

THE FACULTY VOICE

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COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

The following excerpts were adapted from an article by Donna Costello-Nickitas, Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, which appeared in Summer 1992 issue of Revolution: The Journal of Nurse Empowerment.

"If we expect to have our voices heard at the policy table and influence the decision-making process, we must become politically astute and learn how to communicate effectively with our elected representatives. Communicating with your elected officials is not only a vital part of citizen participation in democracy, it is a right!

Our system of democratic government is dependent upon the anticipated wisdom and collective action of elected officials. They, in turn, represent us best when they are exposed to and held accountable by an informed and active public.

Surprisingly, very few citizens ever write their elected officials. Perhaps as high as 90 percent of Americans live and die without ever taking pen in hand to express their thoughts, ideas, opinions, or grievances. Failure to communicate with the officials who represents you in Congress, State Legislature or at the University can mean paying a high price for the acts of government. Your silence can lead to policies which can negatively affect the allocation of resources--resources which can go to others, such as special interest groups or lobbyists, who have recognized the value of participation in the legislative process."

Professor Nikitas continues in her article to map out strategies for establishing mechanisms for effectively communicating with elected officials.

I, Margaret Magnus, President of the General Faculty and the Faculty Delegate Assembly, and your elected representative, would like to ask each faculty member to pause for a moment to reflect on the meaning of the above excerpts, especially as they pertain to communicating with your elected faculty representatives here at Hunter. For the first time in recent memory, the Hunter College Faculty Organization has in place a fully functioning, active, dynamic, and diverse group of elected faculty representatives. They are: Paul Kurzman, School of Social Work, Vice President; Maria Rodriguez, Academic Skills, Secretary; Marnia Lazreg, Sociology, Treasurer; Christina Taharally, Curriculum and Teaching; Jean-Jacques Strayer, Library, Evening Session Faculty Representative; and Cecile Insdorf, Romance Languages, Part-time Faculty Representative. As your Executive Committee, we are eager to be pro-active and responsive to our faculty constituencies. However, there are times when we are keenly aware of the absence of a "faculty voice" emanating from those whom we represent. We urge you to take pen or telephone in hand to express your thoughts, ideas,

opinions, and concerns. For example, tell how we can improve The Faculty Voice and secure additional resources to make it more valuable as a tool for faculty communication. Send us agenda items for our faculty meetings. Attend faculty meetings on the third Wednesday of each month, and let your voice be heard. Make it a point to communicate with your elected faculty representatives regularly!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

SPREADING THE WORD

Contributed by Dorothy James, Professor and Chairperson, Department of German.

"The Hunter College German Department is functioning this year (1992/93) as a model program in a project organized by the American Council on Education and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The project, "Spreading the Word: Improving Foreign Language Instruction in Colleges and Universities," involves ten mentor institutions, including Brown University, the University of Rhode Island, St. Olafs College, Minnesota, and others who, like Hunter College have developed foreign language programs, and are highly regarded across the country. Thirty planning institutions were selected from a field of ninety applicants, and three in particular have been assigned to examine and learn from the Hunter German program. They are Juniata College in Pennsylvania, Samford University in Alabama, and St. John's and St. Benedict's College in Minnesota. Teams of faculty and administrators from these campuses are visiting Hunter College throughout the year. The two primary Hunter mentors, Professors Dorothy James and Annette Kym, are making visits to other campuses as consultants and evaluators.

The entire German Department is actively involved. Our visitors have access to all classes and departmental activities, such as oral proficiency interviewing. In the past nine years, the German Department has built up a uniquely sequenced program, which combines language, literature, and culture teaching from elementary courses to the end of the literature major. Enrollment in the upper level classes has doubled and many new courses have been added to the program. Members of the Department, Professors Ernst Hoffmann and Eckhard Kuhn-Osius, as well as the named mentors in the NEH project, have in recent years written articles and given many papers and workshops about the program of study and particular program components.

The ACE Project is the latest avenue for "spreading the word" that Hunter College is at the forefront of research and innovation in foreign language pedagogy."

NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENTS

TO BE HONORED--President Paul LeClerc will be honored, on the occasion of the publication of two new books, at a reception to be held at the Consulate General of France on Tuesday, November 17. We congratulate our President on the publication of two scholarly volumes entitled, Voltaire's Rome sauvée, a critical edition, and Lettres d'André Morellet I (1759-1785).

ALSO HONORED--Professors Elizabeth Barrett and Peter Ungvarski will be honored, on the occasion of their induction as Fellows of The American Academy of Nursing, at a reception to be held at Hunter College on Monday, November 23. The General Faculty of Hunter College is proud to recognize the achievements of its member.

REACCREDITED--The Board of Review of The National League for Nursing has reaccredited The Hunter College-Bellevue School of Nursing for the maximum time period of eight years. The Board especially noted the quality of the self-study report, prepared by the Faculty and Administration of the School of Nursing, and indicated that the report will be used as a model by The National League for Nursing.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES

NOMINATIONS FOR 1993 PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS

FOR EXCELLENCE--The Office of the Provost has established a February 15, 1993 deadline for the submission of applications and/or nominations, with supporting documents, to The Committee on Presidential Awards. Each year, nominations for Presidential Awards for Excellence are sought in three different categories: Teaching; Service to the College and the Wider Community; and Scholarship and/or Creative Activity. The Committee considers candidates who apply themselves or are nominated by their department/school heads or colleagues. A copy of nomination guidelines may be secured by calling the Provost's Office at EXT 4150.

CUNY-CARIBBEAN EXCHANGE PROGRAM--Hunter College Faculty and Students are reminded of the November 23 deadline on the submission of grant proposals to the CUNY-Caribbean Exchange Program to support projects in the following categories:

- Faculty and student group research
 - Dissertation research
 - Independent faculty research
 - Faculty exchanges
 - Attendance at international conferences
 - Lectures, seminars, and special events
- Call Iraida Lopez, EXT 4198 for more information.

NEW FULL-TIME FACULTY- Newly appointed full-time faculty may still apply for PSC-CUNY research awards until Dec. 1. Contact Mrs. Priscilla Price, EXT 4020.

THE FACULTY VOICE is published by the Office of The General Faculty and The Faculty Delegate Assembly, Room 1414E. It allows members of the Hunter College Faculty to share news and views on a regular basis. So that we may include as many items of information as possible, please keep items concise and timely. Thank you for your continued interest.

COMING AND ON-GOING EVENTS

CHOLESTEROL SCREENINGS--The Employee Assistance Program is sponsoring cholesterol screenings, with instant results, on Wednesday, November 4, 10:00 - 12:00N, in the Faculty Lounge, 8W. There is a \$7.00 fee for this test. Walk-in registrants accepted.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF CONGRESS MEETING--Hunter PSC Chapter Chair, Sara Aronson, will conduct a member meeting on Wednesday, November 4, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. in Room 217 W. PSC/CUNY First Vice President, Howard Jones, is a scheduled speaker.

PHAEDRA--The classic French drama, directed by Mike Ruthenberg, will be presented by the Hunter College Department of Theatre and Film in the Little Theatre beginning November 9, at 8:00 p.m. Call 772-4448 for reservations and for the full schedule of performances.

LUNCHTIME SEMINARS--The Employee Assistance Program is offering the following two important seminars during the noon hour in Room 1337W:

Thursday, Nov. 12--How to Talk to Your Children about Drugs and Alcohol

Thursday, Nov. 19--Understanding Eating Disorders

LIBRARY TOURS AND CDROM WORKSHOPS--Professor Jean-Jacques Strayer, Director of Library Instruction Program, encourages faculty to join other library users to take advantage of the regularly scheduled guided tours and workshops. Fall semester tours, which begin on the 3rd Floor of Wexler Library, are as follows:

Mondays--5:10 - 6:00 p.m.

Wednesdays--2:10 - 3:00 p.m.

Thursdays--6:30 - 7:20 p.m.

Workshop sessions, with sign-up sheets available at 4th Floor Reference Desk, are offered on:

Mon. & Wed.--11:10 - 12:00 Noon

Tuesdays--6:10 - 7:00 p.m.

Thursdays--3:10 - 4:00 p.m.

Call EXT 4137 for more information.

WRITING CENTER--The Hunter College Writing Center, Room 420, Thomas Hunter Hall, continues to offer tutoring in writing, free of charge, to all matriculated students of the college.

The tutoring schedule is as follows:

Mon. thru Thurs.--9:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Frid. and Sat.--9:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Call EXT 4212 for more information.

FINAL EXAM REMINDERS

The final exam period for Fall 1992 is scheduled for Wed. Dec. 16, through Wed. Dec. 23. However, it should be noted that the last class for Tuesday evening classes scheduled after 4:00 p.m. will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 16. Those Tuesday classes meeting before 4:00 p.m. will have their last class on Tuesday, December 15. Any deviations from the final exam schedule, as published by the Registrar's Office, must be approved by that office.