

The Sentinel

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



May 2010

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From the President:

Sarah Dye



Sometimes things need to be shaken up or so I have heard. Your senators are shaking things up a bit by voting to change a yearly event. The End of the Semester Party the ECCFA always hosts in May is being delayed until August

when it will become the Beginning of the New Academic Year Party. Plans are underway to hold the party on Thursday, August 19, 2010, soon after the end of our Opening Day Convocation and division meetings, in other words, 5:00-ish or so. Pencil the event into your Outlook calendar but expect more details from the planning committee later this summer.

Another change the senators voted on was to call for the annual reports from committees and officers (which we did last year in the May *Sentinel*) to be submitted instead for publication in the first *Sentinel* of the new academic year, September 2010. So heads up, committee chairs, members, and officers: send your annual report of the work of your committee to Sarah Dye by Monday, August 23, so the various reports can be edited and sent to *Sentinel* Editor Bill Demaree for the September issue of our ECCFA newsletter.

Several reminders are in order now. Please do not forget to fill out the ECCFA Negotiation Surveys which are due to be completed no later than May 21. You have

received a series of reminders from Chief Negotiator Luis Martinez and probably this week from your own senator. Many members have mentioned to us that they have ideas they wish to be considered in negotiations in the fall, but that survey remains the best way to make certain the information gets to those members who will represent you on the Negotiation Committee. The members elected to serve on the committee in April or serving because of their specific roles in our local include the following: Luis Martinez, Chief Negotiator; Linda Hefferin; Shawn Mikulay; Manny Salgado; Howard Russo; Mary O'Sullivan; Dan Kocher; Susan Ford; David Lawrence; and Sarah Dye.

The Amendments Committee (Dan Kocher, Chair; Dave Lawrence; and Gary Christenson) has received some suggestions from ECCFA members for consideration in revising parts of our Constitution and By-Laws. The committee members plan to meet in early June to begin their work. Although the deadline for submission of suggestions was this past Wednesday, I imagine that they would accept some additional ideas as long as they reached the committee chair before June 1.

Finally, after a long, busy year I wish you a pleasant summer whether you will be teaching on campus and looking for that elusive parking spot; traveling far distances to such places as Mexico, China and the Netherlands as some of our colleagues will do for teacher exchange and study programs; traveling regionally to attend the Great Lakes ULI classes in August or the Great Teacher or Great College Seminars sponsored by ECC in July; hanging around home to clean out a garage or basement; or any other exciting things you have on your personal agenda. Have fun, stay safe, and let's plan to get together on August 19th!

Classified Advertisements: ECCFA WEBMASTER

The ECCFA is seeking applications from ECCFA members who wish to serve as **WEBMASTER** of the ECCFA website for 2010-2011, with a strong possibility of the assignment continuing beyond one year.

<http://www.eccfaculty.org/>

Qualifications include the ability to manage the existing website, add to the information contained there already, design new pages or redesign existing pages as needed, and respond to requests from the ECCFA president or other officers for quick uploading of needed information to the website such as Senate agendas before regular Senate meetings, Senate minutes soon after they have been approved by the Senate, updated information from the Chief Negotiator and his team, archives of *Sentinel* issues, information about upcoming ECCFA-sponsored events on-campus and off, and photos of members' activities which are related to the ECCFA's mission.

Please indicate your previous experience with designing and/or managing websites in an email applying for the webmaster position. The position should begin as soon as possible. The Executive Board (officers) of the ECCFA will recommend the chosen candidate to the Senate for approval. There is a small annual stipend offered to the Webmaster.

Application emails are due no later than **Tuesday, June 1, 2010**, and should be sent to Sarah Dye, ECCFA President, at sdye@elgin.edu.

Honors Course Applications Now on ECC Intranet

Alice Biggers

If you have always thought that teaching an Honors course might be really satisfying, you are right. Maybe you have had ideas for a special section in your discipline that you would love to develop and teach to a group of bright, curious students. Now applying to teach an Honors section is easier than ever. All you need to do is go to the ECC intranet, click on Committees & Collaboration, then Honors Committee, and finally, Honors Program Section Proposal Form. The form is downright user-friendly now, and we'd love to hear your ideas. We are currently accepting proposals for SP2011. Please put your most creative ideas on paper and then get the proposal to Alice Biggers as soon as possible. If you have any questions about the Honors Program or the proposal, please contact Dr. Biggers (abiggers@elgin.edu or ext. 7577).

ECC Adjunct Ken White Honored at COD

Congratulations to ECC adjunct instructor of chemistry, Ken White, who has been awarded the 2009-2010 College-wide Outstanding Part-time Faculty Award at the College of DuPage. Ken will receive a \$500 award from the College of DuPage Foundation, as well as formal recognition and a personal plaque during fall orientation activities. He will be also recognized at the 2010 Part-time Faculty Recognition and Reception in August at COD.

KEEP TEACHING ANYWAY!

Susan Timm

I was one of the lucky ones to complete the Portfolio workshop this academic year. As I was

trying to find a way to conclude my portfolio, I kept thinking about *The Last Lecture* and *Anyway*. I'm not sure if you are familiar with *The Last Lecture*. On September 18, 2007, Randy Pausch delivered a lecture that quickly became an Internet sensation subsequently viewed by millions of people. (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ji5_MgicxSo). In return, he and his words of advice became an international media story and a best-selling book now published in 35 languages (<http://www.thelastlecture.com/index.htm>). To this day, people everywhere continue to talk about Randy and his ideas. (Randy died of pancreatic cancer on July 25, 2008, at the age of 47.) Now wouldn't that be a great thing—for people to say and/or write such positive things about what you have to say?! Like Randy, I (and probably you too) would like to leave behind a legacy.

In addition, some might already know Mother Teresa's *Anyway* poem. At several of our College graduations, Dr. Sam has read this poem. Reportedly, the words were found inscribed on the wall of her children's home in Calcutta, India; consequently, the poem was attributed to Mother Teresa. However, since that time, research has uncovered that the original version of this poem was written by Kent M. Keith.

Following is my version of the poem. I've entitled it *Keep Teaching Anyway*, and it presents my "last lecture" on teaching and learning.

Keep Teaching Anyway!

Some days you'll wake up and not want to face the glazed looks in a classroom full of obviously uninterested students, go into that classroom with enthusiasm and try to win them over. You never know what might sink in; **keep teaching anyway.**

Even when you feel like only one student "gets it," teach the concepts anyway. You might make a world of difference in that one person's life. Think of the old saying, "To the world, you're only one person; however, to one person, you might be the world;" so even if only to one, **keep teaching anyway.**

Colleagues whom you admire, and some you don't, will make suggestions and provide often unsolicited advice that you might not completely understand or even agree with; be open to try what they say; you might just be surprised what works. So seriously take their advice under consideration, and **keep teaching anyway**.

When you reach out to help others, whether they be colleagues, students, or administrators, some might draw back and question your motives. Don't shy from mentoring them still; in spite of their reluctance, **keep teaching anyway**.

Even when others think you are doing creative things for your own vain ambitions, if you are doing these things to advance learning and to improve yourself and your teaching, then don't give up. Sooner or later the truth is always revealed if you just **keep teaching anyway**.

Although colleagues and administrators alike might accuse you of being unorganized (and maybe like me you resemble that remark!) or of creating a chaotic classroom, keep experimenting with those unique, often unorthodox methodologies that you think will advance learning. Others might be jealous or they just might not understand; so why worry? **Keep teaching anyway**.

When someone asks you to sign up for a workshop that is going to improve your teaching and you can't even think straight because you have so much to do already that adding another item to your plate might just push you over the edge, sign up for the workshop anyway, especially if it is one on *Teaching Portfolios* or on *Multicultural Transformation*. Even after teaching for over 30 years, you certainly will be taught something new if you go in with a willingness to learn, a desire to improve, and remember that we are still in the process of becoming. So take advantage of these teachable moments; then,

take them to the classroom where you should **keep teaching anyway**.

As Confucius said, choose a job you love, and you will never have to *work* a day in your life. If you have found this passion in teaching, then don't ever give up. Even when the students, your colleagues, the administration, and even family and friends discourage you, just pull out some encouraging evaluations (and/or read your *Teaching Portfolio*), and **keep teaching anyway**.

When you get burned out, lose your passion for teaching, and you just can't seem to find a way to rejuvenate yourself, although you have tried everything and more, have the courage to make plans to retire and to find a new path. Colleagues will tell you to keep teaching, as the task is much easier now that you've been doing it for years. They'll tell you that you will find that other ways to earn a living will be much harder. The saddest thing that I've personally witnessed is when a classroom teacher goes unemotionally through the process simply to get a paycheck. So follow your heart and retire from teaching in a classroom. However, if you don't already know this fact, you'll quickly learn that teaching extends well beyond the classroom and a profession. So when people come to you and you reach out to mentor them, remember, whether you realize it or not, you will **keep teaching anyway!**

Senate Information, 2010-2011

ECCFA OFFICERS FOR 2010-2011

President: Sarah Dye
1st Vice-President: Luis Martinez
2nd Vice-President: Susan Ford
3rd Vice-President: David Lawrence
Secretary: Lori Clark
Treasurer: Linda Hefferin

ECCFA SENATORS FOR 2010-2011

Cathy Tomasik, UAF2
Cindy Hutman, CABS
Clark Hallpike, BUS
Crystal Kerwin, UAF2
Dan Kocher, UAF2
Dave Lawrence, UAF1
Elizabeth Becker, MSEHP
Glenn Turner CABS
Howard Russo, LVPA
Joel Peck, LVPA
Josefana Aleman, UAF2
Linda Hefferin, BUS
Lori Clark, CABS
Luis Martinez, MSEHP
Manuel Salgado, COUN/LIB
Marcia Luptak, UAF2
Mary Arndt, MSEHP
Mary Peterhans, UAF2
Michelle Brynelsen, MSEHP
Pat O'Brien, CABS
Rick Bonnom, UAF2
Roger Ramey, BUS
Scott Vazsily, UAF2
Sumitra Duggirala, UAF1
Sue Ford, UAF2
Vicki Walker, UAF1

ECCFA/Senate Meeting Dates for 2010-2011

FALL SEMESTER 2010

Thurs., Aug. 19, 2010, TBA, ECCFA General Member
Meeting & Luncheon, UBC
Fri., Aug. 20, 2010, 9:00-10:00 AM, New Faculty
Intro/Welcome to ECCFA Meeting, TBA
Fri., Aug. 20, 2010, 10:30-12:00 PM, New Student
Convocation, EVC
Fri., Aug. 20, 2010, 1:00-2:00 PM, Instructional
Coordinator/ECCFA Meeting, TBA
Wed., Aug. 25, 2010, 3:00-5:00 PM, Senate Mtg., UBC 205
Wed., Sept. 8, 2010, 3:00-5:00 PM, Senate Mtg., UBC 103
Wed., Sept. 22, 2010, 3:00-5:00 PM, Senate Mtg., UBC 205
Wed., Oct. 6, 2010, 3:00-5:00 PM, Senate Mtg., UBC 119
Wed., Oct. 20, 2010, 3:00-5:00 PM, Senate Mtg., UBC 205
Wed., Nov. 3, 2010, 3:00-5:00 PM, Senate Mtg., UBC 103
Wed., Nov. 17, 2010, 3:00-5:00 PM, Senate Mtg., UBC 205

(NOTE: Thanksgiving 11/25)

Wed., Dec. 1, 2010, 3:00-5:00 PM, Senate Mtg., UBC 103
Wed., Dec. 15, 2010, 3:00-5:00 PM, Senate Mtg., UBC 205
Fri., Dec. 17, 2010, Grading Day AND Graduation

(NOTE: Classes end TH 12/16)

Mon., Dec. 20, 2010, 8:00 AM, Grades due

SPRING SEMESTER 2011

Thurs., Jan. 13, 2011, TBA, ECCFA General Member
Meeting & Luncheon, UBC
Fri., Jan. 14, 2011, 9:00-10:00 AM, New Faculty
Intro/Welcome to ECCFA Meeting, TBA
Fri., Jan. 14, 2011, 1:00-2:00 PM, Instructional
Coordinator/ECCFA Meeting, TBA
Wed., Jan. 19, 2011, 3:00-5:00 PM, Senate Mtg., Alumni
Room
Wed., Feb. 2, 2011, 3:00-5:00 PM, Senate Mtg., Alumni
Room

Wed., Feb. 16, 2011, 3:00-5:00 PM, Senate Mtg., Alumni
Room

Wed., March 2, 2011, 3:00-5:00 PM, Senate Mtg., Alumni
Room

Wed., March 16, 2011, 3:00-5:00 PM, Senate Mtg., Alumni
Room

(NOTE: Spring Break 3/23)

Wed., March 30, 2011, 3:00-5:00 PM, Senate Mtg., Alumni
Room

Wed., April 13, 2011, 3:00-5:00 PM, Senate Mtg., Alumni
Room

Wed., April 27, 2011, 3:00-5:00 PM, Senate Mtg., Alumni
Room

Wed., May 11, 2011, 3:00-5:00 PM, Senate Mtg., Alumni
Room

Thurs., May 19, 2011, Grading Day

(NOTE: Classes end W 5/18)

Fri., May 20, 2011, Graduation

Mon., May 23, 2011, 8:00 AM, Grades due

What Can Your Senator Do for You?

The three ECCFA vice-presidents are in the process of preparing each of our 26 Senators' constituent lists and will distribute those lists to the membership in June for fulltime faculty and in early September for adjunct faculty. Your senators are your source of information about what actions have taken place in the most recent Senate meetings as well as your conduit for asking the Senate to consider your issues and concerns. Senators have an obligation to communicate regularly either in person or by email with their constituents.

At the May 12th meeting, the Senate reaffirmed the practice we have followed for several years of not posting the ECCFA's financial reports on the website; in addition those reports are not sent with the draft meeting agendas that go out to the entire membership the week of a Senate meeting either. In fact, senators receive their copies of the financial reports only at the actual Senate meeting when they pick up the final agenda for that day.

Should you wish to know more about our bi-monthly treasurer's reports, you will need to contact your senator who will send you a copy in campus mail. As always, any member is encouraged to attend Senate meetings and can receive a copy of the printed agenda with attached treasurer's report at the meeting. Just know that you may contact your own senator for a copy of the treasurer's report or for any other information about actions the Senate has taken after any Senate meeting.

Senate News

Informal Year-End Party Scheduled for 21 May

A group of faculty is planning a get together after the graduation ceremony (May 21) to celebrate the end of the semester. The location and time will be determined later and communicated via email. Everyone will be responsible for the cost of their own food and drinks.



Retiring Senators Honored, New Senators Seated on 28 April

At the 28 April Senate meeting, retiring senators were honored and newly-elected senators began their two-year terms. At left (top), retiring senator Shawn Mikulay studies the meeting's crowded agenda. Also at right, Cindy Hutman, who continues as CABS senator but retired as ECCFA secretary, begins to take the meeting's minutes.



ECCFA Awards Two Scholarships for 2010-2011

At the 12 May Senate meeting, ECCFA awarded two scholarships to ECC students Whitney Holsteen and Anna Mangano. At left, are Holsteen and Mangano, joined by their sponsors Susan Timm and Kimberly Tarver, President Sam, and ECCFA Scholarship Committee members Steve Trail and Marc Healy.



**Project Backpack:
Back-To-School
Supply Drive**

**Saturday, August 14th from
10AM-3PM**

**Elgin Community College
(Events Center)**

**Help us collect school supplies for
students in need!**

**(School supplies benefitting needy
District U-46, District 300,
and ECC student populations!)**

**Donations needed and
desired items include:**

- 6 Folders (Two pocket, solid colors only)**
- 4 Notebooks (one subject, wide rule, solid colors only)**
- 1 Pack of Loose Leaf/Filler Paper (150/200 count, Wide Rule)**
- 1 package of Pencils (10 ct, standard #2, yellow wood)**
- 2 black pens**
- 1 scissor (gender neutral)**
- 2 Glue Sticks (0.21 oz.)**
- 1 ruler (wood or gender neutral color)**
- 1 pack of crayons (24 ct./Crayola preferred)**

Gender neutral backpacks

Drop off donations to Student Life or Green/Orange Donation Bins located around Main Campus (SRC Hallway by Student Life, Library Entrance, MSC Building by Pond, VPAC Building by Spartan Terrace, and ICT Lounge)

Interested in volunteering at the August 14th event?

Contact Katie in Student Life (kstorey@elgin.edu; 847-214-7659)

For more information, contact Student Life at 847-214-7370

Sponsored by:

Elgin Community College

Office of Student Life

Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society

Faculty Association

Admissions Office

Workforce Transitions Office

United Way of Elgin

Community Crisis Center

School District U-46

School District 300

Kane County Regional Office of Education

