

THE FORUM

ELECTION ISSUE

MARCH 2009

President's Corner

Welcome to the 2009 "Election Edition" of *The Forum*. All candidates who are running for office were given an equal opportunity to submit their statements for publication, as required. Check your paystub: if it says UUP Member, you are a signed member; if it says Agency Fee, you are not a signed member of UUP. Only signed members of UUP who were members as of January 2, 2009 will receive ballots for the 2009-2011 Albany Chapter elections shortly after March 11, 2009. If you discover that you are not a member and would like to join, you can contact the Chapter office at 442-4951 to obtain a membership card.

I would welcome all of you to check the UUP Albany Chapter website at your leisure for lots of information (www.albany.edu/uup). There, you will have access to Executive Committee meeting minutes, Labor-Management minutes, photos of members in action at recent rally events, the 2008 DSI listing, and links to other websites of interest and political action. Be sure to check the listing of department representatives so that you know who your representative is! If you don't see your department listed and want to get involved, just send me an email and we will get you signed up! It's easy to do and not time-consuming, so sign up today if you are interested!

As always, your Chapter Officers are here to help you. We welcome your calls whenever you have questions!

In Solidarity, Candace A. Merbler

ELECTION INFORMATION :

WHO ARE THE CANDIDATES?

Candidates running for Officer positions and/or Delegates have been invited to submit a statement describing themselves, what they are running for, and why. Please note that not all candidates chose to submit statements.

WHEN ARE THE BALLOTS DUE?

Chapter Election Ballots are due on 4/15/09. Ballots will be counted 4/15/09-4/18/09 and results will be sent to Chapter Presidents as soon as practicable after the election.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Election Information	1
Candidates' Statements	2

CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

Candace Merbler, President

I have been honored to serve you as UUP Albany Chapter President, and am running for another two-year term. I believe I have represented all members of the Chapter with distinction and pride. In light of looming budget cuts, numerous position vacancies, and difficult work environments, I continue to find solutions for the membership. Every day brings a new situation, and the breadth of my experience has made it easier to provide service to every member on campus. Through my dual role as Chapter President and Chapter Membership Development Officer, I am proud to say that UUP membership at the Chapter has increased from 76% to 84%, **with 94% of all FT faculty being members of UUP**. We continue to attract and retain new academic and professional delegates who have become much more active at both the local and statewide levels.

We continue to submit successful JLMC campus grants, we continue to work against poor management practices, insuring that the rights of members are honored under the contract. Through our suggestions at Labor-Management meetings, we were able to achieve the \$500 bonus being added to 24 professionals' salaries, were successful in our effort to open a suggestion line for employees to submit their money-saving ideas, we continue to battle the issue of overdue evaluations for professionals and management attempts to increase academic workload. We were successful in insuring that all professionals overdue for permanent appointment were reviewed and had their files submitted to the Chancellor's office. Through personal effort, I was able to obtain over \$14,000 from UUP to support our recent "UAlbany Day" which was a resounding success.

I have worked hard to earn your respect, and the respect of campus administrators. We have more work to do. I promise to continue that fight, and humbly ask for your support for another two year term as your Chapter President.

MORE CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS**J. Phillippe Abraham, Vice President for Professionals and Professional Delegate**

I wish to thank all the membership of the chapter for their vote of confidence and support during my prior candidacies for the position of Vice President for Professionals for the UAlbany Chapter of United University Professions.

Since that beginning a few years ago, I have grown and learned quite a bit and feel honored to have been granted this great opportunity to serve and represent my brothers and sisters on this campus.

I take my responsibilities seriously and am aware that, now more than ever, due to the budget crisis and its national and state implications, your UUP elected officers must be vigilant and redouble our efforts to help and protect the hard-gained benefits for every member. The road ahead is rough, but I am up to the task with your support and assistance.

Involvement at the National, State and local levels such as AFT, NYSUT and membership on the Executive Board of UUP have brought me invaluable experience, training and contacts which I am glad to put at your service on a daily basis.

I am happy to continue in my current role as your VP for Professionals and part of a dynamic team, along with our President, Vice President for Academics and Part-time concerns Representative, which tackles every issue and acts together to improve your working conditions.

I remain your loyal servant and welcome the opportunity to work for you for the next two years. In me, you will have an energetic, enthusiastic and knowledgeable Vice President for Professionals. Please vote for me!

MORE CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

Carol H. Jewell, Secretary and Professional Delegate

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 since 1985, working in the Cataloging Department of the University Libraries, in positions requiring a keen eye for details. I have been Chapter Secretary since 2005, and I am editor of *The Forum*. Please re-elect me your Chapter Secretary and I will do my best to continue to keep you informed.

In addition to running for reelection as your Chapter Secretary, I ask for your vote for Professional Delegate. I have been Chair of the Disability Rights and Concerns Committee (Albany chapter) since 2002. In 2008, I established a GLBTQ Rights and Concerns Committee here; this was the first GLBTQ Committee in our Union! As a result, in the 2008-2009 academic year, I was selected to be a member of the new, UUP Statewide committee on GLBTQ Concerns. I have attended several Delegate Assemblies, but my standing has always been that of "observer/guest." As a Professional Delegate, I will be better able to represent your needs and concerns, and to continue to strive for an environment which is fair and diverse in all respects. I appreciate your time and ask for your vote.

Jill Hanifan, Part-time Concerns Representative and Academic Delegate

I am eager and ready to continue working as Part-time Concerns Representative, both at the Chapter level and Statewide. I've been traveling to Adjunct/Part-time Staffing Conferences, and have recently been appointed to the AFT Higher Education Adjunct/Part-time Faculty Advisory Committee. We're at a crucial state in our ongoing work for part-time equity, and I'm looking forward to the opportunity to continue to serve the UAlbany Chapter and UAlbany part-time academics and professionals.

MORE STATEMENTS

Larry Wittner, Academic Delegate

Larry Wittner, Professor of History, has served as an elected leader of Albany UUP since 1979—mostly as a statewide delegate and member of the chapter executive committee, but also as chapter vice president for academics and as chair of the chapter's Solidarity Committee. In addition, he has served as chair of statewide UUP's Solidarity Committee, a member of that committee, and as a UUP delegate to the Albany County Central Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO. A former president of the Peace History Society, he has written widely on peace movements and foreign policy. His writings include eleven books (seven authored and four edited or co-edited) and some two hundred published articles and book reviews. He has been the recipient of fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the United States Institute of Peace.

Nancy Keelen, Professional Delegate

I have been most privileged to serve for the past two years, as a Professional Delegate for the Albany Chapter of UUP and I am seeking re-election for another two year term. During the past two years, I have represented UUP members at numerous Delegate Conferences and I have attended Leadership Workshops. I have been a strong advocate for SUNY is the Solution.

I am a member of the UUP Statewide Committee on Women's Rights and Concerns. I have worked on issues such as gender pay equity and women's health care issues. I have served as Chairperson for the Albany Chapter UUP in "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" walk.

It is my desire to continue serving as a Professional Delegate and I will continue do my best to serve our membership and I will continue to advocate for a fair budget for SUNY.

I thank you for your support.

Sally A. D'Alessandro, Professional Delegate

I have been a UUP member since I began my career at the University in 1998. I hold three degrees from this University. I understand from experience that in order for public education to serve students, many of whom would otherwise be denied opportunities, it must be supported by a well-trained, well-treated, and fairly compensated workforce. The current economic crisis must not be borne on the back of public education and those who serve it. I pledge to represent the interests of our membership to the best of my ability.

Areas of interest for me are resistance to attempts to renegotiate our current contract and the Governor's proposed pay lag, maintenance of the current level of employee benefits, fair family leave policies, and ensuring that sacrifices required by the current financial climate do not unfairly target our membership. Thank you. I hope I can count on your vote.

MORE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

John (Jack) A Gendron, Professional Delegate

Presently, I am serving as a UUP Chapter delegate. The past two years were an amazing time for developing my skills as a liaison for the Albany chapter members. I attended a number of professional development workshops that assisted me with my responsibilities. The recent Fall UUP's advocacy workshop supported me in developing my negotiating skills. I feel that I now have a greater impact when attending the Albany UUP rally days, the Legislative visiting days and the UUP Delegate assembly. I wish to continue as a Professional delegate for The University at Albany.

I bring to this position the skills and qualities of integrity, flexibility, honesty, excellent analytical skills and a sense of humor. These qualities serve me well as a Financial Aid professional. Service to others is the major reason that propels me to seek this position.

It is an honor to serve UUP as a delegate.

Francely Jaquez, Professional Delegate

I feel I am a great candidate for this position because of the services I have provided and still provide at the University at Albany. I have worked for the Department of Residential Life as a Residence Hall Director and am currently working as a Senior Staff Assistant for the Student Services Center. I am service oriented. My positions have allowed me to become very attentive and analytical when it comes to noticing when there is a problem and coming up with a solution to those problems. I love to work with and for people in general. I am very high spirited and embrace the FISH philosophy to the fullest. I am good at encouraging people to be active and love to be informative. I have a very positive attitude and am a people person. I would like to expand these talents as a Professional Delegate. Thank you.

Thomas C. Hoey, Professional Delegate

Fellow UUP'ers, I am again running for Professional Delegate representing UAlbany at the UUP Delegate Assemblies (DA). For the past 14 years as your elected delegate I have never missed a DA, traveling to all the corners of New York State. I am Chair of the State-wide Solidarity Committee, which oversees a \$10,000.00 budget for labor causes around the corner and the world. Recently I have been appointed UUP State Wide representative for the Labor and Religion Coalition, which does tremendous work in our region. As your representative I have strived to make our University a better place to work, and I testified during negotiations on Family Leave time which has been changed from 15 to 30 days. I have been at the protests downtown trying to fight the budget cuts and letting State Government know UUP is watching. I also serve as your NYSUT representative where I am a Sergeant-at-Arms, and as your AFT representative. Aside from UUP activities I am a member of the State Wide Faculty Senate Operations Committee, and a pilot for the Civil Air Patrol US Air force Auxiliary. I again ask you for your vote. Thank You!

MORE CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Stephen J Kudzin, Professional Delegate

Currently I am employed as a Financial Aid Loan Officer at the University. Recently, I have earned my MBA in Finance from the University at Albany. I hold my education, work experience and community very high. I feel my past experiences have given me many skills and attributes necessary to succeed as a UUP Chapter delegate.

I consider myself a very social person with a caring attitude. I am also extremely analytical, organized, conscientious, and precise. These qualities, along with a vast knowledge base of understanding and implementing various State and Federal regulations in my daily duties at work, would be extremely beneficial to the UUP Chapter.

Thank you for your consideration. It would be an honor for me to give back more to our Union that has given so much to me.

Betty P. Shadrick, Professional Delegate

While I have worked at UAlbany for over two decades, my direct involvement within the UUP family is recent. I'm delighted to assume new responsibilities within our UAlbany UUP chapter, to advocate for the vital concerns of professional and academic staff, and to be a voice of reason during these trying fiscal times that we are facing. I seek your vote as a delegate to so that I can represent you and lobby for your issues and your needs.

Roberto Vives, Professional Delegate

It will be my pleasure to serve as a UUP Professional Delegate for the University at Albany. I have had the honor to represent you for the last five and a half years and have done my best to improve working conditions for all our members. I have also served on the Statewide Diversity Committee and as a department representative for athletics.

I hope to again represent you for the next two years and will do my absolute best to serve you.

Albany UUP Chapter Officers

President	Candace Merbler
VP Academics	Ivan Steen
VP Professionals	J. Philippe Abraham
Treasurer	Denise Hoecker
Secretary	Carol H. Jewell
Part-Time Concerns Rep.	Jil Hanifan



WRITE TO US!

Was this issue helpful for you ? Did you like the layout? Was it easy to read?

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

Carol H. Jewell

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United University Professions is Local 2190 of the American Federation of Teachers, and is affiliated with New York State United Teachers.