



The Sentinel

Voice of the ECC Faculty Association
Local 3791/IFT www.eccfaculty.org
September 2007

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From the President



Happy Belated Labor Day!

"Labor Day differs in every essential way from the other holidays of the year in any country," according to Samuel Gompers, founder and long-time president of the American Federation of Labor. "All other holidays are in a more or less degree connected

with conflicts and battles of man's prowess over man, of strife and discord for greed and power, of glories achieved by one nation over another. Labor Day...is devoted to no man or woman, living or dead, to no sect, race, or nation."

Over 100 years ago, **Labor Day** was established to honor the social and economic achievements of American workers. Even when union membership is experiencing declining numbers, labor unions are not in danger of dying. More than 500,000 workers formed new union associations in 2006. And the research continues to indicate that union members make on average \$150 more per week than non-union workers. White-collar employees such as pharmacists, physicians, attorneys, and even managers who are facing shifts in their workplace, are joining unions in growing numbers.

Aren't you glad you're part of the ECCFA?! Don't you wish everyone was?! So, as another busy academic year begins at ECC, it is appropriate and necessary, that the ECCFA pay tribute to the strength, freedom, and leadership of our country — union members.

In unity,

Linda

UAF 1 Corner

Dan Kocher

Welcome to the UAF 1 (Unit Adjunct Faculty 1) Corner. The editor of this fine publication has agreed to provide a little space in every issue to bring some of our newest members up-to-speed on the privileges and benefits of ECCFA membership.

To qualify to be a UAF 1 member, you must, at a minimum, have taught a three credit hour course for each of two consecutive semesters since the spring of 2004. If you receive a teaching appointment the semester following qualification, you become eligible to join the ECCFA. If you don't get a teaching position that third semester but receive teaching appointment the following semester, you become eligible during that semester. An Independent Study or Telecourse assignment does not count towards qualification, nor does teaching during the summer session.

Currently, there are 140 part-time faculty members qualifying as UAF 1s teaching in virtually all the academic areas of the college. Some of us have been teaching for many years while others are just starting out. We bring a diverse set of cultural, academic and professional experiences to our students. Many of us teach in the evening, while holding demanding day jobs. Others have jobs or schedules that permit us to teach one or two courses during the day in addition to our other activities.

There are four UAF 1 members who were elected by their peers to be their representatives to the Faculty Senate. They are Bev Augustine, Dan Kocher, Steve Lipinski, and Mike Walschot. Like you, we are part-timers and our constituency is spread over both ECC campuses. Still we desire to meet and get to know as many of you as possible. Please feel free to contact any of us if you have any questions about or need help dealing with union matters

In future issues of *The Sentinel*, we will be covering other areas of interest to part-time faculty. We are planning to discuss Salary Schedules, Tuition Reimbursement, Job Descriptions, Sick Leave, Professional Expenses, Grievance Procedure and other issues of interest to our members. In the meantime I invite you to visit the FAQ section of the ECCFA website, <http://www.eccfaculty.org> for additional information about your association and the benefits of membership.

In Unity,

Dan Kocher
ECCFA 3rd Vice President & UAF 1
Senator

Grievance Committee Offers Advice, Info to ECC Faculty

The Grievance Committee (a standing committee of the Elgin Community College Faculty Association/ECCFA) offers the following advice to faculty (members of the committee are listed below):

- Even if you are unsure that an action is in violation of the collective bargaining agreement, you should meet with the grievance committee.
- If you are sure that you are being instructed to do something in the direct violation of the collective bargaining agreement, you are still obligated to perform that action. The only actions you are not required to perform, if instructed, are those that may cause bodily injury.
- Once you have completed the assigned task, it is in your best interest to file a grievance with the help of the Grievance Committee.
- Questions may be directed to any of the committee members.

- The Grievance Committee meetings are every other Tuesday (same week as the ECCFA Senate meets) in the Union Office, SRC 372.
- The following forms are available on the ECCFA website for filing grievances:
 1. Grievance Note-taking Sheet
 2. Grievance Form

ECCFA Website:
<http://www.eccfaculty.org/index.html>

Committee Members (elected)

Sarah Dye, Co-Chair
 Communication & Behavioral Science
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 X 7538

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Dr. Eugenie Scott Offers Two Talks on Evolution at ECC

Barb Backley

On any day, any one of us has taught our students not only the content of our discipline but also thinking skills that apply to all our disciplines. We know that having information is an important beginning in education. But it is the thinking skills that will make our students less vulnerable to the muddled, misinformation with which they (we) are, and will be, continually bombarded.

Dr. Eugenie Scott confronts a world in which the powerful thinking skills we teach--analysis, synthesis, prediction and inference--have to be constantly defended. Dr. Scott is a nationally-recognized authority on the creationism and evolution controversy. I sincerely encourage you to come hear her presentations on our campus Monday, November 5, at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Our campus has entertained several speakers who have criticized the Theory of Evolution. This will be the first time that a campus-wide speaker counters their arguments explaining how powerful, scientific thinking skills converge on and support that important natural law. Her presentation is about nothing less than maintaining the intellectual integrity of our classrooms.

Also, please consider encouraging your students to attend. Her message is one that applies to any discipline--perhaps students could write a reaction paper or research the history of the Scopes trial as an assignment. Information about both speeches follows:

What Creationists Think About Evolution and Why It is Wrong

Monday, November 5, 11:00 a.m.
ATC Auditorium

"If humans evolved from monkeys, why are there still monkeys?" This misconception illustrates a major confusion held by many people about evolution: that fish evolved into amphibians, which evolved into reptiles, which evolved into mammals, which evolved into humans in some "ladder of life" or "great chain of being." That isn't what evolution is all about. Dr. Scott will talk about this and other creationist misconceptions of evolution, and what scientists really think about this controversial topic.

The Evolution (And Stasis) of Creationism

Monday, Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m.
ATC Auditorium

Creationism has changed over the last 100 years or so, but some features have not changed much at all. These three "pillars of creationism" – that evolution is a "theory in crisis", that evolution and faith are incompatible, and that it is somehow fair or good pedagogy to "teach both" – are as valid today as they were during the trial of John T. Scopes. Dr. Scott will bring us up to date on what is happening in the controversy today.

ECC Hosts Workshop in Teaching Portfolios

On Thursday, October 25, 2007, from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., Dr. Peter Seldin, Distinguished Professor of Management at Pace University, and Dr. Elizabeth Miller, Associate Professor at NIU, will present The Teaching Portfolio Workshop. Faculty members from Elgin Community College, as well as surrounding colleges and universities, are invited to attend.

Active learning, mini-lectures, Q & A, individual reflection, small and large group problem solving will provide workshop participants with practical suggestions, step-by-step instructions, and field-tested recommendations for creating a teaching portfolio. Continental breakfast will be served. In addition, all ECC participants are invited to a luncheon immediately following the workshop.

This workshop is an outgrowth of the work of a small group of ECC faculty (Glenn Earl, Heidi Eaton, Clark Hallpike, Roger Ramey and Kim Tarver) who began to explore ways to use a guided process of self-reflection as a means to improve teaching. Creating a teaching portfolio has been found to be a meaningful process of self-reflection to improve one's teaching, and it is a valuable product for documenting one's teaching accomplishments.

The Elgin Community College Faculty is invited to participate in this workshop. Following the workshop, interested individuals will be invited to engage in the process of creating a teaching portfolio. Committed faculty members will support and encourage each other in this endeavor.

To register for this workshop, CET 419 Teaching Portfolio/Self Reflection, Contact Angela Lucca at 847-622-3036 or at ALucca@elgin.edu.

Tuition is \$60.00 for external participants or \$30.00 for ECC Faculty

***Sentinel* Editor Exposed as Fed** **William Demaree**

So there I was at Fisherman's Wharf, killing time until my red-eye flight from Oakland to Midway. I had several hours and two shots left in my cheapo disposable camera. Escaping the crowd

of Wharf tourists, I noticed a huge building, the union hall for the ILWU local #10, across the street from the southeastern edge of the Wharf. The words painted on the huge window above the main entrance caught my attention: "IN LABOR WE UNITE."

Thinking I might somehow, someday, in some way, find it useful for *The Sentinel*, I walked up to take a quick (and probably bad) photo of the window.

Before my camera had finished its 'click,' the door burst open and out charged a hostile guard: black slacks, camouflage shirt, Kangol cap (worn backwards), cell phone earpiece wedged in his ear, walkie-talkie and keys hanging from his utility belt—Rambo portrayed by Joey Tribbiani.

"What the frick are *you* doin'?"

Before I could explain my innocent interest in the window, he yelled, "What are you—a Fed?"

A Fed. Oh God yes. A Fed. I am so very Robert Stack.

I began sputtering in surprise (and no small amount of fear): I'm not a Fed, I belong to a union, I'm sorry I alarmed you, I'm on your side—I was searching for the magic words that would defuse this man's anger. In vain.

"I'm always catchin' people with cameras in our parking lot, takin' pictures of license plates. Then they try to bullshit me, tellin' me they're takin' pictures of Coit Tower," he said, pointing to Coit Tower, looking quite photogenic where it stood a few blocks away. "But I know they're Feds."

I tried to explain again that I was not a Fed, that I was photographing a window, not a license plate, but he was too wound up in his own anger. Before I knew it, twenty minutes had passed, during which time he had angrily denounced George Bush, the Iraq War, the Feds, and Jimmy Carter.

I tried again: I'm not a Fed, I'm in a union, I edit the union newsletter . . . You've got to believe me.

"I believe you. In fact, now that I look at you, you even look like that Michael Moore guy."

Suddenly a line had been crossed.

"I'm trying to lose weight!" I said, my voice rising a little, like the hair on a dog's back.

"I ain't talkin' about your gut," he said. "You look like that Michael Moore guy."

Sooooooooo After an awkward pause, I felt the need for the comfort of a non-judgmental Caramel Macchiato at the nearest Starbucks. I apologized again (a little less sincerely this time) and excused myself ("Gotta go!"). And as the guard disappeared into the union hall, I disappeared into the crowd of tourists on Mason Street.

If this story has a moral, it is that discretion is the better part of valor. I did in fact tell this fellow I was in a union, but I chose not to tell him what kind. There are people for whom the only thing worse than being a Fed is being a teacher of English.



Sentinel Back Page
Information for
ECCFA Members

ECCFA Officers

Linda Hefferin, President
Rick Green, First Vice-President
Sue Ford, Second Vice-President
Dan Kocher, Third Vice-President
Linda McEwan, Treasurer
Mary Arndt, Secretary

William Demaree, *Sentinel* Editor
Armando Trejo, Webmaster

ECCFA Senators

BUS/TECH

Rick Green
Clark Hallpike
Roger Ramey

CABS

Tim Anderson
Dennis Lynch
Rachael Tecza

LR/CON

Linda McEwan

LVPA

Robert Harmon
Howard Russo

MSEH

Mary Arndt
Elizabeth Becker
Daniel Kernler

UAF

Rick Bonnom
Sue Ford
Crystal Kerwin
Ron Kowalczyk
Marcia Luptak
Chris Newman
Mary Peterhans
Cathy Tomasiak

UAF1

Beverly Augustine
Steve Lipinski
Michael Walschot

**Senate Meeting Dates,
2007-2008**

Fall 2007

- ⌚ 22 August
- ⌚ 5 September
- ⌚ 19 September
- ⌚ 3 October
- ⌚ 17 October
- ⌚ 31 October
- ⌚ 14 November
- ⌚ 28 November
- ⌚ 12 December

Spring 2008

- ⌚ 16 January
- ⌚ 30 January
- ⌚ 13 February
- ⌚ 27 February
- ⌚ 12 March
- ⌚ 2 April
- ⌚ 16 April
- ⌚ 30 April
- ⌚ 14 May

All meetings are at 3:00 p.m. in ICT 201.

**Sentinel Dates
2007-2008**

Submissions Due Dates	Publication Due Dates
Friday, 12 October 2007	Monday, 15 October 2007
Monday, 12 November 2007	Thursday, 15 November 2007
Friday, 7 December 2007	Tuesday, 11 December 2007 (Classes End 13 December)
Wednesday, 13 February 2008	Friday, 15 February 2008
Wednesday, 12 March 2008	Friday, 14 March 2008
Friday, 11 April 2008	Tuesday, 15 April 2008
Friday, 9 May 2008	Monday, 12 May 2008 (Classes End 14 May)