

FAN

Faculty Association Newsletter

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MONROE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

December 18, 2008

<http://www.monroecc.edu/go/FA>



President's Corner

Charlie Clarke, FA President

I write this *FAN* on December 16th. It is the day of our annual

Holiday party and the Governor has presented his austere budget proposal for 2009–2010. As with most days there are opportunities for celebration, gratitude and fear. Folks have been asking me, “What we are going to do?” My answer is that we will continue to do the best we can with the conditions that prevail. As my father, a sage manager of a unionized Irish Pub once said, “Don’t worry about the future, plan ahead!”

I believe we have been doing this for many years. We are an efficient and effective community college. MCC’s 2006-2007 expenditures per FTE were \$1,400 lower than the average for all NYS community colleges. Our tuition is substantially lower than comparable SUNY community colleges. Our fund balance, hovering at \$15 million, is the envy of most institutions. Our long term retirement benefit obligations are substantially funded. This is largely a consequence of modest and responsible FA and CSEA contracts and good management practices. Assuming there is not a catastrophic economic crisis, we are well prepared for the coming economic storm.

Our effectiveness, heavily marketed and largely deserved, is reflected in relatively higher graduation, transfer, and employment rates. It is also amplified

in our participation and leadership in national organizations such as the League for Innovation. Such self congratulatory musings must not become a soothing hubris. As Satchel Paige, a hero of the segregated African American baseball leagues once said, “Don’t look back; they may be gaining on you.” Our country is substantially in its economic crisis because optimistic greed was not tempered by a forward looking investment in our future.

I believe that it has been our committed faculty and staff that have made MCC efficient and effective. On average, they have consistently gone beyond their required duties. This is not the time to cut faculty lines, salaries or benefits. It is a time for modest and rational tuition increases. The Board of Trustees must be open to utilizing the fund balance to buffer the continuing austere county sponsor contribution and the impending cut in the state FTE reimbursement rate. A rainy day fund is surely meant to be used in an economic hurricane.

Dr. Tyree has reassured the FA that the College administration will continue to honor contractual commitments unless and until a financial exigency arrives. He also explicitly reinforced the College’s commitment to working with their FA partners, as we did in 1997, if and when such a financial crisis situation becomes imminent. I believe we are a long way from financial exigency. In any case, the devil is always in the details and the interpretations. Definitions of financial exigency are often legally contested and discerned activities. Assuming the financial storm abates as we move into the 2010 -2011 fiscal year, MCC will be on sound fiscal

(continued on page 2)

Charlie Clarke, President; Taine Vinci, Vice President; Patricia Kress, Secretary; Renee Rigoni, Treasurer; Mike Goho, Teaching Director; John Wadach, Teaching Director; Anne Perry, Professional Staff Director; Paul Wheeler, Prof. Staff Director; Patricia Dano, Adjunct Director; Bethany Gizzi, Grievance Chair; Jeffrey Kiggins, Contract Chair; Ellen Mancuso, Legislative Chair; Cheryl Mahoney, Benefits Chair; Christine Casalinuovo-Adams, Institutional Chair; Regina Fabbro, Membership Chair; Kathy Baxter, Damon/Site Director

grounds for sustaining our mission of 'access with excellence'.

NYSUT is working diligently to remind the Governor and the legislature that education is critical to repairing our fiscal crisis. State and County aid to education is an investment in our collective economic well being. As FA members, it is important to communicate this to your state and local representatives. Go to NYSUT's home page and click on 'Legislative Action Center' and invest in communicating our value to the commonwealth.

On a related note, I am cautiously optimistic that the next President of MCC and their evolving management team will sustain our accomplishments, while supporting opportunities for innovation and improvement. The Board of Trustees has selected the Faculty Senate, Faculty Association and CSEA leadership to serve on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee (PSAC). Board Chair, Richard Guon has pledged that the search will be open and transparent. Furthermore, he indicated that the Board will not add names to the semi-finalist or finalist list that lack the support of the PSAC.

In closing, I wish everyone a well deserved, healthy and peaceful break!

Please take a moment and think about what it would be like to lose your job today while the press misrepresents you and all you want is a fair wage and due process...

~ Ellen Mancuso

UAW Needs Our Support:

The United Auto Workers (UAW) is asking the help of all unionists in the country. Please contact your family members and friends, asking them to urge their senators and representatives to support the bridge loan for the auto industry. Contact your representatives using the toll-free number 877-331-1223 or visit www.uaw.org and click on the "Save Auto Jobs" graphic to email your representatives.

www.unionvoice.org/campaign/autojobs_senate

FA Holiday Party another Success

Marlene Goho

We're pleased to report the 4th annual FA Holiday Party was well attended and fun! On Friday evening, December 5, we gathered at the Grill at Strathallan for the festivities. We had a couple of glitches with food and service, however, even with that said, the resounding responses I received from members in attendance were indeed positive. *Members consistently agree getting together with colleagues, their spouses and partners, is a lot of fun!*

And on that note, the FA Membership Committee and the FA are committed to continue to host an annual holiday party.

A lot of individuals worked hard to make this party happen. A very special thanks to Christy Fogal, Sonja Lenhard, Kathy Baxter, Christine Plumeri, Bethany Gizzi, and Regina Fabbro for their hard work on this event.

Faculty Council Meeting Schedule for Spring Semester, 2009

Meetings begin at 3:10 p.m.
and are scheduled in 3-115

January 28

February 11, 25

March 11, 25

April 8, 29

May 13

Members are always welcome.
Please contact the FA Office at x2528
if you plan to attend.

Thank you.

FA Mediation Project to Hold Annual Meeting on January 16

Marlene Goho

On Friday, January 16, the *FA Mediation Project* will hold its 2nd annual meeting and luncheon in the Empire Room of the Warshof Conference Center. This year Bobbie L. Dillon, President of the Mediation Center, Inc., will make a presentation focusing on mediation skills building and will speak on the topic of power balancing in mediation. Presently, there are 15 mediators in the Project who received their initial training in 2006 at the Cornell ILR School in Rochester. The mediators are FA members and represent all of the MCC campuses.

Dr. Patricia Kress, Assistant Professor in Psychology, has been the Chair of the Project for the FA since 2006.

Audit Completed for 2007-2008

Marlene Goho

Our national affiliate, the American Federation of Teachers, requires locals of fewer than 1,000 members to submit to an annual audit performed by an independent CPA or an internal audit committee. The audit was performed in accordance with the AFT guidelines during November, 2008. Joseph T. Marchese (Jr.) found the FA finances to be in good order. He has continued to make recommendations (which have been followed) to further improve our financial procedures. A copy of his report has been shared with our Treasurer, Renee Rigoni and FA President, Charlie Clarke. The report remains on file for examination by any member.

FA Office Hours Holidays and Semester Break

The FA Office will be open by appointment between December 19 and December 23. The FA Office will be closed from December 24 and will reopen on January 5.

If you have business of an urgent, please contact FA President Charlie Clarke by cell at 748-2132 or Marlene Goho at mgoho2@monroecc.edu.

Happy Holidays!

Charlie, Marlene and Sonja

✓ DO BUY

Union Made Gifts for the Holiday Season

Union Made Holiday Gifts for the Entire Family

Our space is limited, so these entries represent just a sampling of gift ideas from the many fine union-made-the-USA offerings you can find on the Union Label Website (www.unionlabel.org). Some products and services that carry manufacturers' trademarks may also be produced in non-union and offshore plants. We encourage you to read the label to verify the origin of all goods when you shop.

BOOKS

- ✳ **Powell's Bookstore** (www.powellsbooks.com) — with seven brick and mortar stores in Portland, OR and its highly successful online store. (ILWU).
- ✳ **Union Communications Services** (www.unionist.com) which offers an extensive collection of general interest books and union-oriented offerings. (TNG).
- ✳ **Golden Books Family Entertainment**—books, toys (UAW & GCC-IBT)

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

- ✳ Wind and brass instruments from—**Selmer Bach Bundy Bluescher** (UAW)
- ✳ **Yamaha Corp.** (UAW)

TOYS, GAMES, SPORTING GOODS — FOR KIDS AND ADULTS

- ✳ **Radio Flyer Red Wagons** (www.redwagons.com) (UAW)
- ✳ **Clay Pigeons—Remington Arms** (UAW).
- ✳ **Colt** (UAW)
- ✳ **Hillerich & Bradsby**, bats and other **Louisville Slugger** products. (www.slugger.com) (USW & UAW)
- ✳ **Leister Games, Novelties and Hobby Supplies**—golf novelties and more (UAW).

HOME DÉCOR & FURNISHING

- ✳ **Anchor Hocking Glass Co.** (www.anchorhocking.com) (USW)
- ✳ **Cathedral Candles** (www.cathedralcandles.com) (UNITE-HERE)
- ✳ **Crawford Furniture** (IUE-CWA)
- ✳ **Homer Laughlin Fiesta Ware** (www.homerlaughlin.com) (USW)
- ✳ **Lenox Manufacturing** (GMP)

- ✳ **Libby Glass Co.** (www.libby.com) (USW)
- ✳ **Muench-Krueger Candles** (www.emkay.com)
- ✳ **Pennsylvania House Furniture** (www.pennsylvaniahouse.com) (USW)
- ✳ **Pillowtex Bedding** (www.pillowtex.com) (UAW)
- ✳ **Princeton Upholstery Metal Household Furniture** (IUE-CWA)

SWEETS & TREATS

- ✳ **Godiva Chocolate** (Div. of Seagrams) (UFCW)
- ✳ **Russell Stover** (www.russellstover.com) (BCTGM)
- ✳ **See's Candy** (www.sees.com) (BCTGM)

INFANT PRODUCTS

- ✳ **Graco, Century Products** (a Div. of Gerber) (www.gracobaby.com) (USW)

KITCHEN

- ✳ **All-Clad Metalcrafts** (www.allclad.com) (USW)
- ✳ **Camillus Cutlery** (www.camillusknives.com) (USW)
- ✳ **Clauss Cutlery** (www.claussco.com) (UAW)
- ✳ **Cutco Cutlery** (www.cutco.com) (USW)
- ✳ **Electrolux Home Products** (www.frigidaire.com) (UAW)
- ✳ **GE Appliances** (IUE-CWA)
- ✳ **Gorham Kirk Stieff Cutlery** (GMP)
- ✳ **Rival Co.** (www.rival.com) (USW)
- ✳ **White-Westinghouse Household Cooking Utensils** (IUE-CWA)

TOOLS & HOME MAINTENANCE

- ✳ **Enderes Tool Co.** (www.enderes.com) (USW)



OFFICE FURNITURE

Taylor union-made office furniture offers rich, functional desks, chairs, occasional tables, bookshelves and more, such as these items in the office of President John J. Flynn at the new headquarters offices of the Bricklayers and Allied Crafts in Washington, D.C.

Other union office furniture suppliers include **Marvel Office Furniture** (www.marvelunionshowcase.com), and **Union Office Solutions** (www.unionofficesolutions.com).

- ✳ **John Deere Tractors, Mowers and Gear** (UAW & IAM)
- ✳ **Rubbermaid Products** (www.rubbermaid.com) (USW)
- ✳ **Snapper—Mowers and Snow Throwers** (www.snapper.com) (USW)
- ✳ **Toro Co.** (IAM)
- ✳ **Union Fork and Hoe Co.**—Hand Tools (IBB)



Label Letter

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www.unionlabel.org
www.2007america-at-work.com
www.shopunionmade.org
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