



The Sentinel

Voice of the ECC Faculty Association

Local 3791/IFT www.eccfaculty.org

May 2007

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From the President

Another semester comes to an end at ECC. As always, we've been busy in and out of our classrooms. A new president arrived on campus. A four-year contract was ratified, and we had a great celebration party! Two new Board members were elected. Hiring and tenure committees have been very busy. Actually, every committee on campus has been busy; Academic Policy, Assessment, Faculty Development, Curriculum. I'm probably forgetting at least one or more. Some days I'm busy just trying to find faculty members to serve on committees.

While we're talking about committees . . . before you leave school for the semester, thank your Senators. Your Senators put in lots of time and effort on your behalf. Let them know how much you appreciate them.

Whether you'll be spending your summer teaching, traveling, attending classes or workshops, relaxing, or all of the above, be safe. See you in the fall.

In unity,

Linda

ECCFA Scholarship Prize Winners!

Each year, the Elgin Community College Faculty awards two \$250 Scholarship Prizes: one to a transfer degree graduate and one to a vocational degree graduate.

The ECCFA Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the 2007 winners: **Nicole Thompson** and **Leslie Glade**.

Nicole Thompson studied Psychology at ECC and is transferring to Northern Illinois University in the fall of 2007 where she plans on majoring in psychology, minoring in history, and pursuing a certification in secondary education. In addition to her outstanding academic achievement of a 3.93 g.p.a., Nicole managed to find time outside of her job and classes to serve as a United Way volunteer in the "Shop with a Cop" program. Nicole was recommended by David Sujak.

Leslie Glade studied accounting at ECC and plans on seeking a career in accounting. She is a returning adult who is a wife and mother. Leslie started attending ECC to learn Spanish while working as a waitstaff at a local country club. She is leaving ECC with accounting skills that will enable her to re-enter the job market in a new career field with more earning potential. Leslie is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society here at ECC and is also a regular volunteer at her childrens' schools. Leslie was recommended by Linda Hefferin.

We congratulate both of these outstanding students for their successful academic and service credentials while at ECC and wish them continued success in their future endeavors.

Nicole and Leslie will be honored at the May 16 Faculty Senate meeting, and their names will also be read at graduation.

Special thanks to the Scholarship Committee, consisting of Chair, **Steven Trail**; and members

Linda Conniff, Dan Kocher, and Beverly Augustine.

Sujak in Repose: An Officemate's Tribute

Gary Christenson



At first glance, the angry young man in the accompanying photo may not be familiar to you, though his expression of determination and outrage at authority should be something of a giveaway. Add a full beard, a bushy head of gray hair and 37 years, however, and the man is far more recognizable: Dr. David Sujak, long-time ECC psychology professor, president emeritus of the ECC Faculty Association, one-time war protester, lifelong advocate for social justice.

Dave retires this month after 32 years of service at ECC, most of those spent speaking his mind plainly and not much worrying about whom he upset with his unwavering honesty. Along the way, he has brought out the best in his students and his colleagues, working as tirelessly in the classroom as at the bargaining table, and in both, ultimately shaping the nature of instruction at ECC in ways that will resonate for years to come.

He began his career in 1975, interning under John Near through a graduate program at NIU. He then taught for years as an adjunct before being hired full time in 1983. I first met

him in those early days, in the fall of 1979. Gail Shadwell, then dean of liberal arts, found some office space for me, another adjunct. It came with Dave. He looked a bit peevish that first morning (we all know the look), and I figured out only later that he must have mistaken me for a 25-year-old new hire who had taken a full-time slot that more fairly might have gone to him. Nevertheless, we hit it off somehow, and thus began my post-graduate training in the philosophy of Dave, a “PhD” in how to be tenacious (“relentless” was Mike Shirley’s term) with things that mattered and skeptical of much that didn’t. Living out this philosophy usually meant taking the long and winding road of personal integrity instead of the shortcut of office politics. Being naturally inclined to shortcuts, I was sometimes exasperated with Dave’s methods, but I came to trust his navigation of daily life at ECC, as did many others, faculty and administrators.

In that *Chicago Tribune* photo, published on Mother’s Day of 1970 (no, his mother never forgave him), he is being arrested at the University of Illinois for protesting the Vietnam War. The war eventually ended. His insistence on championing the just cause did not. He went on to organize two rent strikes as a college student when landlords ignored tenants’ pleas to make critical repairs and exterminate roaches. Dave 2, Landlords 0.

He later wrote his doctoral dissertation on the subject of social justice, versions of which have been published in professional journals. He organized his neighbors against developers angling to defile the character of his Wheaton neighborhood. He led ECC faculty in ending the reign of President Roy Flores. And he was instrumental in bringing ECC adjuncts into the same bargaining unit as full-time faculty, the first faculty union in Illinois to do so. After all, whether organizing adjuncts or rooting for the White Sox, Dave never forgot where he came from.

Ask him what he’s going to do in retirement and his pat answer is, “Make

soup,” perhaps expecting the questioner to blanch at his newfound delight in such a simple task. He will also spend time with his wife, Nancy, travel some, dote on his dog, Murphy, and indulge in the leisure that his work ethic has long forbidden. Here’s wishing him a retirement of health, happiness and fulfillment.

It seems only just.