

college union VOICE

COOK COUNTY COLLEGE TEACHERS UNION, LOCAL 1600, AFT, AFL-CIO
SUMMER, 2006

Moraine Valley Faculty Association Ratifies Five-Year Contract

By a vote of 132 to 2, the Moraine Valley Faculty Association (MVFA) overwhelmingly approved its new five-year contract on May 15 and 16. The Moraine Valley Board of Trustees unanimously voted to approve the contract at its May 18 board meeting. The MVFA negotiating team of Chief Negotiator and Chapter Chair-elect **Jan Hill-Matula**, **Dana Campbell**, **Maryan Jatzczak**, **Laurene Kirby**, **Larry Langellier**, **Randy Southard** and **Troy Swanson** was well prepared with data, dollar details and deliberate proposals.

"Negotiations between the Moraine Valley Administration and the Faculty Association teams were demanding," stated Hill-Matula. "The final contract agreement serves both the administration and the faculty very well for the next five years. It will contribute to the stability of the college and good relations among the faculty, administration, and Board of Trustees."

The five-year contract, which expires in summer 2011, includes 5% annual raises and clarifies existing contract language such as the tenured evaluation schedule, overload selection, lane corrections and distance learning. Health insurance premiums increases are minimal and the FA Negotiating Team successfully opposed administrative proposals to increase office hours, change release time practice and eliminate part-time teaching opportunities for retirees.

CCCTU President **Perry Buckley** was elated at the news: "This contract is excellent: 5% raises for five years, minimal increases in health care contributions and much needed contract language clarification. Moraine Valley, following in the footsteps of the South Suburban College Faculty contract from last summer, has set the bar. It behooves all of us when both sides bargain in good-faith and seek compromise."

"The agreement serves both the administration and the faculty very well for the next five years."

—Jan Hill-Matula

Perry Buckley Re-elected I-UPC Slate Sweeps All Offices

At the March 10 Union House Delegate meeting, the Independent-Union Progressive Caucus (I-UPC) slate was declared the winner in the election held during March 6-8, 2006. The official results were presented to the Executive Board on April 21. President **Perry Buckley** received 1372 votes out of 1384 votes cast. Re-elected were: Vice President-City Colleges **Sonia Jean Powell**, Vice President-Suburban **Jim O'Malley**, Vice President-Classified **Gail Wiot**, Grievance Chair **Tom Kodogeorgiou**, Secretary **Pat Wenthold**, Treasurer **Don Radtke** and Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele**. Also elected were all local chapter officers and house delegates as well as the AFT Delegates 2006, the AFT Alternate Delegates, the IFT Delegates 2007 and the IFT Alternate Delegates.



Paul Janus and Perry Buckley confer over the official election results that were presented to the Union House Delegate meeting on March 10.

All official results can be found on the CCCTU website: <http://il.aft.org/local1600/>
For more photos, please see page 19

STOP THE PRESSES! As the **Voice** was going to press, the Moraine Valley Support Staff voted 127-3 in favor of ratifying their new contract. Some highlights include a 5% wage increase for 5 years and a retirement incentive increased to \$3900 per year for insurance costs for 5 years after retirement. The negotiating team is Chapter Chair **Rose Sakanis**, Classified VP **Gail Wiot**, Sec. **Helen Agrepsi**, Grievance Chair **Renee Skotnik**, Treasurer **Julie Poulos** and IFT Staffer **Jennifer Marsh** as Lead Negotiator. The contract will not be official until the Moraine Valley Board of Trustees approves it in June.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Perry J. Buckley

Conventional wisdom states that the principal function of a Union is two-fold: 1) Negotiate good contracts for its members and 2) Defend those contracts and the members' rights.

Over the past two years, however, one thing has become increasingly clear to me. If we are to defend all we have gained, if we are to "keep what we got; get what we need," the chief battleground is not at the bargaining table. It is in Springfield.

I would estimate that 30 – 40% of the calls and letters I receive are from retirees (and active members as well) concerned about pensions and health care. You need only a thimble-full of knowledge of current events to know both are under serious attack. What many of us have taken for granted for years, a decent pension with affordable medical insurance, is all of a sudden not so certain... not so guaranteed.

The first salvo from Springfield was last spring's SB 27 which not only removed virtually all early retirement enhancement programs, but made it almost impossible for **anyone** to earn more than a 6% raise in his or her last four years of employment. There were other rumblings that the politicians were looking to take away what have **always** been considered sacrosanct retiree rights such as the state income tax exemption and the annual 3% cost of living provision. So far we have fought these off.

It is no better in health care. The College Insurance Program (CIP) just announced their new rates for 2006 – 07. All college retirees (except the City Colleges) are in this plan, and many CCC retirees continue to urge the Union of fight for their inclusion. The new rates are simply mind boggling. A non-Medicare primary retiree and spouse, over age 65, would pay \$17,827.20 in premiums per year for the State's PPO plan! The formulary drug co-pay has soared to \$40.00, as high as any of our contracts.

So what should we do? What are we doing? Fortunately, the answer is an area in which Local 1600 traditionally has excelled: political action. Through our members' generous donations to our COPE fund we have put together a powerful and effective group of legislators who listen to us, work with us and help us. Senate House Higher Education Chair **Ed Maloney** and House Higher Ed Chair **Kevin McCarthy**, to name only two, have invited me, other Local 1600 members, as well as IFT and AFT legislative staffers to testify before their committees and voice our issues and concerns.

Also, our own legislative chair **Bill Naegele**, quite frankly, is the quintessential political activist. He is known and respected in Springfield and is often consulted by the IFT and legislators themselves on bill and law language. Through his efforts, and the 65 members who attended lobby day, and the IFT Springfield office, we have made inroads. SB 27 has been modified so that it no longer affects overtime, summer work, promotions, and changes in job descriptions. We also helped draft language which will create a CIP / Health Insurance Task Force. This will report directly to the governor and will deal with matters such as the inclusion of the City Colleges and the spiraling cost. The bill was written so that Local 1600 will have a member on the committee. We are a player in Springfield.

We will continue to work hard on all fronts for all our members, including our retirees... for some day, God willing, we will all retire. We just want to make sure when we get there... it is a place we want to be! As **Michael Frayn** says in his play "Clockwise:" "It is not the despair I can't stand. I can stand the despair. It's the hope I can't stand."

CALENDAR

FRIDAY, JUNE 16 • Executive Board Meeting
 FRIDAY, JULY 14 • House Meeting
 JULY 20-23 • AFT Convention in Boston
 FRIDAY, AUGUST 25 • Executive Board Meeting

CALENDAR

COOK COUNTY COLLEGE TEACHERS UNION, LOCAL 1600, AFL-CIO



President.....Perry Buckley
 Vice President, City Colleges Division.....Sonia Powell
 Vice President, Suburban Faculty.....Jim O'Malley
 Vice President, Suburban Classified.....Gail Wiot
 Secretary.....Patricia Wenthold
 Treasurer.....Donald Radtke
 Legislative Representative.....Bill Naegele
 Grievance Chairman.....Tom Kodogeorgiou
 Editorial Chair.....Todd Lakin
 Publicity Chair.....Bill O'Connell
 Special Contributor.....Dr. Bob Blackwood

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Harper College Faculty Resume Negotiations

Negotiations for the Harper Faculty resumed on May 17th after a six-week break when ten sessions of "interest-based bargaining" did not result in a contract in March. "I was very disappointed," said Chief Negotiator and Local 1600 President **Perry Buckley**, "that what we were able to do with every other contract the past year in Local 1600 was not possible at Harper." However, the administration sent the Union a modified proposal in an effort to get negotiations restarted. The Union has proposed beginning intense negotiations on June 5th but the administration has declined the request and refuses to meet with the Union until July. The Union's goal remains getting a contract before the current agreement expires on August 1, 2006.

"There is an improvement here," said team member **Dave Richmond**, "but we still have a very long way to go. This is not going to be easy." The salient problem is "takeaways." The Harper administration still has a laundry-list of proposals which ranges from increased office hours, decreased reassigned and release time, and more administration authority and control of academic issues.

On April 10th, the Harper Faculty turned out in force to receive a negotiations update from Buckley and the entire negotiating team. The mood was somber as the team discussed the Harper administration's proposals. When asked if anyone would vote to accept the proposal, not a single member answered "yes." Buckley told the faculty that the team will continue to meet with the administration whenever they wish and will work to "keep what we got and get what we need."



The Harper Faculty Negotiations team: (standing, l-r) **Trygve Thoreson**, **David Richmond**, **Perry Buckley**, **Bill Naegele** and **Jim O'Malley**; (sitting, l-r) **Michael Vujuk**, **Greg Clemons** and **Linda Campbell**.

Oakton Classified Negotiations Continue



The Oakton Classified negotiations team had its fifth meeting on Thursday, June 8. According to Chapter Chair **Jillian Verstrate** they are making progress with good faith bargaining. "So far we have signed off on eight tentative agreements yet we have still not discussed salary and benefits," stated Verstrate. In the photo (l-r), standing, are **Jim Kostecki**, **Sue Moser** and **Perry Buckley**. Sitting are **Barbara Reineking**, **Jillian Verstrate** and **Marilyn Davis**.

Prairie State College Support Staff Begins Negotiations

On May 4, 2006, the PSCSS Federation began negotiations with the PSC administration to bargain a successor agreement. The negotiations team consists of Chief Negotiator **Janie I. Morrison** from Local 1600, **Sue Braasch**, PSCSS Chapter Chair and **Carissa Davis**, Asst. Chapter Chair. IFT Field Director **Jennifer Marsh** will be a consultant during negotiations.

Prior to the start of negotiating, the union distributed a survey in December 2005 to all classified employees in order to tally their most important concerns which are now the core issues presented to the administration: 1) an across-the-board salary increase; 2) added benefits for family members regarding sick leave, the sick-leave bank and FMLA; 3) bereavement; and 4) new reclassification language. In addition to the above, the negotiating team intends to clean-up contract language and grammar in the existing contract.

"The goal in these negotiations is to deliver a successor agreement to the membership before the end of June that will be fair to both sides," stated Chief Negotiator Morrison. "So far the process has been very positive and we feel confident that we will be able to deliver a good contract."

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan Addresses House of Delegates

At the March 10 House of Delegates meeting at the Merchandise Mart, Illinois Attorney General **Lisa Madigan** addressed Local 1600 house delegate members, listing the many additional services that her office has provided for the citizens of Illinois since taking office after the 2002 election. Madigan, a former Assistant Dean at Wilbur Wright College, ran unopposed in the Democratic primary and faces a Republican in the November 2006 election. She has already received Local 1600's endorsement. Also addressing the House was **Paul Mangieri**, a candidate for Illinois State Treasurer. Unfortunately he lost his bid against **Alexi Giannoulis**. Both candidates received contributions for their campaigns from the COPE fund.



Illinois Attorney General **Lisa Madigan** greets HW Chapter Chair **Mike Ruggeri** as HW Chapter Chair-elect **Phil Stucky** and retiree **Cas Kotowski** look on. Cas' son, **Dan Kotowski**, is running for the Illinois State Senate in November.



Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele** (right) presents a check to Democratic candidate **Paul Mangieri** for Illinois State Treasurer at the Local 1600 March 10 House Meeting.



Illinois Attorney General **Lisa Madigan** addresses the Union House of Local 1600 on March 10.



Local 1600 leaders listen to Illinois Attorney General **Lisa Madigan** discuss the upcoming November elections.



President **Perry Buckley** introduces Illinois Attorney General and former Wright College colleague **Lisa Madigan**.

P O L I T I C S

Local 1600's Tom Dascenzo: "The budget for all higher education is currently bal- anced on the backs of the adjunct faculty in our state."

After discussing adjunct faculty conditions with IFT members in November, State Rep. **Kevin McCarthy** (D, 37-Orland Park) decided to hold a special subject matter hearing of the House Higher Education Committee to take testimony on the issue. The meeting took place Wednesday, February 15 and four IFT members, including **Tom Dascenzo**, President of Moraine Valley Adjunct Faculty Association (MVAFA) at the time, were on hand to tell the committee about their personal experiences as adjuncts and non-tenure track faculty.

Dascenzo believes that "it was an excellent opportunity to assist in providing a real life perspective to what adjunct faculty encounter on our college campuses in Illinois. The budget for all of higher education is currently balanced on the backs of the adjunct faculty in our state. Legislatures need to hear from our union brethren on the plight of adjuncts in Illinois and across the nation."



Tom Dascenzo, center, listens to a colleague discuss the plight of adjuncts and non-tenure track faculty before the House Higher Education Committee. Also in the photo are **Michelle Paul**, IFT Legislative Director and, left, **Barb Greim**, Adjunct Faculty at Blackhawk Community College, IFT Local 1836.

The committee heard testimony regarding adjunct and non-tenure track faculty working conditions, salary inadequacies and lack of opportunity to move into full time positions. Copies of recent AFT publications regarding these important issues were also provided to the members of the Committee and it is the union's hope to continue working with Chairman McCarthy to draft legislation addressing these important issues.

Dascenzo is handing over the reins of the MVAFA to **Theresa Raines** (pun intended) in July and will begin to serve as Grievance Chair. He was Chairperson for two years and worked tirelessly for two years before that to help form the bargaining unit.

Bill Naegele and the ICCB meet at Harold Washington College



On Friday, March 31, the Illinois Community College Board met at Harold Washington College for its monthly meeting. Local 1600 Legislative Chair and ICCB Faculty Trustee the Honorable **Bill Naegele** (second from right) reported on recent legislation related to community colleges to the ICCB.

Hispanic American Labor Council Holds Election Rally



At the Hispanic American Labor Council's Election Rally at Mi Tierra, 2538 S. Kedzie, Chicago, on February 27, **Dr. Franklin Inojosa** (Daley College), Daley Retiree **Graciela Silva-Schuch** and HALC President **Augie Sallas** took a moment to express their solidarity before the primary election.

Local 1600 Endorses IFT Community College Council's 2006 Legislative Program

At the April 21 Executive Board meeting, Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele** presented the IFT Community College Council's 2006 Legislative Program that was approved on March 17 at the biannual IFT CC Council meeting. When he presented the program, he emphasized the importance of the IFT and cited the recent passage of Senate Bill 49 that mitigated the unintended consequences of "the odious SB 27 [which] is a good example of why we need our state federation to advocate for our interests." Naegele congratulated IFT President **Jim Dougherty**, IFT Director of Political Activities **Steve Preckwinkle** and his staff, particularly Legislative Directors **Laura Arterburn** and **Michelle Paul**, and President **Perry Buckley**, who personally lobbied Local 1600-endorsed legislators to get this agreement.



Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele** advocates supporting legislation that would enroll the CCC in the College Insurance Program at the IFT Community College Council meeting on March 17 at the Hyatt Regency in Woodfield. In the background listening are **Perry Buckley** and **Larry Gold**, AFT Director of Higher Education

South Suburban College Adjunct Faculty Association Leaders Elected

In the March 2006 Voice issue, it was reported that the South Suburban College Adjunct Faculty Association (SSCAFA) had just successfully negotiated its first contract and that its officers would be elected in time to be introduced at the March 10 Union House of Representatives meeting. The SSCAFA leadership is now set: **Melissa Gaddini**, Chapter Chair; **Richard Fox**, Vice Chair; **Mark Joseph**, Grievance Chair; and **Mike Horan**, Treasurer. Currently the SSCAFA represents almost 200 Adjunct Faculty.



Prairie State's **Sue Braasch** (middle), Oakton Classified's **Jillian Verstrate** (second from right) and Daley College's **Mel Anderson** listen to discussion about the controversial and misnamed Academic Bill of Rights at the IFT Community College Council meeting on March 17 at the Hyatt Regency in Woodfield.

2006 Legislative 9-Point Program

- Increase state aid to community colleges (CCs) to at least 50% of operating costs.
- Restore the right of SURS recipients to receive service credit for up to two years of unused sick leave.
- Continue to pursue, via national legislation, the decoupling of social security offset provisions from state pension benefits.
- Adequately fund SURS without increasing employee contributions and oppose any decrease in benefits for current or future annuitants.
- Introduce legislation to require that 75% of all college credit courses in each department shall be taught by full-time tenure-track faculty.
- Amend the SURS statute to require the election of the SURS Board of Directors by SURS participants.
- Introduce legislation to prohibit CC employee residency rules.
- Oppose any legislation or resolution to establish an "Academic Bill of Rights" for Illinois public higher education.
- Support legislation that would allow enrollment of the City Colleges in the College Insurance Program (CIP).

CCC UPDATES

V.P. Powell and Grievance Chair Kodogeorgiou Brief Wright Chapter

Local 1600 Vice President **Sonia Powell** and Local 1600 Grievance Chair **Tom Kodogeorgiou** briefed over 50 members of the Wright Chapter at the February 17 chapter meeting in the music room. Chapter Chair **Clyde Walker** had V.P. Powell lead off the discussion, as she had a grievance hearing to attend to at Malcolm X College. Powell commented briefly on recent CCC grievances. She noted the decisions of arbitrators and their impact on other arbitrations.

Theresa Tylka, the chair of the Wright Chapter Professional Development Funds Committee, balanced her young daughter, **Isabella**, in her arms, as she reported on correct procedures for acquiring funds. Walker urged attendance at the March 15 Lobby Day in Springfield. Assistant Chapter Chair **Henry Herzog** noted the upcoming March 17 Annual Chapter Scholarship luncheon at the Three Olives Restaurant.

After some hearty pizza munching, Kodogeorgiou gave a detailed account of grievances in the CCC, the Unfair Labor Practice filed against the CCC on behalf of the emeritus professors and answered questions on the arbitrators' decisions.



Local 1600 Grievance Chair **Tom Kodogeorgiou** and V.P. (CCC) **Sonia Powell** update each other on grievances and arbitrations before the Wright Chapter meeting on Feb. 17, 2006, in the Music Room.



Chair **Theresa Tylka** reports to the members about procedures for requesting funds with the assistance of young **Isabella** on Feb. 17 in the Music Room.

Truman Chapter Has Intimate Dinner at Parthenon Restaurant

The Truman Chapter held its annual spring banquet at the Parthenon Restaurant in Chicago's Greektown on Saturday, April 22. Chapter Chair **Tony Johnston** and his wife, **Rachel**, welcomed about 50 chapter members and Local 1600 President **Perry Buckley** and Local 1600 Grievance Chair **Tom Kodogeorgiou**.



The private dining room at the Parthenon was crowded with happy diners including: **Max Goulias'** date, **Max**, **Perry Buckley**, **Rachel Johnston** and TR Chapter Chair **Tony Johnston**.

Following the multi-course Greek feast of appetizers, entrée and desert, Distinguished Training Specialist **Harold Santamaria**, Distinguished Professor **Yvonne Harris** and Union Leadership Award Winner **Earl Silbar** were recognized for their outstanding achievements. At the close of the ceremonies, **Michael McCloskey** recited his poem in honor of the distinguished professor.



President **Perry Buckley**, TR Chapter Chair **Tony Johnston** and Union Leadership Award Winner **Earl Silbar**

Dawson Tech Program Teams with Unions to Help Students Prepare for Construction Trades Apprenticeships

Editor's note: The following article was published in the March/April 2006 edition of IFT Insight. It is reprinted here with permission.

Graduation day has arrived at Dawson Technical Institute for students in the Construction Technology Center (CTC). Students take measurements and make last-minute adjustments to their projects — scale-model staircases and furniture made of PVC pipe.

In the carpentry class, students learn building skills from footing to roofs to interior work, according to carpentry instructor **James Murray**. Students in the plumbing and pipefitting class display their measuring, joining and installing abilities in their projects. "They learn algebra, trigonometry and the plumber/pipe fitter formula to cut steel, cast iron and PVC pipe," says plumbing instructor **Theoda Smith**.

Michael Sharp, CTC manager, says that the construction programs at Dawson are based on union guidelines and designed to help students who want to enter apprenticeship programs run by construction trades unions. Classes are taught by journeyman level instructors, and the college offers professional development to help the instructors hone their teaching skills.

Dawson has one full-fledged apprenticeship program on campus. The International Union of Elevator Constructors, Local 2, oversees a four-year program for elevator construction run by the local at Dawson. The program, which received official certification as an apprenticeship program by the US Department of Labor in 2002, moved to Dawson in the summer of 2005. There are currently 340 apprentices in the program. Students who complete the apprenticeship can transfer their credit hours to the Illinois Institute of Technology and continue studies to earn a bachelor's degree. The program also offers continuing education classes for journeymen.

Dawson Tech Dean **Robert Kelly** said that the goal of the apprenticeship prep programs is to prepare students to go into union apprenticeship positions. "A good percentage of people in the trades are going to be retiring, and they need new people coming in," said Kelly.



Dawson Tech's **Rausan Tamir** (center) converses with retiree **John Wenger** and IFT Community College Council Legislative Chair **Leo Welch** outside the Governor's mansion on March 15.

Our goal is to partner with union apprenticeship programs to offer degree programs, where we offer apprentices the opportunity to gain college credit while achieving journeymen certifications."

"We want [students] to take this seriously," says Murray. "From day one, I'm on their case about work ethic, because it means everything in this business. I do a lot of in-your-face teaching." According to CTC manager Sharp, classes finish at the beginning of construction season, and the center is working with contractors to secure placements. The students also work with organizations like Habitat for Humanity on construction projects.

Rausan Tamir, Cook County College Teachers Union, Local 1600 chapter chair at Dawson, said that the apprentice preparation programs run at Dawson "help our students prepare to go to the world of work."

Local 1600 Issues on Can-TV Cable Channel 19 in May

On April 19, a one-hour TV show was hosted by **Dr. Bob Blackwood**, professor emeritus of Wright College and Voice staffer, with two 29-minute segments. The initial segment featured Illinois Community College Board member **Bill Naegele**, legislative chair of Local 1600. The segment, entitled "The Illinois Community Colleges: Where's the Money?," contained Naegele's analysis of how the funding system works in Illinois, his projections about the General Assembly's funding this year and possible sources of funds in the years to come.

The second segment was entitled "Two Challenges to the City Colleges of Chicago." Olive-Harvey Professor **Sonia Powell**, the Vice President of Local 1600, was the chief co-coordinator. The first challenge was the administration's harsh treatment of many professors emeritus since the 2004 strike, including OH Professor Emeritus **Ismay Ashford** (founder of OH College's African-American Studies Department), and the union's responses to it. The second challenge was the apparent de-certification by the administration of the KK Nursing program.



News from the CCC: VP Sonia Powell Updates the Scab List

Annette Watkins has fully reinstated her membership to the Union. During the strike, she received bad legal advice from her own lawyer. Unfortunately she didn't consult with "us" to find an alternative to her predicament. After she crossed our picket lines, the college administration tried to "use" her but she resisted their advances: she was in, but she wasn't on their side. Annette felt terrible about her actions. In order to be reinstated, she paid the required fine. Hers was the only situation where the Militancy Committee allowed an exception to the "repayment-in-full" requirement to make the Union whole, and that was because of her long established commitment to the Union Memorial Book Scholarship Fund. This part of her fine required her to raise a tidy sum for this fund. She immediately set to work and also met this obligation. Welcome back, Annette!



Pictured at the CAN-TV studio on April 19 are: (standing, l-r) OH Professor Emeritus **Ismay Ashford**, KK Nursing Advisory Board member **Evelyn Collier-Dixon**, Local 1600 V.P. **Sonia Powell** and (sitting) **Dr. Bob Blackwood**

KK Professor **Barbara Norman** spoke via telephone hookup and **Evelyn Collier-Dixon**, member of the KK Nursing Advisory Board and Past President of the Chicago Chapter of Black Nurses, was on-camera questioning the wisdom of closing down a program that was providing much-needed jobs to the community.

The show was shown two or three times during May on cable channel 19 in Chicago thanks to the production staff of the Senior Network, **Martha Wilson**, producer.

Correction: Larry White Is a Scab

In the last issue of the Voice, the article concerning scabs during the 2004 City Colleges of Chicago strike omitted one scab's name: **Larry White**, a professional at Wilbur Wright College. He was the only scab at Wright. He subsequently submitted a letter attempting to resign from the Union. However, this was a redundant move as he was automatically expelled from the Union the moment he walked by his brothers and sisters on the picket line and went to work during the strike. As with all scabs, the only way he would be readmitted to the Union would be for him to apologize, petition for readmission and pay the fine of one day's pay for every day worked.

The following also crossed the picket line during the strike and are encouraged to reinstate their CCCTU membership: **Danita Allen**, **Kevin E. Brown**, **Joyce Butler**, **Patricia A. Cooks**, **Linda C. English**, **Ray A. Gethers**, **David C. Goglin**, **Beverly Harris**, **Jennifer L. Hunt**, **Dexter A. Miles**, **Rita Pietrzak**, **Corey Reynolds**, **Alonzo Rhoden**, **Daniel Simpson**, **Kristine M. Schulz**, **Matthew R. Trujillo**, **Richard Williams**, **Jinn (David) Yeh**, and **Daaiyah Ziyad**.

Camaraderie and Unionism Celebrated at the CCCTU Annual Banquet

On Friday, May 5, the CCCTU celebrated another successful year with its annual banquet at the Holiday Inn Merchandise Mart. After the cocktail hour and a wonderful meal, the **Norman G. Swenson** scholarship winners were recognized and presented with \$1,000 checks. The winners of the "Best Chapter Newsletters" (see next page) were also recognized. It was also a time to honor the eight Chapter Chairs who are stepping down and/or retiring for their service to the Union: **Greg Benson** (Morton Classified), **Tom Dascenzo** (MV Adjunct Fac.), **Terry Engle** (Harper Pro-Tech), **John Harris** (OH), **Mike Ruggeri** (HW), **Karen Simac** (SSC Fac.), **Randy Southard** (MV Fac.) and **Jeanette Williams** (KK).

After the ceremony the party began to flow. As last year, Dawson Tech's very own in-house DJ and Chapter Chair, **Rausan Tamir**, spun fantastic records. And this year, rather than have a raffle, there was a silent auction on numerous gifts that raised over \$900 for the COPE fund. Once again, special thanks must be extended to CCCVP **Sonia Powell**, Secretary **Pat Wenthold**, Social Chair **Paul Janus** and office staff **Gayle Gregg** and **Janie Morrison** for putting together another memorable banquet. Enjoy the photos and mark your calendars for next May.



Retiring MV Chap. Chair **Randy Southard** (center) enjoys cocktail hour with **Bill Naegele** (left) and **Tony Johnston**. Southard is retiring after 32 years teaching at Moraine Valley and 14 years as Chapter Chair. He also was on every negotiating team since 1980 and was an IFTVP from 1993-2005. He will be missed.



DJ **Rausan Tamir** drops the phat trax on the turntables.



Jeanette Williams, retiring KK Chapter Chair, accepts a plaque acknowledging her many years of service to the Union from President **Perry Buckley**.



Treasurer **Don Radtke** bids on the most popular and expensive (\$225) raffle item of the evening: a World Champion Chicago White Sox gift basket with two box seat tickets to an upcoming game, an autographed Minnie Minoso ball and other souvenirs. However, Radtke was outbid by Daley colleague **Jim Carey**.

CCCTU SPRING BANQUET



Perry Buckley and Paul Janus pose with the Norman G. Swenson Scholarship winners.



The CCCTU Rat Pack: Retirees **George Brixie** (left) and **Pier Rosellini** (right) discuss bidding options for the raffle with former Daley colleagues **Don Radtke**, **Mel Anderson** and **Alan Gbur**.



Perry Buckley and Bill Naegele have a lot to smile about. Around the table (clockwise) are: **Marlene Naegele**, **Lillian Buckley**, **Twania Brewster**, **Todd Lakin** and **Don and Joan Radtke**.



OH Chapter Chair **John Harris** and his wife, **Eloise**, await the main course. Harris, who blessed the meal at the banquet, is a student at Chicago Theological Seminary at the University of Chicago. Harris is stepping down as Chapter Chair to focus on his last year of teaching, his studies and his work with the Jitegemee Foundation. In fact, he and his wife went to Machakos, Kenya with foundation members for twelve days (from May 13 to May 25) in celebration of its 10th anniversary. "Jitegemee" is Swahili for "sustain yourself" and its mission focuses on helping street children in Kenya.

Moraine Valley Adjunct Faculty Organization and Daley College Win Best Chapter Newsletters 2005-2006

"Adjunction," the recently established monthly newsletter from the Moraine Valley Adjunct Faculty Organization (MVAFO) and "Daley Union News," from Daley College, are the winners of the 2005-2006 "Best Chapter Newsletters" award. Honorable Mentions were awarded to Harold Washington's newsletter, "Local 1600 News" and, from the suburbs, Triton College's "Unity." Congratulations to all!



Dapper President **Perry Buckley** and *Voice* editor **Todd Lakin** present a \$500 check to **Theresa Raines**, MV Adj. Faculty Organization chair and editor of the outstanding "Adjunction."



Maria Kossakowski, DA Asst. Chap. Chair and soon-to-be editor of the award-winning "Daley Union News," accepts a \$500 check along with DA Chap. Chair **Mel Anderson** (right), the former editor. Presenting the check is **Todd Lakin**, *Voice* editor; and **Perry Buckley**.

LOBBY DAY 2006



Triton Classified Chair **Don Cragen** poses for a photo with colleagues (l-r) **Linda Nordstrom**, **Kathy Greenwald** and **Susan Wochum**.



Local 1600 members and retirees enjoy a beautiful day before heading into the Governor's mansion for lunch. From left to right are: **Myra Cox**, **George Otto**, **Ismay Ashford**, **John Wenger**, **Irwin Goldfine**, **Julius Nadas** (sunglasses), **Herman Novar**, **Todd Lakin**, **Margarita Chavez**, **Tony Johnston**, **Bob Blackwood** and **Jackie Kirley**.



Olive-Harvey faculty members **John Harris**, **David Zoller** and **Paulette Jones** share a laugh during the auditorium rally.



Bill Naegele warms up the crowd as they enter the auditorium of the Howlett Building. A few days after the rally, Naegele stated, "Thanks to everyone. I am already hearing from legislators who were impressed by our size, strength, and unity. They were especially impressed with the members that they personally met in their offices."

Lobby Day 2006: "Save our pensions and save higher education!"

*Editor's note: Portions of this article were adapted from Judy Darst's story about Lobby Day from Triton's Spring 2006 edition of **Unity**.*

Every year a coalition of unions comes together to meet with legislators and share concerns about the under-funding of higher education and pensions. Illinois ranks 49th in the nation in the percentage of tax dollars used for education. Illinois is also losing ground when it comes to the salary and benefit packages it can offer university and college faculty and staff. These unsettling facts ultimately hamper the ability to attract the best and brightest.

The day began with breakfast in the Stratton Building cafeteria. Representatives **Will Davis** (D, 30) and **Connie Howard** (D, 34) thanked CCCTU for coming and stressed the importance of being knowledgeable about the issues and meeting with legislators. Davis, a member of the House Higher Education Appropriations Committee noted legislators appreciate "one-on-one and face-to-face meetings" with constituents.

Following the breakfast briefing by President **Perry Buckley** and Legislative Chair **Bill Naegele**, the Local 1600 members moved off to a rally in the nearby Howlett Building auditorium with members of the IFT, the IEA, Local 73 of the Service Employees International Union, and the Annuitants Association.

Naegele introduced himself to a crowd of 300 that grew to over 400. He and other spokespersons from the various unions took turns introducing Illinois Senators and Representatives and other leaders. The first to speak was Senator **Edward Maloney** (D, 18), chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee, who noted the increased role of non-traditional students in higher education, not just the 18-22 year-olds. He also expressed his concern about increasing graduation rates. Maloney stated, "Illinois citizens who complete a college education make more money over their lifetime, pay more taxes, and spend more money than those who do not have a college education."

continued

LOBBY DAY 2006

Next Senator **Rick Winkel** (R, 52) noted that the members of the universities, colleges and labor have to deliver the message to the governor. He, like other Republicans, hit on the topic of the need to protect pensions, though the Republicans had also sponsored "pension holidays" in paying pension benefits. Representative **Rich Meyers** (R, 94) called for raising the pension funding level to where it should be – 90 percent. Senator **Mattie Hunter** (D, 3) called for the need to fully fund education by a tax increase. "Where else are the new revenues to come from?" she asked. Senator **Kimberly Lightford** (D, 4), chairperson of the Senate Education Committee, said, "We have to make some serious changes in funding our public school systems. We can no longer rely on property taxes."

Dan Slack, the new executive director of the State Universities Retirement System, stated that this year the SURS was receiving an average 10.2 percent return on its investments. He also noted that the State of Illinois is not paying excessive benefits to its retirees. The \$313 million in pension payments a year is easily paid. The problem with the Illinois pension system is the lack of \$8.6 billion in employer funding (read: the State of Illinois) in the last 10 years. At that point, President **Christine Boardman** of Local 73, SEIU, a member of the SURS board and a former Wright College student, took the microphone. She noted that the Illinois legislature is always looking for quick fixes—such as privatizing state assets. The General Assembly simply lacks the will to fund the pension systems and the school system of the State of Illinois. She received a resounding round of applause.

Finally, President Buckley took the microphone to encourage the members to go forth, speak to their legislators and raise the issues discussed at the rally with them. Afterwards, rally participants had lunch at the Governor's Mansion.



Local 1600 Retirees gather for a photo in the Stratton Building cafeteria before heading out to the rally during Lobby Day.



Senator **Kwane Raoul** (D, 13) comments on a bill outside the Senate chambers to the pleasure of (left) Retiree Chapter Chair **Norm Swenson** and (right) Asst. Chapter Chair **Frank Pokin**.



Perry Buckley and **Bill Naegele** discuss higher education funding with Sen. **Mattie Hunter** (D, 3), Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. After Buckley introduced her, she told the 400 activists gathered, "We need dedicated revenue streams to fund education, to bring in more and highly motivated teachers."



President **Perry Buckley** listens to SURS Executive Director **Dan Slack** state, "The problem is not the ability to pay but a willingness to pay." With Buckley are Local 1600-endorsed (center) Rep. **Jim Durkin** (R, 82) and Sen. **Ed Malone** (D, 18).



Representative **Will Davis** (D, 30) addresses the crowd in the Howlett Building auditorium on March 15. In the front four rows are Local 1600 members. Davis called the funding of K-12 "a challenge."

CCCTU LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

**“For every \$1 not put in to the pension fund today, it will cost \$13 twenty years from now.”
—Bill Naegele**

On Saturday, April 1, the CCCTU held its third annual Leadership Conference at the IFT northern Illinois headquarters in Westmont. Titled “Critical Issues in Community Colleges Today,” the Local 1600 leadership set an ambitious and informative agenda for the thirty-eight members who participated.

After a “speaker-less” breakfast, CCCVP and conference coordinator **Sonia Jean Powell** introduced President **Perry Buckley** who welcomed everyone: “You are the greatest resource we have.” Powell then read an inspiring poem about the important roles that educators play in our students’ lives. IFT President **Jim Dougherty** also welcomed the participants, noting that there are 90,000 IFT members and that “this is a movement, not an insurance plan where you pay in, sit back and wait for your benefits. We must remain active.”

Unlike last year’s breakout sessions, this year there were three group presentations in a discussion-lecture format. Suburban VP **Jim O’Malley** led the first discussion regarding healthcare coverage and language throughout Local 1600 contracts, emphasizing that “once you bargain it away, it ain’t coming back.” Next, **Bill Naegele** gave a PowerPoint presentation titled, “Oh What a Lovely War: The Attack on Pensions and Retirement Benefits in Springfield.” He soberly noted that, “For every \$1 not put in to the pension fund today, it will cost \$13 twenty years from now.” The final session was led by Buckley who discussed a hodgepodge of issues: the current state of negotiations, non-economic issues in contracts and the attack on academic freedom. Afterwards all participants gathered for a “speaker-less” lunch to share in solidarity.



Don Radtke, Maria Kossakowski and Chuck Mustari take a break between sessions at the Leadership Conference.



First-time participants learned valuable information at the Leadership Conference on April 1. From left to right are Barb Reineking, Richie Pawlak, Helen Agresti, David Zoller, Gide Collinet, Barbara Norman, Ron Thompson, Dale Navigato and Maria Kossakowski.

SCHOLARSHIP BANQUETS

Daley College Gives Nearly \$15,000 in Scholarships

The Daley College Chapter awarded students nearly \$15,000 in scholarships at its annual Scholarship Banquet on April 27 in the faculty lounge. The Scholarship Committee, consisting of **Marwan Amarin**, **Alan Gbur**, **Rebecca Fournier**, **Jack O’Keefe** and **Horace Simon** and ex-officio members **Helen Berg**, **Don Radtke** and **Graciela Silva-Schuch**, sifted through numerous applications to award 45 scholarships to worthy students, from twenty-six \$100 Book Scholarship awards to six \$500-

and six \$1,000-McKillop Scholars. Five students received \$250 Barbaro Scholarship awards. Chapter Chair **Mel Anderson**, who emceed the event, stated, “I am very proud of our members who generously gave from their own pockets to benefit our students.” After the ceremony faculty, staff and students mingled and enjoyed cake and coffee.



Criminal Justice professors **Ron Thompson** (left) and **Vince Russo** bookend Local 1600 Book Scholarship winners **Robert Garcia** (left) and **Nick Russo**. In the center is proud mom **Maria Russo**.



Chapter Chair **Mel Anderson** (right, back row) and Scholarship Committee Chair **Marwan Amarin** (center, back row) pose with McKillop and Local 1600 Book Scholarship award winners.

SCHOLARSHIP BANQUETS

Harold Washington College Celebrates Annual Banquet for Distinguished Professor and Student Scholarship Winners

On Friday, May 12, the Harold Washington chapter gathered at the Greek Islands Restaurant, 200 S. Halsted St. to celebrate its annual luncheon. The chapter honored the HW 2005-2006 Distinguished Professor, **Betty Harris**, retiring Professional Employee Captain **Florinda Bayod** who has served as Captain since the inception of the Professional Employee's unit and HW scholarship winners. More than 60 people attended the luncheon, including many retirees.

Also honored at the banquet was outgoing Chapter Chair **Mike Ruggeri** who has been HW's leader for twenty years. CCCTU President **Perry Buckley** noted, "Few chapter chairs are as tenacious as Mike Ruggeri. For twenty years he advocated for the chapter and the Union."



Margarita Chavez (right) and Retiree Joan Fallert catch up on old times.



Perry Buckley discusses professors emeritus issues with retiree John Wenger (left) and HW math professor Art Divito.



Foreign Language/ESL Dept. Staff member Shirley Glover (right) congratulates two scholarship winners at Harold Washington College's annual scholarship banquet on May 12.



Mike Ruggeri (right) takes a moment to congratulate Chapter Chair elect Phil Stucky. Ruggeri stated, "He knows the details of his new upcoming job and has the experience and temperament to do a great job. Plus he has a great team."

SCHOLARSHIP BANQUETS

Truman Chapter Honors Students with Scholarships and Awards

On April 27, the Truman College Chapter honored their best students with scholarships, awards and a luncheon. The Scholarship Committee — **Harold Santamaria, Riaz Siddiqi, Leo Huang, Amara Vattankul, Cathy Schwab, Mike McCloskey, Gregory Robinson, Franklin Reynolds** and Chapter Chair **Tony Johnston** — chose 19 students for scholarships.

The students who received scholarships included **Ioana Ardelean, Christy Ashinze, Criselda Bautista, Latrina Campbell, Marialuisa Campos, Judith Djuogouo, Erlan Ekis, Maria Isabel Espinoza, Michael Garza, Jerome Hendricks, Jovanka Katic, Nadia Khan, Alilya Maksyutova, Martha Ngongang, Tiffany Olson, Fadumo Omar, Ibukunoluwa Paseda, Angel Ramos** and **Wudase Weldegebriel**.



Scholarship Committee Chair **Tony Johnston** (far right, back row) and 16 of the Truman College Scholarship recipients pose for a photo after a catered lunch and the presentation of scholarships and awards.

The Leon Novar Scholarship went to **Wudase Weldegebriel**, the Norman Stein Scholarship to **Alilya Maksyutova** and **Martha Ngongang**, and the Agnes Vidovic Scholarship to **Nadia Kuhn, Fadumo Omar** and **Christy Ashinze**. The top five in Truman's AMATYC Mathematics Contest were **Shreyes Dole, Jovanka Katic, Yangyang Liang, Vien Quach** and **Christian Sanchez**.

Wright Hosts Its Student Scholarship Luncheon on St. Patrick's Day

On St. Patrick's Day at the Three Olives Restaurant, 8313 W. Lawrence, Norridge, the Wright Chapter held its 34th Annual Student Scholarship Awards Luncheon. Chapter Chair **Clyde** and **Kay Walker** were there to greet the student recipients of scholarships. Assistant Chapter Chair **Henry Herzog** introduced the 12 students who received awards: **Tricia Albano, Lien Choi, John Joyce, Dawn LaBady, Juan Maldonado, Maria Markou, Makhasin Melnychuk, Ignacio Ramos, Daniel Salgado, Chaffee Tran, Farouk Yaker** and **Simona Ziliute**. Each received a \$250 check after the deliberations of the committee consisting of **Van Feller, Herzog, Ginia Jahrke, Hermine Krysa** and **Julius Nadas**.

Former Chapter Chair **Andy Nicosia**, who had founded the luncheon 34 years ago, was there to encourage everyone to keep up their contributions to the chapter. Secretary **Paul Janus** brought his infant nephew, Tom, and his toddler niece, Sydney, to please the grandparents among the members present.

Perhaps the highpoint of the meeting, except to a disgruntled music critic in the back, was Herzog, **Linda Murphy** and **Nadas'** rendition of "Danny Boy" in honor of the festive occasion.



Hermine Krysa, Henry Herzog and **Linda Rivera** staffed the door.



Henry Herzog, Linda Murphy and **Julius Nadas** warbled "Danny Boy" on St. Patrick's Day.



Paul Janus was a hit with crowd-pleasing niece **Sydney**.



Chapter Chair **Clyde Walker** with his wife, **Kay**.

RETIREES

Retirees Enjoy “Pirates of Penzance” at Drury Lane Theatre



Pier Rosellini—assisted by Sal Attinello, Frank and Joyce Pokin, and Retirees Chapter Chair Norman Swenson—hands a ticket to Hosea Steele at the Drury Lane Theater luncheon of the retirees.



Cindy and Jim O'Malley, Local 1600 Suburban Vice President, chat with Retirees Chapter Chair Norman Swenson at the Drury Lane Theater luncheon of the retirees.



Assistant Chapter Chair Frank Pokin gets a laugh from retiree Hosea Steele (seated, to his right) at the Drury Lane Theatre Luncheon of the retirees followed by a performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirate of Penzance* on Wednesday, March 29.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Mike Ruggeri Steps Down After 20 Years as HW Chapter Chair

Editor's note: Ruggeri wrote the award-winning HW Local Union News for over a decade. Below, in his own words, is his belief in the strength of Unionism.

“The Teachers Movement as expressed in the formation of a Teachers Union has brought respect and dignity as well as better wages and working conditions to all of us in the profession that are befitting of our work and the seriousness of our mission.

Without a strong Union, we would be at the mercy of forces that would seek to demean us and keep us as lowly paid and badly treated functionaries and would in the end destroy the effectiveness of our mission as educators.



Mike Ruggeri receives a congratulatory plaque from Perry Buckley for his 20 years as Chapter Chair at HW at the CCCTU Banquet on May 5.

Without a strong Union, we would be bankrupted by usurious health costs, have no job security and be at the mercy of favoritism and patronage. We would have no strong voice in the State legislature and we would have no pension system at all.

The Union gives us strength and the unity it fosters gives our profession nobility and solidarity.”

ELECTION RESULTS

OFFICIAL 2006 CCCTU LOCAL WIDE RESULTS

<u>Office</u>	<u>Candidate</u>	<u>City Colleges Division</u>	<u>Suburban Faculty/Prof</u>	<u>Suburban Classified</u>	<u>Retirees</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
President	Perry Buckley	406	426	307	233	1372
VP City Colleges	Sonia Jean Powell	386	N/A	N/A	226	612
VP Suburban F/P	James O'Malley	N/A	415	N/A	39	454
VP Suburban Class.	Gail Wiot	N/A	N/A	277	2	279
Grievance Chair	Tom Kodogeorgiou	370	408	283	224	1285
Secretary	Patricia Wenthold	365	419	284	222	1290
Treasurer	Donald Radtke	377	408	283	223	1291
Legislative Chair	Bill Naegele	373	422	294	230	1319

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES (votes received in parentheses)

<u>Office</u>	<u>CCC</u>	<u>Suburban Faculty/Pro</u>	<u>Suburban Classified</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
President	Mel Anderson (1)			
	Clyde Walker (1)	Michael Harkins (1)	Barb Reineking (1)	
	Bill Moher (1)	Tom Dascenzo (1)	Herman Stark (1)	12
	Julius Nadas (1)	Theresa Raines (1)		
	Sonia Jean Powell (1)	Pat Repac (1)		
	Phil Stucky (1)			
Vice President	Perry J. Buckley (1)	Dave Richmond (1)	Rose Sakanis (8)	CC 1
	Rose Sakanis (8)	Stu Sikora (1)	Jillian Verstrate (22)	SFP 2
			Commodore Craft (1)	SC 31
Secretary		Veronica Mormino (1)	Patrick Deane (1)	2
Treasurer		Mark Healy (1)	Marybeth Beno (1)	2
Grievance Chair		Sean Noonan (1)	Steve Vivian (1)	2
Legislative Chair		Michele Robinson (1)	G. A. Griffith (1)	2

**For full election results,
please visit our website:**

<http://il.aft.org/local1600/>

ELECTION

Alan Booker Elected Chapter Chair of Newly Formed Part-Time Professional Unit



Alan Booker, Chapter Chair, Part-Time Professional Employee Chapter, enjoys lunch at the Greek Islands Restaurant during Harold Washington College's Annual Banquet on May 12. His colleagues are **Cynthia Jolla** (right) from the Office of Vocational Training and Development and **Sharon Oliver** (in cool shades) from Biology/Physical Science Dept.

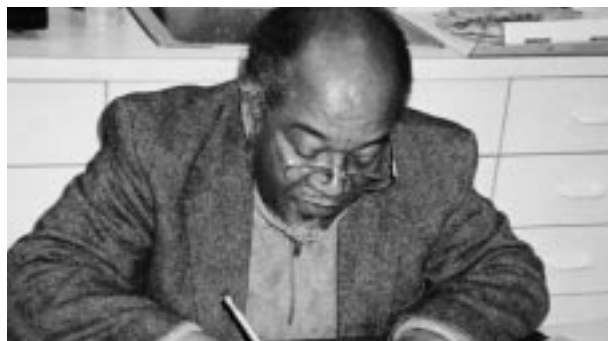
At the April 21 Executive Board meeting HW part-time professional **Alan Booker** was introduced as the new Chapter Chair of the Part-Time Professional Employee Chapter. The other elected officers are Assistant Chair **Alan Badowski** (DA), Secretary **Fred Beck** (HW), Treasurer **Ann Dikcis** (DA) and Grievance Chair **Melissa Smith** (KK).

Booker, who was born in England and raised in Kenya, has been at HW since 2001 in the Office of Vocational Training and Development. For over thirty years he has worked in the field of Artistic Therapy, Curative Education and Special Education, specializing in integrating the arts into curricula. At HW Booker works with high school students who have cognitive disabilities and are graduating to a college setting. On a personal note, he is an identical twin and has 16 year-old triplets. His motto is, "We know much more than we think we do although none of us are functioning at our full potential!"

PHOTOS: Perry Buckley Re-elected (continued)



The Retirees' Chapter count their mailed-in ballots on March 10 in the basement of the union office: from left: **James Moore**, Chair **Norm Swenson**, **Cas Kotowski**, Asst. Chapter Chair **Frank Pokin**, **Tom Stark** and **John Mueller**.



Local 1600 Election Chair **Gide Colinet** does last-minute computations for the vote count on March 10 at the union headquarters. In this election, Mr. Colinet was elected chapter chair of Olive-Harvey.

P E R S O N A L G L I M P S E

Blackwood's Book Published



Dr. Bob Blackwood signed advanced copies of his book at the CCCTU Annual Banquet on May 5 at the Merchandise Mart Holiday Inn.

Dr. Bob Blackwood's book *From the Silent Era to "The Sopranos": Italian American Gangsters in Trend-Setting Films and Television Shows* was published on May 29. The book comments on 92 films and six television shows released from 1906-2005 and may be purchased at Amazon.com, Barnesandnoble.com and area bookstores. Blackwood is a retiree from Wright College, former editor of *The College Union Voice* and recently elected president of the International Press Club of Chicago.

Triton Professional Receives Prestigious Award

Kent Randall from Triton College received the prestigious Tony Award from the Refrigeration Service Engineers Society (RSES) for earning the highest score on the Certificate Member Exam. The international RSES' mission is to educate HVAC service engineers. Local 1600 is proud of the accomplishments of our professionals.



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