From the Podium and Beyond
By Carol Olechowski

UAlbany Community Welcomes Powell, McGovern

For the inauguration of its Speakers Series, UAlbany’s Student Association enlisted a four-star headliner: former Secretary of State and Gen. (U.S. Army, Ret.) and two-time Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient Colin Powell. Hundreds of guests gathered Oct. 10 at SEFCU Arena to listen as the former head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shared his observations about domestic and world affairs, leadership and the future.

Two-time presidential candidate George McGovern also visited the University last fall. During “A Conversation With George S. McGovern,” hosted by Professor of Political Science Bruce Miroff, the former U.S. senator talked about insights presented in his 2008 book, *Abraham Lincoln*.

In their respective talks at UAlbany, Colin Powell (above) focused on domestic and world affairs, while George McGovern (seated, photo at right) discussed *Abraham Lincoln*, the subject of his 2008 book.

**CNSE Launches New Undergraduate Major**

UAlbany’s College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE) has become the first college in the world to offer a comprehensive baccalaureate program in nanoscale science. The B.S. program builds on CNSE’s graduate-level program, a global first when it began in September 2004. The curriculum will prepare students for scientific, technical or professional careers in nanotechnology-enabled fields, as well as for graduate study.

**Childs Is Collins Fellow**

Professor of Mathematics Lindsay N. Childs, beloved mentor to students and internationally recognized expert in algebraic field theory, was named a Collins Fellow at the 2009 Winter Commencement.

**CRC Researchers Receive Grants**

A total of $7 million has been presented to Cancer Research Center (CRC) scientists who are exploring the causes, prevention and treatment of cancer.

Awards were made to:

- Thomas Begley: $2.1 million, National Institutes of Health (NIH); two NIH stimulus grants totaling nearly $762,000
- Douglas Conklin: $1.25 million, the National Institutes of Health (NIH); $246,800, the Susan G. Komen Foundation; $264,177, the U.S. Army Medical Research Acquisition Activity.
- Chittibabu Guda: $946,875, NIH
- JoEllen Welsh: $996,333 stimulus grant; $275,000 NIH grant
Dias, Lizotte Hold Administrative Posts

James A. Dias, associate professor and chair of the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the School of Public Health and a research scientist at the New York State Department of Health’s Wadsworth Center, is serving as UAlbany’s interim vice president for Research. Dias is a specialist in biochemical endocrinology; his research focuses on advancing knowledge of the causes and cures for infertility.

Professor and Hindelang Criminal Justice Research Center Executive Director Alan Lizotte has been named dean of the School of Criminal Justice. Last spring, Lizotte received both a University President’s Award for Excellence in Research and the School of Criminal Justice Graduate Student Association’s Faculty Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Development.

Tune In!

If you’re tired of the same old TV fare, then tune in to Albany Student Television (ATV) [www.atvalbany.com]. Its programming, which focuses on UAlbany people, places and events, is immensely popular with students; in fact, ATV, notes director and senior communication major J.B. Biunno, “has become one of the most successful student organizations at UAlbany. Not only do we create content for channels 16 and 19 on campus and online via ATVAlbany.com, but we do so with the primary intent of educating students in broadcast journalism and television production.”

The current number of student-produced shows – seven – will “grow to 10-12 this spring,” adds Biunno.

Phillips Is Appointed to National Committee

University at Albany Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Susan Phillips has been appointed to a three-year term with the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI), U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced in December. NACIQI advises the secretary on accreditation issues and on the eligibility and certification process pertaining to institutions of higher education.

HPPAE Recognizes Briar-Lawson

Katharine Briar-Lawson, internationally known for her three-plus decades in social work education, aging and social welfare, received the Hartford Partnership Program for Aging Education (HPPAE) Leadership Award for Outstanding Dean. The award, administered by The Social Work Leadership Institute, honors individuals for outstanding leadership in aging education.

IAW&A Lauds Kennedy

Pulitzer Prize-winning author William Kennedy received the Irish American Writers & Artists’ (IAW&A) first Eugene O’Neill Lifetime Achievement Award last October. The program, held in New York City, featured readings of Kennedy’s works by actor Matt Dillon, writer Malachy McCourt and other special guests.

Kennedy is founder and executive director of the New York State Writers Institute.

UAlbany President George Philip watches as an ATV interview is taped.

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NIH Supports CEMHD

A $6.8 million National Institutes of Health grant will further Center for the Elimination of Health Care Disparities (CEMHD) efforts to improve underrepresented groups’ access to health screenings and quality health care in small cities throughout New York. Founded in 2005, CEMHD seeks to improve the health of African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans and other underrepresented populations by identifying community needs, and developing projects that will reduce and remove barriers to health care and prevention programs. During the past five years, the center has worked with communities in Albany and Amsterdam, N.Y.

UAlbany Thinks Green

UAlbany and the State University of New York system have embarked on a new initiative: promoting the reduction of carbon emissions on the nation’s roadways – and on campus.

Already, work being done at UAlbany to advance environmental sustainability has attracted notice. Associate Professor of Information Technology Management Sanjay Goel, who researches the coordination and optimization of traffic signals as a means of minimizing vehicle wait times at intersections, has received corporate and state funding for his efforts at reducing automobile engine idling and greenhouse gas emissions. In 2009, Goel was one of only three recipients nationwide of a prestigious $25,000 AT&T Industrial Ecology Faculty Fellowship. His project is also supported by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority; NYSERDA’s $105,945 of funding includes support from the University.

Alternative transportation options for students, faculty and staff, such as hybrid buses and bike and ride-sharing programs, are likewise being explored.
Grants Support UAlbany Initiatives

University researchers attracting grants recently from a number of prominent funding sources include:

Assistant Professor Janine M. Jurkowski and Associate Professor Kirsten K. Davison of the Department of Health Policy, Management and Behavior: designing and implementing an interdisciplinary project aimed at eradicating childhood obesity
Support: $1.1 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant

Distinguished Professor of Health Policy, Management and Behavior Edward Hannan: studying long-term survival of cardiac patients undergoing artery bypass grafting (CABG) and stenting with percutaneous coronary interventions (PCI)
Support: $925,499 ARRA challenge grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI)

Center for Financial Market Regulation (CFMR)/interdisciplinary development committee headed by Chair of Computer Science George Berg: developing curricula that will introduce students to the critical role of computational thinking in financial market oversight and regulation
Support: $800,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to support creation of case studies, modules and a series of courses for the curricula

Department of Mathematics and Statistics: providing fellowships to students enrolled in the mathematics Ph.D. program
Support: $360,000 award from the U.S Department of Education

Professor and Chair of Epidemiology and Biostatistics Edward Fitzgerald: studying the effects of perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) on nervous system and thyroid function in older adults
Support: $176,489 Academic Research Enhancement Award (AREA) from the National Institute on Aging (NIA)

For more news about UAlbany, please visit us on the Web at www.albany.edu.