

Congress Chronicles

News from the Congress of Connecticut Community Colleges, SEIU Local 1973 • December 2008

Reil Suggests Turning Off Lights to Save the State Money

4C's President Steve Cohen wants your ideas for improving efficiency in our system..... page 3



ACLs Get Together to Socialize and to Share Concerns



page 5

Chris Donovan to Become Speaker of the House



page 6

Reopeners Await Arbitrators' Rulings

page 4



Politics, Books, Yoga, Cooking and More



pages 8-9

Congress Chronicles



Congress of Connecticut
Community Colleges

SEIU LOCAL 1973

907 Wethersfield Avd., Hartford, CT 06114
phone: (860) 296-5172 • fax: (860) 296-6219
e-mail: info@the4cs.org • web: the4cs.org

Editor: Mary Van Buren

OFFICERS

Steven E. Cohen
President

Tom Jackson
Vice President from Teaching Faculty

Deloris Curtis
Vice President from ACL's

Cynthia Meo
Vice President for External Relations

Rhonda Spaziani
Vice President for Internal Relations

Marianne Generali
Recording Secretary

Tony Scott
Comptroller

PRESIDENTIAL AIDES

Hassan Babatunji
Tom Connolly
Rob Henderson

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Finance: **Lorraine Li**
Organizing: **Cindy Casper**
Equal Opportunities: vacant
Governance: **Steve Krevisky**
Part-Timers: **Martin Piccirillo**
Political Action: **Art Corda**
Legislative Affairs: **Janet Lanci**

CONGRESS STAFF

Organizing: **Dave Bosco, Chris Donovan,**
and **Bob Reutenauer**
Communications: **Mary Van Buren**
Administration: **Kit Collette**
General Counsel: **Dan Livingston**

ActionCalendar

Feb. Delegate Assembly

4C's Office, Hartford

Delegate Assemblies, held monthly during the academic year, are open to all 4C's members. Delegates will be deciding whether to continue with Friday evening meetings or switch back to Saturday morning meetings. Check the website for the February meeting date.

2009 Legislative Session

Opening Day: Wednesday, January 7

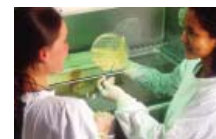
The 2009 regular session of the General Assembly runs from January 7 to June 3. We'll be keeping a close eye on budget issues. Be ready to get involved!

4C's Officer Elections

April 2009

In April, 4C's members will elect the union leadership team for the next two years. Nominations will be made in March. It's not too early to consider running for an Officer position!

2009-10 SEIU Scholarships



Unions help working families fulfill their dreams in many different ways. At SEIU, this includes yearly college scholarship opportunities.

SEIU awards 52 scholarships that enable SEIU members and their children to pursue their educational goals at accredited colleges, universities, and technical schools.

The application period for all SEIU Scholarship Programs has begun. Take a moment to go online and see if any of the programs are right for you and your family:

<http://www.seiu.org/memberscholarships>.



A Lesson from Literature

My background as an English Professor, and my own affinity for science fiction, prompt me to recall the novel *Dune*, by Frank Herbert. In this novel, the Bene Gesserit order is a key social, religious, and political force. The Bene Gesserit litany against fear is:

I must not fear. Fear is the mind-killer. Fear is the little-death that brings total obliteration. I will face my fear. I will permit it to pass over me and through me. And when it has gone past I will turn the inner eye to see its path. Where the fear has gone there will be nothing. Only I will remain.

Reports concerning projected state budget deficits are circulating. The 24-hour news cycle's repetition of these reports only amplifies their power to frighten us. Should we be afraid?

No.

Fear is counterproductive. It has the ability, as Herbert understood, to cause us to harm ourselves. While we may be harmed at some point, we need not rush to embrace our own injury.

Let's remember that our state faces a revenue problem. Declining revenues, and not profligate spending, have caused our state's financial woes. You will hear some politicians claim otherwise. They will cite our salaries and benefits as if these caused the state's financial woes, as if WE have been the beneficiaries of the state's profligacy. Huh? Us?

While we may be tempted to laugh at such claims, it is better, I think, to focus on Connecticut's declining revenues as the true cause of our budget problems. These revenue declines are themselves the result of a slowing world economy, and in times of economic slowdown, our fellow citizens call for more, not fewer, state services.

Yet, the state must have a balanced budget—at least on paper.

Is there any easy answer to all of this? Probably not. Once the rhetoric subsides, we'll see both spending cuts and revenue enhancements seriously considered.

So what should we do? In the short run, paraphrasing the suggestion of Kevin Skee, chapter co-chair at Manchester, who cited the Boy Scout Motto, let's be prepared. One avenue we can pursue is suggesting cost savings via more efficient delivery of services, as opposed to a reduction of services.

We are the "boots on the ground." We are the ones who perform the essential

continued page 12

UnionUpdates

Distance Learning and Allied Health Reopeners Await Arbitrators' Rulings

As we go to press, the parties are submitting "Last Best Offers" (LBOs) to the arbitrators in two Contract reopeners: Distance Learning and Nursing/Allied Health.

The arbitration process requires that each side submit its position on each issue being arbitrated, along with a brief defending its position. The arbitrator must rule in favor of the union or the employer on each issue. The final product is called an "arbitrator's award." The arbitrator's award is submitted to the legislature for its approval.



Cheryl Turgeon, an ACC computer professor, prepares testimony for the arbitration of our Distance Learning Agreement.

We expect these two arbitrators' awards to be submitted to the legislature during the 2009 Legislative Session. How to fund the awards given the current economic climate is uncertain.

The following summarizes the issues in both arbitrations. When the Last Best Offers are finalized, we will make them available to the members on the 4C's website.

Distance Learning Language

The final arbitration hearing on compensation for teaching Dis-

tance Learning courses was held on October 29.

Many thanks to the 4C's members who testified: Janet Lanci from Housatonic, Cheryl Turgeon from Asnuntuck, and Lois Aime from Norwalk.

Dennis Bogusky, President of the AFT local in the community colleges, also testified. The AFT won distance learning language in an arbitration last spring. The 4C's is asking for the same language for our members.

The AFT language gives greater workload weight to courses taught online. After a course has been taught online by any faculty member at the college, subsequent offerings are weighted at 133% for computing workload -- a 3 credit course is counted as 4 contact/credit hours of workload. The premium only applies to courses taught by full-time faculty.

In addition to the extra workload credit, we are arbitrating two related issues:

1. **Effective Date:** The 4C's wants the same AFT language which is retroactive to Fall 2007. The Board is opposed to any retroactive payments.
2. **Sunset Date:** The Board proposes that the benefit expire at the end on the term of our Contract, June 30, 2010. The 4C's is opposed to a sunset date. The AFT Contract does not have a sunset date for this provision.

Nursing/Dental/Allied Health

This arbitration began last April, has had several hearings, and numerous 4C's and AFT members have testified. The overall goal is to make it easier for the colleges to hire and to retain qualified fac-

ulty and other employees in these fields.

There are 15 separate issues being arbitrated. Among the top priorities identified by our members is the issue of payment for time worked, meaning an end to the practice of paying for 50 minutes when clinicals last for 60 minutes. Additionally, the wage scale and promotion opportunities must be improved both for faculty and for clinical EAs so that the system can keep positions filled.

Other important issues include mandatory overload pay, funding for professional development, payment of licensing fees, clerical support, travel, compensation for preparing accreditation reports, enhanced longevity pay, and shift and evening pay differentials.

The unions have reached agreements with management on a handful of issues, including bi-weekly pay, enhanced compensation for academic leadership positions, and pay for working during the summer and intersession.

Program Coordinators/Department Chairs

The PC/DC reopener has been delayed due to scheduling conflicts with the arbitrator and with coalition partners. We will not have an arbitrator's award ready for this Legislative Session.



Lois Aime, NCC's DL Coordinator, explains the extra work involved in teaching online.



Deloris Curtis (at podium), Vice President from ACLs, addresses the gathering at Gateway Community College.

ACLs Discuss Workplace Issues & Concerns

4C's Vice Presidents **Deloris Curtis**, from Housatonic, and **Rhonda Spaziani**, from Three Rivers, invited ACLs throughout the system to join them for lunch and a conversation. The gathering took place on Nov. 21 at GWCC.

Members discussed problems with current Contract language concerning workload and compensatory time. They also talked about staffing issues.

"We want to let members know that we're available to answer questions or listen to concerns. Please contact us," Deloris and Rhonda said.

Delegates Grapple with Changes to the 4C's Constitution

The 4C's Governance Committee, under the leadership of **Steve Krevisky** from MXCC, was charged with reviewing the Union's Constitution and recommending changes.

The guiding principles behind this effort were to promote democracy and enhance transparency within our Union. The committee also clarified ambiguities and updated language. The committee received input both from union staff and union officers.

The draft was discussed at the October and November meetings of the Delegate Assembly. It will be discussed further

in December. All changes must be ratified by the membership. We expect this will happen at the beginning of the Spring semester so that the new Constitution will guide the Union Officer elections next April.

Likely changes include increasing the number of statewide leadership positions which are elected by the members and decreasing the number of appointed positions. The proposed Constitution also transfers more power from the Executive Board to the larger Delegate Assembly.

A working draft of the proposed Constitution is available on the 4C's website. The union acknowledges the hard work of Governance Committee members Theresa Jeffries (GWCC), Martha Dean (TXCC), Al Buatti (MXCC), Marty Piccirillo (GWCC), and staff Bob Reutenauer.

SEIU's 100 Days for Change Campaign



"Election after election, for more than a decade,

we have all worked to try to elect a pro-worker President and Congress.

"Now, finally, in the 2008 Election, we have the genuine opportunity of a lifetime," said Andy Stern, President of SEIU, our international union.

Election Day signaled the beginning of SEIU's new campaign to hold elected officials accountable for quickly delivering real change for working people. The union's ma-

major goals are to pass the Employee Free Choice Act and to win Health-care Reform.

The Employee Free Choice Act would allow all workers the freedom to form unions by reforming the current labor laws which permit intimidation of union supporters.

On healthcare, SEIU is looking for a national solution that provides core benefits, including preventive care, to all. Employers, individuals, and government would all share the costs.

SEIU says the unprecedented opportunity to

achieve these goals will require unprecedented levels of commitment and resources from SEIU and its local unions.

2,000 organizers are needed for a nationwide campaign. Members and staff will be deployed across the country, building grassroots support for change and holding members of Congress accountable for pledges they made during the elections.

The 4C's is working out how it can participate in this exciting and ambitious endeavor.

Health Insurance for Children to Age 26

If you are interested in this coverage, please look for new information to be sent from the Comptroller's Office concerning who qualifies and how to apply.

Moving Up, Moving Out

4C's Staff Organizer to be Speaker of the House

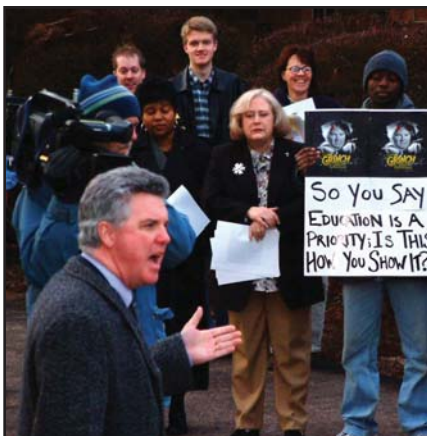
For the past 18 years, Chris Donovan has been a member of the 4C's staff, using his considerable talents to help build the union in numerous ways. For the last 16 of those years, Chris has also represented Meriden's 84th District in the Connecticut House of Representatives.

On January 7, Democrat Chris Donovan is slated to become the next Speaker of the House. The demands of his new position, have led Chris to resign his position at the 4C's.

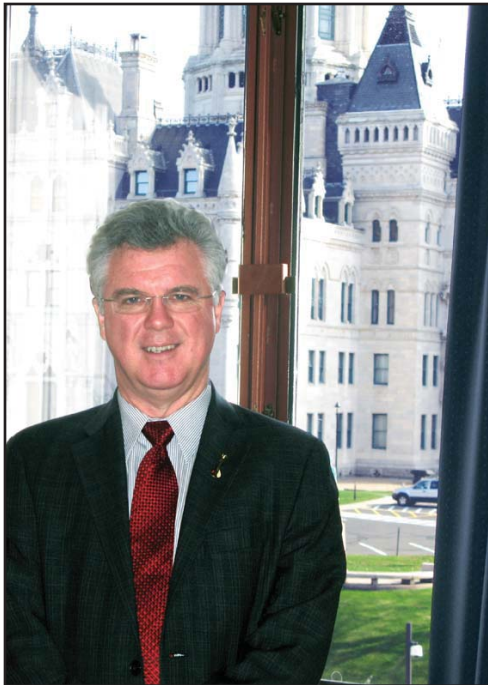
Chris says he treasures the years spent at the 4C's. "It's not the biggest union, but it is one of the most active. The 4C's benefits from great staff, respected leaders, and dedicated members.

"The 4C's often seems bigger than it is because it works not only on Contract issues, but on broader issues facing students, working families, and the people of Connecticut."

Like President-elect Obama, Chris Donovan's career in public service began with community organizing. He was an organizer with the



Chris fires up the crowd at a Middlesex rally protesting budget cuts.



A nice view from the Speaker's Office in the Legislative Office Building.

Connecticut Citizen Action Group (CCAG), then with an SEIU local, and in 1990, he joined the 4C's staff.

"Whether it's politics, union organizing, or community organizing, the key to success is being able to work with people, finding out how to get them energized and invested in the issues," Chris said.

As a 4C's staff organizer, Chris organized dozens of conferences and events; most recently he organized the successful 4C's 35th Anniversary Party. For the past several years, he's staffed the Part-Time Committee, implementing a program that brought the 4C's to campuses to meet directly with part-time employees.

Chris is an adjunct at the University of Hartford, where he teaches Sociology during the spring semester.

As a part-timer himself, he appreciates the diversity of 4C's part-timers and would like to see more opportunities for part-timers to share their goals and interests.

When Chris takes the Speaker's gavel in January, he'll preside over a chamber with 114 Democrats, 37 Republicans. The state faces enormous challenges.

"The biggest challenge is finding ways to maintain services during an economic downturn. Working families cannot be asked to shoulder an unfair share of the burden. We have to be creative," he said.

By way of example, Chris pointed to his efforts to expand the state employees health insurance plan to municipalities and small businesses. The Healthcare Partnership would offer improved health plans to more people at a lower cost.

Chris is occupied these days with hiring staff, putting his leadership team together, making committee assignments, and moving into the Speaker's Office.

"I'll miss everyone at the 4C's," he said "But, I hope to see many of you up here at the Capitol!"



Chris (left), shows his team spirit at a 4C's membership event in 1991.

Preserving Services in the Crisis

State Employee Unions (SEBAC) Issued this Statement on their Meeting with Governor Rell and the Economy

On Nov. 6, 2008, Governor Rell invited leaders of the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition (SEBAC) for a presentation on Connecticut's economy. At this meeting, Gov. Rell and her team talked in general terms about the current fiscal year budget deficit, which is estimated to be nearly \$300 million. The forum was essentially a briefing about the administration's view of the economy and its potential impact on Connecticut's budget. There was no discussion about collective bargaining, wages or benefits.

On Nov. 12, 2008, Gov. Rell held a press conference to announce projected budget deficits of \$2.6 billion in 2010 and \$3.3 billion in 2011. In that press conference, she described this as "a time of opportunity – an opportunity to streamline government, to return it to its core functions...I will support and bolster the core functions of state government. I will also identify the functions we can no longer afford and I will be calling on lawmakers to do the same."

As representatives of working families, our analysis of the current situation is clear. It must be understood not as budget problem for the state, but as a jobs, services, and quality of life problem for Connecticut's people. Tough economic times are when the people of the state need public services the most. We support the position of President-elect Obama that the key is an economic stimulus package which gets money to the American people and – among other things – moves resources from Washington to state and local government to allow them to be part of the

economic solution rather than part of the economic problem.

The reality is that we need long-term solutions to help us weather the economic storm, not short-term gimmicks. When former Governor John Rowland cut public services back in 2003, he only exacerbated the economic problems Connecticut residents faced then. Repeating those same mistakes would only make the current crisis worse, and both worsen and prolong the suffering of Connecticut's people.

The Obama administration is committed to reshaping and making sure government provides a real economic stimulus package that boosts state and local governments. Public service workers plan to work with the General Assembly, Governor Rell, and our Congressional delegation as partners to provide the services needed to care for Connecticut's people, to help to



solve the current crisis, to rebuild our roads and infrastructure, and to help create good jobs and strong communities.

Our members are proud of the work that they do to make things better -- in good times and bad. This is an opportunity to be part of the change which will unite our new leaders in Washington with our legislative and executive leadership in Connecticut in a partnership for a better future.

SEIU Brothers and Sisters in Iowa Express Thanks

The 4C's recently received thank-you notes from members of SEIU Local 199 in Iowa for our contribution to their Disaster Relief Fund. The area was devastated by floods last June.

"Sisters and Brothers of the union: WOW! What a blessing. Without people like you guys, life would not be worth living," wrote the Pahl family. Ann Neum wrote: "I will never forget your help during the flood."

"Thank you for the gift of money for flood relief. I was able to use it for a new washer and dryer," wrote Julie Davis.

The Jacobus family wrote: "Thank you for helping those of us affected get back home!" Shelley Jacobus said her children learned about the generosity of others and the willingness of union members to help out.

At least fifty Local 199 members had their homes ravaged by the natural disaster. Local 199's office in Coralville was destroyed and the local has since moved to a new location.

4C'sMembers

Presidential Politics Takes Center Stage at Tunxis

A standing-room only crowd of Tunxis students and staff, greeted the candidates in two mock debates sponsored by the college.

Key roles in the debates were played by faculty members from the English and History departments.

Robert Brown took on the role of Barack Obama and **Andre Blasczynski** was John McCain. In the Vice Presidential Debate, **Neha Bawa** was Joe Biden and **Sally Terrell** was Sarah Palin.

Faculty members had



English faculty Sally Terrell (left) was convincing as Sarah Palin in the mock Vice Presidential Debate. Colleague Neha Bawa doesn't look much like Joe Biden, but she did an admirable job of representing his views.

studied up on their candidate's positions, views, and to some extent, even dress and mannerisms.

Candidates answered questions from moderator Rafael Fierro, as well as from the audience. Podcasts of the debates

were made available to the college community for those who couldn't attend.

The week following the mock debates, mock elections were held.

A total of 541 people (students, faculty & staff) voted. The results:

Obama = 383 votes
McCain = 118 votes
Nader = 32 votes
McKinney = 7 votes

Obama received nearly 71 percent of the votes at Tunxis, significantly higher than the 60 percent he received state-wide.

NWCC Community Watches Debates

Northwestern invited the community to view all televised Presidential debates in the college auditorium.

Prior to the debates, English Professor **Tom Hodgkin** and History Professor **Todd Bryda** offered a historical context to the debates.

Science Professor **Tara Jo Holmberg** and Business Professor **David Rodgers** gave campus talks which focused on the environmental and economic issues discussed during the debates.

A high level of participation created an engaged community.



Hands Up if You Love Yoga. ACC members and students practice yoga under the leadership of 4C's member **Aaron Vega**. The popular class provides a healthy break during the stressful work day. Members say it improves their focus and flexibility.

MCC Has All the Ingredients to Make Cooking Program Succeed

Culinary Arts Professor **Sandra Jenkins** shows kids that cooking healthy food is fun. Sandy coordinates the American Culinary Federation Chef & Child program.

Professor **Linda Coons**, who teaches several baking classes, also volunteers for the program.

This fall, the program is teaching kids from the Asylum Hill Boys and Girls Club in Hartford how to choose and prepare nutritious foods.

The group traveled to nearby farms where

winter squash and apples were being harvested. The teens were later asked to find recipes that featured squash or apples.

They gathered in the MCC kitchen to prepare their dishes. With help from professional chefs and MCC culinary students, the Asylum Hill kids went to work.

Everyone enjoyed the results! The teens were extremely proud of their accomplishments and left eager to bring what they learned back home.



Above: Sandy Jenkins (right) works with teens making apple crisp.

Right: Linda Coons (right) offers advice on creating squash apple soup.



A book discussion group meets in the Middlesex library.

MXCC Book Group Doesn't Keep It To Themselves

Once a month, MXCC Librarian **Ann Paluck**, leads a book discussion group at the college, geared towards faculty and staff.

At their November meeting the group talked

about Wally Lamb's "Couldn't Keep It To Myself," a collection of works written by women imprisoned at York Correctional Institution.

Lamb and MXCC English Instructor **Dale Griffith**

co-facilitated the writing workshop at the prison which led to the book. Dale was available to talk about the experience with the book discussion group.

"Some amazing stories emerged. The women wrote and revised and revised and revised. Seven women had the courage to share and the ability to stick with the project," she said.

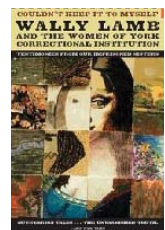
Robin Cullen, one of the prisoners in the writing workshop, also spoke to the Middlesex group. She said no one started out thinking one day they'd be published authors.

Several participants shared their reactions.

Because the women wrote about hardships and abuse, English faculty **Christine Ruggiero** said "It was one of the hardest books I've ever read."

At the conclusion of the discussion, Ann invited everyone back in December to talk about "Atonement" by Ian McEwan.

Another 4C's connection: The cover art for Lamb's book was assembled by inmates in an art appreciation course taught by **Pedro Valentin**, then an adjunct at Three Rivers, now at Capital.



Election Day Victories

80 Wins; Only 2 Losses

When the votes were tallied on November 4th, all but two of the state legislative candidates endorsed by the 4C's were victorious.

This was the first election conducted under new laws for campaign financing. The 4C's could not contribute directly to campaigns that accepted public financing. Instead, the 4C's publicized its list of endorsed candidates, sent out letters to members who live in their districts, and

recruited members to volunteer in the campaigns.

Many thanks to all 4C's members who volunteered in campaigns and to those who supported 4C's candidates.

The two endorsees who lost their elections were both running for open seats. A 4C's member from Naugatuck Valley Community College, Duane Perkins, lost in the 24th State Senate District, and Democrat Art House lost in the

Bill Tyszka (center), Vice Chair of the 4C's Retirees Chapter, and **Marilyn Tyszka** (right) campaign outside a Simsbury polling place.



Making phone calls on behalf of Senator Mary Ann Handley are (from Left) **Pete McCluskey** (TXCC), **Bob Reutenauer** (4C's staff), and **Carl Stafford** (MCC).

8th State Senate District. Both ran energetic, honorable campaigns.

"We are enormously pleased that so many candidates who support the community colleges were elected," commented 4C's Political Action Chair **Art Corda** from GWCC.

"We'll need their help in the difficult times ahead."

Legislative Candidates Endorsed by the 4C's

SENATE DISTRICTS

- 1 John Fonfara, D- Hartford
- 2 Eric Coleman, D-Bloomfield
- 3 Gary LeBeau, D-East Hartford
- 4 Mary Ann Handley, D-Manchester
- 5 Jonathan Harris, D-West Hartford
- 6 Don DeFronzo, D-New Britain
- 8 **Arthur House, D-Simsbury (loss)**
- 10 Toni Harp, D-New Haven
- 11 Martin Looney, D-New Haven
- 12 Edward Meyer, D-Guilford
- 13 Tom Gaffey, D-Meriden
- 14 Gayle Slossberg, D-Milford
- 15 Joan Hartley, D-Waterbury
- 17 Joe Crisco, D-Woodbridge
- 18 Andrew Maynard, D-Stonington
- 19 Edith Prague, D-Columbia
- 20 Andrea Stillman, D-Waterford
- 23 Ed Gomes, D-Bridgeport
- 24 **Duane Perkins, D- Danbury (loss)**
- 25 Bob Duff, D-Norwalk
- 27 Andrew McDonald, D-Stamford
- 29 Don Williams, D-Brooklyn
- 31 Tom Colapietro, D-Bristol
- 35 Tony Guglielmo, R-Stafford

HOUSE DISTRICTS

- 1 Ken Green, D- Hartford
- 2 Jason Bartlett, D-Bethel
- 5 Marie Kirkley-Bey, D-Hartford
- 7 Doug McCrory, D-Hartford
- 8 Joan Lewis, D-Coventry
- 12 Ryan Barry, D-Manchester
- 13 John Thompson, D-Manchester
- 16 Linda Schofield, D-Simsbury
- 18 Andrew Fleischmann, D- W. Hartford
- 20 David McCluskey, D- West Hartford
- 21 Demetrios Giannaros, D-Farmington
- 24 Tim O'Brien, D-New Britain
- 25 John Geragosian, D-New Britain
- 26 Peter Tercy, D-New Britain
- 32 Jim O'Rourke, D-Cromwell
- 33 Joseph Serra, D-Middletown
- 34 Gail Hamm, D-East Hampton
- 36 James Spallone, D-Centerbrook
- 37 Ed Jutila, D-Niantic
- 43 Diana Urban, D-No. Stonington
- 45 Steve Mikutel, D-Griswold
- 48 Linda Orange, D-Colchester
- 49 Susan Johnson, D-Willimantic
- 53 Bryan Hurlburt, D-Tolland
- 54 Denise Merrill, D-Mansfield Ctr.
- 56 Claire Janowski, D-Vernon
- 58 Kathy Tallarita, D-Enfield
- 60 Peggy Sayers, D- Windsor

- 64 Roberta Willis, D-Lakeville
- 70 Kevin DelGobbo, R-Naugatuck
- 72 Larry Butler, D-Waterbury
- 74 Selim Noujaim, R-Waterbury
- 78 William Hamzy, R-Terryville
- 80 Corky Mazurek, D-Wolcott
- 81 Zeke Zalaski, D-Southington
- 84 Chris Donovan, D-Meriden
- 87 Steve Fontana, D-North Haven
- 88 Brendan Sharkey, D-Hamden
- 89 Vickie Nardello, D-Prospect
- 91 Peter Villano, D-Hamden
- 93 Toni Edmonds-Walker, D-New Haven
- 96 Cam Staples, D-New Haven
- 97 Robert Megna, D-New Haven
- 104 Linda Gentile, D-Ansonia
- 109 Joe Taborsak, D-Danbury
- 110 Bob Godfrey, D-Danbury
- 117 Paul Davis, D-Orange
- 119 Richard Roy, D-Milford
- 124 Don Clemons, D-Bridgeport
- 126 Chris Caruso, D-Bridgeport
- 127 John Hennessy, D-Bridgeport
- 129 Auden Grogins, D-Bridgeport
- 133 Kim Fawcett, D-Fairfield
- 137 Chris Perone, D-Norwalk
- 139 Kevin Ryan, D-Oakdale
- 144 James Shapiro, D-Stamford
- 146 Gerald Fox, D-Stamford
- 148 Carlo Leone, D-Stamford

Union Plus® Home Heating Oil Discount

Save on your home heating oil bills



Union Plus and HEAT USA have teamed up to bring you a great way to save money on your home heating oil bills. Take advantage of these great benefits!

- ★Free service contract
- ★25 gallons of free heating oil
- ★Savings that average \$200-\$300 a year
- ★Save \$10 on the first-year membership fee

Plus, HEAT will donate \$5 to the Union Plus Scholarship Fund. So don't delay, join today.

unionplus.org/heatingoil

or call
1-800-660-0691



This program is only available in NY, CT, RI, and NJ.

WEB-03/05

Community College Minority Fellowship Program

On November 21, the System Office hosted a networking session for those in the Minority Fellowship Program with the colleges' Human Resource Directors and union representatives. This year there are ten Minority Fellows.

The Minority Fellowship Program is jointly sponsored by the system and the professional unions: the 4C's, AFT, and AFSCME. Its prime goal is to promote community

college career opportunities for members of minority groups.

The Minority Fellowship Program pairs an experienced college professional with a "fellow" for a year-long mentoring experience.

The Minority Fellowship Program started in 1990.



Hassan Babatunji (standing), a 4C's Presidential Aide from Capital, addresses Minority Fellows at a networking session.

Tunxis Professors Publish Book

In October, two TXCC faculty members, **Carianne Mack** and **Steve Ersinghaus**, announced the release of their book "100 Days".

"100 Days" captures the pairing of a creative challenge undertaken by artist Carianne Mack and poet Steve Ersinghaus. The duo created a watercolor a day and a poem a day for one hundred days over the summer of 2008.

Their works were on display in the Tunxis art gallery for several weeks. The book can be viewed or purchased at www.blurb.com/bookstore.



One of the paintings and poems from the book as displayed in the art gallery.

New Address? New E-mail?

If you have a new address or other changes in contact information, please let the union office know so that you keep receiving the *Chronicles* and other updates. The colleges do not send us this information.





**Congress of Connecticut
Community Colleges, SEIU 1973**
907 Wethersfield Avenue
Hartford, CT 06114
(860) 296-5172 • www.the4cs.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Hartford, CT
Permit #2907

A Lesson from Literature

continued from page 3

services our students and fellow citizens require and desire. We are, therefore, perfectly placed to see inefficiencies and to posit alternate strategies for providing services.

My assignment for all of you, therefore, is to spend a few moments over the holiday season considering how we might improve efficiency in our system. In the spring semester, I'll ask for your suggestions.

In the interim, we'll work at the legislature, and with our State Employee Bargaining Agent

By February, Gov. Rell will propose a new budget, we'll have a clearer sense of the magnitude of the problem, and we'll see what spending cuts are proposed.

Coalition (SEBAC) partners to monitor the scenario. I'll keep you informed of developments via our website and via email updates.

By February, Governor Rell will propose a new biennial budget, we'll have a clearer sense of the magnitude of the budget problem, and we'll also see what the

executive branch proposes in the realm of spending cuts. Our Board of Trustees will then approach us concerning these.

At this point, we'll debate our options at Delegate Assembly meetings. In the end, we'll all participate in this discussion, and we'll all vote concerning any changes to our contract.

For now, remember this. There is no need to fear. Fear is the mind-killer.

I wish you all a healthy and restful holiday season.