

Lobbying Days



photo by Steve Whitney/NYSUT

Senator Ken LaValle (1st SD) with Joyce Gabriele and Kevin Peterman

On February 28 the FA participated in NYSUT's Higher Ed Lobbying Day. We joined statewide higher ed locals to educate our legislators about our budget needs.

We visited all 15 Suffolk County reps' offices and discussed SCCC's

specific issues. We emphasized the need for the state to move toward its obligation to adequately fund community colleges. The fact sheet that we developed highlighted the inequities in the actual funding percentages from the state and county in comparison to student tuition.

When we returned to Albany on March 21 as part of NYSUT's Committee of 100, many legislators noted that they received significant feedback in the form of faxes and emails from students and faculty.

Hope Springs Eternal

After months of rather infrequent and slow-paced discussions at the bargaining table, the negotiations since February have become much more frequent and intensified. Although we have not begun addressing the obvious money issues yet, both sides are working intently to complete the bargaining on many of the working condition issues raised in the proposals from both sides.

Those of you who reviewed the contract demands in the FA Office

see **Hope** page 4

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Lobbying...Again



photo by El-Wise Noisette/NYSUT

FA members meet with Albany Legislators on Higher Ed Lobbying Day. Pictured above (l-r) Kevin McCoy, John Burgess, Assemblyman Steve Englebright, Ellen Schuler Mauk, Joyce Gabriele and Kevin Peterman.



photo by El-Wise Noisette/NYSUT

A special thanks to all our faculty who faxed an emailed their state legislators. They got the message!

Newly-elected Assemblyman Mark Alessi (1st AD) meets with Ellen Schuler Mauk and Kevin Peterman



Assemblywoman Ginny Fields reviews fact sheet with Peterman.

FA / SCC | **THE WORD**

Joyce Gabriele Co-Editor
 Kevin Peterman Co-Editor
 Kevin Peterman Photography

AFTCN
 Communicators Network

OFFICE HOURS

Schuler Mauk received a call from an FA member who is teaching two online courses. The contract states that faculty teaching asynchronous courses must be available on-line for communication sessions. However, it does **not** deduct that time from the four (or six) required office hours.

HEALTH & SAFETY CONFERENCE

NYSUT's Higher Ed Health and Safety Conference will take place on Friday, April 21 in Albany at the Shanker Center at NYSUT Headquarters. The FA will pay the registration fee and reimburse members for traveling expenses.

CLAIM DEADLINE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

The deadline for 2005 Benefit Fund Prescription Drug claims is April 30, 2006. Express Scripts will mail prescription drug printouts to faculty in March. If you do not want to wait for this printout, you also have the option of getting a printout from your druggist or going online to www.expressscripts.com. The Prescription Drug Claim Form is available from the Fund Office, Southampton 224D, Ammerman Campus or you can call Mary at 732-6500 or go online: http://www.fascc.org/benefits_prescription1.pdf

FA & BENEFIT FUND HOURS

The FA office and Benefit Fund office will be closed Friday, April 14.

PLANT SALE

The dates for our annual plant sales which contribute to the AHRC are as follows:

Wed. April 26	Selden	Babylon Student Ctr.
Wed. May 3	Grant	Sagtikos Lobby

From 10:30 - 2:30

SICK TIME

The College has the right to request medical info from your doctor if you are sick, but you must give him/her permission to do so. However, if faculty members are out for more than ten days the college has the right to require an exam by the County's MD.

SPRING EC ELECTIONS

FA Elections, Chair, Marie Hanna reminds the members that elections are being held for the following Executive Council seats according to the rules spelled out in Sec. VI I. B. of the FA Election Procedures which reads in part that: "The EC rep in each constituency shall be designated the elections chairperson of that constituency, and shall conduct elections, unless he/she is running for office, in which case an acting elections chairperson shall be designated." EC reps whose term expires are in parenthesis.

Eastern Campus (1 rep):

Counseling, Science, Math & Business (L. Johnston)

Grant Campus (2 reps):

Liberal Arts, Counseling, Library (G.Sheridan)

Natural & Health Sciences, Math & PE (J. Burgess)

Ammerman Campus (5 reps):

Library/Central (K. Gruber)

Engineering/Computer Sci/Indst. Tech. (B. Sardegna)

English (Adam Penna)

Comm/Lang/Rdg/Phil/Thea/TV/Radio/Film (T. Bovino)

Biology/Physical Sciences (D. Butkos)

Counseling (K. Pepe)

Each constituency should have their elections completed by May 8, 2006 in order for the EC to be able to certify the elections at its May 11, 2006 meeting.

College-Wide Constituent representatives (1 rep):

Prof. Ass't-Tech Areas/Inst. Ctrs (J. Pignataro)*

Adjunct Executive Council Representatives:

Bio/Chem/Earth Sci/Fire Sci/Hortic/Physics/Auto Tech/Eng & Tech (D. Cody)*

Econ/Hist/Pol Sci/Criminal Justice/Psych/Counseling/Student Activities (A. Cassidy)*

English/Lib/Speech/Theatre/Broadcasting/Communication (T. Mamatas)*

Foreign Language/ESL/Sign Lang/Music/Visual Arts/Philosophy (R. Haas)*

Math (R. DiNapoli)*

Nurs./Hlth Careers/Nutrition/Chem. Dep./Ophthalmic Dispensing/Early Child/Phys Ed/OS-15 (C. Powers & G. Schwinge)*

Retiree/Guild (C. Grippi)*

PA/Specialists At-Large (M. Sandford)*

* In the case of at-large college-wide, constituent-based PA representatives and Adjunct representatives, the FA Elections Committee will conduct the elections.

Adjunct Professional Development Fund

As part of the Faculty Association's contractual agreement with Suffolk Community College, there is a **Professional Development Fund**, which is available to adjuncts. The college provides annual funding in the amount of \$20,000 to be awarded to eligible adjuncts on a first-come/first-serve basis for the purposes of professional development, which is defined as "professional conferences/purposes" *. The amount each adjunct may receive can not exceed \$300 in any one academic year. Each adjunct who has completed five (5) or more semesters of Suffolk County Community College seniority and who is teaching/working three (3) or more credits per semester is eligible for the use of these funds. An individual can apply for this grant during more than one academic year.

It should be noted that you should apply as soon as you have decided on your plans, and you must submit an application to the dean of the college. The application

Adjunct

Corner

can be found on the FA contract disc (dated September 2005), on the FA's web site at http://www.fascc.org/docs/adjunct_pd.pdf or at the Faculty Association office in the Southampton Building, Ammerman Campus. These funds are only available to you during the semesters that you are employed, and may not be given out to those not working. This is an ideal way to help you broaden your professional horizons. If you haven't already participated in this program, why don't you consider taking advantage of this benefit in the near future? If you need more information, call the Faculty Association office (451-4151), leave your name and phone number, and I will call you back as soon as possible.

*Faculty Association Contract, September 1, 2001 to August 31, 2005, Article V, Faculty Benefits — Section VI, page 30

- Frank J. DiGregorio -

Hope from page 1

know that several of the issues raised this round of bargaining have been "standard fare" proposals and that some other issues are more administrative than contractual (although they do have an impact on our working conditions as members reported in our initial contract survey). What is finally happening is that both sides are working very hard to come up with creative solutions to our perennially "old" problems—and we

hope that some of this creative thinking will speed the entire process along.

As of this writing, we have two long negotiations' sessions scheduled for 3/31 and 4/10. I don't want to jinx the process with too much optimism, but "hope springs eternal."

- Ellen Schuler Mauk -



Have you considered supporting the Affordable Housing Fund?

Donations are now being accepted. Please make checks payable to "Community Outreach" and return with this coupon via interoffice mail to the FA office: 224J Southampton Building, Ammerman Campus.

Thank you.

Name: _____

Address: _____

New Members

Alexander Atwood

Math - Ammerman

With a plethora of degrees and hands-on experience, Alex comes to the Math Department at Ammerman campus very well prepared. He grew up on Long Island, and then attended Cornell University where he



managed to not only avoid falling into chasms, but attain an SBA in Engineering and Physics and an SMA and PhD in Nuclear Science and Engineering. After graduating, Alex accepted a position in New Jersey in the aerospace industry where he worked with micro-electronic and mechanical gyroscopes. Following several years in the field, Alex went back to school and earned a Masters in Technology Management and an MS in Applied Mathematics from the Stevens Institute of Technology. He taught at William Paterson University and Montclair State University before joining our faculty.

Alex has had a successful fall semester and has greatly enjoyed teaching and learning from the students here at Suffolk. Particularly, he finds teaching Intermediate algebra to be very rewarding, as it is a fundamental course for much of mathematics with many useful and wide ranging applications. Through his industry experience, he is quite familiar with many of these applications and brings this practical knowledge of the material to the classroom, which he has also found quite helpful in motivating his students.

In addition to academics, Alex's other interests include religious education and reading, primarily non-fiction. Along with those, he is also currently focusing his research on nuclear power applications as well as Monte Carlo Simulation, a mathematical process which deals with numerical experiments. No, he can't predict the slots or tell you which card will turn up in a Blackjack deck. I asked. But then again, perhaps he can.

- Dan Linker -

Eric Weinstein

Business - Ammerman

Among the most recent additions to the business administration faculty at the Grant Campus is Eric Weinstein.. Eric thrives on his interaction with students in the classroom and has had a long-standing



association with SCCC. In addition to taking a number of classes at the Grant Campus during his college years, Eric has spoken with the Business Club and various classes on numerous occasions over the years. He has also been an adjunct instructor in marketing and accounting.

Eric's experience is one of his greatest assets. He has taught a wide array of courses at Georgetown University, Duke University, Franklin University, and SCCC. Prior to joining our faculty, he worked at YellowBook USA, Inc. as a finance manager.

Eric's educational background has given him an outstanding perspective from which he can mentor the Grant Campus's business students. Eric earned his Master of Business Administration degree in Management from Duke University, where he was a finalist for the Cigna Award for Excellence. While at Duke, Eric also learned the virtues of being a Cameron Crazie, and now proudly roots for Duke Basketball every chance he gets.

Prior to pursuing his MBA, Eric earned his CPA while working as an auditor for Ernst & Young, LLP, and earned his BS degree in Accounting from Georgetown University. Eric graduated Summa Cum Laude from Georgetown, was selected as the outstanding accounting student upon graduation, was awarded the prestigious Houston Accounting Achievement Award and was nominated for a Rhodes Scholarship. In addition, Eric was awarded the Greater Washington Society of CPA's Scholarship Award, was a member of Beta Gamma Sigma (the National Business Honor Society) and Alpha Sigma Nu (the National Jesuit Honor Society), was selected for recognition in *Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges*, and was the recipient of the Georgetown University Performing Arts Award.

Eric is incredibly excited to have the opportunity to teach at the Grant Campus and looks forward to meeting many of his colleagues during the coming months.

NYSUT Social Services Benefit

Unexpected complications arise which can be managed by having a positive course of action, the right information, and/or help from a caring professional. NYSUT Social Services can help.

NYSUT Social Services is a confidential benefit offered to all NYSUT members both retired and inservice.

Their mission is to improve the quality of members' lives through social services support and advocacy.

When you call, a highly trained and experienced staff member will discuss your unique situation and concerns.

NYSUT can provide you with reliable information and referrals for professional assistance wherever you live.

There is never a charge for this service, nor does NYSUT Social Services require membership additional to your NYSUT membership.

This benefit extends to you, the NYSUT member, and covers your concerns about yourself, your spouse or domestic partner, your children, your parents and parents-in-law.

All calls and contacts will be kept confidential.

Retired Members

Here are just a few examples of the things NYSUT Social Services can do if you are a retired member:

- Provide you with information on retirement communities - anywhere in the country
- Recommend a support group, convenient to you, that matches your particular needs
- Connect you with reputable, licensed home care agencies
- Provide supportive telephone counseling
- Suggest treatment options for addictive behaviors
- Share tips on successful caregiving and find you respite services for your loved one
- Assist you in obtaining specialized services for disabling conditions
- Follow your progress through a hospitalization and make sure you receive a safe discharge plan
- Help connect you to the network of aging services for yourself or your older relatives
- Have a chat about a difficult decision or puzzling situation

Inservice Members

Here are some examples of the things NYSUT Social Services can do if you are an inservice member.

- Help you utilize your Employee Assistance Program (EAP) benefit if you have one; if not
- Recommend a support group, convenient to you, that matches your particular needs
- Find reliable counseling services in your area including marital and family counseling
- Suggest treatment options for addictive behaviors
- Arrange assistance for members who are victims of school violence
- Assist you in obtaining specialized services for disabling conditions
- Follow your progress through a hospitalization and make sure you receive a safe discharge plan
- Help connect you to the network of aging services for your older loved ones
- Suggest tips for successful caregiving

Questions? Call 800-342-9810 ext. 6206 or e-mail socsvcs@nysutmail.org.

NYSUT Barnes & Noble Online Discount

NYSUT members and agency fee payers can save money by buying books, music and videos online at up to 40% off at the NYSUT Member Benefits/Barnes and Noble.com customized Online Bookstore.

NYSUT members receive an additional 5% discount by going through NYSUT's web site at:

memberbenefits.nysut.org, select Discounts & Travel, then choose Barnes & Noble from the drop down menu.

Free shipping when you spend \$25 or more on products that include the Fast & Free Delivery message box - see the customized site for details.

Orders with eligible products will be delivered within 3 business days of leaving the B&N.com warehouse

Add books to your shopping cart to view the discounted price.

This offer is not available in Barnes & Noble retail stores.

Protect Yourself From Identity Theft

We have all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on someone by stealing a name, address, social security number, credit card information, or ID number on your driver's license. Do you know what's in your wallet and all the account numbers to call and cancel if your wallet is stolen, especially if you are traveling and away from home? If you cannot answer yes, you are vulnerable to identity theft without the means to immediately respond and minimize the impact a thief will have on your credit and financial life.

Here are some things you can do to protect yourself.

The next time you order checks, omit your first name and have only your initials and last name put on them. If someone takes your checkbook they will not know if you sign your checks with just your initials or your first name, but your bank will know.

When you write checks to pay your credit card account, do not put your complete account number on the check, only the last four digits. If you are given a credit card statement to sign, especially in restaurants or gas stations, scratch out all but the last four digits of your account number if the full number is displayed. The credit card company knows the rest of the number and anyone who might be handling your check or statement as it passes through all the processing channels will not have access to your complete credit card number.

Put your work or cell phone number on your checks instead of your home phone number (if a number is required). If you have a post office box, use that instead of your street address. Never have your social security number printed on your checks; add it only if required. Make photocopies of the contents of your wallet. Do both sides of each license, credit card, ID cards, etc. Make copies of your passport. Place these copies in a safe place at home and in at least one travel case that will not be where your wallet and passport are located if you are traveling.

Now you will not only know the contents of your wallet, but you will also know all your account numbers and the toll free phone numbers you must call in order to contact credit card companies, banks and motor vehicle bureau if your wallet is stolen.

When traveling, obtain the phone numbers of the United States Embassies in the countries in which you

will be traveling. If your passport is stolen, you will have the necessary phone numbers for a prompt report and request for a new passport.

There is one more important thing you must do if your wallet is stolen. Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and social security number. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information has been stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit. This will prevent thieves from applying for credit using your personal information or making withdrawals from your bank accounts.

If you do online banking, or have an online account, or a credit card be on the lookout for e-mail messages directing you to a site to verify your account information.

The site will look like it belongs to a reputable company, even including the company's logo. At the site you will be asked to verify your Social Security number, password, mother's maiden name, city you were born, etc. **DO NOT REVEAL ANY OF THIS INFORMATION.** No legitimate company will ever ask you to send such security information in this manner. Call the company and let them know what is happening. You can also call the police.

Place the following credit reporting organization phone numbers and Social Security Administration phone number with the above copies and hope you will never need them.

Equifax: 1-800-525-6285

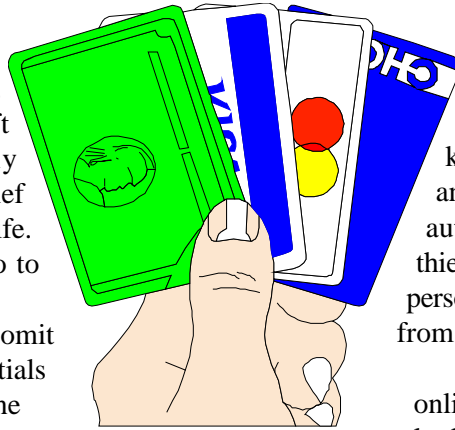
Experian: (formerly TRW) 1-888-397-3742

T r a n s U n i o n: 1-800-680-7289

Social Security Administration (fraud line): 1-800-269-0271

- *Pete Herron, President*
Retirees Association of Suffolk Community
College -

This article appeared in the Spring 2006 **RASCC Newsletter**



2005 - 06 Executive Council

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