Inside ETEC

UAlbany’s New $180M State-of-the-Art ‘Epicenter’ for Research and Innovation

Scan the code with your phone’s camera to see the cover come to life!
The Class of 2026 is A-OK! The newest Great Danes assembled for the class photo tradition held, for the first time, at Collins Circle on Friday, Aug. 19, 2022. The photo, captured by drone, capped off the Convocation ceremony, celebrating the students’ entry into UAlbany.

ON THE COVER
Located on the first floor of ETEC, the holographic-like Science-on-a-Sphere is an image produced by an array of projectors that allow for data visualization such as historical and real-time global weather patterns, drought conditions, ocean currents, climate projections, cyber-attacks and more. The sphere has displayed a giant baseball on Opening Day as well as the Death Star. This is UAlbany Magazine’s first augmented-reality cover.

Cover photo: Patrick Dodson
Inside ETEC
Take a guided photo tour of UAlbany's newest building.

A Cut Above
Entrepreneur and alumnus Dave Salvant has a head for business.

Diving Deep
Explore an amazing underwater world with Dave Gallo.

Remembering UAlbany’s most controversial yearbook
Torch ’72: A provocative and powerful experience.

FEATURES

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Have a comment or story to share? Send us an e-mail at magazine@albany.edu.

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The University at Albany’s broad mission of excellence in undergraduate and graduate education, research and public service engages more than 17,000 diverse students in nine schools and colleges. For more information about this internationally ranked institution, visit albany.edu.
UAlbany Engineering Building to Anchor New Artificial Intelligence Supercomputing Initiative

The University at Albany launched Albany AI, a $200 million public-private supercomputing initiative based out of UAlbany’s soon-to-be-renovated College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS) building. Buoyed by $75 million in state funding, Albany AI — the Albany Artificial Intelligence Supercomputing Initiative — will significantly expand New York’s capacity in this major emerging field.

“This funding will help drive economic revenue by attracting companies to New York’s emerging advanced research centers, creating jobs and strengthening communities for decades to come,” said Gov. Kathy Hochul.

With the goal of becoming the first university-based computer to reach a quintillion computations per second, Albany AI will empower researchers to harness massive data sets to better address complex issues in cybersecurity, weather prediction, health data analytics, drug discovery and next-generation microchip design. It will also involve teaching and research collaborations with faculty in the humanities, social sciences, public policy, public health and social welfare.

Scientists Chasing Dark Matter Hail Successful Milestone

Dark matter, estimated to be about 85 percent of the total mass of the universe, shapes the form and movement of galaxies. Yet, dark matter particles have never actually been detected — but perhaps not for much longer.

At the Sanford Underground Research Facility (SURF) in South Dakota, UAlbany Assistant Professor of Physics Cecilia Levy and Associate Professor Matthew Szydagis were part of the international team of 250 scientists and engineers collaborating on the successful installation the LUX-ZEPLIN (LZ), the world’s most sensitive dark matter detector, which hopes to record the first direct evidence of dark matter, the so-called missing mass of the cosmos.

University Honors its Inventors

UAlbany hosted its first Inventors Recognition Ceremony over the summer, honoring more than 40 faculty, students and staff who submitted their first invention disclosure, their first patent application, or have been granted their first patent by the United States Patent and Trademark Office from 2019 through 2022.

“Our honorees today embody what it means to inventors: They are fostering a culture of innovation, with a focus on discovery, education and building an entrepreneurship ecosystem on our campus,” said Vice President for Research and Economic Development Thenkurssi (Kesh) Kesavadas.
Around Campus

Alumni Drive Transformation Underway

A new garden way will transform Alumni Drive when it opens in the spring of 2023 and includes a multimodal bike and pedestrian way with updated landscaping, lighting, ADA accessibility and safety enhancements. The project is part of a $60.9 million construction grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Transit Administration to the Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA) for an 8.5-mile Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) route dubbed the Purple Line, a nod to the University’s presence. The new route is expected to reduce commute time between the Downtown and Uptown campuses by 20 percent.

President Rodríguez and Christy Doyle, director of University events, place the 175th Anniversary Time Capsule in the northeast cornerstone of Dutch Quad in May.

Time Capsule Buried Once Again at Dutch Quad

UAlbany’s time capsule is once again sealed behind the cornerstone of Dutch Quad, where it is expected to remain for at least another 50 years. President Havidán Rodríguez presided over the pandemic-postponed re-interment of the capsule nearly three years after it was opened in 2019 to celebrate UAlbany’s 175th anniversary. The new cache includes a vial of air from the School of Public Health, a recipe card for a custom pizza from the Office of the Provost and a 2019 football jersey, among other mementos. In a postscript added to his original letter, Rodríguez referenced the dramatic local, national and international events with which the world has contended.

“As you can perceive from this postscript,” the president wrote, “this past year and a half has been one of tremendous mood swings — back and forth — from fear to pessimism and anxiety to faith and optimism, but it is hope, kindness, altruism and resiliency that truly defines the human spirit.”

Fall Exhibitions open at University Art Museum

The University Art Museum presents Sara Magenheimer: Dailies, a commissioned solo exhibition of video, vinyl text and sculpture by artist, filmmaker and poet Sara Magenheimer. Concurrently in the Collections Study Gallery, the UAM presents Chryssa’s screen-print series Gates to Times Square (1978), which refigures letterforms and characters of neon signs.

New Paleoclimate Lab Studies Earth’s Climate Past

ETEC’s Paleoclimate Lab officially opened its doors this summer and is focused on analyzing samples of natural resources, such as coral and lake sediment, to help reconstruct Earth’s climate history and determine how it relates to present or future climate trends.

The lab research is led by Sujata Murty and Aubrey Hillman, assistant professors in the Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences, along with about a dozen undergraduate and graduate student assistants.

Alumni Drive Transformation Underway

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A rendering of the BRT route showing enhanced green space, shaded walk paths and a roadway limited to bus and emergency vehicle traffic.
The lithium-ion battery in your cellphone, laptop computer or even your automobile may soon incorporate new nanocarbon materials that can dramatically improve nearly every aspect of the battery’s performance — and the research of UAlbany Chemistry Professor Marina A. Petrukhina will likely play a major role.

“Nowadays, we all are using battery-powered cell phones and other small portable devices on a daily basis. However, many challenges related to safety, costs, lifespan and charge capabilities of the batteries remain,” says Petrukhina, whose National Science Foundation-supported research explores the chemical behavior and structures of novel contorted and twisted molecular nanocarbon materials. “The excellent properties of new contorted nanocarbon hosts [revealed by her lab’s work] may provide new practical opportunities in resolving some of the major [battery] issues in the future.”

The discovery and creation of new nanocarbons materials in recent decades has opened the door to promising new applications in everything from battery technology to pharmaceuticals. With the help of the Carla Rizzo Delray ’42 Professorship in Chemistry, Petrukhina’s team is conducting research with implications that are far-reaching and potentially groundbreaking.

The endowed professorship is named in honor of Delray, a graduate of the New York State College for Teachers (UAlbany’s predecessor) and former researcher who worked on artificial intelligence projects at General Electric’s Research and Development Center.

“This endowed professorship had a tremendous impact on my professional career as it brought additional visibility and recognition at both national and international levels,” says Petrukhina. Along with increased invitations to speak around the globe and opportunities to serve on international boards of scientific journals and professional societies, the professorship allowed her to expand her research in new directions not covered by her NSF grant, and provided her graduate students professional opportunities they might not have otherwise had.

“It supported travel to Argonne National Laboratory to carry out unique synchrotron experiments that allowed our group to complete structural characterization of extremely small and weak crystals which cannot be handled using our in-house instrumentation. This provided a tremendous boost to our synthetic research programs.”

Petrukhina credits her mother — also a chemistry teacher — for being the catalyst for her interest and ultimate success in science.

“She kept constantly challenging me with interesting chemical problems and complex chemical puzzles until I developed a very solid foundation coupled with admiration for chemistry in our life. And then I was hooked.”

Despite her well-deserved accolades and accomplishments, Petrukhina jokes that she’ll know she’s made a real difference in her career when we no longer need to be asked at the airport, “Do you have any lithium-ion batteries in your checked luggage?”

If you are interested in more information about establishing an endowed professorship at UAlbany, please contact Larry Lichtenstein at lichtenstein@albany.edu.
A lens on alumni professions

Field of View

A day in the life of Joe Bonilla ’11

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer speaking at the Relentless-organized press conference for the grand opening of the Blake Annex community coworking space in downtown Albany.

To help reopen New York’s movie theaters during the pandemic, we organized statewide rallies, led by Bow Tie Cinemas’ Joe Masher ’87. Our efforts earned national and international media attention.
Joe Bonilla ’11 wants to know one thing: Are you relentless? It’s an essential trait for succeeding in today’s ultracompetitive media landscape and it is what fuels Bonilla’s award-winning creative strategy firm, Relentless Awareness. With co-founder and fellow alumnus, Rich Fazio ’06, Bonilla built the 10-year-old agency’s team of talented professionals and amassed a diverse client roster in sectors ranging from manufacturing, retail and healthcare to transportation, entertainment, political campaigns and more. So how does a successful company that started with “two guys, $200, and a dream” stay on top? UAlbany Magazine goes for a ride-along with the most relentless agency in the game to find out.
We keep racking up accolades for our work, earning recognition from the American Advertising Federation and the Telly Awards.

Ever been inside a grain mill? We have, thanks to our longtime client, Chatham Brewing, in Columbia County.

Our live production equipment and press conference setup for the 2021 City of Albany inauguration ceremony.

We leverage our distinctive style to highlight the products and services of our clients. For example, we staged and captured this great fall cocktail menu for Yankee Distillers.

As licensed drone operators, our creative services team captures bird’s eye-view video and photography for live events, tourism destinations and more.

This is our end-of-semester lunch with three UAlbany interns. Over the past decade, Relentless has provided real-world learning opportunities for dozens of interns. Some have joined our team in full-time positions after graduating!
Another day, another press conference. This event included some larger-than-life wrestlers in support of the International Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame opening in Albany.

We give our time, talent and treasure to support community and charitable organizations, such as the Ronald McDonald House Charities’s Family Retreat at Krantz Cottage in Lake George, the first of its kind worldwide.

Borrowing from the song in the musical “Hamilton,” we’ve been in “The Room Where It Happens” for that last 10 years working in many times zones, geographic locations and with the support of public figures like Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan and New York Assemblymember Pat Fahy.
INSIDE

ETEC

UAlbany’s New $180M State-of-the-Art ‘Epicenter’ for Research and Innovation
More than a decade in the making, UAlbany’s ETEC building has opened on a 12-acre expanse next to the Uptown Campus. The mammoth 246,000-square-foot facility is being hailed by President Havidán Rodríguez as an “epicenter” for tackling some of society’s most urgent challenges: climate change, weather emergencies, environmental threats and national and global security issues.

In addition to co-locating several of the University’s fastest growing programs and signature research strengths, ETEC is also home to an ecosystem aimed at fostering economic development and catalyzing innovative entrepreneurship for tech start-ups.

**Step inside and explore ETEC.**
In 2011, the Office of the Governor and SUNY System announced the NYSUNY 2020 Challenge Grant Program designed to spur economic growth across the state and to strengthen New York’s public universities and colleges. First round funding of $35M was awarded to each of the four SUNY research centers (Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo and Stony Brook.)

UAlbany’s “E-TEC” (originally a hyphenated acronym for Emerging Technology and Entrepreneurship Complex) was born.

“This game-changing facility not only embodies the University’s nationally leading academic and research assets, it also represents our commitment to address some of the greatest challenges facing humankind and the planet.”

— President Havidán Rodríguez at the ETEC opening
Anchored on the first floor of ETEC is the **UAlbany Innovation Center**, the University’s incubator for early stage, emerging technology companies, particularly those aligned with the University’s research strengths in climate and environmental science, biomedical and biotechnology, forensic sciences and cyber security, and advanced data analytics. Current clients include TruxWeather Solutions, the developers of a micro-weather forecast platform specifically built for drone pilots.

“This building is an innovation driver. Being able to showcase the research coming out of here is the biggest and most important part of what we do.”

— Maria Pidgeon, Interim Director of Community and Economic Development
The entrepreneurial hub also helps other qualified businesses, individuals and students move their visions to the marketplace through a multitude of entrepreneurship programs, including the Small Business Development Center, the Office for Innovation Development and Commercialization (OIDC) and the Blackstone Launchpad.
The modern, energy-efficient building is expected to receive its LEED Platinum certification (the highest level of sustainability achievement issued by the U.S. Green Building Council). With a nearly 70% reduction in energy costs, when including the solar array for power, ETEC achieves SUNY’s net zero carbon ready goal for new buildings.

**KEY SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES:**

- a field of 190 geothermal wells, nearly 500 feet deep use the earth as a source for heating and cooling the entire building.
- electricity provided by 4,783 solar panels, the largest rooftop array in the SUNY system.
- occupancy and proximity sensors that detect human activity and calibrate building systems for increased safety, efficiency and comfort.
- a 560-square-foot teaching green roof for academic instruction and research in atmospheric science, environmental science, chemistry and more.
One of the most memorable features of the building is the Science-on-a-Sphere, a 6-foot diameter globe suspended in mid-air as dynamic images of live satellite feeds tracking weather, real-time global cyber-attacks and other data-driven visuals are projected onto it. The sphere presents the types of complex real-world challenges that the academic endeavors housed within ETEC are working collaboratively to solve.
Leading the way in tackling climate change and weather-related research are the nationally renowned Department of Atmospheric & Environmental Science (DAES) and the preeminent Atmospheric Sciences Research Center (ASRC) which comprise one of UAlbany’s signature research clusters operating within ETEC. With partners like the National Weather Service, a Center of Excellence in Weather and Climate Analytics, and the NYS Mesonet (the nation’s most advanced weather detection system), DAES and ASRC form one of the most prominent coalitions of climate and weather experts in the country.
“ETEC will undoubtedly give rise to innovative interdisciplinary research collaborations, attract outstanding students, faculty, researchers and staff, as well as help elevate UAlbany’s reputation through hosting national conferences and workshops. It’s a really cool and exciting building!”

— Dr. Christopher Thornicroft, Professor and Director of Atmospheric Sciences Research Center

Special features: The xCITE Lab, an AI-based software development and data/visual analytics facility, live weather research map rooms, and a glass-enclosed weather observation space.
UAlbany’s first-in-the nation College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity (CEHC) leverages its ETEC location across the street from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, Office of Emergency Management and the New York State Police. This proximity offers unique applied learning and research opportunities for faculty and students and enables CEHC to work closely with those agencies to help keep New York safe and resilient.

“Here our students have a unique front role decisions are made to help keep New York safer, more prepared and more resilient.”

— Dr. Robert P. Griffin, Founding Dean CEHC

Special features: Outfitted makerspace with 3-D printing, an Ops Command Center for emergency scenarios, and an interdisciplinary ecosystem of research labs including the Center for Advanced Red Teaming (CART).
The College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS) has a presence within ETEC through two distinctive academic programs: the **Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering** (the first to offer a combined degree in electrical and computer engineering within SUNY) and the **Department of Environmental and Sustainable Engineering** (the first-in-the-nation engineering program emphasizing the environment and sustainability.)

**Special features:** Environmental Teaching Lab, state-of-the-art wet/dry labs.

“Having state-of-the-art offices and labs in ETEC enables and promotes close collaborations between ESE faculty, staff and students with other colleagues in other units, like ASRC, DAES and CEHC.”

— **Dr. Yanna Liang, professor and chair Department of Environmental & Sustainable Engineering**
From house parties to haircuts, how one enterprising alum found success.

By Nick Muscavage ’16
More than a decade ago, Dave Salvant ’08 helped bring Grammy-nominated musician Ryan Leslie to perform at a party at UAlbany, an experience he believes gave him his first taste of business success.

“It was a big turnout, it was a lot of fun,” he remembers. “I was always entrepreneurial.”

Today, Salvant has channeled his entrepreneurial spirit into starting a business that landed on the 2021 Forbes list of the next billion-dollar startups and is, literally, on the cutting edge: Squire Technologies is a software development company aimed at making the business of barbershops more efficient.

After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in political science in 2008, Salvant had a brief stint in marketing before finding a career in finance at JP Morgan, where he worked as a private banker for high-net-worth clients. From there, he joined the sales team of insurance giant AXA US, crafting and selling insurance products for financial advisors.

He left AXA after about three years to pursue his own venture, founding Squire in 2015 with his business partner Songe LaRon. Squire was accepted into Y Combinator, the startup incubator with an acceptance rate lower than Harvard that boasts alumni such as Airbnb and DoorDash. The startup only grew from there, Salvant said.

During its first four years, the company raised around $4 million, according to Salvant. Over the course of the next two years, the company raised about $60 million. In July 2020, it raised $40 million, and an additional $60 million this past July.

Squire, which has offices in Soho in New York City, now has around 250 employees.

But before Squire, Salvant was living with his sisters and single mother in Section 8 housing in Coney Island.

“I don’t really think about it until I have these conversations, but I’m a kid from Brooklyn,” he said. “I grew up with a single mom and two sisters in a two-bedroom apartment.”

Growing up was sometimes tough, he said, but it also taught him valuable lessons that he relies on to this day.

“I guess you could say that it helped me with my work ethic, but I think more importantly it helped me understand the differences between the have and have-nots,” Salvant said. “We clearly were the have-nots. It instilled in me the sense of wanting to achieve more and wanting to accomplish something with my life.”

“The odds of me making it at this point were not in my favor, by a longshot,” he added. “But I’m here now by the grace of God, and because I believe in hard work, dedication and discipline and, frankly, a little bit of luck.”

Circumstances became “a little better” in his teens when he and his family moved to Spring Valley in Rockland County, where he attended high school and played football as a fullback and defensive end.

“I think those years had a huge impact on me and made me who I am today,” he said. “When you’re in high school, you start developing what it is you subscribe to. I think for myself, during that time I became someone with high integrity.”

After nearly two decades of striving, Salvant takes nothing for granted.

“You’ve got to put in the work, you’ve got to work hard,” he said. “Nothing in this life is given to you, especially for folks from my background.”

Salvant pointed to a famous quote attributed to baseball legend Yogi Berra to describe his success: “The harder I work, the luckier I become.”
“I really subscribe to that,” he said. “You really have to work at what you want, and once you do that, the universe works in mysterious ways and gives you what you deserve.”

Indeed, one could say the universe was working in mysterious ways in the early days of Squire.

When Squire was conceived, it was an app to book appointments with barbershops, but its founders soon found that the real opportunity was on the business-to-business side.

When Salvant and LaRon, a Yale-educated attorney who worked for a prominent multinational law firm, sought to transition to the business side, they wanted to learn how barbershops operated firsthand. To do so, the duo spent a third of the company’s initial funds to purchase a barbershop in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan in 2016.

“It was a big risk,” Salvant said. “It was $20,000 of the total $60,000 we had. So we kind of bet the house on it.”

The barbershop provided Salvant and LaRon firsthand business experience, serving as a test kitchen to teach them what products and services would best serve barbers, but it also created opportunity in another way.

While working the front of the shop, Salvant said he remembers a customer who provided a Facebook email address to book his appointment.

“I was like, ‘I’m going to ask him what he thinks about Squire,’” he recalled. “Worst case scenario I would have gotten a ‘No’ and that would’ve been it, but the best case scenario I think played out.”

The customer Salvant approached was Blake Chandlee, a former vice president of Facebook who now serves as the president of global business solutions at TikTok.

Not long after their chance encounter, Chandlee decided to invest in Squire, becoming one of Salvant and LaRon’s earliest backers.

“He was one of the first guys that Mark Zuckerberg really trusted back in the heyday of Facebook,” he said. “He was a real vote of confidence, and we’re fortunate we had him invest.”

Although customers can still download the Squire app and use it to book barbershop appointments, the product has since morphed into an all-in-one shop for barbers. It handles online scheduling, point-of-sale payments, payroll, marketing and inventory.
The core of the business, though, still revolves around haircuts.

“It just makes you feel amazing,” Salvant said. “Getting a haircut is one of those things that can give you that jolt of confidence. We all know that feeling where you walk out of the doors of a barbershop and you look your best, you feel like you can accomplish anything.”

Salvant recalls that when the weekends rolled around at UAlbany, he and his friends would get shaped up by his roommate who was a barber.

“Every Friday you’d want to get touched up a little bit to go out,” he said. “You’d want to look your best. We didn’t have the clothes, so at least we could look good on top.”

With Squire’s continual growth, Salvant admits that the pressure can be stressful at times, but he’s thankful for his partner LaRon, who was a close friend of his before their venture.

“I don’t know what the future holds, but I do know that we just want to continue to do right by our customers, be an inspiration to others, and really focus on being an example of excellence,” he said.

Along the way, he hasn’t forgotten where he’s from.

“There are many kids who look like me who also come from impoverished backgrounds,” he said. “If they see me become successful, they can then dream, they can hope, and they can start a business and start something, just like I started something, because they can have someone to point to and say, ‘If he did it, I know I can do it.’”
DIVING DEEP

Inside the amazing world of the renowned oceanographer David Gallo ’79, MS’83

By Jim Sciancalepore, MA ’93
Bioluminescent creatures skitter and glide like fantastic aliens, computer generated by Hollywood special effects artists. Adorable, colorful dumbo octopuses bounce playfully along the ocean floor, while vampire squids with clawed tentacles glide menacingly by.

Temperatures here hover around the freezing mark, and the pressure is literally crushing — more than 1,000 times the pressure felt at the water’s surface. This is an inhospitable place for almost anything with lungs. For perspective, scuba divers generally become incapacitated at only 250 feet down.

In volcanically active areas of the ocean floor, great chimneys rise more than 100 feet tall. These hydrothermal vents, emerging from cracks in the Earth’s crust, spew black and white smoke into the deep ocean water. Eight-foot-long tubeworms, three-foot-long silvery eelpouts and bottom-dwelling mollusks make their homes around the massive vents — sustained by the combination of heat and abundant minerals.

These and other wonders abound. The vast, dark ocean depths conceal a teeming, biodiverse ecosystem that rivals the Brazilian rainforest, mountain ranges that dwarf Mount Everest and deep-water basins that make Lake Superior seem like a shallow pond.

On rare occasions, one can also find evidence of another fascinating creature here: artifacts of humankind. Shipwrecks, fishing gear, plastic litter… the flotsam and jetsam of invaders from above.

Dangerous. Beautiful. Unexplored. This is the world of David Gallo.
“Fundamentally, I’m an explorer.”

UAlbany alum Gallo is a man of many titles. He is perhaps best known as an oceanographer, with decades of experience in deep sea exploration. For nearly 30 years, Gallo was director of special projects at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (WHOI), the preeminent research laboratory on the coast of Cape Cod.

One could call Gallo an underwater archaeologist or even “oceanic detective,” an expert at finding and studying lost wrecks. Gallo was senior adviser for strategic initiatives at RMS Titanic Inc., where he helmed a multi-year effort to produce the most detailed analysis of the cruise liner’s wreck site.

An acclaimed public speaker and educator, as well as an outspoken advocate for the protection of the Earth’s oceans, Gallo has been described by TED Conferences as “an enthusiastic ambassador between the sea and those of us on dry land.”

In addition to his Ph.D. in oceanography from the University of Rhode Island, Gallo is also a geologist, having earned his B.S. and M.S. in the former Department of Geological Sciences at UAlbany.

Scientist. Ambassador. Educator. Detective. When asked what title he most prefers, Gallo answered without hesitation. “Fundamentally, I’m an explorer,” he said. “I’m driven by curiosity. Always have been.”
From shoe salesman to science star

As a working-class kid growing up in upstate New York in the 1960s and 1970s, Gallo loved science, but he didn’t like school. He was a self-described “horrible student,” who preferred working hands-on in his school’s rocketry club or studying the night sky with his telescope. Years later, he would learn there was a reason for his academic struggles: he had attention deficit disorder (ADD). At the time, however, he was simply labelled an underachieving student.

“I truly wanted to be a scientist, but they told me I didn’t have the aptitude for it,” said Gallo. “And, unfortunately, I respected, trusted and believed them.”

Upon graduating high school, the future world-renowned oceanographer spent the next six years working in a shoe store on Wolf Road in Albany, N.Y. Though he was “pretty good at selling shoes,” there was clearly something missing in his life. A fateful sign arrived one day in the form of a magazine: National Geographic, August, 1976.

“I opened the magazine to a story about exploring the Atlantic in a deep-ocean submersible named Alvin,” recalled Gallo. “That image did something to me… it threw a switch!”

One of the scientists mentioned in that article was Paul “Jeff” Fox, a geology professor from UAlbany, just a few miles away from the shoe store where Gallo worked. With his love of science rekindled, Gallo sought out Fox and applied to the University.

“I was impressed with his (Gallo’s) relaxed intelligence and willingness to look at situations from perspectives that were not necessarily obvious,” recalled Fox, now a professor at Montana State University, of their initial meeting. “He expressed an interest in studying with me, and off we went.”

Performing research in UAlbany’s geology department with Fox as his mentor — including hands-on field work in marine geology — Gallo had found his calling. Fox

©Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Arm In Arms
A deep ocean octopus (Benthoctopus) was surprisingly curious about the Alvin submarine’s robotic arm.

Early Alvin
Gallo (far right) and tectonic plate expert Pierre Choukroune examine the Alvin submarine circa 1979.
noted Gallo’s “innate sense of how the Earth worked” and his ability to distill complex concepts into scannable charts and visuals.

As part of Fox’s team, the young man who allegedly “didn’t have the aptitude for college” would make his first dive in the Alvin submarine, present a paper at an international meeting and earn a bachelor’s and master’s degree in geology. Gallo then followed Fox to the University of Rhode Island, where he ultimately earned a doctorate in oceanography.

In 1987, Gallo was offered an exciting marine research position in Hawaii that was “paved with interesting programs and funding.” Fate, however, once again intervened. He received an unexpected call from Robert Ballard, a researcher at WHOI and the very scientist who co-authored the 1976 National Geographic article that changed Gallo’s life. Ballard offered him a job.

“I don’t know…what you’ll do here, but I promise you’ll be the first person to ever do it.”

In the 1970s and 1980s, Ballard and the WHOI team’s research was game changing in the realm of deep-sea exploration and maritime archaeology. They were the first to identify and study hydrothermal vents, and he and his team are credited with finding some of the world’s most famous shipwrecks — from RMS Titanic to JFK’s PT-109.

Ballard’s job offer to Gallo was enticingly open-ended. “He said, ‘I don’t know what I can pay you or exactly what you’ll do here, but I promise you’ll be the first person to ever do it,’” noted Gallo with a laugh. “Of course, I took the job.”

The Download on Alvin: The Ultimate Ocean Floor Explorer

What is Alvin?
Alvin is the WHOI’s iconic ocean research submersible…first commissioned in 1964. Smaller and more nimble compared to other submarines of the day, Alvin could initially reach a maximum depth of 6,000 feet.

Where did Alvin’s name come from?
Alvin is named after one of the scientists who inspired its creation: the engineer and geophysicist Allyn Vine.

How has Alvin evolved since 1964?
Alvin’s steel body was replaced by stronger, lighter titanium. The single propeller was replaced by four thrusters, improving maneuverability. New robotic arms, LED lighting and high-definition cameras improved Alvin’s ability to gather samples and collect data. Today’s version of Alvin can reach depths beyond 14,000 feet (almost 3 miles down).

How many researchers can fit inside Alvin?
A maximum of three, working in tight confines.

How long does it take Alvin to reach the ocean floor, and how long do dives last?
It takes Alvin about two hours to reach maximum depth, and another two to get back. With a maximum dive time of 10 hours, that gives researchers inside approximately 5-6 hours to perform deep sea research.

10 hours? Does Alvin have a bathroom?
Unfortunately, no. But there is a sign displayed on Alvin’s equally iconic support ship, The Atlantis, which reads “PB4UGO.”

Hello, Dumbo
A curious dumbo octopus (Grimpoteuthis) floats by the Alvin submarine’s window.
He soon found himself leading expeditions inside the same Alvin submersible that captivated and inspired him years before. The experience did not disappoint.

“You go into another world,” said Gallo, describing a deep-water dive. “Flowing currents, mud and sand, no light. Your heart is racing. It’s breathtaking.”

Over the next three decades, Gallo would take many such dives, as he and the team at WHOI would lead undersea research in exciting new directions while reaching previously unreachable depths. This included developing sophisticated tactics for “mapping” the seafloor in intricate detail through a combination of manned submarines, robotic autonomous vehicles, high-definition imaging and sonar.

These techniques and technologies have revolutionized deep sea exploration, making it less dangerous and more efficient. They also have made it possible to solve some of the ocean’s greatest mysteries.

Seeing Titanic like never before

In March of 2022, the world’s imagination was captured by the discovery of the Endurance, the legendary shipwreck from Ernest Shackleton’s 1915 expedition to the Antarctic. Much to his chagrin, Gallo was not involved in that expedition.

“We missed that one,” said Gallo with a wry smile. “But I’m happy for their team.”

Of course, Gallo played a pivotal role in the study of another, perhaps even more famous shipwreck: the RMS Titanic, which sank off the coast of Newfoundland in 1912. Though discovered by Ballard and team in 1985, the giant ocean liner was 2.5 miles down in murky Atlantic water, and the wreck site spanned more than two miles. In the late 1980s, the technology simply didn’t exist to complete a detailed analysis. The great ship would lie in wait for another two decades.

In 2010, Gallo led a team of archaeologists, oceanographers and scientists on an expedition to map every inch of the wreckage — creating the first virtual reconstruction of the ship. He recalled what it was like when he and his fellow scientists first viewed the 3-D images from their fleet of underwater vehicles.

“We’re all huddled around the computer monitor and, suddenly, these stunning images appear…it’s like we’re standing on the deck of the Titanic!” said Gallo. “When you hear scientists cheer, you know it’s a big win.”

Titanic Achievement

This composite image of the Titanic wreckage was made from sonar and more than 100,000 photos taken by robotic submersibles - utilizing techniques developed by Gallo and other researchers.
Next stop: Atlantis?

When asked what’s next for this intrepid explorer, Gallo did not say “retirement”—he wants to find the lost city of Atlantis. No, he’s not kidding. To be clear, Gallo isn’t searching for Aquaman or mermaids; he wants to uncover the archeological remains of the great city that inspired the myth.

Gallo is among a group of scientists who believe there is a grain of truth to the stories of a highly advanced aquatic civilization, as mentioned in the writings of Plato dating back to 400 B.C. There is growing evidence that the real Atlantis was located along the coast of Santorini, a Greek island. As the theory goes, a natural disaster—such as a volcanic eruption or earthquake—befell the island. The great city was destroyed, and over time the achievements of a factual place became the stuff of legend.

“In my world, you never say never,” said Gallo, with his trademark curiosity still brimming. He was also quick to point out that, in spite of the many advances in oceanic research, more than 90% of the world’s oceans remain largely unexplored.

“There is still so much left to learn.”

Finding the unfindable: Air France 447

In June 2009, Air France Flight 447 set out from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, bound for Paris. The flight never reached its destination, instead disappearing a few hours after takeoff somewhere over the Atlantic. The Brazilian Navy recovered evidence of the crash within five days, but the majority of the plane and its two flight recorders remained lost.

An inconclusive search area, deep and difficult ocean conditions and international and logistical complexities hampered efforts to locate the aircraft. Months passed, with no success. Gallo and his team offered to help.

By applying some of the same research techniques they had developed to study the Titanic and other shipwrecks, the team located the ill-fated aircraft in 2011. While it was a somber discovery, Gallo was extremely proud of the outcome.

“We solved a riddle, we hopefully provided some closure for the families and we recovered the black boxes, which will help improve airline safety in the future,” noted Gallo. “This was a great accomplishment.”

Top TED Talker

Gallo views his many public speaking engagements as a way of “giving back”—helping to share his love and respect for the ocean with everyone from global CEOs to grade school kids. Gallo’s TED presentation “Underwater Astonishments” has tallied more than 16 million views and is one of the all-time top TED Talks.

Watch Gallo’s 5-minute Ted Talk about amazing sea creatures viewed by 16 million people.
Remembering UAlbany’s Most Controversial Yearbook

By Vincent Reda ’74
Editor’s note: This story contains a graphic description of a war photograph that some may find disturbing and/or triggering.

Marty, a senior from Queens, burst through the door of our three-bedroom, six-person suite in Eastman Tower, already yelling. “Vinny, you gotta get over to the Physics Building tunnel and get one of these before they’re gone!”

Marty was holding what had to be the Torch Yearbook, looking different from most with a gold cloth covering and black letters. It was certainly yearbook time, late April, in 1972. Still, I might have asked what was so special, but Marty kept talking, loud and fast, saying, essentially “This is the greatest darn yearbook ever made. This is going to darn-well drive the administration crazy!”

In truth, I lived with Marty all school year, and I doubt he ever once said “darn.” But you get the idea.

I was a sophomore in my first year at UAlbany and confused — about a lot of things, actually, but in this case about the exhilaration over a yearbook. I’d seen the 1971 edition and was impressed. The photos were mostly large, strikingly lit and expertly composed, and told a story of campus life amid the shadow of the Vietnam War. It reflected UAlbany’s participation in the nationwide student strike in early May of 1970 and the bitterness of the May 4 shooting deaths of four students at Kent State University by National Guardsmen.

Marty had participated in the UAlbany strike and recalled with passion how he and other students pounded on first-floor classroom windows, demanding that kids get up from their desks, abandon their books and profs, and march. Many classroom windows were broken. An explosive device went off in the Dutch Quad Flag Room, a piano was destroyed in the lobby. The academic year was shut down with no commencement.

But this was now April of 1972. The number of college-aged boys being drafted was falling rapidly. Even as a high school senior in May of ’70, I remember how Kent State had brought a grim reality to the risk of angry (sometime violent) protest. President Nixon’s U.S.
winddown of the war left fewer kids like myself (with a low draft lottery number), vulnerable to the draft.

By 1972, on the rise were the words “student apathy,” in the ASP, in classrooms and eventually yearbooks. What could Torch ’72 stir up at this point?

Marty showed me, shoving the senior portrait section to my face. At first I didn’t see his point. Two big pages of five rows of small black-and-white portraits of mostly neatly dressed, well-coiffed seniors. But there was something akilter in the in the middle row — every other photo had a slanted bar to the right and some kind of wall or post to the left, framing a young face. The face was pained. That’s when I focused.

“Oh my God,” I said. The face had no neck, and it was repeated six times on each of the two pages, alternating in the middle row with smiling or otherwise confident-looking, well-coiffed seniors. The head of a young Viet Cong, decapitated and dangling in air. Page after page for 45 yearbook pages. (A full shot of the scene, just before the section, revealed the “post” to the right to be a rifle, the wall to the left to be the leg of a South Vietnamese soldier proudly and almost gleefully holding up not one but two heads by the hair.)

“Isn’t that fantastic?!?” Marty said, his face lit up. He despised the human cost of war, but he delighted in knowing this cost was going to be shoved into the faces of the “Establishment.” To Marty and other seniors, having gone through the protests of May 1970, the war and the protests were still vivid. For many, they were moments of the highest passion in their lives.

For us underclassmen, it was becoming the past. (The one reference to campus protests in the ’73 Torch referred to days gone by.) I headed three flights upstairs to people my own age, a suite full of sophomores, two of whom I’d gone to high school with. Mike, from Manhattan, was bent over the open Torch gazing at the senior section. “I don’t believe this,” he said, mouth agape. He looked up at me. “Do you believe this?”

Don, one of my high school mates, emitted fury. “How am I going to bring this home and show my parents — with all these heads!”

I found that persuasive. I didn’t really like looking at pages of death spectacle photos, but I knew I’d subconsciously keep flipping the book open to that section — to that unfortunate guy, and the many students in the middle rows who’d gotten their yearbook pictures taken feeling full of happy achievement — and whose parents would despise that book and maybe the University the rest of their lives. (Marty, on the other hand, told me, and I believed him, that, instead of being tucked safely in the lower two rows, he’d have wished to have been among the heads in the middle.)

Would I go get the book? No. I had transferred into UAlbany after a freshman year at Fordham University, my parents wondering why I’d want to leave a nice Christian school (it wasn’t) and go all the way upstate (I kept telling them it was only about halfway up) to some radical campus that had even abandoned general education requirements. I kept telling them UAlbany kids were no different than Fordham kids — a few more high on smoke, a few less high on liquid.

But now this. No, they would never see Torch ’72, and I got my high school buddies to shut up that summer when my mystified mother queried them, “So, why didn’t he bring home a yearbook?”

I could have had a built-in excuse. The book, 380 pages and weighing nearly five pounds, seemed to disappear after a few days. If it sold out due to popularity, where did it go? I saw very few copies on campus in my school years nor in the decades I’ve worked here. Did the administration step in and dump a few boxes? I’ve never gotten a concrete answer.

Torch ’72 was an object of discussion that year through the end of classes and finals. After my initial shock, I sat down with it, and discovered a gateway to the

In 2020, The University Art Museum presented Torch ’72/2020, a commissioned project by artist Shane Aslan Selzer that used the yearbook as a “visual prompt to speak about the trajectory and lineage of intersectional justice efforts on the UAlbany campus,” according to a press release on the exhibition. Selzer, whose parents graduated from UAlbany in 1972, says of the yearbook: “It was a radical document I had stumbled upon that felt like a guide to living.”
political consciousness of one Ron Simmons, a gay black radical senior, the book’s editor and a talented photographer and writer. The first thing written in it was an absolution of the Student Association for anything people would see in the book. It was essentially all on him.

And “all” was more than Vietnam. Sexually, past books were utterly hetero. In Torch ’72, Simmons changed that, devoting 16 pages to gay life on campus (only two of the 16 to gay women), with sections on pollution and women’s rights, and a Simmons essay on the militancy required of new “black elite” college-educated men and women. He displayed no bigotry, blasting a capitalist “power elite” that subjugated whites and blacks alike by way 24-page section on poverty showing poor whites and poor Blacks in equally hopeless conditions.

The book was already revolutionary to that point, yet not gung-ho antiwar. Simmons even took time to pay tribute to the silliness of college youth . . . and, of course, to the concerts, plays and sports.

But he had one more arrow in his quiver. The senior photo section was ushered in by 26 pages, beginning on page 271, of photos and essays depicting death, suffering and despair in Vietnam. In retrospect, individuals perusing those pages might have expected something unsettling still to come.

It came, like a cudgel, with the death spectacle photos. Simmons, who died in 2020, concluded the book by asking if, through Torch ’72, readers understood the price of war, bigotry and economic oppression better. “Or was it all for nothing?”

Nothing, however, is for nothing if it leaves you with indelible images. Torch ’72 is forever the yearbook “with the heads,” but it’s also, in photos and words, an articulate witness to a unique time and place of absurdity, joy and anger.
1947
Harold Ashworth passed away Feb. 8, 2021. He served in the US Navy during World War II. Harold practiced law for over 50 years in his hometown of Rochester, N.Y.

1948
Eleanor Alland moved to Harmony Hall in Columbia, MD, to be near her family. Eleanor’s new email address is ealland214b@gmail.com.

1949
Joe Zanchelli and Joyce ’52 submitted a photo of their wedding party that included Harvey Milk ’51, along with a quote, for the most recent UAlbany Mini-Mag celebrating Milk’s life. The issue was released online on Harvey’s birthday, May 22. View it at https://magazine.albany.edu/mini/harvey-milk.

Class Co-Councilors:
Joe Zanchelli, jzanch@yahoo.com; Jean Pulver Hague, jeanhague@aol.com

1952
Joyce Leavitt Zanchelli had knee surgery in April. She and Joe ’49 had a wonderful Easter and enjoyed a home-cooked meal prepared by her son-in-law.

Class Councilor: Joyce Leavitt Zanchelli, jzanch@yahoo.com

1953
A note from your class councilor:
Morton Cohn of Commack, N.Y., passed away Feb. 20, 2022, at the age of 91. He was very fond of his time in Albany. Morton was a teacher for 35 years. His son, Steven, wrote, “He was such a warm blessing to those around him.”

Louise Petfield Burns shared her experience living near the wild fires in Colorado Springs. Stay safe, Louise!

That is all I can bring to your attention this time. I will be pestering you for news for publication in December. Start thinking what you might contribute! C’mon Red Devils!

Class Councilor: Rose Mary (Rosie) Keller Hughes, rosemaryk.hughes@gmail.com

1954
Jim Bennett’s wife Barbara passed away in January.

Bonnie Brousseau and her husband moved into Eddy Hawthorne Ridge in East Greenbush, N.Y.

Naoshi Koriyama of Kanagawa, Japan, continues to write and translate poetry. His major translations are Like Underground Water — The Poetry of Mid-Twentieth Century Japan (Copper Canyon Press, 1995) and Japanese Tales from Times Past (Tuttle Publishing, 2015). Recently Naoshi wrote the poem “Today Is the Only Day That You Can Live on Earth” and sent a copy to the Alumni Association. Naoshi sends his warmest regards to the Class of 1954.

Class Councilor: Joan Paul, fpaul1@nycap.rr.com

1957
Sheila Lister Bamberger and husband Hank cruised the Columbia River from Clarkson, Wash. to Portland, Ore. following the Lewis and Clark trail. They joined a Road Scholar program to explore four National Parks in California — Sequoia, King’s Canyon, Yosemite and Death Valley.
Homecoming Season

It’s time once again to welcome the UAlbany community back to campus for Homecoming, Friday, Oct. 14 and Saturday, Oct. 15! The Alumni Association is looking forward to hosting alumni and friends at events throughout the weekend and celebrating milestone reunions for several classes and affinity groups.

This year, we’re bringing back the official Homecoming weekend kickoff event — the Welcome Reception — which will be held at the University’s ETEC building on Friday evening. For many alumni, this will be the first opportunity to check out the University’s newest state-of-the-art and environmentally sustainable facility. An official tour of ETEC will be given prior to the start of the reception, which is free and open to all. Check out the feature on ETEC in this magazine for an in-depth look that will make you want to experience it for yourself Oct. 14.

It wouldn’t be Homecoming without UAlbany Football and our annual pregame party! Join us Saturday afternoon for the Great Dane Pregame at Tom & Mary Casey Stadium starting at 1 p.m. This can’t-miss celebration grew to a new level last fall, and we are excited to welcome even more UAlbany grads back for the official UAlbany gathering before the Great Danes take on the Hampton Pirates. We’re offering our gameday package which includes football game ticket, lunch and a UAlbany-branded knit scarf that’s sure to get you noticed, at discounted rates for colleges, schools and affinity groups joining us that day. We know you’ll have a great time reconnecting and celebrating with fellow alumni at an event that is welcoming to all. Visit www.alumni.albany.edu/homecoming for more information.

I look forward to seeing you this fall!

Lee Serravillo  
Executive Director, UAlbany Alumni Association

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1961


Class Councillor: Mel Horowitz, melandsis@yahoo.com

1962

Sheril McCormack, a member of Freeport High School’s Alumni Half-Century Club, presented four scholarships to graduating seniors at FHS’s Awards Night.

Shelley Kellerman Pollero shared that Robert Pollero passed away in April. He was a member and former president of Alpha Pi Alpha Fraternity and was a student athlete.

Class Councillor: Sheril McCormack, vanillastar202@yahoo.com

1964

Julia Imbo, our 2021 Class of ’64 scholarship recipient, began her final year in the Special Education and Literacy program. Julia is student-teaching in both general and special education classrooms this semester. She is looking forward to getting her first teaching position. We met our 2022 recipient, Matthew Maldonado of White Plains, N.Y., during the scholarship ceremony in May. He is majoring in Human Development with a concentration in Special Education and plans to teach students in grades K-2 upon completing his master’s degree in Special Education and Literacy.

Most members of the Class of 1964 were born in 1942, which means that many of us will become octogenarians this year.

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A Message from Lee Serravillo  
Executive Director, UAlbany Alumni Association

Connect and engage with your most valuable network:

www.alumni.albany.edu/update.

@UAlbanyAlumni  
@UAlbany Alumni  
fb.com/UAlbanyAlumni  
linkedin.com/company/ualbanyalumni
Can you believe that we are turning 20 for the 4th time? We wish everyone in the Class of 1964 a very happy birthday!

Please keep us informed of your activities and changes in your contact information. Stay safe and healthy.

“Time marches on... and on... and on...” — 1964 Torch Yearbook

Class co-councilors: Bill Robelee, wrobelee31@gmail.com; Columba DeFrancesco Heinzelman, heinzel779@aol.com

1965

Art Johnston and his partner of 49 years, Jose “Pep” Pena, have been leading gay activists in Illinois since the 1970’s. USA Today ran a story on their bar, Sidetrack, often called the country’s largest, most influential gay bar. According to the article, “Sidetrack spreads the love; Chicago’s legendary gay bar is a symbol of community and a beacon of equality.”

Ruth Baker was hit by a car in October 2021 and hospitalized for a week with multiple injuries. When she returned home she needed a full-time caregiver. She’s happy to say that since her accident, she has traveled to Italy and the Alps and is back to walking and swimming.

Carole “Kate” Harvey Jacobs is in process of being licensed to preach in the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. She is currently preaching at Ashby Ponds Interfaith Christian Church and expanding to lead worship in more churches. Kate was ordained more than 40 years ago and is also licensed to preach in Episcopal churches in Tennessee.

Class co-councilor: Judy Koblintz Madnick, jmadnick@gmail.com

1967

Greetings, 1967 Classmates and Friends,

The excitement is building as the countdown is on to our glorious milestone 55th anniversary reunion! It is almost impossible to believe that 55 years have passed since we graduated and moved on from our bright undergraduate years fully enriched with the benefits of a marvelous UAlbany education. While many of our lives have been upended and transformed in previously unimaginable ways by the pandemic, I can’t wait to celebrate with as many of you as possible for what promises to be a memorable 55th reunion, Friday, Oct. 14-Sunday, Oct. 16, 2022.

In addition to an impressive array of University-wide celebratory events, our 55th reunion will include our own class-specific events. Highlights include the chance to reconnect with classmates Friday evening, Oct. 14, 5-6:30 p.m. at a reception at the ETEC Building; and Saturday, Oct. 15, 1-3:30 p.m. at the Great Dane Pregame (tailgate party) at Casey Stadium. Many classmates have thoughtfully requested the offering of a virtual class event during our reunion due to ongoing concerns about the presence of COVID-19 variants. This virtual gathering will be Sunday, Oct. 16, beginning at 4 p.m. ET on Zoom. The UAlbany Alumni Association will share instructions to access and participate in the gathering. In true Class of 1967 spirit, this virtual gathering will be a joyous, easygoing, thought-provoking, interactive event!

Now, all we need to make our 55th reunion a roaring success is you! Register at www.alumni.albany.edu/homecoming22. I can’t wait to see you at this landmark event!

With gratitude and many blessings always,

Canon Kay C. Hotaling

Dan Cook, one of the members of UAlbany’s first MSW graduating class, met his wife, Ann, at the School of Social
Welfare. Instead of attending commencement, they got married on the same day. They are still together 55 years later.

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

1973
The Class of 1973 will celebrate its 50-Year Reunion in October 2023! Our planning committee is now organizing the event. To participate, receive reunion info and/or update your contact info, send email to: alumniassociation@albany.edu, skantor@alumni.albany.edu or call (518) 442-3080. Join the official Class of 1973 Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/ualbany73.

1976
Alan Lefor received a PhD in Engineering from The University of Tokyo in March. He was named professor of Surgery, Emeritus at Jichi Medical University in April. Alan also lectures at several hospitals in the greater Tokyo area.

1980
Anne Case was made a distinguished fellow of the American Economic Association. She is the Alexander Stewart 1886 Professor of Economics and Public Affairs at Princeton University.

1981
Heidi Amsterdam welcomed her first grandchild.

J. Stephen Casscles retired after serving as counsel in the New York State Senate for 33 years and the NYS Department of Health for three years. He recently joined Milea Estate Vineyards of Staatsburg, N.Y. as project manager of the Hudson Valley Heritage Grape/Wine Project, where he will be responsible for growing 19th century heritage grape varieties developed in the Hudson Valley and Boston’s North Shore and making wine from them. Stephen is the author of Grapes of the Hudson Valley and Other Cool Climate Regions of the US and Canada.

1982
Arnold Fischler welcomed his first grandchild.

Evan Zahn, mission lead and member of the Mending Kids Board of Directors, was honored for his work with the organization last spring. Mending Kids provides critical surgical care for sick children. Evan is director of the Congenital Heart Program at Cedars Sinai Medical Center.

1983
Michael Ridgeway received a Masters Degree in Mathematical Statistics from the University of Maryland in 1988. He has been teaching mathematics at Broward College in Davie, Fla. for the past 34 years and will retire in June 2023.

1985
Patricia Salkin earned a PhD in Creativity from the University of the Arts.

2023 Excellence Awards
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
Recognize alumni and friends of the University for their outstanding achievements and service! We’ll celebrate the honorees at the 2023 Excellence Awards Gala on April 22.

More details and nomination forms are available at www.alumni.albany.edu/awards.

Nomination deadline is Oct. 12
1988

Richie Vais retired after 33 years as a social studies and special education teacher in Westchester County, N.Y.

Doreen Kleinman shared the passing of Pam Brodlieb, who lost a battle with cancer. Doreen and Pam didn’t become friends until after they graduated, when they developed a friendship through their roles as class co-councilors through the Alumni Association.

1989

Don Winslow was accepted into the Finger Lakes Region New York State Master Teacher Program for STEM educators. He is currently a teacher in the Lyons Central School district.

1991

Joseph Peterson is managing partner of Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton’s Silicon Valley office. Joseph has represented clients in litigation, arbitration and administrative proceedings involving copyright and trademark law for over 20 years and was recognized by The Best Lawyers in America® in 2021 and 2022.

1992

Allison (Baker) Schulder joined dessert bakery chain Sprinkles as chief financial officer. Established in 2005, the cupcake bakery has grown to 24 locations throughout the U.S.

1996

Phil Kelly was named director of Human Resources, New York State Canal Corporation.
1997
David Bergh was named president of Cazenovia College.

1999
Vera (Odierno) Sweeney is the founder of “Lady and the Blog.” A social media influencer, Vera helps busy women stay on top of the latest style, travel, and parenting trends.

2000
Steven Lorenzet was appointed dean of the Touro University School of Health Sciences. Dr. Lorenzet previously served as associate dean, Seton Hall University Stillman School of Business. His research has won multiple awards including the Citation of Excellence from Emerald Publishing.

2001
Vanessa Gibson was elected Bronx Borough President. She is the first female and first African American to hold the position. Previously she served as a member of the New York City Council, representing the 16th district 2014-2021.

2002
Fernando Luciano is founder and CEO of Day 1 Graphics US, a graphics and signage consultant company.

Manny De Los Santos is assemblymember of District 72. Manny previously served 13 years as a social worker and community school director in NYC. He is a proud UAlbany EOP and track and field alum, and member of Phi Iota Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

2004
Diane (Matthews) Ryan won the masters (40-and-over) title at the 2022 Freihofers Run in Albany.

Brian Kearns was promoted to partner at UHY LLC in Albany. He leads the firm’s National Not-for-Profit and Government Practices.

2005
Todd Zuckerwise was named assistant principal at Nassau BOCES Jerusalem Avenue Elementary School for the 2021-22 school year.

2007
Brent McGrady and wife Melissa welcomed a baby boy, Brogan, Nov. 11, 2021.

2008
Dennis Amore was listed among the 2021 New York Super Lawyers “Rising Stars.” Dennis is an associate in the Consumer Financial Services Litigation group in McGlinchey Stafford PLLC’s NYC office.

2013
Taylor Chaney was appointed director of Annual Giving at D’Youville University, Buffalo, N.Y.

Robert Pirson joined Fieldpoint Private’s NYC office as a Managing Director and Commercial Banker.

Langie Cadesca
CLASS OF 2019

Former Student Association president and Zeta Phi Beta alumna Langie Cadesca ’19 is in her second year of law school at Northeastern University in Boston. In her first year, Langie excelled academically and was involved on campus as a member of the First-Generation Law Students Association, and the 1L (first year) president of the Black Law Students Association (BLSA). She also served as a student representative on the Admissions Committee. In 2022-23, Langie will serve as co-president of BLSA, secretary of the Northeast Region Black Law Students Association, and associate editor for Northeastern University’s Law Review. She also will be a lawyering fellow for a first-year research course: Legal Skills in the Social Context. This past summer, Langie was a summer associate at a law firm and spent a portion of her time interning at a tech company. Langie would love to give a shout out to the leaders and mentors she built relationships with at UAlbany who helped guide her path!
Lauren Ursaki started a new position as investigator, Compliance & Ethics at Zoom.

2014

Dan Krzykowski is an associate at Barclay Damon in Albany.

2016

Stephanie Kazanas was recently tenured and promoted to associate professor at Tennessee Technological University. She serves as interim-chairperson in TTU’s Department of Counseling and Psychology.

2017

Rashan Brown joined the Walt Disney Company Product Operations Management team on ESPN+. He formerly served as associate product manager at Learning A-Z. Rashan is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc, and is the founder of spoken word poetry platform Poetry Me, Please.

2018

Shannen O’Brien married Nathaniel Discavage, Oct. 9, 2021, in Albany. Felicia Brunner ’17 was a bridesmaid and Meaghan Valis ’19 was in attendance.

2019

Mackenzie Darling was named a 2022 Maeve McKeen Women’s Law and Public Policy – O’Neill Institute Fellow at Georgetown Law School. Mackenzie is working with HIPS, a Washington, D.C.-based organization that focuses on promoting the health, rights and dignity of people impacted by sexual exchange and substance use.

2018

Harlan Ginsburg joined Etsy as senior technical recruiter.

Shaine Holloway is an editorial intern at Philomel Books, Penguin Random House.

2021

Vianne Kara ingh received the Institute of Caribbean Studies Washington DC’s 30 under 30 Changemaker award. She is senior communications strategist, Office of The Chief Information Officer, U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development.

2022

Aponi Glover is an assistant teacher at Robert C. Parker School in Wynantskill, N.Y. She is getting married in November.

Help grow the Great Dane Family!

With an alumni referral, UAlbany degree-seeking, undergraduate applicants can receive an application fee waiver courtesy of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Contribute to UAlbany’s admissions efforts by referring a prospective student interested in pursuing an undergraduate degree at UAlbany.

Scan the code to nominate a future Great Dane or visit admissions.albany.edu/register
Over 200 alumni and friends gathered at Saratoga Race Track in July for the annual UAAlbany Day at the Races.
Former UAlbany men’s basketball coach Doc Sauers (seated) and players from the late 1960s had lunch at The Standard in Albany. Pictured L-R: Scott Price ’69, Marty O’Donnell ’68, Tom Doody ’69, ’75, Jack Adams ’70 and Larry Marcus ’69.

Pete Steingraber ’79, Marlene Raftan Portnoy ’81, Steve Portnoy ’80, Marci Hirsch Koral ’81 and Joel Koral ’79 got together for dinner in Boynton Beach, Fla.

Samantha (Tortora) Reeves ’20 and Jerah Reeves ’20 spoke to current student athletes at a career panel in the spring.

Stefanos Marcopoulos ’07, ’08, vice president, Alumni Association Board of Directors (left) connected with members of the “Purple Fam” at a reception in Boca Raton.

Alumni in the D.C. area connected at a networking reception and had their professional headshots taken by a photographer in May.
Chi Sigma Theta Sorority Alumnae members attended the Excellence Awards Gala in honor of Rosemarie “Ro” Rosen ’68, MS ’73, recipient of the Excellence in Community Service Award.

Troy, N.Y.-based multidisciplinary artist D. Colin ’12 (center) received the Excellence in Arts & Letters Award.

Friends and family celebrated former Alumni Association board member and University volunteer Jillian Pasco ’10, ’12 (third from left) at the Excellence Awards Gala. Jillian received the Excellence in Alumni Service Award.

Alumni were eager to return to networking events in person this past spring.

Karleen Brookshire ’12, MSW ’15 stopped by the UAlbany tent at the 16th annual Black & Latina Gay Pride Celebration in Washington Park in June.
Of the many benefits of a college education (knowledge gained, careers launched, etc.) perhaps none is more meaningful than the lifelong connections forged — at least that's the case for Marjory Lyons, who stepped onto the campus of the New York State College for Teachers College in 1946. In her new memoir, *The Remarkable Friendship of the Four Girls*, Lyons details a friendship that began with three other classmates and has blossomed for nearly 80 years. After a career that included more than two decades as a dissertation chair for graduate students at Nova Southeastern University, Lyons, now 93 years old, runs her own memoir writing business called Telling Your Story, LLC.

**Q:** Is a good memoir a love letter, time capsule, both or neither?

**A:** A memoir reflects the highlights of a person's life. It is not a love story. To be an interesting read, it needs to touch on most aspects of a person's life in a diplomatic and tactful way. In my memoir, three of us girls were always getting dates for Smitty. (Barbara is her real name, but she coined Smitty-Barbara to accommodate me.) As I wrote the final draft of the book, I thought that maybe Smitty (now over 90) would not like to be characterized as a 17-year-old girl who couldn't get a date. So, I made sure to tell the time when Frank, another blind date, walked in, liked what he saw, and she liked him. They fell in love. They married a few months later. So, the girl who couldn't get a date was married for 65 years.
Q: There’s a great moment in your book when, after 35 years, you’re suddenly reconnected with your long-lost college friends. Do you think that was chance or some larger force at work?

A: The loyalty of our friendship meant we always wanted to see one another, to catch up on things. In the early days, we didn’t travel the way folks do today. As it happened, I was able to visit Smitty in Kinderhook, N.Y, Jane in Portland, Oregon, and Elise in Washington, D.C., several times. Perhaps there was a force pulling us together. There still is. That’s why I needed to write the book.

Q: You have a business that writes memoirs for others. What do you tell people who say their life’s story isn’t that interesting?

A: Everyone has a story worth telling. One time after a visit to my doctor, he talked about his children, showing me his daughter’s artwork, saying that he takes his 5-year-old son on rounds with him and that he has a tiny stethoscope. He told me that when he started out in life, he wanted to be a jazz saxophonist. I told him he should tell his story. He replied, “My life isn’t interesting.” Imagine that! A doctor not having a life full of amazing moments? I listed the aspects of his life he had just told me. He shook his head. Sometimes a person opens up once you have assured him or her that their life story is worth telling. I know how to help them tell it. That is my pleasure.
IN MEMORIAM

1940s & back

Sylvia Muffs Wein ’38, Jan. 18, 2015
Harriet G. Green Cogger ’39, May 29, 2018
Marion Dayton Hoagland ’39, Jan. 30, 2018
Joseph K. Schwartz ’41, June 2, 2010
Helen Barron Dawson ’42, Feb. 2, 2015
Ethelmay Tozier Deutsch ’43, Jan. 16, 2014
Gertrude Meltzer Flax ’44, April 4, 2016
Helen Scislowsky Skiba ’44, Nov. 30, 2018
Marguerite Rouchaud Van Albert ’45, March 6, 2022
Agnes E. Young Elze ’46, May 14, 2022
Muriel Elaine Woods Cobel ’48, Nov. 12, 2021
Florence Simon Wasserman ’48, Dec. 11, 2021
Beverly Coplon Engle ’49, Feb. 16, 2022
Joyce McComb Kenosian ’49, March 29, 2022

1950s

Shirley Wiltse Dunn ’50, April 25, 2022
Harold A. Vaughn, PhD ’50, Jan. 9, 2022
Harold R. Johnson ’51, June 27, 2013
Ann Adams Wilber ’52, Dec. 17, 2021
Joan Devinin Bitely ’54, Jan. 8, 2022
Martha M. Bedell Bleier ’53, Jan. 11, 2014
Morton Cohn ’53, Feb. 20, 2022
William F. Grady ’53, Oct. 19, 2021
Joan M. Bennett Ryan ’53, April 1, 2022
Joyce Dodge-Clor Sorenson ’53, Oct. 17, 2019
Roger W. Yeomans ’53, May 26, 2022
Ronald A. Young ’53, Jan. 17, 2022
Joan Bausch ’54, Jan. 8, 2022
Gertrude Smith Daly ’54, Dec. 4, 2021
Louise Button Eggleton ’54, Oct. 12, 2021
Rona Lee Friedman Simser ’54, Feb. 6, 2022
Roger W. Yeomans ’54, May 26, 2022
Ronald A. Young ’54, Jan. 17, 2022
Joan Devinin Bitely ’54, Jan. 8, 2022

1960s

Robert L. Traver ’60, April 19, 2022
Margaret Reid Blondell ’61, Feb. 11, 2022
Cynthia Whitney Brickman ’61, April 30, 2022
Carolyn Millis ’61, May 13, 2022
Carol A. Forney Simser ’66, Feb. 20, 2022
Pegi E. Langenwalter Vandewater ’66, Nov. 27, 2018
Jerrold I. Dolinger ’67, March 16, 2022
Clinton G. Dugger ’67, April 24, 2020
Holly A. Fuhrer ’67, Nov. 13, 2021
Shirley M. Mackey Klopfner ’67, Feb. 15, 2022
Jeanne M. Matefy ’67, April 1, 2022
Ronald J. Porter ’67, March 22, 2022

Glen Trotiner ’78, ’79 spent his life creating high-profile films and educating others to do the same. A former campus radio host on WSUA (WCDB 90.9’s AM predecessor), Trotiner earned his BA and MS from UAlbany, then graduated from Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in 1984. Shortly after, he was selected for The Directors Guild of America Training Program and embarked on a 36-year career as a professional filmmaker.

Trotiner was producer, director and assistant director of dozens of high-profile feature films, including The Untouchables (1987), What Happens in Vegas (2008), Big Daddy (1999) and Captain America (2011). He produced Big Time Adolescence, which played in competition for the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival in 2019 and was picked up for distribution by HULU. Trotiner was an active member of the Writers Guild of America and the Screen Actors Guild and served on the Board of Trustees of the Directors Guild of America Training Program for 25 years.

Trotiner supported the University as a proud donor, volunteer and mentor. He was a member of the UAlbany Foundation’s Heritage Circle Society and served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors. Trotiner participated in the Department of Art and Art History’s Introduction to Film Studies Lecture Series each spring and attended the New York State Writers Institute’s Albany Film Festival in April 2022 where his film, The Mental State, was featured. At the time of his passing on June 16, 2022, Trotiner was working with the University to increase opportunities in the study of film and production.

Trotiner was featured in the Fall 2017 issue of UAlbany Magazine. Scan to read “Making Movie Magic.”
Two graduates strike a pose inside the popular UAlbany Magazine photo booths created for 2021 Commencement. Conceived by the Office of University Events, the custom step-in ‘boxes’ were designed and constructed in collaboration with UAlbany’s Theatre Department. The interactive photo opportunities were one of several unique experiences for graduates and their guests.
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Or contact:
Lori A. Matt-Murphy
Associate Vice President Planned Giving
PH: 518-437-5090
lmatt-murphy@albany.edu

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Saturday, Oct. 15
Get the Great Dane Pre-Game Package now (a $40 value)
Package includes football game ticket, food and UAlbany knit scarf.
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Affinity Group members – $15
12 & Under – $10

Friday, Oct. 14
• Campus Tours
• Indian Ladder Farms Apple Orchard Outing
• Welcome Reception at ETEC

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