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Around Campus

Carlo de Jesus

In December, Senior Fanta Ballo was the first recipient of a “Wonder Grant” from The Shawn Mendes Foundation – an organization founded by and named for the internationally known Canadian singer/songwriter. The monetary awards aim to help young artists and activists launch or complete innovative projects “to change the world for the better.” For Ballo, an Economics major, that project is a book of poetry entitled For All the Things I Never Got to Say, which tackles topics from love and heartbreak to mental health and homophobia. “I hope that when readers pick it up, they can relate to at least one poem or resonate with one story,” Ballo said.

The Harlem native came to Mendes’ attention through a spoken word video she created in which she discusses her life and rising above the externally imposed limits she had been taught about race.

“I stumbled across Fanta’s video online and was blown away,” Mendes told People magazine. “She was looking for support to finish her book and I wanted to do anything I could through my foundation to help get that done. I am so grateful to get to support amazing change-makers like Fanta.”

UAlbany ‘Change-maker’ Receives Recording Star’s Grant

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Interim Rockefeller College Dean Appointed

Effective July 1, Professor Julie Novkov will serve as interim dean of Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy following Dean R. Karl Rethemeyer’s departure to join the University of Massachusetts at Amherst this summer.

Dr. Novkov has been an influential faculty leader in the College and the University since her arrival in 2006. Jointly appointed to the Department of Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies, she has served as chair of Rockefeller’s Department of Political Science, as the director of graduate studies, and is currently serving as director of undergraduate studies. Professor Novkov is a highly visible and nationally respected constitutional scholar.

Her teaching, mentoring and service have been recognized with awards from the University and the American Political Science Association. She was designated a UAlbany Collins Fellow in 2017 and is currently serving a four-year term as editor of American Political Science Review – political science’s premier scholarly research journal.
UAlbany Hosts Covid-19 Vaccination Site

Continuing in its efforts to serve the community during the pandemic, the University at Albany hosted a vaccination POD (point of dispensing) site from January 15-April 15. The vaccine POD site, in the Northwest Gold parking lot on the Uptown campus, was run by the New York State Department of Health with assistance from the New York Army National Guard. To expand capacity, the site was relocated to Crossgates Mall. The UAlbany POD site was central to inoculating Capital Region residents and citizens from all over New York. In a press release, Governor Cuomo praised the University’s efforts: “SUNY Albany has been an invaluable partner for us as we work around the clock to get New Yorkers vaccinated as quickly as possible.”

UAlbany continues to host upstate New York’s first state-run COVID-19 drive-through diagnostic testing site in the State Quad parking lot on the Uptown campus.

‘March Matchness’ Success Lifts Student Support, Demonstrates Great Dane Passion

A resounding success, the award-winning annual fundraising event, “March Matchness,” garnered more than $250,000 through 1,015 donations. PepsiCo and other generous donors provided matching gifts to raise the overall total to more than $500,000 in support of UAlbany students and programs.

Prestigious Warhol Grant Supports University Art Museum

The University Art Museum received a grant for $100,000 over two years from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts to support exhibitions, public programs and publications. The highly coveted grants will help the museum expand its mission of directly supporting artists in the research, production and presentation of projects that reflect the diverse perspectives and experiences of UAlbany students.

“It couldn’t mean more to the museum, amidst so much uncertainty in the cultural sector across the country, that the Warhol Foundation looked at our program and decided to fund us,” said Museum Director and Chief Curator Corinna Ripps Schaming. “With the Foundation’s support and validation of our efforts, we can confidently move forward in originating future exhibitions and directly supporting new work by both young and established artists.”

This is the second Warhol Foundation grant the University Art Museum has received; the previous one was awarded in December 2008.
AROUND CAMPUS

5th Annual Massry Lecture Brings Goldman Sachs CEO To Campus Virtually

President Havidán Rodríguez led an online conversation with David M. Solomon, chairman and chief executive officer and a member of the board of directors of the Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. The wide-ranging conversation covered life, leadership and lessons learned in a long and successful career in business. The Massry Lecture series brings preeminent leaders from the world of business to the University to enrich the education and lives of students. To view the full video of the conversation, visit bit.ly/3wNTmBF.

School of Business Retains Top Credentials

UAlbany’s School of Business maintained its prestigious dual accreditation, in business and accounting, through the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) after a peer-review process.

The School of Business has maintained its AACSB accreditation since it was first granted in 1974 and was the first in the world to be recognized by AACSB at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Fewer than 6 percent of colleges and universities around the world offering business degree programs hold AACSB business accreditation and fewer than 2 percent also hold accreditation for their accounting programs.

New Coach Seeks Impact in Basketball and Beyond

Dwayne Killings was introduced as the new head coach of the men’s basketball team at a press conference in March. In his 18-year career, Killings has worked in the NBA with the Charlotte Bobcats and the D-League and has coached on the NCAA Division I level at Temple, Boston University, UConn and Marquette.

“For me, it’s going to start with building better men,” said Killings, a native of Amherst, Massachusetts. “I want to inspire these guys to be the best leaders they can become and really produce guys that are going to impact communities.” Coach Killings joins the UAlbany family with his wife, Ana, and his two children, Alicia and Tristan.
University Enacts Name Changes on Campus

As part of UAlbany’s commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, the University Council voted, in March, to change the name of Indian Quad to Indigenous Quad and of Indian Drive to Indigenous Drive. The decision was made after reviewing the work of the Indian Quad Work Group composed of students, faculty, staff and alumni. The group consulted with members of indigenous communities and scholars to understand their perspectives and recommendations. In an email to the campus community, President Havidán Rodríguez underscored how the name change reflects UAlbany’s core values. “Indigenous students have been part of UAlbany almost since its founding, and it is our responsibility to reflect on how we can more meaningfully include Indigenous communities in the education, research, service and cultural life of our University. As the public university serving New York’s capital, we have a special obligation in this regard,” he said while pointing out that the action is just a first step. “This will require more than just changing signs on buildings and roadways, and I want to assure you that the University is committed to this work.”

Emeritus Center Honors Two as Reese Fellows

The University at Albany Emeritus Center has elected Eric Block and Gary Kleppel as William L. Reese Fellows for their exemplary post-retirement professional and scholarly work. Since retiring from the Department of Biological Sciences in 2017, Professor Kleppel continues his scholarship, teaching and service focusing on sustainable and environmentally regenerative agriculture. His multi-year project, Eden 2.0, was funded in part by a grant from the Emeritus Center. Kleppel has given guest lectures post-retirement and is active in town and county agricultural programs.

Professor Block retired from the Department of Chemistry in 2018 and continues his research on sulfur chemistry through visiting professorships, publishing in peer-reviewed scientific journals and presenting his work at international symposia.

Edward Fitzgerald, president of the Emeritus Center, said that Block and Kleppel “exemplify the Center’s goal of encouraging emeriti to stay actively engaged with their profession and the University.”

Thank you, Carol!

Longtime readers know the name Carol Olechowski. For decades, Carol has penned thoughtful profiles, herded the sometimes feral editorial process and helmed this magazine with her quiet and calm demeanor. Carol made the production of a magazine seem easy. It’s not. When someone does their job well, we often take for granted the skill and dedication required to make it all look so effortless. We are forever indebted to Carol for the many years and the multitude of words she lent to us, and we are all the better, personally and professionally, for having known her. Enjoy retirement, Carol!
Historic Accomplishment, Extraordinary Impact

The University at Albany has completed the most ambitious and successful fundraising campaign in its history. This Is Our Time: The Campaign for UAlbany inspired more than 34,000 alumni and friends to contribute $162 million, surpassing the campaign’s $150 million goal. Together their gifts secured UAlbany’s mission of providing a life-changing education to hardworking, ambitious students and reinforced the University’s role as a force for positive change.

The campaign’s accomplishments include 175 new endowed scholarships, keeping a UAlbany education affordable and strengthening the University’s ability to recruit a talented and diverse student body.

“At a time when our students’ needs have never been greater, the Great Dane family has provided a powerful statement of confidence in their future,” said President Havidán Rodríguez. “Donors to the campaign already are having a profound impact on our students’ lives. That impact will be felt for generations to come.”

The campaign was co-chaired by Jeff Black ’76, retired senior partner and vice-chairman of Deloitte LLP; Joan Solotar ’86, senior managing director and global head of private wealth solutions at the Blackstone Group; and George R. Hearst III, publisher and CEO of the Times Union.

“Donors at every level, donors making their first-ever gifts to UAlbany, and donors stretching to make their largest-ever gifts, made this campaign,” said Mr. Hearst. “Its success is a big step in building the culture of philanthropy that UAlbany needs and deserves and should make us all excited about the University’s future.”

## By the Numbers

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<th>34,000</th>
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<td>More than 34,000 alumni, parents and friends <strong>contributed</strong> to the campaign.</td>
<td>More than 13,400 donors were inspired to make their <strong>first-ever gifts</strong>.</td>
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<th>32</th>
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<td>32 donors contributed gifts of <strong>$1 million</strong> or more.</td>
<td>More than 200 donors included UAlbany in their <strong>estate plans</strong>, sustaining the university’s mission for years to come.</td>
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## Around Campus

- Tom and Mary Casey Stadium opened.
- New University Health Center created.
- New digital scoreboard installed at SEFCU Arena.
- Construction underway on ETEC, state-of-the-art research and teaching facility.
Campaign donors created **175 NEW ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS**, providing students with the power of a life-changing education.

More than **870 donors** gave to the Student Emergency Fund, meeting urgent student needs and keeping them on the path to graduation.

UAlbany’s faculty and staff contributed more than **$11 million**, showing their pride in UAlbany and our students.

School of Education moved into newly renovated home.
Renovations continue on Schuyler Building, home of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.
Trees of Light

A veritable forest of illumination hides in plain sight throughout the center of the Uptown Campus.

By Donna Liquori ’88
Columns resembling palm trees, the fronds aglow, loom over a nervous couple played by Jane Fonda and Kris Kristofferson, looking to secure a loan from Arab investors in Saudi Arabia. They wait as men in Middle Eastern clothing kneel on a carpet for the call to prayer.

But there’s something strangely familiar about this foreign setting in the high-stakes 1981 movie “Rollover.”

Turns out, it’s not foreign at all. The actors were in the University at Albany’s Campus Center Assembly Hall; the room, normally filled with student activities, was stripped down and “dressed” with ornate chairs, carpets, pillows and wall hangings. The distinctive “palm lights,” as they are affectionately known around campus, provided just the right detail to transform a space within a Northeast American university into an Arab nation boardroom. “I do recall being so proud of finding the University at Albany, as it was really a perfect match to Saudi Arabia,” said Celia Costas, the location coordinator on “Rollover.” Her set designer and director, both legendary, were pretty happy,
too. “Oh my God, they were thrilled to death. George Jenkins and Alan Pakula don’t thrill easy,” Costas, now an executive producer, said in a phone interview. She’s since worked on “Sophie’s Choice,” “A Quiet Place” and “The Undoing.”

Costas can’t remember exactly how they found UAlbany, but said Jenkins was a huge fan of Edward Durell Stone, the campus architect, which may have had something to do with it. Stone’s lighting fixtures have recently received a long-overdue LED upgrade.

The “palm tree” reference may have started in the 1960s when news accounts referred to “endless rows of ‘palmetto’ arches rising on slender columns,” according to the University’s 2009 Campus Heritage Plan.

“They are an interesting architectural feature,” said Mark Hahn, the University’s project manager for the lighting upgrade, adding they are very hard to maintain. “They’re unique. I’ve never seen them anywhere else.”
There are 656 of these palm tree lights throughout the campus, but this project retrofitted and replaced 260 of them in the Performing Arts Center, the Campus Center and the Physical Education building, which means 3,536 fronds. And it wasn’t easy.

According to Hahn, a previous retrofit in the late ’90s or early 2000s replaced the original magnetic ballasts and T10 high output fluorescent tubes with electronic ballast and new T8 fluorescent tubes. The current retrofit replaced those T8 tubes with LED fixtures and new redesigned lens covers.
Hahn said the main purpose of the retrofit is energy and cost savings, and the new lights will also accommodate the spaces with appropriate brightness and warmth.

Hicks Stone, the son of Edward Durell Stone, has been dismissive over the years of comparisons of UAlbany to architecture done in the Middle East, saying his father was more inspired by Frank Lloyd Wright after visiting him in Wisconsin.

“When he did that, he said it was the first time he had seen one of Mr. Wright’s buildings and he was overwhelmed by its beauty. And you can see elements of Wrightian design either overtly or subtly in all of father’s work from 1940 until his death, or more accurately his retirement from practice in 1974. And those columns that form the basis for the entire Albany campus are actually reinterpretations of the flared columns that Frank Lloyd Wright used in his S.C. Johnson & Son headquarters in Racine, Wisconsin.”

As for the interior palm trees, Stone is uncertain where that concept originated.
“There were a variety of geometric motifs that dad pursued in his career and I suspect one of the designers on the project at the time probably came up with the idea. Would dad have said, ‘Let’s make it reminiscent of palm fronds?’ He may have,” Stone said. “He’d done really overtly anthropomorphic details for two projects in California and it’s possible that something like that, some biomorphic form, slipped into Albany. It may very well be. I couldn’t say one way or another. I’d think you’d have to have been there at the moment of genesis to understand what the thought was.”
SUCF 01-02 * Basic Construction Co. * Academic Bldgs. Part I
Main Entrance to Library, working on floors
January 10 1966          E. M. Weil Photo
I work in the Guerin Congenital Heart Program at the hospital Cedars Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. The view from our terrace in the morning provides me with the much needed calm I need to start the day. Hard to believe this is in the heart of the westside of Los Angeles!

Dr. Evan Zahn ‘82 is all heart. As one of the world’s preeminent experts in pediatric cardiology, he brings passion and compassion to the tiniest and most vulnerable patients so that they can, ultimately, grow up to lead full, happy and healthy lives. He’s also an active father and a longtime supporter of all things UAlbany. In fact, it was a generous gift from Dr. Zahn that boosted the University’s This Is Our Time campaign over its $150 million goal.

So, what does it take to be a pioneering doctor, energetic dad, and ultimate Great Dane? Take a look for yourself.
Reviewing the steps before procedure with the team. At right is the patch that we will place in the heart to fix the hole in this little girl’s heart. We started developing the 1st iteration of this device in 1996!!! Like everything else we do...it’s come a long way since then!

Time to scrub in!

Because it’s a painless procedure, we can just use mild sedation instead of general anesthesia.

I first started closing holes in the heart with minimally invasive techniques back in the early 90’s. Back then, with the technology we had at the time, these were time-consuming and often incredibly challenging procedures that only a few children could have. Now in 2021, they are simple, fast, easy to do and almost everyone with this type of hole in the heart can have this done.
Evan's family and friends are very near and dear to his heart; they inspire him to help other families to have quality lives together, building memories.

After patching the hole, we take a careful final look at everything to make sure it’s perfect before finishing up.

Carefully sizing the hole with a soft balloon that can be seen here within the heart on the monitor.

Family and Friends are where the heart is.

Evan's family and friends are very near and dear to his heart; they inspire him to help other families to have quality lives together, building memories.

Typical dinner with a small portion of our large modern family.
Wide awake and relieved a few hours later, our little patient ate lunch, watched TV with her mom and went home the next morning... good as new!
By Paul A. Miller, MA ’20

As the youngest of three, Keamone Frederick thinks her sisters playfully gave her a nickname because they say she’s spoiled. “I’m the last one of my sisters, so they call me ‘Queen Sheba,’” Frederick said with a laugh during a Zoom interview. Or perhaps it’s because they see in Keamone (pronounced key-MOAN’) the same qualities belonging to that legendary Queen of Sheba: wit, charm, beauty … and the knowledge of what to do with some gold.

Frederick is CEO of kanti, a new skincare brand she launched to address the specific needs of women of color. The hyper-competitive market for skincare and cosmetics is valued at more than $18 billion and it’s a landscape crowded with competitors big and small, including celebrities like superstar Rihanna and mega-music producer Pharrell Williams, both have created popular brands, Fenty and Humanrace, respectively. Nevertheless, Frederick said she saw an opportunity for success, but she also knew that in order to stand out, kanti needed their first product to shine — literally.

“This whole concept of kanti was bright glowing skin but further than just glowing skin — a glowing life,” said Frederick, a 2015 graduate who earned a degree in communication with a minor in business administration. “So I knew, automatically, the first product was going to be something that was going to offer an instant type of glow to make someone feel better instantly.”

It may be a winning strategy. According to market research firm Kantar, post-COVID-19, consumers want products that do more than just make them look better; they also want to feel better.

Enter kanti likuid gold, a luxuriant combination of African baobob tree seed oil infused with flakes of 24k gold — ingredients truly befitting a queen. According to kanti’s website, their facial oil claims a range of skincare benefits from moisturizing to skin cell regeneration. “I’m glad that we chose that formula,” said Frederick. When asked about the financial risks of incorporating a precious metal into their flagship product, she noted that co-founder and COO Alisha Ricki (her eldest sister and a SUNY Binghamton graduate) is a multi-asset trader. They were

www.albany.edu | 21
able to leverage Ricki’s experience to choose a price point that could accommodate gold’s fluctuations. “I can’t even imagine the product without it now.”

The road to budding entrepreneur, however, was not always paved with gold. For Frederick, the journey began on the streets of the tiny Caribbean island of Antigua.

Frederick and her two sisters were raised by their proudly Antiguan parents on the island because, as Frederick recalled, “they wanted us to have an Antiguan upbringing.” Key to that upbringing was instilling a sense of strength, discipline and confidence — attributes that not only serve her now as a businesswoman but are also required in a place where, beneath the sunny veneer of paradise that is sold to tourists, there exists a rougher reality.

“It is a hard place to survive because it’s a very small island. Money doesn’t move around the country,” said Frederick. Economic struggle, and the challenges that come with it, is not uncommon. While growing up, Frederick says her parents (then, a high school teacher and auto store manager) were very strict in order to keep the girls focused. The family traveled back and forth between New York and Antigua several times to provide the girls with a combination of Antiguan fortitude and American opportunities. It’s a
sacrifice she now understands: “It’s a place [Antigua] that molds you to be strong enough to get through life’s trials and tribulations, but it’s not the place that your dream can come to fruition.”

Ultimately, the path to making her dreams come true took Frederick up the Atlantic Ocean from Antigua Girls’ High School to Frank Scott Bunnell High School in Stratford, Connecticut. The transition during her junior year was a “culture shock,” and made for one of the most difficult times in her life. To fit in and find friends, she got involved. She ran track, found photography and followed her passions and interests wherever they led — anything to shake off the heavy weight of feeling like an outsider. It paid off. “Some of those people are still my best friends today,” said Frederick.

At UAlbany, Frederick continued her involvement by throwing herself into more than a half dozen organizations, including ASUBA and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated – the same sorority to which U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris belongs. For Frederick, that’s a source of great pride. “The mission of AKA is to be of service to all mankind,” she explained. “And [Harris] is the epitome of serving now because she’s serving our country … and I think that’s going to inspire so many people to do that, to serve in different ways.”

Frederick sees herself and her business as also serving the needs of women of color. She believes they have been long overlooked and that, now, their moment (and hers) has finally arrived. To help, her company has started Kanti University, an internship program designed to give young, underrepresented women the opportunities in business that they might not otherwise have. Women have played an important role in her life. Frederick points to the graceful diligence of her mother, the close bond between her siblings, and the seemingly unshakeable resilience of her eldest sister/business partner, as reasons for her success and inspiration for her continued efforts. For Frederick, strong women give rise to more strong women – and she’s ready to do her part.

“I, literally, think the future is female. I’ll take it even a step further and say I think the future is a Black female,”

Frederick beamed as her voice rose to underscore her point: “I just feel this is going to be that turning point. Maybe I’m optimistic. I’ve always been optimistic and that’s how I feel about it.”

All hail the queen.
A woman described the embarrassment of being offered a seat on the subway because her poorly-fitting dress made her look pregnant.

Another shared the shame of being told bluntly by a clothing store employee, “We’d never have your size in store, but maybe online.”

A respected reporter – representing major publications such as Teen Vogue, Nylon and Glamour – recalled being asked to leave his front row seat at a fashion show so that a thinner person could sit there when photos were taken.

These are just a few of the many stories of weight discrimination, or “fat-shaming,” that have been shared through the articles and social media of Gianluca Russo. That third example above was his own personal anecdote.

Passion for fashion: Russo’s love for the fashion industry began at a young age — inspired by reality show “Project Runway.”
Russo is a self-described “plus-sized journalist” who has become a leading advocate for plus-sized people. He has written dozens of provocative articles on the topic to help shine a light on the fashion industry’s skewed view of beauty and its broader implications for our society.

“Fat-shaming is the last legal discrimination,” said Russo, who noted that Michigan is the only U.S. state where weight discrimination in the workplace is explicitly illegal.

This prejudice is particularly troubling in the world of fashion, an industry obsessed with traditional perceptions of perfection. Until recently, runway models with curves were scarcely seen, and most of the world’s leading fashion labels didn’t even design clothes that could fit anyone above a size 6 or medium. It was almost as if, in the eyes of the fashion industry, plus-sized people simply didn’t exist.

The topic of body positivity is not just a professional interest for Russo – it’s also personal. Through his writings, he has shared his own struggles with weight control and dangerous diet plans, and his message has connected with a growing fanbase.

“I love it when something I write has a positive effect on people,” explained Russo, whose social media footprint has become a safe, supportive community for plus-sized people and the challenges they face.


How did a recent graduate acquire so much influence in such a short time? Through a combination of talent, tenacity and timing.

“Things happen quickly for me,” explained Russo. “When I see something I want to do, I just chase after it as fast as I can!”

Russo’s passion for fashion began when he was growing up in New York’s Capital Region. He vividly remembers watching the 2007-2008 season of “Project Runway,” the reality TV competition for fashion designers. Russo was thrilled when...
wunderkind designer Christian Siriano took the top prize that year. (He never could have guessed that their paths would cross about a decade later.)

Though he initially pursued a paralegal degree after high school at a local community college, Russo was increasingly drawn to writing and was inspired by a surprising evolution at one of his favorite magazines.

In 2016, the editorial board at Teen Vogue decided to make a significant content shift. Instead of focusing solely on style, beauty and relationship advice, the magazine began to dig into topical social and political issues such as gender equality, the environment and body positivity. Motivated by Teen Vogue’s new direction, Russo decided to pursue a career in journalism at UAlbany.

While taking introductory classes in journalism, he began pitching articles to a variety of fashion magazines. One topic particularly intrigued him: the fashion’s industry’s unabashed discrimination against plus-sized people.

One of his stories was published. Then another. And another. He soon earned an opportunity to write for Teen Vogue, the publication that inspired him in the first place.

“ I didn’t care what they wanted me to write,” Russo said about Teen Vogue. “I just wanted to be part of it!”

At the time, Russo was juggling his burgeoning career with his studies at UAlbany. “I had some great professors – they really helped to challenge me and bring my interests into the class,” noted Russo.

Though he now writes about a variety of topics in the fashion industry, advocacy for plus-sized people is Russo’s signature issue. His notoriety has earned him access to major industry events and into the orbit of leading designers. He was even able to interview Christian Siriano, the designer who inspired him years ago and who now helms a multimillion-dollar brand. Russo described the opportunity as “a dream come true.”

Thanks to body positivity advocates like Russo, the fashion industry has made significant progress. Curvy models, such as Ashley Graham, are now featured on magazine covers, and many high-end
labels now design clothing for people of all sizes. Beyond obvious ethical reasons for the industry to evolve, there are financial ones. According to Coresight Research, the 2020 plus-sized apparel market was valued at $24 billion.

Russo is unafraid to debate the movement’s detractors, who say that advocating for plus-sized fashion is, in effect, “endorsing” unhealthy lifestyles.

“Size is a very narrow view of health,” Russo noted. “Only a doctor can tell you if you’re unhealthy.”

The medical profession’s overreliance on Body Mass Index (BMI) as a health determinant is a frequent topic on Russo’s social media. One plus-sized reader described the time that his doctor checked his blood pressure three times because the doctor couldn’t believe his normal, healthy results. Russo also mentioned the growing research concerning the connection between genetics and weight. “It isn’t a choice for some people,” said Russo.

Harking back to when he first discovered his love for fashion, Russo becomes very animated when discussing its “transformative power.”

“You get to dress the way you want to – to be seen the way you want to, to be who you want to be,” said Russo, who noted that the body positivity movement is less about any particular garment and more about helping plus-sized people feel comfortable and valued.

“We’re saying: ‘You deserve to feel great about yourself,’” said Russo. “Because everyone does.”
In 1995, under the guise of producing a TV series, two lifelong friends set out to find NYC’s perfect slice — and to eat for free. As the two filmed at pizzerias across all five boroughs, they captured a changing city — a chronicle they preserved on videotape. More than two decades later, what they recorded is being celebrated at film festivals and premieres across the country and is being called a “valentine” to a lost city, namely, a pre-gentrified New York.

An exploration of the fault lines of friendship, memory and filmmaking, Untitled Pizza Movie (UPM) — is a documentary film series written and directed by David Shapiro ’85, a part-time faculty member of Art and Art History. The film made its New York City premiere at the prestigious Metrograph theater in late February 2021 and its first three installments premiered at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival, where it took home the “Best DocuSeries” award.

“Through the prism of pizza, the film tells a story of self-invention and friendship, set in the early 1990s,” said Shapiro, who filmed alongside his friend Leeds Atkinson.

They recorded interviews with pizzaman Andrew Bellucci, whose Lombardi’s Pizzeria had become the toast of the highbrow New York food world. Shortly after, however, Bellucci was exposed as a Wall Street criminal wanted by the FBI. Shapiro and Atkinson follow the story, filming Bellucci from his restaurant to his cell block. Soon after, Shapiro and Atkinson

abandoned the enterprise. Shapiro put the film in storage. The old friends drifted apart.

Twenty years later, after hearing that Leeds had died under mysterious circumstances, Shapiro began to piece together their lost footage, setting out, as he says, “on a road trip of memory” to discover what happened to both Bellucci and Atkinson. A triple portrait of three men and three American families, the work was shot across three continents and more than 30 years.

Shapiro’s other works include the award-winning documentaries _Missing People_ (2016) and _Keep_
the River on Your Right (2001), which won the prestigious Independent Spirit Award and made the Academy Award shortlist for an Oscar. He also earned a 2010 Emmy Award nomination for his work on Finishing Heaven for HBO. His visual art has been exhibited at MoMA, the Tate, the Norton, the Brooklyn Museum and UAlbany’s University Art Museum. Missing People was screened at the Writers Institute Film Series in 2016.

At UAlbany, Shapiro teaches both grad and undergrad studio art and film studies courses, with what he calls “a hands-on approach.” He has made collaborative films with several of his grad students.
From the Top

Riffing with Jazz Fan and SUNY Chancellor Jim Malatras ’99, ’00, ’08

By Paul Grondahl, MA ’84
Malatras, 43, has moved the Mingus photo several times into new offices over the past few years, as his rapid ascent has taken him from president of the Rockefeller Institute of Government in 2017 to president of Empire State College in 2019 to SUNY chancellor in August 2020. A three-degree University at Albany alumnus, Malatras is the first SUNY grad to lead the 64-campus system.

“Richard would come into my office, look at the Mingus photo, remind me that it was his photo and say he was going to call the police to arrest me,” Malatras recalled with a laugh as he reminisced about Brodsky, whom he interned for in 2000 as a graduate student at UAlbany. The internship led to a full-time job as Brodsky’s aide, and Malatras spent seven years learning the art of how to pull the levers of power in Albany.

“Richard was a force of nature, a buzz saw many found abrasive. He ripped into me when I let an issue fall away early on in my career,” Malatras recalled. “He sat me down and said you never waste an opportunity moving legislation forward because you never know if you’ll get that chance back again. He told me public service was a sacred trust and I better not (expletive) it up.”

Malatras took Brodsky’s rough-hewn advice. And lifted the Mingus photo. Everything Malatras needed to know about running SUNY, the largest comprehensive system of higher education in the United States, he learned from being a jazz aficionado: how to improvise, how to collaborate, how to keep the rhythm while waiting for a turn to solo.

Once upon a time, Malatras harbored a dream of becoming a great sax player like his heroes Charlie Parker, John Coltrane and Sonny Rollins.

He started playing tenor saxophone in the seventh grade and played in a jazz ensemble and the pit band for musicals at Ellenville High School in a small Ulster County village in the Catskills. He graduated to the baritone, alto and soprano sax and was invited to play in bands. He became a jazz fanatic because it was the music his grandfather and father loved. They passed on their classic vinyl collections to Malatras. He enjoys unwinding from job stress by spinning jazz albums on the turntable and hanging out with his son, Max Ellington, 8, and daughter, Ella, 3 – named for jazz legends, naturally.

With a graduating class of just 97 and the coolness factor of playing the sax, Malatras was a big man on a small campus. He coasted to a B+ average.

He found his niche by performing jazz music, which absorbed some of the pain of his parents’ divorce. His father quit his job as a Wall Street banker and opened a health food store in New Jersey. He lived with his mom, Mary Smits, a nurse, whose odd hours rendered Malatras a caretaker of sorts for his three younger sisters whenever his mom and stepfather, also a nurse, both pulled late shifts.

Malatras had saved what he could from his job at the local Ace Hardware during high school, but money was tight. “We had some pretty damn lean years. It sometimes felt like we were one step away from economic collapse,” he said. Affordability was key when it came time to apply for college.

“I likely would not have gone to college without SUNY,” he said. “It gave me the most bang for my buck and it’s what we could afford.”

He chased his jazz dream and was admitted to SUNY Potsdam to study music. During his first day in the dorm, he heard someone playing a soaring, complex guitar solo. Malatras knocked on the door and introduced himself. His classmate said he had spent the summer playing in the pit band for Rent on Broadway.

“I thought I was hot stuff at Ellenville because I played the lead sax in everything, but then I met some really good musicians at the Crane School,” Malatras said. “It was an eye-opening experience.”

The pragmatist in Malatras took his cue. He transferred from Potsdam to UAlbany and switched his major to political science.
Malatras earned all three of his degrees – bachelor’s, master’s and PhD – in political science from UAlbany’s Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy. His wife, Jennifer Weil Malatras, is the associate director for child services at UAlbany’s Psychological Services Center and a clinical psychologist who received her PhD from UAlbany.

After transferring to UAlbany, Malatras lived in a dorm on the Downtown Campus and later moved to an off-campus apartment on Western Avenue, across the street from Washington Tavern and The Ginger Man – which became his happy hour hangouts. Malatras finished his bachelor’s degree in three years by taking summer courses. “I loved the Dewey Library and spent long hours there on nights and weekends,” he recalled.

A formative experience was working with the Homeless Action Committee, where Malatras worked the overnight shift in the not-for-profit organization’s shelter downtown. He later served on the group’s board. “I’d finish my shift at 7 a.m. and head to class,” Malatras said. “I learned so much from the staff and the clients.”

Malatras considers Professors Scott Barclay, Peter Breiner, and especially Patricia Strach his UAlbany mentors. “She was an inspiration who taught me how to conduct bottom-up research by studying ordinary people,” he said of Strach, professor of political science, public administration and policy at UAlbany’s Rockefeller College. She was on the committee for Malatras’ dissertation, which examined two social movements, one to close the Indian Point nuclear facility in Westchester County and the other to stop construction of a mushroom plant in Sullivan County.

He’s a creative thinker who looked at the world in an interesting way,” Strach said. “He wrote a great dissertation that was not the typical higher ed-speak.”

Malatras later became Strach’s boss when he was appointed in 2017 as president of the Rockefeller Institute of Government, a SUNY-affiliated think tank, where Strach serves as director for policy and research. His high intensity was on display in the workplace.

“He was always working,” she said. “His only mode is work. And his management style is extremely direct.”

He could display a playful side, too, such as when she brought her two kids, who are now aged 10 and 11, to work. “They called him Jim and thought he was a fun guy. They had no idea he was the boss,” she said.

She also recalled a touching gesture when a UAlbany graduate student from Puerto Rico, who worked at the Rockefeller Institute, was about to graduate with a PhD Her parents could not come for the ceremony and Malatras and his wife hosted a celebratory dinner at their Delmar home for the student, a few faculty members and her friends.

Strach praised Malatras for creating an internship program that recruited students who were not academic superstars, but were dogged workers, and assigned them to hands-on projects.

“We found some diamonds in the rough who went on to do great things,” Strach said. “Jim leads by knowing who his students are and what they need.”

After nearly three years as Governor Andrew Cuomo’s top policy architect, Malatras left in 2013 to become chief of staff.
for SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher and then returned to the governor's team a year later as director of state operations.

Short stints as president of Rockefeller Institute and Empire State College and the departure of SUNY Chancellor Dr. Kristina Johnson after less than three years led to Malatras being named SUNY's 14th chancellor in August 2020. The choice sparked criticism by some faculty members after the SUNY board bypassed the usual national search process, but also was met with optimism among some observers who saw Malatras' close ties to Cuomo as an asset.

Malatras requested a 25 percent pay cut as chancellor (reduced to $450,000) and pledged $170,000 of his salary annually to the SUNY Educational Opportunity Program for underrepresented students and to increase faculty diversity.

The relentless challenges of addressing COVID-19 across the SUNY system's nearly 1.3 million students, 91,000 employees, 32,000 faculty members and nearly $11 billion budget demands high intensity from Malatras. He wakes up each day at around 5 a.m., goes on a three-mile run, lifts weights and powers through typical 12-hour days.

He put his own stamp on his chancellor's post by launching, in December, SUNY For All, a statewide campaign supporting SUNY's new free Online Training Center designed to give New Yorkers “a clear pathway” to college and careers in the post-COVID economy.

“We need to eliminate the antiquated and divisive term of the non-traditional student,” Malatras said. “Students are getting older, with more adults and mid-career people coming into the system. Public education is transforming itself before our very eyes and COVID is accelerating the changes. We have to get our heads out of the sand and ride this wave because people are already voting with their feet. There are more than 50,000 New York students attending online colleges out of state. Our job is to change our system and we don’t have 30 years to do it, we have 30 minutes. This is a tectonic shift in a live-or-die situation. We must adapt quickly.”

Along with a sense of urgency, another item high on Malatras' agenda is to restore pride in a SUNY degree.

“Too often I hear from SUNY students that they go to SUNY because they couldn't go somewhere else and I reject that second-class status notion,” Malatras said. “I’m a SUNY product and I’m proud of it. I would not have had these wonderful opportunities without SUNY. That's not hyperbole. That’s the damn truth.”

As we spoke, Malatras was itching to get off Zoom and to pick a John Coltrane album from his 700-record collection to spin on the turntable.

“Higher education should be more like jazz,” he said. “We have to improvise and adapt to meet the tone and mood and beat as it changes. We can’t keep playing the same tune.”

Paul Grondahl '84 is director of the New York State Writers Institute, an award-winning journalist and the author of several books. He is currently completing a collaboration with former SUNY Chairman H. Carl McCall on a memoir for SUNY Press.
1948

Class Councilor Gari Paticipoulos passed away peacefully Jan. 12, 2021 at the age of 93 in Fishkill, NY. Gari was class councilor for 62 years, coordinating her class reunions and other class activities with her co-counselor, Eleanor Alland. Her lifelong dedication to the University at Albany Alumni Association is a legacy that she will always be remembered for.

Ruth V. Seelbach passed away Aug. 4, 2021. She and Jim celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in July. They met on a blind date while attending NYSCT.

Elizabeth Brignull passed away Sept. 5, 2021. Joan Sittner Sherwood lives near the Columbia River. She sees boats moving in and out all day long during salmon fishing season, and there are many walkers and cyclists around. Joan’s social activities have been replaced with drive-thru meals and watching a pheasant nest in her backyard. Her granddaughter moved to Boise, Idaho.

Eleanor Alland has lived at Avila Retirement Community for 16 years. She has two great-granddaughters, three-year-old Ada Jean and one-year-old Edith Eleanor. Both girls and their parents live in San Diego. Eleanor’s daughter lives in Columbia, Maryland. Eleanor’s granddaughter attends the University of Rochester, where she has performed several concerts.

Class councilor: Eleanor Alland, ealland214b@nycap.rr.com

1949

On behalf of our class members, we offer sincere sympathy to Bob Kittredge whose son, David, succumbed to cancer in September after fighting it for four years; Bob Kaiser whose wife, MaryAnn, passed away in July; and Dick Zeller, whose sister passed away in March 2020.

Congratulations to Jack Kirby, 95, who played the trumpet in a duet presentation for his church.

In August, Elfrieda (Freddy) Laemmerzahl Miller became a great-grandmother for the first time. She relocated from Oklahoma to Delaware to be closer to her daughter’s family. Freddy’s grandson works close by, so they can visit.

In October, Ursula Neuhaus Schiff of Sarasota, Florida, enjoyed a visit from her son who lives in California.

Bob Kittredge is really into Zoom. Each week, he participates in Zoom meetups with his family, Rotary Club and several residence gatherings. One of Bob’s most important extracurricular activities is moderating “Current Issues,” a weekly forum that features community leaders, government agencies, nonprofits and community activists, etc. Not bad for a class member who turned 93 in January!

Joe and Joyce Zanchelli’s daughter-in-law, Doris, received the New Jersey Governor’s Award for Excellence in Education.

Stay well, wear masks and social distance, Red Devils!

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

1950

Beverly Huber Woodin has lived in Massachusetts since 2010. She lives with her son Craig, his wife Jena and two grandchildren.
Roger Glenister’s widow Janet of Vernon Rockville, Connecticut, wrote: “After 62 years of marriage Robert, who had two children, eight grandchildren and great-grandchildren, died in 2013.”

Catherine Stalker George shared memories from 47 years of marriage to Hollis (Pat) George: “We enjoyed so many activities together – camping, water-skiing, golf and traveling.” Catherine and Pat had one daughter, a grandson and a granddaughter. Catherine now has five great-grandchildren. Catherine worked as a legal secretary, then as a laboratory secretary in the New York State Division of Labs and Research. “I finally found my niche, teaching first-graders for thirty years.” Now retired, Catherine enjoys family time and community work with the Delmar Progress Club.

Marjorie Lyons is doing well in Florida. Her son, Tim, lives one condo away. Marjorie’s third great-granddaughter was born in October and another is due this spring.

Marjorie remembers receiving her diploma at the Palace Theater in Albany in June 1950. Tony Prochilo was president of the Student Organization back then; he went on to become principal of the Earl L. Vandermeulen High School in Port Jefferson, Long Island. Marjorie met Elise De Seve, Jane Parsons and Barbara Smith at Frosh Camp in September 1946.

Audrey Koch Feathers lives in a retirement community in Queensbury, New York. Her daughter, Cynthia, is director of quality enhancement for appellate and post-conviction for the New York State Office of Indigent Services; her daughter, Susan, is assistant dean for public interest at Rutgers University Law School.

Harold “Sparky” Vaughn has 22 grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Most of his career has been in academics, both nationally and internationally. Sparky taught high school mathematics, then moved on to Syracuse University, the University of Arkansas in Little Rock, and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. Through his membership in the Rotary Club of Washington D.C., Sparky is involved in addressing the plight of trafficked women, particularly in Thailand. Sparky’s son Eric is in public service and lives in nearby Bethesda, Maryland.

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

1951

Albert Zimmermann passed away in February. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. After the war, Albert completed an academic year at Harvard, then attended NYSCT. He married classmate Joan Eckert, who passed in 2018. Al taught biology, chemistry and physics at Hadley Luzerne Central School from 1950 to 1983. After retiring, he taught for the Department of Defense Dependent Schools in Germany and Iceland. His son, Thomas, graduated from UAlbany in 1978.
1952

Nancy Frey Petinelli’s oldest grandson is an intern at a St. Louis lab; another grandson was planning to do community service in Quito, Ecuador. Nancy’s oldest granddaughter is in art school.

Mary Anne Lanni lives in Guiderland with son Joseph. Five of her children live in the Capital Region. Mary Anne enjoys the Philadelphia Orchestra and NYC Ballet in Saratoga Springs, opera in Glimmerglass in Cooperstown, and museums and theater in Williamstown, Mass. She recently had lunch with Joan Barron.

Jeanne Seymour Earle spent the summer cleaning up property damage from a tornado. She spoke to Joan Bennett Kelly who is doing well.

Bert Jablon and Myra spent Thanksgiving with their sons in Pennsylvania.

Tom Holman continues to chase the sun, spending summers in Long Island and colder months in St. Maarten. This summer he saw Bette Midler in “Hello, Dolly!”

Joyce Leavitt Zanchelli still serves on various church committees and remains involved with the UAlbany Alumni Association. She resigned from the Yaddo Garden Association Board, finding that was just one thing too many. She and Joe love living in Saratoga Springs.

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

1953

A note from your class councilor:

Hello Red Devils of ’53! Well, we’ve managed to come this far through the pandemic! What a year it has been with quarantines, hopes for a vaccine, children learning new paths to an education, teachers needing to learn new ways to hold the interests of their students as they use completely different lesson plans and teaching strategies; those who were lonely before the pandemic finding it gets worse when they can’t enter the agora, and living in what is the new norm.

Linda Hopkins McGrath is doing well in Florida and enjoys golfing in the cool mornings. She spent two months visiting her daughter on Long Island. It was difficult to find a flight home.

Since the last magazine, we have been informed of the passing of three more classmates: J. Paul Ward, Matilda “Tillie” Malouf Hecox and Jordin Skoff vonWontoch. Matilda “Tillie” Malouf Hecox passed away peacefully, April 29, 2020 in Utica, New York. Her daughter, Lauren Hecox Johnson ’88, said Matilda was a member of Beta Zeta Sorority and remained in touch with many of her classmates over the years.

Since we are in the later years of our lives, we will be losing more and more of our classmates. I don’t share obituaries in these notes because of that fact, but I am making an exception because of J ordine Skoff vonWontoch’s accomplishments in breaking several glass ceilings. J ordine rose to the rank of captain eight years before her retirement. She spent 30 years in the Navy and was the first female Naval officer in the U.S. allowed to remain on active duty and complete a normal career while raising a child (daughter Lian). This opened the door for a change in policy regarding women with children in the Navy and is documented in J ean Ebbert’s 1993 book Crossed Currents: Navy Women from WWI to Tailhook. Later in her career, J ordine served as executive officer for Naval Administrative Command in the Naval Training Center in San Diego and commanding officer of personnel support activity. She also was director of administration and logistics for Navy Recruiting Command in Washington, D.C.

Howie Fenenboch says, “Happily we have avoided the plague and hope that you have, too.” Today I voted! Sadly, that is about the most interesting thing that I have done all week. My routine seems to be to reserve books at the library, walk to the library to pick up the books when they arrive and return books that have been read. This is the most boring period of my life ( alas). Actually, I have no complaints as we are more or less OK in every regard.”

Doug and Gail Nielsen look forward to getting the vaccine and visiting family and friends in person again.

Herbert D. Thier and Marlene celebrated their 66th anniversary in December. They co-chaired the Temple Israel’s Committee on Israel and World J ewry in E wy, California. Herb and Marlene keep in touch with three daughters and four grandchildren on Zoom. Herb published two lab kits for school and home use in 2019. “It’s hard to believe it is some 68 years since I enjoyed my experiences at Albany State, but the pleasant memories have not dimmed,” Herb wrote.

Martha Nevelezer Zonneville plays bridge online and still enjoys gardening. “I certainly am not happy to be home alone, but I am content now.”

Rosie Keller Hughes has been videotaping daily basis since the pandemic began. While doing this, she has reconnected with several former students including Mats Nermark, a former exchange student. Mats is a musician in his Swedish homeland. He recently posted to Facebook, “As a composer I’m continuously surprised at what triggers new musical ideas. I’ve been following Mrs. Hughes and her joke videos for some time now and while I appreciate the jokes, I appreciate the underlying continuous message of staying safe and keeping our hygiene and our physical distance even more. A few weeks ago, it struck me that a repeated theme that is then adorned on top with shifting ‘content’ is in musical terms called an ostinato. So, I wrote a short theme as an ostinato and then started putting other shifting musical content on top of it. Now it’s all finished, and this is my homage to the lady and her efforts to make us all feel better: Ostinato for Aunt Rosie.” (To hear the track, visit soundcloud.com and search “Ostinato for Aunt Rosie.”) Rosie replied: “When I heard this music I cried because this fine former student wrote a song for me. I was so honored. Then I cried because of the times we are in. However, now when it all gets to me and I’m trying to be funny as “Aunt Rosie,” I can go and listen to “Ostinato for Aunt Rosie” and I feel so much better. I can go on being silly for others.”

Stay safe, dear Class of ’53 friends. Let us hope that by the time you are reading this, you have been vaccinated; that by the time this UAlbany magazine is in your hands, the world is healing from the pandemic; and that, by the time you have finished the latest issue, the terrible Covid-19 has been vanquished.

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

1954

Neil Brown of Delmar passed away peacefully at home in August. Neil served as UAlbany’s Dean of Students and was instrumental to Five Quad’s founding.

John Allasio and Marge are doing well despite the pandemic. They don’t travel much but enjoy having family nearby.

Nancy Whittle Mitchell lives in Cambridge, New York with daughter Heather. Nancy is still active in her church, but she recently resigned as chairman of the library board. Nancy is in close contact with Rosemary Kirby Babcock, Jean Rasey Aceto, Pat Dean Hilsinger and Bill Floyd. She misses seeing former neighbor Jerry Holzman who moved to Maine.

The pandemic has kept Marie E. Sejersen out of commission except for going to doctor appointments. Her husband John celebrated his 90th birthday. They are doing well and are blessed to live and function in their own home.

Joan Hartman’s family is spread across the country, so she hasn’t visited them in person since the
pandemic began, Joaín reminds us, “We have lived a life of depressions, wars and pandemics - but we have survived!”

Bradford Miller and wife Ingeborg live in Silver Spring, Maryland. They enjoy visiting their children and grandchildren in Philadelphia and Cambridge, Massachusetts. Bradford recalls, “State was a wonderful experience for a boy from Gloversville and a fine preparation for teaching social studies there for four years.”

Corinne Moxham is doing well. Her husband Rodger is recovering from a broken hip.

Naoshi Koriyama, 94, is doing well. A group of people in his home island areas – the Amami Islands between Okinawa and the main islands of Japan – is working on a project to introduce the island folk songs to the world. Naoshi is helping them with the translations of the island songs.

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

1955

Members of the Class of 1955 gathered via Zoom to celebrate our 65th reunion. Our guests were Dee Montalbano, Nan Evans Bush, Bert Sackman, Don Lein, Ed Franco and John Orser. With hardly a pause, the animated reunion ran well beyond the allotted hour. Naturally, the occasion was a time to catch up. Bert Sackman, for example, had been a mathematics teacher. In addition, his working years included research in mathematics and the labor market as well as directing drug treatment program planning for New York state. Nowadays, he caters specialty dinner parties and is a student of culinary history and recipe design.

Bert Sackman and Marlyn Maxine Adner ’56 were married 56 years. Marlyn passed away in 2012. They had four sons and a daughter (deceased). Bert has 15 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

A Message from Lee Serravillo
Executive Director, UAlbany Alumni Association

Meeting the Needs of Our Alumni Community

We’re preparing to welcome thousands more graduates to the UAlbany alumni family at a time when needs are greater, and personal and professional goals are more challenging to set and to achieve. The Alumni Association will engage UAlbany grads as volunteers and donors, and help them build on their sense of pride for their alma mater. But above all, we work toward building a powerful and robust network in which all Great Danes feel a sense of belonging, no matter what.

So, what does that look like? This is the valuable network we envision:

All alumni, regardless of their background, will 1) Reach out to the Alumni Association when in need of career advice, networking opportunities and valuable connections; 2) Look to us for volunteer opportunities when the urge to give back; and 3) Consider the University and current students’ needs as a good cause to support through monetary donations.

Thanks to many dedicated alumni and community members, we are making great progress toward this goal of an inclusive and valuable alumni network for all Great Dane alumni. Since Fall 2020, the Alumni Association’s Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Committee has been hard at work addressing our community’s need for intentional programming and inclusive engagement opportunities. Recent career webinars and virtual discussions addressing systemic racism and inclusivity in the workplace are examples of the intentional, effective programs we’ve been able to provide thanks to alumni experts in our network. This spring we will welcome eight enthusiastic alumni to our diverse and dedicated board of directors who will help build on the work we are doing in the areas of DEIB, career support, admissions assistance, and donating to support student needs.

As the weather clears and the outlook of the pandemic improves, we will work harder to create various opportunities for alums to feel welcome while engaging with the University through volunteering, networking and supporting students. We are optimistic about the future and look forward to seeing you soon – both virtually and in person.

Stay healthy and safe. And go Great Danes!

WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AT UALBANY
Recruit Future Great Danes · alumni.albany.edu/admissions
Give Career Advice to Alumni & Students · ualbany.firsthand.co
Give to the Student Scholarship Fund · albany.edu/give

CONNECT WITH YOUR MOST VALUABLE NETWORK
Don’t miss alumni news or event invitations – visit alumni.albany.edu/update.

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fb.com/ualbanyalumni                 linkedin.com/company/ualbanyalumni
Teaching Spanish fed Ed Franco’s love for foreign travel as well as the opportunity to indulge it: a community ambassadorship in Turkey in the Summer 1955 was the start. In addition to trips to many countries, Ed’s led numerous groups to Spain and France, and he and Anne have circumnavigated the globe twice. In 2016, after 53 years in Grosse Pointe, the Francos moved into a senior facility in Minneapolis. They are close to grandchildren and continue to thrive.

In another example of her “adventures in outrageous aging,” Dee Montalbano has become “D.J. Dee” in her Eugene neighborhood; a glass of wine on the patio with music blossomed into a regular concert when Dee teamed up with a neighbor and his car speakers. Dee and Ned take weekly turns choosing the play lists for “Going Viral.” Dee’s memoir, Crossing Seventy: Adventures in Outrageous Aging, is available on Amazon.

Class councilor: John Orser, xiety3jo@hotmail.com

1959

Herb Piper published A Central Florida Historical Cornucopia. Ron Short and his wife live in central Florida, so they found the information particularly interesting. Herb was a physics major as an undergrad and earned a master’s degree in physics in 1960 at Albany State. He later received a master’s degree in environmental engineering at Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne.

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

1961

A note from your class councilor:

Due to Covid-19 we will wait and see what might be best for our 60th reunion. We could celebrate virtually or wait until it is safer to meet in person. For now, we urge you to send us updated contact information (email address and/or phone number). We lack current contact information for many classmates. Please send to melandsis@yahoo.com.

Natalie Payst Jesdale spoke with Carol Konecny James prior to her passing. In her senior year at SUNY Albany, Carol married Len James. She also served as president of Kappa Delta sorority. Although Carol and Natalie did not see much of each other, they kept in touch through the years.

Judith Bacon Bleezarde is hunkering down from Covid-19. She learned to use Zoom to meet with friends, family and the book group she leads. Judith was saddened to learn of the death of Carol Konecny James, her freshman year roommate in Lake House and Kappa Delta sister.

Jim Clavell and his wife are surviving the pandemic. They have three grandchildren: a college junior, a high school senior and an eighth grader. “The best reason to have kids is so you can have grand kids.”

The pandemic has kept retired school principal Tony D’Imperio close to home, prompting his renewed interest in cooking. He enjoys reading James Patterson novels. “They’re thrillers!”

Fran Pavliga Zwicklebauer and Franz live at Foxfire Country Club in Naples where they enjoy playing golf in a protected environment. They have four children and eleven grandchildren and welcomed two great-grandchildren in 2019. Fran enjoys traveling with friends from Foxfire. She and Franz visited relatives in Germany and Italy.

Despite COVID-19, Nancy Wirtz of Chico, California has had a busy year. She continues to volunteer to help the homeless and remains involved with the American Association of University Women. Nancy enjoys participating in a walking group and book group meetups on Zoom.

Brad Mundy and Margaret Saimond have been married 57 years. They spent the summer doing maintenance work on their home and lake house six miles away. Margaret turned her quilting talents to making custom masks. Brad is finishing two chemistry textbooks and researching ways to make them free for students. He also is working on his family tree. Brad was a professor of chemistry at Montana State University (MSU) for
26 years before moving on to Colby College. Brad’s three children and a son-in-law graduated from MSU, and three grandsons graduated from or are currently enrolled in MSU. One grandson graduated from the University of Colorado, and two grandchildren are still in high school.

Mel Horowitz is taking advantage of technology which has made life bearable – even enjoyable, during the pandemic. He “attended” his first granddaughter’s college graduation from Savannah College of Art and Design in May. Mel continued with group activities and started working on a downsizing project at home. He did more yard work last summer than the previous three years! Mel mostly stays home except for grocery shopping, going to the post office and the banks, and participating in “drive-by” birthday parties. In October, he spent time in Massachusetts and Maine. Mel celebrated the 25th anniversary of his cancer diagnoses with great test results.

Nancy Rubin Bernstein and husband Sandy have lived in Poughkeepsie since 1961. Their three daughters and five grandsons bring them much joy. Nancy wishes her fellow Red Devils good health and happy memories of those wonderful days spent together at Albany State!

Class councilor: Mel Horowitz, melandsis@yahoo.com

1962


Sheril McCormack had a bountiful flower garden this summer, as she was always home to plant, weed and tend!

Class Councilor: Sheril McCormack, vanillastar202@yahoo.com

1964

We have not received any news from classmates since most of us have been trying to social distance and activities have been minimal. For the next edition of class notes in Fall 2021, we invite you to share what you’ve been doing during isolation. Hopefully, by the time you read this, there will be an effective COVID-19 vaccine and the pandemic will have ended. We are sad to report the passing of Rex Ruthman on August 12, 2020. Rex earned his degree from UAlbany and then went on to graduate from Albany Law School in 1967. He served as a member of the UAlbany Foundation in 1989 and was chairman of the Dean’s Advisory Council in 2005. Please keep us informed of your activities and changes in your contact information. Stay safe and healthy. “Progress continues slowly as initial steps are taken to reach accord.” – 1964 Torch

Class co-councilors: Bill Robelee, wmroblee31@gmail.com; Columba DeFrancesco Heinzelman, heinzel779@aol.com

1965

Judy (Koblintz) Madnick and Stu moved to a new 55+ independent-living apartment community in Slingerlands, N.Y. They have enjoyed reminiscing with fellow resident, Bob Lewis, a former Milne School basketball coach and retired UAlbany professor and men’s tennis coach. Bob joined the Milne faculty in September 1960, the beginning of Judy’s senior year. Attending the Milne School for six years and earning a master’s degree from UAlbany in 1966, Judy spent 11 years on the UAlbany downtown campus!

Class Councilor: Judy Madnick, jmadnick@gmail.com

1967

A note from your class councilor:
Greetings, Beloved ’67 classmates. Great thanks to all on the front lines caring for their community during this unprecedented and challenging time. Our 50th reunion was a stunning success. The organizing committee for our next reunion will pull out all the stops for our 55th in 2022, and this one promises to break all records! A key objective over the next year is to use the momentum of our 50th reunion to connect with as many classmates as possible. Now is the time to submit something about yourself for our next edition of class notes. I know our ’67 classmates would thoroughly enjoy reading about each other’s accomplishments after graduating from UAlbany. Please email me your news or any news you hear about our classmates. And please stay in touch!

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

1970

Twenty-seven members of the Class of 1970 participated in the virtual 50th reunion in the fall. They donated the entire class fund balance – more than $5,000 – to UAlbany’s Student Scholarship Fund.

1971

Mergim Bazhdari of New Hyde Park, New York, continues to practice law full time.

Michael Blum served in the Israeli Army for four years. He was a veteran of the Yom Kippur War in 1973 and various covert operations. Despite not having a photograph in the 1971
2020 was a year marked by a global pandemic and a wave of demands for social justice. In light of these developments, the UAlbany Alumni Association announced the addition of two new Outstanding Leadership Awards as part of the 2020-21 Excellence Awards.

One of the awards recognizes an alum who has made outstanding contributions during the COVID-19 crisis and the other recognizes an alum for commitment to promoting diversity and inclusivity during 2020.

OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP IN DIVERSITY & INCLUSION
Marisa A. Sotomayor, Esq., ’03, MPA ’04, Partner, Paul Hastings LLP

OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP DURING THE PANDEMIC
Dr. Elizabeth Whalen, MD, MPH ’12, Commissioner, Albany County Department of Health

CITIZEN OF THE UNIVERSITY
Edelgard Wulfert, PhD

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI
Daniel M. Hart, BS ’83

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI
Eddie Delaney, BA ’11

EXCELLENCE IN ALUMNI SERVICE
Donald Boyce III, BS ’06, MPA ’08

RECOGNITION OF THE UNIVERSITY

EXCELLENCE IN ARTS AND LETTERS
Debbie Millman, BA ’83
Robert Stone, BS ’90

EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS
Bruce Geller, BS ’91

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION
Peter Afflerbach, BA ’78, MS ’79, PhD ’85
Kevin Kruger, BA ’78

EXCELLENCE IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Damian Bazadona, BS ’98
Eugene Holzer, BS ’95

EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE
Gary H. Striar, MPA ’79
Llinét Beltré Rosado, BS ’93

EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Achla Marathe, MA ’90, PhD ’94

MAKE YOUR NOMINATION FOR 2022:
If you are interested in nominating someone for a 2022 Excellence Award, contact the Alumni Association at (518) 442-3080 or alumni@albany.edu. The deadline is Oct. 8, 2021. Visit www.alumni.albany.edu/awards for more details.
Torch yearbook, Michael is alive and well. He lives in California and Italy with his son, daughter and two grandchildren, and is working on his second startup.

1974

Michael Chaitin retired from the National Institutes of Health after 20 years as a scientific review officer at the Center for Scientific Review.

1977

Stuart Schoenberger retired following 39 years of public service with the NYC Housing Authority and NYC Department of Social Services. Stuart was a founding member of rugby clubs at UAlbany and Ohio Northern University, and played for the Rockaways Rugby Club 1982-85.

1978

Michael Fischer of New Hyde Park, New York passed away Dec. 7, 2020, after a lengthy battle against prostate cancer. He was the first morning show DJ for WCDB radio when it switched to FM in the ‘70’s. Michael was a nationally known optometric educator and served as chief of optometric services at the Northport VA Medical Center.

1979

Tim Powell is co-founder and principal of Powell & Aucello, a full-service hotel real estate advisory firm based in Honolulu.

1980

Russell Marnell of the Marnell Law Group was named a New York Metro Super Lawyer for the sixth year in a row.

1981

Barry Wolf was named to the 2020 Lawyers of Color Power List, which recognizes the nation’s most influential minority attorneys and allies. He is executive partner at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, NYC.

1984

Joan Phillips was named dean of the University of Missouri-St. Louis College of Business Administration. She previously served as dean, Andreas School of Business at Barry University.

1985

Bobby Altchiler leads the White-Collar Criminal Defense & Investigations practice at Fullerton Beck LLP, White Plains, New York. Altchiler previously served as former assistant district attorney in King’s County and as legal commentator with Fox, Court TV, and Tru TV.

Patricia Salkin was promoted to Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Touro College and University System, and Provost for the Graduate and Professional Divisions at Touro College.

David Shapiro wrote and directed “Untitled Pizza Movie (UPM),” a seven-part docuseries that made its New York premiere at NYC’s prestigious Metrograph theater. The first three parts of UPM premiered at the 2020 Sundance Film Festival, where it took home the “Best Docuseries” award. David is a part-time faculty member of Art and Art History at UAlbany.

1986

Anthony Russo is a trial attorney at The Russo Law Firm, Delray Beach, Fla.

Mary P. Hansen joined Duane Morris LLP as partner of the firm’s trial practice group in Philadelphia. She previously was partner at Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP.

1987

Gene Preudhomme and wife Gilen Chan launched the “Retire There Podcast with Gil and Gene.” Gene serves as library director of the New York Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department.

1988

Paul Linzer was named a 2020 New York Metro Super Lawyer.

In January, Bonnie Jenkins was nominated to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Affairs. She formerly served as the U.S. Department of State’s Coordinator for Threat Reduction Programs in the Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation in the Obama Administration. Jenkins is founder of the “Retire There Podcast with Gil and Gene.”

Did you know?

The Alumni Association offers support for affinity group reunions and other events! Gather with fellow alumni, connect with current student members of the organization you loved while at UAlbany or celebrate your group’s milestone anniversary. We’ll help you plan the event!

Request an Affinity Group Event at alumni.albany.edu/eventrequest.

1989
George Serrano retired from the White Plains Police Department following 26 years of service.

1990
Michael Packer was promoted to managing attorney of Marshall Dennehey in Ft. Lauderdale.

Keith Brown was elected New York State Assembly member for the 12th Assembly District.

1991
Dr. Timothy Sams was named president at SUNY Old Westbury.

1992
Alicia Jacobs of Clifton Park, New York, received the 2020 New York State Assembly District Women of Distinction award.

Wendy Marsh was listed in The Best Lawyers in America for 2021. She is chair of the environmental and land-use and zoning departments at Hancock Estabrook, LLP, Syracuse.

1993
Peter Lauricella was named one of New York’s 100 Most Powerful Lawyers by City & State New York magazine.

John Bagyi was named a Best Lawyer in America for the 14th consecutive year. He also was named a 2020 Upstate New York Super Lawyer for the 12th consecutive year.

1996
Jeffrey Sanders earned a master’s degree in education from the University of Maine.

Jason Samuels of Roslyn Heights was selected to the 2020 New York Metro Super Lawyers list. He is a partner in Farrell Fritz’s commercial litigation department.

Joel Hurowitz is deputy principal investigator for the Planetary Instrument for X-ray Lithochemistry (PIXL), which was selected by NASA to fly on the Mars 2020 Rover mission. Joel is assistant professor of Geosciences at Stony Brook University.

Kevin Katz is managing director, Transaction Advisory Services at Duff & Phelps, NYC.

1997
Scott Horner was appointed to the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center Board of Directors. He is an investment director at Middleland Capital.

UAlbany baseball and football alumnus Keith Ball was named “Principal of the Year” by the Georgia Association of Secondary School Principals. Keith serves as principal of Marietta High School in Marietta, Georgia.

Kevin Chambers was named Associate Deputy Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice. He holds a J.D. from Yale Law School.

Evelyn Bautista-Miller received the 2020 New York State Assembly Women of Distinction Award. She is founder of Tender Steps of New York, a nonprofit in Rockland County that offers courses, workshops, advocacy services and case management to families, parents and children facing difficult circumstances.

2000
Rachel (Williams) Shaw was promoted to partner at Pryor Cashman, NYC. She is a member of the firm’s Hotel and Hospitality, Real Estate and Litigation groups, and chair of the firm’s diversity committee. Rachel was named “One to Watch in 2020” by the New York Real Estate Journal.

2001
Cavel Khan is a 2020 inductee of the Advertising Hall of Achievement. He is the Chief revenue officer of Tumblr. Prior to Tumblr, Cavel was senior vice president of client partnerships, North America at VICE.

Lisa Corbin received the Pennsylvania Counseling Association Award for Advocacy. She is a professor at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

2003
Money saving expert Andrea Woroch was recently featured on global financial site Finder.com. She is a regular contributor to leading TV shows and has been featured on “Today,” “Good Morning America” and CNN. Her work has appeared in The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, USA Today, Huffington Post and more. Andrea is a contributing writer for Clark.com and BabyCenter.com.

Wilfredo Florentino was named one of City & State New York City magazine’s 40
In our February Mini, we featured many couples who met at UAlbany and have decided to spend their lives together. Meet these wonderful alums and hear their romantic (and entertaining) stories! Visit adobe.ly/3a4Vn2z.
Under 40 Rising Stars. Wilfredo is a candidate for NYC Council’s 42nd District. He has served on the Brooklyn Community Board 5 Transportation Committee since 2014.

David Burch was listed in 2020 Super Lawyers Upstate New York Rising Stars. He is partner at Barclay Damon LLP, Syracuse.

2008

Dennis Amore was listed among the 2020 New York Metro Super Lawyers - Rising Stars. He is a bankruptcy and litigation associate at McGlinchey Stafford PLLC, NYC.

2009

David Belsky founded public relations agency Good Rebellion. He previously served in senior leadership positions at SUNY System Administration and was a senior communications officer at the NYC Department of Education.

Samantha Sinclair, founder and CEO of Pathway to Purpose, was selected as an American Express Founder of Change in Education for the Amex 100 for 100 program.

2011

Will Preston was named co-manager, FAM Dividend Focus Fund at Fenimore Asset Management.

Jamal Rasouly was voted one of the most influential restaurant CEOs in the country by the readers of Nation’s Restaurant News.

Anthony K.C. Fong was listed in the 2020 Lawyers of Color Power. He is general counsel for Broadway Stages, Ltd.

2015

Sydney Gross graduated from Touro Law Center and joined the NYC Department of Law as assistant corporation counsel in the Torts Division.

Emily Pfeil of Brooklyn has worked as a producer at Steeplechase Films for more than 3 years. Her most recent production, documentary film “Driving While Black: Race, Space and Mobility in America,” aired on PBS in October 2020.

2016

Aneesah Hussain founded the Albany chapter of Girls Who Code, a nonprofit that provides support for girls to succeed and to connect with other women in tech.

Kenny Burgos was elected to the New York State Assembly in November 2020. He represents the 85th Assembly District.

2017

William Pettit joined the Jersey City Fire Department in December 2020.

2018

Kiah Tate is a social work intern at KIPP NYC College Prep High School. She is pursuing a master of social work degree at Hunter College.

2019

Mari Christmas received the 2020 Rona Jaffe Foundation Writers Award. Mari is an assistant professor of English at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania.

2020

Chad Arnold is a reporter for The Post-Star, covering Glens Falls, Lake George and Washington County.

Jacob Dollinger is the weekday evening meteorologist for WOAY NewsWatch, covering nine counties in southern West Virginia.

Alumni Career Webinar Series

The UAlbany Alumni Association believes in lifelong career development to help you maintain your professional edge. In our webinar series, you’ll hear from a diverse group of alumni career coaches and industry insiders who offer concrete strategies and compelling insights to sharpen your skills and continue your professional growth.

Participate in the next live program or catch up with archived webinars at www.alumni.albany.edu/careerwebinars.
Dee Montalbano ’55 is the author of Crossing Seventy: Moments of Outrageous Aging. In the book, Montalbano shares one woman’s thoughts and experiences as she embraces life and inspires us to do the same.


Carol Stephenson Nolde ’61 published her poetry collection, Emblems. She is the author of two poetry chapbooks, Comfort in Stone and Things Live After.

Richard R. Young, MBA ’71, is the co-editor of Intermodal Maritime Security: Supply Chain Risk Mitigation. Young is professor emeritus of Supply Chain Management at Penn State Harrisburg’s School of Business Administration.

Claire L. Frankel ’76 published Plague Year Poetry and Working Woman Poetry.

Jackie Craven ’77 is the author of Formulas & Techniques of the Masters and Our Lives Became Unmanageable. Her poem “Whish” was published in the Winter 2020-21 issue of Ploughshares, Emerson College’s award-winning literary journal.

Jack Hetzel ’77 published Words of Choice, a collection of his poems.

Edward Moser ’77 is the author of The White House’s Unruly Neighborhood: Crime, Scandal and Intrigue in the History of Lafayette Square.


Jerry Mikorenda ’78 is the author of America’s First Freedom Rider: Elizabeth Jennings, Chester A. Arthur, and the Early Fight for Civil Rights.

Elena Thornton ’84, MA ’92, is a contributing author of The 1 Habit for Success (SmartFem Special Edition).

Alida D. Clemans ’86 is the author of Until the Ocean Freezes, a young-adult novel about a pre-teen who is coping with a new home and her father’s worsening health. The book was inspired by Clemans’ husband, Marc Fenton ’86, who was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis.

René G. Vasicek ’91 is the author of The Defectors, a book of odd and uncanny episodes about people trying to “defect” from reality.

Ashvin Saxena ’93 is the author of The Well-Rounded Soccer Coach.

Joe Zeppetello, DA, ’96, is the author of two books, Intimate Disconnect and These Truths.

Trent Romer, MS ’97, MBA ’03, is the author of Finding Sustainability, coming June 2021.

Jennifer Degl ’99 published her third book, I Was Small But Now I’m Tall. Degl is the founder of Speaking for Moms and Babies, Inc.

Michael Luca ’02 is the author of The Power of Experiments: Decision-Making in a Data-Driven World.

Ashley Charleston ’05 published the children’s book, Nyasia’s Bee-utiful Discovery.

Hilary (Katz) Marsh ’10 is the author of The Forever Haze of After: My Story… of Resilience, Strength, and Companionship While Navigating My Afters. This is her first book.

John R. Teevan III ’12, MA ’12, CGS ’14, MS ’14, published The Flight Attendant and The Embassy Ball.

Pamela Pater-Ennis, Ph.D. ’15, is the author of Out in the Pulpit: The Lived Experiences of Lesbian Clergy in Four Protestant Mainline Denominations.

Rashan Brown ’17 published Poetry Me, Please, a collection of poems that touch on Brown’s family and friends, love and social justice. The e-book is available for purchase and instant download at poetrymeplease.com.

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After attending UAlbany and NYU, Marc Sheinbaum worked as an executive for more than 35 years – mostly within large corporations, including American Express, GE Capital and JP Morgan Chase. His first novel, *Memories Live Here*, a tech-thriller about artificial intelligence and family secrets, provocatively asks: “What if you could talk to people from the past? Lincoln. Churchill. Gandhi. Your dead mother.” Sheinbaum answered a few of our artificially intelligent questions.

**Q:** I think you mentioned writing for the *Albany Student Press* (ASP). What did that experience do for you, if anything, as a writer?

**A:** Writing news stories was a great way to exercise my literary muscles. As a journalist, you learn how to grab and hold the reader’s attention while telling a compelling story. The same skill you need when communicating ideas in business and the same skill you need when writing a novel.

**Q:** You studied business administration here and had a long career in finance. One of your central characters is an investment banker. Coincidence?

**A:** Well, I wasn’t an investment banker, but I saw many people like this character throughout my business career. The character (Louie Brodsky) is operating in a high-powered world, where it’s easy to get caught up in “appearances and trappings,” and to lose sight of the things that are truly important in life. I know there were plenty of times I felt that was happening to me.

**Q:** Taking a cue from your book: Which historical figure from the past would you want to, virtually, bring back to life with A.I. and why?

**A:** This might need a “spoiler alert” for anyone planning to read the novel I’m currently working on, but Teddy Roosevelt is such a compelling character from our nation’s history. He seemed to live multiple lives. From New York City Police Commissioner and NY Governor to U.S. President; Rough Rider and fighter; cowboy and rancher; conservationist; and, let’s not forget, prolific writer.

I think with his broad exposure to all parts of American life, Roosevelt could help heal some of the “urban” vs. “rural” divide we’re experiencing today.
IN MEMORIAM

1940s
Harriet Levine Katatsky ’40, Jan. 7, 2021
Milton L. Ray ’42, July 28, 2020
Angela Siraco Carroll ’44, Sept. 20, 2020
Joan Quinn Coughlin ’45, Sept. 23, 2020
Marion P. Munzer ’45, June 5, 2020
Eloise Crump Terho ’46, July 9, 2020
Alma Hughes Williams ’47, Dec. 3, 2020
Elizabeth L. Brignull ’48, Sept. 5, 2020
Ruth V. Seelbach Elmore ’48, Aug. 4, 2020
Julia A. Genovesi Fassett ’48, April 3, 2020
Gari Deliganis Paticopoulos ’48, Jan. 12, 2021
Janice L. Todt ’48, Feb. 4, 2016
Leah I. Hunter Olendorf ’49, Sept. 25, 2020

1950s
Ruth Marschner Boynton ’50, June 26, 2020
Benjamin A. Jackson, Ph.D. ’50, Jan. 4, 2021
Malcolm J. Slakter ’50, June 12, 2018
Helen Agnello Braccio ’51, July 3, 2020
Marie Sarantos Felthouse ’51, June 27, 2020
Bertram Lieberman ’51, Aug. 16, 2020
Florence Kloser Irons ’52, Oct. 16, 2020
David E. Gardiner, Ph.D. ’53, Oct. 9, 2019
Mary Malouf Hecox ’53, April 29, 2020
Gary L. Lagrange ’53, Jan. 11, 2020
Frank C. Mayer ’53, Oct. 28, 2020
Jordine S. Skoff Von Wantoch ’53, June 22, 2020
Gilbert D. Waldman ’53, June 6, 2020
J. P. Ward, Ph.D. ’53, Sept. 6, 2020
Frances E. Allen ’54, Aug. 4, 2020
Neil C. Brown, Jr. ’54, Aug. 7, 2020
William R. Collins ’54, Dec. 16, 2020
Peter M. McManus ’54, Nov. 3, 2020
Phillip G. Billings ’55, June 22, 2020
Dolores E. Carner Green ’55, Dec. 21, 2020
Beverly G. Gustafson McKay ’55, Dec. 23, 2020
David R. McKay ’55, July 14, 2020
Janet M. Burt ’56, July 5, 2020
Coolidge S. Copeland ’56, Dec. 6, 2020
Stanley Davie, Jr. ’56, Dec. 22, 2020
Mary E. Murray Hunt ’56, Aug. 4, 2020
Elizabeth Vincent Matterson ’57, May 27, 2020
John J. McDonough ’57, May 28, 2020
Richard G. Powell ’57, April 22, 2020
Joseph J. Taggart ’57, Dec. 30, 2020
Mason P. Wilson, Jr. ’57, July 18, 2018
Ronald W. Alexander ’58, Dec. 14, 2019
Richard J. Bartholomew ’58, Jan. 8, 2021
Elizabeth Pierce Bindewald ’58, July 31, 2020
Ann K. Jones Eisenlord ’58, Oct. 24, 2020
Ronald C. Graves ’58, July 12, 2020
Alan W. Levine ’58, Jan. 12, 2021
Nancy A. Smith Birtlam ’59, Jan. 15, 2021
James G. Holway ’59, May 7, 2020
Winnefred Youngs Jacobs ’59, July 14, 2020
Kurt E. Nielsen, Ph.D. ’59, May 12, 2020

1960s
Nancy A. Edds Barkley ’60, Jan. 14, 2021
Nancy McGowan Clinton ’60, Jan. 28, 2021
Arleen D. Luicnoren ’60, Oct. 31, 2020
Rosalie C. Walsh Niemczyk ’60, Dec. 31, 2019
Judith Keith Beckerink ’61, Dec. 24, 2020
Donald Renhoff ’61, Dec. 8, 2020
Carol Konecny ’61, Oct. 19, 2020
Joan F. Sunukjian Bramfitt ’62, Nov. 23, 2020
Frank S. Distefano ’62, May 1, 2012
Corinne M. Tariello Facchetti ’62, Aug. 2, 2020
Robert W. Smith ’62, July 17, 2020
Earl M. Bush, Jr. ’63, Oct. 28, 2020

REMEMBERING A PIONEER
Before Frances Allen ’54 became an internationally known computer pioneer, she was a teacher.

As a graduate of New York State Teachers College (UAlbany’s predecessor), Allen taught mathematics at her former high school in rural upstate New York. She thought she would happily spend the rest of her life in a classroom, then came computers and a 45-year career with IBM that brought her to the pinnacle of computer science. In 1989, Frances was named an IBM Fellow and in 2006 she was given the A.M. Turing Award (often called the Nobel Prize of computing); it was the first time a woman had earned either recognition. The University at Albany honored her with a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2004. Her expertise was in compilers, the complex and essential process of translating high-level coding language (e.g., FORTRAN) into a machine language, or set of instructions, that a computer can understand. It makes perfect sense that Frances would excel in this arena. After all, she was a teacher at heart.

Frances Allen died August 4, 2020, on her 88th birthday.
You may not have known Bill Ziskin ’85, ’90, but if you have read this magazine over the years, then you know his work.

As a photographer for UAlbany Athletics, Bill captured the power and poetry of our student-athletes with a keen eye and focused passion. His extraordinary images graced these very pages.

Some remember him working the sidelines of football games: his camera mounted on a monopod, a black windbreaker donned for the elements, and pride for his alma mater on display with his ever-present UAlbany baseball cap. Others remember Bill curled into a human-ball under the basketball hoops in SEFCU Arena with one eye fixed on the action coming through his viewfinder, the other eye scanning for the next moment of magic. In between shutter clicks, he’d lift his head from the camera, look you in the eye, and ask how you were doing. But when the action started again, so did his intensity. It was game time.

For those of us who knew Bill as a photographer, we only knew a sliver of the man. He was also a beloved teacher, actor, theater director, veteran, coach, husband, father and grandfather. William Ziskin died on February 22, 2021, after a brief illness.

Like the photos he captured, Bill’s legacy and the impact on the lives of those he touched will endure.

IN MEMORIAM

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Leonard A. Muhs ’76, Oct. 30, 2020
Roger D. Nottingham ’76, Sept. 8, 2020
Mary H. Prokop ’76, May 23, 2020
Joseph L. Rinella ’76, Jan. 22, 2020
Elisa Cestaro Roman ’76, May 28, 2020
Barbara L. Van Nortwick ’76, Oct. 21, 2020
Maryjane B. Dike ’77, Oct. 22, 2020
Thomas W. Nelson ’77, Nov. 9, 2020
Robert M. Peebles, Jr. ’77, June 12, 2020
Donna L. Bylina Schuster ’77, Nov. 12, 2020
Alan M. Soloway ’77, Nov. 2, 2020
James L. Tresner ’77, Dec. 15, 2020
Michael L. Fischer ’78, Dec. 7, 2020
Joyce A. Griffith ’78, Dec. 24, 2020
Ellen F. Fine Levine ’78, Jan. 2, 2021
Maryjane B. Dike ’79, Oct. 22, 2020
Thomas W. Nelson ’79, Nov. 9, 2020
Robert M. Peebles, Jr. ’79, June 12, 2020
Donna L. Bylina Schuster ’79, Nov. 12, 2020
Alan M. Soloway ’79, Nov. 2, 2020
James L. Tresner ’79, Dec. 15, 2020
Maryjane B. Dike ’80, Oct. 22, 2020
Peter N. Kutzer ’80, Sept. 1, 2020
Robert P. Moore ’80, May 17, 2019
Roger A. Vanetten ’80, Aug. 14, 2020
Mary R. Feeley Bonawitz ’81, Nov. 22, 2020
Aaron W. Morris ’81, Jan. 3, 2021
Mark J. Nelson ’81, June 12, 2020
Anna M. Carey ’82, May 14, 2020
Timothy J. Selby ’82, Dec. 1, 2020
Joseph V. Lemmond ’83, Oct. 27, 2020
Rosemary M. Porteus ’83, Sept. 26, 2020
Daniel P. White, III ’83, Oct. 1, 2020
Michael M. Wolf ’84, Sept. 4, 2020
Martin E. Pfeifferberger ’85, Nov. 13, 2020
Margaret S. Walker, Ph.D. ’85, Oct. 1, 2020
Marcelo Blazquez, Ph.D. ’86, Oct. 13, 2020
Claire M. Kulp ’86, Aug. 28, 2020
Cheryl A. Witzschofsky ’86, Jan. 21, 2021
Benjamin W. Bova ’87, Nov. 29, 2020
Douglas L. Depew ’87, Oct. 22, 2020
Audrey C. Evans ’87, Sept. 11, 2020
Harvey B. Tress ’87, Oct. 27, 2020
William J. Deblock ’88, Oct. 1, 2020
David E. Blessing ’89, July 2, 2020
Joseph V. Lemmond ’89, May 23, 2020

1980s

1990s

Marion E. Rivage ’90, Dec. 10, 2020
Sally M. Sugarman ’90, Dec. 9, 2020
Janet Clark ’90, Jan. 21, 2021
William F. Connell ’93, July 17, 2020
Patrick French ’93, Dec. 30, 2020
Richard C. Sauerzopf, Ph.D. ’93, Aug. 29, 2020
Colleen Hughes ’94, Sept. 18, 2020
Thomas W. King, IV ’95, July 3, 2020
Michael S. McGovern ’95, Dec. 30, 2020
Stephen E. Winters ’95, Jan. 1, 2021
Peter F. Berghela ’96, Dec. 21, 2020
Jeanette M. Davidson ’96, Jan. 10, 2021
Rebecca S. Debottis ’96, Nov. 8, 2020
Cheryl L. Koenig ’96, Nov. 12, 2020
Jacqueline M. Vincent ’96, July 29, 2020
Kiersten Span ’97, Oct. 29, 2020
Mark S. Abele ’98, Sept. 17, 2020
M. J. Bigley ’98, Sept. 23, 2020
Eddie Knowles, Ph.D. ’98, Feb. 4, 2020

2000s

Donna M. Bubniak ’01, Dec. 5, 2020
L. A. Raskin, Ph.D. ’04, July 12, 2020
Brett J. Palmer ’05, Sept. 21, 2020
Timothy J. Melino, Jr. ’07, April 25, 2020
Caitlin C. Armstrong ’08, Jan. 12, 2015

2020s

Christopher M. Delvecchio Dzikowski ’20,

Deceased Faculty/Staff

David Bass, Sept. 19, 2021
Joshua Bloomfield, Sept. 15, 2020
Donald D. Bourque, Ph.D., Nov. 6, 2020
Constance Bruce, Oct. 17, 2020
Brian Bush, Ph.D., April 30, 2020
Donald P. Cohen, Dec. 11, 2020
Joseph A. DeMeo, Jr., Oct. 1, 2020
Nathanial A. Friedman, Ph.D., June 2, 2020
Catherine Griesbeck, Nov. 29, 2020
Lloyd J. Hebert, Aug. 6, 2020
Dennis W. Karius, May 26, 2020
Michael Kavanagh, Oct. 11, 2020
Bernard J. Laurenzi, Ph.D., Sept. 8, 2020
Charles Lipscomb, Oct. 13, 2020
Robert F. McMorris, Ph.D., May 26, 2020
Fred Ohnmacht, Oct. 6, 2020
Joel Palenscar, Jan. 25, 2021
Allan J. Provost, Jan. 4, 2021
H. Salomon, Jan. 31, 2021
Allan S. Schneider, Ph.D., May 26, 2019
Judith A. Sheridan, Dec. 8, 2020
Raymond G. Stross, Oct. 16, 2020
Theodore F. Wright, Ph.D., Jan. 12, 2021
William Ziskin, Feb. 22, 2021
Cherry blossoms burst into bloom next to the Life Sciences building on the Uptown Campus. The annual color spectacle is a welcome sign of spring.
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