

Citrus College Faculty Newsletter

A Forum for Faculty Voices and Thoughts

Salutations from the Senate President, Dana Hester

Greetings and salutations!
Just a quick update regarding senate happenings and upcoming shared governance opportunities.

-John Vaughan and I have been participating in the presidential search committee and look forward to continuing to deliver faculty input into this very important process.

-We have also been active in recruiting to fill faculty positions on subcommittees to prepare for our accreditation self study. Please contact me or your senate representative if you would like to participate – it is not too late to add your name; please contact us as well, if you have questions about the process. Thank you to all who have already agreed to participate!

-During the early part of the spring semester, Academic Senate will share its perspective in response to Title V language changes and the way that policies and procedures on our campus must be modified.

-We will soon be collecting nominations and holding elections for the new senate executive board and at-large representatives. Please consider serving and contributing your point of view regarding academic and professional matters. (I am certain that John will provide delectable treats at the meetings next year!)

-The senate Executive Board

is working on updates to the constitution and by-laws and



Welcome to the Spring Semester!

will have proposed changes to present to the representative council in March.

-The representative council is interested in collecting, tracking and trouble-shooting issues that have arisen from our
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Soliciting future articles (500 words or less) on:

- *Improving Student Engagement in the classroom*
- *Navigating a Sabbatical*
- *Tackling Program Review*
- *Shifting to the Compressed Calendar*

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Faculty Association Spring Events, Jim Lancaster

Welcome back to the spring semester! As we all settle into our second run at the compressed calendar and find our way back into "normal" mode I want to quickly share a few of the special activities the CCFA has scheduled for the semester.

First, on March 19th Robin Devitt, our CTA Re-

gional Staff, will be presenting a "Know Your CTA Benefits" workshop for all CCFA unit members. The workshop will be held from 2:45-3:45pm in the faculty/staff lounge following a very brief CCFA Representative meeting. Most of the benefits that are offered to us as members of CTA go untapped. So

plan to attend this one hour workshop to find out how you can use the CTA resources to your benefit.

Additionally, the CCFA will be hosting a "Demystifying CalSTRS" workshop on May 7th from

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Student-Driven Textbook Scores Big Hit, by Jack Wood

In the fall of 2,006, I decided that I would write and edit my own textbook for English 101. I was disgusted with the current book: “Story and Structure.” It cost more than \$90, the binding fell apart within a few weeks of use, and the stories were ancient and far removed from the world of my students. I announced the news to my students, then I went looking for stories—with the proviso that no money would be received for stories used. All stories and chapters in the book would be donated—without charge. This was—to say the least—fairly revolutionary. I focused on stories that were well written and interpretive—with powerful themes that students could relate to and under-

My classes were packed, and the level of enthusiasm for reading and writing ran higher than ever before.

stand. I also conducted “focus groups”... Showing students in my spring, 2007 classes stories I was considering using for the book. They liked them and I used them for assigned papers.

Word began to get around about the book. I was invited onto a radio show

at Pasadena City College, where I talked about the idea. The hostess asked me what the name of the book would be, and on the spot, I made it up: “The Road to Adventure.”

I got a CD of the radio show and played it for the students in my 101 classes, and I could see that they felt they were part of this adventure. And they definitely were. In fact, they even designed the cover art for the book—which was (in my opinion) brilliant and captivating.

I worked non-stop on the book all summer, and I got a tremendous amount of help from Tom Cheng, in MIS, Eric Magallon and Jason Segura, in the Bookstore, and Rocky Reynolds and his staff in Reprographics. Together, we finished the book, and it went on the shelf in the fall of 2007. And what was the cost of this book? \$14. That’s right: just \$14. Students loved the stories and wrote me notes throughout the year—commenting on how much they enjoyed them. They liked the chapters, too, and commented that they were written in a manner they could understand. They spoke much more about the content of the book than they spoke of the price—but they definitely appreciated that, and could scarcely believe it.

My classes were packed, and the level of enthusiasm for reading and writ-

ing ran higher than ever before. Students from Mrs. Resto’s class—who also used the book—even came up to me and introduced themselves, and said the book had taught them to love reading. “They talk about you, just as if they know you,” Mrs. Resto said. I think that may be the highest compliment I have ever had.

This past semester, I asked the students to evaluate the course and the



book, and I am incorporating their suggestions into a revision of the textbook—for the Second Edition, which will appear this coming spring. Then, in the summer, I will carefully proof and correct the entire book, until it is perfect. I’m a lucky guy.

- Jack Wood

Let’s Talk Books...

As Faculty, we are well aware of the high cost of textbooks and the difficulties that it can pose for our students. The editors would like to solicit your ideas and solutions to the high cost of books that students encounter each semester.

Did you know...

1. The Academic Senate adopted a resolution in the Spring of 2006 to reduce

the expense of textbooks?

2. Publishers will donate copies of textbooks to a “good cause”, such as the Books for Boots program run by Bruce Solheim?
3. Using the same books for three years increases the buy back for students?

Please send your ideas to:

slubisich@citruscollege.edu or ltelesca@citruscollege.edu and we will pass them along!



Senate Salutations, continued from page 1

recent changes including the compression of the calendar, the adoption of a block schedule and our implementation of Banner/Wingspan. Look for agenda items in the spring semester that address these topics and remember to share your troubles as well as potential solutions with your representative.

-As a reminder, Academic Senate meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 2:10-3:40pm in the faculty lounge. Please join the repre-

sentative council and add to our discussion!

I hope that you have all enjoyed a very well deserved break and look forward to seeing you throughout the spring semester.

With warm regards,
Dana



Spring Events, continued from page 1

2:30-4pm in the faculty/staff lounge. The workshop will also be held in lieu of the regular CCFA meeting. This workshop describes the basics of CalSTRS as the foundation of your retirement planning. You will learn: the Defined Benefit formula, ways to increase your benefit, and other CalSTRS benefits available to you. This workshop is geared for those with 1-10 years of service credit; however, all faculty are invited to attend. Don't miss this opportunity to gain control of your financial future. Lastly, in late May or early June the CCFA will host our annual dinner to

honor the retirees and tenures. The social committee has already begun its work under its new Chair, Cynthia Cross. I've been told there are a number of changes planned this year and you won't want to be the one standing around the water cooler the following Monday having not been in attendance. So, as soon as we have a date and time we will let you know.

Of course, there are many other activities the CCFA will be working through this spring. Of those, we will be continuing our preparations for contract negotiations in the fall, seeking a ratifica-

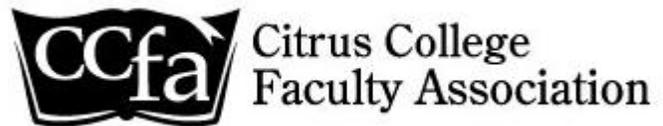
tion vote from the membership for our revised by-laws, and holding an election for the 2008/2009 Executive Board and Representatives.

Again, welcome back for another exciting semester and remember to feel free to contact your Representative, any member of the Executive Board or myself with any questions or concerns you have regarding your contract and/or working conditions.

Jim Lancaster
CCFA President

A New Logo for CCFA

A special thanks to Matt Jackson, Fine Arts, for designing the new logo for the Faculty Association. There will be two designs in use. Essentially the logos are the same with modifications only to the text to make the design more versatile. Thanks again Matt!



A Forum for Faculty Voices and Thoughts

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Please provide the following information:

1. Your name
2. Your phone extension
3. The type of submission: anecdote, "blurb", letter, or article.

In future newsletters we hope to include three anecdotal features: the Meeting Demands of the Challenging Student, Successful Teaching Tips, and Sometimes You Just Have to Laugh. These will be places to share our struggles, successes, and "in betweens" with our colleagues. If you have an experience to share, please send it to us (slubisich@citruscollege.edu). We are looking for submissions that are about 50 words in length — if you can do it in less, you might get a medal! Our goal is to create a light-hearted forum for our shared experiences in the classroom.



Did You Know...?, Sponsored by Citrus College Library

1. You can connect to the Citrus College Intranet from off campus, by typing into the web address field: <http://intranet.citruscollege.edu>. To log-in, use name@citrus.cc, such as brugeley@citrus.cc and the password you would use while on campus. To connect while on campus, just type <http://intranet> in the web address field.

2. You can access your Outlook e-mail from off campus by typing into the web address field: <http://webmail.citruscollege.edu>. To log-in, use your own username and password, as you would while on campus. You will be able to see old, as well as current, e-mails and your calendar, but the contacts folder must be recreated.

3. You can access all the library's databases from off campus by connecting to the library's proxy server. The directions for doing so are located here: <http://www.citruscollege.edu/apps/pub.asp?Q=890&T=Search&B=3>. You will need to use your own username and password as a login. You will be directed to make changes in your computer's browser. Remember to change the settings back, when you are finished! The library's home page is www.citruscollege.edu/library.

4. You can access most of the library's databases from off campus by typing unique usernames and passwords assigned to each database. Just go to the library home page www.citruscollege.edu/library. Click **Databases / Articles** and then click on each database link. To get the passwords, pick up a copy of the **Electronic Database** list in the library, or print out the list from here: <http://207.233.31.6/record=b1079979>.

To access this link you will need to know your library card number. If you have yet to ask for a library card, please stop by the library Circulation Desk to fill out the form.

5. If you can't find what you're looking for on a long web page, use the "Edit" button on the browser's tool bar. Then click on "Find on this page," type the word you are seeking in the pop-up search window, and the word you're looking for will be highlighted for you.

View the titles of some of the newest books to be added to the library collection by

1. Going to the library home page: www.citruscollege.edu/library
2. clicking on "Research Guides,"
3. clicking on "New Books"

7. In Word, the "format painter" allows you to duplicate any font and "paint" the same font over other text. This includes the font type and size, bold or italics and centering, great for headings or subheadings. Click on the text that you like. Click in the tool bar on the paint brush icon & swipe the cursor over the text needing a change. Double click the painter to allow more than one swipe over multiple lines of discontinuous text. To end, give the format painter a single click.

In your Outlook e-mail box, you can search for a person's e-mail address by clicking on "To." A "Select Names" pop-up box will appear. Enter the first few letters of the person's first name. Highlight the name in the list and press Enter or click "To." Or click on a name to make it appear in the "Message Recipients" window. Type another name to add more recipients. Click OK to end the list.

Questions? Call the library 626-914-8644, or e-mail me, Barbara Rugeley brugeley@citruscollege.edu. If I don't know the answer, I will find someone who does.

- Barbara Rugeley