

UUP ONEONTA PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR JANUARY 2025- Shirley Clark

Welcome Back to Spring 2025 at Oneonta!

As we step into the bright and promising year of 2025, we extend a warm welcome to all returning and new members of the Oneonta UUP Chapter. The Spring semester is in full swing, and our campus is buzzing with energy and excitement. We're thrilled to kick off this year with a renewed sense of enthusiasm and purpose, and we're eager to continue working on behalf of our members throughout the semester.

Reflecting on a Wonderful Start to the Year

We began the year on a high note with our *Mid-Year Mingle* event, held on January 21, 2025, at the Grille. The event was a fantastic success, with an outstanding turnout from our members. It was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with colleagues, make new connections, and enjoy a wide array of delicious finger foods and mouthwatering desserts. The warm atmosphere, combined with meaningful conversation, set the perfect tone for the year ahead. We're grateful to everyone who attended and made the event such a success!

Exciting Events Coming Up

We are excited to share a series of events and workshops designed to engage, educate, and empower our members. These events provide valuable opportunities for professional development, networking, and building community within the Oneonta UUP Chapter. Mark your calendars for the following dates:

- **February 19, 2025: Effective Meetings: Effective Results** This workshop will provide you with the tools and techniques needed to run meetings that are both productive and efficient. Whether you're leading a team or participating in a discussion, mastering the art of effective meetings will help ensure that your time together is well spent.
- **March 4, 2025: Appreciating Different Religions** This session on appreciating different religions is an opportunity to foster understanding, respect, and open-mindedness toward the diverse spiritual beliefs and practices around the world. Come join us to realize ways we all can help break down stereotypes, encourage empathy, and promote peace.
- **March 18, 2025: Supervisory Training** Supervisory skills are critical to the success of any organization. This workshop will cover essential strategies and best practices for those in supervisory roles or those looking to develop leadership skills. Whether you're new to supervision or have years of experience, there will be valuable insights for everyone.
- **May 6, 2025: Workload for Professionals** As professionals, balancing a demanding workload with personal well-being can be a challenge. This workshop will focus on strategies for managing your workload effectively, optimizing your time, and preventing burnout. We'll also explore ways to foster a supportive work environment where everyone can thrive.

These events will be held from **12:00 PM to 1:00 PM** in **Morris Hall**. We encourage all members to participate in as many events as possible to make the most of these learning and networking opportunities.

Monthly Chapter Meetings: A Chance to Connect and Collaborate

In addition to our scheduled workshops and events, we are pleased to announce that our Chapter Meetings will continue to be held on the first Wednesday of each month. These meetings are a great chance to stay informed about UUP Chapter initiatives, collaborate with fellow members, and have your voice heard. The meetings will be held from **12:00 PM to 1:00 PM** in **Le Café** in **Morris Hall**.

Whether you're a long-time member or a new face, we invite you to join us for these gatherings. It's an excellent opportunity to engage with UUP leadership, discuss key issues, and stay updated on important developments that impact our campus and profession.

Important Member Benefits

If you are a new UUP member, please take note of the available scholarships and their deadlines. Applications for these UUP scholarships can be found on the Oneonta UUP Website. Be sure to review the eligibility requirements for each award and submit your application by the respective deadlines.

1. United University Professions Steve Street Award

Application Deadline: May 1, 2025

Eligible candidates must:

- Be currently registered undergraduate students at a state-operated campus of SUNY.
- Demonstrate dedication to and intellectual engagement with social justice.
- Have completed at least 15 credit hours at any branch of SUNY.

2. United University Professions William Scheuerman Post-Baccalaureate Scholarship

Application Deadline: March 1, 2025

Eligible candidates must:

- Be full-time graduate students at a state-operated campus of SUNY.
- Demonstrate a tireless quest for academic and personal excellence.
- Have completed at least 9 credits at any SUNY graduate school, with a GPA of at least 3.95.

3. United University Professions College Scholarship Competition

Application Deadline: March 1, 2025

Eligible candidates must:

- Be full-time undergraduate students at a state-operated campus of SUNY.
- Demonstrate a tireless quest for academic and personal excellence.
- Have completed at least 18 credit hours at any SUNY campus, with a GPA of at least 3.75.

Taking Time to Thank Mark Ferrara and Melissa Lavin

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mark Ferrara, our Vice President for Academics, and Melissa Lavin for their unwavering dedication to advocating for a 3/3 teaching load for tenured faculty members. Their relentless efforts in championing this cause have been invaluable, and I believe it is important to acknowledge their hard work and commitment.

For many universities, a teaching load of 3/3—meaning three courses per semester—can be a highly attractive aspect of an academic position. It plays a significant role in both recruiting and retaining exceptional faculty members. A balanced teaching load like this offers faculty the opportunity to maintain an equilibrium between their teaching responsibilities and their other professional obligations, such as conducting research, engaging in professional development, and contributing to service activities within the academic community.

Implementing a 3/3 teaching load can be profoundly beneficial, not only for the individual faculty members but also for the institution. It provides an environment where faculty can effectively engage with students, pursue scholarly work, and contribute to the broader academic community without the risk of burnout. A reasonable teaching load helps foster academic engagement and job satisfaction, ensuring that faculty members have the time and energy to continue growing in their careers while delivering high-quality education to their students.

Mark Ferrara and Melissa Lavin's efforts have created a meaningful opportunity for faculty well-being, professional growth, and institutional success. Their continued leadership on this matter is truly appreciated.

Looking Ahead to a Successful Semester

As we begin the Spring 2025 semester, the Oneonta UUP Chapter remains committed to advocating for the best interests of our members. From professional development workshops to engaging social events, we are dedicated to fostering a supportive and dynamic environment for all our members. We're excited to continue working together to strengthen our community and make this semester a memorable and impactful one.

Here's to a fantastic 2025 full of growth, collaboration, and success. We look forward to seeing you at our Upcoming Events and Chapter Meetings!

Sincerely,

Shirley A. Clark
Oneonta UUP Chapter President