



UUP  
HSC



# Newsletter

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## *Message from the President:*

## Welcome Back Newsletter!

I am pleased, or is it relieved, to be writing for our chapter newsletter. It has been a long time since there was one - but I hope that this will be the first of a long and frequent series. The last two years, since I became president, seem to have been full of crises but perhaps that is always true.

The first to hit was MACCC - the major reclassification exercise that affected all the professional members of our bargaining unit. Despite the fact that many people gained salary increases as a result and no-one lost any money, the passions raised by this process were remarkable. Not surprisingly, when one has one's job and career "classified" it is taken very personally. I hope the State thinks it was worth it. They spent millions of dollars to eliminate the "meaningless" technical assistant and technical specialist titles with more meaningful and descriptive ones such as "staff support associate" and "instructional support specialist". The good thing for us was that almost nine of those millions ended up in the pockets of our members. Perhaps it is best not to look a gift horse in the mouth.

The next crisis to loom was, what else, parking! The closure of the hospital garage to allow construction of a third tier could have been a recipe for total chaos. Let's give the University some credit for this one - they actually tried to plan ahead for once and after a shaky start it actually worked. We, most of us, got to work without too monumental a hassle and we even got compensated for the inconvenience when we got back to normal. It was an enormous amount of work for me and other members of the "parking advisory group" which for a while met every day or every other day. Still it was a useful model for the university in preventing the worst of a crisis instead of reacting to it. Too bad about the "beam seat failure" though. I would like people to know that Mary Dickinson did such valiant service on the PAG protecting every one's interests that she inherited the chair of it's successor which will continue to meet, less frequently, to consider the state of HSC parking. More on that later.

Then came air quality - you got to work but is it safe? Big changes are being made in the air handling system of the HSC to make it perform something like it was always supposed to but never did. And was there lead in the drinking water?

Finally, just when it seemed safe to go back to the lab, came the Governor and his budget crunch. How many million or billion had the state lost? Never mind, we can always get it from the University's budget. Who needs a state university anyway? That

seemed to be the message from Albany. The only answer to a political problem is political action. I think UUP and NYSUT did very well in influencing the legislature to consider SUNY an investment not an expense. We did our part of course - first by joining the campus coalition that wrote to everyone staff and faculty member, all the students and 30,000 (yes, that's four zeros) alumni asking them to write to their local legislators and the governor. I hope you all did your part in that. Next we had a legislative breakfast where we presented Senator Ken Lavelle with a plaque to commemorate his ten years as chairman of the senate higher education committee. Senator Lavelle has been a good friend to us and it is only proper to express our appreciation. The event went well enough (except that I didn't get anything to eat) that I think we should do some more.

What of the future? Well, we will soon have a new office which will be big enough to allow us to improve the service we can give you. The budget crunch in the hospital will continue to pose problems. We must continue to be alert to the possibility that some of the financial burden will be eased by compromising the ability of our members to give the best medical care. There is always a temptation when money is tight to think that as long as we meet minimum standards we're doing ok. That should not be acceptable to us - we are a tertiary care teaching hospital and only the best will do. Minor hassle will continue - parking (what else?) will probably be tricky until the new garage is built. Then we will have to worry about how to pay for it - what do you think about \$60 a month? Don't think much of it? Then be prepared to scream loudly. What about a smoking policy? Should the hospital be smoke free? What about the rest of the HSC? Since a large number of our members are physicians, and all of us are concerned with either the development or delivery of health care, I do not see how we as a union can take any position other than that.

The last message I want to leave you with is: please respond. Members of the executive board are on too many committees. At least let us know where there are problems. What do you think about smoking policies? Security? Does your department not understand about contractual items such as use of leave or comp time? Are you not sure? Call me or one of the vice presidents and let us know. We can only effectively represent an involved and informed membership.

*Michael Silberberg*

# Legislative Update

by Richard W. Blakeslee, Legislative Information Coordinator, and Member Statewide Legislative Committee

## 1. Budget

The Senate and Assembly finally signed and approved a budget package which would have restored a majority of the cuts from the Governor's proposed budget. Unfortunately the restoration included approximately \$28M which would have come from the proposed \$200 tuition increase.

As we all have heard, Dr. Marburger has indicated that the loss of \$28M from the total SUNY budget would result in a \$4M cut from our campus.

The Chancellor and the Governor have been meeting to try to find ways of trimming an already lean budget. In a meeting with Assembly and Senate finance leaders on Tuesday, May 9th the UUP legislative team tried to press for clues to areas from which revenue could be generated. We think that the ball is clearly in the Governor's court. He vetoed the tuition increase. Let him find another revenue strategy.

It might not be a bad idea to take a few moments to write to the Governor and thank him for attempting to destroy SUNY.

## 2. Ethics Law For Financial Disclosure

This law was proposed over two years ago. Under the law, which went into effect Jan. 1, state employees who earn more than \$30,000 annually or who are in a policy-making position are required to file a detailed financial disclosure statement unless exempted. Since that time UUP has been fighting with the Disclosure Commission. The UUP position is, and always has been, that we want 100% exemption from this law.

Originally there were 670 titles which were being required to file, 521 professional and 149 academic titles. Needless to say there were considerable errors being made in categorizing the 6000 professionals and 14,000 academics. UUP has been successful in getting a blanket extension for all academic titles, that is to say that all academic titles have been put on hold until a final determination can be made. Of the 521 professional titles UUP has been successful in eliminating all but some 353 professionals from filing. A list which was current as of May 9, 1989 is available in the UUP office. If your title appears on this list, you must file a disclosure statement.

United University Profession's action has resulted in an extension of the filing deadline for the disclosure form until June 15, 1989. This is the law and it must be taken seriously. Failure to file may result in significant financial penalties.

Any questions concerning this extremely important matter should be directed to UUP Central in Albany by calling the Hot Line (1-800-342-4206).

## 3. Legislative Breakfast At Stony Brook HSC

On March 24, 1989 the Health Sciences Chapter of

the United University Professions held a breakfast. The purpose of this breakfast was to focus on the budget crisis with which we have been faced. At that point in time a primary recipient of the cuts had already been identified and the School of Dental Medicine was in imminent danger. The thought of losing so vital a program which provides so many services to the community — including special clinical services for mentally and physically handicapped citizens and the loss of internationally prominent research projects would have been unconscionable.

The breakfast also provided us with an opportunity to recognize someone who has been entirely supportive of Stony Brook

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*Distinguished guests included Tom Corigliano, Vice President for Professionals, Statewide; Janet Potter, Statewide Legislative Chairperson; Bob Reganse, Chapter President, Farmingdale UUP; Bill Weisner, Chapter President, UUP Main Campus Stony Brook; Barbara Amster, Chairperson, Legislative Committee, Farmingdale.*



*Left to Right, Richard Blakeslee, Legislative Information Coordinator; Tom Corigliano, Statewide Vice President for Professionals; Ed Hines, Chapter Vice President for Professionals; and Senator Kenneth LaValle.*

and of higher education as a whole. Senator Kenneth LaValle has been Chairman of the Higher Education Committee in the Senate for the past ten years. It seemed only appropriate for the HSC Chapter of UUP to honor him for his unflagging support of the State University, and in particular, Stony Brook. It seemed also only fitting that in light of the fact that campus life interacts with and impacts Suffolk County that County Executive Patrick Halpin also be represented. Although Mr. Halpin was not present, he was

represented by Janet DeMarzo who presented Senator LaValle with a proclamation, signed by the County Executive, for his outstanding service.

Among those who joined in the Stony Brook lobbying effort were UUP President John M. Reilly, Vice President for Professionals Thomas A. Corigliano, Secretary Jeanne L. Galbraith, Treasurer John W. Hunt, Jr., Legislation Committee Chair Janet Potter and Stony Brook Campus President John Marburger.



*Senator Ken LaValle receiving a proclamation signed by County Executive Patrick Halpin declaring March 24 Ken LaValle Day in Suffolk County. Presenting for the County Executive is Ms. Janet DeMarzo.*



*Health Sciences Center Chapter President Michael Silverberg, presenting Senator Kenneth LaValle with plaque recognizing his outstanding contribution to Stony Brook for the past ten years.*

## Report From The Spring Delegate Assembly

The UUP Spring Delegate Assembly was held at the Desmond Americana Hotel, Albany, New York on May 5 and 6. A record number of delegates attended State-wide.

One of the main activities of the assembly was the election of officers and delegates. The president of the union, John M. Reilly was unopposed and unanimously re-elected; Jeanne L. Galbraith, Senior Assistant Librarian at Stony Brook HSC was re-elected as Secretary. Delegates were elected as representatives of both Academics and Professionals.

A resolution in support of the Eastern Air Lines workers was proposed calling on TIAA/CREF to use its power through the number of shares of stocks and bonds held both in Texas Air (\$1.1M in stocks) and in Eastern (\$35M in bonds); to call on the stock holders to demand the removal of Frank Lorenzo as Chief Executive Officer; and to insist on a fair and equitable end to the Eastern strike. UUP members were urged to write to Frank Lorenzo protesting his abuse of unionized workers, and advising him that we will not fly Eastern or Continental until the strike is settled to the satisfaction of the Eastern workers.

As a result of the oil spill disaster on the Alaskan coastline, one of the worst ever recorded, a resolution to boycott Exxon purchases was proposed. The impact on the ecology and the local fishing industry is devastating. Exxon was totally unprepared to

respond to such a disaster, and furthermore every U.S. taxpayer will subsidize the cost of the clean-up. Therefore, UUP members should refrain from purchasing Exxon products and members holding Exxon credit cards should cut them up and return them to Exxon.

A legislative bill, S4512, was proposed by Sen. LaValle which entails the establishment of a program of regents career development grants to colleges in New York state for the purpose of improving representation of minority group members and women among college faculty. The bill also provides for a loan forgiveness program.

UUP continues to work on the Ethics bill. The goal is to have all of its members exempt. At this time clarification of titles is

### In Short

#### UUP Library

Your UUP Stony Brook HSC Chapter has begun a collection of books and video cassettes to be lent to chapter members.

Some of the films we have acquired are: Matewan, Reds, Grapes of Wrath and Death of a Salesman.

Some books are reference books and do not circulate. These

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include: Labor Relations Law, Labor Arbitration in Health Care, and Primer on American Labor Law. Books that will circulate include: Eight Men Out, Intensive Care and Critical Teaching and Everyday Life. A more complete list of books and films, including a brief description of each, is available in the UUP office.

As soon as the expansion of our union office is complete, the materials we have acquired will be ready for your pleasure and convenience. We look forward to your visit and welcome your suggestions for future acquisition.

We thank the HSC Library staff for their assistance and guidance.

*Ann Zuppardo*

## Safety And Health

A few weeks ago I attended an all-day seminar on Main Campus. The subject of the seminar was Safety and Health Awareness on the State University of New York Campuses. This was a joint Labor/Management training seminar. The meeting was sponsored by the Statewide Joint Labor/Management Committee on Health and Safety and Stony Brook University. The Health and Safety Shadow Committee members of the HSC representing all three towers attended. The members are: Marge Ort, Jesse Drucker, Kathryn Nykolyn, John Marchese, Ed O'Connell, and Ed Hines.

Areas covered at the seminar were OSHA, NFPA and the Public Employee Safety and Health Act. Specific topics addressed were Right To Know, Record keeping, What the Acts Cover and the Difference between OSHA and PESH.

This intense one day seminar just skimmed the surface of the Safety and Health Acts and was designed to give us an awareness of these complex laws and what we can do to make our work area safe. A copy of the seminar material will be available in the UUP Library on Level 5 for your review.

*Ed Hines*

## State-Wide Conferences For Faculty Members And Academic Administrators Meet In Buffalo

Approximately 50 faculty and administrative representatives from SUNY campuses participated in a state-wide conference titled "Faculty Vitality into the Nineties: Cultural Diversity." The conference, which took place at SUNY/Buffalo from April 13-15, 1989 was sponsored by the Office of Teaching Effectiveness, SUNY/Buffalo and Professional Development and the Quality of Working Life Committee, NYS/UUP.

The conference was keynoted by Drs. Joseph Burke, Provost of the State University of New York; Herman Blake, Professor of Sociology, Swarthmore College; and Richard Steiner, Director of Program Development, Research Foundation of SUNY. Their keynote addresses were titled "DARING TO BE DIFFERENT-A CHALLENGE NOT A CHOICE FOR COUNTRY AND CAMPUS," "DIVERSITY AND LIBERAL EDUCATION," and "FUNDING AND SUPPORT AVAILABLE TO CREATE FACULTY VITALITY IN DIVERSE CULTURE," respectively.

The program included working seminars and roundtable discussions including some of the following topics: identifying and dealing with gender discrimination, handling cultural clashes, global interdependence and cultural diversity, and caring: key to

faculty commitment and mentoring.

Ellen Hope, Clinical Assistant Professor of Health Sciences, was the Stony Brook faculty representative. Professor Hope presented an overview of the School of Allied Health Professions' unique approach to international health education and cultural diversity.

For more information about the conference, contact Ellen Hope at 4-3224 or Norman Solkoff in Buffalo at (716) 636-3364.

## Want To Get Involved?

The HSC Chapter of the UUP is entitled to send 10 academic delegates and 12 professional delegates to statewide delegate assemblies. The HSC Chapter is the largest chapter with the most delegates in the entire SUNY system. An active membership could have great power and impact at both the local and statewide level, if only we were more visible and vocal.

It is to generate renewed interest that the executive board is considering the establishment of an activities committee to plan and execute membership and social activities. We look forward to planning an activity early in the fall semester to welcome back old members and to encourage new employees to join and become involved in the chapter functions. Any members with enthusiasm, ideas or suggestions for activities, please contact Colleen Kenefick (4-3097).

*Colleen Kenefick*

## Happy New Office

Please stop by and see your new UUP Office (next to the old one) and Conference Room (old office). I know Joan Wisbauer, our Chapter Secretary, will be happy.

*Ed Hines*

### OFFICERS

#### President:

Michael Silverberg - Immunology ..... 444-2347

#### Vice President (Academic):

Mark Swerdloff - Oral & Maxil. Surgery ..... 632-8952

#### Vice President (Professional):

Edward W. Hines - Biomedical Engineering ..... 444-1428

#### Treasurer:

Hope Greenberg - School of Medicine ..... 444-3558

#### Newsletter Editor:

Joan Goland - School of Medicine ..... 444-2295

#### Field Representative:

Dawn Hopkins ..... 273- 8822

#### Office Secretary:

Joan Wisbauer ..... 444-1505

Office: HSC Level 5, Room 572, Zip 8553

Hours: Mon. - Fri., 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m Telephone: 444-1505

The opinions expressed in the Newsletter are those of the authors, the editors, or the Stony Brook Chapter of UUP and are not necessarily the opinions of United University Professions.

The UUP Newsletter welcomes articles and letters submitted by members of the Stony Brook community. Remember, this is your newsletter. Share your thoughts with us. We want to hear from you. Persons who have material they wish to submit should contact: Joan Goland, Dean's Office/School of Medicine, Zip 8430; Telephone: 4-2295.