
AFA NEWSLETTER

OCC Adjunct Faculty Association IEA/NEA

AFA Website: www.oaktonafa.org

IEA Adjunct News & Jobs www.chicgoadjunct.com

Office Room # 2470 - Ext. 2193 Thurs 2:30 – 5:30 p.m. Olivia Cronk, VP/OfficeManager

DATE: March 11, 2009

Chester Kulis, Editor (Div. 4)

**AFA DINNER ON SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH
AT 4:30 P.M. AT RIGGIO'S**

RESTAURANT. It is located at 7530 W.

Oakton (just west of Milwaukee Avenue) in Niles. AFA members can attend for free. Guests can attend for \$20. Fair Share folks who join AFA for \$10 extra this semester can go to the dinner for free and get an AFA tote bag. We were disappointed with the acoustics at our previous restaurant. Invitations will be sent out shortly. RSVP by April 22 to Cheryl Brown at CBrown4444@aol.com.

OTHER AFA NEWS. Due to an accounting error by the IEA office in Springfield, dues for the current Spring semester will be \$94 for AFA members and \$84 for Fair Share contributors - \$5 less for each category, compared to the Fall 08 semester.

Your AFA contract negotiating team met with the administration on February 23 and then on March 2. Five meetings have been scheduled so far. In the initial meetings, each side will present its priorities and then react to the other side's agenda. Stay tuned.

GLUT OF TEACHERS. While there is a shortage of teachers in special education, math, science and foreign languages, most aspiring teachers are having trouble finding a job. Even the Chicago Public Schools has seen a doubling of applicants in the last five years. Illinois looks for a 2:1 ratio of certified teachers for every opening.

In 2008 only bilingual education fell below that ratio. For social science there were 13.5 applicants for each job.

The K-12 enrollment in Illinois in 2008 declined for the first time in 17 years. New hires made up only 6% of the teaching force in 2007-08. Many school districts are taking advantage of the glut by hiring certified teachers as "teacher's aides" - without job security, benefits or decent pay.

Glenview District 34 had 4,300 applications for 74 positions. Illinois State University has started "sculpting" the pool of students admitted to its College of Education by giving a preference to those interested in special and bilingual education.

"TO BUMP OR NOT TO BUMP – THAT IS THE QUESTION."

Although enrollment at Oakton has increased 9%, there were still 50 course cancellations this semester. What rights do you have when one of your courses is cancelled due to low enrollment or being taken by a FT faculty member?

You should know your rights under the AFA contract (Section 2.6.D Reassignment of Courses), pages 7-9. Briefly, the contract allows the Dean or his designee to assign to eligible adjunct faculty members course sections which had previously been assigned to another adjunct.

The bumping rights of adjunct faculty depend on their Seniority level (Section 2.6.D):

Level 1 – taught less than 4 semesters

Level 2 – taught 4 – 10 semesters

Level 3 – taught 11 – 21 semesters
Level 4 – taught 22 or more semesters.

Generally, Level 3 has reassignment rights concerning courses assigned to Level 1 who have taught fewer than 4 semesters at Oakton, while Level 4 has reassignment rights concerning courses assigned to Level 1 or 2 who have taught fewer than 11 semesters. Reassignment only applies to the point where an adjunct gets 6 credit hours.

An adjunct in Level 4 is entitled to get 6 credit hours (“super seniority”), before unassigned courses are given to other adjuncts. Section 2.6.C.2 (p. 6-7).

Curious about these provisions? Consult your AFA contract on line at our AFA website www.oaktonafa.org.

MANDARIN CHINESE classes are not only offered at the College of Lake County, but next fall 20 students from CLC will travel to the northern Chinese city of Xi’an for a semester of study. CLC is the first community college in Illinois to offer such an opportunity to study Chinese culture abroad. The courses will be taught in English.

More than 7,000 Chicago Public School students preschool on up now take Mandarin classes. Barrington will offer Mandarin to 50 sixth and seventh graders and 50 high school freshmen next fall.

Only 136 community colleges of 1,195 nationwide offer courses abroad. Community college students make up just under half of USA undergraduates but only 3% of the 223,534 American students who studied abroad in 2005-06. In that year China hosted 8,830 U.S. students. Chicago Tribune (3/24/08)

AN ADJUNCT AS SECOND LADY. As Joe Biden settles into his new job as vice president, his wife Jill Biden will be teaching two English courses at Northern Virginia Community College’s Alexandria campus. She has been a teacher for 28 years. For the past 15 years she taught English composition at Delaware Technical and Community College. (NBC 1/29/09)

HISPANIC INCREASE IN U.S. SCHOOLS. 25% of kindergartners and 20% of all U.S. K-12 students are Hispanic. The trend is especially pronounced in the Southwest, where Hispanics in K-12 account for 54% of students in New Mexico, 47% in California and 44% in Texas. More Hispanic kindergartners were U.S. born rather than foreign born.

In college Hispanics make up 12% of all FT undergraduate and graduate students, while they account for 15% of the U.S. population.

In 2007 more than 40% of K-12 students in the U.S. were minorities (Hispanics, blacks, Asian Americans or others) – double the percentage of three decades ago.

Minorities will become the majority of the U.S. population by 2042, due to immigration by Hispanics and Asians, as well as declining birth rates among non-Hispanic whites. Minority children will become the majority even sooner - by 2023. (Current Population Survey, Associated Press, 3/5/09)