

THE FORUM

ISSUE 111

MARCH 2007

SPECIAL ELECTION EDITION

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 – Retiree Ballots Counted. Results published in the Active Retiree Newsletter.

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.

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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 reelection 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.

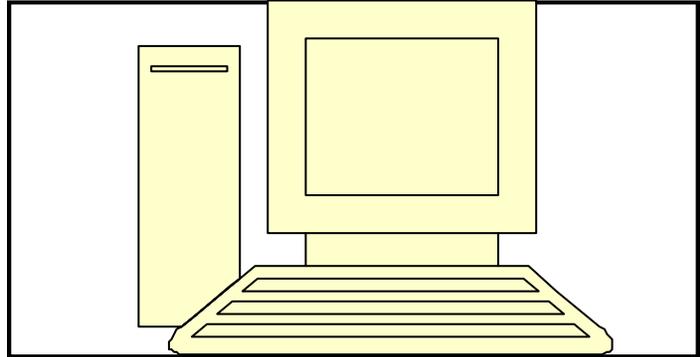
David LaComb, Professional Delegate

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 Web site?

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?

UUP Albany Chapter Office

442-4951

CONTACT UUP FOR HELP!

UNITED UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONS is Local 2190 of the American Federation of Teachers, and is affiliated with New York State United Teachers.

Bill Scheuerman
Northeast Public Radio Commentary
February 2007

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

NAME	DEPARTMENT
Leona Christie	Art
Phyllis Galembo	Art
Amy Hart	Public Health
Yvette Mattern	Art/Music/IT
J. Philippe Abraham	Career Development
Carol Lee Anderson	University Libraries
Colleen Davis	Registrar's Office
Kim Engel	Performing Arts Center
Patrick Ferlo	Performing Arts Center
Jane Kessler	University Libraries
Hal Lawson	Educational Administration & Policy studies
Kimberly McClive-Reed	Institute of Gerontology
Jean McLaughlin	University Libraries
Kathleen Mullen	University Libraries
Michael Parker	Government, Public & Media Relations
Maureen Cohan Powers	Ed & Counseling Psychology
Karina Ricker	University Libraries
Carol Rogers	Educational Theory & Practice
Nancy Smith	Registrar's Office
Bobby Wachs	Information Technology Services
Doris Walker	Health Center
Jane Agee	Educational Theory & Practice
Jeanette Altarriba	Psychology
Heidi Andrade	Educational & Counseling Psychology
Janet Angelis	Albany Institute for Research in Education
Robert Bangert-Drowns	Educational Theory & Practice
Bret Benjamin	English
Brett Bowles	Languages, Literatures & Culture
Eloise Briere	Languages, Literatures & Culture
Jean-Francois Briere	French Studies
George Broadwell	Anthropology
Jennifer Burrell	Anthropology
Fan Pen Chen	East Asian Studies
Anthony DeBlasi	East Asian Studies
Sharon DeWitte	Anthropology
Evgeny Dikarev	Chemistry
Michael Ellis	Ed & Counseling Psychology
Brain Freidenberg	University Counseling Center
Robert Gluck	Music
Annis Golden	Communication
Brenda Hazard	University Libraries
Michael Hill	English
Hilde Hoogenboom	Languages, Literatures & Cultures, Slavic and Eurasian Studies
Youqin Huang	Geography & Planning
Rachel Jean-Baptiste	History
LaRae Jome	Ed & Counseling Psychology
Eric Keenaghan	English

2006-2007 INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS, cont.

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 Meaney	English
Bryan Robinson	Sociology
Kristina Bendikas	Theatre
Arlene Lev	Social Welfare
Karen Tejada	Sociology
Ione Beauchamp	Theatre
Edwin Hirschfeld	Center for Jewish Studies

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Secretary	Carol H. Jewell	cjewell@uamail.albany.edu
Part-Time Concerns Rep.	Kristina Bendikas	bendikas@albany.edu

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Office hours Spring 2007: M-F 8:30 am-2:30 pm

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:

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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.