

## UUP launches multimedia campaign to save University Hospital in Syracuse

UUP has launched a media campaign designed to preserve Upstate Medical University Hospital in Syracuse as a SUNY hospital. The campaign includes a 30-second TV commercial that began airing in central New York and Albany Sunday, March 18, and an Internet outreach effort.

"Hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers are in danger of losing their only public hospital if the state moves ahead with plans to take University Hospital out of the SUNY system,"

UUP President Bill Scheuerman warned. "We want the public to know this change would be hazardous to their health and to the health of the region's economy."

The union's action comes in response to a Berger Commission recommendation to merge University Hospital with privately run Crouse Hospital, and take it out of SUNY.

"The state wants to take University Hospital in Syracuse out of SUNY," the ad states. "That would jeopardize your health care. You could lose the regional trauma center, the stroke center, the Clark Burn Center. New York could lose affordable medical education. University Hospital is also the

This is the image you and your friends and family will see when you visit [www.saveupstate.com](http://www.saveupstate.com).

area's largest employer. Ask the governor to keep University hospital part of SUNY— your public university."

"Don't let the state pull the plug on your public hospital," the ad concludes.

UUP is also using the Internet to spread its message, beginning March 21. A streaming video dramatically portrays the negative effects of taking University Hospital out of SUNY. The video includes comments from a bicyclist who received life-saving care at one of its clinics, and an interview with a firefighter who warns that Upstate's Clark Burn Center could be closed. The video is being distributed via e-mail to members of UUP,

### Help save Upstate

You can do your part to keep Upstate Medical University Hospital in Syracuse operating as a SUNY hospital.

UUP's brothers and sisters are urged to send faxes and place phone calls to Gov. Spitzer and state lawmakers. To fax the governor, visit UUP's Web site at [www.uupinfo.org](http://www.uupinfo.org) and click on the link, "Click here to fax the governor and tell him you oppose SUNY hospital privatization."

To leave a phone message, call (877) 255-9417 toll-free.

This cause is vital beyond its effects on our members working at Upstate. It has implications for every member of UUP.

### Governor names GOER director

A major obstacle to the start of negotiations between the state and UUP for a new contract is gone, thanks to the action of Gov. Eliot Spitzer.

The governor appointed a new director of the Governor's Office of Employee Relations (GOER). Gary Johnson comes to state service from NYSUT, UUP's statewide affiliate, where he served as associate counsel since 2004. Between 1994 and 2004, Johnson worked at PERB as associate counsel and director of litigation. He had an earlier stint at GOER as assistant counsel from 1988 to 1991.

"This is the news we've been waiting for," said UUP Chief Negotiator and VP for Academics Fred Floss. "We hope to get to exchange proposals with the state soon and begin negotiations on terms of a new contract."

GOER has indicated it would be willing to exchange proposals with UUP sometime in early April.

UUP's current contract with the state expires July 1.

NYSUT, AFT and the AFL-CIO. The e-mail will have a link to fax a letter to Gov. Spitzer, urging him to take a detailed look at the implications of the changes called for by the Berger Commission as they relate to Upstate.

### Reminders/Upcoming meetings

**MAR 27** —Retiree/NYSTI Advocacy Day, Albany

**MAR 29-31** —AFT Higher Education Issues Conference, Portland, Ore.

**APR 13-14** —Spring Leadership Workshops, Cooperstown

**APR 20-21** —2007 Spring DA, Albany

**APR 26-28** —2007 NYSUT RA, Washington, D.C.

**MAY 7-8** —NYSUT Committee of 100, Albany

**MAY 28** —UUP Administrative Office closed for Memorial Day

**JUN 7-10** —AAUP Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

*The Legislative Gazette* —March 19  
**Committee veteran takes the reins of higher ed panel**

After serving on the Assembly's higher education committee for more than a decade, Deborah Glick's recent promotion to chairwoman of the panel is being met with overwhelming support from advocates and fellow lawmakers alike.

A vacancy in the committee leadership position was created when former Chairman Ron Canestrari, D-Cohoes, moved up in the ranks to become Assembly majority leader.

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Sliver, D, WF-Manhattan, appointed Glick, D-Manhattan, to chair the higher education committee. While serving on the committee, Glick has worked closely with several higher education advocates and Canestrari to develop new legislation and allocate state dollars.

"It's a great appointment. She's very dedicated and committed to public higher education," said Canestrari. "Deborah will do very well, she won't skip a beat."

With firsthand experience in New York state's public higher education system, Glick has dedicated much of her political career to improving the status of higher education. Glick, along with her colleagues in the Legislature, rejected former Gov. George Pataki's plans last year to cut funding for the Tuition Assistance Program and public higher education, and to increase tuition.

Glick and state university leaders have worked together for several years, and with the appointment of a new chancellor five years ago, the higher education committee worked to fund new programs aimed at increasing enrollment and developing a skilled workforce.

"Assemblywoman Glick was a terrific choice to chair the higher education committee. She has a genuine enthusiasm and commitment to higher education in New York state," said outgoing SUNY Chancellor John Ryan. "I think she will be a very effective chairwoman, and we at SUNY are very much looking forward to working with her."

Echoing Ryan's support, representatives of other higher education groups said they agree with the pick and hope they will be able to work together with Glick in the future.

"I think she is a superb pick. She is very smart and very fair and works very hard," said Abe Lackman, of the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities.

One of the commission's goals is to increase financial aid for students living on low or moderate incomes, Lackman said. "It's a long process and we will tell the assemblywoman what our priorities are. We look forward to working with her."

Other unions, such as United University Professions, which represents about 32,000 faculty members, indicated they are pleased with Glick's appointment because she agrees with their two top issues: increasing full-time faculty on SUNY campuses and ensuring SUNY's teaching hospitals are not privatized or shut down.

*(excerpts of selected newsclips)*

"She has been a very sympathetic legislator to the concerns that our union has raised," said Denyce Duncan Lacy, a UUP spokeswoman. "She has a great reputation with higher education. She would be a great advocate for public higher education and SUNY in particular."

*The Legislative Gazette* —March 12  
**SUNY Chancellor Resigns**

State University of New York Chancellor John Ryan announced he will resign May 31 in an unexpected letter to the SUNY Board of Trustees.

After five years at the state university system, Ryan wrote that he will leave the university system to head the nonprofit Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro, N.C., to work on the leadership skills of individuals in the private and public sectors.

"I have greatly enjoyed my five years at the State University of New York," Ryan said. "With the team of outstanding campus presidents, highly skilled administrators and staff at the system and campus levels, a strong faculty that will become truly exceptional with the hundreds of new scholars now being hired and the largest student enrollment in our history, SUNY is advancing toward the threshold of greatness."

Assembly Majority Leader Ron Canestrari, D-Cohoes, chairs the higher education committee, said he was "shocked by the decision" and that it was "totally out of the blue."

"It was our loss because he did a great job," said Canestrari, who has worked with Ryan in the past to increase funding for SUNY and develop legislation to improve the university system. "He's done an excellent job and we must not lose momentum of leadership, but we have to look forward to a new leader."

Many in the higher education community said Ryan will be missed and thanked the chancellor for the reforms that improved the SUNY system, such as increasing full-time staff, expanding research institutions and transforming SUNY into a more comprehensive system.

"We hate to see him go. We thought he was doing a terrific job at SUNY. He was an efficient guy and provided the leadership it needed," said William Scheuerman, president of UUP. "He was very committed to diversity at the university and that's what the university needed more than anything. The chancellor will be missed."

Ryan's resignation surprised some, but not others. "None of this surprises me. I can't say I was totally surprised. I would have liked to have seen him stay around a little bit longer," said Scheuerman.

**INSIDE** —March 8  
**Surprising Departure at SUNY**

John R. Ryan has been popular with professors, administrators and legislators in his two years as chancellor of the State University of New York, winning substantial budget increases and generally calming the waters after his less popular predecessor

was ousted when he lost favor with the then-governor. So it came as a shock to many in Albany and on SUNY's 64 campuses when Ryan announced suddenly that he was quitting to become president of the Center for Creative Leadership, a nonprofit group that runs training programs for leaders in the public and private sectors.

Ryan's statement praised SUNY's progress and its programs, and his aides talked about how he had made a difficult decision after an organization he cared about made him a great offer. But there was widespread speculation among SUNY-watchers that the departure could be the first of other moves that might lead to significant changes for the system.

New York's new Democratic governor, Eliot Spitzer, signaled immediately on Wednesday that he expects his office to be involved in the search, which will at least officially be run by SUNY's board, all of whose members were appointed by former Gov. George Pataki, a Republican. And several sources in close contact with the departing chancellor said that the system missed a chance to keep him for a longer time when the SUNY board did not move ahead last year as Ryan sought a new contract.

From the time of his appointment, Ryan won points with many at SUNY for a style that was straightforward, but not confrontational, and for having the political dexterity to push good budgets through a Legislature in which one house is controlled by Democrats and the other by Republicans.

Ryan was hired as chancellor as Pataki was preparing to leave office — a delicate time since Spitzer (who was overwhelmingly favored in last year's election) was preparing to reshape the SUNY board. (The new governor will get his first shot at appointments later this year, as terms of sitting trustees start to expire. But several sources said that Spitzer is so anxious to get his own people on the board that he has asked some SUNY board members to quit, although they have rebuffed him.)

In a sign of Ryan's effectiveness, both SUNY administrators and faculty leaders used similar words to praise him and what he had accomplished. John Simpson, the president of SUNY-Buffalo, said he was "very effective" with the legislature and the campuses and that the budgets he won "will advance a real academic agenda."

William E. Scheuerman, president of UUP, the American Federation of Teachers unit that represents faculty members at SUNY, said that Ryan had pushed hard for programs to improve the diversity of the SUNY system, and that he worked closely with the union on winning budget increases.

"He was a breath of fresh air — he was a political independent. He knew how to play both political parties, and he was an advocate for the university and he was committed to making SUNY a great university," Scheuerman said. "This is a real loss to the university."