



**After the Fire — Thinking of Loraine and Rich: Tylers Have Given Much to College, Community, and UUP**

*By Bill Simons, Chapter President*



Source of burning house photo: *The Daily Star*

Loraine and Rich Tyler have given so much to the College, community, and to UUP through the years. As undergraduates, they met at the College and are proud alumni. A devastating fire and explosion completely destroyed their new home atop Franklin Mountain on Monday morning, March 26<sup>th</sup>. Loraine and Rich invested hundreds of hours of their own physical labor and participated in all phases of the building of their log home. The good news is that they are physically ok. Their home and all their possessions, including Loraine’s sewing artifacts, Rich’s penknife souvenirs, family photos, and other cherished memorabilia, however, no longer exist despite the much appreciated efforts of brave firefighters. Even their car and cell phone were demolished. And disaster leaves a lingering sense of shock.

Rich is a meticulous and dedicated UUP Oneonta Treasurer, and Loraine is our dynamic Chapter Special Events Director and Retiree Representative as well as former Vice President for Academics. For decades, Rich was a strong stalwart of the Department of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science, and Loraine, as longtime Chair, built the modern Human Ecology program prior to launching a second career providing excellent counsel to students through Academic Advisement. Their collective civic endeavors have embraced Habitat for Humanity, the Greater Oneonta Historical Society, St. Mary’s Church, City of Oneonta Zoning Board of Appeals, City of Oneonta Housing Board of Appeals Chairperson, and so much more.

Numerous UUPers as well as many others have inquired what we can do for the Tylers. An outpouring of supportive emails and messages attest to the affection and regard for Loraine and Rich. As of this writing, the Tylers have not yet secured long-term temporary housing, once they do and have a place to store things, UUP will participate in a collection drive and other endeavors to help Loraine and Rich.

To their many friends, Loraine and Rich, express, “Thanks for your prayers and thoughts.”

Table of Contents		
		Race & police panel
UUP panel		page 15
discussion	page 2	Still Feeling It
L-M Meeting	page 3	My Secret Life
MLK Jr.	page 4	page 16
Campus Farmers Market	page 5	Freelance Writer
End of Semester Party	page 6	page 18
Presidential Primary	page 7	Sentinel Quiz
Thanks	page 10	Higher Ed & Econ Development
Social Security “Watches”	page 10	page 20
Strange Being Lights & Shadows	page 11	Toon
	page 14	page 21
		Faculty & Religious Holidays
		page 22
		Van Drivers Needed
		page 22
		Striking Librarians
		page 23
		Local UUP Contact info
		back pg

## UUP Autism Panel Discussion– Current Issues: Wednesday April 25th, Noon, Le Café, Morris

Please join us for an important UUP Disabilities Awareness Panel — *What’s Going on the Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) World* on Wednesday April 25<sup>th</sup> at Noon in Le Café, Morris. The program is open to all members of the College and regional community, and is scheduled to coincide with the designation of April as National Autism Awareness Month,. UUP will serve a complimentary union lunch. A question-and-answer discussion session will follow the formal presentation.

The panel discussion, *What’s Going on the Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) World*, will examine the many new developments have occurred since last year’s UUP presentation on autism, including the recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data, which indicates that the current rate of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) is now 1 in 88 – compared with the prior rate of 1 in 110. Other issues to be discussed are the new proposed changes to the diagnostic criteria for autism, information on being a parent advocate, and the challenges of providing appropriate services in an economically distressed era.

The distinguished panel for the UUP *What’s Going on the Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) World* panel includes:

**Patricia Kennedy** is the Executive Director of Springbrook, which serves approximately 700 individuals with developmental disabilities. Springbrook is partnering with SUNY College at Oneonta to establishing a on-site graduate degree in Special Education. According to *Generation SUNY*, “Teaching assistants working in Springbrook’s school for children with autism will have the opportunity to earn a master’s degree in special education at SUNY Oneonta, tuition-free.”

**Aida Mariani** is Director of Public Relations and Development works at the ARC – Oneida-Lewis. She is responsible for fund development, public relations, internal and external communications, media relations and fundraising activities.

**Zaida Morell** is the president of The Parent Compass located in New Hartford, New York. The career of a parent advocate became a passion primarily due to her personal journey as a parent of a child with a developmental disability. She is also member of various organizations in her area, including Board member of the Friends of the Arc Foundation, The Mohawk Valley Latino Association, and Advisory Board Member of Evolve Discovery Center, Inc.



Dr. Dawn Hamlin

**Dr. Dawn Hamlin** (Ph.D. Pennsylvania State University- Special Education), Assistant Professor of Educational Psychology and Counseling, organized and will moderate the panel. She is a scholar and practitioner in the area of student learning and exceptionalities. Dawn is the President of the New York State Council for Exceptional Children as well as UUP’s Disabilities/Exceptionalities Officer.



Patricia Kennedy, center, with SUNY Oneonta President Nancy Kleniewski, left, announcing new partnership

## Labor-Management Meeting Notes: March 5, 2012, 3 PM

By Tom Horvath, UUP Secretary

**For UUP:** Nancy Cannon, Rob Compton, Tom Horvath, Hanfu Mi, Norm Payne, Bill Simons, Caridad Souza, and Darryl Wood,

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

I. UUP expressed congratulations to SUNY Oneonta Distinguished Teaching Professor Dr. John H. Relethford for the honor of being elected chair of the Anthropology Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. UUP also commended the work of President Nancy Kleniewski and Dr. Dawn Hamlin in developing the new Masters Program in Special Education with Springbrook.

II. UUP invited Management to attend March 13<sup>th</sup> UUP program on "Race and the Police" being held in LeCafe. Some members at the table indicated that they would attend and looked forward to the important discourse.

III. UUP asked if the next proposal to schedule a Wellness Fair could include UUP and vendors. Management noted that this Wellness Fair would only have non-profit organizations. A Benefits Fair could include vendors, and plans to hold a Benefits Fair are being worked on. UUP's benefits officer Doreen Bangle is being invited to the Wellness Fair and would also be invited to a Benefits Fair.

IV. UUP asked about and received information concerning the next training session for supervisors of UUP professionals. Joe Storch will hold a session on legal issues & social media sometime in March or April.

V. UUP requested continued discussion of increasing cultural, linguistic, and other support for international faculty and students.

VI. Update of 9/19/11 L-M question: Has Management determined mechanisms for informing students that faculty may need to be away for the day for religious observances? This has indeed been accomplished, and UUP thanked Management for their actions on this matter.

VII. UUP asked Management if there was a policy of University Police (UPD) involvement in termination of UUP employees? The discussion that followed tried to ascertain the procedure used that would identify the need for UPD. UUP asked about risk assessment, and Management responded that often (but not always) a risk assessment is carried out and that UPD determines the level of response or presence. UUP tried to find out if certain criteria existed that would guide the involvement of UPD. After an informative discussion, it was decided that a sidebar meeting would be the best venue for continuing the discussion.

VIII. UUP asked if there were considerations of alternatives to the Tripartite process. Management responded that they have hired an affirmative action officer and that they would be involved at looking at different models. UUP was invited to offer suggestions.

IX. Labor asked Management about providing Adjunct Faculty extra service compensation for participating in assessment activities. Labor noted the SUNY-New Paltz compensated Adjunct Faculty for assessment activities. Management is looking into assessment training.

X. Labor asked Management when the base salary for Adjunct Faculty was last raised. Management replied 2006. The base salary for Adjunct Faculty remains at \$2500/course.

XI. Labor asked Management about consideration of ways to help alleviate the parking problems of Adjunct Faculty. Management is considering an overview of parking.

XII. In response to an agenda item, Management provided Labor with a statement concerning the educational implications of the final semester deadline for grades of 48 hours after the final exam. Labor will examine the document prior to further discussion of the topic.

## Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Labor Movement



Terry Melvin evokes Dr. King

UUP Oneonta recently sponsored an open discussion with Terry Melvin, Secretary-Treasurer of the 2.5 million-member New York State AFL-CIO. Terry, the highest-ranking African-American union leader in New York State, spoke before a full room with eloquence and passion, exhorting us not to forget Dr. King's commitment and mission for labor unions.

As Terry emphasized, Dr. King consistently linked racial and labor rights. Before an AFL-CIO convention, Dr. King proclaimed:

*Negroes are almost entirely a working people. There are pitifully few Negro millionaires, and few Negro employers. Our needs are identical with labor's needs — decent wages, fair working conditions, livable housing, old age security, health and welfare measures, conditions in which families can grow, have education for their children and respect in the community. That is why Negroes support labor's demands and fight laws which curb labor. That is why the labor-hater and labor-baiter is virtually always a twin-headed creature spewing anti-Negro epithets from one mouth and anti-labor propaganda from the other mouth.*

To evoke civil rights without economic rights is to distort and trivialize Dr. King's message. Then and forever, Dr. King admonishes us, "You may not be on strike. But either we go up together, or we go down together." He recognized that equity and inclusion are hollow without economic rights. Let not Dr. King have lived and died in vain. Let not naked power strip workers of their human dignity. Join Dr. King in worker solidarity.



UUP audience hears Terry Melvin speak the word

## A Campus Farmers' Market?

By Dennis Higgins, UUP Oneonta

Could our campus support a Farmers' Market? Where would it be held? How often? What would it look like? Is there sufficient interest among local farmers or campus residents to get such a venture off the ground? Hopefully this article will provide the basis for an initial discussion of these questions.



I got the idea for a SUNY Oneonta campus-hosted Farmers' Market while trying to figure out how to link up farmer friends with members of the campus community who might be interested in buying local produce. Would I peddle eggs around Netzer and mark payments in a little book? Frankly, I didn't see how I could manage to deliver more than a bag or two of groceries. But we have a population of staffers and faculty members who are already shopping locally, and of students who may not all have the ability – short of bus transport – to make a trip to the store or downtown Farmers' Market.

Would there be a way for us to host a campus market, perhaps some weekday afternoons in late spring and early fall? Would student groups be motivated to provide ideas and manpower to make it happen? Such a venture would dovetail with several college goals.



One college mission involves promoting local interest in the campus and student interaction with the community. Those of you who have patronized Oneonta's market have found in season a wide variety of locally grown produce. In addition to fresh fruit and vegetables, honey, maple syrup, jams and jellies, yogurt, cheese, eggs and meats are often available. Typically, farmers' markets provide a venue for artisans, as well. Baskets, cutting boards, and candles, for example, might be sold. Of course, a campus market is a chance for campus residents to meet and support local farmers and artisans. But there is also an opportunity to significantly enhance the quality of life for campus residents, staff, and visitors. Maybe there is an opportunity for us to market SUNY Oneonta as a welcoming academic option for mid-state residents choosing a college. Prospective students and faculty members alike must weigh their options when selecting a school and campus assets like a market might favorably influence their decision.

Fuel costs are on the rise, pinching buyers and sellers alike. Energy is in the news every day; it is the subtext of issues from hydraulic fracturing to oil spills to nuclear reactor meltdowns. Some of us don't believe there will be a silver bullet (named *natural gas*, *offshore drilling* or *electric vehicles*) for our energy problems, but that many solutions will need to be cobbled together: development of more widespread capture of solar and wind and geothermal energy will be part of the formula, as will more economical use of our current resource pool. Sustainability is a campus goal that could be fostered through a farmers' market. Farmers in Delaware and Otsego counties – like small producers across the country – are struggling, squeezed between the costs of fuel, equipment, seed, and taxes, and the low prices they



## ***A Campus Farmers' Market (continued)***

get for goods from middle-men who provide the connection to a market. Those of us who have been here for twenty years remember a day when many more dairy farms could successfully operate in the area. Buying local produce saves the cost of shipping goods across country. It gives local farmers a retail - not a wholesale - price for their goods.

A farmers' market provides an opportunity for us to see the face of our neighbors, and for them to visit campus and see what we look like. *Think globally, act locally*, is a good motto for finding educational, social and economic solutions. In a small way, hosting farmers' markets on campus would promote many of our goals.



### **End of Semester UUP Meeting and Party: Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**

UUP will hold its traditional end of semester party on Saturday, May 12, 2012, from 1:00 — 4:00 PM at the College Camp, one of the area's treasures. The gathering will start with a brief Chapter meeting. The College Camp provides a spacious, inviting, and picturesque setting for our union party. The lodge at the Camp will allow us to have the party rain or shine.

Complimentary Brooks' House of Bar-B-Q lunch -- with delicious food and beverages — will be served. Although the lodge has inside tables and chairs, outdoor enthusiasts may wish to bring chairs, blankets, folding tables, games, musical instruments, and sports equipment.

All members of the UUP bargaining unit and their families/significant others are most cordially welcome. To facilitate food planning, a RSVP is required. To RSVP, please leave a message on the UUP Oneonta voice mail at 436-2135 and provide your name, telephone number, and the number of family members/significant others, including yourself, who will attend.

Thanks to Special Events Director Loraine Tyler for doing a terrific job organizing this special gathering. For further information, contact Loraine at <TYLERLL@Oneonta.Edu>

## Hopping on the Presidential Primary Boxcar

By Gina Keel, Legislative Outreach Representative, Academic Delegate, and Director of the Labor Film Series



Campaign posters, St. Anselm's

Friday, January 6, 2012 was a mild winter day that bode well for student travelers brought together for a political immersion experience, the New Hampshire presidential primary. Once again I had an opportunity to teach a Presidential Election Campaigns class and take students into the political field. No, we didn't travel by train, but the boxcar metaphor fits because we had to catch the fast moving candidates and jump into events when the opportunities cropped up. Events announcements only started to emerge after the Iowa Caucuses, a few days notice.

We arrived in Concord, NH, and the local newspaper headline read "Santorum engages, enrages." The candidate had been booed the day before by college students in Concord for his insensitive statements about same sex marriage. "What's the public purpose?" said candidate Santorum. Students shouted; he scolded, and a young woman challenged him by articulating values of equality, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The newspaper made me hopeful that my students and I would have good access to public events of substance, even if I felt ambivalence about what we might hear from conservative candidates.

On Friday night we were off to a good start. Students were able to choose a spaghetti dinner with Mitt Romney and Niki Haley at Tilton School or a Ron Paul speech and rally at UNH. Free food or a lively college scene? A tough choice for some of the students. Well, the food was pretty good at Tilton, but the rhetoric that night disturbed digestion. The dining hall was packed, half with pushy media crowding out voters (and political tourists). Attempting a playful style, but leaking arrogance, Mitt gave a brief speech that was long on attacks and short on analysis, which surprised me. Why? I remember John McCain delivering short speeches over 20 minutes long in 2008. Governor Haley introduced candidate Romney as someone who "appreciates right to work states," and soon he stridently charged President Obama with crony capitalism, claiming the president stacked the NRLB with "union stooges." I started to feel uneasy, as one does around conspiracy theorists. In the very brief Q&A session, Romney promised to "get your kids jobs" and argued the answer lay in competition for higher education so they "do more at a lower cost." With a gleeful jab he claimed that once they [kids] start getting paychecks they will question ideas they heard from professors. Ron Paul earned better reviews from my students that night for his truth-telling style that seems uncalculating. They liked his economic policy and civil liberties speech, and his eagerness to engage the audience and take time for pictures. Did I mention that Mitt told us he would come back to the overflow room after his speech to shake hands and take pictures, and then he failed to show? People waited 20 minutes and got snubbed.

During the weekend, students attended small events with the other major candidates Rick Santorum and Newt Gingrich. The Atlantic and National Journal held an "Economy and the Electorate" briefing with Heartland Monitor Poll results and panels with top journalists, pollsters, and political consultants at St. Anselm's Institute of Politics. Santorum gave an address that emphasized economic solutions including elimination of corporate taxes for manufacturing companies and slashing regulatory costs, while calling the Detroit auto industry bailout a "payoff to unions" by Obama. He then sat for an interview but got testy when peppered by two top political journalists and soon escaped. Gingrich lured a few students to a so-called Hispanic inclusion event, organized by a young staffer that had not yet met him. The location, a Mexican restaurant in Manchester, was handy for OWS drummers who increased the tension of a less-than



Rye Beach, NH

### ***Hopping on the Presidential Primary Boxcar (continued)***

successful event that attempted to portray the candidate as focused on creating economic opportunity and compassionate about immigration—at least compared to his rivals. Students reported skepticism in audience questions.

Among all candidates, only John Huntsman was temperate in criticizing the Obama administration, and he also promoted a more traditional positive, personal and inspirational approach to the New Hampshire campaign. Students were impressed that Huntsman drove himself to a meet-and-greet at a café; I was impressed that he could seem to enjoy the press mob, escape with a smile and avoid running over the swarming crowd in the parking lot. On primary eve, our class went to a Huntsman rally in tony Exeter. You could see the wealth in that crowd packed into a charming New England town hall, and you could feel the enthusiasm and see the charisma of the candidate and his family. The Huntsman surge was real; we saw it in his young volunteers and in the growing crowds, but it couldn't dent the resources and well-organized support in the Romney campaign. Nevertheless, all students got a little Huntsman fever; those who preferred Paul, Gingrich (even Obama) were energized by this candidate. Ron Paul had that effect in 2008 among my students; this time he had only one devotee. As in 2008, no student has selected Mitt Romney for their semester-long candidate project.



**Five Oneonta students get Huntsman fever  
Primary Eve at Exeter Town Hall**

How different is the 2012 nominating campaign? Does it just reflect trends that started with the 24-hr cable news cycle and other technology-driven changes? Voters and media don't seriously begin to focus on presidential campaigns until the caucus and primary season is afoot. Once Iowa caucuses meet the candidates are off, early-state strategies in hand and non-stop events. That's normal. This cycle we had many fewer event opportunities, saw fewer high-profile national journalists, fewer broadcast trucks, and fewer interest groups and campaign advocates in the streets. During our short stay two televised debates were held in central New Hampshire but we couldn't join the audiences. On Sunday morning, I walked down Main St. in Concord to watch candidate sign wavers and protesters outside of the *Meet the Press* debate as they struggled for a piece of the coverage. We couldn't get as close to major candidates and heard fewer substantive policy speeches, and none in Concord. Instead we *watched* (closed, ticketed) debates staged more like reality show contests and new noisy PAC ads piped into our hotel rooms. I missed Gwen Ifill from *The News Hour* and Kiran Chetry and Jessica Yellin from CNN. I missed the one-hour wonky speeches with plans for America and elevating rhetoric. This was no 2008.

Four years ago, I concluded "retail politics are alive and well" in a *Sentinel* article about my first class trip to New Hampshire. Unfortunately, retail politics seemed to have lost ground in 2012. It was a one-party show of course, but also a primary that seemed faster and more mediated than before. Perhaps the speeding pace contributed to candidates' choice of quick attack style, and de-emphasis of positivism, policy explanation and support for their views. It seemed farther removed from the New Hampshire model of personal politics and earning votes through persistence. The "frontloading problem" of states scheduling contests earlier to compete for influence is not new, but it was fierce enough to nearly push New Hampshire into a December primary. The early contests were closer together this time so campaigns had to quickly plan for the next race. Mitt was two states ahead with ad buys in Florida media markets, and his resources were an early advantage in the condensed calendar. The proliferation of controlled debates this year has limited local politicking. Some campaign consultants claim such efforts are "BS" anyway. In the weeks since the New

### **Hopping on the Presidential Primary Boxcar (continued)**

Hampshire primary, staged debates have continued to be the most important source for voter to hear any policy depth from the candidates, despite the nasty zingers they trade in for media attention the next day. This follows a trend documented by political communications scholars including Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center. I recommend her work on media effects, advertising, and public perceptions.

When professors design courses with field experience components, you always take risks and manage uncertainty. One has goals for student engagement with places, people, and processes, but accepts a lack of control with a faith that you find teaching moments even in disappointment. My students and I learned that the New Hampshire primary continues to be exciting and continues to inform us about candidates and the democratic nomination process, even while it's deliberative and open nature is threatened. And we did enjoy some unique 2012 vignettes. Occupy Wall Street Manchester and allies held a gay, lesbian, and transgender "Liberty Walk." Newt Gingrich's thinly staffed headquarters abutted Castro's cigar store, with a near life-sized wooden Fidel out front. Boston comedian Jimmy Tingle got us laughing with his "Tingle for President" performance and moving film "American Dream." A ballot regular, Vermin Supreme proved an accessible if wacky (boot on the head) and disheveled candidate. You too can get on the New Hampshire presidential ballot with \$1000 bucks.



**Newspaper Guild protest at Concord, NH  
Union Leader workers fight for a contract**

### **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.

## Thanks for Advocating for SUNY!

New York State has a budget, and it is on time. Moreover, SUNY avoided cuts. UUP will provide a detailed analysis of the budget. Tough battles lie ahead. Now, however, is the time to thank all of you who travelled to Albany, faxed, emailed, telephoned, and wrote letters advocating for SUNY.



UUP Oneonta President Bill Simons and students advocate for SUNY with Senator Gustavo Rivera



## Social Security “Watches”

*By Loraine Tyler, Retiree Representative and Director, Special Events*

As the political debates continue, current retirees and prospective retirees need to be aware of the political landscape. Republican candidates striving to be different from the current administration have definite ideas on how to “fix” Social Security. It pays to listen carefully. Changes in Social Security and Medicare should be considered as part of a broader view of balancing the budget and helping you and I prepare for a secure retirement. Luckily, our retirement package has several facets: pension, savings and home equity, IRAs and TDAS, and Social Security. As the state discusses new tiers in our retirement plans, beware that each successive tier has eroded one’s pension plan. The economy and the resulting real estate market have eroded some of the equity in our homes. Interest rates on our savings and IRAs are at an all time low. We count on Social Security to bolster the rest. After paying into Social Security for all our working years, these benefits should be available, the benefit should keep up with inflation, and one should continue to be covered in case of disability. Our families should be protected in the case of death. The January-February issue of the *AARP Bulletin* listed several ways to strengthen Social Security:



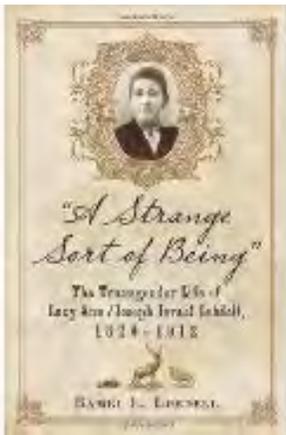
*Dr. Loraine Tyler*

- Revise the payroll contribution base by raising the FICA payroll tax
- Include newly hired state and local government employees in the system
- Revise the benefit formula by raising the number of work years used to determine benefits from 35 to 38
- Change the cost-of-living adjustment.
- Increase the payroll tax rate for employees and /or employers
- Reduce benefits for the wealthy while maintaining benefits for those who are less well off
- Change the normal retirement age (it’s slowly rising to 67 under current law)

Obviously, some of these ideas are more appealing than others. Listen to what our politicians are saying!

## A Strange Sort of Being: The Transgender Life of Lucy Ann / Joseph Israel Lobdell, 1829-1912

**[Editor's Note:** This article is part of the on-going *Sentinel* series featuring new books of interest and significance authored by UUPers. Dr. Bambi L. Lobdell, Adjunct Faculty, Women's Studies, and a UUPer, is the author of *A Strange Sort of Being: The Transgender Life of Lucy Ann / Joseph Israel Lobdell, 1829-1912.*]



Book Cover: *A Strange Sort of Being*

After 10 years of research and writing, Bambi Lobdell's work on Lucy Ann – Joseph Israel Lobdell has been published by McFarland. Using personal narratives, newspaper articles, medical diagnoses and articles, legal proceedings, and family and oral histories, Bambi traces Lobdell's life from 1829 – 1912.

Lucy Ann defied gender norms from the time she was a child by insisting on earning enough money to put herself through school and teaching herself how to shoot a rifle. After being forced to marry as a young woman, she abandoned home and family to forge a new life as Joseph Israel Lobdell and lived the rest of his life

as a man. Lobdell enjoyed moderate economic success as a singing teacher in Pennsylvania and a hired gun in Minnesota before being outed for having a female body in both communities. To depressed to work, Lobdell ended up in the Poor House at Delhi, N. Y. around 1858, where a year later he met Marie Louise Perry. The two escaped and were married as man and wife, and lived the next fifteen years in the woods around Honesdale, PA. Infrequent trips into town for supplies usually resulted in Joe being arrested for vagrancy, and the feminine, lady-like Marie - never arrested – would write petitions to the judge for the release of her husband.



Poor House at Delhi

Lobdell's husband had died in the Civil War, and after Joe's brother helped him receive a widow's pension, he bought a small farm. A year later, the same brother brought a lunacy hearing against his sister, which resulted in Lobdell being declared insane for wearing men's clothes and "pretending" to love a woman, and incarcerated at Willard Insane Asylum in Ovid, New York. Marie was told her husband had died and, not being permitted to stay on the farm, returned to wandering the woods until she died.



Willard Insane Asylum

An 1883 article written by Lobdell's doctor at Willard declared the subject, who insisted he was a man, suffering from a rare form of insanity and offered the case as a clinical curiosity. Working during a time period that had no concept of identity based on sexual desires and believed women had no sexual desire, Dr. Wise views Lobdell's sexual inclinations simply as perverse activities. In his article, Dr. Wise explains that Lucy and Marie lived in "the quiet monotony of Lesbian love" (p. 89) and also includes Lobdell's words three times where he insisted he was a man.

## ***A Strange Sort of Being (continued)***

Scholars in the twentieth century use scant information about Lobdell's life and the word "Lesbian" from Wise's article and position Lobdell as an historic, feminist lesbian. In so doing, they ignore Lobdell's own declaration of manhood as well as his life-long enactment of living as a man, and follow and reinforce entrenched cis-gendered thinking to identity Lobdell as a woman.

This book privileges Lobdell's perspective as the source of authenticity and tells the story of a nineteenth-century transgender man who was violently persecuted, to the point of being removed from society and made invisible, and yet courageously and stubbornly named himself "man".

For a preview of the book, visit google books:

[http://books.google.com/books/about/A\\_Strange\\_Sort\\_of\\_Being.html?id=q484EXE2p\\_gC](http://books.google.com/books/about/A_Strange_Sort_of_Being.html?id=q484EXE2p_gC)

or Amazon.com:

[http://www.amazon.com/%2522A-Strange-Sort-Being%2522-Transgender/dp/0786448059/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1329672381&sr](http://www.amazon.com/%2522A-Strange-Sort-Being%2522-Transgender/dp/0786448059/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1329672381&sr)



**Bambi Lobdell**

Bambi Lobdell teaches at SUNY Oneonta and is designing a class in Introduction to Transgender Studies for the fall 2012 semester. She hopes her book will not only present a more accurate history of her ancestor, and thereby help create a transgender history of this country, but that it also offers up a strong role model for transgender people and their allies.



**Lucy Ann – Joseph Israel Lobdell**

1 Wise, Dr. P. M. "A Case of Sexual Perversion." *Alienist and Neurologist: a Quarterly Journal of Scientific, Clinical and Forensic Psychiatry and Neurology*, vol. 4 (January 1883): pp. 87-91.

## ***Lights and Shadows over the History Profession in Peru***

*By Miguel León, UUP Representative, State Latino Concerns Committee*



**Above and below, Author Miguel León speaking in the “Week of History,” organized by History Students of San Marcos University, December, 2011**

In Peru, the history profession has enjoyed great prestige and status. This is explained in part because of Peru’s rich history, but also because of how much Peruvians have valued their intellectuals and humanists. Historians have occupied important positions in the government and in Peruvian institutions. I will mention a few of them. Raúl Porras Barrenechea, one of the most famous Peruvian historians, was a congressman, president of the Congress and even Minister of Foreign relations. Jorge Basadre, Peruvian historian who wrote a multivolume magnum opus History of the Republic in 12 volumes, was Minister of Education. A professor of mine, Manuel Burga, was president of the most important and oldest university in Peru and in the Americas, San Marcos University.



Historians have been able to be influential and obtain recognition in Peruvian society. The newspapers usually offer good historic information and have historians as part of their contributors. A couple of historians are public intellectuals and give their opinions in newspapers and other media outlets. Two TV programs, “It Happened in Peru” and “Around the corner” have managed to get good ratings and create a faithful following for more than seven years and are still going strong. The so called 100 years of the American explorer Hiram Bingham’s scientific discovery of Machu Picchu, an Ancient Inca site, created a media frenzy in July in which, once again, historians, together with archaeologists, were interviewed in important TV programs and newspapers published several interviews of historians and archaeologists. I myself was asked to be a part of this media frenzy answering questions about the Inca Empire on the Peruvian national channel that dedicated its entire programming one day to discuss and celebrate Machu Picchu’s 100 hundred year discovery.

With regards to the training of historians, it is important to say that there are three universities in Lima which offer undergraduate and graduate degrees in History which train a good number of historians. While in Peru, I went to my alma mater San Marcos University to give several lectures and was able to meet several enthusiastic History majors with great ambitions and an impressive research agenda. Students of this generation are competitive, quick learners and have a strong desire to publish their research. While I was there, I instigated the creation of a discussion group to promote regional history with students, taking the initiative in the organization of the meetings, fundraising to buy internet space for their future electronic journal, as well as other tasks.

## ***Lights and Shadows (continued)***

The political and economic stability of Peruvian society is providing a better environment in general for training in universities. The infrastructure of national universities has improved. I was greatly impressed by the new Central Library, a modern building with an auditorium, exhibit room, and ample reading rooms. The Central and Social Sciences library has a modest budget to purchase books and continually add new books to the collection. During my years as an undergraduate in San Marcos University, the library never had money to buy new books at all.

Despite all this great news I also have to report not so good news. I would like to discuss two aspects of the state of the profession that need improvement: research and institutional support, and historians' positioning in the national debates.

Although research is done in universities, it is still very limited. If we compare Peru with Mexico or Argentina, we clearly see that Peru is behind because, for example, we do not have a National Institute for Historical Research or a similar research institution. In many countries in Latin America they even have Institutes of Historical Research for the capitals such as Buenos Aires, for example. Without these types of institutions we cannot plan long term or large historical projects. My own institute, the Institute of Peruvian Studies, does not have an area of historical research, although surprisingly sells mainly history books which is research accomplished in Peruvian, American and European universities. While doing research for my own book, I realized how much needs to be done to improve the infrastructure in order to undertake major historical projects. For example, basic historical information such as the First National Census of 1876 was impossible to find in any library or archive in Lima. In order to get this information I had to ask the great people from Interlibrary Loan office of SUNY Oneonta to request from Cornell University to send us its copy and scan all those pages for me?!!?. No major projects of digitalization of documents are taking place in Peru. Two fundamental sources for Peruvian Republican times: Newspapers *El Comercio* and *El Peruano* should be digitalized and made available for historians to research in our National Library or National Archives.

In recent years archaeologists have been more successful obtaining recognition and a place in national debates concerning the Peruvian past. Because the recent archaeological discoveries of Caral, Moche and Wari are so spectacular, historians cannot offer "discoveries" of those magnitudes and cannot compete for media attention. In the 1970s and 1980s, historians were able to create important national debates related to the Spanish Conquest, the nature of the Inca society and the Peruvian independence. Historians convinced the government to publish more than 100 volumes of Documents of the era of the Independence!! The ability of historians to be in the "*palestra*" or to attract public attention apparently has disappeared and historians seem to have run out of new topics or new findings. A friend of mine, a historian of the Republic, had the same impression although he believes that the ongoing preparation for the 200 years of Peruvian Independence in 2021 might create a window of opportunity to re-launch historical debates. Pablo Macera, a brilliant Peruvian historian, was a public intellectual in the 1970s and 1980s. During those years, he was constantly interviewed by the media about Peru's past, present and future. He became a kind of oracle for many Peruvians who attentively heard his opinions. Although Macera made so many interesting and sharp comments about our Peruvianness, he sometimes made outrageously controversial statements such as "Peru is not a nation" or "Peru is a brothel" and so on. After creating so many expectations about history, Macera, however, gave up on the history profession and later became a politician. It seems to be that no other historian can fill his place as a public intellectual, guru or oracle. Although perhaps we do not necessarily need another Macera, historians need to regain a place in the Peruvian public opinion to constantly remind ourselves of the fundamental debates of our historical past.

## Seventy-Five Attend UUP Panel Discussion on *Race and the Police*

Attendance at UUP's *Race and the Police* panel numbered 75. *Race and the Police* was held on Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, at Noon in Le Café, Morris. Dr. Robert Compton, UUP Vice President for Academics, moderated the program. The panel included — Dr. Barton Ingersoll, SUNY Oneonta Chief of University Police and Associate Vice President for Student Development; Dr. Betty Wambui, Assistant Professor in the departments of Africana & Latino Studies and Women's & Gender Studies, at SUNY College at Oneonta; Dr. Fida Mohammad, Professor of Sociology and Criminal Justice at State University College at Oneonta; and Lieutenant



Panelists Prof. Fida Mohammad, Prof. Betty Wambui, incoming City of Oneonta Police Chief Dennis Naylor, and College Police Chief Barton Ingersoll



75 attended Race and Police panel

Dennis Naylor, incoming City of Oneonta Police Chief. The panelists examined significant issues involving the interaction between individuals of color and law enforcement on campus as well as in the community. Audience questions and comments followed the formal presentation. The program generated a civil, candid, and constructive dialogue on an important dimension of race relations. Panelists and audience found the program a valuable experience that merited repeating in the future.



## Still Feeling It

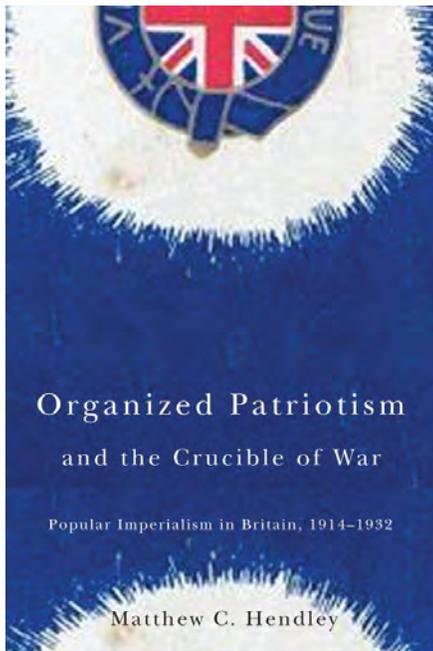
By Jo Ann Simons, President & CEO, Cardinal Cushing Centers

[**Editor's Note:** Quoted from *Boston Globe Magazine.*]

My adult son (who happens to have Down syndrome) had a minor cardiac procedure at Children's Hospital Boston. After he came out of the effects of anesthesia, his nurse asked, "Are you experiencing any pain?" Jon said, "Yes." The nurse asked, "Where is your pain?" Jon's reply: "The Patriots."

## MY SECRET LIFE IN THE BRITISH ARCHIVES

By Matthew Hendley, UUPer and Historian



In April 2012 I am publishing a book. It is entitled *Organized Patriotism and the Crucible of War: Popular Imperialism in Britain, 1914-1932* and will be published by McGill-Queen's University Press. I have co-edited a book before and have written numerous articles but this is the first time I have had a monograph published. My book examines three patriotic and imperialist organizations that were founded in Britain between 1901 and 1902 and analyzes the impact of the First World War on their personnel, policies and vision of imperialism. My book is unique in that no previous study has examined in detail the impact of the First World War on Edwardian patriotic and imperialist organizations. My work has been influenced by insights into gender history and studies of associational life in early twentieth century Britain. My main finding is that patriotic and imperialist organizations which were strongly masculinist and supportive of militaristic aims floundered in wartime whereas patriotic organizations which were less politically partisan and had strong female membership, goals related to education and hospitality and language which emphasized metaphors of family, home and kinship prospered in wartime and beyond.

Rather than extolling the virtues of my book to the readers of *The Sentinel*, I wanted to share some hidden research stories from the many months I spent trolling British archives. Britain is a wonderful country filled with history and rife with eccentrics. I wanted to share a few stories that are more giggle provoking than thought provoking. Such moments keep up the morale of a long-suffering historian. I hope you find them amusing too. I wish to tell you my tales of the disappearing Commonwealth students, the tipsy butler and my dinner with the Rothschilds. All of these stories are true!

My first tale involves my time doing research at the Victoria League House for Commonwealth Friendship in the Bayswater area of London. Victoria League House is the present headquarters of an organization at the heart of my book. The Victoria League was founded in 1901 to commemorate the death of Queen Victoria. It hoped to create closer imperial ties through imperial education and by providing hospitality to imperial visitors to the UK. The League was historically notable due to its political nonpartisan nature and its strong level of female leadership. By the 1990s, when I was doing doctoral research, the League had evolved into a Commonwealth organization and its London headquarters included a student residence for overseas Commonwealth students from countries like India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Kenya and Australia. I found a treasure trove of archival documents there and even stayed at the residence for several months on my second research trip to Britain. It was an ideal situation. I could roll out of bed and proceed downstairs to read uncatalogued boxes of documents and old memoranda from the First World War era to my heart's content. I got to know the Victoria League staff pretty well and I even encouraged numerous Canadian graduate students from the University of Toronto researching British research to stay there. When gathering up my bags after a very enjoyable and productive stay, I was exchanging pleasantries with the staff one last time as I waited for a taxi. One elderly lady took me aside and said "Mr. Hendley I am so glad you were able to encourage more Canadians to come here." "No problem," I said, "Glad to help". "You have no idea," she confided, "how hard it has been lately to recruit Commonwealth students for our residence. At one point we even thought we might have to ask AMERICANS to come here." She paused in horror at that thought. Saying my good byes, I thought it best not to mention my dual American and Canadian citizenship to her. Ideas of Empire die hard.

My next adventure is the tale of the tipsy butler. Later on a research stay, I had a fascinating experience in staying at the private home of a minor member of the British aristocracy. One of the women who had led the Victoria League during the post-1918 era was named Lady Forster. I tracked down her descendent named Dr. William Pease (now Baron Wardington!) who had spent a productive life being a surgeon at a London hospital. Now in retirement, he lived much of the summer at a luxurious home called Lepe House located near Southampton, England. I wrote to Dr. Pease

## ***My Secret Life (continued)***

asking if he had any family papers of Lady Forster he was willing to share. He replied positively and thus I journeyed down from London by train to stay at his house. Upon arriving, I realized I was not in for my usual research experience. As a frugal Canadian, I have stayed at some pretty basic college dorms and flats in London, Oxford and Cambridge among other places. Upon arriving at Lepe House, I noticed that its name was misleading. It certainly seemed more like a mansion than a house. It had originally been an inn in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and had been gentrified since then. Made of colored English brick with multiple chimneys and courtyards it was an impressive sight. My host told me that the maid would show me to my room. I was led to a beautiful bedroom with its own bathroom. It had open windows that looked out on the Solent, the stretch of water separating England from the Isle of Wight. Sailboats sailed on the blue waters. My bed had a very expensive looking floral patterned bedspread and I felt as if I was staying at a very exclusive hotel. Better was yet to come. I was led out to where I would be doing work – a sitting room with large glass windows overlooking the Solent and the garden with sunlight streaming in. A large table was set up with an open trunk of documents next to it. What could be better? My host thought I needed to be more comfortable. “Feel free to have a gin and tonic while you work,” he told me. Some time later he added, “If you want any more drinks just ask me for the key to my liquor cabinet.” In confidence he drew up to me and explained, “I had to lock up my alcohol.” He paused and pointed in the direction of a male servant I had barely noticed. He then whispered to me – “The butler ... he drinks!”

My final episode involves one of the more memorable evenings I have ever had. After a hard days’ work of reading documents at Lepe House, my host asked if I would like to join him and his wife for dinner at the summer house of a friend. Being an agreeable chap, I said certainly. I put on my “best” graduate student sports jacket and tie and set off with my host in his little car. Little did I know that my amiable hosts’ friend was none other than Leo Rothschild. The Rothschilds are a fabled European Jewish banking family. The elder Rothschild dispatched his children to all the major countries of Europe in the late eighteenth century so he would have a reliable network of trustworthy international banking contacts. In 1876, Lionel Rothschild, who was the leading British Rothschild of the time, arranged an overnight loan of £4 million (the equivalent of billions of dollars in today’s currency) to the government of the British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli, so that Britain could buy a major stake in the Suez Canal. Lionel Rothschild was himself the first Jewish member of British House of Commons, taking his seat in 1858. This family had some serious history behind it! I approached their house with some trepidation. The house itself was ultra modernist in design, built on the flat marshlands near the English coast. It was rectangular in shape with had large scenic plate glass windows and several levels. The host was very kind. Leo showed me his separate piano room and was pleased to hear I had done my MA degree at McGill University. He told me he had thought about going to McGill himself before the Second World War intervened. Feeling relaxed I had no idea I was about to commit a few embarrassing social errors. The guests were told to proceed to the dining room that seated about 20 and had high backed chairs. The servants came in and began to serve the soup. At this point I made the North American error of acting human towards the staff. I forget what I said but it was something like, “Thanks for the soup” as my bowl was filled up. The servant, more used to the class hierarchy than myself and probably annoyed at serving an uppity graduate student, hissed through gritted teeth, “It’s a pleasure, sir!”. He did not sound very pleased. After recovering from that, I next proceeded to make idle conversation about the house. “Gee, Mr. Rothschild”, I said, “I really like the modernist design of your house. It is quite striking.” “Actually,” said Leo, “when the Queen was last here, she said she didn’t like the design at all.” Silence ensued. As it turns out, her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, is a personal friend of Leo Rothschild and had herself visited that same house (and probably didn’t chat up the servants!) just a few months before. That kept me quiet for a while! However, eventually I recovered, had some drinks and error free conversations and returned to Lepe House contented but wiser about the relationships of the English upper classes. By the end of my researches in Britain, I had learned that the truths of British life cannot be revealed in any book!



[Editor’s Note: *Organized Patriotism and the Crucible of War: Popular Imperialism in Britain, 1914-1932* by Matthew Hendley is available for purchase at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)]

**Dr. Matthew Hendley, Scholar and Raconteur**

## My Life as a Freelance Writer Outside the Academy

By Nate Hendley, Freelance Writer

**[Editor's Note:** Freelance writer Nate Hendley, a graduate of Trent University, is the author of ten books. In addition, Nate provides copyediting and proofreading services. You may contact Nate at [nhendley@sympatico.ca](mailto:nhendley@sympatico.ca). Nate is the twin brother of Dr. Matthew Hendley, whose own article **MY SECRET LIFE IN THE BRITISH ARCHIVES**, concerning academic research, also appears in this issue of *The Sentinel*. The articles by Nate and Matthew Hendley form companion pieces contrasting commercial and academic publication. On Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, Morris, Nate spoke on "True Stories: Non-Fiction Writing as an Art Form," courtesy of the *Red Dragon Reading Series*. Nate Hendley has written several books, primarily in the true-crime genre. For more about Nate's books and background, visit his website at [www.natehendley.com](http://www.natehendley.com) or go to [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and do a search on his name. Nate's books include: *Dutch Schultz: The Brazen Beer Baron of New York*; *Crystal Death: North America's Most Dangerous Drug*; *Al Capone: Chicago's King of Crime*; *Motivate to Create: A Guide for Writers*; *American Gangsters, Then and Now: An Encyclopedia*; *Bonnie and Clyde: A Biography*; *The Black Donnellys: The Outrageous Tale of Canada's Deadliest Feud*; and *Edwin Alonzo Boyd: The Life and Crimes of Canada's Master Bank*.]



Author Nate Hendley

What is it like to be a freelance writer working outside of the academy?

I refer you to two books: *The Six Figure Freelancer*, by my friend, Paul Lima, and *The Well-Fed Writer* by Peter Bowerman. Both books are aimed at freelance writers. I can't tell you if these books are any good, however, because I haven't read them. I cite them for purpose of illumination, in that their titles reveal far more than their authors intended. To hope success in your title is to concede that failure is a distinct possibility. So few freelance writers make over \$100,000 a year, a six figure income is held out as a lure and a promise. Ditto for the notion of having plenty to eat.

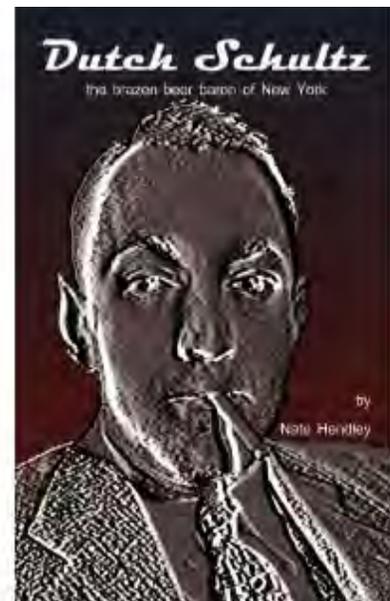
You'll notice that I referred to a six figure income, not a salary. Freelance writers don't make a "salary" because they're not considered "employees". We're considered "self-employed independent contractors" or something similar. We generally work for whatever media outlet wants to pay us for our labours.

Sometimes, you strike up a relationship with a given magazine, website or book publisher and write for them for years. Other times, it's a one-shot deal—a quick article for an editor you never hear from again.

Freelance writers generally toil at home and don't get any work perks like health and dental benefits or a gym membership, unless we pay for such things out of pocket.

The downside of being a self-employed independent contractor is pretty obvious. Zero job security. None. Zip. Blanko. We can be fired without warning and for virtually no reason. If we go on vacation, we don't get paid. If we're sick and can't work, we don't get paid. If an editor gets mad at us, we can't file an employee grievance with the union, but have to put up with their tirade.

I should mention there are plenty of good things about the freelance writing life. Because we usually work at home, we don't have to endure staff meetings and office politics. We can pick up and leave if a gig turns sour. We can choose to write for well-heeled corporate or government clients that pay well, and set our own hours. I can take a break whenever I want, to bother my cat, ponder email or play my mandolin.



Nate Hendley biography of gangster Dutch Schultz

## *My Life as a Freelance Writer (continued)*

To be a freelance writer is to embrace, well, freedom. Freedom can be a great, wonderful thing when work is plentiful and pay-rates are high or a horrifying drudge when editors won't email you back, the mail's late and the rent or mortgage is due.

Freelancing embodies many virtues we've come to admire from a distance, such as self-reliance and rugged individualism. On the flip side, those same virtues can easily congeal into stupefied lethargy and powerlessness.

I was going to compare freelance writing to tight-rope walking without a net (an act I'm guessing would be both exhilarating and terrifying to perform, requiring maximum concentration and effort). That seems a bit trite, however, if not totally obvious.

So I'll use a different metaphor.

Being a freelance writer is like being a featured participant in a mountain bike race without the benefit of a sponsor or crew. If you're skilled and lucky you might complete the course and enjoy prestige and prize money. Screw up and you're pretty much doomed.

Still too trite?

Perhaps, but it will have to suffice because the cat is howling and I must go.



### SENTINEL QUIZ



With Bogie and Bacall

Born in Lynn (MA) and raised in Swampscott (MA), what film performer, shown left with Bogie and Bacall, won a record three Academy Awards for Best Supporting Actor? Some critics consider him cinema's greatest character actor of all-time. The first person to email Nancy Cannon ([cannonns@oneonta.edu](mailto:cannonns@oneonta.edu)) with the correct answer will receive a UUP cap.

The March *Sentinel* quiz asked, "Infectious agents as a possible cause of schizophrenia and related disorders have been a topic of research in the past decade. What organism, associated with cats, is currently under investigation?" The answer is *Toxoplasma gondii*. The first correct answers were submitted by James Dewey and Andrea Gerberg. An interesting article on the topic: "How Your Cat is Making You Crazy" *Atlantic Monthly*, March 2012, pp. 36-44.

## Higher Ed and Economic Development: Is that all there is?

By Martin Manjak, Professional Delegate, University at Albany (with apologies to Peggy Lee)

**[Editor's Note:** The article is republished with the permission of the UUP Albany newsletter and the author.]

In her 2012 State of the University address, Chancellor Nancy Zimpher continued to emphasize the notion that the state university system is an economic driver in New York State. In fact, the Chancellor, the Governor, and campus officials have placed so much stress on SUNY's ability to generate economic growth that one could be forgiven for concluding that its contribution to the state's economy is the sole reason for its existence.

Compare this view with the state university's mission statement:

*The mission...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...*



The creators of the state university system laid equal emphasis on academic, professional, and vocational programs in that mission statement, suggesting that educational quality, rather than economic activity, should determine academic policy.

The Chancellor acknowledged that her focus on economic measures of SUNY's success could be interpreted as "no more English, no more history." But she denied that's the case in remarks that actually undermine her lukewarm endorsement of Humanities studies. "Business and industry repeatedly tell us," Chancellor Zimpher insisted, "that they want more graduates who are good communicators, creative problem solvers, and also smart, well-educated, and professionally skilled."

In other words, the benefits of a liberal arts education are only manifest in the context of commerce. The implication is that we only keep those humanities courses around because business finds them valuable.

This notion is in sharp contrast to the values and worth that have historically been associated with the liberal arts. They were viewed as valuable in and of themselves because they offered multiple pathways to the discovery of the truth. At the risk of belaboring the obvious, I would argue that it's important to have the ability to distinguish between what is true and false, from a personal as well as public perspective.

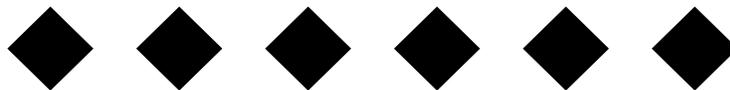
How can you formulate and define your values if you cannot determine what is true or false? Decisions are driven by values, or the lack thereof. We react to threats to our values and act, generally, in consonance with them. Values dictate the shape, course, and quality of our lives.

In the public sphere, even a cursory knowledge of history will show that entire civilizations have been led to ruin because they could not discern the truth. We live in a complex and contentious democracy in an era of unprecedented access to information. We are continuously bombarded via a plethora of new technologies with messages designed to influence our thinking, decisions, and behavior. The ability to critically evaluate the source, reasoning, and intent of those messages is crucial to the health and welfare of our nation and its citizens.

**Higher Ed and Economic Development (continued)**

No one would dispute SUNY’s importance to social and economic mobility. Everyone wants to make a good living. But there is a enormous difference between a “good living” and a good life. The ability to distinguish between the two, and to understand what constitutes the latter, is essential to any humane society. One of the great struggles faced by every generation is how to define a good life and how to live it. Hints to the answers to those vital questions can be found in the study of philosophy, history, the visual and performing arts, the literature of many cultures (the more the better), psychology, and the physical and social sciences.

The individuals who wrecked our economy, and triggered a global recession that still threatens our recovery, were all “good communicators, creative problem solvers, ... smart, well-educated, and professionally skilled.” They were also venal, corrupt, short-sighted, selfish liars and cheats. Likewise, it would be a terrible cheat to the people that support a public university system, and to its students, to stake its value entirely on its economic potential. It is, in fact, worth so much more!



**Toon Commentary**

By Brian Obach, New Paltz UUP & Sociology

[**Editor’s Note:** Reprinted from and with the permission of the Prof. Brian Obach and the newsletter of UUP New Paltz, *The Bullhorn*—February-March 2012 issue.]



## Faculty and Religious Holidays

**From:** Perry, Steven

**Sent:** Wednesday, February 22, 2012 4:43 PM

**To:** [ENROLLED\\_STUDENTS@LISTSERV.ONEONTA.EDU](mailto:ENROLLED_STUDENTS@LISTSERV.ONEONTA.EDU)

**Subject:** Faculty Absence From Class For Religious Reasons

**To:** All Students

**From:** E. Maria Thompson, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Steven R. Perry, Vice President Student Development

**Subject:** Faculty Absence From Class For Religious Reasons

**Date:** February 22, 2012

Education Law (Section 224-a) states that any student who is unable, because of his or her religious beliefs, to attend classes on a particular day or days shall be excused from any examinations, study or work requirements.

Similarly, under New York State law, the College is obligated to provide an equivalent opportunity for faculty to be absent from classes for religious observance. In such cases, faculty may notify students of alternate class arrangements, assignments or cancellation. Such absences may not result in additional class sessions scheduled outside the existing time pattern for the course.

c: President Kleniewski  
Dr. Freeman  
Dr. Thomas  
Ms. Wenck



### Continuing Disaster Relief Trips to Schoharie: Certified Van Drivers Needed

The situation in Schoharie County remains serious. Continuing volunteer relief trips to flood-ravaged Schoharie County are imperative. Volunteer van drivers are needed. Tentative trips are scheduled for April 21, 22, 28, 29—and beyond. Please contact UUP member Wendy Mitteager at [Wendy.Mitteager@oneonta.edu](mailto:Wendy.Mitteager@oneonta.edu) to volunteer as a van driver.

## Striking Librarians Take to Picket Line

**[Editor's Note:** Sources include — Daniel Dale, "Toronto library strike: Job security the big issue again," *TORONTO STAR*, March 19, 2012, <http://www.thestar.com/news/cityhallpolitics/article/1148830--toronto-library-strike-job-security-the-big-issue-again>. Toronto librarian Jeanne Enright provided links to several relevant articles as well as the photograph of the trio of strikers.]

Faced with threats to job security, the 2,300-member Toronto Public Libraries Workers Union Local 4948, led by President Maureen O'Reilly, took to the picket line in mid-March 2012. Canadian law protects public employee strikes unless such actions threaten public safety and security. The union's membership includes part-time employees and workers with classifications other than that of librarian.



Striking Toronto librarians picket under the banner of the librarian glasses flag

The 11-day strike forced all 98 Toronto public libraries to close their doors. In a city that values their libraries, the picketing impacted Toronto's social fabric. Public opinion generally supported the strikers. On Thursday, March 29, 2012, Toronto library workers ratified a tentative agreement, which provided more, albeit circumscribed, job protection and salary increases than originally offered, and returned to work the next day. Not all Toronto public employee unions have fared as well. Although New York State's Taylor Law prohibits public employee strikes in return for collective bargaining rights, the solidarity, visibility, and determination of Toronto's librarians should raise our labor consciousness and resolve.



Toronto librarians bring their message to the public



## Gracie Allen's Classic Recipe for Roast Beef



Gracie as we remember her

*1 large Roast of beef*

*1 small Roast of beef*

*Take the two roasts and put them in the oven.*

*When the little one burns, the big one is done.*

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