went back in for a second dip.

Gina Anazco's '02 welcomes Natalie Isabelle, her new granddaughter.



Stuart Daily '06 (on right) on saxophone and Derrick Thompson (on left) on keyboards are the Majestic Notes. Visit their website at majesticnotesmusic.com

Ed McCarthy's '07, article, *It Takes a Village to Raise a Writer: Making the Teaching of Writing a Schoolwide Focus* was published in the Winter 2008 issue of *Independent School*.



Ed Sundt, '90, was named as the Dean of Faculty at the Landon School in Bethesda

Kristina Berdan '99, was awarded an Open Society Institute Fellowship to continue doing the work she currently does with her students' nonprofit, The Youth Dreamers.



Back Creek, a novel by Leslie Goetsch '84, has recently been published. The novel, which is Young Adult fiction, has already gotten rave reviews.



The image shows a screenshot of a web browser displaying the National Writing Project (NWP) website. The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.nwp.org/>. Below the address bar, there are navigation links for "Virtual Workspa...", "Towson Mail", "Student Systems", and "MCPS". The main header features the NWP logo and the text "NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT" in large, bold letters, with the tagline "IMPROVING WRITING AND LEARNING IN THE NATION'S SCHOOLS" to the right. A horizontal menu below the header lists "ABOUT / CALENDAR / NWP SITES / NATIONAL PROGRAMS / RESULTS / RESOURCES". The main content area has a light brown background and features a photograph of Joe Bellino on the left. To the right of the photo is a quote: "What I learned at the summer institute continues to be part of what I teach every day." Below the quote, the name "Joe Bellino" is displayed in bold, followed by his title: "Head of the English to Speakers of Other Languages Department, Montgomery Blair High School, Silver Spring, Maryland" and "Maryland Writing Project".

The NWP has a new Web site and look who is on the front page – Joe Bellino, T-C '89.