

Faculty Welfare Committee/AAUP

Excellence in Education



IN THIS ISSUE:

- ✓ Page 2: An update from national AAUP President to all chapters
- ✓ Page 3: Another fabulous fall picnic!
- ✓ Page 4:-5 CT State Conference Lang Award to Prof. Bryan Crandall
- ✓ Page 6-7: FWC/AAUP Colleague of the Year *and* Lifetime Service Awards to Prof. Vin Rosivach
- ✓ Page 8: From the FWC/AAUP President

The FWC is proud to inform you of a
Solidarity Demonstration

planned and hosted by

**Fairfield Students for
Workers' Rights**

to be held on

**Sunday, November 12 at 4:00 PM
at the Stag Statue**

Members of the FWC Executive Committee and representatives of other workers' groups on campus are joining with the students in solidarity at the rally, and we encourage faculty and anyone interested in improving working conditions on our campus to attend.

COPIED HERE IS A LETTER FROM AAUP PRESIDENT RUDY FICHTENBAUM TO ALL CHAPTER PRESIDENTS THAT WAS RECEIVED ON OCTOBER 31:

Dear Irene,

Along with other AAUP members, you've received information this fall about the political environment in which we find ourselves, and our response. We are facing unique threats to core institutions of our democracy and to academic freedom. Faculty members are being targeted and harassed, the freedom to join together in the workplace is in jeopardy, and producers of independent thought and knowledge, including faculty, scientists, and journalists, are threatened.

We wanted to let you, as a chapter leader, know that we are redoubling our commitment to resisting these threats, and that this year, our focus is on the following:

- Opposing the privatization of our public higher education system and **fighting for higher education as a common good.**
- Opposing discrimination and **fighting for an equitable and welcoming educational environment in which all can freely and safely learn, discuss, differ, debate, and grow.**
- Opposing violations of academic freedom and of the broader rights to free expression in the academic community and **fighting for strengthened protections for academic freedom and campus speech.**
- Opposing attacks on unions and the economic security of college and university faculty and staff and **fighting for expanding and strengthening the rights of all faculty members—tenure-track, contingent, and graduate employees—to organize and bargain collectively.**

Last week, we wrote to you about an upcoming US Supreme Court case, *Janus v. AFSCME Council 31*, that could have a profound impact on the rights of faculty and all Americans to work together for our rights to shared decision making, free expression, and safe, just workplaces. The case, which will be heard by the Court this term, could result in workers in the public sector, including academics who are joined in unions, losing the right to collect contributions from all who are represented. Such a ruling would have a profound effect on the AAUP.

The Janus case is part of a larger attack on the common good. It seeks to undermine our collective voice, a voice that we seek to protect, since it is a powerful force to set standards and create better workplaces in our country and in higher education. Given the magnitude of the challenge posed by *Janus*, the AAUP will be focusing resources over the next months on strengthening our collective bargaining chapters. We also anticipate joining a Supreme Court brief in this case. This may mean that chapter visits and trainings need to be delayed. We believe that this shifting of resources in the short term means that the AAUP will come out of this battle stronger and in a better position to move forward with defending our core principles and standards on all campuses. Standing together makes it possible for us to protect quality higher education, defend academic freedom, shared governance, and due process protections. Standing together also makes it possible for us to negotiate affordable healthcare, a fair return on our work, and the ability to retire with dignity.

We know that many of you are facing serious threats on your own campuses, and we're proud of the work that AAUP chapters are doing across the country on behalf of quality higher education and in support of the common good.

For more information:

About the Janus case and attacks on collective bargaining rights: <https://www.aaupcbc.org/together>

One Faculty, One Resistance website: <https://onefacultyoneresistance.org/>

Sincerely,
Rudy Fichtenbaum
AAUP President



Another great
FWC fall picnic:
**This is what
community
looks like.**

CT State Conference-AAUP George E. Lang, Jr. Award May 2017

Professor Bryan Ripley Crandall

Citation read and award presented by FWC/AAUP Vice President Jocelyn Boryczka:

The Tenth Annual CT State Conference AAUP George Lang Award is presented on behalf of the Faculty Welfare Committee, Fairfield University's AAUP Chapter, in honor of dear friend and colleague George Lang. George Lang was a Professor of Mathematics and a faculty leader at Fairfield for thirty-six years, as well as an AAUP leader at the chapter, state, and national level. His colleagues on the CSC-AAUP honor his memory by "recognizing a faculty member at Fairfield who early in his or her career has shown awareness of and dedication to the important AAUP issues such as academic freedom, faculty governance, and faculty rights and responsibilities." Previous recipients of this award are: Bob Epstein (2009), Matt Kubasik (2010), Deb Strauss (2011), Dave Crawford (2012), Sonya Huber (2013), John Miecznikowski (2014), Anna Lawrence (2015), and Paul Baginski (2016). [Editor's note: The recipient of the very *first* Lang Award was FWC VP Jocelyn Boryczka, in 2008.]

Joining the ranks of these outstanding faculty leaders, this year's recipient has been a committed member to the FWC as a pre-tenured colleague who has served on Fairfield University's Faculty Salary Committee that engages in collegial discussions with the Administration regarding compensation and benefits. This recipient does the everyday work of making sure that notes are carefully taken at each meeting with the Administration, a key factor in holding them accountable, and increasingly has found a voice in standing up to the Administration on key faculty issues despite his non-tenured status. Further, this year's recipient embodies the commitment to social justice that animated our dear friend and colleague George Lang. He is a tireless advocate on behalf of teachers in the Bridgeport Public School System and of African refugee youth resettled here in the United States. At this critical juncture in American political history, voices such as this year's recipient are essential in both arenas of public education and refugee rights.

This year's recipient is Prof. Bryan Crandall.

His colleagues on and off the Faculty Salary Committee capture Bryan's important contributions to their work:

Current member of the FSC, Prof. Paul Lakeland shares: "Bryan Crandall is a humble man who sets a high moral tone for the work that he does. He is not afraid to speak his mind but does so in a way that builds up rather than tears down. He has worked tirelessly this year on the salary committee, always producing minutes of our conversations within minutes--real minutes--of the end of the meeting. It is hard to separate his concern for the faculty and his concern for his students, which is exactly as it should be."

Prof. Sonya Huber, past recipient of this award, conveys the intersection of his commitments: "Bryan Crandall has been justifiably recognized many times at Fairfield and in Bridgeport for his commitment



to K-12 education through his tireless work with the National Writing Project. He's a busy guy, and with those kinds of commitments, he would have every excuse to put off demands on his time from his colleagues on campus, especially for the hugely demanding work of the salary committee. Instead, Bryan brings to his on-campus work the same passion for building community and seeking justice as he does to his many other roles and projects. In salary committee meetings, Bryan's reactions and questions often helped to center the discussion on what really mattered. Whenever I see Bryan in the hallways, I am reminded to laugh, to hug, and to connect with and enjoy my colleagues. His heart and his brain work in tandem to provide us with a wonderful example of true solidarity at Fairfield."

FWC President and Prof. Irene Mulvey, who is so very disappointed not to be here at this event, shared these thoughts, "In the past, it has been difficult to find an Assistant Professor willing to serve in the Assistant Professor slot on our FSC. But, Bryan served a partial term and then (glutton for punishment?) agreed to run and was elected to serve a full three-year term. The time commitment on the FSC is ENORMOUS. And, every year, there is a fresh crisis – willful disregard of earlier

agreements, the threat of Board intervention, etc. So, in addition to the time commitment, serving on the FSC takes an enormous personal toll on the members as they work as hard as they can on behalf of the faculty in the face of unreasonable demands, threats of unilateral imposition of terms and, what's probably the worst for a faculty member, dealing with people who will not listen to reason and who are not swayed by good arguments that benefit both faculty and administration.

Bryan deals with all of this, and takes notes of it all as well. And, as any good academic will do, after getting the lay of the land for a year or so, so now he understands the issues, the threats and what a gain or loss will really mean for Fairfield University long term and, as a result, he is speaking up more.

The chapter selected Bryan for this *state award* to show appreciation for his willingness to step up and work for the good of the faculty, for his appreciation for genuine academic freedom which allows our nearly 50-year tradition of "collegial discussions" leading to a contract that is brought to the General Faculty for approval to continue to be productive for faculty. We are grateful for Bryan's willingness to work so hard for faculty, to learn about and appreciate fundamental AAUP principles, and to fight the good fight for us."

**FWC/AAUP Colleague of the Year Award 2016-17
and
FWC/AAUP Lifetime Service Award
Professor Vin Rosivach**

Citation read and award presented by FWC/AAUP Vice President Jocelyn Boryczka:

This year, for the first time, the FWC presents both the Colleague of the Year and Lifetime Service Awards to the same person, a clear marker of this person's incredible service to the faculty at Fairfield University not only this past academic year, but for many years preceding 2017. The Lifetime Service Award is presented to a colleague who exemplifies the commitments of the Colleague of the Year Award over the expanse of their career at Fairfield University. Together these awards recognize a colleague who goes above and beyond expectations of professional engagement to advance our shared commitments as Fairfield faculty to academic freedom, just and fair compensation and benefits, diversity and social justice, and unity through community. Previous recipients of Colleague of the Year Award are: Joe Dennin, Irene Mulvey, Paul Lakeland, Kathy Nantz, Susan Rakowitz, Rona Preli, Deb Strauss, Sonya Huber, and Yohuru Williams. Previous recipients of the Lifetime Service Award are: Micheal Tucker, Richard Regan, Kevin Cassidy, Joe Dennin, Don Greenberg, Lucy Katz, Mariann Reagan, George Lang, and Vin Rosivach.

Joining the ranks of these outstanding faculty leaders, this year's award winner is recognized for their persistent advocacy for shared, transparent, and accountable governance, particularly concerning budgeting and the continual distribution of funds for Administration and, conversely, the precipitous declines in funds for Academics. This person has worked tirelessly on the Faculty Salary Committee.

This year's winner of both the Lifetime Service and Colleague of the Year awards is Vin Rosivach! Please join me in congratulating Vin.

The voices of Vin's colleagues capture the extraordinary work of this year's awardee.

Professor Paul Lakeland shares, "If I had to find one word to convey the significance of Vin Rosivach's half a century of service to students and colleagues here at Fairfield, it would have to be integrity. You might not always agree with him, though you always respect his views, and more often than not you find yourself seeing the truth of what he had to say. The time and energy he has devoted to our collective good is staggering, and in this last year serving with him on the faculty I have seen that there is no slowing down. No one did more work, attended more closely to detail, commended others where it was due and spoke out both forcefully and charitably. No one works harder with less song and dance, and no one else can lay claim to be what I am sure he will be embarrassed to be called, "the moral voice and compass of the university faculty."

Prof. Irene Mulvey who is so sorry that she can't be here today shares: "Working with Vin on the HCC and discussing FSC business has been a joy and a terror. A terror because, even with me, Vin has no hesitation to speak his mind forcefully. When he disagrees with something I have said, he lets me know with unapologetic directness. On the other hand, working with Vin is a joy because I speak to him with the same unapologetic directness. But, really, working with Vin is genuinely wonderful because I have a deep and abiding respect for Vin – for his intelligence, for his honesty, for his unwavering commitment to Fairfield University, and for his understanding of the centrality of the academic mission and the faculty, and for insistence on doing what's best for the University at all times."

Prof. Bryan Crandall shares: "When I first arrived to Fairfield, I'd pass by Vin's office in Donnarumma and see him with his feet up on his desk and with a cup of coffee in his hands. Usually he was

reading a book or tapping keys on his laptop. Sometimes I'd see him hosting students and holding writing conferences. As a first year Professor of the Practice at the time, I made note "Ah, this is the academy. This is teaching at Fairfield." Vin's office became the poster in my head of what education at Fairfield was all about.

Of course, I was scared to death to talk to him. In fact, I was petrified. Vin seemed to epitomize the wisdom of a sage and the simulacra of penultimate scholar...He was a classicist, by golly, and the books on his shelf seemed to symbolize the knowledge of the universe. I was Grendel. He was the dragon.

I'd often hear Vin speak at General Faculty meetings and remained impressed. He'd say something eloquent and I'd search my internal encyclopedia for the perfect Greek tragedy reference so I'd have the courage to speak to him during the FWC social. Eventually, I walked up to him and introduced myself. In my head, I was a timid tree frog climbing a Sycamore tree to get the attention of a wise owl. When I reached the branches from where he was perched, however, I learned Vin wasn't as scary I perceived him to be. Rather, Vin was wonderfully human and kind. He simply was a great human being.

This past year on FSC my number one lesson has been to pronounce his last name correctly, (It is, I must admit a little easier than trying to master Walter Hlawitschka). The second lesson has been that Vin is not only a language man, but he's a historian of numbers, too. He and Paul Baginski were a perfect fusion of calculation, ethics, and institutional history. The third lesson I learned about Vin this year is that he also has an enormous heart. One afternoon while pouring over numbers in his office before a General Faculty meeting: numbers sent from Mercer, the AAUP, Inside Higher Education or Sesame Street (all those numbers get mixed up in my head), Vin asked, "How about some Scotch to take the edge off?" I obliged, naturally. (It wasn't much, I promise...we saved that for after the meeting). At that moment, Vin turned the conversation from frustration and outrage to the humanity of what we do. The teaching. The community outreach. The Jesuit mission that attracted most of us to Fairfield University in the first place.

It was at that moment I recognized that Vin Rosavich is not only a pillar of intelligence, but also a cathedral of kindness. Vin is the mission of Fairfield University. He is a man for others. He is, without a doubt, deserving of the Colleague of the Year and Lifetime Service Awards."

Prof. Bob Epstein shares: "When the faculty acknowledge the work done by the Faculty Salary Committee this year, we ought to acknowledge further that by and large we're talking about the work of Vin Rosivach. The rest of us have been constantly astounded by his dedication and tirelessness, which are surpassed only by his intelligence and his amazing array of skills. Vin is above all an historian, so we should probably not be surprised that he maintains a vast and meticulous archive of institutional information about Fairfield University, or that he can quickly retrieve important data from any government database, or that he can synthesize all this information into documents that clearly and forcefully make the case for faculty positions. Above all, what makes Vin such an invaluable colleague is the clarity of his vision of academia and the role of the faculty. It is because of this that he so doggedly fights for the centrality of the faculty to the academic mission of the university. When I was a new faculty member at Fairfield— many, many years ago— Vin once advised me: "Never forget that the university **is** the faculty and the students. Everything else is just for support." After a half century at Fairfield University Vin is as committed to that vision as every before, and we are

The Faculty Welfare Committee/AAUP at Fairfield University is an ad hoc committee of the General Faculty and an affiliate of the national AAUP. We promote the professional and economic interests, broadly defined, of the Fairfield University Faculty. All our activities are open to all members of the faculty but we are funded entirely by our dues-paying members. To join, contact any member of the Executive Committee

From the FWC/AAUP President:

I'm thrilled that we managed to get this newsletter out to faculty in time to announce the Solidarity Demonstration planned for this Sunday at 4 PM at the Stag Statue on campus. The FWC leadership meets regularly with other members of *Fairfield University Workers United* (FUWU!), and we all applaud the initiative taken by our students in organizing as *Fairfield Students for Workers' Rights*. Members of the FWC EC will be at the demonstration representing our chapter and we would love to have other members join us!

I've been busy with AAUP activities. I presented two workshops at the AAUP's Summer Institute in Ohio in July. I was in DC in October for the Committee A meeting, and I'll be in DC again in November for the quarterly meeting of AAUP Council as an elected member representing District IX. There are serious challenges facing our national organization and any organization likely to be affected by the *Janus* case before the Supreme Court, and yet our work standing up for academic freedom is more important than ever. Targeted online harassment of faculty is a problem at institutions all over the country. More often than not in these cases, the initial reaction from administrations and Boards is disappointing, and only serves to embolden the army of harassing trolls. In these cases, in a statement from last January, AAUP "urges governing boards, and faculties, individually and collectively, to speak out clearly and forcefully to defend academic freedom and to condemn targeted harassment and intimidation of faculty members."

The FWC is planning events for later this year to talk about the threats to academic freedom in the current political climate. We're also planning some low-key get-togethers for members to simply come together to build community. I hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,
Irene Mulvey
FWC/AAUP President

FWC/AAU Executive Committee: Irene Mulvey, President; Jocelyn Boryczka, Vice-President; Bill Abbott, Secretary; Paul Baginski, Treasurer; At-large members: Maggie Labinski, Anna Lawrence. Immediate Past-President Rona Preli

Irene Mulvey FWC/AAUP President
Mathematics/Bannow GR-1
1073 North Benson Road
Fairfield, CT 06824