



Update on Retirement Incentives

Due primarily to the efforts of UUP President Bill Scheuerman and his team, a revised—and improved—Early Retirement Incentive (ERI) has been approved by the NYS Department of the Budget. The administration of the Oneonta campus has chosen to participate in the targeted ERI, which affects only those faculty and professional staff who had filed letters of intent as of last spring's deadline. The 61 academics and professionals who were on record as having filed their letters of intent have already received registered letters outlining the details of the ERI. This was the most recent information available when we went to press; we will keep you apprised of updates and the specific implications of this ERI, including the replacement of targeted lines, as they are made available to us.

Food for Thought

A new contract negotiations cycle has already begun; all employees in the UUP collective bargaining unit will have received surveys by now, and we urge you to fill out your surveys and return them. The survey is also available online, at www.uupinfo.org. Representatives of the UUP Negotiating Team will arrive in Oneonta on October 25th, ready to meet with members and partake of free pizza and beverages. Please join us at Morris Hall's *Le Café* from noon until 2, have a bite to eat, and discuss your concerns. We are fortunate that our chapter President, Norm Payne, will be serving on the Negotiating Team as we gird ourselves for what looks to be a particularly grueling contract cycle. The fiscal condition of NYS, coupled with the fiduciary sleight-of-hand that occurs during gubernatorial election years, means that we need to be particularly vigilant lest shortsighted financial decisions affect our long-term mission. Help us to hear your views and concerns between bites.

Our food-for-thought meetings are also intellectually filling: at the most recent gathering, 25 or so of us discussed such matters as intellectual property rights and computer-related privacy issues.

and Speaking of Eating...

Join your UUP colleagues for the fall get together. On Thursday, October 17th, we will gather at 4:00 at the Cooperstown Brewing Company in Milford. After a tour of the works, we will board the Leatherstocking Railway for a trip to Cooperstown and back, leaving at 4:30 or so. Space is limited, and reservations for you and your guest are required. Call 2135 for more information, and to choose from three entrees: chicken, ribs, or trout.

From the UUP Wire.....

....236 professionals and academics returned the Family Leave Surveys that were sent around last spring. This targeted group shared their experiences about caring for a newborn child or an infirm loved one. The UUP Negotiating Team will use the results of the survey as a talking-point during upcoming contract discussions. For the first time, this fall's Contract Survey will include a section on family leave; members who have not yet had to deal with this life-altering event will have a chance to share their

thoughts. Jamie Dangler, Family Leave Committee Chair, will gladly provide further information. She can be reached at danglerj@cortland.edu. As the Negotiating Team makes its round of campus visits this fall, one of their goals will be to get input from the membership on their concerns on this and other issues. The schedule for campus visits can be found at www.uupinfo.org/negvisits.html.

UUP Supports SEFA/United Way Campaign

By Bill Simons, Vice President for Academics

United University Professions is a strong advocate for social justice. Our union salutes those of its membership who give of their time and money to make the world a better place; in the past year, the UUP participated in relief activities on behalf of the victims of the September 11th tragedy.

Our Oneonta UUP chapter also works closer to home. At this time each year, we ask you to consider making a contribution to the State Employees Federated Appeal (SEFA)/ United Way Campaign. Your contribution, regardless of the amount, makes this a better world. The act of giving provides those of us fortunate enough to be free from want with an opportunity to better the lives of others. Too many families and children still lack adequate housing, nutrition, and clothing. Too many people still lack access to quality medical care. And these are not distant problems: our neighbors, friends, and others in the community feel these needs.

Please take a moment, if you haven't already, to look at the SEFA/ United Way Campaign materials that you received. Note that you can designate how your contributions will be used. If you have any questions about the SEFA/ United Way Campaign or need another form, please contact Barbara J. Durkin (2548) or Kathleen Meeker Koenig (2632), co-chairs of this year's campus campaign. As Barbara and Kathleen observe, "We have an excellent opportunity to make a real difference in our community. With as little as one dollar a paycheck, each of us can improve the lives of our friends, neighbors, and fellow citizens. Your donation, no matter how small, will help the people who live right here in our community." UUP is proud of the participation of its members in this fine endeavor. Thanks for caring.

Contact Info

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Consider these important insurance coverages

The Member Benefits department of New York State United Teachers offers a variety of insurance plans, each designed to provide coverage for a specific set of circumstances. Brief descriptions of some of these plans are provided here. For more information, call NYSUT Member Benefits at 1-800-626-8101, e-mail benefits@nysutmail.org, or visit the Web at www.memberbenefits.nysut.org.

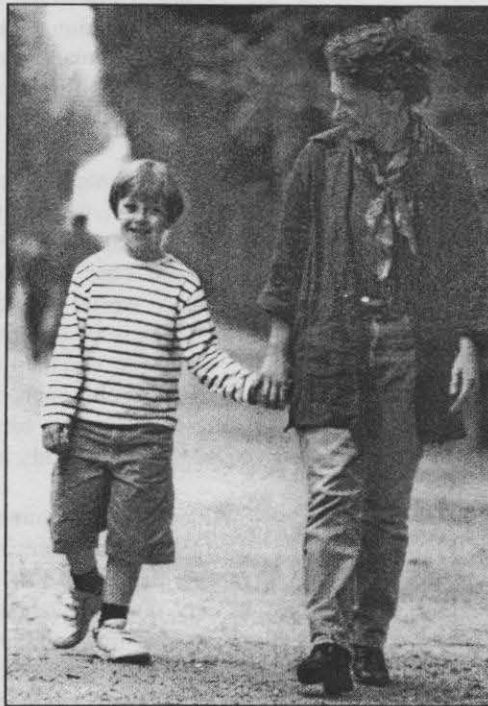
Disability insurance helps replace a portion of your income by providing tax-free monthly benefits if an illness or injury prevents you from working. In addition to the plan for NYSUT members and agency fee payers, a separate plan is available for associate members, retiree members, and spouses or domestic partners of NYSUT members. Applicants to either plan must be under the age of 64.

You can tailor the plan by choosing long- or short-term coverage; your monthly benefit amount up to \$5,000, not to exceed 60 percent of gross monthly earnings; and your waiting period, which is the amount of time you must be totally disabled before benefits will be paid. The longer the waiting period, the lower your premium payments will be.

Long-term care insurance helps pay the cost of custodial care and other long-term care expenses. The need for long-term care can happen at any age and at any time, due to an unexpected accident or illness. Basic health insurance and Medicare often don't cover long-

term care expenses. Unfortunately, many people don't find this out until they're actually faced with a long-term care situation. As a result, they end up paying for long-term care out of their own pockets and risk spending their life savings.

NYSUT members, agency fee payers, and their spouses or domestic partners are eligible to apply, as are their parents (and in-laws) and grandparents (and in-laws). The NYSUT plan lets you choose a comprehensive or nursing home plan, daily benefit amount, total lifetime benefit and home care/assisted living reimbursement amount. You may choose additional options to further tailor your coverage.



Catastrophe major medical insurance

supplements your basic health insurance, including Medicare. Once the deductible is satisfied, the plan will pay up to 100 percent of eligible expenses not recovered by other insurance coverage for up to five years or up to \$2 million, whichever comes first. Your out-of-pocket expenses as well as expenses paid by basic health insurance count toward the \$25,000 deductible.

The plan also offers some nursing home, home health care and private duty nursing benefits. Members can apply, regardless of age. Coverage can be added for spouse, parents (and in-laws) and dependent children.