



The Sentinel

Volume 9, No. 06

UUP - Oneonta

February - March 2009

Never, never, never, never give up.

- Winston Churchill

Support SUNY: Strengthen the College at Oneonta

By Bill Simons, Chapter President

Thanks to all UUPers who are sending letters and faxes, participating in rallies, and visiting in-district and legislative offices to support SUNY. UUP Oneonta, along with UUP sisters and brothers throughout the New York State, is, as it has been throughout the years, in the forefront of SUNY advocacy. Our chapter recently discussed the importance of SUNY with Assemblyman Bill Magee at the UUP Oneonta office in the Human Ecology building. Elsewhere in this issue, Academic Delegate Fred Miller describes UUP Oneonta's recent in-district meeting with Senator Jim Seward, and an article by Vice President for Academics Rob Compton comments on his participation in UUP Oneonta advocacy activity at the Legislative Office Building. On a weekly basis, UUP Oneonta is represented in Albany in Statewide UUP's on-going visits to legislators. On Friday, January 30, the Executive Board of UUP Oneonta, en masse, joined with a multitude of UUPers from every corner of New York State in a historic Albany rally to support SUNY. It is important that we continue to make our voices heard to protect and strengthen SUNY in the upcoming budget discussions. We need to ensure all New Yorkers have access to the high-quality undergraduate and graduate degree programs that SUNY offers. Please advocate for SUNY by faxing your legislator by visiting the UUP website at <http://uupinfo.org/>. Come to the Hunt Union for UUP Oneonta's Thursday, February 19th meeting with Assemblyman Pete Lopez. To travel to the Legislative Office Building in Albany on February 24 to advocate for SUNY, please contact Bill Simons at simonswm@oneonta.edu.



UUP's SUNY advocacy includes the following:

Protect SUNY's Core Mission

- Ensure access to public higher education for all New Yorkers
- Maintain SUNY's ability to offer quality education and student services
- Keep SUNY hospitals public and preserve vital services at the health science centers
- Protect SUNY's Educational Opportunity Centers and Educational Opportunity Programs
- Codify the Office for Diversity and Educational Equity in state Education Law
- Increase the availability of full-time tenure track faculty and protect part-time and contingent faculty
- Protect the public trust by preserving legislative oversight of SUNY

Promote Social Justice

- Protect access to SUNY for employees and students with disabilities
- Reform the current regressive NYS income tax structure
- Enact the New York State Fair Pay Act
- Support sovereign immunity legislation to restore public employee rights
- Support paid family medical leave for all New Yorkers
- Support health care for all New Yorkers

Strengthen Workers' Rights

- Provide unemployment insurance for part-time SUNY employees
- Protect health insurance benefits for SUNY retirees
- Maintain NYSTI's independence and restore employees to 12-month status



In addition, UUP opposes flexibility legislation and urges the Legislature to reject it. The absence of employee protection language in the proposed flexibility legislation is particularly onerous.

We are in the midst of a developing fiscal crisis, perhaps the worst since the Great Depression. Challenges beckon, but so too do opportunities to build anew. In the months ahead, the members of UUP must come forward as never before to advocate for an embattled SUNY. Much will be asked of us. None will be exempt from the responsibilities of generating faxes, letters, phone calls, rallies, articles, advocacy meetings—and more.

And we will continue to reach out to those who respond to UUP's offer of partnerships on behalf of SUNY.

SUCO Adjuncts: Fiscal Crisis, Diversity, and the Triple Bottom Line

By Karina Cespedes, Assistant Professor, Africana-Latino Studies and Women's and Gender Studies



The concept of the triple bottom line (people, sustainability, profit) captures an expanded spectrum of values and criteria for measuring institutional and societal success: economic, environmental and social. The sustainability of a diverse and robust intellectual, professional and educational environment is crucial to SUCO's triple bottom line and at the heart of this success are our colleagues serving throughout the college as adjuncts.

Most commonly, adjuncts teach many of the needed courses that departments do not have the full time staffing to otherwise offer. The employment of adjunct faculty rather than tenure-track faculty has historically served institutions across the country as a tremendous bargain. In some departments adjuncts are carrying the load for almost half of the instructional requirements, yet they are remunerated at a level that, on average, barely compensates for their living expenses.

Many of our colleagues serving as adjuncts not only generate a substantial profit for the college (considering the number of students adjuncts teach in any given semester and the amount of starting adjunct compensation at \$2,500 per course) but most importantly our colleagues serving as adjuncts contribute to the intellectual life of our campus and are crucial to the sustainability of the college and its mission. Many of our adjunct colleagues have specialized expertise and are able to offer courses otherwise unable to be held for lack of similar expertise among the full time faculty. In addition to generating profit and being crucial to sustaining an intellectual environment that furthers the mission of SUCO our colleagues serving as adjuncts contribute greatly to the diversity of our campus. The ways in which our colleagues diversify our campus can be gauged by historically conventional understandings of "diversity": many of our adjuncts are women, some of whom are primary earners in their families, and often our adjunct colleagues are part of historically underrepresented racial and ethnic groups within higher education. But if the definition of diversity is expanded our colleagues serving as adjuncts diversify our campus as members of sexual minorities, as native speakers of diverse languages and as immigrants from various countries. Many of our adjunct colleagues bring into their classrooms a wealth of information about non Western societies, Third World countries, and working class communities, and do so from their lived experiences thereby further enriching and diversifying our campus.

Adjunct faculty enrich the overall curricula and in doing so they bring an increased level of productivity and flexibility to all of our departments. Their presence does more than merely accomplish the task of covering classes, our colleagues serving as adjuncts actively participate in the mentoring of students, have often prepared students for graduate programs, have participated within various committees without compensation due to their own interest and concerns for the wellbeing of the students and department(s) that they serve. Their commitment to SUCO, and their commitment to serving the campus community is not easily replaceable, and it cannot be something that is considered expendable during these difficult economic times.

With the economic crisis the nation is facing SUNY and SUCO are having to make difficult decisions, and it appears that cutbacks are unavoidable, but if there is a need to "cut back" let it not be an act that weakens our central mission of providing our students with an excellent education, and let it not be by throwing our colleagues serving as adjuncts out into the cold in an effort to merely "save ourselves." There are many ways to survive a crisis; there are sustainable and unsustainable, ethical and unethical, dignified and undignified ways to "come out on top." It would be an undignified way to survive this crisis if our colleagues, who have served with us for years, who have severed all of our students well, who ultimately make all of our lives richer and "profitable" well beyond the gauge of any accounting method, were to be cast out in the midst of escalating rates of unemployment, increasing costs for food, housing and heating, and the uncertainty of access to affordable healthcare.

In the act of "cutting back" let us reinforce one of our sources of strength. Adjunct faculty should receive a substantial pay increase, providing them with fair compensation for their time and expertise. Adjunct faculty will continue to be needed to satisfy the current instructional and budgetary shortfalls and as such instead of "cut backs" for our colleagues serving as adjuncts offering a pay increase equaling an adequate living wage, and securing their positions, is crucial to meeting our moral and financial triple bottom line; of justly compensating people for their expertise and work, of ensuring a sustainable intellectual and humane environment that is diverse and can serve as a model for how best to survive economically challenging times, and thereby gaining true "profits," true wealth that not only provides financial security but most importantly assures wealth creation that continually regenerates our community and diversifies our campus enriching all who call SUCO home.

Discretionary Salary Increases (DSI): 2008

(Bill Simons' Note: "It was moved and seconded {at the January 12, 2009, Executive Board Meeting} that the chapter publish in The Sentinel and put on-line the most recent DSI awards including the names of those who received DSI and the amounts received. The motion was discussed and passed unanimously." UUP Oneonta previously published DSI awards on-line. A number of other UUP chapters publish DSI awards.)

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	AMOUNT
ACKERMAN	DONALD	\$1,000
ADIKES	DAVID	\$500
ALLEN	TRACY	\$1,500
ALLISON	DONALD	\$500
ANDERSON	SVEN	\$700
ANDREIC	ALEKSANDRA	\$750
ANDRUSYSZYN	PETER	\$1,248
ARAKAKI	JON	\$700
ARANGO	GUSTAVO	\$750
ARNOLD	CAROL	\$500
ARTALE	MAUREEN	\$1,000
ATTANASIO	JILL	\$900
BAGBY	JENNIFER	\$500
BAGBY	JOHN	\$1,400
BAKER	BEVERLY	\$2,850
BALCOM	BRENDA	\$550
BALDWIN	LOIS	\$1,000
BAO	LIANG	\$550
BARNHART	JOANN	\$750
BARTON	SCOTT	\$750
BASSETTE	LYNDA	\$550
BAXTER	JULIA	\$700
BEAL	THOMAS	\$750
BEARDSLEE	SERENITY	\$800
BECKEMEYER	LORI-ANN	\$400
BEITZEL	BRIAN	\$1,400
BENNETT	JACQUELINE	\$2,000
BERCOVITZ	JAMES	\$100
BERNARDIN	SUSAN	\$1,500
BERRY	MADELINE	\$1,200
BIDWELL	LESLEY	\$500
BIDWELL	PHILIP	\$1,000
BIELERT	CRAIG	\$700
BILTUCCI	ANTHONY	\$900
BISCHOFF	PAUL	\$1,400
BISHOP	RONALD	\$750
BLACK	KATHLEEN	\$1,400
BLECHMAN	JEROME	\$750
BONDEROFF	MARY	\$250
BOOKHOUT	DAWN	\$500
BOUNOU	LATIFA	\$500
BRIDGERS	LEAH	\$500
BRITTON	KYLE	\$900
BROCKERT	ELIZABETH	\$500

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	AMOUNT
BROWN	ROBERT	\$850
BROWN	KAREN	\$1,000
BRYMN	JUSTIN	\$550
BUCHAN	HOWARD	\$1,400
BUECHE	JENNIFER	\$1,450
BYRNE	IAN	\$550
CALLAHAN	NANCY	\$700
CAPRISTO	DALE	\$550
CARTER	PAUL	\$1,400
CASE	KRISTEN	\$100
CASHMAN	COLLEEN	\$550
CASTENDYK	DEVIN	\$1,500
CESPEDES	KARINA	\$1,500
CHASE	DONNA	\$800
CHIANG	JOSEPH	\$500
CHIANG	SHIAOYUN	\$700
CHOONOO	R	\$750
CHRISTIANSEN	MARTIN	\$100
CHRISTIE	CHARLENE	\$1,771
CHRYST	CAROLYN	\$700
CLARK	SHIRLEY	\$1,248
CLEMONS	SUSAN	\$1,000
COE	LAWRENCE	\$270
CONWAY	PAUL	\$500
COUCH	RICHARD	\$700
CROUSEPOWERS	AMY	\$600
CUI	JIAN	\$700
CUNNINGHAM	NEIL	\$600
DAURIA	ARTHUR	\$1,100
DAVIS	GEOFFREY	\$100
DAVIS	MARY	\$500
DAY	JANET	\$750
DEMEO	THOMAS	\$550
DEWAAL	KARIN	\$100
DILLON	KEVIN	\$550
DIXON	BENJAMIN	\$1,500
DORN	MARY	\$600
DOUGHTY	AMIE	\$1,500
DOWDELL	MARY	\$700
DRAKE	LINDA	\$875
EBERT	JAMES	\$1,500
EDWARDS	CHRISTINE	\$550
EICHLER	GRAIG	\$550
ERRICO	JAMES	\$550

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	AMOUNT
EXLEY	CAROL	\$100
FALK	CYNTHIA	\$750
FALLON	MELISSA	\$1,250
FARBER	ALLEN	\$800
FARRO LYND	DEBORAH	\$750
FAUX	MICHAEL	\$1,500
FELDT GOLDEN	CONSTANCE	\$1,100
FERCHEN	RICHARD	\$550
FERRARA	MARK	\$750
FININ	KATHRYN	\$1,500
FISKE	NANCY	\$100
FLINTON	PAMELA	\$1,000
FLORES	PAUL	\$100
FORTIN	JEFFREY	\$750
FRANKL	JANET	\$650
FRATTONI	CHRISTOPHER	\$750
FRENCH	PAUL	\$750
FRYE	JOSHUA	\$700
GALLAGHER	KELLY	\$801
GALLAGHER	HUGH	\$1,500
GARDNER	MICHELLE	\$100
GEASEY	DAVID	\$1,000
GERBERG	ANDREA	\$1,000
GILBERT	STEVEN	\$1,100
GILBERTSON	KAREN	\$550
GILMORE	RONALD	\$500
GOODHUE	CLYDE	\$550
GRAIG-TISO	JOSEPH	\$500
GRAU	MONICA	\$550
GRAU	FREDERIC	\$1,248
GREEN	MICHAEL	\$750
GRIMALDI	RICHARD	\$750
GRISWOLD	KIM	\$600
GUZY	LAWRENCE	\$898
HADSELL	LESTER	\$1,400
HALEY	BRIAN	\$1,500
HAN	SALLIE	\$750
HANSEN	RICHARD	\$550
HARCLEROAD	WILLIAM	\$550
HARMAN	WILLARD	\$1,500
HARPER	APRIL	\$750
HARRINGTON	REBECCA	\$550
HASBARGEN	LESLIE	\$750
HASSARD	GEOFFREY	\$550

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	AMOUNT
HAYES	TIMOTHY	\$550
HECHT	ROGER	\$750
HEILVEIL	JEFFREY	\$750
HELSEY	TERRY	\$500
HELTERLINE	MARILYN	\$500
HENDLEY	MICHELLE	\$1,000
HENDLEY	MATTHEW	\$1,500
HENNESSY	DENIS	\$100
HEYDUK	HEATHER	\$1,000
HILL	DONALD	\$1,500
HODNE	JANE	\$700
HOEY	REBECCA	\$700
HOFFMANN	DENNIS	\$650
HORVATH	THOMAS	\$750
HOSNEDL	ANNEMARIE	\$600
HOTALING	HEATHER	\$500
HOVIS	GEORGE	\$1,500
HU	SHIH-MING	\$1,400
HUGHES	MONA	\$750
HUGHSON	SUSAN	\$100
HUNTINGTON	ELIZABETH	\$500
IYER	NITHYA	\$700
JANSMA	ROGER	\$300
JENSEN	PAUL	\$1,400
JOEST	KAREN	\$700
JOHNSON	TRACI	\$100
JURY	MARK	\$700
KAHL	BARBARA	\$100
KAHL	ANDREW	\$700
KAMBUROWSKA	GRAZYNA	\$500
KANE	SHANNAH	\$100
KAUFMAN	NORMAN	\$250
KEAHON	JEANNE	\$550
KEEGAN	CHRISTOPHER	\$750
KEEL	GINA	\$750
KLINK	CYNTHIA	\$100
KNAPP	JENNIFER	\$750
KOCH	MICHAEL	\$1,500
KOEDDERMANN	ACHIM	\$1,500
KOT	STEPHANIE	\$2,916
LABROO	SUNIL	\$750
LANDRY	DEBORAH	\$500
LASCELL	IAN	\$750
LAWRENCE	ELAINE	\$1,400

continued

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	AMOUNT
LEE	RICHARD	\$1,500
LEGNAME	ORLANDO	\$700
LEHENBAUER	KARL	\$500
LEHENBAUER	NANCY	\$500
LENTNER	J	\$550
LENTZ	VICKY	\$500
LEON	MIGUEL	\$750
LEUNG	HO	\$1,400
LEVINS	LORIN	\$500
LEVINS	CRAIG	\$550
LEVIS	BRIAN	\$500
LOBDELL	BAMBI	\$100
LOKSHINA	IZABELLA	\$3,000
LOPICCOLO	BARBARA	\$250
LOPICCOLO	MATTHEW	\$550
LOWE	BRIAN	\$1,400
LUM	MICHAEL	\$250
LYNCH	REBECCA	\$1,000
MACK	MARY	\$500
MAHANTA	KAMALA	\$750
MAHAR	JENNIFER	\$550
MAHAR	DANIEL	\$550
MALIKOV	YURIY	\$750
MANCKE	DOROTHEA	\$500
MANCUSO	MARY	\$550
MANN	NIGEL	\$1,500
MARKS	THOMAS	\$250
MARSHALL	JOAN	\$700
MARTIN	ANDREW	\$975
MASKIN	DEBORAH	\$600
MATTESON	DAMON	\$500
MAY	TAMMY	\$250
MAY	WILLIAM	\$550
MAYER	GLENN	\$700
MC AVOY	MICHAEL	\$2,500
MCCASLIN-DOYLE	MARJEAN	\$1,000
MCCASLIN-DOYLE	JOHN	\$1,400
MCCLAFFERTY	EILEEN	\$673
MCCLENON	BRADEN	\$500
MCDERMOTT	JAMES	\$100
MCFARLAND	ANNE	\$700
MCGRAIL	ELIZABETH	\$550
MCPHAIL	RAYMOND	\$100
MEDICI	VINCENT	\$550

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	AMOUNT
MI	HANFU	\$1,400
MILLER	JANE	\$700
MITCHELL	NANCY	\$100
MITCHELL	GEORGE	\$100
MITTEAGER	WENDY	\$500
MOHAMMAD	FIDA	\$700
MONTOYA	MARIA	\$500
MORCONE	LAURA	\$550
MORIARTY	THOMAS	\$250
MORRISON	MARGARET	\$1,300
MOSEMAN	DIANA	\$900
MOXLEY	SANDRA	\$1,050
MUNSON	MATTHEW	\$550
MUNSON	KAREN	\$550
MURPHY	JOANNE	\$250
NEWTON	TIMOTHY	\$2,700
NOWAK	RHEA	\$1,400
NUSSBAUM	ROBIN	\$550
OBERKIRCHER	OSCAR	\$700
ODEA	WILLIAM	\$1,100
ODONNELL	RICKY	\$750
OMARA	KATHLEEN	\$750
O'SHEA	WILLIAM	\$1,400
OST	DEBRA	\$500
OZER	MINE	\$1,400
OZKUL	AHMET	\$700
PALMATIER	JOSHUA	\$500
PAUGH	BARBARA	\$750
PAWKETT	MARK	\$100
PAYNE	NORMAN	\$600
PAYNE	DANIEL	\$1,500
PEARSALL	MICHELE	\$550
PHILLIPS-KNAPP	EMILY	\$700
PIEKARSKI	MARK	\$1,300
PIERCE	DIANE	\$2,308
PIETRAFACE	WILLIAM	\$1,500
PIGNATO	JOSEPH	\$1,400
PINNEY	CYNTHIA	\$500
PLEDGER	BARBARA	\$2,000
PLOSS	TIMOTHY	\$900
POLAK	DEBORAH	\$1,000
PORTER- O'DONNELL	REBECCA	\$700
PROULX	WILLIAM	\$1,150

continued

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	AMOUNT
RAGOZZINE	CHARLES	\$750
RANIERI	DAVID	\$250
RANIERI	TRACEY	\$1,000
RELETHFORD	JOHN	\$1,500
REYNOLDS	ERIN	\$700
RICE	MARK	\$1,000
RICHARDS	RITA	\$600
RING	DAVID	\$700
RITTER	DUANE	\$550
ROBERTS	RICHARD	\$600
RODRIGUEZ	VENESSA	\$800
ROMAN	ROBERT	\$1,400
ROMERO	WALTER	\$750
ROSEBOOM	JULIANNE	\$700
RYAN	MARYLOU	\$700
RYBURN	ADAM	\$500
RYDER	JAMES	\$750
SAJDAK	ROBERT	\$250
SAKOULAS	THOMAS	\$1,400
SAMSTEIN	NANCY	\$100
SCHAUMLOFFEL	JOHN	\$1,500
SCHLEICHER	ANNA	\$550
SCHLIMMER	ERIK	\$100
SCHNEIDER	MARK	\$100
SCHULER- GHORSE	ELIZABETH	\$550
SEGAR	SCOTT	\$700
SERBAY	SHEILA	\$100
SHARPE	YOLANDA	\$1,100
SHASTRI	ANURADHAA	\$700
SHEESLEY	TIMOTHY	\$517
SIEGRIST	RAYMOND	\$700
SIMONS	WILLIAM	\$500
SMALL	ELIZABETH	\$750
SMITH	SUSAN	\$2,283
SORIN	GRETCHEN	\$1,500
SOSA	ALBERT	\$750
SOUZAWATKINS	CARIDAD	\$100
SPENCER	BRINN	\$1,050
SPEZIALE	ELIZABETH	\$500
STAHL	LISA	\$100
STALEY	RICHARD	\$700
STONGE	JUSTIN	\$2,400
STRAUT	DENISE	\$1,000

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	AMOUNT
SULLIVAN	DEBORAH	\$560
SULLIVAN	MICHAEL	\$860
TAGG	DAVID	\$700
TANG	YING	\$700
THIBAULT	MICHELLE	\$750
THIBAULT	ROBERT	\$750
THOMAS	TERRI	\$500
THOMAS	COLBY	\$700
THOMAS	ALEXANDER	\$1,100
THOMPSON	DAPHNE	\$550
TIRADO	ELIZABETH	\$700
TOBIASSEN	KATHY	\$550
TONNER	DANIELLE	\$550
TOROSYAN	GAYANE	\$1,400
TRAITOR	ANN	\$100
TRIPPEER	DONALD	\$700
TROST	NATHAN	\$1,489
TYLER	JUNE	\$100
UNDERWOOD	CURTIS	\$500
VAN BUREN	DIANE	\$500
VANBENSCHOTEN	ANDREW	\$500
VANSLYKE- BRIGGS	KJERSTI	\$1,400
VOGLER	DONNA	\$1,500
VREDENBURG	MARYLOU	\$500
WAGNER	ELIZABETH	\$550
WAGNER	KERRY	\$800
WALSH	STEPHEN	\$700
WANG	JENTING	\$750
WEINSCHENK	GEORGE	\$100
WEIR	WILLIAM	\$1,248
WICKHAM	GARY	\$500
WILKERSON	WILLIAM	\$750
WOLFE	KIRSTEN	\$750
WOOD	JEREMIAH	\$500
WOOD	JAY	\$900
XU	HUIMIN	\$700
YILMAZ	HURREM	\$700
YORKS	MAUREEN	\$500
YOUNG	CHARLES	\$1,158
ZALATAN	FREDERICK	\$500
ZHANG	SEN	\$1,500
ZHONG	HUA	\$1,400

February 19th UUP Chapter Meeting Featured Assemblyman Pete Lopez



The February UUP Chapter meeting was held in the Butternut Room, Hunt Union Thursday, February 19th and featured a presentation by **Peter Lopez**, New York State Assembly member. Assemblyman Lopez discussed SUNY issues and the current fiscal crisis. First elected to the New York State Assembly on November 7, 2006, he represents the 127th district, which includes part of Otsego County. “The son a working class family,” notes Assemblyman Lopez’ official biography, “Pete scrubbed floors, stocked store shelves, baled hay and scraped fish.” The recipient of degrees from SUNY Cobleskill and SUNY Albany, Assemblyman Lopez has served on both the SUNY Cobleskill Foundation and the SUNY Cobleskill Alumni Association. His community service background encompasses youth soccer, Habitat for Humanity, and Bassett Hospital. Questions and candid discussion followed Assemblyman Lopez’ formal program. Given the current fiscal challenges to SUNY, this was a particularly significant opportunity to engage in dialogue. There were 60 attendees at this meeting with Assemblyman Lopez.

Although chapter meetings have important content, they are also occasions for respite from the workweek and relaxed collegiality. Renew old ties and forge new ones by joining your colleagues in a convivial gathering and expression of solidarity at chapter meetings. Your union looks forward to greeting you.

For additional information about upcoming chapter meetings, please contact UUP Oneonta President **Bill Simons** (x3498, SimonsWM@Oneonta.Edu); VP for Academics **Rob Compton** (x3048, ComptoRW@Oneonta.Edu); VP for Professionals **Norm Payne** (x2021, PayneNE@Oneonta.Edu); Secretary and Health & Safety Officer **Tom Horvath** (x3899, HorvatTG@Oneonta.Edu); or Academic Delegate **Gina Keel** (x3505, KeelGL@Oneonta.Edu).



DEADLINE FOR UUP INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS – March 2nd:

Call for UUP Professionals, Part-Time and Adjuncts, and Fulltime Faculty to Apply

The UUP Individual Development Awards Program is designed to support a variety of professional development projects or activities by assisting eligible employees to develop their full professional potential and to prepare for advancement. UUP Professionals, Part-Time and Adjuncts, and Fulltime Faculty are urged to apply. The maximum amount that can be awarded to an applicant is \$1000. This allocation covers projects/activities that have occurred or will occur between July 2, 2008 and July 1, 2009. All activity must be completed and all funds must be encumbered by July 1, 2009.

Eligibility: Full-time and part-time UUP employees.

Full-time employees must be in the bargaining unit at the time of the award and during the dates of the project or activity. Part-time employees who meet the eligibility test for 26 weeks coverage for health benefits, and are eligible for health benefits during the summer, will also be eligible for funding for a project or activity that occurs during the summer whether or not they are on the payroll.

The proposed project or activity must:

- Enable the employee to meet one or more of the criteria specified in Title A. Evaluation of Academic Employees, §4. Criteria (a) – (e); Title B. Promotion of Academic Employees, §2. Criteria (a) – (e); or Title C. Evaluation and Promotion of Professional Employees, §5. Criteria (a) – (e), of Article XII Evaluation and Promotion of Academic and Professional Employees, of the Policies of the Board of Trustees.
- Meet particular areas of interest or activities within the categories eligible for support as identified by the Campus Professional Development Committee.

Projects or activities must fall within the following categories:

- Basic, applied, or historical research.
- Curriculum or instructional material development.
- Workshop, seminar, internship, or course work not covered by Article 46, Program for Tuition Assistance or SUNY tuition waiver.
- Conference participation or attendance.
- Preparation of material for publication.
- Grant proposal development.
- Artistic or creative endeavors.
- Professional reading or independent study.
- Other work-related professional development projects or activities.

A complete application consists of 3 forms-the statewide application, the budget summary, and the Oneonta cover sheet, available at <http://www.oneonta.edu/admin/humres/Payroll/IDA.asp>.

Send completed applications (3 forms) to Hope Lambrecht, 213 Netzer. Applications must be received by the close of business on March 2, 2009. Applicants will be notified by March 27, 2009. Contact members of the Joint Labor Management Committee with questions – Ben Dixon, Hope Lambrecht, Vicky Lentz, Janet Potter, Roger Sullivan, Alex Thomas. The Committee consists of three members appointed by UUP (Ben Dixon, Vicky Lentz, Alex Thomas) and three members appointed by Management (Hope Lambrecht, Janet Potter, Roger Sullivan).

Please



Thanks.

Rob Compton: An Open Letter

Dear Colleagues and Comrades... Over the past several months, I have received dozens of supportive emails and phone and office calls regarding the article on salaries and the Tripartite published in past Sentinels. Thank you for standing up for your rights. In solidarity, Rob Compton

UUP SUNY Outreach: Report from Albany

By Rob Compton, Vice President for Academics



On January 27, UUP members took a busy day out of our schedules to conduct outreach for SUNY at the legislative office building (LOB) in Albany. Thirty UUP activists worked the legislative offices from 9:00 am to 3:30pm. It was a hectic day to say the least! Armed with the new “2009 Legislative Agenda” and the message of “SUNY is the Solution, each group of UUPers visited five to six offices after receiving a briefing from Glenn McNitt, the co-chair of UUP’s SUNY Outreach Committee. I personally had the opportunity of meeting with Senator Seward (Oneonta) and Assemblyman Pretlow (Westchester) in person. In addition to the UUP Legislative Agenda, which focused on student access, SUNY as a public good, restoring SUNY funding, and opposing SUNY Flexibility as currently structured, we discussed inadequate compensation of part-time faculty and escalating Management salaries.

2009 Chapter Elections Nominations List, UUP Oneonta

President and Delegate: Simons, William M.

Vice President for Academics and Delegate: Compton, Robert W.

Vice President for Professionals and Delegate: Payne, Norman E.

Secretary: Horvath, Thomas G.

Treasurer: McAvoy, Michael R.

Membership Director: Mi, Hanfu.

Part-Time Concerns Representative: Cespedes, Karina L.

Academic Delegate

Baldwin, Joseph C.
Bulson Christine E.
Carney Jr., John J.
Cespedes, Karina
Horvath, Thomas G.
Keel, Gina L.
McAvoy, Michael R.
Mi, Hanfu
Miller, Fred R.
Walker, Renee B.

Professional Delegate

Britton, Kyle J.
DeMeo, Thomas A.
Forrest-Glotzer, Janie L.
Frankl, Janet L.
Jerminario, Jeri Anne

LITERACY BLOSSOMS IN THE REMOTE DESERT OF INDIA

By Ashok Kumar Malhotra, *SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor and former UUP Vice President for Academics*

With smiles from cheek to cheek and with contented looks, Dr. Ashok Malhotra, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor and his partner Ms. Linda Drake, Director, SUNY Oneonta Center for Social Responsibility and Community, just returned from their memorable trip to India that took place during December 2008-January 2009 intersession. Mr. Ken Sider, a teacher from the Riverside School and an Education adjunct Professor at SUNY Oneonta, his wife Heidi, a guidance counselor from Laurens Central School and their 10 years old daughter, accompanied them. They visited the Indo-International Schools, funded by the Ninash Foundation, a local non-profit, whose goal it is to promote literacy among the poorest of poor children in India's remote villages.



The highlight of the trip was their pilgrimage to the first Indo-International School in Dundlod, which is Ninash's Star School. Started in 1996, by the participants of the SUNY Oneonta "Learn and Serve" Study Abroad Program with 50 underprivileged (Dalit) children, now has grown to 500 students from nursery to high school. The high school wing was added in 2007 through the generous donation of Greg and Sue Vancott of Unadilla.

The New Year at the Dundlod School started with four celebrative events: On January 1, Ashok and Linda inaugurated a newly paved road connecting the school to the main road. The Ninash Foundation, through donations from the Oneonta community, supplied 30% of the funds, whereas other 70 % came from the Village of Dundlod. It was a miracle of achievement in the middle of the desert. On January 2, Ashok and Linda gave away 35 milk-producing goats to the poorest of poor people of Dundlod. The children of the Greater Plains Elementary School and the members of Oneonta community raised the money for these goats. On January 3, more than 700 books were donated to the Dundlod School Library on behalf of the children of the Riverside School who had raised \$450 as part of the Oneonta Sister City project. It was a memorable experience for the three children and three teachers of the Dundlod School to accompany Ken and his family to purchase these new books because they had never been to a real bookstore in their lifetime. The best part of the visit was the news that two students (a female and a male) from Dundlod School, who 13 years ago had no future other than making a living through picking up and selling cow dung, had broken the social barriers of class, religion and gender to successfully get admission into a college of their choice to further their future. These two students stood out as models for the other children to imbibe. It was a historic moment for Dundlod and the sister city of Oneonta, which through its donations, made this celebrative moment possible.



The group also visited the Indo-International Culture School in Mahapura, Rajasthan, which was opened in 2004. Along with providing the basic education, its goal is to offer vocational training in the preservation of the art of stained glass windows. This school that started with 14 children has grown to more than 180 in 2009. Celebrations at the school involved the opening of the Mimi Forman and John Koller Artisan's Wing as well as the John Thomas Koller Memorial Library and Computer Center; both of these are funded by the Kollers.

Another highlight of the trip was a visit to the fourth Indo-International School in Kuran, a town in Gujarat, which was totally devastated by the 2001 earthquake. With Ninash Foundation's financial support the elementary school with 10 rooms was constructed for more than 205 children. Celebrations involved the expansion of the present elementary children school into a high school within the next year; the building of a children center to provide after school recreational activities for the children; the establishing of the school's library equipped with five computers as well as 2000 books. The highlight of the visit was a promise from the children, teachers and the community to follow our slogan of "each one teach one," where the 205 children would teach another 205 members of their family and they in their turn would teach another 410 thus making the entire village of 1200 completely literate in five years. A model for the rest of India to follow!

The Ninash Foundation, a local 501©(3) charitable organization, was established in 1996 to raise funds through the local, national and international community to spread literacy among the impoverished children and adults by opening schools in remote villages. The foundation needs to raise at least \$25,000 in donations each year to provide funding for its four Indo-International Schools, offering education to more than 900 poorest of poor children of India. The foundation's goal is to raise a million dollars to set up a trust, the interest from which will be used to fund these schools yearly as well as to build more schools in the future. Donations can be sent to: The Ninash Foundation, 17 Center Street, Oneonta, NY 13820, USA. Please visit the Ninash website at (www.ninash.org) and contribute electronically through the PayPal.



Senator James Seward and SUNY: In Dialogue

By Fred Miller, Academic Delegate

On Wednesday January 28 UUP Chapter President Bill Simons and I met with State Senator James Seward in his Oneonta District Office. For many years Senator Seward has represented the 51st District, which includes the City of Oneonta and the SUNY, Oneonta campus. The Senator has been, along with other legislative responsibilities, a long time member of the Senate Higher Education Committee. During his tenure in the Legislature, he has demonstrated that he is a sensitive and caring representative of our community and our college. During our conversation on the 28th, we discussed several topics of concern to UUP members. Paramount among the topics were the State's financial situation and the impact that some of the suggested budget cuts and short-falls might have on our community, our college, our students and the future economic, cultural and societal health of New York.

- What will the future be like for New York with a less educated work force?
- Will a less educated work force encourage or discourage future industry in our state?
- Will a less educated work force with the lower incomes usually available to them be able to return as much through their taxes as they might otherwise have?
- What will the loss of a few million dollars from SUCO's budget mean to the small businesses of Oneonta, Otsego County and the rest of the 51st District?
- What impact would fewer students enrolled at the SUNY colleges mean to the economy in the local communities to which they directly and indirectly contribute?
- Will those employees laid-off from the SUNY system as a result of budget cuts also need un-employment insurance, will they default on their mortgages, will they be unable to pay the taxes they once did?

One of the most encouraging features of our conversation with Senator Seward was that he demonstrated again and again his acute awareness of and sensitivity to those problems and his dedication to helping resolve them. He assured us that he and his colleagues would work together.

No one can deny that the state and the nation are facing a serious economic situation. Senator Seward is aware that the current situation should not be resolved by sacrificing the future of New York and aware that SUNY holds the future in its classrooms.

SENTINEL QUIZ



Question:

It has been said that this 18th century German philosopher led such a strict and predictable life that neighbors would set their clocks by his daily walks.

The first person to email Nancy Cannon (cannonns@oneonta.edu) with the correct answer will receive a UUP scarf.

One acceptable answer to the January quiz, *Archaeologists are using ancient DNA in an attempt to prove a long thought theory linking AIDS resistant modern humans to survivors of what medieval pestilence?* is the Black Death (Bubonic Plague) **John Relethford** noted the following: *“the data are now being disputed and some are suggesting the AIDS resistant form of the CCR5d32 gene is related to smallpox.”*

The first person to answer correctly was **Christine Barnes**.

The Drescher Leave – an Opportunity for Focusing on Research and Collaboration

*By Leanne M. Avery, Assistant Professor of Science Education,
and UUP Drescher Recipient*

In September I had the chance to describe my Drescher Leave experience and share how this leave gave me the time for focused research, professional development and growth, and the time to reflect. I am here to tell you, it did just that, and so much more. Not only did it enable me to spend consistent focused time in schools conducting my research, it allowed me the time and opportunity to build a foundation for future collaborations with colleagues at Cornell University.



As I mentioned in September, as part of my Drescher leave, I took a Cornell University course for my professional development. Its focus was on Indigenous and Local Knowledge, the literature base of my research. I was honored to be able to learn from a colleague whose expertise is in an area I continue to explore. I was absolutely exstastic about being in a research environment filled with diverse perspectives. Rich with intellectual conversation, it challenged me and at that the same time, I looked forward to the personal and intellectual growth it would provide. And it did! I have since had the pleasure of developing a research collaboration with the professor of the course, Dr. Karim-Aly Kassam! I am enormously inspired by his work with indigenous communities. I look forward to learning much more from him. Dr. Kassam and I are currently working on several related paper collaborations that bring together our two areas of expertise – his in indigenous and local knowledge and mine in rural science education. Our work together involves research on children’s LRK and the evaluation of citizen science programs and whether or not they embrace alternative ways of knowing (Avery & Kassam, forthcoming; Kassam & Avery, forthcoming). We anticipate this research will inform the grant proposal we plan to submit to the National Science Foundation Developmental and Learning Sciences grant solicitation this summer.

Being back at Cornell was so inspiring and energizing to my research program! I want to keep the momentum going. Therefore, I will be auditing a course at Cornell and meeting with colleagues weekly this spring semester. Although I have been told I’m crazy, I fully understand what it takes to keep the momentum going and to nurture and sustain collaborations.

My Drescher research project entitled, *Children’s Local Rural Knowledge (LRK) and Classroom Science: Debunking the Deficit Model in Rural Science Education*, is a collaboration between myself and Dr. John Sipple from Cornell University. This project is an extension of my current research program. It seeks to improve opportunities in science and engineering for children in rural poverty and enhance pedagogical teaching strategies for teachers in these rural science classrooms. Through investigation, photodocumentation and classification of children’s LRK – the knowledge that the children have acquired in places outside of school (Avery, 2008a: 2008b)– we continue to document children’s LRK and to explore the ways in which we can bring local knowledge into the rural science classroom.

Both my Drescher research project and my current research program, “Valuing Local Knowledge in Rural Science Education” aim to bridge the gap between school science and the science and engineering knowledge poor rural children have acquired in places outside of school. Whether it’s on the farm working with a tractor’s hydraulics or in the back yard tinkering with car parts, children in rural settings have garnered physics and engineering skills and knowledge in their daily lives. Unfortunately, when probed about this knowledge, I have found that these children do NOT connect their skills with the science they are learning in school (Avery, 2008a: 2008b). Although their pictures of science and engineering do seem to locate their knowledge in places in and outside of their homes, this knowledge appears separate from the science and engineering “located” in school. Thus, the science and engineering understandings that they have acquired outside of school do not make it through the classroom door. Therefore, my continued collaboration with Cornell colleagues interested in rural education, local teachers and rural communities, continues to focus on Children’s LRK in science and engineering. Together, through a place-based approach to education, one whose foundation for learning is place, home, community, and the rural context, we continue to explore the ways in which this knowledge can be translated into the science classroom (LRK) (Avery, 2008a: 2008b).

Leanne M. Avery is an Assistant Professor of Science Education in the Department of Elementary Education and Reading at SUNY Oneonta. Her research focuses on rural children’s local science and engineering knowledge, place-based teacher professional

development as a means of valuing and utilizing local rural knowledge in classroom practice, and the barriers rural children in poverty face in the era of NCLB. She was a public school science teacher for 11 years in a rural district in upstate New York.

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UUP Labor-Management Meeting Notes: Meeting of January 13, 2009

The Tuesday, January 13 UUP Labor/Management meeting was attended by (Management) President Nancy Kleniewski and Associate Vice President Lisa Wenck; (UUP) Chapter President Bill Simons and Vice President for Academics Rob Compton. The group agreed on the following framework for Labor/Management relations for the Spring, 2009, semester: Continuation of monthly issue-specific meetings; Two additional meetings on part-time faculty issues; Two briefings to the UUP Executive Board, one on the budget and one on joint L/M grants; In an effort to continue to enhance communication and a more proactive approach to resolving concerns, as appropriate, on-going communication needs between UUP officers management counterparts will be jointly facilitated through Bill Simons, UUP Chapter President and Lisa Wenck, college President's designee for Employee Relations. UUP and Management also discussed the importance of working together for community and political outreach.

FUEL COST TOO HIGH?

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE UUP ENERGY PROGRAM!

By Mona L. Hughes, Benefits Officer

Do you find the high cost of fuels taking a bite out of your paycheck? As we've watched gasoline prices climb again in recent weeks, we can't help wondering when it will end. Maybe now is the time to take advantage of the UUP Energy Program.

Members are offered a way to save on the high cost of energy through the United University Professions Energy Program. Through a partnership with *Mirabito Fuel Group, Oneida Lake Energy Products, Quickway Food Stores, and Convenience Express Stores*, members are offered a discount on gasoline and home heating fuels.

Some of the benefits you can enjoy through this program are: a 5¢ per gallon discount on home heating fuel oil and kerosene; a 5¢ per gallon discount on propane fuel; free propane tank installation; and for members who sign up for the Mirabito FuelCard, a 5¢ per gallon discount on gasoline at nearly 60 upstate New York locations. Along with these offers, Mirabito also offers the Rewards Plus Loyalty Program that allows members to earn valuable points with every purchase.

To find out more about this program, download an application, find locations of Mirabito participators, or other offers through UUP, go to the UUP Website at www.uupinfo.org, click on the *Benefits* button and from the pull down menu choose *Special Offers*.

Membership – Have a Say, Become a Member Today

By Teri Weigl, Membership Director



UUP negotiates with New York State on behalf of all SUNY academic and professional faculty. UUP also provides benefits to all members of the bargaining unit (like Dental and Vision, Free Group Life Insurance, etc.). Our Chapter here at Oneonta is working on several labor management issues, including part-time faculty concerns. As you know, there is strength in numbers.

Whether you are part-time or full time, even if you think you are a member – check out your pay stub. If you have dues taken out under “membership”, then you are a member. If you have dues take out under “agency fee”, then you are not a member yet. If you are interested in becoming a UUP member, please contact the Oneonta Chapter Membership Chairman, Teri Weigl, at x3079 or email weiglta@oneonta.edu. Remember, you can’t vote on our contract unless you are a member – *so have a say, become a member today!*

Alliance for Retired Americans

By Fred Miller, UUP Retiree Representative and Academic Delegate

For the past couple of years I have been meeting with the Capital District chapter of the Alliance for Retired Americans (CDARA). The Alliance states that it is, “--- a national organization with state, regional and local affiliates which was begun in 2001 by a national coalition of AFL/CIO affiliated unions and community-based organizations dedicated to economic and social justice and a better life for seniors.”

Most of the activities of the Alliance with which I, personally, have been associated have focused on protecting and expanding Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid; on winning universal health care for all Americans; and issues of Elder Abuse. The organization has a little over 500,000 members in New York State and a total of over 3 million, nation wide..

Among other things the Alliance emails me a weekly summary of news about issues of interest to seniors called the *Friday Alert*. Last Friday’s edition, for example, contained one story about U.S. Senate Finance Committee Chairman, Max Baucus’ (D-MT) proposal to give a one-time payment of \$300 to Social Security and SSI recipients and another story about seniors underutilizing the Veterans Administration’s “Aid and Attendance Benefit”. The story about the VA’s program to help with medical expenses, etc. also gave the web site: <http://www.agingwithgrace.net/veteranbenefit.php> as a source for additional information.

Many of my fellow members of UUP’s Committee of Active Retired Members (CoARM) participate in the ARA’s activities in their region. If you are interested in learning more about the ARA try their web site: <http://www.retiredamericans.org>.

Another source of information which might help you is the New York State Office for the Aging www.aging.state.ny.us . For those of you who might not be “into” using the Internet, their telephone number is 1-800-342-9871. If you contact the Office for the Aging, I’d recommend their booklet, *New York State’s Senior Citizen Resource Guide*, which I think they will send you with no charge. It contains information about state services as well as contact phone numbers and email addresses. I also found their *Caregiver Tool Kit* interesting.

UUP Undergraduate Scholarships for Eligible Dependent Children of Members

UUP Undergraduate Scholarships for Eligible Dependent Children of Members will be \$750 for the Spring 2009 Academic Semester. This scholarship program is for eligible dependent children of actively employed UUP members who qualify for the union’s Benefit Trust Fund Benefits. A maximum of one scholarship per dependent child will be awarded even if both parents are UUP members. An **official** transcript listing a minimum of 12 undergraduate credit hours earned toward degree requirements in the relevant semester must accompany the application. The dependent student must have taken these credits at a **state-operated** SUNY school. Additional criteria, information, and applications for this and other UUP scholarships appear on the UUP website at www.uupinfo.org Questions are referred to the UUP Benefit Trust Fund at 800-887-3863.

SUNY Oneonta Receives Federal Recognition for Service

By Linda Drake, Executive Director, CSRC and UUP, director Community Service

For the third year in a row, SUNY Oneonta has been named to the Presidential Honor Roll for Community Service. The Community Service Honor Roll started in 2006 and “is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement.” There are 635 colleges that are recognized in the nation. I am thrilled that our college is one of them. This honor is made possible because of our students’ involvement in our community. I’m so proud of these fine volunteers.

The Center for Social Responsibility and Community is the hub of civic engagement and volunteer service. Our office is a clearinghouse for service for our campus to our geographic community. We are busy connecting our students with opportunities with nonprofits throughout Otsego County. At a time when nonprofit agencies are reporting dramatic economic difficulties and their funding opportunities and resources are declining, solidarity with the SUNY family is more critical than ever.

Last semester the Center facilitated placement of over 3200 hours for SUNY service-learning students in several important community initiatives. This semester, one group of students from Dr. Wendy Mitteager’s Urban Geography class is currently researching all aspects of the impact of the proposed drilling for natural gas in Otsego County. This week, these students participated at a meeting of a local environmental group, in addition to securing a vacant Main Street storefront for a gas drilling exhibit. Other students have been linked to the initial stages of the development of a written housing plan for Otsego County. Through State funding and matching County dollars, a consultant has been hired to develop a county-wide action plan, and following the initial housing planning meeting at SUNY’s Morris Hall, service-learning students’ roles are to be defined. In light of the current economic climate and our country’s failing economy, another group of service-learning students are serving in supportive roles at a major Oneonta human service organization. With ever-increasing demands for assistance and diminished resources, this agency has welcomed the students’ participation in their social programs which include intake and referrals, routine casework, food distribution, and its weekly programs for youth and senior citizens. For those professors who would like to know more about service learning please contact our office.

UUP and CSEA will join in solidarity on April 4th as they volunteer for Saturday’s Bread, one of our local soup kitchens. We have been volunteering as a team each semester. If you are interested in joining us, please contact me.

This semester we have many opportunities for our UUP and CSEA members to join our students and make a difference in our community. During the month of February the Center is collecting orders for Daffodil Days. Anyone can order a bunch of fresh flowers, and the proceeds go to American Cancer Society. Each year the Center raises approximately \$3000. It is never too early to THINK SPRING! Working with the Red Cross, the Center sponsors a blood drive on campus each month. We are having a double drive on February 16th and 17th followed by drives on March 5 and on April 15. The majority of donors are students and I would love to see more participation from our UUP and CSEA members.

The Center and the Mentor Community (a group of education majors) will be putting on their second annual Relay for Life event March 13 to the 14th. I am happy to announce that last year our campus was the 13th Best Rookie Event in the country raising \$67,000 and having over 900 participants. This fundraiser for the American Cancer Society is a fun-filled twelve hour event from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. and is held at our Alumni Field House. During these 12 hours, there are several bands and lots of activities. Please join us for a night of fun!

How many of you have the College Mission Statement hanging up in your office? At the Center for Social Responsibility, it hangs right outside our door with our Center’s Mission Statement placed under it. I feel that it is important for our students to know that community service is a part of our charge on this campus. The opening statement reads, **“The mission of the College at Oneonta is to foster the individual student’s**

intellectual, personal, and civic development. The College is dedicated to excellence in teaching, advisement, and scholarly activities, and the cultivation of a campus environment rich in opportunities for participation, personal challenge, and service.” Under “The College in a New Century,” SUNY Oneonta describes the college as “...a safe, caring environment, enhanced by the beauty of its natural surroundings that supports and encourages its diverse learning community and provides leadership in volunteer and community service...”

I encourage you to familiarize yourself with our College Mission Statement and see which part of it applies to you. Set a goal for your department and go for it! Not only is service a part of our SUNY mission, but I encourage you also to make it a part of your life. Giving back to our community and helping our neighbors is not just our mission, but the right thing to do.

Feel free to contact me at drakelm@oneonta.edu to volunteer.

Leave Donation

[Chapter President's Note: One of our CSEA brethren, Ken Sheldon, writes: “I want to take the time the time to thank everyone for all the support you have shown and given to me these past 6 months as I have gone through chemotherapy. It certainly has been an experience that I had never thought I would go through. Your support in the form of time donated, cards, phone calls, or dropping in is much appreciated and means more than I can say. I have one more cycle of chemo to go through in 3 weeks and then follow up tests to see the results. So far things have looked good. It will be a while before I am able to come back to work as I tired very easily and have little energy. Again thanks for all your support.”]

TO: ELIGIBLE* UUP EMPLOYEES

*Only employees who earn vacation accruals are eligible to donate leave. (Employees who only earn sick leave may receive donated accruals, but they have no vacation accruals to donate to anyone else.)

FROM: BILL SIMONS *Bill*, UUP CHAPTER PRESIDENT, ONEONTA

RE: LEAVE DONATION

DATE: February 2009

Under an agreement between applicable public employee unions and the State of New York, a program has been established where vacation time can be donated across unions to those who have exhausted their sick leave. On the Oneonta campus, Kenneth Sheldon, CSEA, has exhausted his sick leave accruals. Any member of the UUP bargaining unit who accrues vacation leave can donate vacation days to Mr. Sheldon so long as they maintain a balance of 10 vacation days after donated days are deducted from their balances.

The identity of donors remains confidential.

If you are interested in donating any accruals to Mr. Sheldon, please contact the Office of Human Resources at x2509. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated.

The Sentinel Websites and Disclaimer

Editor's Note:

Statements Made in *The Sentinel* do not necessarily reflect the opinion of UUP or any of its statewide representatives.

To read past issues — as well as the current edition — of *The Sentinel* on-line, go to www.uuphost.org/oneonta.

This site also includes other material concerning UUP Oneonta.

The statewide UUP website is located at www.uupinfo.org. It contains information about members benefits and many other important topics.

Part Time Concerns Report: February 2009

There's been lots of activity going on, locally and statewide. Here at SUCO, the Part-Time Concerns Labor Management meetings resume in February, after having been temporarily replaced last semester by single-issue UUP Labor-Management Meetings between UUP and Management and attended by campus President Nancy Kleniewski), including one on December 1, 2008, devoted exclusively to Part-Time Concerns. The February Part-Time Labor Management meeting will be reported on in The Sentinel.

Statewide there have been two meetings of the PT Concerns Committee, which consists of all the representatives from campuses across the state. We had a retreat in mid-January, where goals and obstacles were explored. This was an important meeting because representatives rarely have the opportunity to report situations and discuss strategy; most of our meetings have been limited to 'getting business done': Necessary duties, but rarely inspirational. With new leadership from committee co-chairs Carolyn Kube (Stony Brook HSC) and Jill Hanifan (Albany), the committee is determined to lead the effort to protect and preserve the interests of contingent members across the state. A regular committee meeting was held at the Winter DA. The committee intends to set up both video-links and regional meetings to make it easier for local reps to participate in statewide discussions.

The executive level A-47 Committee also has continued to meet, accomplishing some much needed background work on previous negotiations and beginning to set strategy for upcoming meetings with the state negotiators. As I reported previously, this committee is bound by the confidentiality rules of the general negotiating committee (it is technically a limited continuation of the current contract's negotiations), but I will try to keep you abreast of its general activities.

I'm sure you know that I am active in UUP Part Time Concerns issues partly out of self-interest. I am an adjunct here, teaching two courses per semester in the English department. My outlook has grown well beyond my individual status, however, as I have become more and more aware of issues of justice and equity in "academic contingent employment issues". These are issues not just here in Oneonta, nor just at SUNY, nor even just across US campuses. Fairness and equity for contingent employees is an issue worldwide, as higher education internationally has moved to a 'business model' of employment organization. (Do a search for "anomalous wave" and you'll discover how the issue has resonated throughout Italian society this year.) But I also know that the issue remains, at root, one of enormous importance to individual employees, to you and to me. That's why some simple gestures of support are so important to us all. In that light, I've received permission to share a message I recently received from the chair of my department. It read:

"Colleagues:

Our union, UUP, announced in the most recent Bulletin (of 1/28 I believe) that the Individual Development Awards Program (IDAP) grants' cycle is now open. IDAP grants support professional activities such as research, conference attendance and/or presentation, costs associated with publication, and many other development opportunities. [The link to the checklist and application form(s) for these grants is given below.]

I urge you to consider application in this cycle to support your professional activities. Part-time instructional faculty should especially consider this funding because pride of place is given to those who work for us as adjuncts. Please let me know if I can help with the application, if you have questions, or if I can help you by directing your call to an IDAP committee member.

Best wishes,
Richie"

I spoke to Dr. Richard Lee, chair of the English Department, the very next day. He said that it was a natural outreach for a chair to communicate a message such as this one, but I thanked him for his thoughtful effort. I hope all chairs will do the same. We spoke briefly about how the issue of campus culture still needs to be met directly and creatively. Fulltime faculty, tenure track or not, are very used to the whole grant application process. Many adjuncts are not. Here are excerpts from the UUP release: The UUP Individual Development Awards Program (IDAP) is designed to support a variety of professional development projects or activities by

assisting eligible employees to develop their full professional potential and to prepare for advancement. The maximum amount that can be awarded to an applicant is \$1000. This allocation covers projects / activities that have occurred or will occur between July 2, 2008 and July 1, 2009. All activity must be completed and all funds must be encumbered by July 1, 2009....Full-time employees must be in the bargaining unit at the time of the award and during the dates of the project or activity. Part-time employees who meet the eligibility test for 26 weeks coverage for health benefits, and are eligible for health benefits during the summer, will also be eligible for funding for a project or activity that occurs during the summer whether or not they are on the payroll. A complete application consisting of 3 forms-the statewide application, the budget summary, and the Oneonta cover sheet, is available at <http://www.oneonta.edu/admin/humres/Payroll/IDA.asp>.

If you think you might want to avail yourself of a grant, but you're not sure what it really means, or how to do it, talk Hope Lambrecht at 436-2504 (LAMBREHR@ONEONTA.EDU) or to colleagues in your department, or your chair, or call the UUP office, or the campus grants office. Any one of the people you reach will be happy to speak with you about the opportunities and the process.
'Til next month, in solidarity,
J McDermott



Reflections – On and About

By Betty Wambui, Philosophy Department

I was one of millions of people who took time off to watch the inauguration of the forty-fourth president of the United States of America, an event historic and significant in many senses for many. In its unfolding I was interested in the fact that many individuals tried to read the event and into the event, to seek not only to understand it but also to determine its obvious as well as its more subtle hidden meaning. I myself engaged in this enterprise even as I asked myself if there was/were any meaning(s) to distill from it, wondered if its center which is where we all were, where we continue to be, is/was a place to find, discover, recognize such significance if indeed it has/had any. In spite of this self issued warning, I find myself still interested in playing the tarot game with this event especially given my historical location – an immigrant to the United States of America, and my interests – social political questions especially as these connect to race, class, sex, gender and culture especially this month that is dedicated to Black History in the United States.

Nineteen Sixty three was the year of independence in that country that was home to Obama's mainly absent father. I was not there to witness the event but I did grow up like many Americans who listened to stories of the Civil Rights Era, listening to stories of and singing songs about the independence struggle and of the glorious moment of its declaration. In my mind, I carry a picture of my mother and aunt, young girls then who like many were swept up by the euphoria of the call of freedom and possibility that the moment of independence represented. Young girls dancing and walking their way from my grandparent's home in Bahati (a Swahili word that means "luck"), - which was in the segregated African Quarters set aside for people of the Kikuyu Ethnic Group in Nairobi – , walking and dancing to Uhuru Gardens (Uhuru means freedom) to participate in what was for Kenya was a historic event - a transfer of power from a Colonial Master. It is ironically, this spirit that the crowds who thronged into Washington evoked for me, this equivalence that comes to my mind as I consider this inauguration that comes so close on the heels of a month set aside to remember experiences so similar to colonial ones. Just as in 1963 many Kenyan's felt a sense of relief and also empowerment in the break from a painful colonial history that had burdened Kenyans with socially, politically and economically skewed relations, so does there seem

to be a sense of a “breather”, of possibility emerging from a healthy divorce from similar issues that similarly tightly gripped American relations and imagination.

As I, along with other interested persons watched the spectacle that is engaged to signify a transfer of power that has the potential to be its exchange even transformation, as I listened to multiple commentators and interviewees remind us of the historical significance of the location of the event – surrounded by monuments of slavery and to liberation – the White House built by slave labour and never before occupied by a “black” person unless they were servants, the Lincoln memorial dedicated to the great “liberator”, the Mall which was once a slave market, an area through which Martin Luther King Jr. marched peacefully to protest segregation in a town where there continues to be de facto segregation when one considers the population and resource distribution, in a country in which until this inauguration African Americans were mainly welcome only as court performers - as jugglers and jesters, I was struck anew by how messy and complex human history is and how small nicks chip at the marble of power can make important difference. Maybe then in this possibility of reshaping is the meaning the event, one that Black History month shares with it, one that we should ruminate on. That is, the idea that hierarchies that sustain oppressive categories like marble can be chipped at, that individuals, groups and communities gripped by the sense of possibility can make possible the prospect of democracy – full active participation in governance by “all” citizens so that a contempo-modern-aristocracy transforms into a cosmo-demo-polity. This maybe was what the walking and the dancing, the singing and the story telling were about, the possibility of a subtle coming to be in which a “people”, a “community” was celebrated as another chance at erasing or at least reducing the systematic deliberate distance that holds individuals and communities apart was taken, as that insistence that keeps some back with the rationalization that they are not good enough for some tasks was challenged.

Even as I along with others enjoyed the splash of colour and glamour, the style, pomp and ceremony which I particularly like at in auguration, as I once more reminded myself of the value of this Black History month, I could not also help but be wary and so feel the need to sound alarm bells as well, the need to ask that in enjoying the moment that this “young country” remembers to look too to the south and east of the world that is celebrating with it as it “re-constitutes” itself. As another new dawn rises for the United States of America, I think it wise to remember that many new dawns have arisen for many new and renewed nations, ones in which the new day seemed full of hope and good intention, yet, as our histories show us, good will is insufficient for transformation if this is what the hope, the possibility, is about. Focused sustained action animated by critique and commitment are required if the spirit of the day are to be animated and fleshed out. This is of course something that we here at Oneonta College understand. Like our larger society, we are ourselves in the midst of a transition from one college president to another which gives us opportunity to appreciate the idea of possibility more vividly, occasion too, to reinvent ourselves in all the right ways as a college and as members of this national community that is the United States of America; even as we reaffirm our strengths within the university, which in its mission and relationships is the very embodiment of the idea of reflection and critical thinking, of making visible the invisible, of questioning and discussion, of dedication and commitment, the very ideas that I think that will actualize the dawn that the Inauguration and Black History Month stand in suggestion.

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