



TRIBECA  
FILM  
FESTIVAL

Nora Lum, B.A.'11  
(a.k.a. Awkwafina)

**MAKING  
CULTURE POP**

In this issue, we feature TV and Web personality and film star Nora Lum, B.A.'11 – also known as Awkwafina – and several other UAlbany alumni who are pop-culture favorites.

BECA  
LM  
VAL

# The Big Picture

The National Center for Security Preparedness and the University at Albany's College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity (CEHC) conduct a simulation class.



THE WORLD WITHIN REACH

# UAlbany

University at Albany Magazine  
Spring 2017, Volume 26, Number 1

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Brian Burt

# From the Podium and Beyond

By Carol Olechowski

## Anonymous Donor Supports CEAS

An anonymous donor has made a \$4 million gift to support students, faculty, academic programs and other priorities of UAlbany's newly established College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS).

Announced in March, the donation is the largest to date for the Capital Region's first and only comprehensive public engineering program. The gift arrives as the University strives to secure \$60 million in capital funding to renovate the Schuyler Building on the downtown campus and transform it into a state-of-the-art permanent home for CEAS.

In its first year, CEAS has already exceeded its enrollment and program expectations. Dean Kim Boyer heads the college.



Mark Schmidt

In July 2016, U.S. Rep. Paul Tonko, center, toured the Schuyler Building with CEAS Dean Kim Boyer and then-University at Albany Provost [now interim president] James Stellar.

## NYSWI Welcomes Grondahl as Director



Award-winning journalist and biographer Paul Grondahl, M.A.'84, has been named director of the New York State Writers Institute. His appointment Feb. 21 capped a nationwide search to replace former NYSWI Director Donald Faulkner, who retired last year.

Grondahl spent 33 years as staff writer for the Albany *Times Union*. He is the author of several books, including *Mayor Corning: Albany Icon*, *Albany Enigma* and *I Rose Like a Rocket*, which chronicles Theodore Roosevelt's early political career in New York's capital. Grondahl earned a master's in English from UAlbany.

**NEW YORK STATE**  **WRITERS INSTITUTE**  
State University of New York

## Thorncroft Is Named 2017 AMS Fellow

Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences (DAES) Chair and Professor Christopher D. Thorncroft has been named a 2017 Fellow of the American Meteorological Society (AMS). Fellows are selected for making "outstanding contributions to the atmospheric or related oceanic or hydrologic sciences or their applications during a substantial period of years," according to the AMS.



Mark Schmidt

A member of the DAES faculty since 2001, Thorncroft co-directs the New York State Mesonet, a \$30-million project that will deploy 126 automatic weather stations throughout the state. Previously, he served as Fellow and lecturer at the University of Reading (U.K.), where he received his doctorate in meteorology in 1988. Thorncroft's research focuses primarily on improving the understanding of the West African monsoon and its impact on Atlantic tropical cyclone variability.

## Schweitzer Accepts Role as Interim Dean for SPH

Effective in January, Vice President for Health Sciences and Biomedical Initiatives Laura Schweitzer took on an additional role as interim dean for the University at Albany's School of Public Health. She replaced Philip Nasca, who served as dean for 10 years. A neurobiologist, Schweitzer is also an accomplished academic and administrator who possesses expertise in such areas as research, educational programs and workforce development. She joined the University in 2015.



Mark Schmitt

## Entrepreneur in Residence Joins UAlbany

Robert W. Manasier, B.A.'88, came to UAlbany in January as entrepreneur in residence/New Ventures manager.



Mark Schmitt

His previous experience includes 12 years with the branding consultancy and operational firm Focus Brands; in addition, he organized StartUp Weekend Saratoga, serving as coach and judge. Manasier, who also has experience in digital marketing, majored in medical anthropology and biology at UAlbany.

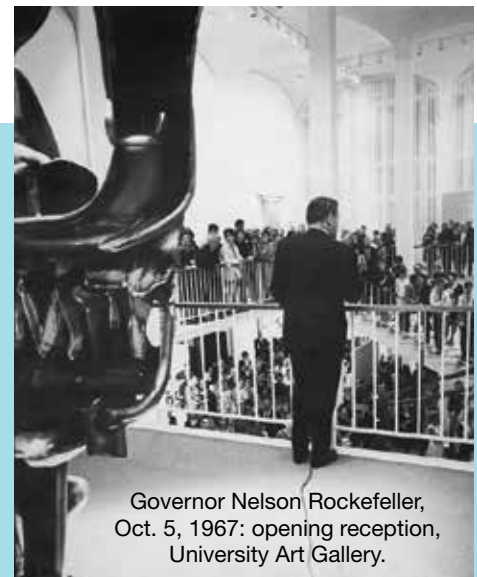
## University Art Museum Marks 50 YEARS

**At 50, the University Art Museum is still going strong.**

When it opened on the uptown campus in 1967, the 9,000-square-foot facility – designed by acclaimed architect Edward Durrell Stone – was the largest exhibition space for contemporary art in the Capital Region. Its inaugural exhibition, *Painting and Sculpture from the Nelson A. Rockefeller Collection*, featured 53 works by some of the most influential figures in 20th-century art, including Braque, Calder, de Kooning, Klee, Miro, Marisol, Nevelson and Picasso.

Over the past five decades, the University Art Museum has continued to expand upon its legacy and its founding ideals. In 2017, it will host a range of exhibitions, including one-person shows by Sara Greenberger Rafferty and Cameron Martin. The annual *Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition* and *When We Were Young: Rethinking Abstraction from the University at Albany Art Collection (1967-present)* are among the offerings this year.

For information about days of operation, hours and exhibitions, please contact the University Art Museum at (518) 442-4035 or visit its website at [www.albany.edu/museum](http://www.albany.edu/museum).



Governor Nelson Rockefeller, Oct. 5, 1967: opening reception, University Art Gallery.



# From the Podium and Beyond

## UAlbany Athletes Are Great Sports

Photos: Bill Ziskin/UAlbany Athletics

**Women's Basketball/America East:** After posting a 66-50 victory over Maine at SEFCU Arena March 10 and winning their sixth consecutive America East championship, the UAlbany women went on to face the top-seed University of Connecticut in the NCAA Tournament. The March 18 contest saw UConn continue its 100-plus-game winning streak with a score of 116-55.



**Men's Basketball/America East:** The Great Danes took on Vermont for the title March 11 in Burlington. Though UAlbany was tied at the half and fought for a nine-point advantage with 8:45 left in the game, the Catamounts prevailed, 56-53.



**Cross Country:** The men's and women's cross country teams each earned All-Academic honors, the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association announced Feb. 7. UAlbany's men team pulled down a team G.P.A. of 3.29; the women earned a team G.P.A. of 3.15.

**Women's Soccer:** Former associate head coach Nick Bochette has been promoted to head coach. In his four years with the women's soccer program, Bochette has helped to lead the UAlbany women to their first two America East Tournament titles and NCAA Tournament appearances.



Mary Adeyeye



Tara Belinsky



Kyle Gronostaj



Matthew LeLiever

**Track & Field:** Four UAlbany athletes earned America East All-Academic honors for the most recent indoor season. Mary Adeyeye, Tara Belinsky, Kyle Gronostaj and Matthew LeLiever were among a group of 22 America East standouts recognized for academic and athletic excellence.

For more information about these and other stories, please visit [www.albany.edu/news](http://www.albany.edu/news).

# A Collaborative Focus

**L.J. BROCK, B.S.'95**



**A**t first blush, a global financial firm might seem an odd inclusion in a list of such companies as Facebook, Amazon, Google, and other tech titans. But for L.J. Brock, chief People officer at the hedge fund Citadel and Citadel Securities, a global market-making firm, they're all in the same league.

It's not because Brock, who graduated from UAlbany with a degree in business administration, joined Citadel last spring after eight years of recruiting talent at Red Hat, the open-source software giant. It's because the firm's commitment to transforming financial markets through cutting-edge technology and innovation has it tapping into the same pool of potential employees as those other firms.

"It's a question of how we stack up to the best employers in the world, in any sector. Because the talent that we pursue has many options," Brock said.

He added that his approach to human resources has always been twofold. The first element is to recruit for the success of the business.

"I always felt like the function that helps source and retain the best people has one of the biggest impacts on the business," Brock said of his career in recruitment. "If you do a great job at that, your business is probably going to be successful."

The second component is to create an environment that allows employees to succeed, grow and innovate. Citadel's commitment to fostering this culture of meritocracy was one of the key aspects that appealed to Brock when he considered joining the firm.



When he looks back at his time at the University at Albany, Brock recalls that his coursework emphasized collaboration, and he observed that friends at other colleges seemed to be missing that component in their own educational experiences. As someone who started as a commuter student, he said that the collaborative focus helped him meet people, make friends and work well in a team setting.

"It taught me to really collaborate and work well with different people and different styles, and to understand what other team members' strengths were, and what mine were," said Brock. "That's played out really well for me throughout my career."

# Gifts at Work

By Carol Olechowski

## Connecting With UAlbany

At the University at Albany, Susan Shipherd, B.S.'64, acquired knowledge that would serve her well in research and sales careers. The biology major also began cultivating friendships that would keep her involved, as both volunteer and donor, with UAlbany long after graduation.

Shipherd, a Long Island native, transferred from Elmira College, eager to prepare for work in laboratory research.

After earning her degree, she took a position in the library at Winthrop Labs in Manhattan, and later worked at Cornell Veterinary School and at several places in the Capital Region, including Albany Medical Center. At Krackeler Scientific, Shipherd worked on the firm's first catalogue, then took a position as a sales representative for the company. Her clients included the University at Albany.

Along the way, Shipherd has made, and retained, many other connections with UAlbany. Nine years after her retirement from Krackeler Scientific, she is "still friendly with some of the professors" who were her customers and sometimes visits them on campus. She remains active with the Benevolent Association board, the College of Arts and Sciences' (CAS) Dean's Advisory Council, and the UAlbany Alumni Association. Shipherd also enjoys attending UAlbany women's basketball games and getting together occasionally with her Chi Sigma Theta sorority sisters.

Two new friends – development officer Michael Boots and former University Art Museum Director Janet Riker – inspired the longtime donor to make a bequest intention to UAlbany. The funding will establish *The Susan Van Horn Shipherd '64 Endowment for the College of Arts and Sciences* and *The Susan Van Horn Shipherd '64 Art Museum Endowment*.

Shipherd has also supported Initiatives for Women, the *Chi Sigma Theta Scholarship* and other University priorities.



Mark Schmidt



## A Gift to Humanity

**H**enry Binzer, B.S.'60, M.S.'61, and Patricia Binzer, M.S.'65, Ed.D.'74, have made helping others their life's work. As teachers, the now-retired couple educated students at all levels of the academic spectrum. As volunteers, they have worked tirelessly on behalf of seniors and various community organizations. And as donors, they are supporting the University at Albany School of Social Welfare's Internships in Aging Project (IAP), which trains M.S.W. students to work with older adults and their families.

The Binzers' affinity for the School of Social Welfare was inspired, in part, by Pat's mother. As a child, Pat would sometimes accompany her mom, a social worker who cared for "people of all ages" in Columbia County, New York, on her rounds.

Pat and Hank were also impressed by SSW's people and programs. "Social workers are so marvelous, so giving. As we came to know the school, we wanted to do something for the students," said Pat, who earned a master's in education and a doctorate in reading at UAlbany.

Associate Vice President for Gift Planning Lori Matt-Murphy offered the couple several options that would maximize the impact of their gift while enabling them to generate "some

additional cash flow" that would benefit them, noted Hank, a U.S. Navy veteran who received bachelor's and master's degrees in accounting and went on to teach at the University for four years. The couple decided to make a \$100,000 contribution to IAP through a charitable gift annuity. A CGA pays the donor, and/or an individual designated by the donor, a lifetime annual income in exchange for a gift of cash or securities.

The Binzers have had eclectic careers. Pat, who taught elementary school and reading, has also been an adjunct professor at both The College of Saint Rose and Skidmore; a commercial real-estate appraiser and a broker; a school-district consultant; and a grants writer. Hank retired from the New York State Department of Education, then went on to operate his own consulting business for 15 years. Like Pat, he volunteers for numerous Capital Region charities. The couple make time to attend UAlbany convocations, lectures and other events, such as the annual IAP fundraiser hosted by SSW alumni.

Sharing their good fortune with SSW, Pat observed, affords her and Hank "a chance to reward people entering a field where they will provide care and support for our aging population."



Mark Schmidt

# Out and About

By Christine A. Doyle, M.B.A. '04

## We Love Our Donors!

*Photo: Stephanie Snyder*

On Feb. 14, 2017 – Valentine’s Day – the University’s interim president, James Stellar, hosted a coffee reception at the Alumni House to express UAlbany’s appreciation for its faculty and staff donors. Each year, hundreds of the University’s own go above and beyond their daily duties – and demonstrate their commitment to philanthropy – by contributing to the UAlbany Fund, which supports students.



Left to right, Vice President for Student Affairs Michael Christakis '01, '05; Clarence McNeill '95, '97, '03; and Cynthia Riggi '02 smile for the camera.



## Celebration of Scholarships

*Photos: Colleen Piccolino*

The University Art Museum was transformed into an elegant dinner space for the Celebration of Scholarships dinner held March 9, 2017. Donors were seated with their respective scholarship recipients so that they could learn how their generosity impacts UAlbany students.

Chi Sigma Theta Sorority Scholarship recipient Katarina Manzi, fourth from left, gathers for a souvenir photo with scholarship supporters, pictured from left, Stephanie Bollam '67; Mary Kay Sawyer '67; Kay Hotaling '67, '70; Rosemarie Rosen '68, '73; and Ann Fairbank '67, '71.

## University at Albany Speaker Series: Brandon Stanton

*Photo: Paul Miller*

The first of two University at Albany Speaker Series events within the 2016-17 academic year featured Brandon Stanton, creator of the popular online photojournalism series Humans of New York. On Oct. 8, 2016, in conjunction with Homecoming Weekend, more than 1,500 students, families, and alumni were treated to vignettes about Stanton’s career as a former bonds trader turned photojournalist.



# 37th Annual Citizen Laureate Awards Dinner

Photos: Mark Schmidt

More than 400 guests attended The University at Albany Foundation's 37th Annual Citizen Laureate Awards Dinner Oct. 27, 2016, at SEFCU Arena. Gross proceeds for the event, which supports student scholarships, exceeded \$220,000.



Posing for a photo, left to right, are University at Albany Foundation President George R. Hearst III; Community Laureate Angelo Mazzone; Academic Laureate Shirley Ann Jackson, Ph.D.; Community Laureate Walter L. Robb; and UAlbany Interim President James R. Stellar.

Victoria Mansa, recipient of the *Delta Sigma Pi Golf Open Scholarship*, spoke to guests about the ways her scholarship – and their support – have impacted her academic career at UAlbany.



Longtime UAlbany supporter Walter Robb poses with his wife, Anne; son, Rich; and Stellar. Robb received a standing ovation for his thoughtful remarks about love and life.

For additional photos and video, visit [www.albany.edu/uafoundation](http://www.albany.edu/uafoundation).

# UAlbany Magazine

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*UAlbany* magazine is available online at <http://www.albany.edu/news/index.shtml>

The University at Albany's broad mission of excellence in undergraduate and graduate education, research and public service engages more than 17,000 diverse students in ten schools and colleges. For more information about this internationally ranked institution, please visit [www.albany.edu](http://www.albany.edu).

Cover photo: Getty Images. Nora Lum found fame as a comedy rapper, then went on to appear on TV. Now, in her third major movie role, she's working alongside some of Hollywood's hottest stars in "Ocean's 8," set for release next year.

ROBERT KAMINSKI, M.A.'85, PH.D.'02

# Timely Expertise

By Tom Kertscher



**R**obert Kaminski admits that coming out of high school, despite his parents' wishes that he go to college, he wasn't much of a student.

"I dropped out in my third semester with like a 2.0 average," said Kaminski, who is now a criminology professor at the University of South Carolina and a national expert in police use of force. "I had no interest. I didn't study. Didn't do well."

But a few years later, he returned to school more motivated and earned a B.S. in criminal justice from Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Another turning point occurred shortly after he arrived at UAlbany in the mid-1980s. A couple of professors had won funding to do a police use of force study in New York City. They hired him as an observer.

"I rented a room in Manhattan and did ride-alongs for the summer, about six tours a week," Kaminski recalled. "Everywhere the police went, I went. It was quite an eye-opening experience – probably one of the best experiences I have had in my lifetime. That really solidified my interest in police research, particularly in the use of force by and against police officers."

Kaminski went on to earn his master's and doctorate in criminal justice from UAlbany and has taught at the University of South Carolina since 2003. He has authored or co-authored five books or book chapters, including his work *The Murder of Police Officers*. He is regularly sought out by national media, including National Public Radio and the *Chicago Tribune*, to comment on police violence.

To be an expert in this field now is important, given the national focus on police violence – acts committed on civilians by officers, as well as acts committed on officers by civilians – since the 2014 killing of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. Research is crucial because, as became clear after Brown's death, national data on police shootings is

lacking. It took journalists at *The Washington Post* and *The Guardian* to build national databases of citizen killings by police. (*The Post* counted 991 people shot and killed by police in 2015 and 963 in 2016. *The Guardian*, meanwhile, counts killings by American police by all means. Its numbers are 1,146 for 2015 and 1,092 for 2016.)

"Unfortunately, it's going to take some years of that type of reporting before we're going to know if this trend is up or down," Kaminski said. He cautioned against the belief that police shootings are spiking.

"What I think is different about the post-Ferguson era is the proliferation of cell phones with video capability, street cameras and police body cameras," he said. "Consequently, millions have witnessed real and perceived abuses by police on mainstream and social media. I don't believe there have necessarily been actual increases in fatalities, but widespread broadcasting of incidents has led to public perceptions that police killings and abuses occur far more often than they do in reality."

Given that officers in the United States get "much less training than in other countries," more police training on how to de-escalate conflict, and more training in general, might reduce violence by and against police, according to Kaminski. More resources for distressed communities would help residents take on "greater responsibility for their own neighborhoods," he added.

Kaminski will continue to offer his expertise. His current research includes using police shooting data from *The Washington Post* to see what patterns occur in terms of the neighborhoods where shootings take place.

*Tom Kertscher is a PolitiFact Wisconsin reporter for the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. His reporting on Steven Avery was featured in "Making a Murderer." He's also the author of sports books on Brett Favre and Al McGuire. Follow him at TomKertscher.com and on Twitter: @KertscherNews and @KertscherSports.*

CHRIS MUELLER, B.A.'09

# Telling People's Stories

By Nick Muscavage, B.A.'16

**C**hris Mueller always knew he wanted to travel the world, but he did not realize journalism would be his means of doing so until he attended UAlbany.

Currently based in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, Mueller has been living in Southeast Asia for the past six years, working as a reporter and editor. He was inspired to become a journalist during the summer between his freshman and sophomore years at UAlbany when he took a trip to New Orleans to help victims of Hurricane Katrina. "After seeing all this destruction, and poverty, and people's lives just being turned upside down, I wanted to do something where I could tell people's stories," recalled Mueller, who returned to UAlbany to major in journalism.

His path to Vietnam also came in a roundabout way when he took a trip to India after graduation. "I think most people have the desire to travel and see new things," Mueller observed. "I worked through college, and I was lucky to have enough money to go overseas for what I'd thought would be a short trip." He never left.

Mueller went to India on a three-month journalism visa, landing a few small writing gigs, but he focused mainly on exploring. Once the visa expired, Mueller had to journey to Nepal to renew it. From there, his desire for travel grew. He ventured about, eventually ending up in Vietnam.

About three months in, Mueller started working for a locally run recent start-up, *Vietnam Heritage*. He was an editor at the magazine for six months, training local writers and simultaneously working as a stringer for *Agence France-Presse (AFP)*.

Mueller next wrote for the English-language magazine *Asia Life*, working his way up to the position of editor – a post he held for two-and-a-half years. Later, as an associate editor at *Cambodia Daily*, he reported and worked with journalists to develop stories and translate them into English.

Though an experienced journalist, Mueller acknowledged that reporting can still be challenging because of Vietnam's press-freedom laws – or lack thereof. "It's very, very difficult here," he noted, explaining that all media in the country are state controlled. Only members of the Communist Party are permitted to publish, subject to a rigorous censorship process.



Chris Mueller interviews a Vietnamese Montagnard refugee in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, in May 2015. The man fled Vietnam because of alleged political and religious persecution.

Additionally, when reporting on his own, Mueller must use a translator to communicate with people who do not speak English.

Even though he is far away from his *alma mater*, Mueller still sees the familiar purple and gold from time to time. "There are a couple of UAlbany alumni out here, actually. ... It's not an uncommon thing [to meet them randomly]. Every once in a while, I'll see someone walking by with a UAlbany sweatshirt or something."

For now, Mueller is working as a freelance editor while chipping away at long-term articles in the hope of publishing some eventually. He doesn't picture himself leaving Vietnam anytime soon; "I do plan to stay in the region for the foreseeable future."

As is the case in the journalism field elsewhere, "it's getting harder and harder to make a living in our industry here," said Mueller. "But as Southeast Asia continues to become one of the most important and influential regions in the world, good journalism will always be in demand."

# EQUALITY. ADVOCACY. ACHIEVEMENT.

## Celebrating LGBTQ Alumni

By Jim Sciancalepore, M.A.'93

The legacy of Harvey Milk '51 endures at UAlbany through the lives and work of his fellow alumni. After graduating from the New York State College for Teachers, Milk went on to careers in education and politics, and distinguished himself as an advocate for human rights. As the first openly gay candidate elected to office in a major U.S. city, he briefly served as a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors until his assassination in 1978. The following are profiles of three University at Albany alumni who exemplify his spirit.

### JOSEPH VALENTINO, B.A.'89

#### A Voice For Change

Back in 1998, Joseph Valentino only expected to spend a year or two at Here Media, the world's leading media company dedicated to the LGBTQ community. He assumed this would be another stepping stone in his burgeoning publishing career, but it soon became clear that this was more than a job – it became his mission.

Nineteen years later, he is now senior vice president, group publisher for Here Media. He oversees a team responsible for generating millions of dollars in ad revenue and sponsorships. Here Media's reach has expanded exponentially in the last decade beyond flagship print publications such as *The Advocate*, *OUT* and *Plus*. The company launched Here TV in 2002, and its video, digital

and social channels reach millions of people each day.

"My work sits at the intersection of my passion, my professional goals and so many causes I believe in," explained Valentino. He is particularly proud of his company's efforts to educate and support people with HIV/AIDS, and to reduce the stigma associated with the disease. "It's all about love, education and understanding," said Valentino.

Thinking back to his UAlbany days, the 2011 winner of UAlbany's Harvey Milk Award felt free to be himself in a community that was "very accepting." He credits faculty members with



fostering his confidence and public-speaking skills.

"UAlbany gave me the opportunity to speak my mind," Valentino said. "And that's what I do every day."

A committee is being formed to plan a reunion of LGBTQ alumni during Homecoming Weekend, Oct. 20-22, 2017. If you're interested in attending or would like to help plan it, please email the University at Albany Alumni Association at [alumniassociation@albany.edu](mailto:alumniassociation@albany.edu) to share your name and contact information.

## GLORIA DESOLE, B.A.'59, PH.D.'69

### Advocacy Into Action

In the late 1970s, shortly after Gloria DeSole began working at UAlbany, the recently formed Gay Student Alliance met in an unmarked room on campus because of safety and anonymity concerns.

“What a different world that was,” remarked DeSole. “And how brave those students were.”

DeSole is a distinguished educator, author and activist who spent much of her career at UAlbany – and on the front lines for social justice. While teaching English at Skidmore College in 1976, she was offered a position at her *alma mater* in the Affirmative Action Office. DeSole seized the opportunity and would greatly expand the influence of her role as she became a senior adviser to the University’s president.

From 1982 to 2000, as senior adviser to the President for Affirmative Action and Employment Planning, DeSole helped guide profound change at UAlbany – recruiting more diverse faculty and students, while helping to broaden curricula.

“We made UAlbany a stronger and more welcoming community,” she said. “That’s good for everyone.”

DeSole has been recognized with numerous awards for her achievements, including UAlbany’s President’s Lifetime Justice Award and the Harvey Milk Award, which UAlbany presents to an alum who follows the late activist’s example in promoting the rights of all people.

In 2011, when New York State passed the Marriage Equality Act, DeSole was finally able to wed her longtime



Mark Schmidt

partner, Meredith Butler. The mother of two successful professional women and grandmother of five is retired now, but she remains active on boards and community organizations.

She is encouraged by the national groundswell of activism in recent months. “I’ve never seen more people engaged,” said DeSole. “But we must continue to advocate for equality for all. This is not a time to relax.”

## JOSEPH AMODEO, B.S.'08

### Seeking and Sharing Knowledge

As a child, Joseph Amodeo was in “a constant state of inquiry” – always curious about the people and things around him. This curiosity would later inspire him to pursue a B.A. in religious studies and an M.A. in political science at UAlbany.

Amodeo enjoyed learning about how different religions teach values and ethics, and finding the common ground between them. He said the experience would prove invaluable in his future pursuits.

“UAlbany taught me how to think critically about issues facing our communities and the need for high-impact solutions,” explained Amodeo, who turned his college internship at the New York State Dental Foundation into a full-time development position there. While

in that role, he worked with various industry stakeholders to develop a multidisciplinary approach to diagnosing and preventing HIV/AIDS in the dental setting.

Amodeo is currently senior director of Development and Strategy for Quality Services for the Autism Community (QSAC), a New York-based non-profit that supports children and adults with autism. He also teaches political science at St. Francis College; his research has been published in *World Medical & Health Policy*; and he has appeared on BBC Radio, NPR and other media.

It all comes back to a foundation formed a decade ago. “UAlbany truly launched my career,” said Amodeo.



# Where Are They Now?

By Carol Olechowski

Playwright **Stephen Adly Guirgis, B.A.'90** (“Path to the Pulitzer Prize,” Fall 2015), returns to his first love – acting – starring this summer in the Dorset (Vermont) Theater Festival’s revival of *American Buffalo*. Guirgis will portray Don in the David Mamet drama.

The action in *American Buffalo*, notes the theater’s website, centers on “a trio of misguided misfits who are a little out of luck and way out of their league as they plot the theft of a rare coin collection.” Guirgis’ fellow UAlbany alum, John Rubin ’73, directs the play, which will run from Aug. 24 through Sept. 2. Additional information, including a schedule of performances, is available online at <http://dorsettheatrefestival.org/show/american-buffalo/>.

As a UAlbany student, Guirgis changed his major three times before deciding to focus on theater. His mentors included professors Langdon Brown, Jarka Burian and Al Asermely. Roommate and fellow theater major Glenn Fleshler, B.A.'90, went on to star in the TV series *True Detective* and “Hannibal,” and has appeared in numerous feature films.

Guirgis’ plays include *Jesus Hopped the A Train*; *In Arabia We’d All Be Kings*; and *Between Riverside and Crazy*, which won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for drama.



Eileen Barros/Columbia University



**Erika Irish Brown, B.S.'91** (“Advancing Diversity,” Spring 2015), joined Bloomberg, the global business and financial information and news leader, in 2015 as the global head of Diversity & Inclusion. Founded in 1981, Bloomberg delivers data, news and analytics through its financial products, including the Bloomberg Professional service and its news and media divisions, which include Bloomberg Businessweek.

Brown develops and drives the company’s global strategy and approach to diversity and inclusion in collaboration with senior management to ensure alignment with business goals. She is also active in promoting an institutional culture and inclusive environment to support diversity in all aspects of the business, including Bloomberg’s employee communities and external partnerships. Brown’s role entails significant travel to key offices in Europe, Asia and Latin America.

Bloomberg has nearly 19,000 employees in 192 locations.





# Making CULTURE POP

University at Albany alumni figure prominently among the movers and shakers shaping pop culture. Here, we profile several who are influencing the world around them, often in unconventional ways.



Photo, left, Nora Lum attends the “Bad Rap” premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival in April 2016. Above, from left: Sarah Paulson, Rihanna, Awkwafina and Sandra Bullock film a scene from “Ocean’s 8” in New York City in January.

## NORA LUM, B.A. '11 (A.K.A. AWKWAFINA) Star of Rap, TV and Film

By Steve Barnes

Seven years after graduating from the University at Albany with a degree in journalism and women’s studies, Nora Lum will be on cinema screens worldwide in one of the most anticipated movies of 2018.

The film is “Ocean’s 8,” a spinoff of the “Ocean’s Eleven” franchise of heist pictures. In this next installment, which will feature an all-female crew of thieves, Lum co-stars alongside a who’s-who of Hollywood notables, including Cate Blanchett, Anne Hathaway, Sandra Bullock and Helena Bonham Carter. Collectively, the cast has won five Academy Awards, and, adding in the honors for singer-actress Rihanna, seven Grammys.

Lum is known to a subset of music fans for her alter ego, the comedy rapper Awkwafina, who has had cult hits with a few of her cheeky music videos. Acting is relatively new for Lum: “Ocean’s 8” is just her third major movie role.

“I was cast early, thank God. I didn’t know who else was going to be in it,” says Lum, chatting on the phone early this year from New York City during a break in filming. “If I’d known, I would have been terrified.”

Lum was cast by “Ocean’s 8” director Gary Ross after he saw the unreleased indie film “Dude,” with Lum as one of a quartet of female friends who met in high school. “Dude” was written

and directed by Olivia Milch, who shares screenwriting credit on “Ocean’s 8” with Ross.

“This is probably the biggest movie I’m ever going to be in,” says Lum, now 28. “When I saw the roster of who else was in it, it was mind-blowing. I’m a huge Cate Blanchett fan, and Rihanna, too. Actually, I was nervous about meeting all of them.”

She was star-struck by her co-stars until after a get-acquainted party to kick off filming last fall. “Everyone was super chill,” she recalls. “It went from me feeling like I was around these goddesses to me saying, ‘Hi, Sandi,’ ‘Hi, Annie.’”

As Awkwafina, Lum has been playing an exaggerated version of herself – a brash, self-assured, street-wise New York City kid – for years. Though precluded by contract from saying much about the plot of “Ocean’s 8” or her part in the action, she allows that her character is again similar to herself.

“I’m not playing Amelia Earhart or anything (crazy) like that,” she says. “I’m playing someone who was written for me, so I feel very comfortable.” Any lingering intimidation of appearing in scenes opposite veterans who have starred in Shakespeare, Dickens and the “Harry Potter” movies (Bonham Carter), or channeled Katharine Hepburn in “The Aviator” (Blanchett), further dwindled when Lum was able to deploy her comedy skills.

"I made them all laugh," she says. "That made me feel good, feel like I wasn't an imposter."

Music was Lum's first love and first success. She wrote raps and recorded beats in high school and while at UAlbany. Some friends knew of her secret identity as a comedy rapper, but it wasn't anything she promoted. I taught Lum in four journalism courses and thought of her as an extraordinarily gifted young writer, one capable of packing moods, scenes, emotion, insight and intelligent wit into essays of four to five pages. When I saw her first hit video, "My Vag," which parodies a popular 2006 rap tune by Mickey Avalon, it was at least a year after she'd graduated, and I was gape-jawed with flabbergasted delight that my serious, earnest student could be so hilariously bawdy.

After inauspicious academic performance in high school — "I think I took the earth-science Regents (exam) eight times," she says — Lum found her misspent youth served her well in college.

"When I got to SUNY, I had all of that already out of my system. I had no interest in partying. I wanted to learn from all of these professors I was so intrigued by. I don't think I would have been able to be Awkwafina if I didn't go to SUNY."

"My Vag," which has more than 1.5 million views on YouTube, led to other music videos; a recurring stint as a cultural commentator on the MTV series "Girl Talk"; Awkwafina's NYC, a book about walking tours in her hometown; her own Web series; and movie roles.

"I'm finding out whether this — this comedy-music-acting thing — is what I'm going to be doing for the rest of my life," Lum says. "I used to make very soft, drippy, electronic, emo songs, but I always knew in the back of my head that if people were going to know me for anything, it would be for 'My Vag.'"

From top right: Lum is pictured in November 2016 on the "Ocean's 8" set; *Tawk with Akwafina*, her Web-video series, is currently in Season 5; a few posts from her Instagram account.

Lum still lives in New York City. She is resisting moving to Los Angeles, though she admits, "it something feels like I'm flying out there 11 times a month."

Her father, a lifelong government employee who used to urge her toward secure, public-sector jobs like meat inspector or air-traffic controller, has finally accepted her career and success.

"Now when we go out to dinner, when the check comes, he'll just look at me like, 'You got this, right?' He's definitely along for the ride," Lum says.

Steve Barnes, a senior writer for the Times Union in Albany, has taught journalism courses at UAlbany since 2007.



Steve Sanders/GC Images



ESSENCE GANT, M.S.W.'11

## Beauty and Style

By Carol Olechowski



**A**n M.S.W. degree led Essence Gant to an unusual career: as beauty editor at BuzzFeed.

Gant, who earned a bachelor's in social work at Albany State University in Georgia, pursued graduate study at UAlbany "because I love advocacy and empowering other people." Courses at both institutions "heightened my sensitivity to people and our basic human needs, like inclusion. And the endless writing that comes along with studying social work, especially in grad school, sharpened my writing skills and written voice."

At UAlbany, "I absolutely adored professors Nancy Claiborne and Robert Miller," recalls Gant. "They were so brilliant and awesome. I love teachers who encourage conversation and who approach work with an open mind. Both of them were great at that. They were challenging and very smart, but not to the point where you felt intimidated or like you couldn't approach them. I also assisted [now former] Dean [Katharine] Briar-Lawson my second semester. Being able to work under her and observe her was inspiring."

Two days after graduation, Gant became editorial assistant at Hype Hair. A few years later, she went to BlackEnterprise.

com to cover women's entrepreneurship, "but after only about six months, I started looking again because I really missed the beauty-and-style space. A friend texted me the job description for my current role, and there was no doubt in my mind that it was for me. It just felt right, so I applied, interviewed, and here I am. It'll officially be two years May 19."

Gant's favorite part of her job is "talking to people who've been left out of the conversation." She explains: "Black people have played such an instrumental role in the shaping of beauty and pop culture, but they are often erased from the narrative when the very trends that they set make it to the mainstream. I love being able to give that long-overdue credit."

As an example, Gant cites "one of my favorite posts, 'Here Are 19 Photos Of The World's Most Beautiful People.' It featured photos of everyday people, not celebrities or models, and they were all people of color."

BuzzFeed, she adds, "is such a cool place to work because I don't have to approach my job in the traditional angles style-and-beauty editors take. I encourage readers to take ownership of their hair, skin, and makeup preferences and do what makes them feel their best."

### Advice for students interested in blogging or editorial work

- "Take courses that require writing, especially creative writing, that will help you find your voice."
- "Volunteer to assist a blogger with a wide audience."
- "Network. Catch a bus to the city. I'd do this and go to media events I found online. It's how I met the blogger I'd end up interning for part time in grad school. She then recommended me for my first job."



DOUG MORTMAN, B.A.'01  
**Fan-Base Favorite**  
By Stephen Shoemaker, B.A.'02

**“Busted Open,” the radio talk show dedicated to professional wrestling on SiriusXM satellite radio, hit a milestone earlier this year: It’s finally being broadcast five days a week. But for Doug Mortman, creator and co-host, the achievement is bittersweet. After eight years behind the mic for each show, his duties as vice president of Sport and Talk Operations at the broadcast giant are relegating him to a once-a-week contributor role.**

“Go figure,” he joked. “I go from trying to get us to a big goal of ours; then when we hit that goal, I end up taking a step back from the show!”

Still, Mortman knows the new broadcast schedule is a major achievement, especially since he was skeptical when his on-air partner, Dave LaGreca, pitched the idea to him back in 2009. Up until that point, he and LaGreca had worked as producers on SiriusXM programming, not as on-air talent.

““What makes you think we’re going to get a show?”” Mortman recalls asking. ““What makes you think we’re going to sound any good on the radio? What makes you

think that we’re even going to have any chemistry?””

But the demos they taped were compelling enough to earn them a three-show trial run. The rest is history, Mortman noted. “It’s not your typical content matter. But there was a fan base for it,” he said.

“Busted Open” aired two hours one day a week, then expanded to two days, then three. It now airs five days a week. Early on, the show bounced around the channel listings until it finally landed firmly on the Rush channel.

Mortman, who graduated with a degree in rhetoric and communication, worked on the NFL channel at Sirius before the merger with XM. He said he was bitten by the pro-wrestling bug in the 1980s but traces his real roots in the sport to the so-called Attitude Era of the late ‘90s.

“Some people might take umbrage with the word ‘sport.’ I truly believe it’s a sport – it might be a scripted sport, but it’s still a sport,” Mortman said, noting the athleticism and psychological fortitude demanded of practitioners.

“If you really watch great wrestling, you see how much work goes into it,” he added.

JACOB HUDDLESTON, B.A.'06

# Reality Check

By Carol Olechowski



**Jacob Huddleston, far right, poses with “Real Housewives of New Jersey” star Teresa Giudice; her husband, Joe; and their daughters.**



Left to right: Huddleston poses with Teresa Giudice; stands with cast members at the premier party for “Money Power Respect”; and joins Melissa Gorga (“Real Housewives of New Jersey”) for a photo.

## **J**acob Huddleston “thought it would be cool to work in movies.” While he was studying communication and history at UAlbany, however, “reality TV was just becoming popular” – and he would soon find opportunities in that genre.

After completing a brief post-graduate internship with documentarian Rory Kennedy, then answering telephones for a company owned by “Saturday Night Live” producer Lorne Michaels, “my career kind of snowballed,” the Goshen, N.Y., native recalls. He was hired as post-production coordinator for Disney’s “Johnny and the Sprites” and later accepted a similar position with “Real Housewives of New Jersey” – “my first reality show.”

Huddleston let his employers know “I really wanted to be in the field, making the shows.” He got the chance to do exactly that the following season when he became associate producer. “I scheduled the women and children, took notes on the scenes we shot in the field, and cleared a lot of locations.”

“Real Housewives” is unscripted, but the plots do follow “what’s actually going on in each cast member’s life,” according to Huddleston. “A scene [might depict] a husband and wife talking about having another baby. If she has issues becoming pregnant, then we follow her to a specialist. If a friend suggests adoption, we encourage her to have the conversation and voice what she really feels about it. We put the cast into real situations and capture their real reactions and thoughts.”

Now a showrunner, Huddleston says the team-building and public-speaking skills he honed at UAlbany have furthered his career. “I have to get the cast members to open up to me, listen, and talk to me. I also oversee a team of producers and two production crews. We work 12-to-15-hour days, six days a week, for the most part. On my off day, I’m dealing with phone calls and creative concerns from various cast members. These people are on TV for a reason: They are huge personalities, and that doesn’t stop when the cameras stop rolling for the day,” explains Huddleston.

At UAlbany, he realized that “history is story-telling and reading other people’s realities from years ago. I document people’s stories. Twenty years from now, ‘Real Housewives’ will be considered a form of history, documenting our society in some way.”

Huddleston’s other projects have included “Money Power Respect,” which debuted last fall and focuses on the fast-paced lives and careers of six successful women attorneys in New York City. He also does freelance work. “Right now, I’m contracted for three months to a TLC show about a couple with 16 kids; then I have to find another show. It’s not as stable as a 9-to-5 office job, but it’s exciting. I have an agent at CAA who can get me meetings, so I’ll pitch different ideas. I made two tapes for A&E; the network didn’t buy them but liked them,” he remembers.

Asked why audiences clamor for reality programming, Huddleston responds: “One thing that makes ‘Housewives’ so appealing is that these ladies are relatable. Ensemble casts get into arguments, have good and bad days, deal with issues with their kids. Viewers relate to those things. People also watch because it’s entertaining. They tune in to the show and forget their own problems for a while.”

And why do people perform in reality shows? Huddleston surmises that virtually every cast member second-guesses the wisdom of participating in a reality show, but he adds: “I think it gives them a platform to celebrity or to business opportunities. If you want to write a book, people won’t buy it if they don’t know who you are.”

His work affords the eight-year veteran of reality TV a unique perspective on human nature. “Teresa [Giudice] went to jail for mortgage fraud. But I’m with her every day, and she’s a loving mother. When we come to her home, she’s helping her daughters with their homework, watching to see that they get picked up for practice, having breakfast with them. Deep down, these are good people.”

Since graduating in 2006 – “it seems such a long time ago” – Huddleston has enjoyed following University sports and “seeing UAlbany center stage.”

He adds: “I loved the University; it was a strong community and a great option for me. I had a great time there.”



# JERRY MILLER, B.A.'98

## Turning Point

By Stephen Shoemaker, B.A.'02

**S**napchat has been one of the most talked-about apps of the last few years, and the conversation earlier this year focused on the company's initial stock offering when it went public in March. Those who only paid casual attention, though, may equate the app with early chatter about some of the questionable and risqué ways its earliest adopters – teenagers – were making use of it.

"When you typed 'Snapchat' into a Google search two or three years ago, those were the first couple of things that might come up. And I've seen the company evolve and go through a couple evolutions now," said Jerry Miller, director of Business Recruiting at what is now Snap, Inc.

With a user base that has expanded into older demographics, its adoption among corporate and college social-media and marketing teams, and a foray into hardware with its Spectacles product, the company has come of age.

"We are without a doubt a camera company now," said Miller. And it's a camera company that allows its users to explore and cultivate their creativity in a more private way among their friends, without the obsessive polish that comes when posting to the significantly more public feeds of Facebook and Instagram.

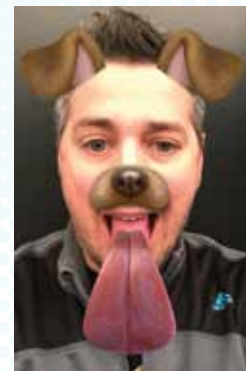
"There's no pressure with our platform. You get to be who you are," Miller commented.

Miller, who joined the company after lending his skills in talent recruitment to LinkedIn and contributing to that company's success, cites his own coming-of-age moment as a student at the University at Albany, where he majored in sociology and minored in psychology.

In need of 24 credits to graduate, he sought special permission from Sung Bok Kim, then dean of Undergraduate Studies, to take on a semester with a very heavy courseload. Fortunately, Kim saw that Miller was up for the challenge. Miller admitted that it was perhaps the first time he really buckled down in his academics.

"That was probably the most important conversation I had in college," he added. "It was the turning point, the time when I stopped being a kid, took responsibility and became an adult. And that responsibility just carried on with me through life."

Jerry Miller smiles for a photo in his office at Snap, Inc.



Left: A user can doodle on a photo and add text before sending the snap to friends.  
Above: The puppy-dog lens allows a user to add puppy characteristics to a photo. Snap is always updating its lenses.



LUCY PLACE, B.A.'10

## Meeting the Comedy Challenge

By Stephen Shoemaker, B.A.'02



**T**he premise was both thought-provoking and ripe for comedic hijacking: Pair comedienne and TV-show hostess Chelsea Handler with an expert on perception and bias, one who tours art museums to train clients in the subtle ways the subjective and objective intertwine and influence thinking.

The result is a segment that aired last year during the first season of Handler's self-titled show "Chelsea" on Netflix. And it ended up exactly the way Lucy Place, who works as a researcher on the show, envisioned it when she came up with the idea.

"I was so happy because I had found a profile of the expert, Amy Herman, in *The New York Times*; I pitched it, and Netflix loved it. And I thought the piece was so great and went off without a hitch," Place said. "It's hilarious because we all have bias, and Chelsea especially is always saying she's trying to work on that herself."

It's but one example of numerous pieces on the show where Place has left her stamp. As the seventh person hired to work on the show in 2015, Place has helped develop ideas; research the newsmakers, up-and-comers, and trendsetters who appear as guests; and pitched field pieces like the one filmed at the Broad Museum in downtown Los Angeles.

"I've been there from the beginning; it has been incredible to see the arc of the show and how it's been formed. And we're still changing it; we're still working on it," Place said. Most noticeable is a format change from three shows a week to an hour-long episode that will release on Fridays when the second season of "Chelsea" premieres this spring.

Place, who graduated with degrees in English and communication, said ideas for the show are always in development, even during the off-months. That presents some unique challenges for the staff. "It's an interesting thing, remaining topical and having the foresight to see what we're going to be talking about in June or the months ahead," she said. "And politically, that makes it a really interesting challenge, also."

Thomas Dragonette



Pictured, above and at right, are the Quakenbush Parking Garage in Albany; bottom left, Honest Weight Food Co-op's hand-lettered sign; and bottom right, a mural at SUNY Cobleskill.



MICHAEL CONLIN, B.A.'04

# Skin in the Game

By Alan Wechsler, B.A.'89

**T**he canvas was concrete, six stories tall, with horizontal stripes of beige and white. It was the Quackenbush Parking Garage in downtown Albany, visible from busy Interstate 787. Michael Conlin's challenge was to put something artistic on it.

When the owner of Conlin Studios in Albany first got the assignment to paint some sort of public mural, it would be his biggest project to date. Now 35, he credits UAlbany for getting him started in art and sending him on his current path.

Conlin, who graduated in 2004 with a degree in communications and a minor in art and education, had always been interested in art. A Long Island native, he originally planned to major in business. But it quickly became clear that his A's were coming from art and not accounting. Leona Christie, associate professor in printmaking and digital imaging, especially helped by encouraging independent studies, said Conlin, and by introducing him to professionals. These introductions helped lead to fellowships at local printing shops.

After graduating, Conlin led a double life. In Albany, where rent was cheap, he worked three long days a week delivering film for Wal-Mart. Then he headed to New York City, where he worked at a local print shop, learning his craft. He slept on friends' couches, on the workroom floor, or in Penn Station.

When he was 27, he was crossing Lark Street after a gallery showing of his work when a drunk driver struck him. He suffered serious head, neck and shoulder injuries, and it took him several years to fully recover from the accident. The injuries cost Conlin his print-shop residency and his New York City connections.

"The stuff I had been working hard for for a couple of years came to an end," he said. "It was really depressing. I had to start from square one."

Eventually, Conlin started printing T-shirts and silk-screening in Albany, and he was asked to craft a sign

for a local pub, City Beer Hall. That work led to classes at Hudson Valley Community College for graphic design, and he started a sign-painting business. Jobs started coming in – for Honest Weight Food Co-op, SUNY Cobleskill, a butcher shop, and several local retail stores.

Conlin was running a "pop-up shop" – a temporary store selling his T-shirts, artwork and other goodies – in a shipping container in a downtown Albany park when he came to the attention of the Albany Center Gallery. The gallery was working with the Albany Parking Authority on a proposed mural, although Matt Peter, executive director of the authority, said the team wasn't quite sure what image they were looking for.

"There's this great creative economy coming together [in Albany], and we wanted to be a part of it," he said. "We wanted to create a sort of welcoming message."

It was Conlin who came up with the design: bluebirds in flight. Aside from depicting the state bird, the drawing symbolized the visitors now flocking to Albany. Once known as a place that emptied out after 5 p.m., downtown Albany is now home to popular high-end apartments, as well as a busy bar and restaurant scene.

Conlin started the garage job by sketching the birds onto giant rolls of paper. He and an assistant rode a bucket loader to make chalk outlines of the drawings, using the paper as a stencil. He did the painting on his own; it took about two weeks, and at times Conlin worked up to six stories above the ground. The final piece is about 80 feet wide and three stories tall.

Today, he's discussing new projects – including more murals – with businesses and other organizations.

"I feel like I have skin in the game," Conlin said. "I'd do it again in a heartbeat."

ED MOSER, B.A.'77



# PURE Serendipity



Author Ed Moser poses for a headshot, above, left, and explores the grounds of Carlyle House in Alexandria, Va., above, right.

When he enrolled at UAlbany in the 1970s, “I was clueless about a career,” Ed Moser acknowledges. But 40 years later, he describes his career progression as “pure serendipity.”

The Alexandria, Va.-based author recalls: “I always loved history, so I took that as a major. Writing and bookworms run in my family – National Book Award winner Colum McCann is a relative – so I worked at the *ASP* as a news, feature and sports writer.” Sports editor Mike Piekarski, B.A.’77, “went on to work at the Albany *Times Union*. And a journalism professor of ours was famed Albany author William Kennedy.”

For Moser, serendipity kicked in after graduation. “I sent my best humor pieces to ‘The Tonight Show’ and was shocked when they made me a joke writer. I sent my best expository-writing pieces to the Bush 41 [George H.W. Bush] White House and was shocked when I was asked to send speech material. I went to Time-Life because the publisher was putting out an intriguing series of books on the history of espionage and sports. Around that time, I also worked for biotech firms on the human-genome project. They were looking for people who could write about science in a layman’s style.”

The transition from writing jokes and speeches to history-related writing was easy, according to Moser, because history “is what I love.” He found transitioning to “techy/computer-style writing” more difficult. “I’m the opposite of techy,” he admits.

Regardless of the style, Moser embraced “clarity and inspiration” in all of his work. He also adhered to two sage bits of advice for writers: “Write about what you know. Study the great writers.” Moser’s favorite writers include Tom Wolfe and Jonathan Swift.

Currently, Moser is completing the second volume of *The Two-Term Jinx!: Why Most Presidents Stumble in Their Second Terms, and How Some Succeed. Volume 1*, published in 2016, covers chief executives from George Washington to Theodore Roosevelt. Moser took two-and-a-half years “to get halfway through” the research and writing. He was spurred to tackle the “endlessly fascinating” subject because “people who follow presidential politics often say there’s a jinx and/or a lame-duck status for most two-term presidents. I decided to do the research to see if this is true. It is.” Volume 2 will focus

on presidents “from Woodrow Wilson through the election of 2016,” Moser adds.

Of the presidents featured in the first volume of *The Two-Term Jinx!* Moser cites Grover Cleveland as “a well-regarded chief executive who bore no responsibility for the woes of his second term, because there had been a four-year hiatus between his first and second terms. So the severe economic recession that occurred throughout his second term [1893-97] and destroyed his popularity was much more the fault of his predecessor, Benjamin Harrison, or of chance.”

On the other hand, Moser concedes, “maybe the worst mistakes presidents can make are unforced errors. Jefferson, who had a terrific first term – the Louisiana Purchase, Lewis & Clark, peace and prosperity – had an awful final year due to a trade embargo he imposed on foreign countries against his advisers’ counsel, and really against his own philosophy. It led to a severe economic downturn.

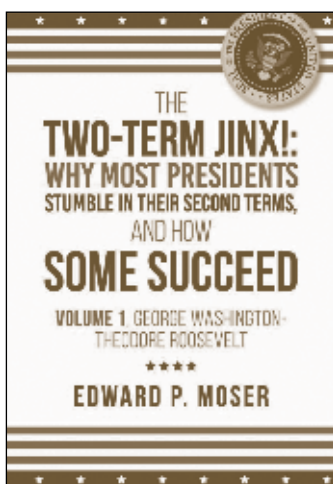
“As he left office for the solace of Monticello, Jefferson no doubt recalled a quote of his own: ‘No one leaves this office with the reputation he had on entering it.’”

Despite the tumult that attended the 2016 campaign, the election, and the inauguration of Donald J. Trump, that presidential race was hardly the most disputatious in U.S. history, Moser contends.

“In 1800, Thomas Jefferson’s vice-presidential pick, Aaron Burr of New York, tried to steal the election from his own running mate. Jefferson became president despite 30 deadlocked Electoral College ballots when his chief rival, Alexander Hamilton, decided to back him. Hamilton hated Burr, who later killed him, even more than he hated Jefferson. Now that’s wild!”

And while “the country is as divided as it’s been since the ’60s – the 1960s and the 1860s,” Moser says – the 1860 contest was also more contentious than 2016’s. “There were four big political parties, and the Democratic Party split in two with the larger faction forming the Confederacy. And the relatively unknown Republican Party won with Abe Lincoln.”

If Moser could offer any advice to the current chief executive, it would be this: “Tweet less and focus on a few big issues. The window that presidents [are allowed] to achieve some big-ticket items is small.”



Above: Part 1 published in 2016 and he is working on Part II

# the Carillon

Alumni News & Notes

1948

**Donald Sayles** still lives by Great Sacandaga Lake in New York. He stays active caring for his property and still drives. He visits the Schenectady-Burnt Hills area on Thursdays and sees his two sons often. **Eleanor Alland** expects her first great-grandchild in May. She met **Helen Kiesel Schick**'s nephew, Don Kiesel '66, at Homecoming. Don provided Helen's contact information, and Eleanor caught up with her over the phone. Eleanor keeps in touch with **Adrienne Lorio Caruso**. **Gari Patcopoulos** lives in Florida, drives her own car and is active in her church. She visited family in Albany in Dec. Gari enjoyed a visit with family from Shanghai and the chance to see her great-grandson, who was baptized while she was in Albany. Gari talked to **Julie Genovesi Fassett** of Cherry Valley, N.Y. Julie is doing well and loves spending time with her five children and six grandchildren. Gari keeps in touch with **Ruth Doran** of Baldwinsville, N.Y. **Sheila Digney** now lives at Prestwick Chase in Saratoga Springs.

*Class notes counselor: Eleanor Holbig Alland, ealland214b@nycap.rr.com*

1949

Your class councilor is happy to report that several classmates – **Russell Bailey, Robertson Baker, Jack Kirby, Bob Kloepfel, Jake Schuhle, and Dick Zeller** – can now be classified as nonagenarians. Bob Kloepfel, former math teacher, reported his age as “10 squared minus 3 squared.” **Jerry Dunn** and wife Shirley enjoyed a family gathering in Cape Cod in 2015. Nine of Jerry's grandchildren cannot always attend family gatherings as they've graduated from college and have jobs. Jerry and Shirley were blessed with their first great-grandchild in March 2016. **Ursula Neuhaus Schiff** enjoyed a visit from her son, Robert,

at Thanksgiving. She was planning to go on a Caribbean cruise in March. **Bob Kaiser** and wife Mary Anne traveled from their home in Scottsdale, Ariz., to Lake St. Catherine, Vt., to spend time with their son. They visited **Joe Zanchelli** and Joyce Zanchelli '52 in Saratoga Springs. **“Freddy” Laemmerzahl Miller**'s daughter, Erica, was asked to give a lecture in Sweden on her experiences in American wildlife rehabilitation. The 5.0 earthquake that occurred near Stillwater, Okla., did not damage Freddy's property. She flew to Newark, Del., to visit her daughter and on Thanksgiving Day, they drove to Gainesville, Va., to celebrate with her brother and several family members. While in the area, Freddy visited the Holocaust Museum. **Bonnie Totten Adkins** and husband Lee are busy, as usual. During the summer and fall, Lee officiated two grandsons' weddings, one on an island at Saranac Lake and one on the shore of Sacandaga Lake. Oct. was a busy month for Bonnie and Lee. They enjoyed lunch with **Joe and Joyce Zanchelli**, and traveled to Tulsa, Okla. to celebrate the wedding and graduation ceremonies of their Bosnian friend, Namik, who was their translator when they were on a mission trip several years ago. Bonnie and Lee spent Thanksgiving with Lee's family in Charlton, N.Y. **Anne Sulich Raser** had a great family reunion at Disneyland in Anaheim, Calif. Her 3-year-old great-grandson, Maxx, received autographs from Disney characters. **Elsa Moberg Cox** says she is finally beginning to feel her age. She was diagnosed with cancer in Oct. One of her daughters is a physical therapist and helped Elsa recover at home following lumpectomy surgery. Elsa's other daughter, Britta, traveled to England to spend time with her daughter, who is attending

Pepperdine Law School. Elsa is still active in the Presbyterian Church. After a series of surgeries and falls, **Ruth Leier Fishburn** moved from her home in Kissimmee, Fla., to an assisted-living facility near her son's residence in East Texas. Ruth's husband, who retired from Xerox, passed away in 2007. In addition to her son and family in Texas, Ruth has a son and family in New Jersey, and one grandson, the child of deceased daughter Rachel, in New Hampshire. Ruth stays in touch with **Doris Hoeninge Andersen**, who lives in Grand Rapids, Mich. **Bob Kittredge** reports that he and Diana are blessed to be in good health, still driving, and active in their community. Bob serves on the board and program committee of his Rotary Club and attends a semi-weekly tai chi class. As member of the Senior Dog Squad at his senior residence facility, Bob still performs with the Fresno State cheerleading squad at football and basketball games. He serves food to the homeless at Poverello House in Fresno and is involved with food distribution and other support in a nearby low-income neighborhood. Diana is also very active in several community projects. The Kittredges never seem to slow down! As members of the UAlbany Alumni Association Arts and Culture Committee, **Joe Zanchelli** and Joyce attended the retirement dinner for former UAlbany Art Museum Director Janet Riker. They celebrated 65 years of marriage in June and enjoyed a week's worth of activities in Chesapeake Bay with family. Joe and Joyce will attend their grandson Michael's wedding in Washington, D.C., this May.

*Class notes councilor: Joe Zanchelli, jzanch@yahoo.com*

## 1950

**Irwin Baumel** is "in pretty good shape" at 92. He is in the process of selling his business and home. Irwin and wife Elise are moving to a retirement community in Southern California. **Elise DeSeve Brown** is being cared for for various health issues at home. **Florence Blasko Foster** misses Albany friends who've passed on, like **Earline Ken Thompson Sorensen**, who was very healthy most of her life until the onset of a brain tumor. Florence is doing well with the help of her three children. **Lila Lee Silva Harrington** enjoyed the NYC Ballet and the Philadelphia Orchestra this summer at Saratoga Performing Arts Center's 50th Anniversary. In Aug., she visited family in Vermont and New Hampshire; she also enjoyed sight-seeing along the Maine coast. In Sept., Lila celebrated the National Park Service Centennial. She drove to Acadia National Park, and enjoyed a boat trip on the Sea Princess with a stopover on Little Cranberry Island. Lila keeps in touch with **Maggie Hosking Winne** and **Jeanne Bowen Walsh Gardner**. Lila sees Joe Zanchelli '49 and Joyce Zanchelli '52 at a monthly luncheon. She spent two weeks with Leslie and family in Scottsdale, Ariz., in Jan.. **Audrey Hartman White** was very excited about The Ohio State University football season. She visited family in Salt Lake City, New York City, and Orlando, and stayed at Disney's Boardwalk with **Elly Rapacz**. Audrey's granddaughter from Wooster, Ohio just had a second daughter. Two of Audrey's grandchildren relocated to Houston from Florida. Her grandson Sean is a student at Baylor Medical School. **Basil Karpiak** sent a photo of the golf course he built and operated, then sold to the CEO of an organization that teaches dynamic farming. He sent photos of his son, Basil, Jr.; wife; and granddaughter, who live in Norwich, Conn. Basil served as property assessor and chairman of the zoning board, Town of Gallatin, N.Y. He also served as a library trustee and president in Bethpage, Long Island. A golf course Basil designed and built is still operating next to the Columbia County Airport. He remembers a luncheon in Albany when **Len Skolnik** questioned a comment Sparky made ("Where did you get that from?" "I made it up."). **Edythe Kelleher Van Antwerp Colton** of New Bern, N.C., wished everyone a happy holiday season. Her husband, Hank, passed away in 2012. Edythe stays busy playing golf and bridge and doing volunteer work. **Mary Ann Watson**, daughter of **Rosemary Lessard Watson** and Richard Watson '51, informed us that her mother passed away in July 2016. Richard passed away in 2003. **Ruth Marshner Boynton** has three great-grandchildren. Contact your class councilor for Ruth's mailing address. **Rhoda Riber Mones** and Mel moved to



## A Message from Lee Serravillo

Executive Director, UAlbany Alumni Association

### An Emphasis on Career-Focused Relationships

**W**hat steps did you take to get where you are in your career? How did your UAlbany experience guide your path? Students and many of your fellow alumni are seeking career advice, and they want to hear from you: the UAlbany graduate who has walked in their shoes.

This year, the University at Albany is strengthening efforts in providing opportunities for students to seek career guidance by connecting with alumni. The Alumni Association recognized the needs of alumni and students, and is dedicating more resources to help fulfill their career objectives. This renewed focus on career development and networking has inspired a number of professional panel discussions and programs including "How to Network the Right Way," a panel-and-practice event designed for students and led by well-networked alumni in the Albany area. This spring, Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) will gain insight from alums who've succeeded through strong personal branding, and Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) alumni in the Metro New York area will discuss how they can pay their success forward to current UAlbany EOP students.

The Alumni Association is currently in its fifth year of providing the UAlbany Career Advisory Network (UCAN), made up of 1,500+ alumni volunteers who are passionate about their careers and want to give back by offering advice. If you're unable to attend an event in person, UCAN is the perfect resource to make a difference no matter where you are. The sign-up process is simple, and your role as an adviser requires minimal time commitment. As a UCAN adviser, you'll be contributing to one of the University's top initiatives in growing student-retention rates and successful graduate-to-career transitions.



**UCAN make a difference.**

**Start now: [www.alumni.albany.edu/UCAN](http://www.alumni.albany.edu/UCAN).**

**View upcoming career panels and networking events:  
[www.alumni.albany.edu/events](http://www.alumni.albany.edu/events).**

# Alumni News & Notes

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APR

29

Alumni Excellence Awards Gala

MAY

4

Craft Beverage Night, Albany

JUNE

9, 10

Kappa Delta Sorority 120th Anniversary

10

Kappa Beta 80th Anniversary

14

Alumni Reception at Hearst Tower, NYC

14

Class of 1960 Reunion

23

GOLD Cruise, Capital Region

JULY

17

Night at the ValleyCats

28

Day at the Races

AUG

15

Albany Alumni Night at the Yankees, NYC

SEPT

9

NYC GOLD Schmooze

15, 16, 17

Class of 1952 65th Reunion

OCT

20-22

Homecoming

[www.alumni.albany.edu](http://www.alumni.albany.edu)

San Diego after retiring from positions in the Kingston, N.Y., area, where they were both born and raised. Rhoda worked as an adjunct faculty member at San Diego State University and Miramar College; Mel worked as a pharmacy consultant for a long-term health-care facility. They took a second retirement about 10 years ago. Both are 86 and using canes. They no longer travel to visit their two sons, but their sons enjoy visiting San Diego. Rhoda and Mel still play bridge and say that, all in all, they're doing well. **Malcolm Slakter** and wife Nancy are enjoying life in Hawaii. They keep in touch with children and grandchildren through FaceTime, text messages, and email. Their younger son and his oldest daughter visited in Dec. 2016; his older son and wife visited this past February. **Kay Stalker George** married Hollis George in 1950. She has a daughter, two grandchildren, and twin great-grandsons. Kay worked

as a legal secretary, a lab secretary, and a first-grade teacher. She retired in 1986 and started volunteering with Job Corps through the Delmar Progress Club, a community organization. "I have been so blessed with family, friends, and good health," Kay wrote. When **Harold "Sparky" Vaughn's** "large and very political" family gathered together for Thanksgiving, "never was heard a discouraging word." In Sept., family gathered in Manlius, N.Y., to celebrate Sparky's 90th birthday. While in Manlius, he met with the associate provost who has the same responsibilities Sparky once held at Syracuse University. Sparky devotes a lot of time to anti-human-trafficking activities, especially in Thailand and Lao PDR. He has 14 great-grandchildren. **Peg Vonada Gittus** of Peoria, Ariz., is widowed twice. She has four married daughters, 10 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren, and now lives at Freedom Plaza, a Brookdale Retirement

Community. **Shirley Wiltse Dunn**, 88, does not take any medication except vitamins. She married Jerry Dunn after college, then taught for two years at Bethlehem Central High School. The Duns moved to Baltimore, where Shirley taught all girls and older students without high school diplomas. She and Jerry have four children, nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild. They live in a ranch house in East Greenbush, N.Y. Since retiring, Shirley has written several books about the Mohican Indians who lived in the area and a book about the Fort Crailo Historic Site. She has given several talks on the old building. Jerry is doing fine and still plays golf. **Renee Harris Barger** of Huntington Beach, Calif., lost her husband of 50 years and moved to a nearby senior-adult community. "Every morning, I count my blessings. I'm in such a great place with loads of activities, beautiful, big trees and grass, and wonderful, friendly folks all around me." Renee keeps in touch with **Rhoda Riber Mones** and notes that all is well there.

*Class notes councilor: Harold "Sparky" Vaughn, [vaughnha@aol.com](mailto:vaughnha@aol.com)*

1952

**Nancy Frey Pettinelli** plans to sell her house in Brewerton and move to Missouri to be near her oldest son. Her friend Jane Cook Kealing '51 has family nearby, and Nancy is looking forward to renewing their friendship. Nancy's sons, grandsons and granddaughter are all involved in sports. **Vickie Eade Eddy** is very proud of her accomplished family. "I am blessed with five wonderful children and their spouses, and 12 grandchildren." She enjoys running and biking. Vickie celebrated her 85th birthday with family in Niagara-on-the-Lake last summer. She taught for more than 25 years at Olean Business School. **Tom Holman** has spent many winters in his favorite hotel on St. Maarten. The location is now even more special: His grand-nephew proposed to his girlfriend during a luncheon Tom coordinated. **Kitty Kloser Irons** and husband Marty went on a riverboat cruise in Germany and Austria. One granddaughter has returned from Peace Corps work in Africa. A second granddaughter is now

# REUNIONS

## SUMMER 2017

JUNE 9-10  
**Kappa Delta Sorority's**  
**120th Anniversary**

JUNE 10  
**Kappa Beta Fraternity's**  
**80th Anniversary Celebration**

JUNE 14  
**Class of 1960 Yellow Jackets**  
**57th-Year Anniversary**  
*\*Classes of 1958-1963 are also invited to attend*

SEPT. 15-17  
**Class of 1952 Yellow Jackets**  
**65th-Year Anniversary**



working in the Green Mountain College Admissions Office in Vermont. Their third granddaughter followed in the footsteps of her sisters and enrolled at St. Michael's College. Kitty is in two quilting groups and a book discussion group; she also attends the theater and plays bridge. **Madeline Weitlof Huchro** is in the process of selling her Florida home and moving closer to her son in Charlotte, N.C. She will live in Carmel Place, which provides all the amenities she needs. Best of luck, Madeline! A red oak tree was planted on the Carroll University campus in **Al Stephenson's** honor. Al spent a couple of months in Florida this winter. **Maureen David Mullin** volunteers in her community as a tutor. She will serve as a docent in the famous Santa Barbara, Calif., courthouse. Maureen is taking language lessons to prepare for a trip to Germany, where she will visit friends that she and her husband exchanged homes with for many years. She hopes to make a trip to Albany; Maureen shares many memories of SUNY Albany with her son and daughter-in-law, who teach at the University of Santa Barbara. **Jane Minckler Jennings** attended her grandson's wedding at the Glen Sanders Mansion in Nov. with her daughters Shirla and Pam, her son from Virginia, and the mother of the groom. **Jeanne Seymour Earle** works at the library two days a week and takes in an occasional Broadway show. She is looking forward to visiting **Joan Bennett Kelly** and **Maureen Davis Mullin** in the spring. Jeanne says, "My calf's valve seems to be operating according to schedule and my general health is fine." **Helen Pilcher Terrill** lives in Midlothian, Va., with her daughter, Ann, and son-in-law, Doug Roberts. She enjoys quilting pieces for her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, doing yard work, and attending church. Helen cares for her friends at Day Breaks Activity Center. Her dementia has progressed; it is difficult for her to remember nouns and communicate sentences, but she enjoys being with family. **Shirley Feinstein Rosenbaum** plays violin in the community orchestra and cross-country skis. She is a member of the League of Women Voters and two book clubs. Both grandchildren are in the Kentucky Youth Orchestra and take fencing and karate classes. Her grandson Benjamin celebrated his Bar Mitzvah in May. **Joyce Leavitt Zanchelli** and Joe Zanchelli



Alumni and friends gathered in the SEFCU parking lot for an afternoon of tailgating before the Homecoming game.

'49 celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with a week of activities on Chesapeake Bay. Joyce still serves as docent for the Yaddo Garden Association and is a board member. She participates in a book club, plans Young at Heart Adults (YAHA) programs and holds several responsibilities at church. Joyce is currently planning the Class of '52 reunion, which will be held Sept. 15-17, 2017.

*Class notes counselor: Joyce Zanchelli, jzanch@yahoo.com*

## 1953

Hello, Red Devils! It's hard even to imagine, but June marks 64 years since we became graduates of State! In our hearts (but not in our mirrors), we are still those students who entered State in the fall of 1949. **Jordine Skoff VonWantoch** planned to visit her daughter, Lian, and celebrate New Year's in Melbourne, Australia. Lian's home was significantly damaged during an earthquake in Nov., but Lian was unharmed. **Doug Nielson** and wife Gail have been married 56 years. They visit great-granddaughters nearby. They're very happy that all four of their children live in New York. One of their granddaughters is teaching English in Beijing and taking Chinese lessons. Doug has good memories from State and explained how he loved classes taught by Harry Price. **Gary LaGrange** updated your class counselor via Facebook. He and his friend, Milan, live in Oceanside, Calif. Gary spent a few months in San Diego, where he had served in the Navy.

His three children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren live in Texas. Gary commented that being retired allows little time to travel. He had cancer surgery and believes he is okay now. **Howie Fenenbock** and his wife celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary. Howie volunteers and visits his client weekly. He plays bridge and poker. This spring, **Millie Foote Sheerin** and husband Jim are visiting Florida for a third time with **Joan Allen Balfe** and her husband, Art. All seven of Millie's children and their families attended a reunion on Cape Cod last summer. Millie is the grandmother of 17 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. She and Jim recently acted in the Abbott and Costello skit, "Who's on First," as part of a talent show. Millie is involved in community theatre and recently played a comical dowager in "Leading Ladies." A month after her

performance, Millie fell down a flight of stairs and broke 13 bones, including pelvis, back, hip, and shoulder. She was nearly fully recovered six months later. Millie says she's doing "pretty good for 85!" **Irene Brezinsky McDonald** was sad to report that Dan, her husband of 61 years, died last Oct. He was 89 and suffered from glaucoma. His love for music was honored at his memorial Mass, which ended with Beethoven's "Ode to Joy." Irene and her three children are focusing on all their joyous times and blessings. **Owen Smith**, 85, is enjoying life, marriage, classical music and being a sexton at his church. His daughter, Claire, is retiring from the European Union Commission. His grandson, Owen, has "retired" from Facebook at the age of 28. **Evi Iglauer** is an administrative law judge in New York City. She spends most weekends with her sister at a



Members of the Class of '53 put on the show *Blue Horizons* during Rivalry in their freshman year at NYSCT.

# Alumni News & Notes

condo on the water in Long Island. Evi enjoyed a Mediterranean cruise from Malta to Nice last Sept. She tries to go swimming and snorkeling every winter. Evi stays in touch with **Lita Krumholz Braunstein** and **Peppy Mintzer Sanders**; both are doing well. **Elva (Ellie) Purpura Ferris** has four sons, four grandsons, two granddaughters, and now, a great-grandson. Jet David, her granddaughter's son, was born last Nov. Her oldest grandson is a flight engineer in the Air Force; the next oldest graduated from Clarkson last year and is a civil engineer. The third grandson is in his second year of college, and the fourth is in sixth grade. Ellie's husband of 52 years passed away in 2012. She lives in an

apartment attached to the new home her son and daughter built on the former military base in Plattsburgh, N.Y. **Marlene Southard Fleming** had an accident six years ago; the injuries have kept her at home since then. Her son lives with her, as she is limited in what she can do. Marlene keeps busy knitting for charity and for friends, and reads often. Her daughter Ann died of pancreatic cancer two years ago. Marlene visits with **Tilly Malouf Hecox** when she is in Utica, N.Y., for appointments. She would like to reconnect with **Sally Swanson**. **Louise Petfield Burns** of Colorado enjoys views of Pikes Peak and the mountains every time she leaves her home. She visited her three

daughters in Massachusetts and New Hampshire last fall, and her brother in Rhinebeck, N.Y., for the first time in five years. Louise and her youngest daughter visited the cemetery where her parents and paternal grandparents are buried. They had a "truly hilarious time" trying to do gravestone rubbings. Louise stays busy with church choir, playing piano for a senior group, and Bible studies, and helps to provide free meals to families and the homeless in Colorado Springs. She often reflects on the plays and musicals she participated in during her college days. **Madelon Avallone Knoerzer** and husband Frederic Knoerzer '51 went to the same high school in Valley Stream, Long Island. They married

on his graduation day from NYSCT. The Korean Conflict was going on, and Fred volunteered for induction after receiving his master's degree. When Madelon graduated, she taught fourth grade in the Antilles School in Puerto Rico. Fred taught English to Puerto Rican soldiers. He passed away at age 73. Madelon has five children, all college graduates. She has six grandchildren, and a great-grandchild on the way. She served as a director of religious education in the Freeport Unitarian Church, where she and Fred started a theater group. They directed and acted in plays thanks to their education at State. (Miss Futterer was their very beloved mentor in theater.) Professor Catherine

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

## EXCELLENCE AWARDS

*Gala*



The University at Albany Alumni Association will bestow Excellence Awards on the following alumni and friends for their outstanding achievements and service. The awards will be presented at the 2017 Excellence Awards Gala April 29.

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



Honors an alumnus or alumna for an extraordinary achievement; or honors an individual who, over the course of a decade or more, has exemplified outstanding success in a chosen profession or outstanding service to society

**Dr. Lawrence A. Gordon, B.S. '66, M.B.A. '67, EY Alumni Professor of Managerial Accounting and Information Assurance, University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business**

### CITIZEN OF THE UNIVERSITY

Recognizes a non-graduate's outstanding contributions of service, leadership or a special gift to the University

**William Kennedy, Novelist; Founder, NYS Writers Institute**



Judy Sanders



### OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

Recognizes early outstanding achievements in a chosen profession or field and/or service to the community by an alumnus or alumna aged 35 years or younger

**Honorable Dorcey Applry, M.P.H. '05, DrPH '14, City of Albany Common Council Member and Excelsior College School of Health Services Faculty Program Director**

### INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Recognizes international graduates who are highly distinguished in their professions and who have helped their nations and/or the world through outstanding contributions to government, science, art, education, business or human welfare

**Bushra Rahim, Ph.D. '15, Deputy Director, Ministry of Local Government & Rural Development, Khyber Pakhtukhwa, Pakistan**



Peltz also influenced Madelon as a teacher. Madelon considers her years at NYSCT a highlight of her life and a great influence on who she is today. **Peggy Smith Stafford** lives with her daughter and has a great group of caregivers. She saw all of her children and almost all of her grandchildren at her 85th-birthday celebration. Peggy no longer travels. **Hazel Jones Black** of Remsen, N.Y., taught two years before she met and married a young serviceman named Herb Black. Herb was in the Navy and they traveled a great deal. After he retired, they visited all 50 states, all Central American countries, all the provinces of Canada, and many European countries. Herb passed away one year ago while riding

a motorcycle. Hazel enjoys sewing and volunteering. Her son lives in Syracuse, and her daughter lives in Mississippi. **Ray Gibb of Webster**, N.Y., enlisted in the Army following graduation from NYSCT. He served his last year in Korea (1955-56) and worked in the inhalation-toxicology research field at the University of Rochester Medical Center, where he received a master of science in radiation biology. He retired in 2001. Ray and wife Judy reside in Cherry Ridge, a senior-living community. **Rosie Hughes** still volunteers at the library. She helps people with their genealogical research, writes a blog about coping with widowhood, and enjoys time with family. Rosie recently

joined a book club; she also attends a weekly meditation group and goes on a monthly "adventure" with two of her nieces (past trips include museums, a casino, and a five-and-dime store). Rosie enjoyed lunch with **Hank Koszewski** while he was on the Mainland. He is still "high energy" and "charming"! Your class councilor reminds you that the Class of '53 has a Facebook page: SUNY Albany Class of 1953. Please contact Rosie if you would like a digital class directory and/or would like to share news for the next magazine.

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

## 1954

**Sally Gerig MacLachlan** lives at Beverwyck Retirement Community in Slingerlands, N.Y., and enjoys the community's amenities and her friendships with fellow residents. She still drives, and her status as an Albany Camp of Gideons member and officer has kept her in the Albany area rather than in Binghamton, where family resides. Sally vacationed with her daughter on Cape Cod Bay. They've visited annually for over 50 years. She is very active in church and belongs to the Women of Wisdom group. **John** and **Rose Mary Zongrone** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with family and friends last April. Three

### EXCELLENCE IN ALUMNI SERVICE

Recognizes sustained leadership and service to the Alumni Association and the University by alumni

**William J. McCann Jr., B.A. '86, M.S. '87, Special Deputy Counsel, New York State Board of Elections**



### EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS

Pays tribute to alumni for distinction in for-profit business

**David A. Buzen, B.S. '81, Senior Managing Director, Assured Guaranty Ltd.**



### EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Honors alumni for extraordinary distinction in the field of education, including pre-K through post-secondary classroom teaching, school services and administration/supervision

**Maritza Martinez, M.S.W. '83, Assistant Dean/Director, Educational Opportunities Program**



### EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Pays tribute to alumni for distinction in science and/or technology

**V. "Ram" Ramaswamy, Ph.D. '82, Director, Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**



### EXCELLENCE IN ARTS & LETTERS

Celebrates alumni for outstanding achievements in music, literature and language, visual arts or performing arts

**Marc Guggenheim, B.A. '92, Writer/Producer**



### BERTHA E. BRIMMER MEDAL

Celebrates alumni for excellence in teaching K-12 and for dedication to their profession

**Rosemary Leva Evaul, M.A. '68, Former High School English and Drama Teacher, Producer of Masque & Mime Society**



### EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

Pays tribute to alumni for time volunteered to benefit a community or its non-profit institutions



**Melanie Gray, B.A. '78, Partner, Winston & Strawn LLP**

### EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Recognizes alumni for outstanding contributions to local, state or national communities, generally, but not exclusively, through opportunities in appointed or elected office or public-service non-profit organizations

**Lee Zeldin, B.A. '01, U.S. Congressman, New York's First Congressional District**



**Denis Murphy, B.S. '84, M.S. '86, and Lynda Murphy, B.S. '83, M.S. '85, Founders, Friends of Jaclyn Foundation**

### MAKE YOUR NOMINATION FOR 2018:

If you are interested in nominating someone for a 2018 Excellence Award, contact the Alumni Association at (518) 442-3080 or email [alumniassociation@albany.edu](mailto:alumniassociation@albany.edu). The deadline is Oct. 13, 2017. Visit [www.alumni.albany.edu/awards](http://www.alumni.albany.edu/awards) for more details.

# Alumni News & Notes



Members of the Class of '66 were inducted into the Half-Century Club at Homecoming.

LILIANA HERNANDEZ, M.S.W., M.P.P. '09

## The Key to Success

By Stephanie Snyder

With over 10 years working in child welfare under her belt, Liliana Hernandez understands the difficulties most children in kinship or foster care face in higher education. While attending graduate school at the University at Albany – where she earned dual master's degrees in public policy and social work – Hernandez interned at the New York State Office of Children and Family Services and helped young adults recently aged out of foster care apply for financial assistance to attend college. In researching her master's thesis, Hernandez discovered a strong need for services that help students in kinship or foster care transition to, and succeed in, college. She is focusing her efforts on improving the college experience for this specific demographic by establishing an endowment known as the *Kinship Education for Youth to Succeed (KEYS) Scholarship* at UAlbany.

The purpose of the *KEYS Scholarship* is to help cover the financial gap between cost of attendance and any other financial assistance qualified student(s) may already be receiving. Hernandez is working closely with UAlbany's Educational Opportunities Program (EOP) to establish the scholarship. "Most young people in foster or kinship care would likely qualify for EOP, which they may not even be aware of," added Hernandez.

Hernandez serves as program specialist, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. She focuses on improving child welfare practices in kinship care and promoting the educational outcomes for transition-age youth. "I want to see all children from kinship or foster care succeed in college and go on to become leaders in their community," said Hernandez. She would like to see the addition of a full-service success program geared specifically toward college students from kinship care or foster care. "If we can do this at UAlbany, we may be able to across the whole SUNY system."

To learn more about Hernandez's efforts, visit [www.albany.edu/giving/KEYS](http://www.albany.edu/giving/KEYS).



grandchildren graduated from college. First great-grandchild Brody was born in November 2015 in Arizona, and second great-grandson Niko was born in Aug. in Washington State. John and Rose Mary visited both great-grandchildren last fall.

**John Cooper** and wife Terry went on a cruise through the Panama Canal with stops in the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico. They visited Quebec City and enjoyed a voyage down the Saint Lawrence River with stops in Nova Scotia, New England, Cape Canaveral and the Space Center. **Mary Ann Frascatore Corsi** and Carmen of Montclair, N.J., enjoy weekends at their New York City apartment. They spent a month in Naples, Fla., last winter and celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with family on the Amalfi coast. Their children are doing well. Their first grandchild is getting married next year. Mary Ann and Carmen are planning a family river cruise. They maintain good health by going to the YMCA. **Art Stone** of Montauk, N.Y., spends most of his time writing novels. He published his first novel, *New York City is Closed*. Art and his wife are in good health. His daughter is engaged, and his son manages an Internet radio station in Kansas. Peter McManus; **John Centra**; John's wife, Nancy; and friends went on a Panama Canal cruise. They visited Colombia, Costa Rica, Aruba and Jamaica, and enjoyed river rafting and ziplining. For a little while, "they were all young again!" **Anne Sichel** and husband Marty live at North Hill, a senior-living community in Needham, Mass. Their home features nice apartments, friendly residents and staff, delicious meals (and a pastry chef!). They stay healthy swimming and walking, and enjoy attending movies, lectures and live performances by Boston-area musicians. Their sons are doing well: David is field services coordinator for the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, Peter is a software engineering manager in Rhode Island, and Dan is an economics professor at Wellesley College. **Jim Thompson** and wife Carol had a fairly quiet year. They spent summer at Tupper Lake, N.Y. They have lunch with **Bill Floyd** in Albany once a month. Two grandsons

are in the military: James Thompson IV qualified for Army Ranger training at Fort Benning, Ga.; Sam is a Navy swiftboat team member stationed in San Diego. Retired Navy Capt. Scott Thompson '91 is a lawyer for the Department of Defense in Washington, D.C., and lives in Virginia. **Donald Voellinger** is recovering from a broken hip. Otherwise, he couldn't be better and is enjoying retirement in New York City and Cape Cod.

**Corinne Moxham** and husband Rodger are doing well. Rodger is moving slower and no longer plays golf. Corinne works out several times a week. They spent Thanksgiving with their daughter in Florida. One of her sons is a doctoral student at the University of Florida, where he teaches anthropology. Corinne and Rodger spent Christmas at their oldest son's North Carolina home. They were joined by their youngest son and his family.

**Arline Lacy Wood** and husband George moved to a senior residence in Millbrook, N.Y., after living in Yonkers 56 years. **Naoshi Koriyama's** poem "Unfolding Bud" was reprinted in a high-school textbook in Australia. The poem first appeared in *The Christian Science Monitor* in 1957.

**Audrey Cahill Silveri** spent winter in Ogunquit, Maine. She is retired from her position as director of the nursing program at Anna Maria College, Paxton, Mass. She has 10 grandchildren ranging in age from 31 to three, and most are living in New England. Audrey enjoys volunteering as a host at a railroad station in Wells, Maine. She says it's interesting and "there's something new every day!" She met up with Albany State roommate **Inez Mallory Parker** in Florida a few years ago. **Beverly Brousseau** celebrated the arrival of her second great-granddaughter last April. **John Allasio** and wife Margaret Allasio '55 celebrated the birth of their third great-grandchild, John David, last April. Their lives have slowed down quite a bit, and they don't travel much anymore. John enjoys golfing and bowling and is still looking for his first hole-in-one and 300 game.

**Pat Byrne Manning** spent time on a working farm in Tuscany and visited Venice, Assisi, Orvieto, Sorrento, and Rome. She was there for the closing of the Holy Door at the end of the Jubilee Year of Mercy and visited many 'pilgrim' sites.

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

## 1955

**Mary-Eileen "Mimi" Doan Finley** died in March 2015. She taught English and business writing in Rochester-area schools for over 55 years. Mimi is survived by a daughter, Sarah, and son, John. **Nancy Bush** published her second e-book, *The Buddha in Hell and Other Alarms: Distressing Near-Death Experiences in Perspective*. She has also published *Distressing Visionary Events: What to do when you're there in the room, a handbook for nurses and EMT personnel*. These works were preceded by her ground-breaking study, *Dancing Past the Dark*. All are available on amazon.com.

*Class notes counselor: John Orser, xiety3jo@hotmail.com*

## 1957

**Dom DeCecco** marked two trips off his bucket list. He toured Ireland during St. Patrick's Day, Easter Week and the commemoration of the uprising last spring. He spent time in Northern Greece, Albania

and Macedonia last fall, and found Albania to be modern, vibrant, clean and friendly. This spring, he plans to cruise the Adriatic and ports of eastern Italy from Venice to Malta. **Carole Rising Martin** attended a family reunion in Maine last summer. She celebrated her birthday on a family trip to Disney's Animal Kingdom in Aug. **Marilyn DeSanta DeLorenzo** and Marilyn Lynch Causey '58 traveled to France and Italy in Aug. They stayed with **Marcia Lawrence Gauquie** and **John Gauquie**, and saw **Diane Lynch** while visiting Wappingers Falls, N.Y., in Oct. Marilyn also visited the Olana State Historic Site in Hudson, N.Y., the Biltmore Estate in Hyde Park, and West Point. **Sheila Lister Bamberger** and husband Hank toured Iceland last summer. Sheila invites all Class of '57 members to submit class notes for the next magazine. Please make plans to celebrate our 60th-Year Reunion at Homecoming 2017 this Oct.

*Class notes counselor: Sheila Lister Bamberger, hsbamb@verizon.net*

## 1960

Our class is planning a casual "mini-reunion" Wednesday, June 14, 2017, 1 p.m. at Provence restaurant in Stuyvesant Plaza, Albany. Each individual may order from the menu and pay his or her own check. We hope you'll attend. Friends and members of other classes are invited to join us. In 2012, **David Feldman** moved from Syracuse to Kendal at Longwood retirement community outside Philadelphia. He is active in the community's theater group. His play "Sitting Quietly Doing Nothing Spring Comes and the Grass Grows" was presented at Kendal last year. The play previously was produced at Manhattan's Playformers. "Falling for You," "Steinberg," and "The Fifty Year Game of Gin Rummy" have all been performed at Kendal. David traveled to State College, Pa., to visit Lee Upcraft '61 and wife Lillian Upcraft '62. He occasionally sees **Nancy McGowan Clinton**, **Inese Klavins**, **Doris Hische Brossy**, **Hank Binzer** and wife Pat Binzer '74 attended Homecoming Breakfast in Oct. The

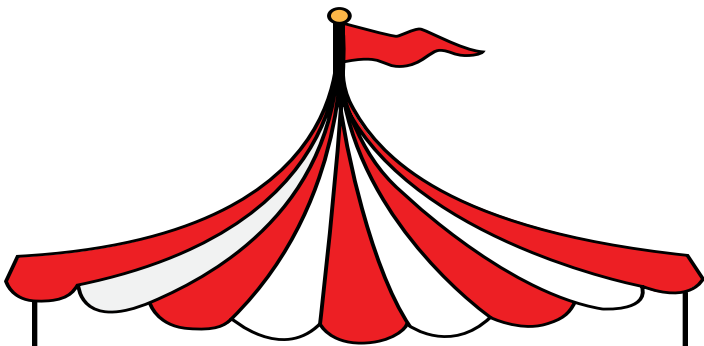


"I have had the pleasure of working on my Class of '64 50th-year reunion and Kappa Beta 80th Anniversary reunion committees, and both endeavors were very rewarding experiences. Loida Vera Cruz and the entire Alumni Association staff share their wealth of knowledge and years of experience as they guide and support groups through the planning process. Assistance is provided in many forms, including program planning, locating venues and securing financial assistance through Alumni Association resources. I would be willing to share my experiences with any group looking to plan a future reunion."

— **Bill Robelee '64**

**Want to plan a reunion? Contact us at [alumniassociation@albany.edu](mailto:alumniassociation@albany.edu)**

# Alumni News & Notes



## SARATOGA RACE TRACK PARTY TENT

**Friday, July 28**  
**Noon-4 p.m.**

Join us at the largest summer gathering of UAlbany alumni, family and friends for an afternoon of thoroughbred racing, food, fun games and great prizes.

**Registration opens in June.**  
[alumni.albany.edu/events](http://alumni.albany.edu/events)



Binzers reside at Avila near the UAlbany uptown campus.

*Class notes councilor: Doris Hische Brossy, [dbrossy@aol.com](mailto:dbrossy@aol.com); Joan Cali Pecore, [cueville@comcast.net](mailto:cueville@comcast.net)*

### 1961

Please send your current email address and the email addresses of fellow classmates with whom you keep in touch to **Mel Horowitz** at [melandsis@yahoo.com](mailto:melandsis@yahoo.com). Psi Gamma sisters **Barbara Smith Passino** of Savannah, Ga.; **Carol Bastian** of Camden, N.Y.; and **Margaret Kropec** of Long Beach, Calif., attended Homecoming Breakfast last Oct. as part of the Class of '61 55th-Year Reunion. Marge says: "A visit to the old library and seeing the beautiful murals brought back many memories. It was interesting to walk the old campus and the new campus, and stop by the WT." They spent time with Loida Vera Cruz of the Alumni Association. Your class councilor was sidelined by medical events, including a broken hip. **Carol Bastian** encourages Psi Gammas interested in the possibility of a 120th-anniversary celebration in 2018 to get in touch. **Tony D'Imperio** retired early from Greece Central School District near Rochester, N.Y., after 29 years of service as a teacher, elementary-school principal and middle-school vice principal. Since retiring, he has supervised student teachers from SUNY Geneseo and SUNY Brockport; Tony is also columnist/reporter for the *Livingston County News*. He is active in local theater and volunteers at a local charity. **June DeVore Hunter** and husband Ken spent two weeks on Long Sands Beach, Maine, where they've visited nearly every year of their marriage. Despite various limitations this year, **Mel Horowitz** and wife were able to use some timeshare weeks, including their annual stay in Maine. Mel's oldest granddaughter, Katie, started college in Sept. **Harold Jewell** is proud of another recognition for his screenplay "I Dreamt You Kissed Me": It was named a finalist in the suspense/thriller category of the Los Angeles Screenplay Contest. **Nancy Rubin Bernstein** plays mahjong, enjoys quilting, takes classes through



Newly minted Half-Century Club member Edith Hardy Leet '66, '68, donned the 1966 beanie with pride.

Marist College, and spends time with children and grandchildren. She and husband Sanford Bernstein '57 spent Feb. in Sarasota, Fla. **Judy Bacon Bleezarde** spent most of last winter at Spruce Creek Country Club near Ocala, Fla. She planned to spend time on Hilton Head Island, S.C., in Dec. Judy says, "Our travels are getting closer and closer to home as we age and the world gets crazier and crazier."

*Class notes councilor: Mel Horowitz, [melandsis@yahoo.com](mailto:melandsis@yahoo.com)*

### 1962

Our 55th-year class reunion will be held during Homecoming, Oct. 2017. Please plan to come, as our 50th-year reunion had the best turnout ever! Reply to any mailings you receive, and send your mailing address and your email address to your class councilor, **Sheril Joan McCormack**, at [vanillastar202@yahoo.com](mailto:vanillastar202@yahoo.com). **Robert Sweeney** enjoys his grandkids and new dachshund puppy, and stays busy working on home repairs caused by hurricane damage. **Linda Bosworth** went on a Bermuda cruise with **Sheril McCormack** for Sheril's 75th birthday. **Susan Blank** enjoyed three weeks in England and Scotland. Many classmates are still employed, love to travel, have grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and do volunteer work.

*Class notes councilor:*

*Sheril McCormack, [vanillastar202@yahoo.com](mailto:vanillastar202@yahoo.com)*

### 1964

**Alan** and **Clare Minarcik** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by working on their bucket list: They reconnected with old friends and traveled, and visited Loida Vera

Cruz at the UAlbany Alumni Association. **Claudia DiBenedetto Nealon** had lunch in Albany with Gloversville High School classmates; Judy Madnick '65 and husband Stu, a GHS grad, attended. **Bob Fairbanks** is in good health and raced at Watkins Glen International track on his 74th birthday. **Columba DeFrancesco Heinzelman** and **Florence Miller** contacted the Alumni Office to share the sad news that **Penny Grastorf** passed away in April 2016.

*Class Notes Co-councilors: Alan Minarcik at acmouse@hotmail.com; Bill Robelee at wmroblee31@gmail.com*

## 1965

**Laurel Wemett**, who holds a bachelor's degree in history from UAlbany and a master's degree in art history from Emory University, presented at the 2016 Global Mural Conference in Fairport, N.Y., last Sept.. She interpreted a mural at Elmer Clark Pavilion, Lock 30 Canal Park in Macedon, N.Y. **Kate Harvey Jacobs** moved from her retirement home in Tennessee to a condo in the Washington, D.C., area to be closer to children and grandchildren.

*Class Councilor: Judy Madnick, jmadnick@gmail.com*

## 1966

**Kathleen Bryce Niles-Overton** retired after 31 years in the Syracuse City School District, where she served as teacher and administrator. She owns public-relations firm Bryce Focus Group, which works with non-profits.

She is a Pulitzer-prize nominee and the author of six poetry books that can be read at [www.kathleenbryceniles.com](http://www.kathleenbryceniles.com). **David Hughes** passed away on Thanksgiving Day after a long illness. He worked at the college radio station while attending UAlbany.



David Hughes

## 1971

**Brian Monahan** was appointed interim superintendent of schools in the Rye City School District, Tampa, Fla.



Brian Monahan

## 1972

**Rebecca Salon** was appointed by Barack Obama as a member of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities in Oct. She is project director at the National Center on Leadership for the Employment and Economic Advancement of People with Disabilities, and program specialist at the D.C. Department on Disability Services. **Michael Blumenthal**, partner at Thompson & Knight LLP in New York City, was recently listed as a 2016 New York Metro Super Lawyer.

## 1973

**Charlotte Biblow**, an attorney at Farrell Fritz in Uniondale, N.Y., was recently recognized as a 2016 Leading Lawyer in the areas of environmental, land use & municipal and commercial litigation law.

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State University of New York

UNIVERSITY  
AT ALBANY  
State University of New York



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**JOHN FRANGESKOS**

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**UALBANY FUND**  
*Investing in students*

[www.albany.edu/giving](http://www.albany.edu/giving)

# REUNIONS

Interested in planning a reunion for your affinity group or class?



Contact the Loida R. Vera Cruz via email at [lveracruz@albany.edu](mailto:lveracruz@albany.edu), or call (518) 442-3080.

# A Legendary BOND

By Stephanie Snyder

The atmosphere at Tom & Mary Casey Stadium changed when a University at Albany bus rolled up to the South Entrance on a brisk Saturday morning in November. The brakes brought the bus to a screeching halt, and several faces and “fist pumps” appeared through cracked-open windows. Dozens of alums dressed in purple and gold spilled from the front entrance of the bus, energetically announcing they’d enjoyed the previous night together, just like old times.

Just as their weekend party itinerary intended, the legends had arrived for Great Dane Game Day.

The “legends,” a group of 40 or so alums who include Ted Anderson ’82, Glen Titan ’82, Evan Zahn ’82, and Walt Tice ’81, have maintained tight friendships throughout the last three decades. Their journey began in the late 1970s at UAlbany, where they formed bonds as roommates, classmates and teammates. Their personal backgrounds varied, but for all of them, choosing UAlbany is the common thread that has held them together since setting foot on campus.

They are fathers and husbands, and highly respected attorneys, accountants, doctors and sales executives who live all

over the United States. They credit Arnold Fischler ’82 for renewing their connection to UAlbany Athletics: The legends have cheered on the Great Danes at many fields and stadiums across the country, including at UCLA and Duke. “We have a great time supporting a growing program that’s achieved Division I success,” Zahn explained.

Get-togethers often extend to other UAlbany-related events, such as award presentations and even alumni fashion shows. “We don’t just attend reunions and events – we talk to each other weekly, sometimes daily, and support each other whenever possible,” says Titan. “When I walked the runway in the UAlbany fashion show in NYC last year, my friends were there to cheer me on.”

The legends’ story extends beyond friendship and supporting one other. Many generously support the University through endowed scholarships,

contributing to campus construction projects and hosting fundraising events. “We’re all very ambitious and enjoy healthy competition, so when we were able, we each started giving,” Anderson explained. “We try to do more than the last guy,” Zahn added.

A business classroom is named in honor of Titan and his wife, Monica. He also established a baseball scholarship. “I don’t think our group would’ve achieved continued success if it weren’t for this school,” noted Titan. “I owe all of my professional success to this school ... and my friends.”

“We owe it all to UAlbany,” Zahn concluded, speaking for the entire group. For them the University not only signifies everlasting friendships and continued opportunities to remain engaged as alumni – it is at the very core of legendary lives.



A few friends enjoyed lunch at the Alumni House in November.



Purple and Gold Student Ambassadors Nadine Zaky Kotb ’18 and Michael Lorca ’17 led Tony Aslanian ’82 and George Brewer ’83, ’85, on a campus tour.



The Legends arrived at Casey Stadium for UAlbany Football vs. Stony Brook Nov. 19, 2016.



# Alumni News & Notes

1975

**Carolyn Shearer** was highlighted in *The Best Lawyers in America 2017*. She advises health-care providers on Stark Law and anti-kickback issues, federal and state regulatory compliance, tax-exemption and HIPAA.



Carolyn Shearer

1976

**Jeanne (Santomauro) Schnupp** co-hosted Salon New York 2017, an international arts show. She is a decorative painter and lives on Long Island, N.Y.



Jeanne (Santomauro) Schnupp

1977

**Howard Glick** retired from his law practice in Ashland, Ohio, and continues to work for the Ohio Supreme Court as a trainer for the Guardian Ad Litem Program. **Samuel Moskowitz** of Boston-based Davis, Malm & D'Agostine, P.C., was recognized as a 2016 Massachusetts Super Lawyer. **Nancy Michela** is an associate professor of nursing and serves as director of the BS-RN program at The Sage Colleges, where she recently celebrated 25 years of service.

1979

**Karen Mazza** was named deputy executive director of the New York City Employees Retirement System. Karen previously served as the General Counsel to the Fund. **Amelia M. Klein** was highlighted in *The Best Lawyers in America 2017*. She is an employee-benefits and executive-compensation attorney at Bond Schoeneck & King, Albany, N.Y. **Eric Burgess** was appointed to the senior executive-service position of associate chief financial officer for Managerial Cost Accounting at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. **Paul Feldman** of Boston-based Davis, Malm & D'Agostine, P.C. was recognized as a 2016 Massachusetts Super Lawyer.



Amelia Klein



Eric Burgess

1980

**Andrea P. Thau, O.D.**, is president of the American Optometric Association (AOA). She previously served as vice president of the same organization.

1982

**Betty DiMaria** was named chief operating officer at Wojeski & Company CPAs, P.C., in East Greenbush, N.Y. She serves on

the board of directors of The Food Pantries for the Capital District and the Marketing Committee of the Capital Region Human Resources Association.



Betty DiMaria

1983

**Christopher Murray** was elected president of the Nassau County Mental Health Association. He is a partner of Ruskin Moscou Faltishek, P.C., Uniondale, N.Y., and serves as chair of



Christopher Murray

## Make a Difference as an Alumni Volunteer!



Keep the spirit of service alive –  
be engaged and invest in UAlbany's future!  
Join the Alumni Volunteer Council (AVC) and make a difference:

- Share your career expertise as an advisor for students and alumni through the UAlbany Career Advisory Network (UCAN).
- Be an Alumni Association board or committee member.
- Gather class notes & news as a class councilor.
- Become a regional volunteer and help host an event or assist in finding a location for an alumni reception in your area.
- Be an admissions ambassador.
- Assist in planning as a reunion committee member.
- Show your UAlbany pride online as a Social Media Ambassador.

For more details, contact the Alumni Association at  
1-800-836-2586 or email [alumniassociation@albany.edu](mailto:alumniassociation@albany.edu).

**ALUMNI VOLUNTEER COUNCIL**  
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



The Class of '76 gathered at the Welcome Wine-Tasting Reception to celebrate its 40th-year milestone reunion.

# Alumni News & Notes



Capital Region Grads of the Last Decade enjoyed the annual GOLD Bowling Night in February.

the firm's environmental and land-use practice group.

## 1984

Sutherland Asbill & Brennan, LLP Partner **Lewis S. Wiener** has been appointed to serve as general counsel of the Washington, D.C., Hebrew Congregation, one of the largest reform Jewish communities in the country. **Todd Cherches** received the 2016 New York University Division of Programs in Business Teaching Excellence Award. He is an adjunct professor of leadership at NYU and owns BigBlueGumball LLC, a management consulting and training company



Lewis Wiener



Todd Cherches

in New York City. **Debra Verbeke** was appointed executive vice president of Human Resources at Fairfield County Bank, Ridgefield, Conn.



Debra Verbeke

## 1986

**Howard M. Miller** was listed in *The Best Lawyers in America 2017*, and *2016 New York Super Lawyers Metro Edition* in the field of Employment and Labor. He is a member of Bond Schoeneck & King Attorneys New York City office. **Sal Perednia** is a technical information-security officer at Morgan Stanley. He would like to connect with alumni working in downtown Manhattan and can be reached via LinkedIn.com. **Paul Schaffer** is in his eighth year as CFO at Alterna Capital partners, a private equity firm in Wilton, Conn. He recently completed his sixth year as president of the Danbury Westerners, a summer collegiate baseball team in the New England Collegiate Baseball League. **Brian Tolle** was recently featured in *The New York Times* for the recent installation of his artistic reinterpretation of Miss Manhattan and Miss Brooklyn.



Howard Miller

# Milestone Reunions

HOME COMING 2017 • OCT. 20-22

1967  
1962  
1957

Celebrate the past and renew your bonds with UAlbany! Reconnect with your classmates, explore the campus and cheer on the Great Danes at Homecoming this fall. Many events are planned for the weekend, so don't miss the fun and the opportunity to rekindle your friendships!

Visit the reunion website for information and registration details  
[www.alumni.albany.edu/homecoming](http://www.alumni.albany.edu/homecoming)



Debra (Weinstein) Shallash '02 and Matt Shallash '01, pictured with daughter Gabriella, cheered on the Great Danes at Stony Brook this season.



1988

**Susan Gazaille Fliss** was named dean of libraries for Smith College. She is an accomplished librarian with more than two decades of leadership at Mount Holyoke, Dartmouth and Harvard.

1992

**Cressida A. Dixon** was listed in *The Best Lawyers in America 2017*. She is a trust and estate attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King in Rochester, N.Y. The National Diversity Council named Ingram Micro Inc. Executive Vice President of Finance



Cressida Dixon

**Gina Mastantuono** one of its Top 50 Most Powerful Women in Technology.

**Christopher Westley** is the vice president of marketing for Skanska USA's Commercial Development team. He previously operated a national real-estate consultancy firm based in Los Angeles.



Christopher Westley

1993

**Matthew Farber** earned a doctoral degree in educational technology leadership from New Jersey City University.



John Bagyi

**John Bagyi** has been named a 2016 Super Lawyer and 2017 Best Lawyer in America.

1994

**Bettyjo Bouchey** received an Ed.D. from Northeastern University in April 2016.



Bettyjo Bouchey

1996

**Jason Samuels** of Farrell Fritz in Uniondale, N.Y. was named a 2016 New York Metro Super Lawyer. He practices in the areas of construction, real estate and commercial litigation.

1997

**Denise Lurenz** was recently promoted to audit supervisor at Teal, Becker & Chiaramonte, CPAs, P.C., Albany, N.Y.



Denise Lurenz

2001

**Thomas Simcoe** was named a 2016 Upstate New York Super Lawyers Rising Star in the areas of estate and probate. He is an attorney at



Thomas Simcoe

Bond, Schoeneck & King.

**Nicholas Crouse** was promoted to communications manager at Bestpass. He lives in Albany, N.Y.



Nicholas Crouse

2002

The Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants (CTCPA) appointed **Robert B. Stoddard** to serve as an Advisory Council member. Robert is managing director, federal tax for KPMG in Stamford, Conn. **Fernando Luciano** is a founding partner of

Unique Visuals NY, which provides high-quality graphics and visual displays. The company is based in New York City.

**Paula (Meyerzon) Pierce** was named partner at Teal, Becker & Chiaramonte, CPAs, P.C., in Albany, N.Y. She joined the firm in 2005.



Fernando Luciano

2003

**Jessica Burch** is the senior marketing



Paula (Meyerzon) Pierce

## WEDDINGS



**Zack DiBetta '10** and **Melissa Simmons '11**, July 17, 2016



**Andrea Hoffman '07** and **Eric Hitchcock**, Oct. 17, 2015



**Carmine Bocci '11** and **Gina Allers '11**, Sept. 10, 2016



**Dave Reed '10, '11**, and **Kyra Newman '10**, July 16, 2016

# Alumni News & Notes

## BIRTHS



**Shaun Smath '04** and wife **Geri (Zorskas) Smath '04** welcomed daughter **Amelia Anika**, Nov. 16, 2015.



**Decem Wong-Choi '01** and husband **Jimmy** welcomed son **Damian Edward**, June 4, 2016.



**Lisa (Steklof) Lane '07** and husband **Trevor** welcomed son **Harvey Joseph**, Sept. 12, 2016.



**Christine (Hmiel) Schudde '08** and husband **Chris** welcomed son **Clark Wilder**, July 29, 2016.



**Fernando Luciano '02** and wife **Jill** welcomed son **Theodore Clarke**, Sept. 10, 2016.

coordinator at N.K. Bhandari Architecture & Engineering, P.C., in Syracuse, N.Y. She serves on the board of directors for Cornell Cooperative Extension for Madison County, and assists with fundraisers for local not-for-profit organizations. Jessica resides in Cazenovia, N.Y.



Jessica Burch

Super Lawyers Rising Star. In addition, he received the 2017 Outstanding Young Lawyer Award from the New York State Bar Foundation. Curtis is an attorney at Bond, Schoeneck & King, Rochester, N.Y. **Jason Jones** was elected board member of the New York State Parking Association. He was a guest speaker at six national parking and transportation events in 2016.



Curtis Johnson

### 2004

Pure Adapt, Inc., founded by **Michael Li**, was named to the INC. 5000 list of fastest-growing private companies in America. The company also was ranked No. 18 in fastest-growing companies by *Albany Business Review*.

**Curtis Johnson** was named a 2016 Upstate New York



Michael Li

### 2006

**Morgan Govan**, QC Associate III, MannKind Corp., Danbury, Conn., is a registrant of the National Registry of Certified Microbiologists (NRCM). She became certified as a registered microbiologist in pharmaceutical and medical-device microbiology in June 2016.

## Affinity Reunions AND CELEBRATIONS

### HOMECOMING 2017 • OCT. 20-22, 2017

Join your special-interest groups and celebrate your common connections at UAlbany this fall:

- Alpha Pi Alpha
- Angelic Voices of Praise
- LGBTQ
- Orientation Program
- Residential Life

More info: [www.alumni.albany.edu/homecoming](http://www.alumni.albany.edu/homecoming)  
#UAlbanyHC17



For a complete list of class councilors:  
[www.alumni.albany.edu/avc](http://www.alumni.albany.edu/avc)  
or call the Alumni Association at  
(518) 442-3080.

**Johanna Schweitzer** was promoted to audit supervisor at Teal, Becker & Chiaramonte, CPAs, P.C., in Albany, N.Y. She has been with the firm since 2010.



**Antonios Marsellos** is an assistant professor of geology at Hofstra University, Long Island, N.Y. **Chaim Mordechai Wein** opened a real-estate firm specializing in property management and residential rentals.

## 2010

**Lauren Valentine**, associate at Sandler Training in Albany, N.Y., was recognized at the 2016 International Sandler Training conference for receiving the Platinum Award.



Lauren Valentine

**Lawrence Paska** began his appointment as executive director of the National Council for the Social Studies in Oct. 2016. **Deirdre Barthel** is the New York State Executive Chamber deputy director for Legislative Affairs.

## 2013

Farrell Fritz welcomed **Jeremy M. Miller** to its Uniondale, N.Y., office. Jeremy earned his J.D. from Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center. He lives in Bellmore, N.Y. **Siobhan Buchta** is an Operations Management Fellow for The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey. She earned a master of science in emergency management from



Jeremy Miller



Siobhan Buchta

Adelphi University in 2015. **David Seitz** was promoted to wholesale credit analyst at Wells Fargo Capital Finance and relocated to Chicago.



David Seitz

## 2014

**John Jermyn** graduated with an M.S. in protection management from John Jay College of Criminal Justice and recently accepted a full-time position as project coordinator with the New York City Pediatric Disaster Coalition.

# SPOTLIGHT SERIES

## UAlbany Graduates of the Last Decade

### Lauren Ursaki '13, '14

**Senior Consultant, Stoneturn Group**

**Hometown:** Burlington, Conn.

**High School:** Lewis S. Mills High School



#### UALBANY EXPERIENCE

##### Why did you choose to attend UAlbany?

I was eager to leave my small hometown and attend a school that gave me access to jobs in New York City post-graduation. I had no idea what to expect when I chose UAlbany, but it was one of the best choices I've ever made.

##### What is your favorite memory of campus?

My favorite memory of campus is hanging out with friends in the main library Purple Room (where many students congregated in between classes and free periods).

##### What is UAlbany's biggest strength?

Its extensive alumni network.

#### CAREER & FUTURE GOALS

##### How did your UAlbany education and experience help you to prepare for your current professional role?

My UAlbany education/experience helped prepare me for this role by not only providing a strong accounting foundation, but also developing the soft skills crucial in succeeding in the business world. The UAlbany culture emphasizes the importance of communication and leadership skills through its professors, clubs/organizations, and recognition of students.

#### GIVING BACK TO UALBANY

##### Why do you support the UAlbany Fund?

I support the UAlbany Fund for the students. I am grateful for the alumni who contributed to the UAlbany that I experienced, and I want to be a part of that for future UAlbany generations.

# HOMECOMING 2016



Students and their families were also a part of Homecoming festivities.



Brittany Burnham '05 and her family and friends cheered on the Great Danes at the Homecoming football game.

Alumni, students and parents kicked off Great Dane Game Day at the Homecoming Breakfast in the Campus Center Ballroom.



Richelle Konian '95 chatted with Brandon Stanton, creator and photographer of Humans of New York before the University at Albany Speaker Series.



Graduates of the Last Decade met up at The Point for the first-ever "GOLD Brunch."

Purple & Gold Student Ambassador Jessica Levine '17 was joined by brother Matthew '19, mother Robin '88, and father Arthur at the Homecoming Legacy Reception



# AUTHORS & EDITORS

**Ann Barry Sullivan, B.A.'66, M.L.S.'71**, is the author of *Wind Rose House*. The novel focuses on Kate, a young girl who lost her mother and who now faces the prospect of being uprooted because her father wants to move the family back to his hometown in the Adirondacks. The book is available online at Amazon.

**Frank Tassielli, B.A.'66**, is the author of *An Italian Boy's Life*, which tells the story of his impoverished childhood, his arrival in America shortly after the end of WWII, and his years as a high-school English teacher and guidance counselor.

**Marcia Darvin Spada, B.A.'67, M.A.'85**, is the author of *New York Real Estate for Salespersons, 6th Edition*, and companion textbook, *Cram for the Exam: Your Guide to Passing the New York Salesperson and Broker Exams*. Published by OnCourse Learning, the textbooks are adopted by proprietary schools and higher-learning institutions.

**Douglas Alan Walrath, M.A.'70**, recently published *Naked Believer*, a novel about the "God debate" in American society. Walrath is also the author of *Displacing the Divine: The Minister in the Mirror of American Fiction*.

**Marilyn Cohen Shapiro, B.A.'72, M.S.'74**, published her first book, *There Goes My Heart*, a collection of more than 40 essays that capture special moments in her life spent in upstate New York, Florida, Colorado, and beyond.

**Victoria (Petix) Leo, B.A.'73**, published the 2nd edition of *Journey Out of SAD: Beat the Seasonal Blues Now*, and her newest title, *101 Stress-Busters for People Who Can't Meditate*. Leo teaches at Green River Community College in Auburn, Wash., and is a clinical hypnotherapist at Soaring Dragon.

**Chuck Howlett, Ph.D.'74**, is the author of *John Dewey: America's Peace-Minded Educator*, a careful study of the late Columbia University educator known for his use of pragmatic philosophy to build a consensus for world peace.

**Ed Moser, B.A.'77**, is the author of *The Two-Term Jinx: Why Most Second-Term Presidents*

*Stumble*, and *How Some Succeed*, a popular account of the wild presidencies of two-term chief executives, from George Washington to Theodore Roosevelt.

**Elaine Mellon Lahm, B.A.'81, M.S.'83**, is the author of *unREAL Education: Beyond Report Cards*, which offers a powerful expose on the public-school system through the true story of Mellon's son and the academic struggles he experienced. The book aims to encourage and offer a fresh perspective of support to other parents and child guardians as they navigate their way through the public educational system. Mellon is married to Phil Lahm '81.

**Rhonda Amoroso, B.A.'82**, recently published the cookbook *Behind Every Great Recipe-From Latkes to Vodkas & Beets to Meats*.

**Fred Bubbers, B.A.'82**, published his first collection of short stories, *Indian Summer and Other Stories*, in September 2016.

**Daniel W. Byrne, B.A.'83, M.S.'89**, is the author of *Publishing Your Medical Research*. Byrne is a faculty member in the Department of Biostatistics at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn.

**Jessica Treadway, B.A.'83**, is the author of *How Will I Know You? a People Magazine "Book of the Week" selection*. Treadway previously published another novel and two story collections, one of which received the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction.

**Darryl Green, M.A.'97, and Mary Rose Green, M.S.'94**, recently published their third children's book, *The Rules*. The fun and clever K-3-level book is a great read-along for kids and parents and is available on amazon.com.

**Daniel M. Clough, B.A.'02**, published *Genesis According to the Saints*, a well researched and thoughtfully composed listing of the Commentary of the saints and Fathers and Doctors of the Church who have written of the first three chapters of Genesis.

**Mildred Chang, Ph.D.'07**, is the author of *The Mask is Off*, *Spanish Simple and Natural*, and *Trumpy the Strange Elephant*. Chang's books are available on amazon.com.



# Alumni News & Notes

## Deceased Alumni

### 1930s

Helen L. Butler '33, March 19, 2015  
Hilda Heines Runz '35, Feb. 5, 2012  
Margaret F. Spencer Grant '37, April 7, 2016  
Irma Kuehn Pullen '37, June 11, 2016  
Helen Williams Decker '38, Oct. 5, 2015  
Gladys Ottman Zickler '38, July 11, 2016

### 1940s

Constance T. Tessier Allard '41, Feb. 13, 2015  
Jeanette Evans Wilson '41, Sept. 27, 2010  
Madeline Helmer Fagan '42, Sept. 2, 2016  
Carl T. Mitchell '42, Aug. 26, 2016  
Glen E. Walrath '42, June 11, 2012  
Ruth O. O'Neill Whiting '43, May 30, 2016  
Marilyn Gale Linebaugh '44, July 2, 2014  
Evelyn McGowan Miller '44, June 17, 2016  
Sadie Musumeci Bonanno '45, Feb. 27, 2016  
Marion Duffy Du Mont '45, July 8, 2016  
Anna Becker '46, July 3, 2016  
Marianna Neise Guido '46, Oct. 18, 2016  
Shirley Ford Hardesty '46, Feb. 1, 2016  
Marjorie Cronin Mooney '46, March 1, 2015  
Geraldine Van Allen Noble '46, Feb. 8, 2015  
Virginia Tucker Vincent '46, Aug. 26, 2016  
Dorothea Silvernail Holme '47, Nov. 9, 2016  
Doris Haithwaite Votry '47, April 30, 2013  
Charlotte Goldstein Koblenz '48, Aug. 3, 2016  
June A. Petri Laforge '48, Aug. 13, 2016  
Donald C. Dickinson '49, Oct. 10, 2016  
Eleanore Carlucci Meyer '49, Jan. 31, 2016  
Stella Bogdanski Mileski '49, Oct. 16, 2016  
Warren V. Noble '49, Dec. 6, 2014

### 1950s

C. J. Farrell Gloo '50, Oct. 4, 2016  
Leonard H. Skolnick '50, Aug. 18, 2016  
Joseph P. Stanionis '50, Sept. 9, 2016  
Royann Salm Blodgett '51, Jan. 29, 2016  
Margaret M. Foley '51, Jan. 22, 2017  
Mary Lucas Kreiling '51, Nov. 23, 2016  
Eugene E. Webster '51, Oct. 22, 2016  
Robert P. Lanni '52, Nov. 24, 2016  
Kathryn S. Shirn Peet '52, Jan. 9, 2017  
Joan Titus '52, March 5, 2016  
Roberta Edwards White '52, April 19, 2016  
Elsie R. Critchlow Banton '53, April 19, 2016  
Gloria Migliore Falzarano '54, Oct. 25, 2016  
Margaret E. Guinan '54, Sept. 14, 2016  
Ruth M. Rooney Hallenbeck '54, Aug. 22, 2016  
Nancy Sangaline Potente '54, Nov. 21, 2016  
Mary E. Doane Finley '55, March 27, 2016  
Linda Sokoloski Hardy '56, May 21, 2016  
Roy W. Stevens, Ph.D. '56, July 28, 2016  
Anthony Campo '57, Sept. 14, 2016

Tito W. Guglielmone '57, June 11, 2016  
Edward J. Liston '57, July 30, 2013  
E. W. Mangine '57, Jan. 27, 2017  
Clarence D. Rappleyea, Jr. '57, Sept. 4, 2016  
Bernard F. Robbins '57, March 4, 2016  
Bruno Rodgers '57, Nov. 28, 2016  
Richard P. Corcuera '58, Aug. 20, 2016  
Alice M. Meyer Ford '58, May 5, 2016  
Ellen Fitzpatrick Betcke '59, June 30, 2016  
Sharon E. Moore '59, Sept. 16, 2016  
Carolynn G. Olivo Whitehurst '59, Dec. 26, 2016

### 1960s

Marita Seward Boullata '60, Aug. 15, 2016  
Elizabeth Wager Burnett '60, Oct. 23, 2005  
Prudy Williams DeLuisi '60, Sept. 2, 2016  
Madeline B. Despres '60, Nov. 23, 2016  
Allen J. Jaquays '60, Sept. 22, 2016  
Dorothy E. Madigan King '60, June 1, 2011  
Richard T. Morgan '60, March 9, 2012  
Kenneth W. Beckerink '61, Aug. 28, 2016  
Lawrence Breen '61, Jan. 28, 2015  
Gary D. Myers '61, Feb. 29, 2016  
Robert V. Sands '61, Nov. 27, 2016  
Judith Skocylas Whalen '61, July 9, 2016  
Edward W. Cassidy '62, July 2, 2016  
Karl-Heinz E. Gerstenberger '62, Sept. 23, 2016  
Richard P. Johnson '62, Oct. 25, 2016  
Merle Miller '62, Oct. 3, 2016  
Martha N. Ahearn '63, Aug. 21, 2016  
Pamela Witcomb Allen '63, Sept. 16, 2016  
Robert F. Calimeri '63, Oct. 30, 2016  
Robert J. Brennan '64, Aug. 29, 2016  
Theodore V. Brown '64, Dec. 16, 2016  
Linda McCloud Adams '65, July 5, 2016  
George A. Devito '65, June 16, 2016  
Richard E. Downey '65, Aug. 28, 2016  
Henry Ilnicki '65, Oct. 2, 2016  
Robert W. Tamm '65, May 31, 2015  
Carl F. Cusato '66, Oct. 22, 2016  
David E. Hughes '66, Nov. 24, 2016  
Martin L. Singer '66, Dec. 8, 2016  
Thomas R. Spohr '66, June 25, 2016  
Orton T. Begner '67, Sept. 15, 2016  
Martha Wright Miller '67, June 5, 2016  
Barbara E. Smith '67, July 11, 2016  
Cecile Schiffer Spero '67, July 14, 2016  
Frank A. Valenti '67, Oct. 26, 2016  
Karl K. Floser '68, Dec. 25, 2016  
James Gorham '68, Dec. 10, 2016  
Harvey M. Lincoln '68, Sept. 22, 2016  
Thomas M. Quinn '68, July 9, 2016  
Ruth Palmer Stafford '68, March 22, 2016  
Catherine Dempsey Cummings '69, June 10, 2016  
Sharon Johnson Fisher '69, Dec. 8, 2016  
Carol A. Standhart Kentile '69, Nov. 18, 2016  
Dolores Dore Weifenbach '69, April 19, 2011  
Leonard L. Yaudes '69, July 25, 2016

### 1970s

Janet Fentiman Crandell '70, Sept. 24, 2016  
Marie De Palo Glaser '70, Oct. 2, 2016  
Joseph M. Hleboski '70, June 30, 2016  
Edward G. Linsley '70, Jan. 19, 2008  
Dennis J. Richardson '70, Jan. 22, 2017  
Maryjo Simone Robins '70, Nov. 27, 2016  
Jane Moon Sutton '70, July 1, 2016  
Carolyn Shepherd Welch '70, March 17, 2016  
Leonard R. Witt '70, Dec. 31, 2016  
Maureen M. Donohue '71, June 10, 2016  
Thomas N. Doyle, Sr. '71, Oct. 27, 2016  
Ellen Arshansky Dubin '71, Sept. 29, 2016  
Jeffrey W. Etkind '71, Sept. 17, 2016  
Richard G. Hehir '71, Dec. 14, 2016  
Irene A. Zukowski Senn '71, Dec. 17, 2016  
Thomas Agne '72, Oct. 23, 2016  
Muriel Collura Golde '72, Feb. 11, 2016  
Beth E. Johansen '72, Nov. 11, 2016  
Kurt S. Legler '72, July 16, 2014  
Laurence MacDowell '72, Aug. 23, 2013  
Richard D. Morse '72, Nov. 7, 2016  
Ellen Porto Schain '72, Aug. 26, 2010  
James A. Spain '72, Dec. 6, 2016  
Howard G. Baumgartner '73, Sept. 17, 2016  
Claudia J. Kelly Doyle '73, March 30, 2016  
Jane R. Leinwohl Gorin '73, Nov. 17, 2016  
Barbara Dearmin Kuhl '73, July 22, 2016  
Mary E. Maney '73, July 12, 2016  
Catherine T. O'Connor '73, Nov. 25, 2016  
Inge R. Parlo '73, Nov. 20, 2016  
Thomas D. Phelan '73, Jan. 17, 2017  
Gloria Plasker '73, Aug. 9, 2016  
Rolf O. Ronning '73, Aug. 19, 2010  
John G. Blais '74, July 19, 2016  
Virginia A. Brown '74, Oct. 10, 2016  
David F. Coffey '74, Jan. 23, 2017  
Patricia A. Thompson Cramer '74, Oct. 18, 2016  
Richard B. Hill '74, Nov. 11, 2016  
David A. Humphrey '74, May 30, 2014  
F. D. Novotny '74, Oct. 23, 2016  
Walter Nowik '74, Aug. 31, 2016  
Richard A. Bell '75, Oct. 21, 2016  
Thomas A. Devane, Jr. '75, Aug. 6, 2016  
Natalie S. Finder '75, Jan. 12, 2017  
Eleanor J. Hayes '75, Sept. 10, 2016  
James L. Hudson '75, Dec. 7, 2014  
Stephen R. Lamb '75, Sept. 26, 2009  
Regina R. Quattrochi '75, Dec. 13, 2016  
Bruce J. Smith '75, Feb. 23, 2016  
William J. Fuchs '76, Oct. 4, 2014  
Margaret P. Hannay, Ph.D. '76, Aug. 11, 2016  
Stana L. Iseman '76, June 16, 2016  
F. D. Larkin, Ph.D. '76, Oct. 1, 2015  
Holly E. Leese '76, Oct. 17, 2015  
Larrey E. Nickles '76, Dec. 6, 2015  
Kenneth Schoen '76, July 31, 2016  
Judith S. Wolfe '76, March 24, 2015



**Diana M. Genovese Boyle '77**, March 11, 2012  
**Edgar G. Crane '77**, Oct. 19, 2016  
**Susan L. Hubbard '77**, Feb. 4, 2009  
**Joseph A. Jarvis '77**, Jan. 23, 2017  
**Daniel C. Lawlor, Jr. '77**, July 27, 2016  
**Arnold H. Perman '77**, Sept. 7, 2014  
**Bernice H. Schwartz '77**, Sept. 26, 2016  
**Carolyn M. Burns '78**, Nov. 16, 2016  
**Susan Doran-Russ '78**, Jan. 9, 2017  
**Patricia L. Canada Fallon '78**, Nov. 4, 2010  
**William M. Leonardson '78**, Dec. 10, 2016  
**Frederick B. Meservey '78**, Oct. 9, 2016  
**Patricia M. Napierski '78**, June 16, 2016  
**Roberta A. Parry '78**, Dec. 2, 2015  
**Richard T. Davis '79**, Nov. 17, 2016  
**George B. Demarse '79**, June 16, 2016  
**Donald Pouliott, Jr. '79**, Nov. 21, 2016  
**Iliana A. Semmler, Ph.D. '79**, June 17, 2016

## 1980s

**Lucia Benaquisto '80**, June 23, 2016  
**David D. Brenner '80**, June 22, 2016  
**Joan L. Long Gundrum '80**, Aug. 3, 2016  
**John W. Jack '80**, Aug. 27, 2016  
**Christina L. Behrens '81**, Aug. 3, 2016  
**Peter J. Dudo '81**, June 26, 2016  
**Abigail T. Landa '81**, May 23, 2014  
**Paul S. Sheridan '81**, Oct. 21, 2016  
**Valenty J. Kurosz '82**, Nov. 25, 2016  
**Theresa M. Fezer Opalinski '82**, July 28, 2016  
**Catherine E. Zimmerman '82**, Dec. 15, 2016  
**Scott C. Dinkel '83**, March 12, 2015  
**Howard Shmaruk '83**, Oct. 30, 2013  
**Irma Koppel Weinberg '83**, May 15, 2013  
**Daniel D. Bohl '84**, Aug. 19, 2016  
**Elizabeth A. Mattia Hart '84**, June 5, 2016  
**Margaret F. Auer Herman '86**, Aug. 25, 2016  
**Linda Kramer Mallinson '86**, Oct. 2, 2016  
**Robert S. Stoughton '86**, Nov. 11, 2016

**C. Cecelia Burdikoff '87**, Sept. 12, 2016  
**Andrew J. Peterson, Ph.D. '87**, Sept. 8, 2016  
**Charlotta D. Sherman '87**, April 13, 2016  
**Michael S. Jones '88**, Nov. 8, 2016  
**Arlene Olinsky '88**, Nov. 15, 2016  
**Marcus A. Payson '88**, May 30, 2013  
**Marie Arlette Caidor '89**, April 27, 2014  
**Richard P. Jacobson '89**, July 1, 2016  
**Debra L. Plummer '89**, Dec. 7, 2016  
**John E. Reagan '89**, Aug. 11, 2016

## 1990s

**John R. Centofanti '90**, July 15, 2008  
**Charles A. Mertz '90**, Oct. 22, 2016  
**Anthony J. Patrignani '90**, Feb. 28, 2011  
**Denise J. Graves '93**, Nov. 12, 2016  
**Elaina M. Tuttle, Ph.D. '93**, June 15, 2016  
**Richard W. Beebe '96**, June 5, 2016  
**Paul S. Girsdansky '96**, Sept. 28, 2016  
**Sandra L. Miles '96**, Nov. 22, 2016  
**Nathan Lebron '97**, July 19, 2016  
**Joyce E. Carey '98**, Nov. 20, 2016  
**Clayton A. Lumsden '98**, Nov. 9, 2016  
**Lesly S. Mars '99**, Sept. 16, 2016

## 2000s

**Neil H. Ashdown, Ph.D. '00**, May 22, 2016  
**Carol F. Robinson Harvey '00**, July 24, 2016  
**James E. Freije '01**, Oct. 12, 2015  
**Mark D. Smith '03**, July 14, 2016  
**David J. Miljoner '04**, Nov. 19, 2016  
**Laura J. Travis Fisher '06**, Oct. 11, 2016  
**Colleen J. Robinson '08**, Nov. 21, 2016  
**Timothy J. Casion '09**, June 2, 2016

## 2010s

**Nicole E. Kapfer '10**, Aug. 13, 2016  
**Sean L. Armstrong '11**, Sept. 14, 2016

## Deceased Faculty/Staff

**Duncan Blanchard**, Senior Research Associate, Atmospheric Sciences Research Center, Feb. 25, 2016  
**Lisa Fenton**, Office Assistant 2 (Calc), University Libraries, Nov. 19, 2016  
**Randolph Gardner**, Professor Emeritus, Educational Theory and Practice, Feb. 7, 2017  
**Robert Garvin**, Associate Professor Emeritus, Philosophy, July 10, 2016  
**Julie Horney**, Dean, Criminal Justice, Oct. 10, 2016  
**Donald Layton**, Associate Professor, Educational Administration and Policy Studies, Oct. 10, 2016  
**Reuben Rusch**, Professor, Educational Psychology and Statistics, June 28, 2016

**Anthony Saturno**, Professor, Chemistry, Dec. 25, 2016  
**Iliana Semmler**, Lecturer Emerita, English, June 17, 2016  
**Joan Schulz**, Associate Professor, English, July 13, 2016  
**Paul Sheridan**, University Police Department, Oct. 21, 2016  
**Edward Thomas Jr.**, Distinguished Professor, Mathematics and Statistics, Nov. 1, 2106  
**W. Paul Vogt**, Professor Emeritus, Educational Administration and Policy Studies, April 27, 2016  
**David Wiles**, Professor, Educational Administration and Policy Studies, Aug. 7, 2016

# UAlbany

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# The Last Word

By Diane Conroy-LaCivita, M.A. '91

In the fall semester of 1986, I began my public-history graduate program at UAlbany. As I look back these 30-plus years, I have only fond memories of that time and of my friendship with Professor Ivan Steen. He has been, and continues to be, a tremendous teacher and adviser, and a great inspiration. I believe my success is due, at least in part, to his sincere support and mentorship.

I was initially introduced to Professor Steen when I applied to the program. I was subsequently chosen as a graduate assistant, and it was by chance that I was assigned to work with him. He was teaching *History of the American City*, which attracted hundreds of students every time it was offered. In addition to helping with his office hours and collecting assignments and tests, I aided him with his research pertaining to [longtime Albany] Mayor Erastus Corning 2nd. Professor Steen also introduced me to the importance of capturing oral history in our ever-changing society.

Even after my assistantship ended, we remained friends. Professor Steen attended my wedding, and he stayed in touch as my three children have grown and throughout my various career changes. In fact, he helped me get a wonderful job with the New York State Martin Luther King Jr. Commission under Gov. Mario M. Cuomo. I worked there until 1995 in a position I would have never pursued without him. Professor Steen has sat on boards where I have worked and counseled me throughout my career. To this day, we still have lunch several times a year. I appreciate his input and consider him a close friend and confidant.

I want to express my deepest gratitude for Professor Steen's belief in me some 30 years ago. He inspired me to pursue my goals with hard work and dedication. He has shown me the value of honesty, humility, sincerity, trust and education. I truly appreciate and value everything I have learned from him. Those lessons will forever remain major contributions to my success and achievements.



Alumna Diane Conroy-LaCivita posed for a photo with Professor of History Ivan Steen at his retirement party several years ago.

# Getting+Giving

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When most people think about making a charitable gift, they think of giving cash. While we appreciate gifts of any kind to help support our cause, there are many ways that you can give and benefit from making a gift of other assets to us.

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Save the date for the biggest annual gathering at UAlbany! Bring your Great Dane spirit and enjoy a weekend of festivities perfect for the entire UAlbany community. We'll see you this fall!

# Save the Date

## Oct. 20-22, 2017

**Welcome Wine-Tasting Reception**  
**Homecoming Breakfast**  
**Great Dane Pregame**  
**UAlbany Football**  
**GOLD Party**  
**Milestone and Affinity Reunions**

[www.alumni.albany.edu/UAlbanyHC17](http://www.alumni.albany.edu/UAlbanyHC17)



  
**Homecoming 2017**