

THE WORD

Uncommon Indicators, Or Telling Tales Out of School

by Ellen Schuler Mauk

Anyone who is looking for a parking spot on the Ammerman Campus around 11 a.m. on a Tuesday can't help but be struck by the obvious: Enrollment has dramatically increased from recent semesters! Although the Ammerman parking lots are always filled the first couple weeks of classes, I don't ever remember not being able to find a single open parking spot in any of the Lot 7 or 8 parking fields, including the back fields of Lot 7.

In fact, of the approximately 3,457 parking spots on the Ammerman Campus available to students, staff, faculty, visitors and handicapped parking, this fall 2,700 students are registered to take classes in the 11 o'clock time block. The capacity of the campus parking lots is just one of those "uncommon indicators" of the real enrollment capacity of the college.

The official enrollment numbers as of the second week of classes show the headcount up 13% and the FTE count (or full-time student equivalent which is the basis for state funding) up by 12%. This fall 3,234 more students are enrolled at SCCC than in Fall 2008—a number that exceeds the total enrollment of some upstate community colleges! These numbers, however, don't tell the full story of the significant increase we're

experiencing in our student body. While the numbers of first time and continuing students attending SCCC students have increased by expected percentages of 8% and 10%, what's even more telling is that the percentage of students transferring into SCCC since Fall 2007 has increased by 13%!

The distribution of our classes is also very telling. This semester the college is offering eight double sections of 55 students each: four History 101s; three Psychology 101s and one Sociology 101 (five of these are at Ammerman, three at Grant). The master schedule also includes five more honors sections, 24 additional distance ed sections, and 9% more developmental classes than were offered last fall. Despite the additional sections, more than 26% of our students are splitting their course loads between day and evening classes.

But the real indicator of the impact of the increased enrollment and the lack of increases in state and county funding are the utilization figures that compare the total number of classroom seats available on each campus with the total number of seats taken. The campus utilization figures range from 96% to a low of 91.4% for a college-wide average utilization rate of 94.4%.



The traffic circle by Nicolls Road continues to be congested despite recent reconstruction to improve traffic flow.

While an efficiency expert might marvel at such a high figure, those of us in education gasp in horror at such a distinction. What this utilization rate means in real terms for our students is that there are virtually no seats left in

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Profiles of FA Leaders and Activists

by Cynthia Eaton

Featuring Michael Boecherer

Instructor of English (Eastern Campus)
Representative, FA Executive Council

1. Cynthia: As a Shakespearean scholar, what's one of your favorite quotes from the Bard?

Michael: My favorite quote is actually on my office door. It says, "Our doubts are traitors and make us lose the good we oft might win by fearing to attempt." That's from *Measure for Measure*, and it's my favorite because I think your doubts really can hold you back. If you tell yourself enough times that you cannot do something, then you won't do it. Conversely, if you tell yourself that you can, you will.

I think it speaks to students because as professors it's our job to not only tell them that they can but also show them that they can. I think it's applicable to colleagues and unionists too because it's important to get involved—on the department level, campus level, and especially in the union. It's how we build good programs for the benefit of all.

2. Cynthia: One thing I think that most people don't know about you is that you come from a very rural part of Connecticut, that you grew up working on farms. How does this

connect with your academic interests and teaching of Shakespeare?

Michael: In my hometown there are five cows for every person. What got me out of there was education. In graduate school, I took a Shakespeare course with a professor who was running Globe Research. At the end of the class, I asked if I could intern in the research department, so that summer I interned in London at the University of Reading. I had the opportunity to do really cool research on Shakespeare and original staging practices. I realized that there was more out there than just my hometown and that education could take you far if you are willing to do the work.

3. Cynthia: What one word would you use to describe yourself? How about your friends? Your parents? Siblings?

Michael: I would say adaptable or flexible. I'm pretty easy going and can fit in with a diverse crowd. My friends would describe me as happy; I enjoy where I am, what I do, and who I hang out with. My parents would say driven, and my brother Brian would say loyal.

4. Cynthia: As a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?

Michael: I wanted to do carpentry. My uncle was a carpenter, and my family was constantly working on my parents' house. I've done all sorts of projects on it, so I figured that if the English degree didn't work out, that's something that I could fall back on. It's a really useful, practical skill.



In high school I did well in English and Spanish so I took a lot of those classes in undergraduate school, then after a while I had to make a decision between Spanish and English. That's how I became an English major, which led me to graduate school. At that time, however, I didn't know what I wanted to do with English.

5. Cynthia: What did you do before being hired full time two years ago?

Michael: I did my master's work at University of Connecticut, and the nice thing about that graduate program is that they paid you to teach. I wasn't necessarily interested yet in teaching, but being a teaching assistant at UConn, I had full responsibility for my own classes and that sparked my interest. I came to the Ph.D. program at Stony Brook in August 2002 and started teaching as

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FYI: Highlights from the Executive Council

and other news of note

- **Dues Deductions:** For full-time faculty, dues deductions will begin September 10 and continue for 19 paychecks.

Adjunct dues deductions will begin October 22 and continue for four paychecks, ending December 3.

- **2009-2010 Budget Approved:** On September 1, FA Treasurer Joyce Gabriele presented the FA's 2009-2010 budget to the Executive Council. The budget is based on an average of 482 full-time and 1,660 part-time faculty. Information about the budget and dues deductions can be found on pages 14-15 in this issue.

The Executive Council approved this year's budget after healthy discussion.

- **Time Sheet Submissions:** The FA reminds all full-time faculty members to use the paper printouts to record their September and October time sheets until the Banner system of leave reporting is available again. You can obtain these from your department or area secretaries.

- **Upcoming Sabbatical, Faculty Development Workshops:** FA Secretary Marie Hanna has announced that the application deadline for 2010-2011 sabbatical awards is October 15, 2009.

Each year 18 sabbaticals can be awarded: nine half-year sabbaticals at full pay and nine full-year sabbaticals at half pay.

If you have an idea for a sabbatical, visit the FA website, which provides answers to frequently asked questions regarding sabbaticals, application forms, and examples of successful applications from earlier years.

In the last few years, sabbaticals have been awarded to PAs, painters, writers, librarians, mathematicians, biologists, and economists—in other words, to any faculty members who articulate an academic or intellectual endeavor that they are prepared to pursue and which will benefit them professionally and, thus, benefit the college. The FA is here to help you with the articulation—with, in effect, writing the grant application. We'll lead you through the process and increase your chances of success.

If you're considering applying for a sabbatical for next year, contact Marie Hanna at the FA office for assistance in preparing your proposal.

Sabbatical workshops will be held on each campus on the following dates, during common hour:

Ammerman	September 9 Babylon Center Old Field Room
Eastern	September 23 Corchaug 018
Grant	September 16 Sagtikos 221

- **Community Outreach Plant Sales:** This year's autumn plant sales, to benefit the Suffolk AHRC will be held on October 6 at Ammerman and on October 7 at Grant.

- **Estee Lauder Tickets:** We have Estee Lauder Warehouse passes for two Saturdays in October: October 10 and 17. Call Anita at 451.4151 for details.

Salary Information

Adjunct/Overload Salary Rates

The adjunct/overload rates for this academic year are as follows:

faculty rank	rate per credit/ contact hour	
	<i>overload</i>	<i>adjunct</i>
PA	\$656	\$676
PA1	\$773	\$797
PA2	\$853	\$880
Specialist	\$915	\$942
Specialist 2	\$983	\$1,013
Instructor	\$933	\$1042
Assistant Professor	\$1022	\$1129
Associate Professor	\$1104	\$1212
Professor	\$1218	\$1328

How Your Salary is Calculated

The contact hour value of your course is multiplied by the credit/contact hour rate (for your rank), divided by the number of payrolls in the semester (usually 7). For example, an instructor teaching one three-credit class: 3 x \$1,042 = \$3,126, divided by 7 = \$446.57 gross per pay.

Adjunct/Overload and Promotion Bonus Checks

There will be seven adjunct/overload paychecks on the following dates:

October 8
October 22
November 5
November 19
December 3
December 17
December 31

Full-time faculty promoted on September 1, 2009, will receive their promotion bonuses (5% of base salary) on October 1.

You Can Cut the Fat, But You Can't Cut the Bone: Legislative Candidates Screened, Endorsed by the FA

by Cynthia Eaton

“Bill Lindsay once said to me: You can cut the fat, but you can't cut the bone. Once you've cut the bone, you've killed the patient.”

When a candidate for Suffolk County Legislature related this quote during our recent FA screenings, he was referring to the tendency of local governments in times of fiscal downturns to cut not only superfluous spending from their budgets but to cut necessary items as well.

When Bill Lindsay, presiding officer of the legislature, himself came to his screening, he also talked about the problems of government when the economy is in crisis. He offered a realistic

assessment of the county's current financial situation and then congratulated the FA on its long standing advocacy for the college. He reflected:

I remember many years ago, when we had a number of contentious budget votes, you guys [the FA] were the only ones there advocating for the college. In recent years, the college administration has stepped up and become far more active, but for a while there if it weren't for you guys....

Like it or not, as Executive Vice President Kevin Peterman is fond of saying, we are a political organization. And the FA's political action at the county legislature during budget votes, capital project hearings, and other financial debates and discussions has proven beneficial to the college over the years. This year, for example, the legislature approved the college budget in June rather than in August, and after the county executive vetoed a number of our capital improvement projects—including the library at Grant and the health and wellness building at the Eastern Campus—the legislature put them back in.

That's why, this year, as in the past, the FA has screened candidates running for the Suffolk County Legislature. We have a political action committee consisting of the six officers plus John Burgess, Kevin McCoy, and Pauline Pharr. The committee met at the NYSUT Regional Office this summer for half hour interviews with each candidate.

All legislative candidates are invited to attend and are told that if they don't come, they cannot be endorsed. During the screenings, we discussed the status of the college's finances; how much of the

college budget comes from the state, the county, and the students; the declining number of full-time faculty members; and other issues that we believe impact the quality of the education students receive at Suffolk.

Political action committee member and adjunct faculty Pauline Pharr attended the screenings for the first time. She reflected on the experience as follows:

Lobbying often is treated as a dirty word, but I found the Faculty Association screening of political candidates to be a very useful

Faculty Association Legislative Endorsements

District	Endorsed Candidate
1	Edward P. Romaine
2	Jay Schneiderman
3	Kate M. Browning
4	Brian Beedenbender
5	Vivian Viloría-Fisher
6	Daniel Losquadro
7	Jack Eddington
8	William J. Lindsay
9	Ricardo Montano
10	<i>Patrick Nolan*</i>
11	<i>James Alcus*</i>
12	John Kennedy, Jr.
13	Lynne C. Nowick
14	Wayne R. Horsley
15	DuWayne Gregory
16	Steven H. Stern
17	Louis D'Amaro
18	Jon Cooper

** non-incumbents are in italics*

NYSUT Members by Legislative District

District	NYSUT Members
1	4,077
2	3,087
3	2,622
4	2,955
5	6,007
6	4,703
7	3,205
8	4,598
9	1,028
10	3,264
11	2,645
12	4,415
13	4,059
14	2,244
15	939
16	3,591
17	2,866
18	3,874
TOTAL	60,179

You Can't Cut the Bone

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educational tool, something that we as educators are rightfully very good at.

How are the candidates supposed to be aware of the serious issues that face our college without speaking to a group like our Faculty Association, which has fairly summarized the "2009 College Stats and Faculty Facts" for them?

For example, few candidates knew that in 1976-77 the college had 348 full-time faculty, while in 2008-09 we had 340, a downward trend that all agreed was a legitimate grievance.

I was proud to be a part of this lobbying process.

Professor Pharr played an invaluable role, too, in sharing her experiences as an adjunct with each legislative candidate.

After the screenings, Political Action Committee chair Kevin Peterman presented the list of recommended endorsements to the first Executive

Council meeting of the Fall 2009 semester. The chart at the far left on page 4 lists those legislative candidates that the Executive Council voted to endorse this year.

For each endorsed candidate, then, President Ellen Schuler Mauk writes a letter directed to all NYSUT members in each legislator's district indicating that we have endorsed the candidate and that we encourage all NYSUT members to consider supporting the candidate as well. These letters go only to NYSUT members in each district, and while the legislator pays for the printing and mailing of the letters, we handle the actual mailing so the candidates never see our members' mailing information. We keep that private.

"The legislators appreciate our support," Peterman noted during the Executive Council meeting. "They know that teachers vote, and they know that unionists tend to vote more than other groups."

There's no question: To cut funding to higher education is definitely cutting the bone.

Meet Our New FA Members!

by Dan Linker



Eric Batson
Communications · Ammerman

Many of us who are employed at SCCC have, for much of our lives, known about this institution, and perhaps even known we wanted to work here. That's not the case with the newest member of the communications department at Ammerman, Eric Batson. Hailing from Las Vegas, he's a long way from his original home, but it won't take long for his colleagues and students to realize that it's a good thing that not everything that starts in Vegas, stays in Vegas.

After high school, Eric graduated with a BS in communications from Southern Utah University. Following that, he was employed as a social worker back in Las Vegas, helping foster children. With a large transient population, the job was very challenging and rewarding, but the allure of the university called him back, and in 2005 he completed his MA in communications from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. While there he served as a TA, teaching interpersonal communications, and then worked as an adjunct at the College of Southern Nevada, teaching public speaking.

In a (thankfully for us, ill-fated) move



Members of the FA Political Action Committee listen to Bill Lindsay during his candidate screening. Lindsay is the presiding officer of the Suffolk County Legislature.

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EC Profile: Boecherer

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an adjunct at Suffolk that semester.

I went to the Ammerman Campus in a sports jacket with my resume in hand to speak with Sandra Sprows, and it just so happened that, at the last minute, a faculty member wasn't able to teach a section of ENG101. Sandra sent me to speak with Joe Inners at Grant, and that's how I got my start at Suffolk. I adjuncted at Suffolk every semester throughout my Ph.D. program, which was a great deal because I earned more money here, got more teaching experience here, and was exposed to a greater diversity of students here.

I applied for the full-time position on the Eastern Campus the fall before I defended my dissertation, and the rest is history.

6. Cynthia: If you have children some day, would you want your children to be like you when they grow up?

Michael: I would like for them to be happy, so they could do whatever they want as long as they are happy—and have the opportunity to get an education. I wouldn't want them to become complacent. I would want them in a career in which they could grow. I would also hope that they'd be in a challenging career because if you're being challenged then you're enjoying yourself.

7. Cynthia: Speaking of careers, if you could be or do anything else, what would you choose?

Michael: I really have thought about this, and even though this career is something of an accident for me—it wasn't planned, I didn't grow up dreaming of becoming an English professor—I wouldn't do anything

other than this. I mean, if something happened so that I wasn't able to teach English any more, I would probably do something with research. It would still be English focused, though.

8. Cynthia: Be honest: What do you like most about your job? What do you like least about it?

Michael: Variety! I like the fact that I can teach a lot of different things. On the Eastern Campus, we're in a Humanities Department, so I get to teach a broader range of courses. In the past seven at Suffolk, I have been able to teach not only Shakespeare, Medieval and Renaissance Lit, British Lit 1 and 2, Introduction to Lit, and Freshman Composition, I've also taught Sexism and the Humanities, The Short Story, College Success, Technical Writing, Developmental Writing, and I taught for the Acquired Brain Injury Program.

In my last four semesters at Stony Brook, by contrast, I was primarily teaching Renaissance literature courses. That was fun but there wasn't a lot of latitude in terms of the course description. You had to teach certain texts again and again. So in addition to teaching more courses at Suffolk, I have greater flexibility and freedom to choose different course texts.

What do I like least? I don't like grading. I know that it's a necessary evil but at the same time I don't like giving grades. I always put a lot of time and energy into it. Sometimes I think too much about the grades that I give, so it becomes very time consuming and I just don't enjoy it.

9. Cynthia: What does it mean to you to be an Executive Council Representative, or an "EC rep" as you

cool kids call it?

Michael: I have a responsibility to the faculty that I represent. My role is to bring their concerns to the union, to bring their ideas and concerns to the forefront. At the same time, if something is happening in the union that I think the faculty need to know about, I will report that back to the faculty. Primarily, I see my responsibility as being there to listen. I'm a liaison between the faculty members and their union. I also have a responsibility to get a sense of what everybody—administration and faculty—are doing at the college. Having a sense of where both sides are coming from is important so that I can have a more holistic view, which is a good goal for anybody in academia to have.

10. Cynthia: Name one thing you've already learned as an EC rep that you wouldn't have learned otherwise.

Michael: I'm a new EC rep and have only attended two meetings in my elected position, but already it's quite clear that the union genuinely cares about their members. For example, at the September meeting, it was clear that the meeting was going to go on for as long as it took to make sure that everybody's questions got answered.

It's also clear that the officers are so familiar with the faculty that they represent. This is very good to see. The faculty are not faceless and nameless; all of the officers and EC reps in that room seemed to know everyone and to care about everyone.

Adjunct Update

by Cynthia Eaton

Every fall, I participate in the college's new adjunct faculty orientations. It's a great way for me to meet many of our new colleagues and to get a sense of what questions and concerns they bring with them.

This year, the adjunct orientations took place on August 27 and August 29. There were 102 new adjuncts in attendance overall, and we currently have more than 1,600 adjuncts working for the Fall 2009 semester. Welcome to our newest colleagues, and welcome back to our returning faculty.

- **NORA Deadlines:** The NORA deadlines for wintersession 2009-2010 and for spring 2010 are listed in the box below.

Sometimes faculty indicate dates and times on their NORA forms in October, but later discover that they are no longer available at those times. In these cases, you should contact your department chair immediately to notify him or her of these changes. While we cannot guarantee that your new availabilities will be accommodated, you should at least notify your chair of the changes.

NORA Deadlines

Wintersession 2009-2010

- NORA available: 9/30
- Your request due: 10/30
- Assignments posted: 11/13
- Accept/decline due: 11/30

Spring 2010

- NORA available: 9/30
- Your request due: 10/30
- Assignments posted: 12/3
- Accept/decline due: 12/11

- **Assignments Clarification:** Every semester I receive inquiries from adjuncts about their assignments. When you complete your NORA form, you are asked to identify your interest in working during the upcoming semester, your first/second/third choice of campus, and the days and times you are available for an assignment. Adjuncts have no guarantee that they will receive specific courses or specific assignments.

Please note also that the Sayville Campus is considered to be an Ammerman assignment, and the Downtown Riverhead Campus is considered to be an Eastern assignment.

- **Adjunct Professional Development Fund:** Because we have a record number of adjuncts at the college, I strongly encourage all eligible adjuncts to apply for the Adjunct Professional Development funds as early as possible. After working three or more semesters and teaching at least two or more contact hours each semester, you are eligible to apply for up to \$750 per academic year. You must have an active assignment at the time you are applying for the professional development activity, and you must complete and have pre-approved the appropriate form which is available on the Adjunct Resources website.
- **Summer 2009 Paycheck Delay:** Numerous inquiries have come into the FA office about the two-week delay in paychecks this summer. The college acknowledged fault for the delay, attributed it to a Banner issue, and assured the FA that the error should not happen again.

Full-Time Promotions

by Kevin Peterman

Congratulations to our full-time members on their promotions to the following ranks. Adjunct promotions are on page 13 of this issue.

to assistant professor

- Stephen Clark (C)
- Etsuko Donnelly (A)
- David Marshall (G)
- Eileen McCormick (A)
- John Millett (E)
- Natalie Niemann (A)
- Hope Sasway (G)
- Tamara Slankard (A)
- Elizabeth Tomlet (A)

to associate professor

- Maria Alzugaray-Rodriguez (G)
- Alexander Atwood (A)
- Joy Borerro (G)
- Kathleen Burger (G)
- Karen Carlson (G)
- Alice Cavanaugh (A)
- Jerry Chen (A)
- Colin Clarke (A)
- Denise D'Ambrosia (A)
- Tara Fagan (G)
- Alphonses Heraghty (G)
- Alexander Kasiukov (G)
- Christine Kulis (E)
- Mary Marcincuk (A)
- Patricia Munsch (A)
- Adam Penna (A)
- Louis Rocanova (G)
- Andrew Wittkamper (A)

to professor

- Elisa Mancuso (G)
- Mohini Ratna (A)
- Linda Sprague (A)

to professional assistant 2

- Lawrence Cavanagh (G)
- Grzegorz Fabiszewski (E)
- Lorraine Sanso (A)

to specialist 2

- Donna Frey (E)
- Anne Menendez (G)

Giving Back Where and When It Counts

by Ellen Schuler Mauk

As the accomplishments of the FA Community Outreach Committee validate, Faculty Association members are generous of their money, time and effort. Notwithstanding membership generosity in general, it has periodically come to the FA's attention that some of our members and members of the broader college community extend themselves well beyond what most people expect or require.

We want you to let us know about these colleagues who deserve recognition for their selfless and courageous efforts so their efforts can be appropriately acknowledged by all of us.

In 2002, the FA established the Thomas C. Moody Humanitarian Award, named after Thomas Moody, a FDNY Captain and adjunct faculty member in the fire protection technology program who was killed in the World Trade Center attack on 9/11/01. The purpose of this award is to acknowledge extraordinary acts of courage and selflessness performed by members of the college community.

The first award was presented to Lois McGarry, the SCCC payroll supervisor, who donated her kidney to one of her younger co-workers in Human Resources, Michelle Murray Mahler.

Since then we have heard of individuals who have on their own time have travelled to New Orleans to build housing after Hurricane Katrina devastated the area or who have travelled to South America to help build schools and shelters.

We know of other colleagues who spend countless hours in their communities working with local food pantries or women's shelters. We also have heard that one of our adjuncts was one of the service personnel who helped the passengers off the "Miracle on the Hudson" plane after birds clogged both engines that downed the plane.

The FA would like to present one of the selfless individuals of our college

community with the Thomas C. Moody Humanitarian Award at our annual Holiday Party—this year December 4 at Villa Lombardi.

Individuals for this award can self-nominate or be nominated by one of their colleagues. Nominees can be full-time or adjunct members of the FA or members of the broader college community. A signed nomination letter should provide the following information:

- date of submission
- name of nominator
- name of nominee
- nominee's discipline/work area in the college community, and whether they are faculty (full time or adjunct), staff, administrator, or student
- description of the humanitarian work performed by the individual as well as when and where it happened.

Nomination letters should be sent to the FA office in the Southampton Building, 224J, Ammerman Campus. A committee, established by the FA Executive Council, has been set up to make recommendations for this award. All nominations are due by October 15.

Uncommon Indicators

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any freshman English, communication, introductory social science (including anthropology and economics), introductory biology, anatomy & physiology, chemistry, physics and earth science, math course, etc. The seats available are in upper-level courses that require prerequisites, and even open seats in those courses are at a premium.

Last spring the FA recognized that the national, state and local economic crisis

would result in an unanticipated and unprecedented increase in enrollment. As a consequence and in order to help provide continued access to the college for our students, the FA entered into an agreement with the college for the 2009-2010 academic year to allow all courses that were not already at a hard limit or equipment restricted to be increased by two students and to work with the college to analyze the impact of the increased enrollment on class sizes and the college's course offerings (see memorandum of agreement on page 11).

In an emergency or in a crisis, the FA believes it is important for all of us to take a role in mitigating the impact while planning to address these problems in the future. Our immediate concern is to get through this semester and to plan appropriately for the spring while maintaining the academic integrity of our courses and programs so our students continue to receive a quality education. But we cannot sustain this emergency mode of operation indefinitely.

This year's budget provided for no additional full-time faculty lines. Additional sections are being staffed by additional adjuncts, the total number which may exceed 1,600! In 1976-77, SCCC had 17,928 students and 348 full-time classroom faculty; this fall SCCC will have 24,580 students but only 340 full-time classroom faculty. We can't continue to do more with less. That's been the mantra for way too long in terms of appropriate funding for our college by both the county and the state. Going forward, we will need a concerted effort by the FA, the college, faculty, and students to urge our public officials to provide us with the necessary financial resources so we can all do our part in building back the economy and educating our residents.

The FA is ready to tell that tale and we hope you'll join us when we make the call to tell this tale out of school.

New Member Profiles

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to leave academia, Eric relocated to Maryland with the thought of pursuing another significant aspect of his life, running, and was preparing to take over a running store. But he soon realized where he was meant to be, and after moving back to Nevada to work as a recruiter for UNLV, he accepted a position as a visiting instructor at that institution. Eric did, however, know that he wanted to be on the East coast, so when he was offered the job here this July, he, his wife, and their three children moved on up.

When not teaching or prepping, Eric stays active through sports such as cycling, triathlons, and basketball, and he's interested in kayaking. Although his previous hobbies of canyoneering, snowshoeing, and even snow-boarding might have to take a bit more of a back seat, I think the odds are pretty good he's going to like it here. Welcome to the college Eric, and best of luck for the year.



Marianne McNamara
Biology • Ammerman

For many of us, the term “marine biologist” probably brings forth images of far off seas being plied by complex research vessels raising nets filled with bizarre aquatic life. Then we might dismiss that as the romantic version of

the profession. But Marianne McNamara, instructor of biology at the Ammerman Campus, has certainly gotten her feet wet on some very interesting adventures.

Hailing originally from Florida, Marianne moved to Long Island when she was five years old. The desire to study marine biology was already there, as was an apparent want to travel, so she attended the University of Maine, from which she was graduated with a BA in biology. After that, she worked for several years back on Long Island with Eppendorf Scientific, providing technical support for scientific instruments, to save money for graduate school.

She then enrolled in Stony Brook's graduate program and earned her MA in Marine and Atmospheric Science. She knew she wanted to go on for her PhD, so when her adviser told that she was traveling to Antarctica for research, and that she was invited to go as part of a project that would help fund her future studies and research, she jumped at the chance. After flying first class (result of over-booking) to New Zealand, she boarded an ice-breaker, and for two months she conducted research off Antarctica.

In addition to her previous coursework at Stony Brook and that field work way, way down south, Marianne actively studies the Great South Bay, specifically working with zooplankton and jellyfish, which is part of her doctoral focus. Currently she is ABD and often on the water.

Teaching is not new to Marianne. While at Stony Brook she worked as a teaching assistant, teaching biology lab, oceanography, and limnology as well as teaching in the WISE (Women In Science and Engineering) program. She began here at Suffolk last spring as an adjunct, teaching BIO152, and accepted the full-time position this summer.

When not working on her degree or

prepping for her classes, Marianne enjoys essentially all things outdoors, such as photography, scuba diving, sailing, as well as volunteer work. She's energetic, engaging, knowledgeable, and clearly passionate about her field, all qualities that will obviously benefit our students greatly.

So, although it might not be a far off sea, if you catch a glimpse of her on the Great South Bay, or in the Smithtown Science Building, give her an “ahoy” and get to know this wonderful addition to the college.

Unions Matter

As reported in the June 4, 2009, issue of *New York Teacher*, “a number of websites offer a pro-working-people perspective that provide valuable analysis on the ebb and flow of current political debates.” Some websites deemed worth checking out include the following:

Citizens for Tax Justice • www.ctj.org

- promotes tax fairness for the middle class and exposes corporate tax loopholes

Center for Budget and Policy Priorities • www.cbpp.org

- researches and explains federal and state policies

Fiscal Policy Institute • www.fpi.org

- studies and reports on issues affecting New York State

Economic Analysis and Research Network • www.earncentral.org

- brings together progressive groups from across the country on policy issues

A Warm Welcome to Our Newest Members

by Krista Gruber



As chair of the FA's new member program, I would like to welcome the following new faculty members to our college community:

Ammerman Campus

- Marianne McNamara (Biology)
- Eric Batson (Communications)
- Sangeet Honey (Biology)
- Li Ling (Engineering)
- Joshua Perl (English)
- Danna Prather (Communications)
- Melanie Weinstein-Zeolla (Reading)

Eastern Campus

- Katherine Aguirre (Counseling)
- Joseph Napolitano (Biology)
- Zhong Wang (Chemistry)

Grant Campus

- Adrienne Chu (Math)
- Kathleen Clifford (Nursing)
- Davorin Dujmovic (Math)
- Timothy Duruz (Geography)
- Tracey Gillan (Nursing)
- Peter McKenna III (English)
- Victoria Sinacori (Library)

Central Administration

- James Werner (CIS)

Campus coordinators are busy matching up our newest colleagues with a faculty mentor as I type this. Hopefully each new faculty member will have a chance to become acquainted prior to our first new faculty events, the annual bagel brunches.

This year, in addition to providing an opportunity to chat with your mentor, meet other new faculty members and mentors, and ask any questions you might have, a representative from the Community Outreach Committee will join us to talk about how simple and rewarding it is to become involved with that group.

You will soon receive an invitation with further information about the event, but until then please save the date.

Fall 2009 Bagel Brunches

- Sep. 30 11:00 Ammerman
- Oct. 7 11:00 Grant
- Oct. 21 11:15 Eastern

THE WORD

Editorial Policy

The WORD is the voice of our local. This is our primary vehicle for bringing members, on a regular basis, the views and actions of the leaders. Throughout the publication will be descriptions and reports on the union's programs, positions, and politics as well as showing the variety of ways dues are expended. It is our intent to publish 8 to 10 issues per year on a monthly basis.

This newsletter, unlike a newspaper, is not designed to have a "Letters to the Editor" column nor does it accept an advertisement unless it has been screened and approved as a member benefit by NYSUT or AFT. The FA will receive a rebate for each NYSUT/AFT ad it runs in an issue of *The WORD*.

The WORD is also the voice of its members. Articles about the Faculty Association, its members and their concerns are welcome. All articles should contribute positively to the welfare of the Faculty Association and its members. We will not accept partisan articles or articles which attack any union leader or member. We will accept a thoughtful discussion of all related issues of concern to FA members. We reserve the right to edit articles not only for space and content but also those that seem to reflect a misunderstanding of the union and its policies or those which contain misinformation. The editors are the final authority for all editorial decisions.

In the event of any inadvertent misstatement or factual error, the correction will be made in the next issue of *The WORD*.

Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Class Size 2009-2010

Whereas, Suffolk County Community College and the Faculty Association (FA) recognize that the national, state and local economic crisis has resulted in an unanticipated and unprecedented projected increase in enrollment; and

Whereas, both the College and the FA recognize the need to serve our students and the citizens of Suffolk County while maintaining the academic integrity of our courses and programs so that our students receive a quality education; and

Whereas, the College has not received an increase in State Aid for the 2009-2010 academic year and has not received an increase in the County's contribution for either the 2008-2009 or 2009-2010 academic year; and

Whereas, recognizing that in order to accommodate an unprecedented actual increase in enrollment, the College needs to create a plan within the constraints of its operating budget well in advance of actual enrollment, which will continue to provide open access to the College;

Now therefore, the College, the Association and the County agree as follows:

1. For the Fall 2009 semester, the College may add up to two additional students in each class section over the published class size maximums. These +2 maximums will be considered hard limits that will not be exceeded.
2. Previously hard limited courses will not have additional students added beyond the stated class maximums.
3. All Honors courses and DE courses will also have two additional students added to each class section. These increases in the Honors and DE courses will not supplant or prevent the review of class sizes pursuant to the procedure for the class size committee set forth in Appendix H of the collective bargaining agreement between the College and the Faculty Association.
4. The College will program the seat limits for courses based on room size and equipment limitations.
5. After the census date, the College and the FA will analyze the impact of the increased enrollment on class sizes and the College's course offerings.
6. The College will use this information to plan for appropriate numbers of class sections offered in the Spring 2010 semester so that, to the extent practicable, the contractual provisions on class size maximums will be honored.
7. The College will share its Spring 2010 plan with the FA by November 2009. The FA will not unreasonably withhold acceptance of the class size maximums set forth in the plan.
8. The FA will not grieve class size maximums for the Fall 2009 semester nor will it grieve class size maximums for the Spring 2010 semester if it has accepted the plan referenced above.
9. The College affirms its adherence to the Procedures for the Class Size Committee in Appendix H of the collective bargaining agreement between the College and the FA that outlines the procedures for changing class size maximums.

Professors on Wheels: Helping Those Who Need Help Most

by Adam Penna

It's been a little over a year since my father-in-law died. He was eighty-two, and the end was swift. He went to sleep one night, and didn't wake the next morning. As far as I'm concerned, that isn't such a bad way to go. And it wouldn't have been for him, if it weren't for the ten years or so which preceded his death. These years, during which mostly my wife, and later my wife and I, assumed responsibility for him, were difficult. Often, we felt confused, desperate, frustrated and, sometimes, frightened. The experience left us with resentments that now seem petty. And yet, while we were in the middle of the day-to-day struggle to care for a stubborn, intelligent, charismatic, and frequently charming man, the circumstances that caused the resentments were all that seemed important.

Anyone who has had to care for an aging parent probably knows what I mean. There are a thousand practical, everyday concerns which, were we caring for a child or ourselves alone, would be easy to address. Or, at least, easier. If your child becomes ill, you take her to the doctor. If a scratch on your arm becomes infected, you tend to it right away. But because we are dealing with adults, especially adults who have been for so long, and desire to continue to be independent and self-reliant, the simplest of decisions become complicated quickly, and most adult children aren't equipped to handle this shift in responsibility. Knowing what I know now, I wish that my wife and I had had more help. I wish that we had known where to go, to whom we should speak, and, this above all else, what it was exactly we needed to do and not do to insure that the last years of my father-in-law's life were happy and relatively comfortable.

The best help I received came from somewhat older friends and family members who had been through this

sort of thing before. My suite-mate, for instance, whose father-in-law had lived with him the last years of his life, would often ask about our domestic situation. And when I vented my frustrations or my fears, he would chime in with a useful tidbit of information. When he didn't have that, he provided support. It was later, after my father-in-law's death, that I appreciated how helpful and useful my suite-mate's advice had been. And I was grateful then that I hadn't been left entirely in the dark. And it was also then that I began to realize the consequences of all we did right and all we did wrong.

It was about this time that I attended The Chair Leadership Academy. My officemate, good friend, and fellow participant Dan Linker and I were discussing with Laurey Russo during one of the break out sessions a direction for the Community Outreach Committee. It seemed to us that, while the theme of housing was successful enough, still we felt we might do more and that the particular talents and needs of our community might not be best suited for the theme we had chosen. So we began to brainstorm. To make a long story short, we stumbled upon the idea that two burning questions facing not only the college community, but also the larger community, were what to do 1) as we grow older and 2) as we become responsible for the aging people in our lives.

The details of the program, as we have worked and continue to try to work them out, I'll speak about more generally below. Dan Linker wrote an article addressing them in the spring, and we will have the opportunity to say more as we implement some of our initiatives. But what is important to mention here is that we concluded that the best thing the Community Outreach Committee can do is tap the resources it has in abundance to help the people who need help most. It seemed, then, a simple thing to us how



we might achieve this end. Money we don't have in abundance. Neither do we have time. And while affordable housing will always be an issue, it isn't one that one day of building and a raffle will solve. This is why we are asking, as part of our initiative, for our faculty and staff to volunteer the one thing we know they have, and that is talent.

The FA Community Outreach Committee is creating a program tentatively called Professors on Wheels. The program will offer to the aging population of Suffolk County and the people who serve them a series of free lectures, workshops and classes. The idea being that we, whose money and time are limited, might offer the community a service for free, which we provide everyday. The programming needn't address topics which are specific to aging, but could and should include the best of our professional endeavors, from lectures on art history to creative writing workshops.

Also, over the next year or so, we will be

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bringing back to our college community a series of panel discussions and other events which will address the theme of aging from all angles and perspectives. Right now, Dan and I are working on a panel discussion that will help with those tricky financial decisions we will all have to make, as we grow older. Other events are in the works, and we welcome suggestions and ideas. Our hope is to provide, for each campus, at least one event, which means there are plenty of volunteer opportunities available and we need your help to make this happen.

I miss my father-in-law. I think my wife and I did the best we could for him, given our experience and the circumstances. But there is much I would do differently if I could. Of course, it's easy to look back now and see how things might have gone had we known better what to do. I doubt anything we might have done would have extended his life one minute, and yet the quality of the life he lived could have certainly been improved. And if not, then something else may be true. It may be the best we can do, after a difficult blow, to extend ourselves all the more. It is, as St. Francis says, in giving that we receive. I hope that what little I can give to this effort will amend where I have fallen short and help me to see more clearly where I haven't.

**Get Involved
with Outreach**

Contact

Adam Penna
pennaa@sunysuffolk.edu

Dan Linker
linkerd@sunysuffolk.edu

Congratulations to the following adjunct members on their promotions!

Name	Promotion to Rank	Discipline
Bhaskaran, Vatsala (A)	Adjunct Assistant Professor	ESL
Cesario, Patricia (G)	Adjunct Assistant Professor	Foreign Language
Colak, Susan (A)	Adjunct Assistant Professor	Visual Art
Coyle, Patricia (A)	Adjunct Assistant Professor	Sociology
D'Amico, Patricia (A)	Adjunct Assistant Professor	Business
DeTuro, Regina (E)	Adjunct Assistant Professor	Psychology
DiTaranto, Lori (A)	Adjunct Assistant Professor	Humanities
Fischer, Wendi (G)	Adjunct Assistant Professor	Psychology
Hannigan, David (A)	Adjunct Assistant Professor	History
Harvell, Kymberly (G)	Adjunct Assistant Professor	Nursing
Hayes, Sharon (A)	Adjunct Assistant Professor	Mathematics
Hoare, Susan (E)	Adjunct Assistant Professor	Library
Martinez, Raymond (G)	Adjunct Assistant Professor	Counseling
Mitchell, Michelle (A)	Adjunct Assistant Professor	Business
Newton, David (A)	Adjunct Assistant Professor	Accounting
Oksenhorn, Jennifer (G)	Adjunct Assistant Professor	Anthropology
Ott, Joan (A)	Adjunct Assistant Professor	Visual Art
Regulinski, Judy (A)	Adjunct Assistant Professor	Math
Roses, Raymond (A)	Adjunct Assistant Professor	Accounting
Roy, Debasish (G)	Adjunct Assistant Professor	Biology
Schumann, Catherine (A)	Adjunct Assistant Professor	Reading
Serrecchia, Stephen (A)	Adjunct Assistant Professor	Accounting
Trezza, Michael (G)	Adjunct Assistant Professor	Communications
Vicedomini, Christine (A)	Adjunct Assistant Professor	Education
Wind, Lyle (G)	Adjunct Assistant Professor	Political Science
Beodeker, Robert (E)	Adjunct Associate Professor	Counseling
Cervo, Annemarie (G)	Adjunct Associate Professor	Nursing
Hellebuyck, Ute (A)	Adjunct Associate Professor	Foreign Language
Berg, Stephen (G)	Adjunct Professor	Psychology
Fader, Stuart (A)	Adjunct Professor	Psychology
Sebesta, Timothy (G)	Adjunct Professor	Health
Vallone, Joseph (E)	Adjunct Professor	Math
Ho, Nga (G)	Adjunct PA 2	Math
Miceli, Janet (E)	Adjunct PA2	English
Pham, Tu (G)	Adjunct PA 2	Math

Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010

by Joyce Gabriele

	PROJECTED (2)		BUDGETED		BUDGET
	2008-09		2008-09		2009-10
INCOME BY SOURCE (\$):					
1. Membership Dues	660,998		645,713		679,078
2. Interest	1,081		1,284		1,100
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TOTAL RECEIVED	662,080		646,997		680,178
EXPENSES BY FUNCTION (\$):					
3. Office Services.....	64,205		64,655		62,868
4. Employee Taxes/Benefits.....	17,070		11,396		17,818
5. Office Supplies.....	4,810		5,500		4,500
6. Office Capital Expense.....	7,618		7,771		7,486
7. Telephone.....	5,157		4,440		4,440
8. Mailing.....	6,732		8,500		7,140
9. Office & Assoc. Insurance.....	1,220		1,125		1,250
10. NYSUT/AFT Delegate Assemblies..	3,832		9,580		20,510
11. Workshops/Seminars.....	8,721		13,600		11,570
12. Negotiations/Legal/Grievances.....	8,489		14,000		10,000
13. Publications & Public Relations.....	32,463		42,994		36,440
14. Membership Services.....	29,256		23,200		24,500
15. Stipends.....	36,540		37,454		38,591
16. Administrative Expenses.....	7,415		7,200		6,600
17. SCOPE/NYCOSH Expenses.....	7,741		9,425		3,375
18. Insurance Expense.....	539		560		560
19. Audit.....	5,000		5,000		5,000
20. Other Disbursements.....	1,933		1,300		1,300
LOCAL EXPENSES: SUBTOTAL	248,738		267,700		263,948
21. Per Capita Dues NYSUT/AFT (1)	389,878	59.0%	386,485	59.9%	417,571
	-----		-----		-----
TOTAL EXPENSES	656,332		654,185		681,519
TOTAL RECEIVED	662,080		646,997		680,178
	-----		-----		-----
22. Gross Surplus (Deficit)	\$5,747		(\$7,188)		\$1,341
			=====		=====
CASH STATUS:					
23. Net Cash at End of Year (3)	\$172,381		\$165,193		\$173,722
	-----		-----		-----
MEMBERSHIP STATUS (JUNE):					
24. Full-Time	488		490		482
25. Adjunct	1,320		1,240		1,360
	-----		-----		-----
TOTAL	1,808		1,730		1,842
PER CAPS (PER MEMBER):					
26. Full-time	\$476.20		\$476.20		\$495.00
27. Adjunct (1/2 dues)	\$238.10		\$238.10		\$247.50
28. Adjunct (1/4 dues)	\$119.05		\$119.05		\$123.75
29. Adjunct (1/8 dues)	\$82.55		\$82.55		\$85.88

NOTES TO BUDGET

- (1) Per Capita Dues are also shown as a percentage of the membership dues as a broad check on calculations. Projected dues based on 2006-2011 contractual rates.
- (2) Based on actual results through July 31, 2009 and projected results through August 2009. (See separate schedule attached.)
- (3) Total accumulated funds (Net Cash at End of Year) carried from line 23.

Dues Deductions for Academic Year 2009-2010

by Joyce Gabriele

Dues for full-time members of Unit III are \$495.00 plus ½% of the annual contract salary for 2009-2010.

Deductions for adjunct classroom and non-classroom faculty are the \$42.94 plus ½% of contract salary received, for earnings less than \$3,750 per semester. For earnings between \$3,750 and \$7,499 per semester, dues will be \$61.88 plus ½% of contract salary received. Earnings over \$7,500 will be \$123.75 plus ½% of contract salary received.

Those working under continuing and term appointments will have 19 deductions starting with the September 10, 2009, payday. Individuals working under a one-semester contract will have six deductions starting with the payday of September 11, 2009. Adjuncts will have four (4) deductions beginning with checks distributed on October 22, 2009.

Those having 19 deductions can find the amounts to be withheld by entering the table in Column A at their 2009-2010 steps. Find your annual dues/agency fee in Column B and your biweekly deduction in Column C. For special cases or questions, please contact Anita Greifenstein at the Faculty Association office, 451-4151.

Column A: 2009-2010 Contract Salary (\$)

Column B: 2009-2010 Dues/Agency Fee (\$495.00 plus .05% of annual salary)

Column C: Deduction (\$) on each of 19 checks

PA, PA1, and PA2				Classroom Faculty, Librarians and Counselors			
Step	A	B	C	Step	A	B	C
1	\$34,719	\$666.61	\$35.19	1	\$49,180	\$740.81	\$38.99
2	\$36,166	\$675.83	\$35.57	2	\$51,230	\$751.07	\$39.53
3	\$37,672	\$683.43	\$35.97	3	\$53,365	\$761.71	\$40.09
4	\$39,242	\$691.22	\$36.38	4	\$55,590	\$772.92	\$40.68
5	\$40,814	\$699.01	\$36.79	5	\$57,906	\$784.51	\$41.29
6	\$42,448	\$707.18	\$37.22	6	\$60,319	\$796.48	\$41.92
7	\$44,144	\$715.73	\$37.67	7	\$62,834	\$809.02	\$42.58
8	\$45,910	\$724.47	\$38.13	8	\$65,451	\$822.13	\$43.27
9	\$47,747	\$733.78	\$38.62	9	\$68,177	\$835.81	\$43.99
10	\$49,658	\$743.28	\$39.12	10	\$71,020	\$850.06	\$44.74
11	\$51,644	\$753.16	\$39.64	11	\$73,976	\$864.88	\$45.52
12	\$53,812	\$763.99	\$40.21	12	\$77,060	\$880.27	\$46.33
13	\$55,858	\$774.25	\$40.75	13	\$80,270	\$896.23	\$47.17
14	\$58,093	\$785.46	\$41.34	14	\$83,615	\$912.95	\$48.05
15	\$60,415	\$797.05	\$41.95	15	\$87,098	\$930.43	\$48.97
16	\$62,834	\$809.02	\$42.58	16	\$90,727	\$948.48	\$49.92
				17	\$94,506	\$967.48	\$50.92
				18	\$98,445	\$987.05	\$51.95
				19	\$102,547	\$1,007.57	\$53.03
				20	\$106,649	\$1,028.09	\$54.11

Specialists			
Step	A	B	C
1	\$51,644	\$753.16	\$39.64
2	\$53,812	\$763.99	\$40.21
3	\$55,858	\$774.25	\$40.75
4	\$58,093	\$785.46	\$41.34
5	\$60,415	\$797.05	\$41.95
6	\$62,834	\$809.22	\$42.58
7	\$65,345	\$821.75	\$43.25
8	\$67,959	\$834.67	\$43.93
9	\$71,697	\$853.48	\$44.92
10	\$74,565	\$867.73	\$45.67
11	\$77,548	\$882.74	\$46.46
12	\$80,649	\$898.13	\$47.27
13	\$83,875	\$914.47	\$48.13

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY FEDERAL REGULATION

Dues, contributions, or gifts to the Faculty Association of Suffolk Community College are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Dues paid to the Faculty Association, however, may qualify as business expenses, and may be deductible in limited circumstances subject to various restrictions imposed by the Internal Revenue Code.



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Faculty Association 2009-2010 Executive Council

Officers

Ellen Schuler Mauk.....President
Kevin Peterman.....Executive Vice President
Marie Hanna.....Secretary
Joyce Gabriele.....Treasurer
Sean Tvelia.....Grievance Officer
Cynthia Eaton.....Adjunct Coordinator

EC Reps: Adjuncts

Doug Cody.....BIO,CHE,ESS,FPT,PHY,AUT,ELT,ENS,TEL
Joseph Rastello.....CST,ACC,BNK,BUS,LAW,MKT,BUS,OFT
William Schaefer.....ECO,HIS,POL,POA,Counseling, Stud. Act.
Frank DiGregorio.....ECO,HIS,POL,POA,Counseling, Stud. Act.
Christine Hegarty.....ENG,LIB,COM,THR,RTV
Darren Johnson.....ENG,LIB,COM,THR,RTV
vacant.....For. Lang.,ESL,RDG,HUM,ASL,MUS,ART,PHL
Pauline Pharr.....For. Lang.,ESL,RDG,HUM,ASL,MUS,ART,PHL
Russell David.....Math
vacant.....NUR,HSC,DTE,HIT,CDC,EDU,PED,COL
Carol Powers.....NUR,HSC,DTE,HIT,CDC,EDU,PED,COL
Barbara Leek.....PA/Specialists - Acad. Skills Ctrs.
Maureen Sandford.....PA/Spec.-Programmatic, Tech, At-Large
MaryAnne Ellinger.....PA/Specialists - Instructional Labs
Christopher Gherardi.....Retiree/Guild
Charles Grippi.....Retiree/Guild

EC Reps: Professional Assistants

Kathy Massimo.....Programmatic
Steve Ortiz-Rios.....Technical Areas/Instructional Centers
Deb Kiesel.....Instructional Labs

EC Reps: Ammerman Campus

Sara Rafferty.....Music/Visual Arts
Lisa Aymong.....Nursing/Health & Human Services/PE
Darryl Butkos.....Biology/Physical Sciences
Jane Marie Wright.....Math
Lauri Kahn.....Comm./Languages/Reading/Philosophy/
Theater/TV, Radio, Film
Steve Clark.....Library/Central
Kevin McNamara.....Accounting/Business Admin./
Business Information Systems
Adam Penna.....English
Denise Haggerty.....Social Sciences/Criminal Justice
Karen Pepe.....Counseling
Bob Sardegna.....Engineering/Computer Science/
Industrial Technology

EC Reps: Eastern Campus

Michael Boecherer.....Library/Humanities/Social Science
Louise Johnston.....Counseling/Science/Math & Business

EC Reps: Grant Campus

John Burgess.....Natural & Health Sciences/Math/PE
Gayle Sheridan.....Liberal Arts/Counseling/Library
Mohini Ratna.....Liberal Arts/Counseling/Library
Peter DiGregorio.....Business & Technology

New York State United Teachers

Jonathan Rubin.....NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist