

news from uwfa

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Editor: Geoffrey Scott

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Message from the President

We have successfully completed negotiations for and signed off on a one-year contract that takes us through March 31 of this year, and we again extend our thanks to all those UWFA Members involved with bargaining. But we have to go back into negotiations immediately. We are all hearing about the dire straights the university finds itself in. No matter who is to blame, the government or the administration, the members of UWFA must refuse to be made to pay for the past and continuing mistakes of others. We have been chronically underpaid and the university's crisis is in no way our fault. There would be nothing equitable if the next contract were to treat us differently than other professors and instructors in the province. The next months, however, will call for all of us to be firm and diligent in our resolution to have a say in decision-making at the University of Winnipeg so that we ensure fair and just treatment at the bargaining table. In a related move, UWFA has recently become a member of the NUCAUT, the national branch of the Canadian Association of University Teachers. NUCAUT is a member of the Canadian Labour Congress. This should be helpful in this next round of collective bargaining, there's nothing like having those steelworkers and auto workers on your team!

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY LECTURE SERIES

Our next speaker is Dawn Sutherland, Faculty of Education, who's talk is titled: *"Use It or Lose It: Capacity Building in Science Education"*. She will give her presentation at 7:30 pm, February 27th, in Eckhardt-Gramatte Hall, and it will be followed by our traditional reception in the Faculty-Staff Club.

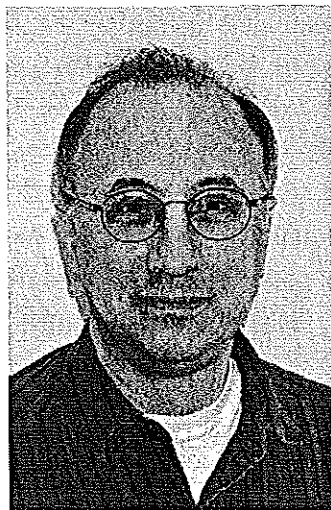
Dawn provides us with some background. "Paulo Friere" once wrote, "to alienate human beings from their own decision-making is to change them into objects." Scientists and science educators often advocate that the decision-making process inherent in the methods of science is a useful means to making everyday decisions. However, the process of conducting scientific inquiry is often not intuitive. Although in our everyday lives we as individuals may engage in activities that require the basic skills found in inquiry, such as observations, classification and inference, these activities are often isolated events that are not associated with a specific postulate. Students often view the questions raised in scientific inquiry as irrelevant to their everyday lives. Therefore, science educators are often challenged with instilling the espousal of a mode of thinking that on the surface has no relative value. As a result, teachers of science frequently resort to teaching science from a "final products" standpoint of scientific inquiry, such as presenting the theories, models and technologies, which include minor explorations of the processes involved. It is argued that that only when teachers embraced *praxis*, the dialectic process of action and reflection, can the objectification of students' end. A possible consequence of a pedagogy that embodies the idea of praxis is the evolution of a capacity-building learning environment. In other words, learning through praxis produces actions that are initiated by the learner both inside and outside of the school setting. Capacity building gives rise to empowerment, which is often considered in the creation of programming for or within developing nations, yet is rarely contemplated in the context of formal education. In this presentation, I propose that capacity building as an instructional goal influences pedagogy that leads to the self-efficacy of children in the science classroom".

WANTED !!

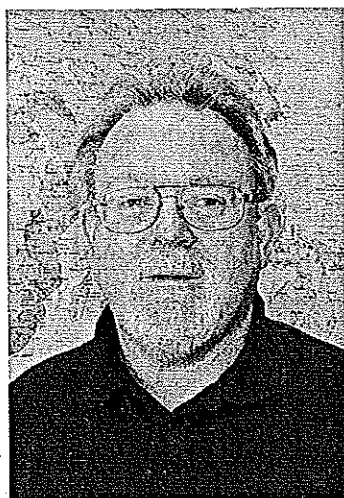
NEW EDITOR FOR "NEWS FROM UWFA"

GEOFF SCOTT IS STARTING A TWELVE-MONTH STUDY LEAVE THIS SPRING SO IS STEPPING DOWN AS NEWSLETTER EDITOR. EDITORS ARE APPOINTED BY THE UWFA EXECUTIVE SO IF INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT KIM AT 9430 TO LET THEM KNOW OF YOUR INTEREST.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL BIOGRAPHIES



Mark Fortier, President. Mark hails from Ontario, studied at Windsor, received his M.A. from Toronto, and his Ph.D. from York, and taught at Trent and Toronto. He is a member of our Department of English and holds the rank of Associate Professor. His areas of specialization include, Shakespeare, Seventeenth-Century Literature, Theory, and Drama. He almost has a law degree and hopes to finish it up soon. He was Vice-President of UWFA for two years before 'falling' into the President's job this year. He claims not to be a morning person, but he loves cities, summer, and beaches, and his favorite things in Winnipeg and environs are DeLuca's, Grand Beach, and his old red brick house in Wolesley.



Ken Gibbons, Member-at-large. Hailing from New Jersey, Ken came to Canada in 1970 and gained his citizenship in 1976. His A.B. is from Marshall University, WV, his M.A. from Western Ontario and his Ph.D. from Carleton - all were in Political Science. He became a full time member of our Politics Department in 1978, is Chair of the MPA program, and holds the rank of Associate Professor. His research interests include, public policy, public administration and comparative Western politics, and he has focused on political and administrative ethics, and on environmental politics in Manitoba. This is Ken's third term as member-at-large, and he has also served as Departmental Rep on our Job Action Committee.



James Hanley, Secretary. James joined our Department of History in 1999 and holds the rank of Assistant Professor. His M.A. and M.Sc. are from Toronto and his Ph.D. from Yale. His primary research interest is 19th Century British Medicine and Public Health. He comes to us with previous union experience! At various times he has been a member of the Steelworkers' Union, the Postal Workers' Union, and the UofT Teaching Assistants Union. While he is currently UWFA Secretary he is still not quite sure how that came about!



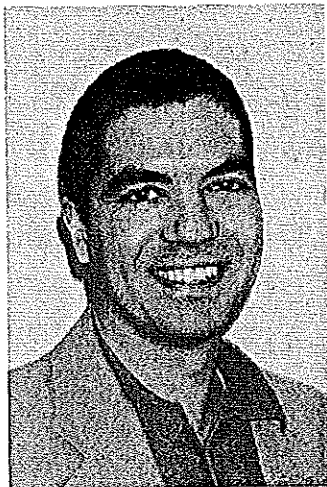
Karen Zoppa, Treasurer. Karen joined the Collegiate in 1988 as an Instructor in English, Religious Studies and Philosophy. For her B.Ed. degree she specialized in the philosophy of education, while she specialized in Religion and Culture for her M.A. in Religious Studies. She currently chairs MACRO - the Meaningful Assessment and Curricular Reform Organization (which is the foe of ambiguous, theoretically deficient curricula, standard exams and poor writing). In terms of UWFA service she has been UWFA Treasurer since 1994; CAUT Defence Fund Trustee since 1998; and is currently Chief Negotiator for the Collegiate Unit. Karen claims she has not yet fully decided what she will do when she grows up!



Byron Sheldrick, Member-at-large. Byron joined our Politics Department four years ago. He previously taught for three years in the Law Department at Keele University in the UK. In addition to his Ph.D. in Political Science from York he also holds a law degree from the University of Toronto. His main areas of research interest are law and social movements and the politics of welfare restructuring. This is Byron's first time on our executive, and in addition to being a member-at-large he is associate grievance officer and a member of the current UWFA negotiating team.



Tamara Myers, Member-at-large. Tamara is an Assistant Professor in the Department of History. Her M.A. is from York and her Ph.D. from McGill. She came to UW in 1998 after teaching at Trent and McGill Universities and holding a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Queen's University. As a graduate student at McGill she served as President of the Post-Graduate Student Society and helped organize the teaching assistants into a local of the Confédération des syndicats nationaux. This is Tamara's first term on our Executive.



Paul Bramadat, Member-at-Large. Paul is a UW alumnus earning his B.A. here in Religious Studies. His M.A. (McGill) and Ph.D. (McMaster) are also in Religious Studies. He (re)joined (!) our Religious Studies Department in January, 1998, teaching courses in religion and culture in contemporary Canada, and holds the rank of Assistant Professor. He is involved in two major research projects at the moment: co-editing a book on non-Christian religions in Canada, and conducting ethnographic research on Winnipeg's Folklorama and Toronto's Caravan. This is his first appointment to the UWFA Executive.



Devin Latimer, Member-at-Large. Devin, another UW alumnus, hails from Lynn Lake, attended our Collegiate (grad 82) and majored here in chemistry (1982-87). Thanks to the expert professorial instruction he received from such notables as Ed Byard (Developmental Biology) and Ken Friesen (Instrumental Analysis) he decided to pursue graduate studies. He received his M.Sc. in Organometallic Chemistry (1992) from the University of Sydney. He then started a Ph.D. at Dalhousie in 1993 but deferred these studies in order to join our Chemistry Department as an Instructor. Devin's teaching includes Organic Chemistry and Chemistry and Society. Devin is a first-time Executive member, but previously served on our Salary and Benefits Committee.



Ed Byard, Past-President & Chief Negotiator. Ed began his career at the University of Winnipeg as an Assistant Professor in the Biology Department in 1977, coming here after a PhD in Zoology from the University of Western Ontario, and a postdoctoral fellowship at Dalhousie University in Halifax. His research, at the time of his arrival, was about lobsters, thus he needed to adapt when he came here - since then he has studied protozoa, nematodes, and insects, always looking for the ways in common that they have to divide and shape their cells during development. Since 1977, he has taught courses in cell biology, developmental biology, and introductory biology. His colleague Dan Stone first recruited him to UWFA in about 1985, and since then he has been President for three terms and Chief Negotiator for three (soon to be four!) contracts. Ed is currently serving as Chair of the Biology Department.

BLAST-FROM-THE-PAST

Congratulations once again to Hatem Howlader for correctly identifying Chuck Porter (Theatre/Drama) in our October newsletter - remember, he won the previous one! While it is UWFA's policy to "share" prizes in a reasonably fair way we were snookered by the fact that Hatem was the only Member to correctly identified Chuck! Chuck served UWFA in various capacities for many years, including bargaining.



If you can identify this edition's blast-from-the-past, please register your "guess" with Kim Best at 9430. People correctly identifying this individual will have their names placed in a hat. The lucky draw winner will receive a free lunch at the Faculty/Staff Club courtesy of UWFA.



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

UWFA INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY WORKSHOP:

✓ Thursday, February 21st - 2:00 p.m.

Faculty and Staff Club

***Please register by contacting Kim Best at
9430***