

THE SPOTLIGHT

"We will be tenacious, inquisitive, and diligent in uncovering any and all news that is pertinent to life in our community as well as all issues relevant to the world of academia."

*-Mary Mason
Editor in Chief*

In This Issue:

College Media Advisers Dismissed Nationwide

Page 4



List of Spotlight Donors

Page 5



Vegan Cooking with Alexis

Page 11



Please allow us to introduce the Spotlight

By the Spotlight Staff
Staff Editors, Writers, Managers and Photographers

The Spotlight started as an idea, a bit of a joke with a bit of daydreaming thrown in. Towards the end of the Spring 2015 semester, after legal action had been filed against the administration of Muscatine Community College (MCC) by several staffers of its college newspaper, the Calumet, we started to discuss what was the next step.

An offhand remark from Calumet adviser Jim Compton was that we could start our own paper. At first we laughed it off as an impossible idea, but the more we talked about it, the more it seemed to be a possibility.



Left to right: Mary Mason, Tarsa Weikert and Alexis Huscko. Photo by Sarah Shoemaker

Our start up staff is small, but we hope to expand it. 2014-2015 Calumet Editor-in-Chief Mary Mason will be holding the same position for the Spotlight. Tarsa Weikert was a Calumet staff writer and has taken on the role of News Editor, and Calumet staff writer Alexis Huscko will be the Spotlight Advertising Manager in addition to continuing to write. The photography staff includes 2014-2015 Calumet photographers Brandy Dillon and Mallory Kauffman, as well as 2013-2014 Calumet photographer Sarah Shoemaker. Ashford University student Keosha Westphall is our web designer. Former Calumet advisers Lisa Powell (2012-2013) and Jim Compton (2013-2015) will be assisting in production and doing some writing themselves.

The Spotlight will have two main features. On the local level, we will focus on investigative stories that tend not to receive press coverage. These stories will include coverage of the local community college and public schools but not be limited to them. The paper will also contain stories and features about local events, attractions, and entertainment. These stories will be available in a print version, once per month. We will be waiving the purchase price for the first six months of our print publication to allow readers to experience and appreciate what we have to offer.

The majority of these stories will be available on our website, which will also include stories that pertain to higher education and college media nationwide. The goal is to establish a national network of student journalists and college newspaper advisers who will contribute and collaborate to delve deeply into issues relevant to education and our contributors' communities.

continued on page 2

Discipline appeal denied, despite lack of evidence

By Tarsa Weikert
Staff Writer

The Eastern Iowa Community College District (EICCD) Board of Trustees voted unanimously, without discussion, to "support the administration" and deny Muscatine Community College (MCC) faculty member Jim Compton's request for the removal of the Disciplinary Action he received while adviser of the student run campus newspaper, the Calumet.

The board voted on Monday, June 8, at their monthly meeting at the EICCD District Office in Davenport, Iowa, less than a month after EICCD Chancellor Donald Doucette had denied Compton's appeal on May 11. Compton had appealed his discipline to Doucette in an August 18, 2014, letter and had met with Doucette to discuss the appeal September 4, 2014.

The Chancellor and the Board's decisions against Compton came quickly after a First Amendment lawsuit was filed on May 5 against the EICCD Board, the Chancellor, and several other members of EICCD administration. The complaint was filed by former and on-going student reporters of the Calumet who claimed harassment and intimidation of the newspaper during Compton's tenure as adviser.

The lawsuit was prompted primarily by Compton's replacement with a part-time instructor to teach the Journalism classes and advise the Calumet. Compton was removed as Journalism instructor and student adviser of the Calumet by former Dean of the College Gail Spies on February 11, 2015.

Compton, a full-time faculty member at MCC since 1999, has had no previous disciplinary notices or warnings, and his performance reviews have been consistently positive. However, on July 3, 2014, he received what is known as a Level Two Notice of Discipline, which is a formal write-up and which bypassed the Level One informal, non-written warning that the EICCD Administrative and Professional handbook describes as the traditional first level of discipline. The discipline was administered by former MCC President Robert Allbee on July 3, 2014.

Both Spies and Allbee retired from MCC on June 30.

Compton, following EICCD procedure, first appealed to Allbee, stating that the charges in the discipline notice were untrue, and could not be substantiated. Allbee denied the appeal in a letter dated August 15, 2014.

The letter stated, "As we discussed on July 3, 2014, the behaviors stated on your notice of disciplinary action were unprofessional and injurious to students.

"I will again remind you that continued behavior such as that stated in your notice of disciplinary action will not be tolerated at Eastern Iowa Community Colleges.

"Therefore, I am denying your request to remove the July 3, 2014 Notice of Disciplinary Action from your personnel file."

Compton, continuing procedure, wrote an appeal letter to Doucette dated August 18, 2014.

Doucette did not respond until May 11, 2015, over eight months later. "I eventually said it's the end of the

continued on page 3