



January 30, 2025

*Welcome
Back!*

Welcome Back to Campus for the Spring Semester!

UUP Oneonta January 2025 President's Report

by Shirley Clark, UUP Oneonta Chapter President

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

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A Message from Jessie Simpauc-Oneonta UUP Chapter VP for Professionals- Monthly Zoom Sessions Planned:

Dear UUP Represented Professionals,
My name is Jessie Simpauc, and I am your Vice President for Professionals. I look forward to talking with you all.

My primary focus is to ensure that our professional community receives the support, resources, and representation it needs while providing opportunities for continuous growth and development in our respective fields.

For professionals in supervisory roles, a Zoom meeting will be held on the 2nd Thursday of each month. For professionals not in supervisory roles, a Zoom meeting will be held on the 2nd Friday of each month. See below for the Zoom link information.

For UUP Professionals in a Supervisory Role:

Every 2nd Thursday starting on February 13th, 2025.

Jessie Simpauco is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: UUP Professional Supervisory Role

Time: Feb 13, 2025 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Second Thu, 6 occurrence(s)

Please download and import the following [iCalendar](#) (.ics) files calendar system.

Link to add to [Google calendar](#)

Join [Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 839 0722 1643

Passcode: bRAD36

For UUP Professionals in a Non-Supervisory Role:

Every 2nd Friday starting on February 14th, 2025.

Jessie Simpauco is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: UUP Professionals

Time: Feb 14, 2025 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Second Fri, 6 occurrence(s)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files from the calendar system.

Link to add to [Google Calendar](#)

Join [Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 849 8629 4635

Passcode: staff25

These meetings will generally focus on updates specific to UUP professionals and allow you to address any issues or concerns.

I look forward to hearing from you and learning more about your experiences, concerns, and suggestions. Please feel free to reach out to me directly at jessie_simpauco@live.com. Together, we can work towards realizing our vision of a stronger and more vibrant union that genuinely reflects the needs and aspirations of our members.

Thank you for all your hard work.

Best regards,

Jessie Simpauco

Oneonta UUP Chapter VP for Professionals

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**Get Ready for UUP Chapter Elections!**

**From Jeri O’Bryan-Losee- Secretary/Treasurer, Statewide UUP:**

Consider running for a position in your UUP chapter and representing UUP at an affiliate convention.

Nominations are open and chapter elections will take place in April.

Those considering running for a UUP chapter leadership position should submit their self-nomination through the UUP Members Only portal or by using a mail-in nomination form. Mail-in nomination forms have already been sent out to members.

Members who choose to submit a self-nomination through the Members Only portal will need a password to access that portal. To create a password, click on the link in the red box on the Members Only portal, which you can find by clicking [HERE](#).

A workshop on UUP’s election process will be scheduled through April for members who are thinking about becoming more involved as a union leader and want to learn more about the chapter election process.

The workshop, titled “UUP 101: The Basics,” gives an overall view of the structure of UUP and our place in SUNY, New York state and the labor movement. It is a great introduction into the workings of UUP.

UUP statewide Secretary-Treasurer Jeri O’Bryan-Losee will lead the 90-minute seminar, which will introduce members to UUP and help potential candidates prepare for the upcoming 2025-2027 chapter and affiliate election cycle.

The next UUP 101 seminar will be Tuesday, Feb. 11, from 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Click [HERE](#) to register.

Dates and registration for all workshops may be found by going to [www.uupinfo.org/calendar](http://www.uupinfo.org/calendar).

Another valuable workshop is “Understanding Chapter President Release Time.” This webinar will provide valuable insights into release time, its impact on chapter budgets, reporting, and other key aspects of contract Article 11, Employee Organizational Leave.

The upcoming session has been scheduled from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 30. Click [HERE](#) to register.

For more information or to inquire about setting up a chapter-specific workshop, contact Jeri O’Bryan-Losee at [jobryan@uupmail.org](mailto:jobryan@uupmail.org).

Here’s the schedule for UUP’s chapter and affiliate elections:

- Chapter and affiliate convention nominations close Feb. 14.
- Chapter nomination lists will be posted to the UUP website through Feb. 28.
- Chapter elections ballots will be mailed to the members’ addresses on file March 12-14.
- Chapter and affiliate elections ballots are due April 18.
- Chapter and affiliate elections ballots will be counted April 22-25. Results will be posted as soon as practicable after ballots are counted.
- Run-off elections will be conducted as required.

**NOTE:** The elections timeline was approved by the UUP Executive Board July 31, 2024. Elections are conducted through the office of the Secretary-Treasurer by the statewide Constitution and Governance Committee in conjunction with MK Elections.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Jeri O’Bryan-Losee- Secretary/Treasurer, Statewide UUP



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**An Invitation to Diversity Film Night- "Pride" Movie**

*by Dr. Matthew Hendley, SUNY Oneonta Professor of History*

I would like to invite all members of UUP to join us for a movie night designed to build alliances across boundaries.

In conjunction with the University Council on Diversity, I have arranged for a showing of the British film "Pride" (2014) in the Red Dragon Theater in Hunt Union on Wednesday, February 5, 2025 from 7-9:30 p.m. Popcorn and UK styled snacks will be available. We have invited a wide range of SUNY Oneonta student organizations to participate including the History Club, QT affinity group and the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA). We hope to invite several more. It would be great if UUP members could similarly show their support and solidarity.

The film is a historical comedy based on actual events in labor history that still resonate today. The support of an LGBTQ activist group from London of the macho and not always open minded coal miners in a small village in South Wales during the violent coal miner's strike in the UK in 1984-85. Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government was determined to close down the unionized coal mining industry and the miners fought back. They felt very isolated and alone in their small mining villages against the forces of the police and management. The arrival of the LGBTQ activists is a breath of a fresh air. All ends well in the film. The cast is great and the movie has been beloved by audiences in the UK and around the world.

I have a DVD of the film and will give a short background lecture on the history of gay rights in the UK. The film has a great cast which includes such British actors as Bill Nighy, Andrew

Scott, Imelda Staunton and Dominic West. It has won numerous UK film awards. *Pride* (2014) is a heartfelt film which both entertains but hits on some really important themes of acceptance, tolerance, solidarity and reconciliation. Hopefully, it can offer some solace and inspiration in our challenging times.

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### **Hard Truths: The 2024 Presidential Election and the Election Process of State UUP Officers**

*by Bill Simons, UUP Oneonta Secretary and Academic Delegate, with former Chapter President Rob Compton, past State UUP President Bill Scheuerman, and former UUP Oneonta President and past State UUP Vice President Ed Wesnofske*



Door-to-door campaign activists in Carbondale, PA. In front, Bill is wearing his UUP shirt.

Donald Trump threatens abolition of the U.S. Department of Education and creates anxiety over the future of student loans and Pell grants. Thus, for good reason, UUP and its parent affiliates NYSUT and AFT supported the Democratic candidate, Kamala Harris, in the 2024 presidential election. Congressional races also matter profoundly, and the union merits credit for contributing to the victory of challenger Josh Riley to the U.S. House of Representatives in New York's 19<sup>th</sup> congressional district. Given demographic realities in blue state New York, however, UUP could have done more in the battleground, swing-state state of Pennsylvania. Binghamton, New York, is only about an hour's drive from Scranton, Pennsylvania, and we should have organized and advertised accessible carpools and buses doing Albany-Cobleskill-Oneonta-Binghamton pickups on a weekly basis. UUP did not, and Pennsylvania's 19 electoral votes were lost because Trump carried the state by the narrow popular vote margin of 50.4% to Harris' 48.7%. UUP's inability to have more feet on the ground in Pennsylvania was a direct consequence of the union not engaging rank-and-file members through direct voting for State UUP officers.

Long before election day 2024, I advocated for direct voting for State UUP officers and accessible carpools and buses doing Albany-Cobleskill-Oneonta-Binghamton pickups. Neither happened. So, through the Democratic organization in Binghamton, I rendezvoused on Saturdays for 2 Pennsylvania trips, going door-to-door in the hollowed-out cities of Carbondale and Lebanon. To heighten union visibility, I proudly wore my UUP shirt visible under an open jacket.

A Democrat by registration, an activist documented by 16 years as a union chapter president, and a liberal centrist by temperament, I have voted Republican when conscience and candidates so dictated. FDR is my hero, but I found Harris unclear on the issues and bereft of a strong

record. However, by reason of Trump's role in the January 6, 2021 insurrection, dismissal of environmental imperatives, neo-isolationist posture toward NATO, and retributive rhetoric, I campaigned for Harris in Pennsylvania. A smiling lady campaigning for Trump was very friendly, posing for a photo op with me and friend Denis Brennan despite our Harris-Walz hats. Others were less congenial, including the homeowner who threatened to unleash his angry Rottweiler and the three young men who brought their car to a screeching halt to condemn Harris for runaway inflation and the debacle at the border, announcing their departure by screaming a sexual obscenity to describe Harris. In a Dominican neighborhood, residents appeared hesitant to speak candidly. And many folks ignored the ringing doorbell and failed to appear.

I reserved a campus room, then organized and publicized a UUP November 5<sup>th</sup> election night watching of the returns, open to all SUNY Oneonta employees and students. Although I had done this in the past, a fellow unionist cautioned, "Some consider it irresponsible to perform 'non-partisanship' in this uniquely terrible rhetorical situation. It is especially unfair, or at least unrealistic, to expect undergrads to do so when the political class cannot." Recalling that there was a time when hard-fought ballgames, courtroom trials, and presidential elections ended with a handshake, I proceeded with the election night gathering. Although attendance was modest — 5 staff and 15 students — interaction was upbeat, thoughtful, and instructive as we flipped the TV dial intermittently between MSNBC and Fox News. Kudos to Dr. Achim Koeddermann, Philosophy Department institution and UUP Academic Delegate, for bringing several of his students and successfully encouraging them to share the reasons for their views and to listen to others do so as well.



UUP activists joined the election night gathering. From left, Delegate Achim Koeddermann, President Shirley Clark, Secretary Bill Simons, and Delegate Nancy Cannon. Rob Compton arrived soon after.

Obviously, the election results are sobering for education unions. In the case of UUP, by not granting the suffrage to members for State officer elections, a distance was created that impeded maximum mobilization of our rank-and-file for a stronger presence in Pennsylvania. Bill Scheuerman, an astute political scientist, a savvy political operative, and, at 14-years, the longest serving State UUP President in our history, states hard truths:

*Popular sovereignty is the bedrock of democracy, but in the recent presidential election many Democrats didn't even bother to vote. To many Dems Harris' candidacy seemed to fall out of a coconut tree, to use a favorite phrase of hers. They weren't involved in her candidacy because there was no primary, so why vote? To many UUPers the union's leaders also seem to have fallen from a coconut tree too. In UUP's election process rank-and-file members are twice removed from the election of officers. All members have the right to vote for representatives to the union's ultimate governing body, the Delegate Assembly. These delegates, who represent about 1% of the membership, pick the union's top leadership. Since rank-and-file members aren't involved in directly electing officers and are far removed from the decisions these officers make, is it any wonder that about 85% of them don't bother to vote at all. The obstacles the union places on voting for its officers make many members view the organization as irrelevant.*

With his customary courage and insight, former UUP Oneonta president Rob Compton, a prolific scholar of politics and multiculturalism, also advocates for further democratization of State UUP:

*The Boeing and UAW strikes demonstrated the power of unions, in particular, those that have direct voting of top officers. UAW raises ranged from 33% to 160%. Boeing workers saw salary increases of 38% and a \$15,000 signing bonus. Now, both unions are ideally placed to fight layoffs because members know that it is their union. The moral of the story is that direct voting is integral to union success. If members sense a lack of efficacy, UUP will end up like the Democrats did in 2024 with the working-class sensing alienation. The Democrats now risk the possibility of becoming an appendix of American politics. UUP risks becoming an appendage to ensconced political elites.*

And the distinguished sociologist Ed Wesnofske, former UUP Oneonta President, past State UUP Vice President, and an iconic figure in union circles, tells it like it is:

*The primary challenge facing State UUP is the need to recruit and develop more member activists. The geometric growth of paid UUP staff in recent years reflects the erosion of member activism. Membership without franchise is hollow. To address that need, meetings of the Oneonta Executive Board and of the Oneonta Chapter passed resolutions strongly supporting direct voting for State officers. This led to the creation of a State UUP task force on direct voting, which Bill Scheurman and I served on. The State UUP task force on direct voting culminated in a report that has never been made accessible to the general membership or to delegates. The results of the 2024 U.S. presidential election in the battleground state of Pennsylvania parallel the failure of State UUP to engage membership through direct voting of state officers.*

Make no mistake: democracy is not done, and unions have a pivotal role to play in its resurgence. To maximize our impact in the critical struggles ahead, UUP must embrace direct voting for State UUP officers. It is time to mount the ascending arc of participatory democracy.



## UUPers Join Other Volunteers at Oneonta's Annual Friends of Christmas Dinner

*by Nancy Simons, Academic Delegate*



Oneonta's Annual Friends of Christmas Dinner

UUPers are amongst the volunteers who staff Oneonta's Annual Friends of Christmas Dinner. Due to logistics, the dinner this year was held on Saturday, December 21, 2024, rather than on Christmas Day itself. Although a number of groups provide support, the First United Methodist Church, as traditional, provided the host venue. In the spirit of the holidays, volunteers prepare, greet, cook, serve, wait, bus, and clean up. Local enterprises donate the bounty. The dinner is free and open to all. Guests dine on a delicious and abundant multicourse meal amidst welcoming companionship. Both guests and volunteers have a wonderful time and share a special bond that makes no distinctions. The dining area, Fellowship Hall, at the First United Methodist Church is well named. Over the course of many years, Bill and I have been privileged to serve as volunteers.



Some who would like to share in the celebration face impediments to physical attendance. For those potential guests separated by distance or circumstance, the Friends of Christmas volunteers, with a warm smile and greeting, deliver the same hot and delicious meals to individuals, families, and friendship groups that those in Fellowship Hall partake of.

Volunteers, who represent diverse religious traditions, keep coming back, some for decades, and realize that they are lucky to share the joy of the day with the guests, truly our sisters and brothers. Whatever our faith or lack thereof, let us sign on to the iconic aspiration of Tiny Tim: *"God bless us, every one!"*



Bill delivering meals

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## **Ed Wesnofske and the History of UUP: Part 1**

by Nancy Simons, Academic Delegate



In the Beginning: Ed Wesnofske

Salt air filled our lungs as Bill and I stepped out of the car at Ed's farmhouse at Ocean View, his family farm in Bridgehampton, Long Island. Not yet discovered by the rich and famous, the Bridgehampton of the 1950's was surrounded by potato fields, including those of Ed's family. Ed's high school graduating class in the remote, unincorporated village numbered 13. Recreational activities in this rural backwater mostly revolved around activities such as swimming, bowling, and baseball. Growing up in the aftermath of World War II, the teachers who influenced him most were veterans who communicated their war experiences. Classical literature which transported his mind to times, places, and events beyond the agricultural fields of home held primary appeal.

Growing up on a farm family, Ed learned early the necessity of hard work, diligence and perseverance. Like most farm kids, he was expected to help out as needed. Ed's farming responsibilities included irrigating dry land, moving equipment between fields, driving trucks,

and occasionally picking potatoes that had been uncovered by a mechanical potato digger. His entrepreneurial father owned farms in several states, including Florida. At some point, Ed realized farming was not for him. This turned out to be fortuitous as Ed was the third son (with a younger sister) and developers were buying up land, making affordable farmland scarce.

After high school he began his higher education at the Cornell University agricultural school, which completely overwhelmed a young man from a tiny insular community. On a trip back home from Ithaca in 1959, he stopped at Oneonta, which then appeared to him “shabby”, and proclaimed he wouldn’t be caught dead in that town! He completed his undergraduate degree at Adelphi University, where he became enamored with sociology. This expansion of knowledge led him to develop a curiosity about the world focused on the behavior of people. Although he considered attending Columbia University for literature, he decided the New School for Social Research in New York City offered a good fit for his interests. The left-leaning New School for Social Research, notable for distinguished scholars forced to leave totalitarian regimes in Europe about the time of World War II, provided plenty of fodder for Ed’s intellectual curiosity.

When Ed moved to New York City to attend the New School he lived in what was then a slum neighborhood (now the chic Chelsea section of Manhattan) populated by recent Puerto Rican migrants and remnants of an Eastern European refugee population. He loved sitting at his second-floor window watching the people go by and imagining what they might do or what their backgrounds might be. Curiosity, driven and geared to discover what makes people tick, is what made Ed a sociologist.

After graduation from the New School in 1966, Ed needed a college teaching job to get a draft deferment to avoid deployment to Vietnam. Due to the Baby Boom, expanding college

enrollments led to a shortage of college professors. One day, he received a letter from Marsh Ray asking if he would be interested in applying for a sociology position at Oneonta. He called and was invited for an interview. The interview led him to conclude that Oneonta exhibited great possibilities. He was especially impressed by the library holdings of philosophical materials from the school of phenomenology. He was offered a three-year contract, but initially refused because the Vietnam War was supposed to be over by Christmas 1966 and he thought he'd like to return to New York City. The college then made him an offer he couldn't refuse.

Since Ed's initial orientation was geared toward spending time in New York City, he kept an apartment in Manhattan and began commuting back and forth. He obtained his pilot's license, bought a Piper Cherokee, and flew it weekends back to New York City, a 50-minute flight. He parked his plane at Teterboro airport in New Jersey and took a free shuttle to 42<sup>nd</sup> St in Manhattan. It only cost him \$5 to leave his plane at the airport vs \$15 to park his car in Manhattan. This lifestyle created a somewhat "splashy" reputation for him.

Ed led local resistance to the Vietnam War, advocating for an end to American involvement. He led an unsuccessful court challenge against local Democratic Committee persons who supported the war. In 1968, Ed circulated a petition to faculty to sign an ad in *The New York Times* in support of Dr. Benjamin Spock and others opposed to the war. The petition garnered 9300 faculty signatures from across the country. Three weeks later he got a draft notice, even though he was not eligible because he was over 26 years of age. Some wondered if telephone conversations were being monitored. He circulated another ad in support of draft resistance and efforts to try to bring the war effort to a conclusion. Then he received a second draft notice and an order to report for a physical exam. He later got access to his draft board files, which included

the *New York Times* ad, and concluded that the draft notices were retribution for his stance on the war. He was surprised to see a letter from President Royal Netzer certifying his need to be kept at the college in the interest of national defense. The letter was written while Ed was “chewing on his ankles” as head of the union. After the May 4, 1970, shooting of the Kent State students who were protesting the Vietnam War by the National Guard, the Oneonta administration decided to close down the college without final exams. Ed continued to advocate for an end to the war and supported George McGovern in 1972.

In 1971, academic freedom became an issue. The research office of the State Legislature asked the presidents of 16 State University colleges, including Oneonta, for information on the “content and thrust” of courses, particularly those dealing with “revolution” and “the Establishment”. The acting president of Oneonta, Clifford Craven, replied to the request, “I think you should know I consider the tone, and the nature of your request, to be extremely ill-advised.”

Although he was years away from his early life on the farm, Ed’s early introduction to the value of hard work, diligence, and perseverance remained intact as he emerged as a union leader.

(Note: This article was entirely written by humans, with no input from AI.)

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John Hurley, SUNY Oneonta Coach and Teacher: The Last Run

by Bill Simons, Secretary



From 1965 until 2008, John Hurley was an institution at SUNY Oneonta as a track-cross country coach and physical education instructor. He died on December 4, 2024.

Coach Hurley was one of the first people I met when I arrived on campus in August 1977. Fittingly, it was in the locker room of the gym. Our shared interests, sports, politics, and Massachusetts, amongst them, forged a friendship that endured for decades. I found John to be loyal, principled, compassionate, resilient, stubborn, and morally courageous. He was the youngest son of an Irish Catholic family from Fall River, Massachusetts, and that origins story was significant in his makeup. His father, Joseph Sr. served as Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts under Democratic Governor Jim Curly, a legendary political figure, and that connection helped stamp political liberalism on John.

John was briefly a candidate for the NYS Senate, and as a volunteer, took part in many political campaigns. Perpetually energized and informed about politics, John was a great fan of MSNBC's Rachel Maddow. He always relished political debate.

From boyhood schoolboy baseball and track to senior athletic running and swimming competition, John was an accomplished athlete. Undeterred by Heartbreak Hill, he completed the 26-mile, 385-yard Boston Marathon on several occasions.

It was as a coach that John made his greatest mark. Across the decades, scores of runners can attest to the dedication and impact of Coach Hurley. In the latter part of his coaching career, he became a special booster of women athletes. Through *Hurley's Heroes*, he also promoted open road races for locals.

Friendship and good eating meant a lot to John as his Thursday night group could have attested. Although I am not Irish, I spent countless St. Patty's days with John -- surprisingly I appreciated the corned beef and cabbage more than he did. My wife Nancy and I enjoyed John's company on many a Thanksgiving. And Donna and our son Joe also had warm memories of John. May race's end always find you in the winner's circle John -- with a good meal and a mixed drink waiting!

UUP Chapter Meeting Notes
Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 12 PM: Le Café, Morris Complex

by Bill Simons, Secretary

Attendees: 29 (24 in-person; 5 Zoom)

In-person (24): Leah Bridges, Shirley Clark, Tom Crabtree, Essence Delmonte, Teresa DeSantis, Sarah Dunlap, Christine Edwards, Ethan Fox, Grazyna Kamburowska, Jeri Anne Jerminario, Lisa Kastanis, Michael McAvoy, Armond Minor, Anthony Nichols, Val Rapson, Mark Simonson, Jessie Simpauco, Loraine Tyler, Rich Tyler, Zdenek Tronicek, Alayna Vander Veer, Gary Wickham, Kylee Wignall, and RP Withington

Zoom (5): Geoff O'Shea, Chris Sielaff, Matt Unangst, Ed Wesnofske, and Lori Wienke

I. The Meeting came to order at 12:05 PM.

II. President Shirely Clark provided a welcome and presided over the following:

- A. CWA Assistant Teresa DeSantis was recognized for her dedication and contributions to the running of the office.
- B. Professional Delegate/Officer for Retirees Loraine Tyler was honored for organizing special events.
- C. Salary increases through the contract and DSI (Discretionary Salary Increases) were explained.
 - (i) All eligible Oneonta UUP members received a salary increase of 0.5% (one-half percent) in accordance with Article 20.6 of the 2022-2026 Agreement between the State of New York and United University Professions (UUP). This increase, retroactive to July 1, 2024, for employees on a calendar- year basis and September 1, 2024, for academic-year employees, was added to the base salary and reflected in the December 18th paychecks. Additionally, SUNY Oneonta made another 0.5% increase available for discretionary distribution above and beyond contractual obligations. This additional increase was not applicable to part-time employees who have recently received other salary adjustments.

III. Discussion of Chapter priorities for spring 2025 identified the following:

- A. making effective use of the Health and Housing Survey results
- B. moving ahead with the collaborative UUP-Management program on student academic engagement/disengagement and course attendance
- C. move supervisor training from announcement to actualization. Note: Management stated that it will conduct mandatory supervisor training in January 2025.
- D. bring UUP advocacy for 3-3 normative teaching load for tenure track/tenured academic faculty to a successful conclusion
- E. continue collaborative discussion on compensation equity with Management to substantive completion
- F. dissemination of information to all members concerning upcoming Chapter elections, including timeline, nomination process, campaign regulations, preparing a candidate statement for UUP media, participation in recorded and posted candidate caucus, and tabulation of election results

IV. The meeting adjourned at 12:42 PM.



Seasonal Recipe:

Sweet Potato and Black Bean Chili



Full of flavor and easy to make, this Sweet Potato Black Bean Chili is a wonderfully satisfying vegetarian meal! Serve with avocado chunks, cilantro and cornbread.

Ingredients:

One sweet potato

One small can of diced tomatoes

Two small cans of black beans

One Chopped onion

Chopped garlic to taste

Olive oil

Spices- - Italian spice, cumin, chili powder, paprika, and pepper to taste.

Instructions:

1. Sauté a chopped onion in a heavy pan with a little olive oil. Add garlic and a large chopped and peeled sweet potato. Cook 1 more minute.
2. Add spices- Italian spice, cumin, chili powder, paprika, and pepper to taste.
3. Add a can of diced tomatoes, two cans of black beans and two cups of water.
4. Stir, bring to a simmer and cook for 20-25 minutes. Serve hot!

(Source: <https://www.noracooks.com/vegan-sweet-potato-black-bean-chili/>)

Chapter Events:

Schedule for Chapter Meetings- Spring Semester, 2025

12- 1 pm in Le Cafe, Morris Complex:

February 5

March 5

April 2

May 7

Chapter Ambassador’s Luncheon- Wednesday, February 12th 12-1 pm Morris- Le Cafe

Appreciating Different Religions Seminar- Tuesday, March 4th 12-1 pm Morris- Craven Lounge

Spring Workshops with Labor Relations Specialist Chris Sielaff:

Wednesday, February 19th: Meeting Efficiency Maximization-How to Optimize Your Time, Your Team, and Your Workday with 10-Minute Meetings 12-1pm, Location Morris-Le Cafe

Tuesday, March 18th: Supervisory Training 12-1pm, Location Morris- Craven Lounge

April Workshop: TBD

Tuesday, May 6th: Workload for Professionals 12-1pm, Location Morris- Le Cafe

To RSVP, please send an email to the Chapter Assistant at oneonta@uupmail.org up to 10 days prior to the event.

Disclaimer:

The UUP Oneonta website and its publications, including The Sentinel and the UUP- Date! may contain views and opinions which are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of any other author, agency, employer, organization, or affiliate, including but not limited to the UUP Oneonta Chapter or its officers, United University Professions (UUP) or its statewide or national affiliates.

UUP Oneonta Website:

To go to the UUP Oneonta Chapter website, go to the following link at

<http://www.oneontauup.org/>

The UUP Oneonta Chapter website is constantly updating, evolving, and expanding. It contains information about member benefits and many other important topics.

The statewide UUP website is located at <https://uupinfo.org>

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**Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 10:45 AM-4:00 PM**

**Chapter President Shirley Clark: Office Hours: Wednesdays 2-3 PM**

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