INTERNATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Alumni, students, and faculty exemplify UAlbany's vision to provide the leaders, knowledge, and innovations to create a better world.
Celia Werner, Class of 2021; Chelsea Elizabeth Snide '19; and Allison Finch, Class of '20, spent the first days of summer in a very cool place: the Greenland Ice Sheet, where they joined University of Michigan and Virginia Tech students in conducting experiments focused on atmospheric and space science and climate change. University of Michigan professor Perry Samson, B.S. '72, M.S. '74, a graduate of UAlbany's Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences, led the expedition to the planet's second-largest ice sheet.
8 International Excellence
Internationally recognized academic, research, and service programs, and outstanding students, faculty, and alumni, are UAlbany’s hallmarks.

28 Celebrating 175 Years of UAlbany
As the University’s demisemiseptcentennial continues, we revisit some popular campus traditions and venues.

DEPARTMENTS

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UAlbany Welcomes New Provost

Carol Kim, former associate vice chancellor for Academic Innovation and Partnerships at the University of Maine System, joined UAlbany Aug. 1 as provost and senior vice president for Academic Affairs. At the University of Maine, she held a succession of academic and administrative positions, including director of the Graduate School of Biomedical Science and Engineering, vice president for research, and dean of the Graduate School. Kim earned a bachelor of arts from Wellesley College and a Ph.D. in microbiology from Cornell University.

Zheleva, Sheng Earn NSF CAREER Awards

UAlbany assistant professors Mariya Zheleva and Jia Sheng have received NSF (National Science Foundation) CAREER awards of $510,494 and $600,000, respectively. The awards support junior faculty.

Zheleva, a computer scientist in the College of Engineering and Applied Science (CEAS), conducts research in next-generation wireless-mobile networks. Her project focuses on “Automating the measurement and management of the radio spectrum for future spectrum-sharing applications.”

Sheng, a Department of Chemistry faculty member, is also affiliated with the RNA Institute. He is studying the structures and functions of natural ribonucleic acid (RNA) modifications and the development of molecular tools for gene regulation.

America East Honors Student-Athletes

With G.P.A.s ranging from 3.76 to 3.95, 10 members of the Class of 2019 were honored last spring with America East Presidential Scholar-Athlete awards. Altogether, 61 student-athletes from the America East’s nine participating universities were recognized. The awardees were: Erik Dluhy, Matt Perla, Alex Brown, and Noah Taylor, all of the men’s lacrosse program; cross-country runner Cara Sherman; high jumper Victoria Stoffel of women’s track & field; baseball pitcher Dan Yankowski; Alec Ambruso of men’s cross country; softball infielder Kelly Barkevich; and women’s-soccer defender Savanah Courtney.
Building a Bridge to Costa Rica

At the invitation of Costa Rican Congressman Pedro Miguel Muñoz Fonseca, UAlbany President Havidán Rodríguez and Hudson Valley Community College President Roger Ramsammy visited Costa Rica last spring to explore forging long-term partnerships between their institutions and the country. The presidents met with first lady Claudia Dobles and the minister of Education to discuss attracting students from Costa Rica to study for degrees at HVCC, then transfer to UAlbany, or to recruit both graduate and undergraduate students directly to the University.

UAlbany, Rodríguez noted, “is honored to partner with Hudson Valley Community College to build new partnerships and expand and strengthen current relationships in Costa Rica. It was also a privilege to meet our colleagues at the Universidad de Costa Rica as we are currently celebrating 10 years of a very successful partnership led by our School of Public Health.”

ARWU RANKS SPH

The Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), also known as the Shanghai Rankings, has recognized UAlbany’s School of Public Health (SPH) as one of the best in the world.

The Global Ranking of Academic Subjects 2019 – Public Health, released in July, lists SPH in a tie for eighth place among U.S. public institutions ranked. On the overall list of 500 schools of public health around the world, SPH ties for 51st place with such other highly regarded institutions as Dartmouth and the University of Southern California.

The College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity’s new Drone Lab is located in the basement of the University at Albany’s Draper Hall.

Link to the full story and video at www.albany.edu/news/90830.php.
AROUND CAMPUS

University Art Museum Hosts Exhibition

ACE: art on sports, promise, and selfhood continues at the University Art Museum until Dec. 7. The exhibition explores sports’ capacity to shape personal identity, define broader cultural codes and rituals, and engender community. Featuring works by more than a dozen artists, ACE comprises a wide range of media, including painting, sculpture, video, works on paper, and immersive installation. Support for the University Art Museum exhibition and programs is provided by the Office of the President; the Office of the Provost; The University at Albany Foundation; UAlbany Strategic Allocation of Resources Fund, University Auxiliary Services; and John Troiano ’83 and Jennifer Troiano.

Campus Construction, Renovations Continue

Over the summer, work continued on a number of construction and renovation projects at UAlbany.

The former Business Administration building, now the Catskill Building, is the School of Education’s new home. Work on the building will continue, with renovations to the former Education building, renamed the Taconic Building, set to begin next spring.

A Summer 2021 occupancy date has been set for the 246,000-square-foot ETEC building being constructed on UAlbany land located on the Harriman Campus. The project will provide a spectacular new location for our weather and atmospheric-sciences programs; our College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity (CEHC); related research activity; private partners; and classrooms and conferencing spaces.

At the Schuyler Building on the downtown campus, Phase 3 of renovation will continue through 2019-20. The bidding process for Phase 4, allowing the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS) to occupy half of the building, will take place this fall, with 2022 occupancy.

Renovations to Dutch Quad’s Schuyler and Beverwyck halls, completed this summer, will provide nearly 200 new, modernized, energy-efficient spaces for students. After renovation, the quad’s former kitchen and dining hall will house the University’s Health and Counseling Center beginning in January 2020.

Upgrades to improve access from the Podium to the Lecture Center are also underway, as are lecture-hall renovations.
Peace Corps Prep Program Launches at UAlbany

Beginning this fall, UAlbany undergraduates from any major can avail themselves of courses and mentoring that will enhance their chances of acceptance as Peace Corps volunteers – and expand their career options simultaneously.

The Peace Corps Prep program supports the University’s strategic-plan priorities of internationalization, diversity and inclusion, community engagement, and student success. Each student will complete three courses related to one of six Peace Corps sectors, along with 50 hours of training and/or volunteer work in that sector; three intercultural development courses or experiences; and professional-development activities.

UAlbany is the first SUNY campus, and the third higher-education institution in New York State, selected as a Peace Corps Prep partner.

With support from the Peace Corps recruiter, the Center for International Education and Global Strategy is seeking UAlbany faculty, staff, and students who have served with the corps and would like to mentor Peace Corps Prep participants. For information, please contact John Justino (jjustino@albany.edu) or Annette Richie (arichie@albany.edu), who co-chair the UAlbany Peace Corps Prep Faculty Council.

NIH FUNDS FIBROSIS STUDY

Associate Professor of Biological Sciences Melinda Larsen has received $3.4 million from the National Institute of Health’s (NIH) Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (NICDR) to research the causes of fibrosis and find ways to remediate it. Fibrosis, a natural response to injury, is a causative factor in hundreds of diseases and is associated with 40 percent of deaths worldwide, according to Larsen, principal investigator of the five-year project. Her uptown campus lab seeks to understand how salivary glands develop and to engineer regenerative medical strategies to treat diseases like Sjögren’s Syndrome, a common autoimmune disease in which the secretory ability of many organs, including the salivary glands, is significantly reduced.

Francois Barcomb, Ph.D.’99, earned a doctorate in physics from UAlbany, so he’s well versed in science. But he also knows a lot about “European History,” “Fire & Ice,” and a host of other topics covered in the “Jeopardy!” Teachers Tournament last May. A science teacher in the Hendrick Hudson School District in Montrose, N.Y., Barcomb buzzed his way to victory – and the $100,000 top prize. The New Paltz resident planned to set some of his winnings aside for his daughter’s education.

Longtime “Wheel of Fortune” fan Logan Stone did a great job representing UAlbany during the program’s College Week last winter. The computer-science major from Ballston Lake, N.Y., spun – and won – racking up $18,000 in cash and prizes, including a trip to Aruba. It was “an experience unlike any other,” recalls Stone, who taped the show in February for a March 21 airing.
UAlbany Introduces The Graduate School

Graduate education at the University at Albany now has a central home. The former Office of Graduate Education, led by Kevin Williams, vice provost and dean, has officially completed its conversion to The Graduate School. The new entity, explains Williams, now dean of The Graduate School, will increase the profile and visibility of graduate programs. It will also support the University’s new strategic plan, Authoring Our Success, by helping to address four goals that align with its priorities:

- increasing and maintaining robust graduate enrollments
- promoting interdisciplinary research and education
- increasing diversity in the graduate-student body
- ensuring student success and preparing students for different career pathways

Traditionally, UAlbany operated under a hybrid model that included a mixture of centralized and decentralized administrative entities.

For more information about these stories and others, visit us online at www.albany.edu/news/.
For UAlbany, With Love

By Vincent P. Reda, B.A.’74

Daniel Wulff, a professor of Biological Sciences who retired in 2016 after a 36-year career at UAlbany, and his wife of 62 years, Bonnie Taylor, had no hesitancy about their $5 million gift to support three University at Albany priorities. “I’m doing it because I’m able to, and I love this place,” said Wulff.

“I’ve always had an urge to give,” said Taylor, “and you just have to know when it’s the right time. This is the time.”

The gift will be directed to areas to which Wulff has devoted enormous time, energy, and passion: the biological-sciences department; the University’s Science Research in High School program, which he founded in 1985; and a scholarship program for undergraduate students having extreme financial need.

The couple’s gift becomes part of the University’s comprehensive fundraising campaign, This Is Our Time: The Campaign for UAlbany, which has now raised $133 million – 88 percent of its $150-million goal.

After several years as a faculty researcher at California Institute of Technology and 15 more at the University of California, Irvine – where he was a founding faculty member in 1965 and had risen to the post of assistant dean – Wulff came to UAlbany in 1980 as dean of the College of Sciences and Mathematics. He accepted the post at the strong urging of his wife. “Bonnie was always encouraging me to look for something better,” he said. “She thought it was a step to my becoming a college president.”

That didn’t work out, but the deanship of a college comprising “seven very independent departments” allowed him to “really get into research again. I got several of my grants renewed.” Leaving the deanship in 1993, he found delight in teaching, particularly in taking on challenges that included an intro to biology course that attracted 1,500 students per year and two others well outside the box: an immunology course beginning in 1999 and, a few years later, one on nutrition.

Wulff grew to love these departmental experiences. Accordingly, the couple’s endowment gift will provide the department valuable unrestricted funds, supporting research programs, visiting speakers, internships, and other initiatives that enrich the student experience.

Wulff’s passion also ran to the Research in the High Schools program, which he directed until his retirement. During those years, the program exposed thousands of high school students to the field of scientific research, with many going on to gain national recognition as scientists. The endowment will help monitor programs in the individual high schools that participate, ensuring the highest standards and the greatest participation.

And the portion of the gift that will endow The Professor Daniel Wulff and Bonnie Taylor Scholarship for undergraduates with significant financial need satisfies other strongly held priorities. “Bonnie and I believe deeply in UAlbany’s mission and excellence,” Wulff said. “It is thrilling to see students, especially those from underserved populations, achieve their dreams in an institution with the highest academic standards.”

He added: “I believe in upward mobility. I think it is important for us as a university, and it is important for us as a country.”

“Dr. Wulff’s decades of service as an outstanding teacher and scholar have had a profound impact on his students and colleagues and on the University itself,” said UAlbany President Havidán Rodríguez. “This remarkable gift from Dan and Bonnie magnifies and makes permanent that impact, and we could not be more grateful.”

Vice President for Advancement Fardin Sanai also commented on the gift’s significance. “Dan and Bonnie’s gift is noteworthy not only because of its size and purpose, but also because of who its donors are,” Sanai said. “Such generous support from a revered faculty member and his spouse is a deeply meaningful statement about their belief in the fundamental importance of a UAlbany education.”
INTERNATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Through academic programs, research opportunities, and service projects both at home and abroad, UAlbany students prepare for fulfilling lives and careers – and later, as alumni, do great things to make the world a better place.
THE GLOBALLY ENGAGED UNIVERSITY

Harvey Charles, UAlbany’s dean for International Education and vice president for Global Strategy, explains the importance of global engagement.

WHAT IS A GLOBALLY ENGAGED UNIVERSITY?
A globally engaged university embraces internationalization by integrating an intercultural dimension into the core elements of its mission, teaching, research, and service. The accelerating interconnectedness and interdependence of nations through transportation, communication, and other technologies, and unprecedented threats to human survival, mean that the preparation students need to lead productive, successful lives is radically different than it was 20 or 30 years ago. Finding answers to climate change, pollution, migration, terrorism, and other increasingly global challenges will require an institution that is globally engaged and that collaborates with the best and brightest students and researchers from around the world.

WHAT STEPS IS UALBANY TAKING TO BECOME (MORE) GLOBALLY ENGAGED?
In addition to establishing internationalization as one of five strategic priorities, UAlbany is working to:

- offer a wide range of coursework and global academic experiences that help students to encounter global perspectives.
- support faculty engagement in international teaching and research experiences, and host international visiting scholars
- recruit the most qualified undergraduate and graduate students from around the world to directly support the University’s teaching and research mission while further diversifying our campus culture

WHAT ARE THE MOST EXCITING ASPECTS OF THE UNIVERSITY’S GLOBAL FUTURE?
As a Research 1 university, UAlbany belongs to an elite collection of U.S. institutions that are leaders in research. Staple features of our global future will include faculty participation in global research, as well as international collaborations that promote new degree programs and other academic initiatives affording our students, and those from other institutions, novel educational opportunities. In setting the standard for a global university within the SUNY system and beyond, UAlbany will model a successful 21st-century public-research university. These are indeed exciting developments.

To read more about UAlbany’s global future, link to www.albany.edu/international/assets/8356_UAlbany_-_WEB.pdf.
BUSHRA RAHIM, PH.D.’15
“New Avenues”
By Carol Olechowski

Bushra Rahim learned to value education from an early age. Born in the rural village of Sheikh Jana, Pakistan, she and her two older sisters relocated to Peshawar with their mother, who wanted them to “get a good education.”

Now, as deputy director of Pakistan’s Ministry of Home & Tribal Affairs, Rahim aspires to make “a good education” available to children and women in her homeland.

Rahim, whose career has included service with national ministries that oversee local governments, taxation, and finance, was determined to overcome such “workplace hurdles” as sexism and doubts about her age and experience. She earned master’s degrees from the University of Peshawar (computer science) and Australia’s University of New England (educational administration), and an M.B.A. from the City University of Science and Information Technology in Peshawar.

In 2015, Rahim added a UAlbany doctorate in educational administration and policy to her academic credentials. Her dissertation identified “important factors related to retention and learning outcomes of schools in Pakistan’s Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province.”

The University “opened new avenues for me,” notes Rahim. As a Fulbright Scholar, she co-founded the non-profit NGO Development Agent for Change “to empower women, children, and youth through capacity-building in politics, education, and livelihood.” She has published numerous journal articles. One, co-written with Professor Aaron Benavot, her adviser at UAlbany, focused on evaluating learning assessments in Pakistan.

Currently, with support from the British Council’s Charles Wallace Fellowship, Rahim is studying the United Kingdom’s system of local government. She plans to use the lessons gleaned from women councilors in the U.K. to “build synergies” with local governments in Pakistan.

One of 14 Fulbright Heroes in Pakistan, Rahim also serves as president of the KP Association for Business, Agriculture, and Professional Women and the KP Fulbright Alumni Association. The organizations reach out to women about foreign scholarship programs, “especially Fulbright, and arrange networking events, workshops, and job fairs. We have also initiated skill-development centers where girls not only learn vocational skills but are taught numeracy and literacy, as well.”

RAHIM NOTES: “EVIDENCE FROM BOTH THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING WORLDS INDICATES THAT THERE IS A STRONG POSITIVE CORRELATION BETWEEN WOMEN’S POSITIONS IN SOCIETY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. DEPRIVING HALF OF HUMANITY FROM ADVANCING THEIR IDEAS, SKILLS, AND PERSPECTIVES WILL HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE WELL-BEING AND PROSPERITY OF THE WORLD.”

Setting up free primary schools for rural children, “especially girls,” is another of Rahim’s initiatives. “My aim is to educate as many children as possible, and enable them to be good human beings and productive citizens.” She is also working through the Pakistan Citizens’ Portal (PCP), launched by Prime Minister Imran Khan, “to encourage women to stay at

(CONT.)
their workplaces; diminish corruption; and reduce the miseries of tribal people, who have been enormously affected in the war against terror.” Her other priorities include “introducing IT into the decision-making system at the policy level,” and Green and Clean Pakistan’s efforts “to minimize pollution through planting.

At UAlbany, Rahim found inspiration for her work. She praises “the diverse student body; world-renowned faculty, research centers, and programs that “provide transformative learning experiences to prepare today’s students for tomorrow’s world”; and collaborations that enable “national and international policymakers to provide rich opportunities to investigate the latest research-based models and to test the efficacy of these models in practice.”

In 2017, Rahim was “extremely excited and humbled” to receive the UAlbany Alumni Association’s International Award for Exceptional Achievement – an honor “meant for truly exceptional alumni who excel in their professions and have helped their countries by [making] outstanding contributions to government, science, education, or human welfare. It will always motivate me, inspiring me to work more diligently and passionately,” says Rahim.

“I am grateful to UAlbany and the faculty for accepting me as an international student, making me comfortable in the environment, opening my mind and instilling new skills and knowledge that I am using for the betterment of my society.”

FLAG BEARERS REPRESENTING THEIR HOME COUNTRIES POSE FOR A PHOTO AT A RECENT COMMENCEMENT.
GERD SCHWARTZ, PH.D.’89
Open to All Challenges
By Claudia Ricci, Ph.D.’96

When Gerd Schwartz arrived at UAlbany as a non-degree exchange student from Berlin in 1984, he planned to spend a leisurely year taking classes in economics, then head back. But things turned out differently.

“I was told that I was expected to work very hard. I took this as a challenge to define ‘hard’ for myself and asked to take five master-level classes. Soon, I was drowning in work but struck by how much my professors were supporting me and believing in me,” he recalls. Having survived his first year, he applied to the Ph.D. program in economics and was admitted with a 10-credit graduate assistantship. When the bill for 12 credits arrived and Schwartz told his adviser he was broke, the stipend was increased to cover the remaining two credits.

At every step, the University was “super-accommodating,” says Schwartz. For instance, in May 1988, he was offered a job in Washington, D.C. Schwartz asked if he could take a leave from his doctoral studies for a semester, then return to earn a teaching assistantship. The answer was yes.

He completed the Ph.D. in 1989, earning a master’s degree along the way. Even before graduating, Schwartz accepted a position with an investment bank in Luxembourg but was hired by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Washington, D.C., in 1990. In his early years there, he aided Poland’s transition from a centrally planned economy to a market economy — work Schwartz recalls as “thrilling.” He adds, “There was no ‘textbook manual’ available, but through my graduate studies at UAlbany, I felt well prepared.”

Schwartz went on to work on “crisis cases,” including Mexico, Argentina, and Brazil, where he had the advantage of speaking Spanish and Portuguese. (He learned Portuguese at UAlbany.)

The IMF, he notes, “is like an ‘emergency hospital’ for countries in economic trouble. It helps governments undertake necessary economic reforms, but also pushes international creditors to keep their credit lines to the country open.”

His work later took Schwartz to European crisis countries, such as Greece and Portugal. He even did a stint as a fundraiser for IMF capacity development work. Today, as deputy director of the organization’s Fiscal Affairs Department, Schwartz provides advice to inform key IMF decisions.

Looking back, Schwartz has fond memories of UAlbany’s economics faculty, including professors Thad Mirer, Michael Jerison, Kajal Lahiri, and Michael Sattinger. He also has the highest regard for his thesis committee: professors Terry Kinal, Bruce Dieffenbach, and Harry Richardson, for whom he also worked as a graduate student. “They challenged me to do things I didn’t know I was capable of and were always there to help.”

Schwartz, a 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, advises students: “Don’t turn down challenges.” Asked to teach an evening-M.B.A. class during his last semester in the Ph.D. program, he found the adult students — all working professionals and mostly older than he — “knew much more than I did on practical matters and initially didn’t see much point in studying economics and learning about monetary and fiscal policies. We all grew in that semester, sharing our knowledge and developing great mutual respect. It was a wonderful experience!” recalls Schwartz, editor of two books and author of more than 40 journal articles.

He also urges students: “Embrace change and throw yourself into new things that come your way. And don’t be so wedded to a single career plan that you can’t accommodate something completely different.”
With numerous opportunities for education abroad and public engagement, the University at Albany enables students to experience the world in new ways. Across the globe, UAlbany researchers seek solutions for the world’s most pressing problems. Visiting scholars from a host of countries engage students with their expertise and innovative ideas. And after graduation, our alumni fan out worldwide, using their knowledge to advance themselves and better their communities.
Worldwide, there are more than 184,500 University at Albany alumni. UAlbany alumni live in 138 countries.

Explore more of UAlbany’s international impact with our interactive map at www.albany.edu/impactmap.
ASHISH GROVER, M.S.’03
Connecting the Dots
By Carol Olechowski

With jobs in both South America and Asia, Ashish Grover has quite the commute: He regularly makes the 10,000-mile, 21-hour journey between the two continents, and the arrangement suits him well.

The Bangalore resident had worked in his native India for Target and Reliance Retail when he decided in 2017 to strike out of his “comfort zone” and apply for work with Chile-based Falabella. “I am glad I did this,” observes Grover, the company’s chief technology officer, Digital Retail, and head of Falabella Technology India. “I am thankful to my brilliant and beautiful wife, Shailaja, and our son and daughter, now 15 and 10, who supported my decision.”

Struck by the “welcoming, genuine warmth” of Falabella staff, Grover was even more “deeply impressed” after learning more about the company. “Being in this totally new world will help me as I grow professionally and personally,” observes the 21-year “technology-domain” veteran, who has worked in digital retail/ecommerce for the past decade.

Grover, 44, earned a bachelor’s degree in math, physics, and chemistry at Delhi University and a master’s in computer science at Maharshi Dayanand University. “Logic and potential application” attracted him to those fields. “I get excited by anything that can be logically broken down into simple concepts and then join back up to create bigger concepts and uses. With computer science, especially, I am continually amazed by the empowerment we have now to change, create, and make a more efficient world.”

He learned about UAlbany while working for GE Global Research in Niskayuna. “The people were so knowledgeable, and that motivated me to study further in the U.S. I wanted to choose a university where great...
KEIKO MIWA, PH.D.’00
A Multidisciplinary Perspective
By Claudia Ricci, Ph.D.’96

A 2018 World Bank report found that while many developing countries have placed more children in classrooms, about half the students aren’t learning anything. “There’s a learning crisis, and our job is to address that crisis,” says Keiko Miwa, director of Education Global Practice for the World Bank.

Miwa, a Ph.D. in educational policy and administration, says her UAlbany professors “inspired me to work in this area.” The education, public-policy, and business classes she took provided a multidisciplinary perspective that allows her to “think about issues from multiple points of view.”

A native of Japan, Miwa enrolled at UAlbany after working for three years on a UNICEF education project in Maldives. There, she met UAlbany professors and project consultants Douglas Windham and Francis Kemmerer. When she mentioned that Harvard and Columbia had accepted her into doctoral programs but had not offered financial assistance, Kemmerer and Windham encouraged her to apply to UAlbany. Miwa was admitted with a graduate assistantship.

After two years of coursework, she completed a qualitative dissertation. Miwa did 250 interviews and spent a year in participant observation in Bangladesh, studying how the government works with NGOs to educate poor child laborers. Faculty eased the “really tough” doctoral process. Distinguished Professor Daniel Levy, a political scientist and her dissertation-committee chair, spent considerable time responding to her writing. “I would send him written material, then he would send back more than I had sent,” notes Miwa, who admired Levy’s “unbeatable” commitment to students.

Since her acceptance into the World Bank’s Young Professional program, Miwa has served as education specialist in Afghanistan, reconstructing the war-torn nation’s educational system after the Taliban’s fall; senior education specialist for Eastern Europe; and assistant to the World Bank president. In 2010, she went to Laos as country manager to focus on educational programs and oversee “various development projects.”

Promoted to her current position last year, Miwa now oversees more than 150 education projects in more than 80 countries.
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

MENGNA WANG

HOMETOWN
Jiangsu, China

CLASS YEAR
sophomore

MAJOR
business administration

WHY UALBANY?
I liked the diversity of the people and the variety of different courses and opportunities.

BIGGEST ADJUSTMENT TO LIFE IN THE U.S.
The language was definitely the biggest challenge for me.

FAVORITE AMERICAN FOODS
doughnuts

FUN FACT ABOUT HER HOMETOWN
It is known as “country of fish and rice.” There are lots of rivers and bridges there; it attracts millions of tourists every year.

GUY-MICHEL ASSI BODJE

HOMETOWN
Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire (Ivory Coast)

CLASS YEAR
sophomore

MAJOR/MINOR
computer engineering/math

WHY UALBANY?
Some of my siblings were already attending UAlbany.

BIGGEST ADJUSTMENTS TO LIFE IN THE U.S.
I arrived in Albany in January, and I’d never seen snow before! Also, I had to re-learn how to go to school – American vs. French education system – and learn to become an adult, [handling] lots of responsibilities I never had before and managing my time.

FAVORITE AMERICAN FOODS
takeout – “preferably Chinese”

FUN FACT ABOUT HIS HOMETOWN
Abidjan is easy to get lost in. The region was in perpetual development, and most streets were not actually named, so people used landmarks to navigate. Locals are used to it, though addresses were usually described in roundabout or downright funny ways.

CAM HEALY

HOMETOWN
Sydney, Australia

CLASS YEAR
junior

MAJOR/MINOR
psychology/business and communications

WHY UALBANY?
I was recruited to play basketball for the Great Danes.

BIGGEST ADJUSTMENT TO LIFE IN THE U.S.
I had to learn to live on my own and balance academics with basketball.

FAVORITE AMERICAN FOODS
.corndogs

FUN FACT ABOUT HIS HOMETOWN
Sydney has one of the best harbors in the world.
UDENTS’ SNAPSHOTS

NADINE AL ANNABI

HOMETOWN
Amman, Jordan

MAJOR/MINOR
political science/English or sociology

WHY UALBANY?
I wanted to step outside my comfort zone. I was impressed (and shocked) by how huge UAlbany was—and, of course, by the fountains! Enrolling at the University was one of the best decisions I ever made.

BIGGEST ADJUSTMENTS TO LIFE IN THE U.S.
The seven-hour time difference—which made it harder to communicate with friends and family in Jordan—and the snow.

FAVORITE AMERICAN FOODS
hot dogs and bagels!

FUN FACT ABOUT HER HOMETOWN
Aladdin and The Martian were filmed in southern Jordan, in Wadi Rum, well known for its deserts. The unique, soft sand looks similar to the surface of Mars.

ASEOBYUN

HOMETOWN
Geoje Island, South Korea

CLASS YEAR
sophomore

MAJOR
business/marketing

WHY UALBANY?
UAlbany’s business major looked attractive to me.

BIGGEST ADJUSTMENTS TO LIFE IN THE U.S.
I am developing my English skills so I can communicate well with professors and friends. I love American food, but I’ve also missed the taste of foods from home, so I eat Korean ramen.

FAVORITE AMERICAN FOODS
buffalo chicken wings, tater tots, hot dogs, barbecue ribs, and hamburgers

FUN FACT ABOUT HIS HOMETOWN
There are 260,000 residents in my hometown, the second-largest island in Korea, and many beaches. Two of the world’s biggest shipping companies, Samsung Heavy Industries and DSME (Daewoo), are also located there.

ASHLEY LEWIS

HOMETOWN
Westmoreland, Jamaica

CLASS YEAR
senior

MAJOR/MINOR
biology/psychology

WHY UALBANY?
I liked the wide range of diversity represented on its website and the large number of international students enrolled.

BIGGEST ADJUSTMENTS TO LIFE IN THE U.S.
Leaving my family and friends and moving to a place so unlike the world I’d been accustomed to. Also, Albany is a lot colder than Jamaica.

FAVORITE AMERICAN FOODS
a hot dog with the works and sweet-potato fries

FUN FACT ABOUT HER HOMETOWN
It is home to Rick’s Café, a restaurant and bar where people from all over the world come to cliff jump and experience our world-famous sunsets.
UAlbany opened a world of career opportunities for Taeck-soo Chun and Ae-kyung Choi.

After earning a doctorate in economics under the direction of Distinguished Professor Kajal Lahiri, Chun returned to the Republic of Korea to teach at Bukyung National University in Busan, then at the Academy of Korean Studies (AKS) near Seoul. Now a professor emeritus at AKS, he became president of the Korea Association of Cultural Economics and, in 2008, was named Secretary General of the Korean National Commission for UNESCO (UNESCO Korea).

Chun is proud of his role in advancing Bridge of Hope. He notes, “80 percent of Korean people could not read or write in 1945,” but within 15 years, 80 percent had cultivated literacy skills. During the 1950s and ’60s, UNESCO Korea encouraged college students to spend their vacations in the country’s rural areas and work with local populations to improve the literacy rate, which now exceeds 99 percent.

Eager to share that success, Chun teamed with Samsung Electronics and the Korean government to expand Bridge of Hope to Africa. “UNESCO Korea dispatched college graduates to Zambia, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Malawi, South Africa, and Lesotho in 2010 to root out illiteracy and mobilize [the people] to apply the lessons to their rural societies.” The program “is still going well.”

In 2011, convinced by his research that “creativity is the most important driving force for personal development, and is nurtured by artistic activity and art appreciation from early childhood,” Chun proposed that UNESCO honor arts education. Since 2012, “every member country celebrates International Arts Education Week during the fourth week of May,” he notes.

Choi is a professor of international office administration at Ewha Womans University in Seoul. (“Ewha” translates to “pear blossoms.”) Founded in 1886 by American missionary Mary Scranton, “the largest university for women in the world” boasts a student body of more than 25,000 and uses the spelling “Womans” to ensure that each student is treated as a unique individual. During
her 30 years there, Choi has taught; served as dean of the College of Science & Industry Convergence and of University Relations; and directed the Human Resource Development Center. In addition, she has initiated a collaboration with local government to boost students’ start-up businesses; established a personalized scholarship-funds system; and published more than 60 papers and books in the areas of business and work ethics, human-resource development, and leadership. Currently in Albany on sabbatical, Choi is writing a book, *Human Relations at Work*, a topic “more important than ever before.”

To express gratitude for his guidance in helping to shape her career, she also plans to see her mentor and dissertation adviser, UAlbany Distinguished Alumnus and International Center for Leadership in Education Founder and Chair Willard Daggett, Ed.D. Choi interned for Daggett at the New York State Education Department.

Chun, who joined his wife for the trip, looks forward to a reunion with Lahiri, who served on his dissertation committee with now-retired faculty Terrence Kinal and Bruce Dieffenbach. “They understood me and supported my ideas.”

“We are grateful to UAlbany for giving us the opportunity to study here,” adds Choi. “We are proud alumni.”

The couple’s daughter, Sang Ah Chun, is a Ph.D. student at UAlbany’s School of Social Welfare.

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**EXPERIENCING THE WORLD**

UAlbany students seeking to experience new cultures can discover the world that awaits through education abroad. The University offers opportunities in Africa, Asia, Australia/Pacific Islands, the Caribbean, Central America, Europe, the Middle East, North America, and South America. Learn more at [https://abroad.albany.edu/](https://abroad.albany.edu/).

Zachary Lanz, Class of ’20, visits the Negev Desert during part of his six-month study-abroad program at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel. As part of the program, he studied emergency response while participating in a cybersecurity internship at a Tel Aviv start-up.

“Currently, fewer than 10 percent of UAlbany students study abroad. We are determined to change that. To succeed and lead in a global society, our students must develop a global perspective, acquire a deeper understanding of other ways of life and viewpoints, and be able to communicate across cultural lines. To help send a student overseas, visit [www.albany.edu/thisisourtime](http://www.albany.edu/thisisourtime).
RESEARCH AROUND THE GLOBE

From pole to pole and from the Prime Meridian to the International Date Line, participants in University at Albany research projects explore ancient cultures, make discoveries that will benefit future generations, and gain an understanding of their own world. Led by faculty from UAlbany and/or its partner institutions, students travel far and wide to experience these life-changing learning opportunities. Recent research projects have taken place in ...

... BRAZIL: As part of the 2019 PIRE CREATE annual meeting, Professor of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences Mathias Vuille, project manager Natalia Ruiz Menal, and post-doctoral researcher Ernesto Tejedor joined 70 other researchers on a three-day field trip to Cavernas do Peruáçu National Park in Minas Gerais. They visited caves the PIRE Brazil team is studying and analyzing to track climate variability over the last millennium.
... TAIWAN: Yasmine Allen, Class of ’21, learned Taipei’s multi-faceted emergency-management procedures during a visit to the city’s Emergency Operation Center. Allen was one of several UAlbany students participating in the PIRE project.

... MEXICO: Tonaltepec Ethnoarchaeological Project researchers, led by Associate Professor of Anthropology Verónica Pérez, studied the Santo Domingo Tonaltepec, Oaxaca, pottery-making community. [UAlbany graduate students participated in the National Geographic Society-funded research.]

... NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA: Wendy Turner, assistant professor of biological sciences, and a team of UAlbany students – with support from the National Science Foundation (NSF) – have been studying anthrax transmission among African wildlife.
Growing up in Blauvelt, N.Y., Michele (Ancin) Duncan didn’t give much thought to career-related study plans, assuming “I’d learn on the job – which has happened!” But a love of “literature, art history, and subjects that supplemented them” pulled her toward the liberal arts, a field the former German major has found valuable in her work as co-founder and owner of Australia-based Linen House.

After attending SUNY Potsdam for two years, Duncan transferred to the University at Albany, which offered a junior-year-abroad program at Schiller College in Heidelberg, Germany. She spent her year there studying and teaching basic German to American officers and enlisted personnel at a U.S. Army base.

Medieval Literature was Duncan’s favorite class. “Observing changes (or not) in the written language was intriguing. The subject matter was amazingly ‘contemporary.’ Human emotions don’t seem to change over the decades or centuries,” she observes.

Assistant Professor Ulrich Froehlich, her mentor and “a great teacher,” encouraged Duncan to study in Würzburg, “where Albany has an exchange program and where he conducted summer language programs for many years.” She lived there for nearly three years and has revisited the city “many times,” including last May while attending the wedding of a friend’s daughter.

After earning her master’s in German language and literature, Duncan worked for Miller & Co., a German-owned supplier of raw materials to North America’s ferrous-foundry and steel industries. While living in Chicago, “I met my Australian husband, Gordon, on a blind date. We returned to Melbourne in 1985.”

In 1993, a year after import textile quotas were lifted, the couple saw “opportunity in a traditionally closed industry” and launched Linen House, which started as a wholesale business selling to Australian department stores, specialty bed-linen chains, boutiques, and other retailers. “Gordon had extensive retail-buying and wholesale-importing experience. The last of our three children was entering kindergarten, so the time was right to start our own business.”

All of the Duncans work for the private, family-owned company, which employs 120 staff in Australia, 25 in New Zealand, and 35 in South Africa. Most of Linen House’s manufacturing is done in China, Pakistan, India, Turkey, and Thailand. “We have worked with many of these mills for over 25 years,” says Duncan.
Wholesaling “is still a major percentage of our business,” she adds. “We also supply some retailers their own ‘home-brand’ merchandise, and represent and manufacture under license-specific ‘designer brands,’ as well.”

In addition, Linen House has 12 outlet shops; another three are planned to open this year. “They are all beautifully styled and located mainly in the heart of the town, preferably with a great coffee shop nearby. We intend to open another 25 shops in the next few years, and ultimately some flagship stores,” Duncan notes.

As owner and creative director, Duncan is involved “in all facets of the business, although over the years my main activities have been to manage the textile and graphics departments, to work with merchandise development, product management, and marketing. Currently, I am heavily involved in the sourcing and establishment of new Linen House shops.”

Duncan’s German-language skills have served her well in business. “Someone from our company has visited the International Heimtextilien Fair in Frankfurt, Germany, every January, and we exhibited there three times. Learning a second language is key for opening up new contacts and helps engender a greater appreciation and understanding of different cultures, peoples, and markets – necessary and important for our global world.

“The literature aspect of my study has also helped. Understanding different characters, and their emotional aspects and motivations, helps form a basis of dealing with colleagues, personnel, and partners.

“Every form of study supports an individual’s career and personal development. It is all worthwhile!” says Duncan, whose brothers Martin Ancin ’85 and Matthew Ancin ’80, and nephew Michael Ancin ’14, are also UAlbany alumni.

**MARTIN MEISSNER, M.A.’88**

**Due Diligence**

At Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, ReedSmith partner Martin Meissner found that his political-science master’s studies “enriched my background in law and initialized my J.D. thesis on federalism.”

Rockefeller College’s “worldwide reputation for excellence” and its partnership with Julius Maximilians University in Würzburg, where Meissner studied law, were attractive, as was UAlbany’s “multinational environment.” Students with different work experiences, ages, and nationalities shared their perspectives, “enriched discussion and promoted understanding,” he says, noting that he also “benefited from the small classes.”

Meissner, who earned a J.D. from Humboldt University in Berlin, adds: “The faculty possessed deep knowledge and profound expertise. Bruce Miroff, an extremely hard worker, guided us through the program. He listened and was a great mentor. Martin Edelman advised me during my master’s thesis. He never was comfortable with only three dimensions; he constantly asked the alternative position and cast light from further perspectives. A great teacher.”

Since 2000, Meissner has been professor of law at the University of Applied Science in Mainz, Germany. “I teach classes such as International Title Enforcement and Legal Framework of Business Decisions,” he notes.

Based in Frankfurt, Meissner works with his team at the global law firm ReedSmith, “advising mostly international clients who intend to invest in, and/or who have invested in, German real estate.

“We conduct due diligence, draft agreements for acquisitions and financing, negotiate with the partners, and advise in the completion.

“In addition, we counsel and represent national and international real-estate project developers in planning, construction, finance, and transactional issues. Also, I advise in public administrative matters, e.g., privatization of army facilities, public-private partnerships, and municipal development.”
TINI SEVAK, M.A.’03

Leaps of Faith

Long ago, Tini Sevak resolved “to live a life of ‘no regrets’ and to take ‘leaps of faith’ when the opportunities present themselves. I don’t ever want to look back and ask, ‘What if…?’”

Those convictions have influenced Sevak’s life and her career – most recently as vice president of Audiences & Data at CNN International Commercial. Having grown up in Niskayuna, she was familiar with the University at Albany through “family friends who taught there, cross-country races in high school, and Giants training camp.” Though Albany was on her “short list” for undergraduate study, she took “a leap of faith” and attended Boston University’s Questrom School of Management, where she earned a B.S. in business administration.

Graduate school drew Sevak back to Albany. She enrolled at the University, completing master’s studies in economics and “spending some quality time with my mother as an adult before heading out into the ‘working world.’” Inspired by the late Professor Jogindar Uppal, she wanted to earn a doctorate, then teach or work as a stock analyst.

But after graduation, “the economics department put forth my name and made the introduction to the hiring manager at Mindshare in New York City,” Sevak recalls. She spent 10 years there, “starting out as an analytics manager running econometric models for companies like Nextel, Sprint, Motorola, BP, and Kraft Foods,” before leaping to London, where she joined Mindshare’s worldwide team as a director of Business Planning. The move brought Sevak the opportunity “to do something different and unexpected to take control of both my career and my personal life.” There, she met her wife of two years and “better half,” Kate Wordford.

Sevak, who later worked with media agency Starcom, joined CNN International Commercial in 2018. Her global team, the Audiences & Data Group, “sits at the heart of CNNIC,” she explains. “Through a mix of audience insights, analytics and intelligence, and data innovation and solutions, the group ensures measurable and actionable insights drive client campaigns, as well as the commercial strategy of CNN International.”

Sevak travels frequently for business, visiting her Hong Kong-, Paris-, and Miami-based team members and “externally communicating CNNIC’s market-leading capabilities around our data and audience capabilities.” A headliner at DMexico, Festival of Marketing, and Marketing Week Live, the data-industry leader has addressed the U.N. World Trade Organization Tourism Tech Adventures Summit in Bahrain, the Arab Media Forum in Dubai, and the Online Marketing Rockstars (OMR) conference in Hamburg. Her commitments through year’s end include events in New Delhi, India; Costa Rica; and Johannesburg.

An avid runner, Sevak credits UAlbany for “re-igniting my passion” for the sport, “which taught me the importance of discipline, endurance, patience, and never giving up.” She joined the Albany Running Exchange (ARE), led by Josh Merlis, and ran the first of several half-marathons. Sevak has since completed a marathon and is training for an ultra-marathon.
KELECHI NWOKOCHA, B.S.’13

Early Success

By Carol Olechowski

Ask Vios Equity Partners investment-team member Kelechi Nwokocha about his University at Albany experience, and you’ll receive an enthusiastic response. “It was everything I expected – a major stepping stone for where I am today. UAlbany provided the right level of support to help me determine the course of study to pursue and figure out my path,” he says.

A native of Nigeria, Nwokocha was 8 when his family moved to New York. In high school, he applied for admission to state universities after calculating the costs associated with attending a private institution rather than a public one.

“I concluded that it was possible to do well at a top New York State university and compete for Wall Street jobs often reserved for Ivy-League graduates – without the high tuition cost of a private university.”

At UAlbany, Nwokocha found “some of the brightest and most passionate academic professionals. EOP and School of Business staff provided endless resources, mentorship, and scholarship. The opportunity to discover and participate in Management Leadership for Tomorrow (MLT) and Sponsors for Educational Opportunity (SEO) wouldn’t have been possible without UAlbany. The University provided the right academic background; advisers, such as Chris Fernando, who wrote my recommendation; and an alumni base of SEO and MLT participants who offered counsel before I applied to these distinguished programs, which were instrumental in affording career training and job opportunities.”

“Legendary” Professor Carl Bon Tempo, who taught Public Policy in Modern America, also impressed Nwokocha. “I live in Nigeria, but I still follow American politics religiously. I have more of a comprehensive understanding of the world. My views on global politics and affairs were fundamentally shaped by the many lessons Professor Bon Tempo taught.”

The School of Business’ “commitment to integrating real-life projects into the classroom setting,” Nwokocha adds, enabled him to hone the “time management, teamwork, and financial modeling capabilities” that contributed to his early success. Summer internships with the Office of the New York City Comptroller and leading Wall Street investment bank Jefferies & Co. gave the business major and former Dean Backer ’88 scholar “a competitive advantage. They positioned me for full-time opportunities after college and enabled me to break into the world of finance,” recalls Nwokocha, who also served as Albany State University Black Student Association (ASUBA) treasurer, head of energy investments for the University at Albany School of Business Investment Group (UASBIG), and National Association of Black Accountants president.

At 21, Nwokocha accepted a full-time position as investment-banking analyst at Jefferies & Co. Today, with Vios Equity Partners, which “focuses on investing large-scale capital in African businesses with market-leading potential,” he is proud of “helping mid- to large-scale African companies navigate one of the most unique business environments in the world.”

While conceding that “liquidity and currency risk” may challenge investors, Nwokocha predicts that Africa is poised to become “the next emerging economy.”

Kelechi Nwokocha visits Max.ng, a Nigeria-based transit startup he invested in while working at GreenHouse Capital. Max.ng recently secured part of its $7-million Series A funding round from Japan’s Yamaha.
The University at Albany continues its demisemisepcentennial with a look back at the event’s kickoff last spring – and at some beloved traditions and venues.

At the start of the 175th-anniversary celebration last spring, Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan presented UAlbany President Havidán Rodríguez a proclamation declaring May 7, 2019 “University at Albany Day.”

At left: Contents of a time capsule buried on Dutch Quad, the first residence to open on the uptown campus in 1964, were displayed. Above: Students, alumni, senior leadership, faculty, and staff joined the president for the festivities.
Rivalry, a tradition that began at the New York State College for Teachers in 1913 and continued into the 1960s, pitted freshmen and sophomores, and eventually upperclassmen, against one another. Each group had its own class song, fight song, and large banner featuring its class year and mascot. Rivalry began on Campus Day in late October and continued until Moving-up Day, just before Commencement.

Today, in Clash of the Quads, students compete in a series of events that include laser tag, pony hopper race, bungee run, scooter race, Defender Dome, relay race, micro-reality car racing, musical chairs, extreme obstacle course, Brain Bowl, social-media competition, and basketball shoot.

An October 1962 State College News item advertises the upcoming Beanie Ball.

Edith Hardy Leet '66, '68, dons the 1966 beanie with pride.
THE TUNNELS

The uptown campus tunnels were designed for use by delivery vehicles and service personnel, but students, faculty, and staff quickly discovered they were great places to stay warm and dry during Albany’s cold spells. The underground passageways also came to be used for other purposes, including exploration, bookstore sales and buybacks, yearbook distribution, and sports training. Before SEFCU Arena was built, the men’s and women’s track teams trained in the tunnels.
HOME COMING

The inaugural Homecoming, held in 1953, consisted of “a soccer game, punch party, and dance” (UAlbany, Spring 2009, “Ask Geoff”). Track events were later added. The first Homecoming to feature a football game was Oct. 17, 1970, with the University’s football club hosting Siena. Football became a varsity sport in 1973. Today, Homecoming festivities include the Great Dane Pre-Game Tailgate.

Musicians entertain at Homecoming 1954.

A Homecoming Parade float is pictured in 1960.

Sigma Tau Beta members celebrate their win for best float in the 1969 Homecoming Parade.

Spectators watch the 1974 Homecoming football game.

Homecoming Plans Underway Now

by Jamie Samsula

Plans are nearing completion for Homecoming 1967 under the auspices of Chairman Gerry Masters and John Kuhl.

To kick off the weekend the Seekers will be presented in concert Friday, October 17. Following the concert the Homecoming Queen will be crowned to reign the entire weekend.

Those vying for the title of Queen will be nominated by the sororities and fraternities and the dorms. The Queen and her three attendants will be chosen by a selection committee on the basis of beauty and grace.

The Homecoming Informal (dancing to the music of the Hyrda) will occupy the remainder of the evening.

Saturday morning, October 28 will consist of open houses, tours and meetings for the alumni, and a “Perspective Farley entitled “Controlling the Weather” by Dr. Vincent Schuster.

Saturday afternoon will be highlighted by the first University Invitational Cross-Country Meet, which will feature athletes from colleges and universities throughout the state. The annual Homecoming Parade will begin mid-Saturday afternoon.

The theme for the various floats is “Tradition at State-Fast and Present.” Following the parade there will be a football game between Albany and Utica College of Syracuse.

The winners of the float trophy and the scholarship trophy winners will be announced at halftime.

Saturday evening will be culminated by the formal Homecoming Ball, which will feature the Tom Ippolito Band and a supper-club piano player who will provide music during a midnight buffet.

Celebrate Homecoming 2019 on Saturday, Oct. 19! Enjoy the Great Dane Pre-Game with food and entertainment from 1-3:15 p.m., then cheer on the Great Danes as they host Rhode Island. Kickoff is at 3:30 p.m.

Great Dane Pre-game 2018

This article appeared in the Albany Student Press Oct. 12, 1967.
1948


Clara Sylvestri Beninati, who was Eleanor Holbig Alland’s roommate, passed away in 2017. Clara was married to Albert Beninati ’49, who passed in 2015.

Viola Eileen Abrams Petterson, a resident of Coburg Village, Rexford, N.Y., passed away April 4, 2019.

In 1954-55, Donald Sayles taught high-school science and math. He then moved to elementary school, and later to Mont Pleasant High School, where he served as principal. Fifty-nine years later, a group of about 20 students from that timeframe organized and attended a “want to get to know you again” luncheon in his honor.

Julie Fassett Genovesi is doing well in Cherry Valley, N.Y.

Rosemary Ryan McGraw is living in Voorheesville, N.Y., with her daughter.

Gari Paticopulos now lives in Delmar, N.Y. She and Eleanor Holbig Alland regularly enjoy lunch together and reminisce about old times.

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

1949

Jack Kirby of Sarasota, Fla., taught in Brockport, N.Y. He still plays trumpet in the Suncoast Concert Band, though he has been enjoying a break from it since the last concert in April — a well-deserved rest for a 94-year-old! The program starts again in mid-October.


Bonnie Lewis Adkins of Middlebury, Vt., has received tremendous family support since her husband Lee’s death in October 2018. Their family includes seven children, 10 grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren. One of Bonnie’s daughters lives nearby and has been a blessing. Bonnie sends special greetings to her classmates.

Elsa Moberg Cox of Oceanside, Calif., moved into an assisted-living residence near her former home. Her children helped her downsize, and they completed the move in less than three weeks. It has been a difficult time for Elsa, as she has been a very independent lady since her husband died 10 years ago.

Jean Pulver Hague is enjoying her full retirement, though she misses friends and classmates. She celebrated her 90th birthday in May at a large party organized by her children.

Gloria Maistelman Herkowitz traveled to New York City in June to see her family — four grandsons and five great-grandchildren — and to celebrate her great-nephew’s high-school graduation.

Bob Kaiser celebrated his 90th birthday in June. His son and daughter organized a party for him. Bob’s granddaughter Hannah married in June, and his granddaughter-in-law had a baby in August.

Dolores Stocker Eklund of South Setauket, N.Y., enjoyed a party that celebrated the 19th anniversary of her retirement community, Jefferson Ferry. Dolores is still walking and driving.

Anne Sulich Raser has been a part of the ongoing California Teachers Study, which monitors the health and well-being of teachers and school administrators for over 25 years. At the end of each school year, she fills out a comprehensive health survey and shares her health records.

Mickey Seaman Rozwood sold her home and moved into a senior retirement home. “I get three meals a day, apartment is cleaned once a week, my bed is cleaned and sheets and towels are washed for me. I have made loads of new friends. What’s not to like?”

Ursula Neuhaus Schiff of Sarasota, Fla., enjoyed a visit in June by her son and daughter-in-law from California. Ursula’s granddaughter is engaged. Ursula’s grandson will officiate the wedding in April 2020.

Millicent Robinson Tubbs celebrated her 91st birthday at Pebble Beach, Calif., overlooking the 18th hole. She spends winters with her daughter in Santa Cruz, Calif.

Joe Zanchelli and wife Joyce ’52 celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in June. They
ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL, FOOD AND FUN?
The Great Dane Pre-Game is back!

It's hard to believe that we're just weeks away from UAlbany Homecoming! I'm excited to welcome the UAlbany alumni family to campus this fall as we continue the celebration of the University's 175th Anniversary. On Oct. 19, alumni and friends, students and parents, faculty and staff, and Great Dane fans will gather for Homecoming festivities at Tom & Mary Casey Stadium. The Alumni Association is especially excited to welcome milestone reunion classes, including the Class of 1969, and numerous affinity groups, to their respective celebrations at the pregame. As always, we'll have great food and entertainment for everyone prior to an exciting football matchup between our Great Danes and the Rhode Island Rams! Get your game-day package at alumni.albany.edu/homecoming19.

As the UAlbany Class of 2023 settled into campus in August, our admissions volunteers headed to college fairs to recruit Class of 2024 Great Danes all over the country. The Alumni Admissions Ambassador partnership with Undergraduate Admissions has created meaningful engagement opportunities for proud grads across the country, allowing UAlbany to be represented at more college fairs than ever before. If you're interested in helping to advance UAlbany as an admissions ambassador, we’d love to hear from you! Sign up at alumni.albany.edu/admissions and join our team of volunteers.

I'd like to introduce Richelle Konian ’95, who began serving as president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors in May. Richelle has been involved with the University as an alumni volunteer and board member for several years, and is a past recipient of the Outstanding Young Alumni award. As CEO of NYC-based executive recruiting firm Careers On The Move, Richelle has a genuine passion for helping others succeed professionally and is especially dedicated to leading our efforts to grow UCAN, the UAlbany Career Advisory Network. Give or get advice through UCAN by visiting ualbany.firsthand.co.

Thank you, alumni family, for showing your UAlbany pride, giving back and supporting the University's core priorities. I hope to see you at the big game this Homecoming.

Go Great Danes!

Lee Serravillo
Executive Director, UAlbany Alumni Association

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celebrated the birth of their second great-grandchild in March and their grandson's marriage in April. Joyce and Joe attended the Wellington C. Mepham High School Class of 1954 65th reunion on Long Island. Joe was the class adviser. The NYxST Class of 1949 celebrated its 70th-anniversary reunion in September.

Class councilor: Joe Zanchelli, jjzanch@yahoo.com

1952

Nancy Frey Petinelli lives in Missouri. She traveled to Maryland to celebrate her grandmother's college graduation and enjoyed an abbreviated family reunion.

MaryAnne Fitzgerald Lanni's oldest son, Joseph, lives with her in Guilford. MaryAnne stays busy as a member of two book clubs and a retired librarian group, and spends time with colleagues from the New York State Education Department. She attends theater, opera, and concerts with her daughters.

Shirley Rosenbaum attended her grandson's confirmation in Lexington, Ky. She played in the Morgantown Community Orchestra in May. Her granddaughter, Alana, is enjoying a gap year traveling in Europe, Cuba, and Russia.

Marian Newton Knight and husband Dave enjoy living closer to their son in their new home in Lawrenceville, N.J. Marian and Dave are experiencing age-related issues but are doing well. They enjoyed spending time with family and friends at Lake George this summer. Marian joined the Episcopal church in Pennington.

Thea Vander Ven (Dorothy Simons) reports that her grandson just returned home after serving in the Navy for five years. They visited him while he was serving in Japan. He served his last three years in Nairobi.

Jane Minckler Jennings had a lengthy rehab at Daughters of Sarah in Albany after breaking her ankle.

John Bowker and wife Alice traveled to Germany, where John spoke at the German Orthopedic Society meeting in Baden Baden. They stayed in Frankfurt, where they celebrated John’s 90th birthday. They were entertained by their friend’s son and daughter-in-law.

Joyce LeaveIt Zanchelli and husband Joe '49 welcomed their second great-grandchild, Grayson Jon Tattersall. They also welcomed Barb, the wife of grandson Andrew, to the family.

Joyce and Joe celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary in June. Joyce continues to stay busy volunteering in church and for the UAlbany Alumni Association.

Dave Manley shared a tribute to NYxST. Enjoy the first and last verses of his poem: I’m here to reflect on NYxST! Which for many years has embraced me. It is also entitled “Teachers College” | Where I amassed huge tons of knowledge. | Thus to my classmates of nine five two I So many thanks I owe each of you. | For so many strands of life’s pleasures won! And on that note this ode is done.

Class of ’52 alumni: As you make contributions to UAlbany, please be sure to earmark them for the Class of 1952 Scholarship Fund.

Class councilor: Joyce Levitt Zancelli, jjzanch@yahoo.com

1953

A note from your class councilor:

Hello, Red Devils! My apologies toHOWIE FENENBOCK and Ray Beck for the misidentification of the 65th reunion photo published in the last magazine. The fellow identified as Howie was actually Ray, husband of Tina Nicastro Beck. Howie
University at Albany Alumni Association

Excellence Awards

Award recipients from the past 50 years participated in a special anniversary photo shoot before this year’s Gala May 4. Photos: Patrick Dodson and Brian Busber
Gala Vice President for University Advancement Fardin Sanai, center, greets Monte Lipman ’86 and Avery Lipman ’88, recipients of the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award.

Faculty and staff from the School of Social Welfare gather for a photo.

D.C. Public Library executive director Richard Reyes-Gavilan ’91 accepts the 2019 Excellence in Public Service Award.

University grounds supervisor Casey Michalski and mail services senior staff member Miguel Santiago accept the Citizen of the University Award on behalf of all UAlbany employees.

Rosemary Leva Evaul ’68, 2017 Bertha Brimmer Medal recipient, chats with her former student, alumni board president Richelle Konian ’95.

Vice President for University Advancement Fardin Sanai, center, greets Monte Lipman ’86 and Avery Lipman ’88, recipients of the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award.
attended the reunion but was not in the photo.

Dena Kaplan Slater and husband Sherwin of Yorkers celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary in June. They have three children, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren close by. Dena is an avid bridge player. She and Sherwin traveled to Europe, China, Japan, and Egypt. They took winter vacations in Mexico with Ruth Herskowitz Biloon and her late husband, Stanley. Dena taught English in the Clarkstown Central School District for almost 30 years. She retired 25 years ago at the age of 62.

Doug Nielsen’s granddaughter got married in June. Doug has three great-grandchildren who live close by. “We can visit them regularly, have fun, eat a snack or two, and give them back when we go home.” That sounds pretty much like a lot of us great-grandparents, doesn’t it?

Jordine Skoff Von Wantoch wishes she could have been at the Jordine Skoff Von Wantoch reunion. “It was pretty much like a lot of us great-grandparents, doesn’t it?!” That sounds pretty much like a lot of us great-grandparents, doesn’t it?

Martha Nevelzer Zonneville of Henrietta, N.Y., visits her five granddaughters and two great-granddaughters, who live nearby. She is adjusting to life since the passing of her husband. Martha plays bridge often and hopes to become a life master. She and Jordine were roommates throughout their time at State. Martha, Mary Jane Dewey Wilson, and Barbara Peace, who died soon after we graduated, were part of the “Game Room Girls” who lived in the Sayles Hall game room due to the lack of on-campus housing. The College bought a house on Western Avenue for their first year until the new dorm for women was completed.

Linda Hopkins McGrath visits her family in the Rochester area every summer. She and Rosemary recently scheduled a lunch, but Linda’s grandson was playing in a concert at Eastman Theater at the same time. Rosemary and Linda hope to plan another lunch in the future.

Betty Cockeyndall-Hart and Rosie Keller Hughes attended their high school’s all-class reunion. They couldn’t believe it had been 70 years since they had graduated.

Barbara Skorupa Arabras reported that her daughter is entering the empty-nest world in September. Barbara’s grandsons are now in college, attending Tufts University, Pomona College in California, and Oxford.

Rosie Keller Hughes is proud of her son for taking another veteran on an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. So far, he’s taken two veterans from WWII and one from Vietnam. Rosie’s life has become somewhat routine. She exercises four times per week as directed by her doctor. Rosie helps others research their ancestry in Eastern Europe, enjoys her local community center and takes advantage of the programs they offer, including trips to professional theater productions and day trips to tourist attractions in the area, as well as to casinos around the region. She recently experienced a series of minor falls and some confusion. Medical tests revealed she was severely dehydrated. “A warning to all of you! Stay hydrated!”

Alice Cohen Kronman currently lives in Towson, Md. Her daughters Ruth and Ellen live in Maryland, and daughter Susan lives in Connecticut. Alice’s son Robert lives in London, England. Alice has seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, and two more greats are expected this fall. She enjoys reading, watching sports, visiting museums, and spending time with her family.

Alvin Brown’s son owns the company that provides transportation for the Albany Empire and Albany Patroons, so Alvin’s 6-1/2-year-old granddaughter, Alexa, enjoys cheering on the teams as part of their cheerleading squads. She participates in simplified versions of routines with the “big-girl” cheerleaders. According to Alvin’s doctor, Alvin is “aging gracefully.” Last year, he received a 1,000-hour service pin from the VA Hospital in Albany. Congratulations, Alvin!

Tina Nicastro Beck and husband Ray visited Atlanta, where they toured Coca Cola World and the Georgia Aquarium, and traveled to Daytona Beach to watch their grandson participate in the National Junior ROTC drill competitions. Tina spoke for many of us when she commented, “I am very proud of our dedicated younger generation.”

Share your news! Join the Class of 1953 Facebook page at www.facebook.com/groups/588873657809259/.

Stay well! Go Red Devils!

Class councilor: Rose Mary Keller Hughes, rhughes5@rochester.rr.com

1954

Richard Bailey bought a second home on the Pacific coast about 60 miles from his place in Ukiah. There is a grove of redwood trees on the property, as well as large rhododendrons, and there are hiking and beach-combing areas nearby. Richard no longer feels able to operate a fishing boat on the open sea, but he still gets out there with his son or on a party boat on occasion.

Frank Giannone and his wife are doing well and plan to attend the 65th reunion. They continue
to winter in Maui and spend the rest of the year in Rochester. Their daughter, Lisa, now lives with them, and that has been a great help. They enjoy gardening and updating their 125-year-old Victorian home – a project that never ends.

Arlene Lacy Wood reports that Gerry Holzman and Arlene Holzman moved to Maine last fall to be closer to two of their daughters.

Alice Whitemore Damp of Warrensburg, N.Y., is alive and well but not active. Her daughter and son-in-law live in Queensbury and keep an eye on her.

John Allasio and Marge are looking forward to attending the 65th Class Reunion. They welcomed their fifth great-grandchild in June.

John Granito and Dolores White Granito still spend summers on Keuka Lake and winters on Pine Island. They welcomed two great-grandchildren in North Carolina and Michigan this year. John and Dolores enjoyed a Viking River Cruise from Avignon to Lyon with their oldest daughter in July. Their three children and eight grandchildren are well and employed. “Can’t be better than that!”

Marie Elder Sejersen and John recently returned from a 1,788-mile car trip to New Orleans and the Memphis area. They have three great-grandchildren – a boy and two girls – and the immediate family totals 11. Their family is spread across the United States, in New York, Washington, Indiana, and Florida. Marie and John have lived in Florida for more than 25 years and will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary in October.


John Zongrone and Rosemary Bradt Zongrone celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary in April. John celebrated his 60th year as an independent insurance agent with his agency in Schenectady. The Zongrone family grew to 33 members with the arrival of two great-grandsons. Gatherings at Christmas or during family summer vacation are noisy, happy, and fun-filled. Six of John and Rosemary’s grandchildren are college graduates. The most recent graduate just completed the first year of medical school; another graduated from the University of Rhode Island and has a job in Houston.

Pat Byrne Manning is going on his annual trip to Italy this fall. He still volunteers at the nursery school, reviews science books for the School Library Journal, and counts his blessings! Pat’s granddaughter Olivia is working in the art field in Boston. Granddaughter Julia participated in a dig in Israel this summer. Grandson Alex is a junior in high school and does volunteer work in the arts. Pat’s son Steve is working on a new graduate program for the psychology department at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, Conn.

Roma Scharoun reports that Jack is no longer with us.

Corinne Valenti Moxham and Rodger will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary in December.

Louise Button Eggleton. Rose Marie Bertsch Meyer. Barbara Anderson Hadden ’52, and Margaret Fogarty Gorton ’55 met for their annual luncheon.

Phyl MacCormack Weaver is still house managing at The Lyric Theatre in Stuart, Fla. part time. Built for movies and vaudeville, it now features live theater. Phyl still travels but recently realized that the days of climbing up and around the ancient treasures of Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, and other places are probably over.

Class councilor: Joan Paul. fpaul1@nycap.rr.com

1955

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 Association (USTFA) Hall of Fame Masters Division. Since retiring, Don has kept busy volunteering. He 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 his home county in North Carolina. Don 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. He cooperated with the county health department to develop fitness programs for local citizens and organized an annual senior-games competition. In 2017, Doug’s local Chamber of Commerce honored his efforts with its Citizens of the Year award. Doug stays fit by walking 6-10 miles every day.

Class councilor: John Orser. viety3jo@hotmail.com

1957

Gay Gatayas Carnes attended the Australian Open in January with her daughter. “It was my last Grand Slam after the other three. I did this trip with a rollerator after breaking a heel in August. The trip of a lifetime!”

While visiting California in December, Sheila Lister Bamberger and husband Hank had lunch with Mary Furner in Santa Barbara.

Our classmates would like to hear how you’re spending these relaxing days. Please share with your class councilor, using the contact info below.

Class Councilor: Sheila Lister Bamberger. bambergersheila@gmail.com

Boston Trusts and Estates Consortium President Caroline Brooks, B.A.’09, is a contributing author of *Tools and Techniques of Estate Planning*. Her article, “A New Special Needs Planning Approach Under the Tax Overhaul,” was recently published on several websites, including Financial Planning and On Wall Street.

Phil Brown, M.A.’96, is the author of the *Adirondack Mountain Club* (ADK) guidebook *Adirondack Paddling: 65 Great Flatwater Adventures*. The book describes paddling day trips throughout the Adirondack Park, including on new state lands acquired since the first edition was published in 2012. Brown retired in 2018 after 19 years as editor of the *Adirondack Explorer* magazine.

Kimberly Lamay Licursi, M.A.’04, Ph.D.’13, is the author of *Remembering World War I in America*, published by the University of Nebraska Press.

Under the pen name Calvin J. Boal, Robert K. Nearing, B.A.’82, is the author of four historical/fiction books: *Last Run of the Whisperer*, *St. George’s Cross and the Siege of Fort Pitt*, *Valiant Warrior, Knight of the Third Crusade*; and *The Spaniard*.

Andrew Ochadlick Jr., M.S.’77, Ph.D.’80, is the author of *Twins Paradox RIP: Time Dilation for Travel to the Stars*. Ochadlick demystifies the Twins Paradox using a basic property of spacetime and discusses time dilation for future journeys to the stars. www.ochadlickphysics.com


Mark Reinfeld, B.A.’89, an award-winning vegan chef, recently released *The Ultimate Age Defying Plan*, a comprehensive road map to staying vital and living a long life using plant-based cuisine and simple daily self-care rituals. www.veganfusion.com

John Tevian III, B.A.’12, M.A.’12, C.G.S.’14, M.S.’14, is the author of *Secret Weapon and Last Hope*, a political drama. He also published *The Traveler’s Sketchbook*, a collection of his favorite drawings from around the world.

Paul Turner, B.A.’78, compiled a memoir for an 80-year-old stonemason. It was published through Barnes and Noble Press for private circulation.

John Sibley Williams, B.A.’02, won the 2018 Orison Poetry Prize for *As One Fire Consumes Another*, released in April 2019. He is the author of prize-winning poetry collections *Skin Memory, Disinheritance, and Controlled Hallucinations*, and is the editor of *The Inflectionist Review* and *Northwest poetry anthologies Alive at the Center and Motionless from the Iron Bridge*. He lives in Portland, Ore.

1959

The time is drawing near for our 60th-anniversary reunion, the Class of ’59’s “A Gathering of Gremlins!” We anticipate a great turnout and a great time of fellowship, renewing old acquaintances and making new ones. The planning committee has been making phone calls and chatting with members of the class we have not seen or talked with in years. I am so grateful to those who have served on the planning committee for their hard work and dedication. I look forward to seeing many of you at our reunion, Oct. 18-20! Please make a special effort to attend our reunion luncheon on Saturday, Oct. 19, at the Fort Orange Club, 110 Washington Avenue in Albany. Cocktail hour is 1-2 p.m. The luncheon will follow from 2-4 p.m. Since graduation more than 60 years ago, many of our classmates have either moved and not forwarded new addresses to the alumni office or have passed away. If you have any information about classmates on the missing list (view at www.alumni.albany.edu/1959), please contact your class councilor or the Alumni Association.

Class councilor: Ron Short, skilab3@tampabay.rr.com

1960

Bernice Epstein Cohen spends time with her two granddaughters and attends their academic and sports activities. Bernice has been a world traveler for many years. She visited Tokyo in Fall 2018 and Scandinavia this past summer. In addition to traveling, she spends her time dancing, remaining active in a French cultural group and a book club, and going to theatres and museums in New York City. It hardly seems possible, but your class councilors are thinking about our 60th reunion! A gathering, probably a luncheon, will be planned on the uptown campus during the University’s Homecoming Weekend in 2020 so that alumni can conveniently attend other functions, including the Half-Century Club Breakfast and the Sorority and Fraternity Coffee Hour.

Class councilors: Joan Cali Pecore, cueville@comcast.net; Doris Brossy, DBrossy@aol.com

1962

Hank Moss and Pat Jones Moss still savor their shared life together, with Arizona winters and Finger Lakes summers. They volunteer, travel, and are in touch with Dan Shultz and Terry Lehrkenvin ’60.

Bob Sweeney and wife Phyllis Lindsay ’77 rejoice in their illness recoveries. Bob had three brain operations to stop a bleed and infection. Phyllis had a mastectomy.

Earl Buzz Welker visited London and Ontario to meet up with fellow Peace Corps volunteers from his stint in Sierra Leone.

Cliff Demorest lives in Hawaii and enjoys European travel.

Class notes councilor: Sherri McCormack, vanillastar202@yahoo.com

1964

We are sad to report that John Civilli passed away in April. He held bachelor’s and master’s degrees in math education. He was a member of Kappa Beta fraternity and taught math in the Coxsackie-Athens School District for 34 years. He retired in 1998. John became a pastor at Grace Chapel in Ravena, N.Y., and volunteered in many community organizations.

Our 55th-reunion committee has been working diligently to organize a Homecoming Weekend event that can’t be missed. Be sure to update your contact information with the Alumni Association so we can keep you informed, and send us any news you’d like to share.

Class notes councilors: Alan Minarick, acmouse@hotmail.com; Bill Robelee, wmrrobelee31@gmail.com

1965

Every year while visiting his son in San Diego, Ira Rubchinsky completes a nine-mile bike ride from his home to the Cabrillo Monument at Point Loma, which involves a total elevation change of 1,000 feet. “I do it to see if I’m still alive,” he says. In December 2018, Ira climbed to the gate of the monument’s national-park entrance. The gates were locked due to the government shutdown.

1967

“IT was still a thrill, especially being able to still do it at age 74!”

Class notes councilor: Judy Koblitz Madnick, jmadnick@gmail.com

1967

Carol Marohn Zaharak and Steve Zaharak of Rotterdam, N.Y., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in July. They visit campus for UAlbany athletic events and social activities. Carol is retired from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, and Steve is retired from teaching in the Guildersland Central School District. Their oldest son, Todd, lives with his wife and two children, ages 10 and 8, in Walpole, Mass. Steve and Carol’s son Andrew lives with his wife and two children, ages 5 and 1, in San Diego.

Francesca Paolucci-Rice and husband Richard celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary and 40th year living in Jackson, Wyo., last summer. They enjoy winter sports and remain in Jackson year-round with the exception of short excursions away from the snow. Last November, Francesca officially retired from her job as a senior project manager for Jorgensen Associates, an engineering, surveying, and land-planning company. She will continue to work part time for a few more months to help phase out several projects with which she has been involved for years. Francesca’s only child, Marissa, has lived and worked in Queretaro, Mexico, for 13 years. She is an ESL teacher and serves as director of the language department at Carol Baur International School.

Class notes councilor: Canon Kay Carol Hotaling, aspenpaepke@yahoo.com

1974

Gamma Kappa Phi sister Barbara Paley is retired and living in Utah, where she enjoys skiing in winter, and hiking and mountain biking in summer.

1976

Alan Lefor is a professor of surgery at Jichi Medical University in Tochigi, Japan, specializing in surgical oncology and education. He is pursuing a second doctoral degree in engineering at the University of Tokyo.

1977

Janet Bostwick was selected to fill the vacancy in the United States Bankruptcy Court in Boston, Mass. She has practiced bankruptcy law in Boston for more than 37 years.

1979

Paul Feldman of Davis, Malm & D’Agostine, P.C., was recognized in 2019 Chambers USA for his work in commercial development and deal making in the Boston real-estate market.

1980

Lisa Spiegel was named partner of Duane Morris LLP’s San Francisco office and serves as chair of the Immigration division of the firm’s Employment, Labor, Benefits and Immigration Practice Group.

1981

After serving as counsel in the New York State Senate for more than 32 years, Joseph Casscles is now counsel in the NYS Department of Health. He continues to make wine for the Hudson-Chatham Winery in Ghent, N.Y. A second edition of his 2015 book, Grapes of the Hudson Valley, is being prepared for publication.

1983

Residential senior-living project planning expert Frank Mandy of Medford, N.J., joined Kendrick Corporation’s team as senior project director for Development.

Alan Cohen joined top-100 law firm Akerman LLP in New York City. He chairs the firm’s real-estate division.

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practice group and focuses his practice on real-estate finance, development, ventures, and transactions within the U.S., Latin America, and the Caribbean.

1985
Stuart Hack, owner of Hack Tax and Accounting Services in Wellington, Fla., was elected president of the Wellington Chamber of Commerce.

1992
David Bentley is a certified Masters Swimmer and firefighter with Fairfax County Fire & Rescue in Virginia.

1995
Letizia Tagliaferro was appointed inspector general of New York State. She previously served as deputy secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs and special counsel to the governor.

1996
Ryan English serves as statewide director of the Security Information and Staffing Unit at the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision.

1997
Father Matthew Frisoni, S.T.L., J.C.L., was appointed judicial vicar of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany in June. He also serves as the interim priest at two Schenectady parishes, Our Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Paul the Apostle. He has served as a judge of the Tribunal of the Diocese of Albany since 2013.

1998
Suzanne Patrick was named director of Equal Opportunity Services and Title IX coordinator at the University of Texas at San Antonio. She previously served as compliance officer and Title IX coordinator at Our Lady of the Lake University.

2000
Letal Algazy joined Goldberg Segalla as partner of the firm’s Workers’ Compensation practice group in Garden City, N.J. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Rockefeller College and a law degree from New York Law School.

2001
Lucille Dadd recently joined Harter Secrest & Emery, a full-service business-law firm with offices across New York State. The firm’s director of Legal Recruiting and Professional Development, she previously served as major-gifts officer and assistant director of Development at the University at Buffalo Law School and individual gifts officer with Roswell Park Alliance Foundation.

2002
Ken Countermine was promoted to team leader of Community Bank N.A.’s Albany Commercial Banking team.

2003
Martin Frick is the managing director of Temenos. He is leading the banking software company’s expansion in Australia, Japan, Singapore, and China.

Harold Moore was appointed chief technology officer of New York State’s Office of the Governor. He has provided technology solutions for the NYS Executive Chamber for 17 years.

Cheryl Beamon was appointed executive director of the New York City Administration for Children’s Services Workforce Development Institute.

2004
Yvonne Obeng-Curwood was named assistant vice president of Claims at GEICO’s Houston office. Previously, she served as liability director for the company’s Seattle operations. She began her GEICO career in 2004 as a claims-service representative at the Woodbury, N.Y., regional office.
Meghan McNamara joined Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP, as a partner in the firm’s Albany office. She represents clients in matters involving New York regulatory bodies in the health-care space.

Christopher Parisi is senior vice president, financial adviser and family wealth adviser of The Dotzler Parisi Group at Morgan Stanley in Little Falls, N.J. He was named one of “America’s Top 500 Next Generation Wealth Advisers” by Forbes.

2006
Ryan Roberts was promoted to partner at Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP in Washington, D.C.

2009
Travel writer and blogger Jessica Festa has been featured in numerous media outlets, including The Washington Post, Buzzfeed, Bravo, and Huffington Post. Her love of travel started when she participated in UAlbany’s Study Abroad program.

Tisha Lewis Ellison is an associate professor in the Department of Language and Literacy Education at the University of Georgia. She is a recipient of numerous awards, including the 2018-19 Sarah Moss Fellowship and the 2017-18 UGA Early Career Faculty Research Award.

2010
Deirdre Barthel is director of intergovernmental and legislative affairs at the NYS Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Services.

2011
Alina Pedraza is the CEO and lead trainer of Fused Fitness, a New York City bouquet fitness studio that prides itself on true results with a family and kindness mindset (www.fusedfit.com).

Lynda Holt earned a doctor of education in higher-education leadership from the University of New England.

Inspired by Harvey Milk ’51, Kevin Ricupero launched a film and event production company, xLab Productions, in Brooklyn in 2016. This year, he wrote, directed, and produced “Humans of Pride,” the official documentary project of WorldPride 2019/Stonewall 50. www.humansofpride.com

2013
Amanda Miller joined Barclay Damon as an associate in the Albany office in March. She is a member of the torts and products liability defense and professional liability practice areas.

2016
UAlbany baseball alum William Miller is a territory sales manager for Altia, Inc., in Connecticut.

Sean Collier worked with fellow members of the Peace Corps to raise funds and construct a medical facility in a rural African community where the closest medical professional previously was 15 miles away and only accessible by foot.

Ashley Chontos received international recognition for confirming that Kepler Space Telescope’s first discovered planet candidate, Kepler-1658b (KOI 4), is indeed a real world. Her first authored paper, The Curious Case of KOI 4: Confirming Kepler’s First Exoplanet, was accepted for publication by The Astronomical Journal. Ashley is a graduate student at the University of Hawaii.

2018
Hallie Landwehr is a case manager at LaSalle School in Albany, and serves as per-diem waiver service provider for Northern Rivers.

2019
Naji Simmons teaches English in grades 7-12 in Los Angeles as part of Teach For America’s 2019 cohort.

UAlbany was the perfect fit for Michelle Kobou Wafo, B.S.’19. “I wanted to be in a place where I felt I belonged,” says the Cameroon native, who enrolled in The Honors College as a pre-med student after transferring from another school.

While completing her degree in economics and biology, Wafo worked with Martin Tenniswood, Ph.D., at UAlbany’s Cancer Research Center, investigating the potential effects of pomegranate ellagitannins on breast-cancer cells. Their research – and her mother’s experience as a breast-cancer survivor – reinforced her interest in oncology, although she remains “open” to other career options.

Wafo is grateful for the Chi Sigma Theta Scholarship, which she received twice. The sorority’s “amazing generosity and support” made it possible for her to focus on her studies while setting her sights on medical school – and beyond.

For more information about the positive impact your support has on the lives of University at Albany students, or to make a gift online, please visit www.albany.edu/giving.

For a complete list of class councilors: www.alumni.albany.edu/avc or call the Alumni Association at (518) 442-3080.
Day at the Races
Alumni and friends gathered for the annual UAlbany Day at the Races in Saratoga Springs in July.

Student Association immediate past president Langie Cadesca ’19 and vice president Nicholas “Nick” Pepe ’19 join Alumni Association Board President Richelle Konian ’95 for the lighting of the torch on Commencement Weekend.
Hey, California!

President Rodríguez and members of UAlbany’s Advancement team traveled to California in April to connect with alumni and celebrate the University’s 175th anniversary. Events were hosted by Marc Guggenheim ’92 in Encino, Glen Titan ’82 in Marina Del Rey, Michael Glaser ’94 in San Francisco, and Rich Green ’77 and Kathy Knopoff in Los Altos Hills.

New York City-area alumni enjoyed an evening with author Nathalie Molina Nino at SUNY Global Center in May. The event was sponsored by the Alumni Association and New York State Writers Institute.

Alumni living in the D.C. metro area gathered for brunch in April.
EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

Milestone Reunions
Homecoming Weekend
Oct. 18-20
Class of 1954
Class of 1959
Class of 1964
Class of 1969

View complete schedules for each milestone class reunion at www.alumni.albany.edu/reunions.

Unleash Greatness, #PurpleFam
Volunteer as an Admissions Ambassador

Represent your alma mater at a college fair or accepted student reception in your area. It’s fun, rewarding and life-changing for prospective students! Get more info and sign up to recruit future Great Danes.

www.alumni.albany.edu/admissions

Saturday
Oct. 19, 2019

GREAT DANE PRE-GAME
Pre-game Tailgate Party 1-3:15 p.m.
— GREAT FOOD • ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES • LIVE MUSIC BY FUNK EVOLUTION • REUNION & AFFINITY GROUP GATHERINGS • ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS WELCOME —
Get your game day package at www.alumni.albany.edu/homecoming

MORE EVENTS:
Half-Century Club Breakfast and Induction • Sorority & Fraternity Coffee Hour • Legacy Reception at Great Dane Pre-game • UAlbany Football vs. Rhode Island • GOLD Brunch • Class & Affinity Reunions: Classes of 1969, 1964, 1959, 1954 and Orientation & Transition Programs

Full event listing and registration: www.alumni.albany.edu/homecoming

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Class of 1969
50-Year Reunion

This Homecoming, the University at Albany Class of 1969 will celebrate its 50th-Year Reunion and induction into the Half-Century Club with an exciting, event-filled weekend!

www.alumni.albany.edu/1969

2020 Excellence Awards
Call for Nominations

Recognize alumni and friends of the University for their outstanding achievements and service.

www.alumni.albany.edu/awards
Nomination deadline is Oct. 11

SORORITY/FRATERNITY
COFFEE HOUR

Saturday, Oct. 19
10:30 a.m.-Noon
Alumni House

All are welcome! Meet up with your sisters, brothers, and classmates, and reminisce about your NYSCT days during Homecoming Weekend.

www.alumni.albany.edu/homecoming
Remembering UAlbany’s 16th President, Karen R. Hitchcock

Karen R. Hitchcock, UAlbany’s 16th president and the first woman to head the University, passed away July 10, 2019, at her home in Rexford, N.Y. She was 76.

A cell biologist, Hitchcock held academic and administrative posts at several institutions, including the University of Illinois at Chicago, prior to joining UAlbany as vice president for Academic Affairs and professor of biological sciences in 1991. Four years later, when then-President H. Patrick Swygert departed for Howard University, Hitchcock became interim president. She was named president in 1996.

“Engaging the Future,” the theme of her inauguration, foretold Hitchcock’s determination to transform UAlbany while forging partnerships with New York State, community, and business leaders. During her tenure, the Center for Functional Genomics, the Cancer Research Center, the Science Library, Empire Commons, the Life Sciences Research Building, the Boor Sculpture Studio, and other facilities were constructed. UAlbany athletics attained NCAA Division I status, and the New York Giants began a long-term arrangement to hold their summer training camp at the University.

Hitchcock was also active in civic affairs. She was founding co-chair of the Business-Higher Education Roundtable and past chair of the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Center for Economic Growth.

Hitchcock left in 2004 to serve as principal and vice chancellor at Queen’s University in Ontario. In 2008, she returned to the Capital Region, where she co-hosted NPR’s “Best of Our Knowledge” on WAMC and remained involved in the community. For her service, The University at Albany Foundation honored her as Academic Laureate in November 2018.

In announcing Hitchcock’s death, UAlbany President Havidán Rodríguez praised her as “a trailblazer” whose “significant professional and philanthropic contributions made the University and the Capital Region stronger and more vibrant.”
UAlbany hosted Great DANetopia, its annual welcome-back event, Aug. 25. Participants enjoyed free food, giveaways, live music – and fun! Staff from more than 60 University departments were also on hand to inform students of campus resources available during 2019-20.
SMALL EFFORT

BIG DIFFERENCE

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