

# Congress Chronicles

News from the Congress of Connecticut Community Colleges, SEIU Local 1973 • Winter 2012



## The Joy of Giving



Photo credits: TXCC Pillowcases by Francine Roy, HCC Toys by Janet Lanci, MCC Builders by Lucy Hurston

**The Giving of Joy:**  
4C's members generously gave their time and money.  
**Above:** Pillowcases sewn at TXCC for Conkerr Cancer. **Left:** Toys collected at HCC for needy children. **Right:** MCC group builds for Habitat for Humanity.  
These stories and more, pages 6-7



# Congress Chronicles



Congress of Connecticut  
Community Colleges

SEIU LOCAL 1973

907 Wethersfield Ave., 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 (NCC)  
*President*

Steve Krevisky (MXCC)  
*Secretary*

Lorraine Li (GWCC)  
*Vice President from Teaching Faculty*

Maureen Chalmers (NCCC)  
*Vice President from ACL's*

Robyn Brooks (TXCC)  
*Vice President from Part-Timers*

Cindy Meo (NVCC)  
*Professional Affairs Officer*

Bryan Bonina (TXCC)  
*Organizational Affairs Officer*

William Foster (NVCC)  
*Diversity Officer*

Tony Scott (NCC)  
*Comptroller*

vacant  
*Presidential Aide*

Bob Fernandez (QVCC)  
*Legislative Director*

Tom Jackson (NCC)  
*Grievance Officer*

## STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

*Finance:* Sue Montez (NCC)

*Organizing:* Liz Pisaretz (NCC)

*Equal Opportunities:* Jose Aponte (QVCC)

*Professional Affairs:* Rhonda Spaziani (TRCC)

*Part-Timers:* Bill Searle (ACC)

*Political Action:* Anson Smith (HCC)

*Legislative Affairs:* Janet Lanci (HCC)

## CONGRESS STAFF

*Organizing:* Dave Bosco, Bob Reutenauer

*Communications:* Mary Van Buren

*Administration:* Kit Collette

# 4C's Calendar Dates

## Delegate Assembly & Committee Meetings

**Saturdays: February 4, March 3, March 31, May 5**  
**4C's Office, Hartford**

*Committee Meetings: 10 AM to 11 AM*

*Delegate Assembly: 11 AM to 1:00 PM*

The 4C's Delegate Assembly will meet on the above dates from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Join us for discussions of current issues affecting our members, our profession, and our system. Meetings are open to all 4C's members.

Statewide Committees often choose to meet immediately prior to the Delegate Assembly from 10 to 11 AM. Please check with the Committee Chair (listed at left) to confirm which committees are meeting. Committee meetings are open to all 4C's members.

## 2012 Legislative Session

*Opening Day: Wednesday, February 8*

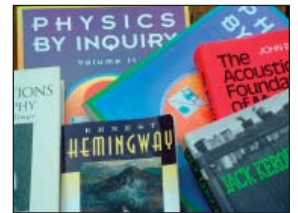
The 2012 session of the General Assembly runs from February 8 to May 9. Be ready to join us in advocating for the community colleges, for higher education, and for other issues important to our members and our students.

## 2012-2013 SEIU Scholarship Program

SEIU has a long and proud history of helping union members pursue their dreams through higher education. SEIU offers 53 scholarship opportunities to support studies in areas including the arts, social justice, labor studies and the healthcare field. Scholarships are open to members and their children.

For information on eligibility and how to apply, go to [www.seiu.org/members](http://www.seiu.org/members) and click on the "scholarships" link.

Applications must be postmarked or filed online by midnight **March 1, 2012**. Winners will be notified in late spring and will be announced on [www.seiu.org](http://www.seiu.org).



Like us on  
**Facebook**

### Join the conversation on Facebook!

Click the link on the 4C's home page: [www.the4cs.org](http://www.the4cs.org) or login to Facebook and search for the Congress of Connecticut Community Colleges.

## Out With The Old and In With The New

As I write this on December 30, 2011, our long-time Board of Trustees is about to fade into memory, not unlike the year 2011 itself. The new Board of Regents, in operation for some months now, and also now fully constituted, will become the sole governing body for our system in 2012.

At its December 20 meeting, the BOR went on record in a variety of important areas.

First, Strategic Priorities were articulated:

1. Helping to better prepare students to enter college,
2. Developing efficient and easier transfer between BOR institutions that is essentially seamless,
3. Spurring innovation, and
4. Engaging in private sector collaboration, particularly via experiential learning opportunities such as internships.

Next, the commitment to achieve cost savings was reiterated, and these savings are to be turned back to the classroom. Indeed, it was highlighted that the savings being generated by current system office reorganizations are to be used to hire full-time faculty.

Finally, it was noted that per statute, three distinct system missions will be maintained, but over the next ten months or so, these three systems' mission statements will be reviewed and revised. The new Student Advisory and Faculty Advisory Committees will be key players here, as will be the Council of Presidents and the BOR itself.

All of this speaks to a kind of on-going change and dynamism we were unaccustomed to seeing from our Board of Trustees. Befitting the New Year, our new BOR seemingly exudes the energy of youth.

Still, we will need to pay careful attention to their activities, particularly with regard to the upcoming revision of the Community College System mission statement. Our BOR understands that these words carry significant meaning, and the eventual adoption of a revised mission statement will have important policy implications for our system for years to come.

But for now, let's focus on what we do best...helping our students achieve their goals.

Have a wonderful spring semester.

## *From the* **President**





Delegates discuss the selection of 4C's representatives to the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents.

## Three Chosen for Faculty Advisory Committee

The 4C's Delegate Assembly met in December to select a representative and alternates to serve on the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Regents. Delegates had a tough time picking a representative amongst many qualified candidates.

Nick Lefakis, an Accounting Professor from Asnuntuck, is our representative. Alternates are Joe Fairchild, an Associate Professor and Co-chair of Manchester's Criminal Justice Department, and Barbara Richards, Professor of Sociology at Housatonic.

"The decisions made by the Board of Regents in the next few months may impact our System for years to come. It is critically important that they receive

advice and counsel from those who work in the community colleges. These three have the expertise to protect and promote our System," commented 4C's President Steve Cohen.

President Cohen thanked 4C's members, and particularly the Presidents of the College Senates, for being part of the selection process and for helping to recruit a field of strong, dedicated professionals who were willing to serve. The union will share regular reports from our representatives with all 4C's members.

Our coalition partners in the AFT selected Jim Sherrard of Three Rivers, with Mary Jean Thornton of Capital and Lisa Dresdner of Norwalk as alternates. Tom Failla of Norwalk is the AFSCME representative, with Norma McNerney of Norwalk and Ted Hale of Capital as alternates.

**“ It is critically important that the Board of Regents receive advice and counsel from those who work in the community colleges. ”**

## Members Share Concerns with Board of Regents President, Dr. Kennedy

By Judy Reilly-Roberts, TXCC Counselor

On November 15, Tunxis hosted representatives from the newly formed Board of Regents for Higher Education. Dr. Robert Kennedy, Interim President, Lew Robinson,

Chairman of the Board, and Dr. Louise Feroe, Acting Chancellor of the CSU System were in attendance.

Throughout the day, these individuals met with local legislators, community and Foundation members, college administrators, faculty, staff and students. Faculty and staff had the opportunity to express their concerns and ask questions about what to expect as the transition takes place.

Faculty and staff expressed their concerns about not losing sight of the community college mission, about what to expect from our "centralized office" in terms of IT services and Financial Aid supports, about what changes we might expect in the high ratio of part-time to full-time faculty and the limited numbers of support staff in light of ever increasing student numbers, about our "bare bones" operating budgets, about the need for easier transferability of courses from the

community colleges to the 4-year universities and about the economic challenges faced by our student population.

Several participants encouraged the Board of Regents to reexamine and broaden their definition of successful completion beyond graduation rates at the community colleges to include transfer numbers, goal attainment, employment or upgrades within employment settings for our students.

Dr. Kennedy assured the staff that the Governor was committed to reshaping higher education in Connecticut to create the best system in the country by reducing bureaucracy and creating cost savings and efficiencies at the system level, by working with the K-12 system to create seamless transitions, by exploring collaborative relationships amongst higher education institutions and by defining, articulating and preserving the missions of the higher education partners.



Dr. Robert Kennedy

Photo by Bryan Bonina

## Equal Opportunities Committee Examines Minority Hiring

Under the leadership of Chair Jose Aponte (QVCC), the EOC is reviewing enrollment numbers and comparing the number of minority students with the minority numbers for management, faculty, and staff. The Committee plans to present their findings to the Board of Regents.

The EOC is also looking into what it would take to reinstate the Minority Fellowship program, which was suspended during 2011 concession talks when layoffs loomed.

The EOC is looking for additional members to join their committee. If you are interested or want to know more, contact Jose at [japonte@qvcc.comnet.edu](mailto:japonte@qvcc.comnet.edu).



## Calling All Part-Timers

### Seeking Input on Issues Important to Adjuncts and EAs

Why do you teach/work part-time? If you teach, what do you most need to help you teach more effectively? Do you want to transition to full-time work? Do you want better health benefits, at lower cost? Do you need more job security? What is the most important improvement you want in the contract?

Get heard. The Part-Timers Committee is doing a survey of part-timers this spring to gather information to focus its efforts. "We need to gather baseline information so we can communicate part-timer needs to the full membership," said Robyn Brooks, union VP for Part-Timers. "This will be the first of regular surveys of our part-time members. We think it is the single best way to gather information from people who are spread literally all over the state, and who are not available for regular meetings," added Bill Searle, Chair of the Part-Timers Committee.

Don't miss your chance to provide input and help mold the direction of our union's efforts to improve the work environment of part-time faculty and staff. The survey is electronic, so look for it in your email this spring.

## Team 4C's Recognized for Walk Against Hunger

4C's Organizing Chair Liz Pisaretz (NCC) received a certificate of appreciation from Foodshare for raising more than \$1,000 in the Foodshare's 2011 Walk Against Hunger.



"2011 was the first time that the 4C's put together a walk team," Liz said. "It was a great experience. Everyone who participated thought it was a fun, well-organized, worthwhile event. We plan to make it an annual 4C's tradition."

This spring's walk will take place on Sunday, May 6, 2012. If you are interested in joining Team 4C's, please contact the union office at [info@the4cs.org](mailto:info@the4cs.org).

## Members Help Members with Promotion

This fall, Three Rivers Professor Terry Delaney and Northwestern Communications Specialist Maureen Chalmers teamed up to present the 4C's Promotion Webinar.

The online workshop covered the timeline and application process, including tips and numerous examples for how to compose an application.

Terry said participants were particularly pleased with the question and answer section, during which members got advice on issues ranging from how to deal with a break in service, to whether time as an adjunct counts, to how to get thank-you notes added to one's professional file.

The webinar was recorded and is available on the 4C's website. The website also includes numerous examples of successful promotion applications.

"We love being able to help members through the application process," Maureen said. "Good luck everyone!"



HARTFORD HISTORY ON MAIN

### Songs of the Season Enliven Downtown Hartford

A melodic group of Capital faculty, staff and students, joined



by others from "History on Main" institutions, serenaded diners in downtown Hartford. The "flash mob" carolers entertained the noontime lunch crowd with a full array of traditional holiday songs.

The carolers were part of a newly-formed group called "Hartford History on Main," which includes people from Main Street institutions who jointly seek to advance and celebrate the rich heritage of Hartford's central thoroughfare.

In addition to Capital, other History on Main participants include the Wadsworth Athenium, Butler-McCook House, the Mayor's Office, the Old State House, numerous churches, and many more.

## MCC Chapter Builds a Brighter Future

### Working With the MCC Habitat for Humanity Club

The 4C's chapter at MCC, in conjunction with the MCC Habitat for Humanity Club, spent a day working on the South Marshall Street building project in Hartford. The sixteen-house building project is one of the largest projects that Hartford Habitat has ever undertaken.

In the shadows of several historic landmarks and corporate headquarters, the South Marshall Street area is considered one of the most blighted areas of the city.

Lucy Hurston, Chair of the Sociology Department, stepped up to organize the volunteer day. She was joined by faculty members Jana Sime, Ed Hogan, Christa Sterling, Lisa Smith, and Wanda Hayes. Several family members and students also joined the crew.

Lucy said that Hartford Habitat is bringing various groups together to create real change in this neighborhood.



Above: The Habitat building site in Hartford. Right: Ed Hogan, Jana Sime, and James Sime, along with several students, are among the MCC volunteers.

photos by Lucy Hurston



### Donations Collected at Annual Chapter Holiday Party

## HCC Get Together Helps Needy Families

The price of admission to the annual 4C's holiday party at Housatonic was the donation of nonperishable food or a toy. ACL Officer Deloris Curtis has coordinated the festive event for more than 20 years.

According to Faculty Officer Janet Lanci, more than 20 deserving families received bags of food and toys this year. Heidi Szobota, Director of the HCC Early Childhood Lab School, distributed the donated items to families with children in her program.

Dozens of 4C's members and others from the college community enjoyed a delicious meal, music, and camaraderie, while helping a good cause.



Photo by Janet Lanci



### TXCC Sews Sweet Dreams

## Bringing Cheer to Dreary Hospital Rooms

The Tunxis community is bringing smiles to seriously ill children by making bright, colorful pillowcases.

On a Friday afternoon in December, volunteers gathered to cut and sew pillowcases to be donated to ConKerr Cancer. The organization was established in Connecticut by a mother whose son had cancer. She

made cases to cheer up his hospital room and continued making cases and donating them even after her son passed away.

Maggie Carlin and Patty McDermot organized the volunteer effort. They held their first sewing party last spring and completed 45 cases. This time they made more than 100 pillowcases in just five hours!

“We had a great time for a great cause. I am always amazed at the way the Tunxis community shows up when there is good work to be done. In the midst of one of the busiest times of the year, people find a way to give of themselves for a good cause,” Maggie said. “I’m very proud to work with such a wonderful, caring group of people.”

Employees from all departments of the college, plus family members, students, and retirees, thirty people in all, helped with the December activity.

In over four years, ConKerr Cancer has delivered more than 430,000 cheerful pillowcases to sick children in hospitals across the country. Learn more at [www.conkerr-cancer.org](http://www.conkerr-cancer.org).

## Asnuntuck Challenge Helps Children

### Chapter Funds Food Shelf and Domestic Abuse Shelter

Asnuntuck’s 4C’s chapter has a history of community involvement and support. This year they stepped up their efforts, issuing two of their famous “challenges” to ACC members.

“First, we were informed by a recent retiree who now volunteers for the Enfield Food Shelf that baby supplies were running dangerously low. She asked if we’d consider a donation,” said Nick Lefakis, Faculty Officer. “We issued a challenge that if members raised \$300 we would match it. They far exceeded the challenge.”

Next up, the Network Against Domestic Abuse. “Several Student Services staff members asked if we would consider issuing another challenge to pay for presents for kids for the holidays. How long do you think it took us to take up that cause,” asked Chris Hanecak, ACL Officer.

The chapter challenged Asnuntuck’s staff and faculty to raise at least \$250 and the chapter would match it. Once again, Asnuntuck’s 4C’s members far, far exceeded the target, triggering the local’s donation.



Above: Patty McDermott cuts fabric for a pillowcase. Left: Joyce Voisine and Maggie Carlin work on their pillowcases.

photos by Francine Roy



### Feeding the Community

Several chapters contributed food to hungry families in their communities.

Norwalk asked members to bring an item or two to each chapter meeting (some brought much more). Professor Chris Japely transported the food to the Lower Fairfield County Food Pantry.

For a second year, the Three Rivers chapter matched members’ donations to the St. Vincent de Paul Soup Kitchen in Norwich. The chapter donated \$456.

The Tunxis chapter donated \$100 to each of ten area charities for a total of \$1,000.



4C’s leaders Tim St. James, Bill Searle, and Mike Rood present a check from the ACC chapter to Deb Matusko for the Enfield Food Shelf.

Photo by Julie Cotnoir

## Can You Give Fifty Cents a Week to Protect our Interests? Small Change Adds Up to Big Results when Many Participate



**The PAC is funded by small voluntary contributions from many 4C's members. No dues money is used.**

Decisions that directly affect our work lives and our Community College system are being decided by legislators at the State Capitol.

Through the 4C's Political Action Committee, we have the ability to help elect legislators who share our views and our priorities and who will advocate for the Community Colleges at the Capitol.

Every penny contributed to the 4C's PAC is used to further the goals of the union and its members. The 4C's PAC donates to Legislative Leadership Committees and other political groups that further our interests as community college professionals.

The PAC is funded by small voluntary contributions from many 4C's members.

No dues money is used.

"Our PAC is desperately short on the funds needed to continue our political work, due to the large number of retirements in recent years," said PAC Chair Anson Smith (HCC).

PAC members will be talking to members on campus this semester. "We are asking members to sign-up. A small donation of \$1 per paycheck (fifty cents a week) can add up to big results!" Anson continued.

Members can also print a sign up form on the 4C's website: <http://www.the4cs.org/action-center/political-action>.

Want to get involved in our political work? Contact PAC Chair Anson Smith at [Anson.PAC@the4cs.org](mailto:Anson.PAC@the4cs.org).

## Legislative Initiative : Labor History in the Schools

*"The history of the American labor movement needs to be taught in every school in this land.... America is a living testimonial to what free men and women organized into free democratic trade unions can do to make a better life.... we ought to be proud of it."*

*- Hubert H. Humphrey,  
Vice President 1965-69*

Following the lead of historic Wisconsin legislation in 2009, mandating the teaching of labor history in the public schools (first in the nation), the 4C's is part of a union effort introducing the same legislation in Connecticut.

The purpose of the legislation is to get labor's story told. According to a poll by the independent Hart research, 54 percent of adults said they know just a little or don't know much about unions.

They said their chief sources of knowledge were personal experience (37 percent), people in unions (26 percent) and the media (25 percent). Significantly, learning in school was not even mentioned.

The implications of these numbers are clear. To a very large degree, Americans

are uninformed or misinformed about the labor movement and the role that workers have played, and do play, in our nation's economic, political and cultural life.

Academic standards and curriculum resources such as textbooks have historically ignored or been deficient in their treatment of workers and the labor movement. Significantly, many teachers want to cover this history in their classrooms, but there are few written curriculum standards by local and state educational institutions to encourage the teaching of this material.

This legislation is also under consideration in California, Illinois, and New York.

MXCC Professor Broke the Silence

# Operation Pedro Pan

Professor Victor Triay has taught History at Middlesex for twenty years, where one student described him as a “brilliant teacher and gifted story teller.”\*

While students appreciate his passion for history and his theatrical lecture style, they may not know that he is also an renowned expert in Cuban History, who has been interviewed for or appeared on documentaries, TV and radio shows, magazines, and conferences.

His first book, “Fleeing Castro: Operation Pedro Pan and the Cuban Children’s Program” chronicles the time from December 1960 to October 1962, when over 14,000 children were sent from Cuba to Miami by their parents. It was the largest recorded exodus of unaccompanied minors in the Western Hemisphere.

According to Victor, what started as a small trickle of children leaving Cuba turned into a giant wave as parents feared the loss of parental rights after Fidel Castro took over and this small island suddenly was at the center of the Cold War struggle.

“Those who were helping children to leave and to arrange care for them once they arrived in Miami could not have imagined how big the exodus would become.” Victor said that Operation Pedro Pan was defined after it happened. As it was going on nobody knew it would be so massive. The children certainly didn’t know they were part of an “operation.”

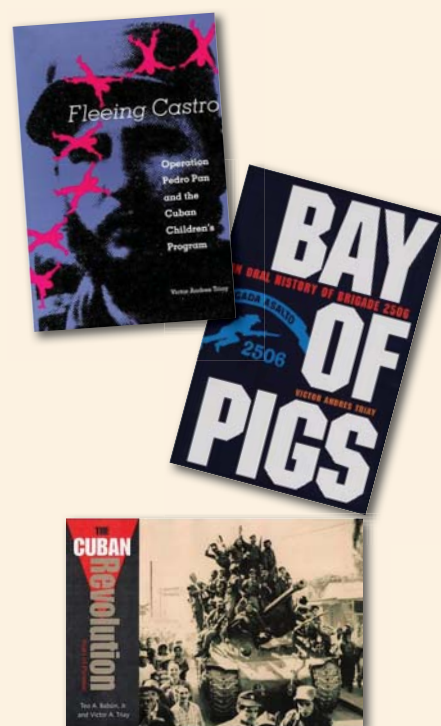
Victor is credited with cracking the silence surrounding Operation Pedro Pan. Operation Pedro Pan Inc., the charitable organization formed by the now adult Pedro Pan children, said of Victor’s book: “It is the first complete and comprehensive historical book about the exodus of the Cuban children.” It was published in 1999.

Cuban parents worried about the Communist take-over of their country, the Soviet Union’s influences, and what it would mean for their children. The parents, unable to obtain visas themselves, believed a short separation would be preferable to raising their children in a totalitarian state. “Everything those parents worried about happened; maybe even worse than they imagined,” Victor opined.

Commercial flights between the U.S. and Cuba ceased with the Missile crisis of October 1962 and Operation Pedro Pan ended. In 1965 the two governments allowed flights to resume for the purpose of family reunion. Parents of unaccompanied minors were accorded first priority. Close to 90% of those still in care were reunited with their parents by June of 1966.

Victor’s book brings to light a fascinating episode in U.S./Cuba history. Victor went on to write two additional books on Cuban history.

\* Quote from “ratemyprofessor.com”



MXCC History Professor Victor Andres Triay and his three books on Cuban history.

# Sixty-Seven 4C's Members Retire

Between June 1-October 1, 2011, sixty-seven 4C's members retired. Each one is a valued member who will be greatly missed by the 4C's, by their colleagues, by their students, by the System.

We invite all retirees to stay connected to the union and their colleagues by joining the 4C's retirees Chapter (contact Bill Searle at [sacobills@aol.com](mailto:sacobills@aol.com))

Best wishes to all the retirees!

## Asnuntuck

Vincent J. Motto, Professor  
Polly C. Parker, Associate Professor

## Capital

Evelyn Farbman, Professor  
Joan R. Marchessault, Professor  
John C. Rakoczy, Assistant Professor



The 4C's Delegate Assembly honored eight recently-retired union activists (right): Ana Jusino (NCC), Marianne Generali (NVCC), Lisa Loveday (QVCC), Carolyn Miranda (NCC), Linda Day (NWCC), Jesse Davis (GWCC), Christina Gotowka (TXCC), and Tina McHugh (GWCC). Above Top: Ana Jusino (NCC) with 4C's President Steve Cohen. Above: Lisa Loveday (QVCC) receives a certificate from President Cohen.

Sharonlee E. Rakoczy, Academic Assistant

## Gateway

Ann Cohen, Continuing Ed Coordinator  
Daniel Courcey, Professor  
Lawrence A. Laukhuf, Media Specialist  
Tina A. McHugh, Director of Counseling  
Toni S. Page, Learning Disabilities Specialist  
John P. Scippa, Professor

## Housatonic

Madeleine Burbank, Instructor  
Maureen L. Dowdle, Dir. of Institutional Adv  
Jonathan D. Shea, Instructor

## Manchester

Fatma W. Antar, Professor  
Elise K. Carlton, Academic Advisor  
Janet L. Farrell, Circulation Technical Asst  
Allan F. Freiheit Jr, Associate Professor  
Sandra A. Jenkins, Professor  
Joan B. Kantor, Educational Assistant  
Nancy R. Lentocha, Marketing Assistant  
Martha E. Nieman, Professor  
Andrew Paterna, Professor  
Joan O. Paterna, Professor  
Heather D. Ricker Gilbert, Professor  
Sharon Serow, Professor  
Patricia A. Trapp, Part-time Lecturer

## Middlesex

Joan A. Donati, Associate Professor  
Patricia J. Sawyer, Professor  
Alma Zyko, Library Associate

## Naugatuck Valley

Sandra E. Crowell, Associate Professor  
James A. Crowley Jr, Professor  
Elaine J. Dinto, Professor  
Marianne Generali, Dir. Child Dev. Center  
Todd B. Jones, Professor

Cynthia A. Nackid, Professor  
Joanne A. Ottman, Academic Division Dir.  
Carol A. Pappano, Part-time Lecturer  
Georgeanne Romano, Professor  
Leonora Spino, Educational Assistant

## Northwestern CT

Janet K. Cosgrove, Professor  
Linda Day, Assistant Professor  
Barry D'onofrio, Associate Professor  
Edith P. Heath, Professor  
Karen A. Tuozzolo, Interpreter/Tutor

## Norwalk

Linda Ballard, Assistant Professor  
Kimberlee Csapo-Ebert, Enrollment Mgmt  
Ana M. Jusino, Professor  
Susanne Norton, Professor  
Marina Rivera, Assoc. Director Financial Aid  
Melissa E. Slattery, Public Relations Assoc.  
Susan M. Thompson, Educational Assistant

## Quinebaug Valley

Delia S. Berlin, Dir. Willimantic Center  
Helen Downs, Academic Support Center  
John A. Hall, Computer Science  
Susan E. Harrod, Dir. of Student Activities  
Jan A. Kosztala, Part-time Lecturer  
Elizabeth D. Loveday, Dir. of Career Services

## Three Rivers

Joyce Eileen Back, Lecturer  
Janice M. Dewolf, Library Associate  
William Kirkpatrick, Professor  
Patricia A. Petrone, Educational Asst  
Karen F. Westerberg, Dir. of Assessment

## Tunxis

Diane D. Ellis, Professor  
Christina J. Gotowka, Professor  
Carolyn D. Miranda, Dir. Child Dev Center





Above: Robert Rodriguez from the Social Security Administration presents information about retirement benefits, options, planning, and considerations to a Retirees Meeting in September.

Left: In December, members of the Retirees Chapter enjoyed a fabulous holiday meal at the Costa del Sol restaurant in Hartford. Contact Bill Searle at [sacobills@aol.com](mailto:sacobills@aol.com) to learn more.

## Staying Involved After Retiring

4C's Retirees Chapter Keeps Members Connected

The 4C's Retirees Chapter is a great way to stay involved and connected both to the union and to colleagues after retiring. Monthly meetings often feature a guest speaker, along with information on issues, as well as time to socialize with former colleagues.

This fall, the chapter hosted a number of interesting speakers. In September, Robert Rodriguez from the Social Security Administration gave an informative presentation on the history of Social Security, the choices and options that need to be considered, assistance available to help with those decisions, and a discussion of some of the changes under consideration in Washington.

Speakers from the Office of the Healthcare Advocate, Laura Morris and Vicki Veltri, followed in October. The duo gave a lively talk on the Healthcare Advocate's services: providing assistance with all types of insurance, helping with services, purchasing, denials, and more.

In November, Marsha McCarthy from Transamerica Insurance (a preferred provider for long-term care insurance) and Aldo Pantano from the Office of Planning and Management, offered an extensive explanation of the Connecticut Partnership for Long Term Care and why this type of insurance is so important.

All 4C's retirees are encouraged to join the chapter, which is officially Chapter 418 of CSEA/SEIU retirees unit, an organization with thousands of members, which provides many benefits. CSEA/SEIU retirees unit represents retirees at the state level, as well as nationally.

Visit the "Retirees" section of the 4C's website, [www.the4cs.org/retirees](http://www.the4cs.org/retirees), for much more information.

### Top Reasons to Become A Member?

- **Lobbying clout:** we have a strong voice on issues facing retirees.
- **Social Issues:** speaking for those who need our help to be heard.
- **Representation:** Want to continue working for the community colleges? We represent your interests to the Board of Regents.
- **Friendship:** Join and spend time with bright, involved and interested people.

#### Application for Membership and Pension Deduction Authorization



I hereby authorize the State of Connecticut to deduct from each pension check the amount of four dollars (\$4.00), or such amounts as may from time to time be voted by CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 as Association (and Council/Chapter) dues. The amount so deducted shall be forwarded to the office of CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 for my credit.

I have been informed that I may cancel this authorization upon thirty (30) days' written notice.

Name (please print)		Chapter Number	
Home Address	City	State	Zip Code
Home Phone	E-mail Address		
State Employee Number	Signature	Date Joined	Sponsor
Optional Information	Home Phone	Senate District #	House District # Congressional District #

5-2008



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

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

## Holiday Gatherings Celebrate New and Old Friendships

Nearly sixty Tunxis members came together at a local restaurant to celebrate the season and the end of a successful semester. (top photo)

The chapter gave each member a \$5 gift card to the Tunxis cafeteria. The gesture not only pleased members, but also helped out the cafeteria, which suffered a major loss due to a power outage following snowstorm Alfred.

Middlesex also celebrated at a local restaurant. (bottom photo). The party was attended by chapter members and also by two state representatives and the new Democratic Mayor Dan Drew of Middletown.



photo by Colleen Richard



photo by Trent Wright