

The Voice

Part-Time Faculty Association of Allan Hancock College • Parity & Fairness Through Advocacy



Channel your Anger and Rage

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of Justice instructor



Welcome to the fall semester

MARK JAMES MILLER, PFA President

Bargaining Update

By now everyone should know that negotiations for 2008-2009 have concluded, and the changes made to the collective bargaining agreement have been ratified by the membership with a vote of 81 yes and 2 no (out of the 146 ballots mailed to PFA members). Among the highlights of the reopeners are:

- All part-time faculty, counselors, and librarians, no matter what their load, are now members of the bargaining unit.
- Office hours have been increased with no cap on funding, and no need to apply or get pre-approval to hold office hours.
- The PFA is now able to distribute communications of mutual interest to our bargaining unit via intercampus mail.
- Bargaining unit members are eligible to take part in the new cooperative work experience program. The program allows them to earn extra income as an advisor/counselor. This additional work will not be counted toward load.
- \$14,135 in discretionary funds is now available for the benefit of the bargaining unit.

Also, the PFA and the District signed a Memorandum of Understand-

ing to continue negotiations of the assignment rights and performance evaluation provisions of the agreement, and to do so with increased urgency. Reopeners for the 2009-2010 contract year will be starting soon.

Member receives a picture (of herself)

In a prior issue we featured a profile of dance instructor Valerie Kline, and a picture of her as she demonstrated a dance move in which she seemed to defy gravity. We have also told you how proud we were when this picture won first place for best original photograph in the AFT's Communications Network Awards given last June. We decided it would be nice to invite Valerie to receive a copy of the picture, and so at a recent Executive Board meeting we presented her with one (see photo). It pleases us to honor a member.

Student Loan Relief

If you or someone you know has a large student loan debt, there is some relief available. Starting this past July 1, new repayment options are out there in the form of the Income-Based Repayment (IBR) plan that links payments to income and family size. More information is available from the Department of Education at 1-800-4-FED-AID or www.studentaid.ed.gov.



Dance instructor Valerie Kline

The Voice

Volume 12, Number 1

The Voice is published by the Part-Time Faculty Association of Allan Hancock College, Local 6185, California Federation of Teachers, American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO. The PFA's goal is to attain respect, achieve parity, and improve working conditions for our bargaining unit members.

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Negotiating team, L to R: Gary Aston, Susan Case, Mike Terman, Mark Miller and Dorran Nadeau

Channel your anger and rage

BY DORRAN NADEAU

I want to make something clear up front: this article addresses the level of widespread anger today, local sources of this anger, and how we can best channel our anger into useful and lasting change without resorting to inappropriate behavior. It is not about censorship or the larger topic of academic freedom, or intended to focus on anyone's bad behavior. (At the risk of offending anyone, I'd be remiss in my duties if I don't at least mention that if anyone has the slightest doubt as to what might be grounds for disciplinary action or dismissal at AHC, see Appendix F of the AHC Faculty Resource Guide for more information.) To keep my anger at bay, I have tried to inject a little humor into the situation. If my attempt at humor strikes you as grossly unfunny or the article is less than artful, let me know. I promise to try to keep my rage in check.

'Tis the season to be grievin'. Everyone is mad these days. Rage is in fashion—road rage—soccer-mom rage—baseball-dad rage—air rage—healthcare rage—rage against those having rage. And if you're like many people, "you're mad as hell and you're not going to take it anymore"—and further, "you're going to tell it like it is," and —HEY!—cover the kids' ears because you're spewing whichever words come to mind and you don't care whether anyone likes it or not!

We need your participation to gain parity of respect and pay for part-time faculty. We are looking for involved individuals to volunteer their time and energy.

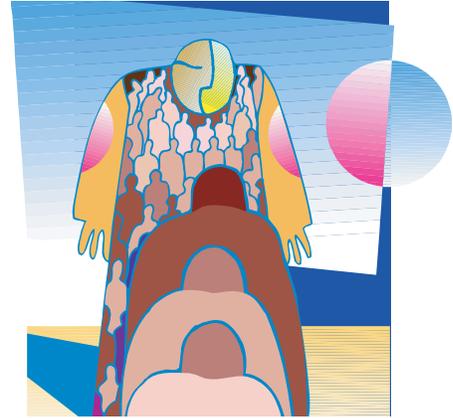
And why not? There are many reasons to feel this way. We're deluged daily with so many inflammatory statements, contradictory pieces of information and outright lies that anyone with a pulse is bound to be angry. Frankly, these days if I had any hair left I'd tear it out and shove it brutally into the mouths of all the ubiquitous talking heads and pundits! Besides, anger is necessary for our survival. We need it to urge us towards improving unacceptable conditions for ourselves and others. It's the fuel that alerts us to possible dangers and drives us to protect ourselves from danger when it occurs. These dangers include

not only physical harm, but financial or psychological dangers as well.

To turn closer to home, as with most community colleges in California, countless AHC part-timers have had their load reduced or outright eliminated. The PFA has continuously told the district and the Board of Trustees that these cuts are unfair and unwarranted; indeed, they are draconian in the extreme. Why suck the lifeblood out of the very group of instructors that will be necessary to weather the current economic disaster? There are equitable ways to spread this pain. We have offered several possible solutions in our newsletter and elsewhere, but to no avail—and, to put it in civilized terms, we're fuming mad about it.

But, despite how we feel, we need to channel this anger in ways that are effective and civilized. There are appropriate and inappropriate ways to act and talk. It would be nice to think otherwise, but, fair or not, there are consequences to one's bad behavior. One is that no one will listen to you, the other that they will listen to you but not in the way you want. If the goal is to convince someone to change the situation, and not just temporarily feel better by venting your spleen, yelling or spewing expletives aren't the greatest tools. Ask yourself how you felt the last time some-

one yelled at you or peppered their language with expletives? It probably got your physical attention, but I doubt if it made you want to pay closer attention to what they were saying—quite the contrary. Anyone can get angry and let it rip, but it takes a mature person, and a professional, to overcome his or her anger and act rationally. While people understand anger, they respect it, not when expressed by unfocused and irrational rage, but when expressed by civilized and rational passion. Think about the problem and channel that energy into actions that will accomplish what you want.



So what do we do to collectively channel our anger into something useful and lasting? We need all of you to put your anger to good use, to become energized over the current inequities. To start, we need to hear from you. As we have said before: You are the eyes and ears for the board. Send us your thoughts, suggestions, complaints and other relevant information so we have as much information as possible. Contact us in any way you want, in person, by phone, e-mail, or letter, but please do so. But just helping us gather information is not enough. Whatever progress we have made as an association stems from collective thought **and action**. We also need your participation to fight what has been, and unfortunately looks to continue to be, a long battle to gain parity of respect and pay, and better working conditions for part-time faculty. We are looking for involved individuals to volunteer their time and energy. (We will address this in future articles.) The PFA board cannot do this alone, but together we can reflect and transform our outrage into passion towards a common goal. Collective passion **and action** will get us where we deserve to be.

New Members

- Jaimie Gutierrez
- Why Not You?



"When anger rises,
think of the consequences"
~Confucius

Focus On: Gene Brizzolara

BY ROBERTO ARMSTRONG

Gene Brizzolara is an inspiring example of the kind of unique experience that part-time teachers offer to students at Allan Hancock College. Gene has taught classes in the Police Academy and in Administration of Justice at Hancock since retiring from the Long Beach Police Department in 1992 after thirty years of distinguished service during which he rose to the rank of Acting Chief of Police.

Born in Jersey City, New Jersey, Gene was raised in an Italian family where he learned to speak Italian before he spoke English. His family later moved to the Arizona border with Mexico where he

Long Beach State and signed up with the Long Beach Police Department. While finishing his BA at Long Beach he began his rise in the ranks.

During his years with the Long Beach Police Department, he continued his educational career as well, receiving his teaching credential from UCLA and undergoing all kinds of special training, including FBI Academy studies.

While attending special training classes in San Luis Obispo, he fell in love with the Central Coast and he and his wife decided to retire here. The year of his retirement, 1992, was also the year

His students are a source of great satisfaction to Gene, not only the students presently in his classes, but the many ex-students he meets everywhere who report their experiences in his classes in the most positive terms.

added Spanish to his language skills, so he was already trilingual before he went off to school at Arizona State in Tucson. Needing a job to support his college studies he discovered that the Tucson Police were looking for recruits and, since the pay was much better than other jobs that were available, he became a policeman and discovered that it was a career that appealed to him. He later transferred to

he began teaching at Hancock. Both his daughters, Marci and Nadia, attended Hancock at different times.

Gene is teaching three classes this semester in the Police Academy (where he was the Coordinator in 1996–97): Criminal Evidence, Criminal Procedure and Criminal Law, as well as a class in Administration of Justice: Intro to Law Enforcement 101, which is offered to the general



Gene Brizzolara

student body. He is particularly pleased that so many students who are not preparing for law enforcement careers find this course so rewarding.

His students are a source of great satisfaction to Gene, not only the students presently in his classes, but the many ex-students he meets everywhere who report their experiences in his classes in the most positive terms.



Left to Right: Joan Mahony, Ana Rodriguez, PFA scholarship recipient, Matt Hiding and Susan Case at the 2009 Scholarship Banquet

2009 Scholarship Banquet

Ana Rodriguez is this year's recipient of the Part-Time Faculty Association scholarship. Ms. Rodriguez has been involved in AHC's Leadership Class. Students are encouraged in this class to learn and speak out about issues concerning students. In high school, Ana was involved in the newspaper, *Somos*, for three years. She also participated in the Mencha club. Participation in these three organizations has provided Ana with many opportunities to increase her knowledge of her own heritage and to become involved with the many issues surrounding student life.

Ms. Rodriguez is planning to attend the California State University at Long Beach. Her major is political science.

Her ambition is to become a parole officer or find work dealing with immigration issues.