



The Sentinel

Voice of the ECC Faculty Association

Local 3791/IFT www.eccfaculty.org

May 2005

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From the President

It's been a busy year! The end of the spring semester seems an appropriate time to share some of the ECCFA accomplishments of the past year. Here are a few of our highlights:

- **August:** The ECCFA contributed \$200 toward the All-ECC Picnic held at the beginning of the semester. Everyone felt this event was a great way to start the semester. The *Queens of Organizing* (Peterhans, Ford, Ducar, Kerwin, and Hellmuth) began their work organizing three-hour adjuncts. The NCA Accreditation Sub-committees began their charge.
- **September:** The ECCFA worked with the ECC Foundation collecting United Way contributions. New IFT field rep Jennifer Marsh attended a meeting and reported on part-time

organizing efforts around the state.

- **October:** A potential coordinator grievance was resolved. The ECCFA sent strike support to Chicago City Colleges. Hefferin co-presented in New Orleans at the Association of Community College Trustees Association with Roger Spayer, Board Attorney Terry Creamer, and Board Trustee Richard Nay. The ECCFA Senate *Brown v. Board* Resolution is passed.
- **November:** After the Administration presented no questions on the contract, the Contract Clarification meeting scheduled with Administration was canceled. Three new unit adjunct Senators were elected. Green, Kerwin, and Hefferin attended the Community College Constituency Committee meeting in Oakbrook. The ECCFA Senate *Shared Governance* Resolution was passed.
- **December:** An “RS petition” was faxed to the Illinois Education Labor Relations Board requesting the ECCFA admit all qualified part-time faculty into the existing bargaining unit. The ECCFA Senate expressed its opposition to the College’s “Premium” parking plan. A contribution was sent to Northeastern University faculty, out on strike for their third week. Discussion was held on the abrupt release of Dean Russ Fahrner. All ECC employees and board members were invited as guests of the ECCFA to attend the EOS

party at Azteca de Oro on December 17.

- **January:** The ECCFA was represented at the ECC Founder’s Day Brunch. Dr. Glickman attended the Senate meeting to speak and ask questions regarding standing committees and shared governance.
- **February:** A *BIG VICTORY!* The ECCFA overwhelmingly won the three-hour adjunct election and welcomes this group into our unit. Green, Trejo, and Hefferin attended the IFT convention in St. Louis (yes, they hold the *Illinois Federation of Teachers* Convention in St. Louis). ECCFA members spoke at the BOT meeting regarding their concern over the conflict between credit/credit free course duplication. Dr. Burke also spoke at the BOT meeting on mission and integrity.
- **March:** The Senate meeting was held at FSQ. Several grievances and ULPs have been filed; all have been denied by Dr. Shirley. Faculty Senate approved a request that every search committee include at least one member of the MAGIC Committee. Concern was expressed by Senate members over Dr. Shirley’s latest e-mail, which stated that not all committees are the President’s and therefore do not require Senate approval. Faculty members were asked to withhold participation on search

committees until Dr. Shirley could clarify this statement.

- **April:** Bailey, Hefferin, Hallpike, and Tomasik attended Lobby Day in Springfield. Three-hour Adjunct Celebration was held at Carmalita's (co-hosted by the IFT). Tentative resolution with administration was reached on **Article 2.9 Committee Appointment and Participation**. It was tentatively agreed that all faculty committee service will be sent to the ECCFA Senate for approval.
- **May:** Elections were held after division re-alignment. The ECCFA awarded scholarship prizes to Corrine Stramaglia and Jenni Kempf. The Academic Affairs Senate Subcommittee ended its first year of existence. Thanks to Mary Ann Tuerk and Sherry Hellmuth for their vision for creating this standing Senate committee last May. On Fall 05 Opening Day, the ECCFA membership will vote to amend our Constitution and Bylaws to approve this committee as part of our Constitution and Bylaws.

Many other accomplishments could be listed. For example, the *Sentinel* came out on time (**thank you Bill D.**). Our web site was updated (**thanks to webmaster Ricky B**). Other committees across the campus met and accomplished their work (I can't begin to name them all). And on, and on, and on On the other hand, there's a lot of work left to do. Most days, my "to do" list has more items left on it at the

end of the day than get crossed off of it!

Several grievances remain outstanding and appear to be heading to arbitration. ECCFA leaders have met with members from the administration in an attempt to resolve these issues, but at this point there has been no resolution. In fact, last week, I was informed by the Grievance Committee that a new grievance has been filed.

I'll continue to meet with Mike and Gena over the summer but on a less frequent basis. It's been both an honor and a challenge to serve as your ECCFA President, and I look forward "refreshing" myself over the summer so I can serve again next year. I hope you're able to do the same!

In unity,

Linda

PS. Thank a Senator today!

Take a minute to thank your Faculty Senators and Officers before you leave this semester. They contribute a lot of time and energy on your behalf. Let me be the first.

What would I do without you,
1st Vice President Rick Green, 2nd Vice President Crystal Kerwin, Secretary Lynn Ducar, Treasurer Linda McEwan, Webmaster Rick Bailey, Queen of Organizing Mary Peterhans, *Sentinel* Editor Bill Demaree, Doug Fraley, John Slawson, Cathy Tomasik, Todd LaRue, Bill Pelz, Clark Hallpike, Pat

Parks, Carol Szabo, Mary Arndt, Sue Ford, Sherry Hellmuth, Dan Kernler, Armando Trejo, and Arturo Vazquez??

I appreciate all you do to make my job as ECCFA President easier! Thank you.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT JOINING THE ECCAA? That's the *Elgin Community College Annuitants Association*)? The ECCAA recently co-sponsored a luncheon on campus with SSECCA and ECCFA to discuss Governor Blagojevich's proposed pension cuts. A few faculty members were able to attend this luncheon (thanks, especially to the nursing faculty).

Dues to join the ECCAA are only \$27—a real bargain! This group is part of SUAA (State Universities Annuitants Association, www.suaa.org). Most recently, ECCAA's efforts have been focused on fighting Governor Blagojevich's plan to overhaul the Illinois pension system. They need our help. As we know, there is strength in numbers. Join ECCAA today, and provide some of the support necessary to protect our pension.

Some faculty members think this change in legislation won't affect them. It affects all of us in one way or another. In all likelihood, a two-tiered pension system will be created, and future annual retirement incentives will be limited to 3 percent instead of the current 20 percent.

Get involved with the ECCAA today! Contact Julie Henderson today at X7297 for an ECCAA membership application form.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ECCFA MEMBERS! Congratulations to Dr. Gail Shadwell, who was honored at the YWCA Leader Luncheon with the *Marguerite Henry Award for Communications/Technology*. Paralegal Professor Laurel Vietzen received the *Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award* and will be recognized at graduation. Under the direction of Marketing Professor and Tennis Coach Clark Hallpike, the Spartan Women's Tennis Team qualified for the NJCAA Tennis Nationals in May by virtue of the 1st place finish in the region last fall. The Men's Tennis Team also finished 1st in the Skyway Conference under the direction of Coach Hallpike.

ECCFA Awards Two Scholarships Linda Hefferin

Each year the ECCFA Scholarship Committee selects two student recipients to receive \$250 scholarship prizes. To be considered for the scholarship prizes, students must have a minimum grade point average of 3.0 and be graduating with an Associate of Arts degree, an Associate of Applied Science, or an Associate of Science degree. Students must complete a 250-350 word essay describing how ECC has helped them achieve their your

educational, professional, and/or personal goals and must be nominated by an ECC faculty member in their major area of study. In addition, students must be continuing their education or pursuing full-time employment. It is a pleasure to announce the recipients of the **2004-2005 ECCFA Scholarship Recipients.**

The recipient of the vocational scholarship is **Corrine Stramaglia of Bartlett.** Corrine is graduating this month with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Management. According to Dr. Linda Hefferin, Corrine, like many returning adults, had a few doubts about her abilities to succeed in college. "At first I was afraid I was in over my head going back to school with so many younger students in my classes, but thanks to the support of the faculty and other students I quickly felt accepted and comfortable," Corrine stated in her application.

After being downsized from her company, Corrine came to ECC to earn her management degree. Corrine is looking forward to re-entering the workforce with a new sense of confidence and will be seeking a management position.

Congratulations, Corrine Stramaglia.

The recipient of the transfer scholarship is **Jenni Kempf, of Algonquin.** Jenni is the founder of "4 the Earth," an ECC student club, "dedicated to environmental issues and community service for the environment." Founding "4 the

Earth" has taken her college experience to new levels. "The responsibilities associated with running an organization are immense and have helped me find my leadership ability, a value that is very meaningful for me," says Jenni.

Jenni, nominated by Mary O'Sullivan, will graduate with an Associate of Arts degree in May and will transfer to Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin, to pursue a teaching degree in environmental education.

Congratulations, Jenni Kempf.

Special thanks to our **Scholarship Chair Rick Bailey;** and the following members of the Scholarship Committee: **Dawn Munson, Mary O'Sullivan,** and **Muffie Slater.**

New Senate Members Chosen

Senate elections were held at last on 9 and 10 May 2005. The winners of each division are as follows:

MSEH - Miroslav Reyac

LASS – Shawn Mikulay, Carol Szabo

UAF – Susan Ford, Crystal Kerwin, Mary Peterhans

COUN/LIB – Linda McEwan

BUS/TECH – Rick Bailey, Rick Green

Mid-term Bargaining Begins!

Rick Green

On April 27th the ECCFA began mid-term bargaining with the Board of Trustees to provide language in the ECCFA contract for inclusion of a new group of adjunct faculty. These newest members of the ECCFA are the result of a recent change in the law, an election, and subsequent certification. Your hard-working committee for this bargaining is Mary Peterhans, Sue Ford, Lynn Ducar, Cathy Tomasik, Linda Perez, Rick Bailey, Jennifer Marsh (IFT) and Rick Green.

Please be aware that it is the policy of the negotiating committee not to share the specifics of negotiations during the process. We will try to keep you informed of the meeting dates and the basic progress. As of this date, we have completed two negotiation sessions and two more are scheduled. Your negotiating committee looks forward to working with the Administration and the Board to further recognize this valuable group of adjuncts by welcoming them into the ECCFA contract.

Assessment Committee Continues Its Work

David Sujak

This past year, the Assessment Committee began

working on General Education Outcomes Assessment. During the prior school year, the Curriculum Committee had identified eight General Education Outcomes. By the time we were done with our job this semester, these had been reduced to nine. No, that's not a typo; we actually did eliminate two outcomes (i.e., Life Skills and Listening). We also divided the Communications Outcome into three separate outcomes (i.e., Writing, Reading, and Speaking).

This Spring Semester 2005 we collected data on five of the eight outcomes. The ones that were measured this spring were: (a) Writing Skills; (b) Reading Skills; (c) Speaking Skills; (d) Scientific Literacy; and (e) Quantitative Literacy. The other four outcomes will be measured beginning in Fall Semester 2005.

Four of the skills (writing, reading, quantitative literacy, and scientific literacy) were measured using CAAP ([Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency](#)) tests. A second measure for writing involved evaluating student writing samples. Speaking skills were measured using videotaped student samples from General Education classes.

Preliminary data analysis indicates that our students scored above the national norm in reading, scientific literacy, and quantitative literacy. However, they scored below the national norm on writing skills. Furthermore, on the writing samples that were scored on a 5 point scale, most of the samples were rated as

2's or 3's. This indicates we need to examine how writing is taught in our General Education courses. You will be receiving more detailed analyses when we return in for the Fall Semester.

The students who will be taking one of three tests for critical thinking skills, technological literacy, and information literacy, will do so during a regularly scheduled class period in classes that were randomly selected from among all the sections of general education classes. Critical thinking will be assessed by a standardized test (i.e., the California Critical Thinking Test). Technological literacy and information literacy will be measured using tests developed by the respective task forces of the Assessment Committee. Finally, the Global Awareness outcome will be measured by four items attached at the ends of the other three tests.

As we did this past Spring Semester, students in classes that have been selected will be receiving a letter from the college at the beginning of the semester notifying them that they will be taking one of these tests. However, they will not be informed when it will occur.

In the past week, letters went out to faculty whose students were selected, informing them of that fact. Probably, only fifteen faculty will be needed this time, as opposed to the 27 we used this spring. More general information about our assessment process will be given at the general session on that day.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please refer them Dr. David Sujak, Assessment Committee Chair (dsujak@elgin.edu or ext. 7273).

Meet Debby Fahey! Mary Arndt

Debby Fahey is a nursing instructor here at ECC. She started out by being born in Texas. As an infant, she and her family moved to Biloxi, Mississippi, where her father served in the Air Force.

She has a Bachelor's degree in postsecondary education. For several years she worked at a community college where she taught business courses and directed the business program.

In 1993, she graduated from ECC with her Associate's Degree in Nursing. She worked in pediatrics for about nine years and divided her employment between a pediatric/post-surgical unit at St. Alexius Hospital and a pediatric physician's office. Debby returned to school and obtained a Bachelor of Nursing, Master of Nursing, and Family Nurse Practitioner certification from Graceland University in Independence, Missouri. Talk about a lifelong learner!

Debby now teaches nursing at ECC in the areas of obstetrics and pediatrics and will begin teaching content in the third semester of the nursing program, starting in Fall, 2005.

Debby is married with two children. Her husband Brian works at Hart's Tractor as a field mechanic. Her daughter Amanda graduated from the University of Maryland last year and now works for the U.S. Department of Defense. Her son Spencer is a junior in high school and is interested in either global security or becoming a fighter pilot for the Air Force or Navy. Debby is a dog lover who owns two Chihuahuas named Paco and Zena.

A favorite movie (also a book) that she recommends is *The Notebook*. It's a powerful story of how a family is affected when one member develops Alzheimer's disease. Walking is what Debby does to relax and reduce stress. When asked where she sees herself ten years from now, she answered, "I hopefully plan on being tenured! I'm still counting on being at ECC." When asked if you could have lunch with ANYONE, who would it be, she replied, "Anyone who knows me knows the answer to that one...it's Johnny Depp! I am a devoted fan. My husband was even able to get his autograph for me. I have movie posters in my family room and he's up there."

So that's the story on Deb Fahey. She began her nursing career at ECC and hopes to finish it here also. Welcome to our faculty!



Debby Fahey and Family