



Volume 35, Issue 1
September 2009

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Reminder!
Defensive Driving Course

Saturday,
 September 26
 9:00-3:30 p.m.
 Jacobus Lounge
 Sponsored by UUP
 through NYSUT
 Space is still available—
 Contact the chapter
 office (ext. 5991)
 to inquire

SAVE THE DATES!

FALL UNION MATTERS LUNCHEON MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Mark your calendars now and watch for further information!

From the editor:

SEPTEMBER SONG

—Karla Alwes
English



The summer days are now behind us, and we've begun another semester and a new academic year at SUNY Cortland. Welcome (if you are new), and Welcome Back (if this is not your first semester on campus)!

Like the changing seasons, our Chapter of UUP has gone through its own changes, with the arrival of our new President Jamie Dangler and our farewell to the presidency of Larry Ashley.

What has not changed, however, is the desire to communicate with our Chapter members—through the pages of the multi-award-winning *Cortland Cause*. We have a year ahead of us that will be rife with life. During the coming year we will need to talk to each other, listen to each other, and support each other—in writing and speaking and actions. We are a community, and in community there is unity.

Take the time to let us at the *Cortland Cause* know what you are thinking. We will all benefit from it because thoughts are the first step to action. ■

ARE YOU A UUP MEMBER?

All SUNY professionals and academics are represented by UUP, but you are not actually a member of the union until the UUP Administrative Office receives your signed membership application. Under New York State law, you pay an "agency fee" equal to union dues even if you do not join the union.

Signing a membership card will not change the union deduction from your paycheck, but it will entitle you to:

- vote on the collective bargaining agreement;
- hold union office;
- elect union leaders on our campus and choose your representatives at the state and national levels;
- upon separation of service, obtain Association Membership with NYSUT and be eligible for benefit programs; and
- maintain membership after retirement and be eligible for retiree benefit programs.

If you are not sure of your membership status, contact the chapter office to inquire—e-mail uup@cortland.edu or call ext. 5991. ■

**IDA APPLICATION DEADLINE
OCTOBER 19**

The campus Professional Development Committee, chaired by Gretchen Herrmann (Library), has recently announced that **October 19, 2009** is the deadline for Individual Development Award Applications for activities conducted between July 2, 2009, and December 31, 2009. A second round of applications will be accepted later for activities conducted between January 1, 2010, and July 1, 2010.

IDA funding may be provided to support enhancement of teaching and research, and continuing development of professional knowledge and skills (conference attendance and participation, etc). The maximum award allowed under the program is \$1,000, with only one application permitted per program year per applicant.

Application forms are available online—www.nysuup.lmc.state.ny.us/development/individual.html—contact the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ext. 2511) or the UUP office (ext. 5991) if unable to download. All applications must be submitted to the UUP Chapter Office, B-18 A Old Main, ATTN: Professional Development Committee, no later than 4:00 p.m. on October 19. ■

I will ask
you
repeatedly
to step up
to the plate
and join me
and other
UUPers in
our efforts
to advocate
for a strong
SUNY
system

The union
is what
WE
make it

President's Column:



READY FOR WHAT LIES AHEAD

—Jamie Dangler
Sociology/Anthropology

As Cortland's new UUP chapter president, I welcome the opportunity to work with all of you to make this a successful and rewarding academic year. I've been in office since June 1 and have spent the last few months working with other newly elected, as well as veteran, chapter leaders to prepare for what lies ahead.

I'm deeply grateful to our former chapter president, Larry Ashley, for his mentoring and support as I've transitioned into my new role. While I probably shouldn't expect a completely seamless transition, Larry has done everything possible to prepare me and our new team of officers to take over the functions of the chapter.

During my 15 years of work with UUP I've gained experience at both the chapter and statewide levels. I've always embraced the challenges union work presents, recognizing the diversity of our membership and the complex situations we face in the context of ongoing changes in higher education. This year promises to be particularly challenging, however. It will surely test our ability to work collaboratively and decidedly in the best interests of all our members as well as our ability to safeguard the public education system we treasure.

The possibility of a mid-year budget cut, threats to the maintenance of a cohesive and accessible system of public higher education in our state, job insecurity for our most vulnerable members, and program cuts are among the most pressing problems for UUP members and our campuses across the state.

Throughout the coming year I will ask you repeatedly to step up to the plate and join me and other UUPers in our efforts to advocate for a strong SUNY system that will continue to serve the educational needs of New York State citizens and provide economic, cultural, and social vitality to communities like Cortland. While I'll be knocking at your door for help on occasion, I'll also be working with our chapter officers, Executive Board members, and statewide delegates to safeguard our terms and conditions of employment, respond when you have problems and concerns, and make sure you are informed about the benefits UUP continually works to maintain and enhance.

For example, UUP has worked hard to secure extensive work-life services, grant programs, discounts, a tuition scholarship for dependents, and many more programs and services to enhance our professional development and help us meet the challenges of combining our work and family responsibilities. We'll do our best to highlight these things and make sure you know how to access them.

As the primary advocate for SUNY funding, UUP (working with our parent union, New York State United Teachers) will mount an active outreach campaign to connect with legislators, business and community leaders, and citizens across the state. We are planning many chapter meetings and programs this year in order to keep you informed and give you an opportunity to provide your input and suggestions.

But it's a two-way street. The UUP officers and delegates you elect, who volunteer their time for service to the membership, rely on the involvement of members to maintain a democratic, responsive, and effective union. The union is what **WE** make it. I hope that **WE** will make it strong together. ■

It's YOUR Newsletter!

We welcome articles and letters submitted by members of the SUNY-Cortland Community. Please share your thoughts with us—we want to hear from you!

Opinions expressed in *The Cortland Cause* are those of the individuals and are neither endorsed by nor represent the views of UUP.

Send contributions to the Editor,
Karla Alwes (English, 112-B Old Main,
alwesk@cortland.edu)
AND to the Chapter Office,
B-18A Old Main, uup@cortland.edu

Deadline for the next issue — September 23

A BUSY SUMMER FOR UUP!

While others on campus were enjoying summer vacation, scholarly pursuits, or watching the New York Jets practice, Cortland UUP chapter officers stayed busy, keeping up with both chapter and statewide UUP business, and planning for the coming year. Just a few highlights from Summer 2009:

- On July 13, Anne Wiegard convened the campus Part-Time Labor-Management Committee and presented a proposal from UUP to set aside a significant proportion of DSI funds to address inequity for part-timers.



- The Chapter Executive Board met for a long afternoon at Jamie Dangler's home on July 21 for the board's annual "Chapter Advance" planning meeting. At left, Labor Relations Specialist Dennis Selzner and VP for Academics Dave Ritchie chat during a break at the Advance.

- Jamie Dangler and David Kreh both travelled to Albany frequently for various meetings, Jamie as a statewide Executive Committee member and UUP-CWA Negotiations Team Member, and David as statewide Elections & Credentials Committee Chair.

- John Driscoll (right) convened the Professional Issues Committee for a lunch meeting on July 28th to begin to set the committee's agenda for 2009-2010.



- Anne Wiegard and Ross Borden attended a statewide Part-Time Concerns retreat in August. And Anne, who is serving as chair of the UUP's new Contingent Faculty Task Force, organized several conference call meetings of that group, which is working to propose ways to more fully involve contingent faculty in UUP.



- Jo Schaffer (left) represented UUP at the annual convention of the Alliance of Retired Americans in Washington, DC, and attended several statewide meetings about retiree matters.

- John Shedd and Jo Schaffer attended a statewide Membership Development Officers meeting in Albany in August.

- Jamie Dangler and David Ritchie attended a joint statewide Chapter Presidents and Outreach Committee meeting in August, where Jamie (right) gave a presentation on our chapter's advocacy efforts during the past year.



- Dennis Selzner conducted a chapter officer training workshop in June with Dave Ritchie, John Driscoll, Elizabeth Owens, Anne Wiegard, Tom Pasquarello, and Jamie Dangler.

- Grievance Chair Randi Storch, Dennis Selzner, and other chapter officers held a number of meetings with individuals who contacted UUP to discuss personal concerns, workload issues, and other employment matters.

- Dawn Van Hall, Dave Ritchie, Tom Pasquarello, and Boodie McGinnis worked together to plan the annual September picnic.

- At the invitation of NYS Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton, a delegation of chapter members met with her and Deborah Glick, Chair of the NYS Senate Higher Education Committee, on July 30 in Cortland. The group is pictured



above—from left to right: Dave Ritchie, Anne Wiegard, Brian Tobin, Deborah Glick, Henry Steck, Barbara Lifton, Jo Schaffer, Larry Ashley, Bill Buxton. ■

Are you interested in learning more about UUP or getting involved in chapter or statewide activities?

We need you!

Contact one of the chapter leaders listed on the next page at any time to inquire!

UUP Cortland Chapter Office
 B-18A Old Main
 SUNY Cortland
 Cortland, NY 13045



Chapter Asst.: Boodie McGinnis
 Phone: 607-753-5991
 Fax: 607-753-5476
 Email: uup@cortland.edu
 Office Hours: 10:30am-3:00pm

**UUP CORTLAND CHAPTER
 EXECUTIVE BOARD 2009-2010***

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name (Department)</i>	<i>Phone Ext.</i>	<i>E-Mail</i>
PRESIDENT/1st ACAD. DEL.	Jamie Dangler (Sociology)	2484	jamie.dangler@cortland.edu
VP-ACADEMICS/2d ACAD. DEL.	David Ritchie (Library)	2818	david.ritchie@cortland.edu
VP-PROFESSIONALS/1stPROF. DEL.	John Driscoll (Geology & Physics)	2926	john.driscoll@cortland.edu
SECRETARY	Elisabeth Owens (Comm. Studies)	5726	elizabeth.owens@cortland.edu
TREASURER	Tom Pasquarello (Political Science)	5772	thomas.pasquarello@cortland.edu
PART-TIME CONCERNS REP.	Anne Wiegard (English)	4896	anne.wiegard@cortland.edu
ACADEMIC AT-LARGE	Jim Reese (Sport Management)	4118	james.reese@cortland.edu
ACADEMIC AT-LARGE	Caroline Kaltefleiter (Comm. Studies)	2035	caroline.kaltefleiter@cortland.edu
PROFESSIONAL AT-LARGE	Jo Schaffer (Art Emerita)	753-7245	jo.schaffer@cortland.edu
PROFESSIONAL AT-LARGE	Joshua Peluso (Admin. Computing)	5514	joshua.peluso@cortland.edu
3rdACADEMIC DELEGATE	Larry Ashley (Philosophy)	2015	lawrence.ashley@cortland.edu
4thACADEMIC DELEGATE	Henry Steck (Political Science)	4807	henry.steck@cortland.edu
5th ACADEMIC DELEGATE	David Kreh (Library Emeritus)		david.kreh@cortland.edu
6thACADEMIC DELEGATE	Florence Brush (Phys. Ed. Emerita)		florence.brush@cortland.edu
7thACADEMIC DELEGATE	Anne Wiegard (English)	4896	anne.wiegard@cortland.edu
8th ACADEMIC DELEGATE	Jackie Pittsley (English)	4306	jaclyn.pittsley@cortland.edu
1stALT ACADEMIC DELEGATE	Elisabeth Owens (Comm. Studies)	5726	elizabeth.owens@cortland.edu
2nd ALT ACADEMIC DELEGATE	Ross Borden (English)	2320	ross.borden@cortland.edu
3rd ALT ACADEMIC DELEGATE	Harvey Inventasch (Education Emeritus)		hiji@ix.netcom.com
4thALT ACADEMIC DELEGATE	Randi Storch (History)	2054	randi.storch@cortland.edu
5th ALT ACADEMIC DELEGATE	Ross Borden (English)	2320	bordenr@cortland.edu
2nd PROFESSIONAL DELEGATE	Dianne Galutz (Admin Computing Emerita)		dianne.galutz@cortland.edu
3rd PROFESSIONAL DELEGATE	Dawn Van Hall (Library)	4890	dawn.vanhall@cortland.edu
4th PROFESSIONAL DELEGATE	Jennifer Drake (ASAP)	2361	jennifer.drake@cortland.edu
1st ALT PROF DELEGATE	Irene Maffetore (Chemistry)	2343	pelusoj@cortland.edu
2d ALT PROF DELEGATE	Jo Schaffer (Retired)	753-7245	jo.schaffer@cortland.edu
3rd ALT PROF DELEGATE	Ben Patrick (Admin. Computing)	5511	ben.patrick@cortland.edu
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION CHAIR	Sheila Cohen (Literacy)	2464	sheila.cohen@cortland.edu
BENEFITS CHAIR	Mecke Nagel (Philosophy)	2013	mecke.nagel@cortland.edu
FACULTY SENATE LIAISON	Bill Buxton (Literacy)	4711	william.buxton@cortland.edu
GRIEVANCE CHAIR	Randi Storch (History)	2054	randi.storch@cortland.edu
MEMBERSHIP & VOTE-COPE CHAIR	John Shedd (History)	2035	john.shedd@cortland.edu
LEGISLATION CO-CHAIR	Henry Steck (Political Science)	4807	steckh@cortland.edu
LEGISLATION CO-CHAIR	David Ritchie	2818	david.ritchie@cortland.edu
HEALTH & SAFETY CHAIR	Irene Maffetore (Chemistry)	2906	irene.maffetore@cortland.edu
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Karla Alwes (English)	2085	karla.alwes@cortland.edu
ACTIVE RETIRED REP.	Jo Schaffer (Retired)	753-7245	jo.schaffer@cortland.edu
LABOR RELATIONS SPECIALIST	Dennis Selzner, NYSUT	800-696-9788	dselzner@nysutmail.org

*List Updated 9/4/09

UUP Cortland Chapter Office
 B-18A Old Main—SUNY Cortland
 Cortland, NY 13045