

# Congress Chronicles

News from the Congress of Connecticut Community Colleges, SEIU Local 1973 • September 2008



**Members enjoyed a June celebration.  
Our Anniversary Dinner will be this Fall.**

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Students Gain  
Confidence  
with a  
Teacher who  
is an  
Acclaimed  
Portrait Artist.



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**R**ead  
About One College's  
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**J**oin an ACC  
Member as He Hikes  
the Same Trail Again...  
and Again.

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## Congress Chronicles



Congress of Connecticut  
Community Colleges

SEIU LOCAL 1973

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Governance: **Steve Krevisky**

Part-Timers: **Martin Piccirillo**

Political Action: **Art Corda**

Legislative Affairs: **Janet Lanci**

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and **Bob Reutenauer**

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# ActionCalendar

## Delegate Assemblies

Delegate Assemblies are open to all 4C's members. Join us for discussions of current issues affecting members, our profession, and our system. See the 4C's website for fall dates and locations, [www.the4cs.org](http://www.the4cs.org).

## 35th Anniversary Celebration

Members are invited to a dinner celebrating the 35th Anniversary of the 4C's. The 4C's Organizing Committee will be sending out invitations early in the Fall.

## Join a 4C's Committee

All 4C's committees are seeking additional members. If you are interested in participating, contact the committee chair listed below.

**Finance Committee:** oversees the union's budget and investments.

*Chair Lorraine Li: [LLi@gwcc.commnet.edu](mailto:LLi@gwcc.commnet.edu)*

**Organizing Committee:** seeks ways to involve members in union activities.

*Chair Cindy Casper: [CCasper@ncc.commnet.edu](mailto:CCasper@ncc.commnet.edu)*

**Equal Opportunities:** addresses issues of equity and parity within the community college system.

*Chair Mildred Hodge: [MHodge@trcc.commnet.edu](mailto:MHodge@trcc.commnet.edu)*

**Governance:** enhances members' ability to impact decision-making in the system.

*Chair Steve Krevisky: [SKrevisky@mxcc.commnet.edu](mailto:SKrevisky@mxcc.commnet.edu)*

**Legislative Affairs:** directs the union's legislative agenda and advocacy campaigns.

*Chair Janet Lanci: [JLanci@hee.commnet.edu](mailto:JLanci@hee.commnet.edu)*

**Part-Timers:** Addresses issues of concern to part-time employees.

*Chair Martin Piccirillo: [martinpiccirillo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:martinpiccirillo@sbcglobal.net)*

**Political Action:** Makes recommendations for endorsement and directs campaign activities.

*Chair Art Corda: [ACorda@gwcc.commnet.edu](mailto:ACorda@gwcc.commnet.edu)*



## Optimism...With Some Caveats

As Faculty and ACL's gear up for the fall semester, all of us are optimistic that we will have a pleasant, productive, and fulfilling academic year. We do, however, note the state's potential budget problems and know we will be asked to do more with less – yet again.

This will be a very busy year for our union. And some optimism is warranted here also.

We have Program Coordinators/Department Chairs and Nursing/Allied Health contract re-openers ongoing via arbitration, and we should see the arbitrators' decisions this coming winter. Some contract improvements can be expected in these areas, and these improvements will cost money, so our caveat again involves the state's finances. We need to be prepared to lobby the legislature in the spring.

Our Distance Learning re-opener conversations with management continue. An agreement is possible, but so is yet another arbitration. Whether via agreement or arbitration, we will again need to lobby the legislature to obtain the funding for Distance Learning.

On the union's internal front, we've had months of discussion concerning the 4C's Constitution. Our goal is to make the 4C's an even more democratic, member-driven organization, and a variety of constitutional language changes are being considered. We expect our Delegate Assembly will recommend certain of these language changes in the fall, so we will have the opportunity to vote to ratify these changes in the winter. In the end, we can hope to see positive changes here as well.

Looking beyond the union, another academic year begins in a climate of uncertainty about our country's economic situation, about upcoming presidential elections, about conflicts and upheavals around the world. Amidst this uncertainty, there's one thing we can count on – that 4C's members will continue to provide the best quality education to our students.



Mary Bencivengo, TXCC Division Director of Allied Health/Science, testified in the Nursing and Allied Health arbitration.

## DL Agreement in Limbo; Nursing/Allied Health, Chair/Coordinator Arbitrations to Resume

The union had hoped to have a tentative agreement on Distance Learning to present to the members for ratification this fall. As we go to press, however, we have not received a final proposal from management; this despite the fact that contract language already exists and is in effect for our AFT colleagues.

The AFT language gives greater workload weight to courses taught online. Faculty use Additional Responsibilities for developing and the initial teaching of a DL course. After a course has been taught once at the college, subsequent offerings are weighted at 133% for computing workload. For example, a 3 credit course would be counted as 4 contact/credit hours of workload.

Despite some problems with the language, most notably that it does not apply to adjuncts, the 4C's was willing to accept the AFT language. The union is not willing, however, to accept anything inferior to the AFT language.

Arbitration hearings are set to resume for the Nursing/Allied Health Reopener in September. The 4C's and the AFT are jointly seeking improvements to enable the community colleges to attract and keep faculty in this growing field.

The Department Chair/Program Coordinators arbitration will also resume in the fall. The current system of compensation for Chairs and Coordinators has not changed in more than a dozen years and fails to compensate for dramatic increases in workload. This reopener is also being negotiated in coalition with the AFT.

## Ethics Office Audits 4C's Lobbying Reports

The Office of State Ethics is in the process of auditing 4C's lobbying financial reports for a period between 2004-2007. The union was randomly selected for this audit.

Preliminary findings indicate problems with reporting a Legislators' Luncheon in 2004 and discrepancies in reporting lobbying fees.

As these violations occurred during a prior union administration which is no longer in office, it appears that no sanctions will be levied against the 4C's.

## Executive Board Approves Staff Contract

At their July meeting, the 4C's Executive Board gave its approval to a negotiated Contract with the union's employees.

The staff Contract, which mirrors the 4C's Contract in many respects, had been largely agreed to a year ago. The one outstanding issue concerned the employees' pension coverage.

The 4C's agreed to purchase one year of retroactive pension coverage. The staff has been covered by the SEIU Affiliates' Officers and Employees Plan since July 1, 2003.

much effort into the lengthy and detailed questionnaire. Members who believe they were penalized for submitting an incomplete questionnaire should contact the union. It may be possible to re-submit a questionnaire with more complete and accurate information in an upcoming round.

## Nine Members to Receive Raises Thanks to Willis Upgrades

Job classification upgrades will go into effect for nine members early this fall. Each of them are expected to receive a bit more than one year of retroactive pay. The annual Willis Job Classification review was the vehicle for these upgrades.

The number of positions and job classes being looked at by the labor-management Willis committee has decreased dramatically since resolving the bottleneck associated with implementation of system approved job descriptions several years ago. Hundreds of thousands of retroactive dollars were

rightfully placed in member's pockets in those boom years.

While most reviews result in either an upgrade or confirmation of the current classification level, it is possible for the classification level to be lowered.

If the classification level is lowered, that position is "red circled." This means the employee continues to be paid at the present classification rate, but that new hires will be paid at the lower level.

Members should be aware that management may initiate claims for a position to be reviewed. The union was



fearful that an unreasonable number of management initiated claims would end up as "red circles." So far, this has not been the case.

This year management initiated 12 claims; 3 were upgraded, 7 stayed the same, and 2 were red circled. The union initiated 13 claims; 6 were upgraded, 4 stayed the same, and 3 were red circled.

A related concern is that individuals whose positions are selected for review by management may not put as

## Members Ratify Promotion and ARP Disability Agreement

In June, members voted by an overwhelming margin to ratify an agreement which transfers money to pay for this year's promotions and for disability insurance premiums for those in the Alternate Retirement Plan (ARP).

The Agreement involves using some of the promotion dollars that became

available on July 1, transferring unspent money in other funds, and suspending the liberal use of computer literacy and retraining funds for one year. Retraining Funds are still available if needed to retrain members to avoid layoffs.

The full Agreement is on the 4C's website, [www.the4cs.org](http://www.the4cs.org).

### VOTE TALLY BY CAMPUS

|            | Total      | ACC | CCC | GW | HCC | MCC | MX | NV | NW | NCC | QV | TR | TX |
|------------|------------|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|
| <b>YES</b> | <b>541</b> | 33  | 29  | 56 | 74  | 55  | 31 | 39 | 24 | 68  | 33 | 34 | 65 |
| <b>NO</b>  | <b>53</b>  | 2   | 3   | 3  | 4   | 3   | 2  | 14 | 4  | 7   | 1  | 5  | 5  |

## SEIU Veterans Speak Out Against the Iraq War; Delegates Pass Resolution

This summer, 3,500 SEIU leaders and activists gathered in Puerto Rico for the union's International Convention. Four from the 4C's attended: President Steve Cohen, Vice Presidents Cindy Meo and Rhonda Spaziani, and Political Director Bob Fernandez.

The Convention addressed many important issues, including economic justice, the freedom to choose unions, affordable health care, and immigration reform.

Convention Delegates also passed a resolution on Iraq, supporting our troops by working with coalitions and others who share our goals of:

1. Bringing the troops home
2. Ensuring that they have the health care and other services they need.
3. Shifting the billions being spent on the war to strengthen our economy and meet the urgent needs of our communities.

Several veterans and military families spoke in favor of the resolution, including 4C's member Bob Fernandez from QVCC:

"I'm retired Navy, senior chief hospital corpsman who proudly spent ten

years providing medical support for the Marine Corps, and I'm a veteran of the first Gulf War. When those boys and girls, men and women, who are in the sands of Iraq die and get hurt, in the Marine Corps they call 'corpsman up!' If you ever see what an AK-47 or an IED can do to a human body, then the debate would end. War is a machine of death and we dishonor these veterans because we went to war for a lie. A lie!

"Meanwhile, 200,000 of my brothers and sisters live in the streets. People can't get health care in the Veterans Administration. Vietnam vets could go to college, but these kids can't. They are dying for a lie. I urge my brothers and sisters in the labor movement in this country: stand up, spend those billions of dollars at home treating these men and women."

See the debate video on the web: <http://www.uslaboragainstawar.org/article.php?id=16108>



Bob Fernandez

## Part-Timers Should Select a Retirement Plan

Part-time community college employees, like all state employees, are eligible for pension benefits. Two retirement options are open to all: the State Employees Retirement System (SERS) and the Alternate Retirement Plan (ARP). A third option, available only to those already enrolled in it, is the Teachers Retirement System (TRS).

According to state law, community college employees who have not chosen a retirement plan within six months of employment are enrolled in SERS.

This six month window has proven problematic for many higher-education part-timers who are hired by the semester. In many cases the adjunct is no longer employed when the six month deadline passes, and if hired again, the college considers him/her a new employee and starts the six-month period anew.

The state Comptroller's Office proposes to reduce the six-month window to a 90-day period, ensuring that all part-timers are in a retirement plan. The state employee unions are considering reducing it further to a 60-day period.

The Comptroller's Office is considering other practices to make sure it is in compliance with IRS rules. IRS rules, for example, allow an employee to waive participation in a retirement program. However, that choice can only be made on a one-time irrevocable basis.

The unions and community college management are waiting for further clarification from the Comptroller's Office.

In the meantime, the unions encourage all new employees to select their retirement plan based on their individual needs. Consult with your HR office or your financial advisor for more information.

## Talking Trash at NCC

Members of **NCC Going Green** have been meeting over the summer to explore ways the college can save energy and be more environmentally friendly.

At a July meeting, they toured the campus with Laura Panciera, the City of Norwalk Local Municipal Recycling Coordinator. They took note of poorly designed recycling

containers in the cafeteria, as well as an inadequate number of recycling receptacles throughout the campus.

They looked at the large dumpsters, marked as containing recyclables, but questioned whether the vendor actually recycles its contents.

The group planned to approach the administration with a request to purchase additional

recycling receptacles, talked about partnering with the city of Norwalk to make recycling work better, and discussed publicity efforts to get the college community excited about recycling.

At a previous meetings, the group talked about commuting issues with a representative from Metropool, a free transportation consulting service

that works with both employers and commuters. They discussed carpooling, van pooling, and mass transportation options.

Committee members have identified several other areas they'd like to explore, from saving energy and pursuing renewable energy sources to incorporating environmental issues into course curriculums to finding ways to get the campus community to buy-into new initiatives.

The Going Green committee grew out of a discussion at a staff meeting last May, when several employees expressed disappointment that a soon-to-be built building on campus would not meet new energy efficiency standards set by the State for State buildings.

The college has been excused from meeting LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards because the building was designed prior

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NCC members, looking for ways to make the college more 'green', check out the recycling bins behind the West Campus.

## Bike to Work: Getting There is Half the Fun!

Gas prices. Traffic congestion. Global Warming. Stress. Unhealthy lifestyle. All are good reasons to switch to bicycle commuting. Three Tunxis 4C's members would also say it's just more fun.

"The day starts with disappointment when I can't ride to work," admits Research Specialist/Webmaster **Jim Revillini**.

Jim is a hybrid commuter, driving the first part of the commute from Winsted to Canton. Then biking the remaining 8.6 miles to campus. He pedals a 1996 SandBlaster Mountain Bike. It's not aerodynamic, but with its big tires it can handle jumping onto curbs and even transversing broken glass.

**Mike Zych**, Media Specialist, says his odd-looking recum-

bent tricycle makes for a more comfortable ride for his 10.3 mile commute from Terryville. Using the trike's 27 speeds, he can cover the hilly commute in 45 minutes.

Mike sits just inches off the ground, but says that being at eye-level with automobile hubcaps doesn't bother him. He says that cars usually give him plenty of leeway. A flag

# Lights! Camera! Action!

Connecticut residents aspiring to get into the movie and television industries had the opportunity to hone their skills this summer in the Film Industry Training Program.

The four-week classroom program, offered at Middlesex and Norwalk Community Colleges and Quinnipiac University, was designed to teach the basics of film production. Students chose an area of concentration from: production management, location management, production office coordination, lighting and grip, camera, sound, property,



John Shafer (left) and Rich Lenoce ran MxCC's Film Industry Training Program.

set dressing, set construction and wardrobe.

Professors **Rich Lenoce** and **John Shafer** led the program at Middlesex. Rich, who coordinates the Broadcast Communications program at the college, said they brought in professionals, mostly from New York City, to help with the instruction.

"Students were learning from the best in the business, from professionals with many years of experience working on blockbuster films and popular television series," Rich said.

The colleges received state funding to establish the programs through a competitive solicitation process.

"On June 1, we were informed that our proposal had been selected. On July 7, students arrived on campus," John said. "I've worked harder than ever this summer to put this program together."

Connecticut has put money and effort into drawing film production companies to the state, primarily through a motion picture tax credit and assistance from the Commission on Culture and Tourism's Film Division. The establishment of a skilled in-state film workforce will be an additional incentive for producers to select Connecticut as the location for their films.

"As far as I know, we are unique in the country with this intensive training program. The film industry thinks it's great and are happy to be a part of it," John said.

"A trained workforce will absolutely be a contributing factor in selecting the state," Rich added. "It costs too much to bring in an entire production crew. Being able to hire some folks locally is definitely a plus."

The first two weeks of the training program offered a detailed overview of the movie



making process. The second two weeks involved intensive hands-on training in the chosen area of concentration.

The program at Middlesex shot a couple of scenes from the film "Juno." Students from different departments worked together to get a sense of what it's really like to shoot a film.

The training is designed to prepare students for entry-level jobs. The final phase of their training, coordinated by the Film Division, will place students on-set, working alongside unionized department heads and crew members on a feature film or episodic television project shooting in state.

that leans into the traffic lane makes him more visible and encourages vehicles to give him some extra space.

"My vehicle looks so unusual, it stops traffic," Mike says. "At night it looks like a UFO, with a bright headlight, a light on the flag, and several other lights."

**Arthur Simoes** travels the 11 miles from West Hart-

ford to Tunxis on a road bike. The Photography Lab Assistant and Adjunct Instructor says he used to compete in bike races. Now with work and family obligations it's hard to find time just to work out. Commuting by bicycle addresses his fitness needs while getting him to work.

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Mike Zych and his recumbent tricycle. The bike has 27 gears.

# 4C'sMembers

## Portrait of an Adjunct

Seven years ago artist Susan Strauss displayed some of her paintings in a West Hartford art show. Tunxis President Cathryn Addy saw her work and asked "Do you teach?" The comment turned out to be prescient.

At the time she met President Addy, Susan was focused on her current career as a portrait artist; a very successful career. In fact since 1990 when she went into business as a freelance portrait artist, Susan has never been without her next two commissions.

She started to build her business and her reputation by entering shows. While her paintings earned awards and honors, her work was also featured in publica-

tions from the American Art Review to Connecticut Magazine, to the New York Law Journal. She's completed some 200 paintings.

Susan's vibrant portraits make her subjects come to life. She paints from photographs. She melds elements from several different photos to create a final painting.

Her work caught the attention of the West Hartford Art League, which contacted Susan in early 2006, and invited her to teach there.

Although she hadn't taught in nearly 25 years, she realized she loved being in the classroom. She applied for an adjunct position at Tunxis and began teaching Drawing I in fall 2006.



Two of Susan Strauss' detailed and vibrant portraits. (A third is on the cover.) Susan paints from photographs, combining elements from several shots.



"It is a joy to help young people see what they are capable of doing," she said.

"I try to do my part to impart as much information to my students as possible, encourage their confidence in their skills and motivate them to do their very best work.

"I am proud that a high percentage of my students elect to take additional art courses. I like to think that my passion for art rubs off on them."

Susan says being a working artist and teaching is a wonderful combination. While being an artist is largely a solitary profession, teaching is very social.

Like many adjuncts, Susan's 'real world' experiences add value to her teaching. Students see drawing not only as a classroom project, but as something that can be part of one's career.

This fall, Susan will also be teaching an Art History course for Art Majors. "I look at art history with an artist's eye and will be focusing on what I think is of interest to artists."

Fine Arts Program Coordinator Bill Kluba said one of the reasons he hired Susan is because she is a representational artist and he tries to have different types of professional artists on staff to bring divergent viewpoints to the classroom.

"I also felt she was a good fit for the art department due to her warm and caring manner which is a skill I always look for when hiring adjunct faculty," Bill said.

Susan's paintings are on display in the new gallery at Tunxis. An Artists Reception is scheduled for September 4. You can also see her work on her web site at [www.susanstrauss.com](http://www.susanstrauss.com).



Susan Strauss) in her studio. The successful portrait artist brings 'real world' experience to her students at Tunxis.



# Around the Trail in 365 Days

*"I think I'll take a hike today.*

*I think I'll take the same hike every day for the next year."*

So begins John Sheirer's recently published book "Loop Year." The ACC English Professor set out to hike the same 2-mile loop trail every single day for a year and to chronicle his journey in a book.

His first entry continues:

*"For a year, I won't take any long trips or schedule my days so full that I can't make it here each day between 12:01 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. If I have the flu, I'll hike medicated. If I break my arm, I'll hike carefully. If I break my leg, I'll crutch. If I win the Nobel Prize for literature and am invited to the ceremony at whatever exotic location it's held, I'll skip it to be here. A broken leg is a few million times more likely than a Nobel Prize."*

Not to ruin the suspense, but John accomplishes what he set out to do and has written an insightful, often amusing, account of his year on the trail.

John, who admits to an obsessive-compulsive nature, begins each of his exactly 365-word daily entries (365 days; 365 words) with the date, time, how long the hike took, and weather conditions.

As a reader, you're tempted to check the word count -- some entries seem so much



**ACC's John Sheirer at a reading and book signing of "Loop Year" at Burgundy Books in East Haddam.**

**The English Professor and author is doing similar events throughout Connecticut and Massachusetts.**

longer than others -- or to find the day when he made the quickest loop. For an English professor, he seems to love numbers. During his year on the trail, he counts things -- the number of trees he can touch, the number of rainy days, the number of bugs, the number of steps, and more.

He also loves words and creates vivid descriptions of his trail, part of the McCann Family Farm nature preserve in Somers, Connecticut.

It is said that you can't understand someone until you walk a mile in his shoes.

After reading "Loop Year", you'll want to change that to two miles in his hiking boots. By the end of the book, you'll feel as though John is your good friend; as if you've known him for, well, a year.

The reader learns about

John's love life (Betsy), his health (reconstructive knee surgery), his passion (basketball), his job (Asnuntuck), and much more. We meet other hikers, some of whom are also regulars on the trail. We learn about the Northern Connecticut Land Trust and the volunteers who maintain the property. John even shares some pretty personal details of his life -- like the fact that he wears panty-hose.

John hikes when he feels ill, when rain floods the trail, when his foot hurts, when there's more than a foot of snow. The time when he came closest to missing a day on the trail, however, is when he leaves the state to attend a graduation ceremony. This happens on day 362; risking failure with a mere three days to go before the year is up! Needless to say, he makes it back to Somers before midnight -- in time to

do his 363rd hike.

On New Year's Eve, John and Betsy hike the trail together at night, finishing six minutes before the ball drops in Time Square. They toast the new year with their water bottles, then at 12:01 AM, begin the hike again.

The reader will find pearls of wisdom in "Loop Year," such as the concluding sentences from Day 23:

*"Bigger doesn't always mean better. Like so many other 'things' in life, it's not the size of your trail that's important—it's what you do with your trail that matters."*

John spent a year hiking the trail, another year writing and editing the book, and a third year getting the book published by Publishing-Works, Inc. of New Hampshire. He plans to spend this year doing talks and readings at libraries, bookstores, colleges, and other venues.

To find out when John will be coming to a location near you or where you can buy a copy of his book, visit his website at [www.johnsheirer.com](http://www.johnsheirer.com).



## 4C's Duo from Housatonic Lead Workshop at International Conference

Two 4C's members from Housatonic, **Kathy Cercone** (Professor of Biology) and **Janet Lanci** (Assoc. Professor of Human Services), jointly presented a workshop at one of the premiere online teaching conferences.

"BbWorld'08", sponsored by the software company Blackboard, draws together hundreds of participants involved with education online.

Their workshop: "Cyberworld! New Millennials! What About My Adult Students?" focused on the best ways to engage the adult learner, defined as students above the age of 24.

The workshop grew out

of a paper that Kathy published in the AACE Journal

entitled "Characteristics of adult learns with implications for online learning design." The workshop discussed adult learning styles and how they might be addressed through the design of online courses.

Both Kathy and Janet demonstrated various ideas employed in their courses at HCC. Kathy suggested numerous software applications that can be used for building graphics, interactive multiple-choice quizzes, games, crossword puzzles, and more.



Janet showed information from her first class

which introduces students to adult learning, discusses how to be a successful online student, and explains the policies and expectations of the instructor.

Both presenters gave very specific, usable information regarding how to design an online classroom environment while considering the application of adult learning theories.

Their presentations, including valuable suggestions for anyone teaching (or considering teaching) online, can be found at Kathy's website: [www.kathycercone.phd.com](http://www.kathycercone.phd.com).

The 4C's was proud to support Kathy and Janet's presentation at BbWorld

by covering the costs of attending the conference. The 4C's also sponsored **Russell Sabadosa's** participation. Russell is Chair of MCC's Information Systems and OfficeTechnology. All three participate in the 4C's Distance Learning Committee.

Russell's report on the conference was favorable. He remarked on the keynote address from Micheal Chasen, BlackBoard CEO: "Michael gave a great keynote mapping out the future of Black Board and how it hopes to be a portal for education and linking with its competitors like Moodle, Sakai, etc."

To read Russell's full report and other reports from the conference, go the the Workplace Resources section of the 4C's website: <http://www.the4cs.org/workresources/Default.aspx>



### MXCC Member of the Year

The Middlesex chapter named **Winnie Standish** (center) Member of the Year and presented her with a plaque which reads: "In recognition of her strength, courage, humor, and commitment to her students, college, and the nursing profession."

Winnie retired in August as the college's Allied Health Coordinator. We wish her all the best!

### College Presidents Distribute Merit Awards

Last spring, college presidents gave out 127 Merit Awards to 4C's members for a total cost of \$190,500. Merit Awards are lump-sum payments awarded to recognize employees for exceptional work. Individuals are selected at the discretion of the college president.

#### 2008 Merit Awards by College

|            |    |                  |    |
|------------|----|------------------|----|
| Asnuntuck  | 6  | Naugatuck Valley | 11 |
| Capital    | 18 | Northwestern     | 2  |
| Gateway    | 14 | Norwalk          | 17 |
| Housatonic | 12 | Quinebaug Valley | 5  |
| Manchester | 21 | Three Rivers     | 7  |
| Middlesex  | 4  | Tunxis           | 10 |



Go to: [www.unionplus.org/unionplustravel/](http://www.unionplus.org/unionplustravel/)

# PoliticalAction

## Primary Victory



A 4C's member may be on his way to becoming a State Senator. Congratulations to **Duane Perkins**, an Associate

Professor from Naugatuck Valley who convincingly won an election to become the Democratic nominee in the 24th State Senate District (Danbury, New Fairfield, Sherman, and Bethel).

The 4C's endorsed Duane in the primary. Members donated to his campaign and helped out in other ways.

Shortly after his overwhelming victory, Duane told the Danbury News Times, "It shows that our message of new energy and fresh ideas is resonating with the voters."

Duane, who has been at the col-

lege for ten years, is also a city of Danbury Councilman. He campaigned on issues such as strengthening the economy, affordable health care, and protecting the environment.

"I look forward to facing my Republican challenger on the issues that affect working families the most," he said. Duane faces Republican Michael McLachlan in November.

## 4C's PAC Considers Election Priorities

The 4C's Political Action Committee, under the leadership of Chair **Art Corda**, will be discussing its priorities for the November elections.

Under new election laws, PACs cannot contribute to campaigns that are participating in public financing. Committee members will be discussing whether the union should offer 'paper endorsements', when the union will not be able to offer financial support.

The Committee will be asking 4C's members to volunteer for its priority campaigns.

## HCC Member Creates Campaign Website

HCC Professor **Barbara Richards** has created a new website: "Election Volunteers for Democracy and Humanity."



The site includes voting records on issues such as campaign finance reform, clean contracting, in-state tuition for the children of immigrants, and paid sick time.

The site makes endorsements based on these ratings and encourages its readers to volunteer for those campaigns.

Go to: [www.electionvolunteers.org](http://www.electionvolunteers.org).

## Biking to Work

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The three are committed cyclists, but not crazy. They won't ride to work when it's stormy, when they have to carry bulky equipment, or when after-work plans make it unrealistic.

When asked what the college could do to support bicycle commuting, the three agreed that decent bike racks would be the top priority. (There is a bike rack now, but it's hidden in an obscure location near the dumpsters behind one of the buildings.) They said that bike racks in a safe, well-lit location close to the buildings would encourage others to ride bicycles.

So next time you're sitting in traffic breathing exhaust fumes, maybe you



From left: Arthur Simoes, Mike Zych, and Jim Revellini prefer to pedal to their jobs at Tunxis.

too will consider biking to work.

Riding a bike — good for your well-being, good for your wallet, and good for the world!

## Greening of NCC

*continued from page 7*

to the State's adoption of these standards for new construction.

Since both **Lois Aime** (Distance Learning Coordinator) and **Linda Lerman** (Library Director) had previously discussed the lack of recycling on campus with the Dean of Administration, the Dean suggested the duo lead an effort improve the college's environmental practices.

Several other individuals have since joined the committee. In the fall, the committee will likely grow to include students as well as additional faculty and staff.





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## Members Enjoyed a June Celebration *35th Anniversary Dinner Is Planned for Fall*

More than 250 members and their guests enjoyed themselves at the first 4C's Membership Celebration held on June 6 at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven.

The event, planned by the 4C's Organizing Committee, featured dinner, a comedian, music and dancing.

The Committee is already working on another event to be held this fall in

honor of the union's 35th anniversary. The Organizing Committee is finalizing the details and will be sending out invitations early in the fall semester.