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**SUNY-Albany
Communication Alumni**

Current Faculty

Rosemary Armao
 Annis Golden
 Senem Güney
 Teresa Harrison
 Matthew Matsaganis
 Anita Pomerantz
 Nancy L. Roberts
 Mihye Seo
 Tim Stephen
 Jennifer Stromer-Galley
 Michael Barberich
 Alan T. Belasen
 Barry Eisenberg
 B.J. Fehr
 William Husson

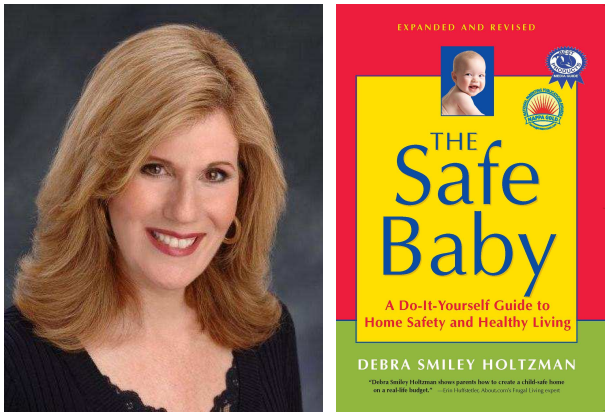
Staff

Debbie Bourassa
 Paige Koehler Bowles

Alumni Hall of Fame

When **Debra Smiley Holtzman** began her academic career as a Communication major at SUNY-Albany, she found herself instinctively drawn to audiences. "All of my classes were stimulating and thought-provoking, but I especially loved my public speaking classes."

Today she is an internationally acclaimed safety and health expert, green living specialist, and published book author. Her books, *The Panic-Proof Parent: Creating a Safe Lifestyle for Your Family* (McGraw-Hill, 2000), *The Safe Baby: A Do-It-Yourself Guide to Home Safety* (Sentient Publications, 2005), and the newly released edition, *The*



Debra Smiley Holtzman
Safety and Health Expert,
Attorney, Author
B.A. Communication, '77

Safe Baby: A Healthy Do-It-Yourself Guide to Home Safety and Living (Sentient Publications, July, 2009) have received rave reviews and endorsements by leading parenting authorities and safety and health organizations. *The Safe Baby* won the National Parenting Publications' Gold Award, one of the country's most authoritative consumer-awards recognizing the best in children's and parenting resources.

Debra has been a guest on hundreds of radio and television shows, including the *Today Show*, *Weekend Today*, *CNBC*, *ABC News*, *MSNBC*, and *Washington Post Radio*. She served as the safety expert on *Discovery Health Channel's* weekly TV series, *Make Room for Baby*. She has been quoted in *Newsweek*, *Parenting*, *Child*, *Parents*, *Fit Pregnancy*, *USA Weekend Magazine*, was chosen an "Everyday Hero" by *Reader's Digest*, and was named a "Woman Making a Difference" by *Family Circle* magazine. Debra is currently the Honorary Co-Chair of the Florida Safe Kids Coalition and teaches infant and toddler and CPR safety classes at Memorial Regional Hospital in Hollywood, Florida. She is a parenting columnist for *Today's Parent* and serves on the Advisory Board of The Healthy House Institute (HHI).

In addition to her B.A. in Communication from SUNY-Albany (1977), she also holds an M.A. in Occupational Health and Safety from New York University (1979), and a J.D. from St. John's University School of Law (1984) where she graduated in the top ten percent of her class. She is admitted to practice law in New York and Florida. As well as practicing law, Debra has worked as a safety and health consultant and has inspected numerous plants and factories for hazardous working conditions. She is also a former Mrs. Florida.

Debra now sees her time spent as a Communication major at UAlbany as a crucial step along the path to her successful career in public speaking. "I remember my days at SUNY-Albany with great fondness. The invaluable on-camera training and critiques by professors and peers combined to help me hone the necessary skills to feel comfortable and confident in front of TV cameras and audiences."

Debra currently lives in Hollywood, Florida with her husband, Robert, son Adam, daughter Laura, and dog, Rocky. For more information, you can visit Debra's web site at:

www.thesafetyexpert.com

Department News—Faculty Grants

Associate Professor Annis Golden and **Professor Anita Pomerantz** have been successful with a recent grant proposal for external funding. Their project “Overcoming Barriers to African American Women’s Reproductive Healthcare Seeking” is part of a larger grant proposal by UAlbany’s Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities to the NIH, and this proposal was funded as a \$1.3 million, five year Exploratory Centers of Excellence grant headed by Prof. Larry Schell in the Anthropology Department. Their project focuses on communication between a non-profit community-based provider of reproductive healthcare services and low income African-American women in the community.

Assistant Professor Jennifer Stromer-Galley recently received two grants for her research. The first project is titled “DSARMD: Detecting Social Actions and Roles in Multiparty Dialogue”. DSARMD is a federally funded research grant that aims to develop computational models of social phenomena in small group online and face-to-face discus-

sion such as conflict and leadership as reflected in language and in discourse. Professor Stromer-Galley, along with principal investigator Tomek Strzalkowski and co-principal investigators A. Broadwell, S. Taylor, and Nick Webb will receive \$1.8 million over the course of three years to fund their project.

Professor Stromer-Galley’s second grant proposal is titled “Virtual World to Real World Inferences: Multi-Variant Analysis of Leadership, Gender, and Related Player Characteristics through the Lens of Group Dynamics” and is a federally funded research project that seeks to predict demographic and psychological characteristics of people by analyzing their behavior, interaction, and communication in virtual worlds. The principal investigator is Kelly Reene, and co-investigators include Jennifer Stromer-Galley, Rosa Mikeal Martey, Mia Consalvo, and Tomek Strzalkowski. The UAlbany subcontract budget is \$248,317 over three years, and the project began in October.

Communication Department Welcomes Matthew Matsaganis

Matthew Matsaganis is a new Assistant Professor who received his Ph.D. from the University of Southern California’s Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. Originally from Athens, Greece, Professor Matsaganis got his Bachelor’s degree from the National University of Athens, where he also worked as a newspaper journalist for several years before moving to the U.S. to pursue a Master’s Degree in Political Communication at Emerson College in Boston.

Professor Matsaganis’ research addresses issues of ethnic media production and sustainability, neighborhood effects and the role of communication in building civic engagement and community capacity, as well as health disparities and the social determinants of health. His work has been published in a number of journals and he has presented at many academic and professional conferences. This October he completed a book, co-authored with colleagues from Rutgers University and USC. The book is slated for release by Sage Publications in Spring 2010 and is titled “Understanding Ethnic Media: Producers, Consumers, and Societies.” In addition to the topic of social relations, the book addresses historical, cultural, organizational, professional, and globalization dimensions of the study of ethnic media.

In Fall 2009 and Spring 2010, Professor Matsaganis’ courses will include COM 551: Theories and Research in Public Organizational Communication, and COM 659: Communication, Community, and Health. Professor Matsaganis will also teach COM 378: Communication and Global Organizations. Through a series of readings, case studies, and video programs, students in this course will investigate how globalization and communication transform the ‘world’ of organizations, including corporations, non-governmental, and inter-governmental organizations.

Please join us in welcoming Professor Matsaganis to our department and the University at Albany!



Anita Pomerantz Named O'Leary Professor

Professor Anita Pomerantz was recently awarded the Vincent O'Leary Professorship for the 2009-2012 academic years. As a Vincent O'Leary Professor, she will be continuing a portion of her duties in the Department of Communication, including overseeing the development of the structure and the procedures for implementing our new doctoral program; supporting the continuation of the specialization of interpersonal/intercultural communication and more particularly the area of language and social interaction; and lastly continuing an active research program including training and collaborating with colleagues and doctoral students who have research interests that are complementary to hers.

The Vincent O'Leary Professorship is an opportunity that honors selected senior members of the UAlbany teaching faculty. O'Leary Professors hold a special assignment for up to three years post-retirement, allowing the University to retain the important experience and contributions of these valued colleagues while also enabling them to adjust the level of their responsibilities. O'Leary Professors may contribute to the University's research, teaching, and service missions and enjoy special assignments, participating in directing master's theses and doctoral dissertations, and travel fund eligibility.

At the end of the term of appointment, O'Leary Professors continue in emeritus status at the rank of retirement. Emeritus faculty continue to have the opportunity to teach at least one course each year and to enjoy designated University privileges. Professor Pomerantz is happy with the transition so far. "It's very nice to be able to continue educating graduate students and to continue being a resource for my colleagues while I transition to a different balance of creative activities."



Professor Anita Pomerantz focuses her research on interpersonal, intercultural, and health communication.

Alumni Give Back Through Course Partnership



Pictured above are Karen Bonville, Laura Anderson-Gavin, Chief Information Officer and CIO/OFT Director Melodie Mayberry Stewart, Stephen Madarasz, and Corey Gilchrist.

This summer, an exciting partnership was formed between SUNY Albany and the Office of the Chief Information Officer/Office for Technology. Not only was this project a great opportunity for collaboration between a State University and a State agency, but it was a chance for alumni to give back to the school and the Communication Department. The class's instructor, Stephen Madarasz, as well as CIO/OFT's Karen Bonville and Corey Gilchrist, are all graduates of SUNY Albany's Communication Department.

CIO/OFT's Technology Academy employees asked the students of SUNY Albany's Integrated Marketing and Communication class to create a new name, logo, and slogan for what was formerly known as the

eLearning and Reference Advantage (ERA) program. BA/MA student Laura Anderson-Gavin submitted the selected proposal for the re-branding initiative, now called the "Empire Knowledge Bank: New York State's e-Source for Professional and Personal Development". Laura also contributed to the development of the new integrated marketing campaign and enjoyed working with Professor Madarasz. "Steve Madarasz is an outstanding instructor and gave me the knowledge I needed to put together such an effective and successful proposal."

ALUMNI CORNER

Many opportunities exist for alumni to help students. The programs below provide students the opportunity to gain valuable experience. For more information, please visit our website or contact Paige Koehler Bowles at pkbowles@albany.edu.

- Alumni In the Classroom
- Externship Program
- Career Panelists
- Speakers Bureau
- Mentoring Program
- Giving Back

Tell Us How You're Doing!

Each semester we will feature a department alum in our Hall of Fame who has gone on to do great things in the field of communication. Would you be a good candidate? Please visit our website at: www.albany.edu/communication/alumni.htm and submit your information to pkbowles@albany.edu now!



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A copy of The University at Albany Foundation's annual report is available by contacting the Foundation, at the above address or at www.albany.edu/foundation.

Gifts are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. **Thank you!**

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