

June 2021

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What is the AFA?

It's *your* union, protecting and fighting for the rights of all adjuncts covered under the bargaining agreement between the college and the AFA (anyone teaching at least six LHE's in any of the three previous terms).

Summer 2021 Payroll Dates

June 11, 24,
July 8, 22,
August 5

Next AFA Board Meeting

August 18 4-5:30

Next OCC Board of Trustees Meeting

7:30 June 29

Welcome to new AFA members

Elizabeth Sanderson,
librarian and
Kathleen Pacyna,
Sociology

Negotiations Continue

Ne Negotiations are continuing on our next contract that will be in force for the next four years beginning with the Fall semester. A report on the survey recently done on issues adjuncts have will be shared shortly in an email to all who participated in it. One may still offer comments and suggestions to our negotiators; send them to afaoakton@gmail.com.

Do You Use MyOakton?

BegBeginning on July 1, you will not be able to access myOakton on any device from off-campus unless you have enabled the DuoMobile system on your phone. How do you do this? John Wade's email of April 26 of this year provides guidance.

Oakton Community College or Oakton College?

In the July 2019 Board of Trustees meeting, a possible change of the name of the college – dropping “community” - was discussed. The *Patch* picked up the story which you can read at <https://patch.com/illinois/skokie/oakton-community-college-board-chair-suggests-name-change>. There was a consensus of the AFA Board members to oppose to the change - the chief reason being the cost of replacing the handsome new signage at both campuses as well as the innumerable documents, forms, business cards, and so on – a cost estimated at over \$1,000,000. In addition, dropping ‘community’ from what is the community's college goes against its mission. We are also proud to be instructors at a *community* college. If you would like to weigh in on the discussion, email Beatriz Sparks, Senior Executive Assistant to the President and Special Assistant to the Board of Trustees at bsparks@oakton.edu. She is compiling input for the Board. You can also sign-up for Public Participation at the June 29th meeting. To address the Board of Trustees during the Public Participation portion of the meeting, send an email to bsparks@oakton.edu, including your name, town/affiliation, and the item you wish to address to the Board, no later than 6 p.m. on June 29, 2021. You will have three minutes for your remarks. If you live in Oakton's district, mention that you are a taxpayer and that the amount of money needed – especially at this time of declining enrollment - is a concern. Perhaps other taxpayers might appreciate learning of this in their local paper.

What Experiences Contribute to Success After College?

In the *Daily Princetonian*

(<https://www.dailyprincetonian.com/article/2021/05/student-debt-crisis-americas-higher-ed-system-professors-tenure-adjunct-princeton>), Melissa Reynolds

writes about what experiences students who found success after college shared. Based on a Gallup/Purdue study report (<https://www.gallup.com/education/194264/gallup-alumni-survey.aspx>), here are three of the six experiences: “1. Taking a course with a professor who makes learning exciting. 2. Working with professors who care about students personally. 3. Finding a mentor who encourages students to pursue personal goals.” Don’t we all want to be that professor for our students? However, nationally, adjuncts and non-tenure track instructors make up 75% of the faculty at colleges and a 2020 report (<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/04/20/new-report-says-many-adjuncts-make-less-3500-course-and-25000-year>) shows that a third of adjuncts make less than \$25,000, creating the popular ‘office in my trunk’ strategy as many of us drive from one job to another. A living wage would give us the time to be that professor students crave. Would a million dollar name change increase student satisfaction?

NEA Annual Meeting & Regional Assembly

Yasmin Cordero was elected to represent the AFA at the NEA (National Education Association – AFA’s umbrella union) on-line assembly in July. With 8,000 attendees, did you know that it is the world’s “largest democratic deliberative body”? (<https://ra.nea.org/about/faq/>) According to NEA’s website, the elected delegates “determine NEA’s strategic plan and budget, legislative program, and resolutions. Delegates also vote, by secret ballot, on proposed amendments to the

NEA constitution and bylaws and elect NEA’s executive officers, Executive Committee members, and at-large members of the NEA Board of Directors.”

In Memoriam

Lewis Lazarus

If you have ever been a regular in B200 at the Skokie campus, you will have met Lewis Lazarus, recently having finished his 30 year milestone of teaching English at Oakton. Many of us were heartbroken to learn of his recent death from natural causes at his home in Chicago, just before he was scheduled to begin teaching a summer course. He always had jam- packed schedules and tutoring at Oakton and many other schools. When you got to know him, you learned of his varied passions – family history, literature, politics, dancing (he was a very skilled ballroom dancer) as well as his frustration with computers and the fate of adjuncts. His deep interest in his colleagues and students – as well as anyone else he met, his gregariousness and quirkiness, and dead pan humor endeared him to so many of us. He will be remembered.

