Leaving Her Mark at UAlbany

In a few brief years at the University at Albany, author Toni Morrison garnered accolades — including the Pulitzer Prize in Fiction for her novel *Beloved* — and inspired students and colleagues alike.
Awkwafina — *alter ego* of Nora Lum, B.A.’11 — made history in January when she became the first woman of Asian-American descent to receive a Golden Globe Award. Honored in the “Best Actress in a Musical or Comedy” category for her performance in *The Farewell*, Lum is an accomplished performer. Her film roles in *Crazy Rich Asians* and *Ocean’s 8* — and her new Comedy Central series, “Awkwafina Is Nora From Queens” — have also showcased her talent. Lum earned a degree in journalism and women’s studies at UAlbany.
Health & Counseling Services Returns to Campus

A ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Health & Counseling Services building in January marked the official return of the full range of health and psychological services for students to a more accessible Uptown Campus location. The state-of-the-art facility, located on the south side of Dutch Quad across from the athletic fields, houses Student Health Services, Counseling & Psychological Services, and the Center for Behavioral Health Promotion and Applied Research. Designed to meet or exceed the gold standards for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), the facility includes:

• 19 medical exam rooms centered around a nursing and lab station
• 24 offices for mental-health clinicians
• a pharmacy
• a meditation room and space for workshops and group activities, including a “napping class” to help students improve their sleep quality

Direct shuttles to the center are provided for students not located on the Uptown Campus.

CDC Funds New Research Center

With $1 million in funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Epidemiologic and Economic Modeling Agreement (NEEMA), the University at Albany has become the new home of the Coalition for Applied Modeling and Prevention (CAMP).

Previously based at Emory University and now located at UAlbany’s School of Public Health, CAMP will aid the CDC, as well as state and local public-health organizations, in developing, implementing, and altering public-health initiatives. The grant, renewable for four additional years, enables the University to serve as the central hub for a national collaboration linking CDC with other institutions, including Emory and Johns Hopkins; the University of Washington; Georgia State; and the University of California at San Diego.

Associate Professor of Epidemiology & Biostatistics Eli Rosenberg leads the center. School of Public Health Dean and Distinguished Professor David Holtgrave is serving as CAMP’s director of Economic Modeling.
Money Ranks UAlbany Among Best-Value Schools

Money Magazine’s 2019-20 national ranking of the colleges and universities that offer the best academic value places UAlbany at No. 85 out of 744. The publication bases its ratings on “the three basic factors that surveys show are the most important to parents and students: quality of education, affordability, and outcomes.”

In addition, the University placed in the top 4 percent of all U.S. public schools for having the lowest average student loan debt per borrower, according to LendEDU’s latest “Student Loan Debt by School by State Report.” The report noted that, for the Class of 2018, the average debt per borrower was $21,217 – a ranking that landed UAlbany third in New York and at No. 54 for all public schools.

UAlbany Introduces New Major, Master’s Program

Students interested in completing a B.S. in economics major with a minor in business can now avail themselves of that academic option. Eighty students enrolled in late 2019 when the business-economics program, a collaborative effort of the School of Business and the Department of Economics, launched.

In Fall 2020, UAlbany will introduce a 36-credit interdisciplinary master’s program in digital forensics and cybersecurity. Initially, the program will offer tracks in digital forensics, cyber operations, and cybersecurity from the School of Business. Additional tracks are planned for future semesters through the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity (CEHC).

Remembering Mister Rogers

A 1998 Esquire profile by former English major Tom Junod, B.A. ’80, became the basis of the motion picture A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood. Released last fall, the film stars Tom Hanks as Fred Rogers, beloved host of the popular long-running children’s show “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood.” Hanks was nominated for an Academy Award for best actor in a supporting role. Matthew Rhys portrayed Lloyd Vogel, a character based on Junod. Junod and Rogers became friends during the interview process and kept in touch until Rogers’ passing in 2003. Junod, who now writes for ESPN, credits Rogers with having taught him “lessons in heroism and friendship and kindness.”
Faculty and staff are among the most generous donors to This Is Our Time: The Campaign for the University at Albany. To date, faculty/staff have contributed $11 million to the $150-million fundraising endeavor. To recognize them for their generosity, 735 donors who teach and work at UAlbany were invited to a breakfast Feb. 13.

Already, $146 million of This Is Our Time’s overall goal has been realized, and 162 new endowed scholarships have been established since the campaign’s inception. To join us in ensuring that the University remains an engine of opportunity for future generations of deserving students, please visit www.albany.edu/thisisourtime.

When pictures of Toni Morrison taken in 1985 came to light recently in the University Archives, photographer Mark McCarty offered some background. After taking some indoor shots at the New York State Writers Institute, McCarty suggested going outside instead. Morrison twice nixed the idea, citing the cold, but relented after a third plea. McCarty shot two rolls of film in two minutes — and was delighted that their “battle of wills” had yielded some great pictures. ©1985 Mark McCarty
Lyle Thompson ’15 – two-time recipient of the Tewaaraton Award – has been named Attack and Overall Player of the 2010s by Inside Lacrosse. In selecting Thompson for the honor, the publication cited the Onondaga Nation native’s many career accomplishments to date, noting that “with a full Major League Lacrosse season in 2019 he earned MVP honors, showing again there’s no one quite like him at any level. And there might never be again.”

At UAlbany, Lyle’s teammates included his brother, Miles Thompson ’15, with whom he shared his first Tewaaraton Award. Both earned degrees in sociology.

Currently, Lyle plays for the Chesapeake Bayhawks of Major League Lacrosse and the National Lacrosse League’s Georgia Swarm. Miles plays for the Georgia Swarm, as well as for the Chaos Lacrosse Club of the Premier Lacrosse League.

The Thompson brothers were featured in the Fall 2014 UAlbany (“Lacrosse Legends”).
Rising a dizzying 294 feet above the shimmering main fountain of the Uptown Campus, the Carillon is the most iconic structure at UAlbany. For nearly 10 years, Brian Busher has eyed it with one goal in mind: Get to the top. When the opportunity finally arrived on a glorious October morning last fall, he seized it. “Everybody’s seen it and probably thought, ‘I wonder what it’s like up there,’” said Busher, a photographer and director of Digital Media in the University’s marketing department. Few, however, have actually ever made it to the tower’s crown.

Fresh from a mandatory safety-training session, Busher donned a full-body harness, headlamp, and industrial-grade ear protection to guard against the 16 loudspeakers that chime every half hour. “You don’t want to get blasted off the ladder while you’re up there,” he joked.

He squeezed his way through a tiny door he called the “submarine portal,” clicked on his headlamp, locked into the safety cable and began his hand-over-hand ascent up a rough-textured metal ladder – the first of three he encountered. Busher admitted that he stopped twice during his climb. “It was actually harder on my arms than I expected it to be,” noted the avid long-distance runner, adding that he’s “no stranger to repetitive physical activity.”

The first ladder, the longest of the three, terminated at a landing adjacent to the doorway that accesses the massive tank that provides

Carillon Facts: The complex, organ-like symphonic carillon uses a “baton console” keyboard and a unique amplification method to simulate the sounds of the larger, variable-sized bells still used in Europe’s centuries-old church towers.

Through “Project Carillon,” more than 1,680 donors contributed $30,000 to pay for the campus landmark – a gift from the Alumni Association in 1966.

First installed at Dutch Quad’s Stuyvesant Tower, the Carillon was moved to the water tower in 1972.

Twenty-plus steel “rings” stacked atop each other and 33 vertical supports comprise the water tower’s outer shell.

The Carillon is capable of chiming popular music (see page 7).
SONGS CAN BE PROGRAMMED INTO THE CARILLON. CURRENT SELECTION AVAILABLE:

“UA Fight Chant” (UA-UA, UA, UA . . .)

“Purple and Gold” (fight song) (Hansen ’00 & Regan ’00)

“Smoke on the Water” (Deep Purple)

“Black Dog” (Led Zeppelin)

“Whole Lotta Love” (Led Zeppelin)

“We Will Rock you/We are the Champions” (Queen)

“Eight Days a Week” (Beatles)

“In-A-Godd-a-Da-Vida” (Iron Butterfly)

“Help Me, Rhonda” (Beach Boys)

“Californis Girls” (Beach Boy)

“She Loves You” (Beatles)

“Iron Man” (Black Sabbath)

“Theme from “The Addams Family” TV Show”

“Theme from “I Dream of Jeannie” TV Show”

“Theme from “The Flintstones” TV Show”
more than 300,000 gallons of water to the campus. Though commonly referred to as “the Carillon,” the entire structure is, technically, a water tank and, in 1967, earned the Steel Tank of the Year award from the Steel Plate Fabricators Association.

Still within the tube of the tower, Busher had to scale another eight-foot ladder in order to crack open a hatch to daylight. He was outside again, but surrounded by the tower’s cage-like steel structure, which is painted in a fluoropolymer coating with a finish called “Bright Gold.”

With one last scurry up a third ladder, the photographer reached the breathtaking view that he had imagined for the last decade. “The foliage was nice. The day was beautiful.” However, as Busher surveyed the landscape and snapped dozens of panoramic photos, he struggled with the sense that something was missing: the carillon. “I haven’t been on campus anywhere where I couldn’t see it,” he mused.

Next on Busher’s UAlbany bucket list is the top of the ETEC building, slated to open in 2021. The $180-million state-of-the-art facility, which encompasses 245,000 square feet, will be the largest academic and research building on the Uptown campus.
An exit through a small cutout reveals 360-degree views of the campus and the surrounding landscape. A steel grate provides sturdy, if not dizzying, support. A final ladder on the stem atop the tower leads to the aircraft warning light, which was once a bulb but is now an LED.

“I’ve wanted to get to the top since I got here, ’cuz ‘Why not?’”

– Brian Busher
Director, Digital Media

unexpected paths

Sometimes, life detours can lead to new career destinations. These UAlbany alumni share how they turned the unanticipated into opportunities.
unexpected paths

John Curtin poses in Albany Distilling Company’s aging-barrel room.
At 30, John Curtin was broke, living in his parents’ basement and on the brink of failure. He was distressed about the prospects for Albany Distilling Company – the first Albany-based distillery since Prohibition – which he founded in 2011.

“I put every cent I had and everything I could borrow into the distillery. It was a long stretch of perpetual terror,” Curtin remembered late one Friday afternoon last spring as the ADCo bar and patio at 75 Livingston Avenue in Albany’s north end filled with patrons and wedding-anniversary party guests. Housed in an 1840s rowhouse and former Nabisco biscuit-factory horse stable, the building has been lovingly restored. Its exposed brick walls, beamed ceilings, and classic cocktails featuring ADCo’s spirits evoke a throwback vibe.

After eight years in business, with sales doubling annually, Curtin is feeling as if his big risk is finally paying off. He has won loyal fans and rave reviews for ADCo’s award-winning Ironweed whiskeys, Quackenbush rum, and Death Wish Coffee-flavored vodka – the latter a collaboration with UAlbany alumnus and Death Wish founder Michael Brown, B.A.’04.

“About a year ago, I finally stopped being constantly terrified,” Curtin said. “For a long time, I was biting my nails to see if we would make payroll each week.”
Now, with 12 full-time employees, Curtin no longer has to haul 50-pound bags of corn for several hours in the pre-dawn darkness to prepare for a 5 a.m. milling of the main ingredient in a batch of Ironweed bourbon, which is mashed, fermented, distilled, and aged more than a year in brand-new charred American white-oak barrels.

Curtin noted: “It’s an unusual business because all your money is aging in the barrels, and there is no return on the investment for a long time. There is not much room for error, which has forced us to manage cash flow and make strategic long-term decisions.”

Long-range planning is a new experience for Curtin: Growing up in the Albany suburb of Slingerlands, he liked to go with the flow. He studied Chinese letter painting and traveled to China as a high-school student. At UAlbany, where he majored in English, his favorite class was a science-fiction course taught by Jil Hanifan. The students read novels by Philip K. Dick, Robert Heinlein, Ursula K. Le Guin, Isaac Asimov, Ray Bradbury, and others.

In 2019, ADCo expanded its product line to include “The Cocktail Club,” made with club soda, natural flavorings, “and the perfect amount of ALB Vodka.”
Curtin was not an early riser, but he never missed Hanifan’s early-morning class. “We had amazing discussions, and our teacher’s great passion for the material rubbed off on us,” recalled Curtin, who remains a voracious sci-fi reader.

While attending UAlbany, Curtin worked for NYPIRG and as a waiter at Quintessence; he also hosted Smart-Ass Trivia at Bombers. He saved up to travel to Ireland after graduation, worked as a bartender at a Dublin pub for several months, read a lot of Irish literature, and hitchhiked around the Emerald Isle. Curtin taught high-school English in Scotland for a year, then returned home and enrolled in UAlbany’s master’s program in information science. After a stint at General Electric’s corporate offices as “an Excel jockey batting around a mouse,” he was itching for a change.

Passage of the Farm Distillery Act law in 2007 allowed Curtin and partner Matt Jaeger to take a shot at getting in on the first wave of a craft-distilling boom across New York State. After rejections by numerous banks, they secured a loan for $300,000 and fired up the still for the first time in May 2012. Curtin, who opened the ADCo bar and bottle shop April 4, 2018, regularly rolls out new products. Fort Orange, a cocktail in a can that infuses the distillery’s orange-flavored vodka, seltzer, and natural flavors, debuted in Spring 2019.

“We’re figuring out how to grow sustainably. It’s been a challenge, but people keep drinking it, so I’ll keep making it,” said Curtin.

He and his wife, Rebecca Curtin, a pharmacist, and their children, Anya, 6; Owen, 4; and Evan, 6 months, live in Guilderland.

[Read more about Albany Distilling Company at https://www.albanydistilling.com/]

Paul Grondahl, director of the New York State Writers Institute at the University at Albany, is an author and a columnist for the Albany Times Union.

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**Boulvardier**

**Ingredients**

- 2 oz Ironweed Rye
- 1 oz fresh lemon juice
- .5 oz maple syrup (Grade B is recommended)
- Dash Peychaud’s Barrel-Aged Bitters
- 1 egg white

**Preparation**

Combine all ingredients in shaker (without ice); shake vigorously for one minute. Add ice to shaker. Shake and strain into a large coupe.

“Using barrels to age spirits is a common practice: The time in oak transforms the spirit through oxidation, and the flavors of the wood are imparted into the liquid. The requirement to use charred cooperage, however, is a unique feature of American whiskey. The layer of char filters the spirit, and also imparts the characteristic color in what started as a clear distillate.”
As founder and owner of The Firenza Group Ltd., Kantor maintains a law practice in intellectual property focused on patent prosecution. After receiving her undergraduate degree in chemistry from UAlbany, she earned a Ph.D., in organometallic chemistry at UCLA, where she met husband Gregory van Buskirk, founding consultant with SageWay Solutions, LLC. Kantor also earned a degree at Golden Gate University School of Law.

As beekeepers, Kantor and van Buskirk care for more than 120,000 *apis mellifera* (honeybees) at their Danville, Calif., home. They took up the hobby in 2011, after learning about the sharp decline in bee populations in the U.S. since the 1980s. Given that bees pollinate most of the crops that feed our hungry world, Kantor and van Buskirk are happy to host these vital pollinators and replenish a vital natural resource.
RAD Soap founder Sue Kerber claims her product is “the best bar of soap in the world.” And devoted customers — known to her affectionately as “RADsters” — agree.

RAD Soap — short for “Radical” — was Kerber’s response to her son Zak’s longtime eczema problem. Dissatisfied with the advice and medications doctors had offered and resolved to find a remedy, Kerber experimented at her Albany home with a variety of natural ingredients until hitting upon a hemp cream oil-shea butter formula that worked. Initially sold at farmers markets, RAD Soap quickly gained a following. The product line soon expanded to include lotions, creams, and laundry detergent. Now manufactured in a 15,000-square-foot facility in nearby Menands, RAD Soap boasts more than 100 items, many of them manufactured from CBD (cannabidiol), a non-psychoactive extraction of the hemp plant. Fruit, vegetable, and floral essences add to RAD’s cleansing and detoxifying properties, as do such New York State-made products as Death Wish Coffee — the brand founded by Kerber’s fellow alum Michael Brown, B.A. ’04 — and Brewery Ommegang ales.

RAD Soap products are available at a Stuyvesant Plaza shop; at such retailers as Whole Foods; and online at Amazon.com and https://www.radsoap.com.

Kerber’s friendliness has endeared her to customers. “I love to talk to people, and UAlbany gave me a great background in communication and analysis — skills I’ve applied in both teaching and sales. I love the University,” she says. “It’s the best time of my life.”
unexpected paths
Jessica (Lustig) Fuller,  
B.S. ’08, M.S. ’09

Jessica (Lustig) Fuller probably never foresaw that her decision to enroll at UAlbany would impact just about every facet of her life, from where she lives to the purple-painted walls of her business, The Hot Yoga Spot. But it has.

A Long Island native, Fuller relocated to the Capital Region in 2005 for what would turn out to be a permanent move. “I’ve always loved this area; it’s such a special place,” she says. After completing her studies in history and psychology and earning a master’s in social-studies secondary education, she married Mike Fuller. They are the parents of Harrison, 3, and newborn Hazel.

Fuller recalls that “there were no teaching jobs when I graduated.” She did substitute teaching for a while but felt “it wasn’t going to go anywhere.”

A practitioner of yoga since her teens, Fuller began working out in local studios and, at age 23, hit upon the idea of starting her own, close to UAlbany. She established The Hot Yoga Spot in late 2010 at the intersection of Western Avenue and Fuller Road, teaching all of the classes herself. Pleased at the studio’s early success, she relocated it a few months later to a 2,700-square-foot site at Stuyvesant Plaza, nearly quadrupling the space available to accommodate an eager influx of new clients.

Within a few years, Fuller established four additional studios in East Greenbush, Latham, Clifton Park, and Saratoga. More than 40 instructors welcome hundreds of students daily; “we have members who come all the time or once a week,” says Fuller.

The popular business continues to expand. Instruction levels range from beginner to advanced, and The Hot Yoga Spot’s convenient locations offer members the option of working out close to home or to work. “Yoga appeals to everyone, from high school student-athletes,
The teaching and administrative skills she acquired at UAlbany have been useful in Fuller’s work. As founder and CEO, she is “in charge of customer service, studio schedules, marketing and advertising, business growth,” and other responsibilities associated with the day-to-day operations of a successful company.

Fuller also keeps an eye on the competition: When she opened the Albany outlet, “there were no other hot yoga studios in the Capital Region.” Competition, Fuller adds, “is a natural part” of operating a business. What sets The Hot Yoga Spot – which in 2019 became “the first female-founded franchise born in the Capital Region” – apart from the others? “The quality of our instruction, and the wide assortment of class styles,” she replies. “We have highly trained, knowledgeable teachers leading our classes, so there is something for everyone to enjoy.” In addition, Fuller has been able to hold the line on membership costs; “I still have the same prices I had when I opened.”

In 2018, with friend Annie Berdar, Fuller opened BARE, a vegetarian juice bar adjoining The Hot Yoga Spot at Stuyvesant Plaza. “Everyone wants to eat healthy,” Fuller observes, “and we’re happy to help people make good choices, feel better, and look better.” BARE’s offerings of healthy beverages and snacks include Harry’s PBJ, a smoothie named for Fuller’s son.

Fuller believes in giving back to the community, with The Hot Yoga Spot sponsoring and participating in fundraisers that support various causes. One of her favorites, held each June, is a benefit for the Alzheimer’s Association. In addition, “we donate all of our food scraps to animal shelters in the area,” notes Fuller, who, with friend Kayla Tote, also co-owns CrossFit for the People in Albany.

As vice chair of the School of Education’s Academy for the Advancement of Teaching, Leadership, and Schools Advisory Council and chair of AATLAS’ subcommittee on community outreach and communications, Fuller remains involved with UAlbany. Her longtime friendships with former classmates Jaimie Anzelone, Peter Mentnech, Alex Murphy, Matt Barnes, and Lorne Heilbronn also keep her close to the University. The Long Island natives all met freshman year.

“UAlbany definitely changed my life and set me on the course for everything I’ve had since,” says Fuller, smiling as she points to The Hot Yoga Spot’s purple walls.
OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP AND BOTTOM: THE HOT YOGA SPOT FOUNDER AND CEO JESSICA FULLER WELCOMES CLIENTS AND TEACHES A CLASS AT THE STUYVESANT PLAZA STUDIO; CENTER: A CUSTOMER BROWSES A MERCHANDISE DISPLAY. BELOW: FULLER AND FRIEND ANNIE BERDAR POSE AT BARE, THE VEGETARIAN JUICE BAR THEY CO-FOUNDED; BERDAR SERVES UP A BEVERAGE.
Good Culture CEO and “Big Cheese” Jesse Merrill knows that “real” foods can heal. Diagnosed with the chronic inflammatory bowel disease ulcerative colitis (UC) a few years ago, Merrill embarked on a self-prescribed diet regimen that included Good Culture cottage cheese—and experienced almost immediate relief. Now, he and company co-founder Anders Eisner are revamping the cottage cheese market by convincing consumers that eating foods made with wholesome ingredients, rather than with “gums, preservatives, and stabilizers,” can keep them healthy.

Merrill’s road from production assistant to entrepreneur reads almost like a Hollywood script. After earning a degree in art and photography at UAlbany, he “learned a ton!” working on Oscar-winning director Jonathan Demme’s Beloved, starring Oprah Winfrey. The Congers, N.Y., native’s other production credits include Family Man with Nicholas Cage and Spike Jonze’s MTV series “Jackass.”

To earn extra money, Merrill did events-marketing gigs in Los Angeles. After leaving “the film biz,” he “led the marketing charge” at musician Moby’s bottled-tea startup, Teany, which sold less than two years later, then worked in a similar capacity at Seth Goldman’s $10-million organic bottled-tea company, Honest Tea. “We grew it to north of $70 million in less than five years, then sold it to Coca-Cola,” Merrill recalls.

The revelation that creating a brand could enable him to craft a story using “a physical product, rather than film” drove Merrill’s desire “to build my own mission-driven company.” He headed marketing for Eisner’s ACTIVATE Drinks; after that company sold, the two partnered on Good Culture. In cottage cheese, Merrill and Eisner (son of former Disney CEO Michael Eisner) saw “an overlooked super-food with more protein and less sugar than yogurt.” They also recognized “an opportunity to bring life back to a sleepy $1.1-billion category that was larger than yogurt in the 1970s.”

Around the time they started Good Culture, Merrill was diagnosed with UC. Told that he would have to live on “harsh drugs” with no hope for a cure, he consulted another physician and “committed to a three-year diet where I ate nothing but ‘real’ foods that helped to reduce inflammation. Cultured dairy, mostly Good Culture cottage cheese, was a major part of this protocol, as were animal protein, cooked veggies, and fruit. Within two months, my symptoms went away. My last colonoscopy showed no sign of UC. It was as if I never had the disease.”
Protein pancakes

Ingredients
3 eggs  
a few garlic cloves, chopped  
2 tbsp of agave or honey  
1 cup good culture™ cottage cheese  
1/2 cup of flour  
1 tsp of baking powder  
1/4 tsp kosher salt

Preparation
Place the first 4 ingredients in food processor and mix.
Measure out dry ingredients in a bowl.
Combine wet and dry ingredients together.
Heat sauté pan with butter, oil or oil spray.
Pour 1 tbsp of mixture onto the pan.
Cook for 2 minutes on each side or until golden brown.

Visit goodculture.com for more delicious recipes.

As a result, Merrill “is a big believer in food as medicine.” Good Culture’s mission – “to make healing real foods available to the masses without hurting our planet or our animals – guides every decision we make.”

Since its first full year in 2016, Good Culture “has grown more than 500 percent and has doubled revenue for the past two years. The consumer response has been amazing. Our repeat is very high, and we are building a loyal following, so we are growing and elevating the category, while introducing people to nutrient-dense ‘real’ food products that heal.”

Good Culture single-serve comes in pineapple, strawberry chia, blueberry açai chia, and low-fat and whole milk classic flavors. Classic low-fat and whole milk varieties are also available in 16-ounce containers, as is double cream. Merrill’s favorite is “the 6-percent classic; so rich and creamy! I love mixing peanut butter and honey into my 6 percent.” Good Culture “is also great in smoothies and lasagna.”

Sour cream, probiotic wellness gut shots, and probiotic smoothies were recently added to the product line. “We have some top-secret products launching in 2020,” Merrill promises.

A staff of 20 works with Merrill and Eisner to produce Good Culture, which is available at 12,000 U.S. retailers, including Whole Foods Market, Sprouts, Kroger, and Target. Capital Region residents can find the product line at Target, ShopRite, and Hannaford.
FEATURE

UNTITLED

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Acknowledgments

I am truly grateful for your support. It’s been a delightful journey working together on this project. Thank you so much for all your hard work and dedication.

I look forward to our continued partnership and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead.

Let me know what you think of those previously

Regards,

Toni Morrison
Leaving Her Mark at UAlbany

Many of these remembrances were originally published on the New York State Writers Institute website and are reprinted here with permission.

The first African-American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, Toni Morrison wrote 11 novels, as well as children’s books and essay collections. Among them were celebrated works like Song of Solomon, which received the National Book Critics Circle Award in 1977, and Beloved, which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1988.

In January 1985, Morrison joined the University at Albany as the Albert Schweitzer Chair in Humanities, marking the first time the New York State Board of Regents had awarded the University the prestigious position. In that capacity, she brought Ralph Ellison, acclaimed author of Invisible Man, to the University, along with performers Ruby Dee and Ossie Davis and other luminaries of the African-American experience.

While on the State University at Albany faculty in the mid-1980s, Toni Morrison taught writing, nurtured novelists, gave public readings, premiered a play, organized a film, and staged reading series — all the while injecting a viewpoint that was strongly African-American and feminist. Still, despite her reputation as celebrated novelist, esteemed critic, and literary heavyweight, there was a playful and flamboyant side to Morrison, those who worked with her in Albany recall.

WILLIAM KENNEDY
Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist and Morrison’s onetime office mate

Kennedy called Morrison “a fiction writer of the first rank” and her Pulitzer a “singular event,” given that she was the first black woman to receive the prize. “As a friend of long standing, I delight in her recognition,” he added. Kennedy remembered hosting a party for Morrison at his Dove Street town house, and attending her birthday party in New York City and other parties. “I just remember laughing a lot with Toni,” he said.

GLYNE GRIFFITH
Professor, English

In 2002, Toni Morrison was invited to Bucknell University as the inaugural Janet Weis Fellow in Contemporary Letters. Arriving at the university president’s cocktail reception in her honor, she immediately sensed that the nervous guests were overawed by her presence. Walking purposefully to the center of the large reception room, she dispensed with her elegant shoes and announced that she was famished and ready to sample some hors d’oeuvres. Everyone laughed and exhaled, and the food, drink, and conversation then flowed effortlessly. Toni Morrison had thus anointed the gathering with her generous spirit. I’ll always remember this encounter with Toni Morrison.
Suzanne Lance
Special Projects Officer for Toni Morrison at UAlbany

In her cramped third-floor office in a Humanities Building suite, Morrison did some writing and editing. Her secretary, Ronnie Saunders, re-typed the freshly edited manuscript for *Beloved* there.

Lance remembered receiving a call at the office from a reporter with the news that *Beloved* had just won the 1988 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. “Toni didn’t happen to be in the office that day, but we were thrilled for her,” Lance recalled. University faculty and staff threw Morrison a congratulatory party, with champagne and fresh strawberries, at the University Art Museum. “I remember Toni Morrison as really intense, very demanding, and even a little intimidating,” recalled Lance. “She was brilliant and an absolute perfectionist.”

Morrison was not effusive with praise, but Lance recalled a wonderful compliment the great writer gave her. After proofreading the thick brochure that Lance had edited for “The Birth of Black Cinema,” a three-day symposium on campus in 1988, Morrison met with Lance. The author reminded her assistant that she had worked for nearly 20 years as a Random House editor and had yet to find a published book that had fewer than three errors. “Congratulations,” Morrison told Lance after carefully proofreading the brochure. “I only found two errors in your work.”

Lance felt as if she had won a major literary award. “Nobody did more at that time in bringing black writers to campus and to the Albany community,” Lance said. “That was part of her legacy.”
The New York State Writers Institute kept some of Morrison’s office furniture, including a 1980s-vintage striped wing chair that she used at her desk at UAlbany. Grondahl invites visiting writers to sit in the chair (pictured on opposite page) when he interviews them for the Writers Institute podcast. “You should see their faces light up when I tell them they’re sitting in Toni Morrison’s chair,” Grondahl said. “Some of them close their eyes and imagine they are absorbing some of her spirit and writing magic.”

He added, “They always ask me to take a cellphone shot of them sitting in that chair. It seems to hold a special power for them.”

“Toni Morrison’s voice and presence carried over into the Natural Science Building,” said Grondahl. “We had an audience of about 200 people, and she spoke about the power of imagination, about the power of storytelling. She gave a great keynote that had a profound impact on everyone who attended.”

Grondahl invited Morrison to sit in the chair, and she did. “She sat up straight, and her eyes were alight,” he said. “She spoke about her work, her process, and her passion for literature.”

“Toni Morrison was a remarkable figure in my life,” said Grondahl. “She was a mentor and a friend, and her influence will be felt for generations to come.”

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Paul Grondahl, Director, the New York State Writers Institute

Maureen McCoy, Novelist and former Schweitzer Fellow

“I feel exhilarated and blessed to have had her wisdom and keen eye on my work,” remembered McCoy, acknowledging Morrison’s guidance on McCoy’s last novel, Divining Blood. “She was very much an adviser to me; [she] was very easy to talk to about the process of writing and had a deep vision for literature.”

McCoy recalled shopping with her mentor locally for Morrison’s first computer. The computer salesman, who had no idea who Morrison was, inquired, “Are you planning to write a book on this?” Says McCoy, “I just wanted to shriek out who this was and what she’d be writing on it [the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel Beloved]. But Toni never let on.”

Bruce Bouchard, Former Capital Repertory Theatre Artistic Director and a Producer of Dreaming Emmett, Morrison’s drama about Emmett Till, which premiered at Cap Rep in 1986

“It was a shock for [Morrison] to come from the solo business of writing novels to be thrown suddenly into this enormously collaborative art form,” remembered Bouchard. He added that there was sometimes tension during rehearsals. “I won’t deny there were challenges that came up because it was a play about racial strife and it brought up some incendiary stuff,” Bouchard observed. “Ultimately, the play made a difference in the world of people who saw it.”

It also brought Cap Rep national recognition for the first time, as critics from Time magazine and other national publications came to see Morrison’s first foray into theater. “From our point of view, Toni Morrison landed us in the national spotlight, and we were honored to have her,” Bouchard said.

——

Toni Morrison

When I moved to Albany, New York
And settled into my palatial office
In the Department of Africana Studies
I later met you in the Humanities Building
Where you invited me to chat with you.
You had just won the Pulitzer Prize
And received international praise for your
Prose sprinkled with clarity and grace.
You greeted me with humility and charm.
You cultivated genuine friendship with me.
You volunteered to give a free lecture
In my African-American Literature class
And expressed regret that you would not
Be staying at the University to teach.
Your greater destiny was to teach at
Princeton University where you received the
Nobel Prize in Literature from Sweden.
Years later I met you at MLA
And chatted with you about Albany.
You moved intellectuals with your fire
And brought revolution in letters to our world.

– Leonard A. Slade Jr.
Professor, Africana Studies
Poem from I, Too, Am America
20 for 2020: Books That

**BELOVED** by Toni Morrison
Janell Hobson – Professor, Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Her use of language is so quiet and subtle in the way it screams out with pain to describe the African-American slave experience, especially centered on women.

**THE HOBBIT** by J.R.R. Tolkien
Brendan Murtagh
Senior, Class of 2020
Anyone can do what they set their mind to.

**TRINITY** by Leon Uris
Sheila Seery – VP, Government and Community Relations
Enabled me to more fully understand my Irish heritage, thus establishing a stronger bond with my Irish relatives.

**EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE** by Daniel Goleman
Jeanette Altarriba
Interim Dean, College of Arts & Sciences
Inspired a whole new area of research and discovery examining human emotions as the basis for human behavior.

**MEDIUM RAW** by Anthony Bourdain
Nicholas Creegan ’13
Alumnus, Actor
Bourdain’s honesty about success helped me shape my vision around the “right now” instead of worrying about tomorrow.

**THE BLACK JACOBINS:** TOUSSAINT L’OUVERTURE AND THE SAN DOMINGO REVOLUTION by C.L.R. James
Glyne Griffith – Professor, English
Enslaved blacks defeated European powers in the 19th century and founded independent Haiti.

**FLIGHT TO AFAR** by Alfred Andersch
Mathias Vuille – Professor, Atmospheric Sciences
An assigned reading in high school - I had never read anything like it before.

**THE BIBLE**
Frank J. Wiley – Chief, University Police Department
Elucidated the value and consequence of love/compassion.

**IF YOU SEE ME, DON’T SAY HI** by Neel Patel
Tajnin Islam – Senior, Class of 2020
It discusses the South Asian culture and what it is like to be an American citizen from a South Asian background. It helped me feel less alone about who I am.

**HOW TO WIN FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE PEOPLE** by Dale Carnegie
Ewan Edobor – Senior, Class of 2020
This book taught me how to impact and influence people’s actions through different steps.
**A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN**
by Betty Smith
Ana Quian – Junior, Class of 2021
This book taught me to be proud to be resilient, hardworking, and self-made.

**SAPIENS: A BRIEF HISTORY OF HUMANKIND**
by Yuval Noah Harari
Marjorie Delmar ’58
Alumna, Retired History Teacher
A brilliant, thought-provoking odyssey that satisfied the curiosity within me to better understand how life is today.

**CEREMONY**
by Leslie Marmon Silko
Lynn Warner
Dean, School of Social Welfare
It opened my eyes to the power of indigenous culture in the face of historical trauma and violence.

**ISHMAEL**
by Daniel Quinn
Priscilla Soo
Junior, Class of 2021
[This book] showed me with friendship, love, forgiveness, and bravery, anything is possible.

**A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS**
by Khaled Hosseini
Priscilla Soo
Junior, Class of 2021
[This book] showed me with friendship, love, forgiveness, and bravery, anything is possible.

**THE LONG WALK TO FREEDOM: THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF NELSON MANDELA**
by Havidán Rodríguez
President, University at Albany
How can one’s life not be impacted by a charismatic, transformative, and inspirational leader strongly committed to social and economic justice for his country and the world?

**ONE WRITER’S BEGINNINGS**
by Eudora Welty
Marjory Lyons ’50
Founder and President, Telling Your Story, LLC
[It] not only inspired me to write, but also provided a practical guide for teaching memoir-writing at every level of my career – master’s, doctoral, adult writers, and private book clients.

**UNCLE TOM’S CABIN**
by Harriet Beecher Stowe
Patricia Binzer ’65,’74
Alumna, Retired Elementary School Teacher
Some stories need to be told. Some stories need to be heard. Some stories need to be understood. Some stories need to be felt in your heart. [This book] is all of these and more.

**AT THE DARK END OF THE STREET**
by Danielle L. McGuire
Sheri Sarnoff ’17, M.A.’19 Graduate student, History
[The book] confirmed my beliefs that women’s history should not go untold and that their stories of struggle are powerful and important.

**ON WRITING**
by Stephen King
Marc Guggenheim ’92
Alumnus, TV Producer/Writer
Part autobiography, part how-to manual, you don’t need to be a writer or a King fan to get something out of this thoughtful book.

**A THOUSAND SPLENDID SUNS**
by Khaled Hosseini
Priscilla Soo
Junior, Class of 2021
[This book] showed me with friendship, love, forgiveness, and bravery, anything is possible.
Grant to School of Education Fosters Diverse Teacher Workforce

By Vinny Reda ’74

A $300,000 grant from the Albany-based Carl E. Touhey Foundation positions UAlbany’s School of Education (SOE) as a leader in diversifying the K-12 teaching profession. The grant will create a pipeline of UAlbany undergraduates from underrepresented backgrounds who pursue graduate degrees in education, ideally going on to careers in the Albany public-school system.

Touhey Family Fellows receive specially designated scholarships, as well as an ecosystem of support that includes mentoring from SOE graduate students and opportunities to work with faculty members on collaborative research.

Assistant Professor Tammy Ellis-Robinson noted numerous studies showing that students – particularly students of color – benefit when they learn from teachers who look like them. However, in Albany, as in most other school districts, a large gap exists between the numbers of students and teachers of color.

“The Touhey Family Fellows Program,” said SOE Interim Dean Jason Lane, “will allow the School of Education to lead the way in diversifying the teacher workforce and creating professionals who reflect New York’s changing demographics.”

Alumnus Supports Aspiring Teachers and Student-Athletes

As he thought about the most fitting way to memorialize his parents, Tom Pettersen ’73 settled upon a bequest to his alma mater.

His mother taught in the Tulsa, Okla., public schools for 15 years before relocating to New York and teaching kindergarten for more than two decades in the Poughkeepsie City School District. Pettersen will honor her memory by establishing the Reva and Thomas Morgan Pettersen Teaching Scholarship in the School of Education, with hopes of inspiring future educators.

His father was a 25-year IBM employee who had played basketball as a youth. To commemorate the joy the two felt while watching sports together, Pettersen will establish the Olsen and Thomas Morgan Pettersen Athletic Fund to support the Great Danes football and men’s basketball programs.

“My parents worked hard so I could get an education and succeed in my career and my life,” says Pettersen, a UAlbany accounting graduate who worked as a financial executive and C.P.A. with various companies, including NBC in New York and Burbank, Calif. “I’m pleased to honor their impact on me by making this gift to UAlbany.”

Pettersen’s gift is part of the University’s comprehensive fundraising campaign, This Is Our Time, which has now raised $146 million toward its $150-million goal.

– Carol Olechowski
A Message from Lee Serravillo  
Executive Director, UAlbany Alumni Association

**Springing Forward to Greatness**

This semester, the Alumni Association continued its partnership with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions with support from our alumni admissions volunteers. With your help, UAlbany was represented at over 20 college fairs and accepted student receptions throughout the country. Over 100 recent grads wrote 2,000+ notecards to prospective students, and several of you acted as referrals for new student applicants. Thanks to you, we can continue this great partnership and make a difference!

As the weather gets warmer, we start looking forward to summer alumni events, including UAlbany Day at the Races (July 17 in Saratoga), UAlbany Night at the Yankees (Aug. 4) and Night at the Valley Cats (Aug. 22). This year, we’re scheduling an additional baseball event fans are sure to love – UAlbany Night at the Mets (Aug. 11)! I encourage you to attend one of these exciting outings and connect with your fellow Great Danes.

Planning for Homecoming 2020 is underway! “Save the date” for the first weekend of October. We hope you’ll take part in tailgating and post-game celebrations Saturday, Oct. 3, in addition to milestone reunions and events, such as Middle Earth’s 50th Anniversary. With the Class of 1970 being inducted into the Half-Century Club, the entire weekend will be a 70s “decade” celebration. Plan to pack your tie-dye shirts and join us this fall! Want to reunite with your affinity group? Contact the Alumni Association and we’ll help you plan a gathering at the tailgate party!

Last but certainly not least, welcome to the alumni family, UAlbany Class of 2020!

**STAY CONNECTED**
Don’t miss alumni news or event invitations – visit alumni.albany.edu/update.

**QUESTIONS?** Email alumniassociation@albany.edu or reach out on Twitter, Instagram, or Facebook
1946
Melissa Martin, niece of Helen Slack, shared that her aunt “Slackie” passed on Nov. 19, 2019 in San Diego. Slackie served as class president and campus queen while attending NYSCT, and met Eleanor Roosevelt.

1948
Fardin Sanai, vice president for University Advancement, visited Avila Retirement Community in Albany to speak to several alumni residents about his escape from Iran as a young man.

Donald Sayles invited past students from Mt. Pleasant High School to a picnic at Great Sacandaga. These “past students” are now 77-78 years old.

Ruth Seelbach Elmore and her husband live in John Knox Village, Fla. They have two sons. One is a surgeon.

Eugene McLaren still enjoys activities at home on the farm and spends time with family and friends.

Ruth Doran and her brother are doing well in Baldwinsville, N.Y.

Rosemary Ryan McGraw of Voorheesville, N.Y., is doing well.

Gari Paticopoulos is in an assisted-living facility in Delmar, N.Y. She is close with her family. One daughter lives in Delmar and drives Gari to church services on Sundays and other special days. Another daughter lives in Peekskill, on the Hudson River.

Eleanor Alland’s new granddaughter was born Nov.12. The family lives in San Diego. For Thanksgiving, Eleanor hosted family from Cohoes, N.Y., and Columbia, Md. Gari and Eleanor call each other often and enjoy lunch at Stuyvesant Plaza regularly.

Class councilors: Gari Deliganis Paticopoulos, gdp529@bellsouth.net; Eleanor Hollbig Alland, ealland214b@nycap.rr.com

1949
In September, a group of 1949 classmates and guests gathered at Avila Retirement Community in Albany to celebrate their 70th-year reunion. The event was organized by Loida Vera Cruz, associate director of Alumni Affairs, and Joe Zanchelli. Those in attendance were: Bonnie Lewis Atkins, son David Atkins ’91, ’08 and his spouse, Margaret; Gerald Dunn and Shirley Wittse Dunn ’50, and daughter Barbara; Gloria Maistelman Herkowitz; Nancy Hellman Nitzberg; Glenyce Jones Trainor and daughter Marilyn; and Joe and Joyce Zanchelli ’52. The program included family sharing time and trivia. Prizes were awarded to Gerald Dunn and Glencye Jones Trainor, who tied for the most correct answers.

Gloria Maistelman Herkowitz attended the Half-Century Club.
Breakfast in October and was recognized with a standing ovation. She celebrated her grandson’s wedding in December.

Helman Nitzberg’s diverse family includes two daughters-in-law who teach at Brown University and work in publicity at a Bronx hospital, respectively.

Jack Kirby, Jake Schuhle and Dick Zeller recently celebrated birthdays. Jack, 95, is still playing the trumpet in the Sarasota concert band.

Bob Kaiser and MaryAnn celebrated their 90th birthdays in October with a large family gathering. They are eagerly anticipating the birth of their fourth great-grandchild in April.

The NYSCT Class of 1949 “Red Devils” celebrated their 70th anniversary in September.
Bob Kittredge had surgery as a result of injuries he sustained in a serious automobile accident in July. Bob is back to enjoying some of his normal activities after spending three weeks in a hospital, three weeks in a rehab facility, and three weeks in home continuing care. He leads a speaker forum and a cribbage/dinner group and attends Rotary. He’s involved in his community and attends University events. You can’t keep a good man down!

Jean Pulver Hague spends most of her time in Juno Beach, Fla., and maintains her condo in Atlanta.

Bonnie Lewis Atkins spent Thanksgiving with Lee’s family and friends.

Elsa Moberg Cox is adjusting to her new facility. She is in a knitting group that makes hats for newborn babies at the local hospital. Elsa attended her granddaughter’s wedding in San Luis Obispo. Her daughter and son-in-law from Oceanside, Calif., and son from Arizona joined Elsa for Thanksgiving dinner.

Joe Zanchelli and Joyce ’52 celebrated the birth of their third great-grandchild, Ada Marie, in December.

Class Councilor: Joe Zanchelli, jjzanch@yahoo.com

1950

A note from your class councilor, Harold “Sparky” Vaughn:

Only a few of us were able to respond to the last request for class notes, a far cry from the several hundred who arrived on our beautiful campus years ago. There were many veterans in our class, I among them.

Lila Lee Silva Harrington and Sparky Vaughn are from the same hometown, South Glens Falls, N.Y. Lila says she is “now a bona fide resident of Scottsdale, Ariz.,” where she spent the holidays. She is very happy and lives one mile from daughter Leslie. Her apartment includes a balcony with views of Camelback and Mummy mountains. Lila attended a family wedding in Raleigh, N.C., in February. She hopes to have a family reunion in New York’s Finger Lakes region in August. Lila experienced some health issues for two months, but is recovered. “Praise the Lord!” She and Maggie Hosking Winne keep in touch by phone and email. Please contact your class councilor for Lila’s new mailing address.

The husband of Mary Calandra Petrucci returned a class letter to Sparky Vaughn with a copy of Mary’s obituary. They were married 67 years and raised five children. Mary taught English and Spanish and was involved in her community.

Harold “Sparky” Vaughn is in good health and still involved in activities, including anti-human trafficking efforts through Rotary Club. In addition, Sparky serves on a Club Embassy Relations Committee, attends concerts at the Cosmos Club, and is seeking a publisher for “Bacco’s Song.” In cooperation with a Rotary Club in Mongolia, Sparky is organizing efforts to address the exploitation of young women. His son Eric works in Washington, D.C., and lives in Bethesda, Md. Sparky’s grandson serves in the Department of Justice, and his grandson’s wife serves as deputy chief of Staff to Sen. Chuck Schumer.

Audrey Koch Feathers of Queensbury, N.Y. spent Christmas with daughter Karen and granddaughter Christine in New York City.

Class councilor: Harold “Sparky” Vaughn, vaughnhia@aol.com

1952

Your class councilor, Joyce Zanchelli, is sad to report that devoted class councilor Joan Roeder Baron passed away on Oct. 15. Joan worked tirelessly for our class. We were fortunate to have her as our councilor, as she kept us informed about SUNY activities and reunions, and kept classmates connected. It will be impossible to replace her.

Vickie Eade Eddy is proud of her five children and 12 grandchildren. Her son Christopher retired from the FBI as a one-star general.

Tom Holman spent Christmas in Big Stone Gap, Va., then stayed in St. Maarten, where he has spent winters for the last 30 years.

Thea Van der ven (Dorothy Simmons) lives on her own with her 3.5-pound teacup Chihuahua, Juliette. Dorothy’s son Guido and family are fairly close and very helpful. Her grandson Ian returned to Skaneateles, N.Y., after serving five years in the Navy. Dorothy would enjoy having classmates visit her.

Dave Manly writes: The physique is fading and the brain runs slow which, of course, we classmates know, so I hesitate to write you prose, another fact which each of you must know. So I resort to communicate with rhyme, which I might not have used in earlier time. I just want you to know you’re in my thought, with much affection that cannot be bought. I remember fondly with memories vivid, college days that were always livid. And should you wish to reminisce too, I shall be grateful to each of you.

Two of Nancy Frey Petinelli’s sons visited during the holidays. Her youngest grandson received “early acceptance” at Gettysburg College. He will graduate from high school, and her middle grandson will graduate from Stevenson U on the same day in May.

Shirley Rosenbaum is involved in two book clubs and the League of Women Voters, both locally and on a state level, as membership/education chair. Her son is president of the League of Women Voters of West Virginia. Her daughter is working to save a music program that enriches the lives of lower-income students. Shirley’s granddaughter is in her first year at Barnard College. Her grandson is an accomplished cellist and tutors students.
Jane Jennings’s great-great-granddaughter will turn 1 in July.

Kitty Kloser Irons’ son, Marty J., published Phalanx Against the Divine Wind. The book is about his father-in-law’s destroyer, the USS Haynsworth, which was hit by a Kamikaze plane during a mass attack on an American fleet in World War II. Marty was featured in a pharmacy journal for his work in establishing a computer link between a local hospital and the pharmacy where he works to promote better patient care. Recently, he and his wife attended memorial services at Pearl Harbor. Marty is working on a second book, Corsair Down, about naval aviators in the Pacific during World War II.

Joyce Leavitt Zanchelli and Joe celebrated the birth of their third great-grandchild, Ana Marie, born Dec. 11.

Class councilor: Joyce Leavitt Zanchelli, jjzanch@yahoo.com

1953

Hello, Red Devils! I know a lot of you are still very active, and I hope to hear from you in the next class news!

Joe Lombardi was very involved as a student and continues to be active post-retirement. He had some eye issues that would typically require surgery, but was able to treat the problem with vitamins and minerals. Joe and his family vacationed on Lake Winnipesaukee in July. His three grandchildren are close in age and love the annual gathering. In September, Joe traveled to Turkey to visit his host family from Summer 1954. He visits every few years. His Turkish sister and her husband live along the Aegean Sea. Joe is still involved in the Marist College Center for Lifetime Studies program and teaches a course in the spring.

Linda Hopkins McGrath spent Christmas in Florida with family. Linda is struggling with arthritis and sciatica but gets some relief from therapy. She is taking a break from golf and fitness workouts.

Rose Mary (Rosie) Keller Hughes welcomed her first great-grandchild in the fall and already put the baby in the family-tree software!

Please remember to stay in touch. Your fellow Red Devils want to hear your news! Please pass along any news you hear about a classmate. Congratulations to our alma mater for celebrating 175 years of greatness!

In all aspects of my life, the University at Albany changed my life for the better. And I am grateful.

A Quest for Learning

By Michael Vanin, B.A.’76

As a first-generation college student at UAlbany, I studied anthropology and served as an RA on the downtown campus my junior and senior years. You’d think that there is a big disconnect between those experiences and my circuitous route to my current gig with GXT Green. But you’d be mistaken.

After graduating, I taught biology and chemistry at The Green Vale School on Long Island’s North Shore, and eventually became dean of students. When an opportunity to work on Wall Street arose, I took a position as an institutional/high-net-worth financial advisor for Kidder Peabody. Later recruited to the Prudential Securities management program, I was lauded as one of the best managers in the system.

I retired from Pru in 2002 to start an independent firm, Mercury Wealth Management, and eventually left Wall Street for a technology gig with EMC. In 2010, I joined the startup GXT Green, Inc., located just outside Boston, as COO. Today, GXT Green is changing the world for the better: Our plant- and mineral-based resin allows companies to replace plastic in their products, while providing cost-saving, environmental, and operational benefits. Our technology has broad applications in all processes, allowing products to degrade by the sun (photo) in commercial compost facilities (aerobic) or landfills (anaerobic).

So how does a degree in anthro prepare one for an ever-evolving career? My experience at UAlbany taught me to be a critical thinker by assembling the facts to make my case – a terrific skill in teaching, finance, and technology. In addition, I learned how to manage my time and lead by example.

Anthropology professor Peter Furst also unleashed in me a quest for learning and taught me not to fear new life experiences. He assembled a group of about 20 students to study one summer at Mexico City’s Museum of Anthropology. On our way there, my friend and I took time to explore the U.S.: We rode the Zephyr train through the Midwest to California and the Sierra Nevadas, then hitchhiked down Highway 1 along the coast. In Mexico, we lived with local families and spent most of our days at the museum; once a week, we would visit ruins and pyramids, like the one at Teotihuacán. The tours were outstanding.

Currently, I continue my lifelong quest for knowledge as a Babson College M.B.A. student being considered for the PhD. in entrepreneurial leadership.

In all aspects of my life, the University at Albany changed my life for the better. And I am grateful.
Great Dane Babies

MEGAN ADAMS '11
AND ROGER ADAMS '11
WELcomed son liam, sept. 27, 2019.

1955

Editor’s note: Don Lein’s update from the Fall 2019 issue is reprinted below, with some corrections and additions.

Don Lein’s accomplishments, including his 40-plus-year career as a litigation consultant with IBM and 30-plus years as a record-setting senior runner, have been chronicled in class notes over the years. In 2018, Don was inducted into the U.S. Track and Field (USATF) Hall of Fame Masters Division. Since retiring, Don has kept busy volunteering and collaborates on many projects with his wife of over 59 years, Marian. They helped to raise enough funds to retire mortgages for several area senior centers, and worked to create a parks foundation that established a series of local parks in Don’s home county in North Carolina. They helped to raise a quarter-million dollars to build a boys’ and girls’ club and assisted with the creation of a public memorial to honor local first responders. Don has also cooperated with the county health department to develop fitness programs for local citizens and organized an annual senior-games competition. In 2017, the Chatham Chamber of Commerce honored the Leins’ efforts with its Citizens of the Year award. Don and Marian stay fit by walking 6-10 miles every day.

Despite the foul weather and rough seas, Wilma Thornton enjoyed her UK cruise last year. Memorable activities included the Titanic Experience and a tour of Belfast, a tour of the Agatha Christie home and museum in Torquay, and taking in the beauty of the English countryside. Wilma visited an old friend’s home in Queenstown.

Edna Standley Hyer of Buffalo was featured among 2019’s most active senior runners, having participated in 47 events by mid-December. She won the National 10K Race for her age group in Massachusetts in early 2019 and garnered several medals at the National Senior Games in Albuquerque.

We’re always grateful for news of former classmates, so please take a few minutes to be in touch.

Class councilor: John Orser, xity3jo@gmail.com

1957

Dominick DeCecco enjoyed reading about how global education has changed the lives of so many graduates in the last issue of UAlbany magazine. As supervisor of social studies at Bethlehem Central High School, he always tried to instill in his students the need to see the world through study and travel. Dominick has been to 55 countries so far. He recently spent a month in Morocco and found it to be a dynamic and thriving nation that provides jobs to its citizens through tourism, road construction, and modern businesses. He was surprised at how much French is still ingrained in the society: “I am sure that Madame Dobbin would be proud of how much I retained after 65 years!”

Joe Purcell and wife Eileen Lalley ’58 spent time with family and celebrated a granddaughter’s wedding in Cape Cod last summer.

Beth Stefano visited the Isle of Skye with her daughter.

Class councilor: Sheila Bamberger, bambergersheilla@gmail.com

1959

A note from Ron Short:

Hello, Green Gremlins of ’59.

I’d like to welcome our new co-counselor, Bob Kampf. I am personally very glad to have him on board.

Our 60th reunion was attended by 59 guests, including five from the Class of 1960, a guest from the Class of 1956, and a guest from the Class of 1957. The entire weekend was a “blast from the past” and consisted of the Meet and Greet, relaxing conversation at the Marriott, a delicious breakfast in the Campus Center Ballroom, coffee hours at the Alumni House, a tour of the Downtown Campus and a relaxing cocktail hour and luncheon at the Fort Orange Club. It was decided during the brief class meeting that the Class of ’59 donate its class fund to the Cancer Research Center, located on the University’s Health Sciences campus in Rensselaer. My personal thanks to members of the planning committee.

Class councilors: Bob Kampf, redhookbob@outlook.com; Ron Short, skilab3@tampabay.rr.com

1960

Greetings, Yellowjackets. Your class councilors are working on ideas for our 60-year reunion in October. We think a location near or on the Uptown Campus would be appropriate for a class luncheon. Other activities on campus could be easily accessed by attendees. Contact your class councilors if you have any ideas.

Doris Hische Brossy and Joan Cali Pecore attended the Class of 1959 luncheon last October. It was a heart-warming experience connecting with friends who shared those years at State. Spearheaded by the ever able and enthusiastic Ron Short ’59, the luncheon was an elegant occasion at the Fort Orange Club.

Class co-counselors: Joan Cali Pecore, cuville@concast.net; Doris Hische Brossy, dbrossy@aol.com

1961

A note to the Red Devils: Soon it will be 60 years since we graduated! We are organizing a committee to plan the celebration and obtain current contact
information for class members. Please let your class councilor know if you can help in any way.

Nancy Rubin Bernstein and husband Sanford Bernstein ’57 of Poughkeepsie have three daughters and five grandsons, and stay busy in the community. They visit NYC to see Broadway shows, and they also enjoy watching sports, gardening, quilting, and golfing. They spend part of winter in Siesta Key, Fla.

Nancy Wirtz moved for the third time since the Paradise fire destroyed her house. She’s now settled in Chico, Calif.; contact your class councilor for mailing address. Nancy volunteers to help the homeless in Chico, is politically active, and is involved with the American Association of University Women.

Mel Horowitz’s family, including all four granddaughters, gathered in Savannah, Ga., to celebrate his 80th birthday. He and his wife also celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary by taking an 18-day trip to Alaska. Two of Mel’s granddaughters attend Savannah College of Art and Design. Mel stays active by volunteering for several organizations.

Judith Bacon Bleezarde attended her older son, Phil’s, wedding in August. Phil was forced to take mandatory retirement after 35 years as a federal agent and has a new job working for Morgan Stanley. Judy’s son Steve still resides in Charleston, S.C. Judy and husband Tom have remained close to home due to Tom’s Parkinson’s disease. Judy turned 80 in September. She still leads a book group and volunteers in the community. She and Tom enjoy watching Williams College athletics, especially men’s and women’s basketball. They spent the summer redoing their basement.

Bob McEnroe turned 80. He was a foreign-languages professor at Corning Community College and was inducted into CCC’s Athletic Hall of Fame for his lifetime support of the school’s athletics program. Bob and wife Elaine regularly purchase lottery tickets, and recently won. They are planning a trip to Ireland in July.

Class councilor: Mel Horowitz, melandsis@yahoo.com

Homecoming Weekend 2019 provided numerous opportunities for the Class of 1964 to reconnect and reminisce during its 55-year reunion. Socializing began at the
Alumni House Meet and Greet, followed by an informal gathering at our hotel. Saturday’s busy schedule included breakfast, lunch at Husted Hall, a guided tour of the old campus, a visit to Pierce Hall, and dinner. Many said farewell at the Sunday-morning breakfast in the reunion hotel. Classmates who attended the reunion were Norma Gayer Abel, Mary Jane Bushby Brown, Jane and Michael Camarata, Sandy Baburchak Condojani, Marcia David, Paula Dulak, Bob Fairbanks, Sheila Stromwasser Foraker, Ralph Grimaldi, Colinda DeFrancesco Heinzelman, Fran Harris Jones, Ian Leet, Antoinette Bergman McEvoy, Marilyn Anderson Pendergast, Gary Penfield, Vita Marino Reddy, Ed Reid, Mary Ellen Brennan Rittel, Bill Robelee, Pat Kuchenmeister Rose, Susan Van Horn Shipherd, Dave Simington, and Dan Smith.

Thanks to the generosity of 16 classmates, our reunion class gift will be used to establish the Class of 1964 Scholarship. Each year for the next five years, a $1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a different undergraduate or graduate student who is planning a career in teaching and who has demonstrated leadership, involvement, and engagement in the program. To contribute to this gift, please contact Bill Robelee at wmrrobelee31@gmail.com. Sincere thanks to Ed Reid, Bob Fairbanks, Paula Dulak, Bill Robelee, Columbia DeFrancesco Heinzelman, Corky Petrick, and Alan Minarcik for their time and dedication in planning the reunion. We wish Corky well as she recovers from recent surgery and thank Alan for serving as class councilor for eight years. Sadly, we report the passing of classmates Roger Ritzmann (May 2019), and Ron Bullis (September 2019). As always, we welcome any news you want to share, and we really appreciate hearing about changes in contact information.

Class co-councilors: Bill Robelee, wmrrobelee31@gmail.com; Columbia DeFrancesco Heinzelman, heinzelman779@aol.com

1965

The Class of 1965 will celebrate its 55-year reunion during Homecoming weekend, Oct. 2-4.

Carole “Kate” Harvey Jacobs moved to Ashby Ponds, a retirement community in Ashburn, Va. She and husband John invite classmates to visit the community, or reach out to Kate for information on living there, if needed. Kate serves as preacher at the interfaith Christian service; is involved in several groups; enjoys exercise classes; and appreciates her neighbors, who have become friends. Contact Kate by email at kateharveyjacobs@gmail.com.

Ruth Cassel Hoffman retired with husband Miles to Black Mountain, N.C., in 2016. Her first book of poetry, All the Air We Will Ever Breathe, was published in November 2019 by Finishing Line Press and is available wherever books are sold. She helped design a program, sponsored by the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church, to teach basic Spanish to congregations. The book that Ruth co-wrote for that project, Who Is My Neighbor? ¿Quién Es Mi Vecino? Learning Spanish as Church Hospitality, is available through Cokesbury Press. Ruth stays in touch with classmates Maureen McDermott and Marci Strong Webber. Class Councilor: Judy Madnick, jmadnick@gmail.com

Teresa Kerwin Lehr, B.A. ’60, is the author of eight books, including Lighting the Way: The Sesquicentennial of St. John’s Home; The Great Tonsi Massacre: Rochester’s Public Health Experiment; and Black Velvet Band: Rochester Hospitals and the Spanish Influenza Epidemic. Lehr holds master’s degrees in English and history from SUNY Brockport.

Richard Morgan, B.S. ’69, is the author of Third Rewrite – Selected Poems, which highlights his favorite poems and his wife’s watercolor illustrations from his six books of poetry. Morgan was a science teacher and administrator for 40 years before pursuing his lifelong interest in writing poetry.

Paula Twomey, B.A. ’70, published Great Spanish Art: Write About It! with Teacher’s Discovery. Twomey’s book features Spanish artists’ works that serve as prompts for student writing exercises.


James D. Diamond, B.A. ’81, is the author of After the Bloodbath: Is Healing Possible in the Wake of Rampage Shootings? Published by Michigan State University Press, the book produces insights linking rampage shootings and communal responses in the United States.

Mark Gesner, B.A. ’85, co-authored Your Life is Your Message: Discovering the Core of Transformational Leadership with Cardinal Stritch University colleague Dr. Nancy Stanford Blair. While attending UAlbany, Gesner served as Albany Student Press editor-in-chief and Middle Earth president.


Rashaun Allen, B.S. ’90, recently published his third poetry collection, The Blues Cry For A Revolution. He is the author of A Walk Through Brooklyn and In The Moment.

Authors & Editors


Katherine Kelly, M.S. ’91, is the author of *A Chair for All Seasons: Celebrating the Adirondack Chair*, available at balboapress.com and Amazon.

Sarah Westcott, B.A. ’97, published *Play Your Way to Good Manners: Getting the Best Behavior from Your Dog through Sports, Games, and Tricks*.

Kelly Jackson, M.S.W. ’98, is the author of *Multiracial Cultural Attunement*, published in October by NASW Press. Jackson is an associate professor at Arizona State University.


John Teevan III, B.A. ’12, M.A. ’12, C.G.S. ’14, M.S. ’14, published *America Invades Canada Again*.

Erik Schlimmer, M.S.W. ’18, published his second book, *Color Remote*. He also authored *Cradle of the Union: A Street by Street History of New York’s Capital City*. Schlimmer is founder and resident author of Beechwood Books and founding member of Friends of the Trans Adirondack Route.

The New York State Writers Institute welcomed NYU journalism professor and author Pamela Newkirk to Albany in November. The Alumni Association co-sponsored the event.
1967
Stephanie DeSimone Bollam and husband Rich celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Rich is retired. “We sold our house and downsized to a 55+ community with lots of activities and delightful residents.” Their five grandkids help keep them young. Stephanie enjoys alumni activities, especially catching up with the Chi Sigma Theta sisters at the annual coffee hours.

Ann Holcomb Fairbank was elected president of the Chi Sigma Theta Alumnae Association during the XEO Coffee Hour in October. She and husband Richard “Dick” Fairbank ’66 reside in Saratoga Springs. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a delightful European cruise.

With a heavy heart, your class councilor shares the very sad news that our dearly beloved classmate Richard “Dick” Matteo passed away on Thursday, April 18, 2019. Dick was the husband of our late classmate Karen Hoz Matteo, who passed away in 2014. After a long career as a dedicated social-studies teacher in the South Colonie Central School District, Dick changed his career path and eventually retired as a highly successful sales director at Data General-EMC in Albany.

Your class councilor is counting down the days to celebrate with you at our 55th Reunion! In the meantime, your ’67 classmates and I are waiting to hear your news. Let us continue “living the spirit of the ’60s in our 70s as we gloriously did at our 50th Reunion!

Class Councilor: Canon Kay Carol Hotaling, FHC, aspenpaepke@msn.com

1968
Adrienne and Tara Bayton, twin daughters of Janette Beckinella Bayton, reported that their mother passed away on July 30, 2019. “She was a very proud SUNY Albany graduate who earned a bachelor’s degree in English Education.” Janette’s exemplary and wonderfully varied career included teaching in New York City schools, serving as an occupational therapist, and pursuing her lifelong love of poetry. She was the author of several published books of poetry, including Jan’s A Through V and Empty Pockets and Book Bags on Our Shoulders. Janette’s poetry also can be found in several editions of Who’s Who In American Poetry.

1977
Samuel Moskowitz was named a 2019 Massachusetts Super Lawyer. He is a shareholder at Davis, Malm & D’Agostine, P.C., Boston.

1980
Michael Haltman was named board chair of the Heroes To Heroes Foundation, which provides spiritual healing and peer support for combat veterans of all conflicts and faiths who have attempted suicide or are on a path to self-destruction.

Matthew Smolin retired from the U.S. Army Reserve. His 24-year career included service in Italy and Iraq, as well as battalion and brigade commands. He currently practices interventional cardiology in Kerrville, Texas.

1982
Fred Bubbers received an M.F.A. in writing from the Vermont College of Fine Arts.

Great Dane Weddings

JESSICA MANS Smith ’99 AND TOM HANSEN, SEPT. 21, 2019

TJ BARRESI ’12 AND JILLIAN PASCO ’10, ’12, SEPT. 20, 2019

STEPHANIE KAZANAS ’16 AND KEVIN BERRY, MAY 18, 2019

LINDA WEISS ROSE ’71 AND BOB ALTSCHELER ’71, ’91, DEC. 15, 2019

FRANK SMILLIE ’13 AND CARA BALDINO ’13, DEC. 31, 2019

MARCY ROBLES ’15 AND ANGELO SIMONE, SEPT. 7, 2019
Jonathan Hecht finished his first year as dean of the Cincinnati Campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. He previously served 25 years in the congregational rabbinate.

Joyce DeLeo was promoted to principal in the Academic Medicine and Health Sciences Practice at executive search firm Wittkieffer. She recruits senior leaders for academic medical centers, hospitals and health systems, colleges and universities, not-for-profit institutions, and other health organizations. Prior to joining Wittkieffer, Joyce held various leadership positions at several colleges throughout the Northeast, including Emmanuel College in Boston and Dartmouth College.

1984

Todd Cherches is an adjunct professor of leadership at the NYU School of Professional Studies/Division of Programs in Business. He received a Teaching Impact Award from the school’s Center for Academic Excellence and Support. Todd delivered his first TEDx Talk, “The Power of Visual Thinking,” at TEDxChelseaPark in New York City in June. His book VisualLeadership: Leveraging the Power of Visual Thinking in Leadership and in Life will be published by Post Hill Press/Simon & Schuster in May.

1985

Nancy Grasso Barry was appointed chief of operations for the NYS Office of Court Administration.

Touro Law provost and professor Patricia Salkin received an honorary membership in the International City/County Management Association. Patty is a nationally recognized scholar on land use and zoning and is the author of the blog Law of the Land. She joined the Touro Law community in 2012.

Martin Sanchez Rojas received a Tumi USA award in Spanish-language media in Connecticut, New York City, New Jersey, and Florida. Tumi USA awards recognize Peruvian immigrants who have shown solidarity spirit, vocation of work, professionalism and community service. Martin is head of Human Resources with Tunnel Hill Partners/City Garbing based in Stamford, Conn. He lives in New Rochelle, N.Y.

Steve Weinbaum, a certified restaurant broker with We Sell Restaurants, has been named to the 2019 Million Dollar Club of the Georgia Association of Business Brokers. He is a licensed real-estate salesperson in Georgia and Florida.

1986

In April, Bill McCann celebrates his 35th anniversary as host of “The Saturday Morning Edition of Jazz” on UAlbany’s radio station, 90.9 FM, WCBR, Albany.

Philip Johanson joined the UBS Financial Services Mitchell WealthCare team as a financial advisor in Westfield, N.Y.

Martin Sanchez and first Latina Judge Consuelo Bedoya Witt, from Illinois

1988

Maria Malaxos Vittoria is a professor at Westchester Community College and serves as chairperson of the business department.

1989

John Bell was elected president of the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators. He is in his eighth year as superintendent of the Delaware Valley School District, Milford, Pa.

Andrew Berry was elected to the board of the World Federation for Mental Health. He serves as regional vice president for North America.

Larry Freiman is partner at Atlanta-based business law and estate, trust, and tax-planning firm MendesFreiman. The firm recently expanded with the addition of an established tax-controversy and planning practice and six new attorneys.

1990

Kori Reitman is the membership and marketing director at Westchester Hills Golf Club in White Plains, N.Y.

Marianne Merritt Talbot was named the new executive vice president, Business Development and Client Service, for SCG Legal, an international law firm network founded by 17 former state governors in 1989. In this role, Marianne designs and delivers training and coaching programs to enhance the business-development and client-service skills of the group’s 140 global member firms and their attorneys. In addition, Marianne is responsible for innovative initiatives, including in the diversity & inclusion and technology arenas.

1992

Nate Dougall is a wealth advisor and senior vice president in the Private Wealth Management group in NYC. Previously, he co-founded Netherby Advisors LLC in Westport, Conn.; was partner and portfolio manager with Brandywine Funds in Jackson, Wyo.; and was deployed to Baghdad as a major with the 18th Airborne Corps.

Wendy Marsh was listed in The Best Lawyers in America for 2020. She is chair of the environmental and land-use and zoning departments at Hancock Estabrook, LLP, Syracuse. Merrill Lynch wealth-management advisor Todd Silaika of Albany was named one of the best wealth advisors in the country by Forbes. He also was named to Barron’s “Top 1,200 Financial Advisors” list for the seventh time and to the Forbes “Best-in-State Wealth Advisors” list for the first time.

1993

Jerry Marli joined Mura & Storm, PLLC, as a partner in the firm’s Buffalo office. He is a member of its insurance coverage and defense practice.

Oliver Blaise was elected Supreme Court justice for New York State’s Sixth Judicial District, which covers 10 counties in the state’s Southern Tier.

JOHN LARIVEE, M.A. ’74

Best wishes to John Larivee on his retirement from CRJ (Community Resources for Justice) in Boston.

Larivee joined the Crime and Justice Foundation, now CRJ, as supervisor of case managers at the Deer Island House of Corrections shortly after earning his master’s from UAlbany. He became chief executive in 1985. Long recognized for his dedication to criminal-justice reform and human services, Larivee has consulted to federal, state, local, and foreign criminal-justice agencies and served in numerous other professional capacities, including as founding member and past president of Citizens for Juvenile Justice and past president of the International Community Corrections Association. A Providers Council board member and past president, he is also a director of Inner City Weightlifting. Larivee’s other experience includes service on Massachusetts’ Special Commission to Study the Commonwealth’s Criminal Justice System (2012), the Governor’s Commission on Criminal Justice Innovation (2002), and the governor’s advisory councils on Youth Services (1999) and Corrections (1989).

At UAlbany, Larivee established the Larivee Family Scholarship in Criminal Justice, which supports graduate students pursuing degrees within the School of Criminal Justice.
John Bagy was named an Upstate New York Super Lawyer and “Lawyer of the Year” by Best Lawyers in America.

1995
PC Public Affairs, a public-relations and public-affairs firm in Latham, N.Y., named Andrew Rush associate partner. He previously served as director of Public Affairs at Eric Mower & Associates.

1996
Alan Nochumson was named an “Influencer of Real Estate” by The Philadelphia Inquirer. He is founder of Nochumson P.C.

1999
The Capital Region Chamber of Commerce named Jason Benitez vice president, Talent and Inclusion. Jason previously served as associate dean/director, Diversity and Inclusion, at Union College.

Jessica Mansmith Hansen is a visual artist and consultant to non-profit organizations in the areas of fundraising, development, marketing, and communications.

She was awarded a Saratoga Arts Community Arts Grant in 2018-19.

Melanie Kadlic Meren was elected to the Fairfax County School Board in Virginia. She represents the Hunter Mill District.

2001
Kevin M. Grossman was honored by City and State magazine as a 2019 Albany “40 under 40 Rising Star.” Kevin is a labor-relations specialist with NYSUT and resides in Delmar, N.Y.

2002
Robert Stoddard was admitted to the partnership at KPMG. He serves as overall tax lead on several accounts, and is a member of KPMG’s national private-markets group practice and national life-sciences and global-gaming teams. He joined KPMG’s Stamford, Conn., office in 2002. Bob was a featured speaker at the University of Arizona Global Symposium on Racing and Oxford Science Innovations. He lives in Darien, Conn.

2003
Nick Fitzgerald is superintendent of schools for the Canajoharie Central School District. He recently earned a doctoral degree in educational leadership and management from Capella University.

2004
Kathie Dello is director and state climatologist of the North Carolina Climate Office – the first woman to serve in the role. She was previously associate director of the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute and deputy director of the Oregon Climate Service.

Regina Sarkis Urena joined Goldberg Segalla as an associate of the firm’s worker’s compensation practice group in Rochester, N.Y.

2005
Shawn Johnston was named clinical director of The Neighborhood Center and oversees clinics in Utica and Rome, N.Y.

2008
Dennis Amore joined the commercial litigation practice group at McGlinchey Stafford PLLC, New York City.

2009
Michael Benison joined the U.S. Tax Court as a judicial law clerk in Washington, D.C. He graduated from Fordham University School of Law in May 2019.

2011
Adam Eisen joined Campolo, Middleton & McCormick, LLP as an associate at the firm’s Westbury, N.Y., office.

2012
Kristyn Muller opened The Lazy Axe, an indoor axe-throwing facility in Albany.

2013
Joseph Alicata received his master’s degree in political management from George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management. He was appointed as a research analyst to the Executive Office of the New York State Department of Financial Services in March 2019.

2014
Kimberly Shannon is gender-equity coordinator for the New York City Department of Education. She was recognized as a 2019 advocate of NYC by the Office to End Domestic and Gender-Based Violence.

2016
Jabari Brooks, a software engineer at Ford Motor Company, Ann Arbor, Mich., was named one of the company’s Thirty Under 30 fellows.

2019
Maksim Papenkov, who won the International Atlantic Economic Society’s 15th Annual Best Undergraduate Paper Competition, presented his research at the International Atlantic Economic Conference in Miami alongside peers from Yale and the University of Southern California. Maksim is pursuing a master’s degree at Columbia University.

For a complete list of class councilors: www.alumni.albany.edu/avc or call the Alumni Association at (518) 442-3080.
New York State College for Teachers

Milestone Reunions

Oct. 2-4, 2020

Class of 1965
Red Devils
55th-Year Reunion

Class of 1955
Green Gremlins
65th-Year Reunion

Class of 1960
Yellow Jackets
60th-Year Reunion

Class of 1950
Blue Jays
70th-Year Reunion

Don’t miss out on reunion details!
Update your contact information by calling the Alumni Association at (518) 442-3080 or email alumniassociation@albany.edu.

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

GET INVOLVED, GREAT DANES!

It’s easy to give back as an alumni volunteer. Shape UAlbany’s future and promote its tradition of service:

• Host an alumni event.
• Offer advice to recent grads or current students as a UCAN advisor.
• Donate to UAlbany.

Learn how you can get involved and make a difference for your alma mater no matter where you live.

Visit alumni.albany.edu/volunteer.

MIDDLE EARTH
50th-Year Anniversary
UAlbany Homecoming Weekend
Oct. 2-4, 2020

Celebrate the 50th anniversary of UAlbany’s peer-to-peer assistance program with fellow alumni, staff and students this Homecoming.

Invitation coming this summer.

Ensure you receive reunion details! Update your contact information by calling the Alumni Association at (518) 442-3080 or email alumniassociation@albany.edu.

Join us at the Ballpark this Summer!

YANKEE STADIUM • CITI FIELD • THE JOE

AUG. 4
UAlbany Night at the Yankees

AUG. 11
UAlbany Night at the Mets

AUG. 20
UAlbany Night at the Valley Cats

Registration opens in June.
Volunteer Rick Corcione ’72, M.A. ’77 chats with students at the annual Educational Opportunity Program ice cream social.

Grads of the Last Decade enjoyed a night of cosmic bowling in East Greenbush in February.

Paul Borowski ’82 hosted several alumni at his home in Long Island for an ’80s reunion. Pictured, bottom row, left to right, are: Mark Pollack ’82, Bob Bucciferro ’82, Stu Zander ’82, Paul Borowski ’82, Joseph (Jay) Cortellini, ’82. Back row, from left: Johanna Sarracco, ’84, Scott D’Alessandro, ’82, Mark Kean ’83, Roger Stern ’80, Sharon Stein Groth ’82.

UAlbany pre-law students network with alumni working in the legal field at an event hosted by Steve Gawley ’86, Monte Lipman ’86, and Avery Lipman ’88 at Republic Records, NYC.

Alumni living and working in the New York Metro area connect with current business students at Network NYC in January.

Photos at left and above: GOLD alumni enjoy Homecoming brunch at Damien’s in the Campus Center.
Late-'80s classmates Joe Cali, Ed Ashburn, Neal Haussel, Chris Callaghan, and Rich Dubin held their annual alumni get-together.

D.C.-area alumni and friends gathered for the annual stroll through the Smithsonian’s Zoolights in December.

Alumni and friends gathered for the annual Big Purple Growl and Ferocious Feast Feb. 1.

Alumni Fashion Show
Eleventy President Geoff Schneiderman ’03 hosted the Alumni Fashion Show and included UAlbany President Havidán Rodríguez and wife Rosy Lopez as surprise guest models.
**IN MEMORIAM**

**1930s**
- Ruth Stein Phimister '35, Nov. 12, 2017
- Charles Frier '37, Feb. 19, 2016
- Emily Vogel Lamoreaux '39, Feb. 1, 2020

**1940s**
- Helen Rice '40, Feb. 9, 2017
- Bertha J. Decker '41, Dec. 8, 2018
- Charles Manso '41, May 10, 2010
- Frances Shapley Milford '42, June 27, 2019
- Jean Erath Krebs '42, March 15, 2019
- Frederica Churchill Friday '43, Sept. 24, 2019
- Shirley Jennings Thomas '43, April 13, 2018
- Mildred Kirshenblum '43, Sept. 6, 2017
- Virginia Effley Williams '46, March 4, 2018
- Margaret Whitman MacMillan '46, Nov. 7, 2013
- Emily Vogel Lamoreaux '39, Feb. 1, 2020
- Charles Frier '37, Feb. 19, 2016
- Ruth Stein Phimister '35, Nov. 12, 2017

**1950s**
- Mary Calandra Petrucci '50, May 5, 2019
- Alice A. Reilley Schatzle '50, June 4, 2018
- Werner W. Berglas '51, Sept. 29, 2019
- Myron J. Rindsberg '51, July 29, 2019
- Margaret F. Petersen Steenrod '51, Sept. 25, 2019
- Joan Roeder Barron '52, Oct. 15, 2019
- Jean H. Rugg Bean '52, Jan. 22, 2020
- Marilyn Smith Mackey '52, Aug. 15, 2019
- Clarence J. Spain '52, Dec. 15, 2016
- Janice Rudd Fairbanks '53, Jan. 4, 2020
- Malcolm E. Blum '54, Nov. 27, 2019
- Marlene Martoni Dolan '54, Aug. 5, 2019
- David Richards '54, Oct. 28, 2019

**1960s**
- John E. Burkel '60, March 30, 2018
- Paul F. Hooker' 60, Nov. 26, 2019
- Douglas G. Burr '61, Jan. 1, 2020
- Mary E. Tapley Shaver '61, Aug. 31, 2019
- John F. Craven '62, Sept. 25, 2019
- Bonnie Smith Gorski '62, Sept. 4, 2019
- Carl F. Herman '62, Sept. 23, 2019
- Judith L. Young McDonald '62, Nov. 16, 2019
- Mary K. Eaton McDonough '62, Dec. 12, 2019
- Annemarie Brown '63, July 27, 2019
- Francesco A. Cichello '63, July 29, 2019
- Harold G. Levine '63, Aug. 4, 2019
- Kathryn White '63, Oct. 23, 2019
- F. R. Bullis '64, Sept. 19, 2019
- Robert J. Donahue '64, Jan. 22, 2020
- Donald J. Gruol, Ph.D. '64, Dec. 30, 2019
- Evelyn J. Petrick '64, Jan. 18, 2020
- Roger E. Ritzmann '64, May 7, 2019
- Virginia Lippert Roome '64, Nov. 26, 2019
- Paul R. Sheehan '65, May 5, 2018
- Ralph L. Adams, Jr. '65, Aug. 5, 2019
- Arthur L. Cramer '65, Feb. 2, 2019
- Natalie Gardner Bollerud '66, Dec. 9, 2019
- John W. Gobo '66, Aug. 10, 2019
- Janet Topper Hogan '66, Oct. 22, 2019
- Mary Broadhead Kirsch '66, Oct. 6, 2019
- Elsie M. Maddaus '66, Jan. 22, 2020
- William J. Nicholson '66, May 1, 2018
- Emilio G. Renzi '66, May 21, 2019
- Ann E. Schneider '66, Nov. 9, 2019
- James X. Tunney '66, Jan. 22, 2020
- Joseph J. Mahay, Jr. '67, Aug. 7, 2019
- Janette Beckinella Bayton '68, July 30, 2019
- Barbara Finlayson '68, Feb. 7, 2015
- Diana Wiesenfeld Isen '68, Sept. 4, 2019
- Gregory F. Procopio '68, Nov. 28, 2019
- Miriam K. Koblenz Scott '68, Feb. 2, 2020
- John D. Walko, Ph.D. '68, Dec. 7, 2019
- Allen E. Bennett, Jr. '69, April 25, 2017
- Josephine A. Wierzbowska '69, Oct. 6, 2019

**1970s**
- Margaret A. Cosentino '70, July 17, 2019
- James A. Croft '70, Sept. 27, 2019
- Ronald H. Herlet '70, Aug. 18, 2019
- Joseph G. Jurczynski '70, Nov. 14, 2019
- Robin A. Sorrentino '70, Jan. 31, 2020
- Theodore R. Dalio '71, Oct. 21, 2019
- Barbara S. Dobkins '71, July 13, 2019
- Richard J. Farrell, Jr. '71, Jan. 19, 2020
- Nathan A. Symes, Jr. '71, April 10, 2018
- George H. Amendore '72, Dec. 26, 2019
- Barry M. Baskhoff '72, Jan. 30, 2020
- William P. Brennan '72, Dec. 21, 2019
- Richard W. Carley '72, Sept. 5, 2019
- Laureen A. Fitzgerald '72, Nov. 11, 2019
- S.R. Payne '72, Oct. 8, 2019
- Joan E. Sauer '72, Nov. 26, 2019
- Thomas M. Shea '72, Aug. 22, 2019
- Virginia A. Teenan '72, Jan. 23, 2020
- Juliette Zivic '72, Oct. 30, 2019
- Julia A. Hodges Dermody '73, Dec. 20, 2018
- Ronald P. Mullen '73, Dec. 22, 2019
- Linda A. Law Polcaro '73, Sept. 23, 2019
- Willburta S. Reale '73, May 8, 2019
- Martha M. Schmidt '73, March 16, 2019
- Gretchen L. Anderson '74, Dec. 9, 2019
- Michael F. Lyons '74, Sept. 30, 2019
- Olga E. Markunas '74, Sept. 19, 2019
- Laraine L. McCoy '74, May 20, 2019
- Erkki I. Allestalo '75, Dec. 24, 2019
- Lewis A. Fidler '75, May 5, 2019
- Carolyn H. Garvin '75, Dec. 29, 2012
- David W. Moran '75, Jan. 18, 2020
- Leslie Coller Schulman '75, Aug. 9, 2019
- Littleton H. Smith '75, July 31, 2019
- Edward D. O'Donnell '76, Dec. 28, 2019
- Jeffrey S. Sherman '76, July 20, 2017
- Joseph A. Benamati '77, Oct. 15, 2019
- George J. Luhrs '77, May 28, 2019
- James W. Siedlecki '77, March 16, 2019
- Laraine L. McCoy '77, May 20, 2019
- Erkki I. Allestalo '75, Dec. 24, 2019
- Lewis A. Fidler '75, May 5, 2019
- Carolyn H. Garvin '75, Dec. 29, 2012
- David W. Moran '75, Jan. 18, 2020
- Leslie Coller Schulman '75, Aug. 9, 2019
- Littleton H. Smith '75, July 31, 2019
- Edward D. O'Donnell '76, Dec. 28, 2019
- Jeffrey S. Sherman '76, July 20, 2017
- Joseph A. Benamati '77, Oct. 15, 2019
- George J. Luhrs '77, May 28, 2019
- James W. Siedlecki '77, March 16, 2019
- Laraine L. McCoy '77, May 20, 2019
- Erkki I. Allestalo '75, Dec. 24, 2019
- Lewis A. Fidler '75, May 5, 2019
- Carolyn H. Garvin '75, Dec. 29, 2012
1980s

Philip T. Lyte '80, Oct. 5, 2019
Nicholas A. Visbeck '80, Aug. 6, 2019
Thomas D’Ambrose ‘81, Nov. 10, 2019
Holly Block Fox ‘81, Sept. 21, 2019
Randall J. Johnson ‘81, Dec. 28, 2019
Donna J. McGraw ‘81, Aug.12, 2019
Paul A. Zanotta ‘81, Aug. 6, 2019
Maureen A. George Kelly ‘82, Sept. 25, 2019
Elizabeth M. Currie ‘83, Dec. 16, 2017
Thomas W. Lenahan ‘83, July 21, 2019
Jeanine G. Wisniewski ‘83, Jan. 5, 2020
Patricia C. Brammer ‘84, Jan. 5, 2020
Matthew D. Dougherty ‘84, March 28, 2019
David N. Sokoloff ‘84, June 21, 2019
Steven A. Sonder ‘84, Dec. 23, 2019
Michael Terlecky ‘84, July 26, 2019
Kevin J. Conery ‘85, Jan. 9, 2020
Linda Kerzic Hensel ‘85, July 29, 2019
Lisa M. Cafiero Seymour, M.S.W. ‘85, Jan. 4, 2020
Lori M. Hess Evangel ‘86, Jan. 20, 2020
Marjorie R. Kelly ‘87, Dec. 13, 2019
Lori A. Hesser ‘88, Feb. 1, 2019

1990s

Alexa C. Averill ’90, April 24, 2015
James T. Fahey, Ph.D. ’90, Nov. 23, 2019
Chris P. Schenker ’90, Oct. 21, 2019

Clarice B. O’Callaghan ’91, July 20, 2013
Kelly A. Murphy Lamphere ’92, Sept. 27, 2019
Robert J. Megna, Jr. ’92, July 26, 2019
Christine A. Montgomery Sleasman ’92, Dec. 3, 2019
Todd C. Cole ’93, July 24, 2016
Michael T. Hamill ’95, July 11, 2019
Joann T. Waldmann ’96, Aug. 23, 2015
Eric A. Lerner ’97, Jan. 18, 2020
Elizabeth A. Brzoska ’98, Nov. 25, 2019
Amber R. Arvon ’99, June 26, 2014
Dennis J. Connors ’99, Nov. 29, 2019

2000s

Daniel F. Elliott ’01, Jan. 13, 2020
Daniel N. Levitt ’01, Feb. 6, 2019
Benjamin J. Hallenbeck ‘04, July 28, 2019
Stephanie M. Bode ’09, Sept. 22, 2019
Kristina D. Kirby ’09, Aug. 29, 2019

2010s

Katherine E. Scheu ’10, Dec. 05, 2017
Elisa N. Fiorello ’11, Jan. 07, 2020
George J. Gerner, III ’11, Sept. 17, 2019

Deceased Faculty/Staff

Matthew All, May 21, 2019, Fac Oper Assistant, Code Administration, 2017-2019
Abraham Bolgatz, Oct. 1, 2019, Project Administrative Officer, Professional Development Prog, 1988-2005
Rosemary Frazier, Aug. 29, 2019, Secretary, 1984-2012
Elizabeth Lauenstein, Sept. 5, 2019, Senior Staff Assistant, English, 1999-2019
Ben-Ami Lipetz, Oct. 9, 2019, Lecturer, CCI Dean’s Office, 1978-2000
Alicia Monguio, June 25, 2019, Professor, 1983-2014
Philip C. Nasca, Dec. 6, 2019, Professor, Epidemiology & Biostatistics, 1987-2019
Thomas M. O’Brien, Nov. 19, 2019, Project Administrative Officer, College of Nanoscale Sci & Eng
Daniel W. Odell, Sept. 21, 2019, Professor, English, 1961-1992
Bruce Robinson, Feb. 3, 2020, Janitor, Custodial Services, 2005-2020
George Tiggle, Oct. 26, 2019, Major Gifts, Staff Associate, 2019-2019
John W. Webb, Ph.D., Aug. 18, 2019, Professor, Geography & Planning, 1979-1996
Workers scale the stem at the very tip of the University’s iconic water tank, commonly known as the Carillon, in December 2005. This photo was taken from the Indian Quad observation deck by an unidentified UAlbany photographer.
YOUR GIFT MATTERS TO JUSTIN.

U.S. Navy veteran Justin Suppes once wondered whether he would attend college. Now, as a UAlbany senior, he is considering new options, including graduate school and a teaching career “in the math field” – and looking forward to a successful life – thanks, in part, to your support.

For 175 years, the University at Albany has launched hundreds of thousands of students like Justin into lives of accomplishment. This Is Our Time, our $150-million-dollar fundraising campaign, builds upon that commitment.

Your gift will secure UAlbany as an engine of opportunity for future generations of ambitious, hard-working young people. Together, we will ensure that programs and facilities match ambitions, access matches need, and opportunities match the dreams of students like Justin.

Please join us.

Visit www.albany.edu/thisisourtime to learn how you can help!

JUSTIN SUPPES '20
B.A., MATHEMATICS

THIS IS OUR TIME
The Campaign for the University at Albany

UAlbany Fund
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In honor of the Class of 1970’s 50th anniversary, we’ll be celebrating the decade that brought us disco, tie-dye, peace and love. Can you dig it?

Welcome Reception
Half-Century Club Induction & Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast
Pre-Game Tailgating
UAAlbany Football vs. Villanova
Great Dane Great Bash Football Game Afterparty
Milestone Reunions
Affinity Reunions …and much more!

More information coming this summer.

www.alumni.albany.edu/homecoming