

# Connection

Binghamton Chapter, United University Professions



## From the Chapter President

### From hiring to health issues, UUP works for you

by Darryl M. Wood  
Anderson Center

UUP contributed to two important campus developments last year. One arose from the Vision Survey which we had carried out the previous year, and the other concerns various water infiltration problems across the Vestal campus. In the first case, UUP's political efforts contributed to your priorities and the University's. In the other, our negotiations with the campus administration contributed to the health and safety of many of our members.

A major conclusion from the Vision Survey, presented to the campus community including the BU administration, was that the University needs more full-time aca-



demics and professionals. At the same time we presented these results, the administration unveiled its Strategic Plan; President DeFleur likewise noted that faculty hiring was a priority.

There was great congruence from all quarters.

The SUNY Board of Trustees requested approximately \$30 million additional for operational needs in 2006-2007. UUP, including many Binghamton members, argued for much more. In addition to an energy cost supplement, with UUP's urging, the New York State Legislature

appropriated over \$150 Million for SUNY with the governor signing these bills. With these successes, the UUP Chapter reminded the campus administration of your priorities and suggested the 'stars were aligned' and more full-time academics and professionals should be hired.

On August 22, UUP hosted a luncheon for new academics and professionals and were pleased with the largest turnout in the 7-8 years we

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### NYSUT, UUP create flood relief fund



*UUP has created, with NYSUT, a disaster relief fund for use by members who were affected by the flooding in June. Any member who had unreimbursed expenses resulting from the flood may apply to the fund. Copies of the application are available from either Kathy Zentz in the Chapter office, X7-4382, or on the web, <<http://nysut.org/disasterrelief/2006nysutdisasterrelief.pdf>> Please let us know how we can help.*

### **Faculty now appointed to SUNY Board of Trustees**

*Colleagues:*

*I'm pleased to report that the governor has signed a bill supported by UUP that makes the president of the SUNY faculty senate an ex-officio, non-voting member of the SUNY Board of Trustees. Now our friend and UUP colleague, Carl Wiezalis, president of the senate, will have a say at board meetings. Congratulations Carl!*

*Bill Scheurman  
President, UUP*

[And what about the idea of faculty participation on the Binghamton University Council (the BU campus board of trustees)? — Ed.]

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The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the authors or of the Binghamton Chapter and are not necessarily the opinions of United University Professions.

The editor welcomes letters and other comments of interest to the Binghamton Chapter.

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## Chapter well-situated for significant impact on next contract negotiations

by **Darryl M. Wood**  
**Chapter President**

UUP's Agreement with the State of New York runs through July 1, 2007. We are now in the process of preparing for negotiating the successor agreement. The Binghamton Chapter is well situated to have a significant impact on these discussions.

Members at Binghamton, like all UUP members statewide, will be sent the negotiations survey in mid-to late September. This will be one of your opportunities to provide input into this process. This survey will be sent out via snail mail but a web version will also be available. All members are encouraged to complete the web version. (Please note that only members will have this opportunity — if you are a fee payer, you are not allowed to participate. Contact Kathy Zentz, uup@binghamton.edu or X7-4382, for a membership card or to confirm your status.)

The Negotiations Team will be on campus on Tuesday, October 17, at noon in Old Union Hall (former Mini Mall) in the University Union. Members of the team are visiting all the campuses to receive first-hand knowledge regarding your concerns and issues.

The UUP Constitution mandates a Negotiations Committee of one member from each campus as well as one part-time academic and one part-time professional to advise the president and the Negotiations Team. Fran Goldman, vice president for academics and representing the Binghamton campus, and Beth Kilmarx, representing part-time professionals statewide, have been appointed by Bill Scheuerman to that committee.

You may also wish to provide input to Fran and Beth whenever you see them regarding statewide issues you believe UUP should address in



these negotiations.

UUP also creates an ad hoc negotiations committee, composed of one academic and one professional, to advise Bill Scheuerman and the Negotiations Team on issues specific to each campus. Binghamton's representatives are Ed Chidester, professional in the Business Office, and Jim Dix, academic in the Chemistry Department. Please contact them regarding campus-specific concerns.

Finally, I have been appointed to the Negotiations Team. This is my third time on the team. Please share all of your concerns with me.

Your involvement with this process will determine the quality of the final agreement with the State of New York. Your commitment to supporting UUP will greatly influence how the state reacts to your proposals. Get involved.

## UUP's efforts lead to increased funds for full-time faculty

by **Jim Dix**  
Chemistry Department

One of the themes that came out of the UUP Binghamton's survey of members three years ago was that BU needed more full-time faculty. One of the themes developed by the administration in its Strategic Plan two years ago was that BU needed more full-time faculty. One of the themes of UUP's statewide legislative agenda for the past few years has been that SUNY needed more full-time faculty.

This consistent and broadly supported theme finally hit home with the state Legislature, largely through UUP's lobbying efforts: the Legislature appropriated \$25 mil-



lion specifically for enrollment growth and creation of full-time tenure-track faculty lines for state-operated campuses. This money is in addition to the \$150 million in additional operating aid to campuses, and \$30 million in energy costs for last year.

Like water on a parched desert, the money for new faculty, coupled with the administration's commitment to increase the number of new faculty using other funds, could bring new life to BU. The lifeblood of the

university is, of course, the students, and to provide our students with a high quality education requires adequate faculty.

According to internal SUNY numbers, the student-to-full-time faculty ratio at BU increased from 22.3 to 25.6 from 1994 to 2004. As calculated in my column in the last issue of the *BU Connection*, to accommodate the enrollment growth target of 1000, and to bring down the student-to-faculty ratio to the target of 20:1 with full-time faculty will require 170+ new faculty members. We'll have to wait until the official numbers come in next month, but judging from the size of the new faculty luncheon this year, we've made good progress in increasing the number of faculty.

The legislature's increase in funding for full-time faculty is indicative of UUP's growth as a politically powerful force, a force that can be used to make our academic and personal lives better. UUP's power is a reflection of the active participation of its members: the more participation, the greater the power. For example, the governor last year vetoed the increased funding for SUNY. UUP's efforts in working with the legislature in overriding the veto were helped immeasurably by UUP members writing and faxing supporting letters to legislators. This year is a contract negotiation year, and getting a good contract will require us to actively participate and make our voice heard.

We should participate actively not only on a statewide level, but also on a campus level. As UUP Academic Vice President at Binghamton, I represent the approximately 750 full- and part-time academics on campus in working with the Faculty Senate and the administration in improving our academic lives. What do we want to accomplish here at BU? Let me know.

### UUP Benefits at a Glance

Our local chapter office wanted to remind our members of the many benefits afforded us. Here is a brief overview of just a few of the many benefits and discounted services:

- Dental plan
- Vision care plan (eye exam and glasses annually)
- Benefit Fund Scholarship Program
- Group term life insurance
- Accidental death and dismemberment insurance
- Free tuition on a "space available" basis
- Individual Development Awards programs
- Long-term care insurance through NYSUT
- Car rentals
- Defensive driving program
- Group auto and home insurance programs

More information about these or other programs can be found at: <http://www.uupinfo.org/> or by calling the UUP statewide benefits office at 800-887-3863.

*Ed Chidester*  
Co-Chair for Chapter Membership

## Chapter represented at Lupardo fundraiser



*Binghamton UUP members, using VOTE/COPE funds, regularly participate in events sponsored by elected officials.*

*A number of us (including, below, Chapter President Darryl Wood, Bob Pompei, Beth Kilmarx, Jeanne Eichelberger and Fran Goldman) attended Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo's Blues and BBQ event July 27 at EnJoie Golf Course.*

*At left, Darryl Wood chats with Lupardo.*

*Members discuss campus funding needs as well as issues of concern to our members. Our contact with our representatives paid great dividends this past year, as over \$150 million was appropriated for SUNY operating needs.*

*(Photos by Henry Eichelberger)*





## Your vote and your job — elections make a difference

by Darryl M. Wood  
Chapter President

Decisions in New York state are largely politically motivated. If we want to change things, we must be involved in that process.

UUP, by itself and with the support of NYSUT, has been very successful these past few years in increasing support for SUNY in the state budget. When SUNY has asked for little or nothing, UUP has convinced the state Legislature and then the governor, to increase funding.

This past year, the SUNY Board of Trustees asked for approximately \$30 million additional — UUP successfully argued for more, and the governor signed the bill for over \$150 million.

They listened because you were there and involved. You wrote letters, made phone calls and visited legislators arguing for the importance of SUNY and our campus.

The local chapter works closely with our campus administration with our very well-received Advocacy Day in Albany. Legislators from across the state look forward

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to our visit because we have a message that resonates with our vision and their needs.

We also work behind the scenes on behalf of the administration.

There is an election on November 7 in which New York's residents will elect a new governor, a U.S. senator, a U.S. representative as well as a New York state

senator and Assembly member.

UUP, through NYSUT, has endorsed candidates in all these races — please contact UUP, X74382 or [uup@binghamton.edu](mailto:uup@binghamton.edu) for this list. While you may not agree with all our endorsements, it is essential you understand the first sentence of this article: Elected officials respond politically to issues they face. If they receive many phone calls or a group provides financial support, they are more positively disposed to them.

UUP encourages you to get very involved in political campaigns. Understand the issues and where candidates stand. It is more important what they champion and less important how they vote sometimes, especially in the state Legislature, where most votes are predetermined by either party affiliation or by decisions made by those three men in a room. Let them know your affiliations, tell them how important SUNY and this campus is to the State of New York and, most important, get your friends and family members to vote.

Your vote will make a difference.





## NYSUT assembly delegates approve unification vote

(From UUP Connection) Nearly 100 UUP members were among the 2,000 delegates to NYSUT's 2006 Representative Assembly voting in favor of the unification of NYSUT with NEA/NY. The constitutional amendment joining the two unions passed unanimously during the RA, which took place in Rochester May 4-6. The vote concludes an eight-year effort to unite the two labor unions.

"This is an historic day," NYSUT President Dick Iannuzzi told delegates. "Forty thousand educators will join us to speak with one voice for 570,000 members.

"Uniting with NEA/NY gives us a stronger, more credible voice for our

professions, our students, our patients and the working families of New York," he added.

"Far more unites us than divides us," said NEA/NY President Robin Rapaport.

### President praises UUP

In his first address to the RA as NYSUT President, Iannuzzi praised UUP as a great higher ed local, and noted the need to meet the challenges facing higher education.

"Online baccalaureate programs and the continued abuse of part-timers minimize the value of full-time on-campus faculty, which we know is critical to quality higher education," Iannuzzi said.

Among the other highlights of the 2006 RA was a vote to endorse Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton in her bid for re-election. Telling the delegates that they need to stand up and be heard in Washington for education, Clinton said, "The Bush administration has shown more hostility to education than any in modern history." She said higher education budget cuts for student loans and Pell grants are "a recipe for disaster," making it harder for families to send their children to college.

State Senate minority leader and Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor David Paterson and state Comptroller Alan Hevesi also spoke at the RA.

## Spitzer studying ING's tie to teachers' union

(NY Times — from UUP Connection) Attorney General Eliot Spitzer has confirmed that his office had for several months been investigating ties between a powerful New York teachers' union and the ING Group, an inquiry that was prompted by an article in *Forbes* magazine.

The inquiry led him to cancel plans made by his campaign staff to pick up the endorsement of the union, New York State United Teachers, last week. ING, a Dutch financial services giant, pays \$3 million a year to the union for special access to its more than 500,000 members to provide investment products and advice.

Richard C. Iannuzzi, the union president, said it was close to reaching a settlement with the attorney general, and a spokesman for Mr. Spitzer concurred. Mr. Iannuzzi also said he expected that Mr. Spitzer would still be endorsed when his union's delegates convened again in August.

The inquiry is part of a larger investigation by Mr. Spitzer's office into the marketing of insurance and investment products. The relationship between insurance companies and teachers' unions has been one



Eliot Spitzer

particular line of inquiry, inspired by an April 2005 story in *Forbes* that highlighted the "lousy retirement plans" sold to teachers nationwide under such arrangements.

Darren Dopp, a spokesman for Mr. Spitzer, said the article spurred an investigation shortly after it appeared. The inquiry into the union was reported by *The New York Post*.

"It's not something we believe that is particular to NYSUT, but it happens to be one of the many, many things we're looking at and it's an investigation that was begun a while back and it will continue apace," Mr. Spitzer said.

"It's an inquiry that relates to,

and this has been made public so I can say this, how certain products are marketed and whether or not there was an appropriate observance of the responsibility, the fiduciary obligations, to those who are purchasing the products."

Mr. Spitzer canceled an appearance on Friday at the union's Rochester convention, where he was to pick up the group's endorsement. The appearance was scheduled by his campaign staff, which was not aware of the investigation.

Mr. Iannuzzi said that he did not expect a fine to be part of a settlement or even that the payments from ING would cease. But he said the union was likely to make various changes, including how thoroughly it made teachers aware of the relationship.

The outcome for ING seems less clear. Dana Ripley, a spokesman for company, said it was not in "active discussion with the attorney general's office."

Mr. Ripley added: "I think the fee that is paid to NYSUT is fully disclosed in a number of places. I don't think it's improper at all."



***From the Vice President for Professionals***

## **Elections for committees to help professionals**

**by Frances Goldman  
Asian-American Studies**

We recently sent out a request for interested parties to put their names forward for election to either the College Review Panel or the College Committee on Professional Evaluation and are currently in the process of electing members to both committees. Since the closing date for the return of ballots is after the due date for this article, I will be sending out an announcement of the committee membership in a separate memo. I must say, however, that I was very gratified to see the number of professionals who wished to have their names on the ballot for the committees. It certainly demonstrates your understanding of the importance of the committees and their function and the willingness of professionals to serve. I thank all who volunteered for these elected positions.

As I have noted in past newsletters, both committees are pro-



vided for under provisions of the memorandum of understanding between the State University of New York and UUP, Appendix A-28, as appeal mechanisms. In the case of the College Review Panel, when either a request for promotion and/or salary increase is denied at any level below that of the president, one can appeal to this committee. Please remember that there is a 45-day deadline once you have applied and that a non-response is considered a “no” as well as an outright “no,” both of which can be appealed. On the other hand, the College Committee on Professional Evaluation is available when an unsatisfactory evaluation is given and allows an individual to appeal.

While we would hope that you do not find yourself in a situation where you do have to use the appeal process, we strongly urge you to remember that there are contractual

mechanisms that can be of assistance. All you need to do is contact me or the UUP office and we will put you in touch with the chair of the particular committee.

Related to the issue of the College Review Panel was the workshop in June facilitated by Dennis Selzner, our NYSUT labor relations specialist. The response to this workshop was very positive and many who attended expressed a wish for more information on what should be in a performance program and how it should be structured. I have asked John Marino, the statewide vice president for professionals, and Dennis to facilitate part 2 sometime in October or early November and will be forwarding more information once a date is set.

In this vein, I am always interested in what issues concern you and how to address them. If there is an area in particular that you feel needs to be addressed, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail me: 777-4938 or frances@binghamton.edu.

## **Inflation beats faculty salaries again**

*(The Chronicle of Higher Education, from UUP Connection)* Faculty salaries failed to keep pace with inflation for the second year in a row, according to a new report by the American Association of University Professors.

Average faculty salaries are up 3.1% this academic year, but given the 3.5% inflation rate for 2005, real salary levels actually fell.

The AAUP report suggests that real salaries may have declined in part because university administrators did not foresee that inflation would exceed 3% in the last two years after a decade in which

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inflation averaged just 2.5%.

“If economic conditions have changed, causing the average infla-

tion rate to hover in the range of 3.5%, academic institutions will need to consider this development when budgeting faculty salaries for 2006-2007 and beyond,” writes Saranna R. Thornton, an associate professor of economics at Hampden-Sydney College and author of the report.

The overall average salary for professors was \$70,333. Full professors at private doctoral universities make the most, on average: \$131,292.

In the past 20 years, according to the report, average faculty salaries have increased just 0.25% when adjusted for inflation.

# From hiring to health issues, UUP works for you

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have done this. The campus hired over 60 academics with approximately 10 new professionals hired in the last month or so. Last year, the highest to date at that time, the respective numbers were approximately 40 and 8.

We have asked what the net change is but have not yet been provided that information. We will report those numbers to you once we receive them.

A number of water infiltration problems, some long-standing, were brought to our attention last year. We spent most of the year discussing your concerns with the campus administration at labor/management meetings. We argued that the affected individuals should not be forced to continue working under conditions deemed unsafe by testing and that procedures needed to be created responding to this general problem. Members need to know what to do when they find dripping water or stained ceiling tiles or walls. Who do they need to contact, who is responsible for follow-up and, most

importantly, what do you do when nothing happens.

Our discussions yielded a clearer understanding of the University's procedures and an agreement by the University to provide an appeal mechanism when complaints are not addressed. The current procedure is that all problems of this type should be reported to Physical Facilities via their customer service number, X7-2226. Concerns regarding health issues should also be reported to Environmental Health and Safety, X7-2211. We were informed that University policy seeks to respond to all water problems within 24 hours but that no more than 72 hours will pass before an appropriate response. Those two offices will coordinate an appropriate campus response. Individuals may request environmental testing if they wish, and it is our understanding the University will meet those requests.

As with other reports to Customer Service, follow-up would normally be directed to them. The University hired a compliance officer, Jillian Harrington, this past year and she

indicated in meetings with us that she welcomed conversations with members who have concerns regarding not only environmental issues but also other compliance issues. Finally, the University has also directed the Personal Safety Advisory Committee to respond to larger policy issues related to environmental concerns. Policy questions regarding not only office environment but pedestrian safety should go to them.

These options are a direct response to a major concern which you expressed to us that these complaints go into an administrative "black hole" when they are reported. We believe that these clear options will go a long way to resolving your concerns in this area.

Both of these situations illustrate our responding to your needs. We will continue doing that. Our plans for the coming year are to schedule formal discussions with you, the Binghamton Chapter of UUP, to assist us in identifying those needs and concerns. We work on your behalf.

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