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Subject: Sept. 23 E-Connection

The following are the articles that appear in the Sept. 23 issue of The Connection. You may also view it on the UUP Web Site at [www.uupinfo.org](http://www.uupinfo.org) which will be posted soon.

#### Maritime UUPers deployed in Katrina recovery effort

Five UUP members from SUNY Maritime are on board the college's training ship anchored near New Orleans, playing key roles in aiding the recovery from Hurricane Katrina. The five UUPers are part of a 76-person crew on board the Empire State VI, SUNY Maritime's 17,000 ton, 565 foot training ship for what's expected to be a two-month assignment. Their mission: to provide housing and support for ConocoPhillips workers who are repairing the company's oil refinery in Bell Chasse, LA.

"Our mission is about getting everything up and running," explains Thomas Spina, a UUP member serving as security officer on the ship. Spina said despite having just returned from a two-month training tour, he didn't hesitate when asked to serve on the relief mission. "You don't think about it. This is our job," he said. It meant leaving his family, including his wife, 7-year-old daughter and 4-year-old son behind. "There's a tremendous amount of sacrifice. But we'll make do with what we have to do."

Ann Barry, another UUPer at Maritime who serves as navigator on board, also accepted her sudden deployment without hesitation. "When asked, I jumped at it," she said, even though it means being away from her family and friends. She has no doubt as to the value of their mission. "We're helping one of the biggest refineries in the nation get back in service, which will help to lower gas prices," she explained.

In addition to feeding and housing 350 ConocoPhillips workers, the crew was asked to take in about 300 National Guardsmembers who had been stationed at a school in New Orleans. Spina summed up their job this way: "To make sure all 650 have what they need; to see that order is kept and needs are met."

The other UUPers serving on the mission are Chief Engineer Matthew O'Donnell, Chief Mate Matthew Mahanna and First Assistant Engineer William McCaney. Andrew McCarthy will join the crew soon to replace Spina.

"Academic Bill of Rights" suddenly appears on SUNY's radar screen  
Just months after hearing a report that there was no need for the "Academic Bill of Rights" on SUNY campuses, a SUNY Board of Trustees committee announced the panel would nonetheless be taking up the issue of the "Academic Bill of Rights."

UUP President William Scheuerman immediately denounced the move, saying, "I find it astonishing that SUNY's Board of Trustees has moved to even consider a proposal that would jeopardize our academic freedom. This is a solution in search of a problem."

Father John Cremins, chairman of the SUNY board's Academic Standards Committee, said the issue will be discussed at a committee meeting on Oct. 24.

Upcoming dates and deadlines

Legislative Advocacy meetings:

9/28/05\*\*Farmingdale Regional Meeting, 12:30-2:30 p.m., UUP office conference room, Ward Hall

9/30/05\*\*Albany Regional Meeting, noon-2 p.m. Campus Center Rm. 375

10/5/05\*\*Buffalo Regional Meeting, noon-2p.m., UBNorth Campus, Student Union Rm. 330

UUP meetings:

Oct. 14-15: NYS conference of AAUP, NYSUT headquarters

Oct. 28: UUP Executive Board meeting, Albany

Oct. 28-29: UUP Leadership workshop, Lake George

Help hurricane victims UUP is participating in NYSUT's hurricane relief efforts. Union leaders encourage members to send contributions with checks or money orders payable to "NYSUT Katrina Relief Fund," and mail them to:

NYSUT

Att: Accounting Department

800 Troy Schenectady Road Latham, N.Y. 12110

UUPdate

Sept. 20

The New York Times\*Sandra Feldman, Scrappy and Outspoken Labor Leader for Teachers, dies at 65

Sandra Feldman, the blunt-spoken former president of the American Federation of Teachers and its local in New York, who emerged from the shadow of her mentor, Albert Shanker, to become a deft and intimidating labor powerhouse on her own, died Sunday night at her home in Manhattan. She was 65.

As head of the American Federation of Teachers, the nation's second-largest union, with 1.3 million members, she was an impassioned advocate for the public schools that educated her. She worked with members of the Bush administration and members of Congress to write the education law known as No Child Left Behind, which imposed stricter performance standards on all schools receiving federal aid.

She also worked to increase federal and state spending for programs for the youngest children in a program she called Kindergarten Plus. She also tried unsuccessfully to devise a merger with the largest national union, the National Education Association.

Sept. 21

The Chronicle of Higher Education\*Buying time, House extends Higher Education Act for 3 months

The U.S. House of Representatives gave itself some breathing room when it unanimously approved legislation to extend for three months the law that governs most federal student aid programs.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and the flurry of related bills lawmakers are considering, it appears extremely unlikely that Congress will be able to complete work on legislation to renew, or reauthorize, the Higher Education Act, which is due to expire on Sept. 30, any time soon. Rep. John A. Boehner, the Ohio Republican who is chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, signaled that he has not given up on reauthorizing the law this year.

"It is my fervent desire," Boehner said, "that Congress will enact this legislation, which would benefit millions of students this year.

Sept. 21

Newsday\*SUNY OKs purchase of Southampton campus

SUNY trustees unanimously authorized the SUNY chancellor to "take all steps necessary and appropriate" to acquire Long Island University's Southampton College campus so it can become part of Stony Brook University, possibly as early as next fall.

Acting SUNY chancellor John Ryan said the purchase of the campus would be an "extraordinary opportunity" for the SUNY system. He told the trustees that the purchase price will not exceed the \$35 million the state legislature already has appropriated.

Stony Brook University President Shirley Strum Kenny said in an interview after the board's action that she was "absolutely optimistic" that an agreement will be reached with LIU. "We have worked very well together\*and I have every hope and belief that SUNY will be able to purchase the property and get on with the programmatic development.

Sept. 20

The New York Times\*2 large unions reach agreement to end feud

Two of the nation's largest unions\*the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)\*agreed yesterday to end a long-running feud by pledging not to raid each other's membership.

The two unions had devoted hundreds of workers and hundreds of thousands of dollars in the last six months to a fight over which should represent child care employees in Illinois and home health care workers in California.

The two unions said in a joint statement that they had signed a national two-year pact in which they agreed "that neither union will attempt to raid, decertify or otherwise interfere with existing representation rights."

The unions will also jointly organize tens of thousands of home-based child care workers in California and Pennsylvania and will submit to a legally binding arbitration procedure to resolve any future disputes over raiding and jurisdiction.

"This agreement is a victory for the millions of workers who want a union but don't have one," said Gerald W. McEntee, AFSCME's president.

Sept. 18

Daily Freeman\*SUNY students learn disaster relief

As relief agencies across the country are scrambling to train people to respond to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, SUNY New Paltz is starting a program that will bolster the ranks of ready-to-go volunteers.

This fall, New Paltz is offering a new minor in Disaster Studies through the college's Institute for Disaster Mental Health. The program, planned before the hurricane struck, will verse students in what organizers call "psychological first aid" and touch on more tangential subjects, such as controlling rumors and the political implications of disasters.

Those who complete the program will be required to volunteer with American Red Cross their first year out of school.

Sept. 15 The New Paltz Oracle\*SUNY Lends a Helping Hand

In a SUNY announcement released earlier this month, Gov. George Pataki and State Education Department Commissioner Richard Mills have vowed to aid

students displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Commissioner Mills said, "today all of New York State welcomes those from the Gulf states who need care, shelter, food and education. We invite them into our neighborhoods and schools and colleges. We must do all we can to help them resume normal lives.

All 64 SUNY and CUNY campuses are offering immediate registration to storm victims. Every one of the 84 public campuses will be offering in-state tuition and other various forms of aid."

Sept. 15

The New York Times\*4th Union quits AFL-CIO in a dispute over organizing Deepening the split in organized labor, Unite Here, a union that represents apparel, hotel, casino and restaurant workers, announced that it was quitting the AFL-CIO, becoming the fourth union to do so this summer.

Bruce Raynor, president of Unite Here, said his union's board had voted unanimously to quit because the AFL-CIO had not done enough to spur union organizing to reverse the decline of the labor movement.

"We believe that American workers are facing a historical crisis," Raynor said. "There are 28 million Americans that went to work this morning who made less than the poverty level." This summer, three other major unions quit the labor federation: the Service Employees International Union, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and the United Food and Commercial Workers. The four departing unions represented about 4.5 million workers out of the AFL-CIO's membership of 13 million.

The AFL-CIO criticized the move saying, "Unite Here's leadership made the wrong decision for their members and for America's working people because now more than ever, working people need to be united."

Sept. 15

Statesman\*\*\$300 million secured for university

Administration officials announced this summer that the state approved a \$300 million capital spending campaign, which is the largest in the history of the SUNY system.

The campaign is part of a larger focus on spending on SUNY schools. The state has set aside roughly \$3 billion dollars for use by SUNY campuses for similar projects.