

**September 2024**

## **What is the AFA?**

It's your union, protecting and fighting for the rights of all adjunct faculty members. We are affiliated with the Illinois Education Association, a state affiliate of the National Education Association.

### **Fall 2024 Payroll Dates**

9/27, 10/11, 10/25, 11/8,  
11/22, 12/6, 12/20

Dues taken from 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>  
paychecks (non-instructional  
pay is typically delayed)

### **Oakton Board of Trustees Meetings**

9/17, 10/15, 11/12, 12/10  
at 6 p.m. in the DP Board Room

### **AFA Meetings**

On [Zoom](#) on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of  
each month; 9 – 10:30

### **AFA Open Office Hours**

DP: Wed. 11-1 2166  
SK: Mondays: 12:15 - 1:30 A213  
[Online](#): 3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs of month

### **Congratulations to Marisa Walstrum**

Long time librarian and active  
adjunct with the AFA is now  
working full-time at Loyola

### **Gwyn Stupar**

Former adjunct in the library and  
curator of the AFA website, is now  
working full time at St. Mary of the  
Lake University in Mundelein.  
We will miss you two!



### **Welcome to new AFA members:**

*Allison Walker in psychology  
Kirsten Grant in psychology  
Marco Chou in STEM  
Miles Alan in STEM  
Eric Wold in STEM  
Frank Reyes in automotive*

### **Are You Knowledgeable? Can You Share It?**

Our library is offering something new to the larger community: A College Library Speakers' Bureau! Area libraries often want to offer various educational events to their communities. What they need is a roster of knowledgeable speakers (i.e. you). Do you have a passion about a topic? Would you like to share it with the community? This opportunity is compensated (starting at \$100 per presentation); however, presenters will collaborate with the library to establish a reasonable fee.

To gauge your interest, the library asks that you complete the following brief survey: [\[Survey Link\]](#)

### **Whoohoo! Congratulations!**

Senior Lecturer Susan Uribe from the Early Childhood Education and (adjunct) Librarian for Open Access and Equity Michelle Oh saw a need and met it. They have received Oakton's second award from the Illinois Association of College and Research Libraries (IACRL) to promote the use of no-cost course materials.

### **Spring Preference Forms**

You'll be getting the Adjunct Preference Forms soon. You need to submit to your chair or coordinator by **October 1**.

### **Gotten Lost Using the Interactive Map?**

Heaven help the student trying to find their art class in Skokie – the art lab is not there. Have you noticed other glitches when trying to use the new interactive campus map? Use the Map Update option on the [Web Update Request Form](#) to share your feedback.



*Let's celebrate the steadfastness of our colleagues for years of service in which they have supported our students and the many lives that they have affected!*

### **Professional Development Fund**

Adjuncts have an annual limit of \$375 to use for activities that support your professional development; it can be used for professional association, membership fees, and so on. \$200 of that amount can be used for technology. [The form is here](#). See Point 3.10 of [our contract](#) for more info. You do need to get your dean's approval before making the purchase, and you are reimbursed after the purchase is made.

### **Are You Traveling Between Campuses?**

If you're required to travel between campuses on the same day for either classes or meetings, you are eligible for travel reimbursement for each one-way trip between campuses. Submit a voucher to your division office before the end of the semester. So *keep track* of those miles. [Here](#) is the link to the voucher. It is hard to find (in Administrative Affairs/Accounts Payable/Voucher Template).

### **Shouldn't Social Security Be Fair?**

Many of us adjuncts have also spent years working at work outside of the state university system, accumulating, we assumed, a tidy pile of social security benefits for the future. Here is the glitch: Due to the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO), when you do retire and collect your SURS pension, your benefits from Social Security will be significantly reduced. It certainly devalues the work that you did and makes retirement planning somewhat of a guessing game.

There has been a bilateral push to repeal the GPO/WEP through the Social Security Fairness Act (S.597/H.R.82), which currently has 326 cosponsors in the House and 62 in the Senate. According to an [NEA on-line article](#), "Reps. Garrett Graves (R-LA) and Abigail Spanberger (D-VA) introduced a discharge petition to force Speaker Mike Johnson to bring the bill to the floor. Please contact your representatives to urge them to correct this injustice. To succeed, the discharge petition needs at least 618 signatories – a majority of the House.

### **5 years of Service**

Kioto Aoki	Lawrence Benjamin
Nancy Bialek	Donald Brown
Samira Chaker	Sylvia Cielak
Rory Dennison	Stephen Dickman
Sabba Elahi	Iftikhar Haider
Bilal Hussain	Richard Koerner
Aleksandra Majkowska-Smith	
Brittany Martin	Mark Misek
Bruce Mueller	Samantha Myers
Carol Simantz	

### **10 Years of Service**

Mary Aulbach	Timothy Curtis
Danielle Dickerson	Michael Doocy
Charles Garrett	Kristin Haas
David LoBue	Mitchell Mancione
Sally Martini	Traci Minnick
David Molley	Shoba Nair
Angela Ramage-Wolf	Traci Strobel
Sandra Villanueva	Julie Wulff

### **15 Years of Service**

Eric Bottorf	James Coates
May Coulson	Adam Darlage
Richard Dimaio	Andrei Kolas
Sandra Krohnert	John Manfredy
John O'Rourke	Cari Paterno
Richard Schraufnagel	Rebecca Sedam
Michael Smith	Joann Stavropoulos
Jack Taha	

### **20 Years of Service**

Jadwiga Cyparska	Ann Gadzikowski
Avis Gibons	Angelo Mantas
Edith Monroy	Jacob Nieva
Mary Obernesser	Alejandra Viti
Krzysztof Slowikowski	

### **25 Years of Service**

Kelly Cherwin	Joseph Gabriel
Robert Gourley	Hanna Kaftanska
Jody Lepinot	Elaine Phillips
Katherine Papademas	

### **30 Years of Service**

Jonathan Chong	Shuko Namikawa
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## What is CAR-T Therapy?

CAR-T therapy, short for Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell therapy, is an innovative cancer treatment where a patient's T cells, a type of immune cell, are genetically modified to target and destroy cancer cells.

### 1 Personalized Approach

Each patient's T cells are specifically engineered to recognize and attack their unique cancer.

### 2 Immune System Boost

This therapy essentially enhances the immune system's ability to fight cancer by equipping T cells with a specific "homing device" to target cancer cells.

## How is the semester going?

Urbi Ghosh writes that she is using an AI powered PPT program to post background info in various topics for her biology courses that are being used as resources by her students. See screenshot (left), where she provides an outline (always double checking what the output is, of course). And she is writing a book about AI uses in education.



Here is a scene from a recent Forensics class in which the students were investigating a crime scene. from Chris Lacina, Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice

Finding myself teaching a 3-hour class on Zoom on Thursday evenings, I'm instituting a 10 minute get-up-out-of-your-chair music break, with each student taking turns finding and sharing appropriate music. I am starting off with my favorite Finnish folk group [Vartinna](#). I think their Kiiriminna fits the bill! Linda Berendsen