



# The Sentinel

Voice of the ECC Faculty Association  
Local 3791/IFT [www.eccfaculty.org](http://www.eccfaculty.org)  
September 2006

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## From the President

### Where Are We Going? And How Will We Get There?

These are important questions for the ECCFA to think about as we begin a new semester, contract negotiations, and a search for a new president. Yet it's difficult to determine our path for the future until we examine our past and see what we can learn. Many of our faculty members are new to ECC and new to the ECCFA. We provide an historical overview of the ECCFA for new faculty members upon their hire, but the real message of how our hard-earned benefits were obtained doesn't always come across in a short PowerPoint presentation. *We must continually remind each other of the struggle for each and every right we have gained, as well as be ready to speak up and hold each other accountable to fulfill our responsibilities in the workplace. Especially as our contract nears expiration, we all should reflect back and thank past leaders of the ECCFA like Walt Garrett, Ricky Bailey, Dave Sujak, and Cindy Hutman, for the gains made during past negotiations.*

We are very proud of our newly elected Negotiating Team, who will be

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spending countless hours in the coming months on our behalf with the goal of obtaining a fair settlement. Thanks to the following faculty members who were elected to serve on the team: *BUS/Workforce Development*: **Clark Hallpike**; *CABS*: **Jason Kane**; *COUNS/LIB*: **Arturo Vasquez**; *MSEHP*: **Dan Kernler**; *LVPA*: **Robert Harmon**; *UAF*: **Kenneth White**. In addition, First Vice President **Rick Green**, Second Vice President **Susan Ford**, and I (**Linda Hefferin**) will be part of the team to keep this rowdy gang in line. Negotiations with the Board team are expected to begin in October.

In addition, thanks to **Mary Ann Tuerk** (Math) and **Gary Norden** (Automotive) who are serving on the Presidential Search Committee. These two faculty members are committing many hours to this search process.

In July, Clark Hallpike, Bill Pelz, and I attended the AFT Convention in Boston. The theme of the Convention was, "**Count Me In.**" There are a number of ways to be *counted* as a member of the ECCFA. Serving on committees is just one way. Becoming a leader in the union is another. But there are many other opportunities to stand up and be heard and to make a difference in the future of our association. One simple way to be counted is displaying the **ECCFA Unity** sign on your office door as we begin negotiations. Just e-mail me if you need a sign.

I remember a quote by President Ed McElroy. "You and your colleagues who do this work each and every day, you are the power of this union." The ECCFA has an extensive and rich history as a faculty association. But the truth is, *Where would we be without our members? You are the power of the union!*

Thanks to all of you who make the ECCFA what it is. You are determining where we are going as well as the method we will take to get to our destination!

## Bits and Pieces . . .

We are always proud of our ECCFA scholarship awards, but many of us contribute to scholarships outside of ECC as well. Join me in congratulating **Tammy Ray**, who was awarded the *2006/2007 Northern Fox Valley Women in Management Scholarship*. Tammy is attending DePaul University pursuing a bachelor's degree focusing on innovative technologies.

**Elizabeth Becker**, Biology, was recently injured while riding her horse. Elizabeth had surgery and will be in a cast for several weeks. You'll see that Elizabeth is back teaching (nothing can keep a good woman down!). However, if you see her, you might want to sign her cast!

**Faculty Meetings.** Meetings will be scheduled to communicate with our membership to provide general communications regarding negotiations. These meetings will also provide an opportunity for members to voice concerns (or compliments!) regarding the association. Notice regarding the day/time of the meetings will be sent via e-mail.

**IFT Scholarships.** Do you have a high school senior? If so, read on! December 1 is the deadline for the 2007 IFT scholarship applications. The **IFT Robert G. Porter Scholarship** awards \$6,000 (\$1,500 per year for four years) toward the cost of college at a public university in Illinois to two recipients. The **Carl J. Megal Special Education Scholarship** awards \$1,000 to a high school senior enrolled in a special education school, class, or program. These applications can be printed from the IFT website at [www.ift-aft.org](http://www.ift-aft.org). Full details regarding these scholarships are available at the website.

**Union Leadership Training (ULI).** The IFT's professional development program for 2006/2007 is about to begin. These classes are taught by experienced union staff, most of whom are former IFT local leaders. The program is conducted over three weekend sessions throughout the

school year, with all three sessions required. ECCFA pays for the cost of the training. All classes are held at the Robert M. Healey Center in Westmont, Illinois. Overnight accommodations on Friday evening are also arranged if necessary.

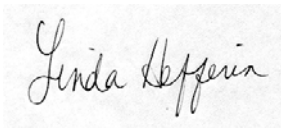
The following weekend classes will be offered: **Introduction to Collective Bargaining, Grievance Administration, Union Leadership Development, Positive Negotiations.**

Here are the dates for the classes: October 28-29, 2006; February 3-4, 2007; April 28-29, 2007.

This year, five single-weekend sessions are also being offered. The classes are as follows: **Teacher Retirement System Inside and Out for Union Leadership (Oct, Feb, Apr), Organizing for Power (Apr), Spreading Your Message Through Print Media (Oct), Websites Made Easy (Feb), Making Media Work for You (Apr).**

Please contact Linda Hefferin if you are interested in receiving more information about any of the classes.

In Unity,



Linda

## Inspire Young People While Showcasing Your Department

**Susan Timm**  
**Office Administration Technology**

Those of us who have devoted our lives to education have heard of stories in which a young person's life was positively impacted by a teacher. Indeed, the act of adding value to another person's life is often one of the main attractions to the teaching profession. This Spring 2007, ECC faculty will have the perfect opportunity to connect

with and to influence some area middle and high school at-risk students in our College community, many of whom desperately need to be inspired in their educational pursuits.

As anyone who has studied educational statistics knows, an overwhelming majority of our nation's at-risk students are those of color. Did you know that almost half (45.9%) of the student population of area School District U-46 is African-American and Hispanic? Consequently, we are in the process of coordinating two events aimed at reaching both African-American and Hispanic students in this neighboring school district. The Hispanic outreach is scheduled for Friday, February 2. The African-American program is tentatively planned for another Friday two weeks later.

District teachers believe their young people need to be exposed to different college majors and to realize that going to college can be a reality for them. In this regard, you have the power to help make these programs truly applicable to the students. You can provide hands-on opportunities in your college classroom. Time is scheduled in the afternoon for the middle and high school students to experience two different areas. By presenting a 30-minute interactive or hands-on session, you inspire these young people while showcasing your discipline. The same teaching session will be offered twice each day.

We invite all ECC departments to participate in this exciting endeavor. Just think of all the possibilities! All available options will be presented to the visiting students in advance who then will be allowed to sign up for two classes each. So put on your thinking caps and see how you might inspire young people to study in your field. If your department has a student group affiliated with it, then we encourage you to involve the ECC members in the planning and implementation of the unit that you will be teaching. What an excellent opportunity to mentor some of our ECC students in the process!

As you can see, we faculty have an excellent opportunity to showcase our departments while positively impacting young people in our immediate community. We also have the perfect occasion to highlight the tremendous value we bring to ECC as it reaches out to educate our area middle and high school students. Are you up to this exciting challenge? For more information, please contact Susan Timm (Ext 7916 or [stimm@elgin.edu](mailto:stimm@elgin.edu)).

### **ECC Artists Participate in Conference, Exhibits**

The following news comes from ECC's Art Department:

Art teachers Joel Peck and Sigrid Wonsil will attend the Midwest Graphics Conference in Athens, Ohio, on Sept 20-23. A number of ECC students will also be attending.

Also, Wonsil is participating in two exhibits in the coming months:

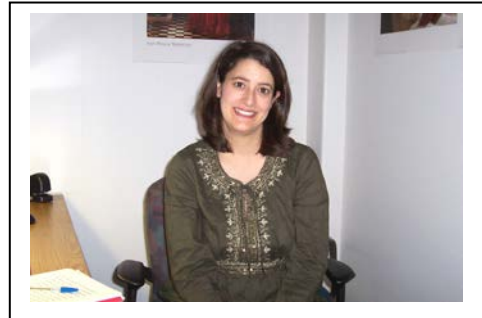
1. "Chicago International Artists Exhibition" at the Korean Daily Culture Center, 790 Busse Road, Elk Grove Village, Illinois. An ECC student, Kim Massey, is also taking part in the exhibition.

2. "Imperfect Beauty," a three-person exhibit at the Evansville Museum of Science and Art, Evansville, Indiana. The exhibit opens Sept 17 and closes Nov.26. The reception will be held Sept.30, and a panel discussion will take place Nov.12. In addition to Wonsil, the other two participants are Debra Grall, Professor of Art at NIU, and Davida Schulman, who has taught at ECC and is teaching presently at Oakton.

### **ECC Welcomes Johann Cummings and Michel Román**

The English Department is pleased to introduce its two new faculty members, Johanna Cummings and Michele Román, both whom joined in the department this semester.

### **Johanna Cummings**



If you have any questions about planning a wedding, Johanna may be the one to talk to. Her March 2006 wedding was held in New Orleans less than a year after Hurricane Katrina. Johanna and her husband, Brent Bernard, a Louisiana native, were prepared to make alternative plans, especially since, unfortunately, Bernard's family suffered significant losses from Katrina. But since the French Quarter suffered relatively little damage, vendors encouraged Johanna to keep plans as they were. The couple was married, as planned, in Saint Louis Cathedral in the heart of the French Quarter. Johanna and her husband are expecting their first child this January.

Johanna comes to ECC with a BA and an MA from the University of Texas in San Antonio and a Ph.D. in 18<sup>th</sup> century British literature (specializing in late 18<sup>th</sup> century dramatists) from the University of New Mexico. Before coming to Illinois, Joanna also taught technical writing and 18<sup>th</sup> century literature at the University of New Mexico, and she taught freshman composition at two community colleges in Colorado. She has taught at ECC as a part-time instructor, and before settling at ECC as a full-timer, Johanna also taught writing courses at Triton College and at COD. At ECC she teaches both freshman composition and developmental composition; she is also scheduled to teach a course in Shakespeare in spring 2007.

## Michel Román



New department member Michel Román may hold some kind of record, having immigrated to the U.S. at the ripe old age of minus one month. Michel's mother left Mexico and joined her husband in Chicago one month before Michel was born. Michel and her sibs (three brothers and two sisters) were consequently raised in Chicago in both the Humboldt Park and Albany Park areas.

Michel received her BA and MA from the University of Illinois in Chicago, with concentrations in English, creative writing, and Latin American and Latino Studies. A poet herself, Michel reports that her favorite writers include Sandra Cisneros, Ana Castillo, and Luis Urrera.

Before coming to ECC, Michel taught freshman composition and Latin American literature at Harold Washington College in downtown Chicago. At ECC, she teaches both developmental and freshman composition; she is scheduled to teach a course in poetry in the spring of 2007.

Although working in the 'burbs, Michel maintains her status as a Chicagoan. She and her husband Alex Arteaga (they were married in December 2005) live in the Austin neighborhood of the city.

These new faculty member are easy to find: Johanna is in SRC 340 and Michel in SRC 368A. Stop by to talk about Latino writers, the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Chicago, and hurricanes. Or just to say hello.

## Someone's in the Kitchen with ECCFA

On Wednesday, 6 September, the Faculty Senate exchanged run-of-the-mill for pepper-mill. In place of its regularly scheduled meeting, the Senate participated in a team building exercise involving culinary arts. Under the guidance of ECC chefs Maria Terry and Peter Capadona, Senate members divided into teams, each team responsible for one dish in a multi-course Mexican meal. The menu included appetizers, soup, salad, rice, tamales, and chicken rellenos (served with Chef Peter's incredible mole sauce). During the meal itself, Senators held a brief business meeting.

As these four photos indicate, some Senators may well become the next celebrity chefs on the Food Network.







## **ECCFA Members Approve Dues Change**

Earlier this month, ECCFA members approved a \$7 increase in dues for full time faculty and a \$6 increase for UAF/UAF1. This year IFT/AFT dues have increased by \$14.50 for each FT member and \$1.38 for each UAF/UAF1 member.

The charts on the following page—courtesy of ECCFA Treasurer Linda McEwan—explain how money is disbursed to the various affiliated organizations. A schedule of deductions is also provided.

**ECCFA Dues Information 2006/2007**

**Anticipated Membership**

Full time = 127

UAFs = 130

UAF-1s = 130

<b>Costs</b>	<b>Full time Faculty</b>	<b>Adjunct Faculty</b>
<b>AFT</b>	<b>\$167.40</b>	<b>\$41.85</b>
<b>IFT</b>	<b>\$263.30</b>	<b>\$80.83</b>
<b>Liability Insurance</b>	<b>\$9.00</b>	<b>\$9.00</b>
<b>IL AFL - CIO</b>	<b>\$5.40</b>	<b>\$5.40</b>
<b>ECCFA in 04</b>	<b>\$128.90</b>	<b>\$38.92</b>
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$574.00</b>	<b>\$176.00</b>

Deductions to occur on the following Pay Days

<b>Fall 2006</b>		
<b>Full time= \$41.00    Adjunct = \$17.60</b>		
<b>9/15</b>	<b>\$41.00</b>	
<b>9/29</b>	<b>\$41.00</b>	
<b>10/13</b>	<b>\$41.00</b>	<b>\$17.60</b>
<b>10/27</b>	<b>\$41.00</b>	<b>\$17.60</b>
<b>11/10</b>	<b>\$41.00</b>	<b>\$17.60</b>
<b>11/22</b>	<b>\$41.00</b>	<b>\$17.60</b>
<b>12/8</b>	<b>\$41.00</b>	<b>\$17.60</b>

<b>Spring 2007</b>		
<b>Full time= \$41.00    Adjunct = \$17.60</b>		
<b>2/2</b>	<b>\$41.00</b>	
<b>2/16</b>	<b>\$41.00</b>	<b>\$17.60</b>
<b>3/2</b>	<b>\$41.00</b>	<b>\$17.60</b>
<b>3/16</b>	<b>\$41.00</b>	<b>\$17.60</b>
<b>3/23</b>	<b>\$41.00</b>	<b>\$17.60</b>
<b>4/13</b>	<b>\$41.00</b>	<b>\$17.60</b>
<b>4/27</b>	<b>\$41.00</b>	