



Getting to know...

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My name is Patrick Doyle. I was born in Syracuse, grew up in Port Crane, and live in Chenango Bridge. You could say I'm a local boy. I started working at Binghamton University in June of 1997. Most everything else you'll find out with further reading.

QUESTION & ANSWER

Tell me about your job and why you love what you do?

The bulk of my job is the system administration of the Windows and Linux central IT based public labs both physical and virtual. What does that mean? It means if you have ever wandered into a computer lab, Pod, or Information Commons, or ever used a virtual desktop on BingView/VDI over the past 27 years you have utilized my services. I hope you were satisfied! I love working at the University. There are dozens of reasons why. I love contributing to an institution that has such an excellent reputation. There are countless people that I enjoy working with. The diversity, by so many measures, is excellent. I enjoy listening to the stories told, and seeing – in person and in print – the research being done on the campus. It can be quite exciting. I even love simply walking around the campus. I've been to many campuses through the years, and ours is one of the most beautiful and well maintained of all.

How did you get involved with UUP?

Through my UUP outreach training, we are encouraged to find our "Union Story." My union story is how I became involved in UUP. In a previous life, I worked at a now defunct grocery store chain. It was a union shop where employees are required, as a condition of their continued employment, to have membership in the labor union. That union did little to nothing for me. Actually, it hurt me in that my pay scale was limited by the contract, so that – despite my knowledge, experience, and longevity – my pay never changed. When I joined Binghamton University, I was told very little about the union other than I would be paying dues. Another union shop, I figured. The term "whatever" came to mind. Years later, as my responsibilities increased, I noticed that my salary wasn't. I also noticed that the salaries of colleagues were increasing. Interesting, I thought. I had a conversation with a colleague that was, and still is a very active member with UUP. He told me about the ability to apply for a raise through the union. I never knew. It took three tries, but I finally received my deserved promotion and raise. Way to go UUP! I have progressively become more involved through the years, hoping to return the favor to as many members as I can.

How do you make a difference?

An interesting question. My first, simple response is that I hope I make a difference. I hope I make a difference in the student body, helping to further their education through my job duties as a System Administrator for the public computer labs, both physical and virtual. I hope I make a difference in the lives of my colleagues with any help or assistance I can offer, making their jobs easier and lives less stressful. I hope I am able to make a difference with the faculty, by helping them to be more successful in their teaching. I hope I make a difference in UUP by being an active and outspoken member and delegate so that others will join and strengthen our union. I hope I make a difference in the lives of my friends by being the person that they would want me to be. I hope I make a difference in the lives of strangers, being a positive and kind person to those I may not meet, or meet briefly. To quote Morgan Freeman at the end of the movie Shawshank Redemption, "I hope."

What about your community engagement; any hobbies?

Community engagement is an interesting subject. Two things come to mind. The first is I am an active member of my church. Along with regular attendance, I am a lector as well as participating in many church functions and activities. The second is, wherever possible, I patronize small businesses. How is that community engagement you ask? Good question. By patronizing a small business, you are helping your neighbor. You're helping the business owners' family. You're helping them all live a better life, and doing what they enjoy. That is a lot better of an option than helping a CEO buy a bigger yacht.

Hobbies? Absolutely. I golf, not well, but I try. I get out on the water in my or my friend's boat. I love to go for long walks and even longer bike rides. I read as much as I can about as much as I can, fiction and non. I am an active member in the Porsche Club of America. I enjoy traveling, short day trips or long vacations. I make a valiant attempt at growing a garden every year. I am – and have been for years – been involved in local politics. I love to try new things. Is that a hobby? Let's say it is. I'm sure there are others I am forgetting, but let's stop here.