

# Faculty Welfare Committee/AAUP

## Excellence in Education

### *e-Newsletter*

◇◇◇◇◇ **FREE TRAVEL** ◇◇◇◇◇

## **Calling all FWC/AAUP members!!**

Do you like to travel? Would you like to learn more about AAUP policies, leadership, organizing and strategy? Would you like to have outside funding to travel to a fun city to learn more about AAUP policies, and how to advocate for the professional standards and resources Fairfield students and faculty need to thrive?

**WE HAVE SECURED OUTSIDE FUNDING FOR UP TO THREE FWC MEMBERS TO ATTEND EITHER:**

AAUP Summer Institute  
Roosevelt University, Chicago, IL  
July 25-28, 2019

[aaup.org/event/2019-aaupaaup-cbc-summer-institute](http://aaup.org/event/2019-aaupaaup-cbc-summer-institute)

AAUP Annual Conference  
Arlington, VA  
June 12-18, 2019

[aaup.org/event/2019-annual-conference](http://aaup.org/event/2019-annual-conference)

**Contact any member of the Executive Committee before May 17 to be considered for either (or both) events!**

## **2018 George E. Lang, Jr. Award**

### **Remarks read at the CT Conference Annual Spring Meeting**

**May 10, 2018**

George Lang was a Professor of Mathematics at Fairfield University. He was very active in the AAUP at the local, state and national level – many of you knew him – until his death following a very brief illness in 2007.

The CT Conference initiated the Lang Award in 2008 to recognize a faculty member at Fairfield who, early in his or her career, has shown an appreciation for core AAUP principles like academic freedom and tenure, academic due process, and shared governance. The Conference asks the Fairfield chapter to select the recipient, which is great since the chapter leadership gets to sit around and talk about George and recognize a younger colleague (George was the kind of person who always went out of his way to get to know the new faculty). Once the Conference gets the word from Fairfield, the Conference presents a plaque, and AAUP swag, AND we pay the recipient's AAUP dues for one year.

Most years George's widow Mary Beth Lang attends, but this year she has a prior commitment at an event commemorating a strike by the public school teachers in Bridgeport some time ago when she was the union President. She sends her regrets.

This year's George E. Lang, Jr. Award goes to Associate Professor of Philosophy Kris Sealey. Please join me at the podium.

It is so hard to condense down into a few minutes all the reasons why we selected Dr. Sealey.

Social justice is critical to the mission of Fairfield. Prof. Sealey has been an unwavering supporter of and advocate for social justice and diversity at Fairfield University throughout her career on our campus, living – every day – the spirit of the Lang award that honors those who translate AAUP commitments into action. She was central to the work on revising Fairfield's core curriculum (finally approved this semester), especially the rigorous SJ component. In addition, Kris has held many leadership positions at Fairfield -- Co-Director and Director of Peace and Justice Studies, organizer for Racial Justice is Social Justice, Co-Chair of the Martin Luther King Committee, and currently Chair of the Task Force on Freedom of Expression.

Kris's research is focused not only on the critical examination of blackness and philosophy, but also on interconnected issues of whiteness. As such, her work has become a target of right wing criticism from outside the University.

Last summer, she was the subject of a particularly vicious online attack that made her work the focus of a viral internet campaign. This attack followed the now familiar model of isolating faculty of color as "problematic radicals" within academia. She faced down the online threats and hatred with her usual blend of grace and intelligence, and never allowed herself to become paralyzed by the spread of this campaign. I only hope we did enough to stand with her.

This online campaign was, in many ways, reminiscent of the trauma faced by Trinity professor Johnny Williams [Ed. note: Prof. Williams was the keynote speaker at the meeting at which the Lang Award was presented to Prof. Sealey]. In the same way, it was disappointingly difficult to get the Fairfield University administration to publicly defend the principle of free speech and their own outstanding faculty member. Kris forcefully made the case to the Fairfield University administration and concerned faculty that the University needed to make it clear that the critique of whiteness was in fact central to her job description; they had hired her to teach and explore philosophies of race. She was doing her job and, in an ideal world, Fairfield University would have issued a strong statement of that fact.

As we know, it is not an ideal world.

In the face of administrative silence on the matter, Kris was the inspiration for faculty at Fairfield to make a clear statement on the issues of race, academic freedom, and University mission.

Last month, faculty at Fairfield put together a day-long symposium on a Saturday, *Race and Mission*.



Kris Sealey and David Wooley, Jr.

The point was clear: critical examinations of race are central to the mission of the University's commitment to social justice. At the well-attended event, faculty and students affirmed in diverse and multidisciplinary ways that race is central to the work we do in the classroom and in our research. Kris gave the powerful invited keynote address, galvanizing the faculty commitment to free speech.

As AAUP activists, we know we must support each other – we must stand together - when others seek to create the narrative that critical ideas, particularly on the subject of race, are somehow on the fringe and too radical for a university classroom. Kris led us to create a powerful counter narrative. Free speech and critical examinations of difficult issues are in no way on the edge of the spectrum; they are in fact central to our mission as university faculty.

By presenting Dr. Sealey with the Lang Award, our message is clear. We support you. We stand with you. We are in this together.

## NEWS FROM FUWU

### Fairfield University Workers United

The FWC continues to partner with other workers on campus as a part of FUWU (Fairfield University Workers United). While the FWC did not plan a May Day event this year, we were happy to support our friends and colleagues in FUWU on May Day. At an event near Bellarmine with a giant rat (pictured), students in SWU (Students and Workers United) joined with members of Local 30 of the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) to stand strong for better health care. Our fellow employees in Local 30 are currently in negotiations for a new contract and, at last report, negotiations appear to be stalling over health care. We'll continue to monitor the situation and look forward to reports from our Local 30 colleagues in future FUWU meetings. Kudos to SWU for their excellent



work all year long. These students hosted a special lunch at Penny's Diner to show appreciation to our custodians. The students wrote Thank You notes to our custodians, which were eventually posted near their central office. These students even arranged for take out bags for the custodians who were working during the time of the luncheon. They've built a relationship with both workers and supervisors which will continue into next year and beyond. They arranged meetings with both Fairfield and ABM supervisors, all with the goal of improving working conditions for custodians. Their work is absolutely amazing, and they've seen results that any full-time organizer would envy. Thank you, SWU, for improving our campus culture.

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:

Dear Colleagues,

I hope your semester is winding down smoothly. I hope you are looking forward to our off-contract summer months to make progress on other projects. I know I am. I only have a few things to highlight in this brief note.

First, I really want to encourage newer faculty to take advantage of the funding we have secured - from the CT Conference of the AAUP and the national Assembly of State Conferences - to send up to three FWC members to the AAUP Summer Institute in Chicago in July and up to two FWC members to the AAUP annual meeting in the DC area in June. I will be at both events as a result of the national elected offices I hold (and so my travel is paid for by national AAUP). The Summer Institute, in particular, can be a life-changing experience. The workshops, and the connections people make with like-minded faculty from all over the country, are really incredibly valuable. Not only that, there are fun optional evening activities, including a Chicago Architecture River Tour and a White Sox baseball game! I will be there, for sure, wearing a Red Sox cap. Please check out the full program at the link on the first page of this newsletter and let any member of the Executive Committee know that you are interested by **Friday, May 24**. I really, *really* hope to see you at the SI!

My apologies to the recipient of the 2018 George E. Lang, Jr Award from the CT Conference. Somehow we didn't print our traditional article about the Lang recipient last fall. Well, you can read all about that here and look forward to an article about the 2019 recipient next fall.

**Members, make sure to vote electronically on our motion by following the instructions sent to all members on May 16. The matter before us was discussed at the FWC Membership meeting on April 12. If you missed that meeting, we sent full information to all members in a Members Only e-Newsletter on April 23. Efforts have been made to visit most offices, too, bringing Vitamin AAUP. Hope you got a packet :) If you still have questions, contact me by email.**

In addition to a long, productive summer, I am also looking forward to another year with the fabulous EC listed below. As you may know, we proposed to the Academic Council language changes to the *Faculty Handbook* that will strengthen protections for academic freedom. Our language was approved unanimously by the Academic Council, and is on its way to the General Faculty and Board of Trustees. We have lots of ideas and lots of plans for programming and events for next year, starting with the picnic to welcome new faculty in August. Thank you, EC.

Thank you, members, for your support of the Faculty Welfare Committee, our chapter of the AAUP. Your support of our chapter strengthens faculty voice at Fairfield, and strengthens the profession for your fellow 40,000+ AAUP members and all faculty.

Happy Summer,

Irene Mulvey

FWC/AAUP President

FWC/AAUP Executive Committee: Irene Mulvey, President; Maggie Labinski, Vice-President; Bill Abbott, Secretary; Paul Baginski, Treasurer; At-large members: Peter Bayers, Anita Fernandez, Anna Lawrence, Sonya Huber. Immediate Past-President Rona Preli

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