

VANGUARD

Official Newsletter of the Adjunct Faculty Association at Nassau Community College
One Education Drive, Cluster C, Room 2073, Garden City, NY 11530
(516) 572-7294 | www.myafaonline.org

*WE CARE
About Our Students,
Our Members,
Our College!*

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President - Stefan Krompfer
 Vice President - Scott Stark
 Secretary - Rosemarie Tavitian
 Treasurer - Barbara Gregorio
 Chief Information Officer - Richard D. Erben

AFA EXECUTIVE BOARD:

Ken Bellafiore
 Chris Enright
 Bob Femminella
 Paul Guadagnino
 Garry Ouellette
 Milton Perez
 Ruth Silverman

AFA DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

Accounting and Business Administration.....Joseph Gray
 Administrative Business Technology.....M. Debra DeSanto
 Africana Studies.....Vacant
 Allied Health Sciences.....Alan Hecht
 Art.....Paul Guadagnino
 Biology.....Robert Femminella
 Chemistry.....Chris Enright
 Communications.....Jack Demasi
 Criminal Justice.....Ken O'Neill
 Critical Reading and Academic Advancement.....Carl Vinas
 Economics and Finance.....Ethel Weeks
 Engineering/Physics/Technology.....Richard Beck
 English.....Karin Falcone
 Foreign Languages.....Robert Cavanna

Health/Physical Education & Recreation.....Ed Mack
 History/Political Science/Geography.....Paula Carlo
 Hospitality and Business.....Thomas Field
 Legal Studies.....Joyce Birdoff
 Library.....Kenneth Bellafiore
 Marketing/Retailing/Fashion Buying/Merchandising/Fashion
 Design/Interior Design.....Bob Battle
 Math/Computer Science & Information Technology.....
 Milton Perez
 Mortuary Science.....Gerald Wingster
 Music.....Garry Ouellette
 Nursing.....Mary Ann Hellmer-Saul
 Philosophy.....Philip Pecorino
 Physical Sciences.....Michael Zito
 Psychology.....Brent Nelson
 Sociology/Anthropology and Social Work.....Ruth Silverman
 Student Personnel Services - Instructors.....Darren Petronella
 Student Personnel Services - Interpreters.....Jamie Forman
 Student Services.....Diana Cannone
 Theatre & Dance.....Charles Albano
 Unattached Administrative Assistants/Technical Assistants.....
 William Lyons

AFA COMMITTEES:

Constitution/Bylaws.....Chair: Arthur Friedman
 Members: Gerald Scharfman, Philip Pecorino
 Elections/Qualifications.....Chair: Rose Tavitian
 Members: Chris Enright, Rashied K. Sharrieff-Al-
 Bey, Philip Pecorino
 Grievance.....Chair: Garry Ouellette
 Political Action....Co-Chairs: Garry Ouellette/Gerald Scharfman
 Health & Safety.....Chair: Ken Bellafiore
 Members: Carl Vinas, Chris Enright, Gail Sobel,
 Mary Ann Hellmer-Saul, Mary Bagnasco, Robert
 Femminella, Susan Mitchell
 Retirement.....Chair: Margaret Renner
 Scholarship and Grants.....Chair: Karin Falcone
 Members: Bonnie Fachler, Jan R. Figueira, Jim Hoyt,
 Milton Perez

Administrative Assistant - Felicia Blackman

Vanguard Editor - Paul Guadagnino
 Vanguard Preproduction - Grace Schneider

From the President's Desk



Stefan Krompier

I wish you and yours a Happy Thanksgiving. I am honored and appreciate the opportunity to serve you as your President for the coming three years.

There is a common thread that runs through our lives each day and that is the good fortune to interact with the students who come through our doors each day as well as with each other. The dignity and sense of caring that you bring to your work each day humbles me and moves me to bring those same qualities to my work as your president.

We have worked tirelessly both in front and behind the scenes to bring you the labor contract that you deserve. Since our agreement with the college nine months ago there have been many obstacles, some unprecedented, that needed to be overcome in order to make this happen. I believe I see the light at the end of the tunnel. Hopefully prior to the beginning of the next year, the process will be completed.

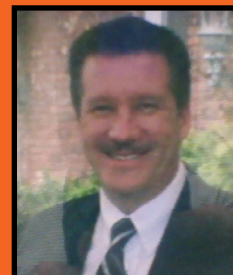
Reservations are at an all-time high for our holiday party that will be held in the CCB Multipurpose Room on December 18th from 3 pm to 7 pm. A Hot/Cold Buffet will be served. There will be prizes and giveaways as well as live music and entertainment. Most importantly, this party provides us all with the chance to get together, to have fun and to relish in each other's presence.

Stefan Krompier
President
Adjunct Faculty Association

The Inside Scoop

At our last AFA General Membership meeting, I was inspired to re-visit a story I first told in 2015 about the AFA Train. My inspiration came about when I received an email from one of our new members, Israel Gonzalez, who wrote to me about his own personal journey into membership. In the next issue of the Vanguard, Israel has given me permission to share that email with you and it will appear in my column in the December issue.

I am so happy to say that since the train pulled into the station in 2015, almost 1,000 people who stood on the platform have come aboard and taken the seat with their name on it. Click here to listen to the full story: <https://soundcloud.com/ncc-afa/afa-train>



Richard D. Erben

Richard D. Erben
Chief Information Officer
Adjunct Faculty Association

Member Recruitment

The AFA wants you! Please consider joining with 1,765 colleagues in becoming an AFA member by visiting our website at: <http://www.myafaonline.org/#!/membership-application/o4b1h>

Adjunct Spotlight

Alan Hecht



By Ruth Silverman

Adjunct professors are an accomplished and talented group of people, as this column in the *Vanguard* makes clear. This month's profile shines a light on Dr. Alan Hecht, Adjunct Professor in the department of Allied Health Sciences where he teaches Medical Microbiology and Anatomy and Physiology. He has had an interesting career outside the classroom and brings his knowledge and vast experiences with him to his teaching.

Professor Hecht wanted to be a doctor starting at the age of six. As a senior at The Bronx High School of Science, his choice of an elective was a half-year of Microbiology and a half-year of Anatomy and Physiology. Little did he know how important these courses would be in his future. After graduating from

Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, NJ with a BS in Biology Pre-Med studies, he attended two years of medical school in Guadalajara, Mexico, having to leave due to financial difficulties. He then returned to the United States where he went to New York University School of Medicine and earned a Master's degree in Basic Medical Sciences. His specialty was parasitology and his thesis research concerned developing a vaccine for malaria.

After receiving his Master's degree, he taught at New York Chiropractic College in Old Brookville as an adjunct. He taught there for a year and then decided to apply in 1979 to become a Chiropractic student. Many of his previous credits from Guadalajara were transferred. This gave him free time to work as an adjunct instructor at Farmingdale State College while attending Chiropractic school. He received his Doctor of Chiropractic (DC) degree in 1982 and

went on to practice for 34 years. However, he had caught the teaching bug and continued to teach as an adjunct professor at Farmingdale State College, where he has now taught for 40 years. He came to Nassau Community College in 1995. Professor Hecht

continues to teach at Hofstra University and Long Island University, where he teaches Anatomy and Physiology. He is also teaching Anatomy and Physiology

*“Professor Hecht
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starting at the age
of six”*

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Adjunct Spotlight

Alan Hecht



By Ruth Silverman

for Medical Physics in the Medical Physics program at the Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell.

At Nassau, his students are mostly pre-nursing or nursing students. Teaching is a family affair; his wife also teaches in the Biology departments at Nassau and at Farmingdale State College.

Professor Hecht enjoys interacting with students and seeing their faces light up when they grasp concepts needed for nursing and other healthcare professions. It also keeps him feeling young in mind and sharp. He brings his clinical experiences into the classroom through a discussion of interesting conditions he has treated and by displaying X-rays, MRIs, CAT scans and ultrasound images. He incorporates

these into his lectures so that the students can see the differences between normal and abnormal states; something they will definitely need in the hospital setting. Students often come to him afterwards for recommendations.

Dr. Hecht received the State University of New York Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching for the 2018-2019 school year. This is the first time that the award has been given at Nassau Community College.

What does Professor Hecht do when he is not teaching? He has written 15 books and recently completed the third editions of Cancer Treatment Drugs, Antidepressant & Antianxiety Drugs, and Cocaine and Crack for the Understanding Drugs series published by Infobase Learning. He has also written the third editions of Mononucleosis, West Nile Virus, Hepatitis, and Lyme Disease and the first edition of Mumps

for the Deadly Diseases and Epidemics series for the same publisher. These will be released later this year. At that time, he will also begin writing the third editions of Anthrax, Polio, and Tuberculosis.

Professor Hecht is the representative from his department to the Adjunct Faculty Association. We are fortunate to have Professor Hecht as part of our college.

Professor Hecht enjoys interacting with students and seeing their faces light up when they grasp concepts needed for nursing and other healthcare professions.

AFA Election Results

All positions below take office January 1, 2020

AFA President/VP Krompiew/Stark (Uncontested)
AFA Treasurer Barbara Gregorio (Uncontested)
AFA Secretary Rose Tavitian*

Accounting/Business Joe Gray (Uncontested)
ABT Debbie Desanto (Uncontested)
Africana Studies Vacant
AHS Alan Hecht (Uncontested)
Art Paul Guadagnino (Uncontested)
Biology Bob Femminella (Uncontested)
Chemistry Chris Enright (Uncontested)
Communications Jack Demasi (Uncontested)
Crim. Justice Kenny O'Neil (Uncontested)
DCRAA Carl Vinas (Uncontested)
Economics and Finance Ethel Weeks (Uncontested)
Engineering/Phys/Tech Richard Beck*
English Henry Sikorski (Uncontested)
For. Lang. Jung Yoon Schwarzmenn (Uncontested)
HPER Ed Mack (Uncontested)
History Paula Carlo (Uncontested)
Hotel/Rest Tom Field (Uncontested)

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Legal Studies Joyce Birdoff (Uncontested)
Library Ken Bellafiore (Uncontested)
Marketing Tom Sands*
Math Carmine Desanto*
Mort. Sci Vacant
Music Garry Ouellette (Uncontested)
Nursing MaryAnn Saul (Uncontested)
Philosophy Phil Pecorino (Uncontested)
Physical Sciences Mike Zito (Uncontested)
Psychology Brent Nelson (Uncontested)
Sociology Ruth Silverman (Uncontested)
SPS Darren Petronella (Uncontested)
SPS Interpreters Judith Rackovich*
Student Services Diana Cannone (Uncontested)
Theatre/Dance Charlie Albano (Uncontested)
Unattached Billy Lyons (Uncontested)

***Green denotes contested election**



AFA Members' Holiday Party
Dec. 18, 2019 3 pm—7 pm
CCB Multi-Purpose Room
Hot/Cold Buffet - Prizes -
Live Music - Entertainment

RSVP to: afareservations@gmail.com
RSVP deadline: November 27, 2019

NYSTRS NEWS

Dear Colleagues:

A RESPONSE TO OUR INQUIRY ABOUT THE COLA:

“By law, you receive automatic, annual cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) to your retirement benefit when you meet one of the following eligibility requirements:

- You are age 62 and have been retired at least five years; or,*
- You are age 55 and have been retired at least 10 years; or,*
- You are a retiree who has received a NYSTRS disability benefit for at least five years.*

Eligible retirees receive a 1% to 3% COLA annually, based on 50% of the increase in the Consumer Price Index between the current and previous March. The resulting percentage is multiplied by the first \$18,000 of the annual benefit to determine that year's adjustment. COLA increases begin with the September payment each year. The COLA that will take effect starting with the September 2019 payroll will be 1%.

A surviving spouse receiving a lifetime survivor's benefit will receive an increase equal to one-half the COLA increase the retiree would have received.

*If you have any additional questions, please write back or call us at (800) 348-7298.
Thank you for your inquiry!*

*Dave Costello
Information & Communication Center”*

Margaret A. Renner
AFA/NYSTRS Representative
Nassau Community College

Around the Region

Adjunct Professors Unionize at St. Petersburg College



Adjunct faculty at St. Petersburg College voted to unionize Tuesday, joining thousands of other adjuncts across Florida who are fighting for better working conditions and pay.

By Megan Reeves

Published Oct. 22

ST. PETERSBURG — Adjunct faculty at St. Petersburg College voted to unionize Tuesday, joining thousands of educators across Florida in the fight for better pay and working conditions.

About half of the school's 865 adjuncts voted, with 269 in favor and 187 opposed, according to the Public Employment Relations Commission.

St. Petersburg College employees are the seventh group in Florida to join Service Employees International Union, which is on track to represent about

9,500 adjuncts statewide, including those at the University of South Florida and Hillsborough Community College.

"Today, we have taken an important step towards achieving fairness at St. Petersburg College," adjunct professor of Earth Science Eron Higgins said in a news release after the vote.

Adjuncts teach the majority of classes at the school yet struggle to afford basic expenses, he added.

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Around the Region

Joining the union will “ensure that adjunct faculty can earn a living, while providing students a great education.”

Talks about unionizing at St. Petersburg College began nearly two years ago, said Angela Edwards-Luckett, an adjunct professor of world religion. She was confident from the start. “The whole time, I just had this feeling that we could do it,” she said. “That kept me fighting.”

Like adjuncts elsewhere in Florida, those at St. Petersburg College have concerns about low pay and lack of employee benefits, like health insurance, Edwards-Luckett said. One of her colleagues works part-time at Walmart just to make ends meet, she added. Others “take on as many classes as they can.”

The group formally filed to unionize in December. Some pushback came in May, when St. Petersburg College president Tonjua Williams sent an email warning faculty of the “consequences” of a

union, like dues and new ways of work.

“The ability of the college to be flexible and responsive to the particular needs of adjunct faculty will be hampered by a union,” she wrote, adding: “Learn the facts about faculty unions, both pros and cons, and make an informed choice!”

It was both “exciting and nerve-racking” to watch votes be tallied Tuesday, Edwards-Luckett said. But relief washed over her when the count was final.

“We came out victorious,” she said. “We’re just proud to join the ranks of other institutions in Florida higher education who also voted yes to unions.”