

# The Sentinel

## ECCFA Team Takes Third Place at Trivia Bee

**By Jessica Wedemeyer**

Team ECCFA won Third Place at the Literacy Connection's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Trivia Bee Fundraiser at the Grand Victoria Casino in Elgin on Saturday, April 26. The Literacy Connection has been hosting its Annual Trivia Bee Fundraiser since 1998 to "raise funds to further its mission to help adults and families reach their literacy goals." Over \$500 was raised at the event, and donations are still being accepted online at <http://www.elginliteracy.org/events/trivia-bee-2014>.

Team ECCFA consists of Marc Healy, Professor of Anthropology, John Mravik, Instructor of English, Scott Vaszily,



**Jessica Wedemeyer, John Mravik, and Scott Vaszily, members of the ECCFA trivia team, took third place at the 17th annual Trivia Bee Fundraiser, sponsored by the Literacy**

Adjunct Instructor of English and Director of The Write Place, and myself, Jessica Wedemeyer, Adjunct Instructor of English. We took third place after answering questions ranging from "What does the Mohs scale

measure?" (hardness of

minerals) to "Name two of the four U.S. presidents to have won a

Nobel Peace

Prize" (Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Jimmy Carter, and Barack Obama). Team ECCFA had a great time sharing breakfast and knowledge with other trivia buffs and plans to dominate next year's Trivia Bee...first place or bust!

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this finds you well and that the end of the semester is a smooth one for you.

This has been an eventful semester in many ways. The restructuring of the counseling department, the decision of the BOT to find possible options to outsource custodian services and the President's new contract are the most relevant, or unsettling events of this semester.

Our role in the negotiation of the counseling department was always that of protecting our membership within the context of the contract. The negotiation team, led by our Chief Negotiator Howard Russo, did an excellent job.

The entire ECCFA membership has thrown its support behind our custodians in a fight for keeping them here at ECC and to stop the Board of Trustees from outsourcing them. The Board's discourse of being responsible to the district's taxpayers doesn't fly, especially when it appears that concerns about cutting costs are a reason to get rid of the little guys, the custodians, but not when considering new contracts for high ranking members of the administration. We insist that if their idea of finding outsiders that can do the custodian jobs better and cheaper, they should apply that idea across the board. That could give more credibility to their claim of being fiscally responsible to the district's taxpayers.

Their decision to look for options to outsource the custodians has united the staff, faculty and students in a way I have not seen since I arrived at ECC



almost eight years ago. The community is also upset with the board trying to replace the custodians. We hope the residents of the district remember the spring of 2014 when they vote in the next Board of Trustees election.

On a different note, I would like to express my gratitude, and that of the ECCFA membership, to the Senators who finished their two years' service as of the last ECCFA election. To them, many thanks and best wishes. We hope to see you back in the future. Also, we would like to welcome the new senators and to also express our gratitude for serving the ECCFA and bringing their passion and ideas to the senate.

To our brothers and sisters of the SSECA, we offer our total support and solidarity in their current contract negotiation and in the fight to protect and to keep our custodians. We are one, and as my dear friend and union sister, Pam Weedman, once told me: your problems are my problems. If we all want to stand strong and defeat any attack on our union brothers and sisters, we need to be united, **united strong**, and understand that ECCFA, SSECA, students are **ONE**, and that if you mess with one of us, you mess with all of us.

I hope to see you at the end of the semester, Thursday, May 14, 5:00PM at Carmina's (1055 N Randall Rd Elgin).

Have a wonderful summer and enjoy a well-deserved warm weather.

In Unity,

**Luis Martinez, MD**

**ECCFA President**

## Union Membership is a Family Tradition

By Jeanne Lewis Grogan

*The following is a new edition to The Sentinel. It will highlight ECCFA members and the role unions played on them and their families. The goal is to emphasize the importance of unions.*

I grew up in a union home. My father was a union ironworker for most of his life. He served in the Army at the very end of WWII—he lied about his age to enlist—and he returned home hoping to finish college and become an engineer. With his analytical and math talents, he would have been a good one! However, as he worked long days driving a cab to support his mother and younger sister, my dad found himself falling asleep in his night classes. We have all seen this in our everyday teaching life—the well-intentioned and

overworked young person who has too much on his plate. Finally, he just decided to drop out and become an apprentice for the ironworkers of Local 6 in Buffalo, NY. That was in 1953.

Dad was naturally suited to the work. He had no fear of heights, great balance, and loved being outside. Plus, he worked hard—very hard. He wasn't a big man: just wiry and muscular. Soon, he became a certified welder and foreman. Consequently, you could find him going up with the structural steel of any number

of buildings, walking across the narrow red iron on the unfinished 25<sup>th</sup> floor as calmly as if he were on the sidewalk. You could find him working on bridges spanning the Niagara River, the swift current running beneath him as he ate his lunch, blissfully looking at the water. Bridges were his favorite work of all.

When dad first started with the ironworkers, there was no health insurance plan, nor were there any safeguards for work shortages, bad economic times, or injuries. Those union employees fought for every benefit they ever received. In fact, they funded their own health insurance coverage, and the costs were huge. They negotiated fair wages for the dangerous work they did. They worked hard to get the contracts for good construction jobs, and they protested when builders hired non-union, substandard labor. Once when he was on a picket line, dad was injured by a truck that barreled through the line.

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**Dad and I at Niagara Falls. He lived close, so we went often.**

## ...Union Family Continued

We were worried that he'd be too injured to continue the work he loved, but he recovered and went right back to the job.

By the time I graduated from high school, not only did my dad have good health care for the family, but there were even a couple of competitive college scholarships for the children of ironworkers. I remember how proud he

was when I applied! I didn't get one, but fortunately, my sisters and I could still go to college.

Unions have gotten a lot of bad press in the last few decades, but it was my dad's strong union that gave us a middle class life. He worked so hard, and he was proud of his work. To this day, I can drive across the Grand Island Bridges any day and feel safe because he worked on them. My children know

that their grandfather helped build those bridges, and his lifelong union membership made it possible for me to go to college.

I would never cross a picket line.

## ECCFA Scholarships Awarded

**By Bev Augustine**

Congratulations to Deisy Palomar and Roberto Adame, winners of this year's ECCFA Scholarships.

Deisy, recommended by Kimberly Tarver, is graduating in May 2014 with an Associate Degree in Applied Science. After graduating, Deisy will study for the Illinois licensure examination in physical therapy this July.

Roberto, recommended by Jason Kane, graduated from ECC in December 2013 with an Associate in Arts Degree. He will pursue a bachelor degree in Biblical Studies at Judson University in Elgin. After earning his bachelor's degree, Roberto plans to earn a Master of Divinity Degree and become an ordained minister.

We congratulate and extend our best wishes to both of these outstanding young people.

## **Films On Demand at ECC Library: Integrating Information Technology and Multimedia to Increase Student Learning and Success**

**By Baudelaire K. Ulysse**

In writing this essay, I purpose to accomplish several objectives. First, I will inform readers on Films On Demand (FOD), including some of its features as multimedia tools. Second, I will highlight briefly some of its benefits, particularly its resourceful capability to supplement teaching, enhance student learning, and increase student success. I will assess and recommend FOD as an ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) strategy for ECC library to maximize information technology in the delivery of multimedia services. Last, I will provide access to FOD for ECC's stakeholders, particularly faculty, administrators, students, and staff, to evaluate those resources, so they make valid and sound conclusions about the urgency and the imperativeness of immediate institutional access to such an

information-technology-powered multimedia resource as FOD.

Information technology (IT) has taken the world by storm and has arguably propelled the most prolific era in modern times. IT does not level the playing field for companies and institutions; rather, it makes them more competitive and productive (McAfee & Brynjolfsson, 2008). Companies and institutions that integrate information technology in all their processes, roles, and cultures have increased their productivity (Brynjolfsson, 2005; Pearlson & Saunders, 2013). Evidently, IT does not simply have the potential to effect changes in education (Baum & McPherson, 2012; Carnevale, 2007), but also it has already revolutionized the way in which education is packaged, marketed, delivered, disseminated, and acquired.

As a result, more higher education institutions are taking aggressive steps to fully integrate information technology in their ERP. FOD has been proposed to ECC library as a channel to integrate information technology in its media services in order to deliver instantly and efficiently multimedia resources in support of faculty teaching and student learning and success. Many faculty members, full time and part time alike, along

with several staff members, have backed the initiative aiming for the library to subscribe to FOD. 'Films on Demand' is an online video service, featuring educational multimedia materials in most, if not all, of the disciplines in the academy, along with an accessible and comprehensible platform that can be intuitively integrated in Desire2Learn. Its educational videos represent a trove of supplemental tools, so essential for teaching, learning, and student success.

A trial account is now open through the end of May 2014 for everyone in the community to try. Try Films on Demand and experience the supplemental teaching tools and learning possibilities. Also, feel free to share the link with your fellow faculty, staff, and administration members whose academic programing will indubitably benefit from resources available on Films on Demand.

**Site:** [digital.films.com](http://digital.films.com)  
**Username:** elginccfilms  
**Password:** spartan

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## ...Film Continued

ECC's administrators have proven supportive of teaching and professional development activities that are compatible with institutional objectives and that support student learning and success. I have spoken with several ECC administrators who have not only acknowledged the quintessential technological worth of FOD but also have pledged to direct and or connect the initiative to the appropriate committees that can prioritize and allocate requisite resources (infrastructure, personnel, and finances) for it to materialize at ECC before fall 2014.

Given the institutional, administrative, and collective emphasis on student learning and success at ECC, it is highly probable and would be fitting that students, faculty, administrators, and staff will have unlimited on-and-off-campus access to FOD via ECC's library services before the fall of 2014.

Baum, S., & McPherson, M. (2012, July). Instant revolution? Technology and higher education.

*Chronicle of Higher Education*. Retrieved from

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Brynjolfsson, E. (2005, May 1). VII pillars of productivity. *Optimize*, (4)5, 26-35. Retrieved from ABI/Inform database.

Carnevale, D. (2007, October). Technology trends in education. *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Retrieved from <http://chronicle.com/nl.idm.oclc.org/article/Technology-Trends-in-Higher/24621/>

McAfee, A., & Brynjolfsson, E. (2008, July-August). Investing in the IT that makes a competitive difference. *Harvard Business Review*, 86(7), 99-107. Retrieved from EBSCO database.

Pearlson, K. E., & Saunders, C. S. (2013). *Managing and using information systems: A strategic approach* (5<sup>th</sup> ed.). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.



## ECCFA End of Semester PARTY!



What Food, Fun and Friends

When Thursday May 15 4:30 pm

Where Carmina's

1055 N Randall Rd  
Elgin, IL 60123-2319



**2013-2014 ECCFA Senators****ADLR/SSCT**

Ellie Swanson

**BUS/SSCT**

Gary Norden

Roger Ramey

David Reich

**CABS**

Jessica Carpenter

Cindy Hutman

Christina Marrocco

Pat O'Brien

**HP**

Michele Brynelsen

Kimberly Tarver

**LVPA**

Howard Russo

Joel Peck

**MSE**

Lauren Anderko

Mary O'Sullivan

**UAF Senators**

Rick Bonnom--UA2

Mary Elfring--UA2

Dan Kocher--UA2

David Lawrence--UA2

Marcia Luptak--UA2

Loretta McCallister--UA2

Warren Peto--UA2

Alisa Smith-Riel--UA1

Cathy Tomasik--UA2

Baudelaire Ulysse--UA2

Scott Vaszily--UA1

Cassandra Watson--UA1

Jessica Wedemeyer--UA1



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**2013 Senate Meetings****May 14—C120**

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