

# UAlbany

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# UAlbany

University at Albany Magazine  
 Fall 2016, Volume 25, Number 2



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



Carlo de Jesus

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# From the Podium and Beyond

## Lizotte, South Are SUNY Distinguished Professors



The State University of New York Board of Trustees recently elevated **Alan J. Lizotte** and **Scott J. South** to the rank of Distinguished Professor.

Lizotte, a faculty member in UAlbany's School of Criminal Justice for three decades, co-founded the Rochester Youth Development Study. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Criminology; a member of the editorial boards of several leading journals; and a grant referee for the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Justice, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

South, a Department of Sociology faculty member, is internationally known for his research in family demography and urban/community sociology. The recipient of the University at Albany's 2003 Excellence in Research Award, he has earned significant grants from such external sources as the NSF, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

South and Lizotte were among 29 SUNY system faculty members named Distinguished Faculty in May.

## Academic Programs Are Introduced

Two new academic programs are in place this fall at UAlbany.

Rockefeller College's master of international affairs (MIA) program is designed for individuals planning careers in the public, private and non-profit sectors within countries, as well as in relations between countries. The multidisciplinary degree, a joint venture between the departments of Public Administration & Policy and Political Science, affords students a broad educational foundation in international relations theory, policy analysis, economics, management and quantitative methods. Practical knowledge and analytical and managerial skills are honed through classroom learning, internships and projects.

The University's College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity (CEHC) has established an undergraduate major to prepare students for professional positions in the security and preparedness fields. The program provides a solid foundation in liberal arts while emphasizing critical thinking, ethics, problem solving, cultural literacy and leadership skills. Partnerships with public agencies, including the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, and with private companies and non-profit organizations will make research, internship and training opportunities available to students.

## U.S. Navy Ship to Be Named for Harvey Milk

The U.S. Navy plans to name a ship for New York State College for Teachers graduate and gay-rights advocate Harvey Milk '51.

Milk, whose parents were both Navy veterans, joined the service after graduation. During the Korean War, he was a diving officer aboard the *USS Kittiwake* in San Diego.

Milk completed his naval service in 1955 and returned to his native Long Island, N.Y., to teach. He later relocated to California, where he became the first openly gay candidate to be elected to political office in a major U.S. city. He served on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors for less than a year, until a former political adversary assassinated him in 1978.

The Navy ship that will carry Milk's name will be the second of a six-vessel class of fleet-replenishment oilers. Construction of the ships is set to begin in 2018.



## Pardo Assumes NSF Oversight Role

The National Science Foundation has appointed Center for Technology in Government (CTG) Director Theresa Pardo, B.A.'82, M.S.'90, Ph.D.'98, to serve a three-year term on its Business and Operations Advisory Committee. The committee is responsible for the oversight, integrity, development and enhancement of NSF business operations.



Mark Schmidt

Pardo is also a research professor with the departments of Public Administration & Policy and Informatics. She completed bachelor's and doctoral studies at Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy and earned an M.S. in educational administration from UAlbany's School of Education.

## Bernabei-McNamee Is New Women's Basketball Coach

Joanna Bernabei-McNamee, former head coach of the women's basketball program at the University of Pikeville in Kentucky, has been named head coach of UAlbany's women's team.

The West Virginia native, popularly known as "Coach Mac," led Pikeville to back-to-back National Tournament berths. Bernabei-McNamee was named 2016 Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) NAIA Regional Coach of the Year and 2015 Mid-South Conference Coach of the Year. Her previous coaching experience includes the University of Maryland, West Virginia University, and Eastern Kentucky.



Paul Miller

## UAlbany Announces Appointments

Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy alumna **Sandra Starke, M.P.A.'85**, has joined the University at Albany as vice provost and associate vice president for Enrollment Management. In the newly created position, Starke is responsible for "providing overall direction for undergraduate enrollment including planning, strategy, recruitment, admissions, and financial aid," noted Provost James R. Stellar. She also coordinates with the dean of Graduate Education and the dean and vice provost for International Education and Global Strategy.



**Satyendra (Satyen) Kumar** has been appointed associate vice president for Research. Previously, at Kent State University, Kumar served as associate vice president of Research and professor of physics. He was also program director for the

Condensed Matter Physics and Biomaterials programs in the Division of Materials Research of the National Science Foundation (NSF).

The Honors College welcomed its new dean, **Hui-Ching Chang**, in August. Chang comes to UAlbany from the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she held the position of associate dean for Academic Affairs for the Honors College. At the University at Albany, Chang will also serve as a tenured full professor in the Department of Communication.

Longtime UAlbany faculty member **Hany A. Shawky**, professor of finance and economics and associate dean of the School of Business, began serving as the school's interim dean July 1. The recipient of three Dean's Awards for research, Shawky has taught and conducted research at the University since 1978. He founded the Center for Institutional Investment Management (CIIM), serving as its director from 2002-07.



Associate Professor of Marketing **Suraj Commuri** was appointed in May to serve as associate dean for Undergraduate Research within the Office of Undergraduate Education. Nominated for excellence in teaching awards at both the undergraduate and graduate levels since his arrival at UAlbany in 2007, Commuri is also affiliated with the Department of Informatics.



# From the Podium and Beyond

## President Jones Departs for Illinois



After three and a half years at the helm of the University at Albany, President Robert J. Jones has announced his departure Sept. 30. Effective Oct. 3, he will become chancellor of the University of Illinois.

During his tenure at UAlbany, Jones emphasized the importance of strengthening the University's ties with its Capital Region neighbors. He advanced plans to establish the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS), renovate a former public school in Albany to house the college, and engage the public in efforts to strengthen both the University and the region. In addition, Jones expanded the collaboration between the University and Albany Law School, and launched the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity (CEHC).

## Chancellor Zimpher Will Step Down

Nancy Zimpher, chancellor of the State University of New York system since 2009, will step down from that post June 30, 2017. She plans to return to her home state, Ohio, where she previously headed the University of Cincinnati.



As SUNY's 12th chancellor, Zimpher advocated for enriched teacher preparation and applied-learning opportunities, shared services between and among campuses, and economic revitalization throughout New York. She set in place a strategic plan, The Power of SUNY, to define the university system's role in bolstering the state's economy through research and innovation, energy, healthcare, global affairs and education.

A search committee has been established to select Zimpher's successor. Members include UAlbany alumni Michael J. Castellana, B.S.'84, M.B.A.'92; James Malatras, B.A.'99, M.A.'00, and Ph.D.'08; and Marc Cohen, B.A.'16.

## CEMHD Receives NIH Grant

With support from a \$10 million National Institutes of Health endowment grant, UAlbany's Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities (CEMHD) will launch a major public-engagement initiative to advance its mission throughout the Northeast.

Through enhanced recruiting efforts, the project aims to increase the number of graduate students, faculty and researchers in health disparities from minority populations and underrepresented groups. In addition, it seeks to establish the UAlbany Endowment for Community-based Health Disparities Research and Training to support an array of educational and research initiatives.

University at Albany President Robert J. Jones and CEMHD Director Lawrence M. Schell have been co-principal investigators of the cross-disciplinary project.



CEMHD Director Lawrence Schell

Paul Miller

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

Campus Center Expansion



Emerging Technology and Entrepreneurship Complex



College of Engineering and Applied Science



## Campus Upgrades Continue

Several renovation and expansion projects at UAlbany are slated for completion during 2016-17.

Work is scheduled to conclude next spring on the \$62 million Campus Center renovation and expansion project. The first-phase 10,000-square-foot dining and kitchen East Addition was completed last September; the 66,000-square-foot addition on the west side is currently under construction.

The West Addition will include a 400-seat auditorium; conference spaces; new offices for student government and student groups; and recreation and lounge areas. The existing Campus Center area, on the ground floor between the additions, is also being renovated. Slated to open the same time as the West Addition, it will be largely devoted to a transformed dining experience. In all, 12 new retail food options, including a Starbucks; a Vietnamese restaurant (from celebrity chef Mai Pham); Simple Servings, which prepares foods without ingredients that can trigger allergies; and Tully's will be available to the University community.

The largest project currently under way is the \$180 million construction of the 236,000-square-foot Emerging Technology and Entrepreneurship Complex (E-TEC) on 12 acres at the southwest corner of the Harriman Campus, adjacent to UAlbany's uptown

campus. Design is in progress; ground will be broken in 2017. When it opens in 2020-21, E-TEC – the cornerstone of the University's NYSUNY2020 initiative – will house the new College of Homeland Security, Emergency Preparedness and Cybersecurity (CHEC); the Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences (ASRC); and the Atmospheric Sciences Research Center, helping to synergize and advance the University's renowned level of research and instruction in these areas. Other weather researchers and private partners, classrooms, the Department of Physics, and business and tech-transfer operations will also occupy the building.

The former Health Center (Building 25), currently being renovated, will be completed in mid-2017. The departments of Africana Studies and Economics will relocate to this building, allowing for renovation of the Business Administration building on the Academic Podium to begin next summer.

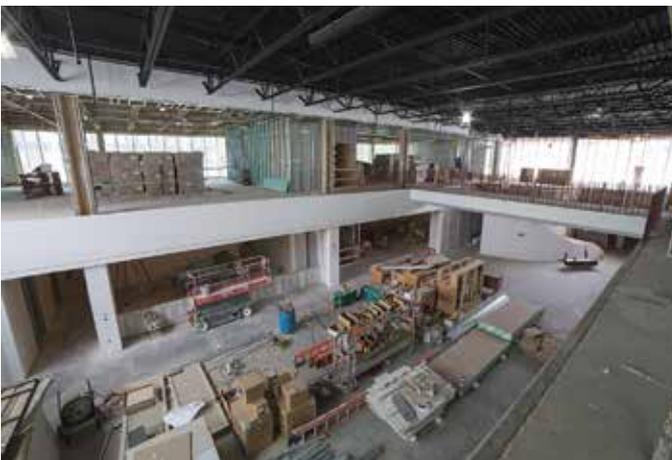
The Schuyler Building (the former Albany High School) on the downtown campus is currently in design for a complete renovation. It will serve as the home of the University's new College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS).

### Other projects in progress or set to commence soon include:

- renovation of Dutch Quad's Beverwyck and Schuyler halls, along with the transformation of the kitchen and dining areas, which will house the University's health and wellness services
- renovations and upgrades to the entire Lecture Center complex, including instructional spaces
- restoration and repair of brick and cornice building exteriors on the downtown campus
- upgrades of bathrooms throughout the uptown and downtown campuses
- upgrade and replacement of seating and finishes in the Performing Arts Center (PAC) main theater

Additional information related to development and construction activity at the University can be accessed online at [www.albany.edu/facilities](http://www.albany.edu/facilities).

Paul Miller



The Campus Center renovation and construction project is now under way.

# Gifts at Work

By Carol Olechowski

## Making UAlbany's Future a Reality

More than a year after her passing at age 96, famed children's-book illustrator and author Marcia Brown, B.A.'40, continues to support the University at Albany, its students and its library collections.

Through a gift received this past spring from the estate of the three-time Caldecott Medal recipient, *The Marcia J. Brown Scholarship* was established to benefit students who exemplify academic excellence and demonstrate financial need. Another estate gift funded *The Marcia J. Brown Library Endowment in the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives*. It will continue to support the initiatives, work and activities of the department, as the donor did during her lifetime.

Brown, a native of Rochester, N.Y., graduated from the New York State College for Teachers (NYSCT) with a degree in English and drama. After teaching high school for three years, she took a position in the New York Public Library's Central Children's Room, where she honed her storytelling skills.

Her first book, *The Little Carousel*, was published in 1946. Two years later, Brown received her first Caldecott honors for *Stone Soup*. Over the next four decades, she earned the Caldecott Medal – the most prestigious recognition the American Library Association (ALA) awards – for *Cinderella*, or *the Little Glass Slipper* (1955); *Once a Mouse* (1962); and

*Shadow* (1983). She earned the ALA's Honor Book designation for *Henry Fisherman*; *Dick Whittington and His Cat*; *Skipper John's Cook*; *Puss in Boots*; and *The Steadfast Tin Soldier*.

Several years ago, Brown named the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives the repository of her life's work. The Marcia Brown Collection includes her correspondence, manuscripts, watercolors, pastels, woodcuts, final art, books and puppets. She also provided funds for its maintenance and interpretation. All told, Brown's contributions to UAlbany during her lifetime, coupled with commitments made through her estate, will exceed \$1 million.

David Mitchell, curator of the University's Miriam Snow Mathes Historical Children's Literature Collection, described Brown as an "artist who was literate." He added: "She was able to absorb the spirit of a story, and then choose a medium and work in a style that captured that spirit."

Last April, the University community gathered in the Science Library's Standish Room to honor her at *Celebrating the Life of an Artist: Marcia Brown (1919-2015)*.



## Strengthening Support for People Experiencing Homelessness

Thanks to an additional \$150,000 grant awarded this summer by The New York Community Trust (NYCT), the School of Social Welfare's National Center for Excellence in Homeless Services will be able to expand upon the initiatives put in place in 2015 to address the needs of the homeless population.

Launched in 2013 and made possible, in part, with a \$50,000 anonymous gift to SSW, the center grew out of an existing partnership between the school and the Committee on the Shelterless (COTS) of California. John Records, founding co-director and senior adviser, is a UAlbany Public Service Professor who served as executive

director of COTS from 1992-2013.

Center director Heather Larkin, associate professor of social work, says the grant will build upon the \$100,000 NYCT grant awarded last year by the New York Community Trust to fund the National Homelessness Social Work Initiative.

The Homelessness Initiative partners with social-work programs nationally to build relationships with policymakers and providers to strengthen homeless services, disseminate knowledge and build research collaborations, and increase homelessness curricular content in social work.



# Where Are They Now?

By Carol Olechowski

Journalist **Tom Junod, B.A.'80** (“Reconnecting With *Alma Mater*,” Spring 2016), who’s won the National Magazine Award twice, has moved to *ESPN The Magazine* and ESPN.com to serve as a senior writer. During nearly two decades at *Esquire*, the Wantagh, N.Y., native earned acclaim for his poignant article “The Falling Man,” which was published after the 2001 attack on the World Trade Center; for personal essays; and for profiles of such celebrities as Kevin Spacey and Michael Stipe. More recently, Junod’s story “The Death of Patient Zero” was awarded the inaugural June L. Biedler Prize for cancer writing.



Hannah Brigida Infantiaco

In an ESPN news release announcing Junod’s hiring, the 11-time finalist for the National Magazine Award said: “No matter what subject I’m writing about, I’ve always liked to use my stories to ask larger questions that are of interest to me. Right now, in America 2016, there’s no subject more suited to the asking of provocative, challenging questions than sports. I’m honored to ask them for ESPN.”



Courtesy of Footwear News

**Adrienne Lazarus, B.A.'90** (“Finding the Right Career Path” Spring 2012,), has taken a step, so to speak, in a new direction: as CEO of The Frye Company. “I joined Frye 14 months ago because I was so drawn to the incredible opportunity to be able to write a chapter in America’s oldest footwear brand,” Lazarus, former president of Intermix and Ann Taylor, emailed in late July. “I saw so much potential

to transform it from a wholesale footwear company to a great American heritage brand with a much broader product selection and a multichannel approach to the business.”

Lazarus promises “a lot of excitement” for Fall 2016, as the company’s Modern Icons campaign and its product assortment “celebrate the original DNA of Frye while making our iconic styles modern and covetable for today.”

Frye will open several new stores in the U.S. by Dec. 31. Its first store opened in 1863 in Marlboro, Mass.

**A:** This alumna from the Class of 2004 appeared on “Jeopardy!” in January 2016 and won \$43,000.

**Q:** Who is Amelia Hershberger?

With practiced speed on the buzzer and a cool, calm demeanor, political-science graduate Amelia Hershberger outlasted her opponents in three games on the popular quiz show. Having grown up a fan of “Jeopardy!” Hershberger took the online test several times and auditioned in person twice. After her audition in early 2015, she made it onto the show.

“It was a great experience, and I’ve kept in touch with the people I played against,” said Hershberger. “The camaraderie on the show, regardless of how you perform, is overwhelmingly supportive and encouraging.” Despite the friendliness of competitors, Hershberger said you always have to remember that most of the time everyone knows the answer. “It’s a matter of being able to ring in quickly on the buzzer – that is key.”

What advice does Hershberger, who lives in Albany with her husband, Jason Porter '03, and young son, have for fellow alumni interested in trying out for the show? She recommends that you access the “Jeopardy!” online fan archives, commit to practicing, and brush up on your history and authors. “There always seem to be clues about Shakespeare!”

– Valerie DiRocco-Ruskin, M.P.A. '95



# Out and About

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

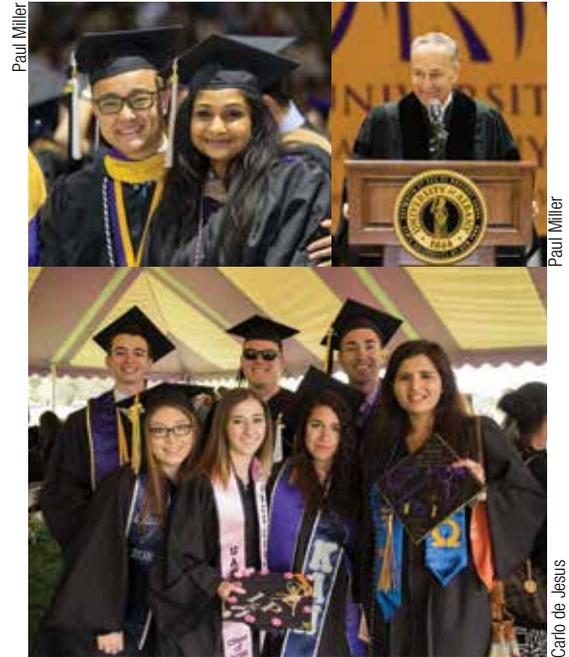
## Welcome to the Family!

More than 3,100 undergraduate and graduate students joined the UAlbany alumni family upon receiving their degrees Spring Commencement Weekend, May 13-15.

The 2016 undergraduate class hailed from 22 states and 20 countries, including China, France and Pakistan, and students received degrees in 56 different majors. Females made up 53 percent of the class, and 21 veterans graduated. The average student age was 23 – with the youngest graduating student 19 and the oldest 68.

Graduate students hailed from 22 states and 24 countries, including China, India and Saudi Arabia. The average age was 29; the youngest graduating student was age 21, and the oldest was 61. Seventeen veterans graduated.

UAlbany was honored to host longtime friend and supporter Sen. Chuck Schumer (N.Y.) at both the graduate and undergraduate ceremonies.



Paul Miller

Paul Miller

Carlo de Jesus



Carlo de Jesus

Carlo de Jesus

## Welcome, Class of 2020 and Proud Transfers!

On Friday, Aug. 26, the University at Albany welcomed more than 2,700 freshmen and almost 1,400 transfer students at the Opening Convocation. The SEFCU Arena was awash in gold, as incoming students heard from fellow student Madeeha Khan (anticipated graduation date 2018), President Robert J. Jones, and Vice Provost Jeanette Altarriba, who led faculty, staff, and students through statements of affirmation.

For the first time ever, all incoming students formed the letter “A” on Bob Ford Field at Casey Stadium for their all-class photo. Students later walked to the President’s Welcome Picnic, held on the Academic Podium.

# the creative life



## A Conversation Series at UAlbany

# UAlbany Magazine

Fall 2016, Volume 25, Number 2

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

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

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

Cover photo: Carlo de Jesus



## Savion Glover

Saturday, October 15 at 1pm  
Page Hall on the downtown campus

Dancer, choreographer & hooper  
Tony Award nominee & winner  
Broadway, television & film star

Please note: Savion will premiere his latest work at The Egg at 8pm that evening. Discounted tickets are available for UAlbany faculty, staff and students as well as Dance in Albany series package purchasers.



COURTESY OF SAVION GLOVER PRODUCTIONS

**Created and produced** by the University Art Museum, NYS Writers Institute and UAlbany Performing Arts Center in collaboration with WAMC Public Radio, this new series features leading figures from a variety of artistic disciplines in conversation about their creative inspirations, their craft and their careers. "Roundtable" host **Joe Donahue** conducts live on-stage interviews followed by a Q&A with the audience.

More events in the series will be added in the spring. **Watch for details!**

**For more information:**  
UAlbany Performing Arts Center Box Office,  
518-442-3997  
[www.albany.edu/pac/box\\_office\\_info.shtml](http://www.albany.edu/pac/box_office_info.shtml)



# GRACE CLAXTON

## Going Places

BY CAROL OLECHOWSKI



Getty Images



Bill Ziskin

**UAlbany track-&-field sensation Grace Claxton is going places. In fact, her athletic ability and determination have already taken her all the way to the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, where she competed in the women’s 400-meter hurdles – an event she took up only last year.**

Coach Roberto Vives “introduced me to the 400m hurdle, which we know will take me places,” Claxton says. “The first big stop was the Olympics. I can’t wait to see what’s next.”

The San Juan, Puerto Rico, native prepared for the summer games by doing “the usual: practice at the track, lifting weights at the gym, resting, and eating well-balanced meals.” In addition, “my coach kept pushing me and believing in me. Eventually, I started to believe that this event just might be the event I was supposed to be doing,” recalls Claxton, a senior public-health major and the University’s first female Olympian.

For Claxton, 23, the Summer Olympics capped a year of outstanding performances that included participation in the 2015 Pan American Games in Toronto. A fifth-place finish at the NCAA East Preliminary Championships in Florida last May, combined with a personal-best time of 55.90, earned her a berth in the NCAA Outdoor Championships and a spot on Puerto Rico’s Olympic team.

In Rio, Claxton placed 14th overall in a field of 24. She also

set a new personal-best time of 55.85. “I’m very happy how I ended my season,” she says.

Claxton transferred from Sagrado Corazón in San Juan to the University at Albany two years ago. “The UAlbany team goes to Puerto Rico every spring break to compete,” she notes, “and when I first saw them, I felt like I was with my family.”

The University is “a great school,” observes Claxton, who minors in business. “I love that the school is so diverse and everyone is friendly.” She also praises Vives as “a very humble and encouraging man. He treats everyone the same. No doubt he is the nicest person ever.”

Asked about her post-UAlbany plans, Claxton responds: “I haven’t made up my mind yet. I’m just taking it one day at a time.” In the meantime, she will continue training for the next Summer Olympics; “my goal is Toyko 2020.”

After stopping home briefly to visit family on her way back from Brazil, Claxton returned to UAlbany Aug. 28 for the start of the fall semester.



**In Rio, Claxton placed 14th overall in a field of 24. She also set a new personal-best time of 55.85. “I’m very happy how I ended my season,” she says.**

# Champions of Social Justice

Harold Vaughn, Ph.D., B.A.'50, M.A.'56

By Nick Muscavage, B.A.'16

**A**t UAlbany's predecessor institution, the New York State College for Teachers (NYSCT), social-studies major Harold Vaughn was known as Sparky – a name that stuck, he surmises, because of his athleticism. But more recently, he has lived up to his nickname by sparking global interest in addressing the issue of human trafficking in Southeast Asia.



The great-grandfather of 14 gives the impression that he's unstoppable. Vaughn spent 25 years as director of International Programs Abroad at Syracuse University, where he earned his doctorate, and another 10 as associate vice chancellor of Academic Affairs at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock. His impressive career also includes experience in international education with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

As he turns 90 Sept. 16, Vaughn has taken on a new commitment: spearheading a Rotary Club International project to rehabilitate victims of human trafficking. "It is a global problem," the Washington, D.C., resident notes. "We're talking about women and girls who need to begin by regaining their self-respect through a basic-survival training program, and then the training to be able to make a living."

The project will focus on refugees who are from Southeast Asian countries and living in Thai shelters while awaiting repatriation. "Like refugees everywhere, they are not always welcomed," says Vaughn. Outreach to victims in Laos and Shan State, Burma, is also planned, with program participants taught survival, employment and manufacturing skills. Eventually, it is anticipated, some will operate their own businesses.

The pilot project was organized by the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C., with its counterpart in Bangkok acting as the host. "We are now looking at a \$300,000 two-year budget," Vaughn explains, adding that one financial variable centers on "the amount of psychological support we need to provide and how to provide it."

Vaughn is raising funds for the project. He observes: "Trafficking in vulnerable women and girls is evil. Confronting it is not easy. We really have to work on this."

**At left: Harold Vaughn**

**Opposite page, scenes from Ethiopia: Pictured, from left, are the marketplace in Lalibela; Jack LaVigne and his mom, Alison; and the clinic in Suki.**

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## Jack LaVigne

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By Claudia Ricci, Ph.D. '96

A visit to Ethiopia last February opened Jack LaVigne's eyes to the country's poverty and deprivation. Many citizens in the capital of Addis Ababa were desperate for housing, food and medical care, and he was troubled at "the lack of closeness of people in exile, struggling to connect to a larger community."

LaVigne's experience in Ethiopia – part of a Christian mission – made him realize just how privileged he is. As an English major at UAlbany, he had spent the previous three years enjoying small classes and forming close-knit relationships with faculty and fellow students. "To be part of a community that grows and thinks together is so important, and I am so grateful!"

During his two-week stay in Ethiopia, LaVigne helped to set up "instant" medical clinics that delivered help to AIDS-infected people in Addis Ababa. He accompanied a nurse and a translator, going door to door in a slum called Suki, offering assistance and counseling, hygiene supplies and HIV drugs, as needed.

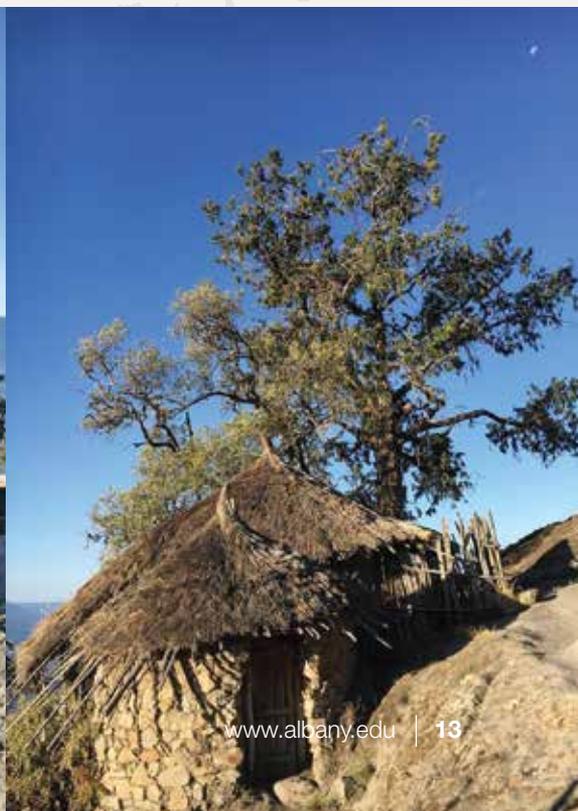
It was a challenge, LaVigne acknowledges, to keep the situation in perspective. "You go with it, you roll with what's happening, you're in it and you're helping people. You think something is being accomplished." But then comes the realization that the government has failed to provide for its people.

"We aren't able to do anything to help restructure the political situation or the economy, and that is so frustrating," LaVigne observes. At the same time that people are sick and starving, the Ethiopian government is focused on bringing big developers into Addis Ababa to modernize the city with large corporate buildings. "The discrepancy between the 99 percent and the 1 percent is all the more apparent in a third-world country."

At one morning devotional service, it was LaVigne's task to select a Bible verse. He chose "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." He spoke to the group about the frustration he felt working in the slums of the city. "What exactly will they be inheriting?" LaVigne asked. "And when exactly will it happen?"

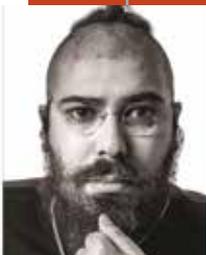
He is also pondering another question: Will his trip to Ethiopia affect his plans after graduation next May? LaVigne has tinkered with the idea of joining the Peace Corps; "it's definitely on my mind." He adds: "I don't know. It takes a lot of courage to devote that much of your life to something. It's really a great labor of love."

LaVigne is part of a UAlbany family. His father, Mark, earned a master's in communication in 2003 and is now enrolled in a doctoral program in the same department. LaVigne's mother, Alison, graduated with a master's in social work in 1997.



# Success Personified

Whether they go out into the world to teach, represent the interests of clients in the courtroom, or entertain us, UAlbany alumni combine their natural talents with the lessons they learned as students to succeed personally and professionally.



Luke Nikas, B.A.'04

# Resolving Complex Problems

By Sarah Ammerman, B.A.'01

**P**hilosophy was the most fitting major Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP partner Luke Nikas could have chosen as preparation for law school. Coupled with his psychology minor, philosophy emphasized critical thinking and the careful reading of complicated texts – all factors that come into play when he anticipates how the media will cover a trial, and how juries and judges may approach cases.

After graduating from UAlbany, Nikas continued his education at Harvard Law School. He spent one year clerking for a federal judge and then began litigating some of the highest-profile art cases and business disputes around the U.S.: defending the president of a Manhattan gallery that sold more than \$60 million in forged art – a case profiled on CBS' "60 Minutes"; representing the Andy Warhol Foundation in several matters involving the ownership and authenticity of Warhol paintings; and representing the Tisch family in a dispute over a stolen Pablo Picasso painting. Nikas' University at Albany education prepared him well for

these tough cases. "The small philosophy classes, and the accessibility of the professors, made it possible to engage in thoughtful discussions about highly complex problems," he notes.

As an undergraduate, Nikas also honed other talents. He sang with the University Chorale and recalls the "unbelievable experience" of performing Beethoven's Ninth Symphony at Proctors Theater in Schenectady. He was also a member of the Presidential Honor Society; the National Society of Collegiate Scholars; Phi Beta Kappa; and the Student Association Supreme Court, where he served as chief justice.

Nikas advises those considering a career in law: "Take as many classes in as many subjects as possible. On any given day, I'm interacting with art experts, economists, scientists, and historians. And never stop asking questions until you completely understand the facts. That is the only way you can bring the kind of texture to an argument, or a trial, that really moves people."



Peter Olson

S U C C E S S P E R S O N I F I E D

JOSH OSTROVSKY, B.A.'06

# Social Butterfly

By Jim Sciancalepore, M.A.'93

**K**aty Perry, Snoop Dogg and 9 million other people follow him on Instagram under the username @TheFatJewish. He's been a guest at a White House event where a joke about his hair earned a hearty laugh from President Obama. He co-launched a line of affordable wines called White Girl Rosé, which has sold more than 30,000 cases. He has officiated weddings and been hired to attend bar mitzvahs. And last February, he was paid handsomely to sit inside a giant vat of chili to promote Craftsman tools during the Super Bowl.

To say that Josh "The Fat Jew" Ostrovsky has taken a non-traditional life path is something of an understatement. Nonetheless, the former journalism major has carved out an impressive niche for himself. Whether you refer to him as a social-media icon, writer, actor, "plus-sized model" (his description) or marketing strategist, Ostrovsky is a savvy entrepreneur with a charmingly twisted sense of humor ... and clearly in the right place at the right time.

"I always knew I would do something different," said



Ostrovsky introduces his new book.



At the White House Correspondents' Dinner, he hobnobs with the Obamas.

Ostrovsky when describing his career aspirations from his UAlbany days.

He transferred to the University after previous stints at Skidmore College and NYU. Craving what he termed “a real college experience,” Ostrovsky was drawn to UAlbany’s sense of community. He built strong friendships here, including with a group of “Italian guys who brought their own deli meats from home – because they couldn’t get good capicola upstate.”

Ostrovsky credits University faculty with encouraging his creative instincts. In fact, his penchant for making outrageous videos and quirky social commentary dates back to his time in college.

“I was doing all the same stuff in college that I do now, but only my friends saw it,” noted Ostrovsky. “Now I get to share my ideas with millions of people.”

Ostrovsky has also learned how to monetize his quirky appeal. One of his primary sources of income is marketing himself and his large social-media following to some of the world’s best-known brands. From Bud Light to Burger

King, advertisers pay him to integrate their products into his Instagram and Snapchat feeds.

“They always start by saying, ‘Do something really crazy,’” said Ostrovsky with a laugh. “Then I make a few suggestions, and they usually want something less crazy.”

While social media has clearly played a major role in Ostrovsky’s success, and though he loves the Internet “more than my own family,” the multi-talented star believes that there is an increasing sense of “social-media burnout.”

“Real life is making a comeback,” predicted Ostrovsky. “People – especially millennials – are hungry for real-life experiences.”

That’s one of the reasons why Ostrovsky continues to pursue new creative and business interests, from winemaking to food and travel writing to developing ideas for a TV show.

“Every day is unexpected,” said Ostrovsky. “I never know where I’m going to end up.”



Ostrovsky gets a pedicure – and an interview – with Katie Couric.



Ostrovsky’s dog, Toast, has her own social-media fame.



BRANDON JAY MCLAREN, B.S.'02

# Born to Perform

By Claudia Ricci, Ph.D.'96

**I**t was the spring of his junior year at UAlbany, and Brandon Jay McLaren, a human-biology major recruited to play soccer, was headed straight toward medical school.

Then one night, he attended an *a capella* concert on campus.

“As I watched the show, I had a ‘Jesus moment,’” McLaren says. Recalling all the time he had spent in high school doing theatre, he realized that performing “is what I want to do.”

Having finished his pre-med classes, McLaren was free to study theatre. But he didn’t want to take beginning drama classes. An understanding faculty member, Marna Lawrence, let McLaren take 300-level classes. “She championed me,” he says. “She gave me a lot of guidance, and she broke all the rules.” McLaren soon earned a lead role in a campus production of *Flying West*.

Still, he confesses, it was a confusing time. “I kept asking myself, ‘Who are you?’ It was a crazy, crazy senior year!”

A native of Vancouver, British Columbia, McLaren graduated from UAlbany *cum laude*. He moved back home, found an agent and did commercials for a year. He also got a lead part in a play called *She’s the Man*.

In 2006, McLaren relocated to Los Angeles, where his career has blossomed. “I’ve been really fortunate,” he says.

Well known for his role as the Red SPD Power Ranger in “Power Rangers: SPD,” McLaren has appeared in more than three dozen films and television shows. His credits include Danny Brooks in “Harper’s Island” and Lenin in “Being Erica.” More recently, he portrayed Bennett Ahmed, a teacher suspected of murdering a female student, in “The Killing,” which was nominated for six Emmy awards.

CBS recently cast McLaren in a new drama, “Ransom.” Shooting has begun in Toronto.

For a horror production, the entire shoot has to be filmed in the dark, “so you’re working 8 p.m. to 9 a.m. five days a week.” Though the days can be long, McLaren loves his work. “I’m typically excited to go to work, because it’s always going to be different.”

His years at UAlbany, says McLaren, “were some of the best years of my life.” How did he manage to excel at his studies and soccer? “I had the same routine all four years,” McLaren remembers. “I was either in the library or on the soccer field. I got really serious for four years.”

CHERYL ABEL-HODGES, B.A.'86

# Fashion Sense

By Jim Sciancalepore, M.A.'93



**From political science ... to Justin Bieber's boxers.**

These seemingly incongruous topics merge in the dynamic career track of UAlbany graduate and fashion executive Cheryl Abel-Hodges.

The former poli-sci major is president of The Underwear Group and Global Calvin Klein Underwear. She oversees the underwear and intimate business segments for PVH, the apparel giant behind such iconic fashion brands as Calvin Klein, Tommy Hilfiger and IZOD – contributing to annual sales north of \$8 billion.

Calvin Klein Underwear is commonly associated with provocative marketing campaigns featuring celebrity endorsers, such as Kendall Jenner and the aforementioned Bieber. Behind the scenes, however, Abel-Hodges and her team manage the business side of the brand – from helping design and production to devising global market strategies.

She has been with PVH for a decade, following stints at Polo Ralph Lauren, Liz Claiborne and May Merchandising Company (part of May Department Stores, which merged with Macy's in 2005).

It all began when the onetime aspiring attorney took what she thought would be a minor career detour after graduating from UAlbany: She enrolled in the Bloomingdale's Executive Training Program.

"I actually thought I would go to law school, but once I started working at Bloomingdale's ... I realized that I loved it," explained Abel-Hodges. As a longtime aficionado of clothing, shoes and accessories, she decided to pursue her passion and chart her own path in the retail and wholesale fashion industry.

"It's a sector where nothing ever stays the same, which is both exciting and challenging," said Abel-Hodges. "You learn something new every day."

She mentioned that "managing great teams, growing great brands and working with great retail partners" are among her favorite things about her current role.

The proud mother of two college students credits UAlbany with giving her "a great educational foundation" and says that "I loved my time and experience there."

**IZOD**

TOMMY  HILFIGER

Calvin Klein  
underwear

RICHARD GOODSTONE, B.S.'95

# Building Bonnaroo

By Jim Sciancalepore, M.A.'93



From its inception in 2002, Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival has blossomed into one of the nation's largest music festivals. More than a million passionate fans have attended the four-day event, held annually in Manchester, Tenn. It has been headlined by such music legends as Bruce Springsteen, Paul McCartney, Elton John and Stevie Wonder. The festival even has its own Ben & Jerry's flavor: Coffee Caramel Buzz.

It all comes back to an audacious idea hatched by four friends in a New Orleans apartment. (The festival's name was inspired by New Orleans culture. It means "best on the street" in French Creole.) One was of those friends and dreamers was Richard Goodstone, UAlbany graduate.

Goodstone is one of the co-founders of Superfly Productions, the experiential

marketing firm that developed and launched Bonnaroo. The festival is unique in that it celebrates a broad array of musical styles – rock, jazz, hip hop, etc. – along with comedy, visual arts, and even educational topics like sustainability and the environment.

Goodstone and his Superfly partners were inspired by some of the large music festivals in Europe, such as the U.K.'s Glastonbury Festival, and they saw an opportunity to replicate that model in the United States. He also credits the convergence of online music communities and "the iPod generation" with spurring interest in their multi-genre music festival.

"We were able to tap into the digitally connected grassroots community, and it just took off from there," said Goodstone. "We had the right idea at the right time."

Beyond Bonnaroo, Superfly produces innovative marketing efforts for a variety of major brands, from JetBlue to Tomy toys – all driven by a more experiential or interactive approach, in contrast to traditional advertising media, such as TV or print ads.

"We are a catalyst for positive feelings," explained Goodstone. "We are building experiences, moments, memories in a person's life. It's very enriching."

Goodstone said that he feels fortunate to work with his best friends at Superfly on a daily basis, and that his work never feels like a job. "We work, play and laugh hard," he noted.

The married father of two described his UAlbany experience as formative for his career because it gave him a strong marketing foundation. He also credits the University with introducing him to jazz.

"I was taking a jazz class, and our teacher played 'First Light' by Freddie Hubbard," recalled Goodstone. "It was a profound experience for me."

Through Bonnaroo and other Superfly efforts, Goodstone is now helping others enjoy similar life-shaping experiences.



Andrew Jorgensen



Andrew Jorgensen



Andrew Jorgensen



Andrew Jorgensen

### BONNAROO 2016 LINEUP

CREATE A SCHEDULE | BY DISCOVER BONNAROO PLAYLIST

2016 | Headlines First | SHARE

PEARL JAM • DEAD & COMPANY (2 SETS) • LCD SOUNDSYSTEM • J. COLE • ELLIE GOULDING  
 MACKLEMORE & RYAN LEWIS • TAMI IMPALA (LATE NIGHT) • DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE • M83 • HAIM  
 HALSEY • WEEN • JASON ISBELL • CHVRCHES • MIGUEL • CHRIS STAPLETON • JUDD APATOW  
 BOYSON TILLER • THE CHAINSMOKERS  
 SUPERJAM® HEART, SOUL & SPIRIT • A TRIBUTE TO TENNESSEE FEATURING KAMASI WASHINGTON & FRIENDS  
 BIG GRAMS (BIG BOI • PHANTOGRAM) • BAND OF HORSES • LEON BRIDGES • GRACE POTTER  
 FATHER JOHN MISTY • ADAM DEVINE • PURITY RING • VANESSA BAYER  
 THE CLAYPOOL LENNON DELIRIUM • TWO DOOR CINEMA CLUB • SAM HUNT • FLOSSTRADAMUS  
 ZEDS DEAD • PETE DAVIDSON • ADVENTURE CLUB • TYLER THE CREATOR • GRIZ  
 CHARLES BRADLEY & HIS EXTRAORDINAIRES • LAMB OF GOD • NATHANIEL RATELIFF & THE NIGHT SHEATS  
 BRIDGET EVERETT • KURT VILE & THE VIOLATORS • BLOOD ORANGE • LORD HURON • RL GRIME  
 THE BLUEGRASS SITUATION SUPERJAM® FEATURING ED HELMS AND FRIENDS • X AMBASSADORS  
 ST. LUCIA • PIFF THE MAGIC DRAGON • LUCIUS • VINCE STAPLES • THIRD EYE BLIND • JOHN EARLY  
 CYHANDE • MISTERWIVES • SEAN RATTON • CLUTCH • GOLDLINK • LETTUCE • NATE BARGATZE  
 CASHIERE CAT • ALICE WETTERLUND • THE GODDAMN COMEDY JAM • FIDLAR • IBEVI • KEYS N KRATES  
 ADARNA NANCHERLA • SAM BUSH BAND • THE WOOD BROTHERS • SAINT MOTEL • DAUGHTER  
 THE FLOOZIES • BETH STELLING • MARIAN HILL • KAMASI WASHINGTON • BØRNS • POST MALONE  
 BOB MOSES • ADAM RAY • SHAMIR • ALLEN STONE • BRETT DENNEN • OH WONDER • JOSH RABINOWITZ  
 BOY & BEAR • DUNGEN • JOVELLE NICOLE • JUDAH & THE LION • STEVE GUNN  
 STEEP CANYON RANGERS • THE OH HILLDS • THE INTERNET • JOHN MORELAND • ANDRIA DAY



Andrew Jorgensen

S U C C E S S P E R S O N I F I E D

ANTHONY ESCAMILLA, B.A.'16; JORDAN DILAPO, B.S.'16; AND JAKE RUTH, B.S.'16



YOUNI, INC., CO-FOUNDERS AND RECENT GRADUATES ANTHONY ESCAMILLA, JORDAN DILAPO AND JAKE RUTH TOOK FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE BENEFITS THE BLACKSTONE LAUNCHPAD PROGRAM OFFERS. THE BLACKSTONE CHARITABLE FOUNDATION EXPANDED ITS ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM TO UALBANY IN EARLY 2016.

# Living Their Dream

**W**hile most UAlbany students slept through the frigid nights of Winter 2016, a trio of budding entrepreneurs papered lecture centers, residential quads and the Academic Podium with flyers promoting their new startup. Anthony Escamilla, Jordan DiLapo and Jake Ruth, the team behind millennial-focused photo-sharing social app Youni, Inc., remember those 3 a.m. flyer bombs well – because their marketing strategy worked.

With support from their families, friends, faculty and alumni, Escamilla, DiLapo, and Ruth drove student exposure and launched the Youni app at UAlbany in February. Winnings from three local and national Blackstone LaunchPad grant competitions have enabled them to continue their business pursuits full time. Last June, the entrepreneurs packed up their temporary post-graduate homes on friends' floors and couches and settled in the heart of New York's Tech Valley. They are now living their dream, with an apartment in Troy just feet away from their workspace.

For Escamilla and DiLapo, the dream has been a long time coming. The two met as transfer students and athletes, and shared similar interests in business and social-media networking. They noticed a communication gap between companies and millennials, and connected with app developer (and third co-founder) Ruth in 2015 to begin pursuing their dream of becoming experts in millennial advertising. "When you tell millennials to buy a product and they reject it, they influence friends to do the same," DiLapo says.

The Youni app, which is based on social photo sharing and fueled by user-driven engagement "scores," is a pipeline for marketers and advertisers to effectively connect with a generation that tends to be driven away by the noise geared toward other demographics on popular social-media channels. "This is a space everyone in the business is trying to figure out," explains Escamilla. "We understand the millennial demographic and what attracts them to products because we are a part of the demographic. The Youni app works well for millennials because it gives them a space to connect with peers on their respective college campuses, as well as with brands that speak to them."

While attaining success through the Blackstone LaunchPad program and Blackstone business competitions, Youni, Inc., has won several additional competitions, including the Patashnick Entrepreneurial Challenge, created by Harvey Patashnick '67. The company was also recently included in the IgniteU-NY accelerator program.

Youni's future is bright. With the help of student interns, the app will relaunch at the University this fall. To generate interest from potential investors, the team will also partner with five to 10 additional college campuses and develop relationships with campus brand ambassadors by December.

Those 3 a.m. wake-up calls will not stop anytime soon, and the Youni team wouldn't have it any other way.

# “A Reciprocal Experience”

By Mike S. Nolan, B.S.'12

As a University at Albany junior completing a semester abroad, Chante Mayers-Barbot fell in love with South Africa. Thanks to a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant (ETA) scholarship, she'll return there in January to spend nearly a full year as a United States cultural ambassador – an opportunity that will allow her to immerse herself in the country's way of life and customs while imparting some valuable linguistic skills to her students.

During her earlier visit, Mayers-Barbot tutored and mentored young children, an “amazing” experience. Her goal during her 10-month stay in 2017 will be to “learn as much as I teach, while increasing mutual understanding” between the U.S. and South Africa.

“Someone's socioeconomic status can greatly affect the resources or opportunities available to them,” Mayers-Barbot said. “I believe that education is the most effective way for social change and development of a society.”

Mayers-Barbot, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., was an Educational Opportunities Program (EOP) student and a sociology major at UAlbany. A tutor in the University's Science & Technology Entry Program (STEP) and a member of Chi Alpha Epsilon and Alpha Kappa Delta honor societies, she was also a volunteer for Bottom Line, a non-profit that encourages low-income and first-generation students to enroll and remain in college.

The Fulbright program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.



MANJIT SINGH, M.S.'92

# An Agile Approach

**M**anjit Singh is an expert at getting people and businesses “unstuck.”

Singh is president and founder of Agilious, a consulting firm that specializes in applying Agile-Lean principles to business challenges. Agilious helps a wide range of organizations strengthen their “agility DNA” – to take a more innovative, efficient approach to everything from product development to digital strategy.

“I enjoy driving transformation,” explained Singh. “We help clients see tangible results ... often in just a few weeks.”

Singh’s immersion in agile principles began after he earned his M.S. degree at UAlbany. He spent the next decade working in IT and software development. Seeking greater challenges and wishing to get himself “unstuck,” Singh started taking on more of a consulting role with clients. This experience gave him “the entrepreneur bug,” leading him to form Agilious in 2013. The company now employs nine consultants in the Washington, D.C., metro area.

“I love what I’m doing ... I’m having fun,” said Singh.

In addition to his career success, the married father of two demonstrates agility in his personal life – coaching soccer, traveling and staying actively involved in his community. A native of Mumbai, India, Singh first arrived in the United States in 1990, when he enrolled at UAlbany. He has since formed a strong connection to his adopted country – and he feels a deep responsibility to give back.

In 1996, Singh co-founded the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF),

protecting the rights of Sikh Americans through advocacy, education, legal assistance and accurate portrayal of the Sikh religion. He currently serves as board chair.

Because of his work with SALDEF, Singh was tapped last May to guide another high-profile organization: the White House Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships. In this volunteer position, he works to build bridges between the federal government and non-profit organizations to better serve Americans in need. It’s yet another way that Singh is helping people think differently – and get “unstuck.”

“It’s quite an honor to serve the president and this country,” he noted proudly.

Singh’s American experience can be traced back to UAlbany, where he “felt very welcome” because of the University’s large international student population and the support he received from faculty.

“It was an important experience that set me up for success,” said Singh. “They gave me an extraordinary foundation.”



# Student Spotlight

By Margaret Hartley

## JUSTIN PEGUEROS | Doctor Data

Justin Pegueros got his first sense of what doctors do when he was a kid, trotting after his mother at her job as a Spanish-language interpreter at Stanford University Medical Center in Palo Alto, Calif.

“I remember seeing the patients and doctors interact as my mother interpreted,” Pegueros recalled. “I learned to think of doctors as secret keepers, confidants and nurturers – and I think that appealed to me more than the medical science.”

Pegueros eventually decided he wanted the medical science, but with a deep focus on patient care. That’s why the 26-year-old California native chose a dual-degree program, and is working toward his M.D. at Albany Medical College and a master of public health (M.P.H.) at UAlbany’s School of Public Health (SPH).

“The two programs enhance each other,” Pegueros said. “In my opinion, physicians should be well versed on the policies that govern their patients’ care. The public-health program offered me ways to influence health policy and gave me a conceptual framework for the health behavior of patients. This will help me tailor my interventions to patients at different stages of health decision making.”

At SPH, Pegueros completed a six-month internship with the Health Information Exchange of New York (Hixny), developing a system to track patients with hypertension or diabetes and send medical alerts to health-care providers. Hixny is working with SPH and the New York State Department of Health (DOH) to determine how health-information exchange data can support health initiatives.

Pegueros was named project coordinator, working under Hixny Vice President Scott Momrow, M.P.H.’97, as well as with DOH officials and clinical consultants. The team had to determine what information was needed – for instance, lab tests, vital signs, diagnoses, treatments – and cull that from health-information exchanges. Then the information had to be coded so that changes could be tracked by clinicians.

The Hixny internship ended in June.

Pegueros hasn’t yet decided whether to focus on obstetrics and gynecology, family practice or another specialty, but he knows what he’s gained at SPH and understands how his internship will impact the way he practices medicine. “I am much more equipped to tackle public-health and health-policy problems related to health-information technologies, which will undoubtedly play a big role in how doctors care for patients,” said Pegueros.



Mark Schmidt



Paul Miller

## CIDNY RAMIREZ

### Transforming Typhoons Into Applied Learning

As Super Typhoon Nepertak approached Taiwan in early July, UAlbany junior Cidny Ramirez knew she was living her dream.

The Colombia native was studying abroad in Taipei, Taiwan's capital, as the University's first National Science Foundation (NSF) Partnership in International Research and Education (PIRE) grant recipient.

"I saw hurricanes on TV for the first time after moving to America," Ramirez remembered. "I think they are so majestic and beautiful, while also powerful and deadly. It's an amazing combination that awes me."

Through a U.S.-Taiwan consortium, UAlbany's PIRE project was developed in September 2015 to advance research in early-warning weather detection of major storms. Led by the University's Atmospheric Sciences Research Center (ASRC), the program collaborates closely with disaster and weather-forecast agencies in both countries.

Ramirez was an ideal candidate for UAlbany's first PIRE grant, given her double major in atmospheric science and Chinese studies. Under the leadership of program coordinator Danielle Leonard, she spent six weeks in Taipei. All of her

living expenses and research experiences were paid during her stay, which ran from July 2 until Aug. 13.

Luckily, Ramirez was not directly in Nepertak's path, but she did experience a milder version of the Category-5 cyclone. She was able to examine its impact, along with the destruction past major typhoons have wreaked on Taiwan. One of them was Typhoon Morakot, which was responsible for more than 500 deaths in 2009.

"I want to be able to help people in countries where hurricanes are a major threat," explained Ramirez, who plans to pursue a Ph.D. after graduating from UAlbany and aspires to work for the U.S. government's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The recipient of the 2016-17 *Jane Heath Takas and Andrew Takas Scholarship* is grateful for the study-abroad experience. "UAlbany offers so many unique ways to advance your education outside of the classroom. You just need to go out and look for them," Ramirez noted.

"Being proactive and open to new things is the best way for us to grow as students."



**48** **Eileen Abrams Pettersen** is living at Coburg Village, Rexford, N.Y., is still driving, and has a great-granddaughter. She and **Wanda Tomasiak Methe** of Cohoes visit each other on a regular basis. Family and friends surprised **Adrienne Iorio Caruso** with a 90th-birthday celebration. Adrienne lives in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., is doing well and remains active. **Rita Shapiro Schwartz** of Hillsboro Beach, Fla., enjoys spending time with her four children and three grandchildren, participates in a yoga program called “sit and chat” and volunteers for the AARP program “Carfit.” **Julia Genovesi Fassett** of Cherry Valley, N.Y., celebrated her 90th birthday with a gala party. She has three children and five grandchildren. **George Poulos** of Rye Brook, N.Y., is doing well, enjoying his four children and three grandchildren. **Wilma**

**Diehl** of Massapequa, N.Y., no longer travels but enjoys many visitors, and keeps up with Albany news. **Rosemary Ryan McGraw** of Voorheesville, N.Y., spent the summer in Lake George. Her daughter and son-in-law live with her, and she spends time with three great-grandchildren. **B.J. Chase** and Chuck, **Clara Sylvestri Beninati**, and **Annalee Levine Ginsberg** have updated mailing addresses; your class counselor can provide this information upon request. **Joan Sittner Sherwood** of Richland, Wash., reports the Central Protestant Church has been placed on the Washington State Historic Building registry, a project she has worked on diligently. Class co-councilor **Gari Deliganis Patocopoulos** recently traveled from Florida to New Jersey to attend a grandson’s graduation at Fairleigh Dickinson University. She traveled to Albany to see her great-grandson.

There are now four generations in her family. **Eleanor Holbig Alland** will celebrate her 90th birthday with a family reunion on Cape Cod. She enjoyed lunch with **Jane O’Brien O’Brien**, Jean Spencer Bourgeois ’49, Dolores Donnelly ’54 and her brother, Bob Donnelly ’52. Sadly, your class councilor must report our class members **Mary J. Giovannonne Caruso**, **Irma Rosen Toplansky**, **Ruth M. Hurr**, and **Arlene Lavender Kaplan** have passed on.

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

**49** **Bob Kloepfel** was very saddened by the death of close friend **Nolan Powell**, who passed away in February 2016. Bob is still fixing computers. **Bonnie Adkins** recently celebrated her husband Lee’s 90th birthday at a surprise dinner with family and friends.

Bonnie and Lee celebrated the college graduations of three grandchildren from RPI, the University of Florida and McGill University in Montreal in May, and enjoyed a 14-day bus tour of nine national parks in June. They spent four days at the annual New England United Methodist conference in Manchester, N.H.

**Bob Baker** will celebrate his 90th birthday in October, and his wife, Isabel Cooper Baker '48, will be 89. Bob jokingly reports that they spend all their time going to doctors. They have 12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. **Jerry Dunn** fell and fractured two ribs in Spring 2016. His wife, Shirley Wiltse Dunn '50, wrote a book about Fort Crailo, a historic building in Rensselaer. The book is published by Black Dome Press. **Jean Pulver Hague** sadly reports that her husband, who had been ill for some time, passed away in April. One grandson graduated from Clermont McKenna College in California, and another is attending the University of Michigan. One granddaughter graduated from the University of Connecticut and will be pursuing a Ph.D. in psychology at Rutgers. Another granddaughter made Jean a great-grandmother this year. **Bob Kaiser** and Mary Ann celebrated the birth of their first great-grandchild, Audrey, in February. In April, they attended a four-day family celebration of their grandson's California wedding. **Jack Kirby** reports that his entire 35-year math-teaching career was spent at Brockport Central School, where he held the position of department head for 27 years. His wife, Jeanne Ashcraft, died in 1983. They had one son who was an editor for the *Rochester Democrat* and *Chronicle*. Jack later married Sally, who taught French at the same school, and they are happily settled in Sarasota, Fla. Jack plays trumpet in the Suncoast Concert Band, which holds a concert every other Sunday September through May. He describes the 65-member band as "mostly professional" (he's one of the non-professionals), average age 74. He is the oldest member. **Bob Kittredge** escaped unscathed from a serious

automobile accident while on his way to donate blood. His mini SUV was rear-ended by a Lexus, and both cars were demolished beyond repair. Bob reports that rumors of his demise have been greatly exaggerated. After a successful 12-year run, his son David had to close his San Francisco restaurant, a place the Kittredge family will miss as it was a common location for get-togethers and celebrations. **Freddy Laemmerzahl Miller** traveled from Stillwater, Okla. to Tampa to attend a granddaughter's wedding. In May a tornado hit Stillwater, but Freddy was unharmed. **Ursula Neuhaus Schiff**'s entire family celebrated her 90th birthday in Sarasota. **Betsy** and **Jake Schuhle** visited their granddaughter in the D.C. area over the Memorial Day weekend and had a great time sight-seeing. They will celebrate their 68th wedding anniversary in September. Jake will turn 92 in October. **Anne Sulich Raser** had a memorable Mother's Day with her son Richard, who took her to the Kirk Douglas Theater in Culver City, Calif., to see Samuel Beckett's *Endgame*. **Joe Zanchelli** and Joyce Zanchelli '52 celebrated their grandson's graduation from Eastern University in Wayne, Pa., in May, and celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with a weeklong family get-together at Blue Water Farm on the banks of Chesapeake Bay, Md., in June.

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

**50 Lila Lee Harrington** continues to be involved in several activities at Prestwick Chase, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. She had a wonderful two-week visit with her daughter, Leslie, in Scottsdale, Ariz., in May. They viewed Western art at the Phoenix Art Museum; spent three days in Sedona, Flagstaff, and the Grand Canyon; and visited Williams, Ariz., where their attempt to experience zip-lining went awry due to rain. "It was on my bucket list," said Lila. Just before Christmas, Lila came down with a serious case of shingles and took two months to



## A Message from Lee Serravillo

Executive Director, UAlbany Alumni Association

As we welcome the Class of 2020 this fall, it's important to remember the influential role alumni play in the success of a student's experience at UAlbany. Our alumni support system – now over 173,000 strong – is one of the most valuable resources students have access to. In April 2016, we celebrated the accomplishments and dedication of 13 Excellence Award recipients at the annual Gala. Among them was Timothy Murphy '77, honored for excellence in alumni service. His acceptance speech brought a standing ovation not only because Tim is a very loved and admired man in the UAlbany community, but because his powerful words resonated with everyone in the room:

*"Benjamin Franklin once said, 'Genius without education is like silver in the mine.' This quote captures perfectly why I became involved at UAlbany. I have always resented lost opportunity. The contributions of how many of our citizens have gone unrealized because they were never given the opportunity to mine their silver?"*

*"Joining the Alumni Association and working with them and the University provides an opportunity for you to provide opportunities to others. It helps us to ensure that the lost opportunities are as few as possible. Career advice is always being sought by students, as are networking opportunities, post-graduation career services, sharing your knowledge and job experiences via classroom lectures and symposia, and even sometimes just offering your ear for a student to bend to get your perspective on the career path they've chosen for themselves. It all helps. It all*

*makes a difference in their lives. The students need our help. The students need our guidance. The students need us as much as we will be needing them because, as we all know, they are the future and their success will be our success."*

– Timothy Murphy '77



# Alumni News & Notes



One hundred local baseball-loving alumni gathered for UAAlbany Night at the ValleyCats at Joe Bruno Stadium in July.

recover. She is no longer driving, and is trying to adjust. She found other ways to get around, including friends; the Prestwick Chase bus; and the Office of the Aging, which takes her to doctors' appointments in Glens Falls, N.Y. She keeps in touch with **Maggie Hosking Winne** and **Jeanne Bowen**

**Walsh**. Maggie visited Lila in July. They enjoyed the "Upbeat on the Roof" concert at Skidmore College. They're planning a September trip to the coast for their "lobster feed." Lila is also planning a trip to Quebec City, visiting relatives in Vermont along the way. **Malcolm Slakter** and wife Nancy

live in Hawaii. Their granddaughter graduated from Northwest Guilford High School in Greensboro, N.C., and will attend college in the fall. Their grandson, David, also a student at Northwest Guilford, attended MIT's Summer Launch Program this year. Malcolm celebrated his 87th birthday

and his and Nancy's 30th wedding anniversary this summer. They will celebrate Nancy's birthday in the fall. **Harold (Sparky) Vaughn** continues to work on an anti-human trafficking project focused on Thailand and Laos that involves the rotary clubs of Bangkok and Washington D.C., the NOMI Network, and Thai-based Alliance Anti-Trafficking. He is writing a book centered around the 15th-century Congiura dei Pazzi and the 20th-century Grande Guerra Battle of Caporetto. Harold will be in Syracuse for a family reunion and his 90th birthday in September, and plans to spend one month in Florence, Italy, in the fall. With the help of a defibrillator, **Audrey White Hartman** leads an active life following a major heart attack in 2013. She went on a Danube River cruise with her sister, her brother and his wife last summer. Audrey's granddaughter, who works in a hospital in Ohio, is expecting Audrey's second great-grandchild in December. Audrey's grandson is studying for a PA at Baylor Medical School in Houston. Her granddaughter lives in a condo with him and is exploring graduate

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPT.	OCT.	NOV.
<p><b>17</b> Great Dane Game Day (UAAlbany football vs. Holy Cross)</p> <p><b>24</b> Great Dane Game Day (UAAlbany football vs. St. Francis)</p>	<p><b>7-9</b> Homecoming</p> <p><b>8</b> Great Dane Game Day (UAAlbany football vs. Richmond)</p> <p><b>9</b> GOLD Brunch</p> <p><b>15</b> Jason De Joy Memorial Run</p> <p><b>19</b> Boston Alumni Networking Reception</p> <p><b>26</b> NYC Happy Hour</p> <p><b>29</b> Great Dane Game Day (UAAlbany football vs. Elon)</p>	<p><b>5</b> Great Dane Game Day (UAAlbany football vs. Delaware)</p> <p><b>19</b> Great Dane Game Day (UAAlbany football vs. Stony Brook)</p> <p><b>19</b> Men's Basketball Pregame Party, Mohegan Sun</p> <p><b>27</b> UAAlbany vs. Siena Men's and Women's Basketball Games, SEFCU Arena</p>

**For additional events and details, visit [www.alumni.albany.edu](http://www.alumni.albany.edu)**

schools in Houston. Audrey's last grandchild is a freshman in college. Audrey keeps in contact with Elly Adams Rapacz, who lives in Ocala, Fla. **Shirley Wiltsie Dunn** was honored with a proclamation of appreciation by Today's Mohican Nation. She is the author of three books about the Mohicans: *The Mohicans and Their Land*, *The Mohican World*, and *The River Indians: Mohicans Making History*, and is the editor of three books of conference papers on Native Americans for the New York State Museum. Shirley has been recognized by the New Netherland Project and was honored as a Fellow by the Holland Society of New York. Her critically acclaimed publication *Fort Crailo and the Van Rensselaers*, *The Dutch Colonial Origins of Greenbush & the City of Rensselaer* chronicles 350 years of the Capital Region landmark.

*Class notes counselor: Harold Vaughn, vaughnha@aol.com*

**52 Jane Minckler Jennings** spent a week at her granddaughter's home in Lynchburg, Va., in April and enjoyed the summer on Block Island. Her grandson's wedding is in September. **Bert Jablon** and wife Myra visited Philadelphia as part of the Road Scholar program. **Vickie Eade Eddy** still spends summers in Olean, N.Y., and winters in Yuma, Ariz. She has grandchildren in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Florida and New York. **Madeline Weitlauf Huchro** finished chemotherapy and is back to good health. **Kitty Kloser Irons'** son, Joe, is in the process of getting his book, *Phalanx Against the Divine Wind*, published. The book is about the naval war in the Pacific during World War II. Joe was recently featured on the cover of national magazine *Pharmacy Today*, and his work with Rutland Hospital was highlighted in the publication. Kitty's granddaughter was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and graduated *magna cum laude* from St. Michael's College in Burlington, Vt. **Jeanne Hayes Coyne** attended the graduation ceremonies of three

of her grandchildren this past spring. **Al Stevenson** finally retired and is in good health, despite a bout with pneumonia. He plans to spend some time with family in upstate New York. **Maureen Davis Mullin** of Santa Barbara, Calif., reports that her whole family – three sons and their spouses, and seven grandchildren – live nearby. Maureen retired from teaching and plans to volunteer as an English teacher for Spanish-speaking individuals in a local hospital, and in a low-income housing complex. She plans to visit a friend in Berlin, Germany, and spend a week with family at Yosemite National Park. In her teaching career, Maureen taught some now-famous celebrities, including Josh Brolin and Joan Baez. **John Bowker** has been suffering from medical issues after being bitten by a virus-carrying mosquito in Cuba. He is slowly recovering and will begin outpatient rehabilitation. Following successful surgery, radiation treatment and four rounds of chemotherapy, **Shirley Feinstein Rosenbaum** is in the clear and has returned to substitute teaching and playing in the orchestra. She is membership director of the League of Women Voters. Shirley recently attended the bar mitzvah of her grandson, who attends a Spanish immersion school and plays cello. Her granddaughter plays violin and is spending the summer in France. Tom Holman is enjoying life in Naples, Fla., and St. Maarten. **Jean Greenshields Burns** was re-elected to the governing board of Friends of the New York State Library. **Joyce Leavitt Zanchelli** received multiple joint replacements during her second knee replacement in February. She and husband Joe celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with their entire family on the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland in June. This year's *Class of 1952 Scholarship* recipient was Megan McGrath '17, a math and statistics major. If you give to UAlbany and would like your contribution to benefit the 1952 scholarship fund, please make that specific request. Save the date for our 65th-year class

reunion Sept. 15-17, 2017.

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

**53** Hello, Red Devils! Your class counselor recently enjoyed lunch with **Hank Koszewski** of Hawaii, who was on his annual visit to the mainland to visit his older sister. **Priscilla Jones Bour** is retired from teaching in Phelps, Brighton, and Penfield schools in New York State. She had a Fulbright Scholarship to study in Paris in 1955-1956. Priscilla lives at St.

John's Meadows in Brighton, N.Y., and was a church organist for 60 years. In her letter, Priscilla told me about life at the senior independent-living residence and I became interested enough to visit with my son. I was so impressed, I requested notification when an apartment becomes available. I later visited Priscilla, as we had not seen each other since our college graduation! **Jordine Skoff Von Wantoch** spent time with her daughter in Honolulu. Jordine and her late husband, Harvey, spent their honeymoon in Kaua'i in 1967.

## Sorority & Fraternity Coffee Hour

Saturday, Oct. 8

10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m. ~ Alumni House

Calling all Greeks: Alpha Epsilon Phi, Alpha Pi Alpha, Beta Zeta, Chi Sigma Theta, Edward Eldred Potter Club, Gamma Kappa Phi, Kappa Beta, Kappa Delta, Kappa Delta Rho, Phi Delta, Psi Gamma, Sigma Alpha, Sigma Lambda Sigma, Sigma Phi Sigma, Theta Xi Omega, and others

Join us for coffee and conversation at the Alumni House! Meet up with your sisters and brothers and reminisce about your NYSCT days this Homecoming.

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



# Alumni News & Notes

She recently was in New York for the opening of *Bright Star*, a show originated at the Old Globe Theatre, San Diego. Jordine, who is on the board of directors at the Globe, had cocktails with Steve Martin and Edie Brickell. She would like to invite any Red Devils in the San Diego area to the Old Globe. **Doug Nielsen** and wife Gail celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary this past April. He remains active at church and is involved in his Masonic lodge. He and Gail enjoy traveling to see family, volunteering at the local public library, teaching school groups at Erie Canal Park, reading, tending to their annual garden and staying active in their town's historical society. They visit their two great-granddaughters regularly to read and play with them, and enjoy their

mother's "wicked latte." **Herb Their** and wife Marlene enjoyed a summer cruise from England to St. Petersburg, Russia. They are co-chairs of the Israel and World Jewry Committee at Temple Isaiah, Lafayette, Calif. Herb writes a weekly column, "Good News from Israel," that is distributed electronically and in print to their 900 member families and those attending services on Friday nights. The purpose is to present the positive side of the news from Israel that never seems to appear in the media. Herb's recent work can be found on our class Facebook page. **Louise Petfield Burns** still plays piano and occasionally sings a solo at church. She says her range is much more limited and most definitely much lower than in college days! Louise enjoys knitting hats for charity.

## Celebrate with us as we honor the Blue Jays' Class of 1966 50th-year Reunion, Oct. 7-9

Join us at the Welcome Reception, Homecoming Breakfast, reunion dinner, luncheon at WT's, downtown campus tour and many more exciting events during Homecoming.

To reconnect with the Class of 1966, visit the Facebook page exclusively for '66 alums: <http://facebook.com/groups/UAlbany66>.

**Class of 1966 Reunion Website:**  
[www.alumni.albany.edu/1966](http://www.alumni.albany.edu/1966)

## Excellence Awards 2017 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



Recognize alumni and friends of the University for their outstanding achievements and service. More details and nomination forms are available at [www.alumni.albany.edu/awards](http://www.alumni.albany.edu/awards).

The nomination deadline is Oct. 14, 2016.

Two of her daughters visited her in Colorado this year. Louise hopes to travel back East this fall as it's been several years since she's seen her brother and his family. The views of Pikes Peak and the front range of the Rockies keep her in Colorado. **Jean Ogden Hardick** and husband Frank are doing okay, taking their meds and doing what they can. They took their 19-year-old granddaughter to Glacier Park in Spring 2016. **Donald Stine** lives in "warm and friendly" Arizona. He holds a Ph.D. and a master's degree in divinity. He enjoys reading about U.S. presidents and continues to support various organizations, including the National Park System, Salvation Army, Environmental Defense Fund, American Indian College Fund, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and the Presbyterian Church. **Owen Smith** reports that his grandson retired from his position as a software engineer at Facebook at the age of 28 and is "now one of those people who owns an ending of 'aire' as a descriptor." Owen continues to support Saratoga Performing Arts Center, Schenectady Symphony, Union College concerts, Troy Chromatics and Albany Symphony through donations and attendance. He travels to Belgium and France, where his daughter has a summer home. **Pearl (Peppy) Mintzer Sanders** reports life has been good to her. She loved going to SUNY. She and her husband, Harry, have been married for 62 years and their family consists of four children, 10 grandchildren, and two great-

grandsons born this year. Peppy and her husband have traveled a great deal and have gone to all continents, but not to the North and South poles. Harry works daily at his architectural office, now run by their son. Pearl's favorite professors were Dr. Ralph Baker, who she believes would be very upset with the current presidential campaign. **Marie Hoffman** is enjoying the lovely weather. She recently thanked veterans at her town's Memorial Day parade. Her most memorable life event was the birth of her son, and also her election as the first woman to serve as town justice for her hometown of Poestenkill, N.Y., in 1995. She later was elected to the town board. **Bob Hughes** served on the town board of Wayland, N.Y. **Joan DeVinny Bitely** is enjoying life in a 55-and-over community where she serves on several committees and plays tennis. She doesn't get to see her two children too often as one lives in Chesapeake, Va., and the other in Houston. She visited Antarctica, Argentina and Brazil in January. In the past, Joan spent a month on a safari, went to Machu Pichu and the Galapagos, and visited the Canadian polar bears. She hasn't yet visited Asia. Joan sends her best wishes to all! **Rosie Keller Hughes** continues to struggle with her new widow status. After 61 years of marriage and four years at NYSCT, she is lonely for her wonderful companion. She is experiencing what so many of you already have, but will survive. Rosie stays busy helping people with

genealogy research, writing a blog about widowhood, and contemplating a move to senior independent living. Let us recognize and salute those members of our class who have served in the military: **Vince Aceto, Raymond Acker, Bill Adams, Doug Adamson, Glen Armitage, Tom Benenati, Peter Bon, Ed Bonahue, Glen Brenzel, Al Brown, Lt. J. Buschmann, Bob Cerwonka, Morton Cohn, Robert Daly, Rudy DeSantolo, Al Farley, Richard Ferzian, Joseph Francello, F. Raymond Gibb, Henry Hastings, Bob Hausner, Bill Hawkins, Bill Helmer, Rod Hilsinger, George Hudson, Bob Hughes, Dick Jacobson, Bill Jennings, Carroll Judd, Dan Kelly, Hank Koszewski, Gary LaGrange, Mike LaMarca, John Lannon, Joe Lombardi, Lloyd Loop, David Martin, Stanley May, Frank Mayer, Bill McCormick, Doug Nielsen, Colleen O'Grady Keirch, Don Putterman, Gerald Roberts, Fran Schatzle, Jordine Skoff VanWantoch, George Smalling, Tom Soule, Fran Streeter, Al Sweitzer, Louis Vion, Glen Walrath, J. Paul Ward, Jane Zilin, and Maryanne Zilin.** This list was compiled from the veterans page on the Albany website: [www.albany.edu/alumni-vets/veterans-a.php](http://www.albany.edu/alumni-vets/veterans-a.php). If your name is not included, please email [Iveracruz@albany.edu](mailto:Iveracruz@albany.edu). Visit the Class of 1953 Facebook page to post old photos and chat with old friends: [www.facebook.com/groups/688873657809259/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/688873657809259/). Correction to the Spring 2016 Class Notes: **Robert Hughes** died on Jan. 13, 2016.

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

**54 Bernice Shoobe** retired as class co-councilor. **Ilse "Anne" Kohn Sichel** and husband Marty moved to North Hill, a retirement community in Needham, Mass., three years ago. They enjoy swimming a half-mile at the indoor pool three times per week, watching movies and listening to Great



Several members of UAlbany's Center for Technology in Government team attended the Excellence Awards Gala to show their support for CTG Director and Distinguished Alumni award recipient Theresa Pardo '82, '90, '98 (second from right).

Courses lectures, and frequenting live performances or talks. Marty retired from teaching at the University of Michigan and is happy to live back East. **Patty Zylko Prindle** is enjoying summer at her Peck's Lake camp in the Adirondacks. She spends the rest of the year at her home in Guilderland, N.Y. Patty retired from teaching math and volunteering at the Adirondack Research Library. **John Parsons** and wife Kimie still reside with their oldest son in southern Maryland, though they are considering moving to Lake Gaston on the Virginia/North Carolina border. They do not travel much, but continue to play bridge. **Francis Rodgers** and **John Allasio** report they are in good health. **Beverly Dodge Brousseau** celebrated the arrival of her second great-granddaughter. She and husband Armand haven't traveled much due to health issues. Armand still plays golf and Beverly quilts. **John Granito** and wife Dolores White Granito '53 live on Pine Island, Fla., and enjoy summers at Keuka Lake, N.Y. They attended a granddaughter's destination wedding in New Orleans in April. They traveled to Lisbon and took a Viking river boat cruise on the Douro River in Portugal; the itinerary



**Veteran Bill Thomas '66, U.S. Navy, with his A-7E airplane in Cubi Point, Subic Bay, Philippines (1977).**

**W**e honor the commitment and dedication of all our UAlbany veterans who have made huge sacrifices on behalf of our country. We are proud of your service and would like to include your name on our Veterans Wall of Honor located in the University Library.

Please email your military information, as well as a photo of yourself in uniform, to [alumniassociation@albany.edu](mailto:alumniassociation@albany.edu).

# Alumni News & Notes

included a trip to Salamanca, Spain. John and Dolores are planning a trip to Iceland. Cuba is still on their bucket list. They stay busy with friends and family, which includes eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. They celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary in August. **Gladys Smith O'Meara** is living in Bailey's Glen, an over-55 community in Cornelius, N.C. **Jim Thompson** and wife Carol spent most of the summer in their travel trailer at Tupper Lake, N.Y. His son, retired Navy Capt. Scott Thompson '91, is civilian counsel to the secretary of Defense at the Pentagon. James has two grandchildren in the military. James still meets **Bill Floyd** for lunch in Albany. He had to miss the Zongrone wedding anniversary celebration due

to a colleague's funeral services. **Pat Manning** still lives in Florida and volunteers with a nursery school and Hospice patients. She reviews books for *School Library Journal*. Pat spends six weeks in Italy every year. She enjoys going to superhero movies with grandson Alex. Both granddaughters will be in college this fall. **Raymond Wolfe** is doing well, but is unable to attend reunions due to his hearing. **Art Stone** sold his business, is retired and living in the Hamptons and Fort Lauderdale. He's still happily married and looks forward to another reunion. **Howie Fenenbock** attended a granddaughter's wedding. He plays poker and bridge twice a week. **Mary Ann Frascatore Corsi** and Carmen are still in Montclair, N.J. Their children and grandchildren live nearby.

They celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on the Amalfi coast with family this summer. They are members of the YMCA and enjoy visiting New York City on the weekends. They usually spend a month in the winter in Naples, Fla. **Naoshi Koriyama's** *Japanese Tales from Times Past* was published by Tuttle Publishing. He co-translated the book with Seisen University professor Bruce Allen. Naoshi will turn 90 in November. He is in good health and plans to give a lecture on poetry at Toyo University, Tokyo, in October. **Alice Whittemore Damp** and husband Ed are not as active as they would like. Their three daughters live in Utah, Massachusetts and New York. They try to get together every two years. They do not have any grandchildren (yet).

*Class Notes Councilor: Joan BolzPaul, fpaul1@nycap.rr.com*

**55** Elizabeth Foley is the recipient of the *Class of 1955 Scholarship*. She is a student in UAlbany's special education and literacy graduate program, and holds a bachelor's degree in English from UAlbany. Elizabeth tutored in Albany schools, was a facilitator for Arbor Hill Community Center and served with the Middle Earth Peer Assistance Program. **Nan McEvoy DeMichiell** lost her son, Robert. He was a widely published pop-culture artist in New York City.

*Class Notes Councilor: John Orser, xiety3jo@hotmail.com.*



## Welcome Reception

Oct. 7, 5-7 p.m.

Lecture Center (East Concourse)

Kick off Homecoming weekend activities at the Welcome Reception Friday evening, Oct. 7! Enjoy the view overlooking the main fountain and reminisce about your days "podiatring." Connect with alumni from all classes while enjoying samples of locally brewed spirits.

Register at [www.alumni.albany.edu/homecoming](http://www.alumni.albany.edu/homecoming)  
#UAlbanyHC16



**58** Your class councilor was contacted by the University and asked if we would like to use the money in our class treasury to fund a project. A scholarship to the School of Education in the name of the Class of 1958 has been established. The School of Education awarded scholarships to three students pursuing careers in education in May. More info: [www.albany.edu/education/scholarships.php](http://www.albany.edu/education/scholarships.php).

*Class Notes Councilor: Susanne Russell Williams, [williams36@earthlink.net](mailto:williams36@earthlink.net).*

**60** As voted on at the last reunion, the Class of 1960 has officially “gifted” our class fund to the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives. This endowment should bring back many memories to those of us who were afforded the opportunity of being in Dr. Grenander’s classes. **Nancy Lou Ryan Gnan** and husband John of Melbourne, Fla., celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on a Baltic cruise. They visited 10 countries, the Norwegian fjords, and the castles and cathedrals of St. Petersburg. Nancy’s grandson completed his first year at the Air Force Academy. Another grandson spent the summer studying Mandarin and doing service work in China. Both gentlemen were awarded Chi Sigma Theta scholarships this year. In 2012, **David Feldman**

relocated from Syracuse to Kendal at Longwood, a retirement community outside Philadelphia. He is active in the community’s theatre group. His play, *Sitting Quietly Doing Nothing Spring Comes and the Grass Grows* was presented at Kendal last spring. David recently traveled to State College, Pa., to visit Lee Upcraft and wife and Lillian Upcraft ’62. He occasionally sees **Nancy McGowan Clinton**.

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

**62** Jean Brody Somlo retired

from Syracuse schools in June. She continues to instruct seniors at the OASIS educational center. **Robert Sweeney** and wife Phyllis took a river cruise in Europe and drove to Munich. Their oldest daughter is an ordained Methodist minister and pastor. Their second grandchild will be a girl. Bob volunteers at food banks and a horse range for challenged youth, and assists with fundraising at Flagler Beach Historical Museum.

**Gene Altman** and wife Shelley Levin Altman ’66 celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in Oregon with family. Retired, Gene is a lifeguard, swim instructor, and SCORE mentor for small businesses. **Eleana Rabine Halady** celebrated the arrival of her 10th great-nephew. She spends winters in Del Ray, Fla., and travels the world with her boyfriend. She also plays golf and tennis and enjoys ballroom dancing. Elena’s brother, Lawrence, is recovering from his third successful open-heart surgery. **Helen Arcuri Stoloff, Sheril McCormack, Eleana Rabine Halady, Mac Gordon Mobray, and Gene and Shelley Altman** recently met in Florida. Sheril is active in the Red Hat Society and the North Shore Women’s League on Long Island.

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

**64** **Alan Minarcik** and wife Clare celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in May. **Columba DeFrancesco Heinzelman** and her husband are working on projects at their home in Webster, N.Y. Planning for the Kappa Beta reunion this Homecoming is underway. The committee is in the process of contacting brothers from the Class of ’64, as well as those from all classes. If you’re a Kappa Beta alum and have not received reunion information, please contact Bill Robelee.

*Class note councilors: Alan Minarcik, [amcmouse@hotmail.com](mailto:amcmouse@hotmail.com) and Bill Robelee, [wmroblee31@gmail.com](mailto:wmroblee31@gmail.com).*

## HELP NEEDED!



If you attended Albany between 1954 and 1960, you probably heard of Camp Dippikill. It was purchased, by vote of the students, with Student Association funds in 1956. Sadly, there is virtually no record of this truly amazing and unique event; it was a first. If you have recollections, however small, pictures, or pictures of artifacts, please send them to **Alan Stephenson ('55, '58)** at [astephenson@jcu.edu](mailto:astephenson@jcu.edu), or email me and I’ll call you. I want to put together as much of the story as possible; it deserves to be preserved. An article is planned.



Graduates of the Last Decade enjoyed food, drinks and basketball at GOLD Night at the Brooklyn Nets in April.

# Alumni News & Notes



Alumni living and/or working in the Metro New York area enjoyed views from the 44th floor of Hearst Tower during the UAlbanyConnects Reception in June. The annual event was hosted by George Hearst III and President Robert J. Jones.

Hayden oratorios have been staples in his repertoire, as have numerous performances of Handel's "Messiah." He sang in the chorus for Beethoven's "Ninth Symphony" at SPAC with the Philadelphia Orchestra Aug. 4. **Judy Madnick** and husband Stu celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June. Their children and grandchildren celebrated with them at Rocking Horse Ranch Resort in Highland, N.Y. **Ruth Siegel Baker** traveled to China, India, and Africa. She enjoys playing bridge and attends several tournaments a year. She is ranked as a Bronze Life Master. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology IT 2016 INSPIRE Athena Award was dedicated in honor of **Ellen Jacobs LeClair**, an inspirational mentor and educator. Ellen taught English and French at Commack High School in Commack, N.Y. More info: <https://getinspired.mit.edu/inspire-2016-winners>.

*Class notes councilor: Judy Madnick, [jmadnick@gmail.com](mailto:jmadnick@gmail.com).*

## Build new connections with the UAlbany Alumni Group on



Through this free network of UAlbany alumni, you'll find inside connections to jobs, industry experts and business partners. Use it to:

- Leverage the power of the UAlbany alumni network to connect with other alums and their non-alumni contacts.
- Present yourself and your professional capabilities.
- Search LinkedIn's job database and connect with UAlbany alumni at companies around the world.
- Accelerate your career through referrals from UAlbany alumni.

To register, visit [www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com) and search for "UAlbany Alumni group."

**65** **Mary Glass Funes** has spent much of 2016 traveling abroad. Her recent travels include a 28-day cruise around South America on the Celebrity Constellation, northern Italy and Tuscany, and a week in Sanibel Island. She plans to spend October in Hawaii and cap off 2016 with a Caribbean cruise. Mary and Carlo have visited all seven continents and more than 100 countries. They plan to visit India, Sri Lanka, Oman, and the United Arab Emirates in 2018. Mary credits the researching required in her travels for broadening her knowledge base. She was happy to see everyone at the 50th Reunion, and looks forward to the 55th. **Gene Tobey** concluded his solo career June 5 in a performance with Albany's Festival Celebration Choir of "Schubert's Mass in G." He and **Karl Peterson** were members of the Statesmen 50-some years ago. Gene has been bass-baritone soloist with all the Capital District's major choral forces at one time or another since 1968. The Bach passions and cantatas; requiems by Mozart, Brahms, Fauré and Duruflé; and the Mendelssohn and

**66** The Class of 1966 will observe its 50th-year reunion Oct. 7-9 with exciting events, including a welcome reception, induction into the Half-Century Club, class dinner, and downtown campus tour. To reconnect, please visit [www.facebook.com/groups/UAlbany66](http://www.facebook.com/groups/UAlbany66), a closed group exclusively for Class of 1966 alums. If you haven't received any correspondence from the Alumni Association, please email updated contact info to [alumniassociation@albany.edu](mailto:alumniassociation@albany.edu) or call 1-800-836-2586. See you in the fall!

**67** Calling all Green Gremlins! Planning is underway for our 50th-year reunion in October 2017. Please contact your class councilor if you would like to join the planning committee. As the Guardians of Minerva, we will plan to gather at Minerva for a class photo. "Meet '67 classmates at Minerva in 2017!"  
*Class Notes Councilor: Canon Kay C. Hotaling, [aspempaepke@msn.com](mailto:aspempaepke@msn.com).*



# Homecoming 2016

**Oct. 7, 8, 9**

It's time to plan your trip back to UAlbany for the biggest Homecoming yet!

**WELCOME RECEPTION**  
**Homecoming Breakfast**  
**GREAT DANE GAME DAY**  
**UAlbany Football vs. Richmond**

**SORORITY & FRATERNITY COFFEE HOUR**  
**Class and Affinity Reunions**  
**GOLD Sunday Brunch**  
**LEGACY RECEPTION**  
**UAlbany Speaker Series**

Bring your family and friends and share a weekend of memories, fun and excitement with classmates!

Details: [www.alumni.albany.edu/homecoming](http://www.alumni.albany.edu/homecoming) #UAlbanyHC16



# Alumni News & Notes

**71** **Joel Volinski** was elected president of the Council of University Transportation Centers, a national organization comprised of 100 of the nation's top engineering and planning university programs that promote research, education, workforce development and technology transfer as essential to

the nation's transportation system. Joel is the director of the National Center for Transit Research at the University of South Florida. **Douglas Goldschmidt** recently opened a private psychotherapy practice in Syracuse, N.Y.

**76** **Jeffrey Black** recently

celebrated his retirement from Deloitte LLP. He served many of Deloitte's largest multinational clients, held



Jeff Black '76 and partner Jeff Schwartz '94 at Black's retirement celebration in May 2016.

best-known and longest-serving TV meteorologists, retired after 37 years with Portland station WCSH.

**80** **Neil A. Sonenberg** joined New York City-based accounting, tax and advisory firm Marks Paneth as partner.

**82** **Dr. Lauren Solotar**, president and CEO at May Institute, was one of 23 women from the Boston business community honored as a 2015 Woman of Influence by *Boston Business Journal*.



Lauren Solotar

various management roles and served on its board of directors from 2004-11. Jeffrey is a member of the executive committee of The University at Albany Foundation and a founding member of the UAlbany School of Business Dean's Advisory Board.

**78** **Joseph Cupo**, one of Maine's

**83** **L.A. Sokolowski Pomeroy** received the Syracuse Press Club Recognition Award for her profile of thoroughbred trainer Jennifer Gurney in *New York Horse Magazine*. At the White House in April,



L.A. Sokolowski Pomeroy



Brian Green '95, Fran Green '94, and daughter Alana Green '19 attended UAlbany Night at the Yankees in July.



Alumni and friends attended UAlbany Day at the Races in July. The event has sold out for three consecutive years.

# Alumni News & Notes

**Julio Medina** received a Champions of Change Award for Advancing Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery. Julio is founder and executive director of Exodus Transitional Community, a reentry program in East Harlem, Newburgh, Poughkeepsie and Albany, N.Y.

**85 Patricia Salkin** was named provost for the Graduate and Professional Division at Touro College. She will serve as the chief academic officer for the college, providing leadership, policy formation, and guidance for faculty and academic programs. **Christopher Betke** was elected to a second three-year term on the board of the Rose Kennedy Greenway Conservancy. The non-profit maintains, programs, and improves the Greenway on behalf



Patricia Salkin

of the public in partnership with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Chris is partner at Coughlin Betke LLP, a civil-litigation defense boutique based in Boston. **Stuart A. Hack** is managing member of Hack Tax and Accounting Services in Wellington, Fla. He recently was named to the Wellington Chamber of Commerce Executive Board of Directors and joined the chamber's exclusive President's Circle.

**86 Jennifer Manner** was promoted to senior vice president, Regulatory Affairs, at Echostar. **Keith Miller** was named managing partner of Perkins Coie's New York office. A former SEC enforcement attorney, Keith is chair of the firm's White Collar and Investigations practice. He holds a J.D. from New England Law and earned master's and bachelor's degrees from UAlbany.

**88**

Mrs. Jeanne L. O'Reilly established **The Jennine O'Reilly Conway '88 Memorial Scholarship** at UAlbany to help provide support for a student who is blind or visually impaired. Those of you from the Class of 1988 may remember Jennine: despite her visual impairment and blindness while a student at UAlbany, she persevered, obtained her degree and achieved many notable accomplishments. Among her most impressive feats was being one of the first blind climbers to successfully scale Mount Kilimanjaro. Mrs. O'Reilly remains appreciative of the support and encouragement given to her daughter by the faculty and staff of UAlbany, especially John Levato, assistant dean of the School of Business at the time. If you are interested in supporting this scholarship, please go to [albany.edu/giving](http://albany.edu/giving) and note the *O'Reilly Conway Scholarship*.



**90**

**William Malpica** was recognized as one of Pro Bono Partnership's Volunteers of the Year for 2015. **Mark Schaefer** recently stepped into a new role as university chaplain for American University after serving as campus minister for 16 years.



William Malpica

**91**

**Kathie DeKalb** was named Business and Marketing Outstanding Teacher of the Year for the Capital District. She has served as business and computer teacher at Fort Plain Central School for the past 25 years, and is retiring after 34 years in education. **Siobhan Connolly**, Garden State Trust Company executive, recently conducted a class outlining how to avoid pitfalls while creating an effective estate plan. Siobhan is a board member of the Social

## AFFINITY REUNIONS

*We may belong to different affinities,*  
but we're all **GREAT DANES!**

**This Homecoming, join fellow alums, reminisce with old friends that are like family and celebrate your special reunions!**

**OCT. 7-9**



### ANGELIC VOICES OF PRAISE

Marvella Brown '03, '06, '12  
[marvellabowman@gmail.com](mailto:marvellabowman@gmail.com)



### INTERFAITH CENTER 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Donna Crisafulli '77  
[dcrisafulli@albany.edu](mailto:dcrisafulli@albany.edu)



### KAPPA BETA FRATERNITY

Roy Cameron '68, '72  
[roycamero@nycap.rr.com](mailto:roycamero@nycap.rr.com)



### Residential Life

#### RESIDENTIAL LIFE

Karla Jaime-Benitez '03, '05,  
[kjaime-benitez@albany.edu](mailto:kjaime-benitez@albany.edu)

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

#UAlbanyHC16

# Alumni News & Notes



Alumni and friends of the Educational Opportunity Program danced the night away at the legendary Copacabana during the EOP NYC Mixer in April.

**15 minutes is all it takes to make a difference.**

# UCAN

## UALBANY CAREER ADVISORY NETWORK

An online program where you can:

- Share your insights and professional experience
- Offer inspiration and encouragement
- Provide guidance on job preparation, career paths, industry trends, etc.
- Make a difference with only a minimal time commitment

**TO BECOME A UCAN ADVISOR OR TO LEARN MORE:**  
[www.alumni.albany.edu/volunteer\\_UCAN](http://www.alumni.albany.edu/volunteer_UCAN)

*Sponsored by the UAlbany Alumni Association.*



Communities Activities Network (SCAN), which provides quality social education and resources to the active adult population in Monmouth and Ocean counties. **Richard Reyes Gavilan**, executive director of the Washington, D.C., Public Library system, is overseeing renovation of its historic main branch.

**92 Manjit Singh**, co-founder of the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund, was appointed to President Obama's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

**93 John Bagyi** was named one of the Nation's Most Powerful Employment Attorneys by the Human Resource Executive for the third consecutive year. **David Van Slyke** recently was named dean of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University. He previously served as associate dean and chair of the Department of Public Administration and International Affairs.

**96 Meghan Cook**, program director at the University's Center for Technology in

Government, received a UAlbany 2016 President's Award for Excellence in Professional Service.

**98 David Mutnick** is now managing director, co-head of the Chicago Board Options Exchange (CBOE) High Touch Services for Convergenx.

**03 Nicole Haff**, attorney at Balber Pickard Maldonado & Van Der Tuin, P.C., in Manhattan, has been named to the 2016 New York Metro Rising Stars list. She is listed in the "Intellectual Property" and "Business Litigation" sections. **James VanDemark** was hired as senior accountant on the The Bonadio Group's Internal Audit team. He previously worked for Sunmark Federal Credit Union for 13 years.

**04 Boys of a Certain Age**, a full-length play by **Daniel Fingerman**, was featured at the 2016 Fresh Fruit Festival in New York. **First Lt. Dorothy Kastl** made U.S. Air Force history as one of the participants in the first all-female missile alert. She is a 321st Missile Squadron combat-crew commander at the 90th Missile Wing.



John Bagyi



David Van Slyke



Meghan Cook



James VanDemark



First Lt. Dorothy Kastl

05

**Dr. J. Ramon Gil-Garcia**, research director at the Center for Technology in Government at UAlbany, received distinction as Level 3 National Researcher from the Mexican National Council of Science and Technology. This is the highest distinction a researcher can obtain before becoming Researcher Emeritus as a result of a lifelong career of research contributions. UAlbany roommates



J. Ramon Gil-Garcia

**Felicia Fleitman** and **Alina Tubman** recently launched BYLT Consulting, a full-service consulting firm that works with companies to develop campus-recruiting initiatives for strategic internships and entry-level hires.

08



Seth Buchwalter

**Seth Buchwalter** recently accepted a media-relations position at CMD Agency, Portland, Ore. In his new role, Seth will develop and manage content for leading international technology corporations headquartered in the Pacific Northwest, a slight step up from managing public relations for UAlbany's favorite *a cappella* group, The Earth Tones! **Bridget O'Toole**, associate attorney at Bansbach Zoghlin, P.C., Rochester, N.Y., was named an Excellence in Law award recipient and an Up and Coming Attorney by *The Daily Record*.

11

**Xunyu Pan** received the Frostburg State University 2016 Faculty Achievement Award for Teaching. He is assistant professor, Department of Computer Science and Information Technologies.

12

**Sara Ventura** is employed by the Xbox Live team at Microsoft, Seattle, as producer for the console home dashboard.



Nearly 200 Graduates of the Last Decade enjoyed a Saturday night cruise on the Hudson River in June.

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



"A passion for helping others" has led junior Cassandra Edwards to prepare for a career as "a clinical psychologist within the criminal-justice system." To that end, the *Martin & Jean Goldsmith Scholarship* recipient is majoring in psychology and minoring in criminal justice. One of her most memorable classes at UAlbany, Professor Victor Asal's course on political violence, "opened my eyes to political issues in other countries," observes Edwards, who plans to complete master's and doctoral studies.

Edwards, a dancer in the campus group Under Construction, also competes on UAlbany's women's basketball team and is looking forward to a great year for the team – and another appearance in the NCAA tournament. The recipient of the America East Elite 18 Award in women's basketball for the highest G.P.A. for a student-athlete in the title game says her favorite place on campus is the fountain: "It is absolutely beautiful, and a great place to escape the stress of school."

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



UALBANY FUND  
*Investing in students*

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

# Alumni News & Notes

**13 Stephanie A. Kazanas** earned her Ph.D. in cognitive psychology from the University at Albany in May. She will join the Department of Counseling and Psychology at Tennessee Technological University this fall. Stephanie earned a master's



Stephanie A. Kazanas

degree from UAlbany in 2013. **Laura Colaneri** will pursue a Ph.D in romance languages and literatures at the University of Chicago beginning this fall, specializing in Hispanic and Luzo-Brazilian studies. Laura earned a master's degree from UAlbany in 2014. **Gina M. Melendez** earned a master's degree in Teaching Bilingual Childhood Education Grades 1-6 from

Fordham University in May.

**15 Abigail Young** was recently promoted to Marketing Coordinator at LP&M Advertising in Syracuse. Her new role includes developing and coordinating



Abigail Young

promotions between media and public-relations departments, managing websites, and maintaining social-media activities for LP&M clients. She joined LP&M in 2015.

**16 Kaliel Williamson** accepted a position as software engineer at American Express in New York City.

## WEDDINGS



**Eric Fletcher '10** and **Angela Margillo '11**,  
Oct. 3, 2015



**Jeffrey Brauner '12, '14,**  
and **Rachel Maslow '13**,  
June 30, 2016



**Anthony Stella Jr. '10**  
and **Ashley Clark '10**,  
April 29, 2016



**Adam Altwerger '09** and  
**Jacqueline DeVito '08**,  
May 14, 2016



**Maureen Lynch '80** and  
**Marty Walrath '78**,  
Jan. 2, 2015

## BIRTHS



**Jonathan Goldberg '00** and  
wife **Jaelyn** welcomed daughter  
**Reese Rose**, May 18, 2016.



**Allison Frasier Hughes '05** and  
husband **Jason** welcomed daughter  
**Annika Sharon**, March 1, 2016.



**Steven Hecht '05** and **Lauren  
Goldapper Hecht '06** welcomed  
son **Jonah Shea**, April 5, 2016.

# SPOTLIGHT SERIES

## UAlbany Graduates of the Last Decade

### Colin Gerner '14,'15

**Hometown:** Vestal, N.Y.

**High School:** Vestal High School

#### UALBANY EXPERIENCE

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

I visited my older brother at UAlbany throughout my high-school years and it always felt like home ... There was never a doubt in my mind that I belonged at UAlbany.

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

Hooley's 3-point shot that sent us to the NCAA Tournament in 2015 was an electric moment I'll never forget.

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

Its people.

**As an alum, what are you most proud of?**

Being able to play a role in helping current students achieve their dreams.

#### CAREER & FUTURE GOALS

**Current title and role:**

I am currently an experienced associate at PricewaterhouseCoopers within the State and Local Tax consulting group. I work primarily with telecommunication and sales

and use taxes, which involves riveting and significant state tax controversies, such as obtaining multi-state refund claims in the hundreds of millions of dollars. I also work with other major business issues, such as audit defense, taxability of products/services, conducting nexus studies to reveal exposure levels and registration projects.

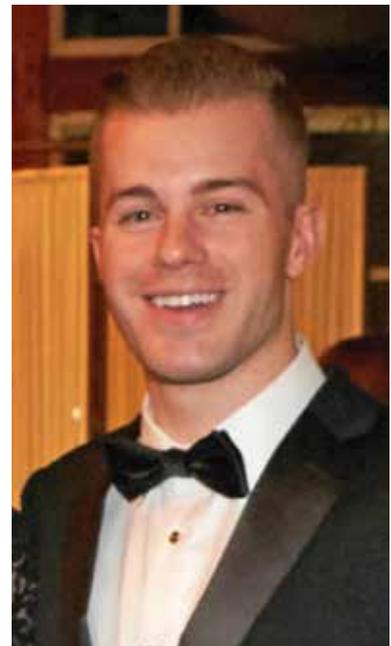
**How did your UAlbany education and experience help you to prepare for this role?**

We all learn the necessary technical skills for our careers throughout our college careers, but taking the time to interact with our passionate faculty has made my transition to the workplace effortless.

#### GIVING BACK TO UALBANY

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

I was able to have countless extraordinary opportunities as a student because of the efforts and devotion of alums and donors to give back and continually improve our



University. Now that I am an alum, I realize that I have the ability and duty to be a part of keeping UAlbany great.

**What advice would you give to incoming freshmen?**

Try. Everything. You have four years in an atmosphere that is conducive to developing every aspect of yourself. Experience it all with an unparalleled vigor and don't leave a single stone unturned.



## CLASSES of 2006-2016: Don't Miss the GOLD Homecoming Brunch

Rise and shine! What better way to finish off Homecoming Weekend than with a Sunday brunch? Extend your weekend just a little longer with fellow young alums at this new event! Come ready to eat, drink, and party with old friends and new.

**Watch your email for details! #UAlbanyHC16**

# Alumni News & Notes



Jaclyn Ventrella Wormann '04, Geoffrey Schneiderman '03, Tom Ott '88 and Gabriella Pollino-Rodman '76 of the fashion industry connected with students and alumni at the FACE Fashion Forward career panel and live twitter chat in March.



D.C.-area alumni Peter Brusoe '03, '04, Teri Goldstein '04 and Dan Fingerman '04 reconnected at the premiere of Dan's play, *Boys of a Certain Age*.



School of Social Welfare Dean Darrell Wheeler and former dean Katherine Briar-Lawson joined South Korean alumni for a dinner during an international social work conference held in Seoul.



President Jones met with alumni and delivered an update on the University's recent advances at a reception in Taiwan in June.



Alumni Association staff, volunteers and friends welcomed new students of the Educational Opportunity Program at the Fourth Annual EOP Ice Cream Social.



Metro D.C.-area alumni gathered at a reception in May to learn about UAlbany's recent areas of expansion.



The Edward Eldred Potter Club celebrated its 85th anniversary in April.

# Alumni News & Notes

## Deceased Alumni

### 1930s

**Helen Sautin Van Wie '37**, March 30, 2016

### 1940s

**Marion Hinden Holdowsky '40**, March 28, 2016

**Josephine M. Antonacci '41**, Oct. 28, 2009

**Shirley Tooker Riffley '41**, Feb. 29, 2016

**Marjorie Gaylord Carroll '42**, May 4, 2012

**Mildred Swain Dupree '42**, Jan. 11, 2015

**Kathleen E. Greenfield '42**, Feb. 2, 2014

**Marion Duffy Quinn '42**, Feb. 28, 2016

**Mary Crouch Schmitt '43**, Feb. 14, 2016

**Regina Roth Tanzy '43**, April 19, 2016

**Vivien Nielsen Woodworth '47**, Feb. 19, 2016

**Mary P. Schmidt Dwyer '48**, April 9, 2016

**Ruth M. Hurr '48**, Feb. 14, 2016

**Irene Wilcox Dormandy '49**, Feb. 10, 2016

**Nolan L. Powell '49**, May 3, 2016

**Mary A. Cheatham Robinson '49**, Jan. 24, 2016

### 1950s

**William A. Dumbleton, Ph.D. '50**, March 7, 2016

**Evelyn Weisenberger Dunn '50**, Nov. 27, 2014

**Charles E. Margolin '50**, April 18, 2016

**Shirley Warner Martin '50**, Aug. 18, 2014

**John V. O'Connor '50**, Jan. 27, 2016

**Lillian F. Olsen Carlsen '51**, April 11, 2016

**Susan Panek Coffey '51**, April 5, 2016

**Donald Cohen '51**, June 26, 2015

**Otto Mex '51**, May 17, 2013

**Edward P. Castillo '52**, Feb. 13, 2016

**Daniel W. Joy '52**, Jan. 4, 2016

**William D. Murphy '52**, Jan. 27, 2016

**Janet Bookstaver Nelson '52**, March 29, 2014

**Arthur C. Totten, Jr. '52**, March 11, 2016

**Jeanne Simon Beebe '53**, Oct. 31, 2015

**Frank Schatzle '53**, June 9, 2015

**Thomas L. Soule '53**, April 6, 2016

**Richard J. Buck '54**, Feb. 3, 2016

**Barbara M. Brodzinski Czaban '54**, May 6, 2016

**Frances Bethea Grant '54**, Feb. 17, 2016

**Isabel Martin Tagliabue '54**, April 14, 2016

**David W. Champagne '56**, March 17, 2016

**Craig C. Chase '56**, Feb. 2, 2016

**Claire F. Deloria '56**, Jan. 17, 2016

**Barbara E. Bachman Gladstone '56**,

Jan. 29, 2011

**Patricia Bennett-Labbe Kistenmacher '56**,

Oct. 21, 2014

**John Buchal '57**, Jan. 18, 2016

**Bernard Theobald '57**, April 26, 2016

**Garrison B. Lewis '59**, March 11, 2016

### 1960s

**Julianna A. Skarzynski Wilkevitch '62**,

April 8, 2016

**Timothy M. Wisniewski '64**, Feb. 24, 2016

**Joseph A. Kestner '65**, Aug. 24, 2015

**Kathleen Morrison '65**, May 4, 2016

**Carole A. Jemal Gibson '66**, Jan. 4, 2016

**Nancy Blied Kinnersley '66**, May 18, 2016

**Fred A. Lemmon '66**, April 17, 2015

**Leslie E. Negus '66**, Dec. 29, 2015

**Jerry R. Shepardson '66**, March 25, 2016

**John P. Hotaling '67**, April 30, 2016

**Harvey MacBride '67**, May 8, 2016

**John B. Heffernan '68**, April 4, 2016

**Ira Wolf '68**, Jan. 15, 2016

**Robert D. Greeney '69**, March 19, 2016

**Michael F. Hall '69**, Feb. 1, 2016

**Elizabeth A. Marcolini '69**, March 13, 2016

**Kenneth D. Silveri '69**, Feb. 16, 2016

**Margaret A. Ricker Swanger '69**, Jan. 17, 2016

### 1970s

**Jean J. Dingee '70**, Nov. 5, 2015

**Bernadette M. Ambrose '71**, April 5, 2016

**Donald Counterline '71**, Jan. 30, 2016

**Paul J. Davenport '71**, March 27, 2016

**Ulrich Froehlich, Ph.D. '71**, April 5, 2016

**Cavit Alev '72**, Jan. 1, 2016

**Frederick Kurkowski '72**, March 1, 2016

**Charlene Sunderland '72**, May 13, 2016

**Anne Goodman Fass '73**, Feb. 19, 2016

**Dennis Maser '73**, March 3, 2016

**Thomas A. Nowinski '73**, May 24, 2012

**Lelia A. Coleman '74**, Nov. 10, 2012

**Janis G. Manger '74**, Jan. 29, 2016

**Joan M. Robinson '74**, Feb. 12, 2016

**Ellen A. Benson Salerno '74**, April 18, 2016

**David A. Smitas '74**, Sept. 16, 2014

**Raymond P. Stack '74**, Feb. 28, 2016

**Jean E. Stamm '74**, March 22, 2016

**Steven J. Wolf '74**, March 6, 2016

**Billie K. Aul '75**, Feb. 1, 2016

**Donald A. Baldovin '75**, July 26, 2014

**Peter J. Cayan '75**, Feb. 21, 2016

**John E. Gervasio '75**, May 20, 2016

**Gary M. Leonis '75**, March 4, 2016

**Frank S. Parker, III '75**, Feb. 15, 2016

**Karen K. Rosenkrantz '75**, April 10, 2016

**Mark D. Smith '75**, May 1, 2016

**Rufus L. Banks '76**, Jan. 18, 2016

**Gary E. Gingeresky '76**, April 9, 2016

**Lenore A. Maurice '76**, Aug. 11, 2014

**Carol E. Jones '77**, Aug. 16, 2013

**Chauncey W. Scurry '77**, Feb. 22, 2016

**Donald R. Covell '78**, March 19, 2016

**Rosita M. Kleinberger '78**, July 23, 2015

**Howard S. Smith '78**, May 8, 2013

**Linda S. Stanczik '78**, March 10, 2016

**Alice Rosenthal '79**, June 11, 2015

**Ronald S. Turteltaub '79**, March 10, 2016

### 1980s

**John V. Higgins, Ph.D. '81**, June 25, 2015

**Hugh A. Berger '82**, Aug. 6, 2009

**Thomas F. Finn, Jr. '82**, Feb. 1, 2016

**Thomas O. Gamble '82**, Nov. 26, 2007

**Martha D. Landsiedel '82**, Feb. 19, 2016

**Virginia Van Vranken '82**, Jan. 19, 2016

**Nancy A. Buyce '83**, April 27, 2016

**M. C. Calyer '83**, March 9, 2016

**Beverly E. Cook '83**, April 12, 2016

**Edward J. Yule '83**, Feb. 28, 2016

**Maretta D. Callahan '84**, April 22, 2016

**Susanne M. Jeraci-Palmieri '84**, May 25, 2015

**Robert Schell '84**, Nov. 25, 2015

**Craig H. Kinsley, Ph.D. '85**, Jan. 26, 2016

**Jeffrey A. Roosa '86**, June 1, 2014

**Harry R. White '86**, June 13, 2015

**Lauren B. O'Connell '87**, March 28, 2016

**Rose E. Praetorius '87**, Feb. 4, 2016

**Dawn M. Stevens McGuinness '88**,

April 30, 2016

**Andrea Alotta, Jr. '89**, Feb. 28, 2016

### 1990s

**Cindy B. Berkowitz '91**, July 4, 2008

**Noreen D. Borders Francis '91**, June 8, 2013

**Mark J. McDermott '91**, Nov. 6, 2012

**Laura L. Warner Rodolakis '91**, Feb. 6, 2016

**Constance I. White Oakes '92**, March 13, 2016

**Joseph M. Akramoff '93**, Jan. 26, 2016

**Michael F. Perna '93**, Feb. 9, 2016

**Richard B. Phillips '93**, March 21, 2016

**Lance Topol '93**, Jan. 27, 2016

**Jennifer H. Zager Hoch '94**, May 9, 2015

**Jennifer J. Gutchell '98**, March 27, 2016

**Joan Napiorski '98**, Dec. 1, 2014

**Jennifer J. Van Loan '98**, June 2, 2013

### 2000s

**Amy P. Fey '00**, May 9, 2016

**Laurie B. Buell Bereza '02**, April 30, 2016

### 2010s

**Garrett Metacarpa '12**, April 15, 2016

## Deceased Faculty/Staff

**Ernesto Barreto**, Senior Research Assistant for Atmospheric Science Research Center, 1969-1999, March 5, 2016

**Richard M. Clark, Ph.D.**, Lecturer, 1990-1991, Feb. 26, 2016

**Donald L. Filkins**, Motor Vehicle Operator for Plant, 1981-1996, Jan. 29, 2016

**Robert M. Garvin**, Asst. Professor, Philosophy Dept., 1982-2002, July 10, 2016

**Albert C. Higgins, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor for Sociology, 1969-2009, May 5, 2016

**Violet H. Larney**, Professor of Math and Statistics, 1952-1982, Feb. 11, 2016

**Robert M. Pruzek, Ph.D.**, Professor, 1990-2015, Jan. 21, 2016

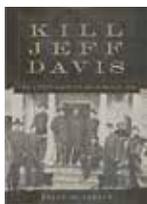
**Robert M. Standish**, Purchasing Assistant, 1979-1997, May 15, 2016

**Mary Stockwell**, Janitor for Plant, 1978-1996, Jan. 19, 2016

**Jack Sunkes**, Bus Driver for Plant, 1986-2005, Jan. 22, 2016

## Authors & Editors

**Lawrence J. Epstein, B.A.'67, M.A.'68, Ph.D.'76**, published a mystery novel ebook titled *The Gallery of Missing Husbands*. The book is set on the Lower East Side of New York in 1914. More info: [www.lawrencejepstein.com](http://www.lawrencejepstein.com).



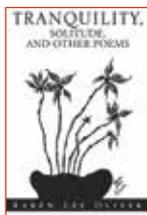
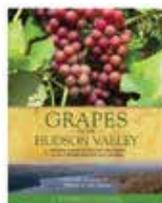
**Bruce Venter, M.P.A.'76, Ed.D.'86**, is the author of *Kill Jeff Davis: The Union Raid on Richmond, 1864*, published by University of Oklahoma Press.

**John Froebel-Parker, B.A.'79, M.A.'82, M.S.Ed.'85**, recently published *Grandpa Rogers and Queen Mary's Fire*, with illustrations by Ray Bono '75. The book is available online at Author House, Amazon and Barnes & Noble.



**Robert S. Mason, M.A.'80**, recently published his debut book of poems, *Nearer to Never*, through SUNY Press. The poems invite a reader's most intimate aesthetic engagement on what it may mean to be human.

**Joseph "Steve" Casscles, B.A.'81**, is the author of *Grapes of the Hudson Valley* which details the 200-year history of grape growing, breeding and winemaking in the Hudson Valley. The book includes information on how to make wine, prune vines and establish a vineyard. Casscles is the winemaker at the Hudson-Chatham Winery in Ghent, N.Y.



**Karen Lee Oliver, B.A.'81**, is the author of *Tranquility, Solitude, and Other Poems; Tales from the Mirwood; and Pergola*. Oliver is a member of the Academy of American Poets. She resides in Clifton Park, N.Y.

**Bruce Henderson, Ph.D.'86**, published *A Vegan Primer*. In the book, Henderson offers carefully researched reasons for adopting a vegan diet. He is a professor at Fullerton College in California.



**Oluremi Alapo, B.A.'98, M.A.'00**, is the author of *Generation X: The Role of Culture on the Leadership Styles of Women in Leadership Positions*. The book assists organizational leaders to view Generation X women in positions of power from a different perspective.

# UAlbany

Here are the best ways to reach us!

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# The Last Word

By Cristian Palma, B.S. '16

**M**y journey on this campus has been a product of the Latin motto *Sic Parvis Magna*: Greatness from humble beginnings.

In my earlier years, my hero – my *abuelita*, my grandmother – taught me compassion, love, respect, integrity, honor and faith. She is my link between Guatemala and the United States and represents my humble beginnings. She taught me the importance of listening; communicating; connecting; and most importantly, the need to take pride in all that I do. It was the little things about my grandmother that inspired me the most as a young child: the lending of her hand, the laughs and jokes, the open-door policy, and my ultimate favorite: story time. All of my grandmother's stories had one common theme ... she told me, "Cristian, siempre pagalo adelante." *Cristian, always pay it forward.*

As a high-school student, college was never in my vocabulary. I listened to the conversations of my peers and admired their academic excellence, and developed the hunger necessary to learn and succeed. When I received my first acceptance letter, I was thrilled. I looked at my mom and said, "I'm going to college!"



Carlo de Jesus

"But Cristian, how much is it going to cost?" she asked. My parents feared they wouldn't be able to afford sending me away to college.

"Mom, I'll find a way. I promise. *I'll find a way. I promise.*"

Attending open house was the first time not only for me, but for my family, to set foot on a college campus. I promised my family that I was going to find a way, and I can proudly say I found it at the University at Albany. To all my mentors, friends, faculty and staff, alumni, and the Educational Opportunities Program, I thank you all! I'm now passing the torch to my younger brother, Michael, who will continue the Palma legacy at UAlbany this fall.

On behalf of my grandmother, I ask that you remember to always pay it forward: beyond the classroom; beyond your neighborhood; and most importantly, beyond the limits you place on yourselves.

After all, the meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose of life is to give it away.

Now and forever, we are Great Danes!



Cristian and his grandmother, Rosa Alvina Duarte

Stephanie Snyder

*Cristian Palma graduated summa cum laude last May with a bachelor's degree in business administration and marketing. He is an ad sales associate at NBCUniversal Media, LLC, New York City.*

*To view Palma's entire undergraduate commencement speech, please visit <http://ow.ly/Lzey301OyMf>.*



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A new season is a new beginning and a good opportunity to set goals for the coming year and beyond. Now is an excellent time to consider charitable gift and estate-planning strategies.

For information about including the University at Albany in your estate plans, please contact  
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**Office of Gift Planning**  
University at Albany, UAB 226  
1400 Washington Avenue, Albany NY 12222  
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## Make a difference at UAlbany as an Alumni Volunteer.

Alumni volunteer opportunities are endless! Some of the most rewarding ways to give back through volunteering include:

- Joining the Alumni Association board or a board committee
- Mentoring fellow alums and students through UCAN (UAlbany Career Advisory Network)
- Helping to plan your milestone class or affinity reunion
- Assisting the Alumni Association at large-scale events like Homecoming and the Big Purple Growl & Ferocious Feast
- Serving as a regional volunteer by hosting and/or helping plan an event in your area

Learn how you can make a difference:  
[www.alumni.albany.edu/volunteer\\_opportunities](http://www.alumni.albany.edu/volunteer_opportunities)



## Love Social Media? Help us Spread the Word About Homecoming! Volunteer as an Alumni Social-Media Ambassador.

Our Newest Volunteer Opportunity is About to Kick into High Gear! There's no better time to show your UAlbany pride on social media than Homecoming. Help us spread the word about related events and join in our exciting and fun coverage Oct. 7-9 as an official alumni Social-Media Ambassador. Sign up, share your UAlbany love on twitter, Facebook and/or Instagram, and you'll get an exclusive T-shirt!

Sign up online: [www.alumni.albany.edu/ambassador](http://www.alumni.albany.edu/ambassador)

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# SOCIAL MEDIA ambassador