

GCFA Newsletter - October 2013

From the GCFA President

I wouldn't be honest if I didn't confess that Pablo Balancio's death on top of John Pruitt's has been a hard blow to me personally, as to so many of us. Pablo was everyone's friend, and he helped me out of tight spots so often, with such beautiful cheerful Buddhalike compassion, that I nominated him once for Employee of the Month. Turns out many, many other people had also done so. I hope our cards, flowers, letters and presence at events in his honor gives comfort to his family, especially his mom, and to us. As Alice said, it's important to be kind to ourselves and to each other.

It's hard to pass his doorway without a big ache. One small things the union can do is help with the fundraising gala in April, and advocate that some of the scholarship money raised will be devoted to a scholarship in Pablo's name. I think there's a similar effort underfoot for John.

I am really aware also of Pablo's high level of civic engagement, so maybe his scholarship could recognize that in students. I'll be working in coming months to get some silent auction items donated to the Gala events. Please consider what you might donate or give--time, a skill, a piece of art, a valuable experience. And we'll do what we can to make it work in Pablo's honor.

Leah Halper

Part Time News

Hello to all faculty, and especially to our newer part time faculty members as we enter the second half of our fall semester. I would like to thank all of you who voted in the recent contract adoption election. Part time faculty is typically underrepresented in GCFA elections- so hats off to those who participated in this simple but important part of self-governance.

This month there is a FACCC (Faculty Association of California Community Colleges) symposium designed for Part Timers on November 2nd at Sacramento City College. Issues on the agenda include how to work within your union to affect change, Cal-STRS

information, and Health Care under the Affordable Care Act. Please visit this link for more info and registration:

http://www.faccc.org/PTFS_2013.asp

Also, remember your travel/conference funds (\$100 per semester) may be used for this symposium's fee and your travel costs.

I hope you will all consider taking a leadership role within the college community. Being part time does not exclude one from doing this important and fulfilling work! Consider serving on Representative Council, Academic Senate, Learning Council, GCFA executive board, and other committees. You will learn a great deal and develop relationships with other faculty that will deepen your ties to Gavilan. If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any other GCFA executive board member.

Jane Rekedal

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2014 Contract

Do you have a working condition issue, a complaint about how things work, or a part of our contract with the district that you think needs to be fixed? Our November survey of faculty on possible negotiations openers is being planned now; please shoot an executive board member a note if you have something we should include! We are: Leah Halper, President; Jane Rekedal and Grant Richards, Vice Presidents; Jessica Gatewood, Secretary; Jan Janes, Treasurer; Ken Wagman, Past President; Andy Van Tuyl, Membership Chair.

2013 Contract

Thanks to everyone who voted in the contract election. Enjoy your raise! Don't spend it all at once! And thanks again to negotiations team members Lindsay Padilla, Kimberley Smith, Lynn Hilden, and Ken Wagman. We're going to tackle the calendar this Thursday at Rep Council. We are hoping to have the calendar re-discussed before the end of October for the Rep Council members to bring to their departments. At the November Rep Council meeting we'll decide whether or not we have something we can all support, and if we do, we'll include a revised calendar vote in our officer election in

December.

Get involved!

You don't have to run for a GCFA office, but you can! And there's lots to do for anyone with a little time and some interest. Check out all there is to do: social events, membership, serving as officer, helping with elections, and much more. Contact any executive board member to get connected. (list above.)

CFT Merger?

We asked CCA statewide president Lynette Nyaggah about the proposed merger of CCA and CCC, the CFT Community College union. It was being discussed as a great solution to increase our power. Here's what she said: "The merger is no longer on the table. About two years ago, we ran into insurmountable problems that could not be resolved. I'm still hoping for a statewide merger between CFT and CTA, but I haven't heard anything recently. One positive outcome is that we do have a very friendly and collaborative relationship between CCA and CCC leadership as a result of working together for over three years. " If you want to advocate for this--and it would really help us get more clout statewide and in Sacramento--contact GCFA President Leah Halper about what you can do.

Board meetings

Our district Board of Trustees ultimately call the shots at Gavilan, and too few faculty even know who they are. Even fewer have attended a Board meeting to see them function, and very few have actually called them to talk or to get together. This relationship is very important--after our last meetings in 2011, the Board members were markedly and visibly more concerned about issues expressed by staff, and some changes occurred that had been requested. What's on YOUR mind? Plan to come to one, two, or all three of the meetings, and you will be surprised how open and approachable our Trustees are. All meetings at Mayock House; Trustees Breen, Bruscoe, and Glines will come at 4:30 on Weds. October 24; Trustees Ruiz and (invited) Child will come on Thursday Nov. 12 at 4 p.m.; Trustees Perry and (invited) Dover will come at 4 p.m. on Weds. Nov. 20. Don't miss!

Security update

New security staff are being hired to work at the Hollister and Morgan Hill sites during the critical "swingshift" for evening classes. We're still working on finding a way to get a better PA system, door locks, and window coverings faculty have requested. We also would like to see more training, and we have great representation on the Health Safety Facilities and Grounds committee through chair Alice Dufresne-Reyes and faculty members Karen Sato and Marla Dresch. Let them know what you think!

Congratulations

To Shelley Giacalone on the birth of her son James Marshall Giacalone!

Good Upcoming CTA Conferences

Our statewide organization has some excellent conferences. Check out this year's offerings. [GLBT Conference](#)

November 15-17, 2013

Riviera Hotel

Palm Springs, CA

[Register Online](#)

Good Teaching Conference-North

January 10-12, 2014

Fairmont Hotel

San Jose, CA

[Register Online](#)

Issues Conference

January 17-19, 2014

Rio All-Suite Hotel

Las Vegas, NV

[Register Online](#)

CTA/NEA-Retired Conference

February 27-28, 2014
Marriott Hotel
Irvine, CA
Register Online
Equity and Human Rights Conference
February 28-March 2, 2014
Marriott Hotel
Irvine, CA
Register Online

Good Teaching Conference-South
March 14-16, 2014
Hilton Hotel
Anaheim, CA
Register Online

Dear CTA Member,
Online registration is now open for all of CTA's 2013-14 Statewide Winter Conferences. When you attend a CTA conference, you receive vital information and perspective from some of the best content experts and thought leaders in public education in the state that you can immediately apply to your role as an educator and local leader.

The conference season begins with the GLBT Conference, followed by the Good Teaching Conference-North, Issues Conference, CTA/NEA-Retired Conference, Equity and Human Rights Conference and ending with the Good Teaching Conference-South.

New training sessions have been developed and popular trainings have been updated. Friday pre-conferences have been added to some conferences. In addition to the excellent trainings offered, each conference will feature keynote and guest speakers as well as extensive networking opportunities. Go online for more details about each conference and register.

Incentive Grants are available for each conference for members of minority groups, small chapters, and under-represented groups. Each grant includes payment of the conference fee and transportation expenses. CTA is introducing a new online grant application that is connected with Falcon, the CTA membership database. All applicants

will be required to register as new users by entering their email addresses and filling out the required fields. The incentive grant application deadline for all winter conferences, except the GLBT Conference, is November 10, 2013. The deadline to apply for a GLBT Conference incentive grant is October 6, 2013. Apply now for the Incentive Grants. Awarded grants are non-transferrable.

View the 2013-14 CTA Statewide Winter Conferences Brochure. Register now at www.cta.org/conferences.

Perinatal Support Services Resource Directory

Do you have a student who might be able to use some information about Santa Clara County Perinatal Support Services? Many of the agencies also serve low income clients generally. See attached!