Why should you vote?
This is your Union. If you want a voice, someone to speak for you, someone to help you with a variety of issues, you have that in your union. And you have a choice as to whom those people are, but only if you cast your vote!!

Important dates to remember:
3/14/07 – Retiree Ballots Due.
3/15/07 - 3/16/07 – Chapter Ballots Mailed.
4/11/07 – Chapter Ballots Due.
4/11/07 – 4/14/07 – Chapter Ballots Counted. Results will be sent to Chapter Presidents as soon as possible.
6/22/07 – Run-off and Affiliate Convention Delegate ballots mailed if those elections are necessary.*
7/26/07 – Run-off Election and Affiliate Convention Delegate Ballots Due.
Chapter Officer Nominees (2007-2009 term)

**President and Delegate**
Candace A. Merbler

**Vice President for Academics and Delegate**
Ivan D. Steen

**Vice President for Professionals and Delegate**
J. Philippe Abraham

**Secretary**
Carol H. Jewell

**Treasurer**
James W. Wessman

**Part Time Concerns Representative**
Kristina Bendikas

Delegate Nominees (2007-2009 term)

**Academic**
Kristina Bendikas
Bret E. Benjamin
Lee S. Bickmore
James P. Collins
Edward M. Cupoli
Timothy J. Hoff
Sara Alice D. Knapp
Michael J. Knee
Gail H. Landsman
Rodney L. Patterson
Ivan D. Steen
Jogindar S. Uppal
James W. Wessman
Lawrence S. Wittner

**Professional**
J. Philippe Abraham
John A. Gendron
Paul Lo Giudice
Thomas C. Hoey
Nancy Keelen
David G. LaComb
Candace A. Merbler
George M. Mitchell
Sanjay K. Mitchell
Greta J. Petry
John D. Pomeroy
Patrick Romain
Roberto J. Vives
VOTING RULES

Just a few things you may want to know about voting. First of all, you must be a signed member who was in full membership status as of the certification date set by the UUP Statewide Elections & Credentials Committee. If you are an agency fee payer, you are not eligible to vote in the Chapter elections.

The ballot will be sent to your “address of record” which is on file with the UUP Statewide Office. When you receive your ballot, it will be accompanied by a set of instructions which you should read carefully. Failure to adhere to the instructions may invalidate your ballot (i.e. voting for more than the total number of delegates eligible, not enclosing your ballot in the “ballot” envelope, not signing the return envelope, etc.).

If there are any problems with your ballot, the ballot envelope, or the return envelope, please contact UUP Statewide Secretary Eileen Landy at (518) 640-6600.

—CANDIDATES’ STATEMENTS—

Please note: Not all candidates chose to submit a statement.—Eds.

Candace A. Merbler, President
I have been honored to serve as your Chapter President for the past six years, and am seeking re-election for another 2 year term. I have proven myself to be an effective leader, representing the concerns of all UUP members, and have continued to work proactively with management to avoid potential conflicts faced by the membership. My work at the chapter and statewide levels has provided me with the background to provide leadership and direction for a growing membership. I remain available to members seven days a week, ensuring that their needs are met, and working to deliver more effective services. Under my leadership, the chapter executive committee has grown, and I continue to educate newer activists to provide future leadership for the chapter. I will continue to work hard to address your concerns, and represent you at the UUP statewide level. I hope I can count on your support.

Carol H. Jewell, Secretary
Clear, concise communication is one of the keys to understanding each other and working well together toward common goals. The role of Secretary of the Executive Board, then, requires attention to detail, consistency, and good writing skills. I believe I have all of these attributes. I have been a member of the Professional staff at the University at Albany for nearly 23 years, working in the Cataloging Department of the University Libraries, in positions requiring a keen eye for details. I have served as Chair of the Disability Rights and Concerns Committee for our Chapter for several years, I moderate the COALACC listserv, and I co-edit our Chapter’s newsletter, The Forum. Please re-elect me your Executive Board Secretary and I will do my best to keep you informed.
**********MORE STATEMENTS**********

J. Philippe Abraham, Vice President for Professionals
Brothers and Sisters,
It is hard for me to imagine that two years have elapsed since I last asked for your support, and you voted overwhelmingly to grant me the privilege of serving as your Vice President for Professionals. While the calendar and the graying of my temples and beard have marked the change in years, my initial enthusiasm, energy and desire to represent the interests of every professional in this chapter remain steadfast. I trust my on-the-job experience will result in an even more dynamic second term. I hope to continue to be part of this University's committed and responsive chapter leadership that has done so much already to safeguard our rights and improve conditions on so many fronts. I therefore humbly ask for your support and pledge that I will endeavor to make you proud of your voting to re-elect me.

Thank you.
In solidarity,
J. Philippe Abraham

Kristina Bendikas, Part-time Concerns Representative
In the three years that I have held office (2004-2005, 2005-2007) I have worked with my UUP colleagues and management to improve the working conditions for part-time faculty and staff on this campus. What have we achieved? The per course salary minimum has been raised to $28,00, an orientation program for part-time faculty has been implemented, and periodic peer evaluations for part-time faculty are now required to supplement student evaluations. There is now an Excellence Award for Part-time Professional Service, the number of part-time faculty being awarded DSIs has increased, and the percentage of part-time faculty receiving 1-year appointments rather than just semester appointments has also increased. While these results are significant there is still work to be done. With your support I will continue to work with the Albany Chapter leadership and university management to achieve part-time equity.

Roberto Vives, Professional Delegate
I count it a privilege which I do not take lightly to serve our membership as a professional delegate of the Albany Chapter of United University Professions (UUP). I will do my best to serve our membership to improve work conditions and help create an environment which is fair, equitable and diverse. One where we have the tools necessary to better serve our students and improve their overall educational experience. I again thank you all for trusting me to serve in this capacity.
Edward M. Cupoli, Academic Delegate

Dr. Edward M. Cupoli is Professor and Head of the Nanoeconomics Constellation at the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering at the University at Albany, State University of New York. His principal responsibilities include establishing the constellation as a world class education and research resource in nanoeconomics, developing a national and international recognition for its programs, and expanding its resources and infrastructure through recruitment, fund raising, and marketing activities. Dr. Cupoli is a member of the University Faculty Senate and the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering Council and Committee's on Admission, Curriculum, and Promotion and Tenure. Previously, Dr. Cupoli served as Chief Economist and Director of Research for the New York State Assembly Ways and Means Committee. Dr. Cupoli received his BA in Mathematics from LeMoyne College and Masters and Doctorate in economics from Syracuse University.

Lawrence Wittner, Academic Delegate

Lawrence Wittner, Professor of History and director of the History graduate program, has taught at the University at Albany since 1974. First elected as an Albany UUP Academic delegate and member of the Albany UUP executive committee in 1979, he has served continuously in these capacities. In addition, he has worked as the chapter's vice president for academics and chair of its Solidarity Committee (which fosters close relations with the labor movement and promotes labor's social and political agenda). Appointed the first chair of UUP's statewide Solidarity Committee in 1986, he has continued serving on that committee. He is also a prize-winning author, whose latest book (Peace Action: Past, Present, and Future)—his eleventh—will appear this summer. He has been awarded major fellowships or grants by the American Council of Learned Societies, the MacArthur Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the United States Institute of Peace.

Thomas Hoey, Professional Delegate

I again ask for your vote for Professional Delegate. I have served as your delegate for 12 years and have been very active on Chapter and Statewide Level, serving as chair of the Statewide Solidarity Committee for 5+ years and also serving on the chapter Solidarity Committee and as a NYSUT and AFT delegate. There are many pressures affecting our membership today such as: outsourcing, timely permanent appointment and correct procedures for evaluation/programs. I have been working with the Chapter President and Vice-President to ensure these issues are addressed by our union and will continue to do so in the future. Those who personally know me can testify that I am one who is not afraid to speak up and as I get older and (hopefully) wiser I am learning to focus my efforts to make our union stronger. Thank you for your support.
MORE STATEMENTS

James Collins, Academic Delegate
I have been active in UUP for more than a decade, serving our Albany chapter, in different years, as member or chair of the Membership, Part-Time Concerns, and Peace and Justice Committees. If elected to another term on the chapter's Executive Board, I will focus on improving our academic membership, an area of concern on this campus and throughout the SUNY system. While there are many ways to improve recruitment of and involvement among academic membership, one which I will pursue is to find common cause with the local and statewide University Senates, for example through hosting shared forums on topics such as Due Process or Environmental Sustainability, as issues on our campuses and in our society.

John A. (Jack) Gendron, Professional Delegate
It will be a privilege to serve as a UUP Chapter delegate. UUP is a major tool in creating a cooperative environment between the University and its employees. I have served on several Financial Aid committees and the University at Albany Life Council along with twenty-four years in the financial aid field. My work career has assisted in developing the necessary social skills that will help me as a delegate. I bring to this position the skills and qualities of integrity, honesty, excellent analytical skills, flexibility and a sense of humor. These talents serve me well in implementing and integrating the federal, state, and University's policies to an individual's financial situation. Service to others is the major reason that propels me to seek this position. It will be an honor to serve UUP as a delegate.

David LaComb, Professional Delegate
In the fast-paced and ever-changing University environment, the role of the University Professional is becoming more and more important. Our role, while it may seem transparent to some, is an integral part of any educational institution. The University Professional provides essential services each day, whether as a facilitator, a manager, or as a support to the functions of the institution that ultimately serves the needs of the student and the community. As a design professional at UAlbany who works day-to-day with other professionals, I have an excellent understanding of campus needs and the significant contributions we make to the University. There is a need to bring this awareness to the forefront and along with other UUP representatives, work towards a goal the University, faculty and staff can achieve to bring about the recognition we all expect and deserve.
UUP Albany Chapter Opportunity!

Interested in working on a UUP Chapter Website?
Contact the UUP Campus Office at 442-4951.

WE’RE HERE TO HELP!

Is your evaluation late?
Has your Performance Program changed mid-year?
Do you have a question about DSI?
Contract confusion?
Can we help with an overdue Performance Program?
Concerned about course workload?

CONTACT UUP FOR HELP!

UUP Albany Chapter Office
442-4951

UNITED UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONS is Local 2190 of the American Federation of Teachers, and is affiliated with New York State United Teachers.
In late November, the Berger Commission finally issued its long-awaited report on health care reform in New York state. There’s no doubt New York’s health care system needs reform, but the Berger plan is not the answer. First, it comes from an ideologically driven group that wants to privatize all health care delivery. Second, the commission is accountable to no one except our ex-governor. Third, it operates outside the democratic process – that’s democratic with a small “d” – and is therefore unaccountable to the citizens of New York.

The report, which recommends major policy changes that would impact health care in New York for at least the next generation, was to take effect automatically unless both houses of the Legislature say otherwise. In other words, it’s on automatic pilot unless the Legislature shot it down!

Both houses met for one day in mid-December after holding hearings on the report’s recommendations, but the hearings didn’t allow for the much-needed depth of discussion and public oversight this issue demands. Nor did the Legislature ever get around to voting on this important issue. There simply wasn’t time.

New Yorkers are still waiting for a full legislative discussion and careful analysis of the legal and fiscal implications of the commission’s policy recommendations, not to mention a full understanding of their impact on community health care throughout the state.

Clearly, the process was flawed. But what about the substance of the report?

Let’s start with the report’s recommendation to privatize the SUNY teaching hospital in Syracuse and to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of privatizing the SUNY hospitals at Stony Brook and Brooklyn. For six or seven years running, both houses of the Legislature have rejected proposals to privatize or otherwise remove the hospitals from SUNY. For years, both houses in bipartisan fashion agreed that the removal of the hospitals from SUNY was a bad idea. The report doesn’t present a single shred of new evidence to make legislators change their minds. It’s clear that the pirates of privatization are trying to sneak through the back door what they’ve been unable to achieve through an open, democratic process.

SUNY’s teaching hospitals are first-rate institutions that are well managed and efficiently run. But don’t take my word for this, just look at the findings of Pricewaterhouse Coopers, an independent auditor: The SUNY hospitals – quote– “have done an exceptional job competing in relatively unpredictable markets given state operating constraints.” – end quote. SUNY’s teaching hospitals prepare the next generation of physicians at a relatively affordable price and helps ensure that the state has enough doctors. This is good for all New Yorkers.

So, what problem does privatizing SUNY teaching hospitals solve? Governance changes do not create money, but they will change the mission of the hospitals without public discussion. Removing the hospitals from SUNY will allow them to terminate expensive tertiary services.
Scheuerman, continued.

needed by the community, services such as the burn and trauma units at Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse. These services are costly, but essential. Where will a burned firefighter go for treatment in central New York should the hospital close its burn unit?

And let’s not forget, on September 11, Upstate was prepared to treat victims burned in the deadly terrorist attacks. God forbid the terrorists should strike again, where will burn victims go for treatment? Canada?

What about the uninsured in a 15-county area served by Upstate? Where will they go for treatment? Are we a society prepared to let these people die in the streets without care? That’ll happen if these fine SUNY institutions are driven by profit goals rather than health care. Do we really want health care to be a means to the end of profit at these excellent institutions?

A change in governance will also remove the hospitals from public accountability. Currently, the hospitals are accountable to the SUNY Board of Trustees, the governor, the Legislature and the people of New York State. Once the hospitals are privatized or otherwise removed from SUNY, New York’s policymakers would surrender their much-needed oversight.

The Legislature didn’t vote on the commission’s recommendations in December, so the report became law January 1. But there is hope. The hospitals can’t be privatized without further legislative action. Legislators know the important role SUNY plays in training future doctors and nurses; they know the important role these fine institutions play in the community, too. That’s why we’re optimistic that they will fix this mess and do it under the bright sunshine of the democratic process. I also know that we at UUP will not rest until this mess is cleaned up. Of that I’m confident.
### 2006-2007 INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

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<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
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<td>Art</td>
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<td>Amy Hart</td>
<td>Public Health</td>
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<td>Art/Music/IT</td>
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<td>Hal Lawson</td>
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<td>Kimberly McClive-Reed</td>
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<td>Michael Parker</td>
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<td>Hilde Hoogenboom</td>
<td>Languages, Literatures &amp; Cultures, Slavic and Eurasian Studies</td>
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<td>Youqin Huang</td>
<td>Geography &amp; Planning</td>
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<td>LaRae Jome</td>
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<td>Eric Keenaghan</td>
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Ilka Kressner
Languages, Literatures & Cultures

Walter Little
Anthropology

Robert Rosenswig
Anthropology

Bruce Saddler
Special Education

Kathleen Thornton
English

Sandra Vergari
Education Administration & Policy Studies

Stacey Williams
Educational & Counseling Psychology

David Wills
Languages, Literatures & Cultures

Rongwei Yang
Mathematics & Statistics

Fang Yang
Economics

Kehe Zhu
Mathematics

Lee Bickmore
Anthropology

Cynthia Fox
Languages, Literatures & Cultures

Seang Ill Bae
University Libraries

Joel Berkowitz
Judaic Studies

Tom Brutsaert
Anthropology

John Forsyth
Psychology

Jennifer Greiman
English

Richard Haase
Ed & Counseling Psychology

Brian Keough
University Libraries

Heinz-Dieter Meyer
Educational Administration & Policy Studies

Patricia Pinho
Latin America, Caribbean & US Latino Studies

Lawrence Raffalovich
Sociology

Jennifer Rudolph
History

Barry Trachtenberg
Judaic Studies

Jogindar Uppal
Economics

Daniel White
Anthropology

Kelly Wissman
Reading

Lawrence Wittner
History

Dai David Yun
Ed & Counseling Psychology

Sydney Allen
University Libraries

Yu-Hui Chen
University Libraries

Renee Lucier DeCelle
International Education

Brian Elk
ITS Client Services

Jeffrey Guntert
Informational Technology Services

Chia-Huan Ho
International Education

David LaComb
Office of Architect- Construction Mgt

Eileen Macica
Information Technology Services

Joseph Maloney
ITS Client Services

Matt Olsen
Information Technology Services

Hazel Prelow
Psychology

Laura Wilder
English

Deborah Hirt
University Health

Caitlain Devereaux Lewis
Art

Victor Greco
Ed & Counseling Psychology

Mary Lannon
English

Shealeen Meane
English

Bryan Robinson
Sociology

Kristina Bendikas
Theatre

Arlene Lev
Social Welfare

Karen Tejada
Sociology

Ione Beauchamp
Theatre

Edwin Hirschfeld
Center for Jewish Studies
WAS THIS ISSUE HELPFUL FOR YOU?

We’d love to hear your comments on this or any other issue of The Forum. Please send them to:

Carol H. Jewell  
cjewell@uamail.albany.edu  
LI B35

Greta Petry  
Gpetry@uamail.albany.edu  
UAB 201

The opinions expressed in The Forum are those of the writer and the Albany Chapter and do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of United University Professions. The Forum encourages letters to the editor about union, campus and university issues, politics and other membership concerns. Letters must be typewritten or e-mailed, double-spaced and include the writer's name and daytime telephone number. Limit the length, when possible, to 150 words. In the competition for space, shorter letters most often will receive preference. Letters will be published based on the following criteria: the order in which they are received, space availability and timeliness of the letter's topic. Letters submitted by first-time writers may also receive preference. The Forum reserves the right to edit all letters. The Forum cannot guarantee that all letters will be published. The final decision is at the discretion of the Co-editors, Carol H. Jewell and Greta Petry, and/or Candace A. Merbler.