

Yuba College American Federation of Teachers Local 4952

March 2011

TEACHER FEATURE—CHAMPION FOR LITERACY



It was the labor movement that helped secure so much of what we take for granted today. The 40-hour work week, the minimum wage, family leave, health insurance, Social Security, Medicare, retirement plans. The cornerstones of the middle-class security all bear the union label.

—Barak Obama

Over her 22-year career at Lake campus, English Teacher Ginnie Devries has empowered countless students to bridge dreams with literacy. Even since retiring last year, she still champions the cause.

Devries often knew her students before they registered for her English classes. She met many of them first at her day job with the Lake County Adult Literacy Program. The two positions dovetailed nicely, allowing her to gauge when a literacy student was ready to progress to his or her GED, or when students had reached a reading level required for college attendance, where they would then enroll in lower level college English.

Although she taught all the various English classes at Lake, she found that teaching lower level English (110) was most logical. It enabled her to closely follow students coming from the literacy program as they progressed to college.

When asked what she loved about teaching she said, "I loved my students. They were generally older, returning students with lots of life experience. There was never a dull moment in class. Their essays were much more interesting than those of younger, inexperienced students.

It was especially fun to watch students realize their writing potential, when they finally realize that they can write."

To get her students to think critically she held



Ginnie Devries with husband Kit

classroom debates, often using the devil's advocate approach to turn on discussions. This strategy prompted students to look more deeply into subjects for which they had already formed opinions and allowed them, at times, to gain new insights and perspectives.

—Continued on page 3

YEE BILL SEEKS EQUITY FOR PART-TIME COMMUNITY COLLEGE FACULTY

By Neal Gonzales
A bill introduced Wednesday in the Legislature seeks compensation equity for part-time community college teachers statewide who have the same credentials and work experience as their full-time counterparts.

The legislation by state Sen. Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, would require college districts to create a salary and service-credit, or pension, schedule for part-time faculty that mirrors the one for full-time instructors. SB 114 doesn't

mean a part-time teacher would earn the same pay as a full-time peer at a particular college, Yee spokesman Adam Keigwin said. But the part-timer would have the same step increase in salary as the full-timer, provided that the former has met the same credential requirements and has the same amount of experience as the latter, Keigwin said.

The proposal seeks uniformity in how part-timers earn compensation and benefits. Keigwin said the

bill likely would not increase the



budgets of community college districts. He said it's unclear what the effect would be on the California-

—Continued on page 2

Inside this issue:

MEASURE J IN ACTION 2

COMMITTEES NEED YOU 2

FROM THE ACADEMIC SENATE 3

President's Message 4

UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS 4

From page 1 YEE BILL

State Teachers' Retirement System.

Although part-timers may work at more than one college, they can hold the same qualifications and accumulate the same number of work hours as their full-time colleagues working at one campus, Yee's office said. Yet the part-timers are paid and accrue

benefits in different ways across districts statewide.

SB 114 calls for districts to report part-time faculty salaries to the retirement system based on a percentage of full-time salary.

Patricia Miljanich, board member for the San Mateo County Community College District, declined to comment

Wednesday, saying she had not heard about the bill.

California Community Colleges spokeswoman Paige Marlatt Dorr also declined to comment, saying that officials had yet to see and analyze the bill.

Permission to reprint:
Glen Rabinowitz,
Editor San Mateo County Times

COLUSA COUNTY OUTREACH FACILITY GREAT SUCCESS

Adapted from article by Adrian Lopez Williams, CA - Woodland Community College (WCC) officially planted another seed to grow the next generation of college educated workers that the city of Williams, Colusa County and the entire North Central Valley Region of California will need to thrive in the knowledge based economy of the 21st Century.

The January 28th ribbon cutting for the WCC Colusa County Outreach Facility (WCC-CCOF) was a great success, marking the first public higher education institution to have a permanent facility located in the county. Colusa County was one of only eight counties in the state of California which did not have a permanent public higher education facility



located within its boundaries.
More than 50 guests—
—Continued on page 3

MEASURE J IN ACTION

YUBA COLLEGE SUTTER COUNTY CAMPUS

Plans for a new district facility located in Sutter County are on the horizon. The location will be on property newly annexed to Yuba City just north of the Highway 20 and 99 interchange.

To meet the facility's educational program goal of achieving "Center Status", the Board of Trustees authorized an increase in the educational component of the project. The facility will be approximately 85,000 gross square feet which comprises 55,000 sq. ft educational center, 15,000 sq. ft. in District offices, and 15,000 sq. ft. for the Small Business Development Center, Business and Industry Training, the District Foundation, and Board Room/Community Room. The District services are moving from their current multiple locations in Buildings 100A,

1300, 1500 and 1600 on the Yuba College-Marysville campus to allow for the consolidation and growth of student services in the remodeled Yuba College Student Services Center. Buildings 1300, 1500 and 1600 (F, G, H, I) are being demolished.

The 15 acre project site will also include landscaped open areas, outdoor gathering areas, and parking facilities appropriate to accommodate the anticipated level of use. This project will be a LEED™ Certified Silver project in line with the District's Sustainability Policy. The facility will house 19 classrooms.

(adapted by Jim Schulte YC-AFT Vice President from: <http://www.yccd.edu/measurej/pdf/123110QuarterlyProgressRpt.pdf>)

ADJUNCT UNITS

by Jim Schulte
Currently YCCD Adjuncts can teach no more than 16 units in one year according to contract. You can teach up to 18 if authorized by the district. These units can be 3 units one semester and 12 the next as long as they do not exceed 18 units. The district does not have to offer any adjunct more than 6 units per semester.

COMMITTEES NEED YOU

by Jim Schulte
A number of campus committee's need adjunct participation. By serving you give input on course selections and budget. Save jobs by bringing information on your course(s) to the attention of the decision makers. Check for committees that need you with your campus's College Senate President.

Continued from page 1 CHAMPION FOR LITERACY

When asked what changes she has seen over the years she replied, "Twenty years ago, people read more for pleasure. Students read less today and do not read as well. Often students say they are too busy and stressed out, even though they admit to watching about 4 hours of television per day. Although they read less they are also much less inhibited about writing and presenting in front of the class. Students are used to internet communication. Perhaps this has stimulated a writing culture. Another observation I've had is that today's students seem to have more of a sense of entitlement; they expect the

teacher to be flexible with their needs and do more for them. They want more personal attention and for me to see them as if 'I'm the only student here'."

Devries attributes her students with keeping her abreast of the daily issues they faced, what they were coping with. She also learned to listen more carefully as a teacher. Devries even found that some of her own opinions changed over the course of teaching, as influenced by the shared wisdom of her students. "I also learned that there is an endless variety of people and personalities, talents, and combination of talents. That I really cannot predict!"

An important message Devries has for part-time teachers, "It is important for you to form relationships with other teachers and staff at your campuses, wherever you may teach. Get to know some of the counselors, disabilities staff, teachers, and administrative staff as this network will support and nurture you."

Devries also taught in Homer, Alaska, after earning her Bachelor's in English from the University of Michigan. She left Alaska to attend Sonoma State, where she earned her Master's in English with a focus on twentieth century British Literature. As a continuing champion for the cause, she

addressed that under Governor Brown's new budget Adult Literacy Program will no longer be funded. She heeded us to "Contact your legislators and express the importance of literacy for college students. Speed is of the essence. Those in Lake County and Mendocino counties can contact Wes Chesbro (707) 463-5770 or (916) 319-2001; those in the North Coast can contact Noreen Evans at (707) 576-2771 or (916) 319-2007. Know that many of Yuba students may read at a level lower than 5th grade and only students reading at a 5th grade level or higher can attend college."

FROM THE SENATE

We are busy around WCC these days! We're setting up committees, looking at budget issues and options, and working on the schedule for fall 2011. We've only just started the semester, and we're working at full speed.

To those of you from Woodland Community College, please e-mail your contact information to me. When I asked for it at orientation, I didn't realize we

would lose access to list serves, and I can no longer send an e-mail to all part time instructors at WCC, and I can't guarantee that forwarding set-ups still work. So, I have to create a group on my computer, and to do that, I need your e-mail address. It is still important that you check your campus e-mail regularly because there are a very few people who can send messages to everyone, and they

do that through the District system.

It's also crucial that you sign in on My Portal <http://mycampus.yccd.edu>. Some critical announcements are being posted there. For example, the form to request Adjunct Office Hours can only be found on The Portal. The letter from Denise and the form are both there.

If you don't print them out from The Portal and process them for approval,

not be authorized to hold or be compensated for office-hours. If you are interested in working at WCC or the new facility at Williams, fill out the forms on the WCC website, and send them directly to Joan Penning. Don't send them to Human Resources, or Joan might never see them.

Patricia R. Wheeler, M.A.
Adjunct Senator, WCC
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From page 2 COLUSA COUNTY OUTREACH FACILITY

community members, and local elected officials attended the ceremony which was emceed by Dr. Angela Fairchild, WCC President. Other speakers included State Senator Doug LaMalfa, Colusa County Board of Supervisors Mark

Marshall and Kim Vann, Yuba Community College District (YCCD) Chancellor Dr. Nicki Harrington, City of Williams Mayor Angie Fulcher, Colusa County Office of Education Board Member Brenda Miller, TRIO Director Art Pimentel, WCC Academic

Senate President Monica Chahal, and YCCD Board of Trustees members Gary Sandy, Ben Pearson and Xavier Tafoya.

This project has come to fruition thanks in large part to funding from YCCD's November 2006 Measure J

Facilities Bond, along with the financial support of Colusa County and the work of the City of Williams. The facility is located on 99 Ella Street in Williams. In the future, Colusa County Office of Education offices — *Continued on page 4*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

State law says that we must turn in a FLEX Agreement stating what we are going to do to fulfill our FLEX obligation. This must be done even if we have already completed that by attending orientation.

If you are completing your FLEX obligations through District group activities your sign-in will document your completion, and further completion documentation will not be

needed.

If you are completing your obligation by service on a District or College committee you will have to



submit a FLEX completion form to get paid.

If you are going to meet your FLEX obligation through individual activities, or you need to amend your agreement, then life gets much more complex and I advise you to meet with your campus FLEX administrator and go over the required paper work.

I do hope this helps some.

Jim Kitchen, President

WHAT'S TO EXPECT FOR THE UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS?

YC-AFT's contract with the district will expire on June 30, 2011. This means it's time for negotiations over the provisions of a new three-year contract covering terms of part-time faculty employment with the Yuba College District. To catalyze the process with the district Board of Trustees, YC-AFT Chief Negotiator, Doug Harris, wrote Trustees President, Jim Buchan, a "Sunshine Letter", with a list of our bargaining interests for the new contract on Nov. 26th, 2010. Because there was no reply a follow-up letter was sent to new Trustees President, Xavier Tafoya, on January 14, 2011. The district responded on January 25, 2011, indicating the Board of Trustees would authorize negotiations at its February 9, 2011 meeting so negotiations can begin. What follows is a list of our bargaining points with a brief explanation of each:

1. Increase pay scale (a percentage increase for all columns and steps on our pay scale).
 2. Parity with full-time instructors (long-term goal; based on determining full-time faculty compensation as equates to various part-time teaching loads; tied to increase in pay scale).
 3. Office hour funds and rate increases (increases the total amount of funds the district dedicates to part-time faculty office hours compensation and the hourly rate of this compensation).
 4. Restricts office hour funds for use by part-time instructors (binding the district to limit the use of part-time office hour compensation fund to part-time faculty. In the past, it was used to pay for office hours for temporary full-time teaching assignments).
 5. Compliance with load limit statute for part-time instructors (The law has changed increasing maximum load for part-time faculty from 60% to 67 % of a full-time teaching load).
 6. Return rights derived from teaching any class for which students earn college credit (Currently there is possible ambiguity regarding what teaching assignments generate return rights).
 7. Establishment of a seniority system as the basis for return rights (redesign the return rights system in the current contract to one that more exactly reflects seniority among part-time faculty).
 8. Compensation for committee service in addition to academic senate and site/college councils (designed to augment greater participation by part-time faculty in shared governance in the Yuba Community College District).
- The goal, of course, is to complete negotiations by June 30, 2011. We will keep you posted as to the outcome of the negotiations.

Doug Harris, MSW
YC-AFT Chief Negotiator

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From page 4 OUTREACH FACILITY

will be adjacent to the CCOF providing numerous opportunities to share resources.

"I am so happy that Woodland Community College has fulfilled a promise to bring a permanent college facility to Colusa County," said Dr. Angela Fairchilds, WCC President. "We look forward to continuing to serve our students in this new facility and expanding higher education services in the future."

For the balance of this article, please visit <http://www.yccd.edu/news/viewfile.php?id=396>