Spreading the Word

Like a lot of us, Randy Cohen, B.A.’71, wasn’t quite sure what he wanted to be when he grew up. When he arrived at the University at Albany in the late 1960s, he thought he wanted to be a musician. Fortunately, he had an epiphany, and realized he was more talented at writing than music. Today, he’s a kind of moral compass for millions of New York Times Magazine readers each Sunday as the author of the column “The Ethicist.” Our cover story about how Cohen became a moral compass to the nation begins on Page 8.

Why do some cancer cells grow out of control while others remain dormant for years? The University is preparing to open a $45 million cancer research center that will help us answer questions like that. The focus of the Ger “NY” Sis Center for Excellence in Cancer Genomics is basic research. But its ultimate goal is to become a comprehensive care center where doctors not only work in labs, but treat patients with new protocols. For the story behind that vision, beginning on Page 12, we interviewed center director Paulette McCormick, who entered the field for a personal reason: She was dissatisfied with the treatment her mother, diagnosed with cancer in 1974, received.

Also in this issue, we introduce a new feature called “The Big Picture,” which captures a special moment or event at the University. Our first offering, on the previous page, shows members of the freshman class strolling across the piazza during orientation. Gary Gold, B.S.’70, captured this rite, along with the photo above, which he snapped from Eastman Tower on State Quad.

When we first began producing UAlbany magazine in 1991, our goal was to spread the word about the University at Albany. UAlbany is a continually evolving institution, but that’s still our goal. The news from campus is more exciting than ever, and I am proud to share it with you.

— Christine Hanson McKnight
Editor

$600 Million Public/Private Initiative Announced at Albany NanoTech

A $600 million consortium announced at Albany NanoTech promises to raise New York State’s Tech Valley profile and boost its economy by speeding development of new generations of computer chips and shortening the time it takes to transport them to market.

The initiative, the International Venture for Nanolithography, or INVENT, joins the University; state government and four of the world’s largest chip manufacturers — IBM, Advanced Micro Devices Inc., Infineon Technologies AG and Micron Technology Inc. — in a seven-year partnership that will bring an additional 200 jobs to Albany NanoTech. Approximately 650 workers are currently employed at the site, which is the home of UAlbany’s College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE), the country’s first college devoted to nanotechnology.

New York will invest $180 million in the initiative. IBM will furnish another $80 million. Each of the other three firms is expected to provide $40 million, with the remainder coming from other companies affiliated with the corporate partners, such as Honeywell, Praxia, M/BZander and Tokyo Electron. The funding will support the development of nanoscale lithographic patterning techniques for the production of faster and more versatile computer chips to be used in applications that include telecommunications, bionanochips, homeland defense, and sensors for energy and environment.

In addition, to ensure the education of a skilled workforce, $2 million will be earmarked for a fund to support scholarships and fellowships for women, minorities and underrepresented groups studying at the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering. It is anticipated that the new jobs generated at Albany NanoTech and those spun off at other high-tech firms throughout the Capital Region will encourage UAlbany graduates to remain in the area after graduation. CNSE enjoys the most extensive nanotechnology research facilities in the academic world, with over $1 billion in infrastructure to support research in nanotechnology.

Gov. George Pataki, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, IBM Senior Vice President John Kelly, Infineon Senior Vice President Wilhelm Beinowig, and AMD Corporate Vice President Craig Sander joined University at Albany President Kermit Hall and Albany NanoTech President Alain Kaloyeros for the July 19 announcement. Also present were Assemblymen Jack McEneny, Paul Tonko and Bob Reilly.

Campus | News and Notes

Africana Studies, Other Programs Are Among the Nation’s Best

UAlbany’s academic programs continue to earn top national rankings.

Black Issues in Higher Education magazine recently ranked the University’s Africana studies graduate program second in the nation and the undergraduate program 10th. UAlbany is the only school in the SUNY system that offers a master’s degree in the field. Its graduates work in law, government and foreign service. Africana studies programs at Columbia, Temple, Ohio State, New York University and Cornell also placed in the top 10.

UAlbany’s criminal justice program ranked second among graduate programs in U.S. News and World Report’s annual rankings. Other highly rated programs included information and technology management (4), public management and administration (6), public finance and budgeting (9), counseling/personal services (13), library science (15), social welfare (19), public policy analysis (20), and sociology (25). Rockefeller College’s public policy program placed 10th. The counseling psychology program was also ranked the fourth best in the nation for faculty publication productivity, according to the May 2005 issue of The Counseling Psychologist.

The nanotechnology facilities at UAlbany’s College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE), meanwhile, earned highest honors in a ranking published by Small Times magazine, the leading trade publication for nanotechnology. Rounding out the top five were Rice, North Carolina State, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. CNSE is the first college in the world devoted exclusively to the study of nanoscale scientific concepts.

By Carol Olechowski

UAlbany magazine, Volume 15, Number 1

UAlbany magazine is published three times a year for alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends of the University at Albany, State University at New York. Our goal is to produce a lively, informative publication that stimulates pride and interest in UAlbany.

Vice President for University Development
Deborah A.M. Read
Associate Vice President, Media and Marketing
Catherine Herman

EDITORIAL STAFF:
Executive Editor
Mary Fries
Editor
Christine Hanson McKnight
Creative Director
Kerry Gavin
Art Director/Designer
Janet Topual, B.A.’95
Copy Editor
Carol Olechowski

Photographers
Tara Engebry, Gary Gold, B.S.’70; Michael Purvo, Mark Schmidt

Research
Mike Battista, Deborah Paradiso

Historical Material
Geoffrey Williams, M.E. Grodner Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries

CLASS NEWS AND NOTES:
Class Notes Editor
Kathleen Sadiki
Art Director/Designer
Bunny Curless

UAlbany magazine on-line:
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The University at Albany, established in 1844, is an internationally recognized public research university with a broad mission of undergraduate and graduate education, research and public service. More than 15,000 students are enrolled in nine schools and colleges of the University, one of four University Centers of the State University at New York.

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www.albany.edu/pr/magazinenew.html

Upfront

Students gather in front of Eastman Tower on State Quad during freshman orientation

Photo: Gary Gold

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By Carol Olechowski

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President Kermit Hall speaks at a news conference announcing a $600 million public/private initiative at Albany NanoTech. Seated, from left, are Alain Kaloyeros, president of Albany NanoTech and vice president and chief administrative officer of the University’s College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno.

Photo: Mark Schmidt
Herbst and Read Are Named to Leadership Posts

Susan Herbst, former dean of Temple University’s College of Liberal Arts and professor of political science, has joined the University at Albany as provost and executive vice president for Academic Affairs. Deborah Read, former vice president for University Advancement at Northern Kentucky University, is UAlbany’s new vice president for Development.

Herbst, a Peekskill, N.Y., native, had directed strategic planning, finances, recruitment, fundraising and alumni affairs at the College of Liberal Arts, which has more than 4,400 students, 25 departments, programs and centers, and an operating budget of more than $35 million, since 2003. She previously held administrative positions, including associate dean for faculty affairs and political science department chair, at Northwestern University.

Herbst is a graduate of Duke University and received her doctorate in communication theory and research from the University of Southern California’s Annenberg School for Communications in Los Angeles.

As the University’s chief development officer, Read will work closely with alumni and The University at Albany Foundation to advance UAlbany’s fundraising goals and its visibility. In addition, she was responsible for the NKU Foundation, development; marketing; communications; alumni programs; special events; and WNKU, Northern Kentucky’s National Public Radio affiliate.

Read worked previously at Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pa., where she was vice president for Advancement, and at the University of Maryland, College Park, where she held several positions, including associate director of University Development during a $350 million campaign. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park.

Where there’s a will, there’s a way.

Or, even if there’s not a will, there’s a way. Making a planned gift to UAlbany ensures a quality education for future generations of students.

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CONTACT:
Richard P. Ingles, Esq., Director, Gift Planning
(518) 437-4779 (direct) (888) 226-5600 (toll free)
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www.albany.edu/giving

Several students said they had “pleaded” for SKN numbers, the numbers that a faculty member provides to let a student into a full class. Political science major Nick Chiachio, for instance, said he had to switch his minor from education because he couldn’t get into the appropriate classes.

Transfer student Don Boyce said not knowing the system worked against him. “I didn’t know what an SKN number was for quite some time,” he said. “Students should be told the process of getting into a class can be quite competitive.”

Associate Vice President for Student Affairs Christine Bouchard, who organized the events, said, “It is eye-opening to hear student and parent concerns about some very basic topics. We learn so much from these sessions. It is important now for all of us to regroup and take proactive steps regarding what we have learned.”