The Battle in Springfield Continues (continued)

SB 7, the infamous school reform bill, passed almost unanimously in both chambers. At first it included the City Colleges of Chicago in many of the more ominous provisions regarding length of work day and year and the right to strike. A trailer bill was passed on the last day of session that excluded the CCC from a bill that obviously was meant for the Chicago Public Schools and the Chicago Teachers Union. Committee testimony on the trailer bill made it clear that it was not the intent to include the CCC in these provisions. All legislators and stakeholders eventually agreed to exclude the CCC.

I can’t stress enough the importance of rank and file action in the defeat, however temporary, of these bills. Legislators were inundated with calls, letters, e-mails and personal contacts from angry union members. It made the ultimate difference.

In addition, many individuals deserve our gratitude and support. I'll mention just a few. IFT Legislative Director Nick Yelverton, our point person on CIP, ran a brilliant campaign to defeat this bill. Nick has been in on negotiations from the beginning of this discussion when he served with Perry and me on the CIP task force in 2006. His last-minute maneuvers were brilliant in countering the opposition as they tried to sneak this through in final hours. We had the strong support of Reps. Thaddeus Jones and Marlow Colvin who came through when we really needed them. The plan is still insolvent and more work needs to be done, but at least we were able to keep CCC out of the plan as it goes down in flames.

IFT Director of Political Activities Steve Preckwinkle and IFT Legislative Director Sharon Teefy worked with Nick and Perry on the trailer bill that got City Colleges excluded from the reform bill. Sen. Ed Maloney worked closely with Perry on this bill, even calling him from the Senate floor during debate and numerous other times to get the bill done right. This could have been disastrous for CCC members had it not been fixed.

Please make it clear to union members on your campus that this was just the first skirmish in what looks to be a very long war of attrition. The next battle, barring a special session, will be in the October veto session. Our members need to remain mobilized. Believe it or not, petitions for election to the legislature in the newly mapped districts come out this fall. As the legislators start to campaign they should be very sensitive to our members when they call.... And we will be calling on our members again to make those calls.

Voice Wins Three Awards

The College Union Voice has won three awards from the AFT Communications Network during its annual contest for AFT locals. The CCCTU is in Class II (membership from 2,001-9,999). Voice Editor Todd Lakin is pleased with the awards and promises “to continue improving the Voice so that we can take home a first-place prize next year.”

- 2nd place, Best Editorial or Column, Perry Buckley: “Illinois is Broke,” Spring 2010
- 2nd place, Best Original Illustration or Photo, Jennifer Visk: “We stood up,” Fall 2010
- 3rd place, Best Design/Layout, Todd Lakin & Mary Cary, College Union Voice, Fall 2010

Voice editor Todd Lakin (at left) awarded the Local 1600 Chapter Newsletter Awards to winners Robin Meade (MV Adj. Fac. Assoc.) and Tony Johnston (Truman) at the CCCTU Banquet on May 13.
not been able to obtain Medicare coverage throughout their working career. Two previous agreements on this plan have been made between all of the parties involved only to have them met with legislative opposition. One of those agreements is now filed as amendment #5 to Senate Bill 1967 sponsored by Representative Roger Eddy (R-Hutsonville). This amendment would assure the financial stability of the program through 2018 and provide for the participation of CCC retirees and active members in the plan.

While the fiscal year 2012 GRF appropriation will be made to the plan, it is still under severe financial duress. It is unclear at this time when these issues will be resolved. CCCTU will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Senate Bill 512, which would have drastically reduced pension benefits, was held in committee after it became obvious to the opposition that they didn't have the votes for passage on the House floor after it passed out of one committee on a 6-2 vote. Individual legislators were influenced against this horrendous bill by hundreds of thousands of personal contacts from voters and a multi-million dollar ad campaign by the WE ARE ONE coalition. We haven't heard the last of this issue, and the opposition will be coming back to try again in the fall. We must be ready to mobilize forces again when the legislature returns in October or sooner.

continued on back page

The Battle in Springfield Continues; We MUST Remain Vigilant

By Bill Naegele, Legislative Chair

After a very active legislative session it remains status quo for community college employees regarding pensions, retiree health insurance, and collective bargaining rights. Intense lobbying and hundreds of thousands of legislator contacts by Local 1600 members—along with coalition partners IFT, IEA, SUAA, ICCTA, IL-AFL-CIO—managed to put off any diminishment of our hard-earned benefits and working conditions. We must remain vigilant, however, as this bill is not gone. Those against us have vowed to come back at us in the fall veto session. We'll be ready. Here are some of the gory details about the bullets we were able to dodge this spring.

Senate Bill 1967 was defeated on May 31, 2011. This legislation would have set in law the elimination of General Revenue Fund (GRF) funding for the College Insurance Program (CIP) over the next three years. While the bill was initially defeated, it was placed on postponed consideration, meaning that it may be taken up at any time after the General Assembly comes back into session.

Senate Bill 1967 would have created a scenario where, by 2015, there would be no GRF support and rates for active employees, community colleges, and premiums would have skyrocketed with no assurance of the plan's viability.

As participants and members may know, CIP covers all downstate employees of community colleges. In many cases CIP is the only source of retiree health insurance for individuals retiring under the State University Retirement System who have...
Change Is in the Air

It seems like every time you open up a newspaper or turn on the television, someone is talking about “change.” The advertisers use the word change to make us believe that every time we change something, we make it better. Therefore, change is good, change is better. Political leaders use the word “change” a great deal. Jimmy Carter used it as a slogan in the 1976 campaign, Carter Mondale, “Leaders for a Change.” Barack Obama used it in his 2008 presidential campaign: “Change you can believe in.”

The way people use the word, one would think that when looked up the dictionary, its definition would be positive. In actuality, the definition of “change” is neither positive nor negative: “Change: to make or become different; to replace by another.” There is no indication of positive action here. Change is, quite frankly, neutral.

So the question remains, why is change good for us? Let’s qualify change: a change from a good thing to a bad thing is negative change; change from a bad thing to a good thing is a positive change. When people use that “change” word, let’s make them tell us what that change will be and why that change is a positive one.

Illinois just passed a significant education reform law this past legislative session. The legislators and leadership told us that this “change” would be a positive one that would enhance the chance for receiving a better education for Illinois public school students. But when I look at these questionable changes, I can’t quite grasp how we will be positively affected.

Number one, why would making it more difficult to go on strike positively affect education? I guess you could use the old hackneyed argument that if teachers could not strike, students would be in the classroom. But that argument would vastly simplify a much more complex set of circumstances. Strikes are a worst-case scenario. A strike is only suggested when both parties reach impasse. Believe me, and I speak from experience, a strike is the last option you want to take. When you take away the ability to withhold services (striking), you have taken away the workers’ most important bargaining chip.

How about making the school day longer? On the face of this concept, it seems to make perfect sense, doesn’t it? A longer day would give the students more time of instructional time; it would give the teachers longer to explain the lessons. But we may be missing the elementary question. Is a longer day the road to a better education, or is having a smaller class size, more conducive to a quality education than simply extending the day? I think you can all guess the answer; most educators would argue that a smaller class size would be of greater benefit.

What about this tenure issue we have all been hearing about? Why should teachers be singled out to receive tenure? Historically faculty received tenure after a series of rigorous evaluations from their peers, and then, and only then, they were awarded tenure.

Tenure was a valued commodity because it allowed an educator to pursue his or her academic freedom in his or her classroom. It was accepted by peers, and then, and only then, they were awarded tenure.

What about this tenure issue we have all been hearing about? Why should teachers be singled out to receive tenure? Historically faculty received tenure after a series of rigorous evaluations from their peers, and then, and only then, they were awarded tenure.

Change is not always for the good, especially if that change is singled out to a particular geographic area, or group.

Most of the so-called education reforms were directed at Chicago. Chicago must be the only place in Illinois where education is a problem. If these education reforms are good and necessary, then why weren’t they applicable to the rest of Illinois? In my mind, most members of the education committee cut their losses by selling out their Union brothers and sisters in Chicago to buy time for themselves. As we all must know by now, divide and conquer is a strategy that can only succeed when you and your allies are divided. We certainly were. We cannot afford to be so again.

Let us all pledge to stick together when these forces come knocking at our door. If we don’t hang together, we all will certainly hang separately.
Buckley & SURLS’ Mabe Discuss Retirees Issues; 
SURLS Announces 23.8% Return on Investment for FY2011

Approximately 100 members and relatives gathered at LaVilla Restaurant on Chicago’s Pulaski Road on June 15 to discuss their issues. Sal Attinello, Coordinator of the AFT Wisconsin Solidarity Fund, joined Frank Pokin and Pier Rosellini to help staff the ticket table. Chapter Chair Norm Swenson began his pre-luncheon remarks by praising Wright Chapter Chair Linda Murphy for setting up the event for the Retirees Chapter, now at almost 800 members.

After an excellent classic Italian meal, Attinello led off with a report of the AFT Wisconsin Solidarity Fund, which has raised a total of $11,600 to date with 140 contributors to fight the governor and the Republican legislators who wish to trash collective bargaining rights. [If you wish to contribute to the fund, make your check payable to “AFT Wisconsin Solidarity Fund” and mail it to Sal Attinello, 10444 S. Leavitt, Chicago, IL 60643.] The audience applauded Attinello’s efforts.

President Perry Buckley took the podium to note the attacks on retirees’ pensions which we have temporarily overcome—specifically efforts to create a tax on pensions of 5% and also to reduce the Cost of Living Adjustment—now at 3% (the long-term average COLA is 4% annually). Attacks on the income of active faculty and staff would have required contributions of 14-20% and up to 33% for new employees. Unfortunately, we have only defeated these attacks temporarily.

Buckley noted we had almost made a deal to get the CCC retirees into CIP, but the powers that be in Springfield decided they would prefer not to have the State of Illinois provide any support to public employees’ healthcare, though it is only providing $4 million now.

As Buckley stated regarding pensions: “We have given every cent that the State of Illinois required for the employees’ contribution. The problems have been caused over the years by the governors and legislators who announced a ‘pension holiday,’ and did not give the state’s fair share.”

Buckley thundered, “We have not defeated these attempts to attack our pension system; we just postponed it. We will be facing the same attacks again in the November Veto Session, if not sooner.” He thanked those members present who had contacted their legislators.

The last speaker was SURLS Executive Director William Mabe. He noted SURLS currently has approximately $14.5 billion in assets as of 3/31/11 and earned 22% on its investments. The financial problem has been the lowered State of Illinois contributions to SURLS over the past three decades. He observed that a $776 million payment from the state (including a small amount from the federal government) due last year did come into SURLS this year.

[Editor’s note: The State Universities Retirement System (SURLS) announced on August 8 that the Fund’s investment portfolio experienced its highest rate of return in 25 years for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011. The exceptional 23.8% return, net of investment management fees, increased assets to $14.3 billion and assisted in increasing the Fund’s asset valuation by nearly $2.1 billion. This follows last year’s above average 15.0% investment return. Please visit our website for the full story.]

Mabe observed that if the State of Illinois makes its correct contributions in a timely manner in the future, SURLS will be solid for a long time. What did he suggest we do to insure that the correct contributions are made in a timely manner? He suggested we continue to follow the leadership of our union and to contact our elected state representatives and state senators.

Mabe then answered a number of questions from the audience. Buckley stayed after Mabe left the podium; he answered any questions that the retirees had.
Retired Professor Creates Documentary Film on “Chicago’s Only Castle”

At the northwest corner of 103rd Street and Longwood Drive in the Beverly Hills-Morgan Park community, there is a replica of an Irish castle, the only castle left in Chicago, which originally was located on three acres of real estate. The castle was built in 1886 and 1887 at the request of Robert C. Givins, a real estate developer. One of the “Men of the Castle,” as the organization is called which is partly concerned with its maintenance, is retired Daley College Professor Errol Magidson. Magidson and his wife, Jan, had fallen in love with the building when they moved to Beverly in 1977. The crenellated tops of the building and its three towers, between whose blocks in European castles medieval archers would shoot their bows, hold a sense of history.

When Magidson realized the costs that the Beverly Unitarian Church, the present owner, was facing to maintain the castle—$50,000 for a recent tuck pointing, for example—he wanted to do something to show the castle’s value. So, in early 2010, he and his wife invested some “seed money” in creating a feature-length documentary on the Castle. Later, Chicago philanthropist Richard Driehaus gave an arts grant to the documentary to help cover some of the expenses. Magidson hopes that the film will generate interest among other possible donors to preserve and maintain the “only castle in Chicago [and] we don’t want our castle torn down,” says Magidson.

The Irish Castle was built of Joliet limestone. It is three stories tall and currently has about 15 rooms although a number of the walls have been removed from its original design. Now there is a sanctuary on the first floor for the Beverly Unitarian Church.

“The legend is that Givins sketched a castle in Ireland in County Louth and directed the mason to copy it in stone,” Magidson says.

The feature-length film—“Chicago’s Only Castle: The History of Givins’ Irish Castle and Its Keepers”—will premiere at the Beverly Arts Center on Sunday, Sept. 18, 2011, at 3:00 p.m. There will be a cash bar. Buy tickets in advance at the Center’s Website (http://www.beverlyartcenter.org/). Call 773-445-3838 for more information.

Retired Daley Prof. Errol Magidson is the director and producer of a feature-length documentary film: “Chicago’s Only Castle,” which premieres Sunday, Sept. 18. Other participants are: co-director and videographer Josh Van Tuyl of St. Xavier University, co-researcher and consultant Linda Lamberty, musicians Renee Wilson and Peter Jirousek, and consultant Mary Quinn Olson.
Performance-Based Funding: A Simplistic Solution to a Complex Problem

By Dave Richmond, Vice President, Suburban Faculty

Hopefully the members of Local 1600 are aware of some of the very worrisome proposals being debated in Springfield these days – such as the serious threats to our pensions and our rights to collective bargaining. But another proposal that is gaining momentum is Performance-Based Funding (PBF) for higher education. If Performance-Based Funding were adopted, a percentage of the state’s funds apportioned to the community colleges (and public 4-year schools) would be determined by student achievement rather than overall enrollment. As students achieve certain milestones in their education – for example, passing the GED, moving from developmental classes to college-credit classes, completing X number of credit hours, and of course, graduating with a degree or certificate – the state would give the school more money. Those schools that move the most students through the system would get the most funding.

Performance-Based Funding has a certain superficial logic that tax-payers and politicians like. The plan is to encourage schools to compete to implement innovative educational programs that enhance student achievement. Tax-payers would be paying for “success” and not “effort.” They argue that schools that perform the best should be recognized and rewarded. It’s the American capitalist way – more competition leads to more “success,” and we should only have to pay for things that “work.” It makes sense, right?

But many educational professionals are uneasy about PBF. It makes the most sense when additional funds, above and beyond base funding, are allocated for student achievement measures. But no one seems to think that is what will happen in Illinois. The current discussions seem to indicate the plan is to divide up the same pool of money for the schools differently using some Performance-Based metric. This would mean schools that turn out the most students could receive more funds from the state while other schools could start receiving less. In other words, schools that need the most help would receive the fewest funds. It is easily foreseeable that the schools that reside in the richest districts and draw from the wealthiest high schools could receive the most state funding as well.

The model of “rewarding” schools based on student achievement raises some serious concerns. Some of the easiest ways to increase student achievement fly in the face of the community college mission. If schools limit admitting students who performed poorly in the past, the percentage of students who would be expected to perform well in college goes up. In other words, PBF could put pressure on schools to limit or eliminate developmental programs or to raise admissions criteria, as was recently discussed – however briefly – in the City Colleges. Additionally, if schools are rewarded for student performance, there is an implicit, if not explicit, pressure to lower academic standards and increase grade inflation. One need only to look at the cheating scandals that have recently rocked the Atlanta and D.C. school districts to see that this is a reality.

Furthermore, the entire model of having schools compete with one another is problematic. If schools are implementing successful and innovative educational programs, wouldn’t we want those schools collaborating with other institutions? A competitive model encourages schools to work in isolation in order to gain the largest share of the funding. We should be looking for ways to encourage more cooperation between schools, not discouraging it.

Finally, the greatest impediment to student achievement in community college has nothing to do with the community college, its programs, or the professors. The number one reason students don’t complete their education is the inability to pay for it. Students drop out to work and because they can’t pay the tuition and fees. If the state (and the federal government) really wanted to increase the number of students who graduate community college, they would fund higher education appropriately. As the government continues to cut funding, it puts more pressure on schools to raise tuition and fees, putting college out of reach of even more students. If our overall goal is to have a better educated workforce and citizenry, then lowering the out-of-pocket costs to students has to be a primary goal for all involved.

Performance-Based Funding is an overly simplistic answer to a complex problem. Unfortunately, too many politicians are looking for some easy answers. While undoubtedly some schools might benefit, other schools would surely suffer, and the overall social costs of the program are too high. As Union members, this issue is not about protecting our pay or our benefits; it is about protecting the quality of education for our students. We need to make sure that those making the decisions in Springfield are aware of the problems PBF can cause.
The CCCTU celebrated another year of successes at its 46th Annual Banquet at the Stadium Club of U.S. Cellular Field, aka, “Sox Park,” for the fifth year in a row on Friday, May 13. The sold-out affair was short on speeches but long on lists of the names of winners. Before a three-course meal, President Perry Buckley welcomed everyone to the event. Outgoing Secretary Pat Wenthold offered a moment of silence to honor union brothers and sisters who had passed since the last banquet. During dessert the Norman G. Swenson Scholarship winners were announced and honored with a $1,000 check and plaque commemorating their achievements. After dinner CCCTU’s own in-house DJ, Rusan Tamir, spun tunes till close. All photos are available at www.ccctu.org - just follow the link to SmugMug.
“Solidarity” is Not Just a Word…
Practicing Solidarity for Power

By Brenda D. Pryor, Esq.

Dear Union Brothers & Sisters,

I am writing to you today to discuss a term that you hear a lot, but probably don’t get a lot of practical advice about: solidarity. Merriam–Webster defines solidarity as “unity (as of a group or class) that produces or is based on community of interests, objectives, and standards.” It can also be defined as “a community created by shared responsibilities and interests.”

Solidarity is an important union value because unions are about people. The union is a membership organization created by working people as a means of mutual protection and collective advocacy for economic and social justice. As such, the members of the organization must work together for their collective good, because when the group prospers, so do the individuals who comprise the whole.

Here’s example of what solidarity can mean. When I was about 8, I absolutely hated the vegetable okra, as did my sisters. We kept telling our mom, but to no avail… she kept making the dreaded, disgusting okra as a side dish! One day I declared that I would not eat it, and convinced my two sisters to do the same. Even after being threatened with no dessert, being made to sit at the dinner table in silence for what seemed like many hours (but was probably an hour or so), and being told that we were being bad girls, we did not waver. In the end, the okra was thrown out and never reappeared on our plates again, ever. The way we stuck together to break the chain of okra oppression became a story that is told at all major family gatherings and reminds me every day what a small band of committed and focused individuals can do.

There are many ways for each of us to demonstrate solidarity in the workplace, sans okra, and therefore add to the strength of the union. One suggestion on how to show solidarity would be that when you have a problem with a co-worker, try to work it out with him or her directly or enlist the assistance of your campus’ union representative before taking it to an administrator. Another example would be for members to talk to their campus representatives before going to administration or to the downtown office with a grievance. While the Local is always happy to assist a member with an issue, many matters can be resolved more quickly and more amicably if you enlist the assistance of your chapter representatives.

Lastly, a good way to practice solidarity would be to strive to the keep any conflicts between your chapter officers internal (or those that occur between a union member and an officer). Local 1600 doesn’t want you to engage in some sort of cover-up or expect you to take a vow of secrecy once you become a Union member – you just need to be aware that any type of divisiveness between union members or between members and officers can, and has, been used against us to the detriment of your fellow union members. Divisiveness is weakness and administrators can exploit those weaknesses to disadvantage everyone.

In the end, please know that union solidarity means union strength, and your actions and choices are what makes us strong… or not.

SAVE THE DATE:
August 26: Executive Board
September 16: House Meeting
October 21: Executive Board
November 18: House Meeting
MV Faculty and Support Chapters Did Well in Contract Negotiations

The Moraine Valley Faculty and Support chapters did well in their negotiations with the board for their contracts which were ratified in May. The proof is in their printed contracts.

Outgoing Faculty Chair Jan Hill says, "The Moraine Valley Faculty Association Negotiating Team worked long and hard. They did arduous research and planned each and every proposal, counter proposal, and counter-counter proposal to earn this excellent contract in very serious economic times." The MV Faculty team was Dana Campbell, Jan Hill, Maryan Jatczak, Delwyn Jones, Laurene Kirby, and Larry Langellier, with Troy Swanson as lead negotiator.

Highpoints of the faculty contract:
• Salary increases of 3% in 2011-2012 (with approximately .5% going to health insurance contribution) and 3% or Consumer Price Index to a cap of 3.75%, whichever is greater in 2012-2013.

Other Benefits:
• Personal Business Days: An increase from two to three days.
• Personal Sick Days: Faculty may use three of their accumulated sick days for family illnesses.
• Compassionate Leave: Faculty members who have end-of-life family member tragedies may apply to take a compassionate leave with a maximum of 20 days.
• Retirement Packages: There are four retirement packages ($25,000 each-$5,000 per year for five years). Retirees will earn $100 per ECH over the highest adjunct rate.
• Civil unions are recognized.

V. P. Classified Rose Sakinis said, "I think the 3% raise our team negotiated was an excellent raise in this economic climate. The team did agree to some increases in our healthcare, but the increases do not take effect until January 2012. Overwhelmingly, our membership expressed to our team that keeping our health insurance affordable was the most important thing to them."

"Helen Agresti and her team of new officers were very strong and united on getting the members what they wanted. The extra personal day was a bonus we never expected to get on our way in. Thanks to Brenda Pryor for all her help."

The Moraine Valley Support team was led by Rose Sakinis with solid support from Field Rep. Brenda Pryor, Chapter President Helen Agresti, V. P. Julie Poulos, Secretary Carol Antosz, and Treasurer Lynn Doulas.

Highpoints of the Support Contract:
• Essentially, the same salary, health insurance provisions, personal business, personal sick day increases and civil union recognition as the faculty.
• Emergency closing pay for those who stay and work when the college or any of its satellite centers close.
• Removal of written warnings from a member’s file after 48 months.
• Clean-up language for the police division with regard to work shift, breaks/lunches, and the summer work week.
• Five retirement spots during the two years with a yearly stipend of $3900 each year for five years to help pay for insurance.
Tony Churchill

Oakton Community College’s theater has a genial giant in the theater shop—Technical Director Tony Churchill. Every day around 8:00 a.m., Churchill parks his car in Lot “A.” He often has a cup of coffee in the theater shop’s kitchenette. Then, he walks up the stairs to his office above the shop, and checks his email. The shop itself is home to the crew of students and Assistant Technical Director Matt Kooi.

Churchill’s summers, when there are periods of no production, often enable him to leave sometime after 6:00 or 7:00. This summer he even had the time to attend a theater festival in the Czech Republic. During the fall and spring semesters, when plays and other events are in production, Churchill often works seven days a week (between 60-80 hours). When asked why he would take a job that pays for a normal work week and, in effect, often necessitates putting in longer hours, he stops the usual jovial banter about the theater and gets quite serious:

“When I worked here at Oakton as a student in the theater, I got a lot out of it. It made me what I am today. I feel indebted to the college. There are very few jobs where you are permitted the flexibility by your supervisor to do whatever is necessary to get the job done well. I feel I have ownership in my work. Better 60-80 hours working on a play, than 40 hours a week sitting at a desk,” Churchill said.

What kind of things has Churchill and his crew created for the stage lately?

- The top of a police prowl car with a flashing beacon,
- A very sturdy baby carriage,
- A bicycle with a horse’s head and tail,
- A giant metal circle in which a man was rolled offstage,
- Easter Island heads,
- Puppets that appear life-sized,
- A 3,000 gallon waterfall,
- And, a re-creation of Harrison Ford’s Han Solo character frozen in liquid from “Star Wars.”

During the summer, Churchill oversees the Oakton College Performing Arts Center and the Oakton Educational Foundation’s “PlayOn,” which presents six 10-minute community college student-written plays in a two-hour slot. The organizations choose six from among the 100 or more plays submitted from Illinois community colleges. “We give each director the option of using for their particular play in ‘PlayOn’.”

After late morning production meetings between the director(s) and designer (Churchill) as well as a brief lunch filled with creating shop drawings, Churchill, Kooi and the student do the heavy work from 1:00-5:00 p.m.—sawing, nailing, creating various forms, painting, etc. Churchill notes, “We produce about five gallons of sawdust a day during productions.” During performances, Churchill and/or Kooi are available for backstage emergencies.

When performances are all over, around 10:00 or 11:00 p.m., Churchill turns off the power, stows away the computers and other valuables, and locks the many doors.

What does he do when he gets home? “I am finishing a Master of Fine Arts degree in Interior Architecture. My thesis project is the Des Plaines Theater, which started as a vaudeville house in 1927. It will re-open in the Fall Semester in all its Art Deco glory.”

Tony Churchill is still genial, but he sure has some long days, though he thrives on them.
Oakton Classified Award Deserving Scholarships

On Friday, April 29, the Oakton College Classified Association recognized student employees at its annual Student Employee Award Reception. New Chapter Chair Kathleen De Courcey introduced Scholarship Committee Chair Krissie Harris to present her team who individually spoke of the scholarship recipients’ qualities and why they deserved their awards.

The CCCTU Norman G. Swenson Scholarship was awarded to Faik Bouhrik. Bouhrik, who is from Algeria, is living the American dream but not taking it for granted. Besides his 4.0 GPA and membership in Phi Theta Kappa Honors Fraternity, Bouhrik seeks out food and clothing donations and delivers them on Saturday’s to the homeless living on Lower Wacker Drive.

President Perry Buckley traded in his red-carpet invitation to the royal wedding to attend the Oakton event and to negotiate the Triton Classified contract the night before. He reminded the recipients to not forget where they came from. “When you find success, and you will find success, come back and recognize the people who helped you get there.”

Daley Chapter Hands Out $10,800 to Deserving Students

It was more than just a gorgeous spring day outside Daley College on Thursday, May 5. For 28 hard-working and deserving Daley students, it was just as beautiful in the Faculty Lounge as they and friends, family, faculty, professionals, staff and administrators gathered to celebrate their successes at the 41st Annual Scholarship Trust Awards.

Chapter Chair Mel Anderson opened the ceremony by welcoming all and congratulating the students. “For 41 years, the faculty and retired faculty have given money to deserving students,” Anderson said. “This year’s total is $10,800.” Awarded were eight $250 Barbaro Scholarships, two $500 Noel E. Johnson Scholarships, eleven $200 Local 1600 Book Scholarships, two $300 Solidarity Scholarships and five $1,000 McKillop Scholars.

Before turning it over to the Chapter Scholarship Committee Chair Don Koss, Anderson recognized the dignitaries in the room: President Perry Buckley, Treasurer (and retired Daley faculty member) Don Radtke, VP CCC Rochelle Robinson-Dukes and incoming-Daley Chapter Chair Todd Lakin, covering the event, as well as the other scholarship committee members: Mohammad Ashraf, Julia Bennett, Marla Mutis, Karen Samuels and Horace "Les" Simon.

Out-going Daley Chapter Chair Mel Anderson [standing at right] oversees his final scholarship ceremony.
HW Chapter Salutes Phil Stucky

It was a full house at the Greek Islands restaurant in Greektown on Friday, May 6, as nearly 80 faculty, professionals, friends and administrators from Harold Washington College packed one of the banquet halls for the chapter's annual Scholarship Luncheon. It was a special day not only for the student scholarship winners but also for the retiring HWC Chapter Chair Phil Stucky.

It was a classy affair. Before the wonderful meal, Stucky thanked the Scholarship Committee “for their hard work and dedication to make this event possible.” He introduced the HWC chapter officers and Local 1600 officers who attended as well as HWC administrators.

Stucky then had the pleasure of introducing the HWC Distinguished Professor of the Year, Tom Higgins, who quite unconvincingly demonstrated that “science teachers give boring lectures.” To the contrary, his speech had the audience laughing.

The student recognition ceremony was squeezed in between the numerous raffle drawings that were held throughout the afternoon to raise money for future scholarships. The four students honored all received $1,000 and publically thanked their professors. In the case of the McBride Scholarship, the winner was personally able to thank Mrs. McBride for the creation of the memorial scholarship that honors her son who passed away in 1999.

Clearly it was no ordinary luncheon. After the awarding of scholarships Stucky was honored by three colleagues: Morton College Chapter Chair Dante Orfei, HWC English Dept. colleague Suocai “Larry” Su and Estrada. Orfei spoke about Stucky’s “character and integrity.” Su declared that Stucky had been not only an outstanding colleague but also “an excellent teacher whose students will most definitely miss him.” Finally Estrada acknowledged Stucky’s “passion for the union and his unwavering support for [her].”

The emotionally moved Stucky was very appreciative. He concluded the ceremony by saying, “I love the constancy of the Union. Administrations come and go. Colleagues retire and move on. But the Union has always been here, and, I hope, always will.”

TCFA Party a Success

Members of the Triton College Faculty Association celebrated the end of the academic year on Thursday, May 12th, at Villa Brunetti Banquets in Franklin Park. Representing Local 1600 were President Perry Buckley, VP-CCC Rochelle Robinson-Dukes, VP-Suburban Jim O’Malley, Legislative Chair Bill Naegele, Secretary Pat Wenthold and Assistant to the President Randy Barnette. TCFA Secretary Sandra Hughes presented two scholarships while VP Lesa Hildebrand recognized retiring faculty. Chapter Chair (and now CCCTU Secretary) Deb Baker was out-of-town for her son’s college graduation. In her absence, Asst. Chair (now TCFA Chapter Chair) Stu Sikora wished the faculty a fruitful summer.