



INSIGHT

NEWSLETTER OF THE
STONY BROOK CHAPTER OF
UNITED UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONS

ISSUE 04-5

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A Few Words from Your Chapter President

John P. Schmidt



WHAT'S NEW? WHAT'S NEXT?

Welcome Back!

Your new UUP contract is in force. By the time you read this you will have reaped some of the material benefits negotiated on your behalf. But there is still more to come. Professional Development Grants for Faculty, Librarians and Professionals are included in each of the four years of the contract. The Labor/Management committee that will review grant applications and make funding recommendations is being formed. All members will be advised when this committee is prepared to receive applications.

In what has become an inevitable annual event, the New York State budget has been approved.....five months after its scheduled start date. UUP remains active in advocating for SUNY. Its efforts paid off, at least initially. The final budget contained an additional \$41 million for additional operating support and \$9 million for new faculty lines. \$302 million had been restored to the Tuition Assistance Program. However, as of this writing, the Governor has vetoed most of the legislature's budget additions. The political process is a sobering reality that all of us in public higher education must endure. It is incumbent on all of us to deliberately engage our political leaders, both personally and at the voting machines.

I want to remind all members of the UUP bargaining unit of the Welcome Back Barbecue to be held on Wednesday September 15 from 12:30 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. The location is the patio area outside the University Cafe (Stony Brook Union). A ticket will be required for food and beverage. Tickets can be secured from the Chapter office (Rm 104 Old Chemistry Bldg.)

The next edition of INSIGHT will be our annual "Election" issue. The November elections are particularly significant this year for those of us in labor and higher education. INSIGHT will report on the UUP/NYSUT endorsements and contain other thought provoking commentary regarding the national election. All members are urged not only to vote but to help get out the vote!

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SAVE THE DATE!

UUP Welcome Back Barbeque

Good Food & Solidarity

Date: .. Wednesday September 15th, 2004

Time: .. 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Cost: .. FREE!

Place: .. University Cafe Patio
(Stony Brook Union)

Rain Date: .. September 22nd, 2004

TICKETS WILL BE REQUIRED!!

Call or visit the UUP office for
your FREE TICKET!!

104 Old Chemistry

Phone: 632-6570



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!! ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd 2004

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Old Clothes, No More Peace and the Dread of Another Semester's End...

Written by *Artie Shertzer*, Vice President for Professionals, UUP West Campus Chapter

My mother died this past March. She had cancer and after a three month battle, "she went home" or so she told her Hospice nurse the morning she died, that she was going home that night. As I am nearly fifty years old, I suspect that many of our members have had to go through this experience as well as the ritual of sorting through a deceased parent's possessions and clothes.

It is an odd process, one that forces you to think about your own life, to remember an event that a blouse, dress or jacket brings to mind and then, to simultaneously address the needs of the surviving parent. Implicit in this is the need for me to have taken care of the clothes, since my father just couldn't do it.

The whole experience made me think of cleaning out my kids' old clothes, and at the same time, packing their new clothes for college, and then unpacking as they have now both returned home to attend Stony Brook. Life is very tied up in clothing!

Hence, we go from old clothes to the lack of peace my wife and I now are experiencing since both of my daughters have transferred to Stony Brook from "away" schools.

If you have had that experience, I need not expound on it, but if you have not...just remember the period of time after your wedding until the first 3 a.m. feeding...need I say more?

So now I am in the sandwich generation. Caught between aging parents and aging teenagers.

As a generation "sandy" I have to deal with several issues, that coincidentally (wink, wink) our Union can be helpful with. As for the college kids, we offer a \$500.00 scholarship at the end of each semester up to 8 semesters, provided that your scholar attends a SUNY school. In addition, our health plan covers our children until age 25 if they remain in college.

However, after 19, you must certify that your child is attending college. The worst part is that there are several parts to the certification process. In our case, there is the certification that UUP sends out which takes care of dental and vision. Then there is the one for Empire Health Insurance. Then if your son/daughter goes to a chiropractor, there is the value option certification and if they get so confused that they need to see a therapist, they have to get certified by managed health network...but wait...there's one more....if your child had surgery....mine needed nose repair...well then there is the certification for Empire Blue Cross/Blue Shield!

And by the time you finish, its nearly the end of the semester and time to do it all over again!

While this all sounds terribly ominous...primarily because it is...if you plan ahead, you can get the info to the carriers quickly.. which limits the "down time" where your practitioners are calling to see why they are not getting paid. Once all is complete, you can get back to the business of trying not to kill them before their coverage is validated!

For our parents, UUP provides us with the ability to purchase long term care, which can cover parents and also offers us the ability to access counselling, which can be very helpful when you get to be a "sandy".

As is always the case, the UUP benefits office is extremely helpful and here is the number to call if you need help: 1-800-UUP-FUND (887-3863).

Last but not least, we are also afforded three bereavement days, which come out of your sick time. Although it isn't a great deal of time, it is useful in time of need.

I will write more on this topic as so many of us are taking the journey of caring for and about kids and parents. In the meantime, if you have questions, please call our office and we will be happy to assist you.

INSIGHT - UUP'S Newsletter Wins General Excellence in Journalism Competition!!



Dawn Svoboda, INSIGHT co-editor accepting the award for overall General Excellence in the 2004 NYSUT Journalism Competition from UUP President Bill Scheurman.

Ed Quinn proposing a new resolution to the audience.



Judy Wishnia accepting the Ted Bleacher Award - Best of the Best in the 2004 NYSUT Journalism Competition from UUP President Bill Scheurman.

Jose, Pam and Artie listening very attentively at the 2004 Spring Delegate Assembly.



The American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO held its 78th Convention in Washington, D.C. July, 2004.



William Scheuerman, President of UUP and AFT Vice President, chaired the Higher Education Divisional Meeting.

Frederick Floss, UUP Executive Board member, and Vice President for Academics at SUNY Buffalo, chaired the Higher Education Issues Committee Meeting.

Attending from Stony Brook were *Ed Drummond*, *Jose Feliciano*, *Don Pisani*, *Judy Wishnia*, and *Michael Zweig*.

The following Higher Education Issues resolutions were adopted:

Accountability

Resolved, that the AFT monitor and oppose federal legislation that would interfere with the academic autonomy of colleges and universities, including the imposition of standardized graduation rates and testing; and

Resolved, that the AFT investigate the establishment of a vehicle to foster the exchange of information among affiliates about accountability measures being discussed at the federal and state level, as well as private accrediting agencies; and

Resolved, that the AFT challenge the nation's private regional accrediting agencies to abandon their excessive reliance on standardized output criteria and return to the enforcement of standards that lead to real accountability, such as preserving the full-time tenured faculty workforce and maintaining effective shared governance.

UUP is Committed To You!

Written by *Michael Zweig*, Vice President for Academics, UUP West Campus Chapter

In our collective bargaining agreement (contract) with New York we have gotten the state to put several million dollars into special funds to support research, travel, and other professional development activity. UUP and management jointly administer these funds. We offer professional development awards of up to \$1,000 to faculty and professional staff (including part-timers). We offer Nuala Drescher Awards to support leaves for minority and women junior faculty working towards tenure. [Deadline for the current-round Nuala Drescher Award application is October 1. Contact the UUP office for details].

Our contract explicitly defends academic freedom and provides substantial protection for faculty and staff should management seek to take disciplinary action.

Beyond the contract, UUP counsels junior faculty about the tenure process. If you would like to talk with a senior faculty member, or if you would like to help guide junior faculty along the process, please contact me.

To help our members meet colleagues in other departments, UUP also sponsors occasional public forums on important issues of the day. Last year, for example, we hosted a forum on the war in Iraq and a talk by Dan Clawson of U Mass Amherst on his new book 'The Next Upsurge: Labor and the New Social Movements'. Look for announcements of events coming up this semester and come for the stimulation and the opportunity to meet people across disciplines. Along these lines, UUP also hosts regular late-afternoon social gatherings at the University Caf e.

Opposition to Outside Control over Academic Decision Making under the Banner of Intellectual Diversity

Resolved, that the AFT oppose the imposition of so-called intellectual diversity requirements as an unacceptable infringement of academic freedom and an unwarranted intervention of persons who are not academic professionals into academic decision making; and

Resolved, that the AFT work vigorously with like-minded individuals and organizations, including other national faculty organizations, to ensure that these proposals are not imposed as academic or legislative policy, from within or outside institutions of higher education.

Reviewing Institutional Accreditation and Standards regarding Contingent-Academic Faculty

Resolved, that the AFT examine practices of accreditation bodies, report their findings and propose to the accreditation bodies best practices for the employment and treatment of both full and part-time contingent faculty, including the ratios of part-time to full-time and tenure track to non-tenure track faculty.

Resolutions were also adopted:

- ▶ urging the Bush administration, the Congress and the American people to reject calls for the precipitous withdrawal of U.S. forces and to recognize the continuing U.S. responsibility to make significant contributions to the security and reconstruction of Iraq after the transition to Iraqi sovereignty
- ▶ calling for reform of the Patriot Act
- ▶ opposing the constitutional amendment on marriage
- ▶ supporting the ending of violence in Sudan
- ▶ condemning the suppression of democracy and worker rights in Hong Kong
- ▶ calling for the institution of full trade union rights in Iraq, and
- ▶ endorsing John Kerry for President

UUP is committed to improving the academic environment in any way we can. If you have ideas or needs that the union can address, please contact me. On behalf of the UUP chapter officers and executive board, I welcome you all to another academic year and look forward to working with you to make it productive and enjoyable.



Educational travel

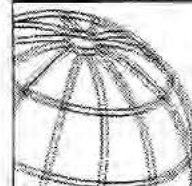
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AFT PLUS
The Benefits of Belonging

9/04

Who's Who at UUP

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The Chapter Office is open Monday - 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.



UUP CHAPTER OFFICE
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SUNY at Stony Brook
Stony Brook, NY 11794-3475

Ask Lisa!

I am considering leaving Stony Brook University for another position but want to know how much notice do I have to give and what will happen to my sick time and my vacation time?

Answer:

Employees should contact the Union as soon as possible so that we can inform them of their contractual rights.

The agreement between SUNY and UUP at Article 32.2 states: "Employees who intend to leave the employ of the University shall give 30 days' notice to the President or designee."

SUNY Policies of the Board of Trustees, Article XIII states: Upon separation from University Service, an employee shall be compensated for such accumulated and unused vacation leave credit not to exceed a maximum of 30 days. You lose any unused sick leave credits.

Defensive Driving*

Save 10% on your Automobile Insurance!!!!

Date: Monday & Tuesday, September 27 & 28, 2004

Time: 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (both nights)

Cost: \$25.00 per Person

Place: Wang Center Room 305

Who: Open to all UUP members and their immediate family members. Checks should be made payable to "NYSUT Benefit Trust".

Bring or mail to UUP Office, 104 Old Chemistry, Zip-3475

* Sponsored by NYSUT

Got Something You'd Like to Say?

Send us an email for publication in the new "Letters to the Editors" column. We'd love to hear from you!

(The Editors reserve the right to edit submissions for content.)



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 email or campus mail and must 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, Z-3475