



*Editor's note: The State's dismal fiscal condition has made many of us nervous about UUP's upcoming contract negotiations. The Sentinel will continue to inform you of current events whenever possible. Additionally, we need to remember that many of the things that universities do don't appear in balance sheets. In this edition, we are including several updates on the State budget and items related to it; social notices and deadlines; and a profile of SUCO graduate John Jermyn, a NYC firefighter. Each of these categories of information speaks to what we do in education: we build a framework for the future of our society. The UUP "wire" updates are obviously relevant; the social notices speak to the bonds and potential we create and enable through our union; Bill Simon's profile of John Jermyn makes plain that the contributions of our graduates are unquantifiable.*

## From the UUP Wires...

*News reports are full of the fact that SUNY has finally submitted its budget, calling for up to a 41% increase in in-state tuition. What events led up to this extraordinary event? What sorts of ancillary issues float behind the bald pronouncement that this is the way it will be, according to SUNY's trustees. The following excerpts touch on some issues that went largely unreported vis a vis the budget and its effects. Editor*

"The State University of New York Board of Trustees failed to make its annual budget request to the state at its December meeting, prompting criticism from higher ed advocacy groups. The lack of action 'violates the public trust,' said William Scheuerman... As stewards of SUNY, the trustees had an obligation to advocate for the University and propose a spending plan to the governor as the 2003-2004 budget is constructed, Scheuerman said. 'After years of proposing flat budgets, they once again abdicated their responsibility by failing to propose any budget,' he said."

*New York Teacher (1/15/03)*

"According to recent data from the State Education Department, only one in three SUNY students graduates from four-year colleges within four years, reflecting a costly national trend that some cash-strapped states are trying to cut short. 'It's hard to call it a 'four-year-college' anymore,' said Ann Neal of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, a nonprofit organization that focuses on higher education standards. She said governments and schools don't even report four-year-rates anymore 'because it got so embarrassing.' SUNY, for example, refused to release four- and five-year graduation data or acknowledge that it existed when queried by the Associated Press." *AP (12/02/02)*

A shortage of full-time faculty lines is one of the major reasons many SUNY undergrads are unable to graduate in the traditional four years, said UUP President William Scheuerman... Scheuerman said SUNY 'doesn't always provide enough required courses, a factor that affects how long it takes students to graduate'... The SUNY system lost more than 1,000 full-time faculty lines since the mid-1990s. Progress toward replacing these positions [like progress towards increasing the

percentage of students who graduate within four years] 'is slow going,' he said in letters to newspapers in Albany, Ithaca, Long Island, and elsewhere. UUP has for years made restoration of full-time lines a legislative priority. The union is seeking a level of at least 70% full-time faculty at each state-operated campus. 'Recent enrollments have swelled and state support for the SUNY system has dwindled...' Scheuerman added that 'The University must operate with a

budget sufficient to staff its campuses with the faculty required to meet the students' basic educational needs.'" *UUP e-connection 12/10/02)*

"The great intrigue about a possible, even likely, tuition increase at the state university next year... is just how gingerly everyone at SUNY and elsewhere in state government is approaching it... A state budget deficit that's expected to be in the \$5 billion range, though, has to consider [such an increase] as a last resort... Any increase in the cost of a SUNY education must be imposed with the words of Gov. Nelson Rockefeller in mind. SUNY, he said more than 30 years ago, should be an 'open gateway to opportunity in American life, where the only qualifications that count are the qualities of will and the heart and mind of our young people.'" *Albany Times Union (11/17/02)*





## The Sentinel Online!

All issues of your *Sentinel*, starting with the November 2002 edition, are now available online at

<http://organizations.oneonta.edu/uup/>.

Thanks to Phil Bidwell of Computer Services for his hard work and willingness to share his talents

## Deadline for Nominations

A mailing seeking candidates for UUP offices was distributed recently. If you did not receive this mailing at your home, please contact Peg at 436-2135 for a form. Nominations are due by Feb. 5th. Please consider volunteering to serve your union. We especially need part-time representatives.

## Scholar-

## ships

Applications for the 2003 Eugene P. Link Scholarships, offered by the UUP, are now available. The application deadline for these annual scholarships—granted to up to three SUNY undergraduates dedicated to the goals of trade unionism—is March 1, 2003.

UUP established the Link Scholarship Trust Fund in 1985 to acknowledge the union's commitment to the mission of service exemplified by one of its founding members: Eugene Link, a former professor of History at SUNY Plattsburgh.

Interested students can call the Oneonta Chapter office, at 436-2135, for information and an application. Applications are also available at the Financial Aid Office in the Netzer Admin.Bldg.

## Holiday Party

The Holiday Party at College Camp, held on 12/16/02, was a rousing success! Lorraine Tyler did her usual wonderful job of organizing the event, and 50 brothers and sisters shared food and banter as they basked in the rosy glow of the end of the semester. Thank you to Lorraine and all the other volunteers who made the evening such a pleasant gathering.

## Reminder to Retirees:

Stay active in your Union as it watches over your pension, your benefits and your future! Continue your membership for only \$34 per year. Contact Office Administrator Peg Carney at 436-2135 for information on extending your membership.

## Food for Thought

Who says there's no free lunch? Our next gathering will be at noon on February 18th. The location is not yet confirmed (probably the Red Room in The Hunt Union), but we will let you know as soon as we do—probably by electronic newsletter and a flyer. More than pizza and salad will be on the menu are discussions of an upcoming rally in Albany, budgetary updates, information on contract negotiations, et al. Join your comrades for an informal and informative hour.



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