

DEEP RIVER

A Newsletter of the Rio Hondo College Academic Senate & Faculty Association

Message from the Academic Senate President

Happy New Year and welcome back. The aim of this newsletter is to better communicate to the faculty and other colleagues on campus the business of the Academic Senate and the Faculty Association, as well as stories about who we are and what we do. This issue's feature article is a great example of that.

- Vann Priest

Message from the Faculty Association President

What is RHCFA? We are the collective bargaining group representing the faculty of this campus: Full-time, part-time, tenured, non-tenured, librarians, and councilors. To put it simply, we are the faculty's union. Perhaps you didn't know your dues also support state and national organizations. As part of the Community College Association (CCA), an affiliate of the California Teachers Association (CTA) and National Education Association (NEA) we are part of one of the most powerful voices for community colleges at the state level; we even have our own lobbyist.

Have a great semester and remember-
We are Rio and we are United to Educate!

- Kathy Pudelko

Tires, Teeth & Grammar

By Marie Eckstrom

During the first class of each semester, I impress on my students the importance of regular attendance and punctuality in order to be successful. I am tough when it comes to attendance and try not to tolerate tardiness or flimsy absence excuses. I allow four absences over the course of the semester, but students who don't attend the second session will automatically be dropped. And that's that. Most students understand my rationale, and those who don't like the policy disappear before the next class. Well, so much for the tough stuff.

A few semesters ago and as usual, I gave my first day speech. It must have been especially forceful because a few minutes before the second class of my English 125: Grammar and Usage course I received a phone call from one of my students—in a panic. This young lady cried into the phone, “I just got a flat tire and can't make it to class today. Please don't drop me!” I felt her desperation because I, too, had had a flat tire a few days before. I asked her what she was going to do. She seemed panic-stricken; she had no idea what to do. I advised her to go to America's Tires for a free tire fix, which I had done successfully a few days before. I asked her location, Goggled to find the nearest America's Tires, and sent her to one in La Puente. I didn't hear from her again until the next week, when she returned to class, appreciative for the advice. She got her tire fixed for free. We laughed and told the class about the incident.

Then a few weeks later, she came to class with what I called “chipmunk cheeks,” groaning in pain. She explained that her wisdom teeth were giving her trouble. Why hadn't she seen a dentist? “Ah,” she lamented, “I don't have a dentist; I don't have insurance; and I don't have any money.”

continued on page 2



News from the Senate

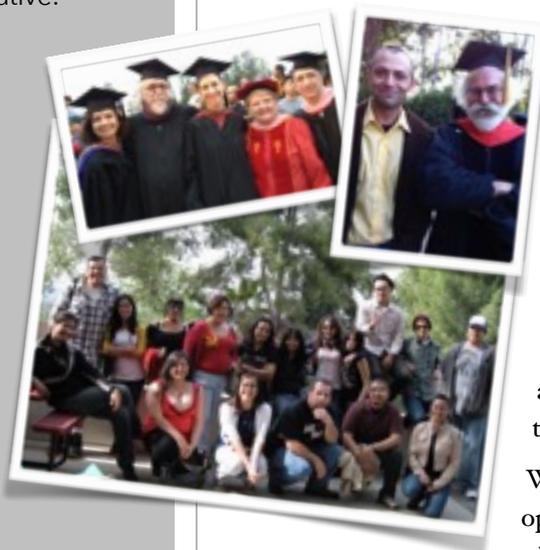
- ❖ We recommended the Auto Tech program as our candidate for the state's pilot Baccalaureate degree initiative.
- ❖ We heard informative updates on the Online Education Initiative, Student Services Support Program, and the Student Equity Program.
- ❖ We approved changes to several Administrative Procedures and Board Policies. The BP on Academic Freedom is now in the review process and was an item in the special meeting of the Board of Trustees on Feb. 17.

For minutes and agendas of the Senate, visit the Senate website at www.riohondo.edu/academic-senate/

News from the Faculty Association

Participate and stay engaged! Come to a meeting, we serve free lunch and tell you about the important issues happening on campus. Go to our college website, find a copy of your contract and read it; this is where you will find all the good stuff. Take section 5.15-New Faculty Orientation (this is important because of all the new hiring) "The RHCFA and the District will jointly develop and implement a new faculty orientation." This is where we can help our fellow faculty by making sure that they get the information they need to be successful. Or look at an explanation of "Hours of Employment and Workload," listed in section 5.1 through 5.16.

Faculty Association Monthly Meetings Board Room Thursdays 12:45 - 2:15pm Feb. 19, March 19, April 16, and May 21 - end of year luncheon



Tires, Teeth & Grammar (continued from page 1)

I sent her to the Student Health Office immediately. She returned to class a half hour later with lots of papers, reporting that our health office doesn't do dentistry. They referred her to the USC and UCLA schools of dentistry. Then she proceeded to sit down. "Not so fast! Don't you need to call them? Go outside and call them for an appointment." She came back to class a few minutes later and reported that she left a message. And for the first time ever, I told her to keep her cell phone on.

Well, it took a few weeks, but she had all four impacted wisdom teeth extracted through USC for a total cost of \$75.00.

When she returned to class after the operation, she exclaimed she was going to tell all her friends to take this class.

"This is the best class I've ever taken: not only did I learn correct grammar, I also got my tire and teeth fixed to boot!"

Teachers Helping Students

Support the faculty scholarship fund, *Teachers Helping Students*. The RHC Foundation handles the fund without charges or fees and all donations are tax deductible. This past year we sold theater tickets, faculty members donated money, and the 2014 Holiday Luncheon ticket sales went into the fund. We have now raised over \$3,000 and will start awarding the first scholarships this semester. Now it's your turn. When you order your free RHCFA tee shirt, donate something toward our scholarship. The shirt is free and your donation is tax deductible.

2014-15 Faculty Association Officers

- President: Kathy Pudelko
- President-elect: Sergio Guzman
- Secretary: Marie Eckstrom
- Treasurer: Jill Pfeiffer
- Grievance Officer: Mike Javanmard
- Chief Negotiator: Adam Wetsman
- Public Information: Ada Brown
- Membership: Dennyse Clark
- Part-time Rep: Martha Carreon

2014-15 Academic Senate Officers

- President - Vann Priest
- First Vice-President - Robert Bethel
- Second Vice-President - Katie O'Brien
- Secretary - Kevin Smith
- Parliamentarian: Sheila Lynch
- ASCCC Rep: John Frala
- Past President: Adam Wetsman
- RHCFA President: Kathy Pudelko