

Report of the VP for Academics
October 20, 2009
Daniel Kinney

I was invited by Erika Duncan, Artistic Director of the Herstory Writers Workshop, to be a special guest at the 13th Anniversary Gala of Herstory on Sunday, October 4 in appreciation of UUP's introduction of Herstory's work to the Stony Brook Community. The program honored the staff, officers, and family of the Hagadorn Foundation for their dedication to social justice on Long Island and included words of support by Suffolk County Legislator Vivian Vilorio-Fisher. The program consisted of readings from the Patchogue Bilingual Bridge Workshop, the Southampton Hidden Communities Bridge Workshop, the Huntington, Black, Brown and White Bridge Workshop, Herstory Inside Suffolk County Correctional Facilities, and other Herstory workshops. The reading by Lilian Juarez, representing the Centro de Derechos Laborales (Unity House Cleaners Cooperative), which is headquartered in Hempstead, described the shameful abuse of immigrant workers on Long Island. I have since heard from Erika Duncan, who is interested in joining forces with UUP in a program around women in the workplace, which could feature labor stories from Herstory workshops. Erika has contacts with Women on the Job and the Long Island Fund for Women and Girls, and these groups may also be interested in participating in a program. It might make a good program for Women's History Month. Herstory Writers Workshop is also interested in working with UUP on events marking the hundredth anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire.

The Academic Council had a welcome back luncheon on September 16 and a meeting on October 7. Workload was the main topic of discussion at both meetings. Michael Zweig presented the first Front Page Discussion of the year entitled "Why Are We in Afghanistan?" on October 14. It was cosponsored by the Center for the Study of Working Class Life. The presentation was written by Michael Zweig and illustrated by Mike Konopacki.

The East Campus Chapter digitized all back issues of its newsletter *Bridges*. The digital collection of newsletters provides a history of the chapter as well as a history of the Health Sciences Center. Our chapter should consider digitizing the paper copies of back issues of *Insight*. Past issues of *Bridges* can be accessed through the SUNYConnect SUNY Digital Repository (<http://dspace.sunyconnect.suny.edu/>). From the Stony Brook link, click on "Campus Newspapers and Journals." Past issues of *Insight* that already exist in digital form are also available from the SUNY Digital Repository.

The New York State Library Association (NYLA) is now affiliated with NYSUT. NYLA has 4,000 members. NYSUT will work with NYLA on legislative initiatives, and NYLA will help NYSUT organize librarians in public, school, and academic libraries. On Long Island, Plainview-Old Bethpage, East Islip, Port Jefferson, Great Neck, Half Hollow Hills, and Riverhead now have unions. Wyandanch Public Library recently won union recognition.