



INSIGHT

Newsletter of the Stony Brook Chapter of United University Professions

UUP @ STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY • WEST CAMPUS CHAPTER • SOUTHAMPTON

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END NOTES

by Arty Shertzer, UUP Chapter President

It's very hard to imagine that I am writing this column, the last one of the 2011-2012 school year! It seems that as we get older time goes faster, and working in an academic environment, it passes faster still! I thought it would be fitting to take a look at the year gone by and to make note of the contributions made that helped all of us in many ways.

Of course, our UUP Officers have done an incredible job! They collectively work to make sure that your rights are protected, that your brains are stimulated and last but not least, that you are well fed at all of our programs and events! But you know that, and it is the things they do above and beyond those important tasks that make them special people.

Did you know for instance that Charlie McAteer is one of the primary members of the Setauket Greenway Committee and that they have built a beautiful walking and biking path that cuts through Setauket and will soon go all the way to Port Jeff Station? Plus he is the Chair of the UUP Statewide Finance subcommittee on Fiscal Policy. Dan Kinney continues as our Academic Vice President, but in addition, he is the organist at the All Souls Episcopal Church in Stony Brook and he accompanies the choir at St. James Church in Setauket. He has been working on a research paper regarding the summer concerts once held in Stony Brook that featured notable artists such as Jan Peerce, Lauritz Melchior, Yehudi Menuhin, Count Basie, and Duke Ellington. Georges Fouron published a book last year and is working on another. Cheryl Hamilton is the UUP Statewide chair for Affirmative Action plus she is well regarded throughout New York State as an Affirmative Action leader. Diane Bello serves as treasurer of SUNYRA (the registrars state-wide association). Warren Randall is a renowned member of numerous Sherlock Holmes



Associations including the prestigious Baker Street Irregulars. Judy Wishnia remains a tireless advocate for retiree rights which include you and me as retirees to be! Ed Quinn oversees UUP's Benefits Office and maintains UUP's Social Conscience keeping us involved in workers rights world wide as well as Fair Trade coffee and chocolate and he is one of UUP's 3 NYSUT Board of Directors. Alissa Betz is a College of Arts and Sciences Senator and a member of the PEG Board. John Shackelford is an advocate for autistic children's rights and Linda Sandberg works with the Suffolk County Civilian Police Academy which provides advocacy and awareness for county residents and she is very active with the VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars).

Our Chairs have done an amazing job this year too, bringing you our very successful social events (Alissa and Colleen Wallohora) (mmmm Green Cactus Grill). They have through the work of Nancy Gaugler involved our chapter in supporting the Veterans Home, Food Drives, Stony Brook Multiple Sclerosis Camp for kids, Dress for Success and local food pantry's during Thanksgiving. Our Health and Safety committee offered classes on Suicide Awareness and Identity theft, (committee chair Nick Koridis also serves as UUP's State Wide Technology Committee Co-Chair). Women's Committee (Patty Dixon) brought us excellent programs on self defense and Women in the workplace.

Clearly I am very fortunate to have such amazing people to work with and you can be very proud of them too!

This year has seen unprecedented cooperation and collaboration between UUP and the Faculty Senate. We worked together on many issues including the calendar revision, budget concerns, shared services (please complete the

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Intellectual Property Rights and SUNY Employees

by Daniel Kinney, Vice President for Academics

The intellectual property rights of SUNY employees are protected under Article XI,

Title J of the Policies of the Board of Trustees, which is further strengthened by a memorandum of understanding that is included as Appendix A-23 in the UUP contract. Because this topic is of great interest to our members, UUP has prepared a set of questions and answers about intellectual property rights as a guide. Briefly put, the guide states that SUNY employees retain all rights to their intellectual property. Although the policy developed by the SUNY Board of Trustees uses the term "written works," Appendix A-23 clarifies this by defining the term to include literary, instructional, dramatic and musical works. SUNY employees own their works regardless of format and medium of storage. However, the policy also states that if an employee is hired or directed "within the scope of their employment to produce specific works subject to copyright the University shall have the right to publish such work without copyright or to copyright it in its own name." In this case, an employee knowingly gives up his or her rights. The US Copyright Law describes this kind of work as a "work made for hire." Most SUNY employees are not hired under these terms. For this to be within the scope of employment it would have to be assigned in a job description, letter of appointment, or another written document. Under SUNY's interpretation, "work for hire" would be work done by a SUNY employee that is arranged through contract, consultancy or purchase order, but not within the scope of employment as described above.

SUNY has specific policies for software, patents, and inventions. Software is dealt with in a separate policy.

SUNY's policy on patents and inventions is included under Article XI, Title J. of the Policies of the Board of Trustees. The policy on software has SUNY's definitions of the terms "scope of employ-

ment" and "work for hire." These definitions can help in understanding SUNY's policy on intellectual property rights. The policies on software, patents, and inventions have stipulations dealing with ownership and the distribution of royalties related to these products.

The West Campus/Southampton Chapter of UUP has sponsored Front Page Discussions on different aspects of this topic to inform our members of their rights. In 2008, Janet Nepkie, Distinguished Service Professor of Music and Music Industry at SUNY Oneonta, presented a Front Page Discussion entitled "Intellectual Property Rights in Academia." She teaches a course in music copyright at Oneonta and she chaired UUP's Technology in Higher Education Committee. Dr. Nepkie is also principal cellist with the Glimmerglass Opera and has performed and recorded with other ensembles. Her approach to the topic was from the point of view of a faculty member in the performing arts. In April, Paul Edelson, Dean of Stony Brook's School of Professional Development, gave a very informative Front Page Discussion entitled "Academic Freedom, Online Teaching, and the Internet: Truth and/or Consequences." He is an expert on distance learning and continuing education and has been involved with online teaching for many years. The School of Professional Development has been offering online classes since 1996 and today it has the largest graduate enrollment in online classes in the SUNY system. One important point that Dean Edelson made in his presentation is that materials developed for an online class are covered by the same policies as other materials. The different approaches to the topic and the subject specialties of our speakers show that the issue of intellectual property rights applies to all disciplines and across the curriculum. For SUNY employees it involves both copyright law and university policies.

The Library of Congress Web site is a good starting place for basic information on copyright www.copyright.gov/. UUP's Technology Issues Committee plans to update the guide on intellectual property rights. The current set of questions and answers is available at www.uupinfo.org/reports/reportpdf/qanda.pdf. This guide also includes SUNY's software policy. The Policies of the Board of Trustees are on both the SUNY Web site and UUP's Web site. †

Paul Edelson,
Dean of
Stony Brook's
School of
Professional
Development
during his
Front Page
lecture.



PHOTO BY NICK KONDIS



Think About Community and University Service

by Charlie McAteer, Vice President for Professionals

As your Chapter Vice President for Professionals, I would like to invite you to consider joining one of the many chapter UUP committees, University committees or

even look at some of the opportunities in your own community.

These will help expand your knowledge of these organizations (Union and University) and open up new contacts for exchanges in this great institution. The expansion into your community will also open up your horizon to endless possibilities as well as broaden your knowledge and allow you to meet many interesting people. It could be attending a civic association meeting, finding out what's happening in your library or like in my case volunteering with a Greenway project that has created a trail and will soon be expanding it from Setauket to Port Jefferson Station.

Part of your evaluation as a Professional includes University and Community Service. We help you accomplish this as a UUP member. The following is a list of UUP committees and contacts that you can check out this summer and see what they are about. Join us today.

- Affirmative Action, Cheryl Hamilton 2-7752
- Campus Environment, Malcolm Bowman 2-8669
- Community Service, Nancy Gaugler 2-6241
- Health & Safety, Nick Koridis 2-6447
- Membership, Linda Sandberg 2-7789
- New Priorities, Mike Zweig 2-7536
- Newsletter/web design, Theresa Kist 2-4313
- Outreach (legislative), Charlie McAteer 2-6445
- Retirees, Judy Wishnia, judith.wishnia@stonybrook.edu
- Social Committee, Alissa Betz 2-7590,
Linda Sandberg 2-7789
- Women's Rights & Concerns,
Yumi Yoshino-Hempel 2-6443

Consider joining your fellow UUP Long Island Professionals on Sat. June 9th from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm in the Huntington Hilton for a workshop/forum for Professionals. It's a chance to network with Professionals like yourself from the four SUNY campuses Long Island serves.

As always please say something if you see something. Together we can work to make a difference, helping each other at Stony Brook University. Enjoy your summer, you have well earned it! +

Major Contract Items Remain Unresolved (updated May 8, 2012)

After lengthy Negotiations Team meetings May 2-3, UUP met with state negotiators Friday, May 4.

The UUP Team presented a comprehensive response to the state's last proposal, which was given to the union during an April 12 negotiations session.

The May 4 discussion focused on major monetary items, but no final decisions were made. UUP expects to receive a full response from the state at a negotiations session scheduled for May 16.

UUP and the state have reached mutual understanding on many contract items, but all items remain to be finalized in the context of an overall agreement.

Major monetary issues remain unresolved at this time.

In addition to May 16, negotiations sessions are scheduled during the last two weeks of May.

Stay informed

As negotiations proceed, UUP members will be kept informed through regular website postings, mailings from President Phil Smith, and articles in The Voice. Periodic updates and other information will be sent to chapter presidents for distribution via chapter websites, newsletters, fliers, and meetings.

Members are encouraged to periodically check the UUP website (www.uupinfo.org) for postings at the "2011 Negotiations Information" link under Latest Information on the right hand side of the home page. Feel free to contact UUP Chief Negotiator Jamie Dangler at contract@uupmail.org for further information or to submit questions or comments.

Big Visions: A telescope for New York State Astronomers

by Frederick M. Walter, Professor of Astronomy

Astronomy is the only one of the sciences with its own Muse (Ourania). For millennia people of all walks of life have looked up at the stars and planets and pondered their place in the universe, in addition to using the stars for such utilitarian purposes as timekeeping and navigation. Astronomy has, and continues to, inspire us, as well as to drive technological developments.

Today astronomy is big business. There are about 7000 professional astronomers in the US, doing research, teaching, and technology development.



Stars in the Universe.



The states of Hawaii, California, Arizona, and Texas support major astronomical observatories within their borders. Astronomers travel worldwide to use state-of-the-art telescopes and instrumentation, on the ground, in the air, and in space. The NSF budget for Astronomical Sciences is about \$240M annually; NASA spends about \$2.3 billion annually on astrophysics and planetary sciences. This money is not wasted - it pays salaries of scientists and engineers; it pays for

the research and development of cutting edge technologies. Although our scientific quests may seem esoteric, the equipment we need to answer them drives technology development in optics, detectors & sensors, design of lightweight structures, as well as computing algorithms.

The New York Astronomical Corporation (NYAC) was founded in 1968 for the purpose of bringing a telescope to the astronomers of New York state. While those dreams fell through, NYAC has remained in the shadows, acting through the Astronomical Society of New York (ASNY), an association of astronomers in 27 colleges, universities, and educational institutions in New York state, to further astronomical education. The

membership of NYAC/ASNY includes 6 PhD granting institutions (Stony Brook, Columbia, RPI, RIT, Cornell, and the University of Rochester), and 17 other institutions, including 2 SUNY schools, 1 CUNY school, and one Community College.

NYAC has recently resurrected the notion of a telescope for New York state astronomers. The motivation is much like it was in 1968:

astronomers at New York state institutions are disadvantaged relative to those in other states because we do not have access to proprietary, state-supported, modern telescope facilities. The failure of Congress to adequately fund NASA and the National Science Foundation are raising the spectre of the mothballing of the national facilities, which would leave us high and dry.

Two years ago NYAC polled its members about what types of an astronomical facility would be most useful to the astronomers of New York. We called for white papers defining telescope concepts. The three proposals were then reviewed by a panel of prominent astronomers (include non-NYers) chaired by Carl Hayden. ASNY has decided to go ahead with the top-ranked concept, for a 12.5 meter diameter optical/IR telescope to be built, but not located, in New York state. This is ATNY - an Astronomical Telescope for the state of New York.

This telescope, to be located at an excellent astronomical site in either Chile or Hawaii, will cost about \$120 million over 10 years to construct. While the advantages to the astronomers are obvious, a major undertaking like this is beneficial to the state of New York as a whole. We are talking to New York industries to come in as partners, to help us design and build the telescope using cutting-edge designs and technologies. Upstate industries such as Corning, with expertise in casting astronomical mirrors, and ITTVis/Exelis, with expertise in detectors, and well as many smaller high tech companies, can and will benefit. We estimate that this project will create about 600 man-years of high paid, high-tech jobs in New York state over the 10 years of construction.

If we can get started within 2 years, this is likely to be the largest optical telescope on the planet for at least 5 years.

☞ continued on next page

Following completion, the telescope will be remotely operated from control rooms spread throughout the state of New York. We envision not just a single large telescope, but a suite of smaller telescopes - the New York State Observatory (NYSO) - that can be used by astronomers of all types in the state, from PhD researchers studying the most distant objects in the universe, to college professors teaching undergraduates the excitement of scientific discovery, to public outreach for all New Yorkers.

We are just getting started. The first step is to undertake a detailed design of the telescope, to define the technological challenges and to accurately estimate the cost. This study will take 1-2 years and will require \$1-2 million. The money will be subcontracted to New York state corporations and industries who will use their expertise to generate the detailed plans. At the same time we will need to determine how to raise about \$120 million from non-federal sources. We will approach the New York state government. This is a project that will benefit all New Yorkers. New York is a wealthy state: if the states of Arizona, Texas, California, and Hawaii can support their own observatories, why can't we? We will seek support from the colleges and universities that will benefit from having the telescope. This is a public-private partnership - astronomers do research at all kinds of institutions. And we will seek philanthropy. There is a tradition of wealthy men on the west coast supporting astronomy; we have our own wealth here.

This is a wining situation for all involved, from New York state astronomers to local businesses and industry and on down to the students who will be able to use the facilities. We would hope that UUP will support us in this visionary quest. †

The Keck Observatory in Mauna Kea Hawaii is the world's largest telescope. Its twin observatories can work together or separately, and since its inception it has enabled astronomers to closely observe the rings of Uranus, identify volatile compounds in comets within our solar system, and even discover planets beyond our own solar system. The ATNY is a scaled up version of a Keck telescope and will have 50% more light gathering capability.



6 UUP Calendar of Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
may 2012						
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Mother's Day						
20/27	21/28	22/29	23/30	24/31	25	26
	28 Memorial Day					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
june 2012					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Father's Day			First Day of Summer			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

To R.S.V.P. to any of the meetings or workshops go to www.uupsbu.org

Benefit Trust Fund

by Edward Quinn

The UUP Benefit Trust Fund provides Vision and Dental Coverage and Life Insurance.

The vision and dental coverage is at no extra cost to the member and provides coverage through Davis Vision and Delta Dental. The Life Insurance coverage is provided by UNUM which includes a travel benefit too.

The UUP Member Services Fund provides Discounted Services, Vision and Dental benefits that can be purchased by UUP members. Members can get discount prices from companies such as BJs, Apple, Goodyear, Liberty Mutual and many more.

The dental and vision programs through Member Services may be purchased by retirees and employees who do not qualify for health benefits. This includes faculty members who only teach one course.

For more information concerning these benefits and programs please call the UUP Benefit Trust Fund at 800-887-3863. Or visit the web site at www.uupinfo.org/benefits/index.php. For a copy of your benefits booklet please go to uupinfo.org/benefits/benefits.pdf.

Identity Theft Tips

This past April, UUP's Committee on Health and Safety gave a very successful workshop on Identity Theft. For those who may have missed it, here are Nick Koridis's top 5 safety tips:

- Shred all mail from credit cards, etc.. papers/envelopes that may have your name and address offering/selling you stuff.
- Use one credit card for internet purchases ONLY and have a limit lower than what they offer you.
- Phishing techniques can also include many ways as well as swipe cards. Especially at restaurants where they take your card from the dining table to a cash register. On the way to the register, staff can have a swipe device or smart phone that can snatch your information and credit card number. Some places offer swipe devices and bring them to your table which you may only see at high end restaurants.
- Take your key card access to your room card leaving a hotel, don't leave it behind and don't return it to the desk at sign-out. All your information is on that card including your name, address, and credit card information.
- Don't leave mail in your box overnight. There are opportunities that people surfing street mail boxes know when your credit card bill comes once a month.

For more information, visit: www.consumer.gov/idtheft or www.oag.state.ny.us/consumer/tips/identity_theft.html

NICK KORIDIS



Recognition Well-Deserved!

by Nancy Gaugler, UUP CSC Chair



Heidi Ciolfi and Pamela Wolfskill baking bread to support the National Pediatric MS Center.

Heidi and many loaves of bread!

Bee Farina and her beautiful daughter Meghan.

Bee Farina after having her head shaved.

In past issues of Insight I have written about The Power of One becoming The Power of Many and how each of us coming together can reach goals that we may not be able to reach on our own. However, as powerful as this joint effort can be sometimes there are individuals who deserve recognition on their own.

Two such individuals come to mind this year. The first is Heidi Ciolfi, a UUP Community Services Committee member, who again spearheaded efforts this March to raise funds for MS Awareness Day. Proceeds benefited the National Pediatric MS Center at SBUMC's Summer Camp for children with Multiple Sclerosis. The funds that were raised will help pay for transportation costs of children who otherwise could not afford to attend. Together with the Little Portion Friary's master baker/UUP member Ed O'Connell, fellow UUP Community Services Committee member Pamela Wolfskill, and Helmut Norpoth (UUP Academic Delegate), Heidi baked and sold 205 loaves of bread. These bakers spent 2 days at Little Portion Friary in Mt. Sinai to make several different types of bread dough, shape them into loaves, bake them, cool and wrap them and this was all before they distributed them! Great effort by all! When all loaves were distributed and contributions tallied, Heidi was able to raise \$1,109 which will be used to transport several children to camp this summer. Heidi again worked tirelessly for a cause close to her heart and deserves kudos for the gift that she has given to some well-deserving children!

The second individual is Bee Farina. Bee came to me a little over a year ago as a mother with a simple idea. She wanted to try to help others and to honor the memory of her daughter, Meghan Farina, who passed away 7/13/08 from Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DPG), a malignant tumor of the brain stem. She had an idea

but wasn't sure how to proceed. The UUP Community Services Committee helped to get the word out and individuals donated to both the Stony Brook L.I. Children's Hospital and to the Cristian Rivera Foundation. This March, Bee was a participant in the Battle of the Undergraduate Colleges "Battle Against Cancer" event to benefit St. Baldrick's Foundation. She had her head shaved as well as helped to raise funds, www.stbaldricks.org/participants/mypage/502547/2012.

St. Baldrick's Foundation is a volunteer-driven charity committed to funding the most promising research to find cures for childhood cancers and to give survivors long and healthy lives. Again the UUP CSC supported these efforts to get the word out to the Stony Brook University community and Bee was able to raise \$4000 as of March 22ND. These funds will be used for childhood cancer research grants. Kudos to Bee for her efforts to give some other family of a child with DIPG and other forms of cancer hope!

I also want to give recognition to all of the UUP members that I have not mentioned who each contribute in big or small ways so that we may all be the better for these efforts! We shine both individually and together anytime that we come together for the good of all!

Thank you for being you! ✚



END NOTES

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by Arty Shertzer, UUP Chapter President

Shared Services Survey: <http://uupinfo.org/cgi-bin/rws5.pl?FORM=StonyBrookSurvey>) as well as mutual participation by both groups at the senate and UUP meetings and events. We look forward to continuing this very productive alliance and thanks go to Fred Walter, Michael Schwartz and Norm Goodman for their work and effort in this regard.

During the past year we have developed meaningful relationships with various members of the Senior Administration which has enabled us to address your issues and concerns in a professional and non-confrontational manner. These people include Barbara Chernow, Lynn Johnson, Tonja Johnson, Yacov Shamash, Alan Inkles, Nancy Squires, and while we sometimes disagree, the dialog and trust we have developed is invaluable to you and our campus. Our work both here and in Albany has been equally as productive, primarily through our valuable relationships with Senator LaValle, Senator Flanagan, Senator Zeldin and Assemblymen Engelbright and Thiele. Having the ability to call and meet regularly with these gentlemen has afforded us the ability to bring our message to Albany and to be informed and educated by them. We are most fortunate to have them working for us and Stony Brook. But, much remains to be done.

This summer we will be planning out the coming year. We will use the time to discuss several initiatives we have proposed and we will continue to serve as a resource for you and to advise and represent you as issues and problems arise. Please also keep in mind that negotiations are continuing, and we will keep you informed of any developments via the website and the mail. Please do think about joining us...we welcome your ideas and your help! Please do have a safe and fun summer!+-



PHOTO BY NICK KORIDIS

Pre-retirement Workshop, April 2012



PHOTO BY NICK KORIDIS

Identity Theft Workshop, April 2012



The Delegate Assembly (DA) this past April 2012



PHOTO BY NICK KORIDIS

Attention Locals: Don't miss out on a special prize drawing!

We know that your Local Association's newsletter is a great vehicle to find out what is going on in your region, meet the members of your local and learn about exciting opportunities available to you.

Along those lines, we have a great opportunity for you! NYSUT Member Benefits has launched a special prize drawing for all NYSUT members in an effort to encourage greater participation in our free MAP Alert email service.

MAP Alerts are sent approximately once every three weeks to your email inbox and contain information about new endorsed Member Benefits programs, changes to current programs and reminders about existing programs. And, you have our word that you will not be bombarded with email messages.

You will receive one entry into the drawing for every MAP Alert that you open and read before August 15. Winners will be announced on August 16 on the Member Benefits website!



If you are not already a MAP member, visit memberbenefits.nysut.org and click on the MAP graphic in the upper right hand corner of our homepage to join this free service.

Please note that you must be a NYSUT member to be eligible to win any of the prizes in this contest. Only one prize per winner. Current or retired NYSUT employees, NYSUT Member Benefits vendors, or their family members are not eligible to win.



All current and new MAP members who open at least one MAP Alert before August 15, 2012 are eligible to win the following prizes:

Grand Prize Bose Home Theater System	First Prize iPad	Second Prize Kindle Fire	Third Prize Bose Noise-Canceling Headphones	Fourth Prize \$50 Powell's Books Gift Card
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For more information about this drawing, call **800-626-8101** or visit the Member Benefits website at memberbenefits.nysut.org.

For information about programs or 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.



Redefined “Spring Break”

by Shannon Jayne, Assistant Director for Student Life & Leadership

As a student affairs administrator, “spring break” typically means a week of deafening silence while catching up on work and thinking of at least four different ways to answer my students’ inevitable questions about what I did during the week. “I don’t get a spring break.” “Spring break, what’s that?” “I’m too old for Cancun.” “And risk missing the corn and green chili bisque in the SAC cafeteria?” But, this year, spring break meant so much more.

The evening of Sunday, May 22, 2011 was the graduation ceremony for Joplin High School. It was a typical evening for Joplin resident, Shannen, as she mowed the lawn with her husband while her daughter played at a friend’s house. It started out as a typical Sunday evening for most people in Joplin. It ended as the evening when an EF5 tornado touched ground, destroying almost one-third of the city and taking the lives of over 160 people.

On Monday, May 23, 2011 my alarm clock went off for the third time; I slowly reached for the remote control and turned on the news. I had never heard of Joplin, Missouri before that morning, but I quickly found myself in tears as I watched a recording of a veteran Weather Channel storm chaser break down on national television while standing in the mist of what used to be a mid-western neighborhood. In the background, I could see what remained of a hospital as large as Stony Brook Medical Center. People were screaming, fires were burning, and my television suddenly developed the ability to project earth shattering emotion into a room 1,300 miles from the scene on the screen.

This year, I was one of 4 trip advisors* for the Alternative Spring Break Outreach (ASBO), and one of two trip advisors to travel to Joplin, Missouri. ASBO is a student-run community service organization whose mission is to promote critical thinking, social action, and civic engagement for a lifetime by combining education, reflection, and direct service. The official purpose of the trip advisors is to handle

any emergencies that might occur, and most importantly, to help the students reflect on their experiences and process the new information that they are learning. In actuality, my co-trip advisor and I spent the week of spring break offering guidance to five remarkable students from the organization’s executive board; building relationships with 42 caring, talented, and altruistic Stony Brook undergraduates; tackling the challenges of traveling with a large group to an unfamiliar location; working with a grassroots non-profit organization; joining students on demanding work assignments; learning about the social, political, and environmental challenges of disaster relief; hearing the heart-wrenching personal stories of Joplin residents; and facilitating and participating in intense 2-hour long reflections about what we were learning both as individuals and as a group.

For me, spring break was more than 25 hour bus rides, building vegetable gardens for elementary school students, meeting an engineering genius who creates storm shelters from recycled materials, and spending hours in ninety degree weather clearing debris from lots where houses once stood. It was working with 42 amazing individuals to make differences, both small and large, in the lives of Joplin residents. It was one of the best and most memorable experiences I have had as a member of Stony Brook University.

I had never heard of Joplin, Missouri before the morning of Monday, May 23, 2011; after this spring break, I will never forget it.

*ASBO Advisors & Trip Locations:

Christine Noonan & Regina Marshall (Birmingham & Tuscaloosa Alabama)

Joan Collier & Shannon Jayne (Joplin, Missouri)

Alternative Spring Break Outreach students from the Joplin, Missouri trip pose in front of the Relief Spark, Inc. volunteer lodging site.



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The Chapter office is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The Executive Board meets on the third Tuesday of the month at noon. All members are encouraged to attend. Please contact the Chapter office for exact meeting date and location. INSIGHT is published by the Stony Brook Chapter of United University Professions. Items for inclusion should be sent to the UUP office - S-5415 Melville Library, Stony Brook, NY 11794-3388 or email theresa.kist@stonybrook.edu.

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