

The Sentinel

Highlights of the New ECCFA Contract

On January 14, the Board of Trustees ratified the ECCFA contract that was ratified by the faculty during the Opening Day luncheon on January 9. The three-year contract was tentatively settled on December 19.

Highlights of the new contract include:

- **Full-time faculty will receive a 1.5 percent raise to the base in 2014, a 2.25 percent increase in 2015, and a 2.5 percent increase in 2016.**
- **Unit adjunct I and II faculty will receive a 2.25 percent increase in 2014, a 2.25 percent increase in 2015, and a 2.5 percent increase in 2016.**
- **Adjunct faculty members will also have the opportunity to request sabbatical leave.**
- **Health insurance costs will increase for ECCFA members. Individual coverage will increase to 11 percent in 2014, 12 percent in 2015, and 13 percent in 2016. Family coverage will also increase to 21 percent in the second year of the contract and 22 percent in the third year of the contract.**



Cheers to the Negotiations Team By Dennis Lynch

First, we had a lead negotiator who has been through a strike, realizes a strike isn't the end of the world, and knows how powerful the threat of a strike is. Had the administration's final offer been an inadequate contract, surely our lead negotiator would not have hesitated to lead us out on strike.

Undoubtedly the administration knew that, too; that really helped our side.

Secondly, many thanks for the class our negotiators showed. In every other negotiations here over the last 30 years, we have heard the intelligence of the administration attacked, and the integrity of the administration questioned. This time there was none of that. Surely there were times our team was frustrated with the administration team, but they never sank to name calling or demonizing the other side. That will really help morale here.

Finally, thanks to our team for never having us form strike committees. While the team dealt with the stress of negotiating, the vast majority of us were able to have a relatively peaceful and normal semester.

The tactics used by our team should be a model for future teams.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

Happy belated start of the semester. The ECCFA leadership hopes that your semester is going well and that your classes are filled with the excitement and joy that seeing your students making progress brings to all of us.



It has been great to start the spring semester with a new contract. There is nothing worse than going into a new semester with an expired contract and ongoing negotiations. Trust me, I have some history on that.

Let's extend our gratitude to our First Vice-president and chief negotiator, Howard Russo, as well to all the members of the ECCFA negotiating team for a job well done. We also want to thank all of

you for your continuous support, your trust and camaraderie. Thanks so much for the wonderful meals you provided for the team and for your words of encouragement. You are all invited to the New Contract celebration Party that will take place on Thursday, February 13, 4:00 PM at Carmina's.

Our thanks to the administration negotiating team for their part in getting this done in a timely manner.

There are still some wrinkles to take care of: proofing and printing the new contract, as well as payment of salary increases. Rest assured that we are on top of the game.

Please take all precautions to stay warm during this inclement winter. Your health and well-being comes first. Drive safely, and keep thinking that we have only five more weeks until spring (if the groundhog is correct).

Scenes from Opening Day, Spring 2014—Photos by Armando Trejo

Union Membership is a Family Tradition

By Lori Clark



This is Grandma Laughlin and others attending the School for Workers at the University of Wisconsin in July 1964. She is the fourth person from the right.



Grandma Laughlin working at the garment factory.

I don't really remember much about my maternal great-grandmother, Jessie Laughlin, but one thing that sticks out in my memory is her involvement in The International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU), Central States Region and her work in garment factories in Pana, IL and then Hillsboro, IL.

Since Grandma Laughlin (as I called her) died when I was sixth grade, she and I never had an opportunity to discuss her role in the union. Through my grandmother and my mother, I have learned that she was a proud member of this union and was actively involved. My mom has told me that every summer Grandma Laughlin would go to Wisconsin for union meetings and classes. These were events that she looked forward to and were very important to her.

Along with being a proud member of the union, my great-grandmother was a musician, playing the organ at her church, frequently playing gigs at an area restaurant, and she and some of her friends were members of a Kitchen Band, where all of the instruments they played were made up of items that would be found in the kitchen. Somehow, she had time to do all of this while being so involved with the ILGWU. She truly was a remarkable woman.

I learned from my great-grandmother that there is nothing wrong with being a strong, independent woman who stands up for what she believes in. That is what Grandma Laughlin did through her union work. I also learned about passion—passion for a job, passion for a cause, passion for equality and equity.

Interestingly, parts of my life are parallel to Grandma Laughlin's life. She was a proud member of the ILGWU; I am a proud member of the ECCFA. She attended union classes in Wisconsin, and I have attended Union Leadership Institute classes. We both recognize the importance of the union in regards to making sure that everyone is treated with respect and treated fairly.

Knowing how important the union was to Grandma Laughlin, I like to think that my involvement with the ECCFA and the fact that I understand and support the ideals of the union would make her a happy woman. I wish that I had been given more of an opportunity to share this part of my life with her and for her to share this part of her life with me. I have no doubt that she is somewhere, smiling and playing "Solidarity Forever."

Writers Center Welcomes Bob Shacochis

By Rachael Stewart

Writers Center Reading Series 2013—2014 will host Bob Shacochis in a special Tuesday night reading on February 25, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in H 142.

Shacochis holds an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop (1982) and specializes in fiction and non-fiction. His first collection of stories, *Easy in the Islands*, won the National Book Award for First Fiction in 1985, and his second collection, *The Next New World*, was awarded the Prix de Rome from the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 1989. Shacochis is also a former columnist for *Gentleman's Quarterly* and a contributing editor for both *Outside* and *Harper's*. A collection of his columns for *GQ*,



Domesticity: A Gastronomic Interpretation of Love, was published in 1994. *Swimming in the Volcano* was a 1993 National Book Award Finalist. *The Immaculate Invasion*, a chronicle of the 1994 military intervention in Haiti, was a finalist for The New Yorker Magazine Award for best nonfiction of 1999. He has also received a James Michener Fellowship and a grant from the NEA. His newest novel, *The Woman Who Lost Her Soul*, was published in 2013 to great critical acclaim, affirming

Shacochis as an important voice in contemporary fiction.

A pre-reading dinner with Shacochis will be held at 5:30 p.m. For reservations, please contact Rachael Stewart at rstewart@elgin.edu.

All Writers Center readings are free and open to the public.

Books will be available for sale and signing.



**All ECCFA Members
are invited to the
2014 CONTRACT
RATIFICATION
PARTY**



**When? Thursday Feb 13
Where? Carmina's in Elgin
When? Starting at 4pm
What? Free Food & Fun**



Carmina's Restaurant and Banquets

1055 N Randall Rd
Elgin, IL 60123

Tel: (847)760-6000

Fax: (847)760-6085

info@carminasplace.com



2013-2014 ECCFA Senators

ADLR/SSCT

Ellie Swanson

BUS/SSCT

Gary Norden
Roger Ramey
David Reich

CABS

Jessica Carpenter
Cindy Hutman
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Joel Peck

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Mary Elfring--UA2
Dan Kocher--UA2
David Lawrence--UA2
Marcia Luptak--UA2
Loretta McCallister--UA2
Warren Peto--UA2
Cathy Tomasik--UA2
Baudelaire Ulysse--UA2
Scott Vaszily--UA2
Cassandra Watson--UA1

Sentinel Calendar

March 10

- Deadline—March 6

April 14

- Deadline—April 10

May 12—

- Deadline—May 8



2014 Senate Meetings

February 12—C120

February 26—C120

March 12—C120

April 2—C120

April 16—C120

April 30—C120

May 14—C120
