



The Sentinel

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UUP - Oneonta

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"Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new."

- Albert Einstein

UUP Oneonta: A Campus-Based Union

By Bill Simons, Chapter President

UUP has many essential responsibilities on the statewide level, including negotiating members' contract, developing policies, organizing SUNY advocacy, monitoring benefits, supervising professional staff, providing support and infrastructure for chapters, networking with our parent affiliates, disseminating information through diverse media, and much more. Nevertheless, although it is an important component in the statewide union, UUP Oneonta is also a campus-based organization. UUP activism is an important category of College and Community service.



UUP, by mandate, commitment and record, has a strong and multifaceted campus presence. UUP Oneonta appointees serve on the Joint Labor-Management Committee that evaluates grant proposals and dispenses funds that supports research, scholarship, conference participation, and publication. Three chapter members and outstanding scholars, Alex Thomas, Ben Dixon, and, Vicky Lentz, are UUP Oneonta appointees to the Joint Labor-Management Committee. The expertise of UUP Grants Officer — and College Grants Writer — Kathy Meeker is reflected in many of the applications.

The Dr. Nuala McGann Drescher Affirmative Action/Diversity Leave Program is a special Joint Labor-Management Committee Program. Applications require the review and authorization of the College and UUP Oneonta presidents, and UUP Oneonta Vice President for Academics Rob Compton serves on the Statewide Drescher Selection Committee. The Drescher program "enhances employment opportunities with preference given to minorities, women, employees with disabilities and Vietnam-era veterans who are preparing for permanent or continuing appointments." UUP Oneonta is proud that one of its members, Leanne M. Avery, Assistant Professor of Science Education in the Department of Elementary Education and Reading, is a Fall 2008 Drescher recipient. An article by Leanne concerning her Drescher award appears in this issue.

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) "is a benefit offered to all New York State employees and their families. It is a voluntary program designed to offer a professional, confidential source of help for people who need assistance with personal problems or concerns."

UUP Oneonta appoints two members to the campus EAP Committee. The union's two EAP appointees, Mark Rice and Betty Tirado, represent the interests of our membership. Mark's article on EAP is featured in the October *Sentinel*.

UUP supports numerous members benefits, including pension, medical, dental, vision, and college scholarships for dependents. The impetus for the Mirabito Fuel discount to UUPers came directly from the Oneonta chapter, with the assistance of Statewide Manger of Benefits Doreen Bango. The preceding dynamic has also provided for the initial participating area dental providers. The Statewide UUP Benefits department and SUCO's office of Human Resources provide essential benefit services, but many benefits questions are answered for members by UUP Oneonta Benefits Officer Mona Hughes. Mona does a superb job of finding answers to a wide range of queries.

Under the leadership of chapter Health/Safety Officer Tom Horvath, UUP Oneonta has worked to safeguard the health and safety of its members. The union was instrumental in identification and remediation of mold and asbestos issues involving the sealed tunnel connecting Netzer, IRC, and Schumacher. UUP Oneonta participated in discussions with the New York State Dormitory Authority involving air quality in

residence halls. These endeavors involved successful collaboration with Tom Rathbone, SUCO Associate Vice President for Facilities and himself a former UUP Health/Safety Officer. At this writing, UUP's efforts are engaged in reducing the loud noise coming from the air system in Science I.

Grievance procedures begin at the campus level. The contract is far from perfect on such matters, but there are members still present at the College because of the sustained and courageous efforts of the UUP Oneonta Executive Board. At times, individuals consult chapter Grievance Officer Renee Walker when their personal and professional stress levels are at high levels. Renee does her job with discretion, confidentiality, professionalism, and compassion. Those who contact Renee will not always find the contract as they may wish it, but they will always find UUP Oneonta making its best effort.

UUP provides tools to its members. For example, there will be an important meeting on Wednesday, October 22, from 12 noon-12: 50 PM, in the Butternuts Room, Hunt Union, open to all Professional employees in the UUP bargaining unit. At this meeting, NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist Dennis Selzner and UUP Vice President for Professionals Norm Payne will explain procedures for UUP Professionals seeking salary increase and/or promotion as well as other matters.

Volunteerism is at the core of UUP's mission. Our members have participated in many union-initiated drives. We have returned as a group, time and again, to staff the community kitchen at *Saturday's Bread*. We are scheduled to assist *Habitat for Humanity* with one of their projects. Several UUPers joined students from the Center for Social Responsibility and its Executive Director, Linda Drake, in physically-demanding post-Katrina relief work on the Gulf. (Linda is also UUP's Director of Community Service.) When regional flooding left our members and neighbors in need, UUP conducted a formal survey of needs, sent—again in collaboration with the Center for Social Responsibility—UUP work crews, day after day, to all who requested our assistance, donated goods and respite time, and raised and dispensed money.

UUP volunteerism is rooted in union activism, a category of College service that merits strong recognition. The following UUP officers, none of whom receive monetary compensation or release time for their tireless and vital contributions to our welfare, have earned special thanks — UUP Vice President for Academics Rob Compton, Vice President for Professionals Norm Payne, Secretary and Health/Safety Officer Tom Horvath, Treasurer Mike McAvoy, Grievance Officer Renee Walker, Mediator Paul Conway, Benefits Officer Mona Hughes, Special Events Director Loraine Tyler, Membership Director Teri Weigl, Community Service Director Linda Drake, Affirmative Action Officer Chris Keegan, Professional Facilitator Janie Forrest-Glotzer, Grants Officer Kathy Meeker, Electronic Archivist Jim Greenberg, Part-Time Concerns Officer J McDermott, Vote Cope Director Kyle Britton, Retiree Representative Fred Miller, Disabilities Officer Janet Frankl, Sentinel Editor Jill Attanasio, Labor Film Series Director Gina Keel, Photographer Nancy Cannon, Administrative Assistant Peg Carney, and Delegates — Joe Baldwin, Chris Bulson, John Carney, Rita Szczesh, and Jeri Jerminario. In addition to service on UUP chapter and Statewide committees as well as at the Delegate Assembly, these UUP leaders have undergone rigorous formal leadership training to do their jobs in an informed and efficient manner. Many of us have benefitted from their devotion and commitment to worker solidarity.

UUP leads and organizes SUNY advocacy for a strong SUNY through faxes, letters, telephone calls, and in-person meetings with New York State officials. Our chapter plays a key role in securing funding for our campus, and the current budget crisis renders that responsibility more critical than ever.

Non-partisan advocacy for a strong SUNY as well as voter registration activities have led to strong ties between UUP Oneonta and student leaders. Recently UUP Oneonta has collaborated with student activists to on the *Rock the Vote* campaign to register new voters. A number of students have accompanied UUP on visits to the New York State Legislative in Albany to learn about government and give testament to the importance of a strong SUNY.

UUP Oneonta has also participated in collaboration with our union brothers and sisters in CSEA. UUP appreciates all the good work of CSEA under the campus leadership of President Phil Cook and Vice President Veronica Diver. UUP and CSEA have jointly hosted the 2008 Labor Day gathering, gone together to staff *Saturday's Bread* — and will soon do the same at *Habitat for Humanity*, conducted leave donations across union lines when our members have exhausted sick leave, and coordinated our presence in meetings with the finalists in the College's Presidential Search. UUP and CSEA support one another, and the relationship between our organizations will grow and expand to the other campus unions. UUP is pleased that

CSEA's Veronica Diver has agreed to write a *Sentinel* article.

VOTE COPE is the political fund of NYSUT/ UUP, ensuring that the interests of UUP members and SUNY are heard by government policymakers. An article by UUP Oneonta VOTE COPE officer Kyle Britton explains the importance of contributing to this fund. Support from Vote COPE facilitated the attendance of Ashok Malhotra at the 2008 Democratic National Convention. *The Sentinel* has published Ashok's reflections on the convention.

UUP Oneonta sponsors and advertizes various campus programs and events. In this issue of *The Sentinel*, for example, UUP activist Kathleen O'Mara analyzes a lecture by Professor Liz Morris of Nottingham Trent University concerning *Strategic Discourse in the Neoliberal Academy*. Chapter Affirmative Action Officer Chris Keegan has coordinated an October 27th forum to address diversity, equity, and inclusion. A Labor Film Series is coordinated by UUP Academic Delegate Gina Keel. Professional Delegate Kyle Britton is committed to a Music of the Worker Concert. With verve and style, Loraine Tyler, the union's Director of Special Events, has organized many memorable assemblages, including Labor Day and end-of-semester gatherings. UUP Grants representative and protean sociologist Alex Thomas led a memorable cultural tourism tour of Cooperstown; union Executive Board member and noted Biologist Tom Horvath guided UUPers on a nature tour of the Susquehanna; and Delegate and Reference Librarian Nancy Cannon organized a bird-watching expedition. Beyond providing expressions of union solidarity and social networking, these occasions have provided opportunities to disseminate information, recruit new leaders and experience an enjoyable respite from work. *Food for Thought*/monthly chapter meetings provide for member dialogue with chapter and Statewide leaders as well as with government leaders and benefit personnel.

Under current editor Jill Attanasio, *The Sentinel*, UUP Oneonta's monthly newsletter, has garnered statewide journalism awards for its unique amalgam of informational articles, investigative reporting, incisive editorials, human interest material, photographs, and signature quizzes, the latter two features contributed by former editor and current Delegate Nancy Cannon. In addition to Nancy, Richie Lee, Jim Greenberg, Kim Muller, and Kathy Meeker have also served as *Sentinel* editors, truly rendering it the voice of the people, a tradition proudly continued by Jill. A series of Spring 2008 articles on Green initiatives, for example, gave the issue needed attention on our campus.

In addition to chapter meetings and *Sentinel* articles, UUP Oneonta has gauged and expressed campus opinion through constructing/implementing/publicizing diverse statistical and free response surveys on important issues, *Vision for the Future* forums, and Labor-Management Meetings. During the recent Presidential Search, for example, UUP strongly expressed and documented the will of its members, in diverse and public venues, for a leader with classroom and research experience in the Social Sciences, Humanities, Physical Sciences, or Arts as opposed to background exclusively in professional studies or administration. And it is UUP that initiated and has sustained movement on redressing fulltime faculty teaching load.

In the past, UUP has collaborated with management on a number of endeavors, including developing a new application form for Professional to use in applying for promotion and salary increases, workshops concerning Professional performance programs and evaluations, orientations for new part-time and fulltime employees, and disseminating data.

Member representation through Labor-Management relations is a contractual responsibility. Administrative change at the College creates the opportunity to embrace and forge a new and stronger relationship between Labor and Management. As she assesses and evaluates key personnel, programs, and resources, President Dr. Nancy Kleniewski will continue to inspire new discourse on transparency, faculty workload, international engagement, graduate enrollments, the honors program, and service and community partnerships within the context of sustainability. Her vision of sustainability encompasses not only the physical environment but also an economic and social justice rooted in equity — and quality in all that we do. UUP applauds and shares these goals. In *The Sentinel* and other forums, UUP has a long record of strongly supporting such an agenda. Despite the dramatic fiscal crisis that looms ahead, UUP looks forward to collaborating with the new administration in creating a great future for the College at Oneonta. It is the union's responsibility to offer, if needed, alternative views and a counterbalance, and should such circumstances occasionally arise, as they inevitable will, such expressions will be marked by respect, civility, and recognition of a shared devotion to the College. UUP welcomes Dr. Nancy Kleniewski and looks forward to a partnership as she pursues her important and well articulated vision for our College.

September 29, 2008 UUP Labor-Management Meeting

For UUP: President Bill Simons and Vice President for Academics Rob Compton
 For Management: President Nancy Kleniewski and Associate Vice President Lisa Wenck

On September 29, 2008, UUP and Management discussed the framework for a “new beginning” to establish the tone and content for future meetings. UUP and Management agreed on “single-issue” meetings for the remainder of the semester. Issues of interest may include: workload, DSI, internationalization, Honor’s Program, joint advocacy, campus diversity, and Green Campus. Labor and Management agreed to maintain open communications to resolve issues. Both parties agreed to seek out opportunities for partnership. Labor and Management will re-evaluate this format at the end of the semester.

Meeting of UUP Professionals:

Salary Increase and Promotion Procedures for Professionals

Professionals in the UUP bargaining unit will meet on Wednesday, October 22, from 12 noon-12: 50 PM, in the Butternuts Room, Hunt Union. This important meeting is open to all Professional employees in the UUP bargaining unit. NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist Dennis Selzner and UUP Vice President for Professionals Norm Payne will explain procedures for UUP Professionals seeking salary increase and/or promotion as well as the role of performance programs and evaluations. UUP Professionals are strongly urged to attend this important meeting concerning the steps entailed in applying for salary increase and promotion.

Questions about procedures for salary increase, promotion, performance programs, and evaluations will follow the formal presentation. Information requests about the meeting should be directed to UUP Vice President for Professionals Norm Payne at paynene@oneonta.edu



Faculty Workload: A Status Report, October 2008

By Tom Horvath, Secretary & Health/Safety Officer

Under new leadership, this College is already starting to move in positive directions. On the forefront of movement is the transition to a 21 sh teaching load targeted fall 2009. It was clear from all of the presidential candidates that if Oneonta was to stay competitive at the top of the comprehensive SUNY colleges that something like this needed to happen. UUP is pleased that Dr. Nancy Kleniewski, our new President, is moving toward making course load reduction a reality.

With all the talk of reduced teaching loads coming down from above, I’d like to remind the teaching faculty that we still have a policy in place to address issues of teaching load that will continue to function even when the aforementioned reduced teaching load becomes effective. In the Faculty handbook on page 25 you’ll find the policy on requesting reduced teaching loads. I’ll include it below for those of you that have a hard time finding the handbook. Many of you qualify for reduced loads under this policy. However, few of you request it. Reducing your time in a classroom on occasion should not be viewed by anyone as a lax of duty. Rather, it should be celebrated as academic achievement and the possibility that teaching will be greatly enhanced in the future. We owe it to our students to remain at the top of our academic disciplines. This is best achieved by devoting time to our scholarly work. And for the untenured out there, you may need some of this scholarly work to be successful in the future. Reduced teaching loads are granted by the Deans, so receiving one should not harm academic promotions, and in fact this College has no record of such a thing happening. The Deans do support the policy and will continue to do so through our transition to a 21 sh teaching load.

If you have any questions regarding the use of this policy, you can contact me at horvattg@oneonta.edu.

Below are the justifications for faculty course load reduction listed on page 25 of the Faculty Handbook:

The normal undergraduate teaching commitment for all full time faculty members is 12 semester hours per semester or 24 semester hours per academic year. In consideration of the diversity of educational needs, as much flexibility as possible will be provided for purposes of departmental scheduling while keeping in mind the general guideline stated

above. Reductions in the 12-hour commitment may be authorized when recommended by the department chair and approved by the appropriate dean. Reductions may be justified based on alternative assignments or on an exceptionally heavy workload in the remaining teaching assignments. The approval of such reductions must be based on the overall needs of the College. Appropriate justifications for reductions may include but are not limited to the following:

- a. exceptional involvement in specific instructional activities, such as preparation of a new course, the revision of existing course materials, involvement in the development or instruction of new academic programs, or the instruction of graduate level courses;
- b. exceptional involvement in a specific program of research and scholarly activity;
- c. exceptional involvement in specific service activities, such as assignment to special college projects or committees;
- d. involvement in professional development activities, such as retraining for another specialty area or to address departmental needs;
- e. administrative assignments, such as service as department chair or designation as program or area director;
- f. an exceptionally heavy workload in teaching assignment, due to reasons such as participation in courses with large class sizes resulting in unusual time commitments, such as assignments that generate a total of 375 credit hours or more.
- g. supervision of internship activities for program or department;
- h. an unusually high teaching load or other assigned professional responsibilities in a previous semester or planned for a subsequent semester;
- i. other assigned professional responsibilities or scholarly activities as deemed appropriate.

Revised Course Load Reduction Numbers: Fall 2008

Management has provided UUP with revised Course Load Reduction Figures for fulltime faculty for Fall 2008. These reductions were granted on the basis of criteria outlined on page 25 of the Faculty Handbook. The table indicates the number requested and the number approved.

The figures below reflect the distribution by Department and in Division.

Full-Time Faculty Course Load Reduction Numbers by Department within Division		
Fall, 2008		
<u>Behavioral and Applied Science</u>		
<u>Department</u>	<u>Number Requested</u>	<u>Number Approved</u>
Human Ecology	4	4
Elementary Education	2	2
Management, Marketing & Information Systems	8	8
Economics, Finance, & Accounting	12	12
Total approved for BAS	26	26
<u>Science & Social Science</u>		
<u>Department</u>	<u>Number Requested</u>	<u>Number Approved</u>
Biology (Inclusive of Environmental Sciences 1 denial)	3	2
Earth Sciences	2	2
Chemistry	3	3
Philosophy	1	0
Political Science	1	1
Foreign Language	1	1
Total approved for SS	11	9
Total approved for Fall, 2008	37	35



Meet CSEA

By Veronica Diver, Executive Vice President, CSEA

(Veronica Diver has been a CSEA activist at SUNY Oneonta for 18 years. She is currently the Executive Vice-President of CSEA. Veronica also represents the Sixth Ward in the Oneonta City Council and provides leadership to several community groups. She is an articulate voice of social justice and a strong friend of UUP.)

Founded in 1910 by a group of New York State workers whose objective was to improve their working lives, CSEA was originally called the Association of State Civil Service Employees. Nearly a century later, the association has grown to represent over 290,000 New York State and local government employees, private sector workers, and retirees. As the organization evolved, so did its name. It is now called the Civil Service Employees Association (CSEA) and is the largest local in the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). Recently recognized by AFSCME for its growth, CSEA Local 1000 AFSCME organized over 30,000 employees in the past year alone.

Annual conventions are held in the fall in various locations around the State where delegates representing every CSEA local converge to attend to state-wide business. During presidential election years, the delegates convene in our nation's capitol. This year's convention in Washington, D.C., welcomed nearly 1000 CSEA delegates who not only took care of business, but also attended workshops and listened attentively to guest speakers including State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, and AFSCME President Gerald McEntee.

CSEA at large represents a very diverse and eclectic group of workers in a plethora of fields and job titles from cleaners and clericals to health-care workers, corrections and police officers, nurses, food-service workers, day-care providers and many others. The majority of the 304 members represented by CSEA Local 635 at SUNY Oneonta are primarily in the trades, maintenance and clerical fields.

CSEA is lead by four state-wide officers elected by the membership every four years: president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Additionally, the organization is divided into six regions, each with its own elected president who concurrently serves as a vice-president at the state level. *Local 635 belongs to Region V.*

While the elected leadership at the local level may vary slightly—particularly regarding the number of vice-presidents—Oneonta's executive committee is comprised of the president, executive vice-president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. In addition to elected officers, stewards, grievance representatives and discipline and interrogation representatives—all of whom receive specialized, multi-day training—round out those who serve the local's members.

Oneonta's CSEA members hail from different parts of the State, country and even the world. We are almost equally divided between genders, nearly 90% of us are registered voters and are also over the age of 35, and more than 55% of us have worked on campus for more than ten years. We hold a wide range of interests outside of work, participating in community, government, civic and social organizations, church, volunteerism and various clubs. We are children, siblings, parents, and grandparents, divorced, married, single and involved. Some members hold associate's, bachelor's and master's degrees. This is who we are. We are your brothers and sisters in CSEA.

Under Local 635's present leadership and in conjunction with the leadership of Oneonta's UUP chapter, the two organizations have embarked on collaborative community efforts in a show of solidarity. During the spring semester, members of both unions donned aprons and served lunches at Saturday's Bread—a rewarding effort which will again be sponsored on November 1st. On November 15th, UUPers and CSEAers will build community as we step away from that with which we are comfortable and, together, share in the sweat of building a house with Habitat for Humanity. This is just a snippet of what we hope will be a long-term collaborative journey in building leadership, membership, activism and solidarity between two powerful voices at SUNY Oneonta.

Invitation to UUP Dialogue On Diversity and Inclusion:

Monday, October 27, CME, 7 PM

Brothers and Sisters,

In these troubling times, we must have the courage and fortitude to ask troubling questions. My question for all of you, and for the campus community at-large, is: Are we truly inclusive?

I invite you to join me for a dialogue on this question, Monday, October 27th in the CME from 7pm to 9pm. I will read to you a prepared statement documenting the state of our union, and then we will hear from a few of our colleagues who will share their experiences. The majority and remainder of the time will be spent having a dialogue about diversity – lamentably a term that means everything and nothing at the same time.

For those who cannot make the dialogue, I remind you that my door is always open to hear your worries and concerns about exclusion, discrimination, and intimidation on our campus. It is my moral duty as your union Affirmative Action officer to serve all the members of UUP, regardless of the differences of our humanity. My office is located on the fifth floor of Fitzelle, room 517 – yes, the side of the building that bakes in the summer. My office phone number is X2811. My email is keegan@oneonta.edu. And if necessary, I will always provide my cell to those who ask.

Yours in the bond, brothers and sisters; only for the head-strong.

Chris Keegan

UUP Labor Day with President Kleniewski Begins New Partnership for Excellence

By Rob Compton, Vice President for Academics



CSEA, UUP, and President Nancy Kleniewski joined together to celebrate 2008 Labor Day at the Hunt Union on September 01. Close to 100 members of CSEA and UUP welcome President Kleniewski with a warm union applause and enthusiasm. The President spoke about the historical importance of

Labor Day as part of American history and culture. In a question and answer period that followed, she took notes on the concerns that College employees brought to her attention.



Labor Day 2008 was a major success. For the first time in Oneonta history, UUP and CSEA participated in a joint celebration, underlying the growing partnership of the two unions. Fred Floss (Statewide Vice-President for Academics), who attended the celebration, noted that “Oneonta is indeed a strong union campus.” UUP

and CSEA looks forward to working with the President. In President Kleniewski, we have a leader who truly understands the importance of labor unions and their contributions to the workplace.



Strategic Discourse in the Neoliberal Academy

By Kathleen O'Mara, Chair, Africana & Latino Studies and Professor, History

Liz Morrish of Nottingham Trent University spoke at SUNY-Oneonta on 2nd September. The program was sponsored by Africana & Latino Studies Department and UUP. This was not her first visit; Liz was a Fulbright Exchange Scholar in Linguistics at the College at Oneonta between 1989 and 1991 and has continued to maintain links with our campus ever since.



Liz Morrish

Her talk entitled: *Strategic Discourse in the Neoliberal Academy* argued that neoliberalism is not only an economic and political phenomenon, it is also a strategy of control and a 'cultural formation'. Neoliberalism, as briefly defined by Duggan, Harvey, and others, involves an upward redistribution of resources in societies and institutions. Moreover, neoliberal policies are presented as neutral, managerial precepts for good government and business. In other words, they are portrayed as 'common sense' and in everyone's interests. For instance, in UK higher education, applications for research grants, in humanities, science and social science, must now indicate how they propose to 'secure social and economic return to the UK'. Research funding itself is designed to be redistributive and to accumulate among the already wealthiest universities. This is effected by the imposition of a punishing audit culture whereby those only those institutions previously successful in research 'output' have access to funding. One defender of market driven research that she cited-ironically-is Prof. Philip Esler, CEO of AHRC, and former Prof. of Biblical Criticism, St. Andrews University.

In higher education, as in business, institutions manipulate employees into this value set largely by controlling discourse to the extent that the prevailing state of affairs remains unchallenged. However, in doing so, it is important that subjects still feel that they are free and responsible for the outcomes of their 'free' choices. For example, most institutions acknowledge that some faculty will have strengths in teaching, while others favor research. In the audit culture, though, it is research which proves to be the currency for economic advancement – for both the institution and the individual. It is therefore imperative to maintain the fiction that everybody, whatever the course load, has equal opportunity to do research, while at the same time rewarding 'selectively' only the most elite work. Morrish argued that university administrators have sought control by the use of a set of 'strategically deployable shifters' – words and phrases which are 'polysemic' or have multiple meanings. *Research* is one such candidate and *diversity* is another, both are able to mean whatever the speaker wants. While all academics feel invested in their research and scholarship, the audit culture works to ensure that only a small subset of this activity is recognized as 'research' and is rewarded with national grant money. The RAE (Research Assessment Exercise) in the UK disburses money only to those departments whose faculty can consistently produce at least four single authored monographs or articles each, every six years. Those who fail are deemed 'research inactive.'

Critics of neoliberalism have argued that this amounts to a privatization and commodification of knowledge, and an 'accumulation by dispossession' (Harvey, 2005) of research funds – to the rich from the poorer academics who might legitimately claim equal rights to funding. Beyond research, UK universities have sold off, Thatcher-style, support services such as food, mail, and residence halls, and leased campus real estate to Toyota, etc, as well as *de facto* withdrawing recognition of the UCU, lecturers' union. UK universities seem destined to re-invent themselves on the corporate model, invoking 'gold standard customer service' for their 'stakeholders, playing into 'quality loops', sharing 'best practice', striving for 'excellence', being 'fit for purpose', giving 'value for money' and claiming to be the 'employer of choice'.

Dr. Morrish ended her talk with a warning that academics on both sides of the Atlantic must be vigilant. We must all challenge this discourse and the meanings it invokes if we are to defend academic values from strategic assault.

References:

- Duggan, L. 2003. *The Twilight of Equality: Neoliberalism, Cultural politics and the Attack on Democracy*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press
- Harvey, D. 2005. *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Part-Times Concerns: Autumn Reflections and Notes

By J McDermott, Part-Time Concerns Officer



I recently attended the statewide Part-Time Concerns Committee meeting, which took place on the Friday afternoon of the Fall DA. As your PT Concerns rep, I am a member of that committee. One of the most important discussions that took place concerned the committee's name and focus: should we be limited in any way to "just" part-time concerns, or should we be more broadly focused on all contingent issues? My feeling is that the name and the focus are not necessarily linked. As a standing committee of the statewide UUP organization, the name reflects the committee's origins, but it does not limit our scope or interests. The committee authorized the union president to stage a retreat before the Spring '09 DA takes place; the retreat would give the committee members an extended opportunity to explore this and other issues. In the past, many of our meetings were 90 minute affairs during which we could barely get official business done, but which yielded little chance to explore issues and to get to know what is really happening on campuses statewide. I sense an intense desire from many committee members to take advantage of a retreat. Do you have any interests that you feel I should bring to the table there?

On a more local beat, I was walking across campus last week, and saw a man with a sign in the quad; he was turned in such a way that I could not read the sign. I just had to find out what was on it! It turns out that he was calling attention to the Teamsters' contract vote scheduled for the next day; the local represents campus Sodexo workers. It was enlightening to learn some of the details of the contract up for voting; it was also the first time I realized that the Teamsters had representation on the campus. I left the quad, walked into Netzer, and ran into a friend who is the service agent for the SEIU local. I later found out that the grad students here also have a union. Four unions here on campus! What a hotbed of solidarity! But I also wondered: how rarely do we all work, or even gather, together. The Labor Day observations might be a place to start. This past holiday there was great turnout for the 'meet the president' lunch. Let's keep it up! UUP members meet regularly for the Tuesday luncheon series; will I see you there?

J McDermott, PT Concerns officer

Some "fill" info should you need it...

Make your cell phone worthless to anyone else if it's lost or stolen

There is a simple way of making lost or stolen mobiles useless to thieves. It starts with knowing your phone's serial number.

To check the serial number of many mobile phones, key in the following: star-pound-zero-six-pound (* # 06 #). The phone's unique fifteen digit code should appear on the screen. Write it down somewhere safe.

Should your mobile phone be lost or stolen, you can phone your service provider with this code. The provider will then be able to block your handset, so even if its sim card is changed, the phone will be totally useless.

No charge for directory assistance.

Phone companies can and do charge \$1.00 or more for 411 (information) calls when they don't have to. When you need to use the 411/information option, simply dial 1-800-FREE-411 (1-800-373-3411) without incurring a charge.

SENTINEL QUIZ

Question:

What College at Oneonta coach led a college athletic team to the NCAA Division I National Championship finals? What was the sport?



The first person to email Nancy Cannon (cannonns@oneonta.edu) with the correct answer will receive a College at Oneonta fleece sport blanket.

The answer to the August quiz, "What US inventor and architect designed a car in 1933 that had got 30 miles per US gallon, could transport 11 passengers, and had a top speed of 120 miles per hour" was Buckminster Fuller. The first person to answer correctly was Michael Sullivan.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Report

By Mark Rice, UUP Representative to EAP

As a UUP representative for the Employee Assistance program, I'd like to offer some information about what EAP is and how it functions, and an update on recent EAP news.

General information about EAP:

The Employee Assistance Program is a benefit offered to all New York State employees and their families. It is a voluntary program designed to offer a professional, confidential source of help for people who need assistance with personal problems or concerns. The program offers information, assessment, referral, and a 24-hour, 7-day a week answering service. The local chapter at Oneonta was established in 1983.

The EAP program at Oneonta consists of an EAP Committee with representation from management and labor, and an EAP Coordinator who provides the support referral to employees and their families. The Coordinator acts as a referral agent. The committee does not have direct contact with employees seeking services. The EAP Committee meets monthly and has two UUP representatives, Elizabeth (Betty) Tirado and Mark Rice. The Committee's responsibilities are to select the coordinator, evaluate the effectiveness of the program, provide support and resources to the Coordinator, sponsor and assist with campus wide prevention and wellness programs, and respond to the needs of labor and management in carrying out the aforementioned responsibilities. In addition to the coordinator, the Committee also has an elected Chair, currently held by Melissa Nicosia.

Update on recent EAP activities

In March the EAP Committee sponsored an Employee Wellness Fair at the Hunt Union and in April the committee sponsored an educational program on conflict resolution. There have also been several recent changes and additions to the EAP committee membership (including the addition of Betty and me!). In light of these additions all committee members were trained in May on the EAP's state and local organizational structure, roles of the Coordinator and Committee members as well as committee officers, and the process for selecting a new Coordinator. This last item was particularly salient given the resignation of Marjorie Pietrafesa as the outgoing Coordinator. Marjorie was praised by the committee for her outstanding work as the Coordinator. As you might have seen from the Bulletin, a search is under way for a new EAP Coordinator. For more information about the role of the coordinator or about EAP feel free to contact Mark Rice (x3368) or Betty Tirado (x3448).

Rock the Vote at SUNY Oneonta

By Rob Compton, Vice President for Academics



The 2008 elections represent an historic opportunity to decide our future at the national, state and local levels. Rock the Vote, a national organization has registered over 1.5 million people to vote since its inception in 2004. Its website, www.rockthevote.com states, "Rock the Vote's mission is to engage and build the political power of young people in order to achieve progressive change in our country." Over the years, Rock the Vote worked with the SUNY Student Association and UUP in partnership to register students on campus. Rob Trimarchi, the statewide UUP Coordinator of research and Legislation and UUP liaison to Rock the Vote stated that "more than 20,000 voters have been registered in the last two campaigns in SUNY and this has affected the outcome of important races in the state."

Indeed the 2008 elections comes on the heels of a disastrous war in Iraq and Afghanistan, a financial market crisis of epic proportions, declining opportunities for young people and diminishing living standards for the poor and middle class due to rising inflation, especially the cost of food and fuel. The challenges to the American way of life require citizens, especially young people, to become politically knowledgeable and engaged.

On the Oneonta Campus, UUP worked with the Student Association, CSEA, campus clubs and the administration to promote political engagement and voter registration. Your support for our campaign was crucial in its success. In October, we set up tables in the quad and sponsored a forum of those who attended both the Republican and Democratic National Conventions. Students then discussed their perspectives on the upcoming elections and the critical issues that this country faces. UUP thanks the Students Association, Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honor Society), the Political Science Club, the SUNY Oneonta administration, and the faculty and students who participated in this year's events.

***Volunteers Needed for UUP and CSEA at Saturday's Bread — Saturday, November 1, 2008
and Saturday, November 15th for Habitat for Humanity***

By Bill Simons, Chapter President

On Saturday, November 1, 2008, UUP Oneonta will again 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 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 1st, you must be willing to work from 9 AM to 2 PM. As we need an exact list of the names and numbers of participants, please e-mail (drakelm@oneonta.edu) Linda Drake to volunteer. When you contact Linda, please provide her with your full name, e-mail, and telephone number.

On Saturday, November 15th, UUP and CSEA also need volunteers for ***Habitat for Humanity***. On Saturday, November 15th UUP and CSEA will work for ***Habitat for Humanity*** off of Main Street in Oneonta. We need two sets of volunteers for ***Habitat for Humanity*** on November 15th. CSEA and UUP will need 12 people from 8:30-4:00 (all or nothing for the hours) to help with ***Habitat for Humanity*** work on November 15th. There is NO experience necessary. The ***Habitat*** folks will show you what to do and how to do it.

In addition, UUP and CSEA needs volunteers to prepare picnic lunches for 22 ***Habitat*** volunteers and bring it to the site on November 15th, ***Habitat*** supplies utensils, plates, napkins, etc. Lunch examples of the past have been, 2 foot subs that were purchased and already prepared, sandwiches, soup in a crock pot, salads, chips... what ever you would like to provide. Drinks need to be included. E-mail Linda Drake (drakelm@oneonta.edu) to volunteer for ***Habitat*** on November 15th.

The November 15th ***Habitat*** volunteers should report to the upper house on North 7th to sign in and get your work assignment for that day.

Directions to the North 7th Street Sites (Oneonta) are as follows:

From the center of Oneonta go east on Main Street (Route 7) until you see the Taylor gas station on your right. Immediately on your left at the corner of North 7th Street and Main is the site at 2 North 7th Street. Behind it, up the hill, is the site at 4 North 7th Street. Parking for volunteers is on the left just after you pass the building site, on the North side of Main Street in the parking lot across from the Dentist's office. Park at the extreme East end of the lot, to the right of the dumpster.

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 post-Katrina reconstruction in the Gulf, flood relief in our region, collection drives, and other volunteerism under Linda's leadership. UUP is proud to continue to collaborate with our brothers and sisters in CSEA in these current ***Saturday's Bread*** and ***Habitat for Humanity*** endeavors.





By Leanne M. Avery,

Assistant Professor of Science Education in the Department of Elementary Education and Reading

The Drescher Leave – a Gift of Time and Growth

[Editor's Note: Leanne M. Avery is an Assistant Professor of Science Education in the Department of Elementary Education and Reading at SUNY Oneonta. Her research focuses on rural children's local science and engineering knowledge, place-based teacher professional development as a means of valuing and utilizing local rural knowledge in classroom practice, and the barriers rural children in poverty face in the era of NCLB. She was a public school science teacher for 11 years in a rural district in upstate New York. The Dr. Nuala McGann Drescher Affirmative Action/Diversity Leave Program is a special Joint Labor-Management Committee Program. Applications require the signatures of the College and UUP Oneonta presidents. The Drescher program "enhances employment opportunities with preference given to minorities, women, employees with disabilities and Vietnam-era veterans who are preparing for permanent or continuing appointments."]

When UUP President Bill Simons asked me to write about my Drescher leave and my research program, he asked me to explain what the Drescher would enable me to do. My first thought: it gives me TIME!!! Time to be in a research environment where I can focus exclusively on writing, time to prepare for tenure, time to visit public schools to conduct my research, time to engage in my own professional development, time to collaborate with colleagues at other institutions, and time to reflect. This Drescher leave opportunity has renewed by passion for research and has reawakened my ideas that often take a back seat during the academic year's demands of teaching excellence, service and advising (as I am sure many of you who are reading this can relate to). I can hardly describe my enthusiasm, or how grateful I am to have this amazing opportunity.

My proposed research project for this leave is entitled, *Children's Local Rural Knowledge (LRK) and Classroom Science: Debunking the Deficit Model in Rural Science Education*. A collaboration between myself and Dr. John Sipple from Cornell University, this project is an extension of my current research program (described later) and seeks to improve opportunities in science and engineering for children in rural poverty and enhance pedagogical teaching strategies for teachers in rural science classrooms. Through investigation, photodocumentation and classification of children's LRK – the knowledge that the children have acquired in places outside of school (Avery, 2008a; 2008b)– researchers and educators will become more cognizant of the utility of teaching science in context. Issues of translation and transference of knowledge will be explored within the classroom context and between different classrooms as we probe the mechanisms by which knowledge is validated, actualized and transmitted from one domain to another (home, school, work, etc). We aim to contribute significantly to the body of research on children's learning and to increase the educational community's understanding of the local, social and cultural processes that undergird children's learning, and their abilities to acquire new and different knowledge and skills in the context of rural schooling.

This project proposal recently became the basis for a grant submission to the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Developmental and Learning Sciences program.

My current research program, "Valuing Local Knowledge in Rural Science Education", is a collaboration between myself and Dr. Julia Thom-Levy from the Cornell University Physics department. Our goal is to bridge the gap between school science and the science and engineering knowledge poor rural children have acquired in places outside of school. Whether it's on the farm working with a tractor's hydraulics or in the back yard tinkering with car parts, we found that children in rural settings have garnered physics and engineering skills and knowledge in their daily lives. Unfortunately, when probed about this knowledge, these children do NOT connect their skills with the science they are learning in school (Avery, 2008a; 2008b). The science and engineering understandings that they have acquired outside of school do not make it through the classroom door. This is most troubling. Therefore, our program focuses on Children's Local Rural Knowledge in science and engineering (LRK) (Avery, 2008a; 2008b) using a place-based approach to teacher development (one whose foundation for learning is place, home, community, and the rural context.) as a means of valuing and utilizing this local rural knowledge in the science classroom. This engages students in science, and opens the door to a whole new population of students.

Our teacher professional program was launched this past summer. A 2 ½ day workshop for teachers from high-need rural schools, it included hands-on experience using the nationally and internationally recognized Engineering is Elementary (EIE, <http://mos.org/eie>) curriculum, science and engineering activities developed by the Cornell Physics department, and a field trip to a small local organic farm to witness LRK in action in context. It also included time for participants to share their teaching expertise and experiences, and to plan classroom implementation. We received very positive feedback from our participants. One even exclaimed, "Now I know what cover cropping is and what a puff ball is – I have seen it first hand - and I can now relate to my students when we discuss it in class!" To learn more about our program, please see: [Local Rural Knowledge & Classroom Science: <http://www.lepp.cornell.edu/Education/TeacherResources.html>](http://www.lepp.cornell.edu/Education/TeacherResources.html) or contact Leanne Avery at averylm@oneonta.edu.

As part of my overall research (current and Drescher), during this school year I will follow our first cohort of participants into the classroom. I am interested in evaluating the impact of the program on classroom practice and

learning how to improve it. More importantly, I am interested in learning from the children and teachers in the science classroom context. I will continue to document and classify children's LRK and to collaborate with teachers, schools, families, and local communities to find ways to value and use this knowledge in the school setting. In addition, because of the Drescher's associated budget, I am taking a Cornell University course for my professional development. Its focus is on Indigenous and Local Knowledge, the literature base of my research. I am honored to be able to learn from a colleague whose expertise is in an area I continue to explore. I am ecstatic about being in a research environment filled with diverse perspectives. Rich with intellectual conversation, it challenges me and I look forward to the personal and intellectual growth it will provide.

These opportunities would be not be possible if not for the Drescher Leave program and for the incredible assistance and encouragement I received from many individuals at SUNY Oneonta: my Department Chair, Dr. Connie Feldt-Golden, Division of Education's Associate Dean, Joanne Curran, Ms. Gail Feucher in Human Resources, Dr. Bill Simons of UUP, Dean Wagon, Provost Larkin, Mr. Peter Shea, and Presidents Donovan and Kleniewski. In addition, I wish to thank Dr. Cindy Lassonde for her encouragement to apply and to my colleagues in the Division of Education who made this possible. Kudos to Kathy Meeker of the Grants Office. I also appreciate the efforts of UUP in creating and administering the Drescher Program as well as the contributions of all those behind the scenes who made the award possible.

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Avery, L.M. (2008b). Valuing local knowledge in rural science education. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *Rural Sociological Society, Manchester, NH.*

UUP Encourages Recycling

Solidarity, Justice, Environmental Responsibility



Please Thanks

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

New York States' budget continually is looking grim and the only way YOU or I could help turn it around, is to support the PAC (The Political Action Committee is supported by voluntary funds of members of UUP/NYSUT statewide). It is your voice in Washington's congress, your voice in New York State's senate! Fill out the form below and donate \$1 to \$3 /per pay check. Join your brothers and sisters of the UUP in solidarity! Isn't your job worth it?

By Kyle Britton, VOTE COPE Officer



Being Part of History While Making History: Democratic Convention in Denver

(August 25-28, 2008)



By Ashok Kumar Malhotra, *SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor, Department of Philosophy, and Former UUP Vice President for Academics*

[Editor's Note: Dr. Malhotra is a former UUP Oneonta Vice President for Academics. Through the decades, he has built an impressive record of UUP activism. UUP/NYSUT recognized Ashok as a union delegate. NYSUT/UUP's *VOTE COPE* contributed funding to facilitate his attendance at the Democratic National Convention. *VOTE COPE* funds do not come from UUP dues but rather from the voluntary contributions of our members. By providing resources for UUP to advocate clearly and forcefully, *VOTE COPE* is essential to a strong SUNY. Ashok is a contributor to *VOTE COPE*.]

In Denver, on Wednesday August 27, 2008, America made history when Senator Hillary Clinton of New York, through unanimous acclamation at the DNC, got the first Afro-American to be nominated as the president of the United States of America. It was one of the greatest historical moments for every American and rest of the world because this nomination fulfilled the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King and concretized the prediction of Robert Kennedy.

Throughout the history of American elections, no political party has ever performed this kind of daring act. However, it fell on the shoulders of Hillary Clinton, the maverick Senator from New York, to become such a miracle worker. It was through her initiative and insight that history was being made in front of thousands of participants at the convention and millions of viewers in the USA and the world.

This was a life altering moment for me. I had been a professor of philosophy at the State University of New York at Oneonta for the past 41 years. During this period, I had dedicated my services to founding the philosophy department, starting its major and minor, writing books for the undergraduate students as well as taking students to India on a "Learn and Serve" study abroad program, where the participants helped build four Indo-International Schools for the poorest of poor children of India. Though during these years of teaching, community service, and UUP activism, I had not been fully involved in a political party or political action that made national or international difference of any significance, I had an unconscious wish to experience first hand the way American democratic system worked.



Ashok with Rangel

From August 25 to 28, 2008, the Democratic National Convention in Denver offered me this opportunity to participate in once-in-a-life time experience that I shared with more than 4000 other delegates from the 50 states of the United States. I thank NYSUT/UUP for its *VOTE Cope* contribution, which facilitated my attendance at the Convention.

To my delight, this turned out to be a life transforming experience where as a delegate from the 24th district of New York State, I was not only part of history but was making history by being involved in a democratic process that nominated the first African American President of the USA.

These four days at the DNC Convention were packed with informational, exciting and inspirational speeches. Each day started with half a dozen speakers during breakfast and luncheon sessions followed by another half

a dozen speakers at the Pepsi Center and Invesco Field.



Ashok with Kennedy

Super delegates from New York State consisting of Hillary Clinton, Chuck Schumer, Sheldon Silver, David Paterson, Mrs. Paterson, Andrew Cuomo and Charles Rangel as well as such invitees as Caroline Kennedy, Janet Napolitano (Governor of Arizona), and Mayor of LA, were speakers at the breakfast sessions. However, the Luncheon speakers included Reg Weaver (NEA President), Robert Kennedy Jr., Governor of Arizona, Governor of Delaware and a number of other distinguished mavericks in education. Evenings at the Pepsi Center and Invesco Field were packed with entertainment and electrifying political speeches aimed at motivating the listeners to register to vote in this historic election.

The subject matter of the breakfast speeches was the unification of the diverse segments of the party so that they could offer a united stand behind Senator Obama by sending him to the White House in November 2008.

The theme of the luncheon speeches was the significance of education in grooming the future leaders of America and the role that the government could play to make the funding of education its national priority. Since the schools and colleges were the breeding ground for the future leaders of America, the choice of the right kind of person to be the next president was of utmost importance.

The focus of the evening speeches at the Pepsi Center and Invesco Field was on unity, solidarity and integrity of the political party and political system. The speakers repeatedly emphasized the importance of issues that were on the minds of Americans. They emphasized an open discussion where the issues were presented in detail and where candidates offered ways to deal with them by setting up deadlines to achieve the results. Since coming back from the DNC, I have been talking to students, faculty and members of the community asking them to register to vote. Our goal is to reach all the 5800 students at SUNY College at Oneonta. NYSUT/UUP's **Rock the Vote** program, in conjunction with the Student Association, is contributing mightily to the voter registration of students.

Moreover, I have also talked to members of the local community who believe that "Mr. Obama and Mr. McCain should stick to the issues and debate them rather than waste time on negative and baseless propaganda." The ten problems which should be debated between them are: Economy, Education, War in Iraq and Afghanistan, Environment (Global Warming), Sustainable Energy Policy, International Terrorism, Universal Health Care, Labor, and Taxes. Since we have only five weeks left before the big decision, the candidates should concentrate on issues and not waste time on character assassination. I urge the students, faculty and members of the community to: first register to vote; second, encourage your friends and family members to vote; and finally, read up on each candidate's position on the above issues, and then use your rational judgment on the Election Day.

Whosoever wins the election; you will be making history as well as be a part of this history only if you get out to vote.



UUP Labor Film Series
At Hunt Union Red Dragon Theater



Promoting Solidarity, Justice, and Environmental Responsibility Through
Educational Film Screenings and Discussions

Just over the border in Mexico is an area peppered with maquiladoras: massive factories owned by the world's largest multinational corporations. Carmen and Lourdes work at maquiladoras in Tijuana, where each day they confront labor violations, environmental devastation and urban chaos.



<http://www.pbs.org/pov/pov2006/maquilapolis/index.html>

Maquilapolis [City of factories] **Tuesday, October 21, 4-6 p.m.**

Explores the environmental devastation and urban chaos of Tijuana's assembly factories and the female laborers who have organized themselves for social action. Maquiladora workers produce televisions, electrical cables, toys, clothes, batteries and IV tubes, they weave the very fabric of life for consumer nations.

"Maquilapolis: City of Factories" is a co-production of the Independent Television Service (ITVS) and is a project of Creative Capital, with support from the Sundance Institute Documentary Fund.

http://www.maquilapolis.com/project_eng.htm

Free Popcorn too!

For additional information please contact Dr. Gina Keel at x3505 or keelg@oneonta.edu

A Professional Perspective on UUP: My First Year on the Exec Board

By Janet Frankl, UUP Disabilities Officer and Professional Delegate



I was asked to reflect on my experiences with UUP after a little more than a year as a Professional Delegate and officer of the chapter Executive Board. Prior to April 2007 I was not particularly active in UUP nor did I know much about the organization other than the fact that the Union negotiated with the State for our contracts. In April 2007 I was elected as a delegate representing UUP “professional” members at SUNY Oneonta. Since then I have attended UUP Leadership Workshops on Chapter Development and Forums for Problem Solving and am beginning to learn about resources available to, and assistance UUP leaders can provide to, UUP members. I look forward to learning more about the grievance process, collective bargaining and other topics at future workshops.

Delegate Assemblies—I’ve attended three so far—are an eye-opening experience. Attendees get an inside look at the processes involved in making the Union work for all UUP members. I had the opportunity to participate in two Union leadership elections—at the Winter/February 2008 DA Phil Smith was elected as UUP President to serve through May 31, 2009 filling the unexpired term of Bill Scheuerman. At the Spring/May 2008 DA other officers, including Vice President for Academics, Vice President for Professionals, Secretary, Treasurer and others, were elected to serve through May 31, 2009. Several of the positions were hotly contested; it was fascinating to watch and participate in the process of selecting officers who will be advocating for UUP members.

One of the most important topics discussed at both the May and September 2008 DAs is the recent cut in state funding for SUNY. Many are aware that SUNY may be the state agency hardest hit by these budget cuts. UUP has taken a strong stance to “urge SUNY administrators to carefully consider where to cut expenditures to minimize the effects on academic programs and student services.” UUP President Phil Smith was quoted as saying, “SUNY must act immediately to protect its core mission to provide a quality education for the greatest number of New Yorkers.”

At the Professional Delegates meeting and panel discussion on permanent appointment, I learned that the reasons for permanent appointment (a form of tenure) are anti-nepotism and as a guarantee of freedom of speech. As logical as that is, I had not previously thought of permanent appointment from that perspective.

I was very recently asked to serve as the UUP Disabilities Officer at SUNY Oneonta and am learning about these issues as they relate to SUNY Oneonta as well the state and nation. At the Disability Rights and Concerns Committee meeting at the September 2008 DA an open letter from Paul Longmore, a professor of history and director of the Institute on Disability at San Francisco State University, was distributed. Dr. Longmore has been disabled from childhood. His letter, which contains a detailed summary of the US Presidential candidates’ disabilities rights policies, can be seen at <http://www.patriciaebauer.com/2008/09/15/paul-longmore-open-lette/>. UUP members and voters with interest in disabilities issues are encouraged review this and other resources to assist them in making an informed choice this November.

To quote John Marino, Statewide UUP VP for Professionals,
“If you want to see changes get involved in the Union.”

I would add,
*“If you are satisfied with your union, get involved.
 If you’re NOT satisfied with your union, get involved.”*

Spiral Apple Dumplings

Ingredients

- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 2 cups water
- 1/4 cup margarine or butter
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup shortening
- 2/3 cup milk
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 3 cups shredded, peeled cooking apples, 3 to 4 medium



Directions

1. For sauce, in a large saucepan, combine 2 cups sugar, the water, margarine, 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon, and nutmeg. Bring to boiling and boil for 5 minutes; set aside (should have about 2 cups sauce).
2. For dough, in a large mixing bowl, combine flour, baking powder, and salt. Using a pastry blender, cut in shortening until pea-size. Make well in center. Add milk all at once. Stir just until moistened. Knead dough on a lightly floured surface 10 to 12 strokes or until nearly smooth. Roll out to 12x10-inch rectangle.
3. For filling, combine 1/4 cup sugar and 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon; set aside. Sprinkle apples evenly over dough. Sprinkle with sugar mixture. Roll dough into spiral, starting from a long side. Pinch seam to seal. Cut into twelve 1-inch-thick pieces. Place in 13x9x2-inch baking pan. Pour sauce over dumplings.
4. Bake in a 350 degree F oven about 50 minutes or until golden. Makes 12 servings.

The Sentinel Websites and Disclaimer

Editor's Note:

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

To read past issues — as well as the current edition — of The Sentinel on-line, go to www.uuphost.org/oneonta This site also includes other material concerning UUP Oneonta.

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



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(d = delegate, o = office, h = home)