MSCA and MTA Boards of Directors Recommend O’Brien, Gabrieli

Patricia Markunas, MSCA President

At its meeting of October 4th, the MCA Board of Directors voted to support the re-election of Shannon O’Brien for Governor and Chris Gabrieli for Lieutenant Governor in the upcoming election. Given O’Brien’s support for public higher education and our experience with twelve years of Republican governors, it was an easy decision to recommend to the MSCA membership.

As Governor, Shannon O’Brien will understand and act on the belief that public higher education is an investment for the Commonwealth, not a cost. She and Chris Gabrieli know that, while many graduates of private institutions leave Massachusetts after graduation, 75% of those who graduate from our public institutions remain here and significantly contribute to the state’s workforce and tax revenues.

A large part of the O’Brien/Gabrieli commitment to public higher education is to establish stabilized budgets for our public institutions and universities. While the annual budget process would be preserved, long-term budget planning would be established as a way to avoid dramatic cuts or elimination of programs such as those we have seen during the past. MSCA will enter into negotiations in January for new contracts for both of our units. MSCA leaders and members were shocked by the failure of the state to fund the contracts for our fellow union members in higher education, as this failure portends badly for our future as unionized state employees.

O’Brien and Gabrieli believe that direct and timely contract negotiations with all state employees is the responsibility of every administration, and that a contract negotiated in good faith should be funded in a timely manner. A no vote on Question 1, the “Unz initiative,” hasn’t worked in California. The Massachusetts Teachers Association and the MSCA Board of Directors are asking their members to vote NO on Question 1.

Vote NO on Question 1: Income Tax Elimination Means Chaos for State

Ben Lieberman

On November 5th, you and every other voter in Massachusetts will be asked to vote on Question 1 to eliminate the state income tax. Supported by a misleading campaign, this ballot question, if passed, would have extraordinarily destructive consequences. It deserves to be taken seriously as a real threat to the state and its future. As such, the MCA Board of Directors has voted to urge members to vote NO on Question 1.

If adopted, Question 1 would transform the state into one of the lowest-taxed in the nation. It would remove $9 billion in taxes from the Massachusetts budget and redirect it to other state priorities. Such a move would make it impossible to fund public education programs and services, including higher education and our libraries. The Legislature would face unprecedented challenges to fund education and our state’s public colleges and their libraries, as well as additional funds for scholarships and student loans. She also supported bills to create jobs and stimulate economic development.

Vote NO on Question 2: Preserve Choices in Bilingual Education

Ellen Rintell

“O’Brien has a strong record of supporting higher education, a key component to re-energize the Massachusetts economy and attract good jobs so that everyone can find the right opportunity for his or her talents.”

Ellen Rintell

On other issues of significance, O’Brien is pro-choice, is opposed to the death penalty, supports an increase in the minimum wage and, while in the Legislature, supported numerous policies to improve human services in Massachusetts.

Vote NO on Question 2: Preserve Choices in Bilingual Education

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“O’Brien and Gabrieli believe that direct and timely contract negotiations with all state employees is the responsibility of every administration, and that a contract negotiated in good faith should be funded in a timely manner. A no vote on Question 1, the “Unz initiative,” hasn’t worked in California. The Massachusetts Teachers Association and the MSCA Board of Directors are asking their members to vote NO on Question 1.”

Ellen Rintell

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To volunteer for the O’Brien/Gabrieli Campaign, contact:

Mailed: P. O. Box 3837
Boston MA 02114
Phone: 617-268-2500
Fax: 617-268-5576
Web sites: www.shannonobrien.com
www.obriengabrieli.com
Email: Shannon@shannonobrien.com

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Vote No on Question 1
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Howell. By now, hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of voters have seen full-page ads in The Boston Globe and read Howell’s statement in The Harvard Crimson. M Asssachusetts Information for Voters, mailed by Wlliam Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth.
Howell’s misleading campaign omits mention of the programs to face cuts—she speaks of waste and bloat, not of teachers and nurses. In a promise reminiscent of an elementary school class candidate pledging candy to her supporters, Howell claims that “30,000 working people in M assachusetts would each get back $3,000 every year.” In fact most would receive far less. She exaggerates past growth in spending by claiming that “M assachusetts state government spending” rose from $10 billion in 1991 to $23 billion today. In fact, the budget that G overnor D ukakis signed for 1991 was $13.4 billion.
The decision of the Secretary of State’s office to print, publish, and distribute incorrect information at taxpayer expense should arguably be the subject of an investigation. We might rename the voter’s guide “The Official M assachusetts Information and M isinformation for Voters.” A senior staff member at the Secretary of State’s Office said that the Secretary of State had to publish 150 words by Howell as long as she said that she possessed relevant, accurate information, H owever, a letter from the Office of the A ttorney General explained that “the Secretary of State exercises some, but not unlimited, authority over the content of the for” and “against” arguments on ballot questions.
On the vigor of Howell’s campaign and the failure of most elected officials to speak out on this issue, M SSA members and other concerned citizens need to make the case against Question 1. T his may well be more than a short-term challenge. Recent polls show support for Question 1 at close to 40 percent, an alarmingly high figure. T hose voters who think they support Question 1 need to know the truth.
How many realize that their town may well derive 30 percent, or in some cases as much as 50 percent, of its budget for paying teachers from the state? H ow many realize the role of M edicaid as a revenue source for hospitals and nursing homes? H ow many have any idea about the number of students who graduate from public colleges and universities and stay in the state?
It is time to fight the smear campaign with accurate information, and to vote against Question 1 on November 5.
Ben L eberman is a associate professor of History at Fitchburg State College.
Vote No on Question 2
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was, the workers directed the citizens to sign the petition. T he implication, of course, is that teachers do not teach English now. T he Republican candidate for governor, M itt R omney, uses the same false approach. H e states in his television ads that he will “replace” bilingual education programs with programs that will “teach English.” But our schools already have had programs to help immigrant students learn English for over thirty years. W e don’t need a ballot question to dictate to local school committees, administrators, and teachers the best method for teaching students.
Any language acquisition programs come under the general heading of bilingual education. T he goal of these programs is bilingualism for the students, which means proficiency in speaking and writing two languages, the native language and E nglish. E nglish is always taught in those programs. In fact, M any teachers who work with English language learners say that their programs are bilingual in practice. Many teachers and administrators have been frustrated with the existing law that mandates transitional bilingual education be implemented wherever there are at least 20 students with the same native language in a given community. It is sometimes difficult to find qualified teachers who are speakers of the language, and many object to the segregation of linguistically and culturally diverse students in bilingual classes. Sometimes those classes are offered in only one school in the community. In response to the contradictions of this new law, a new law was passed this year that gave school superintendents and families more flexibility in providing for children who need to learn English. B ut if Question 2 passes, the one-year immersion program would be the only option for any and all E nglish language learners in the state.
If you want to preserve the ability of teachers to make and implement educational decisions, if you want to retain the ability of parents to decide on the best programs for their children, and most importantly, if you want to give students the best research-based and effective programs for bringing about academic success for children who are learning E nglish in school, then be sure to vote No on Question 2.
E llen Rintel is associate professor of Education at Salem State College.
DGCE Arbitration Victory at MCLA
On September 12, 2002, A rbitrator J ohn D ayl y issued an arbitration decision in a DGCE case at the M assachusetts College of L ibrarian Arts that repre- sents a significant victory for the M SA. T he case involved a professor who had taught at MCLA for over 23 years. O n November 10, 2000, the professor was sent a letter stating that the College did not intend to reappoint her for the following semester because of her “performance on student evaluations . . . over the past year.” T he MCLA’s case relied on a decision from 1993, which established that under the DGCE contract, a College “must have ‘cause to discipline or suspend or just cause to terminate a DGCE professor whether the discipline occurs dur- ing the term of an appointment or after’” (M SSA/ DGCE & H igher E ducation C oordinating C ouncil, M ay 10, 1993 (A rbitrator J ames C ooper)). A rbitrator D ayl y found that the College’s decision was clearly disciplinary in nature and then went on to determine whether just cause existed for this “constructive discharge” by MCLA. H e found three reasons why just cause did not exist. F irst, the professor was not afforded the minimal due process required under A ticle V (E) of the contract. S ec- ond, the professor was not afforded adequate warn- ing and time to improve her performance. N ot only was she never evaluated by her chair, she was never given an opportunity to be heard before the decision was made. F inally, A rbitrator D ayl y found that the College’s determination that the professor exhibited poor job performance was based incomplete evalu- ation materials. T he College reviewed only three semesters in the professor’s entire 23 year teaching career.
T he professor was awarded lost earnings from the Spring 2001 semester to the date of the A ward. MCLA was ordered to reinstate her to DGCE immediately with full rights and benefits in DGCE as any other active member of the Pool. A ttorney S andra Quinn, from M A T L A’s Legal D ivision, lobbied the case on behalf of the M SSA/ DGCE. Recognition is also due to E d M iano, former G reene River officer at MCLA, for developing an extremely thorough record of the case.
In the Association

MSCA Committees Appointed for 2002-2004 Term

At its meeting of October 4th, the MSCA Board of Directors appointed the MSCA members listed below to the MSCA Standing and Ad Hoc Committees indicated. Members will serve a two-year term from that date. On October 11th, all committees, except for the Credentials and Resolutions Committees, were convened to elect a chairperson to serve for the same term. The names of those members elected as chairs appear in italics below.

MSCA Chapter Presidents

We desperately need a change of political philosophy and leadership in Massachusetts. Please support Shannon O’Brien for governor and Chris Gabrieli for lieutenant governor.

Vacancies remain on several committees. If you are interested in filling any committee vacancy listed for your chapter, please contact the chapter president on your local campus. All members in good standing (full-time, part-time and DGCE) are eligible to serve on MSCA Committees.

On behalf of the MSCA, we thank those members who have volunteered their time and energy to represent their colleagues in the important work of the MSCA.

MSCA Board Meetings

Academic Year 2002-2003
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

September 6 Framingham State College
M C arthy Center/Fireplace Lounge

October 4 Worcester State College
C ampus Center/Foster Room

November 1 Framingham State College
M C arthy Center/Fireplace Lounge

December 6 Worcester State College
C ampus Center/Foster Room

January 7 (tentative) Worcester State College
C ampus Center/Foster Room

February 7 Framingham State College
M C arthy Center/Fireplace Lounge

March 17 M TA - A uburn
Large Conference Room

April 14 Framingham State College
M C arthy Center/Fireplace Lounge

April 25 Fitchburg State College
Miller Hall/Oval Room

April 26 D eligate Assembly
Fitchburg State College
C onlon Building/Kent Recital Hall

June 6 M assachusetts College of Art
Tower Building/Trustees Room

M SCA Board meetings and the Annual Delegate Assembly are open to all members in good standing. Time is set aside at each meeting for visiting speakers. If you wish to attend a meeting or address the Board on an issue of concern, please contact M SCA President Pat M arkunas at 978-542-7282 or <Pmarkunas@aol.com> for further information.

October 2002

Perspective 3
Faculty/Librarian Spotlight

Send your suggestions for colleagues to spotlight to the contributing editor on your campus, or me directly at <patricia.johnston@salemstate.edu>.

McElvain Leads Active Theater Program at Fitchburg

Now in his fifth year on the faculty, Professor of Theater Richard M. McElvain is working with faculty members, students, and staff to build a thriving theater program at Fitchburg State College.

Richard M. McElvain

A native of theater for some 35 years, M. McElvain brings a wealth of experience to bear on his teaching and work in theater at Fitchburg State College. Among his many parts as an actor, he has performed St. Nicholas at the Boston for the Arts and the American Repertory theater. Of M. McElvain’s performance, E. Siegel of the Boston Globe observed, “It was obvious something extraordinary in Boston theater was happening last fall as soon as the lights went down and you heard the foreboding footsteps of Richard M. McElvain enter the theater in Conor M. Pherson’s St. Nick.” Other highlights as an actor and director include performing M. Allovi in Twh ed Nght, directing Peer G. Ynt at the Boston Conservatory, and translating and directing M. oiler’s Le bourgeois Gentilhomme at MIT.

Building a theater program at Fitchburg State College has brought new rewards. M. McElvain notes a “sense of turning water into wine with the students and them seeing that they are doing this.” Students have responded to the challenge of theater. Performances include Twh ed Nght, Hot T, and T. The Drunkard. A group of students visited the world-famous Edinburgh Festival where they performed their version of a new play. The collection ranges from a 5,000-page collection of local photographer R. Andy Trabold to ledgers books from North Adams mills and businesses. Kaufmann can tell you that North Adams has the largest population of Chinese east of the Mississippi, who were brought in to break the strike at the mills. In the fall show you college yearbook pictures graduating women in elegant white dresses from 1911, when MCLA was a “normal school.” Kaufmann serves on college governance committees, academic policies and curriculum. “In curricula I learn about new courses and can get a head start on gathering library materials.” She represents the academic community in the library. As a member of the Berkshire Library legislative Breakfast group, she is an association of regional librarians and supporters.

For Free Library, as for libraries throughout public higher education in Massachusetts, support has been spotty at best. This past year libraries took a huge and disproportionate hit. The library is one of the few state colleges. “This year we’ve had a 65 percent cut in our budget,” Kaufmann says, “We’re not buying any books.”

The library’s development of database services reveals a trend in small colleges. W hen she arrived in 1993, Free Library had 500 newspaper and journal subscriptions. Now, students and faculty can access 4,000 full-text journals on line. “Libraries have helped level the playing field,” she notes. “But if we can’t have money, we fall back again. We’ve seen a lot of lean times. We need a steady, reliable source of funding and more professional staff.”

She notes trends in the way students do their research. Today they are less book oriented, and more likely to start their research on the Internet. But often students find Web resources inadequate, and come in for help. She then leads them to focused database searches, or book research. “I am still very fond of good, old-fashioned books.”

Although many students do not begin with good research skills, they develop both skills and appreciation in the process. She is thinking about History of Teaching Award. Without Joy: A Parable of Learning, will be published in the Fall 2002 issue of Thought & Action: T. The E. A. H. (Higher Education Association) Annual competition “The Art of Teaching.” Her essay, “Nothing W ithout Joy: A Parable of Learning,” will be published in the Fall 2002 issue of Thought & Action: T. The E. A. H. (Higher Education Association) Annual competition “The Art of Teaching.”

MCLA Professor Wins NEA’s 2001 Art of Teaching Award

L. Is. Rosowsky


L. Is. Rosowsky

Liberal Arts reference librarian at the college’s Freel Library, Kaufmann is the sole librarian in the local academic library in the Berkshire Library. Kaufmann is developing the college’s archives of primary-research documents and art for students, faculty and community historians. The collection ranges from a 5,000-page collection of local photographer R. Andy Trabold to ledgers books from North Adams mills and businesses. Kaufmann can tell you that North Adams has the largest population of Chinese east of the Mississippi, who were brought in to break the strike at the mills. Roseowsky recognized a potential in Emily, realizing that she has the potential to recognize what she values in her own work as a designer and how she will engage students to realize their potential. If a student can experience even just a taste of his or her own passion through one of her assignments, or through work of her own or of others which I have brought in to show, or a technique I have demonstrated – then I have helped to set into motion a transformation so pronounced that it will thrill and inspire not only me, but every student who witnesses it.” Working from this understanding of their strengths, students will be guided by their own values to realize their place within the profession. While details of “Nothing W ithout Joy” are specific to the profession of graphic design, Rosowsky’s well-told parable gives any aspiring professional a taste of the experiences that will resonate with faculty in many disciplines.

— Joanne L. Kuklis, M. Massachussetts College of Art

SSC Professor Honored by APA

Martin Krugman, Chairperson of the Psychology Department at Salem State College, received a Presidential Citation from the past president of the American Psychological Association, N. O. Johnson. Krugman was one of nine psychologists nationally to be honored for his enormous contribution in facilitating efforts of the APA’s Disaster Response Network in the aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks.

Contracts Available

Covers the 2001-2003 M SCA day unit contract and the 2000-2003 D CEE unit contract are available for all members from the local chapter offices. If you want a copy of either or both contracts, please contact your local chapter president. Both contracts are also available on-line through the M SCA Web page at <www.mcscaunion.org>.