



INSIGHT

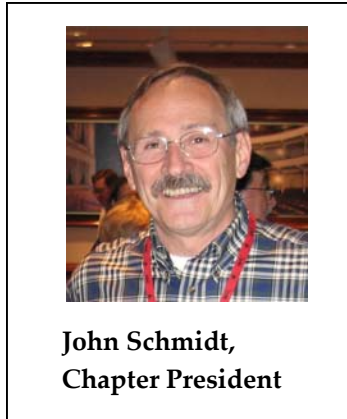
VOLUME 5
January 2009
UUP LOCAL 2190

Newsletter of the **Stony Brook West Campus Chapter** of United University Professions

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WELCOME CHANGE



**John Schmidt,
Chapter President**

Happy New Year to all! 2009 will be a year of dramatic change at many levels. We will have a new U.S. President with all of the hope and promise that change can possibly bring. I cling optimistically that America can re-insert itself to a place of respect among the countries of the world.

New York will have a new junior senator and I hope that, in concert with the new administration, he or she will enable a new agenda for our State and Country. I hope that our new SUNY Chancellor recognizes the importance of SUNY and its role in public higher education. We will have a new University President and I hope he or she will share the same objectives and goals as the new Chancellor. Along with a new campus President, we can expect to see a host of new Senior staff appointments.

Vigilance and communication are especially important in these times.

In 2009, you will have a new UUP Chapter President. Ten years is a long time to serve and the baton needs to be passed, in accordance with Chapter By-laws regarding term limits. New ideas and initiatives will rejuvenate our chapter.

On or about January 9, a **Call for Nominations** goes out to all "certified" members of the Chapter. (see page 8 for deadlines). Nominations will be requested for the positions of President, Vice President for Academics, Vice President for Professionals, Secretary, Treasurer, Part-time Concerns and for each of 14 Academic delegate seats and 15 Professional delegate seats. Self-nominations are welcomed. **There is no greater opportunity to help shape Chapter and UUP policies and programs than involvement in an elected position.** Volunteers for department representative roles are always welcome and not subject to election procedures/guidelines.

I wish all of you a productive and involved semester!

In solidarity,

John P. Schmidt



HIGHLIGHT ON PART-TIME FACULTY MEMBERS

Submitted by Sal Lentini

For the first time, the members of the part time concerns committee will meet independently, January 9th and 10th in Albany to discuss issues, obstacles and to develop a strategic plan. As a member of this state UUP committee, I acknowledge this opportunity with great optimism. I have often wondered how these prodigies, known as part time faculty function as well as they do. Most part time faculty have little or no access to a phone, computer, photo copier, fax machines, or defined office space and hours. A great number of us descend upon our campus, after 5:00 p.m. as nomads, passing locked doors and darkened offices; carting our materials from our cars to the classroom. Quantum numbers of part-time faculty teach two or more classes per semester, in addition to teaching at other campuses.

Salaries are limited and most assignments are probational or temporary placement. Our voices are seldom, if ever, heard or recognized.

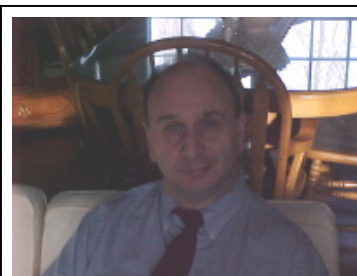
The part-time faculty member represent a significant meaningful segment of our campus and have concerns that need to be addressed. Too often, fear of reprisal has silenced many, and the silence grows deeper. **CHANGE CAN HAPPEN.** Please let us know your concerns.

Sal Lentini:
s.lentini@stonybrook.edu or

Warren Randall:
w.randall@stonybrook.edu

I have often crossed the paths of many fine educators over my 38 years teaching. While conducting a superintendent's conference workshop at So. Country Schools, I had the pleasure of speaking with Dr. Peter Pece, and was amazed by his knowledge of music and brain neurological functions. I encouraged him to expand his audience by applying for a teaching position at SBU and in 2004, SPD gained a great educator. More importantly the students have gained a *true* educator.

Pete received his doctorate in the field of neuromusicology where he has examines how the brain processes music, memory, language and the effects of brain trauma has upon their processes. Pete has been a teacher and administrator since 1975, performed at Lincoln Center, as well as having arranged and performed revues for former President Bush, and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.



Dr. Peter A. Pece
Instructor, School of
Professional Development

When I asked Pete if he ever thought of retiring, he responded, "I never want to stop learning, growing, and sharing the knowl-

edge I have acquired with other people. I still look forward to meeting new students each semester and love exploring the growth for them and myself."



Dr. Judi Weissman
Instructor, School of
Professional Development

Teaching may be referred to as a process of imparting knowledge, through a variety of techniques, to people who want to improve themselves. To teach such an audience, one must possess the ability of convincing these said people that hard work adds quality to their lives.

Judi Weissman is an educator that presents education as a process in empowering her students to discover that learning adds meaning and purpose to life. Judi started at SBU recently and shared with me these insightful words that she experienced when she started her first semester at SBU; *experienced, curious, and excited*. It was refreshing to hear and know, after 32 years of teaching high school English at Brentwood Public Schools, that Judi has not lessened her dedication to her true calling—a master teacher.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR PROFESSIONALS

I'd like to begin my message by wishing you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year. I know that we have all read and heard about the dismal state of our State, and I would be negligent at best, irresponsible at worst if I tried to say that things were not as bad as we think. What I will say is that we need to all do a few things so we can get through the upcoming months and year and remain a cohesive, productive and functioning campus.

First of all, lets look at some good news. With the arrival of 2009, all full-time members of our bargaining unit will see a sizable increase in location pay, as it will raise to \$3,025!

Secondly, for those of us in the TIAA-CREF retirement program for 10 or more years, this coming April will see an additional percentage in our check as the ORP bill begins year two. Ultimately, all TIAA-Cref participants over 10 years will make no payment to the retirement system.

Third, as of July 1, we will all receive our 3% increase as per the contract.

Combined with our a benefit package that rivals any Higher Education Union in the United States, we have much to be thankful for and much to look forward to.

That being said, we must remain vigilant as to the State budget and to the requests of this Union to send letters, faxes and make visits and calls to our representatives as we ask you to do. We believe that

SUNY is the Solution and that it is the best chance for NYS to thrive. We create taxpayers. Of the thousands of students that graduate from SUNY every year, 80% of them remain in New York, filling many higher paying jobs which in turn generate huge amounts of new tax revenue for our state.

Another thing we must do is to keep an eye on what is going on here at Stony Brook. The Police use a phrase, "if you see something, say something" I like that concept as it means we are all responsible for each others safety and well being. I would expand that concept to include anything that you see in terms of your colleagues being non renewed, if you see classes being cut or adjuncts being replaced by graduate students, please let us know.

I understand that our Administration is truly attempting to handle an awful crisis, not created by any of us. That being said, inevitably, the solutions to the crisis will come from our ranks, and not theirs. We at UUP will do everything we can to save jobs, to find solutions and to advocate for the SUNY system we have all dedicated our working lives to.

I urge you to consider yourselves as part of that effort. What we do here and now, who remains and who leaves, and most importantly, how that process transpires, will affect our campus for years to come.

Arty Shertzer

V.P. for Professionals

FOCUS ON SOLIDARITY

Submitted by Pam Wolfskill

On January 10, I was honored to attend the conference on the Labor Campaign for Single-Payer Healthcare in St. Louis. Along with other union advocates, the conference was organized to make labor a united voice on health care reform.

More than 600 labor organizations have already endorsed Rep. John Conyers's single-payer bill, HR 676, including 20 national unions, 119 central labor councils, and 39 AFL-CIO state federations. HR 676 currently has 93 co-sponsors in the House.

The Labor Campaign for Single-Payer Healthcare has incredible support at the grassroots of the labor movement, and it's sophisticated support. A group of nearly 4,000 of the nation's most prominent physicians support the bill and view it as an effective mechanism for controlling skyrocketing health costs while covering all 42 million uninsured Americans. The bill also restores free choice of physician to patients and provides comprehensive prescription drug coverage.

More information can be found at www.laborforsinglepayer.org.

"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane. "

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

UPCOMING EVENTS

UUP ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

Saturday, March 14

At the Meadow Club

(Rt. 112, Port Jeff Sta.)

SAVE THE DATE!



UUP HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

March 11, Wed., 12:00 -1:00 p.m.

Location: Wang Center, Room 301

INTRODUCTION TO LABYRINTH

WALKING AS A FORM OF MEDITATION

Ed O'Connell, Presenter

Everything you wanted to know about Labyrinths but were afraid to ask (hint—not a maze).

March 11, Wed., 12:00 -1:00 p.m.

Location: Wang Center, Room 301

HUMOR KEEPS YOU HEALTHY

Donna Buehler, EAP, Presenter

Workshop objectives are: 1. To laugh and reduce stress; 2. To complete a humor evaluation; 3. To define humor and its functions; 4. To discuss humor and the workplace; 5. To understand the importance of humor in living a balanced life

April 8, Wed., 12 -1:00 p.m.

Location: WSCC, 118 Old Chemistry

THE IMPORTANCE OF FIRE SAFETY AT HOME AND AT WORK

Presenter John Gallo – Live demos with Fire Extinguishers, hand outs, do's and don'ts plus give aways.

Defensive Driving Program for UUP Members

A NYSUT sponsored Defensive Driving program is being offered on Tuesday and Thursday, April 7 & 9, 2009 from 6:00PM to 9:00PM in the Wang Center Room 201, for all UUP employees and their immediate family members. Cost is \$30 per person, payable in advance.

Contact Corinne Burns at Ext. 2-6570 or cmburns@notes.cc.sunysb.edu for more information.

UUP FRONT PAGE DISCUSSION

Unexpected Events and the End of Empire:

9 A.D. and 9/11

Presenter: Aaron W. Godfrey,

Dept. of European Languages,

Date: Thursday, February 12, 2009, 4:00 p.m.

Location: Wang Center Room 201

Co-sponsored by the Suffolk Classical Society

Bill Godfrey is the author of *Introducing Latin* and *Medieval Mosaic: A Book of Medieval Latin Readings*, as well as numerous scholarly articles and reviews.

Border Witnesses

Date: Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Time: 12:30 p.m. –1:30 p.m.

Location: Soc. Behav. Science Bldg N702

LUNCH PROVIDED

(RSVP 2-6570—seating limited)

Join Ed Quinn and Pam Wolfskill for a thoughtful account (with photos) of their trip between El Paso and Ciudad Juarez with the NYS Labor-Religion Coalition.

UUP PROFESSIONALS

AN AGENDA FOR EXCELLENCE

UPCOMING LUNCH TIME

PROGRAMS

Look for the flier in campus mail

March 18th—Email Etiquette Tips

March 25th—Leadership w/ Dean Edelson

April 15th—Dealing with Change

April 30th— Part Two of Bullying Workshop

Contact Arty Shertzer at 2-8949

for more information.



**UUP ANNUAL
HOLIDAY PARTY—
DECEMBER 12, 2008
UNIVERSITY CAFE**



2008 DISCRETIONARY SALARY INCREASES

The 2008 Discretionary Salary Increases to members of the UUP Bargaining unit were awarded in December 2008. A complete roster is available for viewing in the Chapter Office (Rm. 104 Old Chemistry) during business hours. In the meantime, here is some summary data:

855	Professionals	shared	\$ 719,256	equal to 49% of the total \$\$\$'s awarded
606	Academics	shared	\$ 761,524	equal to 51% of the total \$\$\$'s awarded

1,461			\$ 1,480,780	

Salary	# Members	Amount shared	Average
>100K	349	\$508,770	\$1,458
>\$74K and <\$100K	336	\$397,707	\$1,184
>\$50K and <\$75K	440	\$372,547	\$847
>\$30K and <\$50K	290	\$178,557	\$616
<\$30K	46	\$23,199	\$505

Average increase for Professionals was \$ 841
 Average increase for Academics was \$ 1,257
 1,369 Full-time members and 92 Part-time members received awards
 The 92 Part-time recipients were 49 Professionals and 43 Academics

POLITICAL ACTION

The United States Senate House is expected to vote soon on the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and the Paycheck Fairness Act - key bills that would give women the tools they need to challenge pay discrimination. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the bills the second week in January.

Please contact your Senator today with a clear message:

It's time to sign, seal and deliver pay equity for all women by passing fair pay legislation immediately,



so that President-Elect Obama can sign it into law during his first few days in office.

You can e-mail your lawmakers, or call the Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121. Ask the operator to connect you to your Senators and Representative. When you're connected to their offices, tell the person who answers the phone:

1. I am a constituent. My name is _____.
 2. I urge you to vote in favor of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and the Paycheck Fairness Act, and to oppose any weakening amendments and any motions to recommit.
 3. Thank you for supporting fair pay for women.
- For an overview of progress so far in the movement for fair pay, please visit

[http://www.nwlc.org/fairpay/prehousevote010609.html#background.](http://www.nwlc.org/fairpay/prehousevote010609.html#background)

UUP COMMITTEE UPDATES

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE CHAIR

Greetings and Happy New Year. The committee is real excited about our health and safety survey and programs that are planned for the Spring semester. In late January we will launch a comprehensive health and safety survey (through our web page) for our committee to review, access priorities and make action recommendations to the UUP Executive Board. In addition, our **Lunch and Learn** programs will continue to build on and broaden themes that were introduced in the Fall semester. A mix of health and safety topics (i.e. guided meditation, wellness "how to" programs, Fire Safety and Emergency Preparedness) will be covered.

Last touch: I am a great believer in the power of positive thinking (i.e. thoughts are things) so I was really impressed when I read these among "energy tips" by America's Energy Coach - Jon Gordon.

I encourage all UUP members to pick one and try it today! Let me know what happens.

Ed O'Connell
UUP Health & Safety
Committee Chair

TIPS FOR MAKING 2009 A POSITIVE YEAR

1. Take a 10-30 minute "Thank you" walk every day. While you walk practice gratitude. It is the ultimate anti-depressant.
2. Sit in silence for at least 10 minutes each day. Buy a lock if you have to.

3. Buy a TIVO, tape your late night shows and get more sleep - it's the ultimate energizer.

4. When you wake up in the morning complete the following statement: My purpose is to _____ today.

5. Live with the 3 E's. Energy, Enthusiasm, Empathy.

6. Read more books than you did in 2008.

7. Make time to practice meditation, yoga, tai chi, qigong and prayer. They provide us with daily fuel for our busy lives.

8. Do the "one thing" you have always wanted to do.

9. Engage in daily random acts of kindness.

10. Enjoy the ride. You only have one ride through life so make the most of it and enjoy it.

U.S. LABOR AGAINST THE WAR (USLAW)

Randi Weingarten, president of AFT, will meet next month with national leaders of U.S. Labor Against the War to work out areas of cooperation in the anti-war movement, following up on discussions that began at the 2008 AFT national convention in Chicago. Stony Brook UUP member Michael Zweig, UUP's representative to the USLAW National Steering Committee, will participate in the meeting with Weingarten.

If you would like to participate in building the labor anti-war movement in UUP and AFT,

please join us on Friday, February 20 at 10 a.m. for coffee and cake at Starbucks, second floor of the Stony Brook Union. We'll discuss plans for the meeting with Randi Weingarten, and local anti-war activity on campus for the spring semester., specifically February's Iraq Moratorium Day (the third Friday of every month).

In the past couple of years, the Stony Brook chapter's Labor Against the War committee has organized forums, film showings, and debates about U.S. involvement in Iraq and worked with the Long

Island Federation of Labor and SEIU to host an Island-wide forum. There's still lots to do to grow the labor anti-war movement as the Obama years begin.

For information on U.S. Labor Against the War, including its mission statement and the 2009 action plan adopted at the recent National Leadership Council, go to <uslaboragainstar.org>.

For building the work, **come to the campus Starbucks on February 20 at 10 a.m.**

Michael Zweig
USLAW Committee Chair

Chapter Election Schedule (dates approximate):

- 1-1-09** Certification date for Chapter Elections
(i.e. confirmation of bona fide Chapter **Members** eligible to vote)
- 1-5-09** Notice of election and Call for Nominations
2-4-09 Chapter Nominations close
2-13-09 Chapter Nomination lists mailed to Chapter Presidents

- 3-12-09** Chapter Ballots mailed
4-15-09 Chapter Ballots Due
4-15-9 to 4-18-09 Chapter Ballots counted (results will be sent to Chapter Presidents asap)
6-19-09 Run-off Ballots mailed (if necessary)
7-22-09 Run-off Ballots due (if necessary)

Who's Who at UUP

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The Chapter Office is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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 time.

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.

Visit our website at www.uupsbu.org

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Your Opinion Counts! Have a comment about an article you've read in **INSIGHT**? We strongly encourage letters to the editors about union, campus, and University issues, politics, and other membership concerns. Letters must include the writer's name and daytime phone number. Please email us at uup@stonybrook.edu or by campus mail.



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