

The Sentinel

Students and Faculty Attend Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Conference



ECC' had faculty and student representation at the recent Collegiate

by Clark Hallpike

Nineteen students and two faculty members, Glenn Earl and Clark Hallpike attended the annual Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Conference in Chicago. The conference was a three day event at which there were 1300 entrepreneurship students from colleges and universities throughout the country. There were also many outstanding speakers such as the founder of Redbox and the founder of Priceline.com.

Our students were very excited about this unique experience and expressed much

gratitude to Dr. Sam at the November Board meeting for making it possible. One student remarked that he learned of the "importance of assessing risk", when he starts his business. Another was impressed with the passion with which the entrepreneurs approached starting and operating their businesses.

There is now an official Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization (CEO) on the ECC campus, and when the paperwork is completed, ECC will be the 246th chapter in the national organization.

Faculty Receive NISOD Award

Five ECC faculty members have been named recipients of the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development (NISOD) awards.

Recipients of the award are: Patti Jachowicz, counselor/professor; Marcia Luptak, unit adjunct faculty of ESL; Catherine Moushon, professor of mathematics; David Reich, associate professor of welding and Linda Wallace, instructor of nursing.

The recipients will represent the college at the NISOD conference in Austin, Texas next spring.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

As we approach the end of the semester, we find ourselves busier than ever before, with the final exams, tons of grading to do and grade submission datelines to meet. But with all this, also comes the satisfaction and pride of another job well done, another semester of hard work, another semester inspiring our students to better themselves thru knowledge. These are just some of the many beauties of a profession that we care so much about as we strive every semester to be the best teachers we can.



Busses will be available for members who make the trip, but although the specifics have not been finalized, we will keep you informed as soon as we get new updates.

This past week the ECCFA team met with the administration team to continue the midterm negotiation on extra-contractual compensations. Both parties came to an agreement, and the final document will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval at their January 22 meeting. We want to thank all of you for your patience during this year-long mid-term negotiation.

On behalf of all ECCFA members, I want to congratulate our colleague Patty Jachowicz, who is retiring at the end of this semester. We thank Patty for all she has done for our students, faculty, and the college in general. She will be greatly missed, and we wish her great retirement years.

I personally would like to thank all of you for another successful semester. As Faculty, we continue to show our commitment to student success and to the improvement of our college by providing the best education to our students.

Finally, I want to wish you a Happy Holidays, filled with family joy, wonderful moments, and plenty of love.

Peace, love and light.

Luis Martinez

ECCFA President

Still, we all the great and hard we do for students and the community, we continue to face many challenges to our profession. Just recently we learned that pension legislation has been drafted and posted. It is HB 6258. Here is a link to the proposed bill.

<http://ilga.gov/legislation/BillStatus.asp?DocNum=6258&GAID=11&DocTypeID=HB&LegId=68196&SessionID=84&GA=97>

We have been informed by IFT that rallies are being scheduled for January 3rd and 4th at the Capitol in Springfield. There will be two shifts each day at the Capitol. The morning shift will begin lobbying at 9am, and then rally at noon and depart around 1pm. They expect that shift to consist of those from the Chicago area. At 1pm a second shift, consisting of those living around Springfield, will be expected to take over for lobbying and rallying for the rest of the day.

ECC FACULTY VISIT CUBA



The picture is of our guide, bus driver and the nine individuals that were a part of our tour group. Four from E.C.C. plus two "significant others" and three individuals from the state of New York.

By Pat O'Brien

During August of 2012, the first wave of E.C.C. faculty "invaded" Cuba. Joyce Fountain, Clark Hallpike, Bill Pelz and I took advantage of the changes in travel restrictions to visit the island. Collectively, the goal was to further our

cultural knowledge base, while also observing a nation in transition. As the economic and political changes continue to evolve, we felt compelled to witness this metamorphosis!

It was very clear that the twenty-first century has NOT

arrived in Cuba. Vintage cars are everywhere! The majority of these appear to be in pristine condition and conjure up images of mid-twentieth century America. Much of the Cuban infrastructure also seems mired in the mid-twentieth century. However, this is not necessarily a bad thing. Missing from the daily landscape were the product advertisements that clog our environment. Almost no one was seen walking down the street using cell phones or I-pads. People actually talked to each other!

Cuba is a place that offers great food, wonderful music and an interesting look at a unique culture in the context of an entirely different time period!

ECCFA PARTICIPATES IN ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE

For the fifth year, the ECCFA is taking donations for its annual food drive to help the Northern Illinois Food Bank. The food drive started on December 3 and will run through December 14.

"We all know hunger in our area, and all over, is on the rise. People who used to donate are now needing assistance themselves," said Rick Bonnom, ECC faculty association volunteer coordinator.

A new aspect to the food drive this year is the virtual food drive. This allows donators to go online to purchase items for donation. Collection sites are also set up around campus, and monetary donations are accepted.

Bonom said donations and the virtual food bank options have extra benefits.

"They [the food bank] can buy in bulk and get discounts, so it is much cheaper than donating actual food. The donations can be stretched even further than taking in food," he said.

Donating \$1 is equal to 6 meals; \$5 is equal to 30 meals; \$10 is equal to 60 meals, and \$20 is equal to 120 meals.

The ECCFA has been participating in the food drive to support Northern Illinois Food Bank since 2008. Last year, the drive collected 844 pounds of food and \$1565 was. In total, 3518 pounds of food and \$4776 have been collected.

A MAGICAL Time Was Had By All!

By Susan Timm

As we near the end of the semester, many faculty are feeling the stress of finishing with our eyesight and sanity still intact. For these reasons, I thought twice about attending the cultural event that the Multicultural and Global Initiatives Committee (MAGIC) helped organize for Sunday, December 2 in downtown Chicago: a trip to listen to the *Simón Bolívar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela* that includes members of the *Venezuelan Youth Orchestra*. Actually, I waited until I saw that the last of the tickets were still available before I finally made up my mind to attend.



Carol Cowles snapped pictures of us at the *South Water Kitchen* (225 N. Wabash). She wrote in an e-mail in which she sent the two lunch pictures that you see in this article that “MAGIC had a wonderful time on our ‘fieldtrip’ to the Venezuelan Youth Orchestra and here are the pictures to prove it! Thank you, Luis Martinez for organizing and Clark and Kim for helping to get us organized!” I would add a big thanks to Luis’ wife, Colleen, who was instrumental in the planning as well.

After our delicious lunch, most of the 17 of us MAGIC members and guests strolled the short

mile to the *Symphony Center* to listen to what we had been told was going to be a musical experience extraordinaire. We were joined there by others from ECC.

Our own Luis Martinez has a copy of a documentary about the *Venezuelan Youth Orchestra*, which he presented and then discussed at a MAGIC meeting before we went to listen to the orchestra ourselves. As most of you probably already know, Luis is a native of Venezuela. If you get the chance to watch the film, you will certainly appreciate what magic that music has played in Venezuela and subsequently around the world.█

The U.S. has also benefited greatly, not just from the orchestras touring around our country, but the musical director of the *Los Angeles Philharmonic*, Conductor Gustavo Dudamel, is a product of the *Venezuelan Youth Orchestra*. And fortunately for us in the Chicago audience, this international superstar, as he is referred to by many, was the conductor at our performance! And he was amazing. He didn’t use any sheet music during the entire program, and the tone (musical) poem by Strauss that the orchestra played after the intermission was almost one hour long! You could visualize the love of the music as you observed each member of the orchestra on stage.

One of my favorite moments came after the concert ended. I snapped a picture with my cell phone of the longest encore request that many of us have ever heard. People were standing, clapping, and shouting out in Spanish for the conductor and his orchestra to play another song. After that one piece, the standing ovation

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MAGIC CONTINUED...

and uproar began again. We ended up listening to two more pieces. One was a patriotic Venezuelan song that had many in the audience waving their Venezuelan flags. The conductor and the orchestra members started to sing and asked those in the audience to join them. The pride in the voices and on the faces of those around us and on the stage was an emotionally moving time.

As we were exiting, Clark Hallpike was fortunate to get his picture taken with José Abreu, who formed the *Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra* in 1975 (see photo to left).



After the concert, the ECC group all met at the *Starbucks* next door to share our impressions of the experience. Everyone truly enjoyed the *magic* of the adventure. Arturo Vazquez, a musician himself, and his guests certainly appreciated the dedication that these young musicians have for their music. One marketing student and her

husband joined us as well; Kathleen was thrilled with the cultural experience and the opportunity to interact with faculty outside the classroom. Kim Tarver found the music to be relaxing and invigorating. She compared the entire day's events to a massage of the mind, the heart, and the soul. We all were thinking how we truly don't get enough opportunities to enjoy each other's company and to get to know each other better. The spirit of camaraderie that is cultivated through these types of activities is what I personally value the most.

This event has sold out both times it has been in Illinois (2009 and 2012). And both these times, MAGIC has organized the outing for those of us at ECC to enjoy a magical time! So the next time you hear that MAGIC is organizing a group to listen to the *Venezuelan Youth Orchestra*, do yourself a favor and buy tickets quickly.



Important Changes in Meal Allowances

By Marcia Luptak

Regarding: Administrative Procedure 2.601 Travel and Business-Related Expenses: Section XIX Meal Allowance Rates (effective July 17, 2012).

As of July of this year, Administrative Policy 2.601 changed dramatically when it comes to meals and reimbursement. No longer do faculty have to submit every single receipt for meal allowance as there is now a set daily allowance that faculty can claim. **However**, it is important to understand exactly how much those rates are. The meal allowances depend on the following factors:

- 1) Whether the travel is to a major or non-major city (listed in the procedure on pp.9-10),
- 2) Whether the travel day is the first/last day of travel or not
- 3) Whether there are meals provided at the activity.

Let's first look at items 1 and 2. If the activity is in a major city, the allowance is \$45 per day for the first and last day of travel and \$60 for any days in between, regardless of departure or arrival times. The first/last day can start at 8 a.m. or 8 p.m., the allowance is the same. If the activity is in a non-major city, the allowance is \$30 for the first and last day of travel and \$40 for any days in between. So what does this mean? Let's look at the following example:

You go to a 4-day conference but arrive the night before the conference starts because the conference has an 8 a.m. start time. Your meal allowance would be figured as follows:

Major city	Non-major city
2 days * \$45 = \$90 (first/last day)	2 days * 30 = \$60 (first/last day)
3 days * \$60 = \$180	3 days * \$40 = \$120
Allowance total = \$270	Allowance total = \$180

Now let's look at item 3. If there are any meals served at the activity, you must deduct these from the daily allowance regardless of whether you eat them or not. You cannot opt out on a "free" lunch and then ask the college to pay for your lunch at another establishment. The amount that you must deduct from the allowance again depends on whether it is a major/ non-major city and whether it is the first/last day or not. The amounts to be deducted are on the following table.

	1 st day/last day		Other days		
	Major City	Non-major city	Major city	Non-major city	
Breakfast	\$7.50	\$6	Breakfast	\$10	\$8
Lunch	\$15	\$9	Lunch	\$20	\$12
Dinner	\$22.50	\$15	Dinner	\$30	\$20

Continued on Page 6...

...Important Changes Continued

So let’s go back to the example and say that the conference provides lunch for the 4 days. You would then have to adjust your daily allowances for the activity as follows:

Major city	Non-major city
2 days * \$45 = \$90 (first/last day)	2 days * 30 = \$60 (first/last day)
- 1 day lunch - \$15	- 1 day lunch -\$9
= \$75	= \$51
3 days * \$60 = \$180	3 days * \$40 = \$120
- 3 days lunch - \$60	3 days lunch -36
= \$120	= \$84
Allowance total : \$75 + \$120 = \$195	Allowance total : \$51 + \$84 = \$135

(*notice that you don’t subtract lunch for the first day because it wasn’t provided)

The Faculty Development Committee is in the process of revising its forms to reflect these changes, but it will take some time since they have to go through a formal approval process. **However, this policy has already taken effect**, so be sure to follow it when submitting for meal reimbursement. The Faculty Development Committee will adjust your request if the amount exceeds these allowances; however, it is not the Faculty Development Committee’s responsibility to adjust requests if there is an under-request for meals. Be aware – receipts are not required at present, but meal allowances will be closely monitored by the Business Office.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact a Faculty Development Committee member (list below).

2012-2013 ECCFA Senators

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**2012 Senate Meetings
December 12--C120**

Sentinel Calendar

February 18

-Deadline February 14

March 18

-Deadline March 14

April 15

-Deadline April 11

May 6

-Deadline May 2

Just a Buck!

**ECCFA SCHOLARSHIP
DONATIONS**

If every faculty member at ECC donated just \$1 per paycheck, we would be able to raise more than \$10,000 a year to contribute to the ECCFA Student Scholarships.

As we approach the end of the Foundation’s Employee Giving Campaign (which has been extended until the end of the semester) please consider a \$1 or \$5 or \$100 contribution to this important scholarship.

For more information, contact your ECCFA Senator.