



The Sentinel

Voice of the ECC Faculty Association

Local 3791/IFT www.eccfaculty.org

February 2007

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From the President

The ECCFA is pleased to welcome Dr. David Sam to campus this week. It's an exciting and interesting time with Dr. Sam arriving as the Board and the ECCFA continue to negotiate the contract that expired December 31. Certainly, we would have preferred to have a contract ratified prior to his arrival. Most likely Dr. Sam will not get heavily involved in the negotiating process as he assumes his new position, but hopefully his arrival will speed up the bargaining process which has gone on far too long.

Dr. Sam is meeting with the ECCFA Grievance Committee, and he will also be attending the Faculty Senate meeting this week. Both of these meetings provide an opportunity for Dr. Sam and the ECCFA leadership to begin developing a positive working relationship.

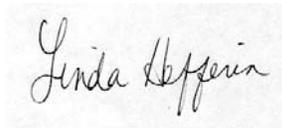
Appointments have been set up for me to meet with Dr. Sam every two weeks in an effort to maintain open communication lines. Dr. Sam has also accepted invitations from faculty members who have invited him to visit their classrooms. This president has

made it known that he will definitely be a president who manages by walking around!

As a reminder, please make every effort to attend the continental breakfast welcoming reception for Dr. David Sam, on **FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2007, between 7:30-9:00 a.m.** in the UBC dining room. A special presentation will be held during the breakfast beginning at 8 a.m. This reception provides an excellent opportunity to personally meet and greet Dr. Sam and welcome him to ECC, and it's important that the ECCFA members attend.

We look forward to Dr. Sam's leadership and vision as we work together to serve students and fulfill the mission of the college. Let's all give him our total support as he becomes ECC's eighth president!

In unity,



Linda Hefferin

Bits and Pieces

Bush's Budget. On February 5, 2007, President Bush released his annual budget request to Congress, proposing federal funding levels for the 2008-2009 school year. The budget proposal includes severe cuts to funds for the Perkins Basic State Grant and elimination of funding for the Tech Prep program, as well as cuts to education and workforce development programs. ECC depends on Perkins funds to support programs that make academics relevant to students and to prepare students for the workforce.

What can you do? Contact your Members of Congress in the House and Senate by phone, fax, or e-mail. Ask them to oppose the President's proposal to cut Perkins funds and education funding, and instead to increase Perkins funds to meet the critical education needs of the 21st century economy. Explain that Perkins funds are used for important education and job training programs in a variety of settings, including community and technical colleges.

To find contact information for Members of Congress and a sample letter, visit <http://capwiz.com/acte/home/>.

New President Breaks Tradition. As we welcome Dr. Sam to our campus, we are enthusiastic about the richness that this new cultural direction brings to our community. This is not unlike the appointment of Drew Gilpin Faust as the first female president at Harvard. Dr. Faust is the first female president in Harvard's 371-year history and only the second of 28 presidents without a Harvard degree to lead the university. Yet Dr. Faust rejects labels and simply says she is president, not a female president.

Not unlike Harvard, Dr. Sam becomes ECC's first African American Ghanaian-born president. Someday these distinctions will not be necessary.

Math Department Holds Professional Day

The Elgin Community College Mathematics Department held a Math Professional Day on February 2, 2007. Full-time and adjunct faculty worked together in re-discovering the Standards by studying the 2006 release of AMATYC's [Beyond Crossroads](#) document. Faculty took turns giving presentations, beginning with a brief history of Elgin Community College and our current demographics. The day was

concluded with break-out sessions using TI-connect, GradeQuick, Math XL and Equation Editor software demonstrations. Future goals regarding implementation of the Standards include a review of math placement policies and ways to enhance math courses using Math XL technology. The math department wishes to express its thanks to Dean Tony Miksa for his support of this professional day.

New DVD Helps Students Do Better on Tests

Ken White
Dept. of Chemistry

A new DVD which was created and tested at ECC helps students do better on tests.

Dr. Ken White, unit adjunct faculty chemistry member, has developed a new application that helps students do much better on tests. Ken's application has been put on the DVD, *Do Your Best on a Test*.

The Do Your Best on a Test DVD teaches students to put their mind and body in a state of excellence which is the same state that athletes talk about when "being in the zone." This makes a huge difference in how a student performs on a test.

This DVD was shown to ECC students with outstanding results.

After learning the *Do Your Best on a Test* method, one student went from a D's on tests to getting A's. Another student is looking forward to doing well on her nursing school entrance exams after turning her chemistry grade from a D to a B using the method.

The *Do Your Best on a Test* DVD helps students do dramatically better on tests. Please note that students still have to learn the material.

This new application which was developed by Ken is based on the copyrighted brain shift methods in the books, *Influencing with Integrity* and *Fine Tune Your Brain* by Dr. Genie Z. Laborde of the I.D.E.A. Corporation of Palo Alto, CA. Ken convinced Dr. Laborde to develop and to produce the *Do Your Best on a Test* DVD.

The *Do Your Best on a Test* DVD is now available at: www.doyourbestonatest.com

Spanish Immersion Program Held Once again in Cuernavaca

Abraham Martinez-Cruz, Professor of Foreign Languages at ECC, would like to remind all ECC faculty that an intensive Spanish immersion program is being offered again this summer at the Universal Language Institute in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

This year, the program will run from 29 June until 28 July, 2007. The program offers participants instruction in Spanish as well as opportunities to explore Mexican culture. Language instruction is tailored to the individual student's level of comprehension and is therefore useful for both beginning and advanced students of Spanish. Additionally, students will learn about Mexican culture through lectures, tours, and cultural events. Participants will live with a Mexican family in Cuernavaca.

Martinez-Cruz reminds ECC faculty that program participants may apply for faculty development money through individual or group proposals. Also, pre-approved credit for lane movement is available.

To raise money for a scholarship enabling an ECC student to participate this year, the Spanish Club

will sponsor a silent auction later in the spring.

Ramiro Cuéllar, the director of the Universal Language Institute Cuernavaca, will be at ECC 19 and 20 March to meet with the faculty and students interested in participating.

For more information, contact Martinez-Cruz at extension 7491.