

Academic Freedom Award

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The University of Guelph Faculty Association is calling for nominations for an important new award, open to scholars around the world. **The Jay Newman Award for Academic Integrity** will be given for the first time in the Fall of 2009; nominations may be submitted until May 1, 2009. The condition of the award states that “It is for the purpose of recognizing a university scholar and teacher who either at a particular time or in the course of an academic career has demonstrated combined meritorious academic achievement with noteworthy courage or compassion in the defense of academic ideals.”

The award is given biennially and carries a prize of \$1500.00.

The award honours the memory of Dr. Jay Newman, F.R.S.C., a distinguished member of the University of Guelph Philosophy Department whose thirty six years of service were ended by his death in 2007. The author of eleven books, he was a successful and popular teacher and an active participant in the life of the University. He was widely known as a fearless and articulate defender of academic freedom as a core value of a university, and of the rights of faculty members.

Nominations, along with any supporting material, should be sent to: Chair, Academic Freedom Committee, Room 535, University Centre.

Kids Holiday Party

The UGFA is hosting our first ever Holiday Party for kids!! The event is scheduled for **Sunday December 7 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the Ramada Hotel, Rooms Pinetree A/B**. Santa will be there and there will be face painting and other activities. Please RSVP by November 27, 2008. Please let us know the names, gender and ages of children attending either by email at anelson@uoquelfh.ca, or by phone at ext. 58538.

Donations for the foodbank will be gladly accepted.

Update on the Collective Agreement

The Association and the University have been diligently working on the editing of the Collective Agreement so that we can send a copy to our Members. We are very close to having this completed and would hope that a copy of the final agreement will be sent to you before the end of the year.

Those who are on the negotiating team for the Career Progression and Peer Review for Veterinarian Members have started to meet. The UGFA negotiators are: Scott Gillies, Ed Carter, Bev McEwen, Dan Kenny, Dana Allen and Sue Hubers.

The Collective Agreement states that Intellectual Property (IP) will be referred to mediation/arbitration. The mediator/arbitrator assigned is Kevin Burkett with a first date of Wednesday January 21st, 2009. In the interim, and without prejudice and in confidence from the arbitrator, both parties are working towards a resolution so that arbitration is not necessary. In the meantime, no Member should agree to sign any contract relating to IP matters while the negotiation/mediation/arbitration of this Article is pending.

We will make sure we keep you up-to-date on any developments regarding IP and the Vets. If you have any suggestions which you would like to put forward, please feel free to contact the Association at facassoc@uoguelph.ca or at ext. 52126.

Student Day of Action and Drop Fees Campaign

On November 5, 2008, post-secondary students at colleges and universities all across Ontario will be taking part in a provincial day of action to "Drop Fees."

We are now in the final year of the province's "Reaching Higher" tuition framework. Under this framework, tuition increased between 4-8% annually. Today, Ontario is ranked last for per-student funding in Canada. Ontario students face the highest tuition fee hikes, are charged high ancillary fees, and face increasing student-to-professor ratios.

The goal of the Drop Fees Campaign, which was initiated by the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario, is a new plan for the post-secondary education system, one that is based on access, equity and fairness. Further details are available at www.dropfees.ca.

We would like to request that

1. Members inform their students about the November 5th Day of Action, and/or allow students to give brief presentations to promote the campaign;
2. On November 5, 2008 Members refrain from penalizing students who are absent
3. We encourage you to provide reasonable access for students participating in the day of action, to materials covered that day.

UGFA Coffee Time Sessions

The UGFA realizes that there may be questions about the collective agreement, things which you feel need to be added or clarified. To assist in this we are scheduling monthly information 'coffee time' sessions. These sessions will be informal and will have various members of the Executive present. The next session is Tuesday November 11 from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. in Crop Science 403.