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## Welcome Back - Spring 2013!

by Arty Shertzer, UUP Chapter President

I want to welcome everyone back to the Spring 13 semester. Much is going on, not the least of which is the contract negotiations, which, are moving ever-so-slowly but yet progress is still being made.

Over the break, A few notable things happened involving our officers. Dan Kinney was named Interim Dean of University Libraries and Charlie McAteer was honored as the Three Village Times Man of the Year for Civics. I also wanted to note that Cheryl Hamilton took 40 of her students along with several of us to Albany on Tuesday, February 5th for EOP/EOC advocacy day. UUP Covered the cost of the bus and we met with legislators to remind them of the importance of these programs. I remind you all that Cheryl's Stony Brook program has the highest graduation rate in SUNY!

Dan was asked to step up to keep the Libraries running while a new Dean is selected. Dan has well over 30 years of service to our campus and he is our long-term UUP Academic VP. Charlie has been here just as long and has spearheaded the amazingly successful Greenway walking and running path which will soon run from near the East Setauket Post Office all the way to the 7-11 in Port Jeff Station at Rt 112. Along with a coalition of community leaders and Governmental representa-

tives from the Villages to congress, Funding was secured in the millions to make this very popular pathway a reality.

I mention these accomplishments in order to highlight how, we as members of the campus community have an impact on both entities. We are currently working in Albany to secure funds to cover the debacle at Gyrodyne (the R&D Park) to make sure that the debt cap will exclude Residential Facilities and of course to save our Downstate Hospital and medical school from closure.

As in the past, we offer our services as members of the Stony Brook Campus. We will, regardless of the response, continue to press for a better Stony Brook, a better community and a better place for us all to work and live.

It seems to me that together we can accomplish much...we might not always support the same legislation...but that is why we are here..to support and defend you, our members. But, when we can work together, great things happen! I hope that this message is being listened to! ☺



## Coming Soon-UUP Election!

Candidate statements are on our website at

[www.uupsbu.org](http://www.uupsbu.org)!

Check out who is running so you can cast an informed vote!



## Who Is Professor “Staff,” and How Can This Person Teach So Many Classes?

by Daniel Kinney, Vice President for Academics

The title of this column is taken from the title of a report released in August by the Center for the Future of Higher Education, a virtual think tank founded by the Campaign for the Future of Higher Education (CFHE). The report is dedicated to UUP member Steve Street, one of its authors. He taught composition, creative writing, and literature at Brockport, the University at Buffalo, and Buffalo State for over thirty years without having ever been on a tenure-track line. Steve died of cancer on August 17, 2012. The report is an analysis of a nationwide survey of contingent faculty conducted in September 2011. It discusses the impact of the hiring practices and working conditions imposed upon contingent faculty, who now comprise over two-thirds of the faculty workforce in this country, and the effects that these conditions have on contingent faculty, students, and the quality of education in American colleges and universities. UUP is a participant in the Campaign for the Future of Higher Education. Last October, Eileen Landy, statewide secretary and UUP's representative to CFHE, visited Stony Brook and presented an overview of the campaign and its seven core principles. The analysis of the survey of contingent faculty presented in the report focuses on three of the core principles.

The listing of an instructor as “staff” in class schedules epitomizes the common practice of hiring contingent faculty “just in time” before the start of classes. Not only are they not paid for class preparation time, but some reported that they prepare for classes “just in case” they are called to teach a course at the last minute. The respondents frequently mentioned insufficient time to prepare syllabi, order textbooks, and explore updated and supplemental materials to enrich classroom instruction. One problem that our chapter has heard about from contingent faculty at Stony Brook is the cancellation of a class before the end of the registration period. They believe that they might be able to obtain the required enrollment if students were allowed to register up until the close of the registration period. For

some contingent faculty, the loss of a course means the loss of much needed income, and it is usually not possible to teach another course instead or arrange to teach a class at another institution.

These “just-in-time” employment practices are contrary to the third principle of CFHE: “Quality higher education in the 21st century will require a sufficient investment in excellent faculty who have the academic freedom, terms of employment and institutional support needed to do state-of-the-art professional work.” The lack of institutional support was another theme that emerged from the survey, particularly with regard to the fourth CFHE principle: “Quality higher education in the 21st century should incorporate technology in ways that expand opportunity and maintain quality.” In addition to the lack of full access to instructional technologies, there were other examples cited by survey respondents demonstrating a lack of institutional support. Many reported late or limited access to such campus resources as copying services, library privileges, office space, sample syllabi, and curriculum guidelines. Some never received departmental or campus orientations. It should be mentioned here that Stony Brook does include contingent faculty in new employee orientations. The lack of institutional support described by the respondents to the CFHE survey led to a feeling of isolation and a lack of knowledge about the institution’s culture. The authors of the report refer to the failure of institutions of higher education to make contingent faculty a part of the academic community as “just-in-the-classroom” employment.

Our chapter marked Campus Equity Week last year by showing Barbara Wolf’s documentary *Degrees of Shame: Part-Time Faculty, Migrant Workers of the Information Economy*. Wolf’s film was released in 1997, and the survey of contingent faculty conducted by the CFHE think tank confirms that the same problems still exist a decade and a half later. During these fifteen years, higher education organizations have produced several documents dealing with this crisis. The American Association of University Professors (AAUP) issued a statement in 2003 entitled *Contingent Appointments and the Academic Profession*. The AAUP document updates a report published a decade earlier and finds that tenure-track appointments are

## Something to Think About

Reporting By Stephanie Simon in New Haven.

For more than 300 years, Yale University has prided itself on training top students to question and analyze, to challenge and critique.

Now, Yale is seeking to export those values by establishing the first foreign campus to bear its name, a liberal arts college in Singapore that is set to open this summer. The ambitious, multimillion-dollar project thrills many in the Yale community who say it will help the university maintain its prestige and build global influence.

But it has also stirred sharp criticism from faculty and human-rights advocates who say it is impossible to build an elite college dedicated to free inquiry in an authoritarian nation with heavy restrictions on public speech and assembly.

"Yale's motto is 'Lux et veritas,' or 'Light and truth,'" said Michael Fischer, a Yale professor of computer science. "We're going into a place with severe curbs on light and truth ... We're redefining the brand in a way that's contrary to Yale's values."

Yale President Richard Levin describes the new venture as a chance to extend Yale's tradition of nurturing independent thinkers to a dynamic young nation at the crossroads of Asia. In the 19th century, Yale scholars fanned out to launch dozens of American colleges, Levin noted in a 2010 memo presenting the concept to faculty. "Yale could influence the course of 21st century education as profoundly," he wrote.

Levin, who spent years expanding Yale's campus in New Haven before initiating the Singapore project in 2010, has announced plans to retire at the end of the academic year. His successor, Yale Provost Peter Salovey, also supports the Singapore venture.

Working with the National University of Singapore, or NUS, Yale is building a comprehensive liberal arts college from scratch. The school will offer majors from anthropology to urban studies, electives from fractal geometry to moral reasoning, and a rich menu of extracurricular activities ~ sports, drama, debate, even a juggling club.

Scheduled to open this summer with 150 students, it is slated to grow to about 1,000 undergraduates living in a high-rise campus now under construction.

While American universities have been venturing overseas for decades, they have mostly offered tightly focused degree programs, often for graduate students. The closest analogy to the Yale project may be New York University's branch campuses now under construction in Abu Dhabi and Shanghai.

But the new NYU campuses are extensions of the university. The Yale venture, which targets top students from around the globe, is an unusual hybrid.

It will be called Yale-NUS College. It will draw some faculty ~ and its inaugural president, Pericles Lewis ~ straight from New Haven. Students will spend the summer before freshman year in New Haven, attending seminars with Yale faculty. When they graduate, they will be welcomed into the Association of Yale Alumni.

Yet Yale officials are emphatic that the new school is not a branch campus. The degrees it issues will not be Yale degrees.

"It is not Yale," said Charles Bailyn, an astronomy professor on leave from Yale to serve as the founding dean of Yale-NUS.

### OPPORTUNITY OR "FRANKENYALE"?

The new college will be funded entirely by the Singapore government, which will also subsidize tuition. Singapore citizens will pay about \$18,000 a year, including room and board. International students will pay about \$43,000 unless they secure a discount by committing to work for a Singapore company for three years after graduation.

Yale and Singapore will get an equal number of seats on the new college's governing board ~ but Singapore's education minister must approve all the Yale nominees.

The arrangement exposes Yale to risk because its name is on the college, yet the university does not have control over the end product, said Richard Edelman, who studies trends in higher education at the University of California at Berkeley. One angry member of Yale's faculty, Christopher Miller, a professor of French and African American studies, has dubbed the venture "Frankenyale."

Those involved in the project say the novel structure is a boon that will enable educational experimentation, with an emphasis on interdisciplinary seminars and student research. It's a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build a new college program from the ground up," said Yale anthropologist Bernard Bate, who has signed on to teach in Singapore.


He and others say they will bring the best of their new approach back to New Haven. And they contend that fears about censorship in Singapore are wildly overblown.

That issue came to the fore last spring, when Yale faculty voted 100 to 69 for a resolution raising concern about the venture in light of "the history of lack of respect for civil and political rights" in Singapore.

Human Rights Watch, the international advocacy group, subsequently accused Yale of "betraying the spirit of the university." This month the American Association of University Professors weighed in, expressing concern about the project's implications for academic freedom.

Singapore, an island nation in southeast Asia, is a democracy but has been dominated by one political party since securing independence from Britain half a century ago. In the name of stability and security, the government restricts public demonstrations to a corner of one park and heavily regulates news and entertainment, according to the U.S. State Department.

Last year a British author was jailed for writing a book critical of Singapore's judiciary. This spring the government prevented an opposition politician from leaving the country to speak at the Oslo Freedom Forum.

 continued on [www.uupsbu.org](http://www.uupsbu.org)

## What Price Inequality?

by Judith Wishnia

As president Obama and the new Congress try to deal with the many issues facing our nation, a major threat to American democracy and the well-being of its citizens remains. That threat is the enormous income inequality in the United States which affects not only our economic system but the political system as well.

Joseph Stiglitz, the Nobel Laureate in Economics, recently published, *The Price of Inequality*, where he asserts that the current economic system is basically unfair and the influence of wealth on the political system, reinforces and increases the lack of fairness. While the recent financial crisis exacerbated the situation, income inequality has been building for the last thirty years. The result is that the top 1 percent of Americans now control one-third of the U.S. Wealth, while wages have stagnated. Stiglitz asks: How do you accumulate wealth? You either make something to create wealth, or, you can make money by taking it away from others. This latter way has been the story of the last 30 years, 30 years in which the U.S. has become the most unequal society of all the industrialized nations.

In the last 30 years, the wages of 90 percent of Americans have risen 15 percent, while the wealth of the top 1 percent has increased by 150 percent. And most shocking, the .1 percent has seen an increase of 300 percent. The economic plight of the 99 percent is also affected by the fact that the U.S. offers the least generous unemployment insurance in the industrialized world. And we are the only major nation without government sponsored health insurance.

While the life expectancy in Japan is 83, and 82 in Australia and Israel, it is 78 in the United States. The political system is rigged so that the rich pay low taxes (somewhat alleviated with the “fiscal cliff” changes), corporations are not regulated, and education and research are underfunded. Students who do manage to go to college or university, have more debt than the total American credit card debt. And in this, the richest nation in the world, one-fifth of children live in poverty. In addition to the decrease in the standard of living, there is a loss of a belief in fairness and in the U.S. as a “land of opportunity.” Stiglitz continues this argument in a recent op ed in the New York Times (January 20, 2013) where he posits that without a strong middle

class whose production and consumption stimulate the economy, there can be no strong recovery. He makes it clear that this inequality will continue to exist as long as we allow the 1 percent to control governmental policies that create an unfair tax system and crush unions.

Another recent article in the Times (October 13, 2012) by Chrystia Freeland, discusses a further analysis by Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson, in their book; *Why Nations Fail: the Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty*, they contend that what separates successful states from failed ones is whether the governing institutions are inclusive or extractive. Extractive states are controlled by ruling elites whose objective is to extract as much wealth as they can from the rest of society. An excellent example of the downfall of such a society is Venice, where the concentration of wealth in the hands of the wealthy elites led to Venice's eventual decline as a major economic power. Inclusive states, on the other hand, give everyone access to economic opportunity, which creates more prosperity and even more inclusiveness. Historically, the U.S. has been an example of an inclusive state—but now it may be on the way to being another Venice.

So, what can be done to keep the U.S. as a land of opportunity? Stiglitz offers a number of ways to restore economic equality and end the threats to democracy:

- **End corporate welfare: close tax loopholes and make the tax system fairer.**
- **Institute legal reform: democratize access to justice.**
- **Improve access to education, including public higher ed, instead of supporting “for profit” schools.**
- **Provide health care for all and make it more efficient.**
- **Improve the safety net: tax credits, food stamps, etc.**
- **Stop the global “race to the bottom,” by taxing profits made overseas.**
- **Maintain full employment by investing in infrastructure and the environment.**
- **Support citizen organizations and unions.**
- **And, finally, what we have learned from this election: in order to save our democracy, we must have campaign finance reform.**

We must, as a people, organize to convince the politicians—many of whom receive a lot of money from the 1 percent—to back reforms suggested by Stiglitz and many others, and to recognize that it is in our mutual interest for our nation to become once again an inclusive society, a true land of democracy. ☺



## Time to Start a New Year and Think of Your Job and Your Union

by Charlie McAteer, Vice President for Professionals

As your Chapter Vice President for Professionals, I reflect on my 34 years of service to this campus and look forward to the approach of yet another new and challenging year. We as UUP members should be thankful for the many things we have contributed to Stony Brook, our communities and our lives. I want to extend my best wishes in 2013 for a happy and healthy New Year. I would also like to thank those who have been able to attend the many UUP chapter events, trainings and programs we have put together for you. Together we work best when we work together to discuss, analyze and come up with solutions to issues that face us. Please contact myself and UUP if you have questions, suggestions or see/hear something you want to share with your union. You are our eyes and ears of what is happening in your job and area.

In the next few months you will have the opportunity to run and most importantly vote for your UUP delegates and chapter officers. These include delegates to UUP statewide as well as attending the New York State United Teachers and American Federation of Teachers conventions. I hope you will

give consideration to signing up for these opportunities to participate in your union and network with fellow unionists across campus, the state and the country. Your voice, opinion and ability to influence outcomes has never been more important to both you as an individual as well as the collective good (which is what Unions are all about). I would love to chat with you (on-line or at 2-6445) to discuss the various commitments each position has. I thank you for your help and hope you will consider this offer to become more active in your union.

Another opportunity you can do to help is to stop by your state legislator and spend 15 minutes talking to them and or their aide. As a voter, you have weight with them and your discussion of the needs for your Professional area and Public Higher Education in general is invaluable and would be greatly appreciated. Together we can make a difference, helping each other and advocating for our career, SUNY and Stony Brook University.

Have a Successful and Healthy New Year! ☺

## QUIT TODAY! by Kathleen Valerio, MS, MCHES, Health Educator

Did you know that secondhand smoke exposure causes heart disease and lung cancer in non-smoking adults? Everyone knows tobacco kills yet, every day in the U.S.A. over 22,000 children under the age of 18 become smokers, joining the 19+% of all Americans who report daily tobacco use.

There is no risk-free level of first, or second, hand smoke exposure. Even brief exposure can be dangerous. Please, if you use tobacco in any form, consider quitting. There is help available. Today, smokers don't have to tough it out alone. New medications, some over-the-counter and some prescription, can help take the edge off of nicotine withdrawal.

The New York State Smokers' Quit line is free and confidential service that provides effective stop smoking services to New Yorkers who want to stop smoking. Call to speak with a quit coach to quit tobacco or click for online information. 1-866-NY-QUITS (1-866-697-8487)

You can also join a Smoking Cessation Program locally. In Suffolk County, the Suffolk County Department of Health is offering area "Learn to be... Tobacco Free" smoking cessation workshops. In February, 2013, a six-week workshop series is being offered at Stony Brook University's Technology Center beginning February 28 th at 6:00PM. Registration – PRIOR TO FEBRUARY 15, 2013 – IS REQUIRED (CALL 631-444-400 TO REGISTER).

Workshops will take place @ the Technology Center located at 14 Research Way, East Setauket. Skills you may need to remain smoke free – Stress Management, Behavior Modification, Relaxation – will be covered and medication will be provided to those who request it (for a nominal fee, following a medical review). Additional information and workshops offered. To learn more, visit the Suffolk County Department of Health website under Smoking Cessation.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. @ <http://www.surqeongeneral.gov/library/secondhandsmoke/report>.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h1>february 2013</h1>					1	2 Groundhog Day
3	4	5	6 Affirmative Action Workshop 12:00 Room 301 Wang	7	8 Open House/ Coffee Tea 9:00 UUP Office Melville Library	9
10	11	12	13 Acad Council Meeting 12:30 Javits Room Melville Library	14 I ♥ you!	15	16
17	18 President's Day	19	20 Exec Board Meeting 12:00 Javits Room Melville Library	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h1>march 2013</h1>					1 Open House/ Coffee Tea 9:00 UUP Office Melville Library	2
3	4	5 General Membership Meeting 12:00 SAC Ballroom A	6	7 Womens Concerns Workshop 12:00 Room 301 Wang	8	9
10	11	12	13 Acad Council Meeting 12:30 Javits Room Melville Library	14	15	16
17	18 S P R I N G	19	20	21	22 B R E A K	23
24/31	25	26 Exec Board Meeting 12:00 Javits Room Melville Library	27 Affirmative Action Workshop 12:00 Room 301 Wang	28	29	30

**To R.S.V.P. to any of the meetings or workshops go to [www.uupsbu.org](http://www.uupsbu.org)**

## Who Is Professor “Staff,” and How Can This Person Teach So Many Classes?

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declining “at an alarming rate” and that faculty work has since become “more fragmented, unsupported, and destabilized.” Last June, AAUP issued *The Inclusion in Governance of Faculty Members Holding Contingent Appointments*, which attempts to reconcile policies and practices relating to campus governance with the reality of today’s faculty workforce. In conjunction with its Faculty and College Excellence Campaign, UUP’s national affiliate the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) published *Reversing Course: The Troubled State of Academic Staffing and a Path Forward*. It provides a strategy for addressing the instructional staffing crisis in higher education. AFT is a leading member of the Coalition on the Academic Workforce (CAW). The coalition recently published the results of “A Portrait of Part-Time Faculty,” a survey conducted in the fall of 2010 that documents the reliance on part-time faculty and the failure to support them. The feature article in the September/October 2012 issue of AFT’s periodical *On Campus* summarizes the findings of the CAW survey. The article is appropriately titled “Dismantling the Professoriate.”

As the example of the late Steve Street demonstrates, the exploitation of contingent faculty is a problem within SUNY. UUP has negotiated a number of benefits for contingent employees. It was one of the first higher education unions to obtain health insurance for part-time employees. UUP established a task force on contingent employees that issued a report in 2010 describing working conditions across the SUNY system. Some campuses, such as Farmingdale and Cortland, provide contingent faculty with opportunities for advancement. The task force report also identifies and discusses problems at Stony Brook.

Peter D.G. Brown, Distinguished Service Professor of German and president of the New Paltz chapter of UUP, has been a leader both within UUP and nationally in advocating for higher pay and better working conditions for contingent faculty. He was instrumental in establishing New Paltz’s Adjunct Faculty Association and was a co-founder of New Faculty Majority: The National Coalition for Adjunct and Contingent Equity. The New Paltz chapter’s web site contains two articles that he wrote about

the exploitation of contingent faculty: “Confessions of a Tenured Professor,” published in *Inside Higher Ed* in 2010 and “Our Dirty Little Secret,” published in the New Paltz chapter’s newsletter last winter.

The analysis of the CFHE survey can be summed up in the following statement from the report: “Perhaps the most important result of these damaging working conditions is that the educational experience of students suffers, both inside and outside of the classroom. It is only the extraordinary effort, personal resources, and professional dedication of contingent faculty that allows them to overcome the obstacles to quality education that derive directly from their employment status.” But is it not right to take advantage of their dedication to teaching and the profession. It is also not necessary. The fifth CFHE principle states, “Quality education in the 21st century will require the pursuit of real efficiencies and the avoidance of false economies.” The authors of the report recognize the need for flexibility in staffing classes, but with more than two-thirds of the faculty workforce contingent, they assert that it has reached a level of arbitrariness not grounded in fiscal expediency and educational purpose. Many of the problems caused by a lack of institutional support could be rectified at little or no cost. The report recommends increased transparency about the working conditions of contingent faculty and that institutions of higher education collect the data needed for a serious study of the issues described in the survey and the impact that they have on students.

In an article published in the September 4, 2012 issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Jason B. Jones suggests that governance bodies distribute the CFHE survey to their contingent faculty as a first step towards addressing the issue of fairness and solving practical problems. The New Faculty Majority Foundation has made the survey instrument available to faculty and administrators interested in the working conditions of contingent faculty at their institutions. It can be downloaded from the foundation’s web site ([www.nfmfoundation.org](http://www.nfmfoundation.org)). The good news is that higher education unions, scholarly societies, and other higher education associations have sounded the alarm and are working together to find solutions to the crisis in the academic workforce. They also have the state and national organizations that will enable them to promote these solutions. ☺

## Charlie McAteer has been selected as the Village Times Man of the Year in Civics!

by Arty Shertzer

Charlie, our UUP Vice President for Professionals was cited for his work in the development of the Greenway Trail which runs from 25A in Setauket to Route 112 in Port Jeff Station.

Chairman of the Friends of the Greenway, McAteer championed the trail, which winds through woods in Setauket, providing a scenic place for people to ride bicycles, jog or walk. The trail is currently being expanded westward in Setauket and eastward to Port Jefferson Station.

In the Three Village Times announcement, Cynthia Barnes from the Three Village Trust said of him: "When he was introducing this idea of this trail to the community, some people had a negative reaction initially when they heard about a bike trail coming to their backyard." and "He is so down to earth and positive that it was hard to get angry with him, which is a tremendous asset." For his past hard work and continuous effort on the trail, The Village Times Herald names Charlie McAteer Man of the Year in Civics.

Assemblyman Steve Englebright said many plans for trails remain just that because "they don't have a Charlie McAteer. These projects have a hard time getting past the concept stage. But Charlie follows through. I can't imagine this bike path existing without him."

When the trail's expansion began this past summer, troubles arose when the state Department of Transportation cut down too many trees from the area. Homeowners were upset and "it was Charlie who came down and talked to these upset homeowners," Englebright said. "He knows we can't replace a majestic oak tree but we will put in some plantings for a screen. Charlie is very effective as a spokesperson. Since he has access to myself and to the DOT personnel on this project he has been a very important information gatherer and conveyer."

Truly an intergovernmental project, McAteer worked at the town, state and federal levels with elected leaders to secure funding and permits for the project. But more importantly, he secured the backing of the community, getting support from residents for the trail. After all, it was being built for their use.

"The connectivity of the Greenway Trail is a metaphor for Charlie himself as he works methodically to ensure that all the parts of our community gave their local input," Brookhaven Town Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld said. "Future generations of local families – having a safer way to bicycle, jog, hike or just absorb a tranquil stroll with nature – will have Charlie's devotion to thank for seeing this community project through its final stages."

As a physical plant engineer at Stony Brook University, McAteer used his expertise to "improve town-gown relations," Fiore-Rosenfeld said, making him "one of the campuses' best unofficial ambassadors with the off-campus community".

Those of us that know Charlie were not surprised to hear of this recognition. He has demonstrated the same dogged determinism for the last 30+ years here on campus and has been an invaluable member and officer of our UUP Stony Brook Chapter!

If you are in the area, check out the trail....and when you see Charlie, give him a high five for a job well done! 🍀



Charlie McAteer sitting on a bench by the Greeway Trail.



PHOTO BY NICK KORIDIS



## Superstorm Sandy – How did it happen and are we prepared for the future?

By Malcolm J. Bowman.

Hurricane Sandy was a sudden shock to our sense of security and complacency. The fury inflicted on life, property and infrastructure was enormous for coastal communities of the north-eastern seaboard, particularly in New York and New Jersey. Apart from the human loss of more than 80 lives, rebuilding could easily top \$100 billion when all the debts are settled.

What made Sandy so destructive, when it barely triggered a Category I Hurricane classification by the National Weather Service? Why, Sandy even dropped below hurricane status (based on a wind intensity scale) not long before it made landfall just south of Atlantic City NJ around 8 pm on October 29th, 2012. At this time, the National Hurricane Center referred to it as a “post-tropical cyclone” and stopped releasing hurricane advisories. But this lowering in status was no reflection of the destructive power this enormous storm still packed.

Sandy was unusual in several aspects. Firstly as Sandy moved northward, the storm began to take on some extra-tropical characteristics, such as a larger and more asymmetric wind field, with enormous dimensions – some 1,100 miles in diameter.

Second, a major deviation of the high-altitude jet stream, looping southwards known as a “blocking high”, forced the hurricane vortex to suddenly make a sharp turn to the left (westward), colliding with the New Jersey coast. A storm in the Atlantic northeast with such unusual properties has never before been documented in the meteorological literature.

But thirdly, what made Sandy so damaging was the timing of its landfall – the eye of the hurricane smashed into the Jersey coast at local high tide. On top of that, the moon that fateful night was full – leading to a higher than normal “spring tide”. The storm surge – an additional 9 feet or more of water piled up against the coast by furious winds and crashing ocean waves – was riding on top of this extra high tide. This



**Village of Monster, Netherlands, taken from the top of a nourished natural sand dune, looking landwards. The ocean is to the left of the picture. The residents have traded the seaview for security.**



extraordinary storm tide poured into harbors and inlets, swept across wide swaths of low lying beaches, eroded protective dunes everywhere, topped seawalls, ran into tunnels and stations and washed through empty streets.

This led to unprecedented damage to communities built too close to (and on) the beaches of New Jersey and New York. Seaside communities were devastated with the majority of fatalities concentrated in southeastern Staten Island. Severe flooding occurred in the business district of lower Manhattan with vital power outages lasting at least five days. The East River overflowed its banks. The surge continued up the Hudson and other rivers, inundating communities as it penetrated inland, unstoppable.

The new \$530 million showcase South Ferry subway station at The Battery, proudly opened in 2009, was completely destroyed. Three-and-a-half years later, the station lies in ruins. What made it worse was that the flooding was by seawater, not rain water. Sea salt is very corrosive and a powerful conductor of electricity – short circuiting and destroying all electronics, computer and switching systems in its path. It is estimated that it will cost about \$620 million to rebuild the station.

Interestingly, had Sandy made landfall either six hours earlier or six hours later, it would have

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## Together We Do Make a Difference!

by Nancy Gaugler, UUP Community Services Committee Chair

UUP continues to reach out and work with many individuals across our campus and in our communities to help where we can. We are happy to help those in need and the satisfaction we receive from helping is immeasurable. Here are some of the activities that the UUP Community Services Committee has been involved in since the start of the Fall 2012 semester:

### UUP CSC October Food Drive 2012

In October, we sponsored our 3rd annual UUP CSC October Food Drive with all donations to be distributed by Long Island Cares through their various member agencies. Everyone worked together to collect 3500 lbs. of non-perishable food items surpassing last year's amount (2500 lbs.)!

We thank all those individuals who continue to generously contribute their time and efforts each year. We would also like to acknowledge those individuals and organizations who joined our efforts this year. Allen Gordon on East Campus picked up and delivered to West Campus all donations from the Hospital and HSC. Vincent Badali coordinated the Dental Care Center donations. Sean Pierce covered the Southampton Campus. Taryn Kutujian in the Career Center contacted student groups which resulted with us working with Dominick Pastorelle and the Stony Brook Community Service Club; James Ging and Brittany Barnett and the SBU Freethinkers; Michael Saccomanno and the National Residence Hall Honorary; Evelyn Thomas and Stony Brook C-Cert; Shalonia Gardener and the Caribbean Students Organization; and Jessica Joseph and Catholic Campus Ministries. With poverty at an all-time high and need further increased by the devastation from two storms we can all be very proud of what we have accomplished!



Pictured above are Dominick Pastorelle, Michael Youdelman, Taryn Kutujian, Mark Woodruff, Michael Saccomanno, Jessica Joseph, Arthur Shertzer, and Nancy Gaugler.

### Hurricane Relief

After the terrible destruction from Hurricane Sandy and Nor'easter Athena we continued working together collecting food, blankets, clothing, and other needed items in a Hurricane Relief effort to help our fellow employees who suffered tremendous losses. All donations were given to EAP (Employee Assistance Program) for distribution. You came to the aid of those in need and your assistance was greatly appreciated!

### Hats for Heroes

In November, we collected enough donations in our annual Hats for Heroes initiative to sponsor the distribution of military service caps to all veterans in the Long Island State Veterans Home. UUP Community Service Committee members Peg Abbatiello and Joan Logan assisted in greeting all of the veterans who went to the LISVH Veterans Day Ceremony and distributing the appropriate military service hats to them. We had a great time showing our appreciation to the veterans. We salute all of our brave veterans and we are honored to have sponsored this initiative.

### Soup Kitchen

Peg Abbatiello organized efforts volunteering in the Calvary Chapel soup kitchen in Holbrook. UUP members Arty Shertzer, Michael Turner, Janelle Clarke and their families donated their time on the evening before Thanksgiving and Thanksgiving Day to help prepare, package, and serve meals. The soup kitchen served 8,500 meals (includes supporting 12 local churches and 2 organizations, delivering 400 meals across L.I. and serving 120 sit-down meals at the church). Everyone worked until all of the food was gone and had a great time doing so!

### Stony Brook Stitches

Throughout the year we continue to knit and crochet blankets, hats, scarves, and other items with the Stony Brook Stitches. Shakeera Thomas and Melissa Shampine distribute all donated items to the Stony Brook University Medical Center patients, the Stony Brook Cancer Center patients, and veterans in the Long Island State Veterans Home. Thanks to all of the kind donors and to Shakeera and Melissa for all of their hard work!

### Help to Spread Some Holiday Cheer

In December we directed our Holiday Cheer efforts to collect items for distribution to the Stony Brook Cancer Center pediatric and adult patients while they wait for treatment. A small gift to brighten someone's day sometimes can mean a great deal.

We thank Maria N. Gonzalez for suggesting that we speak with Linda Bily and we thank Linda for coordinating this initiative with UUP. We thank all those who so generously donated and collected items including Paulette Gerber, Joan Logan, Jan Tassie, Laura Colucci, and the Pre-Med Society coordinated by Alejandra Moncayo. Our thanks to Theresa Kist, Michele Lake, and Crystal Garcia for their terrific wrapping and packaging. Max Rodriguez and Crystal Garcia generously donated their time to help with the delivery of coloring books, crayons, colored pencils, journals, books, gloves, socks, jewelry, matchbox cars, sketch books, word search books, playing cards, magazines, lip balm, and so much more.

The holiday season was made a bit brighter because of your kindness and generosity!

**"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day." Sally Koch**

Please always feel free to contact us with any of your ideas or if you would like to join us at anytime and always remember that "Together We Do Make a Difference!". ☺

PHOTO BY NICK KORIDIS



Nancy with Joan Logan and Peg Abbatiello.



Linda Bily, Nancy, Max Rodriguez, and Crystal Garcia

## Dan Kinney named Interim Dean of the Library!

In his broadcast email, Provost Assanis wrote the following:

*I am pleased to announce that Daniel Kinney, currently the Associate Director of Libraries for Resource Management, has agreed to serve as Interim Dean of University Libraries until a new Dean can be identified. Dan came to Stony Brook from CUNY in 1982, and has held the following positions at SBU: Interim Deputy Director of the Health Sciences Library; Associate Director of Libraries for Collections and Technical Services; Assistant Director for Technical Services; and Head of the Music Library. In his current role as Associate Director of Libraries for Resource Management, Dan is responsible for cataloging and metadata services, electronic resource management, preservation, and the Institutional Repository. Dan was a member of the Library Initiative Team for Project 50 Forward, and was also a past president of the Long Island Library Resources Council's Board of Trustees. Dan has contributed to various American Library Association groups and chaired the American Library Association's*

*Cataloging Committee on Description and Access, which helped to develop the international standards scheduled to be adopted by the Library of Congress and other research libraries in 2013. He has given presentations at annual conferences of the American Library Association and the SUNY Librarians Association, and served for five years as the Vice President for Academics of the West Campus Chapter of UUP.*

Known for his quiet manner, his caring and his dedication to fairness for all of our members, We at UUP are thrilled for Dan and for the Library Staff. In addition to his UUP work and his long service to our campus, Dan is well known as the organist at several local churches where he is one of a dying breed of pipe organ masters, accompanying weekly services. He recently performed at the ST James RC Church in Setauket for the Christmas choral festival. Say hello and congratulations to Dan for this well deserved recognition! ☺

## CONGRATULATIONS DAN! WELL DONE!

**Daniel Kinney has been appointed to the board of trustees of the Long Island Library Resources Council representing the category of largest academic library, Suffolk County.**

## Legal & financial plans available to NYSUT members!

NYSUT members can get quality legal and financial assistance for themselves and their families by purchasing the Member Benefits Trust-endorsed Legal Service Plan or Member Benefits Corporation-endorsed Financial Counseling Program.

### Legal assistance when you need it!

For an annual fee, the Legal Service Plan – provided by Feldman, Kramer & Monaco, P.C. – offers legal expertise on a variety of personal legal matters such as dealing with a speeding ticket or handling estate planning.

With the base plan, you'll get access to unlimited, toll-free legal advice from plan attorneys. In addition, when you enroll in the plan, you'll receive two, free, hour-long consultations with a plan attorney.

The plan also provides for one Simple Will or update at no charge each year, along with a Durable Power of Attorney, Living Will and Health Care Proxy – important documents to have in place before the need for them arises.

NYSUT members can purchase the Legal Service Plan at the special cost of \$85 per year or \$55 per year for retirees; an Elder Law Rider and/or Business Protection Rider are available for an additional fee.

Participating locals can also take advantage of further savings through payroll or pension deduction.

*\*\*Please note that if you belong to a local association that provides a group legal service plan through the local or its Benefit Fund, remember to take advantage of the plan's benefits.*

### Financial expertise customized for your situation

The Financial Counseling Program – provided by Stacey Braun Associates, Inc. – offers unbiased, objective advice customized to your specific financial situation.

Through the program, you'll learn how to properly invest your assets to build a college savings or retirement fund; what to look for when purchasing or financing a home; and tips for getting your credit under control.



This full-service program provides you with up to six hours of objective toll-free telephone consultations with a certified financial planner or registered investment advisor.

In-person consultations are available at least once

per calendar year at each NYSUT Regional Office as well as at Stacey Braun's New York City office. The program also includes access to Stacey Braun's password-protected website and a 24-hour email helpdesk for basic financial questions.

NYSUT members can purchase the Financial Counseling Program for an annual fee of \$260. A 403(b) Limited Plan is also available for an annual fee of \$185.

Participating locals can also take advantage of further savings through payroll or pension deduction.

Learn more about either of these endorsed programs by contacting Member Benefits at **800-626-8101** or visiting [memberbenefits.nysut.org](http://memberbenefits.nysut.org).

For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

Jan./Feb. '13



## SUNY and Faculty Ownership of Course Materials, and Best Practices for On-Line Courses

by Martin Manjak - Albany Chapter UUP

Recently an article discussing MOOCs appeared in the Chronicle of Higher Education<sup>1</sup>. In case you haven't heard, MOOCs~Massive Open On-line Courses~refers to a growing phenomena in higher ed: free, open registration, electronic classes featuring full-time faculty from accredited colleges and universities. In fact, some of the biggest names in higher ed are looking to market their courses, while some faculty are looking to market themselves. The format raises a number of serious questions, but the ones that I would like to draw your attention to concern copyright, intellectual property, and support for creating on-line content.

While MOOCs have not yet made an appearance within the SUNY system, faculty are increasingly encouraged to embrace on-line learning technologies. When course materials are committed to digital media, whether text or audiovisual components, they can be delivered independently from the instructor's presence or participation. The question then becomes: who owns and controls the course material?

On October 15, David Lavallee, SUNY Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost, issued a letter to all campus presidents and academic officers regarding "some of the most commonly asked questions regarding faculty ownership of instructional content that are created by faculty in the course of their employment with SUNY."

The letter contains a link<sup>2</sup> to a SUNY web page entitled Faculty Ownership of Instructional Content. The document states: "With respect to faculty materials used on the web for instruction, under the current SUNY policy, copyright ownership is treated no differently than faculty materials produced for the classroom. That is, faculty own the copyright under the academic work-for-hire exception embedded in SUNY's copyright policy. Alternatively, SUNY and faculty may enter into work-for-hire written agreements relating to materials produced for on-line use in which the parties may agree to vest copyright in either SUNY or the faculty and to provide for related licenses."

This is an important statement of policy for all faculty, but particularly those creating content for electronic courses. It is important to take note of the fact that faculty, by signing separate agreements for course content, can enter into a work-for-hire relationship with SUNY. In these cases, depending on the terms of the agreement, copyright ownership may reside with SUNY rather than the faculty member. Therefore, it is especially important that faculty fully understand the terms of their employment if asked to sign separate agreements for the development or creation of course content, particularly as it relates to the question of copyright.

It is worth noting that the SUNY web page references two UUP documents at the top of the Related Resources list following the policy statement.

1. UUP Copyright FAQ<sup>3</sup>
2. UUP Contract MOU<sup>4</sup>

The best summary of the Copyright FAQ is contained in the document, i.e., "You own what you produce unless you have knowingly given up your rights to the product."

Regarding production, anyone who has worked in an on-line format knows that it requires a specific skill set to design and produce digital content, and deliver instruction electronically. Unfortunately, not all administrators and faculty understand this. For this reason, UUP has developed a best practices document intended to advise instructional staff on how best to prepare for on-line courses, and identify the minimum levels and areas of support that faculty will require from the institution to produce and deliver electronic courses successfully. If you are committed to teaching an electronic course, or are interested moving your course on-line, please consult this best practices document which can be found on the UUP State website at:

[www.uupinfo.org/reports/reportpdf/BestPracticesOnlineLearning.pdf](http://www.uupinfo.org/reports/reportpdf/BestPracticesOnlineLearning.pdf)



been local low tide and even the same wind-and-wave generated surge would have produced a relatively harmless storm tide. With hurricanes, timing is everything! Curiously, the precipitation associated with Sandy was quite modest, especially compared with the 2011 Hurricane Irene's heavy rainfall, which quickly drained into swollen rivers, devastating communities in upstate New York and New England. Every storm has its own signature, "personality", and surprises!

Governor Andrew Cuomo has set up several commissions to study and report on the causes, damages and recommended remedies to prevent this type of catastrophe ever happening again. Mayor Michael Bloomberg has reinstated the New York Panel on Climate Change to assess the situation and make recommendations for the future protection of the City. The two Governors of New York and New Jersey petitioned Congress for \$61 billion for disaster relief. New York City Speaker Christine Quinn and US Senator Charles Schumer have urged Congress to release funds for already approved US Army Corps of Engineers projects to renourish depleted beaches with underwater sand vacuumed and pumped ashore by huge dredges.

I have just spent three days in the Netherlands learning how this flourishing European nation of 17 million citizens ably protects itself against the menaces of storm surges (about 26% of the country lies below sea level and another 29% susceptible to river flooding!). Much of the coastline is protected with wide, enhanced natural sand dunes, some 30' high. Major cities, seaports and industrial areas are protected by a system of seawalls and storm surge barriers.

In the province of Zeeland, I visited the famous Delta Project. The Delta Project is a complex system of dykes (levees), coastal sand dunes and built structures protecting cities, communities, industry, agriculture and vital infrastructure (the capital city Amsterdam is in places 6-12' below sea level – as is Rotterdam and Schiphol national airport – Europe's 4th busiest). The Delta project is one of the largest construction efforts in human history. The American Society of Civil Engineers even names it as one of the seven wonders of the modern world.

In January 1955 a devastating winter storm (a combination of a furious North Sea storm, a local high tide and a spring tide –

sound familiar?) broke through many of the existing dykes, built over centuries, flooding large portions of the country, drowning 1835 people, destroying thousands of homes and farms and causing untold misery. This tragedy was endured by a people who were still reeling from the devastation of World War II that had ended just nine years earlier.

The Dutch have vowed that they would never, ever, have to endure such a catastrophe again. So they have set themselves a very high security standard – they would build a coastal protection system that would endure a 1/1,000 year storm, and even in some localities a 1/10,000 year storm! (a 1/1,000 year storm is a storm so extreme it is likely to occur only once every 1,000 years –

this is not to say that it will be 1,000 years before one strikes; but that there is only a slight 1/1000 chance that it will occur in any given year).

In Rotterdam, the second largest seaport in the world, the Dutch government has funded the Rotterdam Climate Proof Program, a series of projects designed to manage, store, pump and even celebrate the existence of water everywhere. They are very much aware that they can never be complacent. And rising sea levels associated with climate change means the Dutch must ever be vigilant.

We in New York can learn much from the Netherlands' experience. Obviously, Metropolitan New York and Long



The storm surge barrier across the Oosterschelde estuary at work during a storm.

Island do not lie below sea level, but even so, it's worth remembering, and that much of the city's subway system, road tunnels and communication infrastructure do lie below sea level. New York sewers often back up during storm events. Two to three million people in the outer boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens live less than 6' above sea level. Another way of looking at the climate change challenge before us is to realize what the Netherlands is experiencing today will be New York's fate 75-100 years from now. We have the benefit of time to learn from the Dutch experience their skills and prepare ourselves for the worst.

Was Superstorm Sandy predictable? Well yes and no. Our Stony Brook Storm Surge Research Group has been predicting for years that New York City and Long Island are at significant risk of being flooded. Back in 2005, I wrote an Op-Ed piece for the New York Times entitled "A City at Sea" where I

predicted it was not a matter of “if”, but “when” New York City would be flooded. But we could not predict exactly when this would occur!

The city’s response has been to develop a plan of “resilience” – a protocol of “watchful waiting”. When extreme storms occur, the damage is assessed and repairs are made in such a way that the weak spots are strengthened. Subway entrance stairs are raised, critical switching systems in power plants are lifted out of harm’s way, hospital emergency power plants are taken out of the basements to higher levels, and vital communications infrastructure is thoroughly waterproofed. But one is tempted to say, cynically, that New York City is planning to be flooded! Our current culture is to recover from losses, not protect against them.

So was “watchful waiting” good enough? Obviously not. Super-storm Sandy simply overwhelmed existing protection measures. During that fateful evening of October 29th, I listened to news radio at home on my hand-cranked AM radio (the power had already gone off and stayed off for a week). In horror I mentally started checking off the boxes of critical infrastructure flooded—first the Hoboken train station, then the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel, then the FDR Drive, then the South Ferry subway station (oh my, I warned the MTA about that in a National Geographic documentary a few years ago), then there goes the East River subway tunnels, .....

Our storm surge research group has been proposing for many years that serious consideration be given to the construction of storm surge barriers to protect Metro New York. The first and more expensive option would be a multi-purpose storm surge barrier stretching from Sandy Hook NJ to Breezy Pt, Far Rockaway. Sand dunes would need to be enhanced both ends to protect coastal communities of northern New Jersey, the Rockaways and Kennedy airport. A second barrier would need to be built across the upper East River to prevent surges originating in Long Island Sound from propagating through the East River into the Harbor. Space does not permit a discussion of the pros and cons of storm surge barriers, but suffice it to say that if such a system were now in place, little to no flooding would have occurred from Sandy in Metro New York. Perhaps this can be discussed in a future article.

And what about Long Island? Fortunately most people obeyed the orders to evacuate the south shore and no lives were lost. But terrible damage was inflicted on Breezy Pt, Long Beach and coastal communities all along the south shore in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

So, what can be done to protect life and property on our fragile, sandy LI homeland? Augmenting sand dunes around the island by pumping offshore sand will be tedious, endless and expensive, and as the Dutch have found, likely to spoil the view for some. Coastal communities there have traded the ocean view for security. Tightening building codes and disallowing risky building

on exposed sandy foreshores is essential. But these are really the only sets of measures available that may strengthen the resilience of Long Island’s south shore in the short to medium term. In the long term (say 100 years from now) residents will simply have to abandon shoreline properties and gradually make a retreat to higher ground.

Even if the human race stopped all use of fossil fuels today (an impossibility), temperatures and sea level will rise for centuries because of the accumulated greenhouse gases already in the atmosphere (primarily CO2 but also, menacingly, methane). As a matter of fact, globally we are increasing our use of fossil fuels beyond the worst case scenario envisioned by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its 2007 report on the state of the planet. CO2 is rising at an alarming 3.5% per year. We are moving into difficult, precarious territory as far as controlling runaway global warming.

It is imperative that we make controlling greenhouse gas emissions and development of renewable energy systems a national priority, supported by resources equal to those given to fighting global terrorism. Then the United States will lead the world in addressing the causes and not just the symptoms of global warning. In the meantime, if the Dutch can protect their precious, beautiful country, so can we! ☼

*Malcolm Bowman is Professor of Oceanography and Distinguished Service Professor at the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences. He leads the Stony Brook Storm Surge Research Group, regularly reports to City agencies. He contributed to Governor Cuomo’s 2100 Commission on Infrastructure and has recently been reappointed to Mayor Bloomberg’s New York Panel on Climate Change. This research is sponsored principally by New York Sea Grant.*



**Scale model of the Maeslant Barrier. The ocean is to the right and the port of Rotterdam is to the left of the image. The gates are shown in the storm (closed) position. During fair weather, the gates retract into “parking areas”.**

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The Executive Board meets on the third Tuesday of the month at noon. All members are encouraged to attend. Please contact the Chapter office for exact meeting date and location. INSIGHT is published by the Stony Brook Chapter of United University Professions. Items for inclusion should be sent to the UUP office - S-5415 Melville Library, Stony Brook, NY 11794-3388 or email [theresa.kist@stonybrook.edu](mailto:theresa.kist@stonybrook.edu).

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