

# ER&D Innovations Parking Update

By Michelle Felix, ER&D

I am excited about the state of faculty development at MATC. There's a great confluence of support for faculty right now. Local 212 remains financially and ideologically committed to ER&D, recognizing faculty excellence as a core value of our union. In addition, Human Resources has proved extremely collaborative in delivering high-quality orientation and faculty development activities for new hires and improving outreach to part-time faculty.

Academic leadership at MATC is making professional development a priority by committing to improved space and resources for ER&D and other faculty support services. Keep telling us what you need to grow and renew your teaching, and we will work with these partners at the college to deliver it.

I've just returned from a fantastic Innovations Conference sponsored by the League for Innovation, an international organization committed to two-year colleges promoting "innovation, experimentation, and institutional transformation."

The conference rang with a common theme of faculty's integral role in serving communities through two-year colleges. Two-year colleges' commitment to our communities is crucial to the nation's economic recovery. We also offer an antidote to the divisiveness that pervades public culture.

Many sessions emphasized the need for collaboration among college constituencies in order to affect real change for students. Also, time and time again presenters spoke about the need to more effectively and coherently integrate part-time faculty into the fabric of campus life.

If you are interested in learning more about the conference and the League, check out [www.league.org/index.cfm](http://www.league.org/index.cfm).

by Sue Ruggles  
Joint District Parking Committee

Please note this correction to an article in the last issue of the newsletter: Parking rules at Mequon Campus are still in force. In the last issue, I reported that the West-lot-only parking rule for faculty and staff at the Mequon Campus had been overturned.

The rule had generated a storm of protest, including a complaint signed by 52 faculty and staff. At the March 1 joint parking committee meeting, Mike Sargent told us that it had been rescinded.

As I soon found out, that was not the case. Faculty and staff at Mequon had instead worked out a temporary solution. The rule will stay in place for the rest of the semester, and will be reconsidered for the fall. This time, we hope, with union representatives on the committee.

## Condolences

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of **Verne Teske**, MATC retiree who was a longtime instructor and Local 212 Executive Board member. We also extend sympathy to our Local 212 colleagues who lost loved ones recently: **Joan Cook (Mother); Randy Farchmin (mother); Denise Jackson (sister); Laura Ruff (father).**

Guatemala, continued from page 1



Mayan woman in the highlands of Guatemala. Photo by Alana Soehartono.

been raised in a Spanish-speaking home in south Texas. He recalls being admonished for speaking Spanish in elementary school, while many years later, his bilingual ability was tremendously advantageous to the Engineers Without Borders group.

Guerra felt a connection with the local people of Quejchip based on his ability to convey ideas and bridge the communication gap.

When reflecting on his first survey job, Guerra commented, "My first job was carrying a bucket." Eventually he advanced to chainman and instrument man while working in Texas. He expressed a liking for working outdoors, seeing different places, and the camaraderie of the people with whom he worked.

This collaborative opportunity between MATC and UWM was a wonderful chance to combine technical expertise with design expertise and provide assistance to a grateful community.

American Federation of Teachers  
**Local 212**  
Milwaukee Area Technical College

# News & Views

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## MATC Expertise Reaches Remote Mayan Villages

Many Americans take access to clean water for granted. This is not the case everywhere, especially in remote parts of developing countries like Guatemala.

In January 2010, MATC instructor David Langhoff and Civil Engineering Technology program student Gerard Guerra traveled to Central America where they worked on projects that would help build a water distribution pipeline and survey a proposed water conveyance line for rural villages in the Guatemalan highlands.

Guerra is a Mexican-American student who expects to graduate in May 2010. He also volunteered and traveled to Guatemala in summer 2009. This was Langhoff's first trip to Guatemala.

Their volunteer work was conducted to assist the UW-Milwaukee student chapter



MATC Civil Engineering Technology student Gerard Guerra and instructor David Langhoff use GPS surveying equipment to perform a survey of a water distribution line. A local Mayan boy looks on.

of Engineers Without Borders, a nonprofit humanitarian organization established to partner with developing communities worldwide to improve quality of life.

Many remote villages in Guatemala lack access to clean drinking water. Prior to this project, the existing fresh water supply had become contaminated and local people had

to transport water by hiking to springs – a round trip requiring up to an hour.

The UWM engineering students designed a spring-fed water distribution system, including a concrete spring box to capture the water, conduction line, distribution tank, distribution system and tap stands for 50 separate homes.

The survey work was done to lay PVC pipelines from a naturally occurring spring at the head of a mountainous valley to the village below. All trenching for the pipeline was accomplished by male villagers using hand tools. These hard-working men cleared brush for the pipeline and even fashioned survey stakes with machetes.

Guerra speaks fluent Spanish, having

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## President's Message

### New Grants and Funding Boost Our Efforts

By Dr. Michael Rosen  
Local 212 President

MATC recently received great news. The college has been awarded a two-year \$849,104 federal grant to train 300 incumbent IT or healthcare workers.

The federal HITECH Act requires that an electronic medical record be developed for every U.S. citizen by 2014. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is funding a consortium of two-year colleges to train 5,400 workers in the Midwest to meet this requirement. MATC won the grant as a part of the consortium.

A special thanks to business instructor and 212 Executive Board member Larry Domine who represented the faculty on the college team that secured the funding.

There is also good news for MATC and our students in the recently passed H.R. 4872, the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.

The new law significantly increases funds for higher education, including annual Pell Grant program funding increases and a new \$2 billion competitive career-training grant program for two-year colleges. This is the first time the federal government has specifically targeted funds for two-year colleges.



The bill pays for these increases by eliminating the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program that forced students to borrow from private lenders and guaranteed those lenders an exorbitant 9% rate of return. This will save \$61 billion. In addition to deficit reduction, the savings will be used to increase Pell Grants and to finance the \$2 billion community college com-

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If we could lower your gas prices we would.

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## Celebrate Solidarity — April 30 and July 6

We're looking forward to good food, music, dancing and conversation with Local 212 colleagues at the April 30 Recognition and Social Solidarity celebration, but this year's event promises even more. It marks an important milestone in L212 history – the 40th anniversary of the 1968-'69 Labor Strike. Among the highlights is a documentary video by instructor Kevin Mulvena featuring footage from 40 years ago, plus interviews with union leaders and faculty who participated in the strike.

Adam Breihan also has been working diligently on a keepsake booklet filled with photos and information about the strike. As part of a larger project delving into the entire history of Local 212, Adam has been digging into historical archives at the Local 212 office. He's pored through *Milwaukee Journal* and *Milwaukee Sentinel* articles from the winter of 1968-69; the *MATC Times*; and reams of correspondence between MATC union leadership, faculty, administration, and many more.



Jan. 2, 1969: Bob Rice, Stan Felber, Art Koch.

Adam recently graduated from UW-Madison with a degree in history and political science, and wrote his thesis on labor history in Wisconsin. He took on this project as an opportunity to continue studying local labor history.

"It's become clear to me how this struggle changed the dynamic between teachers and administration in many ways," he said. "It wasn't only about the lasting gains made in that contract, but also how it changed the relationship from that point on."

That relationship continues to be based on a commitment to shared governance. Faculty and staff walked the picket line in 1968-69 so we could be treated as professionals today.

**Tickets to the event (\$15) won't be sold after April 23 and will not be sold at the door**, so get yours now: [www.local212.org](http://www.local212.org), or through a union representative, or call 414-765-0910 for more information.

**Mark Your Calendar: Tuesday, July 6 at 6 p.m., Family Outing at Miller Park.** Tickets (\$42) include buffet meal on the Dew Deck and Milwaukee Brewers vs. San Francisco Giants. The deadline to buy tickets is May 4. Look in your mailbox for a ticket order form, pick up tickets at the union office, or call 414-765-0910.

You're also invited to the **Sunset Zoofari on Wed., Aug 4** (back by popular demand). Also watch for discounted tickets to Great America and Noah's Ark, and a Packers Gameday Outing in fall.

### President's Message, continued from page 1

petitive grant program for dislocated and unemployed workers. Each state will be guaranteed .5% of the funding, which totals \$2.5 million per state. The program will be run by the Department of Labor. Two-year colleges can apply for funds to do the following:

- Work with businesses and the workforce investment system to create career pathways for workers to earn new credentials and promotions.
- Work with employers to design training that is relevant to the local labor market and that lead to employment and careers.
- Create education partnerships that expand course offerings and promote the transfer of credit among colleges.
- Improve remedial and adult education programs, accelerating students' progress and integrating developmental classes into academic and vocational classes.
- Develop more comprehensive, personalized services to help students plan their careers, stay in school, and graduate.
- Create open online course materials such as interactive tutors.

The feds have put a lot of money on the table. MATC needs to get its fair share.

### Update on Corinthian and Other Diploma Mills

The notorious diploma mill, Corinthian College, which is opening its doors across the street from MATC next year, has run into new problems for deceiving students in California. This time nearly three dozen Corinthian/Everest College students are furious because they haven't received the medical certifications they paid for. Some of the students have been attending school for eight months. Three weeks ago they found out that the college will not supply them with a certificate they were told they would get in order to obtain the medical positions they want.

The students are studying medical assisting and paid \$16,000 for an eight-month course. They were told the credits earned at the school do not transfer to any community college or four-year college. That angered the students, and as we go to print, the students are refusing to go to class until they get some answers. Whether or not they attend class, the students are being forced to pay \$100 a day to Corinthian.

In a related development, the University of Phoenix has agreed to pay \$67.5 million to

settle a suit by two whistleblowers over its recruitment policy.

Mary Hendow and Julie Behn, both former employees, sued under the False Claims Act in federal court. They charged that the university violated federal regulations applying to postsecondary institutions that receive federal aid. Those regulations bar employees involved in recruitment and admissions from having their pay tied to the number of students they bring in.

Phoenix, a for-profit institution owned by the Apollo Group, has more students than any other higher education institution in North America and is the biggest recipient of federal aid for college students. But a 2005 study found only a small percentage of the students who enter receive degrees, according to *The Sacramento Bee*.

Hendow and Behn said recruiters were told to ignore applicants' academic credentials and were paid larger salaries and bonuses if they brought in more students.

Is Milwaukee really so desperate for development that we need Corinthian and other for-profit diploma mills?

## Toward a Tobacco-Free Campus

By Sue Ruggles, Health & Safety Rep

Back in November 2009, representatives of the joint IAQ Committee and Public Safety met with the District Student Life Committee to discuss updating MATC smoking policy. Our recommendation was to make the main entrances of all MATC buildings smoke-free, extend the 25-foot rule to all other entrances, and update signage. The students endorsed the following actions: Update MATC smoking policies and procedures; make signage consistent district wide; and remove old signage. The students also discussed the feasibility of designated smoking areas to replace the current 25-foot rule, which is difficult to enforce.

Five technical colleges around the state are entirely smoke-free, and eight have designated outdoor smoking areas.

Wisconsin's new Indoor Smoking Ban, which takes effect on July 5, 2010, allows

school districts to restrict areas where outdoor smoking is permitted.

Our current 25-foot rule places us at a distinct disadvantage in relation to other colleges on measures of wellness and sustainability. It even places us at risk of losing state licensing to operate our childcare centers, which by state law need to be 100 percent smoke-free inside and out.

The students' next step will be to pass a resolution of support for changes in our smoking policy, which would go to the Director of Student Services, and then to Dr. Burke and the MATC District Board.

The IAQ Committee will continue to meet with representatives from Student Life, Wellness, Public Safety, Building Services, and Legal to decide how to implement our new policy. We hope that designated smoking areas will be one more step toward a smoke-free, tobacco-free campus.

## Academic Tech

By Mark Mankowski  
Co-Chair, Academic Technology

Several technology-related issues are on the horizon. Starting in late April, there will be a series of open planning meetings for the new Teaching Center at the Downtown Milwaukee Campus. Look for times and details in your Groupwise email. Please come to share your ideas and learn more about this new and long-awaited facility. Beginning this summer, Blackboard will add broad mobile functionality to its course management system. This means that course announcements, various alerts and many course communications such as discussion boards, blogs, wikis and podcasts will be enabled on most smartphones such as the iPhone, BlackBerry, Palm and Google devices. Look for more information in April and May. We welcome your input on technology issues related to teaching and learning. *Questions? Contact Mark Mankowski, 414-297-7412, [mankowsm@matc.edu](mailto:mankowsm@matc.edu).*

### Part-Time Faculty Corner

## Loyalty and the MATC Part-Time Instructor

By Sally A. Lindner (SAL)  
6th VP – Part-Time Faculty

An administrator recently asked me why part-time faculty are not more "loyal" to the college. The administrator added, "All MATC adjunct instructors are very well paid. You are more than adequately compensated for the work you do."

There are many reasons why employees feel less loyal to employers. But they all boil down to one root cause: Many workers don't feel valued by their company.

As an MATC part-time instructor, do you feel that the college truly values you? Does your administrator know your name? Would your administrator recognize you if he/she saw you? Does your administrator ever call you to maintain contact, or do they call only when there is a perceived problem? Does your administrator acknowledge your efforts? How? When? Does administration provide you with locked storage space to secure your belongings and an office to do meaningful work and meet your students?

Or are you expected to use a cafeteria, a hallway, or the top of a garbage can for an office?

Does administration include you in appropriate publications, such as the MATC catalog? Does administration provide you with the pay equivalent of our full-time brothers and sisters for doing the same work with the same credentials? Does administration provide regularly scheduled, paid coordination sessions for part-time faculty? Part-time faculty should be included as part of the planning committee.

Does administration provide you with affordable benefits (health and dental insurance) or does your entire salary go to pay those benefits? Does administration provide you with the "just in time part-time support" endorsed by your part-time coaching and bargaining teams? Does administration seek your input in finding solutions to MATC's challenges, particularly when you will be affected by the decisions? Does administration provide you with a degree of protection from layoff, especially if you are a senior instructor?

We have many superb, dedicated and loyal part-time faculty at MATC. Many of us teach out of love and loyalty for our students. Without part-time faculty, MATC would not be able to provide our students with continuing opportunities to develop and extend skills and knowledge through quality programs and services that so well characterize our college mission. The part-time nature of adjunct faculty employment in no way lessens the impact of our instruction nor our contributions to the college's mission.

Loyalty in the workplace is a two-way street. Part-time instructors have an ethical obligation to offer our best efforts to our students and our profession. However, MATC has an obligation to us also. MATC's administration must recognize that it is in the college's best interest to appreciate and value the work of part-time faculty. Loyalty and commitment are very powerful when the relationship is based on respect, trust and a feeling of belonging. Valued employees are loyal employees.