

The Forum

Feb 2019

Your Albany Chapter Newsletter

Issue 142

Welcome to the 2019 Election Edition of *The Forum*:

The Albany Chapter of UUP is pleased to present to you this opportunity to meet the candidates through their statements and encourages you to participate in this year's election.

All candidates of record who are running for officer or delegate positions were given an opportunity to submit their statements for publication. Elected officers and delegates will serve a term beginning on June 1, 2019 and ending on May 31, 2021.

Any candidate running for office can call the Chair of the UUP Constitution & Governance Committee or UUP Statewide Secretary Jeri O'Bryan-Losee at (518) 640-6600 to make an appointment to observe the counting of any election in which they are a duly nominated candidate.

Election Information: What happens when?

March 4th: General Membership Meeting & Candidates' Forum 12-2 in CC Ballroom. Candidates will have the chance to make a statement and answer questions.

March 6-8: Chapter election ballots will be mailed out to members' home addresses.

April 10th: Return ballots must be received (not postmarked) at the UUP Central Office by 5:00PM

Your vote is important! Please make it count!

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President**Aaron Major,****Associate Professor, Sociology**

It has been a true privilege to serve as your Chapter President and work with so many of you who are doing what you can, in the spirit of unionism, to support your colleagues, support our campus, and be good stewards of quality, public higher education. As we begin to benefit from a long overdue, hard-fought new contract, I am committed to working with UUP members across this campus and doing what I can to ensure that as the University moves forward, it does so with a commitment to respecting the dignity and professionalism of all of its employees and improving the quality of our working lives on this campus. While I would like to see this come easily, securing that commitment presents a new challenge. We have been asked to shoulder the burden of years of financial mismanagement with a near freeze on the hiring of academic faculty, chronically understaffed offices across the campus, and another year of broken promises to provide fair compensation for part-time instructors. We have been asked to support more students of increasingly diverse needs without the commitment of state support for public higher education. A year and a half ago we stood together in solidarity to push our stalled contract negotiations to a fair settlement, and in solidarity we can rise to meet these new challenges.

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Professional Vice President**Tim Dowling****Residential Life**

My name is Tim Dowling, and I am running for the Vice President for Professionals position for our Union. For the last three years I have worked at U-Albany as a Residence Hall Director, working to provide our

students with the quality experiences they expect as part of their college experience. I'd like to bring that same drive and dedication to our Union. Prior to coming to U-Albany, I spent seven years working as a TV news producer at various media outlets up and down the East Coast. Having a degree in Journalism and Communications has made me a firm believer in honest, factual, and straight-forward communication, which I hope to bring to our Union's leadership team. I was President of my High School class for 4 years so I know what it takes to lead a large organization filled with people that have very different needs and wants. I have spent 17 years as a church musician, which has taught me to serve a wide variety of people. Working in Residential Life has also exposed me to working with people of nearly every race, gender, sexual orientation, religious affiliation and way of life. I feel all of these qualities would make me an excellent candidate to be your next Vice President for Professionals here at UUP

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Greta Petry

News and Communication

As Grievance Chair for the last 13 years I have met individually with between 50 and 80 members a year in confidential sessions. Members reach out to us with concerns, and my job is to listen and then find out their contractual options. I work closely with our contract expert, Maureen Seidel, President Aaron Major and all our officers. What I find is that our professionals are honest, good, hard-working people who just want to be treated like the professionals we are.

Most of the problems I hear about on a daily basis wouldn't happen if employees were shown basic courtesy and respect, and if supervisors followed the contract. I am blessed with two terrific supervisors who

always abide by the contract. I wish more supervisors would follow the example they set.

What I love about the union is when members stick together to accomplish positive goals. I chaired the Food Pantry Committee for several years and had an awesome committee that raised several thousand dollars for St. Vincent's Food Pantry. In 2010 I was one of the UUP plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed against Gov. David Paterson, who wanted to furlough state workers for one day without pay. A federal judge ruled in our favor because we already had a contract in place and the governor could not break it. I have served on the Statewide UUP Grievance Committee for many years. To me, leadership means serving. I have been honored to serve as Grievance Chair and ask that you vote for me.

* * *

Academic Vice President

Paul Stasi

Associate Professor, English

The last two years have been difficult ones for unions. At the federal level we have faced unprecedented attacks on our ability to collectively bargain and support our membership. And yet, as the recent wave of teacher's strikes shows, unions are beginning to push back. I have been proud to be part of an activist union on campus, one that tries to set the tone of campus debate, that pushes back against workload creep, the erosion of faculty governance and the continued instrumentalization of education at all levels, but that also looks towards national trends and issues to build broader support for all working people. I continue to find my union work the most meaningful work I do on campus, both the time spent with individual members as well as addressing the larger issues that face us all. I would be honored to serve another term as your Academic Vice President.

Assistant VP for Professionals**Patrick Romain, EOP**

My UUP brothers and sisters, can I count on YOU once agin for your support? Unions are being attacked nationwide. It is our duty as unionists to take a stand and fight for fair wages, health insurance, and numerous other benefits which were gained through the actions of our predecessors in the Labor Movement. Now more than ever, we are in need of experienced leadership. I am seeking your vote to continue to serve as your Assistant Vice President for Professionals for the Albany chapter.

Currently, I serve on the Statewide Outreach Committee and as the Statewide Co-Chair, of the Opportunity Programs Committee (EOP/EOC). In the past, I served in the following statewide committees- Co-Chair EOP, Co-Chair Affirmative, Action, Task Force on Pay Equity, Legal Defense, Finance, Black Faculty, and Staff Association. During my tenure in UUP, I have served as the Albany treasurer and Affirmative Action Chair. I took the lead to sign up members for Vote Cope. Please sign up for Vote Cope now! I humbly ask for your vote.

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Assistant VP for Academics**Loretta Pyles****Associate Professor, Social Welfare**

I am honored to be running for AAVP of UUP. I am doing this because I am inspired by the ways that our union has played a meaningful and effective role at our university in recent years. Having served 2 terms on the UUP Executive Committee and 1 term as chapter Secretary, I have played a modest part in a movement led by committed and active leaders toward a

university that is more transparent, inclusive, and just. The times have been and will continue to be challenging, but with deep commitments to solidarity, critical inquiry, and action, together we can make UAlbany a public university that is fair and supportive of its workers and students.

I joined the UAlbany faculty in 2008 and am a Professor in the School of Social Welfare. From 2008-2012, I was the Director of the Community and Public Service Program, a university-wide initiative administered by the School of Social Welfare, which creates service-learning opportunities by connecting students with community organizations. I am currently Director of the PhD Program in the SSW. I have extensive experiences as a board member in other organizations, such as the New Orleans Food and Farm Network, CommunityLAB (Troy, NY), and the University of Kansas Graduate Teaching Assistants Coalition. Throughout my career, my work has continually focused on asking tough questions, building networks, and creating change. I am inspired to engage in projects that will help to make the work and lives of professionals, academics, and students, more humane.

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Secretary

Zakhar Berkovich

Rockefeller College, Student Services

Zakhar currently serves as Director of Undergraduate Student Services at the University at Albany's Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy. In his role, he is responsible for developing and maintaining meaningful undergraduate engagement opportunities. He is also involved with Campus Sustainability Coordinators and UAlbany Votes initiative. He is a strong supporter of UUP. Prior to his appointment at the Rockefeller College, he was the Assistant to the Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences at the College of Staten Island/CUNY where he worked with ten departments and

over 8,000 undergraduate and graduate students. He regularly attended PCS/CUNY meetings and membership meetings for HEOs. Zakhar double majored in Biology and Judaic Studies at the University at Albany and earned his M.S. in Education Administration from the School of Education at UAlbany as well. He is currently pursuing his doctorate degree in Public Administration at Rockefeller College. He is looking forward to serving the campus in the capacity as Secretary.

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Officer for Contingents

Anne Woulfe, Lecturer

I have taught at UAlbany for almost 19 years, holding the position of Lecturer. During that time, I have been assigned to various departments, including Africana Studies, Sociology and more recently, Art History. As an instructor of General Education courses exclusively, I have developed, proposed and amended courses, and assessed educational objectives and expectations to comply with various General Educational categories. I have taught countless students and provided guidance academically and personally. Like so many of my colleagues, I have done this work as a part-time, contingent employee.

As academics, we necessarily become invested in our work and form connections with colleagues and students. However, as faculty members who are also contingent, we often feel as though we are expendable, as if our contributions are somehow less relevant to the University. As I and so many others have learned, the investment of time and energy to facilitate learning, as rewarding as that is, may often seem unappreciated and even under-valued at times.

Over the years I have met academics and myriad professionals who are committed to securing equity at every level for all faculty and staff. I have

seen how the initiatives by those in UUP have resulted in democratizing this institution by providing an inclusive platform. As an Officer for Contingents, I will follow the path of my predecessors and continue to address and give voice to the perspectives and concerns of part-time faculty.

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**Officer for Retirees
and Professional Delegate
Betty P. Shadrick**

With humble gratitude, I am running for Professional delegate and Officer for Retirees. A longstanding delegate, committee member of Scholarship Development, Diversity/Inclusion, and Pay Equity, I've lobbied in NYS and Washington,DC on pertinent Union issues.

Despite Janus, UUP remains vibrant, undaunted and a strong advocate for its members. I desire to continue my involvement with the Union and earnestly seek your vote.

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**Professional Delegates
Tom Hoey, ITS**

Dear Professional Faculty,

I first want to thank you for allowing me to serve you these past 7 years as your Vice President for Professional Faculty. I will be supporting Greta Petry as Vice President for Professional Faculty and Patrick Romain as Assistant Vice President for Professional Faculty as they both have the knowledge, experience and skills to serve your union needs here at UAlbany.

I am also asking for your support to elect me again as a Professional Delegate for the Albany Chapter of UUP. I will continue working for professionals on the Chapter level and at the Statewide level where I serve as the Membership Development Officer. We have come a long way as a union and while we are happy with what we have achieved these past 46 years, we must never forget that we could lose them in a blink of an eye as happened in Wisconsin.

In Solidarity,
Tom Hoey

Carol H. Jewell
Instructional Support Technician
University Libraries

I have been a Professional at The University at Albany for 33+ years. I've been Chair of our Disability Rights & Concerns Committee (DRCC) for 16 years; I am Co-Chair of our LGBTQ Rights and Concerns Committee, as well. I serve on the Statewide SOUL Committee, and have served on the Statewide Disability Rights and Concerns Committee, which I previously co-chaired. Despite passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act almost 30 years ago, people with disabilities still face barriers: improper snow removal, lack of digital accessibility to campus websites, and dealing with some Conservative groups who believe people with disabilities shouldn't even have civil rights. I understand many of the issues facing other marginalized groups: I married my wife in 2012, thanks to a change in NYS laws; Federal laws lag behind. Working together, we can achieve a lot; please re-elect me. Thank you for your support.

Casey Kohler
Undergraduate Education

I am seeking my first term as a professional delegate. Having been a member of the UAlbany Chapter since 2015, I have become a more active and engaged member of the union. I currently serve on the Professional Concerns Committee to assist in addressing the needs of the Professional Faculty of the University at Albany. If elected as a member of the Executive Committee as a Professional Delegate I will support and promote issues that affect all members, and will work to bring resolution to consistent concerns for our members.

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Academic Delegates**James Collins**
Professor, Anthropology

I have been active in the Albany Chapter of UUP for many years as Department Representative for Anthropology, member of the Chapter Executive Committee, and in two leadership positions. Believing in unions as a source of democratic power, I have tried to strengthen UUP by connecting our Chapter to its members, the wider labor movement, and the wider society. Since graduate school, I have sought to find common ground for organizing and shared action: whether working with fellow graduate students to ally a TA union with the Graduate Student Government; serving in the University Senate in order to articulate shared Union/Senate concerns; or currently representing the chapter at the Albany County Central Federation of Labor, a union clearinghouse on workplace and social justice issues. I ask for your vote again as UUP Academic Delegate and member of the Albany Chapter Executive Committee.

Deborah LaFond
Social Sciences Subject Librarian

FREEDOM, EQUALITY, DIGNITY FOR ALL - in the workplace and in our society! To make our union stronger and given the privilege of working at a university, I believe it is incumbent upon us to grow a union movement with VISION - one that consciously addresses how systemic inequalities, tactics to divide and oppress one over another, CAN BE OVERCOME TOGETHER!

As your Chapter Academic Delegate for over 6 years, I have worked for student food security, access to health care, global labor concerns addressing sustainability, researched and led efforts within UUP for affirmative action against threats to Title VII and Title IX, co-created programs/events addressing anti-racism, prison reform, poor people's campaign. I have been a member of the Statewide Women's Rights and Concerns Committee, Affirmative Action Committee, Solidarity Committee, our Chapter Women's Rights and Concerns Committee, and the Peace and Justice Committee and have been nominated as departmental representative.

Elizabeth Strum
Lecturer, Art History

Issues pertaining to part-time and contingent faculty have been getting attention in education news, but contingent concerns still warrant a voice. I've been working as a part-time instructor of art history at UAlbany for thirteen years. This is in addition to teaching as an adjunct at other schools including The Sage Colleges, Excelsior College and College of Saint Rose, often concurrently, for a teaching career spanning more than thirty years. Although the Art and Art History Department at UAlbany has been

reliable and supportive to me, I know the insecurities of being something like an education freelancer. As an Academic Delegate I believe I'll be able to speak to the issues of both full- and part-time faculty. I've long been a member of UUP but diving into its process will be new for me. I look forward to learning, meeting more members and voicing faculty concerns.

Rebekah Tolley
Lecturer, Studio Art

I have taught as an adjunct lecturer in the art department for the past six years and I first became involved in the union in an effort to improve the working conditions of contingent faculty. As you all know, we still have a long way to go. It has been a great honor to serve as assistant academic VP and contingent officer over the past few years. I look forward to continuing to serve on the statewide contingent employment committee and our chapter's contingent concerns committee as an academic delegate.

Marco Varisco
Associate Professor, Mathematics

Since 2017, I have been an academic delegate and a member of our Chapter's Executive Committee, and the UUP representative in my Department. I am proud of the work that our Chapter did in the last few years—particularly in supporting the contract negotiations and, once the contract was ratified, in advocating for its fair implementation. I am also proud of our never-ending efforts to strengthen shared governance on campus. Among other things, these efforts led to my inclusion as UUP representative on the Strategic Plan Advisory Council. I believe that Unions have an essential role to play in shared governance, especially in these challenging times for our University and for academia in general. I ask for your vote again to continue serving our Union as academic delegate.