



## **The Academic Master Plan and Defining Moments at SUNY-Oneonta: The Need to Keep the Promise of Public Higher Education**

*By Rob Compton, VP Academics and Bill Simons, President*



**Rob Compton with Liberian Refugees at Buduburum Camp, Ghana**

***On Tuesday, November 1st,  
Noon, Morris Complex,  
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“Vision for the Future” to  
discuss the direction of the  
College.***

### **Academic Master Plan and the Spirit of New York State Education Law**

Over the past several years, academics have seen an increased diminution of their role at the College. Many of us are hopeful that the new Provost, Dr. E. Maria Thompson will restore academics to the center of college life, that she will work on re-establishing the Honors Program, deal with stagnating salaries, address the issue of joint appointments, and strengthen interdisciplinary and study abroad programs in a spirit of transparency. What will be the underlying philosophy as the College moves forward? The reality is that New York state and the economy in general is experiencing unprecedented difficulties.

*“The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave of the lender” (Proverbs 22:7 NRSV)*

Reality check #1: Commensurate with those difficulties has been a decline in your TIAA-CREF retirement account and SUNY funding cuts. All of these are products of the failure of government to check market excesses demonstrated in the speculative aspects of housing and equities leading up to the current economic depression.

Ideas matter. As the College at Oneonta moves to adopt an Academic Master Plan, what will be the guiding principle? What does the New York State Education Law, Section 351 say? This law emphasizes the need for access, affordability, and maintaining a “public orientation.” Attempts in previous years by certain university center presidents and Chancellor Nancy Zimpher to move us toward privatization by supporting the Public Higher Education and Innovation Act (PHEIA) runs counter to the spirit of New York’s Education Law, which states:

The mission of the state university system shall be to provide to the people of New York educational services of the highest quality, with the broadest possible access, fully representative of all segments of the population in a complete range of academic, professional and vocational postsecondary programs — to meet the needs of both traditional and non-traditional students and to address local, regional and state needs and goals.” – New York State Education Law, Section 351

### **“No” to Corporate and Privatized Emphases**

The Academic Master Plan (AMP) should be developed with transparency, fairness, and the State Education Law in mind. We believe that the unfettered exchange of ideas about the academic direction of this college is essential for the flourishing of American higher education. Oneonta is no exception. Many important questions will need exploration. To what extent should a public university (SUNY) that has suffered years of funding cuts due to malfeasance and criminal activity in the private sector borrow the ethos and defining principles of that failed system? Should corporate and private fund raising be part of the job requirements of the new deans, chairs, and faculty members? We believe that raising money from the private sector complements and supplements state support and tuition dollars. It should remain that way. Geneseo should be in our “front view mirror” and Hartwick College should be in our “rear view mirror” and not vice versa. The state education law emphasizes access, affordability, and a commitment to the ‘common wealth’ of all New Yorkers.



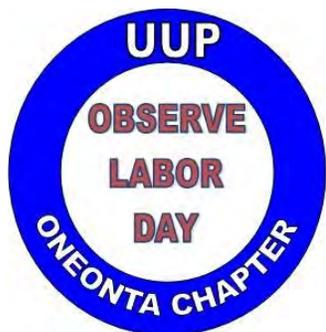
**Bill Simons, left, wearing anti-mold mask, with other flood relief volunteers**

The private sector and private educational enterprises have no such mandate. An Academic Master Plan that embraces ideas which enslaves us to the failed ideas of the corporate model will radically transform the College and fundamentally redefine the social contract that places public education, as defined through the legacy of Governor Nelson Rockefeller in jeopardy.

**Reality Check #2: On Tuesday, November 1st, UUP will hold its next “Vision for the Future” to discuss the direction of this College and the AMP.** We hope to have open and unfettered discussions.

# UUP Labor Day: Oneonta, September 5, 2011, Hunt Union

By Bill Simons, President, and Rob Compton, Vice President for Academics



UUP Oneonta held a Labor Day meeting at Noon on September 5, 2011, in the Butter-nut Room, Hunt Union. The Labor Day button at left was donned by attendees.

Frederick G. Floss, State UUP Vice President for Academics and Chief Negotiator for the last contract, and J. Philippe Abraham, State UUP Vice President for Professionals and Team Member for the last contract, discussed the he continuing budget crisis, consolidation, the contract negotiation process, and the significance of Labor Day.

process, and the significance of Labor Day.

A capacity audience filled the room with their numbers and energy. UUP members engaged Fred and Philippe in dialogue and raised questions. UUP Oneonta chapter officers also participated in the dialogue. UUP Oneonta Vice President for Academics Rob Compton moderated the discussion.

A petition calling for no classes on Labor Day at SUNY College at Oneonta was initiated and circulated at the Labor Day meeting. The petition, which currently has over 130 signatures, appears below:

*“Dear President Kleniewski,*

*We the undersigned believe that now more than ever that it is imperative to recognize the contributions of working people to this country.*

*Therefore, we ask you use your good offices to move the college to observe the federal Labor Day holiday by not holding classes.”*

Excerpts from a subsequent communication by Arty Shertzter, UUP Chapter President, Stony Brook, who attended the Oneonta Labor Day meeting to show support, capture the intent of the petition:

*Now, more than ever, with Labor under siege, our young folk need to know that we value those that built this country. They need to know that workers matter and that they, the young folk in both of our schools and all over our nation need to appreciate and respect the sacrifices made to create the world of*



**State UUP Vice Presidents Philippe Abraham and Fred Floss dialogue with members on Labor Day.**



**Discussion of Labor Day Petition**

*today. Stony Brook as most other SUNY campuses does not have classes on this day. I would love to know that Oneonta will join the ranks of the rest of us in honoring Labor and all the richness, sacrifice and contribution it has given our world.*

A recent survey indicated that the following SUNY/UUP campuses did not have classes on Labor Day:

1. Albany,
2. Alfred,
3. Binghamton,
4. Brockport,
5. Buffalo Center,
6. Buffalo HSC,
7. Buffalo State,
8. Cortland,
9. ESF,
10. Geneseo,
11. New Paltz,
12. Old Westbury,
13. Optometry,
14. Oswego,
15. Potsdam,
16. Purchase,
17. Stony Brook HSC,
18. Stony Brook University,
19. Upstate Medical,
20. Utica/Rome



**Rob Compton moderates Labor Day discussion**

Through the years, numerous UUPers have articulated the need for Labor Day observance. Representative comments from ten professors were selected from many received by your union, and featured in our Labor Day article in *The Sentinel* last month. The authors of the statements are articulate and courageous proponents of social justice. You can read them in their entirety on our webpage here: <http://www.oneontauup.org/assets/files/Sentinel/sentinel092011.pdf>. A small sampling of their comments are below. Let us consider a few of them---and find our own inspiration.

John Relethford, Distinguished Teaching Professor, Anthropology: *“Labor Day is an important federal holiday. To have classes on this holiday while offices are closed sends the wrong message to our students and strips the day of its meaning of celebrating the efforts of all working people (and unions).”*

Dan Payne, Associate Professor, English: *“The purpose of observing this national holiday is to recall the sacrifices and contributions of the working men and women of this country.”*



**Our Flag Proudly Displayed on Labor Day**

Brian Haley, Chair and Associate Professor, Anthropology: *“[Not giving the day off] inadvertently creates the impression that those who teach and those who study aren't really working. For an institution that prides itself in the quality of its teaching and the quality of the new teachers it produces, this is remarkably short-sighted.”*

# UUPers Join College and Community Volunteers in On-Going Flood Relief Work

*By Bill Simons, Chapter President*



**Volunteers United - Students, Community, UUP, Management, and CSEA**

The above photo of flood relief volunteers amidst Schoharie's fetid devastation says it all. The categories that sometimes differentiate us—students, community, UUP, Management, and CSEA—counted little in the field. We were united by a common endeavor as well as by waves of fatigue, discomfort, solidarity, pride, and exhilaration. On the far left, that's College Associate Vice President/University Police Chief Bart Ingersoll and I arm-in-arm. Likewise, the front-center of the photo shows the indefatigable, never-say-die determination of the two ladies linked together, Center for Social Responsibility Director Linda Drake and CSEA Facilities Staff Joyce Thorsland. In the back center, my friend, UUP Stony Brook President Arty Shertzer shares a special look with the unseen photographer, his fiancée, UUP Oneonta Professional Delegate Janie Forrest, who abandoned her customary fashionable attire for clothes made for hard and dirty work.

As a UUP volunteer in 2006, I did flood relief work both in the Gulf after Katrina and then locally after the torrential late June rains of that year. The 2011 Schoharie destruction had me feeling that some time warp had taken me back to the Gulf of a half-decade ago. Natural disaster had once again tragically deconstructed lives, homes, and businesses. The area looked like a war zone.

We volunteers pulled out molding, sheetrock, and insulation—and hauled out water-logged debris to create makeshift landfills. From a worn table, volunteers found water bottles to prevent dehydration and Advil to fight muscle pain. The rewards of flood relief work, however, trump the demands. There are few satisfactions greater than bonding with others in service to those in need. The muddied and tattered work clothes of volunteers attested to time well spent.

**UUPers Join College and Community Volunteers in On-Going Flood Relief Work (continued)**

UUP officer Mike Flinton reflected on his volunteer stint with his wife, Pam, in Schoharie:

*Pam and I felt privileged to help out today. After we left Fair Street we went to offer help to friends on Main Street. Their place was devastated as well but survived the waters a little better because they live in a two hundred year old brick structure. None the less, today made us appreciate how well we have it and how selflessly people respond to helping others in times of need.*

And Pam followed up with the following:

*While the reason for gathering was not a happy one, I think we got a lot done and I know I got a lot out of the experience. Thank you for encouraging us all to remember the 'service' parts of our lives.*

Flood relief constitutes a long-term process. The need for volunteers will persist for months. UUPers are encouraged to continue to volunteer. To do so, please contact Center for Social Responsibility Director Linda Drake, at [DrakeLM@oneonta.edu](mailto:DrakeLM@oneonta.edu) with your contact information, including the date of the Saturday or Sunday your plan to participate. Vans leave, convoy style, from the front of Alumni Hall at 8:15 AM and return in the late afternoon. In addition, if you need assistance, please let Linda know, and she will do her best to provide assistance.



**Schoharie flood relief**

Flood relief work entails hard physical labor. Volunteers should:

- Wear appropriate clothes and be prepared to never wear them again
- Wear closed shoes, water proof if you have them
- Wear anti-mold mask
- Bring your own lunch
- Bring your own tool if you have them and MARK them
- Need up-to-date tetanus shot
- Email Linda Drake at [DrakeLM@oneonta.edu](mailto:DrakeLM@oneonta.edu) to let her know if you are coming and indicate the day.

Those who want to help in other ways but aren't able to do physical work should also contact Linda.

Scores of volunteers have and will render service. All deserve thanks and appreciation. Although the list below is incomplete, volunteer ranks have included the following: Kayln Bechle, Jeremiah Belanger, Chase Family, Scott Dickerson, Maureen Dill, Linda Drake, Chris Drake, Mike Flinton, Pam Flinton, Janie Forrest, Tanya Henderson, Bart Ingersoll, Chris Keefe, Mary Kelly, Jim Lascell, Anita Levine, Chris Linkl, Barb Mann, Hanfu Mi, Carol Mitteager, Cindy Mitteager, Wendy Mitteager, Bryce Nelson, Oscar Oberkircher, Chris Patterson, Diane Pierce, Justin Pierce, Caitlin Smith Rapoport, Duane Ritter (and his wrestling team), Ruth Schaeffer, Arty Shertzer, Bill Simons, Joyce Thorsland, Cecilia Zapata, and Sen Zhang. Apologies for names inadvertently left off the list and for noting having names of those who volunteered on subsequent days at the time this article was composed. Many others also performed great service, and we regret not having those names as *The Sentinel* went to press. Additional volunteer names will appear in subsequent *Sentinel* issues.

With simple eloquence, UUP leader Arty Shertzer articulated the rewards of volunteering for flood relief:

*It was a humbling and yet gratifying experience. Seeing everyone come together ..seeing those folks that owned the house, the carnage...the spirit of the volunteers... a mix of feelings... thank you for allowing us to share in this most tragic yet decent human moment....*



## UUP Vision for the Future/Chapter Meeting: Tuesday, November 1st, Noon, Morris: Direction of the College and the Academic Master Plan

UUP will hold a *Vision for the Future*/Chapter Meeting on Tuesday, November 1st at Noon in Morris to discuss the direction of this College and the Academic Master Plan. The meeting will provide an opportunity for UUP members to forward ideas, concerns, and questions concerning SUNY and the College at Oneonta. UUP will provide an informational update. Although the content at the *Vision for the Future* forum will be reported, speakers will remain anonymous in the notes to allow for candor and confidentiality. We hope to have open and unfettered discussion. Rob Compton, UUP Vice President for Academics, will serve as moderator. A complimentary union lunch will be served. Given the format of the gathering, the meeting is open only to members of the UUP bargaining unit.

# CWA, IBEW, and UUP: Working People in a Democracy

*By Brian Gallagher, Area Vice President Communication Workers of America Local, 1126*

On August 7, 2011 roughly 45,000 CWA and IBEW represented Verizon employees spoke with one voice by exercising the most fundamental right of working people in any democracy; we went on strike. In condemnation of corporate greed, the all out assault on bargaining rights, and the manifold attacks on the middle class standard of living in our nation, these courageous brothers and sisters chose to take a stand in an economic climate that says "take what crumbs the bosses will toss you". Verizon, while enjoying the greatest profits and highest executive compensation in its corporate history, pressed nearly one hundred retrogressive demands that would have gutted our contract of fifty years of bargained for provisions and amounted to a \$20,000 take-back of wages and benefits from each of 45,000 unionized employees. We said to Verizon "No. You keep your crumbs, and we'll keep our dignity. When you decide to bargain, we'll come back to work."



**Workers in a Democracy**

Locally, about 200 members of the Communication Workers of America Local 1126, from Oneonta, Cooperstown, Stamford, Cobleskill, Utica, Rome, Oneida and Herkimer, with the help of our brothers and sisters from UUP and many other labor organizations showed Verizon the true meaning of solidarity. We took great courage, and had our spirits lifted mightily, when some fourteen UUP members of the Oneonta Chapter, led by Chapter President Bill Simons, joined us on our picket line at the Oneonta Southside Verizon Wireless location on Friday, August 19. With the support of steadfast labor folk, such as UUP, we have succeeded in shifting the giant from its stance. Under the tremendous pressure of its striking workforce, the company has agreed upon a structure under which negotiations can succeed. As a consequence of Verizon's willingness to respect our bargaining rights, and bargain in good faith, we returned to work on August 23, under the protection of the contract which expired midnight, August 6.

Although we have concluded a two-week strike, we remain mobilized and committed to winning a fair contract,

even as our membership labors under the state of emergency, mandatory twelve hour-seven day a week assignments brought about by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. We continue to serve our customers and communities, especially in this difficult time for so many of our friends, families and neighbors. And as we do so, we do so with a sense of obligation, as we recall those that sustained us in our time of need.

**[Bill Simons' Note:** Thanks to CWA Vice President Brian Gallagher and all CWA workers for their courage, resolve, and labor solidarity. UUP is proud to have marched with them. On Friday, August 19, 2011, UUP joined CWA picketing at the Verizon store on Southside, Oneonta, from 3-5 PM. Our CWA brothers and sisters were fighting layoffs, severe benefit cuts, and threats to collective bargaining. Issues faced by CWA are issues faced by all workers. Selfish segments of the economic elite are attempting to demonize the American worker and labor unions. The UUP contingent, marching with CWA signs and UUP hats in front of the Verizon store as well as on the shoulder of the road, included 86-year old Fred Miller and his fifteen-year old grandson Christopher; Sen Zhang and 2-year old daughter Alice; Caridad Souza and her niece, Josette Souza, a Brown sophomore; Toke and Cecelia Knudsen and their young daughter Ida; UUP Stony Brook President Arty Shertzer; Nottingham Trent (UK) Professor Liz Morrish, the *Sentinel's* international correspondent; and other UUP stalwarts, including Nancy Cannon, Rob Compton, Mark Ferrara, Janie Forest, K.O. O'Mara, and Bill Simons. Alderman and NYSUT LRS Mike Lynch also came to march in solidarity with CWA. Many passing drivers honked and shouted words of encouragement — I witnessed only one driver displaying what appeared to be a solitary middle digit. The time is coming when UUP will picket locally to protect its own members.]



## **Meeting with Assemblyman Bill Magee (September 12, 2011): Shared Services and Campus Alliances**

On Monday, September 12, 2011, UUP Oneonta met with Assemblyman Bill Magee to discuss developments regarding the proposal and implementation of SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher's "SUNY Campus Alliances" and part of the "Regional Shared Services Plan"\* (see end of article). To date, three campus presidents' positions have been combined. Ostensibly, the Chancellor noted the need to reduce administrative overhead and pledged that saving would be re-directed to student programs. Affected campuses include:

- SUNY Morrisville
- SUNY-IT
- SUNY-Potsdam
- SUNY-Canton
- SUNY-Delhi
- SUNY-Cobleskill

**Meeting with Assemblyman Bill Magee (continued)**

Assemblyman Magee and the UUP Oneonta contingent, consisting of Bill Simons, Norm Payne, Fred Miller, Rob Compton, and Tom Horvath exchanged information with the Assemblyman. Assemblyman Magee expressed concern and alarm over the recent changes and the process by which they unfolded. Both UUP and the Assemblyman noted inadequate discussion and consultation with stakeholders, including College Councils. It was noted that both administrations and College Councils were surprised at the pace and method of implementing the Chancellor's plans.



**Assemblyman Bill Magee**

Over the past few weeks, since Chancellor Zimpher announced these changes, large protests have taken place on campuses, especially at Canton by students, faculty (including UUP activists), and community supporters.

Assemblyman Magee noted that Senator Patty Ritchie (R) and he just introduced legislation that would require “each SUNY college to have its own president.” Co-sponsor Senator Ritchie, according to a document published on the New York Senate website, stated: “While I support the goal of maximizing the use of taxpayer and tuition dollars, and finding ways to share services and lower costs, combining the leadership of two colleges with vastly different missions and character goes a step too far.” Furthermore, Ritchie noted that “The president is the public face of a college campus, service as chief marketer, advocate and a key to fundraising...” The co-sponsored bill will provide greater power to colleges’ advisory councils, including a veto of the Chancellor’s choice to head the school. In the draft bill, Sec. 1 (art. g) states “One president shall be appointed for each state-operated institution in the state university. No individual shall serve concurrently as president of two or more state-operated institutions in the state university.” Later, the draft bill calls for an amendment to the state Education Law so that the state university/college trustees can “approve or reject any appointment by the chancellor and SUNY trustees of a candidate as the president of such institution.”

We thanked Assemblyman Magee for his time and pledged to share pertinent developments with his office as we obtain information. Assemblyman Magee shared a copy of his draft of the co-sponsored bill with UUP.

\*More details on the SUNY Campus Alliances and Regional Shared Services Plan can be found here:

<http://www.suny.edu/sunynews/News.cfm?filename=2011-08-04-FINAL-CampusAllianceNetworks.htm>

## **Food for Thought / UUP Chapter Meeting: Thursday, October 20th, Noon, Otsego Grille, Morris Conference Center**

The next *Food for Thought / UUP* Chapter meeting will be held in the Otsego Grille, Morris Conference Center, on Thursday, October 20th at Noon, and will feature a program by Doreen Bango, statewide UUP Director of Member Benefits and Services. She will discuss benefits and services available to UUP members. Doreen will examine medical, dental, vision, drug, and other benefits and services, including new initiatives. Questions and discussion will follow the formal program.

Although *Food for Thought* has important content, it is also an occasion for respite from the workweek, relaxed collegiality, and sharing a union lunch. Renew old ties and forge new ones by joining your colleagues in convivial gathering and expression of solidarity. Your union looks forward to greeting you. For additional information or if you have questions, please contact UUP Oneonta President Bill Simons (x3498, [SimonsWM@oneonta.edu](mailto:SimonsWM@oneonta.edu)), VP for Academics Rob Compton (x3048), [ComptoRW@oneonta.edu](mailto:ComptoRW@oneonta.edu)), VP for Professionals Norm Payne (x2021, [PayneNE@oneonta.edu](mailto:PayneNE@oneonta.edu)), or Benefits Officer Mona Hughes (x2490, and/or [HughesML@oneonta.edu](mailto:HughesML@oneonta.edu)).



## **UUP Labor Film Series Continues at Hunt Union Red Dragon Theater**

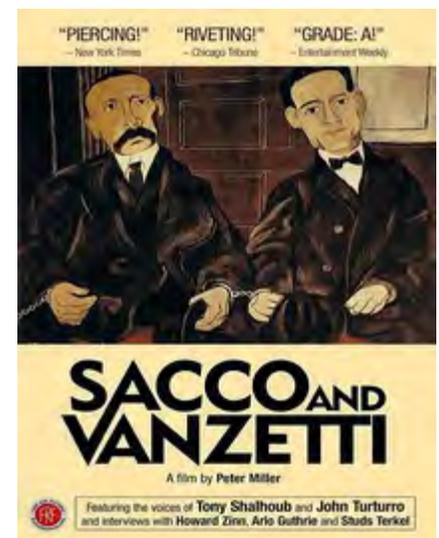
On Tuesday, October 18, at 6 pm, the UUP Labor Film Series continues with a showing of:

### **Sacco & Vanzetti (2007)**

Two Italian immigrant anarchists were accused of murder in 1920 and executed in Boston in 1927, after a notoriously prejudiced trial. Their ordeal came to symbolize the bigotry and intolerance directed at immigrants and dissenters in America, and millions of people in the U.S. and around the world protested on their behalf.

Actors John Turturro and Tony Shalhoub read the prison writings of Sacco and Vanzetti, while commentators include Arlo Guthrie and Studs Terkel.

Winner, Best Historical Film Award, American Historical Association. "A wonderful film, as timeless as the struggle for human justice, as relevant as today's headlines." – Ken Burns



This film will be followed by an audience discussion. For more information, please contact Professor Gina L. Keel, Film Series Director, at [keelgl@oneonta.edu](mailto:keelgl@oneonta.edu).

# Volunteers Needed for UUP and CSEA at *Saturday's Bread* — Saturday, November 5, 2011

By Nancy Cannon, Academic Delegate

On November 5, 2011, UUP Oneonta will join our friends from CSEA to staff *Saturday's Bread*, a community kitchen that dispenses hot meals and good cheer. Linda Drake will, as previously, co-ordinate our chapter's participation in



UUP-CSEA *Saturday's Bread* volunteers

this worthwhile community service. Although *Saturday's Bread* is housed at the First United Methodist Church, 66 Chestnut Street, Oneonta, the program is a non-denominational and humanitarian service open to all. To be part of the volunteer group at *Saturday's Bread* on November 5th, you must be willing to work from 9am to 2pm. As we need an exact list of the names and numbers of participants, please e-mail ([drakelm@oneonta.edu](mailto:drakelm@oneonta.edu)) Linda Drake to volunteer. When you contact Linda, please provide her with your full name, e-mail, and telephone number.

Kudos to Linda, the College at Oneonta's Executive Director of the Center for Social Responsibility and UUP's Director of Community Service, for continuing to facilitate the involvement of volunteers in a variety of benevolent enterprises. UUP Oneonta has participated in the on-going flood relief in our region, post-Katrina reconstruction in the Gulf, collection drives, Habitat for Humanity, and other volunteerism under Linda's leadership. UUP is proud to collaborate with our brothers and sisters in CSEA in this current *Saturday's Bread* endeavor. Service is central to our mission.

## SENTINEL QUIZ

This western New York institute, founded in the late 19th century by Protestants in order to train Sunday School teachers, evolved into a notable educational center. Speakers at this institute have included William Jennings Bryan, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Al Gore. The first person to email Nancy Cannon ([cannonns@oneonta.edu](mailto:cannonns@oneonta.edu)) with the correct answer will receive a UUP cap.

The answer to the May *Sentinel* quiz, "This woman worked in a munitions factory on the home front during World War II. She later became a famous actress. Who is she?" is Marilyn Monroe (before bleach and plastic surgery). The first correct answer was provided by Nithya Iyer.



# UUP Labor-Management Meeting Notes: Wednesday, August 17, 2011

*By Tom Horvath, Secretary*

**For Management:** Todd Forman, Nancy Kleniewski, Steve Perry, Maria Thompson, Lisa Wenck

**For UUP:** Ron Bishop, Nancy Cannon, Mike Flinton, Janie Forest-Glotzer, Tom Horvath, Gina Keel, Hanfu Mi, Fred Miller, Norm Payne, Bill Simons, Darryl Wood

Meeting commenced at 3:30 PM

The primary focus for the August meeting was the College budget. Due to the delay in the passage of the state budget and personnel changes in SUNY, both at the State and campus levels, this meeting took place in August rather than in July. Todd Foreman (Vice President for Finance and Administration) provided a budget presentation. The questions asked followed from the presentation.

I. UUP asked about possibilities of Part-Time Faculty to receive compensation for attending required workshops such as the Harassment Workshop. Management responded that there was no funding for compensation, but that they are working on ways to offer such workshop information in other ways (e.g., online tutorials).

II. UUP asked again for the protocols for faculty observances of religious holidays. Management responded that they would be sending out information to all employees. UUP asked to see a draft before their memo was circulated, to which Management agreed. UUP also asked about how faculty should alert students when faculty would miss a class due to a religious observance. Management wanted to wait to consult with the Provost before they would agree on text.

III. The rest of the meeting was devoted to discussions about the budget. Management gave a very detailed outline of the current budget numbers, which is also available on the College's web site. The big news was that the College has saved enough monies (initially stated as 1.6 million but revised later to 2.0 million) through various cost-cutting measures, including the vacancy review process and the increased tuition. Related questions centered around class sizes, given a small bump in enrollment this year (about 80 or so students), adjunct faculty numbers, which should remain about the same, and the hiring of new positions (professional and academic). Searches for positions are going forward by using the vacancy review process. UUP also asked about the budget allocations to the divisions. Management stated that any changes to the budget would occur within the divisional levels, as divisional allocations are essentially the same as last year.

IV. UUP mentioned their concerns about the recent SUNY Chancellor announcements of shared service alliances and its impacts on the campus budget and operations. Management was still uncertain about any impacts. Despite the notification of the campus clusters that was announced via SUNY Provost's office, our understanding is that campuses may still "share" with whomever they feel most comfortable. UUP asked about the specific text used in the Provost's memo pointing out that key constituents would be consulted on such shared services. It seems few constituents were consulted about past decisions, so it remains unclear how this program will move forward. On our campus, key groups would include the strategic planning committee, the budget allocation committee and other campus entities that would be affected by any decisions.

## Labor-Management Meeting Summary Notes for September 19th, 2011, 3:00pm\*

**For Management:** Nancy Kleniewski, College President and Lisa Wenck, Senior Executive Employee Services Officer

**For UUP:** Bill Simons, President and Rob Compton, Vice President for Academics

UUP and Management discussed progress made on the College's religious observances policy. The College will examine mechanisms for informing students that members may need to be away for the day for religious observances.

Both Management and UUP agreed that the Oneonta Speakers Bureau (OSB) would continue under the existing framework, but would be expanded to include other units on campus. UUP requested that we wanted to make sure that UUP was represented and that its members could be speakers. UUP and Management noted the important symbolic value of their first campus initiated joint Labor-Management grant/committee.

UUP and Management discussed the Equity Study of employee salary. Management noted that it plans to be completed by spring 2012. UUP noted that it too has done an equity study and would be open to exchanging data and information with Management to compare results.

UUP and Management discussed the need to support international faculty and for students to be sensitive to cultural and linguistic issues. UUP and Management agreed that sensitivity on all sides is important and that dialogue on this issue will continue and deepen over time.

UUP initiated discussions about Labor Day. Management noted that some discussions regarding the process and substance of academic calendars is forthcoming. UUP stated that as a "labor union" we needed to advocate strongly Labor Day observance, especially in an environment where Labor and workers are under attack and suffering diminished remuneration and respect.

UUP and Management discussed the need to adjust pay for both full-time and part-time members. Management was receptive to the situation of Part-time employees.

Management and UUP discussed collaborative and win-win ventures including advocacy for SUNY. Management noted an interest in exploring areas, such as, regional economic development and curricular innovation.

Management and UUP discussed developments and campus mood regarding Chancellor's Shared Services proposal. These talks are ongoing between Oneonta administration and other campuses but not geared toward any cuts of personnel.

Meeting adjourned 4:25pm

\*UUP and Management agreed on the format of the meetings for the fall 2011 semester in a May 11, 2011 meeting. The decision was to have two (2) two-on-two meetings (September and December) and to have the larger full meetings for the other two months, October and November.

# UUP Executive Board Visits Cooperstown Graduate Program

*By Michael Flinton, UUP Academic Delegate and Assistant Professor, Cooperstown Graduate Program*

In spite of the daunting time challenges posed by August as SUNY Oneonta faculty and professional staff energetically prepare for the return of students and the start of a new academic adventure, the always engaged UUP Executive Board undertook a significant field trip on Friday, August 12th. Ten UUP Executive Board officers took time out from preparing for the coming academic year to drive to Cooperstown and tour the newly renovated campus, which domiciles SUNY Oneonta's Biological Field Station (BFS) and its Cooperstown Graduate Program (CGP) in Museum Studies. The UUP delegation included Chapter President Bill Simons; Vice President for Academics Rob Compton; Membership Director Hanfu Mi; Political Outreach Representatives Gina Keel and Fred Miller; College Director, Center for Social Responsibility and UUP Director, Community Service Linda Drake; Health/Safety Officer Ron Bishop; Academic Delegate Mike Flinton; and Labor Relations Specialist Darryl Wood. Future UUPer Christopher Miller, Fred's grandson, accompanied the union delegation. According to Bill, the intent of the tour agenda entailed examining the facilities and grounds as a means of reminding the BFS and CGP stalwarts that they have representation, a presence within the chapter, and continuing support in UUP's statewide mission.



**UUP Executive Board at Cooperstown lunchtime discussion on the economic challenges before SUNY and New York State. Rear Darryl Wood. Front, Gina Keel, Mike Flinton, & Ron Bishop.**

Cooperstown's residential population of about 2,100 provides neighbors for the GCP and BFS. Most casual visitors, however, are unaware of the presence and prominence that SUNY Oneonta and its professionals have on the village. Nestled off of NYS Route 80, a mile north of Cooperstown on the western shore of Otsego Lake, the remotely located CGP and BFS campus is easily overlooked by those who travel the highway on vacation — and even by some year-round residents.

Following the luncheon, the UUP Executive Board converged on the BFS/CGP facility to observe each program's academic activities as well as their facility, technology, and staffing structure. Being 30 miles from the main College campus in Oneonta presents its challenges for the BFS and CGP. The College's Cooperstown Faculty, staff, and students rely heavily upon efficient and effective support from all corners of the main campus — from academic computing and facilities maintenance, to transportation support and mail courier services.

While touring the CGP portion of the Cooperstown campus, Mike Flinton, UUP Academic Delegate and CGP assistant professor for administration and management, explained that the 47-year old Museum Studies graduate

**UUP Executive Board Visits Cooperstown Graduate Program (continued)**

program relies upon a contractual relationship between the College and the nearby New York State Historical Association (NYSHA). NYSHA, many of whose senior staff adjunct at CGP, oversees not only the Fenimore Art Museum and the Farmer's Museum, but the NYSHA Research Library as well. CGP faculty and staff must work closely with NYSHA to insure students of all interests and undergraduate majors have adequate academic resources. Likewise, Milne Library professionals on the main campus work hand in hand with the NYSHA librarians to maintain efficient Inter-Library Loan services and jointly provide faculty support.

After the UUP Executive Board toured the facilities of the museum studies graduate program, BFS Researcher Holly Waterfield provided the visitors with an overview of BFS programs and activities. With an informed and significant presentation, Holly effectively made the case for the study of the Otsego Lake watershed as an important environmental element of our region. Holly emphasized that BFS works with the community as well as the college to insure close monitoring and safeguarding of our area's natural resources.



**UUP Executive Board at Biological Field Station and Cooperstown Graduate Left to right: Rob Compton, Mike Flinton, Gina Keel, Hanfu Mi, Fred Miller, Linda Drake, Bill Simons, Ron Bishop, and Darryl Wood**

Next, the UUP Executive Board visited NYSHA's Research Library and the adjacent Fenimore Art Museum. During the nearly 18-month renovation of the BFS/CGP campus, which was completed last January, museum studies faculty, staff, and students operated out of the NYSHA Library. According to Mike, though the crowded facilities presented challenges for all, the quality of the academic programs were never diminished. While CGP operated from the NYSHA Library, the Biological Field Station activities temporarily moved to Thayer Farm, another annex of the College, six miles further north of Cooperstown on Route 80.



At the conclusion of their four-hour excursion, the UUP Executive Board recognized that, due to the commitment of faculty and professional support staff, the quality of instruction at the CGP and BFS remained stellar even during renovations of the Cooperstown campus. The Executive Board agreed on the following: it's important to emphasize the contributions of all UUPers in order to insure that *out-of-site* never means *out-of-mind* when it comes to representation by our bargaining unit.

# Oneonta Chapter Impacts Fall Delegate Assembly, September 23-24, 2011

The Oneonta Chapter played a significant role in the UUP Fall Delegate Assembly (D.A.). The D.A. constitutes the deliberative body of State UUP and includes proportional representation from all UUP Chapters. The Fall D.A. met from Friday, September 23rd to Saturday, September 24th in Albany. The D.A. deliberations on proposed resolutions and amendments, conducts elections for State officers and the State Executive Board, disseminates information, strategizes, links Chapters to State UUP, presents scholarships, hosts important speakers, and facilitates networking between Chapters. Key discussions took place at the Fall D.A. concerning contract negotiations, the NYS budget, the Chancellor's consolidation proposals, the status of SUNY, union governance, and other significant matters.



Oneonta attendees at the Fall D.A. included Bill Simons, Rob Compton, Norm Payne, Hanfu Mi, Dawn Hamlin, Caridad Souza, Janie Forrest, Andy Perry, Amy Crouse Powers, Janet Frankl, K.O. O'Mara, Betty Wambui, Gina Keel; Rich Tyler, Loraine Tyler, Joe Baldwin, Chris Bulson, and J McDermott. The Oneonta delegation participated in the contested election for State Vice President for Professionals, and congratulates Philippe Abraham, a strong friend of the Oneonta Chapter, upon his election to that position. Oneonta also strongly supported Constitutional Amendments that will augment the voice of contingent labor in UUP on both the State and Chapter levels.

In addition, UUP Oneonta renders valuable service on a plethora of important State UUP committees that meet at the D.A., including the following: Chapter Presidents (Bill Simons), Vice Presidents for Academics (Rob Compton), Vice Presidents for Professionals (Norm Payne), Part-Time Concerns (Caridad Souza), Outreach (Gina Keel, Fred Miller), Disability Rights & Concerns Dawn Hamlin), Membership Hanfu Mi, Janie Forrest), LGBT (K.O. O'Mara, Robin Nussbaum), Women's Rights and Concerns (Betty Wambui), Finance (Richard Tyler), COARM (Loraine Tyler), Compliance/Audit (Janet Frankl), Latino Affairs (Caridad Souza, Miguel Leon), Globalization and Corporation (Rob Compton), Veterans Affairs (Norm Payne), Technology Issues (Andy Perry, Kyle Britton) Human & Civil Rights (Ron Bishop), Librarians (Andy Perry, Nancy Cannon), Legal Defense (Mike Flinton), Affirmative Action (Nithya Iyer), Retiree Legislation Action Group (Fred Miller), Solidarity (Tom Horvath, Mike McAvoy, Jeri Anne Jerminario), Labor &

Higher Education (Shiaoyun Chiang), Task Force on Pay Equity Based on Race (Alex Jean-Charles), UUP Scholarship Development (Michael Sullivan), Evaluation Task Force (Bill Simons), Contract Negotiations Team (J McDermott), and Elections and Credentials (Joe Baldwin, Chris Bulson). The commitment of time and talent by UUP activists is much appreciated, particularly in these times of challenge for SUNY.

**Oneonta UUPers with State UUP President Phil Smith, 2nd from left.**



# UUP Contract Negotiations Questions and Answers

## **What Happens Now That UUP's Contract Expired July 1?**

The 2007-2011 collective bargaining agreement between the State of New York and UUP expired July 1, 2011. Under the Triborough Amendment to the Public Employees Fair Employment Act (the "Taylor Law"), all contract articles in the expired agreement continue until a new agreement is negotiated, except for provisions that end ("sunset") upon the expiration of the contract. Here is some information on currently asked questions.

## **What will be my salary?**

Members will continue to receive their current salaries. There will be no across-the-board salary increases until there is a new contract, but another round of Discretionary Salary Increases (DSI) will be distributed by Dec. 31, 2011.

## **What happens to my benefits?**

Existing health, vision, and dental benefits will continue at their current levels.

## **Will there be changes in terms and conditions of employment?**

There are no changes in the terms and conditions of employment included in the expired contract unless and until they are negotiated as part of a new collective bargaining agreement.

## **Are UUP's contract proposals available for members to see?**

Once UUP officially exchanges proposals with the state, those proposals are posted on the UUP website and published in *The Voice*.

## **What is the relationship between UUP's contract negotiations and contract negotiations for CSEA, PEF, and other state employee unions?**

Each state employee union negotiates its contract with the state separately.

## **How can UUP members keep informed about contract negotiations?**

In addition to providing chapter leaders with information for distribution to members, updates will be regularly posted on the UUP website ([www.uupinfo.org](http://www.uupinfo.org)) from our "2011 Negotiations Information" link under Latest Information on the right hand side of the home page. Feel free to contact UUP Chief Negotiator Jamie Dangler at [contract@uupmail.org](mailto:contract@uupmail.org) for further information or to submit questions or comments.

## Part-Time Faculty Orientation to College Services: A Great Success

The annual Part-Time Faculty Orientation on Monday, August 22, 2011, was a great success. The orientation, held from 4:30-6:30pm, at the Waterfront, Hunt College Union once again provided a venue for strong Labor-

Management collaboration. Kudos to Lisa Wenck, Senior Executive Employee Services Officer, and her staff for doing an excellent job coordinating the event. Thanks also to UUP Part-Time Concerns Officer Caridad Souza who, along with Lisa, stood at the entrance to greet all attendees. UUP Membership Director Hanfu Mi effectively captained the UUP table, which also included Rob Compton, Norm Payne, Tom Horvath, Nancy Cannon, and Bill Simons.



From left to right, UUP leaders Rob Compton, Tom Horvath, Hanfu Mi, and Norm Payne help new part-time faculty members

The orientation provided new and veteran part-time employees with the opportunity to complete beginning of semester tasks and to learn about available resources. In addition to those at the UUP table, representatives from many areas of the College also staffed tables. Helpful and supportive professionals provided information and services. Refreshments and door prizes burnished the friendly ambience.

Besides UUP, representatives from the following College departments and areas provided information, services,



and resources. University Police Department; ID/Dining Card Office; Registrar's Office; Human Resources; Payroll; Academic Computing Services; Teaching, Learning, & Technology Center; OAS Bookstore/Damascene; OAS General Services; Student Disability Services; Counseling Center; Computer Services; Telecommunication Services; Library Information Services; Academic Affairs; and Student Development; Technology Services; Grants Development Office; and Creative Media Services. They all did a great job.

UUP officers Bill Simons, Rob Compton, Tom Horvath, Hanfu Mi, Nancy Cannon, and Caridad Souza staff union table at Part-Time Faculty Orientation

# Corn on the Cob Soup

By Janet Frankl, Academic Delegate

[Editor's Note: Professional Delegate Janet Frankl and her husband Jim are excellent chefs. They serve as cooks at *Saturday's Bread*. All members of the UUP bargaining unit are invited to submit their favorite recipes for publication in *The Sentinel*. The version of corn soup presented below is lighter than most recipes, has a great flavor thanks to the combination of fresh herbs, and the added bonus of a hefty amount of turmeric, which is thought to play a role in preventing Alzheimer's disease. It could perhaps easily qualify as vegan if vegetable broth was substituted for the chicken broth.]

6 medium ears corn, husked	1 to 1 ½ tsp ground turmeric
1 ½ Tbsp olive oil	4 cups chicken broth
3 large garlic cloves minced	2 cups water
2 to 3 large mild peppers (such as poblano) chopped	½ to ¾ cups chopped red bell pepper
1 cup finely chopped onion	¼ cup chopped fresh cilantro
½ to 1 cup finely chopped celery	¼ cup minced fresh scallions (optional)
1 ½ to 2 tsp ground cumin	1 tsp freshly ground black pepper
	1 to 1 ½ tsp table salt (to taste)



Remove corn kernels from cobs with knife; reserve 1 cup kernels. You can grill the corn ears prior to removing the kernels for added flavor.

Heat oil in large pot over medium heat. Sauté garlic, peppers, onions & celery until soft, about 5 to 10 minutes. Add cumin & turmeric and sauté about 2 minutes more. Add broth, water, & corn cobs; bring to boil, reduce heat to low, and simmer for about 15 minutes. Remove & discard cobs. Add corn (except for the 1 cup of reserved kernels), 1 tsp salt, and pepper to soup; simmer 15 minutes more.

Puree soup in pot until smooth using an immersion blender (or in a food processor or blender in batches being very careful not to splatter the hot soup.) Stir in reserved corn kernels, red bell peppers, cilantro, & scallion. Serve hot or at room temperature. Yields about 8 1-cup servings or 4 2-cup main-course servings.

Very tasty & healthful!

## 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 go to the UUP Oneonta chapter website, go to the following link [www.1ontauup.org](http://www.1ontauup.org). Norm Payne and Alex Jean-Charles are UUP Oneonta Web Masters. The chapter website contains a number of innovative features and links.

The statewide UUP website is located at [www.uupinfo.org](http://www.uupinfo.org) It contains information about members benefits and many other important topics.

# The Woodshed Prophets and Rush Run, Ohio

*By Robert Zack, CSEA Member, Mayor of Laurens,  
and SUNY College at Oneonta Alumnus (2008)*

Back in the late 50s, I lived in a small steel town called Mingo Junction, Ohio. At that time the steel mill was a part of Wheeling Steel. My grandparents, on my father's side of the family, lived about nine miles south of us in a company owned coal mining community called Rush Run, Ohio. I had not thought of Rush Run nor my grandparents in a very long time. Recently in the Village of Laurens, NY I attended a concert in Knapp Park featuring a band called The Woodshed Prophets. This is a country band based out of Sidney, New York and a very good band I may add. It was the name of the band that made me think of Rush Run and mainly of my grandfather George Taylor.

Rush Run is in a valley along the Ohio River, surrounded by heavily forested hills. When you turned off old Route 7 (now part of Interstate 70) into Rush Run it was not much to look at. The first building that you would see, sitting on a knoll, was the Church of the Nazarene. This building was the best built structure in Rush Run and the only building not owned by the coal company. Any of the religious folk that lived in Rush Run would attend services there as well as most social gatherings.

A little further up the winding narrow country road was the company owned store. If I remember right, the company that owned the store was called Coaltraps. This building was a massive two story wooden structure that also housed the bank, post office, medical center, grocery store, jail, bar/restaurant and just about anything else needed to keep the miners and their families almost completely tied to the company. The company in effect owned you and family lock-stock-and barrel!

After the store was the company owned houses. The houses themselves were nothing more than shells built on short stilts, with a front and back door, a couple of windows, with tar-papered sides and pitched roof which were shingled. There was no insulation to speak of. If a family was lucky, they may have gotten a two bedroom house, but for the most part they received a house with one big bedroom, a living room and a good-sized kitchen.



**Circa 1956-57 in the North Hill section of Mingo Jct., Ohio. Author Zack; his mother, Asunta DiMeo; his brothers David and, in the stroller, Ted.**

### *The Woodshed Prophets and Rush Run, Ohio (continued)*

The furnishings were sparse and any decorations in the house were usually handmade and of a religious nature and of course many family pictures. To keep the house warm in the winter, a pot-bellied stove was in the living room and running water was a hand pump in the kitchen sink. Today we would probably call these houses shacks, but in the 50s and the 60s this was home to my grandparents and to the other mining families in Rush Run.

During the period of operation, the mine quit operating sometime in the early 1970s, the mine was not unionized. As much as I can remember, only once was there ever talk of a union and that was quickly put down by the company. Most independent run operations like this one did not allow unions and fought hard to keep them out. Needless to say, some of the tactics used to keep the unions out were not very pretty. Finally, with more and more government regulations and enforcement of these regulations, most mines of this type shut down, as was the case with this one. The miners did not receive any severance pay, were given a short period of time to move and were left on their own to find other work. The area that was mined in Rush Run and in the surrounding area was later finished off by strip-mining.

Now at the beginning of this article I said that the name of the band that I was watching perform, The Woodshed Prophets, reminded me of Rush Run and my grandparents. I am sure that some of you may have heard that back in the day one would learn the lessons of life out behind the woodshed by the hard hand of dad or granddad. Well in Rush Run the homes did not have a woodshed, heck they did not even have an indoor toilet. In the backyard, close to the creek every home had an outhouse and I substituted the Woodshed part of the band's name with the outhouse. It was here that my grandfather would take us boys to be corrected, if we needed it. Actually we had to pretend that we were being punished because my grandfather did not have a mean bone in his body. Everyone at the house knew we were not really being punished, but they all would be in on the act. If anything, Grandpa George would yell at us and call us "knuckleheads."

The last time I was back home, I took a ride to Rush Run to see how it had changed. The turn off into Rush Run is not forested any more, but the church was still there. The hills are still there, and there are a lot of newer homes all through the valley and to my surprise some of the old houses are still there and being lived in or used for storage. I pulled off the side of the road and looked at those old houses and remembered the "good ol' days" in Rush Run. And yes, the two story general store is still standing. It is now a bar/restaurant. So I give thanks to The Woodshed Prophets who unknowingly brought back a lot of fond memories of home, my grandparents and learning about life out behind the outhouse. What more could one ask for, good music from a local band and good memories of life in the past.

One more quick note about The Woodshed Prophets. When interviewed, the band members said that they did not like to advertise themselves as a country band; they like to say that they are a band that plays "power twang". The term twang also reminded me of the people of Rush Run. When they talked, they would say that they talked with a twang. The people outside of Rush Run would say that they talked "through their nose". This could be from the fact that the coal mining industry was not very well regulated back then and the miners nasal passages were more than likely full of coal dust since they did not wear any type of mask. Not very masculine you know. They were a tough breed of people.

## UUPer Thomas Pullyblank Publishes New Novel -- *Napoleon's Gold: A Legend of the Saint Lawrence River*

UUPer Thomas Pullyblank is a longtime Adjunct Faculty member of the History Department. A UUP stalwart, Tom has organized town ball games at UUP gatherings. (Town ball is a mid-19th century relative of baseball.) Tom is also a United Methodist minister with congregations in Fly Creek and Schuyler Lake. Tom and his family maintain a small working farm. Moreover, Tom is a published novelist. UUP congratulates Tom on his second novel, *Napoleon's Gold: A Legend of the Saint Lawrence River*. The information below concerning the novel is adapted from the book's website.

**Book Summary:** After experiencing the harrowing events of 9/11, historian Tom Flanagan returns to his family's cottage on the Saint Lawrence River to gain some closure to the accidental death of his parents and brother and to find some meaning to the upheaval of his life.



*Napoleon's Gold* in the "Local Authors" section in the Green Toad Bookstore

His return is both highly doubted and eagerly anticipated by the River Rat Reporters, a motley yet intriguing group of his father's former colleagues, summer neighbors, family members and drinking buddies. Together, along with Tom's former love and fellow historian Mindy McDonnell, the group seeks to complete his father's personal quest: the location of Napoleon's gold, one of the great legends of the Thousand Islands. But others also seek the gold for their own personal gain, and wage a battle against the group to control its reputed power. Through their personal tales of their involvement with his father's research, the River Rat Reporters each bring Tom one more piece of the puzzle to unlocking both the mystery of Napoleon's gold and the accidental deaths of his family.

Once again, Thomas Pullyblank has delivered a tale full of history, wonder and spiritual healing that illustrates how our lives are intricately intertwined and elaborately decorated with poignant moments of intimacy, betrayal, collaboration and revelation. Based on both Napoleonic history and the history of upstate New York, *Napoleon's Gold* continues the story of Tom Flanagan, first begun in *Cornflower's Ghost*. Pullyblank's novel exudes a deep reverence for the Saint Lawrence River and the Thousand Islands that comes from personal knowledge, leaving the reader wanting to explore both the region and the deeper mysteries of their own experience.

Warren Roberts, Ph.D., Distinguished Teaching Professor, History Department, University at Albany, writes of *Napoleon's Gold*, "*Napoleon's Gold* is set in the Thousand Islands, where Thomas Pullyblank spent his summers as a youth, and which he brings to life in a novel that will draw readers into the stories, tales, fables, and history of the region and his beloved Saint Lawrence River. The author's narrative gifts, erudition, brilliant dialogue, and rich imagination make this a must read. This novel is at once a page-turner and a work within which the author's musings and reflections on life, death and religion will leave the reader deeply moved."

Copies of *Napoleon's Gold: A Legend of the Saint Lawrence River* by Thomas Pullyblank are available locally at the Green Toad Bookstore, 198 Main Street, Oneonta, or from the publisher, Square Circle Press. Ordering information is available at their website <http://www.squarecirclepress.com/books/NapoleonsGold.htm>. ISBN-13: 978-0-9833897-0-5, ISBN-10: 0-9833897-0-5, 362 pages, softcover, \$21.95.

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