

SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Unadopted Minutes
October 15, 2008

APPENDIX A

9. RETIREMENTS OF STAFF WITH 10 OR MORE YEARS OF SERVICE

(a) Resignations to Retire – Quinton Duval and Jacqueline Rock

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Quinton Duval	English Instructor 29 Years at SCC	May 22, 2009

Dr. Philip Andreini, Dean of the Humanities Division, stated that for 29 Quinton Duval has devoted his talents to teaching students to write well, to read closely, to think clearly, and to feel deeply. Some of his students had signed up for a class in English composition, others signed up for creative writing, poetry perhaps, or fiction or creative non-fiction, still others came to Mr. Duval to explore masterworks of literature.

Considering the broad sweep of time and experience, Quinton has invested in learning, plying, and refining his craft as teacher, scholar, poet and publisher in the year and a half I have had the good fortune to spend with him, which seems so brief. To come here to speak before you tonight on the occasion of his retirement, I asked Quinton to jot down some things that might help me capture the special moments and events that were brought into being by his presence at Solano College. Quinton's e-mail simply said,

“Philip: The following are a few things you might find helpful. I started working for Solano part time with one class on the grounds of the prison in Vacaville. I moved to the main campus after that and taught part time, and then full time temporary as a leave replacement, until I was hired full time.

Over the years I have served on the faculty senate, on the distinguished faculty committee, and twice as grievance chair for the union. I was instrumental in establishing the guest lecture series and bringing a variety of poets, writers, and teachers to the campus. The Suisun Valley Review was also begun with my help, and I was editor for many years. Solano is where I have learned to teach.”

Quinton's modest, clear, and forceful reply is such a perfect example of what, in classical rhetoric, is known as “ethos,” the expression in words of character and credibility that gives a statement its persuasive force. His message, too, is a splendid example of the “plain style” that Aristotle and Cicero so greatly admired, in which the writer speaks to you directly, not artificially but naturally.

Having, as I mentioned, only been permitted by circumstance to know Quinton during his last two years at Solano, I have to come to know the teacher, the colleague, the contributor of so many good things for Solano College, at his fullest tide, his pinnacle. It brings to my mind words that Cicero wrote in his famous work, de amicitia, On Friendship. Paraphrasing Cicero freely, I can say that in nearly three decades as an instructor at Solano College, Quinton *has learned so much from his own feelings* about the nature of writing and the nature of learning that the strength of Quinton's teaching is utterly spontaneous and beautiful.

Thank you, Quinton, for teaching at Solano College. The audience extended a round of applause.

Former Dean of Humanities, Kathy Rosengren, spoke on behalf of Instructor Duval. Ms. Rosengren began by quoting the great Poet Federico Garcia Lorca, who once wrote:

The poem, the song, the picture
Is only water drawn from
The well of the people,
And it should be given back to them,
In a cup of beauty
So that they may drink,
And in drinking
Understand themselves.

I can think of nothing that better defines Quinton Duval's work throughout his life than Lorca's lines. In both his poetry and his teaching, Quinton has drawn "from the well of the people" and given back a cup of beauty so that his students and his reading public could better understand themselves. Let's take, for example, one of the poems from Joe's Rain, my favorite book of Quinton's poems:

"What Would You Give?"

Slow down, slow down. Now,
You're listening to the story
Told by a man you don't know
Very well. It's about finding
A penny at the bottom
Of a bowl of oatmeal, how
The waitress was unashamed,
Thought it was funny, lucky even,
And you had no sense of outrage.
You could plainly see
How you and this man weren't
Going to be close.
But you can tell a story too,
So you begin with three of you,
Hung over, eating breakfast

At Azar's in the Public Market.
A girl came in, a pretty girl
Dressed for work, a nice hot-weather
Frock. Across from your booth
She sat at the counter, and as she sat,
Her dress arranged itself along the back
Of the stool so her white panties
Were exposed. None of you could think
How to tell her, so you all ate
a hung-over, distracted breakfast until
she finished her coffee and left.
What would you give to see that again,
Have breakfast with those two
Both lost in the flow of time?
For that matter, what would you give
In this age of little wonders,
To find a penny at the bottom
Of your oatmeal bowl?

There it is—the poem, the song, the picture—one of Quinton's cups of beauty!

Ms. Rosengren stated that it was her great pleasure to honor the service of Quinton Duval to Solano Community College on the occasion of his impending retirement. Quinton came to SCC in the late 70's as an adjunct instructor who taught for Solano at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville. He joined the full-time faculty of the English Department in 1981 after a most contentious hiring process; nonetheless, never have I regretted fighting through it because it brought us one of the finest teachers on this campus these past 27 years. Quinton has taught all levels of composition: Introduction to Literature and Introduction to Poetry; he developed and taught the California literature course and has taught in the Writing Skills Lab for many years. His specialty has been the teaching of Creative Writing, and he has guided hundreds of fledgling writers through the years. He began the Suisun Valley Review, the college literary magazine, 25 years ago and served as its advisor himself many of those years. Under his leadership, the Review became a respected journal throughout California and the West. Quinton also created and coordinated a series of free readings and lectures which we call the English Department Guest Lecture Series. Through that program, he has been singularly responsible for bringing many excellent writers to SCC and for introducing them to our students.

Quinton's classes have always been interesting and fun to observe, as they are consistently well-planned and inventive. In an English 370 class several years ago, Quinton introduced the concept of analysis by telling the students that he had read in the newspaper that twelve unmatched shoes had been found at the State Fair the previous week. He then asked the students to think of possible reasons why a person would lose one shoe. The students put the reasons in priority order and explained why. Without knowing it, they were engaging in analysis and enjoying it. These kinds of strategies

have always been hallmarks of Quinton's teaching style, and they, along with his wonderful sense of humor, have worked together to create fine learning environments.

Outside the classroom, Quinton has also been valuable to SCC. He has served on every full-time English hiring committee formed in the last 15 years, as well as serving on many part-time hiring committees for longer than that. When the class which publishes the Suisun Valley Review cancelled in the spring of 2004, Quinton and several colleagues made sure the Review got published anyway by donating their time and expertise. Quinton has just completed a four-year term as CTA Grievance Chair. I had the opportunity to work with him in this capacity and with CTA President Diane White and HR Director Christiansen last year when I was Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, and it was one of the most satisfying duties I have ever had at SCC, as we were able to truly work together to try to solve these problems.

And, as you know, Quinton is also a dedicated writer himself, having just had his fifth book of poetry published early this summer. To conclude this tribute to Quinton Duval, I'd like to share two more of his fine poems with you.

Poem for Nancy Lee in Late Fall

It multiplies the autumn in my heart
And I realize old age has found me. Tu Fu

Yes, old age, at forty-eight a conceit,
A faint wagon trail
Leading off into broom brush
So full of meadowlarks
That a cloud of yellow dust
Rises when we move through.
I was always taught to take a risk
And in the breach would come
The lesson, and something better
For the changing. We describe
A perfect day, fate staining
The sky blue as your eyes, clouds too,
Cool well into fall. Sharp woodsmoke
And a basket under the seat
With every little thing packed up
In that waxed paper you use.
Wine, blanket, crest of hill—
All as I write it for you.
Simply discovered, I've been thinking
There's a place to lie down,
Spread out. Join me.
I can whistle the meadowlark call,
I can make a song
Out of anything you say.

And, finally (appropriately):

My Future

My future is a garden where a cook
Cuts the throat of a rooster. C. Milosz

I will see the bright drops
Bloom on the flagstones.
I will inhale the rich odor
Of the bird stewing in the pot.
The cook will step outside to smoke
And the smoke will drift up
Through the catalpa's long pods—
To where, I don't know.
He may pull thyme and rosemary
And I'll be under his chewed-down nails
Along with nicotine and chicken guts.
One day, as he kneels over the grill,
A sparrow startled from under the eaves
Will drop a cargo of feathers and grass
At his feet. I will wait for children
To grow up, drift away.
I will be patient if new owners come,
Fire the cook for drinking, lift the roses,
Plant lawn. There won't be enough
Lazy time spent dreaming in the shadows
Of beeches. To figure things out,
All anyone needs is time.

And so, Quinton, retirement will give you that time—time for giving back more cups of beauty from which we may drink, and in drinking, further understand ourselves. Congratulations, dear friend. The audience extended to Mr. Duval a round of applause and standing ovation.

Moved by Vice President Ubalde and seconded by Trustee Young to approve the retirement of Quinton Duval, effective May 22, 2009. The motion carried unanimously.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Effective</u>
Jacqueline Rock	Nursing Instructor 20 Years at SCC	May 22, 2009

Dean of Health Occupations, Máire Morenic, spoke on behalf of Jacqueline Rock.

Dean Morenic stated that it has been her distinct pleasure to work with Jackie Rock for the past 19 years. Dean Morenic and Ms. Rock both became full-time instructors in the nursing division at Solano Community College in the fall of 1989.

Jackie is first and foremost a pediatric nurse. For most of her career, both here at Solano Community College, and in the military, she has worked with children, so it is no wonder she is a great teacher. Her love of pediatric nursing is evident in how she teaches and works with both students and patients. Many of our graduates over the past 20 years have gone on to be pediatric nurses because of her.

Jackie has also taught the Fundamentals course in nursing every fall, and it is her patience and compassion that enables her to work so well with our beginning students; students who are both excited and afraid, sometimes at the same time. For most of her career at Solano, Jackie has been our Pediatric Content expert and the team leader for both the Fundamentals and Maternal-Child courses. When Jackie retires this spring, a tremendous void will be created.

Dean Morenic reported that during her tenure at Solano Community College, Jackie has seen many students come through our program, and unlike many instructors, Jackie can remember their names and something special about each of them. She has been our social director, remembering to send a card when someone has lost a family member, or, as in my case, organized a baby shower many years ago when my now 18-1/2 year old son was born. Jackie will truly be missed in the nursing division, not only by me personally, but by the students, the administrative staff, and the faculty.

William Arthur Ward once said, "The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior demonstrates. The great teacher inspires." Solano is losing not just a teacher, but a great teacher. Jackie Rock is a great teacher and she will be missed.

Moved by Trustee Young and seconded by Trustee Claffey to approve the retirement of Jacqueline Rock, effective May 22, 2008. The motion carried unanimously.