

FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

THE IMPORTANCE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ACTIVISM



by Sean Massey,
Women, Gender, &
Sexuality Studies



BINGHAMTON WAS IN THE NEWS AGAIN. During a speech at the Turning Point USA's Student Action Summit, President Donald Trump called out recent protests by Binghamton University students, and suggested the protests were made up of "hundreds

of radicals" swinging clubs and bats. His description wasn't true of course. There weren't hundreds at the protest, and there were certainly no clubs and bats. Unfortunately, the lies have continued, with similar condemnations by NYS Senator Fred Akshar and Congressman Tom Reed.

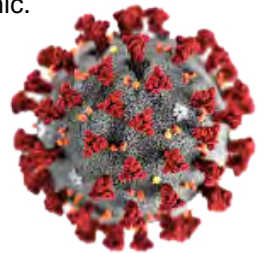
Here's what we know.

On November 14, only hours after a shooting at a Santa Clarita high school in California, Turning Point USA set up a table on the spine (without approval) promoting 2nd amendment rights, displaying pro-gun signs, and promoting a talk by discredited economist Art Laffers the next day. Protestors (there were

continued on p. 2

BECAUSE THE PRODUCTION TIMELINE for this issue of *Connection* started well-before the COVID-19 crisis, the articles included in this issue do not address the current epidemic.

However, UUP has established an actively updated COVID-19 Resources page: <https://uupinfo.org/resources/covid19/>. This page includes a current list of resources, a place to submit your questions and concerns to UUP statewide, and a regularly updated Q & A section that reflects the most recent progress UUP has made on our issues and the challenges that are on the horizon.



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Connection

Binghamton Chapter newsletter

Number 98 April 2020

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An official publication of the Binghamton Chapter of the United University Professions, Local 2190 of the American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO, and affiliated with New York State United Teachers; the Binghamton Chapter is a member of the Broome County Federation of Labor.

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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no clubs or bats!) engaged with the TPUSA tablers. Campus police intervened and, according to reports, TPUSA was escorted off the spine. There were no arrests. Things were different at Laffer's presentation. This time, when protestors briefly disrupted Laffers' talk, reading a statement condemning institutional racism, several of the protestors were arrested.

In both these cases, the organizations and speakers were invited to campus for the purpose of provocation. According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, Turning Point USA is an organization that regularly affiliates with Alt Right and White Supremacist speakers. It has also sponsored a talk by James O'Keefe, founder of Project Veritas. Project Veritas is the organization that collaborated with Erik Prince who was just exposed by NYTimes (March 7, 2020) for hiring ex-spies to infiltrate labor organizations!

Binghamton University prides itself on encouraging civic engagement by our students. In fact, many of us research, write, and teach about the history of social movements and social activism. Several of our academic programs offer classes that encourage civic engagement through activism and even include learning objectives related to the development and carrying out of activist projects.

When provocateurs come to campus to intentionally promote gun rights the day after a school shooting, it makes sense for there to be passionate protests. When a discredited economist, whose theories have led to increases in poverty, income inequality, and extreme hardship, is invited to campus to provoke, it makes sense for there to be passionate protests. And if institutional racism, homophobia, and transphobia continue to affect our faculty, professional staff, and students, it makes sense for there to be passionate protests. Not only does it make sense, it's our obligation.

Activism is also a key part of unionism. Rallies, protests, and sometimes disruptive activism were, and continue to be, vital to the success of the labor movement. Indeed, activism and protests were key to many important social movements (e.g., the women's, civil rights, AIDS, and environmental movements). This is one of the reasons UUP's most recent Winter Delegate Assembly, made up of more than 250 delegates, adopted a resolution on campus activism, and called on SUNY to condemn attacks on academic freedom, civic engagement, and political dialogue, as well as any effort to limit or curtail peaceful protests and activism on SUNY campuses.

As UUP President Fred Kowal said in a recent statement responding to President Trump's lies, "United University Professions strongly supports the First Amendment rights of our students and faculty. Academic institutions are places where lively debate and differences of opinion should be encouraged. People—and particularly students—who choose to exercise their rights to freedom of speech and assembly should be allowed to make their views known. They should not be used for political advantage." Vilifying and criminalizing students or employees engaged in non-violent civil protest ignores Binghamton University's goal of encouraging civic engagement and disregards the explicit commitment many of our departments and programs have made to social justice. I ask campus administration to review the resolution from the Winter Delegate Assembly, take a step back and a deep breath, and consider that supporting civic engagement, even when it's expressed through activism, should be a core value at a premier institution like Binghamton University.



CAMPUS CONGRATULATES NOBEL PRIZE WINNER STANLEY WHITTINGHAM

M. Stanley Whittingham spoke to a crowd via video news conference from a scientific meeting in Germany

by Katie Ellis



There's a phone
call from
Stockholm."

—Stanley Whittingham

ON OCTOBER 9, 2019, the Fountain Room at the Smart Energy Building was packed, as members of the campus community and media waited for the man of the hour to appear via video conferencing from Germany. Binghamton University Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Materials Science, M. Stanley Whittingham, had been announced early that morning as one of three recipients of the 2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for their work developing lithium-ion batteries that today power everything from smartphones to electric cars.

Whittingham received the honor with John Goodenough from the University of Texas at Austin and Akira Yoshino of the Asahi Kasei Corporation in Japan.

He received a standing ovation

when he came on screen and admitted that he had been inundated by reporters and photographers all day. "And just a few hundred texts and emails," he added, including many that came from past undergraduate students at Binghamton.

"It was a complete surprise until someone walked over to me and said, 'There's a phone call from Stockholm,'" Whittingham said. "It's recognition for the three of us, but also for the entire field. It will raise the profile of energy storage and send the message that we can have a cleaner and nicer world, and perhaps start to solve the climate problem."

Binghamton University President Harvey Stenger, who presided over the video news conference, called the announcement a remarkable honor. "All of us at Binghamton have been rooting for this day for several years

—at least since 2015, when Stan was named a Thomson Reuters Citation Laureate," Stenger said. "But, of course, those who knew his work reckoned this day was inevitable."

Stenger commended Whittingham for his prolific work in the laboratory, but also for being an exceptional mentor to hundreds of students since his arrival at Binghamton in 1988. "His students love him," Stenger said. "They say he teaches them how to be scientists, with one eye on basic research and the other searching for unique ways to apply this knowledge. This is the best kind

of science—when people like Stan take an idea and develop it into technologies that change the world.”

Calling it “a wonderful day,” Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Donald Nieman said Whittingham richly deserves the recognition for “his work as a scientist and the impact he’s had on our world. All of his colleagues will agree with me,” Nieman said. “He is a great scientist, but a wonderful human being, unassuming, and a wonderful collaborator.”

And Whittingham works with students at all levels, Nieman added. “Stan has been a leader in our smart en-

a much cleaner and sustainable environment.”

“I never dreamed [lithium-ion battery use] would be as broad as it is today,” Whittingham said. “I hoped it would grow, but never envisioned it would grow this far. I still remember carrying around a phone as big as a suitcase.”

He is currently working on two large projects with a goal “still to make batteries better at lower cost, and that are more reliable and safer.”

He and fellow researchers at Binghamton do fundamental research with funding from the state and SUNY that has enabled a pilot facility on campus where batteries can actually be made and tested in realistic settings. And with two large grants—a fundamental one and an applied one —“I don’t plan to retire yet!” he said.

“It’s a very good feeling that one’s research actually came out with something and it’s not just in the wastebasket or in publications,” Whittingham said, adding that “99.9% of all humanity has at least one lithium battery [in smartphones, etc.] and many have many more.

“I think there’s no question that this will make more people know of Binghamton University and make them look up where Binghamton is,” Whittingham said. “People will become much more aware of us and this



ergy First-year Immersion program [that provides new students with authentic research experiences in the sciences and engineering]. Our students gain the benefit of his wisdom, insight and techniques.”

Whittingham’s work truly has changed the world, Stenger said. “Without it, the computers we use today, the telephones and earbuds we use to talk and listen to one another, even the cars we drive to work each day—none of this would be possible. Today, thanks to Stan, we have energy at our fingertips, pretty much wherever we are.”

Whittingham, also director of the federally funded Northeast Center for Chemical Energy Storage, said he and his co-winners have never worked directly with each other, but individually made fundamental contributions to the development of lithium-ion batteries. And he has great hope for the future of battery research.

“We want to double the energy density of the present cells, and cut the cost by another 50%,” he said. “The goal is to make batteries last longer, store more energy and cost less.”

“Good lithium batteries will last for a very, very long time and will certainly help sustainability research,” Whittingham said. “Lithium-ion batteries can make for



will just help us grow. It’s very good for the University and the locality and always good for getting more funding from the federal government. This recognition will raise the profile of energy storage for governments around the world.”

“This is the highlight of a long and rewarding career for Stan that last year saw him named to the National Academy of Engineering,” Stenger said. “But perhaps the most important is that he is making us extraordinarily proud not just here in Binghamton, but across the world. It’s better than than winning the NCAA basketball championship.”



ONLINE EDUCATION: THE LONG-TERM CHALLENGES

NOTE: This article was written prior to the pandemic that caused all courses to go online. The issues addressed refer to courses taught online under ordinary circumstances.

*by Serdar Atav, Professor, Decker College of
Nursing and Health Sciences*



In the last decade, the traditional model of higher education has drastically changed and most universities, if not all, offer online programs. Beyond educational institutions, private corporations, such as Apple, Coursera and EdX offer “Massive Open Online Courses” (MOOCs) to students all over the world. Furthermore, many companies offer professional development opportunities to their employees through online learning. In the US, 3 million students are enrolled in online degree programs and another 3.5 million are taking online courses. According to a SUNY online white paper, the value of these efforts is over \$165 billion.

SUNY system offers more than 800 online programs with 22,000 courses at its 64 campuses. At SUNY, only 6% of its students (26,000) are enrolled in exclusively online programs. This number puts SUNY and New York behind many other states and systems. In response, SUNY plans to increase the number of students enrolled in exclusive online programs to 106,000 with an expected revenue of \$ 1.05 billion annually (SUNY Online White Paper Draft Document for Comment, February 5, 2019). As a result, in addition to SUNY-wide programs like Open SUNY and SUNY Online, individual campuses and departments started a wide variety of programs that have led to a set of issues and questions that are of interest to UUP represented faculty and professionals across SUNY campuses.

One of the main issues facing academics is intellectual property rights. Unless a faculty member signs a contract and is paid extra to develop an online course, the ownership of the online course lies with the faculty member. However, if the faculty member is paid extra to develop a course, the ownership of the course is transferred to the university and the faculty member surrenders intellectual property rights. This situation in legal terms is known as ‘work for hire’. Another main issue is workload. Provost Nieman and some deans at Binghamton have assured faculty on many occasions that teaching an online course is counted the same way

as teaching a brick and mortar course. However, there are still some issues to be resolved. One example is a faculty member teaching the same course both in the classroom and online. In this situation, the workload of the faculty member would be two separate courses, not one with two sections.

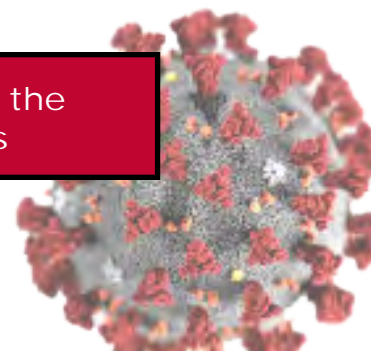
A third issue is resources. Online teaching, in order to be done correctly, needs up-to-date technology, equipment, training, infrastructure, and other intellectual support and resources. Without providing such resources, departments should not ask faculty to develop and teach online courses. This would neither serve our UUP members, nor would it serve our students who deserve the best education opportunities at Binghamton.

Finally, the impact of the private support companies on faculty and curriculum is a major concern. There are numerous issues here. For example, some private companies hire adjunct faculty as their own employees. Such faculty, therefore, would not be considered Binghamton University faculty (although they teach Binghamton students) and they would not be represented by UUP. There is also apprehension that private support companies may influence the direction and the quality of the curriculum to attract students. Furthermore, private companies might also take over admission processes of students to programs, possibly undermining the higher admission standards held by our campus.

UUP is preparing to deal with such issues and concerns. Recently, under the direction of UUP Central Vice President for Academics, Jamie Dangler, campus representatives across SUNY were invited to participate in committees and sub-committees to respond to these concerns. Stay tuned for further developments. In the meantime, if you have any questions about online courses, please contact your union rep or send an email to uup@binghamton.edu.



[AFT resources on the
Novel Coronavirus](#)



UUP BINGHAMTON'S UNION REPRESENTATIVE NETWORK

by Sean Massey and Brendan McGovern



Brendan McGovern

On February 26, 2020 the Binghamton Chapter of UUP hosted the first meeting of our Union Representative Network. Thirty union reps from across campus attended this meeting. Jordan Helin, our campus organizer, discussed the role and importance of the union representative, passed out union benefit fact sheets and

other resources, and led a brainstorming session on how to build membership and improve communication. This was a first step, and we need your help. We want to build the network until we have union representatives in every department, program and unit. And in some of our larger areas, we want more than one.

members and the chapter leadership, thereby increasing the presence and visibility of the union on campus. Department reps are union members who volunteer to serve as a liaison between their local workplace and our chapter's leadership. They are the organizational "glue" between our rank-and-file members and our chapter leaders and are critical to disseminating information to co-workers while bringing issues and concerns back to the chapter leaders.

The benefits of having a strong Department Representative system are:

- It keeps the chapter leadership informed. Department reps facilitate two-way communication between members and chapter leaders and ensure individual or departmental issues are more readily addressed.

Here are some of the key areas where we need representatives:

- School of Management
- Economics
- Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Dept Asian & Asian-American Studies
- Biology
- Counseling Center
- Pharmacy Practice
- Political Science
- Systems Science Industrial
- Anthropology

We invite YOU to become a department representative for the UUP Binghamton Chapter. UUP derives its strength from our membership. Department reps are needed to ensure an on-going two-way communication between the chapter leadership and the chapter members. They are essential for the future success of our chapter and the larger UUP mission.

The goal in establishing a system of department reps is to increase the number of 'personal contacts' between

- It enhances advocacy and/or political activity. Department reps can help mobilize members when chapter leaders need support for advocacy or political events.
- It supports membership recruitment and activation. Department reps can initiate conversations with non-members about the benefits of union membership and encourage existing members to take on more active roles.



Photo by Donald Kunkel

A department rep network is KEY to maintaining a strong union presence in the workplace. Members are more comfortable sharing specific employment problems with a respected co-worker—concerns about managers or co-workers, or questions about job security, university policies, benefits, tenure, evaluation, or any other individual concerns. The department rep will refer members to the proper person to answer

their questions or address their concerns. The sooner the chapter leadership knows, the faster we can respond and the more we can do.

If you would like to know more, please send an email to the Binghamton Chapter UUP Office at uup@binghamton.edu or call the chapter office at 607-777-4382 and we can set up an appointment to discuss things further.



BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY IS ON A ROLL: THE UUP NUALA MCGANN DRESCHER AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/DIVERSITY LEAVE PROGRAM

*by Benita Roth,
Academic Vice-President,
Binghamton Chapter, UUP*



One of the benefits of being represented by a union is that the union invests in our members with a variety of programs. One of those programs is the Nuala McGann Drescher Affirmative Action/Diversity Leave Program, usually known simply as the “Drescher” award, named after UUP’s first and only female statewide president. The Drescher leave is intended to help UUP and SUNY maintain a diverse faculty. It is aimed at under-represented employees who have “protected class status including but not limited to age, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, military or veteran status, disabil-

ity, gender expression and gender identity” (<https://goer.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/03/dr.-nuala-mcgann-drescher-leave-program-guidelines.pdf>). By providing paid leave for one semester, recipients can pursue their research or finish articles and/or books, all with the aim of securing tenure, and although it is less well-known, UUP professionals can also apply for the leave as they work toward permanency.

The Drescher is a very competitive award, and not easy to get. Last semester, four BU faculty received a Drescher Award, and I profiled them in our spring newsletter, which can be accessed

here (http://www.uuphost.org/binghamton/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/UUP_newsletter_2019_April.pdf).

This year, six BU faculty received the award, which is great news, and we all should be very heartened by their success. The recipients are Dr. Robyn Cope, Dr. Katherine Martineau, Dr. Surya Parekh, Dr. Giovanna Montenegro, Dr. Hilary Becker, and Dr. Ana Maria Candela. Below you will find brief descriptions of their projects. All the material in quotations is taken from “blurbs” the Drescher recipients wrote for me in emails asking them to contribute to this article, or taken from

Photo by Jonathan Cohen

department websites. If you have questions about the Drescher leave, ask me or Binghamton Chapter President, Sean Massey. We'd like to keep up Binghamton's stellar record of late.

Dr. Robyn Cope is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, who specializes in Francophone Caribbean literature and culture. Her teaching specialties include post-colonial literatures and literatures of migration, including questions of authenticity, assimilation, and the quest for individual self-actualization. She is an advisor to French minors and the organizer of the "Taste of the French Caribbean" annual open music and culinary event, hosted by CIW. The monograph project for which Dr. Cope received the Drescher is *The Pen and the Pan: Food, Fiction and Homegrown Caribbean Feminism(s)*. It is a comparative study of the past quarter century of Caribbean culinary fiction by Indo- and Afro-Caribbean women writers from the English- and French-speaking Caribbean. In it, Cope argues that this body of food-focused writing engenders the Caribbean liberation project in two senses of the word: first, by imbuing it with gender sensitivity and specificity; second, by implicitly inspiring and inciting a new, more inclusive and coalitional freedom struggle.

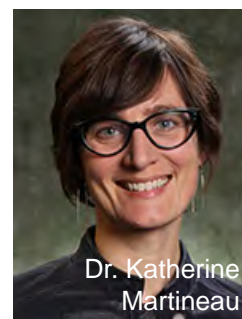
Dr. Katherine Martineau is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, and with the Translation Research and Instruction Program. Her work focuses, among other subjects, on contemporary India and colonial South Asia. Her Drescher leave project is a book called *Before Freedom: Development and the Moral Press in Provincial India*. In it, Martineau examines the historical interdependencies of development ideologies and

the regional press in the historically marginalized Indian state of Odisha. She argues that close connections between the cultural project of freedom and local theories of difference and identity motivate both press restrictions and protections. Rather than seeing press control as opposed to the freedom of speech, Martineau proposes that they are components of the postcolonial imagination of freedom as a distant horizon, to be reached only upon achieving "real development." Tying contemporary journalists' everyday practices to historic political and moral questions about what it means to deserve freedom, Martineau will highlight the critical relationship between civil liberties, colonial history, and social belonging in India's democracy.

Dr. Surya Parekh is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English. His areas of study include 18th Century Enlightenment literature, critical race and gender studies, black cultural studies, postcolonial studies and feminist theory. His Drescher leave project is titled *Black Enlightenment: Ethics, Race, and Subjectivity at the Threshold*. In his book, he examines an occluded tradition of black writing from the 18th century, considering a group of thinkers who imagine themselves as Enlightenment subjects. Looking at how the Enlightenment travels among enslaved people and their descendants, he renders the invention, transmission, and the inheritance of the Enlightenment in a new light. Black Enlightenment is the first, full-length, monograph study in the fields of slavery studies, history of philosophy, and African-American literary studies, which aims, by considering a selection of authors not typically designated Enlightenment thinkers, to change the very terrain upon which the Enlightenment is considered.



Dr. Robyn Cope



Dr. Katherine Martineau



Dr. Surya Parekh

Dr. Giovanna Montenegro is an Assistant Professor in Comparative Literature and Romance Languages. She received the Drescher Award to complete her book manuscript tentatively titled *Germans in the Tropics: The Welser Bankers' Venezuela Colony and its Cultural Memory*. The manuscript investigates one of the strangest episodes in the conquest and colonization of the Americas—the governance of the Province of Venezuela by German bankers in the sixteenth century (1528–1556)—and the production of this episode's cultural memory on the German and Venezuelan sides in subsequent centuries. Her book's microhistorical focus on this era has important implications for the ways Germans and Venezuelans think about their colonial history today. For example, young Germans have started to think about the decolonization of their cities, not unlike the ongoing debate in the U.S. surrounding confederate monuments.

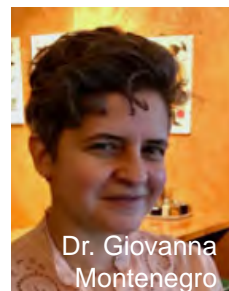
Dr. Hilary Becker received the Drescher leave for her project “Studies on the economy and science of Roman pigments.” Dr. Becker is writing a book on the economy of the Roman pigment industry titled *Commerce in Color*, inspired by her work on a Roman imperial pigment shop from the excavations of Sant'Omobono in Rome. She has written various articles and chapters dealing with Etruscan and Roman economy. She has advised (or is currently advising) undergraduate students writing independent research projects dealing with unbreakable Roman glass (spring '17), Etruscan anatomical terracottas (spring '18), and the materiality of Egyptian art (fall '19). Two undergraduate students worked with her in spring 2019 as volunteers test-

ing the economic aspects of Roman art, research that they hope to present soon.

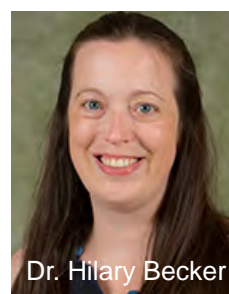
Dr. Ana Maria Candela received the Drescher for her current book project titled *Intimate Others: Peruvian Chinese Between Native Place, Nation and World, 1870s–1940s*. In it, she explores the history of Cantonese migration and settlement in Peru during an era of expanding industrial capitalism, settler colonialism and nation making. Dr. Candela looks at how Cantonese merchants with ties to transpacific commercial firms based in Hong Kong expanded their migrant networks across the coastal and interior spaces of Peru to build one of the largest Chinese commercial circuits in the Americas. By maintaining ties to their native places and to Chinese communities across the Pacific, they participated in the expansion of a broader translocal diasporic world, that of the Cantonese Pacific. Dr. Candela is interested in how Cantonese Peruvians published commercial albums, community histories, newspapers and magazines to craft multi-spatial imaginaries of belonging to position themselves within the distinct localities, nations, regions, hemispheres and global contexts that their lives brought together.

Dr. Candela had to decline the Drescher because of another leave opportunity, but we want to acknowledge the academic excellence that her project represents.

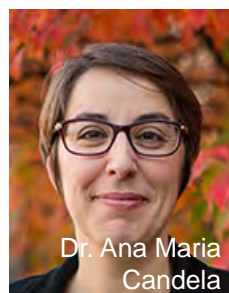
Once again, congratulations to all the Drescher Award winners, who show the value of retaining a diverse faculty for Binghamton University's mission of excellent scholarship, a mission that UUP strongly supports.



Dr. Giovanna Montenegro



Dr. Hilary Becker



Dr. Ana Maria Candela

Photos by Jonathan Cohen

TRAVEL AND CHARITABLE GIVING IN RETIREMENT

I HAVE WRITTEN A NUMBER OF ARTICLES as Retiree Representative but the one that has elicited the most response was the article I wrote on travel. I have received calls and emails with questions concerning places I have visited and the company I used for my 31 international ventures. It was pointed out I never mentioned the company. That omission was deliberate because I do not believe a UUP publication should list a commercial enterprise. If you wish to talk about an international trip you are planning, I am more than happy to share my experiences. I have visited some 70 countries and all seven continents. Feel free to email me at bandkpompi@yahoo.com and I will get back to you. I love to talk about travel.

When the U.S. tax code was revised two years ago, things dramatically changed for the average middle class taxpayer. If you file as a couple with both members over 65, the standard deduction is \$27,000. If only one is over 65 or if you are filing in one of the other categories, the numbers I have cited change slightly but the underlying strategy is still the same. In the past, most of us used itemized deductions to lower our taxable income. Mortgage interest, real estate taxes, charitable giving, and professional expenses were the primary deductions we utilized to lower our taxable income. If we are retired, according to the present tax structure, we are so

strongly advantaged in using the standard deduction that there is little sense in looking for things to itemize. We mostly have paid for our housing. Our taxes are really not that high. No professional deductions. So we really cannot use a charitable deduction to offset

our gross income when we already have a standard deduction of \$27,000.

We are not likely to stop charitable deductions but there is a way of still getting an in-

come offset from them. If you are over 70½, you can transfer funds from an IRA to a charitable organization without that money showing up as income. In the 70½ age bracket, you are required to take income from retirement accounts, IRA's, etc. If you fail to take these required minimum distributions (RMD), you receive a tax bill for ½ of what you should have taken. If you take a charitable distribution transfer from an IRA, those funds partially satisfy your RMD and, consequently, reduce your gross income. This is just like the charitable deduction you used before the change in the tax code. Both TIAA and VOYA have been very willing to take part of my retirement portfolio and convert it to an IRA. Remember this tax free transfer only works when you use an IRA. So my wife and I have used this vehicle to endow the Harpur Jazz Ensemble and a



*by Robert Pompi
Physics, Applied Physics
and Astronomy*

Pharmacy Scholarship at the University of Buffalo, her alma mater. We also use this mechanism to support various religious, arts, and community charitable endeavors. In essence, we still have a deduction from gross income through our charitable giving and, at the same time, we use the much higher standard deduction.

DOES YOUR DEPARTMENT HAVE A UUP BULLETIN BOARD?

by Sean Massey

According to Article 13 §13.1 of the contract, every department across campus should have a designated bulletin board for UUP-related news and information.

These bulletin boards should include information such as:

- the chapter office location and contact information
- the names and contact info for the chapter president, officers, union reps and
- contact info for UUP's statewide membership and benefit hotlines

It's also a great place to post:

- flyers and notices promoting UUP events like meetings, workshops and rallies
- flyers promoting local, regional and statewide union events
- flyers about members-only benefits
- the Chapter newsletter
- information on how to sign up to become a UUP member

If your department doesn't have a UUP bulletin board, please let us know, and we will assist you in getting one installed.



TAKE THE BUS!

Illustration by Susanne F. from Pixabay.com

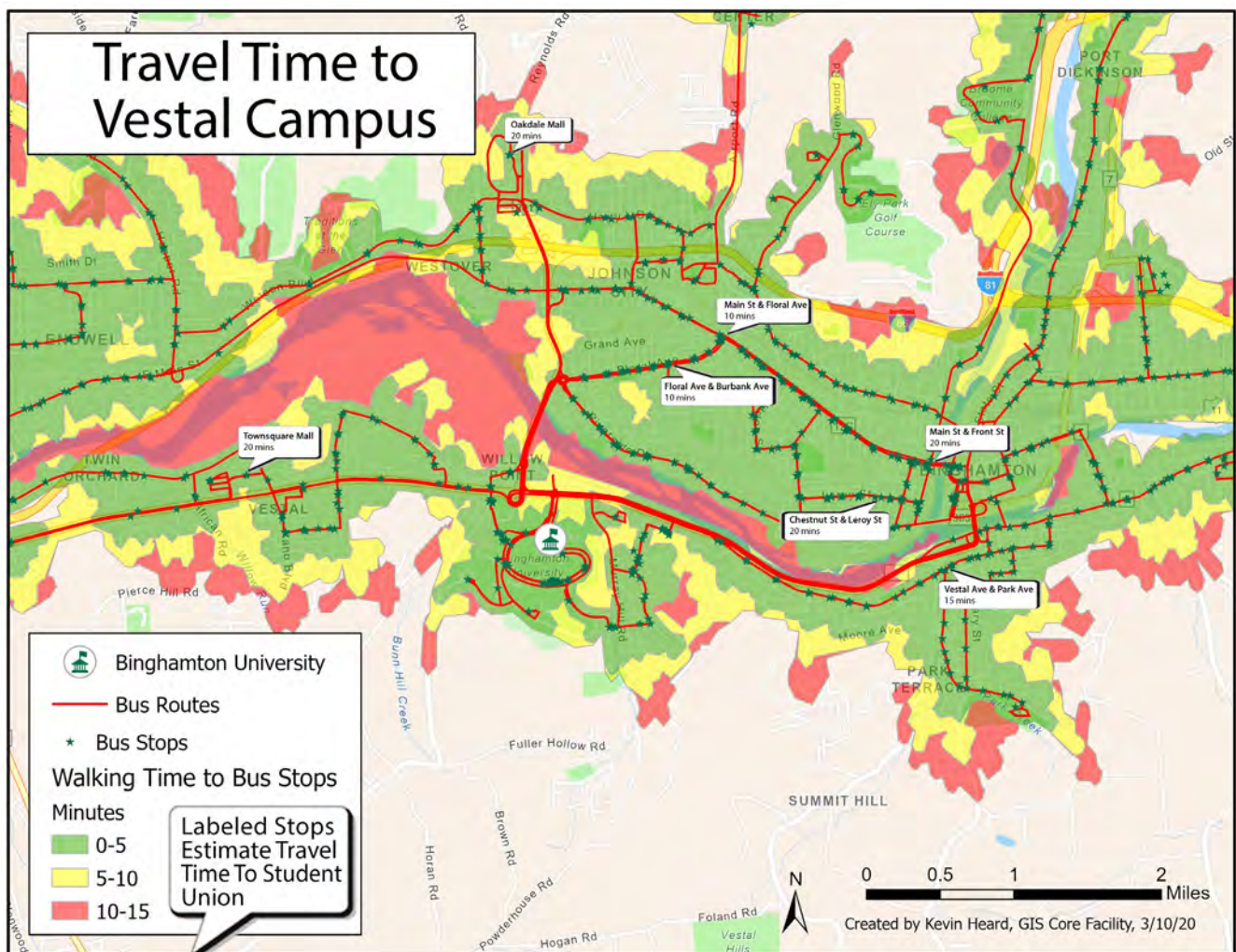
by Jonathan Karp

Although we are blessed with a beautiful campus, as we all know, it is also geographically isolated and difficult to access by foot or even bicycle. This means that most university employees and students who live off-campus access the campus by automobile. Yet most of us do not realize that there is another option: we have ample free public transportation available to us (that is, to all students and employees, including faculty) that can make commuting to campus not only more climate friendly but also cheaper and more convenient.

We actually have two bus systems that regularly transport commuters from the surrounding residential neighborhoods to our main campus, as well as to the

Downtown Center and Johnson City Campus. Both Broome County Transport and our own OCCT (blue bus) system provide regular, easily accessible service through most of the day and evening.

Taking a bus to campus means avoiding the stress of driving and especially parking. It allows for a more relaxed journey to work, offering the opportunity to read, listen on earbuds to music and news, and prepare for class. The bus drops passengers at several stops around our main campus, including stops at or near the BU Brain. Finally, both bus systems are totally free for anyone with a BU ID, including all members of the faculty. You not only save money on gas but on automobile wear and tear, especially



Created by Kevin Heard, GIS Core Facility, 3/10/20

during the winter months when road conditions can be difficult.

UUP is supporting a campaign to increase ridership on our buses. We will make schedules and maps available to you to facilitate and increase ridership. But we also want to get feedback from you. We want you to let us know about your experiences using the bus service, both good and bad, or why you avoid taking the bus and how we might make it possible for you to do so in the future.

I urge you to familiarize yourself with this vital public transport option. I believe that after familiarizing yourself with the schedules and the most convenient routes to your home, you will discover—as I

have—that taking a bus to work is by far the best way to go. The map above has been designed to give you a general idea where most of our members live and the proximity of a bus line. The changing gradient represents an approximately 5-, 10-, 15-minute walk to a bus stop. We've also highlighted the stops where most of our members live and listed average travel times to campus.

On April 22, UUP joins people all over the world in commemorating the 50 th anniversary of Earth Day. In solidarity, the Binghamton Chapter of UUP encourages our members to consider going greener and making use of the free public transportation available through OCCT and Broome Transit.



Our chapter was well represented at the Fall 2019 UUP Delegate Assembly in Rye Brook, NY. The Binghamton delegation included: (at the front table from left to right) Sandra Michael, Sean Massey, Brendan McGovern, Denise Yull, Benita Roth, and Nikita Robinson, (at the back table from left to right) Patrick Collette, Lisa Gallagher, Allan Wang, Helen Borruso, Stuart L'Hommedieu, Patrick Doyle, Sarah Young and Michael Allington.



Updated Membership Form

*Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

*Street Address: _____

*City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

*Preferred Email: _____

*Chapter: _____

** Required Information*

YES! I request and accept membership in United University Professions/AFT Local 2190 (UUP), and its affiliates, New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the National Education Association (NEA), and the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO).

I recognize the need for a strong union and I believe everyone represented by a union should pay their fair share to support the union's activities. I hereby request and voluntarily authorize my employer to deduct an amount equal to the regular monthly dues applicable to members of UUP and remit that amount to UUP. I understand that this authorization and assignment is not a condition of my employment and shall remain in effect, regardless of whether I am or remain a member of the union, for a period of one year from the date of this authorization and shall automatically renew from year to year unless I revoke this authorization by completing and sending the UUP opt-out form via U.S. mail during the annual window period of July 1-31.

By providing my cell phone number and signature I am expressly consenting to receive autodialed and/or prerecorded calls and/or text messages from UUP on contract or benefits. I understand that this consent is not a condition of my membership with UUP, its national affiliates or the local organization named above.

*Signature: _____

Date: _____