



The Sentinel

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

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From the President



The AFT recently released a new statement entitled *Academic Freedom in the 21st Century College and University*. This statement emphasizes that academic freedom protection should be available to all faculty, regardless of whether they are full-time, in the process of earning tenure, or adjunct.

The statement describes the *First Global Colloquium of University Presidents* held in 2005, where more than 40 college leaders and professors gathered at the request of United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan to define academic freedom as follows:

“At its simplest, academic freedom may be defined as the freedom to conduct research, teach, speak, and publish, subject to the norms and standards of scholarly inquiry, without interference or penalty, wherever the search for truth and understanding may lead.”

The AFT Higher Education Program and Policy Council, the association’s academic advisory group, developed the following standards regarding academic freedom:

- Faculty at an institution of higher education must have primacy in designing and approving the curriculum, as well as the methods of instruction, in accordance with accepted professional standards.
- Individual faculty must have primary responsibility for selecting instructional materi-

- als, defining course content and determining the methods of evaluating student performance in their classes.
- Within the classroom, all faculty are entitled to full freedom to discuss the subject matter of the course, in accordance with prevailing academic standards established within and among the academic community.
 - Faculty are entitled to exercise their professional judgment in presenting and discussing, frankly and forthrightly, controversial material relevant to their teaching subjects and methods.
 - Faculty are entitled to evaluate students in their classes based solely on their assessment of the academic merit of the students' work in that class. Students need to be confronted with arguments and encouraged to think critically, evaluate unfamiliar points of view, examine the intertwining of ideas across academic disciplines and the relationship of one subject to others, and be engaged in thinking about the world we all live in.
 - All faculty are entitled to full intellectual property rights in developing and delivering their teaching materials.
 - All faculty are entitled to freedom at their institution to participate in governance,

whether they are tenured or non-tenured, without fear of intimidation or retaliation.

- Institutions have an obligation to provide appropriate mechanisms of shared governance, time for individuals to participate in them, and in the case of contingent faculty, appropriate compensation for taking part.
- All faculty are entitled to participation in the accrediting process internal to institutions, within accrediting associations and on accreditation visiting teams.
- Members of the academic community are free to join or form associations and organizations; to organize and work with unions; and to state their views on any topic, subject only to the understanding that they do not speak on behalf of their institutions.

The AFT recommends that faculty strive for implementation of these standards, supported wherever possible through contract language. The ECCFA, as an academic union, plays a crucial role in protecting academic freedom through our bargaining expertise, legal defense reserve, connections with other bargaining groups, publicity alliances, and political action strength.

Howard Russo, our “button king,” has made a batch of academic freedom buttons. E-mail Howard at hbrusso@elgin.edu if you want him to

send you a button. Wear it proudly to show the ECCFA's commitment to protecting our right of academic freedom.

In unity,



Linda

Bits and Pieces

Reminder! Nominations for the 2008 Elgin Community College Excellence in Teaching NISOD Award are due to Linda Hefferin, ICT 209, no later than 5 p.m., November 30, 2007.

Thanks to all faculty who participated in the Huff Elementary School Fall-oween Party on October 26. We had as much fun as the children at this event! Thanks to Howard Russo for the FAVs (Faculty Association Volunteer) buttons we wore at the event.

The ECCFA Faculty and Evaluation Handbook Sub-committee, consisting of Sarah Dye, Sherry Hellmuth, and Karen Friedberg, are putting together information about what constitutes acceptable annual and triennial self-assessments. These samples will NOT be shared with the Tenure and Evaluation Handbook administrative representatives. The information is solely for ECCFA use in helping to inform faculty members of what seems to work and what does not seem to work. Send Sarah, Sherry, or Karen samples of past

self-assessments you are willing to share with our members.

Congratulations to Sigrid Wonsil of the Art Department. She presented a slide presentation on her artwork at Impact 5, a five-day international fine arts printmaking conference in Tallin, Estonia, in October 2007. Good work, Sigrid!

Several of our faculty members have been attending ULI (Union Leadership Institute). Susan Ford and Dan Kernler are participating in the Leadership Class, Tim Anderson is completing the Introduction to Collective Bargaining, and Bill Demaree is in the Effective Communication Workshop. Thanks to these ECCFA members who are giving up their personal time on behalf of our association.

UAF I Corner

Dan Kocher

If the truth be known... UAF instructors are not teaching just because of the fantastic pay and benefits. Most rely on the "other job" to put bread on the table and a roof over their heads. The motivation for many of us is what I call "seeing the light bulb turn on." It's when the struggling student all of a sudden "gets it," when a more gifted student enthusiastically shares some new insight, or when a struggling craftsman/artist masters a technique. We truly enjoy helping our students acquire new skills and knowledge. In this installment of the "UAF 1's Corner," I'd like to explore some

other areas were adjunct faculty can contribute to our students' and our colleagues' experiences at ECC.

One of the notable changes in the contract approved last spring was a provision that allows for Unit Adjunct participation in standing and ad hoc college committees. This year, adjunct appointments have already been made to search committees and to ECC's IT committee. It is hoped that adjuncts will bring more diverse perspectives to these committees' processes and will help share the administrative workload previously borne exclusively by staff and full-time faculty. In many cases the experience and the training we acquired in our "other jobs" might be directly applied to a committee's tasks and functions.

As part of our new agreement, UAFs on ECC committees are compensated for the time spent at committee meetings at the rate of \$25.00 per hour. There is no additional compensation for any preparation or review work normally performed outside of the meetings themselves. Such participation is an excellent opportunity to increase your involvement with the ECC community.

If you would be willing to serve on an ECC committee, please contact your ECC senator or your adjunct vice president (we are listed on the back pages of *The Sentinel* and on the ECCFA's web site) and let us know of your interest. We will do our best to line you up with an opportunity when it arises.

There is also another way in which you can be of service. We will soon be looking for adjuncts to stand for election to ECC Faculty Senate. I would ask you to consider joining me and the other adjunct senators as the adjunct's voice at Senate meetings. A special election will likely be held soon to fill recent vacancies, and we are looking for individuals willing and able to serve their colleagues.

If you have any interest in helping your Faculty Association by serving as an UAF I or UAF II Senator, please let us know. We will be happy to discuss the senate duties and the nomination process with you.

To learn more about the ECCFA and our collective bargaining agreement, I invite you to visit our website at: <http://www.eccfaculty.org>.

In Unity,

Dan Kocher
ECCFA 3rd Vice President &
UAF 1 Senator

Retirees Honored, Still Working for ECC Faculty

Tom Youngren

A landmark event in the memories of ECC retirees occurred at the college in a homecoming luncheon on November 2, organized by President Sam and co-hosted by the trustees, ECCFA and SSECCA leadership. It was the largest, warmest and most enthusiastic gathering in the memories of those attending because past practice has been for college offices other than the ECC Foundation to purge their records of employees at retirement and cease continuing relations with them.

Good food, mingling among retirees who had not seen each other and their hosts in years, and a concise update on the state of the college were the sole items on the agenda for this luncheon. Dr. Sam closed the session by polling the group on making this an annual event and the best time frame for it. The probable next annual luncheon will be in October 2008.

A much smaller group of retirees remains active in maintaining the Elgin chapter of the State University Annuitants Association and in keeping in contact with the state offices and board. This association is our voice in the disturbing world of Springfield, of those still working at ECC as well as our annuitants, those who receive pensions from SURS, the State University Retirement Sys-

tem. Three members of our local board attended the fall state meeting on October 10 and reported back in our local board meeting on October 25.

We all know the news stories about paralysis in Springfield and threats to all manner of funding. Current pensioners are more secure than those of you still working. Back room deals threaten funding, and open political assaults are likely to come on the defined benefit plans and cost of living increases as well as the rules on qualifying for full benefits. A coalition of unions representing active employees and retiree associations representing clerical, K-12 and university retirees is working for us. The state SUAA office has reorganized for greater effectiveness, Our legally separate PIC, SUAAAction, has retained a new, more effective lobbyist and the community college chapters are organizing regionally to take stronger, more timely action of interest to our immediate constituency--you.

Terri Hightower Joins ECC Math Department

Dan Kernler



The ECC Math department is proud to introduce our newest member, Terri Hightower. Terri comes to us most recently from a short stint teaching high school on the south side of Chicago, but her journey here has definitely not been linear. (Maybe more parabolic? Or elliptical? Ah... math humor.)

Terri spent her youth in Aiken, South Carolina (just 30 miles from Augusta, Georgia, site of the Masters golf championship). She did her undergraduate studies at Clemson University, where she studied electrical engineering, and later attended Georgia Tech, earning a Masters. (Listing all of Terri's education would be an article unto itself, but let's just say they include an impressive array of engineering, mathematics, and educational degrees.)

Terri comes to us with a strong background outside of academia.

After earning her masters in electrical engineering from Georgia Tech, she spent two years at Motorola, working with a team of engineers who designed some of the electronic components used in cellular phones. She later spent four years with Agilent Technologies as an applications engineer, where her duties ranged from technical support for the sales team and their customers to assisting with equipment and technology training across the Midwest. Reflecting on the experience now, Terri writes that she "was very fortunate to have been able to work at the research level, development level, as well as in sales and support." We are as well – what a wealth of knowledge to have in our department!

After leaving Agilent, Terri felt the pull of teaching and returned to school to pursue a career in education. While finishing her masters degree in mathematics at Northern Illinois University, (as well as a secondary education teaching certificate – see what I mean?) Terri taught some classes at ECC as an adjunct faculty member. It was her conversations with faculty here that swayed her to teaching at the community college level rather than high school.

Terri is very active outside of ECC. She enjoys sports such as volleyball and basketball – even playing on a fall and spring basketball league – and singing in her church choir. She loves to travel, so I'm sure her recent trip to Minneapolis with some other math faculty (the author of this article included) was great fun!

When asked about her impressions of ECC at this early point in her career, Terri replied, "I am truly loving my experience so far." I feel confident that I can speak for the rest of the math faculty and say that we, in return, are truly loving the most recent addition to our department.

Teachers Become Students at ULI Workshops

Teachers never quite give up being students. And so, on 27 and 28 October 2007, four ECCFA members gave up a weekend to become students in this year's IFT Union Leadership Institute in Westmont.

ECCFA participants included second vice-president Sue Ford, senators Tim Anderson and Dan Kernler, and *Sentinel* editor William Demaree.

Demaree attended the "Effective Union Communication" workshop, which was offered for the first time this year. Taught by IFT Publications Director Amy Excell, the workshop covered both the writing and the design of union newsletters.

Anderson attended "Introduction to Collective Bargaining." He reports that subjects included different bargaining styles and ways of determining who serves on a negotiation team. He will also attend follow-up sessions in February and April.

Ford and Kernler participated in the leadership session, which focused on the qualities of good leaders. "One of the things I found most interesting was a 'leadership' inventory," says Kernler. "It really helped me think about the areas where I can improve."

FAV5 Shines at Local "Fall-oween" Celebration

Dan Kernler

Spending a Friday evening with hundreds of elementary- and middle-school children hopped up on cotton candy might not sound like fun to everyone, but a group of intrepid FAV5 volunteers braved the chaos and had a great time at Huff Elementary school earlier this fall semester.

The event was the first in a series of volunteer events we're calling the FAV5 – Faculty Association Volunteering 5. This particular event was the annual Fall-oween celebration at Huff, coordinated with their principal, Dr. Shawn Smith. Local families were invited to attend, and a small admission fee paid for food, games, and of course – cotton candy!

ECCFA volunteers Mary Arndt, Rick Green, Clark Hallpike, Linda Hefferin, Dan Kernler, Marcia Luptak (not pictured), Susan Timm, and Armando Trejo spent the evening trying to maintain some sem-

blance of order, with varying degrees of success.



Volunteers were assigned to coordinate games throughout the school, ranging from the frenetic shooting game with plastic balls flying everywhere (Sorry for leaving you stranded, Marcia – it was unintentional, I swear!) to the enormously popular inflatable obstacle course. Regrettably, this volunteer never took the opportunity to try the obstacle course himself. Oh well, there's always next year!

Many of you know that the EC-CFA has been involved in our community for 20+ years through Easter Seals Telethon, Jingle Bells, Knit-a-thons, Gail Borden Library, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Clubs, School Boards, and other local charity events. We're hoping to build on that history with the FAV5. If you have an idea for a future event, or are interested in helping coordinate, please contact Dan Kernler (dkernler@elgin.edu, x7503, ICT 205).

Thanks again to all who helped make Fall-oween a huge success. And remember to watch for emails and flyers regarding future fantastic FAV5 fun!

More Fallween Photos

Mary Arndt



Linda and Rick catching kids as they come out of the obstacle course



Dan manning the shooting gallery



Mary at the shooting gallery



Marcia guarding the entrance to the obstacle course

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 Tomasik

UAF1

Beverly Augustine
Dan Kocher
Steve Lipinski
Michael Walschot

**Senate Meeting Dates,
2007-2008**

Fall 2007

- 🕒 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, 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)