Thank you!
FA member involvement improves our communities
by Kevin Peterman

Several weeks ago FA community outreach coordinator Tim McHeffey and I visited Ina Casali in her home in Moriches. I wanted to personally thank her for the amazing quilt she made for the Faculty Association.

If you recall, we carried the quilt at Jones Beach in October when we participated in the Making Strides against Breast Cancer walk. We hope to display it on each campus so everyone can see this work of love and art.

In speaking with Ina she mentioned some of the many ways she gives: she is currently making a veterans’ quilt, which she hopes to raffle this coming spring to raise money for SCCC’s veterans. This is personal—Ina is a Navy veteran. Among the many other things she has done, she has knitted clothes for premature babies so they didn’t have to wear dolls’ clothes.

I would never have known about the giving side of this

continued on page 7
In the 3rd century BCE, Zeno of Citium espoused the philosophy of Stoicism, a system of thought and a way of life that values reason, self-control, virtue and fortitude in the face of chaos and doubt. The Stoic sage is calm, insightful and radiates moral and intellectual perfection.

Marc Fellenz, professor of philosophy at the Grant campus, embodies this noble ideology through his significant work as a teacher, a chair and as a caring, compassionate human being. He began his career at SCCC as an adjunct instructor at the Ammerman campus in 1989. He then spent many years as a “roads scholar,” driving to teaching jobs at the three SCCC campuses, two of NYIT’s campuses and Nassau Community College. In 2004, Marc secured a full-time position at the Grant Campus.

In 2007 he became academic chair of the department of arts and humanities and, during his six years in that position, he learned a good deal about the college and about himself. This semester he became the chair of the academic Assembly at Grant. Marc strongly believes that the processes of shared governance give faculty a voice in the policies of the institution and this right is a privilege that many other professionals should envy.

Marc received a BA in philosophy at Stony Brook University and an MA and PhD from Penn State University. He had the honor of studying with some of the best philosophers in the country but also values the self-education that teaching and working in academia has brought him.

Marc’s research involves the moral standing of animals, and so he developed the PHL213 Philosophy of Animal Rights and Welfare course. When he first proposed the course, it was the only one like it taught at any community college in the U.S. Marc focuses on the ethics of how we treat non-humans and the meaning of human/animal relationships that have ramifications for us all.

Although we often think of logic and reason when we imagine a good philosopher, Marc believes confusion is greatly underrated, and his primary goal is to have his students leave the class with the healthy Socratic confusion that comes from appreciating that the world is a complex place, that the “bromides” that we find so reassuring should always be subject to criticism. Marc sees the paradox of the information age as a challenge: we have more means of communication than ever before, but all these choices make it very easy to surround ourselves only with familiar ideas with which we are already comfortable.

Marc believes a philosopher’s job is to remind us of the value of being uncomfortable and, without being “sadistic,” he brings that notion into the classroom. Marc’s philosophy courses provide the perfect opportunity for students to learn critical reading, critical thinking and critical writing skills that will benefit them wherever their education takes them.

Marc makes his students work hard: they only read primary texts and they have to write reflection papers every week. Marc is also working on lecturing less and encouraging smaller group discussion in class. His most important pedagogical commitment is to stay open to improvement and

continued on page 5
FYI: Highlights from the Executive Council
and other news of note

- **Faculty Association and Benefit Fund closings:** Both the FA and the Benefit Fund offices will be closed from December 24 to 27 as well as December 31 to January 1. The FA office will be also closed on December 30.

- **Prescription drug claim forms:** Prescription drug claims for 2013 must be received by Daniel H. Cook by April 30, 2014. The form is available at the Benefit Fund office, Southampton 224D (Ammerman), or on our website: http://www.fascc.org/beta/docs/rx2010.doc.

- **EMHP claim forms:** Faculty must submit all unpaid 2013 medical claims to Empire Blue Cross by March 31, 2014, to receive reimbursement for covered out-of-pocket expenses. Forms are on the EMHP website: http://www.emhp.org/members.aspx.

- **Longevity checks:** According to payroll, on January 16, 2014, longevity checks will be distributed to full-time faculty employed more than 10 years by Suffolk County.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years of FT Service</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-14</td>
<td>$1,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-19</td>
<td>$1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-24</td>
<td>$2,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-29</td>
<td>$2,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30+</td>
<td>$2,950</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Wintersession 2014 and spring 2014 adjunct/overload checks:** Faculty who teach during the wintersession will receive one check on January 23. Here are the spring 2014 adjunct/overload pay dates:
  - March 6
  - March 20
  - April 3
  - April 17

Faculty teaching early end classes will receive four checks from March 6 to April 17; faculty who are teaching late start classes will receive four checks from April 17 to May 29.

- **Finding your total annual dues for your taxes:** For tax filing purposes, here’s how to find your total amount of dues paid from January to December 2013:
  - In Banner, click the Human Resources tab, then Pay Stub. Click the Deductions History link at the bottom of the page.

- **February faculty development workshops:** Three faculty development workshops will be held next spring (all during common hour):
  - February 19 at Eastern
  - February 26 at Ammerman
  - March 5 at Grant

- **Spring 2014 corrections to FA wall calendar:** Our wall calendar erroneously indicates no classes for Easter on March 14-16. There will be classes on those dates. Instead, it should indicate no evening classes on April 14 for Passover and no classes on April 19 and 20 due to Easter. Sorry for any inconvenience!

**FA secretary Marie Hanna worked with Stacey Braun advisor Gerry McGahran (left) for the third annual FA retirement workshop.**

*During the workshop representatives from FA Benefit Fund providers, the county Employee Benefits Unit and the office of Human Resources all discussed issues and answered questions involving financial planning, medical benefits, FA Benefit Fund coverage, NYSUT retiree services and more.*

*This year’s event included nearly three dozen FA members—all at various stages of planning for retirement. “Whether retirement is ten years away or one year away, this workshop provides invaluable information to help you prepare,” said Hanna.*
“We need to work tirelessly to protect the rights of our present and future students.”

That was Dante Morelli’s (Communications) take away from this year’s NYSUT Community College Conference, held on November 8-10 in Cooperstown.

Morelli’s message could have served as the theme for the 35th annual conference, as speakers and presenters returned to the point time and again.

It was loud and clear when NYSUT officers announced a $1,000 contribution to the Ellen Schuler Mauk Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship, already $55,000 strong, was created to honor Ellen’s decades of service to SCCC students and faculty. Through this scholarship fund, Ellen will continue to support many worthy students in the future.

The need to support students was equally loud and clear in the recognition of FA president Kevin Peterman as NYSUT Higher Education Member of the Year. “Building a strong political presence,” Peterman contends, “is ultimately about building greater support for our work so we can help our students.”

Peterman was one of three FA officers who presented workshops at this year’s conference. Peterman’s “Advanced Negotiations: Challenges to Public Sector Unionism” examined today’s hostile political climate and focused on strategic methods unions can use to counter these threats.

Executive vice president Sean Tvelia asked participants to review case studies and engage in role playing exercises during his workshop “The Union’s Role in Addressing Sexual Harassment and Hostile Work Environment.”

Adjunct coordinator Cynthia Eaton offered shared research and theory in her workshop on MOOCs.

A total of eighteen FA members attended the conference, some new and some veteran. “I’ve attended many of these over the years, and the 2013 version was just as informative and enlightening,” enthused Doug Cody (Chemistry).

Jane-Marie Wright (Math) concurred: “This was my fourth NYSUT Community College Conference and I’m amazed at how much I have yet to learn.”

The most valuable thing Denicolo gained was “the shared experience of faculty from other colleges, their stories of success and struggle.” Overall, she said, she realized “it is a privilege—especially in comparison to many other colleges across New York state—to belong to a strong union like we have in the FA.”

Jane-Marie Wright (Math) concurred: “This was my fourth NYSUT Community College Conference and I’m amazed at how much I have yet to learn.”
Marc Fellenz
cont. from page 2

change.

Outside of class, Marc has always admired the political advocacy of the FA. Marc feels that it’s easy to focus on the job security and benefits that the FA has won for us, but it’s just as important to recognize the work the FA leadership continues to do in lobbying on behalf of the needs and interests of higher education.

Looking toward the future, Marc is committed to his work with faculty governance for the next few years. His new class offerings will delve into the philosophy of death and dying. After that, he would like to explore integrating some academic service learning into philosophy and humanities courses at the college.

Whether it’s discussing Nietzsche, writing about animal rights or pondering the philosophical mysteries of Tabitha on Bewitched, Marc Fellenz embodies the ideal of the examined life.
Each year, the FA donates food to hungry families in our own student population and in our neighboring towns as part of our ongoing community outreach program.

Below are our 2013 contributions. We hope you’ll continue to support these worthy causes, groups and organizations throughout the year, as food instability is an ongoing issue and individuals often suffer after the busy holiday season of giving has passed.

**Eastern campus**

Joining the all-volunteer effort this year on the Eastern campus is a new group of spirited students called SOULS in Business. SOULS stands for Suffolk’s Organization for Uplifting Lives through Service. Their mission statement is to raise awareness of sustainability and social entrepreneurship while learning workplace and leadership skills that can be shared with others.

Business major Rob Schulze steered the project, which included shopping with funding provided by the FA. In addition, Rob’s committee added to the amount by beginning a food drive on campus so that other students could become involved as well.

“I like the idea of us donating our food products to a food pantry in the Center Moriches area,” said Rob. “There’s a real need in the community. I went to school over there at St. John’s, and this is sort of a way to give back.”

FA EC rep Louise Johnston commented, “We love the idea of involving students as a collaborative program. It allows us all to do just a little bit more to help disadvantaged people right in our own back yards.”

**Ammerman campus**

The Ammerman donation this year again went to the Food Emergency and Services Team (FEAST) food pantry. FEAST provides food and other necessities to students in need, and the FEAST committee continues to anticipate a growing need among students at our institution. Names are provided to the FEAST committee by faculty; students are contacted and allowed access to the pantry in a discreet fashion.

Committee member Frank Vino recently expressed gratitude to the FA for its annual donation. “Thank you for your immensely generous donation to our food pantry here at Ammerman;”
Thank you
cont. from page 1

one faculty member had I not listened to Tim when he said “Hey, you’re the new president. We should get a shot of you with Ina.” Thanks, Tim.

As I left Ina’s house, I started thinking about the more than 2,200 faculty at SCCC and what an honor it is to represent them. Sure, the FA has formal programs like the Breast Cancer Walk and Professors on Wheels which give back to the community. But there are so many of our faculty involved in our communities volunteering and giving back every day. Whether it is coaching, being a Scout leader, participating in a church group or raising money for various causes (I could go on and on), our faculty make me proud. I’m proud to be working with you as we help our students, help better the college and, yes, help better our communities.

You, the faculty, truly make Suffolk County a COMMUNITY College. We need to show our faces and be proud of who we are and what we do. Why? Because as Dr. McKay has said, we need to tell our story. And our story is not a short story; it is not just what we do at the college as we help our students learn and grow. Our story is big, and I want to share our successes with the community.

So, over the next few months I am asking you to share some of your stories with me. I want to get to know you and what you do.

On behalf of the FA officers and the Executive Council, I wish you a joyous holiday season and a happy new year!

Food banks
cont. from page 6

he continued,

Your donation literally filled an entire new shelving unit in the pantry, essentially increasing our supplies by nearly one third. This addition to our pantry greatly enhances the services we provide to the members of our campus community in need.

Grant campus

The donations at Grant went straight to Mary Ann Borrello, who was selected last year as one of five national higher ed semi-finalists in the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Everyday Hero Award competition for her work in the college and community.

Borrello established the Grant campus Thanksgiving food drive in 1974 and has organized and operated the food pantry for decades. Over 100 families benefitted from this year’s donations and, Borrello notes, more donations are always appreciated.

Mary Ann Borrello (left) pauses her tireless work briefly for a photo with four of her many student volunteers (from left) Christopher Somma, Islam Eltablawy, Diamond Bates and Emaje Green.

photo by Kevin Peterman
The FA Holiday Party: An evening of dinner, dancing, and celebration

In the photo above, president Kevin Peterman, third from left, poses with some of this year’s retirees (from left): Anne McCarthy, Ellen Schuler Mauk, Marilyn McCall, Alan Weber and Kathie Rogers.

At right, SCCC president Shaun McKay (on left) and FA president Kevin Peterman (on right) speak with Suffolk County legislator DuWayne Gregory.

Below, Eastern campus faculty and friends take a break from some fine conversation and dancing to pose for a photo.

(All photos, both pages, by grievance officer Pete DiGregorio.)
Above left, FA president Kevin Peterman congratulates Muriel Lanier, winner of the 50/50 raffle. Above right, Jen Carlson shares a laugh with EC rep Chris Gherardi.

At right, Bruce Seger and Deb Wolfdon (from right) greet Victoria Sinacori (center) and her fiance Chris as well as Joan Wozniak (far left) at the check-in table.

Below, faculty and friends from the Ammerman campus shine with their best holiday smiles.
The end of September marked the passing of Dr. Charles S. Grippi, English professor emeritus, a man of great personal integrity, and a long standing and early activist in the FA—a standard bearer for the FA as well as for SCCC’s academics.

Hired in 1962 as one of the first faculty members of SCCC, Charlie Grippi was a real Renaissance man. He was a Fulbright scholar fluent in Italian and French, yet he never forgot his St. Louis upbringing. His scholarship and doctoral dissertation examined Walt Whitman’s influence on Italian poets and poetry.

A brilliant teacher whose seniority could have allowed him to teach only upper level courses, he made a point in teaching developmental courses with the same enthusiasm and commitment that he gave to his literature courses.

He believed in academic rigor, promoted high standards in his colleagues as well as in his students and he believed in giving our community college students the same curricula and academic challenges that students had at Ivy League institutions.

But Charlie’s influence extended beyond the classroom: he lent his intellect as well as his heart to the beginnings of the FA—and it is that passion and commitment for which most of us remember him. When rumblings about forming a union began in the late 60s, Charlie was advised by a college administrator to “keep his nose clean.” In response, as Charlie liked to tell it, his nose has been dirty ever since!

He was the FA’s first grievance officer bringing charges against the college’s Board of Trustees for firing a tenure track faculty member without due process. His eloquent and thoughtfully developed arguments during these early union recognition battles earned him support and admiration from both his colleagues and the college administration. He was fierce but believed in fairness; he constantly urged members not to sell themselves short at the bargaining table but, once the agreement was made, he defended the provisions of the contract that was.

After adjunct faculty members were recognized as part of the bargaining unit, Charlie became the FA’s first adjunct coordinator—making sure that adjuncts were fully recognized with a college-wide leadership position in the union. Even after Charlie retired, he continued to participate in the SCCC Retirees’ Association, contributing regularly to its newsletter with his column “Readings in Retirement.”

Whether advocating reasonable promotion criteria, a progressive union dues structure, official recognition within NYSUT for community college faculty or making an impassioned analysis of a contract settlement, Charlie was the consummate unionist.

On a more personal note, Charlie was my mentor and confidante. He, more than anyone else, helped develop the FA into the strong labor organization that it is today. His values, his intelligence and his passion have underscored everything we do today.

I will miss him but I know that his spirit is alive in the union I was proud to serve for so many years. Farewell, my friend!
Faculty Association 2013-14 Executive Council

Officers

• Kevin Peterman — President
• Sean Tvelia — Executive Vice President
• Marie Hanna — Secretary
• Joyce Gabriele — Treasurer
• Pete DiGregorio — Grievance Officer
• Cynthia Eaton — Adjunct Coordinator

EC Reps: Ammerman Full-time

• Kevin McNamara — Accounting, Business Administration, Business Information Systems, Legal Studies
• Matt Pappas — Biology, Physical Sciences
• Dante Morelli — Communications, Languages, Reading, TV/Radio/Film
• Matt Zisel — Counseling, Cooperative Education
• Mike Simon — Engineering, Computer Science/Industrial Technology
• Maria Kranidis — English
• Michelle Fowler — Library, Central
• Jane-Marie Wright — Math
• Alex Nohai-Seaman — Music, Visual Arts, Theatre, Philosophy, Women's Studies
• Lisa Aymong — Nursing, Health and Human Services, Physical Education
• Denise Haggerty — Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences

EC Reps: Eastern Full-time

• Louise Johnston — Library, Humanities, Counseling
• Nicolas Pestieau — Science, Math, Social Science, Business, Nursing, Culinary, Physical Education

EC Reps: Grant Full-time

• Ali Laderian — Business, HVAC, CIS, Technology, ETU Coordinator
• vacant — Humanities
• Mohini Ratna — Library, Counseling, Media
• Deborah Wolfson — Natural Sciences
• Al Heraghty — Nursing, Health Science, Physical Education, Veterinary Science
• Andrea Macari — Social Sciences

EC Reps: Professional Assistants Full-time

• Maureen Arna — Programmatic
• Deb Kiesel — Instructional Labs
• Steve Ortiz-Rios — Technical Areas/Instructional Centers

EC Reps: Collegewide Adjuncts

• vacant — Business, Accounting, Communications, Telecom
• Leslie Derenfeld — Counseling, Education, Freshman & College Seminar
• Priscilla Pratt — Culinary, Fire Protection Technology, Library, Electrical Tech, Drafting, Interior Design
• Angela Riding-Dotterman — English
• Marshal Stein — Foreign Languages, ESL, ASL, Reading
• Chris Gherardi — Guild, Retiree, PAs/Specialists in Programmatic Areas
• Michelle LaPorte — Humanities
• Russell David — Math
• Sarahjeanne Goldstein — Nursing, Physical Education, Health Sciences
• Maureen Sandford — PAs/Specialists in Academic Skills Centers
• vacant — PAs/Specialists in Instructional Labs
• Doug Cody — Science, Engineering, Auto
• Frank DiGregorio — Social Sciences

New York State United Teachers

• Jonathan Rubin — Labor Relations Specialist

Again this year, the FA has brought Fair Trade sales to the college community. In the photo above, Pattye Pecce of World Village Fair Trade Market in Hampton Bays (above, left) chats with a student about the benefits of purchasing Fair Trade products. The FA is sponsoring Fair Trade sales this December at the Ammerman and Grant campuses as well as an educational lecture on the Eastern campus.

To learn more about Fair Trade, visit the World Fair Trade Organization (www.wfto.com) or the Fair Trade Federation (http://www.fairtradefederation.org).
FA grievance officer Pete DiGregorio hands groceries from his truck to students volunteering at the FEAST food pantry on the Ammerman campus.

DiGregorio and the other FA officers purchased the provisions at Costco, a unionized store, and delivered it on November 11. The FA donates $300 worth of food and other necessities to each of the three campuses every fall in a collaborative effort to help meet the basic needs of our communities.

See article on page 6 for more information.