

Forging Partnerships  
with Government, Industry  
and Community

update on  
**OUTREACH**  
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY



Update on Outreach Newsletter

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## Division for Outreach

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# School of Social Welfare Propels Region's Aging-Prepared Plan

Center for Excellence in Aging Services director Philip McCallion believes this is the time and the Capital Region is the place to create a community that fully attends to and derives benefits from its aging population.



Lani Jones (left), faculty member in the School of Social Welfare, discusses programs with two Albany senior citizens.

"We are in the midst of a new era," says McCallion, "one where greater longevity is already available for men and women and where society has an opportunity to provide thoughtful support that will sustain independence and continued contributions, instead of supporting and creating dependence. The challenge for us is to be equally far-sighted."

Last December, the University's School of Social Welfare, of which McCallion is a faculty member,

kicked off a new region-wide effort in collaboration with the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA): the John A. Hartford Foundation Initiative for an Aging Prepared Community. Funding from the Hartford Foundation's 18-month planning grant provides the School with the time to develop a full-scale implementation proposal to the Foundation.

McCallion and Edward Kramer, an assistant director at NYSOFA, lead the project, with UAlbany's Laura Bronstein, Ph.D, project director. Pilot projects will create replicable and sustainable national models for greater aging-prepared communities.

There have also been five major forums since March, sponsored by the Albany Guardian Society, an organization dedicated for 150 years to addressing the needs of aging persons in the Albany area. The forums discuss key elements necessary for the aging-prepared community environment. They include information and assistance resources, transportation, and the intergenerational concerns of older persons.

Key collaborations in the Hartford Initiative include those with the region's county offices for the aging. "The best thing about the Hartford endeavor is the commitment made not only by local aging departments, but by many aging services providers, state government and the University at Albany," said Albany County Commissioner on the Aging Vincent Colonno.

*(continued on Page 2)*

## To Our Community:

At the University at Albany, we are proud of our deep engagement with a wide array of organizations and institutions throughout the Capital Region. Through the University's programs of education and research across all its disciplines, we pursue ways to serve our neighbors and to actively develop joint initiatives that address the needs of this vibrant community.

An underlying philosophy at UAlbany is that of engagement – engagement with higher education, government, industry and com-

munity. All have something to give and something to learn in equal partnership.

The purpose of this publication is to offer examples of how we are engaged in these regional partnerships and to encourage further cooperative ventures. Together, we can continue to devise solutions close to home for the complex problems facing society today.

**Karen R. Hitchcock**  
President

# Conferences Aim at Ending 'Digital Divide' in Schools and Community

Joseph Bowman, Jr., thinks New York has a long way to go in providing access and equity to technology and content for urban and rural communities. This fall, thanks to two summers of bringing leaders from across the state into Albany to discuss this "digital divide," he hopes to provide legislators with a clearer view of the challenges and possible solutions that lie ahead.

Bowman, a member of the Department of Educational Theory and Practice faculty and director of UAlbany's Center for Urban Youth and Technology (CUYT), brought about his first Digital Divide conference at UAlbany in May 2001. He called it "an assessment and solutions conference," where officials from community-based organizations, churches, the medical profession, legislatures, telecommunications and academia, as well as state education and labor representatives, convened.

On June 5 of this year came Digital Divide II, which set its sights on identifying patterns of disparity across the state and developing a plan of action to address such issues at legislative and economic levels. Approximately 260 local, state, and corporate representatives were in attendance.

"This year's conference dealt directly with the issues from three perspectives — local, statewide, and corporate," said Bowman, a well-published researcher who is also a regent of the University of the State of New York. "The aim was to distill all the issues from these areas and select one or two that we can bring to the State Legislature this fall."

There were also keynote speeches from Dr. Jabari Simama, executive director of the Office of Technology in Atlanta, Ga.; Allen

Hammond, Jr., Esq., a Santa Clara University law professor; and Omar Wasow, executive director of BlackPlanet.com, an online community website based in New York City.

The Local roundtable comprised members of several community and county-based civic organizations; the State group was made up of representatives from the Assembly Banking Committee, Education Department, Office of Cultural Education and State Library; the Corporate session included officials from IBM, AT&T, Apple and Hudson Valley Television.

"One of the main topics, of course, is the delivery of skills to urban and rural youth through technology," said Bowman, who as CUYT director has established programs in math, science and technology skills for students transitioning from Philip Livingston Middle School to Albany High School. Among his many past projects were Project Prism, a math and science parental initiative sponsored by the National Urban League, and a technology and science integration program for middle school teachers sponsored by the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering.

"The larger question, however, is what system you set up to make sure your state as a whole remains technologically literate," he said. "For example, the last technology plan for the State of New York was in 1992. We're in 2002 now. We need to plan, discuss, and share electronic resources across all state, local and community agencies and organizations.

"We know that, on the grass roots level, people and communities need access to technology to keep up. And we know that the students we deal with in our Center go back to their homes and say 'Mom and dad, listen to

what I did today,' and that makes *families* more interested and proactive. We know the kids are learning not only school skills but also electronic skill that are e-life skills — doing banking, paying bills, research, databasing, and communicating online.

"On another level, however, we need to know how the state will address the need to support technology in the future. Dr. Simama told us how Georgia is creating a statewide computer network involving schools, community-based organizations, libraries, museums, and corporations, not only in computer linkages but also to HD television and other technology that empowers communities.

"All of these agencies are coordinating and working together, and that's what New York must prepare for as well. If nothing else, we need to find out how the state can encourage and enlighten people about these technologies, so that kids don't fall hopelessly behind."

Bowman adds that, while the focus of these conferences has been on equity and access, they are only a step to the future.

"My concerns," he said, "are about skill sets of technology end-users — our communities — the type of content that is available after access is provided, the cultural and social relevance of the content material, the lack of minorities and women in the IT profession, and the economic impact that technology can play in community development of urban and rural communities."



▲ Joseph Bowman, Jr., works with Philip Livingston Middle School students through UAlbany's Center for Urban Youth and

## SSW Propels Aging-Prepared Plan (continued from page 1)

"This commitment cements our desire to take advantage of the many resources available throughout the Capital Region for working together to develop appropriate solutions to issues involving seniors. No longer can any of us do it alone. Success of service delivery to our

seniors will depend heavily on collaborations such as the Hartford Foundation project."

Project Director Bronstein agreed, saying, "We regard input from a wide range of agencies and individuals in four counties as critically important. This includes speaking with grass-

roots organizations and underserved communities and consumers." Participating agencies include senior centers, churches and synagogues, community businesses, health network staff at Albany Medical Center, Northeast Health, St. Peter's Hospital, the Whitney M. Young, Jr., Health Center, and home health care and transportation providers.

# Partnership Expands Info-Systems Security Workforce

**A**s the public becomes increasingly reliant on the use of networked computers and the Internet, the risk of cyber-based breaches and attacks on vital information systems increases as well. Exacerbating this problem in both the public and private sectors is the growing shortage of information security personnel needed to better secure computer networks.

Rising to meet these challenges, however, are partnerships among universities and public-sector agencies. At the forefront of such joint ventures is one involving the University at Albany, the New York State Police (NYSP) and the NYS Office for Technology (OFT). Working together, this New York-based cyber-security partnership is pursuing initiatives that will enhance the state's and ultimately the nation's ability to proactively combat cyber-threats and cyber-terrorism.

These efforts are consistent with training and research objectives in both the Governor's Critical Information Systems Protection Plan and New York's Cyber Security Task Force.

"The deficiency in cyber-security personnel in large part reflects the limited number of university graduate and undergraduate information security programs that exist," says Peter Bloniarz of UAlbany's Department of Computer Science.

UAlbany, NYSP and OFT addressed this issue in part last year by joining with Purdue University's Center for Education and Research in Information Assurance & Security to develop on-line course modules in cyber security and computer and network forensics. The project, which integrates the courseware into curricula at UAlbany, Purdue, NYSP's training academe-

The opinions of many aging residents have been heard through the Capital District Senior Issues Forum, a volunteer group of interested senior citizens, faith communities and providers working to address aging concerns.

"The Center for Excellence in Aging Services at UAlbany has been a driving force in the effort to establish an Aging Prepared Community ini-

my, and OFT's Information Security Officer training programs, was awarded \$200,000 in funding in January from the National Science Foundation. UAlbany serves as the project's lead institution with Bloniarz as principal investigator.

Ron Stevens, director of the Computer Crime Unit (CCU) for the NYSP, points out that over the last ten years technologically savvy criminals have increasingly used computers to aid in committing such traditional crimes as drug trafficking, money laundering, homicide and sexual attacks. During this time, CCU has experienced an 1,800 percent increase in the number of cases it investigates and examines. The rapid evolution of the Internet has added a new genre of crimes and potentially dangerous forms of terrorism, including viruses, insider threats and network intrusions that could disrupt hospitals, emergency systems and other critical infrastructure.

"By most accounts, the lack of skilled information systems security personnel is a serious and growing concern in both government and industry," said Stevens. "Through the State Police partnership with UAlbany and OFT, we are expanding the scope of competency-based information security education. The NSF-funded project is a major step in this effort."

"The goal is to create a collaborative learning environment where government, law enforcement, and academia come together to foster education and training," said Laura Iwan, New York's Information Security Officer. "OFT understands the importance of an educated workforce and therefore recognizes the need to expand and enhance training by providing a more formal curriculum to the state's

tiative within the Capital District," said Lois Wilson, secretary of the Senior Issues Forum, which she founded in 1998 with the pastor of Albany's Westminster Presbyterian Church.

"Senior Issues Forum members have been extremely impressed by the efforts that Professor McCallion, Ed Kramer and Laura Bronstein have made to reach out to all seg-



(Left to right) UAlbany computer scientist Peter Bloniarz, State Police Cybercrime Investor Thomas Urbanek and State Information Security Officer Laura Iwan are designers of new education modules for future cyber-security personnel.

current employees and its future workforce."

In the NSF-sponsored project, UAlbany and Purdue will develop and test two basic curricular modules. Results will be disseminated through a number of national outlets, including distance-learning communities and consortia focused on information security. Course materials will also be used in at least three general workshops in New York and Indiana in order to assess their effectiveness in more general learning environments.

UAlbany, NYSP and OFT have developed other initiatives that will, in sum, lift the partnership's joint programs to institute/academy status. One will be UAlbany's Institute for Informatics, Logic and Security (ILS). Under the direction of Tomek Strzalkowski and Neil Murray of UAlbany's computer science department, ILS is gaining national leadership in advanced research, education and professional training in information assurance and security, computational informatics, and criminal intelligence.

ments of the community, including groups with which the Forum has been working," said Wilson. "Their leadership has been a critical factor in developing consensus around projects that foundations will be willing to fund."

To learn more of the Hartford Foundation Initiative for an Aging Prepared Community, contact Philip McCallion at [mcclion@albany.edu](mailto:mcclion@albany.edu).



**Fine Arts** Recent wood and stone-carved sculptures by Nat Friedman, Professor Emeriti in the Department of Mathematics, are the subject of *Form, Space, and Light*, on view at the University Art Museum's West Gallery through Nov. 10. Friedman, founder and director of the International Society of the Arts, Mathematics and Architecture, combines innovations of

modern sculpture and mathematics, and elements of form, space and light to create a personal vision that celebrates his innate love of both physical process and intellectual pursuit.

The only faculty member at UAlbany to receive both the SUNY Excellence in Teaching and Excellence in Research awards, Friedman will give a public lecture entitled "Mathematics in Art and Architecture" on Friday, Oct. 4, at 7:30 p.m.

**Finance** In an era in which mutual funds, pension funds and insurance companies dominate world financial markets, UAlbany's School of Business has established the nation's first academic Center for Institutional

Investment Management (CIIM). Opened this semester, the Center focuses on research and analysis of strategic institutional investing, an

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Classic Film Series at Page Hall

**Oct. 11** — *Lumumba* (2000). 7 p.m. Film by Raoul Peck, with commentary by the director immediately following.

**18** — *Madame Dubarry* (1919, German). 7:30 p.m. Best of Ernst Lubitsch's early silent films.

**25** — *Sarah* (1976). 7:30 p.m. *Sarah* star Zoe Caldwell will talk about her life and work on Oct. 29, 8 p.m., Recital Hall of PAC.

**Nov. 1** — *The Sin of Harold Diddlebock* (1947). 7:30 p.m. Comic genius Harold Lloyd's return to the screen under director Preston Sturges.

**8** — *Besieged* (1998). 7 p.m. Bernardo Bertolucci's film of the James Lasdun novella "The Siege." Lasdun will speak the night before (**Nov 7**) in the PAC Recital Hall at 8 p.m.

increasingly relevant area to finance practitioners as well as to the average American.

Nowhere is such investing more important than in New York. Much of the Center's work will focus on state government's Albany-based management of employee retirement funds. The Center's research facilities and new data resources will also promote interaction among

private institutional investors, such as First Albany Corporation, faculty and students.

**Health** A \$150,000 grant from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation to UAlbany's School of Public Health (SPH) will aid minority students seeking public health careers.

Minority health status is a focal issue throughout the U.S. SPH seeks to increase the number of health practitioners conversant with the needs of minority communities, with the ultimate goal of enhancing health services to minority communities.

The award is being added to UAlbany's Hearst/School of Public Health Minority Fellowship Fund. It enables SPH to offer an annual \$10,000 Hearst fellowship to a qualifying minority graduate student.

**Business & Technology** More than 300 executives from the semiconductor industry were on hand in Bolton Landing Sept. 10-13 for the second annual Albany Symposium on Global Nanotechnology, sponsored by the UAlbany research center Albany NanoTech and the region's Center for Economic Growth.

Speakers discussed a range of issues, most focusing on business trends. Chairman of the symposium was C. Robert Helms, head of International Sematech, which announced in July that the organization would establish a \$403 million International Sematech North research center at UAlbany.

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