Lobby Day Breakfast Effective, But We Must Do More

Local 1600’s Lobby Day Breakfast at Secretary of State Jesse White’s State House office on April 29th drew legislators from both houses and both parties, plus officials of the ICCB and various community college officers. The issues were higher education funding and the rejection of proposals to change the way pensions are structured for state employees. President Perry Buckley stated: “We gave a percentage of every paycheck we received to the State of Illinois; in all fairness, the state should not seek to change the rules of the game at this late date.” Forty-nine members from almost every chapter attended the breakfast.

The conversations were pleasant, but the concerns were firm on the union members’ parts. President Geoff Obrzut of the Illinois Community College Board was there as were CFO Ellen Andres and V. P. Karen Hunter Anderson. Community college officials present included (continued on page 5)

HOT OFF THE PRESS!
S. Sub. Adj. Faculty Have Tentative Contract

On May 21, South Suburban Adjunct Faculty Chair Mark Joseph announced that a tentative contract has been reached with the administration. “We are awaiting a communiqué from management’s attorney with the exact language of the changes,” Joseph said. “Basically, we negotiated a 3% raise for each of the next four years. Unfortunately improvements in benefits were taken off the table. We also agreed to somewhat more stringent grade reporting requirements as a result of a couple isolated cases of negligence. As soon as I have the approved language, we will be submitting the contract to the membership for approval,” Joseph reported.

LOCAL 1600 Wins Two National Awards from AFT

On May 6, Priscilla Nemeth from the American Federation of Teachers Communicators Network announced this year’s 2009 AFTCN Communications Awards Contest Winners from the Cook County College Teachers Union for unions of our size. FIRST PLACE: ”Best Web Site” for our web site: www.cccctu.com SECOND PLACE: (tied): "Best Design/Layout" for the Fall 2008 issue of the Voice

Visit the CCCTU website: www.cccctu.com College Union Voice
FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK...

“When did the future switch from being a promise to a threat?” — Chuck Palahniuk

“Chance favors the prepared mind.”
— Louis Pasteur

While I could apply Palahniuk’s quote to several challenges that have recently confronted our members and the colleges we serve, the recent battle to save our guaranteed pensions is perhaps the best. When we began our careers, whether 25 years ago or last semester, we were promised a pension that would provide us a retirement with dignity. For many of us we forego a higher paying job in order to assure a secure future for ourselves and our families. That promise was assured, certain. Now, however, we are fighting to keep what we were promised. So far we are winning. Sadly, battles such as these, once begun, seldom end.

This is one of the reasons the Union exists. It is our responsibility to fight for our members. It is our charge to protect our careers and our livelihoods. Whether it is in contract negotiations, grievances, arbitrations, or political action, it is our job to be vigilant and prepared. It is equally important for us to make sure the next generation of chapter and local-wide leaders are ready to continue the cause effectively and successfully when their time comes.

Over the past five years 22 of our 24 chapters have elected new chapter chairs. Ten of the 24 chairs are “rookies,” elected in last year’s election. As my 81-year-old father tells me when he is speaking of the inevitability of age and the future: “Do the math.” The Union’s leaders will come from this group, and they will be arriving soon. It is our job to make sure they are ready. It is our job to give them the tools they will need to get the job done.

For this reason Local 1600 has aggressively sought to train the new and future generation of leaders to be prepared for that time. For the past four years we have conducted a Local 1600 Spring Leadership Conference for chapter leaders and officers at IFT headquarters. Each summer we have sent new and emerging leaders to the AFT Great Lakes training program. Each November we send one suburban and one city member to the AFT New Leader Conference in Washington, D.C. Each spring we send members to both the AFT Higher Education Conference and the AFT PSRP (Classified / Support Staff) conference. Even Lobby Day now includes a component of education. We learn by doing as well as training.

This summer the officers, and a group of chapter leaders from all our constituencies, will participate in a two day “retreat” to examine the state and future of the Union. We will look at our rich history. We will look at our constitution and by-laws. We will discuss where we are going and how we will get there. We will then bring these discussions back to the House members for their input and involvement.

We have an excellent group of chapter leaders at every one of our colleges and institutes. We also have an active and intelligent group of representatives in our House and on the Executive Board. The future is bright because of their talent and dedication. But there is always room for more at the table. If you are interested in being an active part of the future of Local 1600, contact your chapter chair, or feel free to call me at any time. We need as many “prepared minds” as possible to guarantee and protect the “promise of the future.”

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

President.................................................................Perry Buckley
Vice President, City Colleges Division...............Sonia Jean Powell
Vice President, Suburban Faculty.............Jim O’Malley
Vice President, Suburban Classified.............Jillian Verstrate
Secretary............................................................Patricia Wenthold
Treasurer.............................................................Donald Radtke
Legislative Representative..........................Bill Naegle
Grievance Chairman..............................Tom Kodogeorgiou
Special Assistant to the President...............Randy Barnette
Editorial Chair.....................................................Todd Lakin
Publicity Chair.................................................Bill O’Connell
Special Contributor......................................Dr. Bob Blackwood

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For news you can visit: www.cccatu.com
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College Union Voice
Antonio Vasquez:
Our Candidate for the SURS Board of Trustees

If you are an active member of the CCCTU, your pension is with the State Universities Retirement System (SURS). In early June, you should have received a ballot in the mail which asked you to vote for candidates for the SURS Board of Trustees. Our candidate and an IFT candidate is Antonio Vasquez, a professor of Economics from Wright College, who served on the SURS Board until Governor Pat Quinn said four of the SURS Board members would have to be elected by the active members of SURS. Vasquez, appointed to the Board in June 2008, has received praise for his work on the Investment Committee and he chaired the Personnel and Resource Committee.

Vasquez is more than just a clever professor and a good representative on the SURS Board; he has a heart. He proved it when he was teaching part-time at Harold Washington College, and the CCCTU members went on strike in Fall 2004. Though he was not required to do so and though he was recovering from arthroscopic knee surgery, he joined the strike and picketed City Hall with former HW Chapter Chair Mike Ruggeri. He was blackballed from teaching in Spring 2005 for his strike activity, but he was re-hired in Fall 2005. Finally, in Fall 2007, he applied and was accepted for a full-time position at Wright.

Harper Contingent and Buckley Join Governor Quinn

On Apr. 13, Governor Patrick Quinn was welcomed to a V.I.P. Reception at Harper College by the Faculty Senate and interim Harper President John Pickelman. President Perry Buckley, Harper Faculty Chapter Chair Tom Dowd and Pro/Tech Chapter Chair Margie McGowan and other officers attended this event and other events with the governor.

Following the reception, Governor Quinn gave a 15-minute address to the Harper College student body. The students responded with questions and comments.

After these events, Governor Quinn held a fundraiser at Stonegate Conference Center in Hoffman Estates which other political figures attended. One of the most prominent figures was the relative newcomer, State Rep. Fred Crespo (D, 44) who was strongly supported by the CCCTU in his election bid. At the fundraiser, Buckley and the Harper contingent had an opportunity to speak with Governor Quinn about higher educational funding in Illinois and his proposals on pension funding for public employees.
CCCTU Credit Union Is There with Money for You

On Apr. 17 in the basement of the union office, Credit Union Chairman of the Board Randy Barnette called the quarterly meeting of the CCC-TU College and University Credit Union to order. Present were the Credit Union President Kevin Barrett and board members Bill Naegle, Chuck Mustari, Don Radtke, Anthony Johnston and Sonia Jean Powell.

Barrett gave out the current information. The Credit Union is inviting people to join and to take out loans, both personal loans and car loans. The car loan rates are as low as 5%. For more information on either joining the Credit Union and/or taking out a loan, contact Kevin Barrett at 312-755-0997. The Credit Union days and hours are ordinarily Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 4:30-6:00 p.m. From May 25-June 26 of this year, however, the days will be Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. The Credit Union office is in the basement of the CCCTU office. Call first for necessary information before coming to the office.

Barrett noted that members are earning 1% on accounts of $3,000 or more and .5% on accounts smaller than $3,000. Mustari noted a practice that he had been following. In the CCC, professors can have their full salary paid out over 9 months or spread out over 12 months. Mustari says, “Why have the board keeping your money? If you figure out the percentage that you would be receiving over the summer vacation, have that amount sent directly to the College and University Credit Union during the first nine months of the school year and earn interest on your money.”

After Barrett gave his report, Barnette led the board members in stuffing envelopes with quarterly financial reports for the members. They all may be board members, but, as union members, they are not above doing some manual labor to keep costs down for the Credit Union members.

The College and University Credit Union has been serving the members of the CCCTU for over 40 years.

Morton Classified Get Contract Negotiations Briefing; Members Show Resolve

“<I>It looks like we may be in for the long haul, but I’m confident we will be able to negotiate a fair contract.</I>”

—Tim Visk

Morton Classified Chair Tim Visk called a meeting to discuss the administration’s counter-offer to the chapter’s contract extension request on Thursday, May 21. Visk invited V.P. Classified Jillian Verstrate, IFT Field Rep. and Staff Attorney Brenda Pryor and Asst. Chapter Chair Eric Porod to help clarify some of the administration’s proposals, which include 57 proposed changes to current contract provisions. “We were shocked and appalled when they presented these proposals to us,” said Verstrate.

Thirty-six members attended the meeting and were very supportive of the negotiation team and its position. In September 2008, the chapter proposed a simple two-year contract extension at the lowest salary raise of the current contract at 4.25% with no other changes to the contract. (continued on page 7)
Lobby Day Breakfast Effective (continued)


The Illinois Senate members from both parties were Sen. Kwame Raoul (D, 13), Sen. James Meeks (D, 15), Sen. Michael Frerichs (D, 52), Sen. Louis Viverito (D, 11), Sen. Ed Maloney (D, 18), Sen. Matt Murphy (R, 27), Sen. Don Harmon (D, 39), Sen. Dan Cronin (R, 21) and Sen. Dan Kotowski (D, 33). IFT President Ed Geppert dropped by as did IFT V. P. Marcia Boone and IFT Legislative Directors Nick Yelverton and David Piccioli. Even the very busy Illinois State Comptroller Dan Hynes found the time to meet with Local 1600 members.

As the breakfast drew to a close, the members were sent out to the offices of those representatives and senators who were unable to attend the event. Legislative Chair Bill Naegle said, “This event was just a start.”

For photos of this event, please visit www.ccctu.com.
PENSION UPDATE

Because of the fluidity of the pension situation, please visit www.cctu.com for regular updates.

Naegele Revs Up MV Classified and Faculty at POP Rally

"Nobody is getting rich with our pensions."
—Bill Naegele

With the energy of an evangelist and the street smarts of a political southsider, Legislative Chair Bill Naegele revved up a capacity crowd at Moraine Valley’s "Protect Our Pensions!" (POP) rally on April 23. "It’s crunch time," Naegele shouted. "We need to indicate to our legislators and governor that there is a state-wide movement to protect our pensions. You must get involved," Naegele urged.

Organized by MV Classified Chair Rose Sakanis, the POP rally piggy-backed onto the monthly MV Faculty Association meeting. "It was a natural fit," Sakanis said. "This way we are able to reach as many of our members as possible." MVFA Chair Jan Hill concurred: "The need is urgent and we have to reach as many people as possible. These are our pensions, after all."

Naegele gave an impassioned, point-by-point rationale for why the governor’s pension reform should be rejected. "To call this proposal a ‘reform’ is an insult to the word ‘reform.’ This is an evisceration of the long-term understanding that all state employees tacitly enter into upon employment: in exchange for lower-than-industry wages and decent benefits for thirty years, we will receive a comfortable and guaranteed pension," Naegele noted. "Nobody is getting rich with our pensions. The state-wide average is $30,000."

V.P. Classified Jillian Verstrate asked Naegele what to do. "Tell legislators to preserve our pension benefits and pay down the debt that they have created," Naegele responded. "After all, the state has never fully paid its pension obligation in the history of the Illinois pension system. We, on the other hand, have paid over eight percent of every paycheck that we have ever received from the state from day one."

Naegele also encouraged everyone to take a personal day to attend the CCCTU’s annual Lobby Day on Wednesday, April 29, in Springfield. "Without exaggeration, this is the most important Lobby Day that we’ve ever held. They all know what President Perry Buckley thinks or what I think, but they need to know what you think," he concluded. Naegele then distributed a handout describing what every CCCTU member can do.

For the full story and photos of this event, please visit www.cctu.com.

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College Union Voice
S. Suburban Forum on Pensions Draws Legislators & Overflow Crowd

Legislative Chair Bill Naegle addressed a crowd at the South Suburban Political Forum on his home campus, South Suburban College, on May 9. Outrage at the topic of Governor Quinn’s proposed downgrading of state pensions drew a standing room only audience of 80 people despite its being the first sunny Saturday morning in May. Many members of AFSCME Council 31, drawn by Political Director John Cameron of AFSCME Council 31, linked up with CCCTU members plus other IFT members thanks to IFT Legislative Chair Nick Yelverton.

President Pat Ousley of AFSCME Local 1006 and President Kathy Setlak of IFT Local 943, Southwest Federation of Teachers, both stated their members oppose any two-tiered system of pension funding as disastrous for morale. They also noted the need for a better funding mechanism for all levels of education in Illinois.

The outrage from the audience continued from different speakers. Before the event ended at 12:30, each legislator rose to speak. They included Rep. David Miller (D-29), Rep. Will Davis (D-30), Sen. Ed Maloney (D-18), Rep. Kevin Joyce (D-35), Rep. Al Riley (D-38) and Sen. Toi Hutchinson (D-40). Their sympathy for the members of the audience was obvious. As one member said, “We can only hope they will remember us and our families when they are down in Springfield.”

Morton Classified Contract Update (continued from p. 4)

The team finally met with the new administration on April 24 and reiterated its position. It also made clear that in the event that the Board rejected the offer, the team would be amenable "to 'interest-based negotiations' limiting each side to no more than five (5) issues," said Visk. "Not only did they outright reject our offers, they countered with 57 proposed changes with no salary enhancements whatsoever," he continued.

As President Perry Buckley noted in his May 14 letter to the membership, some of the proposed changes "would seriously and severely change [their] working conditions." A few of those changes are:

- an increase of the work week to 40 hours;
- permit the transfer of members and restructuring of jobs;
- change the flex schedule to permit the administration to unilaterally "adjust schedules;"
- and, also, change discipline language, including the "lifetime" record of personnel file warnings.

The membership, while dismayed by the news, showed resolve and expressed unity. "This contract proposal by the administration shows the lack of respect that the staff gets," said House Delegate Richie Pawlak. Classified member Chris Martin added, "It appears [the administration] wants to weaken our bargaining unit." Visk compared the current contract negotiations to the year-long custodial and 15-month police contract negotiations.

"It looks like we may be in for the long haul," Visk said, "but I am confident that if we stick together, we will be able to negotiate a fair contract. That's all we want."
Editor’s Note: The CCCTU celebrated another year of successes at its 44th Annual Banquet at the Stadium Club of U.S. Cellular Field, aka, “Sox Park,” for the third year in a row on Friday, May 1. The sold-out affair, which was organized by V.P. CCC Sonia Jean Powell and Secretary Patricia Wenthold, was short on speeches but long on lists of the names of winners.

For the full story, a full list of the awardees and many, many photos of this event, please go to www.ccctu.com.

Professional Staff Assistant, Gayle Gregg (in red), and her sister, Gwen, look dashing in matching scarves.

State Rep. John D’Amico (D, 15) chats with his uncle, Asst. to the President and 39th Democratic Committeeman Randy Barnette and Voice reporter Bill O’Connell (center).

MXC’s CMI Winters-Palacio wrangles a dance from her husband, Johari Palacio.

President Perry Buckley and Triton’s Lesa Hildebrand celebrate the end of the school year.

Good friends Bernard Shelton and retiree Jim Moore catch up on news from Kennedy-King College.

Theresa Minor shows Loretta LaVere the latest line dancing moves.
CCCTU BANQUET A SOLD OUT BASH

Voice editor Todd Lakin (right) poses with the Chapter Newsletter award winners: Harper’s Sean Noonan and Wright’s Linda Murphy.

Oakton’s Patty Tadda and her husband Wayne are celebrating their 5th anniversary on May 1 at the CCCTU Banquet. Congratulations!

Lillian Buckley sells raffle tickets to Tom Kodogeorgiou, Don Radike and Tony Johnston.

Oakton’s Vijay Rochwani, Valerie Green, Jillian Verstrate and Krunal Patel pose for a picture before dinner.

Dawson Tech’s Rausan Tomir deejays the dance again this year. Barbara Norman and Mel Anderson certainly enjoy the music.

The Norman G. Swenson Scholarship winners are joined by the scholarship’s endower, President Emeritus Norm Swenson (back, center) and President Perry Buckley (back, right).

Treasurer Don Radike and his wife Joan check out the silent auction items.
Wright Scholarship Luncheon Has a Touch of Class

The Wright College Chapter’s Scholarship Awards Luncheon has been celebrated since Andy Nicosia and Pat Dyra, who was able to attend, founded the event 37 years ago. This year, six students were honored and all of them commented on how much they appreciated the help they received from their professors and from the Wright staff.

Joining the Wright faculty, staff and others were President Perry Buckley, V. P. CCC Sonia Jean Powell, V. P. Suburban Jim O’Malley, V. P. Classified Jillian Verstrate, Legislative Chair Bill Naeglele, Field Representative Brenda Pryor, Assistant to the President Randy Barnette, Morton Faculty Chapter Chair Dante Orfei, Harper Pro/Tech Chair Margie McGowan and Retirees Chapter Chair Norm Swenson.

Asst. Chapter Chair Henry Herzog introduced the student recipients. Other members of the Student Awards Banquet Committee included Sonia Csaszar, Van Feller, Joseph Knudsen, Hermine Krysa and Julius Nadas. The quality of the food at La Villa was only matched by the elegance of the setting.

For the list of student awardees and more photos of this event, please visit www.ccctu.com

Truman Chapter Gives Scholarships to Many Students

A contented group of student scholars are joined by (back row, right) Tony Johnston and Perry Buckley.

While Truman Chapter Chair Tony Johnston oversees the distribution of some choice Asian cuisine to everyone, a large group of students, relatives, faculty and staff fill the O’Rourke Theater lobby right across from the Truman College building on Apr. 23 for the Truman College Chapter Scholarship Luncheon.

It helps that Michael McCloskey, the most generous active faculty member to the COPE fund, is also one of the Scholarship Committee members along with Elizabeth Iehl, Tony Johnston, Richard Kietel, Franklin Reynolds, Harold Schwab and Riaz Siddiqi. It also helps that three well-funded scholarships from former Truman faculty members are given away annually, including the Leon Novar Scholarship (named after the former College Union Voice editor), the Norman Stein Scholarship and the Agnes Vidovic Scholarship.

President Perry Buckley, who was joined at Truman by IFT Field Representative Brenda Pryor and CCCTU Secretary Pat Wenthold, told the scholarship winners: “This is just the beginning. There is much more to come. Congratulations on your genius.”

Prof. Michael Maltenfort gave awards to the winners of the American Mathematical Association of Two Year colleges Mathematics Contest while Johnston presented two awards: the Vidovic Scholarship and the Novar Scholarship. Florence Stein, Norm Stein’s widow, presented the Stein Scholarship. The Truman Book Scholarships were given to numerous students.

The afternoon closed with students clutching checks, bags of food and embracing each other in happiness.

For a full list of student awardees and photos of this event, please visit www.ccctu.com

Visit the CCCTU website: www.ccctu.com
HW Chapter Awards
Scholarships and Recognizes Prof. DiVito

The Harold Washington Chapter held its annual Awards Luncheon at The Greek Islands Restaurant in Greektown on Apr. 24. Chapter Chair Phil Stucky happily welcomed everyone to the luncheon along with Scholarship Committee co-chair Jesús Estrada (co-chair Natalia Zúñiga was unable to attend). Other busy committee members were Teresita Lewis, Anthony Escudero, Saed Rahini and Ellen Goldberg, who were gracious hosts to the scholarship winners and their guests.

Students honored included James Rourke (Noel Meriam Scholarship winner), Deepshikha Chatterjee, Altangerel Batbaatar, Jamiu A. Oyedele and Judith Hernández. Also, in what has become a fine tradition, the chapter honored the Distinguished Professor of the Year. This year’s winner is Mathematics Prof. Art DiVito.

The Local 1600 officers who attended the event included President Perry Buckley, V.P. CCC Sonia Jean Powell, Treasurer Don Radtke, Grievance Chair Tom Kodogeorgiou and Secretary Pat Wenthol.

For photos of this event, please visit www.ccctu.com.

LOCAL 1600 Wins Two National Awards

Todd Lakin, the editor of the College Union Voice, had this to say about receiving the second-place award to his colleagues: “Thank you for your support and a special thanks to Mary Cary of Cary Communications who has been a tremendous help in redesigning and laying out the Voice.”

Lakin carried the ball for moving the Voice into a four-color printing medium with Perry Buckley’s always “bottom line” OK for the change. Bill O’Connell and Bob Blackwood helped Lakin by providing photos and stories as needed.

Blackwood thanked six people for their help with the web site: Buckley, Lakin, O’Connell, Randy Barnette—who chairs the de facto Communications Committee—in addition to John Little, the IFT Webmaster, and Diane Blackwood, computer consultant and Bob’s wife.

Buckley summed up his perspective: “I am so proud of the work the Voice staff has done over the past five years. I am ecstatic over the work Bob Blackwood has done with the website. It is unheard of for any AFT Local to win the AFTCN web site award two years in a row, but Bob has deservingly done so. He has made us the best of the entire AFT.”
SCHOLARSHIP BANQUETS

Daley Chapter Gives Big Bundle in Scholarships to Daley Students

Chapter Chair Mel Anderson welcomes everyone to the annual scholarship luncheon.

Daley College faculty and Local 1600 officers President Perry Buckley (and former Daley faculty) Treasurer Don Radtke gathered in the faculty lounge on Thursday, April 23, to celebrate the students who were awarded Daley Chapter scholarships. The chapter awarded over $10,000 in scholarships.

In his introduction to the awarding of scholarships, Scholarship Committee Chair Don Koss said, “These scholarships can never be taken away from you. You've earned them.” It was also noted that, for the first time, two students received the Noel E. Johnson Scholarship, presented by former Daley Chapter Chair Wendall Wilson and good friend of Johnson. “I could spend an hour talking about Noel,” Wilson said, “but I'll keep it short. Know this: Noel Johnson was one of the most dedicated teachers that Daley has ever had and it is an honor to have a scholarship named after her.”

Committee member and chapter treasurer Alan Gbur introduced the McKillop Scholars while the Business Dept. Chair and Scholarship Committee member Horace Simon presented the Barbaro Scholarships. President Buckley also congratulated the winners: “We are proud of you and what you have accomplished. Now, go out and do great things because we expect you to.”

Chapter Chair Mel Anderson and Social Chair Rowena Misayah provided delicious food from Chi-Tung in Evergreen Park. Other Scholarship Committee members were John Majer, Marla Mutis and Gwendolyn Rice.

For a full list of awardees and photos of this event, please visit: www.ccctu.com

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Daley Scholarship Committee members, President Perry Buckley (back row, left) and the scholarship winners gather for a group photo. Note that the three women on the left are multiple award winners: Ruth Jaraczawski, Nuha Sirhan and Perla Estrada.

Scholarship Committee Chair Don Koss and former Daley Chapter Chair (and retiree) Wendall Wilson congratulate Josué Hugo Niño for winning one of the two inaugural Noel E. Johnson Scholarships for $1,000.
Olive-Harvey Chapter Treasures Their Students

Before the Olive-Harvey Union Memorial Book Awards meeting opened formally on April 30, V.P. CCC Sonia Jean Powell asked each of the award winners about their majors, their immediate plans for the future and their goals. She encouraged them to succeed and reminded them that they had succeeded to this point. Wherever possible, she gave feedback about the successful people she knew who followed their particular academic plans.

Olive-Harvey Chapter Chair Rochelle Robinson-Dukes opened the Union Memorial Book Awards program by thanking the chapter members who contributed to the scholarship fund.

She mentioned by name the members of the Book Award Committee—Rosie Inwang, Annette Watkins, Addie Davis, Elizabeth Vazquez, Robin Hicks, Robin Wucherer, Tiffany Arnold, Yolanda Durán and Carla Carr. She praised the members who solicited funds at the department level.

Shelah McKay read her poem “Yes, You Can,” before Distinguished Professor Armstead Allen of African-American Studies gave the keynote address urging the students to achieve as much as possible in their lives. Allen noted that the going will be tough, but they can make it.

After Chapter Treasurer Luis Delgado presented the book award scholarships, Robinson-Dukes closed the program with comments, thanked President Valerie Roberson and V. P. Kathy O’Malley for being present, and asked each student to give a 2-3 minute commentary on their experience at Olive-Harvey. Following the student commentaries, the audience adjourned to the cafeteria for some snacks.

For a full list of awardees and photos of this event, please visit www.ccctu.com

Harper Pro/Techs Help Students and Now Must Help Themselves in Springfield

Chapter Chair Margie McGowan’s Harper Pro/Techs passed out two scholarships to deserving students at their May 14 luncheon in the Staff/Faculty Dining Room. But the buzz at the tables was about the attack on the members’ pension in Springfield. Local 1600 Secretary Pat Wenthold gave a report on what attacks are threatened and what they can do.

Wenthold and others from the chapter had been calling their legislators’ offices in Springfield and in their local offices, too. The members learned later that day via Legislative Chair Bill Naegele’s emails that the governor’s pension bill, Senate Bill 1292, passed in committee on May 14. “The members will have to make their phone calls to their state representatives as soon as possible. If it passes the House, the Senate is the next battleground,” Naegele said.

Meanwhile, back at the Pro/Tech luncheon, Jazmin Romero of Hoffman Estates and Nana Takahashi of Schaumburg received the Pro/Tech Scholarships. Treasurer Sharon Martin chaired the Scholarship Committee. Social Chair Barbara Singer saw that the food and drinks were fresh at the luncheon and insured the happiness of the membership.
Oakton Classified Chapter Awards Their Best Student Workers

The Oakton Classified Chapter has the good sense to award scholarships to the students they know the best, the students who work with them in the departments and offices of Oakton College. V. P. Classified Jillian Verstrate, Chapter Chair Patty Lucas and Award Committee Chair Krisie Harris were prominent at the Oakton Classified Student Employees Service Award ceremony on May 19. The chapter members in the Oakton Board Room were joined by Oakton President Peg Lee, V. P. CCC Sonia Powell and IFT Field Representative Brenda Pryor.

The first place winners of $750 scholarships were Claude Tcheliebou and Ghislaine Feussom. In addition, Angela McHaney (not present), Shakeeb Aijaz and Woohyuck Jang received $500 scholarships.

Happiness flowed through the room as the 40 union members present heard the student employees that they work with daily in their offices being praised by members of the committee—including Lisa Bolinder, Sandy Feldman, Linda Sutherland, and Bunny Lynn. Afterwards, as they shared delicious cakes, their voices rose with praise for the young people who not only deserved their awards but also could very much use them in furthering their education.

Wright’s Anzaldo Awarded Antarctica Service Medal

On Saturday, April 18, Wright College Biology Professor Alicia Anzaldo was awarded the Antarctica Service Medal for her participation in the 2008 Tawani International Antarctic Expedition. Anzaldo was one of four from a team of fifteen that was presented with the award.

The Antarctica Service Medal was established by the United States Congress on July 7, 1960, under Public Law 600 of the 86th Congress. The Antarctica Service Medal is considered a decoration of the United States military, issued in the name of the Department of Defense, and is authorized for wear on active duty uniforms. However, the medal may also be awarded to U.S. civilians and is the only such medal awarded to non-military personnel.

To qualify for the Antarctica Service Medal, personnel must serve 30 consecutive days or more, stationed on the Antarctic continent (south of 60 degrees latitude) performing United States government-backed research.

“It was an amazing experience,” said Anzaldo. “After having spent a month in Antarctica, Chicago winters just don’t seem that bad,” she joked.
MVFA Shows Camaraderie at Annual Picnic

The Moraine Valley Faculty Association held its annual end-of-the-year picnic at Pioneer Woods in Palos on Thursday, May 7. It was a beautiful early May day as MVFA chapter members and retirees as well as invited classified staff and administrators trekked out to the forest preserve from noon to five to renew acquaintances and celebrate the end of the academic year. Chapter Chair Jan Hill welcomed former Chapter Chairs Randy Southard and Ron Svara and Local 1600’s V. P. Suburban Jim O’Malley and V.P. Classified Jillian Verstrate.

Gary Piercy organized the picnic while MVFA Delegate Troy Swanson ran the raffle draw, giving away Moraine Valley coffee mugs, t-shirts and, to two lucky winners, gift certificates to receive massages from students of MV’s Massage Therapy program.

"I was very glad to give up my duties of organizing the picnic to Gary," said Hill. "He did a great job - the food is delicious and there is plenty of it,"

For photos of this event, please visit www.ccctu.com.

Triton Faculty Celebrates Another Academic Year

The Triton Faculty Chapter capped the end of their 45th year with an end-of-year celebration on Thursday, May 14, at Villa Brunetti Banquets in Franklin Park. A capacity crowd was in attendance to receive a negotiations update from Chapter Chair Debra Baker, chief negotiator, and negotiating team members Stu Sikora and Lesa Hildebrand. Following 40 hours at the negotiating table, both sides are significantly far apart.

Baker is encouraged, though, that both sides are beginning to come together. Not so convinced, Sikora told the membership, “Save your money.” The Triton Faculty contract will expire on July 31, 2009.

Though retiring, immediate past chapter chair Maggie Hahn-Wade has been serving up to this point as assistant chief negotiator. Baker and Hildebrand highlighted her accomplishments as long time TCFA president. Wade has also been a mentor to other chapter leaders in Local 1600 and brought a unique tongue-in-cheek approach to CCCTU House of Representative and Executive Committee meetings.

The current negotiating team is Baker, Sikora, Hildebrand, Sandra Hughes, Ellen O’Connell, Tom Secco, and Bill O’Connell.
It Was “Curtains” for the Retirees Chapter

Retirees Chapter Chair Norm Swenson, assisted by Frank Pokin and Pier Rosellini, were greeting people and handing out tickets at the Retirees matinee event at Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace, on Wednesday, Apr. 2. About 50 people attended.

While President Perry Buckley focused on CCC issues downtown, many Local 1600 officers attended: V. P. CCC Sonia Jean Powell, V. P. Suburban Jim O’Malley, Secretary Pat Wenthold, Treasurer Don Radtke and Grievance Chair Tom Kodogeorgiou, whose schedule permitted him to attend this retirees event for the first time.

Everyone enjoyed their chicken Marsala, tilapia or fettuccini Alfredo entrees and the other courses. But, unfortunately, the table conversation was dominated by the threats to the pensions of members of the teachers’ unions in Springfield. Several people present at the luncheon would be going down to the Springfield Lobby Day on Wednesday, Apr. 29.

The Retirees Chapter picked what has been called “an old fashioned musical comedy” to see. Composer John Kander and the late lyricist Fred Ebb’s “Curtains,” opened recently on Broadway. It depicts opening night of “Robin Hood of the Old West” in 1959 Boston when a murder occurs during the musical. Local 1600 helped by subsidizing some of the expenses for this event.

For photos of this event, please visit www.ccctu.com.

Norm Swenson (right) cracks up Tom Kodogeorgiou and Pat Wenthold while V. P. CCC Sonia Jean Powell clicks with Harper’s Marie Eibl.