

UAlbany



SOCIAL- MEDIA MAVENS

By using social media to connect with current and prospective customers, Ron Wechsler, B.A.'92, and other UAlbany alumni build brand loyalty while advertising their companies' products and services.

Big Picture

Welcome Week Candle-lighting Ceremony

The University at Albany family gathers at the uptown campus for the Welcome Week Candle-lighting Ceremony, an inspirational start to the 2015-16 academic year.



UAlbany

THE WORLD WITHIN REACH

University at Albany Magazine
Fall 2015, Volume 24, Number 2

Features

8 Path to the Pulitzer Prize

Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Stephen Adly Guirgis, B.A. '90, discovered his passion for the theatre at UAlbany.

10 Student Spotlight

For senior social-welfare major Jon Gilroy, the future holds the possibility of two or three careers, including one as a motivational speaker.

11 Social-Media Mavens

By connecting with consumers via social media, University at Albany alumni are expanding product lines, services and businesses – and giving customers exactly what they want.

Departments

2 From the Podium and Beyond

5 Gifts at Work

6 Out and About

28 The Carillon (Alumni News and Notes)

48 Last Look

www.albany.edu



From the Podium and Beyond

UAlbany President Assumes Campus Compact Post



Mark McCarty

University at Albany President Robert J. Jones began serving a three-year term July 1 with the Board of Directors of Campus Compact, a national coalition of more than 1,100 colleges and universities committed to fulfilling the public purposes of higher education.

As the only national higher-education association dedicated solely to campus-based civic engagement, Campus Compact provides resources that support faculty and staff as they pursue community-based teaching and scholarship in the service of positive change. Its board guides the organizational mission of deepening higher education's ability to improve community life and educate students for civic and social responsibility.

Strzalkowski's Research Attracts ARL Support



Mark Schmitt

Through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Army Research Laboratory's (ARL) Open Campus initiative, Professor of Computer Science Tomek

Strzalkowski has been awarded \$499,930 to explore the manner in which new data-capture techniques can help advance research in such areas as psychology, anthropology, linguistics and sociology.

An expert on information intelligence and tracking of information about terrorists, Strzalkowski directs the University's Institute for Informatics, Logics and Security Studies (ILS). His interests include natural language processing, and information processing and retrieval.



Paul Miller



Paul Miller

Joined by family, friends and members of the University at Albany community, the Class of 2019 gathered at SEFCU Arena Aug. 22 for the first-ever Opening Convocation. More than 4,000 guests attended the event, which will be held annually on the second day of freshman move-in. For additional photos and information, link to www.albany.edu/news/61707.php?WT.eml=nc.

Tolle Exhibit Opens at UAlbany Museum



Brian Tolle, B.A.'86, will be bringing his sculptures to the University Art Museum this fall.

Bordering Utopia: Sculptures by Brian Tolle is the first exhibition to bring together the artist's 1990s work, based on Colonial-American structures, with his more recent creations. His works, which include *Levittown* (2009) and *Alice and Job* (2000), have earned recognition from the Irish American Historical Society, the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation, and the Design Commission of the City of New York. Perhaps best known for his *Irish Hunger Memorial* in New York City, Tolle is currently working on public projects in Brooklyn, N.Y.; Calgary, Alberta; and Columbus, Ohio.



Tolle, who majored in political science at UAlbany, says the negotiation skills he acquired through his studies and a two-year internship with the New York State Assembly have helped him to achieve success in designing and executing public projects. He also holds a B.F.A. from Parsons the New School for Design and an M.F.A. from Yale University.

Bordering Utopia opens Oct. 6; a public reception will be held Oct. 9 from 5 to 7 p.m. at the museum. The exhibition runs concurrently with *Oded Hirsch: Three Videos* through Dec. 12.

NSF CAREER Award Presented to Rose



Mark Schmitt

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has presented a \$544,681 Faculty Early Development (CAREER) Award to Assistant Professor of

Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences Brian Rose.

Rose will use the funding to examine the role of oceans in the planetary energy cycles. In an effort to better understand how and why the planetary energy budget varies in response to oceanic processes on a variety of time scales, Rose and his research team will study ocean heat fluxes as independent climate forcings.

A major aspect of the project involves the mentoring of a new generation of climate scientists, including a doctoral student and several undergraduates.

Recent Graduate Receives Fulbright

It didn't take Kaitlyn Gulick, B.A.'15, long to transition from college life to international educator: Shortly after graduation last May, she received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Scholarship in South Korea.

During her sophomore and junior years at UAlbany, Gulick studied in Japan and South Korea. The Japanese studies major from Cohoes, N.Y., participated in the University's Tae Kwon Do Club and was a member of the Korean and Japanese student associations. She also helped to develop UAlbany Cultural Connections, a club created to promote cultural exploration by American and international students.

Gulick left July 10 for her assignment in South Korea, where she will become TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) certified. She will return to the U.S. next July.



Mark Schmitt

UAlbany magazine is published twice a year for alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends of the University at Albany, State University of New York. Our objective is to produce a lively, informative publication that stimulates pride and interest in UAlbany.

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

Cover: For Ron Wechsler, B.A.'92, social media have opened up new avenues of promoting NBC Sports' original programming and communicating with consumers. To read about the ways Wechsler and other UAlbany alumni are using Facebook, Twitter and other online venues to spread the word about their companies' products and services, turn to page 11. Photo: Clayton Collins

New Senior Administrators Appointed

University at Albany President Robert J. Jones has announced the following recent senior administrative appointments:

Vice Provost and Dean Harvey Charles, International Education

Charles formerly served as vice provost for International Initiatives and director of the Center for International Education at Northern Arizona University. He has also held senior leadership roles at Georgia Institute of Technology; San Francisco State University; Wheaton College; and the University of Nevada, Reno.



Vice President Joseph A. Brennan, Communications and Marketing

Brennan joins UAlbany from the University of Iowa, where he served as vice president of Strategic Communications. His previous professional experience includes executive communication roles at Ohio University, the University of the Pacific, and The University of Toledo in Ohio.



Vice President Michael Christakis, Student Success

Christakis, who earned an M.P.P. and a Ph.D. from Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, joined the University staff in 1999. He has held numerous positions, including an associate vice president's post, in Student Affairs.



Dean and Professor William Alex Pridemore, School of Criminal Justice

Pridemore comes to UAlbany from Georgia State University, where he was a distinguished professor in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology and a senior researcher in the Cluster on Evidence-Based Policy.



Dean Darrell P. Wheeler, School of Social Welfare; Vice Provost, Public Engagement



Wheeler previously served at Loyola University Chicago as dean and professor in the School of Social Work. Active in the professional community, he is president of the Board of

Directors of the National Association of Social Workers.

Interim Dean Kim L. Boyer, College of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Boyer, who is also professor and chair of the new Department of Computer Engineering, formerly headed the Department of Electrical, Computer and Systems Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Previously, he served on the faculty of The Ohio State University for 22 years.



Interim Dean R. Karl Rethemeyer, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy

Rethemeyer's primary research interest is in social networks; their impact on social, political and policy processes; and the methods used to study such networks.



Interim Dean David L. Rousseau, College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity

Rousseau's research interests focus on military conflict, shared identity, political development, and foreign policy. His books include *Democracy and War:*



Institutions, Norms and the Evolution of International Conflict and Identifying Threats and Threatening Identities: The Social Construction of Realism and Liberalism.

Gifts at Work

By Michele Flynn



Longtime University at Albany supporters J. Spencer Standish and Patricia Standish donated \$1.5 million in 2014 to endow positions for three professors who will work with students interested in creating and managing their own businesses. This fall, Bill Wales, Ph.D., becomes the School of Business' first Standish Professor in Entrepreneurship.

Dean Donald Siegel said Wales, who comes to UAlbany from James Madison University (JMU), is "the ideal person for this professorship." Added Siegel, "The position is going to someone from the region who is an expert and who can help us enhance student entrepreneurship on campus and in the region."

Wales, who grew up in South Colonie, is thrilled to be returning to the Capital Region. "It is really my home. I have a great deal of love for the Albany area," he said. Wales described New York's capital as "a great place for entrepreneurship, with access to tremendous research universities, a Small Business Development Center, tech meet-ups and other opportunities for networking."

Wales holds a B.S. in information technology, an M.S. in industrial and management engineering, and a Ph.D. in management, all from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. His

research focuses on corporate entrepreneurship, particularly identifying where organizations fall on the entrepreneurship continuum in terms of their innovativeness, risk taking and proactivity.

One concept Wales will bring to the School of Business is a hands-on class in entrepreneurship. He created and offered the course when he was a visiting professor of strategy and entrepreneurship at Skidmore College and continued it at JMU, where it is among the most popular electives. For his efforts related to the development of an experiential approach to entrepreneurship education, Wales was awarded JMU's Kenneth Bartee Endowed Teaching Innovation Award in 2012.

His classroom approach, Wales explained, involves spending less time creating a business plan and more time doing. "Deeper, richer learning occurs when one is tasked with attempting to start and run a new business. Entrepreneurship is about problem solving. Entrepreneurs care about building new solutions to problems they encounter. They don't want to be in a lecture hall. They are creators. They are competitive. They rise to a challenge," added Wales, who will teach at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

J. Spencer Standish, chairman emeritus at Albany International, and Patricia Standish, a retired college lecturer, are well known to Capital Region residents for their support of numerous educational and civic interests. Their gift combines with a SUNY 20/20 grant to create this professorship in entrepreneurship and two others.



Pictured, in the photo at left, are Steven Gagliardo '15, Jameson Wells '15, Najwa Zarook '15, J. Spencer Standish, Nicholas DeSimone '16, Patricia Standish, and Lauren Ursaki '13, 14. Above is Standish Professor Bill Wales.

Out and About

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

William L. Reese Center Dedication

Photos: Valerie DiRocco-Ruskin '95 and Lori Matt-Murphy

Dozens of UAlbany faculty, emeriti faculty, staff and friends gathered May 15 to dedicate the University at Albany's Emeritus Center in honor of William L. Reese, Ph.D., its founder. The center sponsors a variety of speakers and educational and cultural programs dedicated to what Reese calls its "three voices": Research, Teaching and Service. The William L. Reese Emeritus Center, funded in part by The Professor Reese "Three Voices" Endowment, will continue to enhance its diverse offerings to UAlbany's emeriti faculty.



President Robert J. Jones unveils the plaque that will be placed at the entrance to the center.



William L. Reese, seated, is joined by his family at the May 16 Graduate Commencement Ceremony, where he was honored publicly for his dedication and generous support.

Inaugural Massry Lecture a Rousing Success

Photos: Mark Schmidt

More than 100 UAlbany supporters and students attended the inaugural Massry Lecture on March 12 in the Standish Living Room of the School of Business. Featured speaker Benjamin M. Lawsky, New York State's Superintendent of Financial Services, addressed a number of his department's key regulatory priorities. Made possible by the historic generosity of the Massry family, the lecture was the first in a series of activities seeking to enrich the academic experience for University at Albany students.



Above, left, Norman Massry, Benjamin Lawsky, Micki Massry and University President Robert J. Jones gather for a photo. At right, Lawsky speaks with students.

The Great Danes at Saratoga

Photos: Colleen Piccolino

The Great Danes graced Saratoga for two days of celebration, networking and horse racing.

More than 110 UAlbany donors attended the invitation-only reception, held July 30 at the Saratoga National Racing Museum and Hall of Fame. Guests had the opportunity to mingle, tour the facility, and hear from University at Albany Foundation Board President George R. Hearst III and UAlbany President Robert J. Jones.

The following day, 300-plus alumni and friends gathered for the Second Annual UAlbany Day at the Races. The event featured appearances and prizes provided by the partners at West Point Thoroughbreds; guest horse handicappers; and the team behind Embrace the Race, a Saratoga-born horse-racing apparel company.



Merci, Gracias, Arigato ... Thanking UAlbany Donors

Photos: Mark Schmidt

While preparing for their finals May 7, UAlbany students took time to stop by the “Thank a Donor” area just outside the Campus Center and share personal messages of gratitude. By supporting scholarships, awards, lectures, nationally ranked programs and cutting-edge facilities, UAlbany donors make a difference both inside and outside the classroom. For a moving video summary of the day, visit www.albany.edu/giving and click on “featured video.”



Stephen Adly Guirgis, B.A.'90

PATH TO THE PULITZER PRIZE

By Paul Grondahl, M.A.'84

After changing his major three times, Stephen Adly Guirgis finally discovered his passion, and an academic home, in the University at Albany's theatre department. He credited theatre professors Langdon Brown and the late Jarka Burian and Al Asermely with inspiring him to pursue a career that culminated in the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for drama for his play *Between Riverside and Crazy*.

"Al was kind of like a shepherd of wayward souls, and he helped guide me through to graduation. Al's playwriting class helped open my mind and made me think maybe I could write for the theater someday," said Guirgis.

He recalled Burian as "a great teacher who taught me to love the theater," and he took Brown's classes in *Comic Theory*, *Shakespeare* and *Modern Drama*. Brown also cast Guirgis his senior year in his first lead in a University play, Richard Greenberg's *Eastern Standard*.

The son of an Egyptian immigrant, Guirgis grew up in Manhattan and had only vague objectives when he arrived at UAlbany. He struggled academically and felt adrift as he tried various majors before he found his niche in the tight-knit theatre program. "Things really started to click, at that point," he recalled. "We were kind of like a weird group, but we were always doing

something, creating shows, and we stuck together."

Glenn Fleshler, B.A.'90, Guirgis' roommate in off-campus apartments and fellow theatre major, went on to star in the TV series "True Detective" and "Hannibal" and has been cast in many feature films. Another Guirgis collaborator who attended UAlbany is John Ortiz, a founder, with the late actor Philip Seymour Hoffman, of the off-Broadway Labyrinth Theater Company.

When Guirgis visited UAlbany in 2010 for a seminar, lecture and student production of his play *Jesus Hopped The A Train*, Brown introduced his former student, praising Guirgis for his "amazing ability to hear dialogue and reproduce the rhythm and dialect." Added Brown: "He's a very empathetic person with a high intelligence quotient. He has a take on diversity and colorful characters that is unique and fresh."

"His writing is electrifying," said Donald Faulkner, director of the New York State Writers Institute. "We're very proud of Stephen, who's still legendary around here."



Eileen Barroso/Columbia University

From left, Mike Pride, administrator of the Pulitzer Prizes, and Columbia University President Lee C. Bollinger present the 2015 Pulitzer Prize in Drama May 28 to Stephen Adly Guirgis for his play *Between Riverside and Crazy*.

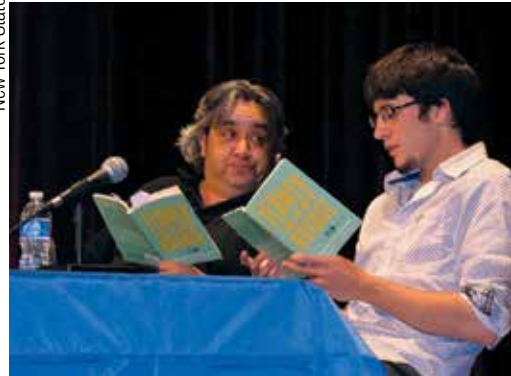
Guirgis enjoyed returning to his *alma mater*. “I have a lot of good memories of UAlbany,” he said. “I’m really happy that I’m still friends with several people from the theatre program. We’re all just a lucky bunch of kids from UAlbany who were trying to find ourselves, and now we’re making a living in theater in New York.”

Guirgis is an actor and playwright who endured lean years while getting established in the New York theater world. He worked as a violence-prevention specialist and HIV-prevention educator in prisons, shelters and schools. He was recently hired as a writer for an upcoming Netflix TV show. “Get Down,” focused on the birth of hip-hop in the 1970s, is set in the South Bronx and directed by Baz Luhrmann.

The Pulitzer jury called *Between Riverside and Crazy* “a nuanced, beautifully written play about a retired police officer faced with eviction that uses dark comedy to confront questions of life and death.” Critics have hailed Guirgis as “a masterful poet of the downtrodden.”

Guirgis lives in the apartment where he grew up on the Upper West Side. His parents are deceased. “I wish my parents and my great friend Phil (Seymour Hoffman) could have lived to see me win the Pulitzer. I know they’d be incredibly proud,” he said.

During an April 12, 2010, visit to UAlbany, Guirgis is interviewed by New York State Writers Institute staff and performs a presentation reading with theatre major Weston Johnson.



New York State Writers Institute

Left to right, Stephen McKinley Henderson, Elizabeth Canavan, Michael Rispoli, Rosal Colon and Ray Anthony Thomas star in the world premiere of Guirgis’ *Between Riverside and Crazy*. Opening night for the play, directed by Austin Pendleton, was July 31, 2014, at Atlantic Theater Company’s Linda Gross Theater in New York City.



Courtesy Atlantic Theater Company/Kevin Thomas Garcia

Student Spotlight

By Carol Olechowski



Dreaming Big

Jon Gilroy is well on his way to attaining his “big dream”: a career as a motivational speaker.

The senior social-welfare major from Pleasant Valley, N.Y., visits secondary and elementary schools to talk with students. “I spoke at one school because a student there has cerebral palsy,” recalls Gilroy. “I have it, too.”

Gilroy, who spoke at Vanderbilt University in 2014, also shares his wisdom at UAlbany. “I talked with a family whose child, a first-semester freshman, was struggling with the transition to college. But they seemed comfortable afterward, and I felt good because I was helping someone else.”

As a Residential Life peer educator, Gilroy looks forward to doing more on campus. “I’m working with [ResLife staff] Ekow King and Mayra Raxon to develop programming surrounding the creation of dialogues on the issues of culture, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, ability and religion. The dialogues will also cover basic issues of identity and learning to love, appreciate and embrace oneself.”

Gilroy, who uses a wheelchair, is pleased to have chosen UAlbany, where “I could live a relatively independent life.” He found the School of Social Welfare’s reputation and its “very competitive” academic offerings attractive, too. “The professors are great,” he adds; “they’ve all been very accessible to me. There are so many academic-support services here. My work in peer advisement exposes me to a lot of different outlets, too.”

Michael Carmen, who founded the *Michael T. Carmen '84 Mentoring Scholarship* Gilroy has received since freshman year, has likewise been supportive. “I can call him and say: ‘Can you help me? I need to know how I’m going to tackle this,’” notes Gilroy.

Gilroy, who graduates in 2016, is weighing his post-UAlbany options. “I may enter the speaking circuit after completing master’s studies in a year,” he says, “or work three years in a supervised clinical setting, become clinically certified and start my own practice.”

social-media mavers

University at Albany alumni who work in corporate administration, public relations, advertising and marketing take to social media to spread the word about their companies, engage consumers and inspire brand loyalty.





Anna Chan/Birkenstock



David Kahan, B.S.'82

A Foothold on Customer Loyalty

By Carol Olechowski



Footwear legend Birkenstock “is not your typical company,” maintains David Kahan, the firm’s chief executive officer since 2013. “This is a company with heart and passion. Our mission is not just to sell footwear, but to sell footwear that brings people happiness and satisfaction.”

Kahan is responsible for “all elements of the business, including distribution; brand management; and, of course, delivering a profit to our shareholders.” He also relishes another role: connecting with Birkenstock’s customer base through social media.

For customers who prefer more traditional communication methods, Birkenstock maintains a call center. “In a day and age where it is nearly impossible to get a human being on the phone, we believe in personal engagement,” observes Kahan, adding that consumers also receive responses to email messages forwarded to the company’s general mailbox.

Thanks to its commitment to customers, Birkenstock has experienced “explosive growth over the past two years,” according to Kahan. The brand’s fans include actors Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Hudson and recent Academy Award winner Julianne Moore. “Julianne has my cell-phone number and can reach out anytime to find out when the newest style is coming out. Her Twitter picture shows her feet in a pair of fur-lined Birkenstocks. This isn’t something you can fake. We do no celebrity seedings or product placement.”

Social media, Kahan adds, “have changed the way brands engage their consumers. We believe in wrapping our arms around our loyal fans and creating a true community. The direct contact shows respect for our customers; it lets them know they are valued.”

Birkenstock, founded by a family in Germany more than 240 years ago, is still made there, “largely by hand.” The brand came to the United States in the late 1960s when a California woman, Margot Fraser, discovered the comfortable shoes after developing foot pain while trekking through Europe. When Fraser returned to San Francisco, Kahan relates, “she contacted the Birkenstock family and, with zero footwear experience, asked if she could import some pairs. Managers at shoe stores told her the shoes were ugly and would never sell.”

Convinced of the shoes’ health benefits, however, Fraser sold the first pairs to health-food stores. “Birkenstocks caught on with a somewhat ‘alternative’ crowd that included college students and have since become a global phenomenon. Our styles are considered some of the most iconic footwear silhouettes in the industry,” Kahan observes.

Kahan himself is somewhat iconic. While majoring in accounting at UAlbany, he worked at Macy’s for a few summers. The experience melded his enthusiasm for sports, clothing and fashion with a penchant for assisting customers. After completing the retailer’s executive-training program, Kahan created The Macy’s Athletic Club, which capitalized on “the huge cultural interest in health and wellness, and marked Macy’s entry into the athletic-footwear business.”

Senior-management roles with Nike; Reebok, North America; and Adidas and its Rockport footwear division followed.

Birkenstock inspires customer loyalty because “we will never, ever compromise our quality or brand values,” explains Kahan. He can personally attest to the company’s unwavering commitment to workmanship and mission: Kahan wears Birkenstocks to work – with a business suit.



Daymond John of “Shark Tank,” left, poses with Birkenstock CEO David Kahan after presenting the footwear-company executive a Brand of the Year award.

What's Next for Birkenstock?

Birkenstock’s “fans for life,” says CEO David Kahan, have given the company opportunities to expand its product line.

“A closed-toe shoe collection introduced recently includes warm winter boots, women’s spring wedges, and also great men’s casual shoes.” Response to the line “has exceeded all expectations,” Kahan reports. “We also just launched hosiery. Many people wear them with the Birkenstocks – a look we call ‘socks ‘n’ stocks.’”

Kahan promises that Birkenstock “will continue to introduce what we call ‘limited-edition’ styles that deliver seasonally and excite the market. Spring 2016 will include neon colors.”



Connecting and Conversing



Michele Husak intended to major in business at UAlbany, “but statistics wasn’t my cup of tea.” She enjoyed her psychology classes more. “I always loved trying to figure people out on a deeper level,” recalls the movie and TV lover, who relocated to Los Angeles two weeks after graduation to work in the entertainment industry.

After five years assisting agents; reading scripts; and serving as a development executive for various production companies at Warner Bros., Columbia/TriStar and Sony Pictures, Husak moved back to New York to do band publicity at record labels. At the advent of the late 1990s dot-com boom, she began a career in tech public relations at Jupiter Communications. The communication skills Husak had honed at UAlbany – and the “invaluable” public-speaking proficiency her former professors had encouraged by pushing her to participate more in class – were useful as she aided companies in “refining and telling their stories on a broad scale.”

She returned to California to take a role with Shopping.com (later acquired by eBay) in 2003. Later, as one of Pandora’s first employees, Husak helped the start-up evolve into a “very popular” music service. She subsequently worked in PR at Digg, then in corporate communications for the online video network Revision3, which Discovery acquired in 2012. Husak went on to head communications for Thumbtack, “a marketplace that matches customers seeking service professionals to assist with everything from home repairs to party planning and music lessons.”

Husak’s UAlbany degree enabled her to “manage the unique personalities of my bosses, and of the producers, actors and writers, and musicians” early in her career, and those of the Silicon Valley executives she works with now. “The entertainment-business craziness you see and hear about is not an exaggeration,” she says, adding, “the same applies to the Silicon Valley!”

A self-described “behind-the-scenes type,” Husak is “happy promoting others.” Since she began her career, “social media has absolutely transformed the public relations industry,” notes Husak, who embraces Twitter, Facebook and the company blog posts that have superseded Rolodexes, newswire services and press releases.



Tracking Trends in Social Media

By Claudia Ricci, Ph.D.'96



“Communicating directly with customers is a great opportunity to form a trusting relationship, and it shouldn’t be taken for granted. Consumers now look for a response in real time and in an authentic manner; the younger generation wants to connect and converse. The companies excelling at social media are the ones that are super fast, super helpful and super smart about conversing with, not at, their customers,” explains Husak.

Recently, she took on a new role, running communications at Indiegogo, the global site that helps bring people’s ideas to fruition through crowdfunding. In her spare time, Husak also does PR and social media for husband George Yatrakis’ new venture. “He creates handmade wooden surfboards (www.facebook.com/pacificboards), and it’s been great fun attempting to build a following from scratch,” Husak recounts. “It’s a challenge to know what to post and when, and how to speak in the language of potential customers. Each new ‘like’ or comment is a personal victory!”

Husak, a mom of two, is a Girl Scout troop leader and started an adventure club for boys and their dads three years ago. She is also active with the parent-teacher organization at her children’s school. Husak and her family live in Pacifica, Calif., where they hike and enjoy the beach, camping, concerts, and “being outside as much as possible.”

Advice for Social-Media Users

“Social-media managers and PR professionals need to be transparent and honest in how they communicate,” observes veteran public-relations expert Michele Husak. “It’s never a good idea to respond only to positive messages or to delete negative comments. Don’t be afraid to put yourself out there – humility goes a long way. If you treat your customers with respect, it will pay dividends.

“Remember, when you reply to a comment, you’re not just responding to one person: Your entire customer base will see how you handle the situation, so make sure you get it right. And if you don’t, apologize and fix it.”

You wouldn’t expect a former English major to say that analyzing literature in college helped him interpret important trends in social networks and understand why people use Facebook and other social media.

Well, then, meet Patrick Albano, who says one of the most influential teachers he had at UAlbany was Professor of English Jeff Berman. In one class, Berman – whose specialties include literature and psychology – taught Albano how to define clearly and concisely what it was he was trying to say.

That skill comes in handy today in Albano’s role as vice president, head of Advertising Solutions for Yahoo! in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. In this position, and for most of his 17-year career, Albano has looked at how advertising is evolving because of social networks.

One of the most important new trends in social media, Albano says, is “native advertising,” in which companies mirror ordinary users in how they present their content. Albano is currently focusing on Tumblr, the social-networking website acquired by Yahoo! in 2013. He also served as co-chair of an industry-wide task force trying to define guidelines for this new type of advertising.



Albano, who previously was vice president of Sales at Citizen Sports, says that businesses are not only using social networks to promote their services, but

they can actually build their entire business on social networks like Tumblr or Facebook. That’s just what Citizen Sports did, and under Albano’s direction, Yahoo! acquired the company in 2010. “That’s the next evolution of social marketing.”



ronwechsler

Ron Wechsler, B.A.'92

The Significance of Social-Media Platforms

By Stephen Shoemaker, B.A.'02

Sports perfectly illustrate the symbiosis between social media and live events. That fact isn't lost on Ron Wechsler, senior vice president for Original Programming and Production at NBC Sports: He says he contemplates the role social media play in his industry on a daily basis.

"Anything that comes up, I want to make sure, at the very least, I have an understanding of how it is being consumed," he said. As a result, Wechsler has adopted social-media platforms not necessarily targeted to his demographic.

"A 45-year-old guy on Snapchat isn't the norm," he quipped. Still, it's an especially good example of the platform he seeks, observed Wechsler, who earned a B.A. in English with a minor in rhetoric and communication at UAlbany. While the perception of Snapchat was an app for tweens and teens, it's quickly become a much bigger player in the game – one that broadcasters and networks are rushing to embrace.

"The world is your focus group. Pay attention; figure out what people are talking about," he noted. "You have access to what they're enjoying, or not enjoying, in a real timeline. That is an incredible tool."



Clayton Collins

"Sometimes, you're chasing very ephemeral platforms," he said. "And sometimes, if you're not paying attention, what seems insignificant can become incredibly significant almost overnight."

While live events are the bread and butter of sports networks, Wechsler knows there's a role for social media in helping to promote the types of original programming – documentaries, reality series, etc. – he oversees. Compelling, humorous, "OMG!" or cliché "viral" posts can all be inclinations to tune in. "Those are the sorts of things anybody in the content business tries to tap into, whether you're NBC or BuzzFeed," he said.

Though social media hasn't altered the core responsibility of putting out a quality televised product, Wechsler said it has made tapping into the *zeitgeist* much easier. "The world is your focus group. Pay attention; figure out what people are talking about," he noted. "You have access to what they're enjoying, or not enjoying, in a real timeline. That is an incredible tool."



andrewpudalov

Andrew Pudalov, B.S.'88

Social-Media Rush

By Stephen Shoemaker, B.A.'02

When Andrew Pudalov founded Rush Bowls in The Hill district of Boulder in 2004, he was able to rely on the oldest form of social media: word of mouth. His eatery, which serves thickly blended fruit bowls with a customer's choice of toppings, turned out to be a hit among the University of Colorado crowd.

"It's a great way to start. Either the students accept you and become loyal customers, or they don't. We're a premium-priced product, so their acceptance is important," said Pudalov, who majored in business administration at UAlbany.

Eleven years later, the landscape of social media only amplifies that word of mouth. It also allows Rush Bowls to participate in the conversation directly. Social media "is about engaging [customers], asking them questions, trying to get information from them on what they like and what they want to see," Pudalov said. One example: Customers very much

appreciate it when Rush Bowls teams up with a student group to donate a portion of sales to charity.

Good will and customer rapport are important to Pudalov, especially since the Rush Bowls brand has expanded into wholesale distribution – and beginning this year, franchises – throughout the Rocky Mountains region. But the continual shifts in social media require constant attention and input, from his managers down to his younger employees.

Pudalov picks the brains of his teenaged kids, too. "Things have changed," he observed. "Today, 14- and 16-year-olds, rather than 50- and 60-year-olds, are dictating where they see social media going."



Norman E. Snyder, Jr., B.S.'83 Connecting With Consumers

By Claudia Ricci, Ph.D.'96

Back in the late 1990s, Norman Snyder was leading the South Beach Beverage Company and promoting its highly successful “SoBe” beverages. The company initially relied on guerilla marketing, followed by traditional mass-marketing campaigns, to drive consumer awareness.

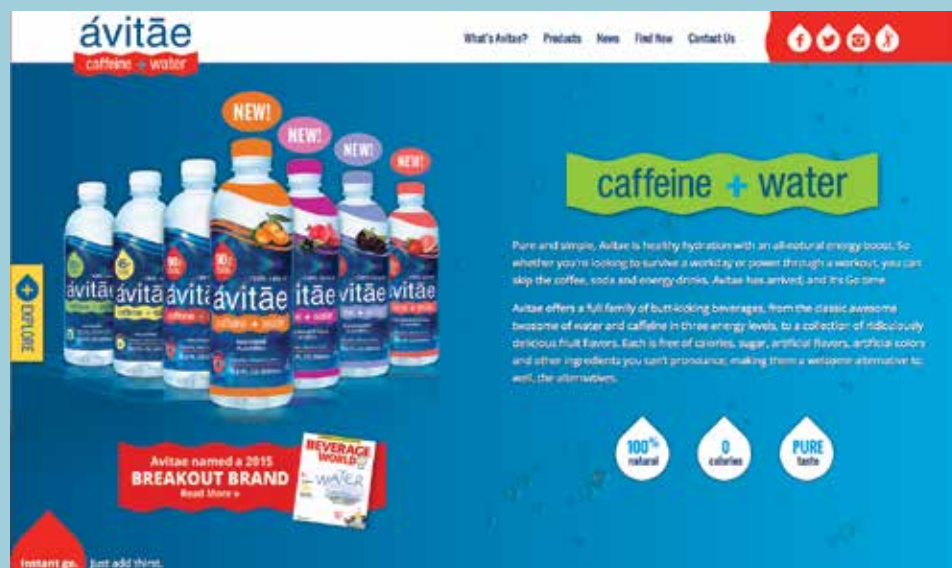
Twenty years later, as president and CEO of Avitae, USA, Snyder promotes beverages under the Avitae brand. But now, thanks to social media, marketing has taken on a dramatically new approach. Like so many other companies, Avitae wants “to interact directly with consumers,” Snyder says. “All of our advertising is built on social media, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinstar.”

Recently, Avitae – which sells a line of caffeinated water without sugar –

announced new flavors on its webpage, and placed pictures and descriptions of the products throughout social-media outlets. Particularly important to the campaign was Facebook, where Avitae purchased digital ad space to promote the new drinks to a broader audience. Instagram, a photo-based medium, was also key.

Social media, Snyder says, are “extremely cost effective.” He estimates that social-media advertising costs only about 25 percent as much as an old-fashioned ad campaign.

Not only are social media cheaper, they’re also faster: “You can decide one day to run a campaign, and that afternoon it’s going out.” With social media, Snyder observes, “you connect faster than you would otherwise, and you get feedback faster, with a lot more specifics.”



Above, left: New flavors are introduced on Avitae’s website; above, right: Norman Snyder speaks at the Albany Center for Entrepreneurship’s Spring Seminar.

Eric Tong, B.A.'91 Word-of-Mouth Success

By Jim Sciancalepore, M.A.'93

**Great value.
Excellent customer service.
Lifetime warranty.**

This is the formula that Eric Tong and his business partner have parlayed into a nearly overnight success story. Following what he termed “a mid-life crisis” after nearly two decades in the consumer electronics industry, Tong decided to strike out on his own ... and co-founded Tech Armor in June of 2012. Tech Armor manufactures screen protectors, cases, cables, and mobile charging solutions for smartphones, tablets, and other devices.

They sold only 89 units in their first month, but they moved more than 300,000 in their first six months. By the end of 2014, they had sold 6 million screen protectors.

More remarkably, Tech Armor achieved this growth without any retail displays in “brick-and-mortar” stores, and with no traditional marketing support. Their product is sold exclusively online, primarily through amazon.com, www.techarmor.com, and Ebay, and their promotion is largely a combination of social media, public relations and paid search (Amazon and Google). In online selling environments like Amazon, a product’s success hinges upon its user-generated reviews. Based on its many four- and five-star ratings and some 10,000+ reviews, Tech Armor’s products are held in high regard.

“We stand behind our product, and people appreciate that,” said Tong.

On the rare occasions that someone posts a negative comment about the product, Tong’s customer-service team responds promptly – reaching out to dissatisfied customers, and often sending them a free replacement product.

“You have to be nimble in our business,” explained Tong. “Word of mouth is everything.”

Tong remembers his UAlbany days fondly – especially the accessible, approachable faculty. “I feel like every single teacher was there to help,” he noted.



Adam Denenberg, B.S.'98

Tuned In

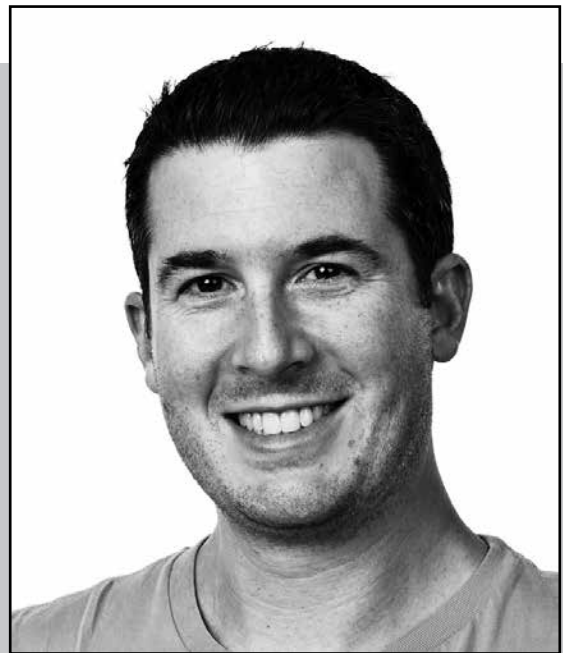
By Carol Olechowski

As chief technology officer of the iHeartRadio network, music fan and computer-science wiz Adam Denenberg has a job well suited to his passions.

The position “was definitely appealing,” says Denenberg, who joined iHeartRadio in November 2014 after serving as vice president of Engineering with The Huffington Post. “Working for a company with the range that iHeartRadio has was a tremendous opportunity for me.”

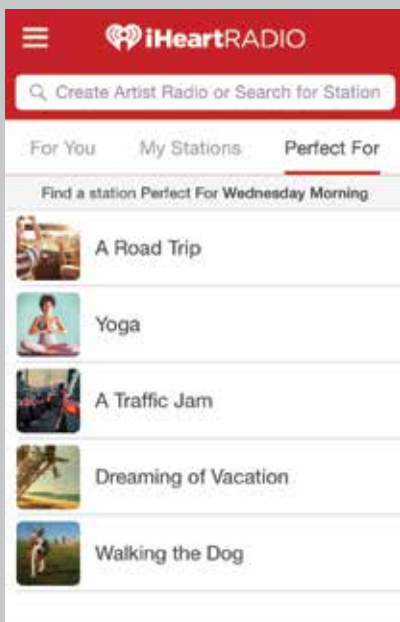
At iHeartRadio, iHeartMedia’s all-in-one digital-radio and streaming-music service, Denenberg is responsible for overall technology strategy. Recruiting is another aspect of his work: When meeting with prospective employees, “I talk about iHeartRadio’s culture of innovation, and why it’s so interesting and fun to work here,” Denenberg notes.

iHeartRadio’s 858 U.S.-based AM, FM and HD outlets broadcast news, talk, music, sports and a variety of other formats through iHeartRadio.com, its apps and individual stations’ websites. Each month, millions of listeners use their tablets, smartphones and gaming consoles to access its information and entertainment offerings.



“The reach of radio remains extremely strong, with 92 percent of Americans listening each week,” observes Denenberg, whose work experience also includes positions with Thomson Reuters, ROO Media, About.com and Comedy Central. Since people tune in at their homes and offices, in cars, and on public transportation, he mines “data around listening and playing behaviors” to personalize their user experiences by determining what types of music they enjoy, and when. “By understanding the way people use our products – based on geographic locations, previous listening behaviors and time of day – we can make more informed decisions about whether they’re interested in Ben Harper, Drake or Pink Floyd.”

Denenberg, who majored in computer science and minored in physics, entered the technology field right after graduating from UAlbany. He praises professors S.S. Ravi and Seth Chaiken for teaching courses that provided students a “solid foundation” and afforded them the “flexibility” they would need whether their careers took them into robotics, artificial intelligence or in another direction.





The Power of Music

By Jim Sciancalepore, M.A.'93

“It’s no longer effective to talk at your audience,” explained Rob Stone. “You have to become part of the conversation – part of the culture.”

Stone is the founder and co-CEO of Cornerstone, a marketing agency that exists at the intersection of music, marketing and pop culture. Cornerstone has developed experiential marketing efforts for some of the world’s biggest brands (including Nike, Converse and Coca-Cola) by connecting them in a relevant way with major music artists, including Kanye West; actors like Aaron Paul; and movies and TV shows such as “Entourage.” Launched in 1996, Cornerstone is now staffed by more than 100 people – with offices across three continents.

Cornerstone’s campaigns include traditional media, like outdoor and print, but they also leverage the viral power of video; social media; and live, culture-shaping events, such as the annual SXSW festival.

“People value the opinions and recommendations of their friends and peers over the clutter of messages being broadcast at them – that’s why social media and word of mouth are so important,” said Stone. “But you have to create something special and entertaining that people will genuinely want to interact with and share.”

Before founding Cornerstone, Stone began his career in the music business, working with legendary producer Clive Davis and such artists as Sean “Puffy” Combs and Notorious B.I.G. His love for music extends beyond Cornerstone: He is also co-founder of *The FADER*, a magazine that spotlights emerging artists. With a strong eye for talent, *The FADER* has provided the first-ever cover stories for Pharrell Williams, Nicki Minaj, The White Stripes and others.



Stone takes great joy in co-running both businesses, and said his instincts date back to his UAlbany days and beyond.

“At age 8, I sent my dad a list of candy and soda that I wanted him to bring to my sleep-away camp, because I knew I could resell them for a profit,” said Stone. “While at UAlbany, I started the first-ever Young Comedians night at LP’s [a now defunct Albany bar], and I created an advertising calendar with local merchants like Sovrana Pizza and other Albany vendors. I’ve always been entrepreneurial.”





Rachel Galatt, B.A.'94

Filling a Niche for Expectant Moms

By Claudia Ricci, Ph.D.'96

When Rachel Galatt launched Maternal Science, Inc., and the healthy mama® brand in 2013, her business plan called for the company's product line to be on shelves in Target, Walmart and CVS by 2016.

"We are a year ahead of my business plan," says a delighted Galatt, who majored in Spanish and minored in business at UAlbany. "We are very blessed."

One reason the company has been so successful so quickly is that it is filling a niche, supplying the safest over-the-counter drugs to treat the common symptoms of pregnancy. Each product is thoroughly researched and guaranteed to contain the safest active ingredients for pregnant women.

Another reason healthy mama® is growing like wildfire is because of the marketing. While its products are marketed through more traditional media outlets, the company is busy developing marketing initiatives for social media, as well.

Currently, healthy mama® has a website (healthymamabrand.com), a Facebook page; a blog; and accounts with Pinterest, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube. The company works with an ad agency to design print and digital advertisements for Facebook. In addition, healthy mama® is in the process of hiring an agency that will be devoted specifically to promoting its products through social media.

"I believe in social media," says Galatt. But she admits she's "challenged" when it comes to navigating the social-media networks; they are "so fluid and constantly evolving." For that reason, Galatt wants to make sure that she hires a very savvy and experienced agency.



Sarah Stone for BuzzFeed

Stephen Loguidice, B.A.'02 • **Leading the Buzz**

By Stephen Shoemaker, B.A.'02

It's one thing to jump onto the content-marketing bandwagon to tell brand stories. It's another to have driven the wagon all along. That's what Stephen Loguidice and his colleagues at BuzzFeed have done since 2010, when they pioneered a new way for advertisers to get in front of the public.

Loguidice remembers: "We were the ones saying that everybody needs to start thinking differently, because consumption habits have changed drastically: Social [media] is the new starting point, and companies need to be looking this way. We were shouting it from the mountaintops."

In 2010, digital marketing equated to obnoxious banners, interstitial ads and video pre-roll. As the first salesperson brought on board to help monetize BuzzFeed, Loguidice was at the forefront of helping brands create content people would find compelling, humorous or interesting enough to share on social-media platforms like Facebook and Twitter. "People were throwing around the word 'content,' but there was no context behind it. We were the only ones doing it," says

Loguidice, who earned his B.A. in economics with a minor in business administration. He now serves as BuzzFeed's vice president of Brand Strategy for the East Coast.

One early client was Comedy Central, for "Tosh.0," which – as a TV show centered around Web content – was a perfect fit for BuzzFeed. Another client was General Electric, with its "Ecomagination" campaign. As an innovative company with "a very strong message" about its identity, Loguidice observes, GE "wasn't trying to sell anything right then and there."

As BuzzFeed expands into emerging social-media outlets like Pinterest and Snapchat, and into producing its own online video programming and, potentially, feature-length films, the central philosophy of good content marketing still applies, Loguidice says. "The core foundation is: How do I make something for people, make it for social [media], and build it to be spread and consumed on these platforms that people are already using?"

Teru Kuwayama, B.A.'93

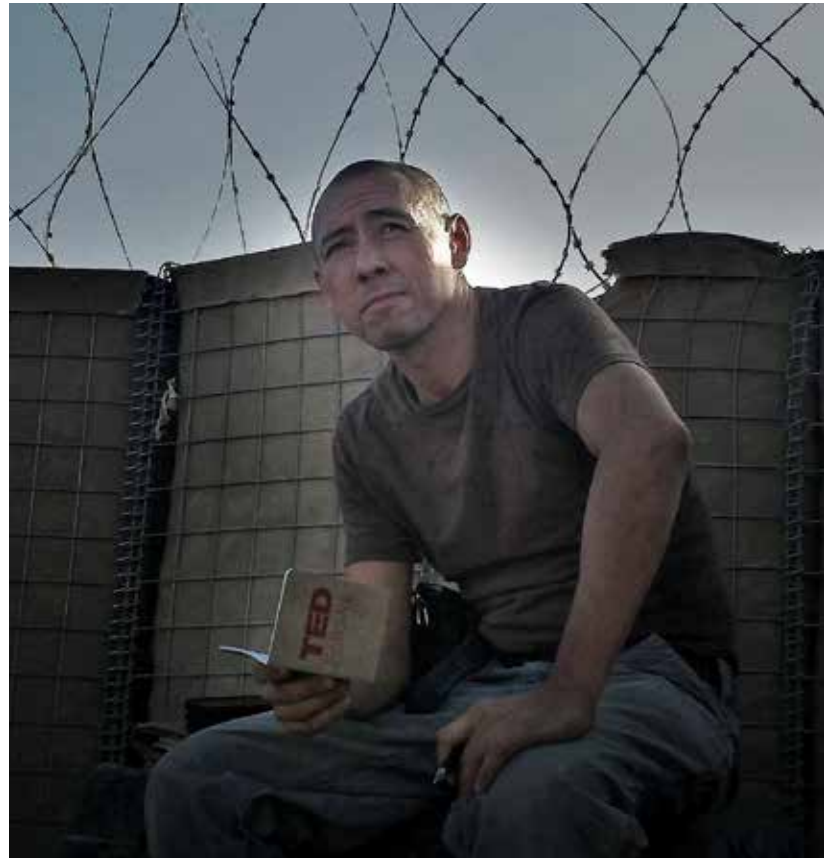
A Photographer's Perspective

By Carol Olechowski



“Back at SUNY Albany, when I first showed up for classes in 1988, it was a completely different world,” recalls award-winning freelance photojournalist Teru Kuwayama. “Most students didn’t have computers of any kind, and smartphones were more than a decade off.

“I remember one course in which the professor explained that there was a new electronic system by which homework assignments would be shared with the class. It required students to go to the library, where there were some desktop computers, in order to register for something called ‘email.’ I thought this was such an absurd and pointless waste of time that I immediately dropped the class. I guess that professor was less delusional than I thought,” observes Kuwayama, who majored in art at the University and began his career taking pictures for the yearbook and University Photo Service.



“I PROVIDE A PHOTOGRAPHER’S PERSPECTIVE FOR A PLATFORM THAT HAS HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE MAKING AND SHARING PHOTOGRAPHS.”

As a member of the Instagram Community Team (“community’ is tech-world terminology for ‘people,’” he explains), the New York City-based Kuwayama fills a unique role: “I provide a photographer’s perspective for a platform that has hundreds of millions of people making and sharing photographs.”

For more than 20 years, Kuwayama worked as a photojournalist for news magazines and aid organizations, “primarily in places like Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kashmir and Iraq.” Often embedded with military forces that ranged from “the U.S. Marines and Special Operations Forces to Indian, Pakistani and Afghan forces,” he captured images of battle and survival. Technology Entertainment and Design (TED), The Knight Foundation, and the Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma at Columbia University are among the many organizations that have recognized Kuwayama for his work.

“In the early days of the Iraq conflict,” Kuwayama says, “I worked with my younger brother, Shinji, who’s a lot more tech savvy than I am. We launched a social network for photographers and people we called ‘unconventional travelers,’ like NGO folks, fixers, and translators, and the odd characters that you meet in off-the-grid places. It was called Lightstalkers, and it ran for a decade. Shinji went on to work at a then-tiny tech start-up called Groupon, becoming its director of Engineering and overseeing its expansion across the planet.”

The technologies that have combined to create what Kuwayama calls “the social-media age” are readily accessible and easy to use, but he cautions that there is “the double-edged sword,” as well. “We’re all swimming in an ocean of images and information. That’s one of the challenges I work on at Instagram these days – the question of how we find the most important images in the millions uploaded every day.”



Jennifer Levine, B.A.’93

Sharing The Fun

By Jim Sciancalepore, M.A.’93

“I get to work and have fun,” explained Jennifer Levine, vice president of Communications for Sprout, NBC’s cable TV and online network for preschool-aged kids.



Levine helps Sprout’s communications team in generating buzz for Sprout and NBC Kids brands through an integrated combination of marketing, public relations and social media. Sprout’s programming includes well-known shows such as “The Chica Show,” “Caillou” and “The Berenstain Bears.”

Levine also coordinates the recruitment of celebrity guests for Sprout’s live morning show, “Sunny Side Up.” They range from Jon Hamm (“Mad Men”) to first lady Michelle Obama to William Shatner (“Star Trek”).

More recently, she was finalizing efforts for “Sproutnado,” the network’s fun, educational take on SyFy’s “Sharknado” (both Sprout and SyFy are part of NBCUniversal) – including a guest stint from “Sharknado” star Ian Ziering. “With the many affiliated properties of NBCUniversal, we have access to so much talent,” explained Levine.

The mother of two can trace her career track back to a UAlbany connection. Upon graduation, a sorority sister helped her land her first job in the entertainment industry at Atlantic Records. It would lead to stints at Disney; Nickelodeon; and, eventually, NBC.

“I’m very grateful ... I really fell into this,” said Levine. “Every day, I can leave work and walk out with a smile on my face.”



Top photo, Nicole and Keith Garber; above, their children, Ashton, 2; Zachary, 9; and Skylar, 6

Keith Garber, B.S.'97

“Lightbulb Moment”

By Carol Olechowski

For Keith Garber and lifelong friend Kevin Schwartz, the entrepreneurial “lightbulb moment” came in 2004. “Kevin and his wife were thinking about starting a family,” recalls Garber. “They wanted their baby to be safe, but also free to play, crawl and explore, as babies should. They started searching for products that would make their home, and the planet, safe, but couldn’t find them.”

That’s when the idea for Babygenics – the Westbury, N.Y., maker of “household and personal-care products made with plant-based ingredients and designed to help parents create a baby-safe world” – was born. The company, “run by two dads,” has developed “a whole ecosystem of products, from home care to skin care, from the bath to laundry to sun care,” according to Garber.

As an undergraduate biology major at UAlbany, Garber was planning a career in medicine. “My love for biology and physiology was overtaken by my entrepreneurial spirit, and I completed a minor in business administration. The reality is, I had already begun my entrepreneurial career sophomore year, with classmate and best friend Josh Shaw [B.S.'97], as a founding partner of Student Advantage. By the time we were 24, we had built a six-person organization into a 650-person publicly traded company on the NASDAQ, generating more than \$100 million in sales,” Garber notes.

While he went on to initiate other successful start-ups, “I didn’t feel I was making a real difference in the lives of others – a dream of mine since I was a kid. When I teamed up with Kevin, I was finally able to combine my passion for growing a business, being a dad, and ultimately providing millions of parents access to baby-safe products.”

Garber and Schwartz “keep a simple goal for the company: to continue making baby products that use the safest ingredients available, are attainable for every mom and dad, and work insanely well!” The business “is so much fun!” adds Garber, who has three children – Zachary, 9; Skylar, 6; and Ashton, 2 – with wife Nicole. “Our wives and kids are test subjects for new formulas and packaging, and as our families grow, we uncover new parenting

scenarios that require new products and solutions. Knowing that new parents discover our products every day, joining our journey to make their babies free to explore safely and freely so they can thrive, only reinforces the passion that drives us every day to continue bringing the Babyganics ‘baby-safe world’ mission to life.”

With the exception of diapers, all Babyganics products are manufactured in the United States, “underscoring our baby-safe promise by maintaining the highest safety and quality standards and expectations. We answer to mom (and dad) at the end of the day and take the trust they place in us very seriously. And, with our company’s tremendous growth, it’s nice to know that we are creating more jobs and opportunities throughout the U.S.,” Garber observes.

Babyganics products are sold by leading national retailers and online. Distributors include Babies ‘R’ Us, Toys ‘R’ Us, BuyBuyBaby, Diapers.com, Amazon.com, Target, Walgreens, CVS, Publix, Safeway, Kroger, and Wegmans.

Given its ambitious merchandising strategy, “Babyganics is fortunate to have some of the best online talent working within our business-development and marketing departments and at our agency partners,” says Garber. “With their expertise, Babyganics is very well positioned in the online world to engage with parents and parents-to-be and help to educate them on what they need to know when it comes to doing better for their families.”

ADVICE FOR ENTREPRENEURS

Babyganics co-founder Keith Garber advises aspiring entrepreneurs from UAlbany to “network with students from other schools to cross-pollinate and bring different business perspectives and approaches to life when building a business.” He speaks from experience: Garber and business partner Kevin Schwartz, a University at Buffalo graduate, “complement each other very well in business, and our combination has delivered a $1 + 1 = 11$ equation in day-to-day business.”



babyganics®

“Babyganics is fortunate to have some of the best online talent working within our business-development and marketing departments and at our agency partners.”



41 **Vincent Gillen** and **Margaret** will celebrate their 73rd wedding anniversary in November.

Class notes counselor: Vincent P. Gillen, vpgillen@yahoo.com

44 **Eleanor Rothe Hammond** recently celebrated her 93rd birthday. She lives in Round Rock, Texas.



Eleanor Rothe Hammond

48 **Sheila Van Scoy Dingley's** husband, Albert F. Dingley Jr., passed in August 2014. Sheila now lives in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., and sends her love to her Phi Delta sisters.

Clara Beninati's husband, **Albert Beninati '49**, passed away in May 2015. **Joan Sittner Sherwood** attended her granddaughter's wedding in Santa Paula, Calif. Joan keeps busy as a volunteer at the REACH Interpretive Center and the library, and enjoys going to the opera, visiting the beach and spending time with her third granddaughter. She lives in Richland, Wash. **Ruth Seelbach Elmore** and husband Jim recently celebrated his 90th birthday at John Knox Village, Lee's Summit, Mo. Ruth's granddaughter has been nominated for an Emmy award. **Rosemary Ryan McGraw** of Voorheesville, N.Y., welcomed a great-grandchild. She enjoys spending time with her eight grandchildren and now, four great-grandchildren. **Barbara Hyman Shapiro** relocated from Florida to Teaneck, N.J., to be closer to family. **Gari Paticopoulos** will join her grandson, who works in Shanghai, in Albany to visit family. **Eleanor Holbig Alland** recently attended the Vital Volunteers Luncheon at UAlbany and visited with many of her former Chi Sigma Theta sisters. **Wanda Tomasik Methe** and **Viola Abrams Pettersen** keep in touch with each other.

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

49 **Bonnie Lee Adkins'** granddaughter Dee was promoted with the Peace Corps in Africa. Dee visited volunteers in Liberia and Sierra Leone during the Ebola outbreak, returning healthy and fulfilled. Bonnie's grandson Joe recently returned from Japan, where his band played in several music

festivals; he lives in Tucson, Ariz. **Lena Sorcinelli Capuano's** oldest son recently retired from teaching at Truman State University and will be living with her for the next six months. He'll return to his home in Kirksville, Mo., to spend the holidays with his children. Lena's other son, a real-estate agent, lives in Newtown, Conn. Lena feels fortunate to have some of her family close by: She also has a son who lives across the street from her home in Altamont and teaches biology and environmental studies at Hudson Valley Community College. **Elsa Moberg Cox** reports that one granddaughter is attending California Polytechnic Institute; another granddaughter, who graduated from UCLA, is attending Pepperdine University Law School. Her grandson will be a freshman at Arizona State University. Elsa maintains her strength by attending exercise classes regularly, Monday through Thursday. **Jerry Dunn** and wife Shirley celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in June; they met at NYSCT and were married one week after Shirley's graduation. They attended several of their grandchildren's high-school and college graduation ceremonies this past spring. Their grandchildren attend various universities, including Clark University, Cornell, the University of Virginia, SUNY Binghamton, SUNY (IT) Utica, Eckerd (Florida), and George Mason University. As they see how costly their grandchildren's education is, Jerry and Shirley continue to be thankful they attended college in a different era and graduated with no debt. Jerry has served as secretary/treasurer of a golf group for several years, but plays golf less often. Instead, he has taken an interest in gardening and has a spot in a nearby community garden. Shirley continues to write books; her latest is on the history of Fort Crailo, a state historic site in Rensselaer. She has written a half-dozen others and is a recognized scholar on the Mohican Indians. Three of **Ellen Fay Harmon's** grandchildren graduated this past spring, including a grandson who received a master's degree in culinary arts from Johnson & Wales University and will work as a *sous chef* at the Sagamore in Lake George. A granddaughter received her bachelor's degree from Clarkson University, and Ellen's youngest grandson will attend George Mason University in the fall. Ellen's other grandchildren and family members are doing great things, as well. One granddaughter will travel to South Africa as an instructor in the student-exchange

program, and another grandson will be transferring from Syracuse University to Clarkson. Ellen's two oldest grandsons are Virginia Commonwealth University graduates who live and work in Richmond, Va. Two of **Bob Kittredge's** granddaughters were recently married; Bob and Diana now have two great-grandchildren as a result of one of the marriages. Unfortunately, Diana fell and broke her left femur, necessitating a complete hip replacement. She underwent rehab at the continuing-care facility where Bob and Diana recently moved. "**Mickey Seaman Rozwod** plans to attend her high school's 70th reunion. All six of her children, with their spouses and grandchildren, visited Mickey for Memorial Day weekend. Two of her boys live on the West Coast. One granddaughter graduated from

the physician's-assistant program at Clarkson University, and another received her degree from the University at Buffalo. Mickey says, "That makes six grandkids through undergrad school, with four more to go." **Ursula Neuhaus Schiff** was "promoted" to the assisted-living facility in Sarasota, Fla., in the retirement community in which her late husband and late dog had lived. Classes provided by outside teachers keep Ursula's mind challenged, she says. Her two sons and all five of her grandchildren live in California. **Gloria Maistelman Herkowitz** is very proud to report that one grandson graduated from Jefferson Medical College and will be specializing in radiology, and another grandson is a student at Columbia Law School. **Joe Zanchelli** and **Joyce Zanchelli '52** celebrated

their 64 years of marriage in June. They recently enjoyed a Road Scholar program in St. Augustine, Fla., and attended their granddaughter's high-school graduation. Nicole, the youngest of eight grandchildren, will be attending Drexel University.

Class notes counselor: Joe Zanchelli, jzanch@yahoo.com

50 **Irwin Baumel** and **Elise DeSeve** traveled to Europe this past summer. They spent time in Budapest and Amsterdam and visited the Van Gogh Museum. **Ken George**, who had a knee replacement, is doing well and back to playing tennis. His youngest grandson graduated with a master's degree in business and works at Price-WaterhouseCoopers in New York City. **Ben Jackson** sends

best wishes to members of the Class of 1950. "I have memories of those long-ago years. I can't believe it's been 65 years, even though I was a math major and can certainly do the math." **Audrey Koch Feathers'** granddaughter, Gretchen, is the online marketing manager of Chelsea Green Publishing in Vermont, and is an aspiring Adirondack 46er following in the footsteps of her grandfather, Dick Feathers. Her Uncle Rich and Uncle Bob Feathers are Adirondack 46ers, as well. **Lila Lee Silva Harrington** spent three weeks in Scottsdale, Ariz., with her daughter Leslie and family. The trip included a visit to Sedona. Lila joined Leslie and her husband for lunch at the Enchanted Resort. Earlier, they participated in a two-day conference on global issues, a gathering of international dignitaries. They enjoyed

A MESSAGE FROM LEE SERRAVILLO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, UALBANY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

No Matter Your Location, You Can Make UAlbany Stronger.



Catherine "Cat" Provost '05 of Washington, D.C., maintains a strong connection with her *alma mater* as an alumni volunteer. Despite the miles that physically separate her from UAlbany's campus, Cat has helped current students and alumni connect and build strong relationships in the Metro D.C. area. "UAlbany means so much to me, I wanted to pay it forward in whatever small way I could," she stated shortly after graduating and moving to Washington. Cat recently became the chair of our Alumni Volunteer Council, and will help guide initiatives to grow a broader, stronger base of local and regional volunteers, as well as increased volunteer opportunities.

Network across the globe, build a brand, and make career connections.

Regardless of your location, time commitment, or interests, there are multiple volunteer opportunities to help you stay connected to UAlbany. Regional volunteers, like Cat, are superstars when the Great Danes qualify for the NCAA Tournament, acting as hosts of viewing parties. In addition, they help the alumni association coordinate events outside the Capital District, everywhere from L.A. to Cyprus.

The UAlbany Career Advisory Network boasts more than 2,000 alumni who volunteer as career advisors to alumni and current students. Connections made through UCAN have resulted in student internships, employment immediately upon graduation, and real advice from alumni who've "been there." Volunteering as a UCAN advisor requires an active email address and/or phone number and just minutes of your time.

Social Media Ambassadors spread positive messaging and share UAlbany news on social-media networks. They can always be counted on for adding up the retweets, favorites, and "likes" when a hashtag or event is being promoted. They're connected through their fingertips, they live all over the world, and their volunteer efforts take only seconds to make a strong impact.

Your time is the future of UAlbany.

The length of a basketball game, the few minutes it takes to answer an email, even a split second spent tapping the thumbs up on Facebook is all it takes to stay connected as an alumni volunteer. We hope that you'll join us in building a stronger UAlbany.

Alumni News & Notes

visiting the Desert Botanical Gardens in Scottsdale. Lila is in good health, is still driving, and plans to visit Oneonta, Vermont, North Carolina and the coast. She spoke with **Jeanne Bowen Walsh-Gardner** on her birthday. Lila sends warm thoughts to 1950 classmates and Phi Delta sisters. **Marjory Lyons** celebrated the birth of her second great-granddaughter, Quinn, as well as her own (85th) birthday, in Cavendish, Vt., where her family once had a small, historic inn. In an English accent learned as a student of Agnes Futterer, Marj read excerpts from one of her plays, much to the amusement of those gathered for the occasion. She retired from Nova Southeastern University after 22 years on the graduate faculty. At a recent lunch with University Associate Vice President Lori Matt-Murphy, Marj was presented a framed replica of a *UAlbany* magazine column she wrote about Helen Jones Warner, B.A. '36, M.L.S. '67. **Albert Martin** provided a testimony to the life of his wife and our classmate, **Shirley Warner Martin**. Shirley was a math teacher, superintendent of the Sunday school, a member of the Board of Directors of

the Girl Scout Council of Erie County, founding member of the Bowmansville Very Little Theater, past president of the Lancaster Historical Society, and an avid traveler. **Malcolm Slakter** spoke of the many advantages of living in Hawaii but noted that flying to the mainland to visit family is not one of them, especially since 9/11. Each year, in times past, he and Nancy would visit family. But with age and health now factors, Malcolm and Nancy's flying days are over, so family members visit them in Hawaii. Their younger son and two of his children visited in June. Malcolm and Nancy try to appreciate each day in paradise and report that life is good. **Harold Sparky Vaughn's** granddaughter, Olivia Hern, who recently completed her first year at Carnegie Mellon, spent part of the summer with the National Theater for Young Artists in New York and in Prague. While meeting in New York with two anti-human trafficking organizations, Sparky visited daughter Karen and granddaughter Christine. There will be a family reunion in Shelburne, Vt., on the occasion of grandson Christopher's wedding. Sparky is working with a group of

Rotarians in Washington, D.C., and Bangkok, Thailand, to address human-trafficking and child-slavery issues. *Class notes councilor: Harold Vaughn, vaughnha@aol.com*

52 *A note from your class councilor:* I am saddened to report the passing of our classmate **Don Putterman**. Don was a leader of our class for many years. **Marilyn Johnson VanDyke** remains closely involved with the Warren County Historical Society. She celebrated her daughter's wedding in June, and now has two great sons-in-law. Her grandson manages dorms at The College of Saint Rose, and her granddaughter has transferred to UAlbany. **Jean Faville Smith** and husband Smitty enjoyed a cruise from Fort Lauderdale to Puerto Rico, St. Thomas and St. Croix this past spring. They are planning a trip to Burlington, Vt., in September. **Madeline Weitlof Huchro** was diagnosed with Walanstrom macroglobulinemia a year ago and underwent chemotherapy treatments, but she is doing well. She plans to spend six months in Westport

and six months in Florida. Her daughter is retiring after teaching and coaching for 34 years; her son has been a national sales representative for PepsiCo since 1985. Her two granddaughters have launched careers in physical education and massage therapy. **Jeanne Seymour Earle** survived an aorta valve replacement and three bypasses with flying colors. She's still working at the library and enjoys attending Broadway shows with friends. **Vickie Eade Eddy** will be attending her grandson Jeffrey's wedding in Seattle. She notes, "It is nice being in touch with my 12 grandchildren's lives, as some are living in other states, and just three live in my hometown of Olean, N.Y." **Ginny Maurer Tracey** updated her mailing address to Rexford, N.Y., which is still in Clifton Park (contact your class councilor for details.) **Bert Jablon** and his wife enjoyed a Road Scholar program in Toronto. **Nancy Frey Pettinelli's** grandchildren are performing very well in their respective sports. Her oldest grandson finished his first year at Stevenson University, where he played on the lacrosse team. His brother, a junior in high school, plays both basketball and lacrosse; he was named to the First Team Missouri All Stars. Nancy's youngest grandson lives in Pennsylvania and participates in many sports, including lacrosse. Her four granddaughters are also doing well, with interests in art and athletics. Nancy says she's "trying to empty her house, but it's not easy." **Tom Holman** is still enjoying the benefits of living on Long Island and in St. Maarten. St. Maarten now has a first-class air terminal; Tom invites classmates to stay at "his hotel," Hotel Pasanggraham. **Jane Minckler Jennings** attended her granddaughter's wedding at the Trump Winery and saw the beautiful home her granddaughter recently purchased. Her granddaughter, who recently earned a master's degree from the University of Virginia, is an engineer for Army Intelligence. **Kitty Kloser Irons** and husband Marty suffered long-term bronchitis throughout the winter, hindering their usual travel plans. They've fully recovered and are



Alumni enjoy a wine-tasting reception to benefit the Spirit Scholarship.

Alumni News & Notes

back to their busy schedules. Kitty's granddaughter Megan is in Senegal and has learned the Wolof language. Her other granddaughter, Erin, is working on a summer internship at St. Michael's College admissions office. **Margaret Jackson Moschak** recently wrote *Different Drummers*, a book filled with anecdotes of the problems people run into when they live and work together. It is available on Amazon. **Bill Wiley** is in his sixth year of remission for lymphoma. His wife, Jane, had a spinal fusion in June. They have moved into a continuing-care facility on Hilton Head Island, which Jane says is "like going to senior camp." Their family is spread throughout the country; one granddaughter is studying electrical engineering at the University of Arizona, and her sister will begin law school at the University of California, Berkeley. Another granddaughter will be a junior in high school. Bill's teenage grandkids are in private school in Marietta, Ga. **Joyce Leavitt Zanchelli** and **Joe Zanchelli** '49 attended Road Scholar programs in Warwick, N.Y., and St. Augustine, Fla. They've had some health issues but are doing well and have busy schedules once again. They celebrated their youngest grandchild's graduation in June. **Al Stevenson** has recovered well from his serious illness and has returned to teaching. He will be traveling to upstate New York for his grand-niece's wedding. Each year, the Class of 1952 bestows a scholarship on a UAlbany junior or senior, in honor of distinguished teaching faculty from NYSCT classes of 1948-1952. This year's award honors modern languages faculty: Frank G. Carrino, J. Wesley Childres, Edwin C. Munro and Arlene F. Preseon. It was presented to Teresa Peralta '15 by **Joan Barron**, Class of 1952 co-councilor.

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

53 **Irene Brezinsky McDonald** remembers working on the *State College News*, which was printed and proofread in Hudson. Irene's edition featured a banner headline, "Sorority-



Chi Sigma Theta sisters attend the Celebration of Vital Volunteers Luncheon to support fellow sister and guest speaker Kathleen Tamer '67, '71, '98.

Frat Ball." Irene recalls: "I looked at the final copy, and had a shock. 'Frat' was misspelled. The printers told me that college kids couldn't proofread and that all the papers had been printed and if I wanted to change the spelling, I'd have to pay. Of course, they'd made one bad copy to scare me and have a little bawdy joke." Irene learned a wonderful lesson about proofreading and often shared this story with her students. Irene continues her career as a reporter and writes a column, "Reading and Renewal," for her Catholic diocesan paper. **Herb Thier** was recognized in a recent National Science Foundation article. He is highly regarded in his field, as noted in "Reflections from Science Education Pioneer Herb Thier on the Value of Inquiry-Based Learning." The article can be read in its entirety at <http://www.nsf.gov>. **Howie Fenenbock** plays poker and bridge regularly. If your class councilor remembers correctly, Howie liked to play cards in the Commons. **Doug Nielsen** enjoys his role as a grandparent. "Our granddaughter, Kara, has presented us with a second great-granddaughter, Naomi, born in March. It's fun to visit

and hold her, and her older sister, Hannah, enjoys her little sister." Two of Doug's granddaughters graduated from college: Megan, from Oklahoma University with dual degrees in international relations, and Megan's younger sister, Jonna, from Cornell

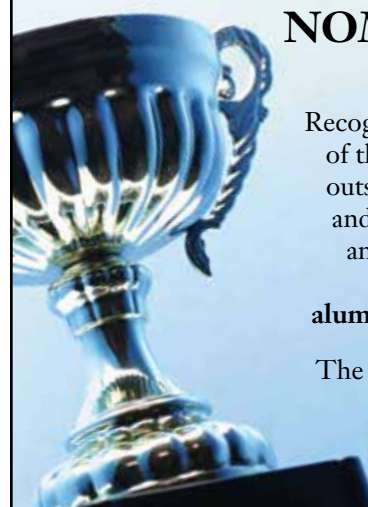
with a bachelor's degree in human relations. Jonna works in New York City. **Jordine Skoff Von Wantoch** met her daughter in London for a few shows, then traveled to Dubai. Jordine is now co-chair of a committee, with actor Robert Foxworth, to increase

2016 Excellence Awards

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Recognize alumni and friends of the University for their outstanding achievements and service. More details and nomination forms are available at alumni.albany.edu/awards.

The nomination deadline is Oct. 16, 2015.



Alumni News & Notes

estate gifts to The Old Globe Theatre in San Diego. She traveled to Hartford this past spring for the opening of *Kiss Me Kate*, directed by Darko Tresnjak. A tribute to Jordine is included on the Military Service Wall at UAlbany. It describes her career in the Navy, including her contributions to revised policies allowing women to combine motherhood with a naval career. **Bob Bitgood '54** remembers his first wife, **Marie De Seve**, who died from complications of childbirth at age 25. Marie was a cheerful, active member of our class. **Milan Krchniak, Bob Giammatteo, Claude Palczak** and **Paul Ward** attended the spring Potter Club luncheon. **Marie Hoffman** continues to be involved in local events and has been meeting with several high-school friends on a regular basis following her 50th high school reunion. Her son has



Bob Hughes '53, Rosie Keller Hughes '53, and Hank Koszewski '53 recently caught up with each other.

written two computer books, one of which has been adopted as a college textbook. **Bob Hughes** and **Rosie Keller Hughes** have celebrated several special occasions with their grandchildren. One granddaughter received a master's degree in art therapy, with honor, from Pratt Institute, and the other granddaughter was recently married. One grandson graduated from high school and will attend SUNY Geneseo; his brother

turned 16 and will be driving. The youngest grandson entertains the grandparents with his 10-year-old antics. Your class councilor would like to mention those who left us in recent months: **Pat Butler Dornburgh, Nancy Worden Hebert, Bill Helmer, Dick Jacobson, Evelyn Paulus Halloran, James Panton, Barbara Newcomb Reynolds, Bob Babcock, Noreen Connell Byrnes** and **Richard Terzian**. To keep up with classmates, join us by "liking" the Class of 1953 Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/688873657809259/>)

Class notes councilor: Rose Mary (Rosie) Keller Hughes, rhughes5@rochester.rr.com

54 *A note from your class councilor: I received a letter from*

Mabel Schweizer Loughlin's daughter telling us that she passed away in March. **John** and **Rosemary Zongrone** celebrated 59 years of marriage in April. They are going to become great grandparents in October. Their 16 grandchildren range in age from 4 to 32. **Mimi Webb** is recovering from a stroke she suffered last year. Her visual field was reduced, which is the most challenging result of the stroke. **Joan Hartman** spent the bitter cold winter planning a Danube River summer cruise and a reunion with her family. **Inez Mallery Parker** recently returned from Sharon Springs, N.Y., where her 106-year-old mother currently resides. Inez recalls her mother and father playing host to several college friends during Inez' years at SUNY Albany. Inez was able to reconnect with her Pierce Hall roommate,

Celebrate your milestone reunion this fall!



The classes of 2005, 1990, 1975, 1965, and 1960 will celebrate milestone reunions throughout Homecoming.

The weekend is packed with events, so don't miss the fun and the opportunity to rekindle your friendships!

Visit www.alumni.albany.edu/homecoming for more information.



Audrey Cahill Silveri; they spent time in Venice and Sarasota, Fla., reminiscing and sightseeing. Inez has nine grandchildren, four of them college graduates. The remaining grandchildren are juniors in college, and one is a high school senior. Inez and her husband recently traveled to Eugene, Ore., where one grandson was selected to participate in the Joseph Alessi Seminar. **Don Voellinger** is recovering from a broken hip. He is pleasantly retired and splits his time between New York City and Cape Cod. **Patricia Byrne Manning**, still a volunteer with 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds in nursery school, also volunteers with Hospice patients. She continues to write children's science-book reviews for the *School Library Journal*. Patricia is planning an annual trip to Italy, where she will spend time in Venice, Rome, Amalfi, Sorrento, Naples, Paestum and Pompeii. **Margaret Jacobson** is going to be a first-time great-grandmother: Her grandson and his wife are expecting a baby girl. Margaret's grandson recently accepted a position as assistant professor at the University of Delaware. July marked one year since the passing of Margaret's husband, **Dick Jacobson** '53. Her son lives nearby and is a big help. **Gert Daly** enjoyed watching the men's and women's UAlbany basketball and lacrosse teams this past year. **Naoshi Koriyama's** translation of the 12th-century collection of Japanese tales, *Konjaku Monogatari*, was released by Tuttle Publishing in August under the title *Japanese Tales from Times Past*. **Corinne Valente Moxham** traveled to Idaho, Pennsylvania and New Jersey for her granddaughters' high-school graduation ceremonies – not on the same evening, luckily! She plans to visit upstate New York and Canada before returning home to Las Cruces, N.M. **Ed Osterhout** and **Carol** recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a hot-air balloon ride over the Rio Grande in Albuquerque, N.M. They hiked along the Rio Grande walking trail, enjoyed a tram ride in

the Sandia Mountains and visited the National Lab Center. They also enjoyed a walk around Santa Fe and attended a country-rock concert in which their daughter played bass guitar. Their 45-year old son David accompanied them on the trip, and all had a wonderful time. **Richard "Dick" Bailey** missed the reunion last fall, as he had back problems and couldn't face a long plane ride. His boat, *Dreamer*, sank in the Pacific about a year ago while being operated by a friend. **Bonnie Dodge Brousseau** recently celebrated the arrival of her first great-grandchild, Kyleigh. **Jim Thompson** and **Bill Floyd** meet for lunch each month. Jim and Carol celebrated their grandsons' graduation ceremonies at Cazenovia College and the University of Rhode Island this past spring, before heading to Tupper Lake, N.Y., for the summer. They traveled to the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., for the retirement ceremony of Jim's son, Navy Capt. Scott Thompson '91, in July. Scott and his family reside in Springfield, Va. In August, Jim and Carol traveled to Lincoln, Vt., where Jim officiated his granddaughter Carissa's wedding. After living in Williamsburg, Va., for 26 years, **Gladys Smith O'Mea** and John relocated to Bailey's Glen, Cornelius, N.C., to be closer to their family. They have three children, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. **John Granito** and **Dolores White Granito** continue to enjoy traveling. They're still living on Pine Island, Fla., seven months a year and at Keuka Lake for five. Last October, Dolores traveled with their oldest daughter to Slovenia, Istanbul, Venice, Sicily and Milan. John and Dolores spent Christmas with family in Mallorca, Spain. Their recent travels also included a trip to San Diego to visit a granddaughter, as well as a "Chateaux, Rivers and Wine" Viking trip in France. Their oldest granddaughter graduated from Fordham Law School this past May.

Class Notes Councilors:
Bernice Gunsberg Shoobe,
bunnysh200@aol.com, and Joan Paul,
fpaul1@nycap.rr.com



Meet Sara.

"My cousins went here and loved it," said Sara Lucisano, "and both are very successful." As she plans for a career as a physician's assistant, the *Chi Sigma Theta Sorority Scholarship* recipient looks forward to succeeding in her life and career, as well.

When she visited the University for the first time, Lucisano recalled, "I loved the campus, and I loved the opportunities that would come from attending UAlbany. Completing my senior year and graduating will be the greatest accomplishments of my life, so far."

Lucisano, an EMT with Five Quad Volunteer Ambulance Service, is also founder and president of the campus Food Recovery Network. After graduation, she plans "to gain as much experience as I can in the healthcare field," then apply to schools with physician's-assistant programs. "This has been my dream since freshman year, and I have been working hard to attain it ever since."

The *Chi Sigma Theta Sorority Scholarship* is keeping her focused on her goals, added Lucisano. "It means a great deal to me that I was selected for a scholarship; it has been extremely helpful to me."

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Bertha Brimmer Medal recipient Stuart Palczak '87, '88 celebrates with his family at the 2015 Excellence Awards Gala, held at the Albany Country Club. Palczak was one of 14 alumni and friends of the University honored for their achievements and contributions

58 **Arlene Adel-Posses** and **Alice Lockwood Say** reunited in West Palm Beach, Fla. They had not seen each other since 1958.

59 *A note from your class councilor:* Greetings to the Green Gremlins of 1959. **Ron Short** and his wife have been traveling to spend time with their children and grandchildren, including to Nova Scotia, where

their oldest and his family reside. **Ginny Buddenhagen Guglielmo** and **Tito Guglielmo** '57 had a wonderful family reunion in Italy, where they visited Rome, Florence and Sorrento. **Terri Vitale Bosomworth** and Bob toured Australia and New

Zealand in 2014; sadly, Bob passed away unexpectedly in March 2015. They loved their home in New Smyrna Beach, Fla. **Carol Scheu Hackett** passed away in May after a three-year battle with cancer. She and husband **Art Hackett** '60 lived in Virginia and enjoyed visiting their kids and grandkids. A beautiful memorial service was held in the church where Carol led Bible studies. They attended Art's 50th reunion in 2010. **Joe Hill** and **Jane Bushart Hill** '60 live in central New York. They have three daughters and five grandkids. They spend winters in Las Cruces, N.M., and return to the Finger Lakes in spring. Joe taught junior-high social studies and coached wrestling; he moved to BOCES and became director of Instructional Services. He and Jane are seasoned travelers; they've visited Antarctica, Easter Island, Tibet, Swaziland, Cuba and Iceland. **Carol Waldron Robinson** and her husband live in Phoenix and have been active in real estate, but are now retired. Their two daughters have settled in Denver

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MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Alumni News & Notes

and Salt Lake City. You may remember that Carol was one of the finalists for "Campus Queen" our senior year. She says a former sorority sister, **Bev Burke Poole '60**, lived in Phoenix for a while, and they enjoyed getting together during that time. Our class has been invited to be a part of 1960's 55th reunion in October. Class of '60 members are hoping to see people from the classes of 1957-1963. Your class councilor attended their 50th reunion and would encourage any who can to attend this one.

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

60 **John Johnston** was recently named a National American Association of Physics Teachers Fellow. Inducted as a Science Teachers Association of New York State Fellow John Johnston in 2004, he is the only person in New York State who holds both titles.



Class Notes Councilor: Doris Hische Brossy, dbrossy@aol.com

61 **Christina Noring Hammond** retired from the chemistry department of Vassar College in 2006 after teaching for 42 years. She co-authored an organic-chemistry laboratory text in 1998; its fourth edition was published in 2014. Christina now lives in a retirement community in Millbrook, N.Y.

Class Notes Councilor: Mel Horowitz, melandsis@yahoo.com

63 **Marie Zongrone Robinson** enjoys her annual meetings with the sisters of Kappa Delta, including **Anita Pepe Disansa '64**. Marie works part-time at Nassau Community College. She and her husband Gene take cruises throughout the year.

Class Notes Councilor: Peter Fisher, peterfisher@yahoo.com

64 *A note from your class councilor:* Anyone who graduated more than 50 years ago can certainly appreciate that our contribution is

a tad behind schedule. Our biggest news concerns the very successful 50th class reunion, held Oct. 10-12, 2014. It was led by class councilor **Alan Minarcik** and guided by Loida Vera Cruz and her alumni office staff. Planning committee members **Sandy Baburchak Condojani, David Crystal, Bob Fairbanks, Bob Gibson, Columba Defrancesco Heinzelman, Evelyn "Corky" Petrick, Bill Robelee, Dave Simington** and **Norma Youse**

worked well together. The Yellow Jackets buzzed around uptown and downtown campuses for activities that included the Welcome Wine Tasting, the Half-Century Club Breakfast, a tour of "our" downtown campus and an enjoyable dinner. Due to the generosity of our many classmates who sent donations, those attending the class meeting as part of the dinner gathering voted to give \$8,000 towards the renovations to the Pierce Hall student lounge, which will be completed as the University prepares to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the building during Homecoming 2015. Contributions are still welcome and can be sent to the University at Albany Alumni Association, Alumni House, 1400 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12222-0001, clearly marked "Class of '64 Gift." There are a few copies of the updated directory (\$7 per copy) and the class photo (3" x 5", \$3; 8" x 10", \$6) that can also be ordered. Make checks payable to the University at Albany Alumni Association. Committee member **Corky Petrick** left UAlbany's reunion team to join Binghamton Central High School's Reunion Committee. Corky has also re-immersed herself in Facebook-posting on political issues. **Bill Robelee** and wife Margaret recently enjoyed lunch with **David Siver '66** and **Carol Darby Siver '65**. We encourage all of you to submit news for future editions of this publication. (Yes, we really do want to hear about your accomplishments, retirement plans and grandkids!) Enjoy, stay healthy and keep in touch.

Class note councilors: Alan Minarcik, amcmouse@hotmail.com, and Bill Robelee, wmroblee31@gmail.com.

65 **Ellen Jacobs LeClair** is now retired in Hawaii after teaching French in a special immersion program at Commack High School for 30 years. She has a home facing the Pacific Ocean. She stays busy tutoring English, volunteering for events at Kauai High School and volunteering

for the Kauai Humane Society. In addition, Ellen has a small dessert-catering business. The UAlbany Class of 1965's 50th reunion is next month! Reunion activities will be held during Homecoming Weekend, Oct. 9-11, when you will have a chance to relive memories, catch up with your college friends, and become reacquainted with

CELEBRATING 45 YEARS

Middle Earth, established in 1970, celebrates its 45th anniversary with a reunion brunch Oct. 10 during Homecoming. Alumni are welcome to join in the festivities of the weekend!

Contact Dr. Dolores Cimini '86
(dcimini@albany.edu, 518-442-5800) or
Dr. Chad Waxman '03, '04
(waxman822@gmail.com.)



Middle Earth
Students Helping Students

Alumni News & Notes



More than 300 alumni and friends gathered at Saratoga Race Course for UAlbany Day at the Races.

and his wife split their time between homes in California, New York and Tuscany.

74 Mehmet Odekon, Tisch Family Distinguished Professor at Skidmore College, addressed the Class of 2015 at Skidmore's graduation ceremony last May. He is a professor of economics.

76 Donna Scanlon received the 2015 Excellence in Research Award from the University at Albany.

77 Stuart P. Gelberg was named a 2015 "Legal Eagle" by *Pulse Magazine* and was also selected as one of only two bankruptcy attorneys for Legal Leaders as determined by Martindale-Hubbell. He was recently honored at the First Annual Access to Justice by the Nassau County Bar Association.

78 Steve Toretto was promoted to associate general counsel, Corporate Division of Pacific Life Insurance Company. He resides in Mission Viejo, Calif.

79 Bruce Plaxen became a certified member of the Million Dollar Advocates Forum. The forum is recognized as one of the most prestigious groups of trial lawyers in the U.S. In addition, Plaxen & Adler, P.A., is celebrating its 30th anniversary. The firm maintains nine locations throughout the State of Maryland.

80 Sharon Potoker Liese premiered her documentary, "The Gnomist," at the Tribeca Film Festival. More info: TheGnomistFilm.com.

82 Bill Steffen is a faculty member at Ohio University, where he teaches recreation and sport pedagogy courses. He is also the administrator of the school's online master's degree in coaching education program.

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To register, visit www.linkedin.com and search for "UAlbany Alumni group."

your *alma mater*. If you haven't received an email regarding this milestone reunion, please contact class councilors **Judy Koblintz Madnick** (jmadnick@gmail.com) or **Ira Rubtchinsky** (irapaul@yahoo.com) so that we have your email address for future reunion communications. We're looking forward to seeing you in October! Learn more and register at: www.alumni.albany.edu/homecoming.

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



Ira Rubtchinsky



Judy Koblintz Madnick

69 Gary Mattson was recently reappointed by Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear to the Banklick/Lower Licking River Watershed Council.

71 Michael Blum graduated from UAlbany in absentia in 1971 while attending Tel Aviv University. He served in the Israeli Army and, in 1976, returned to the U.S., where he has worked as a global consultant. He



83 **Andrea Wolfe** received the 2015 Excellence in Professional Service award from the University at Albany.

84 **Andy Jay** recently moved to Osaka, Japan, to serve as the U.S. Consulate's management officer.

Carol Nordhausen Perrin received the 2015 University at Albany Excellence in Professional Service Award. **Jonathan Hudis** joined the intellectual-property practice group of Quarles & Brady, LLP, Washington, D.C. He counsels clients in copyright, trademark, trade secrets, and unfair competition matters.

85 **Elizabeth Erhardt Donovan** was recently appointed the first director of Experiential Education at Ave Maria School of Law. She teaches the *Human Trafficking Law Clinic* and



Elizabeth Erhardt Donovan the *Mediation Law Clinic*, as well as *Advanced Clinical Law, Client Representation, and Alternative Dispute Resolution*. A member of the Board of Directors of the Southwest Florida Human Trafficking Coalition and co-chair of the Collier County Coalition Against Human Trafficking, she was an original member of the Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force. **Nancy J. Barry** received the Appellate Division, Second Department, Milton Mollen Commitment to Excellence Award. The annual award, named for Milton Mollen, former presiding justice of the Second Department, recognizes the achievements of New York State Unified Court System employees within the Second Judicial Department who have demonstrated outstanding professionalism, dedication and service. Nancy is chief clerk of



Sandra M. McDermott

Westchester Supreme and County Courts. **Sandra M. McDermott** joined Goldberg Segalla, LLP, as a partner in its Global Insurance Services Practice Group.

She practices from the firm's offices in Manhattan and in her hometown, Syracuse, N.Y.

86 **Mary Beth Labate** was appointed budget director for the New York State Division of the Budget. She has been directly involved in a number of the administration's key fiscal accomplishments. They include maintaining state spending at 2 percent, reforming the Medicaid program to limit growth dramatically, and developing and advocating for \$60 billion in federal aid in response to Superstorm Sandy. **Sal Perednia** has joined Interactive Data Corporation (www.interactivedata.com) in Manhattan as a senior information-security risk analyst. He has served as treasurer for the Garwood Baseball League since October 2010, and also as treasurer for the Cranford Alliance Church, Cranford, N.J., where he was recently elected to serve a three-year term as an elder. **Paul Schaffer** is in his seventh year as managing director and CFO of Alterna Capital Partners, a private equity fund based in Wilton, Conn. He is president of the Danbury Westerners and was recently re-elected to the Dippikill Board of Directors.

Sorority-Fraternity Coffee Hour

Saturday, Oct. 10, 10:30-Noon

All NYSCT sororities and fraternities are invited to mingle, reconnect and reminisce with fellow alumni over coffee this Homecoming Weekend.

To learn more, visit
www.alumni.albany.edu/homecoming.



Alumni living in the Metro D.C. area gathered for a summer night at Nationals Park.

Alumni News & Notes

87 **Michael Mund** retired from a career in federal law enforcement following 26 years of service. He is currently the corporate security manager for JetBlue Airways in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. **Connie Numbers**, PsyD, joined



Connie Numbers

the faculty at The Sophia Institute and recently conducted the workshop “50 Shades of Remembering: Knowing Yourself on a Deeper Level.” **Frank Whaley’s** film “Like Sunday, Like Rain” – starring Leighton Meester, Debra Messing and Billie Joe Armstrong – was released by Monterey Media in March. Frank is a UAlbany Alumni Excellence Awards recipient.

Info: <http://montereymedia.com>.

88 **Thomas O’Connor** is the new director of Government Relations at the Albany-Colonie Regional Chamber of Commerce. He will be responsible for the coordination of planning, development and implementation of the chamber’s government-affairs program. **Paul S. Linzer**, labor-group partner at Certilman Balin Adler & Hyman, LLP, was included in *Island Pulse Magazine’s* top 10 list of “Legal Eagles.”



Paul S. Linzer

89 **Blanca Ramos** received the 2015 Excellence in Teaching Award from the University at Albany. **Daniel Baker** joined Certilman Balin Adler & Hyman, LLP, East Meadow, N.Y., as a partner in the real-estate and land-use and zoning practice groups.



Daniel Baker

90 **Clarence Eckerson’s** work was featured during the Streetfilms Mini-Festival, which is focused on urban planning, cycling and transit, at the Madison Theater in Albany. Clarence’s short films show how smart transportation design and policy can result in better places to live, work and play.

92 **Latonia Spencer** received the 2015 Excellence in Professional Service Award from the University at Albany. **Stephanie M. Cerasano** has been named litigation manager of Jackson Lewis P.C., Phoenix.



Stephanie M. Cerasano

Michael Hickey was elected interim president and CEO of The Center for Economic Growth by the CEG Board of Directors. **David Bentley** was promoted to the rank of captain with the Fairfax County [Va.] Fire & Rescue Department. He is also the officer in charge of Engine 401, which is the first fire engine due to the George Bush CIA compound in Langley, Va.

93 **John M. Bagyi** of Bond Schoeneck & King was listed as one of the nation’s “Most Powerful Employment Attorneys” in *Human Resource Executive*® for the second consecutive year.



John M. Bagyi

94 **Nini Hadjis** recently screened her film “Old Fashioned” at the Palace Theater in Albany, N.Y.



Nini Hadjis

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
NOVEMBER
DECEMBER

2015

- SEPTEMBER 12** Great Dane Game Day, UAlbany vs. Rhode Island
18 GOLD Schmooze, NYC
26 Great Dane Game Day, UAlbany vs. Duquesne

- OCTOBER 9, 10, 11** Homecoming
9 All-Alumni Wine Tasting
10 President’s Breakfast
10 Sorority & Fraternity Coffee Hour
10 Great Dane Game Day, UAlbany vs. Maine
10 GOLD Party @ Pearl St. Pub
17 Great Dane Game Day, UAlbany vs. Villanova
22 SAKS Alumni Fashion Show

- NOVEMBER TBD** Alumni Happy Hour, NYC
13 Men’s Basketball vs. University of Kentucky game, Pre-Game Party, Lexington, Ky.
14 Great Dane Game Day, UAlbany vs. New Hampshire
16 Men’s Basketball vs. Boston University game, Pre-Game Party, Boston
24 Men’s Basketball vs. University of South Florida game, Pre-Game Party, Albany

- DECEMBER 12** UAlbany vs. Siena doubleheader (Albany Cup), Pre-Game Party

For a full list of Homecoming 2015 events, please visit www.alumni.albany.edu/homecoming.



2005-2015 graduates enjoy baseball at Citi Field during GOLD Night at the Mets.

96

Deborah Lines Anderson

received the 2015 University at Albany Excellence in Teaching Award. **Peter Morea** was promoted to general counsel, North America, for Scheidt & Bachmann. Based in the Boston area, he is responsible for covering the U.S. and Canadian subsidiaries; he also supports the parent company in Germany. **Matthew Anderson** has been named chief



Matthew Anderson

operating officer of The Osborn, located in Rye, N.Y. Matthew previously served as the organization's senior vice president of Healthcare Services.

00

Gracie Mercado was

promoted to senior vice president of Business Operations, Prudential Center and New Jersey Devils. Previously,



Members of the classes of 2005-2015 take in a gorgeous night on the Hudson during the GOLD Summer Music Cruise.



Gracie Mercado

Gracie oversaw human resources for the Prudential Center and the New Jersey Devils in a vice-president's capacity.

01

Donna Canestraro received the 2015 Excellence in Professional

Service Award from the University at Albany. **Erin McCampbell** joined Lipsitz Green Scime Cambria, LLP, Buffalo, N.Y., as an associate in the criminal-defense trials and appeals practice area.



Erin McCampbell

02

UAlbany Alumni Association President **Joseph Garba** was recently appointed to the role of secretary, Intergovernmental Relations, to New York State Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie.

CLASSES OF 2005-2015

Don't Miss the GOLD PARTY at Homecoming

Enjoy great food, drinks, trivia, karaoke and more at the eighth annual GOLD Party at Homecoming, **Oct. 10**. This year's event will be at the Pearl St. Pub.

For details, visit www.alumni.albany.edu/homecoming.

CALENDAR

SEPT. 18 – GOLD SCHMOOZE, NYC | **OCT. 10** – GOLD HOMECOMING PARTY | **NOV.** – NYC HAPPY HOUR



Alumni News & Notes

03 **Claudwardyne Thevenin** is a faculty member and medical doctor at Albany Medical Center. **Lisa Ferretti** received the 2015 Excellence in Professional Service Award from the University at Albany. **Nathan W. Giesselman** was recently named



partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. He has practiced tax law with Skadden since 2006. Nathan transferred from the New York City office to Palo Alto, Calif., in 2013 to help launch the firm's Silicon Valley tax practice. **Tracey McNerney** was recently accepted to the University at

Buffalo's Ph.D. program in Curriculum, Instruction and the Science of Learning. Her research will focus on the use of digital video in online education.

04 **Ryan M. McCabe** was honored as a member of the New Orleans City Business 2015 Leadership in Law class, which recognizes 50 area lawyers.



Ryan M. McCabe Leadership in Law acknowledges legal professionals in four categories: firm associated, court associated, in-house counsel and educators. Honorees are selected based on their professional and

community involvement, as well as for achievements that have set the pace for the overall community. Ryan is an associate at Steeg Law Firm, LLC, New Orleans.

07 **Andrew Kennedy** was appointed deputy director of State Operations for Policy, State of New York. Previously, he served as Gov. Andrew Cuomo's assistant secretary for Economic Development. **Timothy Buddenhagen** recently accepted the position of training manager at Documentation Strategies in Rensselaer, N.Y. **Kristin Anderson** is the lead school psychologist at Beaufort County School District in South Carolina.

08 *Post-Star* reporter **Amanda**

May (Whistle) Metzger received the New York State Federation of Lake Associations' Media Award, presented annually to a



journalist who has brought attention to issues and potential problems involving water bodies and watershed. She was chosen for her story "New septic treatment units seen as way to protect Lake George," and for her continued coverage of issues at Lake George and lakes throughout the southern Adirondacks. **Graham Leonard** was named an associate



GREAT DANE GAME DAY

Experience UAlbany Great Dane Game Day every home game this football season! Enjoy pre-game food, live music, activities and more!

Sept. 12 | Sept. 26 | Oct. 10 | Oct. 17 | Nov. 14
HOMECOMING

2015 graduates hang out at the GOLD alumni BBQ Tent during Senior Week.



Graham Leonard

of Hodgson Russ, LLP, in Buffalo. Graham represents clients in estate and trust matters. Prior to attending law school, Graham served as an AmeriCorps VISTA.

09

Chris Flowers joined Godfrey & Kahn, S.C. as an associate in the litigation practice group at the firm's Milwaukee location. His practice focuses primarily on contract and commercial litigation. Chris received his J.D. from Marquette University Law School. While at UAlbany, he was a legislative fellow at the New York State Senate and an intern at the state Assembly. **Caitlin Root** was recently



Caitlin Root

promoted to senior accountant in the audit department of Lumsden & McCormick, LLP. She serves commercial businesses and exempt organizations

by performing review, audit and bookkeeping services.

10

Joaquin Souberbielle competed on the 30th season of the CBS reality show "Survivor."



Joaquin Souberbielle

11

Victor Cueva, a member of the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law Class of 2015, was chosen to be an Immigrant Justice Corps Fellow. He was recently featured in *The New York Times* for this honor.



Victor Cueva

12

Gabrielle Bogan launched Life by Design, a life-coaching business.

13

Gregory Skochko was recently awarded a fellowship from the New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) in crafts/sculpture. **Stephanie Kazanas**

received the 2015 Excellence in Teaching Award from the University at Albany. **Tyler Carroll** is employed by the Dutchess County Department of Social Services. He is president and director of Hudson Valley Bridge Builders (info: hvbridgebuilders.org.) **Alysia Siciliano** graduated from Trinity College with a master's degree in public policy. While there, she interned for the U.S. Senate and the Office of the Secretary of the State of Connecticut. Alysia aided in the creation of a statewide civic-education curriculum that shaped her final graduate studies project, "Increasing Civic Engagement: Revising Civic Curriculum in Connecticut." In addition, she wrote a dedication within the *2014 Connecticut State Manual and Register*, co-founded the Trinity College Graduate Student Association, and spoke at the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies C3 Framework Conference. Alysia currently works for the Hartford Board of Education and serves as a member of the graduate-studies advisory board. **Casey Jakubowski**, recently appointed an alumni mentor by the University at Buffalo, was a guest speaker at the HIRE Conference for the School of Education in late May. She has also authored two book reviews on education reform for *The History Teacher* and the *Alberta Journal of Education Review*. **Amber Wilmot** was recently promoted to director of Administration with the office of New Hampshire Gov. Maggie Hassan.



Tyler Carroll



All-Alumni WINE-TASTING RECEPTION

University Art Museum

Oct. 9 | 5-7 p.m.

Start your weekend of Homecoming activities with the All-Alumni Wine Tasting and view the work of award-winning alumni artist Brian Tolle '86. Connect with alumni from all classes while enjoying samples of New York wines and cheeses.

Learn more at <http://alumni.albany.edu/homecoming>.



Alumni News & Notes

Weddings



Jordan Donahue '10 and
Gina (Curcuro) Donahue '10,
Oct. 11, 2014



Chris Fink '81 and
Stacey Miller '89,
May 22, 2015



James Nannariello '10 and
Kristen Kielbasa '09, '11,
Oct. 11, 2014



Amber Wilmot '13 and
Brian Melo, Nov. 8, 2014



Lisa Fund '05 and David Berg,
Aug. 2, 2015



Corey Murray '07 and
Natalie Sena '11,
June 6, 2015

Births



Kristin Anderson '07 and Lawrence
Anderson welcomed Grace
Elizabeth, May 11, 2015.



Chris Sangimino '06 and
Nina (Accorsini) Sangimino '06
welcomed Giuliana
Sept. 25, 2014.

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

Deceased Alumni

1930s

Dorothy G. Griffin '34, March 24, 2015
Evelyn Hoyt Fullagar '35, June 23, 2015
Richard L. Margison '37, March 1, 2015
Mary Harbow Renison '37, April 8, 2015
Anne Service Sheeley '37, May 14, 2015
E. Helen Gardner '39, '64, April 20, 2015

1940s

Marcia Brown '40, April 28, 2015
Adelaide Vagnarelli Nadler '40, March 31, 2015
Muriel Howard Bennison '41, October 14, 2014
Lois Mannheimer '41, May 20, 2015
Mary E. Viliano Tropia '42, May 9, 2015
Mary Stengel Bond '44, October 19, 2014
Catherine Huvar Henry '44, November 3, 2014
Barbara Putnam Marr '45, March 16, 2015
Patricia De Rouville Brown '47, April 20, 2015
Mary L. Stolfe Paley '47, April 18, 2015
Lois I. Hutchinson Root '47, March 5, 2015
Anne R. Donovan '48, April 24, 2015
Marie Fernandes Lewenstein '49, May 22, 2015

1950s

Reba Somes Battaglia '50, March 26, 2015
Anna M. Buno '50, December 25, 2014
Donald C. Hoyt '50, February 24, 2015
Regina Bollenbach Taylor '50, May 19, 2015
Jeanette Zelanis Sweringen '51, March 27, 2015
Francis W. Baker '52, May 16, 2015
Emily Rose Burch '52, April 21, 2015
Sandy Murphy Johansen '52, November 20, 2014
Donald E. Putterman '52, June 11, 2015
Patricia A. Butler Dornburgh '53, January 28, 2015
Mary Cossaboon Campbell '54, April 6, 2015
Mabel Schweizer Loughlin '54, March 21, 2015
Donald E. Matthews '54, November 17, 2014
Kenneth B. Schoonmaker '54, April 16, 2015
Stephen Veselka '54, June 9, 2015
Frank R. Denton, Jr. '55, January 18, 2015
Charles C. Derwin '55, March 27, 2015
William J. Horak '55, May 4, 2015
Joyce A. Burwash Call '57, May 4, 2015
Beverly McIntyre Haviland '57, January 24, 2015
Paula Segal Shulak '57, December 22, 2014
Edson B. Travis '57, April 19, 2015
Robert Bosomworth '58, March 13, 2015

Burton J. Rounds '58, June 9, 2015
Lenore Mosner Shapiro '58, September 30, 2014
Marlene Ferner Allison '59, December 29, 2014
Barbara Thornhill Callaghan '59,
February 13, 2015
Carol Scheu Hackett '59, May 5, 2015

1960s

Joseph Clement, Jr. '60, April 10, 2015
Gloria F. Deutsch, Ph.D. '60, February 22, 2015
Carl G. Eppelmann '60, March 15, 2010
Burton Kaliski '60, June 16, 2015
Robert G. Lundergan '60, September 22, 2012
Paul T. Reagan '60, March 5, 2015
James E. Sharp '60, August 30, 2013
Joseph Hetko, Esq. '61, March 2, 2015
Gertrude Modell '61, July 21, 2006

Marlene F. Schwarz Shelmandine '62, April 7, 2015
Doris M. Almstead '63, April 10, 2015
Celeste C. Calio '63, March 29, 2015
Elizabeth Sloger Cleary '63, April 5, 2015
Oliver J. Orton '63, April 5, 2015
Muriel S. Robinson '63, February 25, 2010
Isabella K. Sharpe '63, February 28, 2015
Gary F. Quick '64, June 1, 2015
Helen Meserole Oleniczak '65, July 23, 2014
Robert V. Rench '65, June 28, 2012
Henry A. Sterling '65, September 29, 2012
Suzanne Swerbenski '65, February 7, 2015
Anne Murphy White '65, June 29, 2015
Vera Komanowski '66, May 16, 2015
Anne Lawlor, R.S.M. '66, June 11, 2015
Jean Decker Dunham '68, April 19, 2015
Erick R. Grinde '69, June 9, 2015

Marcia J. Brown, B.A.'40

Three-time Caldecott medalist Marcia J. Brown, who delighted generations of youngsters with her illustrations and stories, died in California April 28 at the age of 96.

Determined to become an artist, the Rochester-born Brown enrolled at the former New York State College for Teachers in 1936 to major in English and drama. She later taught high school for three years before taking a position with the New York Public Library's Central Children's Room.

Brown's first book, *The Little Carousel*, was published in 1946. Two years later, she received Caldecott Honors from the American Library Association (ALA) for *Stone Soup*. Between 1950 and 1954, five more of Brown's works (*Henry Fisherman*, *Dick Whittington and His Cat*, *Skipper John's Cook*, *Puss in Boots* and *The Steadfast Tin Soldier*) earned Caldecott recognition. The ALA presented her the Caldecott Medal – its most prestigious award for excellence in children's picture-book illustrations – three times: for *Cinderella, or the Little Glass Slipper* (1955); *Once a Mouse* (1962); and *Shadow* (1983).

Brown, who produced more than 30 books, presented the University at Albany a collection of art books in French, German, English, Italian, Chinese and Japanese, and funds necessary for its maintenance and interpretation. Housed in the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, the Marcia Brown Collection also includes watercolors, pastels, woodcuts, puppets and other creations, as well as her personal papers.

In 1969, Brown received the University at Albany Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award. She was awarded a doctor of letters degree from the State University of New York in 1996.



Alumni News & Notes

1970s

Gary R. Allen '70, March 6, 2015
Diana R. Ayers Blanchard '70, April 06, 2015
George J. Gravrogkas '70, January 30, 2015
Donald B. Hunt, Jr. '70, May 21, 2015
Adrienne G. Rogers, Ph.D. '70, May 14, 2015
Fred Baruchin '71, March 29, 2015
Suzanne J. Carr '71, April 7, 2015
Thomas A. Constantine '71, May 3, 2015
Julie A. Puskarenko Gardner '71, April 24, 2015
Thomas Grealish '71, April 13, 2015
Janice P. Kippert '71, December 2, 2006
Irene K. Ropelewski '71, January 4, 2015
Judith Goldseger Rubin '71, May 3, 2014
Jaqueline F. Shane '71, January 18, 2015
George R. Turo '71, May 3, 2015
Patricia A. Brown '72, April 15, 2015
Alfred T. Cullen '72, May 17, 2015
Thomas H. Dinnel '72, July 18, 2013
Robert W. Albright '73, April 3, 2015
Stephen Bohan '73, January 6, 2014
Linda A. Lombardi Doyle '73, April 1, 2015
John T. Griffin '73, June 15, 2014
James D. Nerone '73, February 14, 2015
Harriett L. Redd '73, May 14, 2015
Peter F. Stoll, Ph.D. '73, March 13, 2015
Soumaya B. Baaklini '74, June 10, 2015
Roslyn G. Gladstone Brown '74, May 24, 2015

Dale R. Cobane '74, May 8, 2009
William M. Derrick '74, August 27, 2014
Daniel D. Dewey '74, May 23, 2015
Thomas R. Haberbush '74, May 29, 2015
Gerald E. Hochreiter '74, March 5, 2015
Susan Witters Brannen '75, February 19, 2015
Robert A. Cannon '75, May 3, 2015
Brian F. Howard '75, February 20, 2015
Bruce A. Newman '75, May 19, 2014
Richard L. Olson '75, April 9, 2015
Susan Weiss Patti '75, April 25, 2015
Patricia A. Plastow '75, September 21, 2013
John J. Velie '75, June 13, 2015
Annie P. Barrow '76, January 14, 2015
W. Daniel Morgan '78, December 2, 2014
Elaine Stryker Spear '78, March 12, 2011
Meta L. Reid '79, March 22, 2015

1980s

Kenneth Bykofsky '80, December 2, 2012
Lloyd W. Franks '80, June 13, 2012
Lynne M. Martin Oliver '80, April 14, 2015
Eric L. Shepcaro '80, May 4, 2013
Evan E. Fortinsky '81, February 23, 2015
Robert P. Poletto '81, May 15, 2015
Peter P. Engel '82, May 4, 2015
Patti Hill Gordon '82, May 19, 2015
Timothy T. Gunther '82, May 5, 2015

Cheryl R. Solomon-Koenig '82, June 26, 2013
Jane E. Stevens '83, April 23, 2015
Charles E. Yandell '83, May 24, 2015
Joanne M. Hatch Aguilon '86, May 3, 2015
Ellen G. Schaeffer Brody '86, February 3, 2015
Janet F. Anderson '87, May 25, 2015
Steven M. Benevento '87, September 2, 2014
Michael H. McGovern '87, February 28, 2015

1990s

Sylvester W. Braswell '92, March 18, 2015
Andrew J. Luebker '93, August 18, 2014
Daniel S. Richards '93, April 13, 2013
Marsha M. Vandusen '93, May 23, 2015
Pamela R. Gold '96, February 9, 2013
Deborah A. Reid D'Antoni '97, June 22, 2015
Judith Rosenberg '97, March 8, 2015
Roderic Bacote '98, September 3, 2009
Luan M. Laroche '98, July 24, 2014

2000s

John M. Lebret '04, March 11, 2015
John T. McGowan '06, February 23, 2015
Daniel L. Barnes '07, March 23, 2015

2010s

Sun Jung Kim '11, May 2, 2015
Darren Testo '13, April 11, 2015

Donald E. Putterman, B.A.'52, M.A.'53

Educator Donald "Don" E. Putterman passed away June 11. He was 83.

Putterman completed undergraduate and graduate studies at the New York State College for Teachers. A retired U.S. Navy commander, he was a teacher and school administrator in several New York school districts. After retiring from his career in teaching and administration, Putterman served as interim superintendent and business manager for several districts.

A strong believer in public service and an enthusiastic supporter of the arts, Putterman was a volunteer fireman in Rotterdam, N.Y., and was a volunteer with WMHT Educational Television. He sponsored and promoted the Rotary Youth Exchange, and was a Cornell Cooperative Extension volunteer and a founding board member of The Committee for Missing Children.

Putterman, a dedicated alumnus of the University at

Albany, served as president of both the Alumni Association Benevolent Association and the Class of 1952, and chairman of program planning for the Capital District alumni chapter. A longtime member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, he received the Excellence in Alumni Service Award in 2000. The association honored him again in 2003, presenting Putterman the Excellence in Education Award.

He was predeceased by his wife, Joyce Shafer Putterman '52, and sister, Ellice Rollins. Survivors include his daughters, Jennifer Putterman and Melissa Putterman Hoffinan '02; a brother, Dr. Sheldon Putterman; and two grandchildren.



Deceased Faculty/Staff

Carol A. Delisle, April 27, 2015, Clerk I, Economics, 1976-2004

Peggy L. Mann, March 3, 2015, Associate Professor, Physical Education, 1963-1973

Karen A. Mitchell, June 11, 2015, Clerk I, Athletics and Recreation, 1970-2012

Oliver Nikoloff, February 19, 2015, Professor, Educational Psychology and Statistics, 1966-1994

Edeltraud H. Roach, March 25, 2015, Chartwells, 1983-2001

William D. Roth, Ph.D., March 17, 2015, Associate Professor, School of Social Welfare, 1978-2008

Edward G. Sellnow, May 15, 2015, Plant Utilities Engineer 2, 1973-2002

Robert H. Gibson, July 3, 2015, Associate Dean, Registrar's Office, 1966-2010

Melvin Harvey, June 23, 2015, Security Services Assistant I, University Police, 1996-2015

Thomas A. Constantine, M.A.'71

Thomas A. Constantine, former New York State Police superintendent and onetime administrator of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, passed away May 3 in Pinehurst, N.C. He was 76.

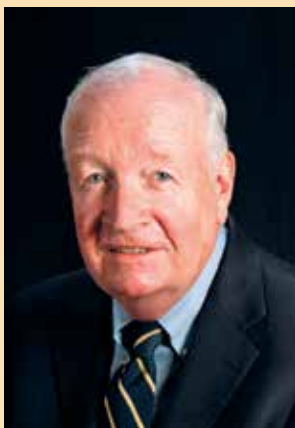
A native of Buffalo, Constantine earned degrees from Erie County Community College and the State University College at Buffalo. He later enrolled at the University at Albany School of Criminal Justice, receiving a master's degree and completing the academic requirements of the doctoral program.

Constantine began his law-enforcement career as an Erie County sheriff's deputy. He joined the New York State Police as a uniform trooper in 1962, rising through the ranks to serve as superintendent. In 1994, former President Bill Clinton appointed Constantine administrator of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

After retiring from the DEA in 1999, Constantine joined Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy as a professor of public policy. The following year, the British government tapped him to serve as oversight commissioner for a major reform of provincial policing in Northern Ireland. In addition, he was a senior adviser to the director of Intelligence in Washington, D.C.

The University at Albany recognized Constantine in 2012 with an honorary doctor of laws degree.

Constantine's survivors include his wife, Ruth; six children; 15 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and a brother.



UAlbany

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AUTHORS & EDITORS

Naoshi Koriyama, B.A.'54, recently translated *Japanese Tales from Times Past*, a collection of 12th-century Japanese tales. Koriyama co-translated the collection with Bruce Allen.

Emil J. Polak, B.A.'57, is the author of *Medieval and Renaissance Letter Treatises* and *Form Letters: A Census of Manuscripts Found in Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, France, Germany, and Italy*. These Latin manuscripts (*ars dictaminis*) were consulted in almost 900 libraries and archives in 36 countries. Polak is professor emeritus of history, having taught nearly 50 years at CUNY.

Michael Gilbertson, B.A.'71, recently published his first book, *Write Right: A Style Sheet for Everyone*. Gilbertson's book focuses on clear, graceful writing and is available in both paperback and eBook format via Amazon.

Gail Shanley Corso, Ph.D.'72, recently published her first collection of poetry, *Tendered to Us in Love*. Corso is a professor of English and the humanities at Neumann University in Aston, Pa. She and her husband, Charles, reside in Mount Royal, N.J.

Marleen Barr, B.A.'74, is the author of *Oy Pioneer!* The humorous novel is set on the UAlbany campus.

Shel Weissman, Ed.D.'74, is the author of *Midnight Train to Trieste: A Collection of Short Stories*, which chronicles a college student's European backpacking trip. Weissman's tales focus on ordinary people searching for meaning and personal growth in ever-changing situations. This publication is available through Amazon.

Barry Perlmutter, B.S.'75, published *Practical Guides in Chemical Engineering: Solid-Liquid Filtration*. Perlmutter is president and managing director of BHS-Sonthofen Inc. Filtration, Mixing & Recycling Divisions.

Rhona Friedman, B.A.'76, is the author of *Daughter of the Blue Sapphire*, a memoir of her father's life.

Bill Howard, M.A.'84, published *What the RAF Airman Took to War*, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. The book was published by Shire Publishing, a subsidiary of The Bloomsbury Group.

John Friedman, B.A.'85, recently published *PR 2.0: How Digital Media Can Help you Build a Sustainable Brand*.

Paul Bruno, M.B.A.'86, wrote *Project Management in History: The First Jeep*. The book details the Jeep's triumph in the 49-day challenge issued by the U.S. Army.

Jack Glaser, B.A.'87, is the author of *Suspect Race: Causes and Consequences of Racial Profiling*, published by Oxford University Press.

Jean Colaio, B.A.'87, recently published *That Day: My Story of September 11th*, in which she vividly recalls the devastation and confusion of that fateful day, as well as the agonizing moments of suspense during the days that followed.

Mike Goldman, B.S.'87, is the author of *Performance Breakthrough: The Four Secrets of Passionate Organizations*. More information: www.passionateorganizations.com.

Brian Obach, B.A.'88, recently published his second book, *Organic Struggle: The Movement for Sustainable Agriculture in the United States* (MIT Press, 2015). Obach examines how the organic movement grew from a fringe interest into a multi-billion-dollar industry, analyzes why the movement developed as it did, and explores the shortcomings of market-based social-change strategies. He is a professor of sociology at the State University of New York at New Paltz.

Amy Halloran, B.A.'90, is the author of *The New Bread Basket*, which profiles regional grain production. Halloran also writes the blog Home Economics: Three Avid Eaters Plus One Picky Fellow. More information: www.amyhalloran.net.

Patricia Dunn, D.A., Ph.D.'91, recently published her fourth book, *Disabling Characters: Representations of Disability in Young Adult Literature*. Dunn is an associate professor of English at Stony Brook University.

Suzette Bishop, D.A., Ph.D.'93, recently published her third book of poetry, *Hive-Mind*. Currently, Bishop teaches at Texas A&M International University in Laredo.

Leslie Tayne, Esq., B.A.'93, recently published *Life and Debt: a Fresh Approach to Achieving Financial Wellness*. The book is described as a fun, easy-to-read guide filled with useful tips about managing debt, confronting the fear of budgeting, and the importance of knowing your credit history and score. More info: www.LifeandDebtBook.com.

Darryl Green, M.A.'97, and **Mary Rose Green, M.S.'94**, are co-authors of *Jake and the Buggy Melee* and *Five More of You*. Both books are targeted for children K-3. The Greens illuminate and educate through humorous and insightful prose, and bold and colorful illustrations. More info: www.greenspublications.com.

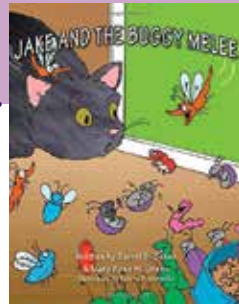
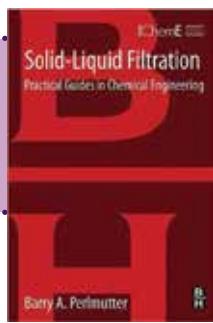
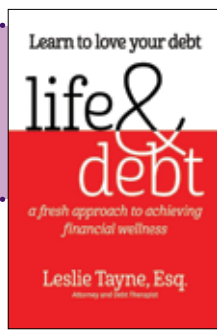
Kelly Williams, B.A.'97, is the author of *OP-DEC: Operation Deceit, Blue Honor* and the forthcoming first installment of *The Trailokya Trilogy*.

Rasheem Rooke, B.A.'98, published the suspense novel *Black Ribisi*. As a student at UAlbany, Rooke served as vice president of Albany State University Black Alliance (ASUBA) in 1994-95 and as president the following year. He served as the Student Association president in 1997-98. More info: www.RasheemRooke.com.

Gloria Russo Wassell, M.S.'00, recently co-authored *Adopting Older Children: A Practical Guide to Adopting and Parenting Children Over Age Four*, which enumerates the issues an older adopted child faces.

Sandra (Sherman) Zelka, M.B.A.'03, recently published her first book, *A Bad Day at the Beach*, in which a couple's much-needed Caribbean vacation is cut short by a Category-5 hurricane. This book aims to give the reader perspective on what it means to come home.



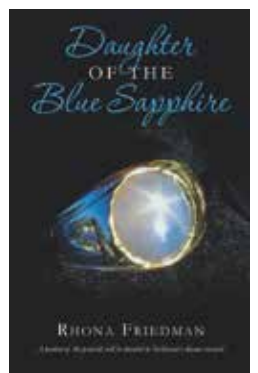
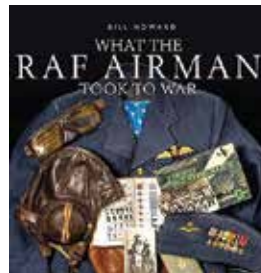
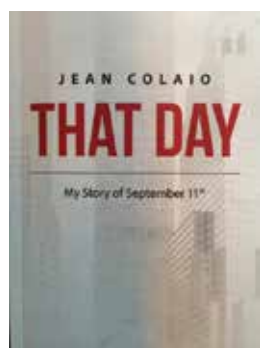
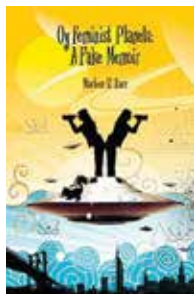
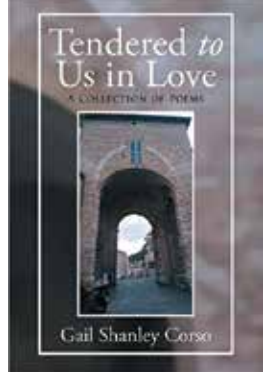
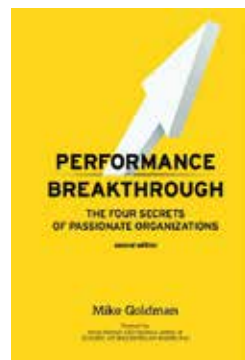
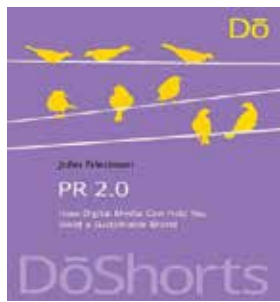
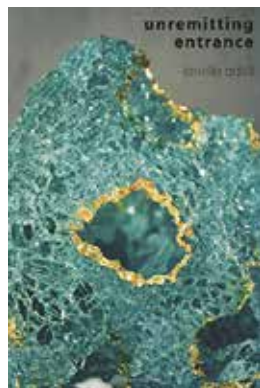
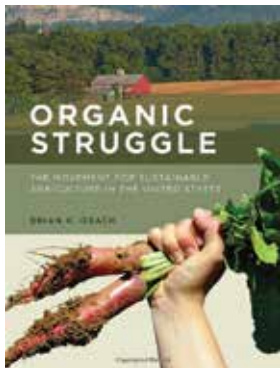
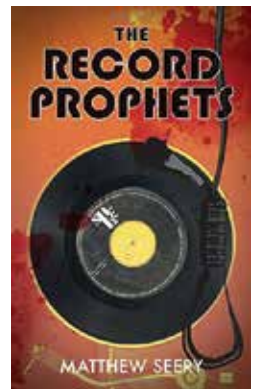
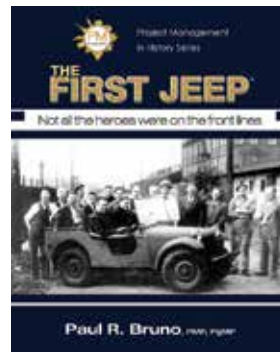
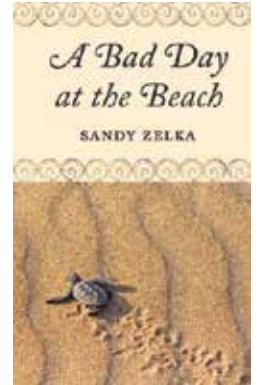
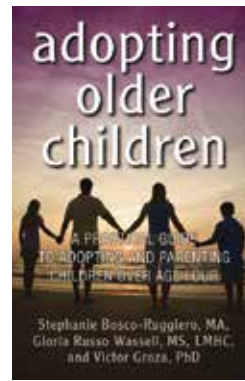


John Howard Smith, Ph.D.'03, published *The First Great Awakening: Redefining Religion in British America, 1725-1775*. Smith is an associate professor of history at Texas A&M University-Commerce.

Matthew Seery, B.A.'04, self-published his first novel, *The Record Prophets*, in April. A murder mystery set against the backdrop of the recording industry, the book has received excellent reviews from readers, who describe it as “clever,” “witty,” “intelligent” and “compelling.” More information: <http://amzn.com/1781323658>.

Bryan Robinson, Ph.D.'12, recently published *Lethal Violence and Religion: Institutional and Denominational Effects on Homicide and Suicide in U.S. Counties*.

Janelle Adsit, Ph.D.'14, is the author of *Unremitting Entrance*, a collection of poems that take root in and spring from the wedge driven between the living and the loved one lost to sudden death. Adsit is currently a post-doctoral fellow at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, B.C.



Last Look

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

Congratulations, Class of 2015!

Photos: Island Photography and Mark Schmidt



Graduate Ceremony speaker Penelope Andrews, former president of Albany Law School and incoming dean of the faculty of law at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, poses with UAlbany President Robert J. Jones prior to the ceremony.

UAlbany's Spring Commencement 2015 ceremonies, held May 16 and 17 in venues across all three campuses, celebrated the successes of more than 3,200 graduates.

The graduate class included 1,167 students. Of those:

- Multinational class members from 30 countries, including China, Kenya, Pakistan, Malaysia, Peru, Korea, Yemen, Kazakhstan, Russia and Barbados, earned advanced degrees.
- Women accounted for 57 percent of the graduates.
- The average age of class members was 29, with the oldest born in 1938 and the youngest, in 1993.
- The class included 10 military veterans.

In the undergraduate class of 2,170:

- Students earned undergraduate degrees in 56 majors.
- Degree recipients hailed from 17 countries, including China, Egypt, Great Britain, Ghana, Morocco, Thailand, Germany and Australia.
- The average age was 23; the oldest classmate was born in 1952, and the youngest, in 1995.
- At 52 percent, women represented the class majority.
- The class included 12 military veterans.



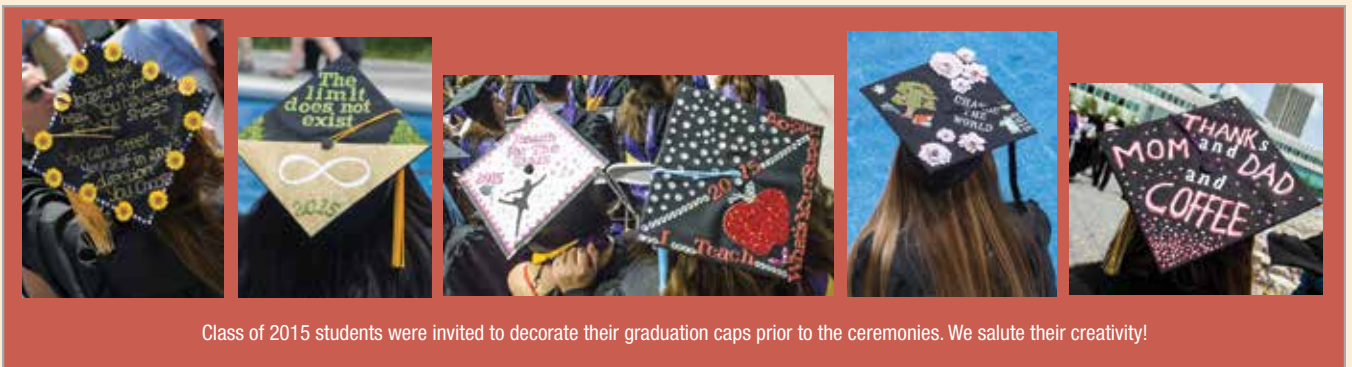
Honorary-degree recipient Barbara Smith inspired graduates not only with her words, but with her demonstrated passion for social justice. A public-service professor in UAlbany's School of Social Welfare, Smith has received numerous awards for her work, including a nomination for the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize.



At the undergraduate ceremony, student speaker Peter Hooley '15 – SUNY Chancellor's Award recipient and nationally recognized hero of March Madness – received a standing ovation after his address, which he closed with a slightly modified refrain that his mum constantly reinforced before her passing this last winter: "Keep Flying, Class of 2015!"



Rosanna Garcia '13, '15, poses with her mother after receiving her M.S.W. at the graduate ceremony. The Office of University Events staff extend their deepest thanks for the six years of assistance she provided for their signature events, and salute her incredible achievements. We miss you so much, Rosanna!



Class of 2015 students were invited to decorate their graduation caps prior to the ceremonies. We salute their creativity!

“When we were 30,
we didn’t have much
money, so a gift in
our will made
sense,” said Jeff.
“It still makes sense.”

Providing For the Future

At age 30, while expecting their first child, Jeffrey and Shelley Luks decided to make a will. The Lukses felt it was important to safeguard their family’s future. By including a bequest for a scholarship endowment at UAlbany, the young couple simultaneously made provision for future generations of students, as well.

Jeff, a Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy graduate, credits the University with “shaping me inside and outside the classroom.”

Jeff urges his fellow alumni to “get involved!” Find out how you can invest in UAlbany’s future. Contact our office today!



For information about including the University
at Albany in your estate plans, please contact
Lori Matt-Murphy
Office of Gift Planning
University at Albany, UAB 226
1400 Washington Avenue, Albany NY 12222
(518) 437-5090 or (888) 226-5600, toll free.



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HOMECOMING 2015 – OCT. 9, 10, 11



GET READY for the biggest annual gathering at UAlbany! Bring your Great Danes spirit, and we'll do the rest. Take in the vibrant autumn colors as you enjoy the weekend's festivities!

Wine-Tasting Reception

PRESIDENT'S BREAKFAST

Great Dane Pre-Game with food & entertainment

UALBANY** FOOTBALL VS. MAINE**

Sorority & Fraternity Coffee Hour

GOLD PARTY

Legacy Reception

REACHING HIGHER, ACHIEVING MORE
GUEST SPEAKER



Bring your family and friends and share a weekend of memories, fun and excitement with classmates!
For details, visit www.alumni.albany.edu/homecoming.