

From the Podium and Beyond

By Carol Olechowski

SUNY Trustees Name Nancy L. Zimpher Chancellor

The State University of New York Board of Trustees has appointed Nancy L. Zimpher SUNY's 12th chancellor, effective June 1.

Zimpher, the first woman to hold that position, joins SUNY from the University of Cincinnati, where she has served as president since October 2003. During her tenure, UC increased enrollment; finalized a 15-year,

\$1.7 billion capital effort; and launched a \$1 billion fundraising campaign.

Zimpher succeeds former Chancellor and U.S. Navy Vice Admiral John R. Ryan, who left in May 2007 to become president of the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro, N.C. Ryan served as interim president at the University at Albany from 2004 to 2005.



Joe Putrock

SSW Works to Improve Services to Children

UAlbany's School of Social Welfare is working to address recruiting shortfalls and high turnover in the child-welfare system workforce. Dean Katharine Briar-Lawson and Social Work Education Consortium Director Mary McCarthy head the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute (NCWWI), established with a \$16.5 million U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Children's Bureau grant. The initiative, which will support leadership development in public, private and tribal child-welfare systems, partners UAlbany with the universities of Denver, Iowa, Michigan State, Michigan, North Carolina and

Southern Maine; Fordham University; and the National Indian Child Welfare Association.

Through the New York State Child Welfare Workforce Initiative (CWWI), Associate Professor Nancy Claiborne and Assistant Research Professor Catherine Lawrence are seeking to improve safety, permanency and well-being outcomes for youngsters and families by exploring workforce needs in voluntary agencies that contract with the child-welfare system. Claiborne and Lawrence have received a \$2.5 million Children's Bureau grant to support the five-year project.



Mark Schmitt

School of Business Site Is Dedicated

Faculty, students and staff gathered last fall near the Grand Entry Plaza on the uptown campus to dedicate the site of UAlbany's new School of Business building. Plans call for construction of a technologically advanced facility that will enhance academic and student programs, and promote the school as the premier business school in the Northeast. The architectural firm Perkins+Will has been selected to design the building. An effort to raise private support for construction has already realized \$2.7 million.

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Cover: Senior psychology major Joseph LaVecchia, a participant in UAlbany's Community and Public Service Program (CPSP), reads to two youngsters during "Homework Power Hour" at one of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Albany. Photo: Mark McCarty

Fulbright Scholars Travel to China, Namibia

Fulbright Program support made it possible for two UAlbany scholars to travel overseas for study and research this spring.

Associate Professor David Yun Dai of the Department of Educational and Counseling Psychology was in China through March to conduct teacher surveys on inquiry-based learning in that country, in conjunction with its educational reform efforts. Dai, who joined the University faculty in 2001, teaches courses related to instruction, learning, motivation and cognition.

David Jones, a doctoral student in the Department of History, is interviewing citizens who participated in Namibia's liberation struggle, which culminated with its independence from South African rule in 1990. During his 10 months there, Jones is receiving some basic instruction in Oshiwambo, several closely related languages spoken by the majority of Namibians.

Straussman Is NAPA Fellow



Mark Schmidt

Jeffrey Straussman, dean of UAlbany's Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy since 2006, has been elected a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA). Cited by NAPA for his sustained and outstanding contribution to the field of public administration through public service and scholarship, Straussman is internationally recognized as a researcher, teacher, writer and consultant in such fields as public management, government budgeting and finance, and political economy.

New Program in Law Is Announced

Beginning next fall, students will simultaneously be able to pursue law and graduate-level business degrees, thanks to a new program announced by UAlbany's School of Business and Albany Law School. The J.D./M.B.A. program, which allows for completion of coursework within four years, rather than the more traditional five, will prepare students for careers in commercial and investment banking, government regulation, business policy analysis and management consulting.

For more information about these stories and others, please visit our Web site at www.albany.edu.

From the Podium and Beyond



Alumna Donates Sculpture

The sculpture *Nike II*, by Maria Hall, B.A.'74, M.A.'79, has been installed in the plaza fronting the Life Sciences Research Building on UAlbany's uptown campus. The stainless steel sculpture, named for the Greek goddess of strength, speed and victory, is a dynamic play of strong, simple forms in space. Hall, who generously donated the work to The University Fine Art Collections, has exhibited in more than 40 group and eight one-person exhibitions at such venues as Skidmore College; the Empire State Plaza; Munson-Williams-Proctor School of Art Gallery in Utica, N.Y.; and Adelphi University, Garden City, N.Y.

CARSS Steers Students Toward Success

A new UAlbany-based center will strengthen the U.S. workforce and research sectors while providing a model program that seeks to reverse the problem of low enrollment in the sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Supported by a \$1 million grant from the National Science Foundation, the Center for Achievement, Retention and Student Success, or CARSS, was designed to “curb defections to non-STEM fields of our science and math majors,” said center director and Associate Professor of Organic Chemistry Rabi Musah. She worked with colleagues and co-principle investigators Hua Shi and Denise McKeon of the Department of Biological Sciences to establish the center, which will offer tutoring, mentoring and career counseling services for STEM majors, as well as financial incentives. CARSS builds upon three successful UAlbany programs: Collegiate Science Technology Entry Program (C-STEP), Project Excel and Science Research in the High School.

A Bright Idea Promotes Energy Saving\$

If energy costs are putting the squeeze on you, just follow UAlbany's example: reduce building temperatures to 65 degrees; set lighting to lower levels, if possible; and switch off appliances and other electrical equipment not in use.

During the intersession – Dec. 20, 2008, through Jan. 15, 2009 – the University saved more than \$266,000 by employing those simple measures. That reduction, which exceeded the original goal of \$250,000, represented a 19-percent decrease in utility costs from the same period a year earlier. The third annual Fall Energy Campaign, which promoted the conservation of energy use in campus residence halls and apartments from Sept. 3 through Nov. 9, realized another \$14,000 in savings.

Announcement of the savings was made at a February lecture featuring environmental activist Denis Hayes, who coordinated the first Earth Day 39 years ago. National Grid, the lecture's co-sponsor, also donated \$5,000 to UAlbany's Change-A-Light Campaign, launched last fall by the University's Office of Environmental Sustainability to encourage replacement of incandescent lightbulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs.

Rockefeller College Honors Graduates, Public Servants



Six recipients were honored at Rockefeller College's 2008 Alumni Awards Ceremony in November. Pictured left to right are James J. Malatras, B.A.'99, M.A.'00, Ph.D.'08 (Rockefeller College Young Alumni Award); Joseph B. Sano, B.A.'70, M.A.'73 (Distinguished Extended Learning Leadership Award of Excellence); Richard L. Dunham (Lifetime Achievement Award); Thomas W. Church, Ph.D. (Rockefeller College Distinguished Service Award); Nancy Gleason Groenwegen, B.A.'79 (Distinguished Alumna Award in Political Science); and Thomas G. Clingan, B.A.'73, M.P.A.'75 (Distinguished Alumnus Award in Public Administration and Policy).

NanoCollege Hosts Foreign Trade Commissioners

As part of a fact-finding trip designed to encourage international business growth throughout Tech Valley, the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE) at UAlbany welcomed New York City-based foreign trade commissioners from more than 20 countries in February. The event, sponsored by CNSE, Empire State Development and the Tech Valley Global Business Network, included a tour of the college's \$4.5 billion Albany NanoTech Complex and a presentation highlighting New York State's global leadership in nanotechnology education, research and economic outreach.



Mia Ertas/CNSE

CNSE Vice President for Marketing and Communications Steve Janack addresses trade representatives outside a state-of-the-art 300mm wafer cleanroom in NanoFab 300 North.