The Retiree Services Program (RSP) at Binghamton University was created in 2007 with support from the campus administration. The primary mission of the Program was to acknowledge the retirees’ service and contributions to Binghamton University while providing them with the opportunity to remain connected to the university community.

The RSP at BU, based out of the Department of Human Resources, is in full swing and provides a variety of useful and enjoyable benefits which are outlined to retirees at the time of their exit interview by our Retiree Services Coordinator.

We have found that retirees find this program to be one of the major benefits when retiring since it provides them with an easy way to stay involved with and part of the University.

Regular contact is maintained through use of an informational contact database of over 1,000 retirees and an ongoing in-person and on-campus programming. Some of the benefits and services for University retirees include:

- Free classes (audit and space available)
- Campus e-mail
- University Retiree’s Club (area dining)
- FitSpace Affiliate memberships
- Discounts for the University’s music, plays, and art performances
- Library Privileges
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

All retirees, faculty, professional, classified staff and Research Foundation retirees at Binghamton University are given an opportunity to stay connected with the University through meetings and events, mailing of upcoming events, and a ListServ.

There are currently more than 600 active members registered, an increase of 100 members from the previous year. Member retirees are surveyed annually about the type of programs that would best serve their needs and interests.

Luncheons are very popular since they provide retirees with an opportunity to enjoy each other’s company and to exchange retiree stories and contact information. During one of these luncheons, a group of retirees started talking about an informal coffee hour, and they have been meeting monthly ever since.

Retiree Programs that were offered this past reporting year include:

**Health and Insurance**
- New York State Health Insurance Program (NYSHIP) Retiree Health Benefits Meeting
- Medicare 100, 101, and Empire Plan-on-the-Road
- University Benefits Fair
- Long-Term Care and Advance Directives (decisions regarding end-of-life care)

**Campus Activities**
- United University Professions (UUP) Retiree Luncheon
- Binghamton University’s Appreciation Day
- Guided tours of the new Resident Hall and the Nature Preserve

**General Interest**
- Introduction on Chinese Opera and Beijing Opera Staged Combat
- Landscape Design and Unusual Evergreens
- Mastering your Cell Phone
- Home Energy Efficiency

As with any program, identify key retirees who are active and supportive of the program. Support from the campus administration can be vital to any campus interested in implementing and maintaining an effective retiree program. For example, the ongoing support of Binghamton University’s senior staff has been invaluable to the success of this program, especially through their attendance at retiree events.

The BU retirees continue to remain involved in a variety of campus and community service. BU Emeritus Augie Mueller is an example of a very active retiree who is also one of the founders of the Southern Tier Bicycle Club. He was interviewed on April 9, 2012 by local TV Channel 34 because he was instrumental in helping refurbish 700 bikes for the Dream Center’s Annual Give-Away Program. Another exemplary retiree is Emeritus Bob Pompi who is serving on the RSC Advisory Council as Southern Tier Region representative. He also acts as a voice for and showcases what the BU Retiree Services Program has to offer.

Solicitation of input and support for ensuring success of the retiree programs is key. For example, the BU Retiree Services Program’s Advisory Committee (composed largely of retirees) provides guidance for the programs from the different retirees’ constituencies on the campus. This guidance has been valuable in the success of our Retirees Services Program.

More information about Binghamton University’s Retiree Services Program is available at: [http://www2.binghamton.edu/human-resources/retirees/index.html](http://www2.binghamton.edu/human-resources/retirees/index.html).

Any comments or questions may be directed to Corinna Krum an, Retiree Services Coordinator at: [ckruman@binghamton.edu](mailto:ckruman@binghamton.edu) or (607) 777-5959.