

## “The devastation was unimaginable”: FA members share their storm stories by Cynthia Eaton

“My home went from dry to waist deep in water within twenty minutes,” began Andy Monahan (Business), who lives in the hardest hit area of Long Beach, “and the water kept coming.” His neighborhood was buried in five feet of water and five feet of sand.

“I couldn’t leave the house built by my grandparents over 100 years ago, so I witnessed the disaster. When I ventured out at 4 a.m., I saw the hot tub of a neighbor who lives four blocks away floating in front of my house.”

People question why Monahan stayed at his barrier island home. “I have a very large dog that would have made even the most pet-friendly shelters wary. Who would have watched him while I went back to work? I felt I had no choice but to stay.”

Monahan, whose second floor is now his main floor, is one of many FA members still coping with physical, financial, and emotional challenges caused by Superstorm Sandy. While many of our faculty dealt with power outages for several days to two weeks, temporary loss of Internet and phone access, and the gas shortage, some of our members saw their homes destroyed and are still leading disrupted lives.

The storm, which hit Long Island

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*Ginny Horan (Communications) waded through floodwater to assess the damage to her home the day after Superstorm Sandy. Her family moved into their new home 45 days before Sandy hit.*

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# Elite teaching

by William Burns

A new fitness craze has been taking the country by storm. Called CrossFit, this fitness regimen demands total dedication and a willingness to push one's mental and physical boundaries to the limit. Not surprisingly, Alyssa Kauffman, assistant professor of communication at Grant, is a devotee of this punishing but transcendent routine. Alyssa strives to enhance her student's learning and her own pedagogy through relentless critique and a fierce devotion to pushing the study of communication into entirely new areas of learning.

Alyssa was hired as an adjunct in 2000 and full time in 2006. Her educational background reflects the eclectic approaches she uses in class. She majored in communication with a minor in counseling, but her most exciting and unique educational experiences came from an interest in outdoor recreation.

Alyssa taught at the Joy Education Center in Clarksville, Ohio, in an experiential education program. The curriculum involved hands-on learning consisting of three components: adventure education, environmental education, and cultural living history. Her pedagogical practices included team building, participating in a ropes course, and re-enacting the

Underground Railroad and the Trail of Tears. Her years at the Joy Center left a powerful impression.

Alyssa brings this kinetic approach to her courses. Her favorite classroom activity is "speed friending," in which students meet and greet for two minutes per question, then change for a new

partner. They do this for fourteen rounds so students not only get to know their classmates but also make connections to class materials and theories.

Though she is a self-professed "theory junkie," Alyssa tries to show students practical applications for these ideas and insights. She also uses Play-Doh and film in order to help students visualize and comprehend complex concepts and applications. Obviously, fun, creativity, and collaboration are all tools that Alyssa wields in her quest to build rapport and expand students' thinking and practices of communication in and out of class.

Alyssa's imaginative and inspirational approach to communication elicits strong positive responses. One student told her that all the reflective thinking she demands from her students "made his head hurt." She uses social media like Facebook to keep in contact with students and to teach communication theories and practices as well.

Alyssa received a standing ovation for her keynote at the Honors Convocation. Her love of performing and pushing herself physically can be seen in her interests outside of school



photo by Kevin Peterman

such as participating in Improv classes and her affiliation with Crossfit Long Beach. She has been both inspired and humbled by these activities, but they both have intensified her love of teaching.

Alyssa's future will be, believe it or not, busier than her present. She was involved in the creation of our new communication major and has co-created two new courses: Intro to Communication Theory and Advanced Interpersonal Communication. She is also producing student-faculty dramatic readings with discussions afterward.

Alyssa's love of theater has extended to collaborations with librarian and playwright Sue DeMasi as well as to students looking to direct and produce plays. Along with Lisa Hamilton, she also found the time to bring ten students to New Orleans to help rebuild homes as part of an Alternative Spring Break and is looking to engage in more community service/learning projects.

Alyssa Kauffman is a true Renaissance person: she can teach, rebuild communities, act in plays, and still find time to complete her Crossfit workout of the day.

**The WORD**

Cynthia Eaton.....Editor-in-Chief  
 Kevin Peterman.....PR Director  
 William Burns.....Writer  
 Susan Rubenstein DeMasi.....Writer

# FYI: Highlights from the Executive Council and other news of note

- Faculty Association and Benefit Fund closings:**

Both the FA and the Benefit Fund offices will be closed from December 24 to 28 due to renovation projects. The FA office will be also closed from December 31 to January 2. The Benefit Fund office will be closed from December 31 to January 1 and from January 7 to 11.

- Prescription drug claim forms:**

Prescription drug claims for 2012 must be received by Daniel H. Cook by April 30, 2013. The form is available at the Benefit Fund office, Southampton 224D (Ammerman), or on our website: <http://www.fascc.org/beta/docs/rx2010.doc>.

- EMHP claim forms:**

Faculty must submit all unpaid 2012 medical claims to Empire Blue Cross by March 31, 2013, to receive reimbursement for covered out-of-pocket expenses. Forms are on the EMHP website: <http://www.emhp.org/members.aspx>.

- Longevity checks:** According to payroll, on January 17, 2013, longevity checks will be distributed to full-time faculty employed more than 10 years by Suffolk County.

<u>Years of FT Service</u>	<u>Amount</u>
10-14	\$1,075
15-19	\$1,575
20-24	\$2,075
25-29	\$2,425
30+	\$2,925

- Wintersession 2013 and spring 2013 adjunct/overload checks:**

Faculty who teach during the wintersession will receive one check on January 24. For the spring 2013 semester, there will be seven adjunct/overload paychecks as follows:

March 7	May 2
March 21	May 16
April 4	May 30
April 18	

Faculty teaching early end classes will receive four checks from March 7 to April 18; those teaching late

start classes will receive four checks from April 18 to May 30.

- Finding your total annual dues for your taxes:**

When filing taxes, you and/or your accountant will need to know the total amount of dues you paid from January to December 2012. You can access this information in Banner:

1. Click the Human Resources tab.
2. Click Pay Stub.
3. Click the Deductions History link at the bottom of the page.

- February faculty development workshops:**

Next spring, FA secretary Marie Hanna will hold three faculty development workshops during common hour:

February 6 at Eastern

February 13 at Ammerman

February 20 at Grant

## Health Advocate helps make healthcare costs more transparent

Health Cost Estimator is a *free* healthcare pricing tool from Health Advocate, a special benefit paid by the FA Benefit Fund. When you enter your specific health issue (procedure or service) and location (zip code), the

Health Cost Estimator generates a report that provides detailed cost estimates by continuously mining Health Advocates' medical claims database.

With this tool, you can use real-time data to "comparison shop" for medical care. The information can be critical in helping you to make more informed and cost effective healthcare decisions.

The report includes features such as in-network physician comparisons, a summary of fees (e.g., for physicians,

facilities, anesthesia), and a price range for the procedure or service.

Call your Personal Health Advocate (PHA) today at 866-695-8622 to learn how to access and use the Estimator.

Case Study #1: Total Hip Replacement		
Option	Procedure COST	Potential SAVINGS* \$34,988
Low	\$10,144	
Likely	\$20,384	
High	\$55,372	

Case Study #2: Ear Tube Insertion (child)		
Option	Procedure COST	Potential SAVINGS* \$7,010
Low	\$666	
Likely	\$6,947	
High	\$13,957	

# Professors on Wheels rejuvenates teaching spirit

by Cynthia Eaton

The baby boomer generation has officially arrived—at retirement age, that is. Millions of Americans now live longer than previous generations. Our nation currently has more citizens age 65 and over than at any other time in our history; the last Census reported the number to be a record 40.3 million.

While the research is mixed on whether continuing education definitely slows cognitive decline, experts concur that seniors can benefit socially and emotionally from pursuing a variety of educational opportunities.

Enter Professors on Wheels.

This successful program of the FA community outreach committee was in full force this semester, with a dozen more faculty making sometimes multiple trips to area nursing homes and adult residential facilities with free educational lectures.

## Deepened and rejuvenated teaching

“It warmed my heart being among those who spent their lives making meaningful contributions to the Long Island we all enjoy today,” declared Sonya Lorrain (College Seminar). Lorrain did a presentation titled “Long Island Beaches and Beyond” at The Arbors, Good Samaritan Nursing Home, and Smithtown Rehabilitation and Nursing Care.

Lorrain indicated that her undergraduate courses were in the field of gerontology but she ultimately chose a different career path. “Imagine my excitement when 20 years later I have the opportunity to participate in Professors on Wheels!” She had heard of the program in the past few years but hesitated because she thought the lectures had to be strictly academic.

Including historical facts and trivia throughout her presentation, she took

residents on a visual “drive” through famous Long Island beaches. Lorrain characterized the experience as “quite energizing” and said, “This was the most rewarding experience I’ve had in a long time.”

Marianne McNamara (Biology) talked with her audience about her experiences living and working on an icebreaker in Antarctica. “I was surprised,” she acknowledged, “that most of the residents remarked on how they never knew the difference between the Arctic and Antarctica and the different animals found there.” The types of questions asked made McNamara realize that many notice very different things from her talks than her college students do.

Bill Burns (English) concurred. “It has deepened and rejuvenated my teaching,” he said of his presentations on Alfred Hitchcock. “Working with a different learning group has encouraged me to be more adaptive and reflective in considering effective teaching styles, and, most importantly, to open up the conversation to include neglected voices as well.”

## Music evokes, creates memories

Images of Italian immigrants making their way off ships during the Great Depression captivated the Italian community at Good Samaritan Nursing Home, noted Linda Smith (Career Services). Smith shared some of the critically acclaimed PBS special “Pride and Passion: The Italians in America” with residents during her October 20 presentation.

“The most moving moments,” Smith recalled, “were when the Italian music filled the room. The music transcended present time and transformed many blank sad faces into smiling ones,

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melting the years.” Smith deemed it beautiful to see “so many people in the winter of their lives warmed by music from their spring times.” She witnessed fleeting feelings, she said, surging back like a tidal wave during her workshop.

Robin Hill (Office of Instructional Technology) offered an October 25 workshop specifically focused on music titled “A Tribute to the 1930s and 40s.” Hill asserted, “I knew the presentation was a success when I heard them singing and watched them tapping their feet.” Hill said the residents were fully engaged and eager to answer the basic trivia questions. “At the end,” she smiled, “I was offered hugs, kisses, and invitations to return. It was a wonderful experience.”

## Connecting with seniors

Some faculty tailor their Professors on Wheels presentations specifically for a senior audience. Vincent McCambley (Social Science) offered three workshops this fall on how mental health issues affect families. “I could see some of them nod their heads when talking about how many times families remain silent when someone is struggling with one of the numerous mental health issues that can affect families.”

McCambley, who began his presentations after his mother-in-

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# Faculty Association Holiday Party

The proceeds from this year's 50/50 raffle (\$890) were donated to the NYSUT Disaster Relief Fund to help those affected by Superstorm Sandy. While the storm has long since abated, the need for assistance hasn't as our union brothers and sisters are still leading disrupted lives.



From top to bottom: SCCC president Shawn McKay draws raffle tickets; holiday revelers on the dance floor; Guild member Joe Imperial celebrates his 50/50 win; and Board of Trustees vice chair Walter Hazlitt and chair Dafny Irizarry (standing) enjoy some conversation with Suffolk County legislators Tom Cilmi and Sarah Anker.

Raffle prizes were generously donated by General Vision Services; Buchbinder, Tunick & Company; Stacey Braun Associates; Mirkin & Gordon; Daniel H. Cook; Jeffrey Zwilling, DDS; Sari Byrd; Jane Shearer; and Cheryl Clifford.



At the annual FA/Guild holiday party, retirees received a set of champagne glasses and a bottle of champagne. This year, the college saw nearly two dozen retirements.

Posing with FA president Ellen Schuler Mauk (third from right) and Guild president Tom Breeden (fourth from left) are some retirees at this year's FA/Guild holiday party. From the left are Jon Hawkins (English), Bob Walker (Chemistry), John Burgess (Physical Education), Jean Ann Scharpf (Physical Education), Marilyn McCall (Art), and George Tvelia (Office of Faculty and Professional Advancement).



FA partiers pose prettily for Kevin Peterman's camera.



all photos by Kevin Peterman

FASCC • The WORD

## Storm stories

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in the early morning hours of Tuesday, October 29, was historic. Sandy's tropical force winds measured 820 miles at their widest, and the storm's kinetic energy caused its surge and wave destructiveness to be rated 5.8 on a 6.0 scale by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the highest measured.

Knowing that New York state witnessed the most deaths as a result of the second costliest hurricane in U.S. history, the FA members most severely impacted acknowledge what they lost but are also grateful for what they didn't lose—and for what they gained.

**"I had no idea a refrigerator could float"**

The Village of Babylon home of Patty Munsch (Counseling) flooded with three feet of water. Munsch will never forget the Halloween when she returned to her home with her husband and 17-month-old son Stephen. "Boats were sitting in the street," Munsch recalled. "People were standing outside their homes in the still-flooded street just crying. Water was everywhere." In the driveway, her truck looked okay from the outside, but peeking in she could see floodwater in the cup holders.

"Walking into my home, everything was still wet, floors covered with mud, and the smell of diesel fuel infused everything we own." Munsch continued, "By Thursday I was in clean up mode. We emptied my home and piled our unsalvageable possessions

on the curb." Some of the items were exceptionally painful for her to part with, like her baby's belongings: "Stephen's favorite toy. My stuffed animal from when I was a baby. The bridesmaid dress I was to wear at my sister's wedding."

Other FA members also lost the entire first floor of their homes. Ginny Horan (Communications) of West Islip unfortunately was among them. "The morning of the storm," she said, "I stepped outside and was shocked to see the water at the top step of our patio. We quickly piled our belongings on top of beds and couches thinking the water might rise a few more inches, gathered up the children and dogs, and left just as the water reached the grill of our Jeep."

The next day she returned with trepidation to assess the damage. "We couldn't even drive up to our home, for the street was flooded with three feet of dirty, ice cold ocean water." Ginny waded up to face the home she and her husband purchased just months ago.

"The devastation was unimaginable. The mattresses and couches acted like sponges so everything piled on top of them was destroyed. Every pot and pan in the kitchen cabinets was filled with water." Closets were soaked with water and the dresser drawers had socks floating in them. The newly painted rooms all ruined, Ginny knew that the first floor would have to be gutted.

Lars Hedstrom (TV, Radio, Film) found himself in a similar situation. "We experienced almost five feet of water in our house," he began. The Amityville resident lost everything on the first floor: furniture, appliances, heating units—everything. Hedstrom put it simply: "It is a horror."

Filling two dumpsters with "a lot of life's stuff," Hedstrom found it particularly difficult to have to throw away his books, family photos, and papers. Eager to get back to a sense of normalcy, he admitted, "Boat, cars,

**Every pot and pan in the kitchen cabinets was filled with water. The dresser drawers had socks floating in them.**

dogs are fine, but I'm not. I've seen and experienced a lot in my life so far, but to work this hard all these years and see the fruit of my labor disappear in minutes is a slice of reality I never thought I'd experience."

"I had no idea a refrigerator could float," marveled Karen Carlson (Physical Education). Having survived Hurricanes Gloria and Irene, she chose to stay in her Lindenhurst home—and she's glad she did.

"I actually surfed the epic waves on the Great South Bay the day before the storm. But the surge of water that breached the bottom of our front door was insane, coming in at such an accelerated rate."

Not anticipating so much water so quickly, Carlson found herself trying to rescue her belongings from the four feet of water, but all salvage attempts were futile. Carlson reflected on the clean up process: "At the time you don't think of it, but clearing out all the things that were once special to you that are now covered in dirty water and oil and smell like an old fish tank, well, then the waterworks start."

The demolition was the hardest part for Carlson. "To see everyone in my neighborhood have their entire lives, everything in their world, on the curb—like it was a regular garbage day—was exhausting." She described tearful hours of hauling beds, stoves, clothes, children's toys, washers and dryers, and kitchen tables to an enormous pile that sat in front of their homes, a painful reminder, for three weeks.

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## Storm stories

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Michael Berrell (Art) saw nearly everything he owned go up in flames. Renting a first-floor apartment in Copiague Harbor with his girlfriend, Berrell obeyed the mandatory evacuation orders on Sunday morning. “The water was already coming up from the canals,” he said, “so we were happy to comply.” He prepared as best he could, putting his artwork and other valuables on tables and other high surfaces.

He expected water damage; he didn’t expect the fire. With the two feet of water causing outlets to corrode, when the power came back on, a short in the electrical system sparked a fire that engulfed Berrell’s apartment. While an upstairs friend was able to call the fire department immediately, Berrell and his girlfriend lost most of their belongings. Furniture, clothing, computer, camera, artwork: all damaged by fire, smoke, and/or the floodwater.

“The first floor is just a skeleton,” Berrell stated. Asked where he lives now, he replied, “I was couch hopping for a while, but currently we’re staying in an acquaintance’s guest house.”

### Seeking safety

Adding insult to injury, Carlson remarked, scavengers appeared immediately. “They just took things without asking as we’re standing there covered in filth and tears, waiting for FEMA or the insurance company to show up so we can get on with it.” She recounted the numerous sleepless nights she and her family faced after the



Photo by Gayle Sheridan

*The first floor of Ginny Horan’s home had to be gutted and rebuilt, as did the homes of several other FA members who were severely impacted by the storm; they are still leading disrupted lives. While some are rebuilding, others continue to be displaced by water or fire damage to their homes.*

storm, due to lack of heat and lights, which increased their fear of theft.

Horan expressed concern about her family’s safety too. After police notified her of several instances of looting in her area, she grew more disconcerted about the fact that her front door was so swollen they could not shut and lock it. “I got it in my head one day,” she acknowledged, “to saw off a section at the bottom so the door could be locked. It worked! I felt like Wonder Woman.”

After several robberies in his neighborhood, Monahan said, police stepped up their presence in Long Beach to deter looting. For a while police helicopters circled overhead and police checkpoints were established at the three bridges to Long Beach which meant sitting in long lines and showing ID just to go home. But it was worth it, he said, for the safety.

### Supporting families

FA members have also been coping with losses suffered by family and friends. Christine Kulis’ (Mathematics) son, a teacher, lost his entire home just

three months after becoming a new father—to triplets. A resident of Amity Harbor, he owned a two-family home, living on the first floor and renting the second floor for extra income.

Three and a half feet of water invaded their home when Sandy struck. The post-storm visit was crushing, after having just met the challenge of becoming first-time parents to three premature babies.

The young family stayed with various relatives for a time but with triplets it was a challenge. “At first they were sleeping at her mother’s house,” Kulis said, “on a mattress on the floor with the three infants in between them.” The dining room table became the changing table.

Kulis reported that the hardest part for her daughter-in-law was going back to work and leaving her infants in a situation like that, not even in their own cribs or in their own home. They finally found a place to rent on a month-by-month basis.

“I’ve been helping as much as

**They were sleeping on a mattress on the floor with the three infants in between them.**

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# NYSUT Community College Conference teaches addition, subtraction

by Cynthia Eaton

“Tragic” is the word used by John Nichols, author and Washington correspondent for *The Nation*, to describe “a country in which trade unionists have to make sacrifices in bargaining rights, pay, increased work, increased contributions to health insurance, and decreased pensions because a politician didn’t want to say to a rich man, ‘you’ll have to pay more taxes.’”

Nichols’ impassioned keynote was a fitting start to the 34th annual NYSUT community college conference held in Saratoga Springs on November 16-18.

Attendees also received a welcome

from FA president Ellen Schuler Mauk, who spoke movingly about how Long Islanders were affected by Superstorm Sandy, and greetings from NYSUT vice president Maria Neira, who reminded her audience that, while we might be pleased with the election results, now’s the time to hold our elected officials and representatives accountable for their actions.

In the workshop titled “Organizing: Defining the Bargaining Unit in Public Sector Higher Education,” Charlie Clarke of the Monroe Community College Faculty Association addressed the divide-and-conquer political

technique affecting the working people of America. “Labor splitting is about subtraction,” he asserted. “Political success is about addition. Solidarity (addition) is better than labor splitting (subtraction).”

Much of that workshop also addressed inclusion of adjunct faculty in a bargaining unit. Currently, sixteen of the thirty SUNY community colleges have adjunct faculty represented by a bargaining unit. Ten locals are in the same unit as the full-time faculty (including the FA), and the other six

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all photos by Kevin Peterman

*Clockwise from top left: Ellen Schuler Mauk provides statewide reports during the ED39 meeting, Kevin McCoy offers advice on communicating with web technology, Sean Tvelia (at right) during his workshop on hostile work environments, Cynthia Eaton speaks about distance education issues, Matt Pappas listens intently to a presentation, Darlene Aiken responds to a question, and Joyce Gabriele (at right) confers with the presenter of the workshop she moderated.*



## Storm stories

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possible,” Kulis noted. “Their tenant cannot live upstairs until everything settles so they’ve lost that income too. My son has an endless list of contractors, insurance reps, adjustors, etc., to deal with—often on short notice. Since my daughter-in-law has gone back to work, I drive out to babysit as much as I can.”

### What matters most

Three months ago, the Eastern campus women’s faculty poker group donated \$400 to Kulis’ son to help offset the costs of caring for triplets. After they learned those same babies were displaced due to the storm, the wallets opened again—this time raising \$1,100.

“I’m just floored by people’s generosity,” Kulis said. Her son’s fellow coaches and lacrosse team’s parents have held two fundraisers for him already. “People jump at the chance to help. Their kindness is overwhelming. I’m just so grateful.”

Munsch agreed. “We gained an appreciation for our neighbors who all worked together and shared resources to get the water out of our homes. We realized the strength of our families and we recognized the amazing number of friends who shared a hot meal with us, opened their homes to us, and gave us the moral support we needed.”

“The part that the light shines on was the community coming together,” Carlson declares. She said that she appreciates the kindness that was bestowed upon them by volunteer workers, the Red Cross, and strangers lending a hand, bringing food and clothing or sharing their homes.

“It was the glow of making a new friend as I stood on line for hours trying to fill up my gas containers,” Carlson continued. “What matters most was

connecting with one another on a real basis, not pretending, not electronically, but hand in hand, working together.”

Horan chimed in with some of the things she’s taking from the experience. Number one, she said, is that people are amazing and kind and generous. “Two, my kids turned out better than I thought and have risen to the occasion in many admirable ways.” She gave similar praise to her husband whom she deems Superman.

“And,” she concluded, “there are moments of happiness and laughter even in the depths of despair.”

Berrell, an adjunct faculty member, also has maintained a positive attitude about the experience. “I’ll admit it’s hard because my routine is so skewed. My friends all have 9-to-5 jobs; they can go to the office and for those eight hours life seems normal. As a teacher, I take so much work home. I don’t sit in the adjunct office all day. I prepare for my classes at home. I grade assignments at home. It’s still far from ‘normal.’” Living with various friends and acquaintances, Berrell’s typical commute to the Grant campus was washed away too.

“But still I’m so grateful for what I do have. We were lucky: nobody was hurt, our dogs weren’t hurt. The storm definitely put some things in perspective for me.” While sorting through his scorched belongings, Berrell found an old box of clothes in the back of a closet. He immediately picked it up and took it to a storm-victims donation site. A friend who knew about the fire expressed confusion about what he was doing there. “I’m donating this,” he replied. “I don’t wear these things any more, and I know others are worse off than me.”

“You can’t focus on the material things,” he explained. “They are insignificant in the grand scheme of life. Sandy made me re-evaluate what I prioritize.”

Looking at Sandy from the hardest

hit area, Monahan described a gradual shift away from chaos. “You wouldn’t have believed the smell,” he remembered, due to the sewage and the piles of garbage in the streets.

But the neighborhood pulled together. “One person still had a hot water heater, so that’s where we went for showers. Another neighbor had a fireplace, so we all huddled around it to stay warm.” He said that the neighbors who still had cars would fill them with food and supplies and drive around distributing them.

“It was a challenge because someone would need to find a particular pharmacy for medicine or a bank to pay the bills; we had to hunt for the closest one that was still open. People take for granted that your local branch will always be there for you.” Fulfilling normal routines suddenly took significant amounts of precious time and gasoline.

Asked what he has learned from all of this, Monahan paused. “After the storm I saw so many people in our neighborhood taking pictures. I didn’t understand. I don’t want pictures. I don’t want to remember this.”

There is one thing he will never forget, however: “Our community came together to survive this disaster,” he said. “Everyone on my block has grown even closer. We are all one family now.”

**What matters most was connecting with one another on a real basis, not pretending, not electronically, but hand in hand, working together.**

# It was November, and we remembered

by Kevin Peterman

What a night!

While everyone knows the outcome at the national level, you might not realize that labor, our K-12 colleagues, and FA volunteers were the reason Congressman Tim Bishop was re-elected.

Yes, we knew Tim was there for us in Washington and we remembered in November. We joined our brothers and sisters at labor walks and phone banks to do what labor does best: we provided “boots on the ground.” That means old-fashioned walking the district and calling our colleagues, asking them to vote for Tim.

On election night Congressman Bishop stood tall and thanked labor for their support. As a result, we continue to have a voice for higher education in the House of Representatives. As a former Southampton provost, Tim can truly articulate our needs.

Congressman Bishop’s race was being watched nationally. It was a test for labor. With outside super PAC money being donated to Altschuler, Tim’s opponent, labor had much to prove. On November 5, the night before the election, Ellen and I were at



photos by Kevin Peterman

*Congressman Tim Bishop speaks with volunteers doing political walks on his behalf before the election. Bishop has credited labor for helping ensure the success of his re-election bid.*

NYSUT’s Suffolk Regional Office to join AFT president Randi Weingarten and NYSUT president Dick Iannuzzi to hear Tim Bishop personally thank us. “When I win on Tuesday,” he declared, “it will be because teachers and the trades were behind me.” Yes, he remembered, and we delivered.

Although Congressman Bishop was the main push for the FA, we joined other N Y S U T locals from Suffolk who participated in six labor walks and we were among the almost 200 walkers.

Plus, we were part of the more

than 750 volunteers who made calls to over 23,000 NYSUT members to support Tim and the many NYSUT-endorsed candidates running for state senate and assembly seats.

Several Albany incumbents were not supported by NYSUT for one simple reason: they voted for Tier VI and the 2% tax cap that is wreaking havoc on our colleagues in K-12. Many of these incumbents were surprised they did not get teacher support. Why the surprise? They were reminded in the last legislative session that if they passed anti-labor bills or restrictive budget measures, we would remember in November!

This kind of strong political presence is supported by our members’ voluntary contributions to VOTE-COPE. This is the nonpartisan political action arm of NYSUT, which endorses candidates based on their voting records.

We have proven that in New York, the labor movement is not dead—and, yes, we remember in November!



*On November 5, Congressman Tim Bishop, NYSUT president Dick Iannuzzi, and AFT president Randi Weingarten thanked volunteers at the NYSUT phone banks.*

# FA responds to food needs of the college community

by Cynthia Eaton

Children, seniors, the working poor, the disabled, minorities, the homeless: hunger on Long Island spares few demographics.

“Hunger in America 2010,” a report by the national nonprofit Feeding America, estimated that one out of ten Long Islanders sought annual assistance from hunger-relief organizations.

Past experience teaches that we’d be foolish to assume that our students aren’t among those in need. That’s why, this year, the FA donated \$300 to the food bank on the Grant campus run by Professor Mary Ann Borrello, \$300 to the Ammerman campus FEAST food bank, and \$300 to the Eastern campus student club called The Home Team that will offer food donations to Long Island Cares, Inc.

Frank Vино (Counseling) of the FEAST food pantry was grateful for the donations. “This is the fullest we’ve ever been stocked!” he declared. Vино expressed an eagerness to increase



photo by Kevin Peterman

*Student workers Lauren Belzer (right) and Jessie Paduano (left) pull a load of groceries into the Babylon Student Center on their way to help stock the FEAST food pantry. FA president Ellen Schuler Mauk and executive vice president Kevin Peterman purchased \$300 worth of groceries from Costco, then were joined by grievance officer Sean Tvelia and adjunct coordinator Cynthia Eaton to unload the products.*

awareness of the good work the FEAST is doing to help students in all of those hard-hit demographics avoid food in-

stability in the coming years. Please consider donating to one of the campus food banks or pantries.

## NYSUT CC Conference

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are in a separate bargaining unit. The Mohawk Valley Community College Professional Association recently conducted a successful campaign to organize adjuncts into a separate unit.

That leaves adjuncts at fourteen community colleges unrepresented by a union. Clarke made reference to the famous Niemöller “First they came for” quotation:

**First they came for the communists,  
and I didn’t speak out  
because I wasn’t a communist.**

**Then they came for the socialists,  
and I didn’t speak out  
because I wasn’t a socialist.**

**Then they came for the trade unionists,  
and I didn’t speak out  
because I wasn’t a trade unionist.**

**Then they came for me, and there was  
no one left to speak for me.**

Clarke invited participants to reflect on what it would mean “to have a structure in which we fight most tenaciously for those who have the least.”

**Labor splitting is  
about subtraction.  
Political success is  
about addition.**

Other weekend workshops included social networking, professional staff promotion systems and standards, LGBT issues on campus, labor history, emergency preparedness and evacuations, adjunct issues, and the Freedom of Information Law.

Representing the FA were the six officers—Ellen Schuler Mauk, Kevin Peterman, Joyce Gabriele, Marie Hanna, Sean Tvelia, and Cynthia Eaton—as well as Darlene Aiken (College Seminar), Frank DiGregorio (History), Kevin McCoy (Library), Matt Pappas (Physical Science), and Jane-Marie Wright (Math).

# Bricklayers strike at Brentwood, scorning \$10 a day wage

by Susan Rubenstein DeMasi

From the Grant Campus, students, faculty, and staff can easily see the dilapidated brick buildings on the other side of Crooked Hill Road that were once part of the sprawling Pilgrim State Psychiatric Hospital. There are some renovated buildings on the campus itself that were part of the complex and are still in use as well.

What most people probably don't know is that the masons and laborers responsible for laying the bricks and for other construction work had to strike in order to earn prevailing union wages.

The headline above is from a 1933 article in *The Suffolk County News*. According to the article, the building contractor paid \$10 a day to bricklayers and \$6 to laborers (the prevailing union wage was \$13.20 and \$8, respectively). Three hundred workers went on strike. A little over a month later, a follow-up article reported that a judge handed down a decision which reinstated the

correct pay scale and restrained the contractors from employing non-union workers.

A few years later, with new construction still in progress on the hospital grounds, electricians called for a general walkout for similar reasons. According to another *Suffolk County News* article, other trade unions on the job supported their brethren with a sympathy strike. The 13-week strike became even more contentious when the contractor sued the unions a few months later (the resolution of which was not located in later editions of the paper).

So, if you peer across the road at the once-majestic buildings (some in various states of decay, others reduced to rubble), remember the union labor and strife that went into them.

And for those of you at other campuses, there is plenty of union history from that era to consider as you drive around Suffolk County. In

Patchogue, striking workers at the lace mill factory won wage increases after 18 weeks on the picket lines. There was a shipyard strike in Greenport and a walkout by stage hands and movie projector operators at the Bay Shore and Patchogue vaudeville/movie theatres in 1927. Telegraph operators in Southampton and Sayville joined a nationwide strike to secure union recognition, wage increases, and an agreement for a 48-hour work week. Over 1,000 Long Islanders participated in a widespread metropolitan area strike of dress workers sponsored by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU) in 1933.

These accounts, more than mere historical footnotes, remind us that Long Island has a rich labor history. And for those of us who are lucky enough to have the benefit of a strong union and all that it brings us, they reinforce the notion that it isn't all about luck.



*The buildings at Pilgrim State Hospital, across from the Grant campus, were built by skilled tradesmen who recognized the value of their labor.*

photo by Victoria Sinacori

# “Complete masters over our time”: Second annual retirement workshop a rousing success

by Marie Hanna and Cynthia Eaton

The U.S. government released an extensive report in August, “Older Americans 2012,” noting that 65-year-olds today overall are living longer, healthier, and richer lives.

A record 77 million baby boomers—Americans born between 1946 and 1964—reached retirement age in 2011 and are expected to live longer than previous generations. Thanks to improved medical care, 65-year-olds today will likely live another 20 years, up from 14 years in 1980.

Adults over 65 currently account for about 13 percent of the total U.S. population, but researchers expect that number to increase to 20 percent by 2030.

Statistics like these help explain the packed room for the FA’s second annual retirement workshop on October 26.

The event began with the chair of the retirement committee, FA secretary Marie Hanna, reading a quote from Harvey Axelrod of the United University Profession’s Committee on Active Retired Membership:

The key issue before you retire is to figure out what you plan to do. Before we retire, all of our time is managed by others. Infants are put on a feeding schedule, schools decide our class schedules, and employers decide our job hours. Retirement makes us complete masters over our time.

Following Hanna’s warm welcome, Gerry McGahran, financial advisor at Stacey Braun, reviewed financial considerations for retirement. He helpfully divided retirement into three stages of retirement planning: pre-retirement (accumulation stage), nearing retirement (decision state),



photo by Cynthia Eaton

*Gerry McGahran (above) offered the following advice to prospective retirees at the second annual FA retirement workshop: “It’s not a well regulated industry, so meet with a certified financial planner or a registered financial advisor; only these two are legally bound to fiduciary responsibility.”*

and post-retirement (preservation and income stage). McGahran reviewed the following critical topics:

- defining retirement goals
- expenses and income
- investments
- retirement accounts
- pension
- Social Security
- taxation
- insurance
- estate
- financial assistance.

McGahran advised the audience on how to calculate their retirement expenses as well as their retirement income—pension, Social Security, other employment income—to get a general sense of what’s needed each month. Then he gave an overview of the above topics so prospective retirees could think through the many factors that affect our financial lives in retirement.

McGahran’s valuable tips included a

list of the 14 states that won’t tax your pension if you move there and how to pursue long-term care insurance through the college and county, which can offset the stunningly expensive costs (up to \$400/day on Long Island) of a nursing home or assisted living facility.

Also sharing necessary information were Jeff Tempera and Pat Greenberg of the college’s human resources department, Margaret Ann DeMarzo and Sue DiFiore of the Suffolk County Employee Benefits Unit, and Mary Kaffaga of the FA Benefit Fund. All have important roles in helping FA members manage their plans for retirement.

With so much to consider, the FA has prepared a checklist of things to do before retiring so members don’t miss critical steps. We strongly encourage members considering retirement in the near future to attend next year’s workshop. We’re sure it’ll make everything easier as you transition into becoming complete masters over your own time.

## Profs on Wheels

continued from page 4

law graduated from the Professors on Wheels program at Island Nursing and Rehabilitation Center this summer, enthused, "It was really cool to do this."

As other faculty have reported, McCambley also spent time after his presentation speaking one-on-one with some residents about particular issues in their families. "One resident," he shared, "asked about hearing voices. Her therapist was beside me and kept reinforcing my responses. It was a real *wow* moment for me." McCambley's positive experiences have made him more determined to continue his involvement as a Professor on Wheels.

Also regularly involved is Courtney Brewer (Psychology) who has done five Professors on Wheels presentations this semester at Gurwin Jewish Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Smithtown Rehabilitation and Nursing, and Island

Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Brewer's presentations are about memory and about sleep and dreaming.

"I'm always so surprised at the level of interest and knowledge expressed by some of the residents," Brewer said. "These are real people with interesting stories of their own." Finding that residents often prefer to speak with her individually after the workshop ends, Brewer described talking with one resident who holds a master's in psychology and with another who grew up in the town in which Brewer now resides who told her what it looked like in the 1940s.

A Professors on Wheels enthusiast, Brewer is developing a new topic for the spring semester. "I feel like I'll be getting to know some of the residents better," she noted, "and I want to keep them interested."

Michelle Fowler (Office of Instructional Technology) addressed nutrition and the importance of mobility during

her presentation, using her father's nursing home experience as an example. "I ended up spending 2 1/2 hours with them and I enjoyed every minute!" Fowler beamed. "I hope that when I am in my 80s I can have the opportunity to be in a class, have all my faculties, and be as feisty as them." Anticipating her next visit, she laughed, "Soon all my new friends will be over the age of 80."

McNamara believes that more FA members should get involved, as it's an entirely different audience than the one we have on campus. "I love reaching out to these individuals, and it really makes their day. One woman was smiling ear to ear while wheeling herself in, during the lecture, and while wheeling herself out. She was so grateful for the visit and the education."

**Contact program coordinator  
Dan Linker ([dan@fascc.org](mailto:dan@fascc.org))  
to learn how to become  
a Professor on Wheels.**



Residents at The Arbors assisted living facility enjoy the commencement exercises at this year's graduation. The FA's Professors on Wheels program brings free educational lectures and presentations to seniors at nursing homes and assisted living facilities throughout Suffolk County.

TEAM FA was among the 60,000 people who took to the Jones Beach boardwalk in the 20th annual Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk on October 21.

The 5K walk raised a total of \$3.15 million for research and support services, according to the American Cancer Society.

From left: Cynthia Eaton and her sons Micah and Kai, Tony Greifenstein, Anita Greifenstein, Kevin Peterman, Joyce Gabriele, Lisa Aymong, Doug Cody, Marie Hanna, Kevin McCoy, Kimberly Balfour, Ellen Schuler Mauk, and Kristen Balfour. Not pictured is FA community outreach co-chair Tim McHeffey, who left early for another charitable event.



photo by Jacklyn Aymong

## Faculty Association 2012-13 Executive Council

### Officers

- **Ellen Schuler Mauk** — President
- **Kevin Peterman** — Executive Vice President
- **Marie Hanna** — Secretary
- **Joyce Gabriele** — Treasurer
- **Sean Tvelia** — Grievance Officer
- **Cynthia Eaton** — Adjunct Coordinator

### EC Reps: Ammerman Full-time

- **Kevin McNamara** — Accounting, Business Administration, Business Information Systems, Legal Studies
- **Matt Pappas** — Biology, Physical Sciences
- **Dante Morelli** — Communications, Languages, Reading, TV/Radio/Film
- **Karen Pepe** — Counseling, Cooperative Education
- **Mike Simon** — Engineering, Computer Science/Industrial Technology
- **Maria Kranidis** — English
- **Michelle Fowler** — Library, Central
- **Jane-Marie Wright** — Math
- **Alex Nohai-Seaman** — Music, Visual Arts, Theatre, Philosophy, Women's Studies
- **Lisa Aymong** — Nursing, Health and Human Services, Physical Education
- **Denise Haggerty** — Social Sciences, Behavioral Sciences

### EC Reps: Eastern Full-time

- **Louise Johnston** — Library, Humanities, Counseling
- **Tony Napoli** — Science, Math, Social Science, Business, Nursing, Culinary, Physical Education

### EC Reps: Grant Full-time

- **Pete DiGregorio** — Business, HVAC, CIS, Technology, ETU Coordinator
- **vacant** — Humanities
- **Mohini Ratna** — Library, Counseling, Media
- **Deborah Wolfson** — Natural Sciences
- **Al Heraghty** — Nursing, Health Science, Physical Education, Veterinary Science
- **Andrea Macari** — Social Sciences

### EC Reps: Professional Assistants Full-time

- **Maureen Arma** — Programmatic
- **Deb Kiesel** — Instructional Labs
- **Steve Ortiz-Rios** — Technical Areas/ Instructional Centers

### EC Reps: Collegewide Adjuncts

- **Stephen Serrecchia** — Business, Accounting, Communications, Telecom
- **Darlene Aiken** — Counseling, Education, Freshman & College Seminar
- **Priscilla Pratt** — Culinary, Fire Science, Library, Electrical Tech, Drafting, Interior Design
- **vacant** — English
- **Marshal Stein** — Foreign Languages, ESL, ASL, Reading
- **Chris Gherardi** — Guild, Retiree, PAs/ Specialists in Programmatic Areas
- **Michelle LaPorte** — Humanities
- **Russell David** — Math
- **Sarahjeanne Goldstein** — Nursing, Physical Education, Health Sciences
- **Maureen Sandford** — PAs/Specialists in Academic Skills Centers
- **MaryAnne Ellinger** — PAs/Specialists in Instructional Labs
- **Doug Cody** — Science, Engineering, Automotive
- **Frank DiGregorio** — Social Sciences

### New York State United Teachers

- **Jonathan Rubin** — Labor Relations Specialist



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## FA brings Fair Trade to campus



photo by Kevin Peterman

Wearing red above are Bruce Seger (Library) and Patty Pece (President, World Village Fair Trade Market) who, along with Pece's staff, supervised the FA's Fair Trade holiday sales table on December 5 on the Grant campus. Another event was held on December 12 at Ammerman. Fair Trade USA notes that, for consumers, Fair Trade offers a powerful way to reduce poverty through their everyday shopping. For farmers and workers in developing countries, Fair Trade offers better prices, improved terms of trade, and the business skills necessary to produce high-quality products that can compete in a global marketplace. Today, Fair Trade benefits more than 1.2 million farming families in 70 developing countries across Africa, Asia, and Latin America.