Where Are They Now?
By Carol Olechowski

Congratulations to Anthony (Tony) Vinciquerra, B.S.’77, who was inducted into the Broadcasting and Cable Hall of Fame in 2009. The Albany native got his start in the broadcasting business in his hometown, where he sold air time for local radio and television stations. Now chairman and CEO of Fox Networks Group, Vinciquerra previously held executive positions with The Hearst Corporation, the CBS television station group, KYW in Philadelphia and WBZ in Boston. Vinciquerra majored in business administration at UAlbany.

Four decades after embarking on a career in the financial industry, Aventura, Fla.-based financial advisor Michael A. Shear, B.S.’66, continues to enjoy working with his clients – many of them referred by family, friends and colleagues who have done business with him. UAlbany helped him to succeed: “… [M]y studies in psychology were invaluable. Courses in public speaking taught me how to address large and small groups with confidence, and my business and economics courses gave me the foundation to understand the basics of the ever-changing business world.” Recently, Wells Fargo Advisors awarded Shear the Premier Advisor designation. Some time ago, he adds, Financial Planning Magazine named him one of the top 100 advisors in America.

Albany Preparatory Charter School social worker Alyssa Lotmore, B.S.W.’07, M.S.W.’08, says that UAlbany was a great training ground for her career, too. She learned “how to work with adolescents and families, respond in crises, and address mental health and domestic violence issues,” so she feels prepared “to deal with the many unexpected situations that arise each day in an urban middle school. The School of Social Welfare also taught MACRO (management) coursework, which enables me to collaborate with outside agencies and create quality programs for my students.” At UAlbany, Lotmore received both the Chancellor’s Award for academic excellence and the University President’s Scholar-Athlete Award. The track standout – who competed for a while after graduating and is “still running on my own” – is thinking about returning to school. “A Ph.D. in social welfare would be nice, although I have an interest in educational administration and policy studies. I love working in the educational setting and would one day like to work in the college setting,” Lotmore notes.

Delegate Alyssa Lotmore was on hand in Tampa last year when Albany was honored as one of 10 All-America cities. The Albany City Hall volunteer hopes her hometown will be selected for the designation again this year.
You might say that Professor Emerita Sophia Lubensky “ate the dog.” The New York City resident has signed a contract with Yale University Press to publish a revised U.S. edition of her Russian-English Dictionary of Idioms. The critically acclaimed reference work, originally published in 1995 by Random House, was a labor of love. In 1981, initially for her own use, Lubensky began recording idiomatic expressions on 3-x-5-inch index cards, later transferring them to computer files for review and editing. Former graduate students, including Marjorie McShane, M.A. and C.A.S.’92, Ph.D.; Rebecca Stanley, M.A. and C.A.S.’85; Erika Haber, B.A.’85, M.A.’87, C.A.S.’88; and Judith VanDyk Hehir, B.A.’78, C.A.S.’84, assisted Lubensky with the effort. Her Languages, Literatures and Cultures colleague Charles Rougle also provided encouragement, as did others, at home and abroad. The Russian-English Dictionary of Idioms, which was also published in Russia in 1997 and 2004, includes such expressions as “She ate the dog.” (That means “She knows her stuff.”)

Luvins Muffins founder Thaddeus Pinckney, M.B.A.’01, who was featured in the Fall 2008 UAlbany (“The Muffin Man”), is always cooking up something new. His latest winning recipe: setting aside a portion of the profits realized through the sales of muffins – and now cupcakes, too – to support Hope in the Boat, a dragon-boat team of Capital Region breast cancer survivors raising awareness of the disease, and funds to fight it. Pinckney’s good works also benefit other causes, including the Salvation Army; Sisters Inc. of Hudson Valley Community College (HVCC); Hannah’s Hope Fund; and the Troy Boys and Girls Club. His customers win all the way around: They enjoy yummy treats and benefit worthy charities. To check out Pinckney’s Web site – and do something nice for others, as well – visit http://luvinsmuffins/shop/.

Wouldn’t it be great if . . .

UALBANY FUND donors are doing all of these things and much, much more.

www.albany.edu/giving