

Union Voice



Student Aide Victor W. Chen

My name is Victor Chen from the hometown of San Francisco. I moved down to San Diego to attend undergraduate studies at UC San Diego. I am a recent alumnus with a Bachelor in visual arts media but is still around campus since my current job is working for the UCSD External Relations

division as an artist. In the future, my plan is to continue my formal education in visual art by attending graduate school so to achieve my MFA. My hobbies are motor-sporting cars and listening to music. Since working on the side for local 2034, I have learned a lot about how the UC system works in terms of how there are so many scholars and educators who have very limited security with the University due to the fact that the majority of them do not have a tenure status. It is a pleasure to know I could be part of a team who helps these professors get what they deserve.

Correction Fall Newsletter

Under Librarian Issues I wrote: "Many issues which remain union issues on other UC campuses such as PI status for Librarians, PD-Funds, etc. have been resolved at the UCSD campus thanks to our excellent University Librarian Brian Schottlaender."

I was perhaps too optimistic and was corrected by Peter Brueggeman, LAUC-SD Chair 2005-2006.

"Librarian professional development support funding has been discussed with the University Librarian with an increase approved. It is not certain at this time if it fully meets the needs of Librarians, so the issue may resurface in the future as experience is gained."

Librarian Workload Survey, Fall 2006

Thank you all so much for participating in this important survey, a tool for us to help address workload and to get a better handle on what some of the most pressing issues are for Librarians across the state. We had a good return in the end. I believe 1/3 of our UCSD total number of Librarians completed the survey. That's a lot! We also want to thank Elliot Kanter for his help with the Workload Survey.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FUNDS

If you haven't yet heard about the professional development monies secured in the current Memorandum of Understanding for Non-senate instruction, unit 18, we would like to highlight some of the recent awardees and the various ways in which the fund is being utilized. Again, we encourage you to apply. The next application deadline is March 1, 2007. The guidelines for applying and the application can be downloaded from our Local's website:

www.cft.org/councils/uc

United Way: Labor Participation

The Chancellor made the annual call for faculty and staff to contribute to United Way through payroll deduction and I want to urge you to consider designating Labor Participation as your recipient. It is an agency of the Labor Council but is funded by United Way in terms of office and staff. Labor Participation supports working families with temporary distress including food and other services. In addition, it is able to direct union members to aid with rent, utilities and mortgage payments. If you itemize your income taxes, this contribution is tax deductible.

Professional Development Funds for Lecturers - Stephen W. Potts

For the third year, the university has a pool of funds set aside for lecturers under the Unit 18 Memorandum of Understanding. We are now in the middle of the Spring 2007 application cycle. To celebrate past award recipients, Local 2034 sponsored an informal gathering on Friday, February 2, to which all Unit 18 lecturers were invited. Past awardees shared their stories with future applicants, and members of the awarding committee spoke about the application process.

According to Article 9, paragraph 2 of the MOU, lecturers with continuing appointments may apply for funds to help them attend professional meetings and seminars, acquire software and other materials, and pursue other needs “in support of pedagogical endeavors.” UCSD’s Professional Development Committee, composed of five members of UC-AFT Local 2034, interprets “pedagogical endeavors” to include any academic activities that benefit the professional stature of the lecturer, thus enhancing the university’s mission as an educational and research institution.

One of the ongoing frustrations of the contingent faculty at UCSD and its sister campuses is the sense that their professional credentials and capabilities are undervalued. The Professional Development program helps redress this problem. Indeed, an overview of past awardees reveals an impressive array of talents, experience, and accomplishments, revealing them to be full-time academic professionals despite the second-class status too often accorded lecturers.

Among those funded this past year were Jean Isaacs of Theater/Dance, who requested money to support a series of performances in New York City, and Ferruh Yilmaz of Communication, who presented a paper at the National Communication Association in Washington, D.C., and whose c.v. contains two pages of publications in English, Turkish, and Danish on issues of immigration and racial attitudes. Wolfgang Hastert of Visual Arts received a grant that allowed him to attend this year’s Sundance Film Festival, where he marketed his own film *Someone Like This*. Professional development funding allowed philosopher Maria Tillmanns (now UC-AFT Field Representative at UCSD) to meet with Princess Irene of the Netherlands, who had expressed an interest in Maria’s work on dialogue after Maria had contacted Natuur-College, an organization founded by Princess Irene which focuses on alternative approaches to understanding the role nature plays in our lives in terms of sustainable development.

Last year the committee was particularly happy to grant funds to Kathryn Ringrose of the Department of History to cover her attendance at the Byzantine International Congress in London, where she lectured on the subject of eunuchs and sexual identity in the Byzantine Empire. The author of the book *The Perfect Servant* (U. of Chicago, 2003) and a veteran UCSD lecturer with more than 35 years experience, Dr. Ringrose told the Professional Development gathering that her 2006 grant was the only such support she had ever received from the university. Given her expert credentials, this award was long overdue.

The deadline for the current funding cycle (spring and summer 2007) is March 1. An application and guidelines were sent in a recent email to all members. You can also check: www.cft.org/councils/uc.

