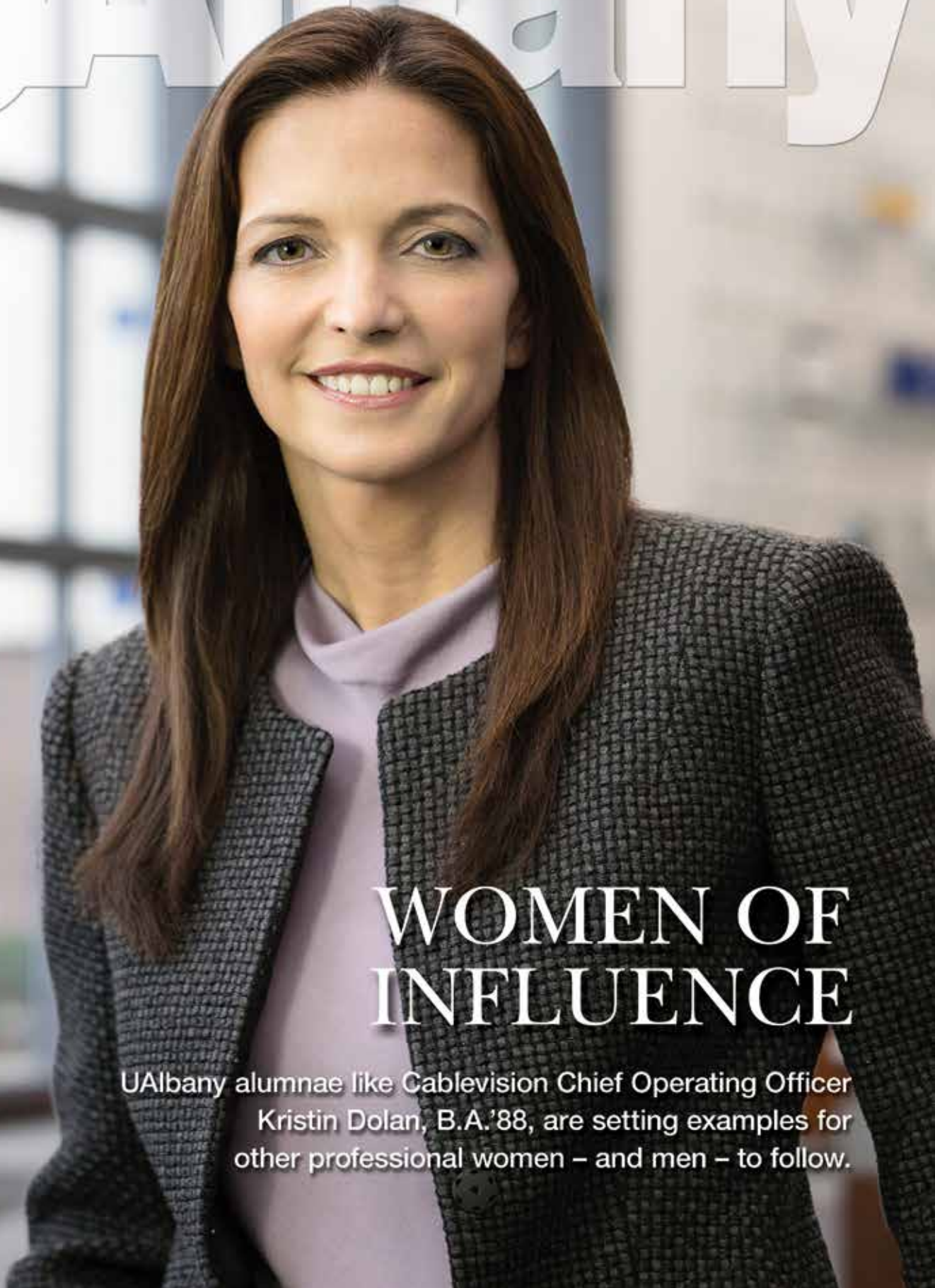


UAlbany



WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

UAlbany alumnae like Cablevision Chief Operating Officer Kristin Dolan, B.A.'88, are setting examples for other professional women – and men – to follow.



CONGRATS TO UALBANY BASKETBALL!



UAlbany

THE WORLD WITHIN REACH

University at Albany Magazine
Spring 2015, Volume 24, Number 1

The Big Picture

As *UAlbany* magazine went to press, March Madness was under way – and the University family was excitedly awaiting the start of the men’s and women’s America East competitions. The UAlbany women, seeded 13th after claiming their fourth straight title by defeating Hartford 84-75, faced No.-4 seed Duke University in the first round of the tournament March 20. With only 18 seconds left to play, Duke edged the Danes 54-52.

UAlbany’s men scored a 51-50 victory over Stony Brook to earn a third consecutive trip to the NCAA Tournament as the 14th seed. In the NCAA second round March 20, No.-3 seed Oklahoma held off the Great Danes, 69-60.

Congratulations to both teams, and to all of the University at Albany’s student athletes. We’re proud of all of you!

Go, Danes!

Features

6 Beyond Super

A decision to “fish or cut bait” led Marc Guggenheim, B.A. ’92, to leave the legal profession and head for Hollywood, where he’s found success as a writer and producer.

10 Women of Influence

University at Albany graduates are highly respected for their professional expertise, their civic awareness and their commitment to making the world a better place. In this issue, we highlight some alumnae whose accomplishments inspire and epitomize the true spirit of UAlbany.

Departments

- 2 From the Podium and Beyond
- 4 Gifts at Work
- 8 Out and About
- 28 The Carillon
(Alumni News and Notes)
- 48 The Last Word

www.albany.edu



From the Podium and Beyond

The Danes Claim Another Title

Fans of the Great Danes have had a lot to cheer about in 2015!

In February, the UAlbany men's and women's track & field teams claimed the America East Indoor Track Championship titles at the Armory in New York City.

It was the 10th consecutive America East crown for the men, and the team's 12th in the past 13 years. The team scored 191 points, defeating second-place Binghamton University by nearly 60 points.

UAlbany's women took home a third consecutive championship, winning five of the last six. They scored 197.66 points to edge the University of Maryland-Baltimore County (UMBC), which claimed second place with 153 points.



On Day 2 of the 2015 America East Indoor Track & Field Championships in February, Jason Tomlinson, above, competes in the 500-meter dash final, while Dominique Claudio, below, participates in the 800-meter run. The competitions took place at The Armory in New York City.



Royals, Rosario Make History

UAlbany women's basketball teammates Sarah Royals, left, and Margarita Rosario, right, have participated in the America East Tournament all four years of their undergraduate careers. They graduate this year.



Paul Miller

Hooley Hailed as a Hero

Peter Hooley celebrates after the Great Danes win the America East Championship on March 14. With 1.6 seconds left in the game, the junior sank a 3 that enabled the Danes to defeat Stony Brook 51-50, sealing UAlbany's third straight trip to the NCAA Tournament.

Massry Family Makes Historic Gift to UAlbany

The University at Albany has received a \$5.25 million gift – the largest in its 170-year history – from the family of Morris and Esther Massry, Capital Region philanthropists.

Announced Dec. 8, 2014, by UAlbany President Robert J. Jones, the contribution will

- preserve the School of Business as a state-of-the-art resource for teaching, learning and research
- enrich the academic experience for School of Business students by funding speakers, conferences and visiting faculty

- establish the Massry Community Fellows Program, allowing students throughout the University to pursue internships with local non-profit organizations and strengthening UAlbany's core values of community service and public engagement

The Massrys, well known for their service to the Albany area, are longtime University at Albany supporters. Their donation is the largest single gift the family has made to any institution or cause in the area.

More details about the gift will appear in the Fall 2015 *UAlbany*.

Stellar Is Academic Affairs VP, Provost

James R. Stellar joined the University at Albany Feb. 2 as senior vice president for Academic Affairs and provost.

Stellar came to UAlbany from Queens College of the City University of New York (CUNY), where he was vice president for Academic Innovation and Experiential Education. Previously, he served for four years as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs at the college.

Stellar began his academic career at Harvard University as a professor in the Department of Psychology and Social Relations, and as a Harvard Medical School biochemistry researcher. His other experience included 22 years at Northeastern University, where he spent a decade as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.



Paul Miller

University at Albany Foundation President George R. Hearst III, left, and UAlbany President Robert J. Jones, Vice President for University Development Fardin Sanai and School of Business Dean Donald Siegel, all at right, thank Murray Massry, Julie Massry Knox, Morris Massry and Norman Massry for their family's gift to the University.

Alumni Chapter Launches in Taiwan

Below, left, University at Albany President Robert J. Jones greets Kelly and Mark Yang, B.S.'92, at the Dec. 14 launch of the alumni chapter in Taiwan. Below, right, George Tai-Jen Chen, Ph.D.'71, pictured at the president's right, co-hosted the event for leadership alumni.



Gifts at Work

By Carol Olechowski

A Name for Emeritus Center

Nearly 40 years in the making, the Emeritus Center – a place where retired faculty and staff could engage with the rest of the UAlbany community – came into being in 2006. Now, it finally has an official name: the William L. Reese Emeritus Center.

Professor Emeritus of Philosophy William L. Reese II was the chief promoter of the venue. “We can expand its educational and cultural offerings, and provide a gathering place for University at Albany emeriti,” said Reese, who taught at UAlbany for three decades and served as longtime chair of the philosophy department.

A native of Jefferson City, Mo., Reese spent his boyhood in the Midwest. The minister’s son earned a degree in religion and philosophy at Drury College (now Drury University), then received a bachelor of divinity and a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago.

Reese taught religion and philosophy at several institutions before applying for a faculty position with the State University of New York at Albany. Impressed by his interview with Evan Revere Collins, president at the time, Reese accepted the post.

For Albany, Reese observed, the Collins era “was a time of great expansion,” and the chief executive was “an agent for positive change.” Collins worked with then-Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller to supervise the institution’s physical growth; he also assured that the University at Albany would assume its proper place in the State University system hierarchy. “Initially, Albany had not been selected as one of the State



Professor Emeritus
William L. Reese II

University’s four University Centers. But Collins discovered there were more people with Ph.D. degrees at Albany than there were at some of the other campuses, so Albany became a University Center,” Reese recalled.

Collins likewise recognized the important role that retired faculty could play at the University, according to Reese. To express appreciation for their prior service, the president proposed library and parking privileges, and invitations to convocations, commencements and other campus events, for emeriti. In addition, Collins suggested that they be permitted to serve on University committees and councils, and represent Albany in professional



Retired faculty Toby Clyman, Ray Ortali and Findlay Cockrell, left to right, visit at the 2006 opening of the Emeritus Center.

UAlbany

Magazine

Spring 2015, Volume 24, Number 1

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.

Vice President for University Development
Fardin Sanai

Director of Development Operations and
Assistant to the Vice President
Cecilia Lauenstein

Editorial Staff

Executive Editor
Carol Olechowski
colechowski@albany.edu

Art Director/Designer
Mary Sciancalepore

Writers
Christine A. Doyle, M.B.A.'04;
Jimmy J. Fuller, B.S.'01; Claudia Ricci, Ph.D.'96;
Jim Sciancalepore, M.A.'93;
Stephen Shoemaker, B.A.'02

Photographers
Roger Archer; Nebojsa Babic; Cate Cameron;
Gary Gold, B.A.'70; Marty Heitner; Dodie V.
Legaspi; Paul Miller; Mark Schmidt; Brian
Stanton; Rob Totaro

Researchers
Benjamin Brunjes, B.S.'12; Jennifer
Casabonne, M.S.'03; Deborah Forand;
Lisa Gonzalez, M.A.'03; Amy Johnston

Features Manager
Agostino Futia, B.A.'01, M.A.'08

Mailing Coordinator
Kim Verhoff

Web Editor
Melissa Fry, M.B.A.'12

Business Manager
Lillian Lee

The Carillon

Editor
Stephanie Snyder
ssnyder2@albany.edu
Art Director/Designer
Mary Sciancalepore

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

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

Cover: After majoring in accounting, economics and computer science at UAlbany, Kristin Dolan, B.A.'88, settled on an English major and a business minor. The experience gave her an appreciation for flexibility – and helped to propel her to success in the cable industry. Photo: Brian Stanton

associations. The University Senate approved the proposal in 1972-73; the SUNY Board of Trustees endorsed it, in part, for all campuses in 1975.

One thing remained: to establish a campus location where emeritus faculty could gather to continue their intellectual pursuits, and, by extension, promote the “three voices” of the University mission: education, research and public service. Reese worked diligently for 37 years to advance the Emeritus Center cause. The center finally came to fruition during Kermit L. Hall’s tenure as UAlbany president.

Just before the dedication ceremony, however, Hall died. Reese remembered, “I asked if we should have the dedication, and the consensus was, ‘We’ve done the work,’ so we decided to go ahead.”

Then-Provost and Officer in Charge Susan Herbst commented at the ceremony that Reese had come to her the preceding summer “with a stack of

yellowing papers to make his pitch for the establishment of such a center. I told him, ‘Bill, you don’t have to show me the memos from 1969 to convince me of the merits of this case.’” Hall, Herbst noted, had pronounced the proposed center “a great thing” and added, “Let’s do it.”

Reese himself frequents the center two or three times a week. Located in University Administration Building (UAB) 134, it affords retired faculty space to continue their teaching, research and outreach activities while enhancing and complementing University academics.

The Emeritus Center naming also honors Reese’s father and son. William Reese III, who passed away several years ago, had taken and transcribed notes for some of the professor’s books, just as his father had done for his grandfather decades earlier. “I thought it would be nice if we could put his name somewhere. I think we’ve found a place for it,” says William Reese II.



Then-Provost and Officer in Charge Susan Herbst, pictured at left, joined faculty for the Emeritus Center dedication ceremony. The center, located in the University Administration Building (UAB) on the uptown campus, was recently named the William L. Reese Emeritus Center.

Marc Guggenheim, B.A. '92

BEYOND SUPER

BY JIM SCIANCALEPORA, M.A. '93

MARC GUGGENHEIM ...



... AT COMIC-CON

Marc Guggenheim's mother has a distinct memory of him as a 2-year-old, sitting on the floor of his bedroom ... flipping through a Superman comic book.

"I loved comic books before I could even read!" laughed Guggenheim.

The moment, as it turns out, was prescient. Guggenheim is currently the co-showrunner (a combination creator/writer/producer role) for the critically acclaimed TV show "Arrow," a modern take on the DC Comics superhero Green Arrow. He previously wrote the screenplay for "Green Lantern," the Ryan Reynolds feature film. He has also authored numerous comic books for some of the genre's most iconic characters, including The Flash, Wolverine, Aquaman and The Amazing Spiderman. Not surprisingly, Guggenheim has been a guest speaker at San Diego's ComicCon, the massive annual conference of all things super and sci-fi.

"I get to play with the toys I grew up with," he said. "It's very surreal and a huge amount of fun."

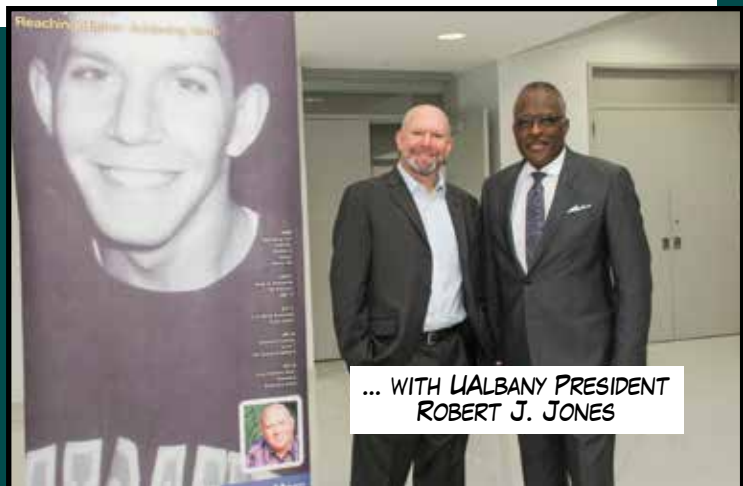
Of course, all great superhero stories have what is commonly referred to as an "origin story" – describing how these characters acquired their powers and discovered their destinies. Though he wasn't exactly bitten by a radioactive spider, Guggenheim directly attributes his growth as a writer and creative catalyst to his experience at UAlbany.

"My time at UAlbany opened me up socially and intellectually," explained the Long Island native. "It was four wonderful years of my life."

Guggenheim noted that he particularly enjoyed being in the University's English honors program, which gave him a broader appreciation of themes and storytelling. "It wasn't just about literature," he said. "It was about expansion of ideas, and expressing those ideas."

His personal story arc, however, didn't go straight from Albany to Hollywood: After earning his B.A., Guggenheim

Mark Schmidt

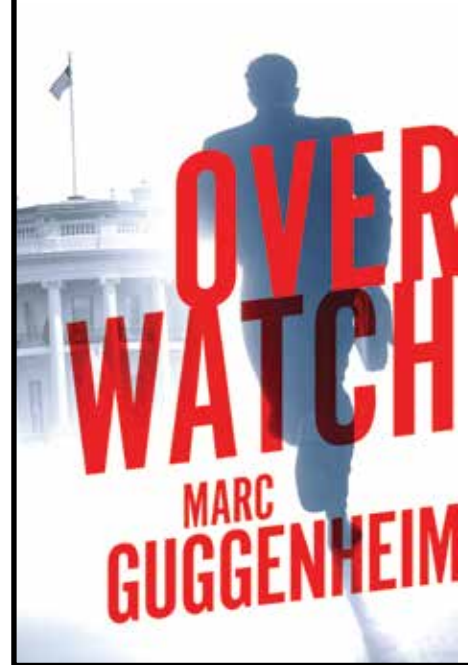


... WITH UALBANY PRESIDENT ROBERT J. JONES



... POSING WITH THE MAKKLU ARMY FROM "ARROW"

Cate Cameron/Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.



first pursued a career in law. He earned his law degree from Boston University and was able to score a plum position as an attorney at a prominent Boston firm. His career path was clear, until a little bit of destiny intervened.

Guggenheim's younger brother was working on a student film at the time (both of his brothers are in the film/TV business today), and he asked his big brother for assistance with the script. This experience rekindled Guggenheim's passion for writing, and he decided it was time to "fish or cut bait."

At age 29, he decided to leave his job and move to L.A. to pursue a full-time career in writing. From initial stints as a writer on such TV shows as "The Practice," "Law & Order" and "Jack and Bobby" to his current showrunner status, he has never looked back. (On his Twitter feed, @mguggenheim, Guggenheim describes himself as a "recovering attorney and writer of stuff.")

Guggenheim's creative interests extend well beyond the superhero oeuvre. Now a married father of two, he recently published his first novel – a political spy thriller titled *Overwatch*. Melding elements of John Grisham and Tom Clancy, the book concerns a young attorney who works for the CIA and uncovers a dangerous global conspiracy.

Guggenheim began writing *Overwatch* when he was between television writing jobs a few years ago. A friend advised him to "write something you don't normally do,"

and Guggenheim challenged himself to write a book – a very different process than scripting a show or movie.

"I quickly realized that I have to be the director, cinematographer, set designer and even the actors when writing a book," explained Guggenheim. "I learned a lot during the process."

When asked to identify his proudest creative achievement so far, Guggenheim says he "can't pick a favorite child." He did mention that the TV show "Eli Stone," which marked his first stint as a co-showrunner, has a special place in his heart. The quirky dramedy detailed the sudden spiritual awakening of an attorney who works for a high-powered law firm and realizes that he has a higher calling.

"It was a chance to talk about deeper topics, like faith and spirituality," said Guggenheim. "And there may have been a little more of me in that character."

While he is pulled in many different directions these days, Guggenheim still relishes his writing time. Like his many masked protagonists, Guggenheim says that he, too, has something of a double life.

"There's me and there's me the writer," he explained. "Every time I sit at the keyboard, I get to be someone else. That's a cool thing."

Mark Schmidt



... SIGNING HIS BOOK OVERWATCH AT THE UNIVERSITY



... SPEAKING AT THE FALL 2014 REACHING HIGHER/ACHIEVING MORE LUNCHEON

Mark Schmidt

"MY TIME AT UALBANY OPENED ME UP SOCIALLY AND INTELLECTUALLY."

Out and About

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

Homecoming, Family and Reunion Weekend

Photos: Rob Totaro, Mark Schmidt

Thousands of UAlbany alumni, students, parents and friends gathered together Oct. 10-12, 2014, to participate in Homecoming, Family and Reunion Weekend. The weekend was packed with events that celebrated alumni accomplishments while providing opportunities for current students and their families to show their UAlbany spirit!

These photos depict a handful of the festivities, including the annual Scholarship Reception; the Reaching Higher/Achieving More Luncheon, which featured a talk by famed screenwriter, producer and author Mark Guggenheim '92; the Alice Hastings Murphy Dedication; the Great Danes Pre-Game and more.



Scholarship recipients gather for a group photo.



The Luks family has fun at the Homecoming Pre-Game.



Scholarship donors pose for the camera before speaking with the students who received their awards.

Michael Carmen '84, senior vice president and partner at Wellington Management Company and member of the UAlbany School of Business Dean's Advisory Board, speaks from the heart about why he and his wife, Pam, created and support The Michael Carmen '84 Mentoring Scholarship. The award provides generous support and mentoring for students who demonstrate outstanding leadership skills and promise.



Featured speaker Susan H. Hildreth, M.L.S. '73, center, talks with University at Albany Dean of Libraries Mary Casserly, left. Hildreth directs the Institute of Museum and Library Services in Washington, D.C.

Citizen Laureate Dinner Marks 35th Anniversary

Photo: Gary Gold '70

It was another record-breaking year for the annual Citizen Laureate Awards Dinner! The 35th anniversary dinner, held Nov. 6 at SEFCU Arena, grossed more than \$250,000 for The University at Albany Foundation and student scholarships.

Left to right, University President Robert J. Jones; Rev. Kevin J. Mullen, Academic Laureate; Community Laureates Phoebe Powell Bender and Daniel P. Nolan '74; and University at Albany Foundation President George R. Hearst III pose for a photo. For additional photos and video, visit www.albany.edu/uafoundation.



UAlbany Faculty and Staff Invest in UAlbany

Photo: Mark Schmidt

Hundreds of UAlbany faculty and staff recognize the importance of philanthropy in the lives of our students and demonstrate their commitment by investing in the UAlbany Fund each year. On Jan. 29, President Robert J. Jones hosted a coffee reception in the University Hall Atrium to recognize these employees for going above and beyond their daily duties.

With a Loyalty Society lapel pin, Jones recognizes Professor of Economics Michael Sattinger for his 25 consecutive years of generous giving to UAlbany.



Congratulations to UAlbany's December 2014 Graduates!

Photos: Mark Schmidt

More than 1,000 degrees were awarded Dec. 6 at UAlbany's Winter Commencement, held at SEFCU Arena.

Our December grads joined a global network numbering more than 165,000 alumni.

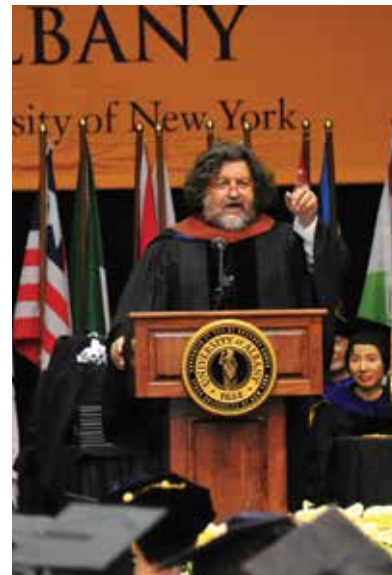
- They hailed from more than 26 states and 27 different countries, including China, India, Korea, New Zealand, Iran, Pakistan, Italy, Nepal and Singapore.
- Their ages ranged from 19 to 66.
- Women comprised 53 percent of the undergraduate class and 60 percent of the graduate class.
- Graduates studied a wide range of subjects, earning degrees in 56 majors that included psychology, sociology, communication, business, economics and biology.
- There were 11 military veterans among the graduates. We thank them for their service.



Above, U.S. Senator Charles "Chuck" Schumer (N.Y.) tells grads, "Go for it!"

Above right, honorary doctorate recipient Philip Morris, CEO of Proctors Theatre in Schenectady, N.Y., offers some personal insights to graduates and their families.

Right, "Thanks, Mom and Dad!"



UAlbany Women in Accounting Networking Group Gathers

Photo: Marty Heitner

More than 50 UAlbany alumnae gathered at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Manhattan last Nov. 12 to celebrate UAlbany Women in Accounting and discuss the delicate work/life balance.



Pictured, left to right, are event host Joan Rosenthal '76; Roanne Kulakoff '81; featured speaker Terri-Ann Dautzenberg '98; School of Business Dean Donald Siegel; Caryn Tuckman '75; Amy Knapp '97; and Richelle Konian '95.

State-of-the-Art Data Center Unveiled

Photo: Paul Miller

On Sept. 30, 300 guests had a first look at UAlbany's new Information Technology Services. The facility is the home of the new state-of-the-art data center, which supports the University's growing research, academic and business operations by providing faster and more efficient computing, improved network capability, and new IT services.

SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher; UAlbany Chief Information Officer Christine Haile '77; President Jones; and New York State Assemblyman Peter Lopez '83, '88, cut the ceremonial ribbon to mark the grand opening.



KRISTIN DOLAN, B.A.'88

ELDA DI RE, B.S.'83

ERIKA IRISH BROWN, B.S.'91

RIZALINA MANTARING, M.S.'83

JANE IREDALE, M.A.'98

KRISTINE DANKENBRINK, B.S./M.S.'90

DEBBIE MILLMAN, B.A.'83

JENNIFER GEISSER, B.A.'90

JOAN MCDAID PERTAK, B.A.'83

NICOLE DESIR, B.A.'94, M.A.'96

MARYANNE LAVAN, B.S.'81

MELANIE GRAY, B.A.'78

CATHERINE CERULLI, M.A.'98, PH.D.'04

VALERIE JENSEN, B.A.'96

LESLIE TAYNE, ESQ., B.S.'93

JOAN (ROSENBAUM) SOLOTAR, B.S.'86

NIVEDITA SAMANTA, B.A.'09

JUDITH MYSLIBORSKI, M.D., B.S.'69



WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

These 18 women exemplify the professional success and personal fulfillment for which UAlbany's graduates are well known. Learn more about their rewarding careers and community commitments here.



Brian Stanton

KRISTIN DOLAN, B.A. '88

Chief Operating Officer, Cablevision

Expertise Comes With Experience

BY CLAUDIA RICCI, PH.D. '96

Kristin Dolan, the highly successful chief operating officer at Cablevision, has this advice for students preparing for careers in the real world: Don't expect to be experts coming out of college.

"You're never going to know everything going into a job," she says. "You're going to learn every day on the job. You really have to be flexible because the world is changing so fast."

Dolan knows plenty about being flexible. She changed her major at UAlbany three times before she settled on English with a business minor. (The other majors were accounting, economics and computer science.)

The faculty member who most influenced her was writer Mark Nepo, then a professor in the English department. To get into the class, Dolan had to submit a writing sample. Nepo's class, and his highly successful *Book of Awakening*, taught Dolan the importance of being present for each and every activity during the day. She carried that attitude – that you had to immerse yourself in whatever you were doing – to other activities, including her other classes and later, to all the positions she held on her way up the ladder at Cablevision.

An avid reader, Dolan decided after college to pursue publishing. Pace University was offering a new M.S. in

KRISTIN DOLAN, B.A.'88

publishing program and she enrolled, eventually writing her thesis on cable television.

Her first internship was at a start-up magazine operated by former editors from the *New Yorker* magazine. It wasn't for her. "The people weren't friendly and I sat in a room all by myself all day."

Her next internship, with the American Movie Classics network, eventually turned into a permanent job at Cablevision. Dolan held a series of sales and marketing positions with increasingly more responsibility. After eight years on the job, she became a Cablevision vice president in charge of field communications. The position took her "out into the field, traveling throughout New York and New England to meet with Cablevision's front-line employees, including cable TV installers."

Dolan rose steadily through the ranks at Cablevision, eventually heading up the company's Optimum Services division, where she was responsible for all Optimum products, brand positioning and customer service. She has relied on her strong marketing background to move the company toward a

more "friendly" feel. As one report put it, "she wants to get customers to actually like a cable company."

Named chief operating officer at Cablevision in April 2014, Dolan has been featured in *CableFAX The Magazine's* lists of the top 100 cable executives and the top 50 most influential women in the industry. She supervises at least 10,000 employees.

While pursuing this high-powered career, Dolan also managed to earn an M.A. in literature from Long Island University.

As the cable industry becomes increasingly competitive, Dolan says that customer service has never been so important. This kind of attitude generally typifies small family businesses. Cablevision, Dolan notes, "is a small family business that just happens to be a Fortune 500 company, too."

Now, as COO, Dolan says she has to be particularly nimble, keeping tabs on myriad activities for the cable company. In one day she may have meetings that cover the gamut: advertising, product development, sales and marketing, budgeting, forecasting and operations.

Dolan says that one of her key strengths is continuing to help the company reinvent itself. "I like to fix things," she says. "I get in and get out. As soon as I do what I do, I move on to the next project."



ELDA DI RE, B.S.'83

Tax and Financial-Services Expert

By Stephen Shoemaker, B.A.'02

If you've watched any of the big cable news stations during tax season or prior to the enactment of new legislation with tax implications, you may have seen Elda Di Re answering financial questions. The Ernst & Young (EY) partner has done segments on Bloomberg TV, CNBC and Fox, among others.

One standout appearance for her was with CNBC's Suze Orman after the Supreme Court's 2013 ruling in the *United States v. Windsor* same-sex marriage case. "It was a topic of such great import," Di Re says. "It was certainly something she followed for years. It felt great when she was asking me very specific questions about what I thought."

Di Re joined the audit practice at EY (then Ernst & Whinney) after graduation and eventually gained the experience to join the tax practice. She made partner in 1996, and in 2006 formed her own practice with EY. It specializes in working with clients in the financial-services industry.

She also serves on the board of The University at Albany Foundation; the accounting board for the School of Business;

and the finance committee of the United Nations School in Manhattan, which her son attends.

Di Re was drawn to the structure an accounting major provides, in terms of both education and job prospects, and says the career provides constant training and growth. "It's really a meritocracy. You're not battling against other people for a promotion; you're just continuing to grow each year, as long as you're doing well."

Di Re was the 2014 Commencement speaker for the School of Business. She likened her advice for graduates to a Venn diagram: "What do you like to do? What are you good at? And what does the marketplace need? It's where those three circles intersect that you should focus your efforts in your career."



ERIKA IRISH BROWN, B.S. '91



Roger Archer, Phaat's Photos

ADVANCING DIVERSITY

By Jim Sciancalepore, M.A. '93

“As a woman and as a person of color, the topic of diversity is near and dear to me,” explained Erika Irish Brown, a senior vice president with Bank of America.

Brown recruits diverse executives for the Fortune 50 banking giant. She helped to develop the position a few years ago – and that’s in addition to helming all of Bank of America’s executive-search efforts. In her view, fostering diverse hiring practices is key to success in today’s business world.

“There is a strong business case for diversity,” said Brown. “If you’re not diverse, you’re not getting the best and brightest talent.”

Noting shifting demographics nationwide and the general globalization of business, Brown believes that top companies now require a workforce with expansive cultural competence to meet the needs and expectations of clients and employees. She added that a diverse workforce offers other advantages, too, such as a broader, more innovative approach to problem solving.

The UAlbany graduate is particularly passionate about this subject because she was afforded a unique Wall Street internship opportunity at the start of her career. Brown then spent the next 15 years working in investment banking at such prestigious employers as Lehman Brothers, the U.S. Treasury and Morgan Stanley. When she shifted her focus to diversity initiatives in 2009, Brown found a way to “pay it forward.”

“I was fortunate to have opportunities made available to me,” said Brown. “I want to create opportunities for others.”

.....
Brown credits her UAlbany experience with giving her a strong educational foundation. While earning her undergraduate degree, Brown was “really involved” – taking an active role in student associations and volunteer organizations.
.....

“UAlbany helped me grow my leadership skills and confidence,” said Brown. “It prepared me to succeed in competitive environments.”



Dodie V. Legaspi

RIZALINA MANTARING, M.S. '83

*President and CEO, Sun Life Financial Philippines
Chair and President, Sun Life Foundation*

“A CULTURE OF WINNING”

By Carol Olechowski

A company's culture is perhaps its greatest asset, observes Rizalina Mantaring. “People change, technologies change, and the business environment changes. But if a company has a strong culture—one founded on integrity, excellence, continuous learning and genuine concern for people—it will be able to adapt more easily and stay ahead of the competition. I guess you can say it's a culture of winning.”

Mantaring is determined to ensure that Sun Life maintains that culture. “In the Philippines, we operate several companies, primarily selling life insurance, mutual funds, and pension and education plans. We founded the life-insurance industry, starting operations in 1895, three years before the Republic of the Philippines was established.”

Shortly after Mantaring took over as CEO in 2009, Sun Life began preparing for its 120th anniversary by “developing a set of plans and strategies, collectively called Route 5.” Combining brand-building, marketing and the opening of a bancassurance channel—all things “we had never done”—with “the internal transformation of our advisers and staff,” Route 5 expanded the company's new business “at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 46 percent, well above our initial plan, between 2009 and 2013.” By 2011, Sun Life had become the Philippines' largest life insurer, retaining its longtime No.-2 ranking in mutual funds.

Sun Life's growth potential remains great. Mantaring notes: “The Philippines has a population of more than 100 million, with an average age of 22, a high literacy rate, and strong English-language skills. On gender equity, it is ninth overall on the World Economic Forum's ranking of countries, outranking even the U.S. and Canada. Prosperity has been increasing, with GDP (gross domestic product) growth in the 5.5-to-7.5 percent range over the last few years. In 2015, the Philippines will enter the demographic sweet spot, with a large and increasingly prosperous working-age population, setting the stage for tremendous

economic growth for the next two to three decades.”

Mantaring also heads the Sun Life Foundation, which has aided typhoon and earthquake victims; covered school costs for children; and “partnered with the Philippines' Department of Education, the Red Cross and other organizations on various initiatives.” To celebrate Sun Life's 120 years, “we have donated 120 boats to fishermen and are building 120 classrooms in the areas devastated by Typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) in 2013; we have also sent 120 scholars to school. We're quite proud of the work we have done. Sun Life is very much a part of the nation's history.”

Her education provided Mantaring the skills essential for leading the foundation and a global business. After earning an undergraduate degree at the University of the Philippines, Diliman, she studied computer science at what was then SUNY Albany, “a popular choice for graduate school among the people I knew.” Living by herself in a foreign country taught Mantaring “to be truly independent,” while interacting with classmates from various countries and cultures “has helped me at Sun Life, where we work with colleagues from all over the world.”

She learned other lessons, as well. During study sessions, Mantaring says, “I thought I was helping by sharing solutions to the various problems we discussed “until a classmate told me, ‘I don't know why you bother to attend these sessions; you don't need them.’ I realized then that, sometimes, you help best by letting people figure things out on their own.”

As a teaching assistant for Peter Bloniarz, then professor of computer science and “one of the best teachers I have ever had,” Mantaring would take only 20 minutes of the 30 allotted for discussing problem sets. “When Professor Bloniarz met all the TAs and asked if we had enough to discuss in our classes, he looked at me briefly and said nothing else, but he made me realize I had to figure out if I was actually delivering the expected results. I had to go above and beyond just doing a job.”



JANE IREDALE, M.A.'98

Founder and President, Iredale Mineral Cosmetics

A SENSE OF SATISFACTION

By Carol Olechowski

As a New York City-based casting director, producer and writer, Jane Iredale worked with Meryl Streep, Glenn Close, Henry Fonda, Jack Lemmon and other celebrities. Her clients included Steven Spielberg and Francis Ford Coppola. She worked for all the major television networks.

But in 1994, after 25 years in the entertainment field, Iredale embraced a new opportunity, founding Iredale Mineral Cosmetics (www.janeiredale.com), a line of natural makeup products.

"I saw so many actors and models struggling to keep their skins healthy because of the amounts and types of makeup they had to wear," recalls Iredale, who worked for J. Walter Thompson before establishing her own casting and production companies. "I wanted to be in a business that gave me a sense of satisfaction, and

enhancing the lives of women was a great motivator.

"The greatest challenge, of course, was financial. I maxed out my credit cards and went to friends, who made small investments. Later, as we gained more credibility, our bank provided a credit line."

With regard to cosmetics, Iredale explains, the word "mineral" has come to mean "a makeup formula that doesn't use fillers such as talc and is as clean as possible. It benefits the skin and minimizes any risk of sensitivity. Because minerals are pure pigment, they cover well and always feel light on the skin, allowing it to breathe and function normally. Minerals give a natural look that improves the skin's appearance."

Iredale Mineral Cosmetics are made in California, and new products are "always" in development. "Part of being a successful makeup brand is to keep bringing out things that are exciting and fresh. In 2015, we're launching our first hand cream – a beautiful non-sticky formula that smells of roses and has an SPF of 15," says Iredale.

The most rewarding part of her work is "receiving testimonials from customers about how our makeup has changed their lives." Iredale often interacts with customers at events and on social media. "They always have suggestions for me. Some have found their way into the line."

Her own favorite Iredale product is PurePressed Base, “a foundation, powder, concealer and sunscreen all in one. I use it every day. It stays where I put it, evens out my skin tone and protects me from sun damage.”

A native of England, Iredale earned a bachelor’s degree at New York University. In the mid-1990s, she enrolled in the University at Albany’s master’s program in liberal studies. Iredale acknowledges that it was difficult to attend classes while operating a business, “but it gave me something else to think about, rather than being consumed by the business 24 hours a day. My logic class was so challenging that I used to see the TA on a regular basis. When I got an A in that class, I thought: ‘If I can get through that, I can certainly make a success of my business. That’s easy, compared to logic.’”

.....
“One of the most important things I learned at the University was how to organize my thoughts and write a paper. Writing skills in business are so important; I can’t emphasize that enough,” Iredale notes.
.....

At home in Great Barrington, Mass., Iredale leads her employees in supporting numerous local organizations, including Fairview Hospital, the Women’s Cancer Wellness Fund, Shakespeare & Company, Berkshire Creative, and Habitat for Humanity. Other causes, such as Greenpeace, The Nature Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Society, are also important to her.

“I honestly believe that we’re only as strong as our weakest link, whether that’s a human being or the environment,” Iredale observes. “I’m lucky to have a satisfying and rewarding quality of life; the more people who share in those things, the better my life will be. So it isn’t really philanthropy. It’s pretty selfish.”

A Fascinating Profession

By Claudia Ricci, Ph.D. ’96

Looking back at her career, Comcast Executive Kristine Dankenbrink is grateful to UAlbany’s internship program for giving her “really early exposure to the world of business.”

The summer after junior year, Dankenbrink interned with the accounting firm Ernst & Whinney. One job was as a “trailer checker,” at a time when movie theaters played scheduled trailers. “When I was 19,” Dankenbrink chuckles, “this was the coolest thing.”

But other tasks that summer proved “painfully boring.” One job involved checking that thousands of numbers added up correctly; “it was like watching paint dry.”

Dankenbrink returned to the University and enrolled in a master’s program in taxation. “It’s not exactly a cool job at a cocktail party,” she says. “Everybody who doesn’t do taxation thinks it’s boring, but it is fascinating to me.”

People working in taxation “can have an amazing impact” on a company’s performance,” she says. “When you are in taxation, almost everything ends up going through your department.”

Dankenbrink, 46, has been senior vice president for Taxation for six years at Comcast, the nation’s largest cable company. Previously, she was senior vice president at Time Warner Cable, where she built the tax department. Today, she is helping Comcast acquire Time Warner Cable.

Her job also requires Dankenbrink to represent Comcast’s interests before government. She has testified in Washington and visited all 50 states.

Dankenbrink’s high powered job – she supervises 110 people – doesn’t end when she leaves the office. She has three children, including one, age 13, with severe autism. Another child, age 10, was adopted from Russia.

How does she manage? She “outsources all of the daily grind kind of jobs at home.” And she takes full advantage of new technologies that let people work at a distance. “You can be at a Christmas concert for your child, but you have your BlackBerry and you can be making decisions or giving advice.”

**KRISTINE
DANKENBRINK,
B.S./M.S. ’90**



DEBBIE MILLMAN, B.A.'83

President, Design Group, Sterling Brands



Nebojsa Babic

DESIGN MATTERS

By Carol Olechowski

Debbie Millman has a simple philosophy: *Design matters*. Why? “Design reflects the condition of our culture,” observes the president of Sterling Brands’ design group.

Millman’s interest in design blossomed at the University at Albany, where she majored in English and wrote for the *ASP*. “A baby designer was born” when she edited “Aspects,” the student newspaper’s arts and features section, and found “I was as interested in the form as I was in the content.”

Her minor in Russian literature, which enabled Millman to “understand humanity and the soul of a culture,” also influenced her career choice, as did her “amazing” professors. “Helen Elam taught me to learn with joy and gave me confidence. Deborah Dorfman taught me to write and listen and to be a better person. Harry Staley introduced me to James Joyce and inspired my pilgrimage to Dublin in 1992. And Hugh MacLean encouraged me to think with more rigor, to challenge conventions and to love Renaissance poetry.”

After graduation, “I wanted to do something special, but I felt compelled to safeguard my economic future,” recalls Millman. She worked for a cable magazine and a real-estate firm before starting a business with Cliff Sloan, B.A.’82. Millman subsequently accepted a marketing position with Frankfurt Balkind, then “the best design firm in the country.”

A year later, she joined New York-based Sterling Brands, which does brand strategy, innovation and brand design. Throughout two decades with the firm, Millman has worked with about 200 international brands, including Burger King, 7Up, Hershey’s, Gillette, Haagen Dazs, Colgate and Campbell’s Soup. She helped Sterling expand its staff from 15 to 150 while “shaping the overall vision and strategy of the design group.” In 2008, Millman and her partners sold the company to Omnicom.

Millman, president emeritus of the American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA), is also a respected broadcaster, author and educator. Her podcast “Design Matters,” currently in its 10th season, airs on Design Observer (<http://designobserver.com>). The show won the Cooper Hewitt National Design Award in 2011. With “Law & Order: SVU” star and Joyful Heart Foundation founder Mariska Hargitay, Millman created the NO MORE campaign (www.nomore.org) to eradicate domestic violence and sexual abuse. In 2009, she and design expert Steven Heller co-founded the world’s first graduate program in branding at New York City’s School of Visual Arts. Millman’s six books include *Brand Thinking and Other Noble Pursuits*.

“None of this would have happened without the education I received at the University,” maintains Millman.

She also met her close friends – Susan Benjamin, B.A.’83; Susan Milligan, B.A.’84; Robert Edelstein, B.A.’82; Joe Trelin, B.A.’83; and Sloan – at UAlbany.

JENNIFER GEISSER, B.A.'90

On Entertainment's Front Line

By Stephen Shoemaker, B.A.'02

When Teresa Giudice of "The Real Housewives of New Jersey" was sentenced to 15 months in federal prison for fraud last year, Jennifer Geisser fielded a flood of media calls. She's no stranger to the need to comment – or not – on the misdeeds of television personalities. It comes with her job as vice president of Communications for Bravo, the cable network on which "Housewives" airs.

"You choose certain real-life characters to be part of reality programming because they *are* over the top," Geisser says. "Things just happen in their lives, whether they bring it upon themselves or it's just a natural day-to-day thing for them."



Geisser serves in the same capacity for the Oxygen network, an additional role she took on near the end of 2013. On the East and West coasts, she oversees teams working to promote brand and programming awareness to media and audiences – and handling the occasional crisis-management situation. Her communications career has spanned some of the biggest names in cable networks: CourtTV, the Hallmark Channel, We tv, and AMC among them.

"Culturally, each job has been different. The pace has been very different," Geisser says, comparing the immediacy of CourtTV's daytime coverage of ongoing trials to the family-friendly programming of Hallmark.

Geisser sensed she wanted to work in entertainment when she first came to UAlbany. "I just loved to watch TV. I was a big TV person growing up," she says. An internship at an Albany radio station helped confirm that notion.

"I enjoyed the internship, and I learned a lot," adds Geisser. "But I realized I wanted to be more on the front line [of entertainment] than you are in radio."

JOAN MCDAID PERTAK, B.A.'83

Life Lessons

By Claudia Ricci, Ph.D.'96

The most important lessons that Joan McDaid Pertak learned as a University at Albany undergraduate didn't come from the classroom but from the athletic program. Pertak, who is today senior vice president and chief information officer for PepsiCo Americas Beverages, ran track for four years at UAlbany and also worked in the physical-education department. She had to learn to juggle a job, along with classes and sports.

Under the direction of then-coach Ron White, Pertak learned that she could do all three. "He probably had the most influence on me," she says. "The message I got was that if you work hard, you will succeed."

Pertak has drawn on these life lessons throughout her career. Success, she says, comes from setting goals, working hard and "not letting barriers get in your way."

A psychology major, Pertak minored in computer science and business. Her first job out of college was in retail management. Although she enjoyed retail, she had a desire to get into the technical world, so she began her computer-science career at PepsiCo.

She left PepsiCo after two years

for a computer-science consulting position out in California, but in 1989, she came back east and returned to PepsiCo. Pertak "started at the bottom" and climbed steadily up the ranks. Today, she supervises more than 300 employees who deliver the technical capabilities that help PepsiCo grow its business as a food-and-beverages powerhouse. She also heads up PepsiCo's mentoring program for technology employees, which has more than 400 mentor pairs in 17 countries.

As a mentor, Pertak has found that some women tend to "go for the safest jobs." In her mentoring, she tries to push women out of their comfort zones. Her advice to young women at UAlbany: "Don't play defense. Don't be afraid to take on opportunities that will challenge and stretch you!"



NICOLE DESIR, B.A.'94, M.A.'96

*Executive Director, Blueprint – Powered by Beanstalk
Vice President of Brand Management, Beanstalk*



ALIGNMENT OF THE STARS

Twelve years ago, Nicole Desir joined Beanstalk to help actresses and fashion designers Mary-Kate Olsen and Ashley Olsen create a global brand for girls. Her prior marketing experience at Elizabeth Arden and Victoria's Secret Beauty enabled her "to manage and expand the beauty segment of the Olsens' business."

Desir still enjoys her career with Beanstalk, "a global brand-extension agency and a member of the Omnicom Group Inc., a leading global marketing and corporate communications company. Our amazing team explores how brands can evolve, bringing new products and services to market.

"In the newly formed division of the agency, *Blueprint – Powered by Beanstalk*, we customize solutions for each client and project. Our services range from design and insights to market analysis. Our practice areas include brand extension + retail development, research + insights, design + identity, and operations + governance," adds Desir, who is based at Beanstalk's New York headquarters. (The agency also has offices in London, Los Angeles, Miami and Cincinnati.)



Beanstalk's high-profile clients have included Salma Hayek. "Salma was seeking a way to create consumer products that would bear her name, but have a distinct point of view and deliver innovation to the marketplace, her fan base and consumers," Desir recalls. "We decided she should introduce a complete line of beauty products exclusively at CVS in 2011. Usually, celebrities endorse established brands or create fragrances in their names, typically at department

Epitome of a Leader

By Carol Olechowski

Early in life, Maryanne Lavan learned some valuable lessons. Her parents taught her “the value of hard work, respect and integrity. In any job, do your best, always, no matter what.”

They also taught their daughter to be nice to everyone. Lavan’s father, a public-school teacher, “worked at a number of jobs” to support his family. “It does matter how you treat people,” comments Lavan, now the senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary at Lockheed Martin Corporation. “You need to treat everyone well. The person delivering packages could be my dad.”

Lavan also learned valuable lessons at the University at Albany, where she studied business. She was a residential assistant, a position that enabled her to “acquire some leadership skills,” and worked in the cafeteria. Both experiences have contributed to her professional success, she says.

Longtime School of Business Assistant Dean John Levato also encouraged Lavan. She recalls Levato, who passed away in 2014, as “a hands-on, involved person who was admired and inspirational. He had a lot of energy and a positive attitude. I kept in touch with him on and off after graduation.”

Lavan continued her education at Washington College of Law, American University. While an associate for a District of Columbia law firm, she did some work for Martin Marietta, now known as Lockheed Martin, and subsequently took a position with the company. This April, Lavan will have been with the Maryland-based corporation for 25 years.

As counsel, “I oversee significant litigation, offer legal advice to the executive leadership team, and manage the legal department.” explains Lavan.

“I’m very fortunate to have a great team. It takes many people to run the corporation. At Lockheed Martin, it’s not about me; it’s about the team. I think it’s important not to let ego get in the way. I want people to have an environment where they feel comfortable and want to do a good job.

“I try always to remember where I came from. It was a big stretch for my family to send me to college, so I appreciated the experience. I’m determined to work hard and appreciate the opportunities I have,” adds the Farmingdale, N.Y., native, who established the University’s *Anne and Thomas Lavan Scholarship* to honor her parents.



stores. This was the first time an A-list actress, producer and director chose to create a line of cosmetics, hair care, skincare and body care at a drugstore.”

As *Blueprint*’s executive director – a role she describes as “multi-faceted, fast-paced and fun!” – Desir is responsible for “all aspects” of Beanstalk’s global consulting business. They include consulting, marketing, business development and client projects – “and, of course, driving financial results!”

While the strong writing and analytical skills Desir developed at UAlbany allowed her to consider education, publishing and research as professional options, “the stars aligned for me to begin a marketing career. I used my background in story-telling and analysis as a foundation while learning other marketing skills on the job.”

Desir characterizes UAlbany as “a strong university where I could explore different aspects of myself.”

She majored in English, minored in French, investigated internship opportunities, and earned an English-department fellowship that supported her master’s studies. “Several professors, including Helen Elam, mentored me along the way and emphasized the importance of focusing on how I think – a key skill I rely on every day.”

As an undergraduate, Desir lived on both Indian and State quads and confesses to “not-so-fond memories of the drafts between buildings. I’m not a huge fan of winter! But I have great memories of hanging out by the fountain in warmer months, studying late hours in the library and the student union,” remembers Desir, who also sang with the University’s gospel choir.

She keeps in touch with former classmates through Facebook. Desir, Arlene Cahill-Vaccaro and Gail Diaz met freshman year. “We all are 1994 graduates. I also have other longtime friends from my undergrad years,” notes Desir.

MELANIE GRAY, B.A. '78

Partner, Winston & Strawn

By Carol Olechowski

Committed to the Law and the Community

At age 7, Melanie Gray decided she wanted to become a lawyer. When the Parish, N.Y., native arrived at the University at Albany a decade later, “my intended major was political science. But I fell in love with philosophy – the exploration of knowledge, the journey of understanding what we know, how we know it and what it means.”

Her teachers gave Gray the confidence to excel. A visiting professor who taught advanced logic “inspired me,” while another encouraged her passion for philosophy and “made me believe that I could take upper-level classes and do well.”

Gray’s UAlbany studies provided a sound foundation for her post-graduate plans. She went on to earn a J.D., with honors, from Syracuse University, and then started her practice at a Chicago law firm. Gray relocated to Houston in 1985.

She has built an enviable reputation as a litigation attorney with expertise in complex bankruptcy cases, contract and business disputes, and corporate internal investigations. As one of the lead attorneys in Enron’s Chapter 11 reorganization, she “made certain the company’s value was maximized and fairly distributed to creditors.”

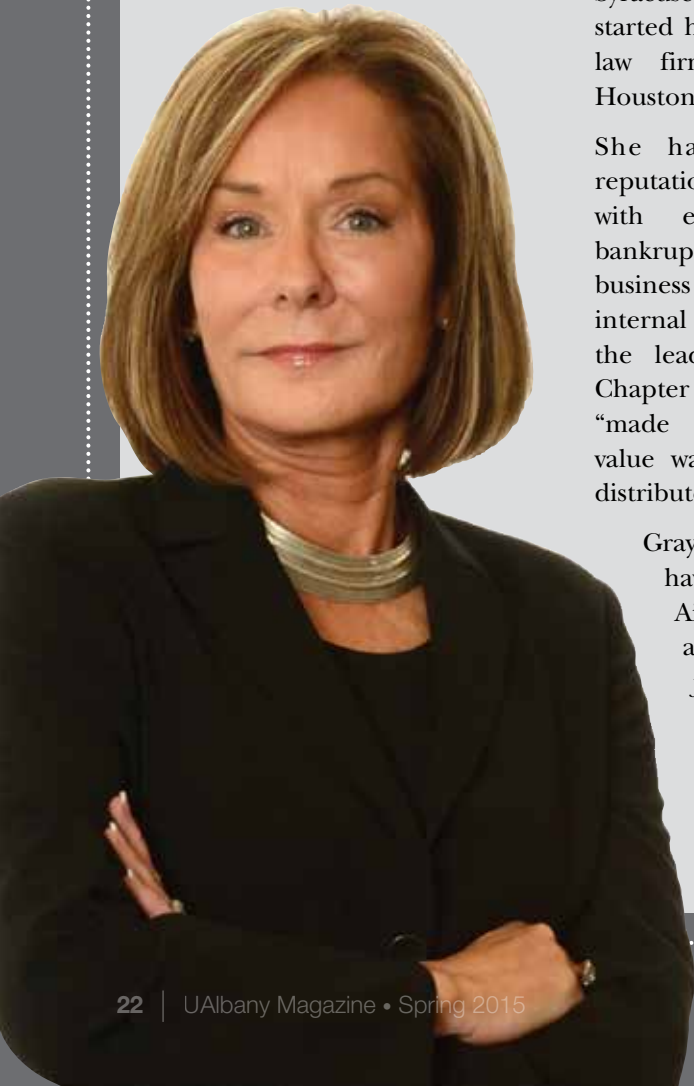
Gray, whose other clients have included American Airlines, General Electric and General Motors, joined Winston & Strawn’s Houston office as a partner in October 2013. Her work has

earned her numerous accolades; last year, Gray was named a Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America. She is also included in the “Bankruptcy and Creditor/Debtor Rights” section of the 2015 edition of *Best Lawyers in America*.

Gray likens lawyers to “the directors and the actors of the [courtroom] play.” She loves being in the courtroom and explains: “Law is very mentally stimulating and engaging. Advocating for a client and getting ready for the trial are also very creative.”

She also enjoys community service. In keeping with her “particular areas of passion: women’s issues, education and health,” Gray serves on the boards of numerous organizations, including Baylor College of Medicine; Girls Inc.; Houston Area Women’s Center; the Greater Houston Community Foundation; the Society for the Performing Arts; and Teen & Family Services. As trustee and campaign co-chair, she aided Syracuse University in raising \$1 billion between 2007 and 2012.

Gray is married to attorney Mark Wawro. They have three children: William, 26; Chris, 24; and Allison, 19.





CATHERINE
CERULLI,
M.A. '98,
PH.D. '04

“Translating Research Into Practice”

By Carol Olechowski

As a University at Albany graduate student, Catherine (Kate) Cerulli was struck by “the incredible quality of the teaching and mentorship” in the School of Criminal Justice, as well as by the “excellent” academic program. Today, as a teacher and researcher, Cerulli strives to “emulate the teaching styles” exemplified by Distinguished Teaching Professor James Acker, Distinguished Professor (now emeritus) Hans Toch and Professor (and current Dean) Alan Lizotte.

The professors “wove together the lessons we learned in the classroom so that we could apply them to everyday experiences,” recalls Cerulli. As a result, criminal-justice professionals could “use the knowledge in a very practical way.”

Cerulli’s experience at UAlbany included an assignment with the New York State Office for Prevention of Domestic Violence. “It was a great placement; I reviewed potential legislation. That was an incredible opportunity for a student – to work in a government agency and learn how legislation evolves.”

A leader in the field of domestic-violence prevention, Cerulli is an associate professor of psychiatry at University of Rochester (N.Y.) Medical Center. She also directs the research lab at the hospital and the university’s Susan B. Anthony Center for Women’s Leadership. She describes her work as “translating research into practice.”

Cerulli’s interest in domestic-violence prevention began when, as a teenager, she took a summer job working with inner-city children. Many of them had been abused or neglected at home, where their mothers were involved with violent partners. Cerulli later volunteered for a domestic-violence hotline. As a student at SUNY Buffalo’s School of Law, she coordinated the Haven House domestic-violence shelter law clinic. She also co-founded the Family Violence Clinic at the law school.

While working as an assistant district attorney in Monroe County in the 1990s, Cerulli formed a special misdemeanor domestic-violence unit. She is also co-founder of the Crisis Nursery of Greater Rochester, a not-for-profit that cares for children of families in crisis situations. Cerulli’s work has earned her Albany Law School’s Kate Stoneman Award; the Justice Award to End Domestic Violence, presented by former New York Gov. George Pataki in 2002; and the UAlbany Alumni Association’s 2014 Award for Excellence in Public Service.

Cerulli and husband Chris Thomas, B.A.’86, have two children, both born while their mom was a student at UAlbany.

VALERIE JENSEN, B.A. '96

Founder, The Prospector Theater

A Life-Changing Mission

By Stephen Shoemaker, B.A.'02



When Valerie Jensen read about the impending demolition of her town's defunct theater building, erected in 1939, she thought it a sad turn of events, but little else. A few days later, while stopped at a red light in front of the structure, several ideas clicked into place.

At the time, Jensen served as president of an organization that aims to enrich adults with disabilities through art, entertainment and education. "I began to struggle with the fact that so many people with disabilities were so talented and passionate about working, yet could find no jobs," she says.

Then she found herself face-to-face with the doomed building in Ridgefield, Conn. "At that moment, it all just came together: In a theater, there's such a wide spectrum of jobs."

And so the building was given new life as The Prospector Theater,

LESLIE
TAYNE,
ESQ., B.S. '93

"Debt" is a four-letter word, especially when it applies to personal finances. For more than 15 years, though, Leslie Tayne has spread the message that some debt should be embraced. Earlier this year, the founder of her own practice dedicated to debt law and resolution published her first book, *Life & Debt: A Fresh Approach to Achieving Financial Wellness*, on the topic.

"Being on the front lines of people who are in debt, I saw that sometimes it's impossible to be debt-free," Tayne said. "And that's OK. I try to help people understand what debt makes sense

and can work for them. It takes a different perspective. And that's where the basis for the book originated."

Tayne, whose practice is based in the New York City metro area, deliberately wrote the book as an easy-to-read guide, with examples drawn from real stories. The style makes it readable and separates it from other, drier books on the subject.

"Let's face it: It's not exactly the most exciting topic. It's not a *'Fifty Shades of Grey.'* But it's reality; it's part of people's lives," Tayne said.

Life & Debt is available wherever books are sold.

— Stephen Shoemaker, B.A.'02

a four-screen, state-of-the art cinema house staffed by more than 80 employees, most with disabilities. This isn't a second-run cinema; The Prospector's grand opening in November 2014 coincided with the release of "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay-Part I."

The non-profit also features a full café, gourmet popcorn and ushers who greet guests at the door – with umbrellas, if it's raining – and before each show. Jensen says the experience harkens to the Golden Age of movie-going in the 1940s and '50s. It's the type of treatment you won't find at the nearest multiplex, which is 10 miles away. More important, it provides jobs for hard-working, motivated citizens who are ecstatic to make money for themselves and then spend it locally.

"When you really see the magic of meaningful employment happen, it's life changing. And it makes you wonder why this isn't happening in every town in America," says theater founder Jensen.

Visit www.prospectortheater.org for more information.



JOAN (ROSENBAUM) SOLOTAR, B.S.'86



As senior managing director of Blackstone, one of the foremost investment firms in the world, Joan (Rosenbaum) Solotar enjoys working in "a dynamic environment where my days are varied and I continue to acquire experience 30 years into my career." Informally, she is also a role model who encourages young women to consider finance as a career option. "Women can be hugely successful in finance, have rewarding careers and families, and pursue other interests," Solotar observes.

The mother of two often meets with college-age women to share her own experience. "We review résumés, and I offer tips about interviewing and skill-building. I find what a lot of students need is guidance and a little more confidence," comments Solotar, whose article "Truths for Our Daughters" (<https://hbr.org/2013/05/truths-for-our-daughters>) was published by the *Harvard Business Review* in 2013.

One challenge for professional women, Solotar says, is "balancing the parent and professional roles." When work-related commitments precluded Solotar's presence at home for dinner with her children, her parents, who lived nearby, stepped in. "You need a support system, whether it's family or hired."

The University at Albany, too, was a great support system – and "a launchpad into

business" – for Solotar, who's spent much of her career in equity research with such firms as Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette (DLJ), Crédit Suisse and Bank of America. Initially a political-science major planning a career in law, she switched to business.

"The undergraduate business program gave me an incredible base of knowledge," Solotar recalls. "I had a fantastic experience and felt well prepared. John Levato provided guidance for all of us, and certainly for me.

"During senior year, a friend and I completed a Small Business Association project that combined academic lessons and practical experience. We worked with a sole proprietor in downtown Albany on better inventory management," notes Solotar, an M.B.A. graduate of New York University's Stern School of Business.

Solotar, the first in her family to graduate from college, feels it's important for her to "provide some guidance and support" to UAlbany students. "I've met some incredibly bright students who would benefit from a little outside guidance, so I would encourage my alumni peers to pay it forward, take the time to come back to campus and help students along the way," says the Queens, N.Y., native, who established the *Solotar Family Scholarship* with former husband Gavin Solotar, B.S.'86.

– Carol Olechowski

NIVEDITA SAMANTA, B.A.'09

*Deputy Manager,
Vodafone Foundation in India*



From top: Nivedita Samanta prepares to add her handprint to a mural at the Vodafone Foundation's World of Difference and competes in the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon.

PASSIONATE ABOUT PHILANTHROPY

By Carol Olechowski

As a University at Albany undergraduate, Nivedita Samanta remembers “making up my mind to follow my instincts and work in a field that I am passionate about.” That determination has led her to embrace her work with the Vodafone Foundation in India, “the philanthropic arm of Vodafone, the world’s leading telecommunications company.”

The foundation, Samanta explains, “recognizes the power of mobile technology to address some of the country’s most pressing challenges relating to education, health, equality and access. We are committed to enable people and technology to drive innovation, disseminate knowledge, and create shared value to improve lives.

“Leveraging our mobile technology on behalf of women, education, health and agriculture, we partner with key charities, development agencies and the community to drive social change on a large scale in India. As part of our social-investment program, the Vodafone Foundation in India also focuses on disaster relief and implements the World of Difference, a unique employee-engagement program. I love every minute of my job!”

UAlbany provided a foundation that has served Samanta well in her work. “I immensely enjoyed the interactions with students from diverse cultures and with the faculty. Each class added learning experiences and inculcated independence, time management, attention to detail and superior knowledge in economics.

These interactions helped me to hone my natural talents for conversation, making friends easily, and working under tight timelines while maintaining a calm demeanor,” says Samanta, 27.

Ironically, she learned about UAlbany in 2006 while enrolled at a university in her native India. A desire for “a greater academic challenge and a more holistic education” led Samanta to consult her paternal uncle, who resides in Massachusetts. “Uncle Chanchal encouraged me to consider a transfer to a U.S.-based university that would meet my expectations for a well-rounded education and the much-needed international experience to excel at anything I wanted to do.”

A subsequent meeting with the University’s chief international admissions officer, John Pomeroy, at a foreign-education fair in New Delhi convinced Samanta that she would be happy at UAlbany. The credits transferred from India placed her as a junior economics major with a business-administration minor. Samanta particularly enjoyed her classes with Associate Professor of East Asian Studies Mark Blum, as well as the survey course *Art, Music, and History: A Multimedia Approach*. She volunteered with the University’s Office of International Studies; joined Tau Sigma, the honor society for transfer students; and worked at the Colonial Quad dining hall.

After earning her degree, Samanta returned to India to work for the British charity the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award. She joined the Vodafone Foundation in 2012.

JUDITH MYSLIBORSKI, M.D., B.S. '69

BY CAROL OLECHOWSKI



Making a Difference

In the 1960s, Judith Mysliborski remembers, “women believed we could do anything we wanted to do, and we would make a difference.” She adds, “I still believe that.”

The institution then known as SUNY Albany reinforced that belief. Intending to teach, Mysliborski focused on math but changed her major to chemistry to prepare for medical studies at Indiana University. The Long Island native “had a great time” competing on Albany’s tennis and women’s basketball teams.

.....
“I feel indebted to the University for the fine education I received,” says Mysliborski. “It was a stepping stone to my career. I have real pride in the University – pride, awareness and a sense of giving back through ‘time, talent and treasure.’”
.....

Mysliborski has generously shared all three with UAlbany. Throughout her years as a partner with Capital District Dermatology Associates, a busy practice in Albany, she remained active with her *alma mater*, serving as president of the Alumni Association, University at Albany Foundation Board director, Annual Fund national chair, and in a host of other capacities. In retirement, Mysliborski – a recipient of both the University Council’s Distinguished Service Medal (1986) and the Alumni Association’s Excellence in Service Award (1989) – continues her service to UAlbany.

Years ago, she endorsed the founding of the UAlbany

women’s golf team, then underscored her enthusiasm by creating *The Mysliborski Women’s Golf Scholarship*. Under the leadership of coach Colleen Cashman-McSween and her predecessor, founding coach (and former UAlbany men’s basketball coach) Richard “Doc” Sauers, “the team has been immensely successful,” observes Mysliborski, an avid golfer. “Our student athletes share their special talents with the University. It’s my privilege to help them to get an education.”

As a student, Mysliborski was “proud and humbled” to receive the University’s *Ada Craig Walker Award*, established in 1940 by William James Craig in memory of his mother, a member of the Normal School’s Class of 1871. The award, presented to a senior woman whose academic excellence and service exemplify the University’s ideals, “enhanced my credentials for medical school. It demonstrated that the University recognized I was serious about my studies and my career aims,” notes Mysliborski.

She maintains close friendships with former women athletes from the University. A few years ago, at her Voorheesville, N.Y., home, 15 of them attended an informal reunion that included an impromptu basketball game and a call to former basketball coach Bobbie Jordan. “We had the greatest visit,” Mysliborski recalls. Jordan passed away shortly thereafter, but “her family told me she cherished that call.”

UAlbany, adds Mysliborski, “was about a great education, making lasting friendships and creating fond memories. It’s fun giving back, and a pleasure to do so.”

the Carillon

Alumni News & Notes

39 World War II veteran **Ken Doran** took a dream flight in a 1940s Boeing Stearman courtesy of Ageless Aviation Dreams. Ken, who served in the 8th Air Force under Gen. Eisenhower, was a lieutenant colonel and a Special Services officer.

Class notes councilor: Kenneth Doran, kkencon@aol.com

41 *A note from your class councilor:* **Glenn Clark** passed away in July. **Vincent Gillen** celebrated his 96th birthday; he and Margaret celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary in the fall. **Herb** and **Ruth Oksala** moved to West Chester, Pa. Charles and **Marion Quinn** are now living in a nursing home in Cohoes, N.Y. **Shirley Riffley Tooker** moved to Valatie, N.Y., to be near her son.

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

45 **Martha Slingerland, Shirley Kessler,** and **Doris Burton Donley** would like to reconnect with old classmates. Those interested in planning a reunion should contact Martha via email at marthas@nycap.rr.com.

Class notes councilor: Martha Gardiner Slingerland, marthas@nycap.rr.com

48 In 2014, the Class of 1948 lost three classmates: **Gloria Rand Winne, Anne Gilleo Vondra,** and **Marion Mieras Kirchhoff.** **Gari Paticopoulos** spent a week in Delmar this past December with her daughter and family. She still drives her car around Florida and continues to be active in church. Gari's oldest grandson, Philip, is general manager of a shipping company in Shanghai, where he lives with his wife. Gari's younger grandson, Christopher, graduated *cum laude* from the Albany Academy in June and is now attending George Washington University. **Eleanor Alland** has been living at Avila, a retirement community in Albany, N.Y., for the last 10 years. She recently attended her great-nephew's wedding in Baldwinsville, N.Y., and traveled to Vermont with her son and daughter-in-law. Her oldest grandson, Robert, is married and lives and works in Foster City, Calif. Her younger grandson, Michael, works for Amazon and lives in Los Angeles, Calif. Both received master's degrees from the University of California. Eleanor's 13 year old granddaughter, Valerie, is in eighth grade.

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

49 *A note from your class councilor:* The Class of 1949 65th reunion was held Sept. 19-21. Those in attendance included **Bonnie**



Members of the Class of 1949 celebrated their 65th reunion in September.



Jacob Schuhle '49 celebrated his 90th birthday with four generations of the Schuhle family.

Totten Adkins and Lee, **Fred Baron**, **Gerry Dunn** and Shirley, **Dolores Stocker Eklund**, **Ellen Fay Harmon** and daughter Maureen, **Gloria Maistelman Herkowitz**, **Bob Kaiser** and **Mary Ann**, **Bob Kittredge** and Diana, **“Freddy” Laemmerzah Miller**, **Nancy Hellman Nitzberg**, **“Mickey” Seaman Rozwood** and daughter Liz Novakowski, **Betsy** and **Jake Schuhle**, **Bobbi Houck Van Tilburg** and Gerry, **Bernadine Snyder Wilcox** and Robert, **Joe** and **Joyce Zanchelli** and **Dick Zeller**. The high point of the weekend was the Saturday afternoon luncheon; following the singing of the *Alma Mater* led by Betsy, Bonnie shared a remembrance of our classmates who have passed away since our 60th reunion. Ellen gave an interpretation of *Hamlet* as seen through the eyes of a Brooklyn laborer, and a slide show of past reunions was shown. Joe read a 90th birthday poem dedicated to Jake Schuhle and Dick Zeller, both of whom became nonagenarians in October. **Bob Kaiser** earned a high score on a historical questionnaire and received a UAlbany hooded sweatshirt. Saturday morning featured a trivia quiz of 26 questions pertaining to '49 college life. **Betsy Schuhle** and **Gerry Dunn** finished in a tie, and each received a SUNY Alumni Association hooded sweatshirt. When the Kittredges and Zanchellis visited **Bob Baker** after the reunion, Bob took the trivia quiz and got a record 22 correct answers. The success of the reunion was due, in large part, to the diligent reunion committee and Loida Vera Cruz, assistant director of Alumni Programs. **Don Dickinson** donated \$100 to the UAlbany Libraries in honor

of the Class of 1949. The donation will be used to purchase books. Thank you, Don! Family members gathered to celebrate **Jake Schule's** 90th birthday. Congratulations, Jake! **Bonnie Adkins** and Lee were busy last fall. They attended a granddaughter's graduation from the University of South Carolina and three weddings, visited a grandson at McGill University in Montreal, attended two family reunions, entertained friends from Georgia, Delaware and England, and attended the 65th reunion. They have seven children, 11 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. **Dolores Stocker Eklund** attended the 65th reunion with classmate **Fred Baron** who did the driving from Long Island to Albany. Both agreed it was a privilege to be able to join other stalwart alums who came from near and far to celebrate! Dolores enjoyed the fall colors for three days at Woodloch Pines, a rustic resort in Pennsylvania. **Ellen Fay Harmon** and husband Tom attended their grandson's wedding in Syracuse, N.Y. on Nov. 15. The Harmons have 10 other grandchildren. **Bob Kittredge** is now a member of the Dog Squad. The cheerleading squad of 10 women and four men – all from a senior-housing complex – joins the Fresno State University cheerleaders. Bob and Diana spent Thanksgiving with family in the San Francisco Bay Area; their visit included a luncheon gathering at his son David's restaurant. **“Freddy” Laemmerzah Miller** enjoyed an early Thanksgiving family reunion; she visited her daughter in Wilmington, Del. **Anne Sucher Raser** traveled with her youngest son to Castro Valley, Calif., to



*A Message from Lee Serravillo
Executive Director,
UAlbany Alumni Association*

Who's the Bertha Brimmer '00 in Your Life?

Powerful women have played key roles at the University since its inception. One we still recognize is Bertha Brimmer, Class of 1900. Brimmer was the tireless Alumni Association executive secretary who maintained the Alumni Office, virtually single handedly, for many years. She remains a part of the University through a meeting room named for her, and through scholarships and awards granted in her name.

We invite you to share your story of a UAlbany woman of distinction.

Not a day goes by that we do not see the impact of dedicated alumnae volunteers and donors. The hard work of the women in our diverse student body clearly makes UAlbany stronger every day.



Do you know an inspirational UAlbany woman? We invite you to share how UAlbany women of distinction have inspired you. We welcome submissions (maximum word count: 250), and photos are a plus. All submissions will be entered into a drawing to win a UAlbany prize package.

To submit your entry by the May 8 deadline:

email: alumniassociation@albany.edu

online: <http://alumni.albany.edu/ualbanywomen>

social media: [facebook.com/ualbanyalumni](https://www.facebook.com/ualbanyalumni)
(use #ualbanywomen)

We will share all submissions on our website and social-media networks. One entry will also be published in the Fall 2015 *UAlbany* magazine.



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

The University at Albany Alumni Association will bestow Excellence Awards on the following alumni and friends for their outstanding achievements and service. The awards will be presented at the 2015 Excellence Awards Gala May 2.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

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

Lt. Gen. Michael J. Basla '75, United States Air Force (Ret.)
Chief Information Dominance and Chief Information Officer, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force



CITIZEN OF THE UNIVERSITY

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

Michael J. Malbin, Professor of Political Science, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, University at Albany



OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD

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

Brian S. Cechnicki '03, '04, Director of Education Finance, New York State Education Department



EXCELLENCE IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Recognizes the accomplishments of an individual who has demonstrated the spirit, leadership and drive of an entrepreneur

Bruce Davis '73, '75, CEO and Chairman of the Board of Directors, Digimarc Corp.



EXCELLENCE IN ALUMNI SERVICE

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

Matthew P. Reiner '93, Co-Founder and Portfolio Manager, Adirondack Research & Management Inc.



Grace Barkus Vogel '77, Managing Director, PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP



EXCELLENCE IN ARTS & LETTERS

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

Robert J. Bellafiore '82, Founder and President, Stanhope Partners



EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS

Pays tribute to alumni for distinction in for-profit business

Dean C. Backer '88, Partner, Goldman Sachs



EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

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

Carol Whittaker '71, '73, '81, '05, Associate Director for Academic Affairs, Center for Global Health, School of Public Health



EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

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

Robert L. Breuder '67, '68, President, College of DuPage



Anne McGill-Franzen '88, Professor of Education and Director of the Reading Center, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE

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

Harris Oberlander '80, Chief Executive Officer, Trinity Alliance of the Capital Region



BERTHA E. BRIMMER MEDAL

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

Stuart J. Palczak '87, '88, Social Studies Teacher, Amsterdam High School



EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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

Albert J. Bunshaft '80, CEO, DS Government Solutions



MAKE YOUR NOMINATION FOR 2016: If you are interested in nominating someone for a 2016 Excellence Award, contact the Alumni Association at (518) 442-3080 or alumni@albany.edu. The deadline is Oct. 19, 2015. Visit www.albany.edu/alumni/awards.php for more details.

Alumni News & Notes

celebrate the birthday of her great-grandson, Maxx Speed Raser. Ann also toured San Francisco and Cannery Row. **Ursula Neuhaus Schiff** reports the sad news that her husband of 64 years passed away in August. She enjoyed a visit with her granddaughter in December. **Joe and Joyce Zanchelli** attended their grandson's beach wedding in Connecticut in the summer and participated in a Road Scholar program held in Warwick, N.Y. They were joined by Ben Jackson '50, the best man at their wedding 63 years ago, and Ben's wife, Gloria. Joe and Joyce were also invited to the Mephram High School Class of 1954 60th reunion, held on Long Island. Each of Joe's former students was at least 78 years of age!

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

50 **Irwin Baumel and Elise deSeve Brown** are living in Whittier, Calif.; Elise sold her condo in Washington, D.C. earlier this year. They traveled to Rome and Naples, and toured the Italian countryside. They also traveled to the San Francisco area to visit Irwin's daughter, then continued north to visit the state capitals of Oregon and Washington. Their trip was shortened by the famous rains of the Pacific Northwest. They plan to visit New York City, Boston and Albany, N.Y. this spring. "We are feeling fine and are enjoying being together." Robert Frasca, husband of classmate **Sarah Caruso**, wrote that several years ago Sarah suffered a stroke and has been a patient at Westlake Summit in Austin, Texas, since. Robert sold their home of 30 years and acquired a comfortable apartment attached to the Westlake Summit to be closer to Sarah. He is able to visit anytime and sits with her at all her meals. If any old friends would like to write, mail can be sent to Robert Frasca, 1034 Liberty Park Drive, Apt. 220, Austin, Texas 78746-6851. **Ken George** put together A Community Christmas Festival, in Voorheesville, N.Y., for the 25th year. **Ben and Gloria Jackson** attended a September Road Scholar program at the Warwick Center in Warwick, N.Y., with Joe Zanchelli '49 and Joyce Zanchelli '52. The highlight of the program was attending a performance of *Carmen* at the

Lincoln Center in New York City. The trip to Warwick included visits with friends and relatives in Rockland County. This past summer, **Marjorie Lyons** taught a course, "Telling Your Story in Words and Pictures," at the famous Chautauqua Institute, Lake Chautauqua, N.Y. She taught memoir writing at the York Library in York, Maine, for the fourth summer. After 22 years, she retired this past fall from the Fischler School of Graduate Education at Nova Southeastern University, where she was chair of the doctoral committee. Since studying with Agnes Futterer in the 1940s, Marjorie has been active in the theater. This year she produced and acted in dinner theater in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and a wine and cheese event in Delray Beach. She and **Harold (Sparky) Vaughn** met for their annual mini-reunion dinner in Alexandria, Va. A summer highlight was visiting a grandson and his wife and 2-year-old great-grandchild, Hannah. During the fall, Sparky spent five weeks in Florence, Italy, including a couple of days in San Marcello Pistoiese. Through the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C., Sparky is organizing a group to address human-trafficking and child-slavery issues, with a particular focus on Thailand. He attended a Rotary Day at the U.N. Headquarters in New York, where he met with the president of NOMI Network. He visited his daughter Karen while in Manhattan. **Shirley Warner Martin's** husband, Albert Martin, sent the sad news that Shirley died in August after a brief illness. She had served as a mathematics teacher at Lancaster Central High School. In addition to her B.A. from the New York State College for Teachers, she earned a master's degree from Canisius College in Buffalo, N.Y. Shirley was active as the Sunday school superintendent for the Presbyterian Church and in the Girl Scouts in Erie County. She was also a founding member of the Bowmansville Very Little Theater and a past president of the Lancaster Historical Society. An avid traveler, she enjoyed family visits in the U.S. Ireland, and Argentina.



The Alumni Association hosted the 18th Annual Big Purple Growl & Ferocious Feast in February.

Class notes councilor: Harold Vaughn, vaughnha@aol.com

52 *A note from your class councilor:* It is with sadness that I must report our fellow classmate and friend **Joe Persico** passed away on Aug. 30, 2014. He was an acclaimed historian, biographer and former speechwriter for Gov. Nelson Rockefeller. Joe published 14 books, including the autobiography of Colin Powell, *My American Journey*. Powell said, "He was not only a great collaborator and beloved friend, he was a tremendous writing teacher." **Tom Yole** passed away July 6, 2014. He was very active

as a junior-high school principal, a member of several educational organizations and a community participant. Tom demonstrated love of his family, education, community and service by giving back to all of those throughout his life. **Rita Kohn Levy** is in the process of moving to Carlsbad in San Diego, Calif. **Shirley Feinstein Rosenbaum** reports that her granddaughter had a successful bat mitzvah last spring and her grandson will have his bar mitzvah next year. **Mary Anne Lanni** and Bob are still living in their homestead and enjoyed a great Thanksgiving with their family. **Kitty Kloser Irons** and husband Marty attended their oldest granddaughter's graduation from St.



Members of the Purple Fam gathered in Las Vegas for men's basketball vs. UNLV in November.

Alumni News & Notes

Michael's College. (She is now serving with the Peace Corps in Senegal.) Their granddaughter Erin is a resident advisor this year and is the director of a campus group which gives tours to interested high-school students. Their third granddaughter is a junior in high school. Kitty continues her activities of bridge, quilting, senior club, church choir, church society, parish council, book discussion club and a group of 10 ladies who sew "quilts of valor" for armed forces members wounded in the Near East. **Nancy Frey Pettinelli** saw **Joan Bennett Kelly** at a high school reunion. **Dave Manly** and his wife purchased a condo at Paddle Boat Lane on Hilton Head Island, N.C. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a six-day Road Scholar music program at Chautauque Institute. Dave is now fully retired from ministry, having preached his final sermon last year. **Tom Holman** attended his grand-niece's wedding and tells us to watch for the movie, "Big Stone Gap," which is based on the novel by Adriana Trigani and filmed in the town where Tom's sister lives. Her house was used as the principal

setting for the film. **Joan Bennett Kelly** and husband Charlie sold their Florida residence and relocated to Pompton Plains, N.J., to be closer to their children. Three of their grandchildren graduated from college this year, four are in college and five more are "waiting in the wings". Kayla, their oldest, is in an off-Broadway play. Charlie is now recovering from reverse rotator cuff surgery. Joan says there's "still lots of room for company in Vermont." **Ken Wooster** retired from the mathematics department at SUNY Cortland 20 years ago and has spent a lot of time honing his HTML coding skills, developing personal websites and serving as webmaster for various organizations. His personal websites contain much local history, pages for Civil War regiments and individual histories of 143 carrier aircraft of the type he flew while in the Navy. Ken has been good enough to share his talent by making a CD of Al Stevenson's web site of the Class of '52, which has been placed in the UAlbany archives. **Maureen Davis Mullin** is still teaching in the Santa Barbara, Calif., school system. She and her children are all involved in education,



The Vines family makes the Alumni Association reception at Wolf's 111 Sports Grill an annual stop before the UAlbany Cup.

some on the college level and some in the high schools of the Santa Barbara School District. At her winter home in Florida, **Madeline Weitlof Huchro** is receiving treatment for some health issues. **Al Stevenson** continues to recover from sepsis and has returned to full-time teaching. He is committed to this year, then will decide if he wants to continue beyond that. He drove from Cleveland to upstate New York last summer, a sure testament to his recovery. **Bert Jablon** is still running (now in the 85-89 category), serving on the executive board of a 4,000 plus runner organization and

playing tennis and golf. His youngest son, Brian, recently retired from the U. S. State Department after many years. Botched knee-replacement surgery forced **Jane Minckler Jennings** to a sedentary lifestyle. She's back at the bridge table, rather than swimming her usual 800 strokes in the ocean. Family visited her on Block Island, R.I., this past summer. **Vickie Eade Eddy** reports that her daughter Pamela has published another book, *Creating Strategic Partnerships: A Guide for Institutions and their Partners*. Pam is a full professor at William and Mary College and completed the Dublin Marathon while on her sabbatical there. **John Bowker** continues with his surgery practice, clinics, and lectures, which enable him and wife Alice to travel the globe. **Jean Greenshields Burns** was elected to the governing board of the Friends of the State Library. Congratulations, Jean! **Joyce Leavitt Zanchelli** and husband Joe were guests for the Mephram High School Class of 1954 60th Reunion, for which Joe was class advisor. Joe's Class of 1949 from NYSCT celebrated its 65th reunion in the fall. Joyce continues to volunteer for arts organizations and the UAlbany Alumni Association, does church work and is a docent for Yaddo.

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

53 **A note from your class councilor: Jordine Skoff Von Wantoch** attended the Tony Awards this year. *Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, produced by the Old Globe Theatre, for which Jordine is a board member, won for Best Musical. She attended an after-Tony party given by the producers and was escorted by

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2015

APRIL
MAY
JUNE
JULY
AUGUST
SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER

- April 16 Capital Region Wine Tasting & Reception
- 18 Spring Stomp
- May 2 Excellence Awards Gala, Volunteer Luncheon
- 8 Uncubed Job Fair, NYC
- 15 Graduate Commencement
- 16 Rockefeller College Alumni Dinner & Awards
- 17 Undergraduate Commencement
- June 1 Great Danes Golf Classic
- 12 GOLD Night at the Mets
- 26 GOLD Cruise, Capital Region
- July 15 Tri-City Valleycats Night
- 31 UAlbany Day at the Races, Saratoga
- August 21-23 GDX Fraternity Reunion
- 3 Football Season Opener
- Sept. 18 GOLD Schmooze, NYC
- Oct. 9-11 Homecoming, Family and Reunion Weekend

For additional events and details, visit www.alumni.albany.edu

Dr. James F. Wilson, son of John Wilson and Mary Jane Dewey Wilson. Jordine attended a theatre festival in Dublin and a few plays in London in October. Her daughter, who is in the Foreign Service/ Diplomatic Corps, is currently stationed at the Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan. **J. Paul Ward** and wife Doris Vater Ward '52 have lived at the Avila Retirement Community for 10 years. Paul retired from UAlbany in 1985 and kept busy doing over 60 Elderhostel Programs in 24 years. Until recently, the Wards have enjoyed spending February and March at St. Simons Island, Ga. **Harold Smith** and wife Barbara are at Jekyll Island in Georgia at that time, so they enjoy the company of old classmates. Paul has volunteered as a history assistant at the New York State Museum for the past 16 years. Both Paul and Doris have been active in various Friends of Library groups, helping with book sales, etc. Doris leads a knitting group at Avila and Paul runs a monthly book club. **Marie Hoffman** is a charter member of the Capital District Genealogical Society and is on the CDGS Board. She volunteered at the NYS Library Genealogy and Local History desk for nearly 20 years, but recently stopped volunteering due to health reasons. **Hank Koszewski** returned from a visit in Hawaii this past fall. He traveled around New York State and visited **Bob** and **Rosie Hughes** on his way to catch a flight in Syracuse. **Doug Nielsen** and wife Gail became great-grandparents last year and are

expecting another great-grandchild this spring. Their granddaughter, her husband and baby live close by in Liverpool, N.Y., so they get to visit regularly. Great-granddaughter Hannah is a beautiful little charmer and soon-to-be big sister. **Don Stine** sent a thought-provoking note that made your councilor think about the Class of '53 as an aging population and a group that is starting to think about increasing fragility: ". . . and now the blue sky, the mountains, and brown flat of Arizona. I wait. It is 2014. It is quiet—*The New York Times* every day, many books, music, old movies, church, and family. My body is fine but I wait. They say dementia and front temporal degeneration (thousands of cells die every day). Words and talk are not there." Don has two children; his wife passed away 25 years ago and he still misses her. He was a successful teacher and psychoanalyst. **Ed Bonahue** sent us greetings from sunny North Carolina, where he says the "good life" can be found in abundance. He lives in Fearington Village, just outside of Chapel Hill. Ed and his wife, Lyn, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2014; to mark the occasion, the couple took their children, their children's spouses and their five grandchildren on a Caribbean cruise in the early summer. Ed and Lyn have enjoyed traveling. They recently spent several days in Berlin, then flew to Moscow for four days before beginning a Russian waterways river cruise ending in St. Petersburg. Each winter, Ed and Lyn



President Robert J. Jones speaks with alumni at the Welcome Wine-Tasting, part of Homecoming Weekend.



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."

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



UALBANY FUND
Investing in students

www.albany.edu/giving

Alumni News & Notes

vacation in Florida, where they get to spend some time with **Bob Giammatteo** and wife Cathy, and **Harold (Hal) Smith** and wife Barbara and at Jekyll Island. **Herb Their** and his wife celebrated their 60th anniversary on a cruise with their family, while **Bob Hughes** and **Rosie Keller Hughes** threw a party to celebrate their 60th anniversary. **Bill Whitwer** celebrated his official retirement from his service to the church in March 2014. He worked in the ministry for 58 years and started four churches. He served in four churches in Jackson, Missouri, three in Mississippi and twice in a church he started in Alabama. Congratulations on your retirement, Bill! And now for the shared memories of life at State: **Doug Nielsen** remembers Professor Harry Price as one of his favorite people at State. He was not only a great teacher, but a gentleman. **Ina Mae (Van Buskirk) Riedel** worked her way through SUNY and lived close to her dear friend and sorority sister **Shirley Dodge Cooper**. Shirley and her family had a lasting influence on Ina Mae's life, both emotionally and spiritually. Their kindness was an inspiration for all of her achievements as a leader in altruistic organizations.

Notably, her work in literacy earned her honors from the American Association of University Women at both state and national levels. SUNY gave Ina Mae the necessary tools to succeed in life, and the wonderful Coopers gave her a "heartfelt spirit to live generously." **Joan DeVinny Bitley** commented that perhaps her freshman-year memories weren't so unusual. She was the first in her family to break new ground by going to college, and was lucky to get a job waiting tables at Pierce Hall. Dorm space was very limited that year. She and her hometown roommate, Rae Dionne, who transferred out in 1951, were assigned to the Guest Room in Pierce Hall, complete with a full, attached bathroom. Joan remembers eating peanut butter and jelly sandwiches almost every day that year, and the next. There was no refrigerator, so when her aunt sent her hard-boiled eggs from Brooklyn, they were kept "cold" outside on the window ledge. **Irene Brezinsky McDonald** noted that she owed a lot to her years at UAlbany. An assignment from *British Literature* Professor Westbrook marked the beginning of Irene's love for Chaucer. Miss Futterer, Irene's freshman speech

teacher and adviser, asked Irene, "Why not English?" as she intended to major in chemistry. Irene eventually became an English major and never regretted it. When she went to the University of Wisconsin for graduate work, the department said that she was well prepared. **Herb Their's** strongest memory was the opportunity to chair the Eastern Colleges Science Conference, held for the first time at the "little" teachers college we loved so well. **Joyce Leonard Bolas'** memories are colored by the fact that she was an identical twin. The most memorable event for her was when she and her sister competed with the cadets at West Point. Joyce and Janet were members of the Debate Club. They later learned that they were the first women to debate the West Point cadets. Albany became a charter member of Tau Kappa Alpha, International Forensics, a wonderful accomplishment and memory! **Linda Hopkins McGrath** told of her first college roommate(s). A group of eight '53 freshman women started college life together in the locker/shower rooms of Sayles Hall, the former men's dormitory. **Ann MacDougall, Wilmonte Nasutavicus** (Willie Nash to us), **Rosie Keller Hughes** and

Linda were the survivors. Our friendships grew and lasted several decades. **Don Stine** remembers President Evan R. Collins, "a humanitarian who asked from us wisdom. Then there was Math, Elton A. Burtler, a very kind teacher; Physics, Luther Andrews, we weren't sure what he was talking about; American History, Harry Price, who was always jumping from Jefferson to Eleanor Roosevelt; and falling in love with Mary Goggin, who gave me Greek and helped when Signum Laudis became Phi Beta Kappa in 1975." **Marie Hoffman** reminisced about her good friend **Norine Connell Byrnes**, who passed away in February 2014. She and Norine went to Troy High and Albany State College for Teachers (where they shared a basement locker). Both taught math and computer, took grad courses together, and traveled through Europe. Marie remembers riding the Traction Company buses as she and Norine kept themselves busy knitting. **Jordine Skoff Von Wantoch** remembers arriving at NYSCT and finding there was no room at the dorm for her. Those who were without a room were put in the Game Room of one of the men's dorms. Bunk beds



We need U for a stronger UAlbany!

Explore several ways to get involved and invest in UAlbany's future:

- Join the Alumni Association board or a board committee.
- Become a regional volunteer and help host an event in your area.
- Share your career expertise with students and fellow alumni as a UCAN advisor.
- Help recruit new students, host a reception for prospective students or represent UAlbany at college fairs as an Admissions ambassador.
- Represent your class, plan reunions and compile class notes as a class councilor.
- Be part of Rockefeller College's Alumni in the Classroom program.

For more details, contact the Alumni Association at 1-800-836-2586 or email alumniassociation@albany.edu.



furnished one long room, and the only place to study was in the bathroom, which had bright lights. The new roommates were named the Game Room Girls. Eventually, a house on Western Avenue was bought for the group. The former Game Room Girls lived there, isolated from the rest of the Red Devils for their freshman year. When they finally got a room in the new dorm, **Barbara Peace, Mary Jane Dewey, Martha Nevezler** and Jordine bonded and became lifelong friends, living together as roommates for the rest of their time at NYSCT.

Rosie Keller Hughes remembers trying out for the freshman Big 4 production, "Blue Horizons." A handsome fellow and author of the play helped the director, **Dick Scott**, select her for the part of Margiana, the bandit queen. Sixty-four years later, Rosie celebrated a wedding anniversary with **Bob Hughes**. Join us at our class Facebook page: SUNY Albany Class of 1953.

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

54 Jim Finnen retired as the Lafayette College public-address announcer at the conclusion of the 2014-15 academic year. He entered his 50th season behind the microphone for Lafayette basketball and football, and served as the stadium announcer for the meeting of Lafayette-Lehigh in Yankee Stadium, his last game as announcer. He and wife **Beatrice Lehan Finnen** regret missing the reunion, as the date conflicted with the Lafayette-Lehigh game. **Ken Schoonmaker** moved



Jim Finnen

to an assisted community close to his family in Henderson, Nev., after being diagnosed with Lyme disease last year. **Shirley Dillon** enjoyed seeing so many classmates at the 60th reunion this past fall. She toured Italy with her two daughters; she traveled from the Island of Capri to Switzerland, and her daughter captured a great photo of the pope! **Arline** and **George Wood** were happy to see everyone at the 60th reunion; the weather was great, the Alumni Association personnel were helpful and knowledgeable, and the food was good! **Marie Sejersen** and husband John were unable to attend the 60th reunion, as they were celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary in New Orleans that weekend. Twenty relatives and friends from nine states joined them for the celebration. Marie and John sold their house in Sidney, N.Y. and moved to Florida in 1993. They continue to live in a retirement park. John enjoys yardwork, daily swimming and walking; He loves to "dabble" in investments, too. Marie is still crafting, playing bingo, doing puzzles, gaming and helping care for family members. Marie and John have traveled to Las Vegas, New Orleans, Atlantic City, New York State, Seattle, Indiana, Tennessee, and North Carolina to visit friends and tour Civil War battlegrounds and Southern plantations. They have one daughter, Karen, who is a SUNY Potsdam graduate and lives in central New York, and two granddaughters: Katie, an RPI graduate, and Joanna, who graduated from Russell Sage. They also have a great grandson, Aidan John, who's almost 3. Katie, her husband and Aidan live in Seattle, and Joanna lives and teaches in Indiana. Marie and John wish good health and much happiness to all!!! **Frank**



Brian Rudolph '12 and Jeffrey Luks '91, '01 attend Capital Region Happy Hour in downtown Albany.

Save-the-Date: MIDDLE EARTH REUNION

**Come and celebrate Middle Earth's
45th Anniversary Reunion**
("Students Helping Students")

**Homecoming/Family & Reunion Weekend
October 9-11, 2015**

Tours of Middle Earth will be available.

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



Middle Earth
Students Helping Students



Purple and Gold Student Ambassador Zachary Signor and Alex Fredericks '95 attended Network NYC, an opportunity for alumni and School of Business students to connect, in January.

Alumni News & Notes

Mayer was glad to see so many old friends at the 60th reunion and to hear how active many of them are. Frank plays the saxophone in a six-piece dance band and the Colonie Town Band. He plays for square dances, participates in a weekly choral group and a dance club, and is a lector at church. He is also a member of the Resolutions Committee of the NYS Retired Teachers Association and chairs the Finance and Scholarship committees. Frank's son, daughter and five grandkids live nearby. **Edith Titterton Sack McMullin** had a brief sojourn as a junior-high math teacher in Farmingdale and Port Chester, N.Y., and a longer stint as an engineering aide at Sperry Gyroscope, where she met her husband. She became a dedicated bridge player, teacher, club owner and employee of the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) as a director and program manager for many years. She's written several bridge books including *Adventures in Duplicate Bridge*, *Easybridge! The Comic Book and The Convention Card* (all of which can be purchased on Amazon.com.) Now retired she enjoys watercolor painting (more info: <http://EdithMcMullin.com>), and marriage with her trophy husband.

She also writes a bimonthly bridge article for the American Association of Actuaries. **Corinne Valenti Moxham** enjoyed seeing old friends and classmates at the reunion. **James Thompson** and companion Carol Zepf still live in Latham, N.Y. They attended the reunion and appreciated the Half-Century Club Breakfast and the visionary presentation made by President Robert J. Jones. They also enjoyed reminiscing with old friends at the evening dinner. James and Carol enjoyed their usual summer at Tupper Lake, N.Y., and visits from Albany friends. Jim travels to D.C. to be with his son, Captain Scott Thompson '91, USN, and Scott's family. Jim is looking forward to the wedding of his oldest grandchild, Carissa, in August on the shores of Lake Champlain in Vermont. He will be sharing leadership of the service with his Vermont family's pastor. **John and Rose Mary Zongrone** had a wonderful time at the 60th reunion, and enjoyed reuniting and reminiscing with old friends. Their family has grown with the marriages of two grandchildren. John is still working at his insurance agency and Rose Mary is still enjoying retirement. **Pat Byrne Manning** enjoyed her annual stay in

Rome in an apartment overlooking the great basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore. She spent a week in Venice. She is still a Caring Touch volunteer with Hospice and is also volunteering at Light of Christ Early Childhood Center in Clearwater, Fla. She visits her son and his family twice a year. Olivia is now a freshman at Brandeis, Julia is a junior in an accelerated program in high school, and Alex is finding 6th grade a delightful place to be! Pat had both knees replaced in June, so she missed seeing her family at that time. **Fred and Joan Paul** returned from an 11-day tour of Israel, which included travels to Tel Aviv, Jaffa, the Golan Heights, Galilee, and Jerusalem. **Audrey Cahill Silveri** is retired from the director of nursing education position at Anna Maria College in Paxton, Mass. She spent summer in Ogunquit, Maine; three of her grandchildren stayed with her as they are lifeguards on Ogunquit Beach. In winter, Audrey took courses at the Worcester Institute for Senior Education. She recently spent time in Fort Myers, Fla. Audrey sees her six children and 10 great-grandchildren frequently. She volunteers at a food bank and is a host at the railroad station in Maine. **John Cooper** and

wife Terry joined a group of retirees on a trip to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. While there, they enjoyed plays; they also listened to talks by actors, directors, and set and costume designers. John gave a short lecture to his group on the Shakespeare plays they saw, which was fun, as he misses teaching. John and Terry hosted 20 friends and family members on Christmas Day. **Louise Button Eggleton** enjoyed an annual lunch with **Rosemarie Bertsch Meyer**, Barbara Anderson Hadden '52, and Marge Fogarty Gorton '55 this past fall.

Class Notes Councilors:
Bernice Gunsberg Shooobe,
bunnysh200@aol.com, and *Joan Paul,*
jpaul1@nycap.rr.com

55 **A note from your class councilor:** Last May, UAlbany student Nichol Dunham received the 2014 *Class of 1955 Award*, given annually to a student enrolled in the University's graduate program in education. Nichol graduated *cum laude* from Russell Sage, where she majored in childhood education and psychology. Her graduate emphasis is literacy. In her gracious note of thanks, Nichol states that she's found her UAlbany courses



Earth Tones alumni perform with current members at the PAC during their "Sweet Sixteen" celebration.



Left to right, **Stefanos Haddad '11**, **Richard Scriven '86** and **Fareed Haddad '10** lead a discussion at a pre-med panel in November. Panelists not pictured: **Angelo Mascia '11** and **Laura Staff '86**.

“captivating and enlightening.” **Ann Tobey** volunteers at the Howland Stone Store Museum in Sherwood, N.Y. **Charline Clymer Stettler** is enjoying retirement on a sheep ranch in Whangarei, New Zealand, with her husband. After rearing three children, Charline returned to teaching, and it was during a fellowship at the University of Auckland that she met Dr. Stettler and decided to settle in New Zealand. The Class of 1955's 60th reunion will be Oct. 9-11, 2015. Details will be available soon and we hope you'll join your classmates for the celebration!

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

57 **Dom DeCecco** toured South Africa in Spring 2014. He went on a safari in Entabeni Safari Conservancy and Kruger National Park, and was completely blown away by how beautiful the country was as well as by the friendliness of all the people he encountered. As a social-studies teacher, he was particularly pleased with how well all segments of the society got along post-apartheid. The tour was one of the last things on Dom's bucket list. **Marilyn DeSanta DeLorenzo**, **Berenice O'Connor Ormsbee**, **Sheila Lister Bamberger**, **Marilyn Leach Causey '58** and **Eileen Lally Purcell '58** recently visited Williamstown, Mass. for a look at the newly remodeled Clark Museum. They enjoyed lunch at the Water Street Grill.

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

59 *A note from your new class counselor, **Ron Short**:* First, many thanks to **Miriam Sanderson Russell** for her fine work as counselor and for all she did to make our 55th reunion a very special one! It was a pleasure to work with her and the rest of the reunion committee. My wife and I retired from various educational and ministerial positions

in 2005 and now live on a lakeshore in Florida. We were blessed with three children and five grandchildren. Although we live in Florida, I still love to downhill ski. Several years ago, I went skydiving for my 71st birthday, one of the items on my bucket list. I look forward to learning from you and hearing your latest news. My email address is skilab3@tampabay.rr.com. At our 50th reunion, **Reme Sepe Neilser** got out of her car, greeted my wife and me, and immediately began speaking in the voice of Dr. M.E. Grenander, our *American Lit* professor. I always loved her as a teacher, and Reme could imitate her to a “T”! A note from former class counselor **Miriam Sanderson Russell**: Several classmates gathered for a meet-and-greet on the Friday evening of Homecoming and Reunion Weekend 2014 to begin the Class of '59 celebration. Folks enjoyed various activities, including the wine tasting, the Saturday morning Half-Century Club Breakfast, campus tours, and the Great Danes vs. Richmond Spiders football game. The highlight was

the reception and reunion dinner at Treviso's Restaurant. Attending were: **Ron Short** and Doris; **Gary Lewis** and Peg; **Bill Mackie** and Ohja; **Betty Pflieg Nickles**, former class counselor, and John; **Sandra Faye Robinson**, **Richard Willis**, and former class counselor **Miriam Sanderson Russell**. Reunion committee member **Connie Olivo Whitehurst** was ill and could not attend. For a brief welcome, Miriam reflected on the two score and fourteen years since graduation. In addition, we designated our reunion class project fund allocation of \$440.31 to the School of Education Fund. We unanimously elected **Ron Short** as our new class counselor. After dinner, Ron led a fellowship as we took turns reflecting on our most embarrassing moments, and shared our reflections on the person most significant in our lives. We agreed that Albany State Teachers College was the greatest opportunity for the foundation of our lives. We are all fortunate that we graduated without burdensome debt, having world-class degrees – the best “commencement” – as we found our places in the decades afterward.

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

60 The Class of 1960 cordially invites its members, as well as members of the surrounding classes (1957-1963), to join in our celebration

of our 55th reunion, Oct. 9-11, 2015. The highlight will be a luncheon at Milne Hall on the beloved downtown campus. The luncheon is scheduled for 1:00-4:00 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 10. Many other activities will be held during the weekend; they will be described in a forthcoming brochure. The mailing will also provide registration forms for the various activities. Highlights include the welcome wine tasting on Friday evening, the Half-Century Club breakfast on Saturday morning, a sorority and fraternity coffee hour, the Great Dane Pre-Game and football game, and uptown and downtown campus tours. Plan now to “go down memory lane” with friends as you recall a very special time and place.

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

61 *A note from your class councilor:* Thanks to all who responded to this issue's call for class notes and for your 55th Reunion idea. Thanks to a call for class notes from **Mel Horowitz**, **Brad Mundy** and **Jan Goodermote Newport** discovered they are third cousins. Retired from the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department in New York, **Donna Steele Parks** enjoys spending time with her family (including five children and 10 grandchildren) and has also

SAVE THE DATE

October 9-11

Homecoming, Family and Reunion Weekend 2015

Please join the Classes of '05, '90, '75, '65, and '60 and celebrate your milestone reunion!

Many events are planned for the weekend, so don't miss the fun and the opportunity to rekindle your friendships! Mark your calendar now! As they say, “the more, the merrier!”

Visit <http://alumni.albany.edu/homecoming> for the latest details.

Alumni News & Notes

taken on a new quilting hobby. She and her husband enjoy traveling to see family members. Donna wishes good luck and good health to all of the Red Devils. **Elaine Romatowski Frankonis** crossed off the only item on her bucket list as her poetry chapbook, *What the Seasons Leave*, was recently published by Finishing Line Press. Two of her poems and one non-fiction piece will be appearing in the winter solstice issue of *Mused*, the *BellaOne Literary Review*. Elaine lives with her daughter, son-in-law and grandson in East Longmeadow, Mass., where she facilitates a twice-monthly afternoon writing circle at the Longmeadow Library. She continues to blog at *Kalily Time*.

Joan Ferrari Herman and husband Carl spent two months on the East Coast. While there, they visited with Edward Broomfield '63 and Sharon Parr Broomfield '63. **Shelly Hoch** and **Mel Horowitz** represented the Class of '61 at the 100th Chi Sigma Theta anniversary luncheon at Jack's Oyster House in downtown Albany. **LaRae Atwood Groves** and husband Gene continue to enjoy their condo in Scottsdale, Ariz. She misses New York but loves it in Arizona. **Joan Heywood Valesente** looks forward to traveling and working with friends from Germany, as her husband Bob will coach the defense for the French National team. They will compete for the European championship in football

in Stockholm in Summer 2015. **Bob Congerni** continues to write books of fiction. *The Penny Garden*, *Les Yeux*, and *The First Day of the World* are his most recent works. He continues to do public readings and is in his 53rd year of full-time teaching (47 years as a SUNY professor). **Harold Jewell** was recently named a finalist in the Circus Road Screenplay Contest with his thriller script *I Dreamt You Kissed Me*. All is well with **Nancy Rubin Bernstein** and family in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. She and her husband, Sanford, enjoy taking adult-learning classes at Marist College. Nancy enjoys embroidery and quilting, reading, going to Long Beach Island in the summer and Siesta Key in Florida in the winter. College best friends **Carol Bastian** of Camden, N.Y., **Barbara Smith Passino** of Savannah, Ga., and **Marge Kropec Paul** of Long Beach, Calif., reunited in California for a week of fun and catching up. "It is true what they say, true friends can meet after a long period of time and pick up right where they left off, even after 50 years." **Mel Horowitz** was recently re-elected Eastern Region president of the USCPFA (US-China Peoples Friendship Association). She helped create an exchange program for Capital Region high school students to go to China this past summer, and received a lifetime achievement award from The Academy for Character Education, The Sage Colleges. She enjoys travel and recently returned from a five-week trip to Ireland with her family and friends. In this installment of class notes, we also heard from **Pete**

Spina, Fran Marshall, Anne Marie (Sunny) Sunstrand Mullen and **Tom Bleezarde**.

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

62 **Jean Brody Somlo** of DeWitt, N.Y., retired from teaching art in Syracuse schools. She now enjoys teaching senior artists in the Syracuse OASIS Education Center and exhibits her own artwork in shows. **Sheril McCormack, Susan Blank**, and **Linda Bosworth** enjoyed a mini-reunion in Key West, Fla. **Pat and Hank Maus** and **Bill and Nan Vogt Jessberger** enjoyed sunny weather in Green Valley, Ariz., where they wintered for the sixth year.

Class notes councilor: J. Sheril McCormack, vanillastar202@yahoo.com

63 **A note from your class councilor:** Due to the success of our 50-year reunion, many alums were left out in the Fall 2014 *UAlbany Magazine*. Since the sisters of Psi Gamma were pivotal to the celebration, the complete list includes spouses: Committee chairpersons **Patricia Woinoski Olechna (Walter)**, **Mary Alice Dobeck Brankman (Anthony)**, **Mary Jane Yanko Crotty**; Psi Gamma class members **Mary-Ruth Butler Martel, Phyllis Cipolla Stasiowski (Gene)**, **Barbara Gutberlet Besuyen (J. Andrew)**, **Audrey Cramer Blackmer (Waring)**, **Adrienne Marosek Kilc (Michael)**, and the ever popular **Rosemary Petrick Walikis** and her sister, Evelyn



Alumni and friends enjoy the beer garden during the Great Dane Pre-Game.



UAlbany football fans filled the stands at Bob Ford Field and cheered the Great Danes to a winning season.



Thousands of alumni, family and friends packed Bob Ford Field for the Great Dane Pre-Game and Homecoming football game in October.

More than 100 alumni enjoyed NYC Happy Hour at Heartland Brewery and Chophouse in Times Square this past January.



'64. Some sisters of Gamma Kappa Phi were overlooked: **Janet A. Ahola** (Richard), **Dorothy Matthy Ossinger** and daughter Joanna, **Janet Wathier Havich** (Richard), and still bubbly **Sally VanRiper Eller**. Also not listed were Patron of the Arts **Lois Brown Hellman** (Jack), **Joan Ludwig Bergin** and fellow Phi Deltas **Teresa Tomaszewski** and **Janet Hiding** (Richard). Some Chi Sigma Theta sisters left out of the notes: committee assistant **Mary Jo O'Keefe Shellard** (Fred), **Dianne V. Miller** (William), and **Jane Quay Willey**. Independents included **Sharon Kahler Ritzman** (Roger Ritzman '64), **Eileen Lubart** (Barry), **Carol Rider White** (Duane), **Fred Winsor** (Olga), **Carolyn Wood Wolz** (Bill), **Mona Zandi-Plummer** and the ever youthful **Linda Kolts**. Special thanks to Coach Richard Sauers and his wife Elaine, who were our honored guests. **Fran Flores** and Carol Hrvol '66 recently moved from Indiana to Lockport, N.Y. Start planning now for our 55th-year reunion in 2018. Hey, we'll only be 78 years young!

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

64 Robert Gibson, president of the Questar III BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services in New York State) and former president and member of the Brittonkill Central School District Board of Education, is the 2014 winner of the Everett R. Dyer Award for Distinguished School Board Service. His 21 years of service to the Questar III BOCES board include 13 years as board president.

65 A note from your class councilor: Planning for the Class of 1965 50-year reunion has begun! Reunion activities will be held during Homecoming Weekend, Oct. 9-11, 2015, when you will have a chance to relive memories, "catch up" with your college friends, and become reacquainted with our *alma mater*. If you haven't received an email regarding this milestone reunion, please contact **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!

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

67 Richard Vacca and wife **Jo Anne Vacca '68**,



Richard Vacca



Jo Anne Vacca

Professors Emeriti in the School of Teaching, Learning and Curriculum Studies at Kent State University, Kent, Ohio, were selected to receive the 2014 Distinguished Service Award at Kent State's 5th Annual College of Education, Health and Human Services Hall of Fame Awards. Rich and Jo Anne met as undergraduate English majors at the University at Albany.

69 Judith Ann Mysliborski, M.D., recently shared her collection of more than 100 kaleidoscopes at the World Awareness Children's Museum, Glens Falls, N.Y. Her exhibition, *Kaleidoscopes: Mirrored Views of the World*, was extended through early 2015 due to popular demand.

70 Angelika Hoehner, professor at SUNY Cobleskill, recently received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. **Michael A. Burke** is now an adjunct professor of Computer Science at Fitchburg State University following a long career as a consulting computer engineer.

72 Beth Paskoff received the 2014 *Beta Phi Mu Award* for distinguished service to education for librarianship. Beth is currently director of the Louisiana State University School of Library and Information Science. **Michael Blumenthal**, partner at Thompson & Knight LLP, has been selected for inclusion in *New York Super Lawyers®* 2014.

73 Squire Patton Boggs partner Peter A. Pavarini recently



Peter Pavarini

commenced his term as president of the American Health Lawyers Association (AHLA), the nation's largest non-partisan, 501(c)(3) educational organization devoted to healthcare legal issues. Peter will lead AHLA's nearly 13,000 members and continue to serve as a member of its board of directors, which he has served on since 2006.

75 The American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA) national board recently elected **Patrick Curran** as national secretary. Patrick is a senior trial partner at Damon Morey LLP, Buffalo, N.Y. and has tried over 70 jury trials to a verdict in courtrooms across New York State.



Patrick Curran

77 John Gionis, partner at Certilman Balin, East Meadow, N.Y., has been named to the 2014 "New York Super Lawyers List." John has successfully tried cases to verdict in both the state and federal courts in the New York metropolitan area. **Todd Burger**, managing director at Boston-based Crackerjack Consultants, announced the launch of the firm's new website at www.CrackerjackConsultants.com in November 2014.

79 Michael Rhett was sworn into the Georgia Senate in January 2015. Michael is the Senator Elect of District 33, Cobb County. He is an alum of the UAlbany EOP (Educational Opportunity Program). **Charles Greenberg** has accepted an appointment as the founding library director of Wenzhou-Kean University, Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province, China. **Eric Zaidins** was elected to a



Michael Rhett

two-year term as president of the New York State Administrative Law Judges Association in October 2014 after serving on its executive board for several years. Eric has been an administrative law judge for 18 years and lives with his wife in Chappaqua, N.Y. **Ira Goldstein** completed a Ph.D. in informatics and joined the Siena College computer-science department as a visiting assistant professor.

80 Andrea P. Thau, O.D. recently assumed the position of vice president of the American Optometric Association (AOA) She is the owner Dr. Andrea P. Thau and Associates in Manhattan.

81 Ian Farrell was named vice president for Institutional Advancement at The College of Saint Rose. A native of Troy, N.Y., Ian was previously assistant vice president of Development at Virginia Tech, leading fundraising and alumni relations. **Marc Gronich** recently launched a new website, JBizTechValley.com, a production of Statewide News Service, Inc. The website serves as an online directory and includes more than 50 congregations in the greater Capital District, 900 Jewish business owners and professionals, Jewish education opportunities, Jewish-run non-profits, a television program called "The Jewish View" and a news component, News Jews Can Use. **Josh Bloom**, partner at Barg Coffin Lewis & Trapp, LLP, was added to the advisory board of the Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF) Environmental Law Section. He has been a member of the executive committee for the Environmental Law Section since 2010.



Ian Farrell

82 Bernard A. Krooks was recently selected as a 2015 New York Super Lawyer by *Super Lawyers®*

Alumni News & Notes



Bernard Krooks

magazine and was included in the *Best Lawyers in America*® guide to legal excellence in the U.S. Bernard was also elected to the Estate Planning Hall of Fame by the National Association of Estate Planners & Councils (NAEPC) and was one of seven professionals honored with the designation of Accredited Estate Planner® (Distinguished). He was named President of the Board of Directors of The Arc of Westchester, the largest agency in Westchester County serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Bernard is a founding partner of Littman Krooks LLP. **William Joseph Newman** was recently recognized by Northwestern Mutual as a new member of its 2014 Forum Group. William is affiliated with Tronco Financial Group based in Latham, NY.

84



Richard Joslin

Richard A. Joslin, partner of Collins Einhorn Farrell PC, Southfield, Mich., was selected to the board of advisors for Crittenden Research, Inc. He will be providing insight on the outlook of insurance and how

it impacts professionals. **David Van Buren** recently retired as associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs and dean of the School of Graduate Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. Prior to joining the faculty in 1976, he

served on the staff of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council in the mayor's office in New York City and worked as the coordinator of public housing security for the City of Albany.



David Van Buren



Jacques Bastien '12 and Dahcia Lyons Bastien '12 of Boogie chat with Purple & Gold Student Ambassador Anthony Escamilla at the Communications & Marketing Student-Alumni Networking Reception.

Abby Donnelly, founder of the Leadership and Legacy Group, High Point, N.C., was featured in the inaugural *Leadership Greensboro Alumni Newsletter*. **Arthur Vidro**



Abby Donnelly

Goodrich adapted from the Ellery Queen novel of the same name. The production was staged at the Claremont Opera House, Claremont, N.H.

85 On the 30th anniversary of her graduation, **Patricia Salkin** will be the



Homecoming, Family and Reunion Weekend 2015

Oct. 9-11

Save the date for the biggest annual gathering at UAlbany. Bring your Great Dane spirit and enjoy festivities for the whole family, including the Great Dane Pre-Game, reunion events, kids' activities and football!

keynote speaker at the Rockefeller College graduation ceremony this spring. Her daughter will be graduating from UAlbany. Patricia, dean and professor of Law, Touro Law Center, was also featured in the Lawyer Limelight Q&A series of the Lawdragon website. More info: <http://campus.lawdragon.com/news>, search keyword "Salkin."

86 Jennifer Manner was recently named co-chair of the Advisory Board for Rockefeller College. **Howard Miller** of Bond Schoeneck & King, Albany, N.Y., has been included as one of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the field of education law. He was named a 2014 New York Super Lawyer in the areas of employment & labor law and schools & education law.

87 David Weber recently completed the Antarctica Marathon



David Weber and became one of the first few hundred people to complete a full marathon on all seven continents. David has participated in marathons on the Great Wall of China, in the Australian Outback, and through a Big 5 Game Safari in Africa. **Peter Sands** is now the director of the Honors College at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where he is also an associate professor of English.

88 Eric Stravitz launched Stravitz Law Firm in Lanham, Md., and was recently named a 2014 D.C. Super Lawyer.



Eric Stravitz

89 Daniel Baker, partner with Sahn Ward Coschignano & Baker, PLLC, in Uniondale, N.Y., has been appointed Tenth Judicial District Representative to the Real

Property Law Section (RPLS) of the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA).



Daniel Baker

92 Jennifer Utter Heston, attorney at Fraser Trebilcock, Lansing, Mich., was selected for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2015 in the field of administrative/regulatory law. Jennifer represents Michigan's largest industrial energy users and independent power producers in the areas of public utility and energy law. She is a member of Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin state bars.



Jennifer Heston

93 National law firm Wilson Elser announced partner **Peter Lauricella** was recently named the leader of the firm's Albany, N.Y.-based Litigation practice.



Peter Lauricella

John M. Bagyi was named one of 40 "Up-and-Comers" in the Nation's Most Powerful Employment Attorneys survey, published in *Human*



John Bagyi

Resource Executive. John was also selected by peers for inclusion in *Best Lawyers in America*® 2015 in litigation law. Fox Business News recently featured **Leslie Tayne's** financial advice for married couples.

94 Madhav V. Marathe is one of three Virginia Tech professors named Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. A professor of computer science in the College of Engineering, Marathe was named a Fellow for contributions to high performance computing algorithms and software environments. In addition, he is an Association for Computing Machinery Fellow.

96 Jamie Beale was named general manager of Agave Bar & Grill in Naples, Fla. Previously,

UALBANY ALUMNI CALENDAR PHOTO CONTEST

Capture the spirit of UAlbany in a photograph for a chance to be featured in the 2016 UAlbany Calendar!"

From the glowing Carillon and the fountain at nighttime to the men's basketball team celebrating a win, if you've caught it with your camera, we want to see it! Share your photography and be featured in the 2016 UAlbany Calendar. Enter your photos now!

http://alumni.albany.edu/2016_Calendar



Alumni News & Notes

Births



Craig Kimmelblatt '99 and **Ray Matzkin Kimmelblatt '99** welcomed son Jordan Oct. 7, 2014



Decem Wong-Choi '01 and husband Jimmy welcomed son Alistair Aug. 2, 2014



Rebecca Grant Neztosie '03 and husband Amos welcomed daughter Aimee Rose Jan. 16, 2014



Steven Hecht '05 and **Lauren Goldapper Hecht '06** welcomed daughter Samantha Rose June 10, 2014



Jamie Beale

Jamie was the wine and beverage director at Provence Restaurant, Milano Restaurant and Milano North Restaurant.

99

Lawrence Edson Jr. was named the Outstanding School Business Official of the Year by the New York State Association of School Business Officials in June 2014.

01

Healthcare technology company Nonnatech, led by CEO **Gary German**, recently received numerous awards; Nonnatech was named the 2014 PILOT Health Tech Winner and was also recognized as one of the most innovative health tech companies in New York.

02

Nakeshia Knight-Coyle was admitted to the University at Albany public health program, where she will pursue a second master's degree. She is currently working on her Ph.D. at Portland State University. **David Novak** is the new director of NOAA's Weather Prediction Center (WPC), based in College Park, Md. An alum of the Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences, David now resides in Crofton, Md.

04

Vik Purewal was recently promoted to Senior Manager, M&A Transaction and Integration Services at Deloitte in New York City.

05

Beth Akers co-authored the *Brookings Institute Report*, recently featured in *The New York Times*. **Jennifer Puskarz** is a recipient of the Excellence in Social Studies Education Award by the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies. Jennifer is pursuing a master's degree in school counseling at the University of Connecticut. **Kyle Aisling Steller** was recently honored as a



Beth Akers



Over 300 Graduates of the Last Decade attended the annual GOLD Schmooze in NYC.

"Rising Star" by the *New York Law Journal*. Throughout 2014, Kyle spearheaded the Legal Services of the Hudson Valley's collaboration with The Mediation Center of Dutchess County's Coalition on Elder Abuse. **Kevin Clancy**



Kevin Clancy

of Clancy Real Estate appeared on the fall season premiere of ABC's Shark Tank

with real estate magnate Barbara Corcoran. Kevin, founder of Clancy Real Estate, provides service and expertise to a large clientele in Albany and throughout the Capital Region.

08

Natalie Kapur Johnson joined the faculty at Francis Marion University as an assistant professor of political science. **Sarah Pedersen** was selected for the Richmond teacher residency at Virginia Commonwealth University.

10

Anthony Cohen, a third-year student at New York Law

School, recently published his first ebook, *The Golden Five: How to Conquer Doubt and Achieve Success*.



Anthony Cohen

11

Jason Gildea accepted a new position with Bank of America as an assistant vice president in the Enterprise Stress Testing Group.

12

Former UAlbany assistant volleyball coach **Brooke Stanley** recently accepted the position of head volleyball coach at Converse College, Spartanburg, S.C.

13

Connor Greenseich was recently added to the Audit Department at Dannible and McKee, LLP, in Syracuse, N.Y.



Connor Greenseich

14

Nina Amanda Egbuta recently qualified for the 2015 Miss Nigeria USA pageant and will compete in New York City this May.

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

Weddings

Jonathan Goldberg '00
and Jaclyn Anderegg,
Sept. 29, 2012



Decem Wong '01
and Jimmy Choi,
Sept. 21, 2013



Steven Hecht '05 and
Lauren Goldapper '06,
June 2, 2013



Nadav Yaakov Shaviv '04
and Jessica Hillary
Silverman, Sept. 6, 2014



Kimberly Schroder '06
and **Frank Montalto '06,**
Aug. 31, 2014



Ming Shuang Lu '07,'08
and **Meng Qu '10,**
Aug. 11, 2014



Dan Callahan '08
and **Bethany Folkins**
Callahan '08,
Sept. 14, 2013



Joshua Rehr '08
and Elana Jacob,
Dec. 7, 2014



Cindy McNally '03 and
Adam Thumen '04,
Oct. 11, 2014



Alumni News & Notes

Frances Gildea George, B.S.'38, M.L.S.'42

Longtime University at Albany supporter Frances Gildea George, 98, died Jan. 7, 2015, in Delmar, N.Y.

A New York State College for Teachers graduate, George worked for the state departments of Civil Service and Social Services, retiring from the latter in 1976. She and her husband, Edward S. George, B.A.'38, M.A.'40, Ed.D., who predeceased her,

remained closely affiliated with their *alma mater* throughout their lives. The Heritage Circle Society members were the first alumni to make a \$1 million gift to the University. The George Education Center at the East Campus is named for them, as is a lecture hall on the uptown campus.

Frances George is survived by five nephews and several cousins.

Patrick Murphy '67, Sept. 22, 2014
Herbert A. Chesbrough '69, Sept. 17, 2014
Carl A. Dippel, Jr. '69, Sept. 15, 2013
George C. Saunders '69, Sept. 16, 2014
Terrence A. Trepal '69, Sept. 22, 2014

1970s

Victor M. Feld '70, Dec. 3, 2014
Margaret J. Dunn Nagle '70, Sept. 27, 2014
Raymond E. Neidl, Jr. '70, Aug. 27, 2014
George E. Wallace '70, Aug. 1, 2014
David A. Blakely '71, July 19, 2014
Patrick J. Dalton '71, Sept. 14, 2014
Michael J. Dollard '71, Dec. 24, 2012
Marie L. Debads Dority '71, Dec. 1, 2014
Eugene M. Garback '71, Dec. 29, 2012
Thomas E. Parisella '71, Jan. 17, 2013
Barbara A. Pazer '71, June 16, 2013
Elisa M. Lieblein Ruroede '71, May 3, 2014
Sandra J. Sasowski '71, Sept. 13, 2014
Laverne A. Dowdell '72, Oct. 15, 2014
Barbara L. Glenn '72, July 9, 2014
Robert J. Graham '72, Oct. 6, 2014
Margaret L. Ettman Rantanen '72, Oct. 22, 2013
Gerald S. Smrtic '72, July 11, 2014
Sheila Marayno Bussell '73, July 25, 2014
John F. Dietrich '73, Sept. 3, 2014
James C. Hayes '73, Dec. 1, 2014
Steven E. Motto '73, Oct. 12, 2013
Gary J. Perkinson '73, Aug. 28, 2014
Laura S. Pollakoff '73, April 16, 2014
Eugene K. Schuler '73, April 17, 2013
Anne B. Smollin '73, Sept. 24, 2014
Shirley T. Dressler '74, July 3, 2014
Robert D. Dunton '74, June 23, 2014
Donald W. Mocker '74, Aug. 24, 2014
Warren A. Briggs '75, Oct. 15, 2014
Francis J. Fenaughty '76, July 12, 2014
Eileen Ketcham '76, Jan. 1, 2015
Susan M. Rice Locurto '76, Sept. 28, 2014
Sherry L. Gottlieb Netherland '76, Aug. 16, 2014
Sheridan E. Race '76, Sept. 17, 2014
Joseph F. Cafiero '77, Oct. 16, 2008
William T. Conway '77, July 18, 2014
Lee M. Davidson '77, Jan. 23, 2012
Tom P. Intrator '77, June 3, 2014
Patrick J. Mucci '77, Dec. 4, 2013
Michael J. McKenna '78, Dec. 13, 2007
Marc E. Jacobowitz '79, July 31, 2010
Theodore T. Quarg '79, Feb. 16, 2011

1980s

Ruth Fairbairn Manzi '80, Aug. 12, 2014
Jesse E. Vics '80, July 16, 2014
Freda V. Bailey '81, Oct. 11, 2008
Margot Hutchinson Morrison '81, Sept. 25, 2014
Makeda D. Searson-Ahad '81, Feb. 14, 2010
Robert F. Albrecht '82, Nov. 20, 2012
Cecilia T. Callahan Dannenberg '82, Aug. 26, 2014
John P. Ryan, Ph.D. '82, April 5, 2011
Jay S. Watson '82, Aug. 31, 2014
Joseph Y. Appiah '84, July 25, 2014
David P. Coyle '84, Feb. 28, 2009
Cornelia A. Fowle '84, Aug. 5, 2014

Deceased Alumni

1930s

Rosa Peters Cummings '36, June 15, 2010
Jeanne Cerrito Hoag '36, July 28, 2014
Jane Rendell '37, July 6, 2014
Sara Whelan Cunniff '38, Sept. 10, 2010
Jeannette Barlow Ferris '39, Oct. 31, 2013
Frances Gildea George '38, '42, Jan. 7, 2015

1940s

Marian Kingsley Boyce-Jeffers '40, June 22, 2014
Marcella Sackett Britton '40, June 2, 2014
Kenneth J. Haser '40, Sept. 2, 2014
Alice Kemp Knapp '40, Jan. 4, 2014
Mildred Selden Stewart '40, June 20, 2014
Louise Hessney Waterman '40, April 2, 2013
Mary L. McCall Ford '41, Nov. 6, 2014
L. Jean Cady Sroka '41, Sept. 19, 2014
Catherine Lydon Boylan '42, July 19, 2014
Jane Weir Damino '42, Dec. 28, 2013
Leslie C. Graves '42, June 1, 2014
Jeannette Buyck Brown '45, May 9, 2014
Elizabeth Dorman Gallagher '45, Feb. 23, 2014
William Grattan '45, Feb. 15, 2014
Virginia Driscoll Nicolaidis '45, Oct. 31, 2014
Douglas H. Barnum '46, Nov. 7, 2014
Beverly C. Link French '46, Sept. 8, 2014
Roberta Jobson Salvesen '46, Aug. 27, 2014
Shirley E. Taylor Alpert '47, Feb. 5, 2014
Virginia Hannon Alston '47, Sept. 30, 2014
Concepta L. Zumbo Caezza '47, Nov. 9, 2014
Marjorie Delorraine Lovelass '47, Oct. 29, 2014
Alice Prindle Walsh '48, July 10, 2014
Dorothy Arnold '49, Nov. 3, 2014
Helen M. Habermann, Ph.D. '49, June 5, 2012
Daniel Rider, Ph.D. '49, Jan. 22, 2014
Doris Nielsen Rigas '49, Dec. 10, 2014

1950s

Regina F. Benedict Driscoll '50, March 28, 2009
Geraldine M. Wands Franklin '50, Aug. 18, 2014
Sarah Caruso Frasca '50, Dec. 23, 2014
Martha J. Downey '51, Aug. 11, 2014
Donald P. Ely '51, Sept. 24, 2014
Paul LeBrun '51, Dec. 2, 2012
Beatrice H. Horth Sudlow '51, Sept. 1, 2014
Joseph E. Persico '52, Aug. 30, 2014

Thomas R. Yole '52, July 6, 2014
Lorraine Migliaccio Bartalo '53, May 4, 2013
Norine Connell Byrnes '53, Feb. 9, 2014
Evelyn Paulus Halloran '53, April 2, 2014
William F. Helmer '53, July 10, 2014
Richard E. Jacobson '53, July 4, 2014
Barbara Newcombe Reynolds '53, May 10, 2014
Nancy E. Worden Reynolds '53, Jan. 12, 2014
David A. Brown '54, April 30, 2014
George D. Cochran '55, Jan. 11, 2014
Pearl Szabo Grandeau '55, April 20, 2013
Kathleen Karnbach Kelley '55, April 5, 2014
Thomas A. Mullen '55, July 21, 2014
Joseph Grossman '57, Aug. 26, 2014
Thomas A. Nicholas '57, July 2, 2014
John E. Pickens '57, Sept. 22, 2014
Hartley J. Laduke '58, Dec. 14, 2014
Joseph Szarek '58, March 1, 2013
Anne F. Sweet Bruch '59, Jan. 11, 2014
Russell H. Hall '59, Nov. 1, 2008
John B. Lucas '59, May 16, 2009
Stephen L. Marley, Jr. '59, Sept. 15, 2014
Marlene Ferner Allison '59, Dec. 29, 2014

1960s

Johanna C. Bonacci Albrecht '60, Oct. 28, 2014
W. Donald Makely '60, June 14, 2013
Eleanor Schwartz Muenz '60, June 30, 2010
Catherine Brajkovich '61, Oct. 3, 2006
Edward L. Gehl '62, Nov. 18, 2013
Ingrid Maine Larson '62, July 14, 2014
Stewart A. Crowell '63, Feb. 3, 2014
Paul M. Bachorz '64, Sept. 2, 2010
John A. Barthelmes '64, May 25, 2007
Charlotte A. Bell '64, July 25, 2014
Barbara K. Kittelberger Haines '64, Oct. 4, 2006
Richard L. Leveroni, Ph.D. '64, June 1, 2014
Jackie Jadick Quigley '64, June 21, 2008
Sandra J. Riska '64, April 26, 2007
Linda Kolker Zuckerman '64, Sept. 23, 2014
Beverly A. Wozniak Brigantia '65, Dec. 18, 2012
Jane Irwin De Somma '65, Oct. 2, 2014
Ronald G. Baker '66, Sept. 18, 2014
Carole Barrus Bartley '66, Dec. 29, 2014
Berniece Hunsinger Cain '66, Jan. 21, 2013
Arthur C. Ferrari, Ph.D. '66, Sept. 21, 2014
James O. Moore, III '66, Oct. 7, 2013
Lester Heverling '67, Sept. 5, 2014
Karen Hoz Matteo '67, Sept. 20, 2014

UAlbany

Here are the best ways to reach us!

ADDRESS, E-MAIL, PHONE OR JOB CHANGES

E-mail: proyce@albany.edu

Mail: Pushpa Royce

Office of Development Services, UAB 209

University at Albany

1400 Washington Avenue

Albany, NY 12222

ALUMNI NEWS AND NOTES

E-mail: alumniassociation@albany.edu

Lee Serravillo, Executive Director

Mail: Alumni Association

Alumni House

University at Albany

1400 Washington Avenue

Albany, NY 12222

Ph: (518) 442-3080

Fax: (518) 442-3207

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

E-mail: colechowski@albany.edu

Mail: Carol Olechowski

Editor, UAlbany Magazine

University Development, UAB 214

University at Albany

1400 Washington Avenue

Albany, NY 12222

Ph: (518) 437-4992

Fax: (518) 437-4957

Phyllis Hundert Lippmann '84, June 18, 2014
Michael J. Thayer '85, May 2, 2014
Joseph R. Doyle '86, July 4, 2014
Francis H. McCarthy '86, Nov. 1, 2014
Mary T. McGinty '86, Sept. 28, 2013
John J. Moonan '86, Jan. 26, 2013
Robert F. Graham '87, Sept. 27, 2013
Stephen C. Sutton '88, July 15, 2014

1990s

Stephanie L. Burris Margetson '90,
June 25, 2014
Craig L. Smith '90, May 14, 2013
Steven L. Dixon '91, Aug. 1, 2014
John J. Bambach '92, Sept. 5, 2014
Amy B. Danksy '93, March 11, 2011
Brook F. Hobson '93, Dec. 2, 2014
Kenneth B. Pick '93, Aug. 16, 2014
Sean C. Meldrum '94, Aug. 10, 2008
John W. Syron '94, Jan. 19, 2013
Tristin M. Buckstad '95, Jan. 24, 2014

Matthew P. Fiske '96, Aug. 24, 2014
Michael P. McGinley '97, July 8, 2009
Eric R. Leonard '98, Dec. 9, 2014
Tricia L. Gabany-Guerrero, '99,
May 21, 2014

2000s

Joseph J. Fingerhut '01, Nov. 7, 2014
Michael R. Garling '01, July 11, 2014
Angela-Yvette F. Mtambu '01, July 1, 2014
Nelly Odondi '02, July 14, 2014
Allan B. Richter '03, Sept. 8, 2014
Austin R. Flowers '05, July 17, 2014
Anthony J. Robibero '06, Sept. 16, 2014
Scott S. Levine '09, April 1, 2013
Barbara E. Tidwell Lukas '09, July 21, 2014

2010s

Stephen J. Koenig '10, Aug. 11, 2014
Matthew R. Walsh '10, Oct. 6, 2013
Taraja G. Green Borawski '11, March 18, 2013

Deceased Faculty/Staff

Donn E. Byrne, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor,
Psychology, 1979-2001, Aug. 10, 2014

Carson Carr, Jr., Associate Dean Educational
Opportunity Program, 1985-2009, Oct. 3, 2014

Edward P. Cowley, Professor, Art, 1951-1988,
Oct. 11, 2014

Angelo Delduce, Maintenance Assistant,
RH Maintenance Shop, 1987-2008, Nov. 5, 2014

Robert C. Luippold, Associate Professor, Math-
ematics and Statistics, 1950-1981, April 16, 2013

Charles T. Mirella, Project Staff Assistant,
Environmental Health and Safety, 1970-1995,
Sept. 27, 2014

James Powers, Associate Professor,
Educational Psychology and Stat., 1968-1995, Oct.
3, 2014

Clara J. Tucker, Assistant Professor, History
Department, 1963-1993, Sept. 25, 2014

Richard D. Kelly, Professor of Biology,
1963-1989, Jan. 17, 2013

Joseph E. Persico, B.A.'52

Author and historian Joseph E. Persico passed away
Aug. 30, 2014. He was 84.

Persico studied English and political science at the
New York State College for Teachers and completed
graduate work at Columbia University. The U.S. Navy
veteran and former United States Information Agency (USIA) officer was a
political writer and researcher for New York Gov. W. Averell Harriman in the
1950s. He later served as chief speechwriter for Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller.

As a full-time author, Persico earned acclaim for such works as *My Enemy, My
Brother: Men and Days of Gettysburg*; *The Imperial Rockefeller*; and *Roosevelt's
Secret War: FDR and World War II Espionage*. He collaborated with Colin Powell,
former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and later U.S. Secretary of State, on
Powell's autobiography, *My American Journey*.

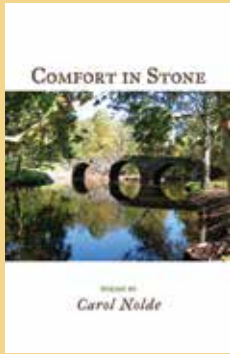
Persico maintained a close association with UAlbany. He received the Alumni
Association's Distinguished Alumni Award in 1982 and an honorary doctoral
degree in 1996. Persico donated his papers to the University Libraries in 2006,
and scholarship and fellowship funds were established in his name.

Survivors include his wife, Sylvia LaVista Persico, B.A.'69; daughters, Vanya
Perez and Andrea Holder; brother, Richard Persico, B.A.'55; sister, Annabelle
Townson, B.A.'57; and five grandchildren.



John D'Annunzio/Times Union

AUTHORS



Carol Stephenson Nolde, B.A.'61, is the author of *Comfort in Stone*. Nolde's collection of poems speaks of the many changes in rural life from the days of her childhood on a small farm in Sullivan County, N.Y.

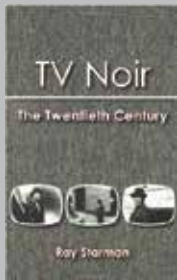


Jeffrey Burger, B.A.'71, is the author of *Leonard Cohen on Leonard Cohen: Interviews and Encounters*; and *Springsteen on Springsteen: Interviews, Speeches, and Encounters*.



Vincent Aiello, B.A.'81, published his third legal thriller, *Legion's Lawyers*. The story involves a lawyer who finds himself the target of a

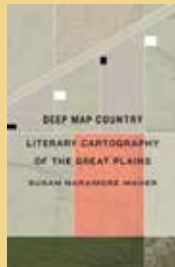
Mexican drug cartel. Aiello is also the author of the acclaimed best-sellers *Legal Detriment* and *The Litigation Guy*.



Ray Starman, B.A.'68, is the author of *TV Noir: 20th Century*, which was recently reviewed by writer and director Robert L. McCullough ("Battlestar Galactica," "Star Trek"). In addition, Starman recently published *The Sitcom Class Wars: 20th Century*.



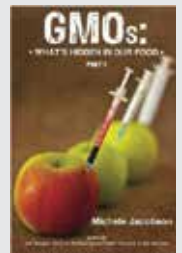
Isabel Silverman Pinson, B.A.'75, is the author of *Bubbe's Belated Bat Mitzvah*, Kar-Ben Publishing.



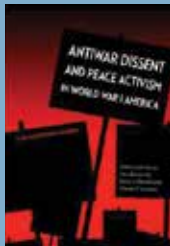
Susan Naramore Maher, B.A.'77, recently published *Deep Map Country: Literary Cartography of the Great Plains* with the University of Nebraska Press.

Michele Jacobson, B.A.'83,

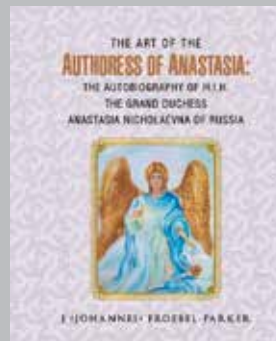
published her second book, *GMOs: What's Hidden In Our Food*. Learn more: http://bit.ly/UAlbanyMag_MJacobson



Charles F. Howlett, M.A.'70, Ph.D.'74, recently published *Antiwar Dissent and Peace Activism in World War I America: A Reader*. Containing more than 120 primary-source documents related to free speech and critics of the war, the anthology was published to coincide with the World War I centenary. Howlett, a professor in graduate education programs at Molloy College, is a retired military officer.



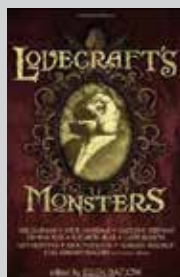
Johannes Froebel-Parker, B.A.'79, M.A.'82, M.S.'85, resurrects a century-old mystery in *Anastasia: the Autobiography of H.I.H The Grand Duchess Anastasia Nicholaevna of Russia*. Froebel-Parker also recently authored *Grandma Rebecka and the Witches' Tree*, a novel that combines history with culture while using familial experiences to make it accessible to readers of all ages.



Lisanne 'L.A.' Sokolowski Pomeroy, B.A.'83, has been signed as editor for *Eat Meat and Be Happy*, a groundbreaking book that investigates the links between suicide, depression and addiction and a meat-free diet, by filmmaker and equestrienne Kem Minnick.

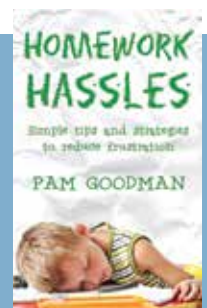
Noah Trudeau, B.A.'71, is the author of *The Last Citadel*, a groundbreaking study of the investment of Petersburg, Va.

Ellen Datlow, B.A.'71, is the editor of five anthologies published in 2014: *Lovecraft's Monsters*; *The Best Horror of the Year, Volume Six*; *Fearful Symmetries*; *The Cutting Room*; and *Nightmare Carnival*. A winner of multiple awards, Datlow recently received the Hugo Award for Best Editor, 2014.



David Forster Parker, D.P.A.'81, published his second novel, *Beyond The Pyramids*, last summer. His first, *Florida Land Grab*, was published in 2013. Parker lives in Florida with his wife of 53 years, Marilynn.

Pamela Brown Goodman, B.S.'84, is the author of *Homework Hassles: Simple Tips and Strategies to Reduce Frustration, and Unleash Your Child's Potential: 123 Practical Tips and Useful Strategies*.



& EDITORS

Janet B. Winn, Ph.D.'84, is the author of *Quicksands of Belief: The Need for Skepticism*, a part of academic publisher Peter Lang's American University Studies series. Winn was the first woman to receive a graduate degree in philosophy from Stanford. She has been a faculty member at SUNY New Paltz, as well as at Vassar College and Marist College.

Samuel Black, M.A.'91, is the editor and contributing writer of *The Civil War in Pennsylvania: The African American Experience*. Black is director of African American Programs at the Senator John Heinz History Center and serves as president of the Association of African American Museums.



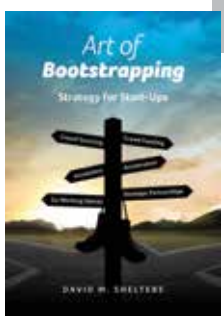
Phyllis Adler, M.S.W.'96, M.A.'97, has recently published *Fresh Squeezed; A Costa Rican Journey of Fasting and Self Discovery*. Motivated by a need for improved health, Adler shares the story of a 10-day Costa Rican juice fast, her exploration of an unfamiliar landscape, and life lessons that emerge from each day's activities. She is a therapist in Albany, N.Y.



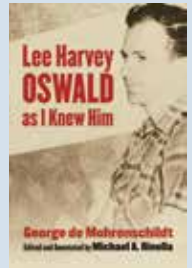
Chris Paradise, B.S.'86, recently published *Integrating Concepts in Biology*. The digital textbook, which Paradise co-authored, focuses on five "big ideas" at five size scales so students majoring in biology attain deeper understanding of major concepts in introductory courses. Paradise is professor of biology and environmental studies at Davidson College.



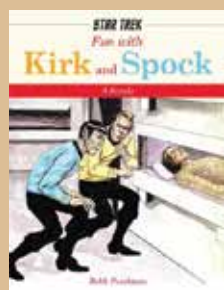
David Shelters, B.A.'91, is the author of *The Art of Bootstrapping* (forthcoming). This is Shelters' second book.



Michael A. Rinella, Ph. D.'97, edited and annotated *Lee Harvey Oswald as I Knew Him*, which is based on the unpublished memoir written by Dallas resident George de Mohrenschildt.



Robb Pearlman, B.A.'92, is the author of *Fun With Kirk and Spock*, a clever parody book perfect for "Trekkies" of all ages. The Star-Trek picture book was published by Cider Mill Press.



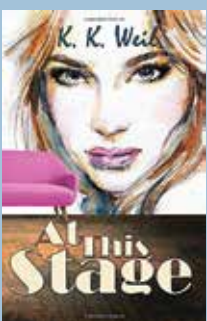
Lisa A. McCarthy, M.S.'99, is the author of *Where's the Ramp?*, a realistic-fiction children's book highlighting the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1991.



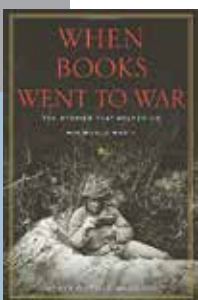
Eva Lesko Natiello, B.A.'86, is the author of *The Memory Box*, a Houston Writers Guild 2014 Manuscript winner. Learn more: <http://www.evantiello.com>.

Matthew Farber, B.A.'93, is the author of *Gamify Your Classroom: A Field Guide to Game-Based Learning*, which explores how to implement game-based learning and gamification techniques to everyday teaching.

Jonathan Friedland, B.S.'91, is the author of *The Investor's Guide to Alternative Assets: the JOBS Act, "Accredited" Investing, and You*. In his book, Friedland provides information about investing in alternative assets. The book is now available online through Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Apple's iBookstore. It is illustrated by David Moses '92.



Kelly Kalmanson, B.A.'94, recently published her debut novel, *At This Stage*, under the pen name K.K. Weil.



Molly Guptill Manning, B.A.'01, M.A.'02, recently published *When Books Went to War: The Stories That Helped Us Win World War II*. Manning describes how the Armed Services Editions sparked correspondence between soldiers and authors, lifted *The Great Gatsby* from obscurity, and created a new audience of readers back home.

The Last Word

By Jimmy J. Fuller, B.S.'01

When my friend Rob [Robert Lee, B.A. '01, M.S.'03] and I decided to take *Art History*, our expectations were low. I was raised in New York City's 38th Street projects, and my experience with art only amounted to graffiti. My writing skills were horrid. I couldn't afford a home computer, so I wasn't comfortable with typing until I took my first EOP class, which forced me to type papers, not hand-write them. That core class, and *Art History I*, formed a foundation that has helped me to this day.

After a few *Art History* classes, I could tell I was in way over my head. Once I got my first F, I contemplated dropping the course. But I didn't. I stayed. I started to focus more on the material, actually trying to learn about this foreign notion of art history. I received a C-

The next semester, Rob mentioned *Art History II*, a writing-intensive course. I was fond of Professor Warren Roberts and his passion for the material in *Art History I*, but I was trying to make the dean's list and could not afford another C-. I decided to give it another shot. I did much better in *Art History II*; Professor Roberts even read my final paper to the class. That remains one of the top-10 accomplishments in my life. I felt so honored. To this day, I smile as I think of that moment. The professor prefaced the reading of my paper by saying that I had come a long way. He doesn't know how much that meant to me.

I'm doing very well. I work nights as a Lincoln Financial senior analyst

manager; my day job is with TD Bank. I reside in Philadelphia, in a house that has a reprint of *The Oath of the Horatii*, one of my favorite paintings, in the main dining room. When Rob, now a teacher in Queens, N.Y., and I talk about the painting and our *Art History* days, Professor Roberts always comes up in the conversation.

Professor Roberts changed my life. I am not an author of books, but I have written proposals to seek funds for my department, and I understand the power of writing. I am still fascinated by art and history. I frequent Philadelphia's various art museums, and while I don't care much for abstract art, I understand why it exists.

Thank you, Professor Roberts.



At his Philadelphia home, Jimmy Fuller poses with a reprint of one of his favorite paintings, *The Oath of the Horatii* (1784), by Jacques-Louis David and his pupil, Girodet. The photo below shows the work in more detail.





UAlbany's very first benefactor made a gift with lasting impact.

You can, too.

Three months after the December 1844 founding of the New York State Normal School, known today as the University at Albany, developer and philanthropist James Wadsworth left a bequest of \$300 designated for the school's first library. Today, Wadsworth's generous legacy lives on in UAlbany's three state-of-the-art libraries, which collectively house more than 2 million volumes.

Like James Wadsworth, you can
invest in UAlbany's future.

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.



GIFT PLANNING

Investing in the future



UALBANY

State University of New York

1400 Washington Avenue
Division of University Development
University Administration Building 209
Albany, NY 12222

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Burlington, VT 05401
Permit No. 378



www.albany.edu



Meet old friends and make new contacts – It's all possible through UAlbany Connects!



UAlbany Connects provides multiple opportunities in the New York Metro Area and the Capital Region for alumni to connect, network and socialize. More events ... more variety ... more fun!

Happy Hours » Night at the Mets »
GOLD Cruise » UAlbany Day at the Races »
Golf Classic » NYC Uncubed »
Night at the ValleyCats » Viewing Parties



Check out our 2015 events online at <http://alumni.albany.edu/ualbanyconnects>.