



# The Sentinel

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UUP - Oneonta

December 2009

*"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows."*

- Sydney J. Harris

## ***December 2009: An End and a Beginning***

*By Bill Simons, Chapter President*

Sixty-eight Decembers ago—in 1941—shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor brought America's entry into World War II, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met with his great ally, U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, in Washington. With the world at war, the stakes were never higher for humanity; years of great sacrifice lay ahead. Yet, assisting FDR in lighting the White House Christmas tree, Churchill articulated the need for respite in the midst of crisis: "Let the children have their night of fun and laughter. Let the gifts of Father Christmas delight their play. Let us grownups share to the full their unstinted pleasures before we turn again to the stern task and the formidable years that lie before us." We too now confront a great crisis; let us resolve, however, to celebrate this season and thus find the refreshment to sustain us in the days ahead—and to remember why it is that we persevere.



Holiday Greetings  
from  
Lily and Hannah

In keeping with the spirit of the season, UUP will hold its traditional end of semester party on Saturday, December 12, 2009, from 7:00—10:00 PM at the Elks Club, 86 Chestnut Street, Oneonta. There will be a food and drink buffet. All members of the UUP bargaining unit are most cordially welcome, and each member of the UUP bargaining unit may bring one adult guest. Reservations are required. To make a reservation, please call 436-2135 to leave a message on the UUP answering machine, indicating your name and telephone number and, if bringing a guest, the guest's name. Thanks to **Lorraine Tyler** for organizing this special gathering.

The final days of 2009 announce the end of one interval in the history of our nation and our College. We are in the midst of a developing fiscal crisis, perhaps the worst since the Great Depression. Challenges beckon, but so too do opportunities to build anew. In the months ahead, the members of UUP must come forward as never before to advocate for an embattled SUNY. Much will be asked of us. None will be exempt from the responsibilities of generating faxes, letters, phone calls, rallies, articles, advocacy meetings—and more. We must strengthen partnerships with College President Nancy Kleniewski, our brothers and sisters in CSEA and other unions, student leaders and those who will become so, and our friends and neighbors in the larger community. As the year 2009 ends, however, it is appropriate to recognize the officers — and rank-and-file — who have rebuilt the Oneonta chapter and made it a force to reckon with.

UUP owes thanks to many more individuals than the space allotted in this article allows for. Any recounting must begin with Vice President for Academics **Rob Compton**. Now tenured, promoted to Associate Professor, progenitor of definitive articles and books, former presiding officer of the College Senate, elected members of SPARC, and a Fulbright Scholar, he had the courage to come forward prior to receiving permanent appointment — and his example has inspired many others to do likewise. Rob is the strong right arm of UUP Oneonta — and my dear friend, akin to a

younger brother. It is a rare day when we do not speak. Policy research/papers, negotiations with administration, workload, community service, joint Labor-Management grant proposals, newsletter articles, assessment of senior administrators, *Rock the VOTE*, individual member representation, legislative advocacy, building conduits between the chapter and the statewide union leadership, and all other UUP initiatives and decisions have Rob's imprint. A charismatic speaker, eloquent writer, and tireless organizer, Rob currently spearheads the drafting of new UUP Oneonta constitution and finalizing the College's first Labor-Management Grant. Rob is unsurpassed as a policy wonk. Years of unstinting service have brought the first gray, and time has brought him a precious grandchild, but Rob's resolve, acumen, and courage remained undiminished. A beckoning destiny calls Rob. Count on it.

Vice President for Professionals **Norm Payne** will recruit applications for Professionals seeking promotion and salary augmentation. Norm's hard work on this issue merits thanks. To make that process functional, Norm will hold two workshops for Professionals this winter. Norm is working with Management to provide all Professionals with current Performance Programs and Evaluations. In addition, Norm continues to conduct research, analyze situations, disseminate important information, and advocate directions central to Professional concerns. Deliberate and persistent, he is the preeminent voice of UUP of Professionals. Norm remains the first UUP officer to contact for Professional problems and questions.

Wearing multiple hats, **Tom Horvath** has become indispensable to UUP Oneonta. As a member of the Executive Board, Health/Safety Officer, Secretary, and Academic Delegate, Tom has proved assertive and adroit on a variety of issues. In a deserted tunnel grown suspect, dormitories following asbestos remediation, Morris Complex assessment of notification protocols, and classrooms needing noise abatement, Tom collaborated on environmental testing and procedures with College Facilities. Tom demonstrated tactical and strategic brilliance during that stint as Acting Vice President for Professionals. He has significantly advanced a meaningful reckoning with fulltime faculty workload, monitoring the transition to 21-semester hours.

During Tom's Spring 2010 sabbatical, **Ron Bishop** will serve as Acting Health/Safety Officer. With his background in the College's Chemistry and Biochemistry departments as the stockrooms manager, unionism and construction in the private sector, community activism, briefing sessions with Tom, receipt of the Dr. Herbert N. Wright Memorial Training Award through a UUP Joint Labor-Management Grant, and consummate professionalism, Ron will do a superb job as Acting Health/Safety Officer and member of the UUP Oneonta Executive Board. Ron's trenchant words have already appeared, under his byline, in *Sentinel* articles.

Thanks to our sagacious Treasurer — and my walking partner — **Mike McAvoy**, UUP Oneonta passes periodic audits with flying colors. In detailed, cogent, and accessible monthly reports, Mike keeps the Executive Board informed, ensures the chapter's conformity to a multitude of arcane regulations, and husbands our resources. As attested by his line item budget, resolutions, wise counsel, and monthly reports, Mike, an accomplished economist, brings meticulous and expert devotion to his stewardship of the treasury. He also constitutes a major component of the chapter's Labor-Management Meeting delegation. Mike does a great job as a Treasurer, and his insights have come to encompass all areas of UUP. As UUP Treasurer, Mike was well-trained by his illustrious predecessor, **Rich Tyler**, who served UUP for many years with devotion and skill. We thank Rich for past service and allowing us to continue to tap his extensive knowledge of UUP fiscal matters. Our iconic Director of Special Events, **Loraine Tyler**, invests our diverse gatherings, including those on Labor Day and semester's end, with grace and excellence. A former UUP Vice President for Academics with an unwavering commitment to the union, the campus, and the community, Loraine's diverse contributions enrich us in countless ways.

Professional Delegate and former **VOTE COPE** Director **Janie Forrest-Glotzer** maintains an extensive network of contacts with UUPers on campus and throughout the state. Janie; Disabilities Officer **Janet Frankl**; **Jeri Anne Jerminario**, former president of UUP

Cobleskill and a member of the Technology Issues Committee; and **Tom DeMeot**, a veteran of both residence life and intramurals, are Professional Delegates. They serve on the Executive Board, with defined responsibilities for representing Professionals. Through the Delegate Assembly and New Leaders Workshops, Jeri, Janet, Janie, and **Tom** have undergone training for their important Professional positions.

The indefatigable **Kyle Britton**, our **VOTE COPE** Director, is off to a fine start, ensuring that the educational community is represented when important advocacy decisions are made. In addition, Kyle contributes thoughtful articles to *The Sentinel* and provides the Executive Board with the perspective of youth. A gifted performer and promoter of music, Kyle has organizing music of the worker, notable for its content and performance, for UUP events. Kyle also created and maintains UUP Oneonta's new and innovative webpage.

Academic Delegate **Gina Keel** has emerged as a core leader of the UUP Oneonta Executive Board. As Director of the critically acclaimed UUP Oneonta Labor Film Series, Gina highlights the synergistic relationship between culture and politics. Her union organizational skills have, through the years, strengthened the *Rock the Vote* initiative, legislative advocacy and Outreach on behalf of SUNY in Albany, local flood relief, Labor Day presentations, the Acting Secretary niche, and representation at the American Federation of Teachers conclave in Washington, D.C.

Affirmative Action Officer **Nithya Iyer** represents a new generation of UUP activist scholars. Her talents and idealism are merging. Committed to true equity, inclusion, social justice, and diversity, Nithya brings dedication and resolve to the position of Affirmative Action Officer. At a recent UUP diversity panel organized and moderated by Nithya, profound and crystalline truths were spoken by **Ho Hon Leung**, **Daqi Li**, and **Hanfu Mi**. In the spring, Nithya will present a panel reflecting gender and globalism.

As a sabbatical replacement, **Paul Conway** temporarily returned to his former position of Grievance Officer during the Fall semester, and demonstrated that he retains a keen eye for matters contractual. He will continue in the position of chapter Mediator, a post for which his extensive background and training well equip him. With her productive sabbatical now in the past tense, the incomparable **Renee Walker** is once again Grievance Officer—and thanks Paul for filling in during her scholarly sojourn. As was the case with Paul, those who contact Renee are often in difficult emotional straits. Renee, as was Paul, is often dealing with individuals plagued by multiple and serious problems. Despite the intensity of such sessions, Renee listens carefully, elicits relevant information, and responds with tact and discretion. Ever mindful of her familial legacy of worker activism, she also provides eloquence to more public union issues.

Benefits Officer **Mona Hughes** does an exceptional job explaining medical, dental, vision, and drug insurance programs and provisions, which are often complex and detailed, to members in person and in newsletter articles. Mona is informative, supportive, sensitive, and assertive helping UUPers. She is a great Benefits Officer, and truly defines the position.

Part-Time Concerns Officer **Karina Cespedes** has brought new energy, priority, and commitment to the position. Karina has asked incisive questions and raised priority concerns at both regular Labor-Management Meetings and Part-Time Labor-Management Meetings. She is an important present at the Executive Board Meetings, Delegates Assemblies, and New Leaders Training. Karina's *Sentinel* articles leaven idealism with pragmatic strategy. On August 28th, Karina co-hosted the College orientation for Part-Time employees. Karina organized the campus equity forum for Part-Time employees on November 19th. Karina has done a simply wonderful job of enlarging the voice of Part-Timers. Professional opportunity, growth, and responsibility, however, will relocate Karina to Colorado in January. We will miss Karina greatly. Nonetheless, **Caridad Souza-Watkins** will then assume the position of Part-Time Concerns Officer. Under Caridad's leadership, the issues of Part-Timers will receive informed, strong, and effective advocacy. An exceptional teacher, scholar, and leader, Caridad will continue the campaign for equity for Part-Timers. To prepare for her new position, Caridad has attended Delegate Assemblies, New



Leaders workshops, Latino Concerns meetings, and mentoring sessions with Karina and Rob. UUP Oneonta proudly welcomes Caridad as our next Part-Time Concerns Officer.

Along with Caridad, Historian **Miguel Leon** serves on UUP's Statewide Latino Concerns Committee. He provides personal and intellectual authenticity to the union's assertion of diversity. Miguel has already rendered his notable scholarship, manifested in diverse academic writings, accessible to UUPers through his *Sentinel* contributions. Miguel is a strong voice of multiculturalism.

UUP thanks another proponent of multiculturalism and chapter member, Ibram Rogers, Assistant Professor of African American History, Departments of Africana & Latino Studies and History, for sharing his insightful essay, "The Eco Line: The Problem of the 21st Century," which first appeared in his new regularly updated blog, *The Progressive Corner* — available online at <http://progressivecorner.wordpress.com>. Further kudos to Ibram for organizing **The Ralph R. Watkins Africana Studies Lecture Series**, honoring and perpetuating the legacy of a great UUPer — and my friend and officemate.

**Linda Drake**, UUP's Community Service Director and College Executive Director of the Center for Social Responsibility, continues to coordinate the participation of UUP volunteers at the community kitchen of *Saturday's Bread*, *Habitat for Humanity*, collection drives, emergency relief, and other endeavors. Linda supervises a plethora of benevolent activities, staffed by volunteers that benefit our community and the world beyond. Linda's flood relief work in the Gulf and in our region have made a decisive difference in many lives. Linda's *Sentinel* column alerts UUPer to volunteer opportunities.

Thanks to UUP/CSEA volunteers **Linda Drake, Rob Compton, Veronica Diver, Scott Dickinson, Nithya Iyer, Carol Dean, Karaina Cespedes, John Bugyi, Elaine Downing, Hugh Holden, Ken Walters, and Teri Weigl** for their great work, cheerful generosity, and welcoming presence at *Saturday's Bread* this past Fall.

Kudos to **Teri Weigl** for a great job during her long tenure as Membership Director, memorable *Sentinel* articles that displayed literary flair and substance, and mentoring her successor, **Hanfu Mi**. Building on Teri's successful initiatives, incumbent Membership Director **Hanfu Mi**, through energy and creativity, has brought the membership numbers to an all-time high. Utilizing innovative strategies, Hanfu has devoted much time to chapter development, and we are all the beneficiaries. Possessed of a visceral integrity and moral courage, Hanfu invests UUP Oneonta with his own singular gravitas.

Generous with her time and talent, **Jill Attanasio** does a superb job as Editor of *The Sentinel*. Under Jill, *The Sentinel* continues its tradition of excellence, documented by prestigious journalism awards. Attentive to content and style, Jill provides the union newsletter with an engaging and distinctive format and look. She is part of a continuum of great *Sentinel* editors that includes her predecessors, **Richie Lee, Nancy Cannon, Jim Greenberg, Kim Muller, and Kathy Meeker**. Kathy, College Director of the Grants Office; Jim, Director of TLTC; and Nancy, the definitive Research and Instruction librarian, retain important positions in the UUP leadership. Kathy, UUP Grants Officer, is bringing new attention to the Drescher program As UUP Grants Officer, Kathy alerts members to funding opportunities, guiding and supporting the grant proposals of UUPers. As Electronic Archivist, Jim is making new information and tools accessible to chapter members. Now filling in as Acting Secretary during Tom Horvath's sabbatical, Nancy will give that position, as she does all things, dedication, telling attention to nuance, and mastery of task. Moreover, besides also providing a visual documentation of UUP Oneonta as chapter photographer, Nancy is an Academic Delegate, journeys to the New York State Legislature to advocate for SUNY, serves on the Technology Issues Committee, authors *The Sentinel*'s signature monthly quiz — and has provided a special personal support that transcends thanks. Jill, Jim, and Nancy contribute excellence, expertise, and experience to UUP.

The multitalented **Mike Flinton** is in his first term as an Academic Delegate, and Mike has already become a tremendous asset to the union. With a wealth of military, museum, civic, and scholarly experience and accomplishment, Mike brings strengths of knowledge, judgment, and perspective to the UUP Executive Board. He has attended the Delegate Assembly, received appointment to the State UUP Technology Committee, and attended Labor-Management briefings. Mike provides a vital and much valued connection between the Oneonta campus and the outstanding SUNY College at Oneonta programs in Cooperstown. Thoughtful, energetic, and profound, Mike has written *Sentinel* articles that animate conversations and consciousness. Mike's voice will continue to grow in the counsels of UUP.

Thanks to UUP activist and Renaissance man **Dan Payne** for allowing access to his legal perspective on key matters. Exemplary teacher, prolific scholar, naturalist, conference impresario, movie scriptwriter, legislative staffer, and attorney, Dan is a rare amalgam of generosity, wisdom, and practicality. His contributions of substantive counsel are much appreciated.

A tip of the hat to History Chair Bill Ashbaugh for the strong Labor Day observance statement that provided ballast to the front-page September issue of *The Sentinel*. Bill is noted for his commitment to social justice, empathy, and professional accomplishments.

Labor Relations Professional **Dennis Selzner** provides advice tempered by hard experience and a detailed knowledge of the contract. My wise mentors and valued friends of many years, former chapter presidents **Ed Wesnofske** and **Denny Shea**, continue to grant sage counsel, participate in SUNY advocacy, and return to action at critical moments. When needed, Ed has attended key meetings, provided essential advice, and guided spirited statewide campaigns, past and future.

UUP Oneonta President Emeritus **Fred Miller**, peripatetic and informed, remains a superb political point-man, known and respected by state legislators as an advocate for higher education. In addition, as our retiree representative, he ensures that the concerns of our senior members are given strong voice.

UUP is ably represented on the Labor-Management Grants Committee by Associate Professor **Alex Thomas** (Sociology), Associate Professor (Geography) **Benjamin Dixon**, and Assistant Professor (Biology) **Vicky Lenz**. Outstanding scholars and teachers, they bring fairness, context, and expertise to the evaluation of grant proposals by UUP members.

**Alex Thomas** also merits special commendation for his brilliant and visionary five part-*Sentinel* series on the future of SUNY College at Oneonta. Drawing on his expertise in cultural tourism, upstate revitalization, and sociology, Alex creates a compelling case for a University of the Catskills, a truly regional institution. Alex has done much to stimulate needed debate, discourse, and discussion. *The Sentinel* will continue to welcome Alex's protean proposals.

**Betty Tirado** and **Mark Rice** are the two UUP appointees to the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Program Committee. Betty and Mark do a great job representing the interests of UUPers on EAP. From family to financial matters, Betty and Mark ensure that EAP functions as an important source of referral.

**Joe Baldwin** remains a bulwark of the Elections and Credentials Committee. We salute Chris Bulson for her many years of excellent service on that important committee.

Former UUP Oneonta President **John Carney** protects institutional memory and brings meetings to order with a whistle that could stop a freight train. And **Peg Carney**, an incomparable office manager, loyally and expertly balances tasks and deadlines. Thanks also to the great Carney daughters, **Julie** and **Christy**, for doing a top-notch job substituting as office managers during John's and Peg's much deserved 50th anniversary trip to Australia in September.

Please forgive me the many UUPers that I have not acknowledged; such omissions represent a lapse of memory, rather than an absence of appreciation..

Finally, regardless of your faith or, lack thereof, may the holidays and year ahead bring health and happiness to you and yours — and to all humanity.

## ***Moving Forward: College and Community II***

*By: Rob Compton, VP for Academics*

On October 28th, UUP held its second College and Community panel. The turbulent wind and rain outside appeared to haringer the tough economic times under which the College and the greater Oneonta community must operate under for the next several years. A large gathering of more than fifty people turned out, braving the deluge, to continue the dialogue on strategies and approaches for the College to collaborate with the community. This distinguished and eloquent panel featured Dr. Nancy Kleniewski, SUNY College at Oneonta President; Dr. Alex Thomas, Associate Professor of Sociology; Ms. Tanya Shalor, Publisher of the Daily Star, and Mr. Ron Feldstein, President of the Board of Directors of Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance. As UUP Vice President for Academics, I moderated the session. Along with Peg Carney, CWA Assistant for UUP Oneonta, organized the panel in conjunction with Chapter President Bill Simons. The major issues discussed included College-Community Economic Development and collaboration, the linkages among new college programs and community benefit, and attracting and retaining residents to the area, including students upon graduation.



### **College-Community Economic Development Collaboration**

Over the years, colleges and universities have become increasingly detached from its surrounding environments. Despite the pejorative connotation of “Ivy Tower” to many in the community, Oneonta has excelled in the area of community service. Not only is the Oneonta community better off with SUNY, but the College, all panelist concurred, is the lifeline for the community. The future of the College and the Community are interwoven. President Kleniewski, a much published urban sociologist, noted that the challenges of Oneonta are “like many older cities.” Oneonta must make a shift from the past and figure out strategies for economic development. As Ron Feldstein noted, “we can do better” in promoting an environment and pursuing avenues of cooperation between the College and Community.

Mr. Feldstein noted that much of the future of the community is tied into attracting niche businesses that will be of smaller scale than manufacturing plants of the past. Part of such an approach would need to involve what President Kleniewski referred to as “plan B for those who do not go to college.” Alex Thomas stated that we need to configure “community solutions for global” problems. Through the SUNY Oneonta Center for Economic and Community Development, led by Director Tim Hayes, much potential exists to involve faculty and staff in a partnership between College and Community for policy and economic analysis that would benefit the community and leverage municipal, county, and local resources. As Tanya Shalor stated, “the college and the community will grow together.”

### **College Programs and Community Benefit**

Ms. Shalor noted that the recent Air Force band concert was possible because of the collaboration of the College and the community. “Programs” can be both academic and non-academic. The summer camps hosted on the Oneonta campus provides important revenue for the community, including area restaurants as Feldstein noted. The art exhibits, the speakers invited to the community, and the partnerships that exist between the Department of Education and the K-12 schools in the vicinity bring vitality and educational opportunities for students, teachers, and SUNY Oneonta education majors.

President Kleniewski emphasized the importance of adding educational programs that would provide benefits for the community. These types of programs could be applied graduate programs that emphasize community development, planning, and public policy. Indeed, as the Strategic Planning process moves forward, the College has the opportunity to examine programs from other campuses as models so that it can position itself as a regional university. Both President Kleniewski and Dr. Thomas see significant programmatic potential in the

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areas of continuing education and innovative undergraduate and graduate programs. Interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary endeavors are an untapped area that received exploratory support from the panelists.

Mr. Feldstein expressed enthusiasm for internship opportunities centering around the non-traditional areas, including information technology, psychology, and emergency services. He noted that there is an untapped market of internship opportunities in local government and organizations. Too often, he stated that we get to caught up in our daily tasks that we don't realize the potential on both sides.

Without a doubt, many of Dr. Thomas' ideas contained in his past and coming articles the Sentinel are central to developing a regional university: the University of the Catskills and the Upper Susquehanna Basin!

### **Attracting New Residents**

Increasingly, the "new economy" is not about jobs being "created for graduates" noted Feldstein in response to a question from the audience. Entrepreneurial drives of the students need tapped as more and more future jobs will be small businesses and information knowledge-based jobs created by the new graduates themselves. Other jobs would be in the areas of creative arts to include theater, music, digital art, and other such non-traditional employment.

The panelists agreed that Oneonta needed to work on its image. Outside of Brooks, what is Oneonta known for? Dr. Thomas stated that the entire Catskills area has a unique continuity that could be used to define the college and the community. Ms. Shalor observed that the reason why she came back and stayed in the Oneonta regions was the "high quality of life" offered to residents in the area. But as Mr. Feldstein was quick to note, it will be important to get alumni to stay or return back to this great community. That would go a long way in improving the infrastructure and housing stock of the area, which President Kleniewski noted was "uneven." Indeed there is a "brain drain" from upstate New York that the Oneonta area must lead in combating.

### **Conclusion**

As President Nancy Kleniewski stated, "15 years ago if I said I worked at SUCO" then a community member would say that the employee was "soaking up tax dollars." She said that the College has made significant effort to create, nurture, and sustain a strong and vibrant relationship with the community and no one thinks that anymore. But as Tanya Shalor noted, the College cannot be everything to everyone and that sacrifices are necessary to do well.

Without a doubt, there will be tough financial times coming to all SUNY colleges. In the past year alone, the number of full-time faculty has shrunk by close to 300 and SUNY also has 500 less part-time faculty. The time will come when the college and the community will need to work together and we as UUP members will be the backbone of those efforts. Soon the exhortation to action will not only come, but will be necessary. Students, faculty, professionals, administrators, community members and leaders all working with a singular effort to strengthen our community and its assets.

***UUP Encourages **Recycling*****

***Solidarity, Justice, Environmental Responsibility***

*Please*  *Thanks*



## *A Regional University Reaches Out*

*By Alex Thomas, Associate Professor, Sociology, and UUP Representative,  
Labor-Management Grants Committee*

The previous four articles have discussed the idea of Oneonta University as a regional university, with significant impact to be made on the community and the region as a whole. Adopting our strip of New York from the Mohawk to the Delaware would give us a home area to study, to develop themes and concepts with which the college could forge a new direction on which to build on the successes of the recent past. By taking cues from our own backyard, a regional university model could be replicated by other colleges in other places but never truly duplicated. In addition to tackling tough regional issues in terms of research, education, economic development, and advocacy, we could work with other regional colleges to ensure that programs essential for the functioning of a region are provided by cooperating with one another, not competing for the same (limited) set of potential students. We could perhaps even set up a regional consortium to share resources, perhaps even personnel and administrative resources, and maybe even joint programs. But despite whatever progress such an idea may bring, it also risks a major problem: parochialism.

Regional does not have to mean parochial. Oneonta is a town with a history of industry and the railroad, two facts arising from its location in the hinterlands of one of the largest cities on earth. Nestled in the mountains, it is tempting to think of the town as the “middle of nowhere,” but it is not. There are over 2.5 million people within a two hour drive, four hours takes you to New York, Philadelphia, and Boston – those three metropolitan areas contain over ten percent of the U. S. population. That means that the conditions found here are heavily influenced by our proximity to and membership in a larger system of urban places. Besides research and education about the issues

that affect this region, such as urban sprawl and environmental degradation, manufacturing decline and urban decay, and threats to wildlife and people, it behooves us to seek out other regions of the world with similar conditions and reach out to sister institutions in those places.



Bath is a city in England about 100 miles west of London. With over 80 thousand residents, the city is considerably larger than Oneonta, but, nevertheless, it is home to two universities and a considerable tourism economy. One of those universities is Bath Spa University, a relatively recent addition to the British higher education system. The city lies at the bottom of the Avon Valley and is surrounded

by hills, giving the city a rather mountainous character in its outer neighborhoods – a city of the hills, so to speak. Admittedly, only ten miles from bath is Bristol, and the superior rail system found in the UK makes Bath a city better connected with its global city than Oneonta is to New York – our country roads and non-existent rail make Oneonta seem further from the city than we really are. Nevertheless, Bath may be a good city and a good university to reach out to in the future as they are similar to Oneonta in some important ways. Now, picture what a more concerted research effort than a few minutes on Google Earth and Wikipedia could produce. There are other places in the world with similar geographic and political-economic positions as Oneonta, and Oneonta University should find them.

For instance, New York and London are widely considered the two most important global cities for the functioning of the global economy (read anything by Saskia Saskin, for instance), but they are not the only global cities, and as such Oneonta and Bath are not the only potential sister cities. In Japan, the University of Shizuoka is either a few hours from Tokyo (by train) or an hour from Tokyo (by really fast train). A city of over 700 thousand people, it is (much) (much much) bigger than Oneonta, but has a relationship with the even larger global city of Tokyo. Somewhere a few hours from Berlin is a university in a setting like ours, and outside of Seoul, and outside of Melbourne, and outside of Mumbai. And in some places, a study of the hinterland may bring one to

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Tel Aviv, or Nairobi, or two hours north of Hong Kong.

Regional implies a focus on the local, but it does not have to be parochial. The region is a lens on global issues, a criterion for finding similar institutions in similar places in a vastly different cultural context and part of the world. It is a call to compare the conditions of people in similar niches across the planet. Here in the Catskills, the soils for agriculture and the proximity of “markets” for manufactured goods and the spread of the suburbs and the condition of the environment (and on and on and on) are all interconnected. Indeed, the cycle of development, from the region being a hinterland for trapping furs for export back to Holland, to the evolution of a nineteenth century’s high technology corridor to our north, to the contraction of the late twentieth century, is a cycle that very likely looks similar (but not the same) in the hinterlands of other global cities. We are uniquely placed to understand our own region, and it would help to understand others as well. Let’s go global by going regional!

### **The Ralph R. Watkins Africana Studies Lecture Series**

The Department of Africana & Latino Studies

**Wednesday, February 3, 2010 @ 6 p.m. in CMC:** Dr. Gretchen Sorin, Director of the Cooperstown Graduate Program in Museum Studies

**Wednesday, March 10, 2010 @ 6 p.m. in CME:** Ms. Robin Mitchell, Dissertation Fellow in Women’s Studies, SUNY College at Oneonta

**Wednesday, April 21, 2010 @ 6 p.m. in CME:** Dr. Ama Mazama, Associate Professor of African American Studies at Temple University

*Sponsored by an Inclusion Diversity Equity Action (IDEA) Grant*

**For More Information Contact:** Ibram Rogers, Assistant Professor of African American History (rogersih@oneonta.edu)

### ***UUP and CSEA Thank Their Saturday’s Bread Volunteers***

Community Service is an important part of the mission of UUP Oneonta, and, as part of that mandate, our chapter provides volunteers for diverse endeavors. Amongst our volunteer initiatives is *Saturday’s Bread*, which UUP does in collaborative solidarity with CSEA. Non-sectarian, although domiciled at Oneonta’s First United Methodist Church, *Saturday’s Bread* has weekly, for the past seventeen years, dispensed food, good cheer, and friendship. For servers and guests alike, it provides an affirmative experience, breaking down artificial barriers between people through expressions of mutual respect. Linda Drake, UUP stalwart and the nonpareil Director of the Center for Social Responsibility, arranged for UUP’s return to *Saturday’s Bread* on October 24, 2009. UUP-CSEA volunteers, who worked from 9:30 AM to 2 PM, prepared food, set up tables, greeted guests, served meals, and cleaned up. The UUP-CSEA contingent included, in addition to Linda, Rob Compton, Veronica Diver, Scott Dickinson, Nithya Iyer, Carol Dean, Karaina Cespedes, John Bugyi, Elaine Downing, Hugh Holden, Ken Walters, Teri Weigl, and Bill Simons. UUP and CSEA thanks their volunteers, fine people all, and look forward to returning to *Saturday’s Bread*.

*(P.S. If names of any volunteers were left out, it represents the limitations of memory, not of appreciation—Bill Simons.)*

## ***Labor-Management Meeting Notes: Wednesday, October 26, 2009***

**For United University Professions:** UUP Oneonta Chapter President William Simons, Vice President for Academics Robert Compton, Vice President Norman Payne, Treasurer Michael McAvoy, Part-Time Concerns Director Karina Cespedes, Membership Director Hanfu Mi, and Labor Relations Specialist Dennis Selzner

**For Management:** SUNY College at Oneonta President Nancy Kleniewski, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs F. Daniel Larkin, Vice President for Student Development Steven Perry, Vice President for Finance & Administration, Leif Hartmark, Vice President for Community Relations Carol Blazina, and Associate Vice President for Employee Services Lisa Wenck

The meeting opened at 3:01 PM. UUP and Management welcomed each other and commenced the meeting with introductions of those in attendance.

### **I. Status of Initial Joint Labor-Management Grant**

*UUP Oneonta and Management expressed satisfaction that they will soon submit their first joint Labor-Management grant proposal, which, if approved, would provide voluntary speaking opportunities at regional schools to UUP members. The proposed grant would cover travel expenses and provide stipends for Faculty and Professionals. Participation would constitute a category of recognized service.*

*Labor and Management noted that they are always working a second joint grant proposal, which would sponsor workshops dealing with strategies for UUP Professional advancement.*

### **II. Strategies for Encouraging Drescher Applications**

*The Dr. Nuala McGann Drescher Affirmative Action/Diversity Leave Program is funded through a Joint-Labor Management Grant program. Although Oneonta has had successful Drescher applications in the past, both Labor and Management would like to broaden the College's applicant pool by increasing awareness of this program for UUPers — in eligible categories — who are working toward continuing appointment. The Drescher provides both financial and leave support for research and creative activity. Labor and Management will work together to publicize and support the Drescher program through the College Grants Office.*

### **III. Progress Report Concerning Implementation of 12-9 s.h. Fulltime Faculty Course Load**

*Labor and Management will meet on Monday, November 9, to exchange information and perspectives regarding the initial implementation of the 21-semester hour fulltime annual course load.*

### **IV. Establishing L-M Meeting on Part-Time Concerns**

*Labor and Management announced the scheduling of a Labor-Management Meeting dedicated to Part-Time Concerns for Friday, October 28, 2009.*

### **V. Professional Issues**

A. Germane to Performance Programs, for the Permanently Appointed Professionals all due on the same date each year:

(1) the number that are overdue?

B. Germane to Performance Programs, for the Professionals that do not have permanent appointment

(1) the number that are overdue?

*Management reported that 29 are overdue for those with continuing appointment, and 30 are overdue for those without permanent appointment. UUP found the figures high. Management committed to bringing those figures down. The appropriate representatives of Labor and Management will meet in a session dedicated to making progress on this issue.*

### **VI. Fall 2009 applications for fulltime faculty course reductions under "appropriate justifications" as listed on page 25 of the Faculty Handbook**

*continued*

A. request information on # of applications received and # of applications approved

**(i) For Fall 2009, what were the numbers for applications received and applications approved for fulltime faculty? The numbers requested do not include chairs, program directors, members of Management faculty customarily on a 3-3 load, the Presiding Officer of the Senate, and situations mandated by GOER.**

*Management provided the following information. College-wide, there were nine applications for Fall 2009 for fulltime faculty course reductions under "appropriate justifications" as listed on page 25 of the Faculty Handbook, and all nine applications were approved. Three applications came from the Division of Behavioral and Applied Science. Six applications came from the Division of Science and Social Science.*

*Labor expressed approval that UUP Professionals, for the first time, could apply directly for Merit/DSI salary increases. UUP anticipated discussing the results of this initiative at a future meeting.*

*Labor reported that UUP's representation on the College Review Panel and the College Committee on Professional Evaluation for the coming year will remain unchanged and that both committees are fully operational.*

#### **VII. Sharing Information on College H1N1/Swine Flu Planning and Implications for UUP Employees**

*Management noted information, updated regularly, appears on the College website and summarized it. Management reported that, despite some cases of seasonal flu, no cases of H1N1/Swine Flu have thus far been reported on campus. UUP noted that any circumstances that might potentially involve terms and conditions of employment would entail Labor-Management discussion. It was noted by Management that the campus Wellness Center is deluged with appointments and that students may not be able to obtain the necessary certification of illness that faculty customarily use for make-up purposes. A flexible attendance policy will require that Labor and Management agree to continue to share information and concerns about H1N1/Swine Flu.*

*It was noted that if UUP employees exhausted sick leave the union can and has conducted sick leave donation canvas, at the union's discretion, and could advise the employee about other options. Employees who will be exhausting sick leave should contact Human Resources to discuss available options.*

#### **VIII. UUP Looks Forward to November Meeting with SPARC Consultant Dr. David McFarland**

*UUP representatives will meet with SPARC Consultant Dr. David McFarland on November 16, 2009.*

#### **IX. Other terms and conditions of employment**

*Both Labor and Management agreed that today's meeting was constructive.*

### ***Agenda of November 9, 2009, Labor-Management "Sidebar" Discussion of Implementation of 21-SH Hours for Fulltime Faculty***

**For Management:** F. Daniel Larkin, Provost and Vice President for Academics, and Lisa Wenck, Associate Vice President for Employee Services

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

The following topics were discussed within the context of the new 21-SH hours per year for fulltime faculty:

1. Individuals teaching more than 21-SH hours per year
2. Concern with issues of class size
3. Implications for Sciences with labs: contact hours as the benchmark
4. Confirmation that 9 SH is the annual teaching expectation for Chairs



## *Part-Time Labor-Management Meeting Notes: October 30, 2009*

In Attendance:

**For UUP:** Karina Cespedes, Part-time Concerns Officer, and Rob Compton, Vice President for Academics

**For Management:** Lisa Wenck: Associate Vice President for Employee Services

### **1. Adjuncts teaching more than three courses per semester.**

UUP and Management continued the dialog regarding Part-Time faculty who teach more than three (3) courses per semester. At this time, there are 3 (three) individuals who fall into this category. UUP and Management agreed that this problematic situation should be addressed and that Management is well aware of the situation and will continue to work on it.

### **2. DSI and adjuncts**

UUP noted that significant progress has been made regarding DSI for Part-Time faculty over the past several years. Management stated that it is possible for Part-Time faculty to receive more than the customary \$125 via Departmental recommendation. UUP noted that it is problematic for Part-Timers to be part of the departmental meetings leading to recommendations for DSI due to the nature of their contract. Management will seek consultation about alternative suggestions that both parties discussed for the future to include merit and equity.

### **3. Parking for adjuncts**

Both Management and UUP agreed that parking is a serious problem for everyone. Part-timers and full-timers can call UPD for information when they are looking for parking. (Make sure you pull over prior to using a cellular phone please.)

### **4. Sick Leave for PT**

PT faculty do accrue sick leave and are eligible for the same considerations as fulltime UUP members upon exhaustion of sick leave credits. Part-Timers faculty should contact Human Resources if they are going to be out for an extended time.

### **5. Part-Time Faculty Consideration for Full-time Professional Positions**

UUP and Management reviewed the status of the 1993 Memorandum regarding first notification and internal posting. UUP and Management would be interested in working to update this memorandum to include but not limited to PT faculty.\*

*\*Note:* This memo provides the process by which UUP professional members can received first notification and consideration for UUP professional positions. UUP seeks to expand it to include PT faculty for FT UUP professional positions in addition to other enhancements that are mutually beneficial to the Management and to Labor.



### ***UUP Professionals: Know Your On-Call Rights***

By John Marino, UUP Vice President for Professionals

One issue that is facing UUP Professional members is the need to have them provide services to SUNY after completion of their daily professional obligations: specifically being on-call.

“On-call” is defined as being required to be available to return to work within a reasonable period of time after completing the professional obligation and having left the work station. A limited number of employees are assigned on-call status on a rotating basis. Their movements are restricted, and they remain on-call and available for immediate recall. Carrying a pager, cell phone or any other communication device does not qualify as on-call, unless a member is obliged to respond and return to work. Carrying any

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of these devices during a normal professional obligation also does not fit the definition.

According to the 2007-2011 contract between UUP and New York State, UUP has a mutual understanding with management that employees in the Appendix A-16 list of titles and services are eligible for on-call and recall pay as provided in sections 20.16 and 20.17. Also, upon mutual agreement between the state and UUP, changes may be made to the titles on the list. The union is restricted, however to those employees who support patient care.

What about UUP members who do not work in a hospital or whose titles are not on the list, but are required to be on-call?

Members who are told they will be on-call in the future should insist that it be made part of their performance program and that they receive a salary increase for this “permanent, significant increase in duties and responsibilities.”

UUP Professional members who are already on-call should discuss, with supervisors and UUP Oneonta Vice President for Professionals **Norm Payne** how to work out recognition for their on-call obligations through a salary increase. Employees can—and do—get compensated for on-call by salary increases, even when their titles are not included on the on-call list.

Let’s face it: In this world of technology, it is increasingly common to have work extend into our personal time. It may seem like no big deal at first, but it can easily be abused. The only recourse a UUP Professional member has is to insist on getting some type of compensation for this increase in duties.

Our long-term goal is to have all UUP members who participate in on-call duties compensated as outlined in the contract. In the meantime, Professional members of UUP who believe they are eligible for on-call pay should contact UUP Oneonta Vice President for Professionals **Norm Payne** at 436-2021 or [PayneNE@Oneonta.Edu](mailto:PayneNE@Oneonta.Edu)

### ***First UUP Panel Discussion on Diversity: An Asian Perspective***

By Nithya Iyer, UUP Affirmative Action Officer

On October 7, 2009 the first UUP diversity panel discussion was held at the Bacon Activities Center. Almost 60 people attended the event and it was a big success. The panelist included Drs. Hanfu Mi, Ho Hon Leung, and Daqi Li. The purpose of the panel discussion was to understand the experiences of international faculty members living in Oneonta and working for SUCO.

This panel discussion was very informative and the panelist shared their experiences. Dr. Mi discussed cultural and linguistic differences that Asian faculty members, especially people from China might encounter in coming to teach at SUNY–Oneonta. He specifically discussed longing for Chinese food and community when he moved to Oneonta. Another aspect that Dr. Mi shared was communication with students. He expressed that students sometimes don’t understand his accent. He tries to use various strategies to communicate and feels that it has become easier the longer he has lived here.

Additionally, Dr. Leung highlighted the diversity among the Chinese population all over the world (China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and overseas Chinese). Dr. Leung was born and grew up in Hong Kong. Dr. Leung pointed out that the social-culture and political outlooks could be different from other Chinese in other parts of the world. The dialect used in Hong Kong is Cantonese, whereas people in Mainland China speak Mandarin.

He expressed that he is glad that he learned Mandarin as a child, which helped him communicate with other Chinese people in Oneonta. He is able to fit in. Dr. Leung mentioned that although he is from Hong Kong, which is a part of China, he only learned about Mainland China during his sabbatical visit in China in Spring 2009. He also mentioned that not all Chinese are interested and



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concentrations such as sciences, business, accounting, and engineering. More and more Chinese people now are pursuing careers in humanities and social sciences.

Lastly, Dr. Li has been living in Oneonta since Fall 2000. Prior to that, he taught at a teacher-training university in China for 17 years and then studied in Texas for another 5 years. Moving to New York was a major change in his life. He loved the little town of Oneonta and the beautiful campus. Meeting new people and learning a new culture brought joy and excitement to him and his family. As a faculty member from a different cultural background, he has also experienced challenges and frustrations. Dr. Li expressed that some of the challenges were related to differences in teaching loads – in China he had small class sizes and was more involved with his students; however, in SUCO he was teaching a large number of students and felt that it was hard to get to know his students well.

The audience was also able to ask questions and share their experiences with the panelist. In summary, the first UUP panel discussion on Diversity was a great success. It was informative and very engaging. We thank our colleagues for supporting the first UUP Diversity Panel Discussion. We hope that this series of panel discussions will create awareness of experiences of international faculty members living in Oneonta and working for SUCO. Over time, we hope that the College becomes an even better place for international faculty to work and that the international faculty can play a leading role in globalizing the curriculum. The UUP Diversity panel discussions will continue in Spring 2010, when we will have a more worldwide perspective and include gender related issues. We hope to see you all then.

### *A Month in Peru*

By Miguel León, Oneonta Representative, Statewide UUP Concerns Committee

After my self-imposed academic exile to the United States in 1992, I return to Peru at least once every two years. This enables me to see my family, friends, Peruvian colleagues and experience the Peruvian realities of today.

On my most recent visit, during the months of June and July of this year, my perception leads me to point out that Peru is going through a great moment, a historic opportunity some people would say, of change and development.

During the 1980s and early 1990s polls showed that 70 percent of the population wanted to leave Peru and emigrate to other countries, especially the United States, Spain and Italy. This mindset has changed dramatically. Today, Peruvians are not leaving or trying to leave as in the past, on the contrary many are returning home. A country with more economic stability (not hyperinflation, not chronic recession), and less social unrest (not urban and rural terrorism, not insurgency) is creating an environment of optimism and confidence. Newspapers and journals highlight the so called “Peruvian Miracle” which has made Peru one of the fastest growing economies in South America. This economic boom is mainly driven by the mining industry, but manufacturing and tourism also play an important role.

The mining industry in Peru can be traced to Ancient times where cultures such as the Mochica, Chimu and Incas engaged in it, especially to make sumptuary goods for the elite. After Peru became violently incorporated in the history of Western civilization in 1532, the Peruvian mining industry responded to the demands of the international market. Minerals such as silver, gold, copper and zinc were exploited for commercial purposes by Europeans, North Americans and Peruvians over the past 500 years. Today, the mining industry is made up of multinational capitals which mine for others. For example, the Canadian, American, Japanese, and French companies mine to sell to China. The Peruvian economic boom is obviously driven by the growth of China. The Asiatic giant is actually investing huge amounts of money in Peru and using it as a laboratory for a much more ambitious economic expansion in the world.

I visited one of the booming cities affected by this economic miracle: Huaraz. Huaraz is a Peruvian Andean city located 12,000 feet above sea level. I arrived in Huaraz at 6.30 a.m. after a long overnight eight hour bus ride. Traveling from Lima, a coastal city, you feel the drastic change of altitude. Huaraz is

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a natural paradise. It is located in a beautiful Andean valley and is surrounded by impressively gigantic snow mountains, some more 22,000 feet high, which can easily be seen from downtown Huaraz. It was a spectacular sight to see this every morning from the window of my apartment. On this visit, my body needed the entire morning and part of the afternoon to adjust to the altitude. Every day, after my time in the archives, I was able to take some time to sightsee and visit institutions. Huaraz is busy, noisy and filled with people in the streets buying, eating out, and running from one place to another. I was recommended to dine at a restaurant where the service was impeccable and, strange for this type of Peruvian city, I had to actually wait 10 minutes for a table??!! I also noticed that the majority of the customers were not tourists, but people from Huaraz.

The changes in Peru are also felt in the capital, Lima, which was called the City of Kings in colonial times. Lima is a completely different city from the one I left in 1992. At that time, the city was almost in a state of siege. Terrorist attacks to government buildings, military installations, malls, embassies and residential buildings submerged the city almost into a cathatonic state. It seemed as though the Shining Path (an urban Maoist guerrilla which used terrorist tactics) was about to overthrow the Peruvian state and take control of the country. Fortunately, an special unit of the Peruvian police was able to apprehend Shining Path's leader, Abimael Guzmán and end this brutal twelve year period of devastating political violence. Lima in 2009 is a completely changed city. The "economic miracle" has created a boom in the construction of apartment buildings on the main avenues of Lima which has been coined by Peruvian sociologists "Verticalización Salvaje" (Savage Verticalization). Malls and supermarkets are filled with people all day, even on Sundays.



***A View of Lima Coast from the Mall Complex called "Larcomar"***

An interesting side of the boom is the boom of Peruvian cuisine. Lima is considered the culinary capital of South America and with good reason. Peru has a great historic culinary tradition, quality of products and creativity which, in the opinion of Peruvian chefs such as Gaston Acurio, can position Peruvian cuisine as a major asset in the redefinition of the Peruvian economic influence around the world.

I spent a great deal of time in Lima working in the Manuscript collection of the Peruvian National Library. The Peruvian National Library of today is a new modern building with an excellent infrastructure and service that rivals any other city in the industrialized world. It is a major improvement from the old building in Lima's downtown where you had to work through the maze of horrific traffic, noise and street vendors just to get into the building.

In summary, although I am happy to report better times for Peru, at the same time, I am aware of the tremendous challenges for Peruvians which include a vast number of the population in conditions below poverty. It is satisfying however, to perceive areas of progress and especially a country with a healthier self-esteem, looking with optimism towards the future.



***Views of Lima Downtown.***

*Right, Eva playing in Lima's main plaza*



***From Liz Taylor to Salvador Allende:  
Presumptuous Postcards from Chile on their 9/11***

By Kevin Mason, SUNY College at Oneonta Alumnus, Class of 2006

(Editor's Note: Kevin Mason is a SUNY College at Oneonta Alumnus, class of 2006. As a history major, he wrote a memorable seminar paper, notable for its research and original analysis, on Moe Berg, an OSS spy, linguist, and major league catcher. Like Berg, Kevin has many talents, demonstrated by his teaching, graduate work, and the adventure recounted below.)

I arrived in Chile after a month of browsing on the majestic Incan sites in Peru, equipped with a small bag of clothes and a set of presumptions that I should have left with my Swiss Army knife at the security checkpoint. My mission in Chile was to seek out the modern sentiment of the CIA-backed coup on September 11th, 1973 that led to the nearly twenty-year dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet, the death of president Salvador Allende, and the disappearance and torture of thousands of dissidents. Loathing for Pinochet, I thought, would be so thick, so viscous it could be swiped off the walls of *La Moneda*, the presidential palace where the coup took place. What I found, however, changed my outlook on Chile and travel in general- What I found was *Liz Taylor*.

Prior to my arrival in Santiago, I brushed up on my limited Spanish with a bilingual copy of Nicanor Parra's *Poems and Antipoems*, hoping to get accustomed to the language through the literature of a native Chilean. These poems, aside from providing useful one-liners about teaching, are often weaved with lines about *suenos* (dreams), making it inadequate for full, earthly conversation with willing Chileans. Spanish in Chile is riddled with slang and much faster than the tongues of its neighbors, making it difficult, but also much more enlightening, for me to learn. For instance, sentences are often punctuated with *cachai*, meaning "Catch that?" and with only a bit of classes from high school and a book of poems about dreams, I often did not *cachai*. Knowing my limitations, I enrolled in a language school in Santiago that promised to teach me to speak like a native Chilean, complete with the slang needed to catch everything for my research.

My school, aside opening up in the world of Chilean Spanish to me, had a trove of old magazines and newspapers for me to graze upon. While browsing on old newspaper from December 2006, the time of Pinochet's death, I came across a gem of Chilean slang that had my dictionary and book of antipoems as confused as the gringo perusing through them. My puzzle, a copy of *The Clinic* periodical, had a photo of a deceased Pinochet with the caption "Liz Taylor." I waited until my next class with my teacher Javier, a Santiago native with an impressive and perpetual five-o'clock shadow, to slap my puzzle of Chilean slang on the table. The pun that sailed over my head, my teacher explained, was based on the Spanish word *listo* meaning "ready." With a little more nuance, *Liz Taylor* ranges from meaning finished, complete, or, most appropriately with regard to Pinochet, over with.

After discovering the meaning of *Liz Taylor*, I took a city tour with local guide Christian, a six-foot-five French-Chilean with a brain full of local history. During our tour of *La Moneda* and the surrounding sites, we chatted about my expectations of Chile, and what I had learned while being there. He was happy to speak with someone who had a stable knowledge of the history, so he could go on in a little more depth on the subject. September 11th is a day, he told me, that Chileans wish to forget, but acknowledge because of its ominous importance. "It really wasn't a good day, so we usually just stay at home," and added laughingly, "praying for rain, hoping no one sets any tires on fire."

Through my school, I was also able to arrange a home-stay with a family in Santiago, which was more advantageous to my mission, I thought, than staying at a hostel with foreigners. My Chilean "mother" requested that I call her *Mama Chilena* and, keeping with this geneology, I also had a Chilean brother named Alvaro. He didn't insist on my calling him *hermano chileno*, but like other Chileans, he viewed the coup as *Liz Taylor*. "We have Michelle now," referring to Michelle Bachelet, Chile's first female president. "While she isn't perfect," he added, "She is a symbol of much needed progress in politics, much like you have in the

United States with Barack Obama.” A symbol indeed – Aside from being the first female president, Bachelet was exiled to Australia in 1975 and her father, General Alberto Bachelet Martinez, the head of Allende’s Food Distribution Office, was imprisoned, tortured daily and died of a heart attack while in prison. Commenting on Pinochet’s funeral, she said it would be “a violation of [her] conscience” to attend the event.

Instead of seeking out my initial plans of going to *La Moneda*, I spent my September 11th at a cooking class in the nearby city of Valparaiso, learning proper preparation of *ceviche* and other delights of Chilean cuisine. I told my guide Christian of this plan and he patted me on the back, seemingly grateful for my understanding of the dark day. I took another trip to *La Moneda*, however, wrapping up my final day in Santiago on September 13th. Admittance into the presidential palace is normally permitted, but a tightlipped police officer at the entrance stopped me and shooed me around to the side of the building. Through his redirection, I found the famous door that Allende preferred to enter during his time as president, “Number 80.” The door was decorated with seven floral displays of remembrance, the kind one would see at a funeral, a sight that helped synthesize my expectations with my experiences there. Later that evening, I went with a friend I had met to see the Nicanor Parra biography film *Un Retiro de un Antipoeta*, making a more apposite summary for the trip impossible. She asked if I was ready to leave, if I would miss Chile at all. I said I would miss it certainly, but a satisfying month there made me ready to get back to my bed, my dog, and a Brooklyn slice of pizza- I was *Liz Taylor*.

### *Hopeful in Rwanda*

By Paul Conway,  
Acting Grievance Officer and Mediator

**(Editor’s Note:** A slightly modified version of this article was also submitted to *The Daily Star*, Oneonta).

During July and August I traveled within Rwanda to continue research that I started there back in the spring of 2007. I had conducted interviews and gathered stories of courageous Hutu rescuers who risked their lives to save others during the 1994 genocide. As many readers know, almost a million people, mostly Tutsis, were murdered within a period of three months. The rate of killing in that genocide and the widespread participation of ordinary people was even beyond what transpired in the Holocaust. There was no international intervention to stop the killing then. It was an army called the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) that had previously invaded from Uganda that finally defeated the government and stopped the government sponsored genocide.

Rwanda today is a country roughly the size of Vermont with approximately ten million people. It is densely populated. The landscape is mountainous and there is much soil erosion with limited mineral resources. I was struck by the ubiquitous red dust from the mostly unpaved but heavily trafficked roads. It was the very dry season there prior to the rains that are due to come this month. Politically, Rwanda is not democratic and restricts public speech that identifies citizens as Hutu or Tutsi. In private conversations people do converse about their identities in the common language of Kinyarwanda. Understandably, with 85% of the population assumed to be Hutu, the Tutsi-dominated regime is not likely to encourage free elections in the foreseeable future.

Since the genocide, the goals of “reconciliation” and economic development have dominated the national agenda. The pursuit of justice has involved a great deal of mercy for ordinary *genocidaires* who confessed their crimes, mostly through a process of village trials based upon a traditional model called *gacaca*. I was able to observe a couple of those hearings with the help of translators. I also hoped that stories of Hutu rescuers, such as the ones I collected, might contribute to the reconciliation process.

A significant number of the rescuers, I learned, were Muslims. As a result of their courageous efforts, along with evidence that some Protestant and Catholic clergy actually facilitated the killings, many Rwandans

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have converted to Islam since the genocide. On the other hand, there were inspiring stories of priests and ministers who died in efforts to save members of their congregations.

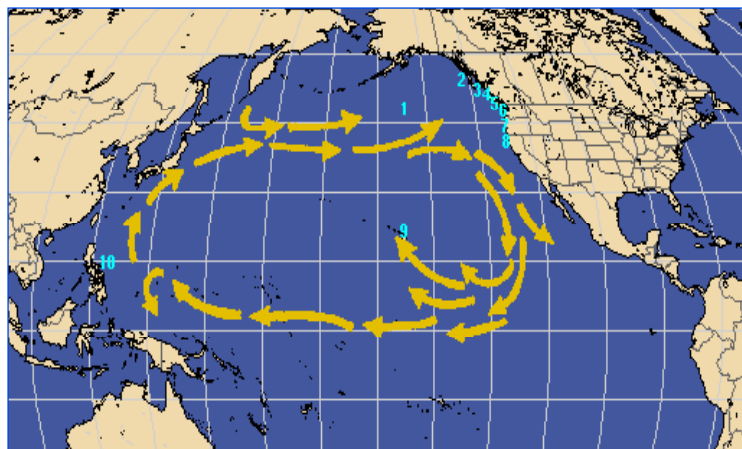
Outside of Rwanda the best known Hutu rescuer is Paul Rusesabagina but he is *persona non grata* in the country now. The government line is that he is an opportunist who did not deserve credit for saving hundreds of people in the hotel where he worked. Some also view him as a potential political threat, because he is critical of the current regime. Thus he presently resides in Belgium

One observation that struck me this time was the absence of many dogs. In the Jesuit hostel where I stayed in Remera for several nights I did hear barking but I didn't see a single dog anywhere. Then I was reminded why. During the genocide there were so many corpses lying on the roads dogs were encouraged or allowed to eat them. When the RPF encountered these conditions they shot the dogs, *en mass*.

Another impression I had was that material conditions are improving significantly. Compared to what I observed over two years ago there was a great amount of new construction of roads and buildings, especially in Kigali (the capital) and Butare, where the national university is located. Butare is a charming city and the university is ranked among the best on the continent. But there is a great need for qualified instructors there. I met several academics and learned that a faculty exchange or Fulbright scholarship would be welcomed. My hope is that another colleague -- not as close to retirement age as I am -- might apply to spend a semester or a year at that university.

Some of my travels on the back of motorcycles did scare me. But otherwise I felt like I was in a safe and secure society. I walked on many dark roads at night and on most days traveled in congested vehicles -- taxi-vans packed with up to 20 riders. But otherwise I had no reason to feel unsafe. My interactions with people there were cordial and friendly. I came to feel that I was comfortable in a very civilized place. When I first said that to myself, I was surprised, given the fact that such monstrous brutality had engulfed the country only 15 years ago. I then reflected on how thin the line is between barbarism and civilization. Rwanda may be in the midst of a long, difficult process of reconciliation. Yet that process may still unravel. Things may again disintegrate. But my recent experience in Rwanda increased my optimism, as well as hope, for the people and the country.

## SENTINEL QUIZ



This huge manmade "patch" in the Pacific Ocean, claimed by some to cover over 500 square miles, is not visible in satellite photographs. What is it?

The first person to email Nancy Cannon ([cannonns@oneonta.edu](mailto:cannonns@oneonta.edu)) with the correct answer will receive a UUP cap.

The answer to last Sentinel quiz: "This Boston born 19th century literary figure arranged to leave West Point Military Academy by purposely getting court-martialed...." was Edgar Allen Poe.  
The first correct answer was provided by **Jim Coan**.

## *In Solidarity: The Struggle of Academic Labor in the United Kingdom*

By Dr. Liz Morrish, School of Arts and Humanities Nottingham Trent University

**(Editor's Note:** Dr Liz Morrish, School of Arts and Humanities, Nottingham Trent University, knows the SUNY College at Oneonta well. She has delivered important sponsored lectures on our campus and written previously for *The Sentinel*. 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. The important article below reminds us that the struggle of workers and unions know no boundaries.)



Thanks to Bill Simons for an invitation to contribute a second occasional bulletin from Academia-UK as we mount another defense against the neoliberal insurgency. Colleagues at the University of Birmingham face having the Media, Culture and Society programmes withdrawn and the Sociology programme transferred to Social Policy with only 3 staff to support it - the rest becoming redundant.

No meaningful consultation with faculty or students has taken place, and yet administrators have made plans to transfer responsibility for the undergraduate degree program in Media and Cultural Studies to another department (Social Policy), with only three of the current teaching complement of 17 to deliver it. All this will happen behind the breastplate of 'quality assurance' vaunted by Birmingham and every other UK university, and almost certainly without any murmur of dissent from the discredited Quality Assurance Agency.

Let me put this controversy in some context. Academia-UK is governed by league table lottery, however, this operates in unpredictable ways, a bit like snakes-and-ladders. So, despite their excellent results in terms of teaching quality, student satisfaction, etc., Sociology at Birmingham performed less well than expected in the recent Research Assessment Exercises. Birmingham is a 'Russell Group' university, equivalent to US Research tier 1 universities. Since this group seeks to dominate the research rankings, and certainly the research grants awarded on the basis of RAE performance, no slippage is tolerated by university heads. Quite simply, Birmingham Sociology is being punished *pour encourager les autres*. To call this short-termism would be to miss several ironies. Firstly, Birmingham is a large multi-cultural city and the university makes a claim to be diversifying its student body through its 'widening participation' agenda. Sociology would seem to provide a resource and a natural home for many of the target demographic for such a mission. Secondly, the next RAE (which will be titled the REF) will place an emphasis (and allocate funding) partially on 'impact'. Impact is widely interpreted as economic, but in the arts, humanities and social sciences, impact on social and cultural policy will be assessed. Funding is likely to be bestowed on departments which 'transfer knowledge' to social policy agencies, NGOs, local government etc., - precisely the sort of work encapsulated by the department's Centre for the Study of Ethnicity and Culture. The website offers this description of its work: "It is a focus for the department's engagement with the local community (and wider policy agendas), while the community's multi-ethnic character brings the global 'home'".

With the Media, Culture and Society programmes being withdrawn and the Sociology programme transferred to Social Policy with only 3 staff to support it – with the rest to be redundant, this will represent a loss to the wider world of research in the field and to the local community. Perhaps an enduring loss to the university will be to its recruitment of both staff and students. Who will now take the risk of planning a career at the University of Birmingham, whether that should be as a lecturer, researcher or as an undergraduate, if the structures within which you work are not likely to endure for the extent of your ambitions?

To support students and faculty at the University of Birmingham, please go to the following web address and the electronic petition at:

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/keepsociologyatbirmingham>

## *The Eco Line: The Problem of the 21st Century*

By Ibram Rogers, Assistant Professor of African American History  
Departments of Africana & Latino Studies and History

**(Editor's Note:** This piece first appeared on Ibram Rogers' new regularly updated blog, The Progressive Corner, which can be viewed at <http://progressivecorner.wordpress.com>.)

Shortly before the 20th century, W.E.B. Du Bois, an eminent African American intellectual, said the problem of the 20th century will be the problem of the color line. Unfortunately, that problem was not solved. The line is still there.

Joining that line in the 21st century will be the problem of the eco line. One hundred world leaders gathered on Tuesday, September 21, at the United Nations for the highest level summit meeting on climate change ever arranged. Countries will position themselves on both sides of the line, the side of human progress or human degradation. Those countries dominated by eco-activists, eco-intellectuals, and the new eco-industries will stand of the side of progress. Those countries controlled by industries that would be eventually killed by environmental reforms will stand on the side of degradation.

At least one country seems to be straddling the line, like it is trying to pass a sobriety test. The United States is drunk with both a powerful eco-movement, booming eco-industries, and with an influential collection of industries that make money off of directly or indirectly killing our environment.

Actually, most eco-activists will probably say the United States is on the side of human and environmental ruin and have been there for some time. They are probably right, but I wanted to give the current U.S. administration, which has pledged to be on the side of environmental progress, another chance to choose or switch sides. It will have another chance to position itself where most Americans and most human beings are positioned on this issue.

The fact of the matter is that most people in this world truly love someone younger than them whether it is their son or daughter, grandson, granddaughter, brother, sister, niece, nephew, or friend. And they do not want to pass on the Earth as it is today. An Earth with a depleted ozone layer. An Earth with a climate that continues to dangerously change. An Earth where people develop diseases just by breathing, just by drinking water, just by touching the Earth, just be eating—just by doing the basic activities of humanity.

One of the most damaging things that has happened to too many human beings is we have become more and more removed and in conflict with nature, with the Earth. Instead, we have walked increasingly towards our material possessions—our homes, our cars and now our cell phones and computers—and we have more and more wrapped our loves around these materials. The irony though is our retreat from nature, our retreat from Earth was more in our minds than in reality. It was an ideological recoil, propelled by interests whose bottom lines were decreased every time an environmental regulation hit the books. It was not a fundamental recoil because every thing we came to love—our homes, our cars, our cell phones, our computers—came from the Earth.

These interests have no concern for humanity. They have no concern about the people of the United States. They have no concern for that younger person you love. There only true concern is their bottom line.

These interests have made the United States the most notorious eco-crook in human history. It is no wonder that the United States may try to block the erections of international eco-laws and an eco-court that leaders discussed at the UN summit. If there were no laws in place against bank robbing and no criminal justice system in place to punish them, then why would the bank robbers try to create those? As reported by the New York Times, "The Europeans are committed to a system...under which nations set numerical targets and timetables for emissions reductions, bound together in a global trading scheme and enforced by the United Nations climate change directorate. The United States instead is now exploring a 'pledge and review' system, under which individual nations would set their own targets...enforced by domestic — not international — law."

The only way the United States will surely decrease its resistance to these international eco-laws is if we

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increase our resistance to the “interests”—the oil, coal, and other industries—that wield so much power in the White House, in Congress, and in our state houses. The problem of the 21st century is the problem of the eco-line. Which side will the American people be on? Which side will you be on? Which side will I be on? Oh, you know I am on the side of human progress.

-This piece first appeared on Ibram Rogers’ new regularly updated blog, The Progressive Corner, which can be viewed at <http://progressivecorner.wordpress.com>.

## *Comrade’s Chicken Adobo*

By Rob Compton, VP for Academics



This recipe, based on the Filipino cuisine is no coward (chicken). It is a robust gastronomical feast, fit for the working class palate and wallet especially during the Great Recession.

### *Ingredients*

- 3 pounds chicken legs and thighs, whole (with or without skin) or cut into serving pieces
- 1 teaspoon, cooking oil (if you are going skinless)
- 1 small onion, thinly sliced
- ½ cup white vinegar
- ½ cup soy sauce (Kikkoman low sodium preferred)
- ¼ teaspoon, peppercorns, crushed or regular pepper
- 1 tablespoon, brown sugar
- 8 garlic cloves (4 crushed and 4 grated)
- 4 bay leaves
- 1 stalk scallion (chopped)
- Salt to taste

Combine all ingredients (except scallion and salt) in a pan, cover, and marinate for one hour. Bring to a boil, then lower heat and simmer for 30 minutes. Uncover the pan and allow to simmer (10 minutes) until some of the liquid has evaporated. Add salt to taste. Pour into a serving bowl and add chopped scallion on top of the chicken adobo. Serve over white rice or noodles.

Serves: 4 to 6

## *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, which is designed and maintained by Kyle Britton, go to the following link <http://www.oneontauup.org>

The chapter website contains a number of innovative features and links.

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

## *The Attack on Public Universities*

By Judith Wishnia, Academic Delegate, Stony Brook

(**Editor's Note:** The following article by Judith Wishnia appears with her permission. It originally appeared in the UUP Stony Brook newsletter. Wishnia's essay critiques Christopher Newfield's book, *Unmasking the Public University: The Forty Year Assault on the Middle Class*, a recent publication of Harvard University Press.)

Public universities all over this country, including our own SUNY, face enormous budget cuts and increased tuition for students. Christopher Newfield of the University of California at Santa Barbara, makes a compelling case that the financial and political crises of public universities are the result of a forty year conservative campaign to end public education's democratizing influence on American society, and that the chronic underfunding of public higher education has gone hand-in-hand with the debasing of the middle class.

Historically, public higher education entered a "golden age" after World War II. The G.I. Bill and the introduction of Pell grants enabled millions of young Americans of all class backgrounds to benefit from higher education. The Civil Rights movement and introduction of affirmative action programs allowed even more students of diverse backgrounds to join what the author calls the 'college-educated middle class.' State universities all over the country opened new branches and expanded their community colleges until, by 1995, 80% of college students attended public universities.

The emergence of a newly-educated diverse class of students who frequently advocated social change frightened powerful conservative interests. Coupled with an economic attack on the middle class and the decline of real wages, they began their assault on public higher education. Their retaliations began with the culture wars of the Reagan years, attacking Black Studies, Women's Studies, ethnic studies, and demonizing affirmative action. Even humanities and social sciences were denigrated as frivolous or useless and so became (and remain) underfunded.

"Big government" was portrayed as detrimental to private enterprise and the federal government curtailed its contributions to the states. States, in turn, contributed less and less to their universities. Seeking alternative funding, universities turned increasingly to corporations—especially those involved in medicine, pharmaceuticals and technology—for financial support. Teaching and research became geared more toward reaping results with potential to maximize corporate profits rather than toward creating a thinking citizenry. Further, while conservative interests wanted the knowledge and research generated by the colleges to benefit the profits of large corporations, they did *not* want the workers generating this knowledge to be in any measure of control.

Universities adopted the corporate model of management. Full-time faculty positions, especially those with potential for tenure, have been replaced by part-time positions that are paid less, and hired and fired at will. Needless to say, unions have largely been discouraged from coming on campuses. Corporations happily benefit from research that is substantially funded by the federal government (taxpayers) and performed by an army of poorly-paid professors and graduate students, minimizing their own research and development costs and maximizing their shareholders' profits.

The campaign against the universities did not stop with lower funding. After September 11, 2001, there have been increased attacks on individual faculty as being too "left," as unpatriotic. David Horowitz served as a stalking horse for this campaign, attacking classroom teachers and demanding hiring of right-wing conservatives to create a tableau of "fairness." Scholarly examination of controversial topics has been suppressed. Even quantitative scientists did not escape: those who warned of global warming were ridiculed and stem cell research was curtailed.

So here we are now. The middle class is eroding into the pit of unemployment and universities

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face even more cuts and tuition increases that will restrict access to students across a full range of socioeconomic diversity. Newfield ends his book with the following statement: “For better or worse, the university has become increasingly responsible for imagining progress for the whole of society. Intellectually, at least, it is up to the task. But if it is to succeed, it will need a renewed financial base and a new confidence to its public mission.” Yes.



*“UUP Oneonta Scholar Activists  
Rob Compton (left) and Hanfu Mi (right) with UUP  
Statewide Membership Director Ed Quinn (center)”*

## Executive Board Contact Info

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Administrative Assistant .....	Peg Carney .....	ONEONTA@UUPMAIL.ORG...	436-2135 (o)
UUP Oneonta Office: 206 Human Ecology Building			
<b>Other Delegates &amp; Alternates</b>			
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	Chris Bulson.....	BULSONCE .....	397-9345 (h)
	John Carney .....	CARNEYJJ .....	432-5360 (h)
	Jeri Anne Jerminario .....	JERMINJA.....	436-2377 (o)

\*e-mail addresses are @ONEONTA.EDU  
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