

Chapter President, John Schmidt

THE RESURRECTION OF PRIDE

The streets of our communities have become garbage dumps. My daily walk takes me onto five different streets in Port Jefferson. Each one is a testimonial to indifference and thoughtlessness.

Coffee cups, cigarette packs, soda cans and fast food wrappings dominate the landscape.

I won't even share some of the more exotic litter I have seen.

Since I prefer to see the glass half full and recognize the futility in simply railing about a situation, I resolved to become part of the solution. I like to see it as combining exercise with community service. Basically, I have adopted a high-way. No fanfare, no supervisor, no pay. What I do have is a personal satisfaction and a determination that the slob in this world are not going to win. The one mile stretch of road that I monitor is fairly active with commuter traffic. As a result, I pretty much have to "hit the street" every couple of days.

The days when the local highway department would perform such clean-up chores are over. Victims perhaps from repeated tax cuts. So that leaves the rest of us with any sense of pride to take action. Those plastic bags that the super-markets use are ideal for litter picking purposes. Disposable gloves should be used.

Go for it! It will make you feel good about yourself. We need a cohort of citizens to resurrect pride in our communities. There is no greater a group of activist/citizens than the members of UUP!!

Important Changes Regarding Empire Plan Participating Laboratory Providers for 2007

There will be a change in participating providers of laboratory services under The Empire Plan Medical Program effective January 1, 2007.

- Effective January 1, 2007, Laboratory Corporation of America (LabCorp) will be the sole national participating provider of laboratory services for The Empire Plan Medical Program. In addition to LabCorp, other regional and local laboratory providers continue to participate, providing broad access to participating providers for laboratory services.
- Effective January 1, 2007, Quest Diagnostics will no longer be a participating provider of laboratory services for The Empire Plan Medical Program.

What this means to you...

While you may not always know what laboratory your physician uses, to minimize your out-of-pocket expense it is important that your physician sends your samples to an Empire Plan participating laboratory for testing. As long as your physician uses one of the many participating laboratories, you will not be responsible for any cost other than your copayment for covered services. For a list of participating laboratory locations, visit the New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) website at www.cs.state.ny.us/ebd/welcome/login.cfm. Or, you can call 1-877-7NYSHIP (1-877-769-7447)

SAVE THE DATES!!

UUP HOLIDAY PARTY

Friday, December 15, 2006, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
University Cafe in the Student Union Bldg.

ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

Friday, March 2, 2007 • at the Three Villiage Inn

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Charging Time When The Office Is Closed:

SBU cannot “close” an office, only SUNY can. Any time an office sends out a notice that they will be “closed”, e.g. for Christmas Eve, employees can ask to be assigned to an alternate work site, rather than be forced to charge accruals and go home early.

Time Sheet Entries for Short Absences:

If you are a professional employee who has been required to charge time off when you are away from work for less than two hours (or 1/4 day), read on:

Some employees, when they have to take off an hour to see a doctor, for instance, have been told;

- a) To charge that time to their vacation or sick time accruals immediately OR
- b) To “save up” these short periods of time off until they total two hours or 1/4 day, and THEN charge their accruals.

Professional employees who are told to do this are being treated as hourly employees, which makes them subject to the Fair Labor Standards Act, something SUNY does not want. Professional employees do not need to charge accruals for absences of less than 1/4 day. Employees, however may be expected to make up the time they missed, if that time off has an impact on their professional obligation.

[Tara Singer, NYSUT Labor Relations Specialist]

Are You a UUP Member??

Please check your paycheck stub or via your SOLAR ACCOUNT to see if you really are or not!!!!

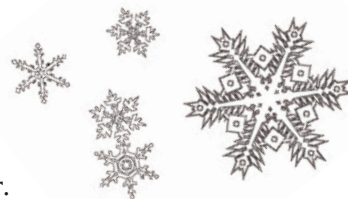
Only UUP members can Vote on the next Contract, so it is Important to check your SOLAR account and see what Code is listed. You will need your SBU ID # and password for access, then click on view paycheck, click on details and look for number 222 or 215. If you have #222 for UUP dues you are a Member.

If #215 is listed then you are a Fee-payer who pays the same amount, but can not vote for a contract, vote for chapter officers or even run for a delegate position or officership. If you have any question or want a join UUP card, Call the UUP chapter office at 632-6570.

With the Contract coming due in 2007, this is the time to check it out and allow your Voice and it's Vote to count.

Show Your Hidden Talent Corner...

Snow



Softly floating, everywhere.
Quietly cooling, it fills the air.
Smoothly, swirling, through the skies.
Slowly, soothing, comforts my eyes.

By Diane Rodriguez



Last Minute Holiday Shopping Idea!

Tired of the malls and crowds? Can't find that perfect gift? What about a magazine subscription? For the past thirty years, the American Federation of Teachers has offered a discounted Magazine Subscription Service. These discounted rates are available for UUP members. A magazine subscription is the perfect gift that keeps on giving. All subscriptions are for one year unless otherwise noted. Order by mail, phone or on the web, all at your convenience. If you can't decide, gift subscriptions are also available so they can choose. There are hundreds of titles to choose from, at the lowest rates.

Order 24/7 online at www.buymags.com/aft
Call 1-800-774-9163; Monday to Thursday, 9a.m. – 7p.m. and Friday until 5pm EST
Mail: Box 258, Greenvale, NY 11548

Happy Holidays!

IDEAS, IDEAS

Insight is a newsletter for all Stony Brook University UUP members and we would like to solicit your ideas for future issues. What would you like to see? What are your interests? Do you have something to share, we would love to hear from you. Join in and add your insights! Just send an email to: Diane.Rodriguez@stonybrook.edu.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!



Open House at Stony Brook — A Huge Success!

Written by Dawn M. Svoboda-Pappas

Faculty, staff and students alike gathered for Stony Brook's annual Open House held on three different dates this year. Open House gives prospective students and their families an opportunity to learn more about the university by taking a campus tour, speaking with real Stony Brook Students, meeting professors in their area of interest, and talking with admissions counselors. Visitors can also learn all about financial aid and scholarship opportunities with the help of our financial aid staff.

Sunday, November 5, showcased Business Management, the Fine and Performing Arts, Humanities, Pre-Law and Social and Behavioral Sciences. The turnout was terrific as the weather was particularly cooperative for all. Visitors from upstate and NYC came extra early to get a jump on the activities planned for them throughout the day and to avoid road closures scheduled for the NYC marathon. Wolfie, Stony Brook Seawolves mascot was the highlight of the day as he made many visitors feel right at home.

Saturday, November 18, highlighted The College of Engineering and Applied Sciences otherwise known as CEAS. This included Applied Mathematics, Computer Science, Engineering, Information Systems and Technological Systems Management. This was the smallest group which provided visitors more opportunities to participate in many hands on experiments and interact with faculty, staff and the different departments that were showcasing their programs.

Sunday, November 19, the largest of our three programs, proved very invigorating for all who attended. Those who were interested in the Biological Sciences, Marine Sciences, Physical Sciences, Pre-Med Programs and Health Sciences Programs had the chance to operate respiratory equipment, take a blood pressure test, and even hold a human brain!

Attendance for all three Open Houses totaled over 1,632 students, that's a grand total of over 4,732 visitors!

Thank you Stony Brook Faculty, staff and students who helped make Open House 2006 a huge success, we couldn't have done it without all of you!!

Student Staff from Undergraduate Admissions



Jackie Andriani and Wolfie at the Registration Desk



School of Business



Financial Aid and Student Employment



School of Journalism

Who's Who at UUP

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The Chapter Office is open Monday through Friday, from 9 am to 3 pm.

The Executive Board meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 12 noon, and members are encouraged to attend. Please contact the Chapter Office for exact dates and times. **INSIGHT** is published by the Stony Brook Chapter of United University Professions. Items for inclusion should be sent to the UUP Office, 104 Old Chemistry, Zip=3475. The opinions expressed in articles in the newsletter are those of the author or the Stony Brook Chapter of UUP and are not necessarily the opinions of United University Professions.

Defensive Driving

A Defensive Driving class is being sponsored by NYSUT for all UUP Employees and their immediate family members on Saturday, January 13, 2007 from 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. in the Wang Center Room 201

Cost is \$25 per person. Checks should be made payable to "NYSUT Benefit Trust Fund" and delivered to the UUP Office.
104 Old Chemistry, Zip=3475.

This course is offered on a "first come, first served basis".

Participants are usually entitled to a 10% discount on their automotive insurance. Check with your provider. The certificate is good for three years of savings. Contact Corinne Burns at (631) 632-6570 or cmburns@notes.cc.sunysb.edu for more information.

Benefit Information Updates

By Diane Rodriguez

As a UUP member, there are several discounted services and programs available which our Union has arranged for, such as Heat USA. As the largest fuel buying group in the country, Heat USA provides great oil heating service with a substantial savings for its members.

- Heating service is provided by local, top-rated dealers
- Savings average from .15 to .25 cents per gallon for a total \$250 - \$300 per year
- Access to full-time HEAT staff for assistance with membership services, such as contracts and purchases
- Payment plans available with automatic deliveries
- Free annual cleaning and tune-up
- Lifetime free full service contract
- 24-hour emergency service

You get all this for \$25 a year, and as a UUP member your second year is free! To enroll or for additional information, go to www.heatusa.com.

Editorial Policy: The opinions expressed in **INSIGHT** are those of the writer and the West Campus Chapter, and do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of United University Professions. **INSIGHT** encourages letters to the editors about union, campus and university issues, politics and other membership concerns. Letters may be sent by e-mail or campus mail and include the writer's name and daytime phone number. **INSIGHT** reserves the right to edit all letters. **INSIGHT** cannot guarantee that all letters will be published. The final decision is at the discretion of the Editors and/or the Chapter President.

Send letters to: uup@notes.cc.sunysb.edu, or UUP, 104 Old Chemistry, Zip-3475



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