

Unemployment Benefits Increased Louise Lodato

The end of the school year is fast approaching with many part-time faculty finding themselves out of work during the summer. Remember that when you do not receive an assignment you are unemployed (laid off) until you start a new assignment, and you might be eligible for unemployment insurance benefits, which have just been increased to as much as \$475 per week. This is not welfare or a handout of any kind but an insurance program that the District has been contributing to in your name, all year.

It is easy to apply for and can be done over the phone (1-800-300-5616). Hint: call at 8:00 a.m. and use the redial. It should only take a few minute to get through.

WVC Part-time Center Marge Thronson, AF Rep, WVC

There was a meeting with President Phil Hartley, who had originally assisted us in getting the WVC Part-Time-Faculty Center, concerning problems associated with the Center associated with the College's large construction plan, with the PT Center on the list for relocation.

Dr. Hartley understands that the Center should be at the front of the campus, close to parking, and to be strictly for associate faculty use, not shared with other groups. The Center should be large enough for several tables for work space and for conferences; equipped with at least one computer, a microwave and other essential supplies.

The AAS building is going to be completely remodeled, and is probably where the new PT Center will be located. I will stay in touch with Dr. Hartley and these plans to make sure that we stay "on the list." Note: the special election this week may stall building plans.

WVC AF please e-mail me at marget76@yahoo.com as to whether you would use the Center or not. In the meantime, it is easiest to use the present PT Center during EOPS hours – no key is needed.

ACE COUNCIL starting fall 2009

President	Roberta Berlani	Biology WVC	741-2463
Secretary/ Assoc-Faculty Rep-at-Large	Donna Frankel	PE WV/MC	
Full-time-faculty Rep/Grievance/FSA	Rod Pavao	Fire Technology MC	855-5391
Full-time-faculty Representative	Jim VanTassel	Business MC	855-5344
Full-time-faculty Representative	Pat LaVallo	Mathematics MC	855-5399
Full-time-faculty Representative	Rick Rivas	Graphic Arts MC	855-5267
Full-time-faculty Representative	TBD	WVC	
Full-time-faculty Representative	Eric Pape	English WVC	741-4605
Full-time-faculty Representative	Leslie Saito	English WVC	741-4010
MC Assoc-Faculty Representative	Rob Leadbeater	Business/Management MC	
WVC Assoc-Faculty Representative	Marge Thronson	ESL/Business WVC	741-2448
Chief Negotiator, Budget Analyst	Randy Castello	Accounting WVC	741-2427
Negotiator	Ellen McAlister	Learning Services MC	855-5087
Associate-Faculty Negotiator	Louise Lodato	Work Experience MC	
WVC Grievance/FSA Specialist	Richard Greco	Business WVC	
Webmaster	Beatrice Antonescu	Computer Applications MC	

ACE Update Newsletter

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ACE PRESIDENT'S Message:

HAIL AND FAREWELL

This is my last newsletter article, as I am retiring. I want to acknowledge the diligent and hard work of the ACE Executive Council. I trust I leave them in a better position than when I started. They have been informed of the issues and have engaged them.

Special THANKS goes to the Negotiating Team, Randy Castello (Chief negotiator), Ellen McAlister (Full-time-faculty negotiator), Louise Lodato (Associate Faculty negotiator) and Susanna Pancella (notetaker).

I know that there will be many challenges in the coming years but I feel certain that the Council and negotiators will be successful in representing the interests and desires of the faculty.

I must also extend a special thanks to my executive Secretary, Susanna Pancella, who has kept me in place, on time (most of the time) and been a great confidante. THANKS, Susanna.

To the incoming President, Dr. Roberta Berlani, my best wishes, warm thoughts and you have my home phone number. I will pick up. :>))

Wishing the entire faculty of the District the best. I know that you will continue to surpass the District expectations and will provide an outstanding educational experience to our students.

Ed Kleppinger

President, ACE

ACE GOING GREEN?

In an attempt to go "green" this will be the last printed official ACE Update.

Starting in fall 2009 all ACE information will be sent via email message and be placed at the ACE website: www.wvm.edu/ace/. Please read your email messages and check the ACE website frequently. Printed ACE material will be distributed on an as needed basis and for elections.

One question ACE has always been concerned with – how do we reach the Associate faculty? Every ACE member has the right to a District email address. We urge every Associate faculty member to contact their Department Chair to request a District email address.

**CHECK the ACE Web Site at <http://www.wvm.edu/ace/>
for the latest information for all faculty.**

These are difficult times for our District, and for colleges and faculties everywhere. ACE represents a broad variety of professionals at many points along their career paths and the main job of the ACE president, council, and negotiators is to establish and execute a contract that best represents and protects our faculty. My highest priority as incoming ACE president is to support the ACE membership to be the best instructors, counselors, and librarians they can.

Communication is a key element of the work of the ACE president. I especially want communication to be a two-way street. I look forward to receiving feedback, comments, and direction from faculty. Open lines of communication are important to identify, to head off potential problems, and to bring forth the ideas that will improve our union.

Each member should be able to find me easily. I will maintain office time scheduled at both colleges: at West Valley in my office in the science portable building V7 (741-2563) on Tuesday and Thursday mornings (before and after my 9:20a.m. class) and at Mission in the ACE office, S3-204A (855-5339) on Monday and Wednesday mornings. Afternoons and Fridays will vary, depending on each week's meeting schedule. I may always be reached by email (roberta_berlani@wvm.edu).

I'm looking forward to the task ahead. I hope we all have a rewarding year of professional accomplishments and personal triumphs.

Roberta Berlani
ACE Council President-elect

NEGOTIATIONS UPDATE: We are working on organizing the 2005-2008 Contract and getting it printed and distributed to all faculty. When complete an electronic copy will also be available at the ACE web site. Negotiations for the 2008-2011 Contract will be starting soon. If you have any questions or ideas for the contract please send them to any member of the ACE Council or Negotiating team.

Social Security Fairness

Your future benefits depend on repealing the *Windfall Elimination Provision WEP* & the *Government Pension Offset (GPO)*! Many of us who work in both the public and private sector lose out on our full Social Security benefits because of these two laws.

Your Future Social Security Benefits May Be Affected by Your STRS College Retirement Plan! If a teacher worked in the private sector and paid into Social Security and then entered the teaching/counseling workforce in California, that teacher could lose more than half their earned Social Security retirement benefits. This is called the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and it affects employees who have paid into social security but then work (even a little while) within CalSTRS. For more information on WEP: <http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/10045.pdf>

Also, if the teacher's spouse was a Social Security earner and preceded the teacher in death, the teacher would lose most of the benefits that he/she would be getting from Social Security as a result of the spouses contribution. This provision is called the Government Pension Offset (GPO). More information about it can be found at: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10007.html>

ACT NOW! Currently there are two bills in Congress that correct these unfair statutes - HR235, the Berman/McKeon Bill and S484, by Senator Diane Feinstein.

Make a phone call, send a FAX, or write a letter in support of these bills.

Please contact:

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi

District Office: 450 Golden Gate Ave. 14th Flr., San Francisco, CA 94102; (415) 556-4862

Washington DC Office: 235 Cannon HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515; (202) 225-4965

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid

528 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510

Phone: (202) 224-3542 FAX: (202) 224-7327

A sample letter can be found at this website: <http://www.marieardito.com/WEPGPO.html>

IMPORTANT DATES FOR FACULTY:

August 1 (Article 13.7): By this date contact HR in writing to request salary paid out in 12-months

For Fall 2009:

September 18: (by third Friday in semester prior) Article 38

- An application for banked load leave must be submitted to your Department Chair and the appropriate Vice President if you are going to use banked load in spring 2009.

October 2: (by fifth Friday in semester prior) Article 15

- Submit a written request to your college President if you are going to start your pre-retirement banked load leave beginning spring 2008.

October 9: (by second Friday in October) Article 47

- Submit written professional growth and development proposal to the PGD Committee chair.

November 20: (by third Friday in November) Article 102

- Associate faculty apply for insurance reimbursement

December 4: (by first Friday in December) Article 40

- All applications for a sabbatical leave for 2008-09 must be in the HR office

GRIEVANCES: In general, a grievance has a time limit. A faculty member has only twenty (20) days from the date they know or reasonably should have known of an alleged grievance to initiate the grievance. (See Article 48)

Teacher discount program launched in Silicon Valley:

Joint Venture: Silicon Valley Network and the San Jose Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce have launched "Hats Off To Teachers," a regional program offering merchant discounts and savings expressly for teachers.

Under the program, teachers presenting valid identification to any of some 150 participating businesses may take advantage of savings on everything from office supplies, books, electronics and gifts to health and beauty products, food and dining, professional services, toys, pet care and automotive needs. For more information see the www.hatsofftoteachers.org Web site.