



# Getting to know...

**Fran Reichert**

Labor Education  
Committee Chair

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**Department of Biological  
Sciences**

Anatomy and Physiology  
Lab Coordinator





*My name is Fran Reichert and I first came to Binghamton University in 2018 for graduate school. After obtaining my master's degree in Biomedical Anthropology, I stayed in the area and came to work here at Binghamton University in 2021. Since moving to Binghamton, I found my now husband, purchased a house, and adopted 2 cats (Rocko and Socko) and most recently a puppy (Ludo).*

## QUESTION & ANSWER

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

*I am the Anatomy and Physiology Lab Coordinator for the Department of Biological Sciences. That's really just a fancy way of saying that I am the individual that has all of the details regarding the inner workings of our labs throughout the year. While some of my job involves ordering supplies and preparing our labs for student experiments/exercises, I spend most of my time during the academic year teaching 6 lab sections throughout the week. I have the pleasure of watching these students grow academically over the course of the year students in the course, and then many of my students return as teaching assistants in the following year, so I get to watch them grow as individuals as well. My favorite part of my job is engaging with the students and watching them have their "lightbulb" moments when they finally understand the material. I feel the most grateful for my position during the commencement ceremonies, where I get to see the students I have spent so much time with over the course of 1 - 2 years finally achieve their degrees. The happiness they exude makes all of the hard parts of the job worth it.*

### **How did you get involved with UUP?**

*My 2022 - 2023 academic year was incredibly stressful. I was feeling overworked, overburdened, and simply burnt out by the amount of work that was piling up on my desk. I felt like I was working every day of the week just to keep our labs running smoothly, and didn't have much breathing room from day to day. One summer morning, a few coworkers and I decided to attend UUP's Coffee and Donuts, at which all the coffee and donuts were already gone so Brendan graciously took us to Dunkin and purchased coffee and donuts for us. At the Coffee and Donuts, we started talking with Brendan, Claire Kovacs, and Chris Sielaff about problems we were having in our department - specifically in regards to workload creep. Throughout the remainder of the summer, I worked closely with Chris and Brendan to ask my department for a reclassification of my salary to reflect my increased workload. After much discussion, research, and a plethora of meetings, my department and the University agreed upon my request and I was granted a reclassification of my position. After that, I decided I wanted to become more active on our campus and I thought the best way to do that would be to learn as much as I could, so I joined the Lunch and Labor series. Lunch and Labor taught me a lot I didn't know about labor movements and the history of UUP, and I was so interested in learning more that I jumped at the opportunity to help lead Lunch and Labor when Courtney and Claire stepped down from their roles. I am now the chair of the Labor Education Committee and am excited to see where this role will lead within the chapter.*



## How do you make a difference?

*I would like to think that I make a difference simply by being kind to others. I have a lot of patience and understanding, and general faith in humanity, which can sometimes turn around and bite me in the butt, but I like to think that the people I interact with appreciate these qualities in me. Growing up, one of my closest friend's (who remains as such today) kidneys failed, which was quite traumatizing for a couple of 13 year olds who thought they were practically invincible. After watching her go through the organ transplant process, I decided that I wanted to be able to make a difference and one day give a family the same happiness we experienced when my friend received a new-to-her kidney. I didn't realize how quickly that time would come when a friend I had made in college told me her doctor was looking for living liver donors. We had known her liver was failing, but were relying on the transplant list to provide her with a new organ. When she told me they were looking for a living donor, I immediately put my name in the ring to be tested for donation. After months of testing and retesting, I was officially approved to be her liver donor. I graduated with my bachelor's degree a month later, and two weeks after graduation we were in surgery. The surgery was successful and my friend has since completed a master's degree in education, became a kindergarten teacher, and got married and had her first child. If I could go back and do it all again, I would. These experiences taught me that kindness goes a lot farther than being cruel and unfeeling. I take that knowledge with me when I teach my students and hope that being kind and caring about their education/progress will help them become better students, better individuals, but most importantly better advocates for themselves and others.*

### **What about your community engagement; any hobbies?**

*I try to volunteer as frequently as I can when I see something posted calling for volunteers in the Datelines. I have been spending a lot of my time meeting and learning about my neighbors and the history of the area in which I live (Apalachin, NY). Many of my neighbors have lived in the neighborhood since my house was originally built (in the 1960s) and I truly enjoy listening to all of their stories about how our street has changed over the years. In terms of hobbies, I have quite a lot of them - my husband might even say too many since they each involve having a lot of "stuff." I'm really big into arts and crafts, so my office at home is filled with markers, colored pencils, cardstock of various designs, paints, beads, fabric, yarn, etc. I like to handmade cards and birthday/Christmas presents, so I have learned how to do a multitude of crafts just to make sure I can design a gift specifically for the person I will be gifting it to. This year alone, I learned how to crochet, make my own bookmarks, and started learning bookbinding. I also enjoy painting murals in my house, reading books, and playing board games. We are avid readers and boardgame players in my household, so we have bookcases upon bookcases of books and board games of various sizes and levels.*