

THE FACULTY VOICE

Hunter College Faculty Newsletter

Vol. IV

DECEMBER 1991

Number 4



Best Wishes

To Our Colleagues

And Friends

For The Holiday Season

And The New Year

*From The Executive Committee
Of The Faculty Delegate Assembly:*

Margaret Magnus, President

Paul Kurzman, Vice President

Marnia Lazreg, Secretary

Milagros Garcia, Treasurer

Christina Taharally, Day Session Faculty Rep.

Jean-Jacques Strayer, Evening Session Faculty Rep.

Cecile Insdorf, Part-time Faculty Rep.



WINTER COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Vice President Sylvia Fishman wishes to remind the faculty that Commencement Exercises are scheduled for Thursday, January 30, 1992 at 3:00 p.m. in the Hunter College Assembly Hall. Faculty will assemble in 217W at 2:15 p.m.

All full-time members of the teaching, counseling, advising, and library staff are expected to attend. Please make every effort to be there for your students at this most important event in their lives.

FACULTY DELEGATE ASSEMBLY FOCUS

At the November 20 meeting of The Faculty Delegate Assembly, Provost Laura Struminger announced that Divisions and Departments are in the process of recruiting candidates for twenty eight(28) full-time tenure track faculty positions. This was welcome news for faculty, who are experiencing real and anticipatory anxiety due to the ominous state of the CUNY budget.

Faculty who wish to receive an update on the CUNY budgetary situation and to have an opportunity to discuss how the projected cuts will affect Hunter College are encouraged to attend the meeting of The General Faculty, which will be held on Wednesday, December 18, 1:15 - 3:00 p.m. in Room 217W. Other topics for discussion at the December meeting are: strengthening faculty communication; and faculty issues and concerns across the disciplines, including ongoing discussion of the multiple position declaration. The General Faculty meetings, which are scheduled twice each semester, are open to all Hunter College faculty.

SPRING MEETING SCHEDULE

For the Spring semester, we will continue meeting on the third Wednesday of each month from 1:15 - 3:00 p.m. Hence, the schedule will be as follows:

Wednesday, February 19-General Faculty

Wednesday, March 18-Faculty Delegate Assembly

Wednesday, April 15-Faculty Delegate Assembly

Wednesday, May 20-General Faculty

Agenda items for each of these meetings may be forwarded to the Executive Committee of the Faculty which will meet on the first Wednesday of each month from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. in the FDA Solarium, Room 1413E.

ONE OF OUR FACULTY COLLEAGUES WRITES "HOME" FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The following letter was handwritten on November 8, by Professor Gloria Essoka, a child healthcare specialist, who is on fellowship leave and working as a Rockefeller scholar in Central Africa.

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

Greetings from Malawi! At this writing, I have been here for nearly ten weeks. The adjustments, experiences and educational system have truly catapulted me into a new world. I am very comfortably settled in a two-story attached townhouse-type dwelling (a "flat") . . . Fortunately, a supermarket and only mall in Lilongwe is within 20 minutes walking distance of my house.

Lilongwe is one of three cities in Malawi and the capital of the country. Ninety percent of the population lives in rural areas in villages. Most are subsistence farmers and are very poor. Malawi is one of the poorest countries in the world with the fourth highest rate of infant mortality (157/1000), a high rate of mortality among children, a low literacy rate (<35%), and life expectancy of 47 years. Only 50% of all children are fortunate enough to reach and complete high school, and even fewer of those go on to the University level.

Living where and as I do, it is very easy to dismiss the state of the population at large. However the sight of people without shoes, proper clothing and the hospital population keep reality in some perspective. The College of Nursing, in structure and function, is very different. Classes are taught in five week "blocks," and students study 8 subjects during that period. Most attend class from 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., with a half hour tea break and one hour for lunch. Because of a book shortage, most students learn by rote and believe they must commit all facts and details to memory. Generally, they are very shy and either do not respond in class or speak in a whisper. Typically, they run the gamut from the very bright to borderline. Besides didactic and clinical teaching, I am using my marvelous personality and IPR to generate some level of assertiveness in this population. I am beginning to observe some change!

Clinically, the students are safe, motivated, and supportive of one another. At present, I am providing clinical instruction in the Pediatric units. There are 3 wards, each with a capacity for 96 children. Because no one is turned away from this hospital (it is the only major hospital in Lilongwe) sometimes the population triples! At that time, there will be 2 - 3 children per bed, crib, or bassinet with little regard for their diagnoses. In addition, there will be one caregiver with each child who is required to be present to care for the child at all times. Major health problems are malnutrition, malaria, meningitis, measles (#1 cause of death in children 0 - 4), tuberculosis, and anemia. There are at least 3 - 5 deaths daily on the units, because of the multiplicity of problems and vulnerability to bacteria and viruses. . . . It is very interesting and tragic to observe the impact of poverty, ignorance, and illness on family status. My knowledge of tropical diseases, life, and coping have increased a thousand-fold through study and observation. Although I'm working hard, I am certainly not

bored! The richness and uniqueness of the experience are almost too much to absorb at times.

I have acquired a circle of friends--mainly expatriates, who are working here, other Rockefeller faculty, and a few Malawians. There is very little of a cultural nature to do (this is not the Big Apple!), so I have joined a women's church group, taken Chichewa lessons twice a week (the national language along with English), read, visit with friends (before 6:00 p.m.) at which time it becomes pitch dark. . . . There are no telephone numbers available in this area in which I live, and consequently I am phoneless. I will see my family (Modi, Ndome, and Jonathan) from 15 December to 4 January in Cameroon. . . .

I think of you and look forward to seeing you on my leave in-1992.

Love,

Gloria (Essoka)

University of Malawi, Kamuzu College of Nursing

Private Bag 1, Lilongwe, Malawi, Central Africa

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PAYCHECK DISTRIBUTION--The Payroll Office has informed us that our next paychecks will be ready for distribution beginning at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 26. The office also reminds us that, due to holiday mail, delays may be experienced by faculty who have their checks mailed.

MICRO-COMPUTER USERS--Faculty may now receive technical support by telephone from Hunter's Office Systems Department by calling a newly established Micro-Computer Information Line. Just dial 772-INFO for assistance with selected software packages.

COMPUTER ACQUISITION GUIDELINES--As of December 2, 1991, "All requisitions for hardware and/or software should be sent to Assistant Vice President Sokol except for those requisitions that are for items to be purchased by the Research Foundation." This quote was taken from "Computer Acquisition Guidelines," issued by the Office of the Provost on November 25. If you did not receive a copy of the guidelines, please call the Provost's Office.

FEELING HOLIDAY-RELATED STRESS--On Thursday, December 19, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m, Patricia McDonald, Employee Assistance Program, will offer a lunchtime demonstration of stress-reducing techniques. EAP is eager to provide confidential advice and assistance, with a variety of problems and concerns, to all Hunter College personnel. Call 772-4051.

NURSING HONOR SOCIETY CITED FOR EXCELLENCE--The Alpha Phi Chapter of Sigma Theta won an "Outstanding Chapter Award" at the biennium meeting of Sigma Theta Tau International. The current President of the Alpha Phi Chapter is Sara Aronson from the nursing faculty. Congratulations to Sara and her Executive Committee on this distinction.

WBAI-FM TALK SHOW HOST--Marjorie Moore, Program Director of Hunter's Community Environmental Health Center, is the new host of the radio show "Talk Back." The program is aired on WBAI-FM every Wednesday from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Faculty who would like to be considered as guests on the show should contact Marjorie at the School of Health Sciences. We wish Marjorie well in this important endeavor.