

Thanks for 23 Years of Service!

Our wonderful Chapter Assistant, Sharon Hines, has retired after 23 years of service. Sharon worked side by side with 6 chapter presidents (Michael Silverberg, Ed Alleyne, John Marino, Ed Drummond, Kathy Southern and Carol Gizzi), 12 chapter executive boards and watched the chapter membership grow from 1,800 to more than 4,000 members.



Sharon was honored at a reception in the Hospital Cafeteria North Dining Room on her last day, January 2, 2014, and at a special Chapter Executive Board meeting on January 14, 2014. The chapter Executive Board presented Sharon with many gifts and also unanimously approved a resolution that declared Sharon be awarded the title of UUP SB HSC Chapter Assistant Emeritus. Sharon also attended the Winter 2013 Delegate Assembly in Albany and was presented with a plaque commemorating her 23 years of service to the chapter.

It has been difficult operating the chapter office without Sharon's helping hand these past few months, but we have done a "search" and a new chapter assistant will be coming on board in April. Stop in to meet her and welcome her to the chapter.

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Upcoming Events



Friday May 2—Saturday May 3
UUP Spring Delegate Assembly
Albany

Tuesday May 6
Chapter Officers Meeting

Saturday May 10
LIRR trip to NYC

Tuesday May 13
Grievance Committee Meeting

Tuesday May 20
Chapter Executive Board Meeting

Saturday June 7
UUP LI Regional Professional Workshop
Melville (watch for flyers)

Sunday June 8
Afternoon at Baiting Hollow Vineyard
(watch for flyers)

Saturday July 19
Fishing Trip Celtic Quest
Out of Port Jefferson
(watch for flyers)

MAY 10, 2014 LIRR TRIP
reserve now



All chapter members are welcome to attend these events

To RSVP or for more information, please call 4-1505 or visit the chapter website: www.uupsbhscsite.org

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President's Message

Have You Heard About Open SUNY?

What is Open SUNY?

SUNY System Administration describes Open SUNY as the largest online, distance and open learning initiative in the U.S. SUNY's goal is to be the largest public online educator, growing online enrollment to exceed 100,000 by 2017. SUNY proposes to expand online degree programs and resources, prior learning assessments (course credit for life and work experience), competency-based programs and other alternatives to classroom instruction, including experimentation with for-credit Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs).

Some Open SUNY components:

- 100 percent transferable General Education courses (through the Seamless Transfer initiative)
- Graduation in three years for 25 percent of SUNY students by 2015
- Electronic advisement through creation of a digital concierge to assist in providing advisement services such as planning, navigating and completing course and degree selection
- New online bachelor's degree programs
- Sharing of established courses across SUNY institutions through cross-registration, including General Education and elective courses that are part of majors
- Grants to develop open e-textbooks
- A systemwide electronic database to facilitate degree and transfer options within SUNY

What is SUNY's timeline for Open SUNY?

September 2014: Prepare to launch Open SUNY "at scale."

UUP's Concerns and Perspectives:

Open SUNY, as currently planned, may compromise educational quality and access

UUP supports high-quality online education, which Open SUNY may compromise

UUP calls on the chancellor to redirect SUNY to its essential educational mission and work collaboratively with our academic and professional faculty to ensure all new educational initiatives are academically sound and enhance the mission of SUNY: to provide quality, affordable and accessible public higher education to all New Yorkers.

Knowledge is power! Visit the www.uupinfo.org/reports/guides/OpenSUNY140103.pdf for additional information on Open SUNY.

In Solidarity,
Carol Gizzi
SB/HSC Chapter President

News you can use



Unum Travel Insurance

Access to emergency travel assistance for UUP bargaining unit members and their families is offered through the UUP UNUM Travel Assist Program. To request an Assist America card, or for additional details about the program, contact the UUP Benefit Trust Office at 1 800 UUP FUND or go to their website:

<http://www.unum.com/Employers/Solutions/AdditionalServices/TravelAssistance.aspx>

The Health Insurance Opt Out Program

The Opt Out benefit allows employees who are enrolled in NYSHIP with individual coverage and who have other employer-sponsored coverage available to receive an annual payment of \$1,000 for voluntarily terminating their NYSHIP coverage. Employees who are enrolled with family coverage and are eligible for and choose the Opt Out benefit will receive an annual payment of \$3,000.

The Opt Out option can be exercised by UUP members each year during the Annual Option Transfer Period. If you lose your other coverage or a qualifying event as defined by Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code occurs, you can opt back in. You can also opt back in by reenrolling in NYSHIP during a regular annual Option Transfer period. Because the Opt Out program applies to health insurance coverage only, UUP members that choose to opt out will still be eligible for vision and dental coverage under UUP's Benefit Trust Fund.

The opt-out payments are made on a biweekly basis. The money received for opting out is taxable income. You should consult your tax advisor about this.

To be eligible, you must have been enrolled in NYSHIP on April 1 of the year prior to the year in which you are selecting the opt-out benefit.

UUP Deficit Reduction Leave Use Deadline Extension

For UUP represented employees at Stony Brook, your ability to use your DRL time has been extended from March 31, 2014 to May 21, 2014. Please be sure to request the use of your DRL time. All UUP members (FT, PT, per diem, academic, professional) who had DRL salary withheld in 2013 are entitled to DRL leave.

Your leave balance can be found in Kronos or Solar or by contacting your timekeeping office.

Employee Parking Changes

Reminder: Employees hired after May 2013 who were assigned to the hospital parking garage will be reassigned to the new hospital surface lot when it opens this Spring.



UUP Stony Brook HSC Chapter
HSC, Level 5– Room 572
Stony Brook, NY 11794-8553



Coming Soon:
New endorsed shopping program

NYSUT Member Benefits is excited to announce the endorsement of the member shopping program powered by PayCheck Direct for roll-out this spring 2014.

This program – part of the national retail powerhouse Bluestem Brands, Inc. family, which also includes Fingerhut and *Gettington.com* – allows individuals to purchase what they want now and pay interest-free over 12 months.

Through PayCheck Direct, NYSUT members & their families will have to access to more than 7,000 name-brand products such as appliances, televisions, computers, electronics, furniture, and much more.

Members would have the option of paying for any items they purchase interest-free over a 12-month period; bi-weekly payments would be made via automatic checking account withdrawals.

PayCheck Direct offers a 30-day in-home trial on many products; flexible return policy; no interest fees, credit checks, down payments, or

finance charges; and toll-free customer service representatives located in the U.S.

As part of this endorsement, PayCheck Direct will mail merchandise catalogs to the NYSUT membership four times per year.

NYSUT members are encouraged to shop and compare prices before making a purchase with this program and consider it as an alternative to using their credit card.

We are excited to be launching this new program in spring 2014! Join our MAP (Member Alert Program) Alert email service to be among the first to learn more about this program (visit the Member Benefits website for sign-up instructions).

You can also visit memberbenefits.nysut.org in the coming weeks for details on how to use this service or call **800-626-8101** with any questions.



For information about contractual endorsement arrangements with providers of endorsed programs, please contact NYSUT Member Benefits. Agency fee payers to NYSUT are eligible to participate in NYSUT Member Benefits-endorsed programs.

Mar./Apr. '14

Know Your Contract!

COMPENSATION:
Salary increases for the 2014 Contract Year

July 1, 2014 2% on base
(payable July 1 or Sept. 1)
\$250 to base, pro-rated for PT
(must be paid by Dec. 31; retro
to July 1 or Sept. 1)
Discretionary Awards,
not on base*
(must be paid by Dec. 31)

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

The UUP Newsletter welcomes, for consideration, articles submitted by members of the Stony Brook community. Persons who have material they wish to contribute should email their submissions to Stonybrookhsc@uupmail.org for consideration. Submissions are subject to the approval of the newsletter editor and the chapter president. They may be edited for brevity and/or clarity.

UUP Stony Brook HSC Chapter Contacts

President
Vice President (Academics)
Vice President (Professionals)
Secretary
Treasurer
Part Time Concerns Representative
Grievance Chair (Academics)
Grievance Chair (Professionals)
Communications:
Newsletter Editor
Webmasters

Administrative Assistant

Carol Gizzi
Stephen G. Smith
Carolyn Kube
Tina Manning
Charles Hines
Marge Bryan
Steve G. Smith
Bruce Kube
Chris Romano
Pamela White
Saskya (Sauer) Barresi
Maryann Russo
Sharon Hines

For the latest information be sure to check the UUP/HSC website: <http://www.uupsbhscsite.org/>