

November 2023

Mary Hope Griffin, *President*

Mary Obernesser, *Vice Pres.*

Sylvia Cielak, *Treasurer*

Linda Berendsen, *Secretary*

Phil Prale, *Member Services*

Room 2166 DP

Web site: oaktonadjuncts.com

Email: afaoakton@gmail.com

Call or text: 224-423-5144



Dave Williams in Economics has won this year's Ray Hartstein Award for Teaching Excellence for Part Time Faculty.

Mary Hope Griffin in Mythology and World Religions was awarded Adjunct Faculty Individual High Impact Practice Award in Liberal Arts.

Urbi Ghosh in Biology was recognized with the Adjunct Faculty High Impact Practice Award in STEM:

Rebecca Sedam has won the Adjunct Faculty High Impact Practice Award in the Library.

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).

Fall 2023 Payroll Dates

11/24, 12/8, 12/22

AFA dues are taken out of the 4th and 5th paychecks.

Oakton Board of Trustees Meetings

Dec. 12 in the Des Plaines Board Room

AFA Open Office Hours

On [Zoom](#) Dec. 14 4 to-5 p.m.
In **Skokie** A 213 Mondays 1-2
In **DP** 2166 Wednesdays 10-11
& Thursdays 9:30-10:30

AFA Board Meetings

Dec. 8; 10 – 11:30 [on Zoom](#)

SURS

If you are planning on retiring from Oakton after September 1, 2024, how SURS will calculate your service is changing - for the better. [SURS has published an easy-to-read summary of these changes.](#) In short, these changes are a result of Public Act 103-0548 that was signed into law in August of 2023, amending "the SURS Article of the Illinois Pension Code to change the method in which service credit is granted and eliminate the part-time adjustment for participants of SURS on or after September 1, 2024." The new law lowers the requirement from 15 days to one day per month on or after September 1, 2024, granting one month of service credit for each month in which adjuncts are paid and make contributions to SURS. This is a huge win for adjuncts! A session on SURS will also be presented by the AFA during Orientation Week.

Interested in Curriculum?

Interested in how the college works, meeting new people, and earning some cash at the same time? There is an opening for an adjunct on the Curriculum Committee. The committee meets monthly on Monday afternoons. Contact Mary Hope Griffin if you are interested in serving on this important committee.

Mandatory On-line Trainings Due

The due date is **November 30** for two mandatory trainings - the Mandated Reporter for Child Abuse and Neglect training and Sexual Harassment Prevention refresher training. Together

they take about an hour and a half. They are provided by Vector Solutions, which will keep your training record and evidence of completion. You can also download a certificate for your records. *Do not* send the certificates to HR or CPD; they have it already. The emails that you are receiving will stop when you finish the training. You *do* need to send to HR in DP 1260 the [“CANTS 22 Acknowledgement of Mandated Reporter Status” form](#), either by email (hr@oakton.edu) or by sending a paper copy. HR will keep this in your personnel file.

I Know Where You Live....

Have you taken a class at Oakton? Many of us have and not realized that the profile information that we may have entered on D2L is visible to everyone registered in a class. If you have entered any personal information – such as your address – it is accessible to everyone in that class even though consent has not been asked of either you or of any of the students. Until this is resolved in D2L, delete any information you don’t want shared.

Faculty Retreat

Faculty Retreat is January 11th from 9 to 3 at the Renaissance in Glenview. The AFA will cover the costs of any adjunct faculty member who would like to attend. Register [here](#) and pay by check.

The keynote speaker is [Leo Lambert](#). He has promoted “a student-centered culture that values strong relationships between students and their faculty and staff mentors. Focused on developing students as global citizens, ethical leaders and creative problem-solvers, Lambert led two, decade-long strategic plans, creating a model for the modern liberal arts university.” He has recently cowritten [Connections Are Everything](#), “a practical guide to building the connections students need to thrive in and after college.” You can read the book for free [on-line](#).

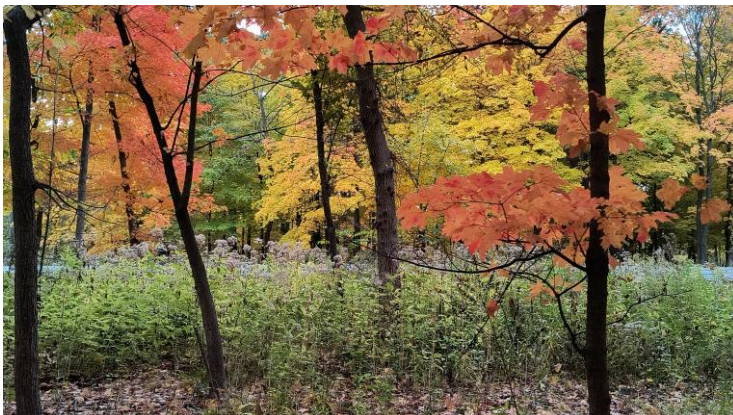
What Students Might Be Up To

I recently learned from a junior high school student that I tutor about a trick some students use. Are you writing a paper that needs to be 1, 250 long? Short on ideas? Easy. In Word, change the font from black to white. Type however many random words that you need. They’ll be counted in the total word count but are not visible in the document. Try it. It works. For the student, that is.

Teaching Developmental Math or English?

OCCFA president Suzie Ziegenhorn shared an email with all of us about the Developmental Education Reform At (110 ILCS 175) requiring “that all community colleges consider multiple measures for determining a student’s placement in introductory English and mathematics courses.” For the full text of the proposed amendment, see pages 14649-50 of the Oct. 20, 2023 Illinois Register of Public Agencies. Public comment on the amendment is open until Dec. 3; please consider sending your comments to Matt Berry, ICCB Chief of Staff at matt.berry@illinois.gov by Dec. 3.

As an ESL teacher, I have several questions for them. One ‘multiple measure’ is a “student’s cumulative GPA.” How has the student’s writing been assessed? (Standardized tests? Actual writing?) Another is “a student’s completion of an appropriate developmental English course.” When must these courses have been completed? I got A’s in my Chinese language studies some light years ago, but can’t write



much now. Also to be considered is “the standardized test scores provided by the student for placement in an introductory college level English language course.” Show me a standardized test score that actually reflects a student’s writing ability. Let them hear from us, the professionals.

The Des Plaines campus woods