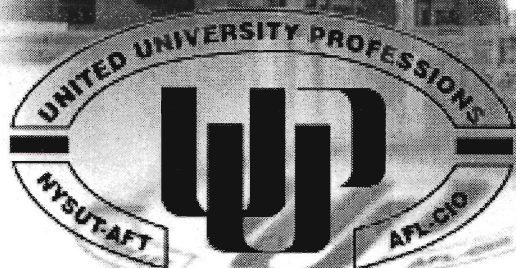


INSIGHT



NEWSLETTER OF THE STONY BROOK CHAPTER
OF UNITED UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONS

ISSUE # 03-1

February '03

UUP Dinner Dance



Friday

February 21, 2003

7 pm to 11 pm

@ the Port Jefferson Country Club

\$25 per person

Includes Dinner, Dancing
And chances for valuable prizes!

Come join the fun!
Form tables or mingle with
new associates.
All are welcome!

Send/Bring checks payable to UUP
to the UUP Office, 104 Old Chemistry,
Z = 3475

Limited Space—Reserve Early!
For more info, call ext. 26570

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SUNY Budget

At press time the Governor had not released the budget numbers for fiscal 2003-2004. Media reports that the Governor will be recommending significant service cuts. SUNY will be targeted for its share. Following the release of the budget numbers, a 30 day amendment period begins followed by legislative debate, and, eventually, agreement. The final budget numbers are the result of reconciliation of demands as expressed by the voters of this State.

UUP's main issue with respect to the budget is protecting our members' jobs. You, our members need to push for State support for the University. Letter-writing to legislator's will be a primary focus. Be on the lookout for announcements regarding the budget and visit frequently the Chapter web page for late breaking news:

<http://naples.cc.sunysb.edu/Admin/uup.nsf>

Stony Brook Day in Albany (see below) takes on particular significance this year.

Don't miss the bus!

Stony Brook Day

February 25, 2003

REGISTER NOW

and help make a difference in
your future and the future of
Stony Brook University!

Register online @

<http://naples.cc.sunysb.edu/Admin/albany.nsf>



Fitness Resolution

Do you like to have fun, make friends, save time, and reduce stress, look and feel better? Our new Stony Brook Campus Recreation Wellness Center is for you! STEP INTO 2003!

Noon time aerobics and body sculpting classes can help save precious evening time, or a social evening of unperceived exercise at a ballroom class or dance may be the jump start you're looking for in 2003. Noncredit fitness classes from step aerobics, yoga, mat science, body sculpting, pilates, kickboxing, tai chi, boxing, and lowimpact aerobics to ballroom dance classes are offered. To view the Wellness Center class schedule and facility information check out the Campus Recreation website at www.recreation.sunysb.edu

The new Wellness Center located on the third floor of the Student Activity Center Room 307 may be the perfect place to step into a healthy lifestyle. Amenities include locker rooms, strength training equipment, free weights, a Cybex Workout Circuit (a series of weight-lifting machines to meet all participants' workout needs), and cardiovascular equipment including treadmills, elliptical trainers, life fitness bikes, and concepts II rowers. Coming Soon!! Cardio Theater will be installed which patrons can plug their own headphones to receive audio from the eight TV stations playing in the center.

So Step into 2003! Check out our lunch time Body Sculpting and Step Circuit classes offered 5 days a week. Kick up the intensity of your workout and fine-tune your current workout routine with our new boxing class 2x a week or try Mix it Up!!

Submitted by Claire Ondrovic and Allison Milano

FREE Educator's Tax Guides Available

Educator's Tax Guides are once again available in the Union office. This guide specializes in publishing tax related materials for those in the field of education, including teachers, administrators, and all academic personnel. A useful handbook, valued at \$16.75, will make tax preparation much easier.

Drop by and pick up your free copy, while supplies last, at 104 Old Chemistry.

Defensive Driving

Next Session

Saturday, March 8, 2003

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

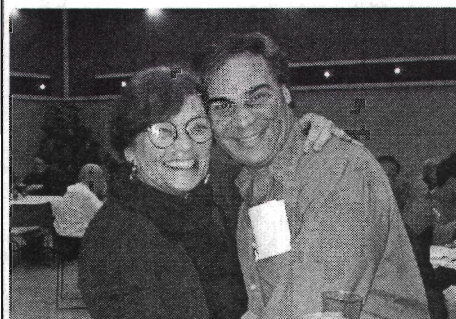
Only **\$25** per person

Stony Brook Union, Room 237

Call Ext. 2-6570

To reserve your seat!

Holiday Party



**A GREAT
TIME WAS
HAD BY
ALL!!!**



Photos by Corinne Burns

INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

This program is designed to support a variety of professional development activities by employees, both full and part time, in the UUP Bargaining Unit. The maximum amount that can be awarded to an applicant for an activity is \$1,000. (Note: up to \$4,000 can be awarded for release time for an individual project). The award period covers activities between September 1, 2002 and June 30, 2003. *Please note that the award period is shortened this year due to the expiration of the UUP contract next year.*

Applications and additional information are available in the chapter office and online at www.albany.net/~nysuup.

IMPORTANT: Applications must be submitted no later than Friday, March 28, 2003.

It is anticipated that campus committees will announce awards on or before May 1, 2003. Campus committees must set aside at least 15 percent of their allocation for awards to part-time employees. Expenses must be paid up front; receipts are then submitted for reimbursement up to the approved award amount.

Only one application and one project or activity will be accepted per UUP employee per award period.

UUP Holiday Gift

Please convey my thanks to all fellow UUPers for the \$140 donation to the Holiday Gift Program's Greater Port Jefferson Pantry. The much needed funds will be used to buy diapers and baby food. During the months of October and November we saw a marked increase in the numbers of families coming to the pantry for assistance. We provided over 650 turkey baskets for Thanksgiving. Sadly, many of the families were first timers. In most of these cases, the primary wage earner lost their jobs and the families were faced with escalating bills and little money to cover them. Hopefully, we will see an upturn in the economy during the coming months.

Once again, thanks again.
Maryann Bell
Coordinator, Holiday Gift Program

(Editor's Note: The \$140 donation came from a 50/50 drawing that UUP members participated in at the Holiday Party.)



Effective January 1, 2003, the UUP Benefit Trust Fund implemented a dental annual maximum of \$2,000 per person, per calendar year. Below are some facts regarding this decision:

The money used to pay dental, vision, life insurance and scholarship benefits through the UUP Benefit Trust Fund are negotiated in the UUP/NYS Bargaining Contract. New York State pays the UUP Benefit Trust Fund a fixed amount/contribution for each eligible UUPer. Our members do not contribute or pay any premium for these benefits. Even with the dental maximum, the UUP plan continues to be more generous than other State plans.

In the first three years of the current contract we used the fixed contribution amount to provide benefits no other union has: a Dependent Scholarship program, coverage for dental implants and laser eye surgery. Good coverage is popular. Dental costs have increased sharply and therefore the costs to the UUP Benefit Trust Fund have increased. Remember, the contribution amount was negotiated four years ago and UUP is now in the last year of our four-year contract. At the December UUP Benefit Trust Fund Trustee meeting, the financial consultants to the Fund recommended a benefit adjustment to avoid a large future deficit. After careful consideration and review the financial consultant recommended a dental maximum that, if in place last year, would have affected less than one half of one percent of those covered under the UUP Benefit Trust Fund.

Most dental plans include an annual maximum. The UUP Benefit Trust Fund dental maximum of \$2,000 is higher than that of the other State unions, whose maximum ranges from \$1,200 to \$1,800 per year. The UUP Benefit Trust Fund also provides a wider range of benefits, including a life insurance program, dependent scholarships, laser vision and tooth implants.

The dental maximum is per person. Each person in a family will have their own maximum. A person with orthodontia expenses should not be affected by the maximum. The most common Usual and Customary Rate (UCR) for Orthodontia is \$4,000. The UUP Benefit Trust Fund plan allows for 50 percent of the UCR, or \$2,000. The amount is paid over a two-year period, or \$1,000 per year.

In addition to the implementation of the dental maximum, the UUP Benefit Trust Fund is seeking a new carrier for the dental program. We believe this will result in better service for UUPers and will further curb expenditures. The bid process for this program is already underway and is expected to conclude in March. We are requesting carriers to submit a bid using the current benefit design.



Insight is published by the Stony Brook Chapter of United University Professions. Items for inclusion should be sent to the UUP Office, 104 Old Chemistry, Zip=3475. The opinions expressed in articles in the newsletter are those of the author or the Stony Brook Chapter of UUP and are not necessarily the opinions of United University Professions.

Teacher's Retirement System

Attention: Members of the NYS Teacher's Retirement System*

Kathleen Southerton, TRS delegate

I recently returned from the 82nd annual meeting of the NYS TRS delegates held in Albany. I am the delegate representing SUNY Stony Brook and Stony Brook HSC TRS members. To my knowledge, I am the first delegate that has represented these groups at the meeting. As a delegate, I will receive newsletters with the latest benefit and retirement system developments. If you would like me to share this information with you directly, please contact me with your contact information. You may reach me at 444-3783 or via e-mail: ksoutherton@notes.cc.sunysb.edu

I want to share some information with you regarding some services of the TRS. Here is a brief listing:

- Preretirement Planning Seminars: For TRS members 45 years and older and their spouses/companions. These daylong meetings are designed to help members prepare for retirement. Topics include: financial planning, taxes, legal affairs, adjusting to retirement, social security and retirement system benefits. You must make a reservation for these seminars. Fee: \$10 for members and \$5.00 for guests. Note: These seminars are very popular and fill up quickly. You are advised to make your reservations early.
- Video Conferences: Through the use of video technology, you meet with a staff member of TRS. The staff member can access your file and produce estimates of your retirement benefits and answer your questions.
- Personalized Benefit Profile: Each January you receive this comprehensive document. It includes summaries of your service credit, contribution and loan information, and your beneficiary designation along with current and future benefit projections.
- On-line benefits summary: The retirement system recently added a secure area to their website. Once registered, members can access personal information about their TRS benefits through this secure area at anytime day or night.

If you'd like further information on any of the above services or if you would like answers to the following questions, please contact the TRS directly, 1-800 348-7298, www.nystrs.org

Do you know the answers to these questions?

- What is a tier?
- What tier am I in?
- What is my death benefit through TRS?
- What is my disability benefit?
- Who is my beneficiary?
- How do I calculate my final average salary?
- How do I know if I am eligible for prior service credit?

* Although most UUPers chose the ORP (Optional Retirement Plan), we do have a few hundred UUP members at SUNY Stony Brook/ Stony Brook HSC who are in the Teacher's Retirement System (TRS).

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Vice Presidents		
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Ed Quinn	2-7275	equinn
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Grievance Chair		
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Treasurer		
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The Chapter Office is open Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 3 pm.
 The Executive Board meets on Alternate Tuesdays at 12 noon, and members are encouraged to attend.
 Please contact the Chapter Office for exact dates and times.



UUP Chapter Office
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