

THE **voice**

Summer 2006



Serving our communities



Cleaning up Katrina: Page 6

Serving up soup: Page 7

Honoring a student: Page 8

DEADLINES AND COMMITMENTS



June

- 21 Joint Labor/Management Employment Committee, Albany
- 22 Joint Labor/Management Campus Grant Committee, Albany
- 23 UUP Executive Board meeting, Albany
- 26 NYSUT Board of Directors meeting, NYSUT headquarters

July

- 19-22 AFT Convention, Boston
- 25-28 NYSUT shutdown
- 26 Proposed constitutional amendments due to UUP by 5 p.m.

August

- 7-9 NYSUT Endorsement Conference, The Desmond, Albany
- 9 NYSUT Board of Directors meeting, NYSUT headquarters
- 18-19 UUP Chapter Presidents/VPs Retreat, Lake George

READING LIST

Academic Capitalism: Politics, Policies and the Entrepreneurial University

By Larry Leslie and Sheila Slaughter

This book (Johns Hopkins University Press), written by two faculty members, examines the current state of academic careers and institutions, primarily public research universities in the U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom and Australia. The book looks at student aid policies, teaching and research, undergraduate and graduate education, and federal research policies, and provides a valuable overview of the globalization of the political economy.



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WEB SITES OF INTEREST

www.laborresearch.org

The Labor Research Association is a New York City-based nonprofit research and advocacy organization that provides research and educational services for trade unions. The LRA's work is overseen by a board of directors comprised of union leaders and others involved in the labor movement.

www.cbpp.org

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities is one of the nation's premier policy organizations working at the state and federal levels on fiscal policy and public programs that affect low- and moderate-income families and individuals. The center conducts research and analysis to foster public debates over proposed budget and tax policies and to help ensure that the needs of low-income families and individuals are considered in these debates.

(Editor's note: The Voice welcomes contributions to WEB SITES OF INTEREST and READING LIST, as well as your letters. Send your suggestions and letters to Director of Communications Denyce Duncan Lacy at ddlacy@uupmail.org or to Publications Specialist Karen Mattison at kmattiso@uupmail.org.)



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UUP is Local 2190 of the American Federation of Teachers (AFL-CIO) and is affiliated with New York State United Teachers.

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By William E. Scheuerman
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EUGENE LINK WOULD HAVE BEEN PROUD OF THE WORK OF THE MANY UUP MEMBERS YOU'LL READ ABOUT IN THIS ISSUE WHO ARE GIVING BACK TO THEIR COMMUNITIES, AS HE AND HIS WIFE DID.

Living the legacy

When we look back over the labor movement of the 20th century, certain people stand out as beacons of leadership and courage. Eugene Link was such a person, and it was our great fortune to have him as a founder of UUP and a source of inspiration and guidance for so many years. Resolute, determined, undaunted and impassioned — Gene was all of these, and more.

Sadly, Gene left us April 26. The world is a lesser place.

In this issue of *The Voice*, you'll read about the life and legacy of this outstanding UUP member, and about several other UUPers who, like Gene, put their money where their mouths were on social justice issues.

Many UUPers recognize Gene Link's name from the Link Scholarship Fund, which began as an idea by Gene and reached its fruition when Gene and his wife and lifetime partner, Beulah Meyer, contributed the funds necessary to realize their dream and make the possibility of a college education a reality to dozens of deserving students at SUNY. Predicated on providing opportunities to bright, hard-working students who are committed to making the world a better place, the scholarship exemplifies Gene's lifetime commitment to academic excellence and social change.

But there's much more to Gene Link than the UUP College Scholarship.

Gene earned his bachelor of divinity at Union Theological Seminary during the Great Depression, and it was there that he developed his orientation to religion and social justice. In May 1938, Gene married Beulah, the love of his life, and the icing on their wedding cake read "One Big Union for Two."

The One Big Union for Two was no surprise for those who knew Gene and Beulah. Both championed the emerging labor movement and Gene became a member of AFT in the 1930s.

Gene later went on to earn his doctorate from Columbia University. The author of several books, Gene taught at a number of institutions of higher learning, including SUNY New Paltz, where as chair of the social sciences department, he promoted internationalism and took the leading role in the college's developing ties with scholars in Africa and India. His reputation as a teacher is unsurpassed. One of his students, was the late Robert Carter of SUNY Oswego, in whose name — along with his wife, Katherine — a UUP scholarship is given. Gene retired from SUNY Plattsburgh in 1977.

Gene would have been proud of the work of the many UUP members you'll read about in this issue who are giving back to their communities, as he and his wife did. These are members who left the comfort of their own homes to travel to the South to clean up the

homes of strangers who lost everything to a Hurricane named Katrina. Or gave up a Saturday to work in a local soup kitchen. These members are making an impact in their communities, and the world community.

Gene would also have been proud of the members profiled here who are making outstanding contributions in their professions, and justly earning accolades.

As Gene's son Bruce said at a memorial service for his father in New Jersey, "At a time like this you would like to be able to find words to describe the essence of a person. You can't. It's impossible." That's absolutely true.

For those of you who never had the pleasure of meeting Gene Link, my words will ring hollow. They're insufficient. But know this: Gene Link and his wife, Beulah — who predeceased him — were exceptionally kind and generous human beings whose own lives changed the lives of countless others for the better. We should mourn the loss of these two pioneers in the labor movement, who meant so much to UUP. And then we should honor them in the way that they would want us to: by working to make the world a better place for all.

In solidarity and remembrance,

UUP advocates team with NYSUT

About 25 UUPers combined forces with NYSUT during NYSUT's Committee of 100 advocacy day May 23, demonstrating a show of support for public education that ranged from kindergarten to college.

Participants paid visits to more than 35 state lawmakers in Albany.

"Having the support of K-12 advocates gives us more strength and power," Tom Tucker of SUNY Buffalo, chair of UUP Political Action Committee, said. "We're working together as educators bridging the gap between K-12 and higher ed."

"A lot of our issues are commingled," explained Richard Harding of Buffalo Center. "We apply the principle of synergy. The sum of the whole is greater than its parts."

One issue Harding pointed to as an example: a bill encouraging the expansion of foreign language instruction in elementary schools. Harding promoted the legislation during a meeting with Assemblyman Jack Quinn, saying that learning foreign languages is a means of learning other cultures.

With the backing of their NYSUT counterparts, UUPers pressed legislators to pass measures providing:

- pension equity for those in the Optional Retirement Program who contribute 3 percent of their income even after 10 years of service;

- unemployment insurance for part-time SUNY faculty during the summer; and

- a prohibition against reducing health insurance benefits for public employee retirees.

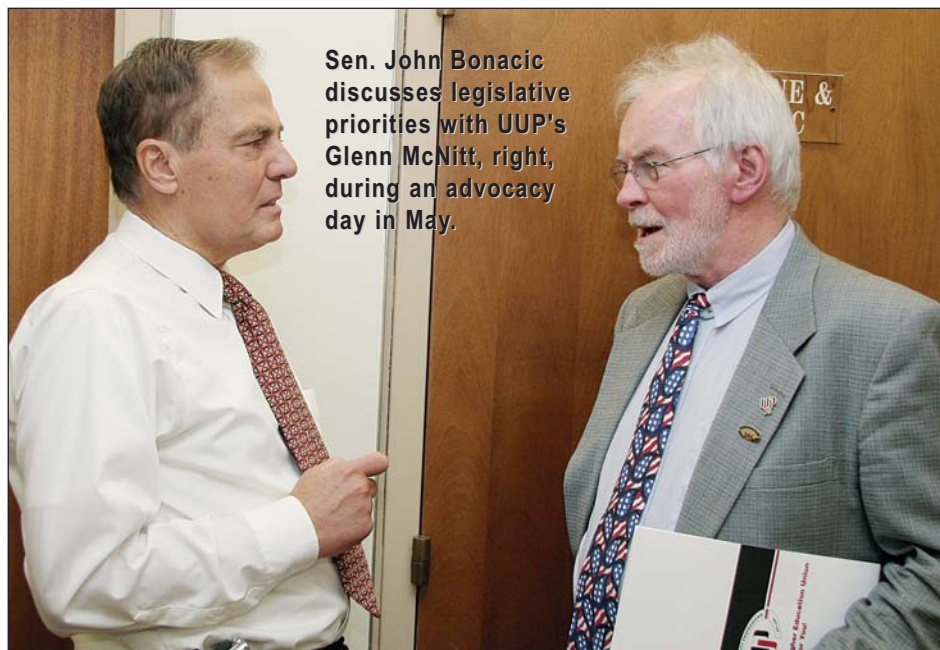
Sen. Kenneth LaValle, chair of the Senate Higher Education Committee, was among the lawmakers meeting with the advocates.

"So why are you here?" LaValle asked the advocates with a smile, referring to the big financial gains achieved for higher education and K-12 in the state budget.

But at all their meetings, the advocates said a lot more needs to be done legislatively. And they were told the political climate they face is beginning to change, with a new governor taking office in January and all 212 legislative seats up for election.

"Things will be different next year — not good or bad — just different," Assemblyman Quinn predicted.

— Donald Feldstein



Sen. John Bonacic discusses legislative priorities with UUP's Glenn McNitt, right, during an advocacy day in May.

DONALD FELDSTEIN

UUPers advance legislative goals

UUP's success in advocating for a new state budget that provides for more full-time faculty, enrollment growth and additional operating aid for SUNY didn't signal the culmination of its advocacy efforts. Rather, it just marked the beginning of a new phase.

Nearly a dozen UUPers visited Albany May 16, stopping by the offices of 20 state lawmakers to promote other legislative priorities.

PENSION EQUITY

Pension equity topped their list. UUP was looking for support for the bill that would eliminate the 3 percent mandatory pension contribution for SUNY employees who are part of the Optional Retirement Program (ORP). Employees covered by the state's other retirement programs do not pay 3 percent of their income toward their pension after 10 years of service.

The UUPers stressed the importance of pension equity as a tool to recruit faculty.

"We need to try to remain competitive with other states," Ben Africa of Upstate Medical University told Sen. Carl Marcellino, when other public universities are recruiting top academic talent.

Richard Stempniak of Buffalo State told several lawmakers about an actual instance of how the compulsory pension contribution is counterproductive to attracting top-flight professors.

"I was looking for a new full-time faculty member, who asked me during his

interview why he'd have to pay the 3 percent when elementary school teachers don't," he recalled.

UNEMPLOYMENT/HEALTH COVERAGE

Also on the legislative wish list — unemployment insurance benefits in the summer for part-time faculty.

"Many part-time professors have no assurance of re-employment in September, but cannot collect unemployment benefits," Fred Miller of Oneonta pointed out. He said in many instances, part-timers don't know if they have a job for the fall semester until late summer, so legislation allowing them to receive benefits is needed.

The UUP members also made a pitch for a bill permanently barring the reduction of health insurance benefits for retired public employees. Currently, legislation to this effect must be renewed annually.

POSITIVE RECEPTION

Most of the lawmakers reacted positively toward UUP's proposals. Sen. Marcellino said he has been supportive of UUP's interests. Sen. Charles Fuschillo said that he, too, had always been very supportive of UUP.

To reinforce that good relationship, the UUPers made it a point during each of their meetings to thank lawmakers for their votes to override Gov. Pataki's vetoes of funds for higher education in the budget.

— Donald Feldstein

Fulbright scholar

Impassioned UUP activist to study, teach in Japan

Bruce Simon will be spending a good part of the summer watching children's TV shows, but that's exactly what this UUP member and soon-to-be Fulbright Scholar needs to do as he gets ready for a wish-list opportunity in his career.

The children's television shows will be broadcast in Japanese, and watching them will be part of Simon's crash course in studying the Japanese language as he prepares for his forthcoming year at a Japanese public university.

"My 2-year-old daughter is ahead of me in comprehension," said Simon, a UUP member and the vice president for academics at the SUNY Fredonia chapter. "But I'm serious about learning it."

A LONG TRADITION FOR UUP

Simon will be following a long tradition of UUP members who have participated in the prestigious and highly competitive Fulbright Program, by teaching or carrying out research abroad. The current crop of nine Fulbright Scholars from SUNY — seven of whom are UUP members — represents the largest contingent in the program from any public or private college or university in the state.

Simon; his Japanese-born wife, Kuniko Kitamura Simon; and the couple's two daughters — Chika, 2, and Maya, born in the spring — will head to Kyushu University, a public university on the southernmost Japanese island of Kyushu.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRUCE SIMON

UUP member Bruce Simon of Fredonia, his wife, Kuniko, and daughters, Chika (shown) and Maya, will head to Japan this fall.

There, Simon expects to draw on his background as an associate professor of English at Fredonia to teach courses in American studies and literature. (He will be teaching in English.) He may also teach at one of two private universities in the same region.

AN EAGER OBSERVER

He expects his background as an experienced unionist to provide an interesting perspective. It's rare for a foreigner teaching in Japan to have a Ph.D., he said, and he suspects that it's even rarer for such a visiting instructor to have a background in academic unionism.

"I'm definitely going to be looking at the debates on faculty unionism over there," Simon said. "They exist, but they're kind of controversial. It sounds to me like there could be more of a state union model in Japan — approved unionism. I'm really curious to see how they run their public universities."

UUP member Mary Marden Cobb, a full-time adjunct in the Fredonia School of Music, will serve as vice president for academics at the chapter until Simon returns, said Chapter President Tim Allan.

"Bruce Simon is the ethical heart of our chapter leadership," Allan said. "He goes the extra mile in service to UUP and our membership. Mary stands in that same tradition — bold, courageous and exceptionally insightful."

OPPORTUNITIES FOR OTHERS

SUNY's excellent track record in the Fulbright Program is "a well-kept secret," Simon noted. He encouraged UUP members who have dreamed of winning a Fulbright to apply. A number of newly democratized nations — even in traditionally competitive Fulbright destinations such as Europe — have excellent programs and are seeking impassioned faculty and researchers, he said.

"The opportunities are out there," Simon said. "People have been Fulbright Scholars in many places at times of amazing social change."

— Darryl McGrath

Utica/Rome UUPer receives outstanding service award

UPer Ronald Sarner, a distinguished service professor of computer science at SUNY Institute of Technology in Utica/Rome, was recently honored with the 2006 Chugh/University Faculty Senate Outstanding Service Award, given to SUNY faculty and staff who have made significant and sustained contributions in the area of faculty governance at the system and campus levels.

The award, which consists of a plaque

and a \$500 monetary award, was presented to the 32-year SUNY veteran by Faculty Senate President Carl Wiezalis at the Senate's Spring Plenary meeting, held at SUNY Plattsburgh April 7.

"Professor Sarner is a dedicated professional who consistently works for the improvement of public higher education in all that he does," said Wiezalis, also a UUP member. "He is a student-centered professor who never forgets the primary mission of the State University of New

York. Sarner is a professor's professor and a governance mentor to me and to many of our members. He is a colleague beyond compare."

The award is presented by the University Faculty Senate and is funded by the Ram and Seema Chugh Family Endowment, established in 2005 by a generous gift from Dr. and Mrs. Ram Chugh of Loudonville, N.Y. Nominees for the award must have achieved a repu- see **SARNER**, page 10

Hurricane Katrina

Oneonta contingent embarks on relief mission to Mississippi

Seven thousand people used to live in Pass Christian, Miss., a small Gulf Coast community where everyone knew each other. That all changed when Hurricane Katrina battered Pass Christian with a 28-foot storm surge, destroying every business and a vast majority of the homes.

“It was like it was wiped off the planet,” said Linda Drake, a UUP member and director of the Center for Social Responsibility and Community at SUNY Oneonta. Drake spent what would have been her April vacation leading 19 Oneonta students on a relief mission to the devastated community.

UUP Chapter President William Simons made the trip as well.

It marked Drake’s third trip to the ravaged region, an effort she said was sparked by students looking for ways they could help. “We started working on ways to bring students there to help alleviate some of the suffering and to help survivors in any way we could,” she explained.

HOW THEY HELPED

A major part of their work was gutting homes heavily damaged by the storm in order to eventually rehabilitate them. Drake said the process is known as “mucking” — donning masks and protective garments and using sledgehammers and crowbars to strip each home down to its studs. While enduring noxious odors, the volunteers removed appliances, furniture, bathtubs, insulation and walls contaminated by mold — even removing nails



Linda Drake, right, works with her daughter, Lindsay Millea, gutting a hurricane-ravaged home in Pass Christian, Miss. Drake and her group also worked to drain stagnant water from roadside ditches.



DRAKE

“It gives you a great sense of accomplishment to help these people.”

— Linda Drake
Oneonta

from the studs — then collected the debris and placed it seven feet from the roadside.

Drake said it would have cost each homeowner \$10,000 to do the work that they did.

“It gives you a great sense of accomplishment to help these people,” Drake said. “They were so grateful, because it would take too much time and money to

do the work themselves. None of them has any money right now.”

Drake’s group also worked to drain stagnant water from roadside ditches that had attracted and spawned mosquitoes for seven months — a task she described as “a smelly, awful job.”

They also worked to clear several baseball diamonds so children could resume their normal recreational activity.

“You can’t imagine how much debris was left on these fields, like glass, textbooks and plastic bags. It looked like a garbage dump that got put on a baseball diamond,” Drake observed.

MISSION MIRRORS UUP THEME

Drake said the relief mission reflected UUP’s theme of teamwork.

“Teamwork is a huge part of this, what you can accomplish by working together,” she said. Drake points to Simons as a good example of this brand of UUP team-

Victims still need help

UUP members can make tax-deductible donations to the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund to help NYSUT meet its goal of \$1 million for hurricane relief.

Contributions will be forwarded to the AFT, which has pledged \$5 million for Katrina victims. UUP and NYSUT contributions have topped \$650,000 to date.

Make your donations payable to



NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund and send them to: NYSUT, Attn.: Accounting, 800 Troy-Schenectady Road, Latham, NY 12110.

Wanted: Books

The New Orleans Public Library was devastated during the storm, but is now ready to accept donations.

UUPers interested in donating books should send them to: New Orleans Public Library, 219 Loyola Ave., New Orleans, LA 70112-2007, Attn: Rica A. Trigs, Public Relations.

The U.S. Postal Service has agreed to mail the donated books at the library rate, so don't forget to mention where the books are headed when you ship them to Louisiana.



work. "Bill dropped everything on his busy schedule as UUP's chapter leader when I asked him to accompany us."

"Despite the heat, ubiquitous gnats, nights spent on cots in MASH-style tents that housed a dozen Port-A-Potties that inspired a nostalgia for indoor plumbing, and long hours of hard work, we felt privileged to participate," Simons said.

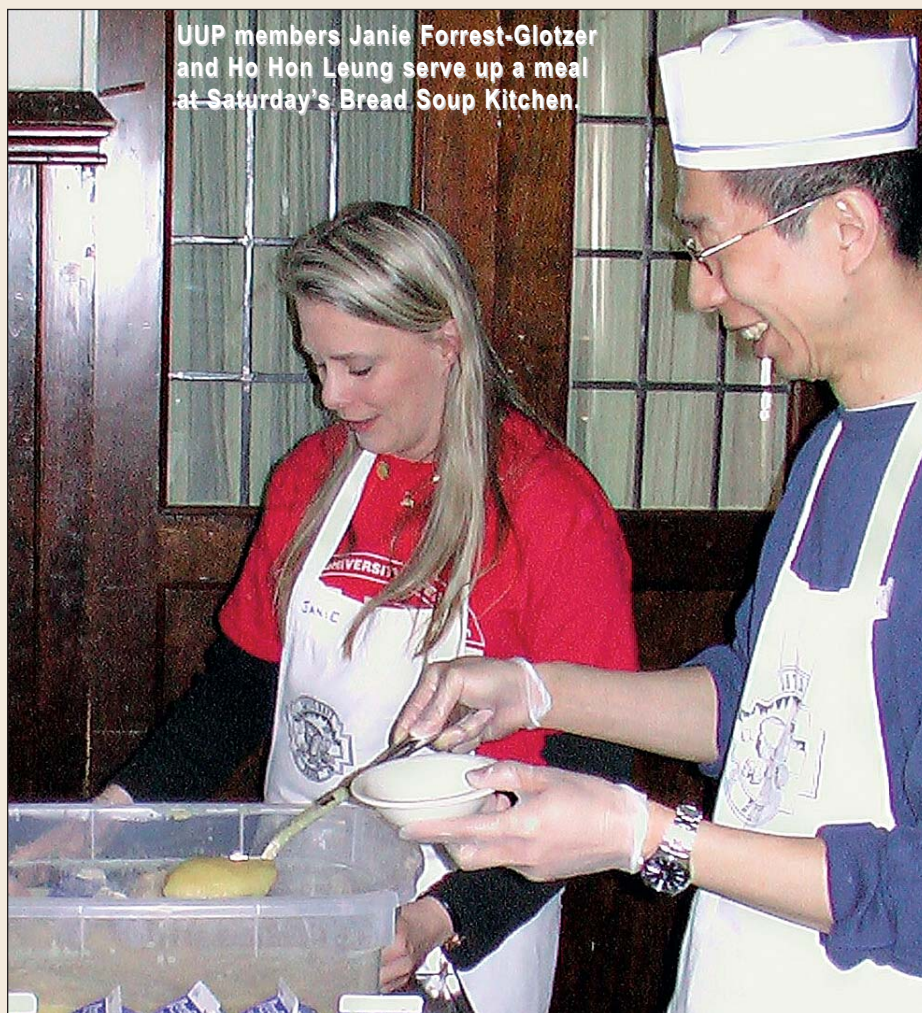
Drake said the trip was a great experience for everyone involved.

"This really gets into your soul because these people need so much help," she said. "The survivors, including some who lived in a tree for a day and a half, are very grateful and happy just to be alive. It was great to see our students grow and get a sense of giving back to others."

And this wasn't the last Katrina relief mission by Oneonta UUPers. Drake said geography professor Wendy Mitteager was leading another trip by students — this one to New Orleans — accompanied by Coleen LaPolt, a residence hall director.

— Donald Feldstein

UUP members Janie Forrest-Glotzer and Ho Hon Leung serve up a meal at Saturday's Bread Soup Kitchen.



UUPER V.N. SHASTRI

UUPers dish out community service and hot food at local soup kitchen

A hot meal can be much more than nourishment for a homeless person. It can also provide companionship, friendly conversation or a no-questions-asked respite — however brief — from life on the streets.

UUP members from SUNY Oneonta have learned this firsthand by volunteering to serve meals at the Saturday's Bread Soup Kitchen for the past two years. Founded in 1992 by the First United Methodist Church in Oneonta, Saturday's Bread provides good food and a welcoming atmosphere every Saturday.

A number of UUP Oneonta members have quietly given of their time as regular volunteers for years at Saturday's Bread, said Linda Drake, a UUP member who directs the campus's Center for Social Responsibility and Community. This spring, for the second year in a row, the Center for Social Responsibility and Community organized a designated day for Oneonta campus employees to volunteer at Saturday's Bread.

"This year, we had so many people that I had to start turning them away," Drake said.

The warmth and camaraderie of the day is an excellent introduction to UUP for new or potential members, said UUP member Janie Forrest-Glotzer.

"We're showing teamwork with our members and how to work together for a common cause," she said. "And this is also a way for new UUP members to meet us and forge new friendships."

Even experienced members get a refresher course on some of the original ideals that drew them to unionism, UUP Chapter President William Simons said: service, social action and a visible presence in the community.

"UUP has a commitment to social justice that goes beyond the immediate needs of our members," Simons noted. "The first step to making this a better world begins at the local level."

— Darryl McGrath

Purchase members donate time, talent for student killed in Iraq

A gesture of solidarity by three UUP members that started with the wish to remember a fallen soldier has come full circle, with a memorial to a student who touched all of their lives.

Purchase Chapter President John Delate and chapter members Bill Salter, Bill Deere and Dennis Fitzgerald pooled their organizational and artistic skills to create the memorial, which was dedicated to Army Spec. Anthony Kalladeen at the campus May 2.

Kalladeen, 26, an Army National Guard member, Purchase student and resident assistant in a campus dorm, died in Iraq last August during a gun battle with Iraqi insurgents following a roadside bombing.

Delate and Salter knew Kalladeen well because both work with campus housing — Delate as director of residence life, and Salter as director of residential facilities management. By the time they finished their work on the memorial, Deere — an associate professor of design who designed the memorial plaque and redesigned the surrounding space in a dormitory on campus to go with it — and Fitzgerald — an instructional support specialist and master woodworker who created the plaque from Deere's design — felt they had gotten to know Kalladeen also.

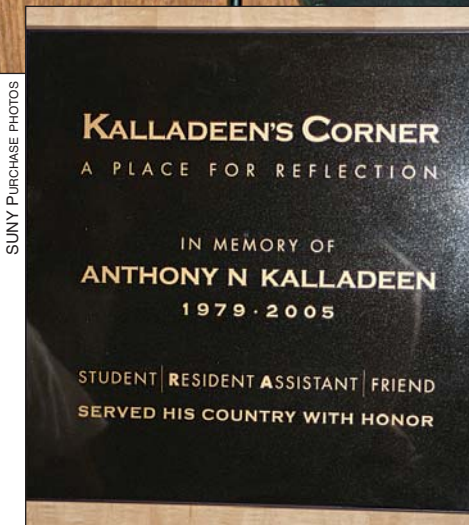
"It's still very real and very close," Delate said of Kalladeen's death, which shocked the close-knit campus community.

A QUIET CORNER FOR REMEMBERING

The idea for the memorial came as Delate and Salter drove back to Purchase together from the military funeral for Kalladeen in central Pennsylvania last summer. Both felt that "we wanted to bring something closer to home," Delate recalled.

That led to the creation of "Kalladeen's Corner," a study lounge in the Crossroads Residence Hall on campus where Kalladeen had been assigned. Deere,

Purchase Chapter President John Delate speaks about Kalladeen during the dedication ceremony. Inset: The three-foot-square memorial plaque.



SUNY PURCHASE PHOTOS

called in as a design consultant by his good friend Salter, immediately saw the potential of the space when he learned that it had been selected as the memorial site. It was in the corner of a lounge in the dorm, visible to passersby and yet quiet enough for private study and reflection.

Deere's late father had been a career Army officer, and Deere had grown up near a Marine Corps base in North Carolina, so he also brought to the project an understanding of military symbolism

through symmetry and colors that convey a sense of quiet strength.

"I found it very, very moving — more so than I expected," Deere said of his work on the project.

SYMBOLISM AND SOLEMNITY

Deere supervised the painting of the surrounding space in a deep brown and tan — colors likely to be seen in military settings — and sought to give a military sense of balance and simplicity to the three-foot-square plaque, in which a center of polished black granite is set against a field of maple. Deere designed the plaque so that one corner could be detached and given to Kalladeen's mother during a dedication ceremony, in a gesture that symbolizes the young life cut short.

Fitzgerald, a UUP professional who runs the woodworking shop at Purchase, fabricated the memorial from Deere's design.

"His craftsmanship is impeccable," Deere said of his colleague. "We were able to execute the entire project on campus."

A SPECIAL CONNECTION

Fitzgerald found inspiration in the fact that even though he did not know this student, his donation of his time and talent exemplified the close relationship that the professionals on campus often have with students.

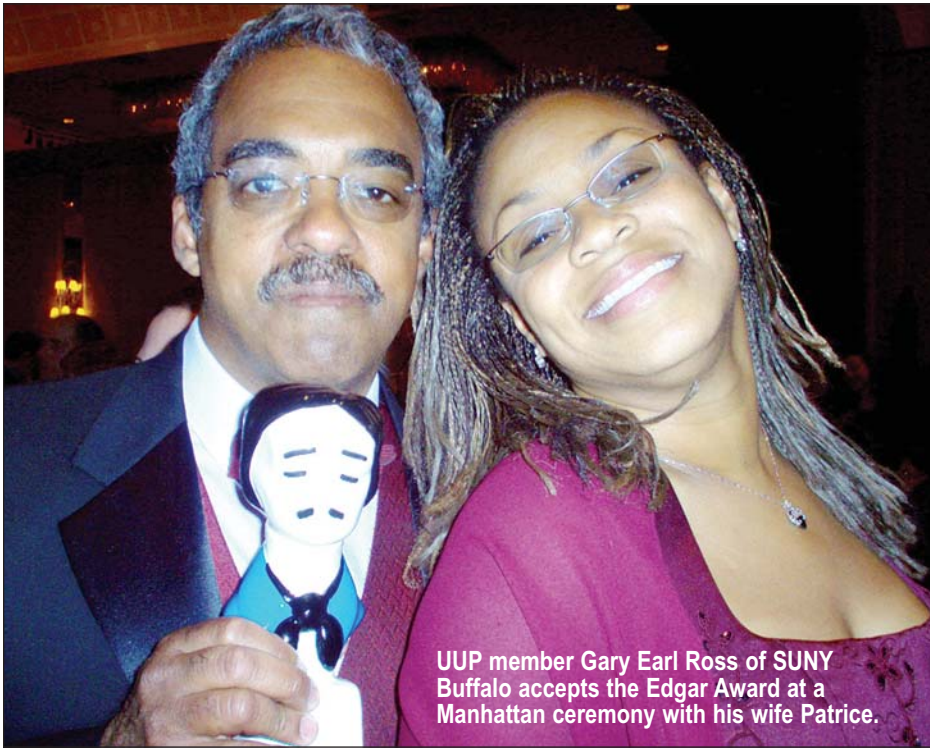
"I'm a veteran, so I could appreciate some of the issues that inspired this gesture," said Fitzgerald, who served in Vietnam with the Marine Corps. "It had more meaning for me than it might have for someone else."

The memorial was dedicated in May, in a ceremony that drew hundreds of students, faculty and friends and family of Kalladeen.

Salter, who is also a Vietnam veteran, spoke for his three colleagues when he said he will never forget working on this project.

Said Salter, "I've been here 29 years, and this was the best thing I've ever been involved in."

— Darryl McGrath



UUP member Gary Earl Ross of SUNY Buffalo accepts the Edgar Award at a Manhattan ceremony with his wife Patrice.

UUPer wins Edgar Award for play *Matter of Intent*

It is the fall of 1960. Kennedy and Nixon are vying for the presidency as lunch counter sit-ins spread throughout the South. Sam Cooke and Chubby Checker are on the radio. The Untouchables and Perry Mason are on TV. In Buffalo, black women lawyers can be counted on a single hand. One of them, Temple Scott, is locked in the courtroom fight of her life. No one doubts the woman the press calls the Negro Lizzie Borden murdered her employer. The question is, can Mae Lou McKitchen be saved from the electric chair? Only if Temple unearths the truth behind the crime.

Murder is always a . . . Matter of Intent.

If the above synopsis from the publicity poster of a courtroom drama has piqued your interest, you're not the only one. The play — which was written by UUPer Gary Earl Ross and premiered in April 2005 at the Buffalo-based Ujima Theater Company's TheaterLoft — recently received an Edgar Award from the Mystery Writers of America. The presti-

gious Edgar Award honors the best in mystery fiction, non-fiction, television and film published or produced in 2005.

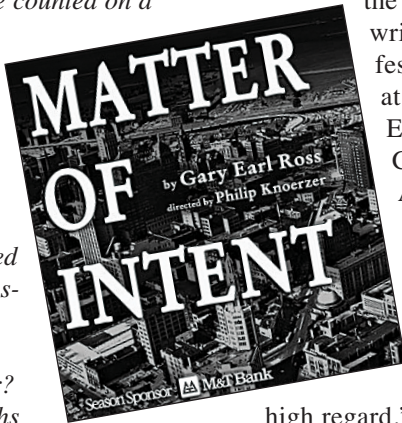
"With *The Mystery of Marie Roget* and *Murders in the Rue Morgue*, Edgar Allen

Poe is considered the creator of the mystery story," said playwright and author Ross, a professor in the writing program at SUNY Buffalo's Educational Opportunity Center (EOC). "The Edgar Award doesn't guarantee future publication or continued success, but winning one is quite prestigious. It says your peers in the broad mystery field hold your work in

high regard."

So high, in fact, that a New York City producer/director is interested in setting up a reading, which could lead to production of the play on a New York City stage. Though the two parties haven't come together yet, Ross said, "The Edgar should help it happen."

Matter of Intent — which played to sold-out houses and standing ovations during its month-long run in Buffalo — see *MATTER OF INTENT*, page 10



Buffalo unionist earns lifetime achievement award

SUNY Buffalo faculty member Claude Welch Jr., a distinguished service professor in the department of political science, has been named the recipient of the first Lifetime Achievement Award presented by TIAA-CREF, a leading retirement services provider.

Welch, a UUP member, received the SUNY-wide award, as well as a \$10,000 grant from the SUNY Research Foundation, at its annual research and scholarship dinner May 3 in Albany.

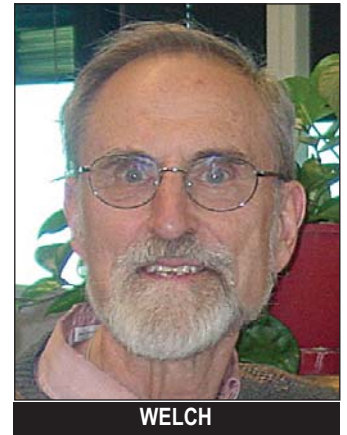
Welch has been a faculty member at SUNY Buffalo since 1964 and a SUNY distinguished service professor since 1989. His research focuses on human rights and human rights organizations, particularly in Africa, and on the political roles of armed forces. He is "one of the most respected voices in the world in the area of human rights," according to the award announcement.

In accepting the award, Welch credited his parents for his commitment to academics and service. His

father, a noted surgeon, held high academic standards, and felt it was important "to go beyond the bedside to medical leadership," said Welch, citing his father's unsuccessful insurgent campaign for the presidency of the American Medical Association. "He wanted the AMA to give more attention to public and preventive health, along the lines Massachusetts recently followed," Welch said. His mother, who during the Depression gave up hopes of a career as a doctor to pursue a nursing career, was "similarly publicly inclined," he added.

Welch earned a bachelor's degree in government from Harvard University and a doctorate from Oxford University with the intention of pursuing a career in public service. Upon receiving his doctorate in 1964, Welch said he had job offers

see *WELCH*, page 10



Sarner ...

(continued from page 5) tation for outstanding service in the area of faculty governance. Sarner has held a variety of academic and administrative positions at SUNY Institute of Technology, including professor of computer science, distinguished service professor, department chair, acting dean of Information Systems and Engineering Technology, director of Information Services and executive vice president for Academic Affairs. He has a 25-year history of service to SUNY faculty through his work as a senator, alternate senator, committee member and committee chair.

Sarner is a recipient of many honors and awards, including the Utica/Rome Student Association's Excellence in Teaching Award and the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. He is a prolific scholar and public speaker, usually concentrating on topics related to computers and education. He has attracted thousands of dollars of grant funds to his campus and is a much sought-after consultant to organizations seeking to advance computing technology.

Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Economics Chugh was an

PHOTO COURTESY OF SUNY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY



active participant in the University Faculty Senate and campus governance throughout a 30-year career at SUNY Potsdam. He has been a retired member of UUP since 2004.

Of the award, Chugh said, "I have always believed very strongly that administration and faculty — and students as well — must work together both at the campus and SUNY levels to successfully achieve their educational mission and goals. ... Our purpose in establishing this award was to recognize the important role of the University Faculty Senate, and also to express appreciation to individuals who have made significant contributions through involvement in campus and system-wide governance."

Matter of Intent ...

(continued from page 9) also won Artvoice's 2004-2005 Emanuel Fried Award for Outstanding New Play.

Ross is an award-winning author of 170-plus short stories, poems, articles and public radio essays, as well as *The Wheel of Desire and Other Intimate Hauntings*; *Shimmerville: Tales Macabre and Curious*; the children's book *Dots*; and the plays *Sleepwalker: The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* and *Matter of Intent*.

"Writing sustains me emotionally and physically," Ross said. "I am not happy unless I'm assembling words into some

kind of thing that has meaning."

His love for writing and the writer carries over into the classroom, where Ross believes he can help give students a voice.

"My students see a working writer who conducts classes like a writer's workshop, valuing what they say and revealing the tricks that make their work stronger," Ross said.

"Language is power," he added. "And so many EOC students lack fundamental power in their dealings with the larger world. It is my job to give them voice."

— Karen L. Mattison

Welch ...

(continued from page 9) from SUNY Buffalo and the U.S. State Department. He was married and the father of two young children at the time, so the prospect of a career in the Foreign Service was not as appealing as a faculty position, he noted.

Over the years, Welch has served in several administrative posts, including dean of the Division of Undergraduate Studies, associate vice president for academic affairs, acting vice president for academic affairs and chair of the political science department while continuing to teach and publish. He currently serves as co-director of the Human Rights Center in the university's Law School.

The last 40 years have been prolific ones for Welch, in terms of both scholarship and service. He has published 13 books, chapters in more than 35 other books and more than 40 articles in academic journals. His most recent book, *Economic Human Rights in Canada and the United States* (University of Pennsylvania Press), was published this year.

Welch is on the board of Human Rights Watch/Africa, an international human rights monitoring group, and has helped conduct investigations and reports that have improved human rights in Africa. He's also been a frequent consultant for U.S. government agencies such as the African Center for Strategic Studies and the U.S. Army and Staff College, in addition to such private groups as the MacArthur Foundation and the Asia Foundation on democratization, human rights and civil-military relations.

A popular teacher, Welch has received numerous awards for his work with students, among them the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching, a Lisa Hertel Award for Teaching from the Department of Political Science and the Milton Plesur Excellence in Teaching Award from the Student Association.

Welch also has been active in faculty governance, serving two terms as chair of the Faculty Senate, and founding several key senate committees, among them Academic Planning, Budget Priorities, Student Life, and Teaching and Learning. He currently serves as a senator representing the College of Arts and Sciences.



DARRYL MCGRATH

UUPers spark students' interest in nano science

UUP member Michael Carpenter, an assistant professor at the SUNY Albany College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering, left, had the undivided attention of students from the Fonda-Fultonville Central School District at the college's career day May 23.

Carpenter was one of several faculty members who talked about the college's research into computer chip design to more than 300 students from the Capital Region. Among the highlights of the day: an opportunity to try on one of the "clean suits" worn inside the laboratories, and hands-on science demonstrations. One of many UUPers who conducted tours and gave talks, Carpenter said he had decided on a career in science by high school, and hoped that the day sparked a similar interest among the visiting students. "I think the sooner you capture their interest, the better," he said.

UUP-TO-DATE

Lobbying helps block private school funding

An attempt to extend a one-time deal that included direct federal funding for private schools was stopped in early May — thanks in large measure to AFT lobbying — when the Senate considered legislation providing additional support

for schools that took in students displaced by last fall's hurricanes.

This was accomplished May 1 when the Senate modified a provision in the supplemental appropriations bill that would have extended the original program enacted last year. That initiative provided funds for both public and private schools that took in these affected students.

In response to lobbying from the AFT and others, and pressure from senators, agreement was reached to allow the money to flow through an existing program under the

Elementary and Secondary Education Act. This option would allow services to be provided to private school students using a long-established mechanism in ESEA known as equitable participation.

This is the approach advocated by the AFT when the original Katrina education assistance came before Congress last year.

Western Michigan grad employees vote for union

When an organizing committee takes just four weeks to sign up 400 people who will vote for the union, it's clear that success is just around the corner. That's what happened at Western Michigan University, where graduate employees turned out April 19 to vote 290 to 14 in favor of Teaching Assistants' Union/AFT.

The main issues driving the vote were job security, salary and health benefits. Amanda Bellino, a member of the

AFFILIATE NEWS

organizing committee, decided she'd work to unionize when her international graduate employee colleagues in the Spanish Department were nearly let go due to lack of funds.

Vermont college staff votes to join AFT

Vermont College academic staff are celebrating an overwhelming victory after voting 37 to 4 March 16 to affiliate with United Professions of Vermont/AFT, the union representing faculty at Vermont State College and the University of Vermont. The vote for the union, they said, will help them regain the voice they lost when Union Institute and University took over the school in 2001.

In the past, staff at the private college in Montpelier were accustomed to being heard — they voiced opinions at Vermont town meetings, had input on policymaking and relied on collaboration to

get things done. When the Cincinnati, Ohio-based Union Institute came in with a new president and a corporate, top-down management style, the culture clash was inevitable.

Union Institute spoke of "open, honest communication," but when it came to really listening and acting on staff input, management turned a deaf ear, said Anne Connor, director of the Academic Support Network at Vermont College and a leader in the movement to organize.

The administration imposed a leave conversion plan, for example, that resulted in all employees losing six sick days — a decision made without any input from the staff, said Connor. Also, non-salaried staff must now clock in and out in the morning, at lunch and at the end of the day within a five-minute window.

"It undermines a sense of trust that existed before," noted Connor.

Negotiations on a contract were expected to begin by June.

The legacy of Eugene

Eugene P. Link had a kind heart and a gentle disposition. He spoke up for women and in favor of civil rights; he spoke against the Vietnam War. He was an extraordinary scholar and a deeply committed humanitarian.

But, above all, he worked tirelessly in the pursuit of academic unionism — having been an early organizer with the AFT and a founding member of UUP — and he never wavered in his devotion to working families.

He saw the labor movement as an avenue to progressive change.

Link once told *The Voice*, “You speak for life when you speak for the union. That’s what I believe.”

This pioneering labor advocate died April 26 at the Medford Leas Retirement Community in southern New Jersey at the age of 98.

“Gene was a proud and uncompromising unionist,” said UUP President William Scheurman.

“He was an outspoken advocate for academic unionism and social justice, long before it was popular. His activism and leadership by example made UUP better. We will all miss him.”

Born in Paris, Ill., on Sept. 4, 1907, the son of a chemist and a homemaker, Link grew up in Emporia, Kan., where he distinguished himself through academics and his oratory skills. He won the Kansas State Oratorical Contest four times during his high school and college years. He graduated with a B.A. from the College of Emporia in 1929 and did three years of graduate work at the University of Chicago. Forced to leave Chicago because of finances, Link won an honors scholarship to Union Theological Seminary in 1931. He ultimately went on to obtain his Ph.D. in social history from Columbia University in 1941.

He married Beulah Meyer in 1938, and together they became advocates for labor unions, women’s rights and the civil rights movement. Beulah is considered the most influential person in Link’s life. She passed away in November 2002.

A LIFETIME OF TEACHING

A lifelong educator, Link began his teaching career in 1933, as an instruc-



Link accepts his Diamond Service Award in 1990 from then AFT President Albert Shanker.

P. Link 1907-2006

tor of history at Mt. Hermon School for Boys in Massachusetts. He went from there to Limestone College in Gaffney, S.C.; State Women's College in Rock Hill, S.C.; State Teachers College in Montclair, N.J.; the University of Denver, Colorado; SUNY New Paltz; and SUNY Plattsburgh. He retired from Plattsburgh as a professor of history in 1977.

He was proud of the fact that he retired at 71 and not 70, the age when the state university forced professors to leave. "I broke the rule by retiring at 71. After that, (my colleagues) could say that the university let senior faculty work past 70," he boasted to *The Voice* during an interview when he was 84. "Now, of course, they don't have that rule anymore."

A pioneer in other ways as well, Link was the first at SUNY Plattsburgh to offer courses in African American history, the history of women in the United States, and the history of American labor. He was one of the earliest scholars to champion workers, people of color, women and the people of Third World countries.

Link was able to take his concern for social justice and turn it into action. He traveled extensively, most notably as a Fulbright lecturer in India on two occasions (1954 and 1960) and as a one-year visiting professor in Britain and the People's Republic of China. In the 1970s, he strongly argued for better diplomatic relations between the U.S. and China.

He authored six books and published

more than 40 articles in scholarly journals, primarily on social history, the medical profession and labor unions.

THE CONSUMMATE UNIONIST

It was the work Link did for the union that best defined him. His long association with the AFT began in 1935, when he was teaching history at Mt. Hermon. At that time, Link was concerned with Massachusetts Gov. James M. Curley's attacks on freedom of speech and the academic exchange of ideas. He brought that concern with him when he attempted to establish teacher unions wherever he taught, including SUNY. He was a vice president of UUP's predecessor organization, the State University Federation of Teachers, in the early 1970s, and later became a founding member of UUP. He served as the union's membership development officer from 1973 to 1975, and is credited with helping to create the Committee on Active Retired Membership.

Link's lifetime of work on behalf of the AFT earned him the federation's prestigious Diamond Service Award in 1990.

"Gene Link was one of those rare higher education union people who recognized how important it was to unionize earlier than anyone else," said former UUP president Nuala McGann Drescher of Buffalo State. "Do you realize what courage it took to join a union in the 1930s? It was extraordinary.

"He epitomized courage, vision, collegiality, all the things that union solidarity recognizes."

— Karen L. Mattison

Link leaves indelible mark

Eugene Link has left an indelible mark on UUP — as a gentleman and a scholar. But his legacy will always be the altruism he showed for the scholarship fund named after him, and the dozens of college students who continue to benefit from it.

UUP created the Eugene P. Link College Scholarship Trust Fund in 1985 to recognize Link's more than 50 years of devotion to the pursuit of knowledge, service to youth and leadership in unionism. To date, the union has awarded scholarships to 54 SUNY undergraduates — all of whom have exhibited a commitment to academic excellence, social issues and labor ideals as exemplified by Link.

"Gene constantly emphasized to young people the need to recognize the positive role of labor in their lives," said Gertrude Butera of SUNY Alfred, an honorary scholarship fund trustee and chair of the Scholarship Development Committee responsible for fund raising.

Link spent his life carrying the banner of generosity with continuous donations to the scholarship fund, and he inspired others to do the same, Butera said. Because of his philanthropic leadership, the scholarship fund has grown to a sustained fund of nearly \$170,000.

"He was the catalyst for the financial growth of the fund," Butera said.

Link and his wife Beulah — who Butera said "shared a beautiful partnership" — served together on the Scholarship Selection Committee, taking a firsthand interest in naming the early recipients. Though retired from SUNY Plattsburgh, Link often attended the Delegate Assemblies at which the students were awarded, offering encouragement and a promise to assist them in their academic pursuits.

"Gene motivated these student scholars to continue to direct their efforts in the labor movement," Butera said. "Without a commitment such as this, we wouldn't have labor unions anymore."

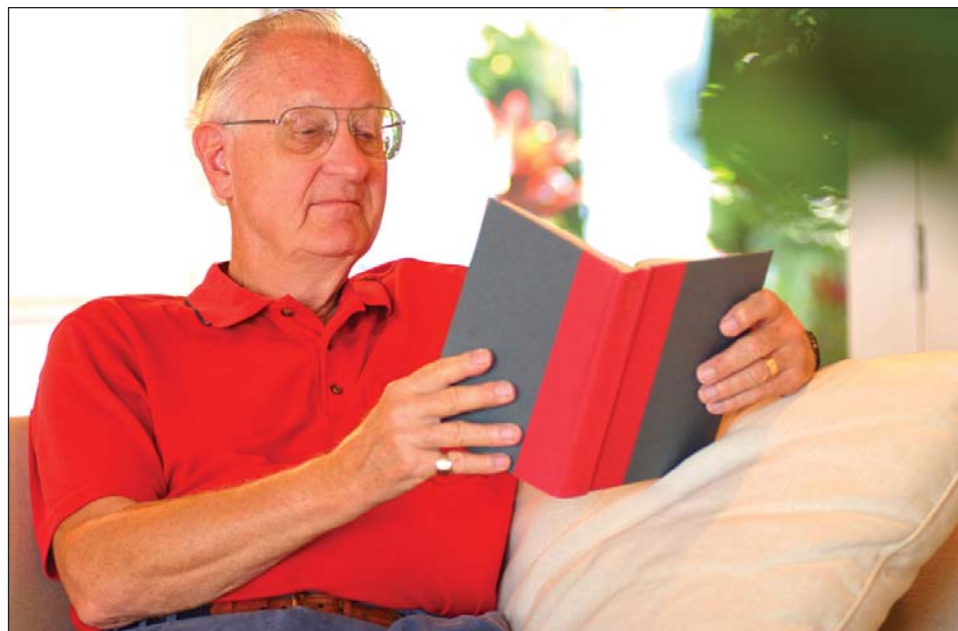
— Karen L. Mattison



BUTERA

Memorial contributions in Link's name can be made to the union's scholarship fund, c/o United University Professions, P.O. Box 15143, Albany, N.Y. 12212-5143.

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NYS Dept. of Civil Service 800/833-4344

New York State/UUP Joint

Labor/Management Office 518/457-1198

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Doreen M. Bango, Manager
Member Benefits & Services

Assist America

Help when traveling is available to active and retiree members

As an added benefit to their UNUM Provident Group Term Life Insurance plan, UUP active and retiree members are eligible for worldwide emergency travel assistance services through Assist America Inc., when traveling 100 or more miles from home.

Whether traveling for business or pleasure, in a foreign country or in the United States, UUP members and their families can count on getting help in the event of a medical emergency.

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- Medical referrals to Western-trained, English-speaking medical providers; and,
- Care and transport of unattended minor children.

Children who are members' legal dependents are also eligible for these services through age 19, or to the full-time student age specified by the UUP Benefit Trust Fund.

Assist America has a worldwide network of more than 600,000 pre-qualified medical providers, and operational capabilities in more than 210 countries across the globe.

This program is offered to UUP members at no charge.

For more details, call the UUP Benefit Trust Fund at (800) 887-3863 or go to www.unumprovident.com/travelassistance.

AFT makes it easier to protect a pet's health

When pets become a part of the family, people's hearts often tell them to spare no expense for their pet's health care and future well-being. But medical costs for pets are rising for the four-legged members of the family just as they are for their owners. According to the American Animal Hospital Association, the average bill for a routine veterinary visit can cost between \$100 and \$150. Treatment for a pet's major illness or injury can easily run into the thousands of dollars.

UNION PLUS PET HEALTH INSURANCE

Protect against the unexpected cost of a pet's illnesses or injuries with Union Plus Pet Insurance. Members can enroll their pets with Quickcare First, the Union Plus program provider, and take either 10 percent off the price of



enrollment or get their first month free.

Call (866) 473-7387 or go to www.unionplus.org/pets for more details.

PET HEALTH CARE SAVINGS

Members can cut the cost of routine vet services for all the pets in their households by joining the Union Plus program with PetAssure. With this program, members will save 25 percent every time they visit a veterinarian in PetAssure's growing network of participating veterinarians. Also, enrollees will save up to 30 percent on other pet services, such as pet boarding, pet supplies, pet sitting, pet training and more.

Membership for pets is as low as \$5.99 per month — a 40 percent savings for AFT members.

Learn more about the Union Plus Pet Health Care Savings Program by calling (888) 789-PETS and use this program code: UP2003.

Arras joins staff

The UUP Benefit Trust Fund has hired a new customer service representative to answer members' questions.

Kimberly Arras comes to UUP from Draper Middle School in Schenectady, where she worked for nearly six years as a computer aide and teacher assistant. She has experience working with faculty, staff and students, as well as extensive knowledge of computers and records management.

At UUP, Arras will be responsible for answering calls to the Benefit Trust Fund. She will also handle data entry, workroom inventory and filing.

"Kim has strong telephone, interpersonal and computer skills," said UUP Member Benefits Manager Doreen Bango. "She will be able to readily assist members who call looking for information on benefits programs and services."

Prior to working for Draper Middle School, Arras was an office assistant for United Screen Graphics in Watervliet.

— Karen L. Mattison



Arras