

THE SENTINEL

Poet to Visit ECC



By Rachael Stewart

Poet Tim Seibles will be reading for the Writers Center on April 16, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in H 142.

Seibles is currently an English and creative writing professor at Old Dominion University, a teaching board member of the Muse Writers Workshop, and part-time faculty at the University of Maine's Stonecoast M.F.A. in Writing Program. He is the author of several books of poems including *Body Moves*, *Hurdy-Gurdy*, *Hammerlock*, *Buffalo Head Solos*, and, most recently, *Fast Animal*, which was nominated for the 2014 National Book Award.

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ECCFA Elections Wants You!

by Jessica Carpenter, ECCFA 1st VP

Spring is here (at least in theory).. Things are greening up, my plants (the ones that survived the winter) are trying to branch out, and it's time for everything to grow. One thing I would like to see grow is participation in the ECCFA elections (ongoing)!

ECCFA holds elections every year- and not just for Senate. The ECCFA elections also elect people to Academic Technology, Curriculum, Faculty Development, Grievance, Honors, Learning Communities, Sick Bank, SLAAC (Assessment) and Negotiations (next year...).

Please take a look at the latest Election Nominee spreadsheet sent out by Ellie Swanson and see where your division needs representation. This year our elections committee has included names of those whose terms are expiring- these are great people to contact if you are not sure about the committee or what it entails. Or contact me at jcarpenter@elgin.edu or x7662 and I will do my best to answer your questions.

These are all important committees if we want to make sure our professional lives run smoothly and that we are providing the best experience we can for our students.

I encourage everyone to run for a seat! Nominations are open until April 16th and Elections will be held April 22 and 23 in C-120 (Library Fishbowl). Thanks to everyone who has already agreed to run, and to serve as election judges, and thank you to our excellent elections committee- Ellie Swanson, Marge Schildknecht and Tim Anderson.

In UNITY, and see you at the polls!

...Poet Continued

He is a former National Endowment of the Arts fellow and has been a writing fellow at the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center in Massachusetts. He also received an Open Voice Award from the 63rd Street Y in New York City. His most recent honor is the 2014 Theodore Roethke Memorial Prize, awarded to poets who have made an important contribution to American poetry.

A pre-reading dinner with the author 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. Copies of Mr. Seibles' work will be available for sale and signing.

If you have questions about this event or other Writers Center activities, please contact Rachael Stewart at 847-214-7578 or rstewart@elgin.edu.

President's Letter

Dear Colleagues.



I hope you had a great and relaxing spring break. As we get back to our regular duties at school, we are finding some new changes at ECC.

First of all, ECC is now a smoke-free campus. Although the vast majority of the campus population welcomes a smoke free campus, ECCFA has some concerns about some of the disciplinary measures that those in violation could face, specifically the reporting of violations to supervisors. ECCFA has been working, along with SSECCA's leadership, to address these issues, and meetings between both unions and administrators have taken place, and it is fair to say that, so far, the administration has been receptive to our concerns and we are working towards a resolution of these issues.

The ECC Board of Trustees election took place on Tuesday, April 7. Dr. Donna Redmer was reelected to a second term and Jeffrey Meyer was elected for the first time to serve as trustee. We have worked closely with Dr. Redmer in the past, and the ECCFA endorsed her candidacy.

Mr. Robert Getz was the other candidate endorsed by ECCFA. Mr. Getz did not win reelection, but we thank him for all his years of service as a trustee, a friend, and as a voice of inquiry at the board.

During a visit to the ECCFA senate, Mr. Meyer expressed some beliefs that were concerning to the ECCFA, especially with regards to Fair Share, and we decided not to endorse his candidacy. Despite our differences, we look forward to working with Mr. Meyer and the rest of the trustees to keep moving ECC forward, to continue to be the great educational institution it is, but always defending and protecting the hard-fought rights and benefits of our brothers and sisters of all unions at ECC.

Have a great rest of the semester.

IN UNITY.

Luis Martinez

ECC Theatre Department Joins Community Crisis Center and Student Life for Theatre Event

By Susan Robinson

ECC's Theater Department in conjunction with the Community Crisis Center and Student Life will be presenting *Emotional Creature*, a play about girls on April 30 at 7:30 PM in the Spartan Auditorium. *Emotional Creature* is a Take Back the Night Event and part of Sexual Assault Awareness month here on ECC's campus

Student directed by ECC Theatre students: Cynthia Esparza and Rachel Moore *Emotional Creature* offers fictional monologues and stories inspired by girls around the globe. Fierce, tender, and smart, *Emotional Creature* is a celebration of the authentic voice inside every girl and an inspiring call to action for girls everywhere to speak up, follow their dreams, and become the women they were always meant to be.

Playwright Eve Ensler is a Tony Award winning playwright, performer, and activist, she is also the author of *The Vagina Monologues*, which has been translated into over 48 languages, and performed in over 140 countries.

Admission is free but a suggested donation of personal hygiene/toiletry items for the Community Crisis Center is encouraged.

Please tell your classes and join us on April 30 at 7:30PM in the Spartan Auditorium in Building G.

For more information please call the Community Crisis Center at 847-742-4088 or Susan A. Robinson, Theatre Coordinator at 847-214-7472.



Students Participate in Political Action Day

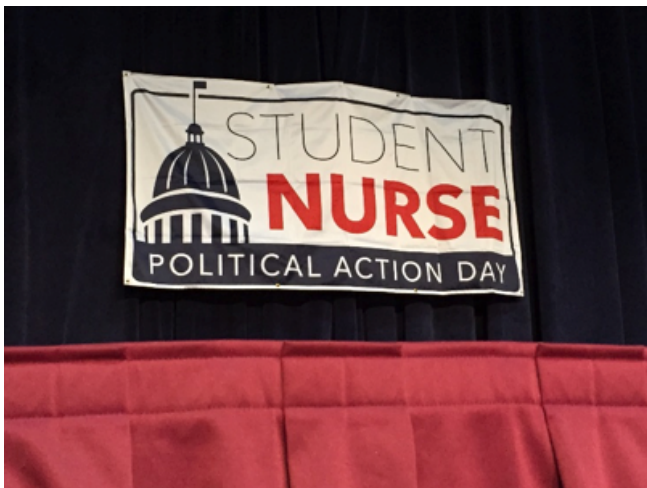
By Mary Arndt

On March 24, 2015, Mary Arndt, Professor of Nursing II, accompanied 6 ECC nursing students to the Student Nurse Political Action Day in Springfield, IL. This yearly event was sponsored by the Illinois branch of the American Nurses Association, known as ANA-Illinois. About 1,000 nursing students and faculty from around the state gathered. The day consisted of student poster exhibits, vendors showcasing baccalaureate nursing degree programs, and presentations from various speakers. We learned about liability in relation to the Illinois Nurse Practice Act. We also heard about pending legislation for which the ANA-IL is advocating. ANA-IL labors tirelessly in working with legislators to promote laws that will ensure patient safety and help keep nursing a desired and flourishing profession in Illinois. We learned the value of political action in order to effect change.



The day ended with a march from the convention center to the state capital building, where some students met their lawmakers. Wendy Raya, nursing student, stated that coming to this event made it feel like nursing is all becoming so real for her.

From left to right: Mavis Kampumba, Mary Arndt, Wendy Raya, Lauren Rose, Emily Lewandowski, Rosemary Lewandowski (Emily's mother and a retired nurse), Danielle Wolke and Olga Bali.



A Case for Affordable Textbook Solutions at Elgin Community College

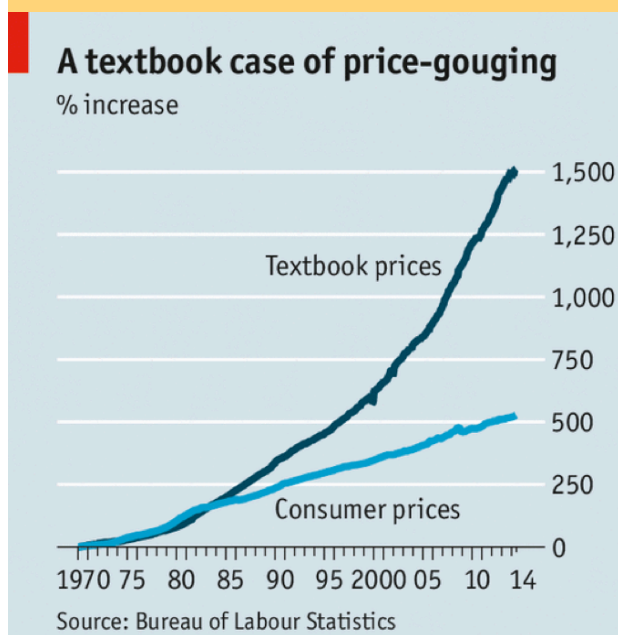
By Baudelaire K. Ulysse

General Remarks on College Cost

The cost of education is an important factor in the enterprise of higher education. There are many expenses included in the overall cost of higher education, and the cost of college course materials represents one of them. The National Association of College Stores breaks down the cost of instructional course materials into “required course materials” and “necessary but not required technology” (nacs.org). The cost of required course materials is a necessary one. However, the rising cost of textbook has been an issue for a long time.

Data from the Census Bureau and the Bureau of Labor Statistics revealed that, “[t]he cost of college textbooks increased 812 percent since 1978, or three times the rate of inflation” (Kingkade, 2013, par. 7).

Worth noting also is that the price of textbook has grown at a faster rate than medical services, new home prices, and the consumer price index. That, according to *The Economist*, is an increase “three times the rate of inflation” (*The Economist*, 2014, par. 1), as illustrated in the graph below.



The illustration is evidence that the rising cost of textbook is not a manufactured issue, but a real one that is happening across the United States. If this phenomenon is happening nationally, then it is happening locally. If it is happening locally, then it must be happening at every educational space that deals textbooks. A educational space that deals textbooks is that which: either (a) requires textbooks for classes and academic programs, or, (b) sells textbooks to students or the general public, or, (c) acquires new and used textbooks for resale to students and the general public, or, (d) does a combination of the previous three.

Elgin Community College offers classes and academic programs that

require students to acquire and or purchase textbooks, operates a bookstore that acquires new and old textbooks, as well as sells the same to students and the general public.

Therefore, Elgin Community College is an educational space that deals textbooks. Since Elgin Community College is a space that deals textbooks, then its data (sales, revenues,

inventories, and profits) must be somehow included in the aggregate statistics presented in the above data from the *Census Bureau* and the *Bureau of Labor Statistics*.

Since Elgin Community College is included in and or belongs to the aggregate statistics about the rising cost of textbooks, it can neither extract itself from the data at will, nor preclude itself from being counted in and discussed with reference to the data, nor become impervious from the consequences/results of the data.

Therefore, the rising cost of textbook, as illustrated in the Census Bureau's and Bureau of Labor Statistics, is happening at Elgin Community College and impacting ECC students in the same way it is impacting students across the United States.

The cost of higher education is an indispensable component in the successful pursuit of a higher education degree. The *Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008* prioritizes that component and directs significant resources to address it. Note that fees such as the cost of textbooks are also included in the HEOA, which means that the *Department of Education* views the cost of textbook as a vital expense in the net cost of education that can lower or raise the overall cost of education. Net cost is the cost after grants and scholarships (*Educational Marketer*, 2011, p. 1).

If the *Department of Education* prioritizes the cost of textbooks in an Act, which addresses the overall cost of education, then the cost of textbook is important. Instructors and Instructional Coordinators who take steps to make a difference on affordable textbook solutions are doing something commendable, which should be emulated.

Thus, the 'few' who are doing their part should inspire the 'many' to take similar steps because the collective impact made by the 'few' and the 'many' will be greater than the impact made of the few. If many are not yet doing what a few are already successfully doing, then perhaps there is a need to establish a system or a taskforce whose primary focus will be to incite broader participation in and increase contribution to what the few are doing. It would seem reasonable and equitable that the benefit of reduced prices on textbook solutions be available to all students and not just the students of the few Instructors/Instructional Coordinators/ Departments that prioritize the premise of reduced cost on course materials.

Moreover, assuming ECC officials agree that the cost of higher education is a major component in the pursuit of a higher education degree and assuming the same officials also agree that textbook expenses have a correlational impact on the overall cost of a higher education degree, it follows then that any activity by any one person within a particular department at the college which decreases the cost of textbook needs to be recognized, measured, and reported.

Appeal

Establishing and legitimizing a textbook cost reduction mechanism, which advocates and negotiates for affordable and quality textbooks, will enable students to matriculate in college, progress academically, and complete their degrees without 'breaking the bank' and or racking up demoralizing student debt. Doing so neither undermines the market principle, nor cuts off the source of revenues for the businesses involved, particularly ECC's bookstore. Instead, it addresses the needs of the most vulnerable stakeholder in the transaction of buying textbooks—students. Such approach

is not a novel approach. Many higher education institutions in Illinois are taking similar steps. For instance, Waubensee Community College and Eastern Illinois University are among many of such institutions that have prioritized affordable textbook solutions and have taken appropriate institutional steps to realize/materialize this priority.

Stengel, a business expert and professor at California State University, wrote: “The well-being and stability of any society depends on whether the members of that society are able to acquire the goods and services they need or want (Stengel, 2011, p. 123). Doing so will only ensure the academic wellbeing of ECC students immediately and ultimately the financial stability of those students, their families, and their societies both local and global. The wellbeing of students and stability of their societies align with one of the *Higher Learning Commission’s* Criteria for Accreditation, which requires that the mission of an educational institution “demonstrates commitment to the public good” (*Higher Learning Commission*, Core Component 1.D).

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- US Government Accountability Office. College textbook: Enhanced offerings appear to drive recent price increases. Accessed on March 18, 2015, from <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-05-806>

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Spring 2015 Senate Meetings

*All meetings are
3:00-5:00 in C120.
All ECCFA
members are invited
to attend.*

**April 15
April 29
May 13**