In January 2007, even before he officially announced his candidacy, Local 1600’s House of Representatives unanimously endorsed Senator Barack Obama for President of the United States. It has been an historic and remarkable 17 month journey since that cold and dark January night. In spite of tremendous odds, and against the predictions of many, Senator Obama will be the Democratic nominee for President of the United States. We are thrilled, if not outright ecstatic, at the thought that the change America so desperately needs is now so realistically achievable. We invite all our members, as well as our brothers and sisters in the IFT & AFT, to come together and do all that is necessary to make history one more time, for the good of our country, and elect Barack Obama our president.

America needs change as never before in its history. After eight years of economic turmoil, a needless war for which there seems no exit, and an increasingly hostile world, we are in grave peril. America, for all its bright promise and ever abundant opportunities, has lost its way. The past eight years have been a nightmare for working men and women. Prosperity has turned to despair; with people out of work in record numbers, with homes being foreclosed at a depression-era level, and food and energy costing more every day. We need change, and we need it now. Only Barack Obama offers us that change, that hope, that vision.

We have an opportunity this November to clearly see not just a generational change but an ideological change as well. There are clear differences to be discerned between the two men who will carry the banner for our major political parties, Barack Obama and John McCain. Both men deserve a great deal of respect for submitting themselves and their families to the year-long presidential primary season. However, this ordeal also helps all Americans to measure their abilities and gain a true sense for who should be our next President. In many ways the pressure cooker to which these men will be subjected, helps guide our decision for whom we should vote in November.

We must never forget the sacrifices that all the men and women who wear the uniform of this nation have made to preserve the very freedom in which we enjoy. Senator McCain served this nation in an unpopular war, and his service to this nation should be lauded and never be forgotten. However, the fact remains he is far too rooted in the failed politics of a failed president. He simply does not offer us a way out from the dire and ominous problems which surround us.

(continued on page 2)
A Change America Can Believe In
Continued from the Front Page

We, in Illinois, were fortunate to see Senator Obama before the rest of the nation became aware of his abilities and insights. We at the Cook County College Teacher’s Union had the opportunity to observe him up close and personal. Working with him on myriad issues over the course of time led us to see the vast potential which the nation is only now becoming aware. The entire nation had a chance to see Senator Obama and Senator Hillary Clinton slough their way through fifty-plus primaries and caucuses in their quest for the Democratic nomination. We as a nation owe a great deal to Senator Clinton for her groundbreaking and energetic campaign. But now it is time for all Democrats and all Americans to come together.

As the President of the Cook County Teacher’s Union, I see him as a man who understands what Unions are for and the contributions they have made to the quality of life for all of the citizens of the United States. I also see him as a bright shining example of the hopes and dreams, this nation shares with the world of nations, a dream of peace, hope and harmony with the environment. I see in his eyes, and hear his message of change. Change, not just for change sake, but a change this nation has been waiting for over two centuries, since its very inception. This change only occurs when a nation has truly lived up to what the founders of this country intended this nation to become, a place where everyone is an asset and every woman and man, and especially child, has the opportunity to rise up to their potential. This is nation in which I want my students to live.

We hold our Presidents up to a higher standard. We want a leader who is strong enough to face down any enemy we may encounter; but compassionate enough to pull up those countrymen who need our nation's help. We seek an individual who will bring us together: Barack Obama will do this.

As an educator, a Unionist, and a citizen of this great nation, I believe we are at a pivotal point in our history. We have a choice to make. We can choose a man whose dreams and hope we share, a man who will lead this nation into a better future, a man whose vision can truly change the world. This man is Barack Obama, and this is why we endorse him and will work tirelessly for his election.

End of Springfield Session:
Great Coalition Victory and New Challenges

For the first time in Illinois history, the community colleges received a higher percentage increase in funding from the Illinois General Assembly than the universities. The community colleges are scheduled to receive a 5% increase ($15 million) above Fiscal Year 2009 state funding while the universities received a 2.8% increase.

The community colleges instruct approximately 60 percent of the students of Illinois. The original funding for FY 2009 would be 13% less than in FY 2002. In effect, it was the same budget that the Illinois community colleges had in 1993, allowing for inflation.

The community colleges’ $15 million includes funding for the Student Success Grant of $5 million, funding for the College and Career Readiness program for $750,000. (We should note South Suburban College and Moraine Valley College are two of only four community colleges in the state to pilot the College and Career Readiness program.) The $7.2 million veterans grant also remains in place. The City Colleges of Chicago retains its $15 million grant and the $628,000 for retiree health insurance.

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Spring Banquet
a Grand Slam

Editor’s note: The 43rd Annual CCCTU Spring Banquet was held at the Stadium Club of U.S. Cellular Field, aka, “Sox Park,” on Friday, May 2. The banquet was organized by VP-CCC Sonia Jean Powell and Professional Staff Assistant Gayle Gregg. Secretary Pat Wenthold served as the Mistress of Ceremonies. During the awards ceremony, the best chapter newsletter was awarded to Malcolm X’s William Stewart, who received a check of $1,000. Also recognized were the fourteen Norman G. Swenson Scholarship winners. To see all the photos go to the website http://local1600.smugmug.com/.

President Emeritus Norm Swenson (left) and President Perry Buckley (right) happily pose with the fourteen Norman G. Swenson Scholarship winners. Scholarship Committee Chair Paul Janus is standing behind Swenson.

Scholarship winner Maggie Early from Daley College (left) was certainly happy to receive $1,100. Posing with her are Twania Brewster and Daley Professor Maria Kossakowski.

Is this a barbershop quartet? Joining President Perry Buckley are the dapper Robert Cruthird, Don Johnson and Freddy Jones.

Triton’s Maggie Hahn-Wade shows Daley’s Mel Anderson and KKC’s Articia Corley the latest dance move.

Oakton’s Krunal Patel (center) and Vijay Rochwan (right) congratulate Oakton’s scholarship winner Jovin Vincent.

Linda Campbell (left) nominated her student and eventual Norman G. Swenson scholarship winner from Harper, Victoria McClellan.

Visit the CCCTU website: www.cctu.com
CCCTU BANQUET

President Perry Buckley congratulates outgoing Triton Faculty Chair Maggie Hahn-Wade for the Meritorious Service Award that she received earlier that evening. She was chair for 14 years.

Malcolm X’s William Stewart graciously accepts his check for “Best Chapter Newsletter” from President Perry Buckley and Voice editor Todd Lakin.

Leading the dance floor in Irish dancing are Bob and Diane Blackwood.

Retirees George Brio, Wendall Wilson and Sal Attinello reminisce about union banquets of the past.

Joyce Pokin and Ginny Dyra take a moment to talk about their lives in the midst of the Union Banquet.

Assistant to the President Randy Barnett, 39th Ward Democratic committeeman; Alderman Margie Laurino (39th), his wife; Chris D’Amico and State Rep. John D’Amico (D, 15) have joined us at the Union Banquet for a second year.

Morton College colleagues and spouses catch up on the news. From left around the table are: Classified Chair Tim and Lynn Visk, Elizabeth and Eddie Villarreal; and Ruben and Beatriz Ruiz.

Jacqueline Witherspoon (left) and Pamela Cannamore (right) celebrate Pamela’s mother’s 35 years at Kennedy-King. Madie Cannamore (center).
KK Retiree Verna Anderson (center) stopped over to greet Marlene and Bill Naegele.

Cindy and Suburban VP Jim O’Malley enjoyed the evening’s festivities. Contrary to unfounded rumors, O’Malley is known to wear a tie on occasion.

DJ Rausan Tamir had the dance floor bumpin’.

Mistress of Ceremonies Pat Wenthold and Treasurer Don Radtke welcome former Triton Mid-Management Chair Mary Jean to the banquet.

Jacqueline Witherspoon, Vice President CCC and banquet organizer extraordinaire Sonia Jean Powell and Barbara Norman show great style and good taste at the 43rd Union Banquet.

After a long evening and much preparation, Scholarship Committee Chair Paul Janus is able to relax and pray for a Cubs victory.

Wright College’s Linda Murphy and her friend Tim Wand take a moment from socializing to pose for a photo.

Nursing colleagues Betty Gammon (MX) and Barbara Connor (KK) reminisce about the good old days.
Building Alliances for Higher Education and the Public Good

John Podesta, former chief of staff to President Bill Clinton, speaks for more funding of education as the President of the Center for American Progress. The former Chicagoan opened the plenary session of the conference on Friday night.

After spending over a month helping to create an alliance of community college presidents, community college trustees, community college teachers and staffers, and community college students in Illinois in the new Illinois Community College Coalition for Funding, the leadership of Local 1600 went off to Washington, D.C. There, they attended an NEA-AFT Higher Education Joint Conference on Building Alliances. They welcomed the experience to share their stories with those of others and to plan for the future.

The high point of Friday evening’s plenary session was the address of former White House Chief of Staff John Podesta from the Clinton administration. Podesta, who took no public side in the Democratic presidential race, is currently a visiting professor at Georgetown University and the President of the Center for America Progress. Podesta noted the American workforce is becoming less well-educated as the years past. Twenty years ago, we led the industrial world in the number of high school graduates and college graduates in our companies. Today, we are ninth among the industrial nations in the number of high school graduates in the workforce and seventh among those with college degrees.

Podesta also observed that 25% of the intellectually qualified students never apply to college or drop out early from college as they are economically challenged. He stated he felt future workers should at least have an A.A. degree, if not a B.A. or B.S., as those with an A.A. would earn $400,000 more over their lifetime than the high school graduates who would only earn $1.2 million over their entire lifetimes. Those with a B.A. or B.S. degree would receive $2.1 million over their lifetimes. You can find more of Podesta’s views at www.americanprogress.org.

As far as the Local 1600 members were concerned, the Saturday afternoon workshop on collective bargaining in community colleges with President Perry Buckley and V.P. CCC Sonia Jean Powell on the four-person panel was the high point of that day. Though it was later in the afternoon, it drew a good crowd of about 50, all of them teachers, professionals or classified staff from community colleges from throughout the U.S.

For the full story, please visit the website: www.ccctu.com

Photos of the event continue on page 7

Visit the CCCTU website: www.ccctu.com  College Union Voice
CCCTU Leadership Conference a Success

The Spring 2008 CCCTU Leadership Conference on April 12 at the IFT Northern Illinois Headquarters in Westmont was a sold-out affair with a heady mix of savvy union veterans, Local 1600 officers and newcomers. After a hot breakfast buffet and welcoming comments from President Perry Buckley, the conference’s organizer; Sonia Jean Powell, began the morning’s activities, stating, “We’ve organized a comprehensive program for today and have brought in experts to make you more aware of advanced union persuasion tactics.”

This year’s theme was “Advanced Grievance Management: From Campus-Level Scrimmages to Arbitration and Unfair Labor Practices.” The three presenters, Local 1600’s Grievance Chair Tom Kodogorgiou, Local 1600’s V.P. CCC Sonia Jean Powell and AFT Special Counsel Jennifer Poltrack, dispensed years of collective wisdom on how to settle grievances before escalation and, when all else fails, how to win them. Just before lunch members who were going to Lobby Day a few weeks later were briefed on “Lobbying Savvy” by Nick Yelverton, IFT Legislative Director; who urged “preparation, contact and follow-up.” Yelverton continued, “Be familiar with the issue, the politics and who your opponents are.”

President Perry Buckley and Retirees Chapter Chair Norm Swenson share a moment at Saturday night’s dinner at the Cafe Berlin in Washington, D.C.

Sonia Jean Powell, Jillian Verstrate and Freddy Jones share a laugh over breakfast.

Local 1600 Treasurer Don Radtke and Harold Washington Chapter Chair Phil Stucky had an agreement to disagree with the AFT’s endorsement of Hillary Clinton in favor of Illinois’ Barack Obama just before Podesta’s speech on Friday night, which everyone appreciated.

At a Saturday morning workshop on Promotion Processes for Academic Professional Staff, Daley Chapter Chair Mel Anderson urged fellow professionals to grieve if their promotions were passed over through clear subterfuges by the administration.

Local 1600 officers President Perry Buckley (at right), VP CCC Sonia Jean Powell (seated at left), Secretary Pat Wenthold (center; middle row) and Legislative Chair Bill Naegle (back row, left) join the first-timers at the Leadership Conference.

Dawson Tech’s Chapter Chair Rausan Tamir has some input at the Community College Collective Bargaining session on Saturday afternoon.
End of Springfield Session: continued from page 2

This historic increase was due to the efforts of the Illinois Community College Coalition for Funding (Local 1600, the Trustees Association, Council of Community College Presidents, the IFT and other community college advocates); our Lobby Day Breakfast for Legislators, which was attended by Speaker Michael Madigan and 30 legislators of both House and Senate; and the testimony at legislative hearings of President Perry Buckley at Morton and Kennedy-King Colleges and Legislative Chair Bill Naegele at Morton and South Suburban Colleges, as well as at hearings in Springfield.

Note: While we have had a great victory, keep in mind this challenge: the FY 2009 Budget is $2 billion in deficit. Governor Rod Blagojevich has the authority to resolve this matter by cutting the FY 2009 budget. Prepare for more fireworks and ‘the blame game’ in Springfield on all issues.

The CIP retirement insurance legislation to include City Colleges of Chicago retirees passed the Senate and passed the committee hearing in the House, but was not called for a House floor vote. Also, the $16 billion pension bond sale program that would have helped reduce the $44 billion under funding of Illinois pensions (the worst under funding in the U.S.) was approved by the Senate but was not voted upon in the House. Both these bills would require a 3/5 vote in this year’s November session to pass. A ‘yes’ vote in both houses is a formidable challenge.
AFT PSRP Conference a Hit with Local 1600 Attendees

Oakton’s Jillian Verstrate, Barb Reineking and Patty Tadda. Moraine Valley’s Gail Wiot and Rose Sakaris. Prairie State’s Sue Braasch and IFT Field Representative Brenda D. Pryor attended the 31st Annual AFT PSRP Professional Issues Conference in Washington, D.C., on April 25-27. This year’s conference’s theme, “Many Voices, One Union,” resonated with the Local 1600 attendees.

All three days were packed with workshops, breakfast and lunch meetings and plenary sessions. Before the official conference began, Pryor attended the PSRP Political Activist Training Pre-Conference on April 24. The course covered many topics such as how to speak knowledgeably about politics to the membership, how to motivate members to volunteer for initiatives, strategies for structuring a COPE drive and the elements for a successful political campaign. “I thought the training was really well done and added a lot to my knowledge base in this area. I look forward to using these new skills for the benefit of our Local 1600 members,” Pryor said.

On Friday evening after a day chock full of workshops, all gathered in the ballroom for the opening general session. AFT Vice President Loretta Johnson offered moving opening remarks to that evening’s theme, “Growing Our Union: The Legacy of Albert Shanker.” She received a standing ovation when she relayed what Shanker had told to her when he organized the PSRP chapter in the early 1970s: “I would not want to be part of an educational union that did not include paraprofessionals. It was the only time that Al threatened to resign from the union.”

For the full story, please visit the website: www.ccctu.com

Cheers! Barb Reineking and Patty Tadda toast to a successful first day. Reineking and Tadda attended workshops that covered Communications, Collective Bargaining, Grievances and Healthcare. Reineking thought that the conference was very productive, noting, “I had the opportunity to network with many colleagues and share ideas and discuss common problems. I came away feeling that we are, indeed, ‘Many Voices, One Union.’”
Lobby Day

The Most Successful Lobby Day: April 29-30

Editor’s note: This year’s Lobby Day was the largest and most unique in CCCTU’s long history of Lobby Days. It began a day before with a Pre-Lobby Day dinner at the Hilton for IFT and ICCB officials. On April 30, the CCCTU hosted its 21st annual Lobby Day Breakfast for Illinois State Legislators. After the breakfast the members continued lobbying at the legislators’ offices and then lunched in the Hall of Flags before heading home. After lobbying, President Perry Buckley gave testimony regarding community college funding before David Miller’s House Appropriations Higher Ed Committee. In these next few pages are photos of these events. For the full story, please visit the website: www.ccctu.com. And, of course, to view and purchase all the photos at every event, please visit: http://local1600.smugmug.com/

Pre-Lobby Day Dinner

Tuesday evening, April 29, Perry Buckley came in with his wife, Lillian, to host the dinner in the Hilton Hotel. Among the celebrated dinner guests were IFT President Ed Geppert, IFT Dir. of Field Operations Lee Wilson, IFT Media Dave Comerford, Legislative Director Nick Yelverton and IFT Webmaster John Little. In addition, Dir. Casey Wichmann of the Outdoor Advertising Association of Illinois presented Buckley with a model of the billboards that are advertising the need for funding across Illinois for community colleges. Also, the Illinois Community College Board’s (ICCB) Vice President Karen Hunter Anderson and ICCB CFO Ellen Andres joined us in a display of solidarity.

Legislative Chair Bill Naegele, after an afternoon of lobbying, briefed the members at the Pre-Lobby Day Dinner and urged them to lobby hard for the three top issues on Local 1600’s agenda: ethics legislation, more funding and the CIP Task Force recommendations.

For the full story, please visit the website: www.ccctu.com

Trustees Association Presents Bill Naegele with Meritorious Service Award

On June 6, the Illinois Community College Trustees Association presented Local 1600’s Legislative Chair Bill Naegele with its Meritorious Service Award at its annual banquet held within the Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Convention Center in Springfield. There were 300 community college trustees, student trustees and faculty members present at the event. The Meritorious Service Award is presented to elected or appointed officials and other friends of community colleges who have contributed to the advancement of community college education in Illinois.

Naegele, a professor of Mathematics at South Suburban College, was the first faculty representative to complete a term of service on the Illinois Community College Board. His knowledge of both the community college system and the Illinois political process assisted community college students throughout Illinois.

Local 1600’s Legislative Chair Bill Naegele receives the Illinois Community Colleges Trustees Association’s Meritorious Service Award from ICCTA Vice President Jeff May on June 6.

Naegele was cited for continuing to contribute to the advancement of Illinois community colleges - specifically for his work with the Trustees Association, the Illinois Council of Community College Presidents, the Illinois Federation of Teachers, the Illinois Community College Board, and other advocates - in founding the Illinois Community College Coalition for Funding in 2008. The Coalition is working to increase funding from the State of Illinois to all Illinois community colleges.
Local 1600’s Lobby Day
Breakfast a Success

On Wednesday, April 30, Local 1600 officers and members welcomed a who’s who of Illinois State Senators and Representatives to its 2nd Annual Legislator’s Breakfast in the ornate hallway outside of Secretary of State Jessie White’s office. Beginning last year the usual Lobby Day (R, 27); Sen. John D’Amico (D, 19); Rep. John Randazzo (R, 20). D’Amico, chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee; Sen. Donnie Trotter (D, 18), chair of the Senate Appropriations for Higher Education Committee; Sen. Ed Maloney (D, 16); Rep. David Miller (D, 29), chair of the House Appropriations for Higher Education Committee; Sen. Ed Maloney (D, 18), chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee; Sen. William Delgado (D, 2); Rep. Elaine Nekritz (D, 57); Rep. Joe Lyons (D, 19); Rep. Ken Dunkin (D, 5); Sen. Matt Murphy (R, 27); Sen. Dan Kotowski (D, 33); Sen. Debbie Halvorson (D, 40); Rep. Lisa Hernandez (D, 24); Rep. Will Davis (D, 30); Rep. Paul Froehlich (D, 56) and an old ally, Rep. Michael McAuliffe (R, 20).

More photos on next page.

Oakton’s Patty Tadda gives a gift bag to her state senator, Dan Kotowski (D, 33).

College Union Voice  Visit the CCCTU website: www.cctu.com
Local 1600’s Lobby Day Breakfast a Success (continued)

President Perry Buckley and State Sen. Matt Murphy (R, 27) listen as State Sen. Dan Kotowski (D, 33) gives his opinion on funding for community colleges.

President Perry Buckley listens as State Rep. Lisa Hernandez (D, 24) makes her point about the need for more funding for Morton College at the Lobby Day Breakfast for Legislators.

In this photo are: Legislative Chair Bill Naegele; Rep. Michael McAuliffe (R, 20); Rep. Kevin McCarthy (D, 37), chair, Higher Education Committee; Lillian and President Perry Buckley.

State Senator Debbie Halvorson (D, 40) and Retiree Chair Norm Swenson take a walk down memory lane. Halvorson has never forgotten that it was Norm and an army of Local 1600 volunteers who helped her knockout longtime State Senator Aldo DeAngelis in her first election.

Rep. Lou Lang (D, 16) tells KK’s Articia Cortey and Melissa Smith a legislative anecdote as President Perry Buckley looks on.

Oakton’s finest—Barbara Reineking, Carol DiCola, Marilyn Davis, Maria Hase, Patty Tadda and Vice President-Elect Classified Jillian Verstrate—pick a great spot, the Secretary of State’s Office, for an official portrait of one of the most active Local 1600 contingents before the Lobby Day Breakfast for Legislators.

Pictures now available on-line at local1600.smugmug.com/. Or visit www.ccctu.com for the link.

Visit the CCCTU website: www.ccctu.com
Local 1600
a Noted Presence at Lobby Day Rally

After the breakfast, the members were off to IFT Director of Political Activities Steve Preckwinkle’s briefing for lobbying. The highlight of that session was Sen. James Meeks (D, 15), who articulated the pressing need for more money for education, pensions, health care and other issues. Following the briefing, Chicago Teachers Union President Marilyn Stewart held a brief conference with President Perry Buckley before lobbying the House and Senate.

State Senator James Meeks (D, 15) receives a standing ovation at the Lobby Day Rally. Meeks’ bill, SB 2288, the Property Tax Swap Funding Plan, has been heartily endorsed by both the IFT and Local 1600.

Local 1600 Treasurer Don Radtke takes a moment to compliment his neighbor and state representative, Monique Davis (D, 37), during his lobbying in the State House. Later that day, in the House Appropriations for Higher Education Committee, Davis had Radtke stand and labeled the former Daley professor as "a wonderful man."

Tony Johnston, Jeanette Molden, Sonia Jean Powell and Rausan Tamir meet the most recently elected senator (second from left), Heather Steans (D, 7). Steans’ district includes Truman College, Tony Johnston’s campus.

Malcolm X’s William Stewart has more goodie bags than he knows what to do with.

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College Union Voice • Cook County College Teachers Union • 208 W. Kinzie St., Chicago, IL  60654 or, e-mail your address to tlakin@local1600.org
Buckley Testifies at House Appropriations Higher Ed Committee

After a long morning of lobbying, President Perry Buckley testified before Rep. David Miller’s House Appropriations Higher Education Committee at 3:00 p.m. Miller placed the community colleges first in priority to testify, before the four year colleges and universities. The Illinois Community College Coalition for Funding had three members bearing witness: President Terry Bruce of the Council of Community College Presidents (CCCP), President Kathy Wessel of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association (ICCTA) and CCCTU’s Perry Buckley. They responded to questions from Rep. David Miller, Rep. Will Davis, Rep. Monique Davis, and others. One topic on which the legislators and the witnesses all were in agreement about was the need for funding for the Veterans’ Grants. The next day, the state government released over $7 million to fund the Veterans’ Grants.

At the House Appropriations Higher Education Committee on Apr. 30, President Terry Bruce of the CCCP and President Kathy Wessel of the ICCTA note Local 1600 President Perry Buckley’s comments on how funding could be used in Illinois community colleges.

Buckley Asks for Full Funding for Community Colleges

"Whenever the State of Illinois cuts its funding to the community colleges, our tuitions have to rise. Whenever the tuition rises, we lose students."

- President Perry Buckley

Roosevelt University’s Beverly Stewart beams as President Perry Buckley calls for more funding for Illinois community colleges.

Eight Democratic members of the Illinois House of Representatives convened a regional budget hearing at Kennedy-King Community College’s Theater at 6301 S. Halsted St, Chicago, on Mar. 25. Hon. Bob Rita (28), Marlow Calvin (33), Ken Dunkin (5), Mary Flowers (31), Monique Davis (27), Esther Golar (6), Connie Howard (34) and Milton Patterson (32) addressed a crowded theater filled with high school age students, young adults, middle-aged and older citizens.

Rep. Davis noted this was the second budget hearing held at Kennedy-King. She stated flatly, “We hope to finish sooner this year.” Rep. Patterson stated: “You don’t have to make a four-hour trip to Springfield to have your voices heard. Speak up today.”

When President Perry Buckley of the CCCTU was called on to speak, he did not hesitate. “I’ve come here to ask for more funding for the community colleges throughout Illinois. This institution in which we sit is the best visual aid for community college education. Originally, no one thought Kennedy-King Community College would work here at Halsted and 63rd Streets. But the legislators on this panel before you knew that it would. It has revived the neighborhood. Townhouses are being built around us today. Kennedy-King is an anchor for the community, a source of change for the better.”

“I spoke before Rep. David Miller’s Appropriations’ Higher Education Committee in Springfield this year. We are being funded at the rate of 1993 education, but it is 2008 today. We need full funding, not cutbacks, to bring our students into the global economy. Ninety percent of our graduates stay in Illinois and so do our teachers, our staffers, and my union members, now and after they retire.”

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College Union Voice
Naegele Fighting for the Students and the Community Colleges

After praising Hernandez’s accomplishments in Springfield, Naegele, inspired on this occasion, commented that Illinois community colleges had achieved great things for their students. Funding the community colleges at the 2002 level really was, after adjusting for inflation, giving them only a 1993 level of funding.

Then Naegele recalled his students: “If the state underfunds our community colleges, it leaves us open to raising tuition, which often is our only option in Illinois. But every dollar per credit hour that we increase tuition means there is a definite decline in the number of our students. We want them to compete in the global economy, but they can’t do that without a 21st century education.”

Buckley Asks for Full Funding

(continued from page 14)

“Whenever the State of Illinois cuts its funding to the community colleges, our tuitions have to rise. Whenever the tuition rises, we lose students. Our students should not have to bear a great burden for tuition. They are from this community; they need our help. If bills to help them are vetoed, I urge you to override them.”

In commentary afterwards, Rep. Davis and Rep. Flowers both indicated that they went to the old Kennedy-King College. Davis also stated that Buckley’s comments about a decline in government funding were accurate. The percentage of state support for community college education has declined substantially since 1995, though the gross amount has increased. All the comments on increased educational funding were greeted with sympathy by the state representatives in tandem with a healthy awareness that funding measures would require cooperation by both houses of the General Assembly if Governor Rod Blagojevich was determined to resist increasing funding to education.
CC Coalition Announces Billboard Campaign on Blackwood’s CAN-TV Show

Since the Illinois Community College Coalition for Funding made its first public statement before Governor Blagojevich’s Budget Address on Feb. 20, this coalition of community college presidents, Council of Community College Presidents; community college trustees; Illinois Community College Trustees Association; professors, adjunct professors, professionals, classified and support staffers—IFT, CCCTU, Illinois Education Association; and students, the Student Advisory Council, have been supported by the statements of legislators and witnesses in both the media, in the Illinois House Regional Budget Hearings throughout Illinois and in the House Appropriations Higher Education Committee in Springfield. The Coalition launched a billboard campaign in Springfield two weeks ago that will go across Illinois with the message: “Community Colleges: Illinois’ Best Investment.” IFT Legislative Director Nick Yelverton and ICCTA Ex. Director Mike Monaghan traveled from Springfield to Chicago to tape the show and to comment on the current unrest in Springfield and the possibilities for funding. As Monaghan noted: “Illinois community colleges have had reduced funding since 2002, yet we teach approximately 60 percent of the college students of Illinois.” Please visit www.ccctu.com for the full story.

The Voice Wins Two AFT National Awards; CCCTU Website Named “Best Local Website”

This year the College Union Voice did very well in the AFT Communications Network Award Contest, a contest for all AFT locals throughout the country in three separate classes based on the size of the locals. The CCCTU is in Class II for medium-sized unions with over 4,000 members; the Chicago Teachers Union is in Class I with around 17,000 members, for example.

The College Union Voice, which traditionally has always garnered at least one prize, brought in two winners this year: second place in Category II: Best News Story for “City Colleges Contract Negotiated 14 Months Early” and third place in Category IV: Editorial for “Why Barack Obama?” In addition, the CCCTU won first place in Category IX (A) Best Web Site (Stateweb) for the website at www.ccctu.com.

Visit the CCCTU website: www.ccctu.com

Pictures now available on-line at local1600.smugmug.com/
Or visit www.ccctu.com for the link.
New CCC Faculty Meet CCCTU Leadership

On Friday, March 14, ten non-tenured CCC faculty were treated to lunch in Greektown with the CCCTU leadership where they were introduced to President Perry Buckley, VP-CCC Sonia Jean Powell, Treasurer Don Radke, Secretary Pat Wenthold and Legislative Chair Bill Naegle. They also met two key players from the CCCTU office, Asst. to the President Randy Barnett and IFT Field Rep. Brenda Pryor. This lunch has become a new tradition under Buckley and has provided new faculty an opportunity get to know their officers on a personal basis. “I really enjoyed having time to speak with the leadership and especially with Sonia Powell,” said KK’s Jacqueline Witherspoon. “I was impressed by her breadth of knowledge regarding union issues as well as her thirty-plus years teaching in the CCC,” she added.

MX’s Rukiya Akua discusses the tenure process with President Perry Buckley as her MX colleague Michael Lemke looks on.

A Night at the Movies

V.P.-elect Classified Jillian Verstrate and KKC Chapter Chair Arlicia Corley join Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan at a reception at the Flashpoint Academy Film School on June 2 where a short film on Madigan’s career was shown for the first time. Editor’s note: A very special thank you to Ms. Brenda Pryor for this photo.

Olive-Harvey Celebrates “Spunk Gala”

Newly elected Olive-Harvey Chapter Chair Rochelle Robinson-Dukes and Spunk Gala Producer Jewel Younge attended the college’s “Spunk Gala” in style on April 11, 2008. Incidentally, Robinson-Dukes who was recently married wore the same festive hat at her wedding.

The CCCTU leadership and the non-tenured CCC faculty gather for a quick group photo before the dessert was served.

HW’s Elisabeth Heard (center-left) and IFT Field Rep. Brenda Pryor were regaled with union stories from Legislative Chair Bill Naegle (left) and HW Chapter Chair Phil Stucky.
Triton College Classified Association Holds In-Service

Enjoying Jim O’Malley’s comments at the TCCA in-service are Linda Ricchio, Don Cragen and Kathy Greenwald.

The Triton College Classified Association met at the college on March 19 for its spring in-service. Pictured are from left are IFT Field Rep. Brenda Pryor, chapter officers Linda Ricchio, Kathy Greenwald, Maude Partacz, Chapter Chair Missy Cabrera, Linda Nordstrom, Don Cragen, John Rossmiller and Local 1600 Suburban VP Jim O’Malley.

Retirees Appreciate “Sweet Charity” the Day after Paying Their Income Tax

On April 16, the day after everyone had to pay their income tax for 2007, a group of retirees flooded into Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook Terrace to have a fine lunch and to appreciate the irony of seeing the musical-comedy “Sweet Charity.”

Retirees Chapter Chair Norm Swenson, Pier Rosellini and Frank Pokin gave out tickets by the entrance. Former Chapter Chair Pat Dyra and his wife, Ginny, joined the group. Later: Suburban Vice President Jim O’Malley and his wife, Cindy, came along. President Perry Buckley and Treasurer Don Radte also joined the happy throng. CCC Vice President Sonia Powell and Secretary Pat Wenthold were latecomers.

A first-time attendee was Mary Black, formerly of Wright and then Truman Colleges. When asked what she had been doing since her 2004 retirement, she said with a laugh: “Chasing a grandchild around the house!”

A good Drury Lane lunch and sending out their income tax the day before brought happiness to Local 1600’s Secretary Pat Wenthold and V.P. CCC Sonia Jean Powell.

President Perry Buckley has a chat with Herb Kalsch and other retirees at the table within Drury Lane’s extensive European-decorated dining room on April 16.

Treasurer Don Radte and Suburban Vice President Jim O’Malley took a minute to compare notes before luncheon and a great performance of “Sweet Charity” at Drury Lane Theatre.

Visit the CCCTU website: www.ccctu.com
SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEONS

Wright Scholarship Luncheon a Tradition and Fun, Too

The 36th Annual Wright Chapter Student Scholarship Awards Luncheon at Colletti’s on April 11 in Chicago drew a good crowd thanks to the efforts of the Banquet Committee. Serving on the committee were Sonia Csaszar, Van Feller, Henry Herzog, Joseph Knudsen, Hermine Krysa, Julius Nadas and Michael Peterson. Special thanks went to Krysa for preparing the luncheon program.

Chapter Chair Clyde Walker introduced President Perry Buckley who was happy to return to his old chapter. Also attending the luncheon were CCCTU Treasurer Don Radtke, Legislative Chair Bill Naegle, and Asst. to the President Randy Barnette. Asst. Chapter Chair Henry Herzog presented the awards to each of the students.

President Perry Buckley chuckles in the foreground for outbidding Julius Nadas by $1.00 in contributing to the Wright Chapter Scholarship Fund. In the background are Treasurer Don Radtke, Wright Chapter Chair-elect Linda Murphy, Asst. to the President Randy Barnette and Legislative Chair Bill Naegle.

Wright Asst. Chapter Chair Henry Herzog congratulates Allan Cesario on receiving a scholarship award.

Jim Zenes, Asst. Chapter Chair Henry Herzog and Chapter Chair-elect Linda Murphy discuss the school year to come before the Wright Chapter Scholarship Luncheon.

Daley Awards More Than $8,000 in Scholarships

On Thursday, April 17, Daley College faculty and Local 1600 Treasurer (and former Daley faculty) Don Radtke gathered in the Faculty Lounge to celebrate the students who were awarded a total of more than $8,000 in Daley Chapter scholarships. Scholarship Committee Chair Alan Gbur noted that these scholarships “can never be taken away from you. You’ve earned them.” Committee member John Majer echoed Gbur’s sentiment, stating, “From now on, your résumé will always have under the ‘awards and scholarships’ section these scholarships you’ve earned today.”

Daley student Jasmine Ahumada received a Robert J. Schuch Memorial Scholarship in the amount of $250 from committee members (l-r) Don Koss, Alan Gbur and John Majer.

Chapter Treasurer Don Koss prepares the checks for the winners of the Nursing Book Scholarship as nursing faculty presenters Yolanda Harper-Morris and Barbara Norman look on.

Scholarship Committee members surround former committee chair Marvan Amar in (leaning on podium). The committee and trustees are (l-r), Maria Mutis, Mel Anderson, Don Koss, Alan Gbur, Felicia Baldwin, John Majer and Horace Simon. Peeking out behind Baldwin is Local 1600 Treasurer Don Radtke.
A Wealth of Scholars at the Truman Chapter Scholarship Luncheon

On Apr. 24 the Truman Chapter held its annual Scholarship Luncheon. Truman Chapter Chair Tony Johnston offered his best wishes to the many honorees and welcomed over sixty persons to the event: the proud parents and friends, chapter members and officers from Local 1600. A good time was preserved in everyone’s memory, particularly those of the young scholars who were honored by their peers and their professors.

The members of the Scholarship Committee were Elizabeth Lehl, Anthony Johnston, Richard Keitel, Cathy Schwab, Mike McCloskey, Gregory Robinson, Franklin Reynolds, Harold Santamaria, and Riaz Siddiqi. Special thanks went to Felicita Urias for the certificates and Harris Bank at Broadway for supplying the checks free of charge.

For the full story, please visit the website: www.ccctu.com

SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEONS

SAVE THE DATE

- July 11 - 14 AFT Convention
- July 18 - House Meeting
- August 22 - Executive Board
- September 19 - House Meeting

Visit the CCCTU website: www.ccctu.com
Oopa! To the Harold Washington Chapter’s Scholarship Luncheon in Greektown

Cheerful young scholars and smiling professors gathered together to eat Greek salads, a multi-course banquet and sip the occasional glass of pungent retsina at The Greek Islands Restaurant on April 25 when the Harold Washington Chapter held its scholarship luncheon. Chapter Chair Phil Stucky was making sure that everyone was comfortable. Scholarship Co-chairs Jesu Estrada and Natalia Zuniga were making sure that all the students had a seat at the great table up front.

The event started formally when Asst. Chapter Chair Uthman Erogbogbo entered the banquet room in traditional African clothing. The Local 1600 officers who attended the event included CCC Vice President Sonia Powell, Treasurer Don Radtke and Secretary Pat Wenthold. Other members of the Scholarship Committee were Teresita Lewis Dias, Betty Harris and Mary Ellen McBride.

For the complete story, please visit the website www.ccctu.com

This year’s Distinguished Professor Armen Sarrafian holds up former English Department Chairman John Thissen’s microphone as Thissen extols Sarrafian’s many contributions to Harold Washington College.

Leah Raeder receives the Noel Meriam Scholarship from Chapter Chair Phil Stucky, Jackie Meriam Hurwitz, and Professor Willard Moody.

Scholarship winners Trina Coleman, Adebola Akindele, Ms. Mary Ellen McBride of McBride Memorial Scholarship fame, Scholarship Co-chair Jesu Estrada, Shamiran Barkaw and Leah Raeder gather before the dinner proper for a scholars photo shoot.

Local 1600 V.P. CCC Sonia Jean Powell passes the microphone to Chapter Chair Phil Stucky as, from left, Treasurer Don Radtke, Asst. Chapter Chair Uthman Erogbogbo, Jesu Estrada and Aaron Breed enjoy the social occasion.

SCHOLARSHIP LUNCHEONS

Pictures now available on-line at local1600.smugmug.com/. Or visit www.ccctu.com for the link.
Harper Pro-Tech Chapter Gives
Two Scholarships at End of Year Luncheon

On Thursday, May 1, the Harper Pro-Tech Chapter held its end-of-the-year party that included the awarding of two $500 scholarships to two Harper College students. Also celebrated was the service of Lynn Seacrest who retired at the end of May after 19 years of dedicated service to Harper College.

Visit the CCCTU website: www.ccctu.com  College Union Voice
You Should Know...
David Richmond

In 2006, when there was a question whether the Harper College Faculty Chapter would go on strike on Monday, one man from the negotiating team was on the phone throughout the previous Friday with Local 1600 President Perry Buckley, who had to be in Washington, D.C. That man was David Richmond, a member of the negotiating team. The chapter made progress that weekend. The contract was resolved that week.

We often give all the credit to settling contracts to our hard-working president, Perry Buckley, who would be the first to acknowledge that a contract is always a team effort, though some teams are more together than others. Richmond was one of those team players who made the Harper effort a success.

Richmond came to the negotiating table naturally; his family was in the business. His father was a union representative for United Auto Workers Local 719 based in LaGrange, Illinois, at the Electro-Motive Diesel Plant (train engines). When Norm Swenson was working with the construction workers at the Harper College strike of 2002 to keep them from crossing our Local 1600 picket lines, the untenured Richmond worked to help tie down the business agents of the various construction workers' locals. “It was my job to follow up with the business agents,” Richmond said. “Some of them knew of my father from the Chicago Federation of Labor. It helped.”

Today, Richmond is the grievance chair of the Harper Faculty Chapter. For more on Richmond, please visit the website: www.ccctu.com.

Rausan Tamir

“I have a passion for the union and love what we do for the people we serve. We have the best local in the country.” These are the words of Rausan Tamir, twelve-year Chapter Chair of Dawson Technical Institute. If you don’t know him, you should.

Tamir’s passion for public service led him to pursue an undergraduate degree in Business Management and Human Services from National-Lewis University. He is also an alumnus of Wright College. After working as a community organizer and job developer on the west side of Chicago, Tamir joined the staff at Dawson in 1987 and was mentored by the original chapter chair, Wenona Johnson, whom he credits as a great leader.

When you look at Tamir, you can tell that he is a fitness buff. He calls it a “lifestyle,” however, not a hobby. His favorite hobby is sharing his love of music as a disc jockey. He especially loves jazz and R & B. Growing up, his home was filled with these sounds shared by his mother and stepfather. In high school he played in bands as a keyboardist, guitarist and bassman. His other hobbies include swimming, roller skating, skiing and sky diving. He also teaches a fitness class at Dawson.

At Dawson, Tamir works cooperatively with high school dropouts ages 16 to 21 toward job placement, their G.E.D. and hopefully enrollment in a City College. Dawson trains people in Construction Technology, Carpentry, Masonry, Cement, Plumbing, Home Repair and Electrical. Dawson also hosts Commonwealth Edison’s Overhead Electrical Line Workers Program.

Ever the consummate teacher, Rausan Tamir leads the way on the dance at the 42nd Annual CCCTU Banquet.

Tamir represents approximately forty professionals and security staff members of Local 1600. He credits his union knowledge base to Johnson, Norm Swenson, Perry Buckley and the other leaders of the CCCTU.

Tamir is a man of style and class. Upon inquiring about his apparel as a crossover to the style of his ancestry, he states that, “I am akin to a more cultural dress.” He has been married to Najlah for 30 years. His four children are grown so “the nest is empty.”

His approach toward life is enviable. It carries over to his leadership motto: “If it helps mankind, we should be about it”
Gotcha! Hard-to-photograph Bernard Shelton (center) is caught on film at the Union Banquet on May 2. He had been hiding behind KK colleague Jacqueline Witherspoon who helpfully leaned out of the way.

Vice President-CCC Sonia Jean Powell, Tony Johnston and Jeanette Molden head off to the Stratton Building to lobby legislators during Lobby Day on April 30th.

More great photos inside!

VP-elect Classified Jillian Verstrate, Secretary Pat Wenthold and new Oakton Chapter Chair Patty Lucas enjoy the cherry blossoms and beauty at the FDR Memorial across from the Washington Monument while taking a break from the AFT Higher Ed Conference on Mar. 28.

INSIDE THE VOICE

Vice President-CCC Sonia Jean Powell, Tony Johnston and Jeanette Molden head off to the Stratton Building to lobby legislators during Lobby Day on April 30th.