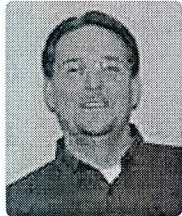


Union News

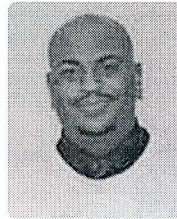
Welcome to the IFT

Jim Bakken began work with the IFT on December 1 as an Organizing Specialist. Bakken has extensive organizing experience with both United

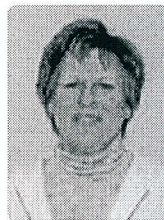


Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), Local 881, as well as with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Council 62. Bakken will work from the IFT Westmont office.

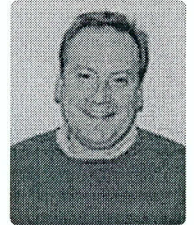
Jodie Easley also began work as an IFT Organizing Specialist on December 1. Easley, a graduate of Butler University, was a highly-regarded intern in 2004 with the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) in Washington, D.C.. He is assigned to the IFT Westmont office.



Lynn Gallagher was hired as a part-time member of the IFT Professional Support Staff. She began employment at the IFT Westmont office on October 3 and will support the organizers in that office. Gallagher also works part-time as an AFT support staff member.



Toby Trimmer joined the IFT on December 1 as the union's new Legislative Director/State Affiliate Political Organizer (SAPO).



Trimmer is a veteran political organizer and fundraiser, having most recently worked for the Illinois State Democratic Fund. Trimmer is assigned to the IFT's Springfield Regional Office.

Higher Education News

Local 1600 member named 2005 Professor of the Year

M.Vali Siadat never envisioned himself as a teacher when he immigrated to the U.S. from Tehran to become an engineer. But the member of the Cook County College Teachers Union, Local 1600, was rewarded for his dedication and contribution to teaching recently when he was named 2005 Professor of the Year.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching honored Siadat with the award in November

at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

While attending the University of California at Berkeley, Siadat discovered his talent for math. After teaching some math courses part-time, he decided that teaching was his calling.

Now chairman of the Department of Mathematics at Richard J. Daley College, Siadat has taught math for 31 years and is the co-founder of a

program called the "Keystone Project." The program is designed to help students learn mathematics by requiring frequent testing on the concepts being addressed in the classroom. The results of the tests allow instructors to judge the students' understanding of the subject and determine how to adjust the coursework, if necessary.