



Thanks!



The holiday season helps us all to reflect on our lifestyle advantages, but more appropriately, provides an opportunity to tangibly express our appreciation to individuals and institutions that nurture and support our daily agenda. In the course of a typical day, we come into contact with colleagues in other offices and departments. Usually, these encounters deal with everyday business and we give or get assistance without really thinking about it.

How do you say thanks? Actions speak louder than words and are surely more enduring. I encourage you to reflect on the Holiday Gift program. The SEFA annual appeal is just about concluded for 2005, but I am sure that donations would be gratefully received at any time. Perhaps your thanks might take the form of support for Breast Cancer Research, Stony Brook Child Care Services or the Stony Brook Hospital Auxiliary. Donations of time can be just as significant as donations of money.

Have you ever just given thanks for your health? Walking around campus I am utterly amazed at the fortitude of our disabled co-workers and students.

Have you said thanks lately? In the Stony Brook workplace, have you ever simply thanked a colleague for being there and functioning efficiently with little other recognition? Thanks for working on my behalf for better pay and working conditions! Thanks for being a helpful and responsive co-worker!

Do something tangible! Write that letter of thanks! Make that recommendation for a discretionary salary increase! Volunteer your time and talent! Reach into your pocket to ease another's burden!

Happy Holidays.....and Thanks!

In solidarity, John

Save The Dates!

"Juggling Work & Family Workshop"

Wednesday, November 30, 2005
Women's Studies Colloquium Center
12:40 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

*"Tips for making the BEST use of our time
and for communicating EFFECTIVELY."*

UUP Holiday Party

Friday, December 16, 2005
University Cafe - 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
"Spirits & Lite Refreshments Served"



NYSUT/UUP Sponsored Defensive Driving Course

Saturday, January 7, 2006
Wang Center Room 301 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

New Library Policy on Circulation Records

Stony Brook University has finally adopted and implemented a policy that wipes out all individual borrower information from library circulation records one week after any material is returned to the library. This brings our library into compliance with American Library Association standards and comes after more than two years of persistent negotiation by UUP to protect our members from Department of Homeland Security scrutiny under the USA Patriot Act.

UUP's success in effecting this critical change in library policy is another example of the importance of our union for faculty and all members of the University community.

Michael Zweig
Vice-President for Academics

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Bill Scheuerman's November Commentary

Written by *Bill Scheuerman, President, United University Professions*

While I was in the grocery line the other day, a woman in front of me started talking about the cover of People magazine showing the devastation of hurricane Katrina. She began complaining about the \$2000 "handout" to Katrina victims and then all the billions Congress is talking about spending to rebuild New Orleans. That set her companion off on a tirade against government spending and waste. Throughout all this I bit my tongue. Then the fellow started attacking New York State spending his tax dollars on SUNY.

That did it! I had to respond. But how? Maybe I could take the Jeffersonian route and argue that making public education available for all is essential for a functioning democracy. In other words, an investment in SUNY is an investment in good government. But, given their comments, they clearly didn't think highly of government. What they were really complaining about was that the government was robbing them of their personal, hard-earned cash and spending it on something they couldn't possibly benefit from. So I decided to take a more pragmatic approach.

Wait a minute, I said, when you talk about spending on higher education you need to think about return on investment, especially when you're talking about public higher education.

I'll start by reminding you that studies indicate that every dollar spent on public higher education generates additional new dollars in the economy through the multiplier effect. In other words, it's a good investment for the state to spend on public higher education because this spending creates new wealth.

Public higher education is beneficial because it raises the standard of living for everyone in the state.

Take my own story, for example. My parents were hard-working, uneducated people who struggled to make ends meet. Without public education I, like millions of other New Yorkers in similar circumstances, would never have attended college. Sure, from my narrow personal perspective, life is a whole lot better, thanks to public higher education. No doubt about that. I earn more and enjoy the benefits of personal growth that accompany education. But let's look beyond me and all the other individuals who benefited from SUNY or CUNY. Think about what our education, taken collectively, means to the larger community called New York State.

One thing it means is higher taxable incomes. In other words, because we went to college, everybody gets better roads, more police, new fire trucks, and all the other functions of government.

Average family income by education tells it all. A family whose head of household has a bachelor's degree earns almost twice as much as a household where the highest level of education is a high school diploma. The numbers become more significant as you climb the educational ladder. A family with a provider possessing a professional degree will earn on average about \$160,000 annually, compared to the \$36,000 average income of a family headed by a high school drop out. Remember, this is family income, which means the total of all the wage earners in the family.

In terms of earnings, you simply can't beat more education. But earnings and tax rolls aren't the whole story. A well trained labor force, after all, attracts investment and creates jobs. Public higher education is the backbone of New York's well trained labor force. New jobs, new housing, new stores and services – my public college education did all that for New York!

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Meet The Delegate!

This month we are featuring our Vice President for Professionals and Assistant Director of Parking Services, Arty Shertzer.



Why I am Active in UUP

In trying to reach out to those colleagues that have not signed the UUP card and are called "Agency Fee Payers," I came across a valuable piece of information. If you retire, and have not signed up, you lose your dental, vision and the other ancillary benefits that UUP provides to its active members. I have found this fact to be of great interest to several of our senior faculty members who, for whatever reason – current, philosophical or historical – are not signed up members.

I raise this point as I often do, to keep all of you informed as to matters that impact your quality of life, and be it work or home, to matters that affect your family or the community as a whole.

So, then, on to the question: Why am I involved? And more so, why am I asking you to be involved?

Continued on the following page

Statement by Edward J. McElroy President, American Federation of Teachers On the Passing of Rosa Parks

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rosa Parks will be remembered as one of the most courageous and inspiring activists, whose one small defiant action changed history. Her refusal to give up her bus seat to a white passenger became a major spark for the modern civil rights movement, which led to numerous landmark desegregation laws. The AFT mourns the passing of Rosa Parks, to whom we and the country owe a great debt of gratitude.

The New, Show Your Hidden Talent Corner



Sarah Battaglia,
Co-Editor, Professional Delegate, UUP West Campus Chapter

Hey UUP'ers!! Do you have any literary talents you'd like to share? Are you a closet poet? A secret short-story writer? A hidden haiku genius? A limerick lover?

(Ok, you get the point...)

We welcome your words! Drop us an email at UUP@stonybrook.edu and we'll print it as space allows.

Why I am Active in UUP

Continued from the following page

In my tenure as an officer and delegate, I am continually amazed at how well UUP represents our interests both on campus and in Albany. UUP has become the advocate for SUNY. UUP has prevented layoffs, even in the dreadful years following 9/11. UUP has, through its Statewide President, become one of the loudest voices in opposition to the crackpot Academic Bill of Rights (ever hear of intelligent design)? UUP has over the years negotiated lengths of notice – that being specific lengths of times you are entitled to in the event that you get non-renewed or fail to achieve permanent appointment. **UUP offers perhaps one of the best medical plans anywhere**, novel daycare and health care reimbursement plans as well as additional benefits that we can access from our affiliation with NYSUT and AFT (of which Bill Scheuerman is a national vice president).

Those are the practical reasons I advocate for our union. UUP delivers on your dues monies.

In reality, the listing above is enough to justify anyone's involvement, but for me, there is more.

In my 6 plus very active years I have found that there are a lot of very decent people, both on campus and in our state organization. I have been welcomed, my opinion counts, my work is appreciated. We argue, we differ, yet we mostly all work toward a single goal...the acquisition and protection of the rights of the employees that teach and staff SUNY. I think that most everyone that has worked with our chapter will tell you the same.

So, as we look at our campus – as we plan for Southampton, Gyrodine, Division I Athletics, Stony Brook Manhattan – as we plan to bring more and more students into our midst, more cars, more classes, more programs – it is your union, UUP which will raise the issues, both on campus and in Albany, to ensure that we all can thrive, and we all can survive, the immense growth facing us in the next decade.

That I can be a part of such effort, in concert with such competent and principled colleagues, both here and around the state, combined with what I have already cited, should be more than enough reason to sign if you haven't, to attend if you don't, and to participate if you're thinking about it.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families.



Haiku

Written by, *Dan Cashmar*
Chemistry Electronics

Circling high above
Wings lifted by air currents
Hawks search in silence

Get Fit...Stay Healthy

Submitted by *Norm Berhannan*

What price would you place on your health?

Have you considered that exercising regularly and eating right might be your best defense against sickness and disease? If so, the best deal in town may be the Campus Wellness Center located on the third floor of the Student Activity Center (SAC 307). A healthy lifestyle begins with a fitness routine, which includes regular exercise and strength training. All this and more can be obtained at the Wellness Center and you are invited.

Why the Wellness Center?

The Wellness Center is a fully equipped fitness center with state-of-the-art treadmills, arc-trainers, cross trainers, rowing machines, and bikes. There are also free weights, barbells, dumbbells, and a complete weight training circuit for every level of conditioning, strengthening, and toning. Many of our cardio vascular machines are equipped with Cardio Theater, which allows users to watch and hear up to 8 TV stations and music while they work out.

Wellness Center participants are entitled to free equipment orientation sessions conducted by Wellness Center staff, these sessions include proper use of all equipment including Cybex machines and free weights. Personal training packages, lockers, and showers are also available. Compare these rates and our services to other fitness clubs and you'll see why we're called the best deal in town .

Are the Wellness Center hours flexible?

Yes. The Wellness Center is open from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. daily and Saturdays and Sundays.

Who can join and how much will it cost?

Membership is open to faculty, staff, and affiliates for as little as \$25.00 per month, \$70.00 per semester or \$165.00 per year. Compare these rates and our advantages to other fitness clubs and you'll see why we're called the best deal in town.

For additional information and a free pass call (631) 632-7310, or visit the Campus Recreation website and take a virtual tour, just cut and paste this address to your browser.

<http://studentaffairs.stonybrook.edu/recreation/wellnesscenter/virtualltour>

Who's Who and New @ UUP

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

The Executive Board meets on Alternate Tuesdays 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.

November Commentary

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As population growth slows down, a state's economy may suffer, particularly if the people we are losing are highly educated. Population growth in New York State is somewhat stagnate. Again, here's where public higher education is important. I bet you didn't know that about eighty percent of SUNY graduates remain in the state after graduation. Thanks in part to SUNY, New York will not experience a major "brain drain." Another way to think about public higher education is that it is an institution that keeps New York's families together.

Well, that's what I would have told my shopping line companions but they paid for their groceries and left the store before I had a chance. Unfortunately, I know this isn't the last time I'll hear such attacks on spending for SUNY. And with gasoline pushing three dollars a gallon and higher, we can't appeal to people's sense of altruism or love of democracy to make our case. We need to show them the money. See SUNY? See dollars going to all New Yorkers. We all benefit! Now, that's an argument everybody can understand.

SUNY Board Approves Positive Budget Request

To the applause of a delegation of UUP members in attendance, the SUNY Board of Trustees approved its 2006-07 budget request.

The \$ 5.6 billion State proposal calls for an increase of \$221 million in state funding for SUNY's state-operated campuses and hospitals. UUP President Bill Scheurman was enthusiastic as he witnessed the board's 11-1 vote approving the budget.

"It's about time that SUNY had an aggressive budget that meets the needs of the campuses and allows SUNY to grow rather than stagnate. This budget will keep the doors of the University open to deserving students, especially the thousands of community college graduates and transfer students looking to enroll in four-year programs at SUNY. It will result in more full-time faculty, which will allow students to complete their education on time, and it will provide students with the level of support services they need," he said.

The next step sends SUNY's budget request to Gov. Pataki, who will consider the plan as part of an overall state budget proposal. Scheurman strongly urged the governor to include "this realistic budget request" in his Executive Budget proposal.



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