

COD Faculty Association Newsletter



College of the Desert
Faculty Association



*Dedicated educators of
College of the Desert*

CODFA Board & Team

President: Denise Diamond

VP/Sec: Jose Simo

Treasurer: Karen Tabor

At Large: Heather Benes and Wendy Ansley

*Bargaining Team: Geoff Hagopian,
Fred Sangiorgio, Dustin Culhan*

Reminder! Keep track of all your hours for summer hiring committee work, which is paid at \$52/hr.

Bargaining Update

The District will sunshine articles 8 (compensation), 10 (H&W Benefits), and 14 (Distance Education), while the Association will add articles 12 (Hours of Service) and 13 (R&R Time & Stipends)

Thanks to all who responded to the bargaining survey. Respondents ranked an increase District's responsibility for H&W funding as highest priority, followed by increasing step %, 403B, shifting steps, adding longevity steps, summer/ovl pay and longevity stipends.

Responses to the question about the role of department chairs were extremely diverse, reflecting the diversity of our programs and how they are organized.

May Revise Very Rosy

The augurs bode well for negotiations this coming year. See Vice Chancellor Dan Troy's letter for details, but in short, we expect

- 2014-15 windfall of \$3.3B over projections
- \$3.1B is projected to come to education as "one-time" \$\$
- 2015-16 education budget is projected to increase by \$2.7B over the January proposal (primarily ongoing)
- Proposition 98 gains are big.



A Message from Denise

Colleagues,

What an academic year of change and challenge this has been! Thank-you for all you have done to bring attention to many areas—through our soft voices, through our loud voices, through our actions and even through no action, much has been accomplished.

Where will we place our valuable time and resources now? What models and values will we use to unite the campus community as we continue to grow and change? For the first time in decades, we will welcome 12 new faculty in the fall. We will have 9 temporary full time. We will be the largest group of faculty in the college's history even as we say good-bye to our colleagues who are retiring or leaving.

Collectively, like our students, we are diverse—flexible and stubborn, cooperative and contentious, funny and way too serious. As we do the work of the college and engage in our passions, I encourage each of us to bring our compassionate, creative, collabo-

orative and collegial best to what we do.

Thank you for your continued commitment to hiring committees, our external and internal practices, which we know need improvement. There will be opportunities for continued focus on hiring as the college fills important positions. Thank you for your voice—it matters.

I hope the summer brings days of rest, reflection and renewal. I hope you enjoy a star filled night, a delicious meal, and silly moments with friends and family. I will be headed to Israel to reconnect with family and hopefully swim with dolphins, too. Then to Glastonbury and Bordeaux—back Aug. 1st.

Jose Simo, our Vice President/Secretary will be around some of the summer and several members of the Board will be teaching summer school— **Karen Tabor**, **Wendy Ansley** and **Heather Benes**. **Marianne Reynolds**, our CTA staff member for over 10 years is available at mreynolds@cta.org.

Remember to check out CTA/NEA benefits online for discounts on all kinds of entertainment and travel. If you haven't done so, sign up for your free life insurance and name a beneficiary!

When next we meet, let's start with a smile and how YOU are; let's treat each other kindly. —Denise

More Faculty GoodByes



On behalf of the entire membership, the CODFA Executive Board extends a hearty gratitude to **Maria Jasso** and **David Aquistapace** for great service as VP/Sec and Member at Large, respectively.

And a warm welcome to new VP/Sec **Jose Simo** and Member-at-large, **Heather Benes!**

Paul Maag



Best Wishes for a happy retirement to **Paul Maag**, Alternative Media specialist, DSPS counselor
Paul and his wife are headed to Salida, Colorado where they will be surrounded by 14kft. mountains as they enjoy their 116 year old home. Paul, who grew up in Indio, compares Indio to Salida in that they were both railroad towns. When asked what has been memorable during his 16 years at the college, Paul replied, I have really enjoyed the clinical side of DSPS that has literally saved lives".

Paul is passionate about meditation and has practiced TM for decades. Additionally, he is a founding member of the International Mountain Biking Association. He has worked diligently to get bikes back on the trails. Breathe deep, get that mountain air, and come and visit us, Paul...

Carole Lasquade & Doug Macintire



It's hard to imagine what COD will be like without these two fixtures of humanity unifying social and scientific theories of teaching and learning—Cape Cod will be the better for our loss.

Here's a story...When Doug was faculty at Cal State Monterey Bay in computer Science and Carol was already tenured, they bought their retirement home in the desert. Then, Doug saw the ad for a Physics professor at COD, and the rest, as they say, is history. They will spend summer and fall in their Cape Cod Cottage, and when they return, they might be adjuncts in spring 2016! If not, the new snowbirds will enjoy golfing, hiking and swimming as well as their 2 grandchildren in San Diego. Carol says the highlights are the students and faculty. "Don't get me started, I'll cry." Carol says Doug is enjoying a binder full of student appreciation letters put together by MESA. Carol and Doug—we wish you all the best!

Tom Gillman



Tom Gillman came to College of the Desert in 1989 after a 17 year career as a software developer in Silicon Valley. Tom has a BA in

math from Duke ('66) and an MBA from Stanford ('68). In the early 1990's he, together with Sandi Brandon, developed the first Computer Information Systems/Computer Science program for COD. Early courses were DOS and WordPerfect and Lotus; students had to memorize keyboard commands because there was no mouse.

Through the years, Tom continued growing and enhancing the program; responding to every technology change; moving to the Windows environment then networks then the Internet and web publishing. In 1998 he proposed and organized COD's first online program www.desertonline.net—actually doing most of the programming, server setup and server maintenance. He served COD as Coordinator of Online Learning from 1999-2008, expanding the program each year to more course offerings and more instructors; and providing training on everything from how to receive e-mail attachments to how to ensure compliance with the American Disabilities Act.

In his online role, he was an innovative leader among California Community Colleges and presented at many of the California Virtual Campus (CVC) conferences. Tom served as the Business Division Chair from 1993-1999. But overall, his greatest strength was his commitment to the CIS/CS programs and his dedication to teaching.

H & W Information

Important Health and Welfare Information

Open Enrollment for Health Plans happens quickly in F2015. (The deadline is Sept. 1st) To be prepared for the changes in plan options and costs, look for email and home mail from Misti Santana in July. There will be Open Enrollment representatives available during and after Flex as well.

It is FACULTY RESPONSIBILITY TO UPDATE ADDRESS CHANGES. Use the PORTAL change of address form-as that goes directly to HR most effectively.

Where in the World?

Where is in the World are COD Faculty Going?

Ed Reed will be going to Prague, Vienna and Budapest **Maria Jasso** will

be rocking and rolling at the Rolling Stones concert—also camping in Colorado. **Pilar Agudelo** is headed to her native Columbia. **Khanh Hoang** will be taking his kids to San Diego. **Elise King** will be playing lots of golf and going to Orlando. **Zerry Becker** will wait until December and then head to Egypt and Kenya. **Carl Farmer** will be taking students to the SSSP conference in San Francisco. **Robert Rosteck** will head to Cincinnati where he just might bump into **Jack Tapleshay**. **Denise Diamond** is going to Israel, Glastonbury, and Bordeaux. **Hushang Shahidi** may do some local trips—he's teaching ECON 1 this summer! **Alex Jazan** among other places will be in Paris and Argentina. **Steve Dostal** and emeritus wife **Karen** may stick close to home—they have 2 kids in college...**John Learned** will go with fam to Hawaii and **Geoff Hagopian** is camping his way up to Seattle and back, again! **Jim and Jackie Matthews** will be building a casita near their Yucca home for mom. Where ever you go, there you are...

CSEA Appreciation



CSEA Appreciation Lunch

THANK YOU STAFF FOR ALL YOU DO!

Denise went to the lunch to thank staff for all they do throughout the year on behalf of Faculty, students and the COD community. She also congratulated Lauro on his state wide recognition award! We'll all get to see the video in the fall.

End of Semester CODFA Soiree

Social director Wendy Ansley arranged for yet another fabulous end of semester party. Spirits were high to mark the end of a difficult semester and a note filled with optimism for next year:

