The University at Albany is steadily strengthening the undergraduate experience and attracting increased numbers of high-achieving students.

This fall, the University welcomed 2,022 freshmen, of whom 40 percent boasted academic credentials that place them in the top category of high-achieving students as defined by State University of New York standards. The class, which included 203 Presidential and Frederick Douglass scholars and 143 College Scholars, had an average high school grade point average of 90.9 and an average combined SAT score of 1166. Since 1998, the number of Group I students in the entering freshman class has grown from 470 to 651, a 35 percent increase.

The University aims to further increase the number of high-achieving students and is making concerted efforts on a number of fronts to achieve that goal.

**New Academic Directions**

Faculty are the heart of UAlbany’s learning environment, and this fall, the University welcomed 35 new faculty members to both strengthen existing programs and help shape new ones.

One important focus is the development of more courses that incorporate the use of information technology (IT) to assure that UAlbany students have the IT knowledge and skills they need to succeed. Through a University-wide effort known as the IT Commons initiative, departments are working together to recruit faculty with expertise in such areas as information policy and management, information security, web development, and more. The first four faculty members hired through the IT Commons initiative joined the University this fall. (See Fall 2004 UAlbany magazine for more information about this effort.)

An expanded journalism program is another new academic offering. As the University builds the journalism curriculum into a major, the program added two full-time faculty members and two new courses, “Public Affairs Reporting” and “Broadcast Journalism.”

**Message from Interim President John R. Ryan**

My past nine months as interim president of the University at Albany have allowed me to participate in the significant evolution of this wonderful institution. They have also been among the most satisfying, but challenging, of my many leadership assignments. I have been fortunate indeed to have spent decades in two of the most critical and honored professions — the military and higher education. It has been incredibly rewarding and enlightening to become acquainted with UAlbany and its outstanding students and superb faculty and staff. It has been a privilege to be “the bridge between two strong presidents” — President Karen Hitchcock and my successor.

What a great pleasure it is to tell you in this annual report about the broad spectrum of important developments during the last year. The achievements involve exciting new buildings and renovations on our three campuses; the dynamic, collaborative thrust of our public/private partnerships; and the praiseworthy activities of our students. Because students are the central core of our mission, I will discuss them briefly in this message; other key topics follow in the pages ahead.

News on the student front is very good. For the third year in a row, we have enrolled a stronger cohort of traditional entering students. It included 180 Presidential Scholars, 23 Frederick Douglass Scholars, two National Merit finalists, 15 valedictorians and 10 salutatorians.

Moreover, our continuing students distinguish themselves. Let me cite a few examples. The campus 2004 Voter Registration Drive, supported by many of our student groups, recently registered over 2,000 first-time UAlbany student voters. On October 9, 2004, over 200 students participated in the Race for Literacy to raise funds for literacy and literacy awareness in our community. UAlbany earned a new honors society chapter, Omicron Delta Kappa, to recognize and encourage superior scholarship, leadership, and exemplary character. This past spring, 74 student leaders received the President’s Award for Undergraduate Leadership and eight received the Chancellor’s Award for Student Excellence, the highest award of the State University of New York system. I think you’ll agree our students are eminently prepared to carry on the proud legacy of this university.

In this magazine, we highlight our many generous donors and partners, and I am deeply grateful to all. Our supporters are our vital partners in building new strengths, meeting new challenges, and inspiring us to pursue new opportunities. Many thanks!

John R. Ryan
Several initiatives are under way — in the School of Business, Rockefeller College, Undergraduate Studies, and especially in the College of Arts and Sciences — to develop honors experiences that will make UAlbany an even more attractive option for top-tier students.

Quality Teaching and Learning Spaces

Recognizing that modern, well-equipped classroom spaces help promote learning, the University is implementing a multi-year plan to update and improve classroom facilities. This summer, the University renovated 17 Humanities Building classrooms, two lecture centers, and a “premier” classroom in the School of Business named for Emeritus Business Professor Ron Forbes. His former students spearheaded a drive to raise private support that helped finance that renovation.

As with the first round of classroom renovations in 2003, these improvements targeted rooms that are among the most used classroom spaces on campus. New desks, tables and chairs were installed, along with new flooring, wall treatments, acoustical modifications, lighting and instructional technology. The University has invested $2 million in these renovations.

On the downtown campus, the University refurbished Milne Hall, one of UAlbany’s oldest buildings and home of the nationally ranked Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy. Included in the renovation of Milne Hall’s first floor were the college’s administrative office and public spaces and a newly outfitted conference room. In 2003, offices and public spaces on the second floor of Milne were renovated. To date, more than $750,000 has been spent on downtown campus renovations.

Enriching Student Life Outside the Classroom

Through investments in student residence halls and focused efforts to enhance student life, the University aims to create a campus environment where students thrive both in and out of the classroom.

Oneida Hall, a 118-bed low-rise on Indian Quad, is the latest residence hall to get a complete renovation. The project included fire sprinklers, alarm systems, heating and ventilation upgrades, new bathrooms, new windows, and new furniture. Students moved into the comfortable new rooms this fall. The renovation of Melville Hall on State Quad is now under way. In the past seven years, the campus has spent almost $50 million from the dormitory fund for renovations and furnishing of residence halls.

The University also upgraded cable television service for students in all residence halls. Time Warner is providing expanded service, including the YES Network for New York Yankee fans, as well as premium movies and digital cable options. UAlbany’s intercollegiate athletics and recreation programs are getting a boost through renovations to the Recreation and Convocation Center. The RA CC’s three playing surfaces, located on the arena level, are being changed to Robbins biochannel flooring, and a new synthetic surface is being installed to cover the 170-meter indoor track. In addition, the University is upgrading the facility’s sound system, wiring, and telecommunications and data systems. The RA CC, a 5,000-seat arena which opened in 1992, is the home of UAlbany’s men’s and women’s basketball teams, and a major venue for community and University activities.

Designing the Best Programs to Combat Drug and Alcohol Abuse

With $849,057 in funding provided by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the University is researching interventions that prevent or reduce alcohol-related problems among college students.

M. Dolores Cimini, director of UAlbany’s Middle Earth Peer Assistance Program, and Matthew P. Martens, assistant professor of educational and counseling psychology in the School of Education, are leading the study, which is entitled “The Effects of Peer-Facilitated Alcohol Interventions.”

The project will assess the effectiveness of two peer-led social norms-based alcohol prevention interventions, and the study’s findings will then guide the approach or approaches the University takes in addressing the problem. The project’s main goal is to reduce high-risk alcohol consumption and negative alcohol-related consequences among high-risk drinkers (i.e., individuals who have been referred to judicial affairs for an alcohol-related violation) on the campus.

The project initiatives will operate from the Middle Earth Peer Assistance Program, the recipient of a 2001 Exemplary Substance Abuse Prevention Program Award by the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services. Middle Earth will integrate a $10,000 gift from the Dominion Foundation in disseminating prevention initiatives materials to colleges and universities throughout the United States.

Building Spirit and Tradition

Faculty, staff and students are energetically building campus traditions and spirit.

One new spirit booster, a Pep Band of students and staff, made its debut during the home basketball games at the Big Purple Growl on Feb. 7. An old campus tradition got a new twist in a weekend of fun activities dubbed “Clash of the Quads,” first held in the fall of 2003 and repeated again this fall. Students took part in friendly competitions that included kickball, an egg-on-a-spoon relay race, musical chairs, a three-legged race, single and pairs Double Dutch competitions, and a massive tug-of-war.

A rich array of activities takes place on campus throughout the year, and the University launched a number of efforts to build awareness — particularly among students — of all that is happening. An incentive program called UAlbany G2!Events offers students the chance to win prizes by attending campus events.

For everyone interested in UAlbany’s activities, the University unveiled this fall a new web-based calendar that provides comprehensive, up-to-date and easily accessible events information. At www.albany.edu/today/ualbany/, calendar users are able to choose how they view information, i.e., by day, week or month, or by areas of interest, such as arts, athletics and student events.
Building a Critical Mass of Expertise in Cancer Research

New faculty are helping to build a critical mass of expertise in cancer research.

Three scientists last fall and three more scientists this fall joined the Gen*NY*Sis Center for Excellence in Cancer Genomics, located on UAlbany’s east campus. The youthful group has already captured a number of prestigious grants that are advancing their investigations. The scientists are members of the School of Public Health’s Department of Biomedical Sciences, and their grants are contributing to the school’s rising level of research funding.

The cancer genomics center was launched in September 2002 with a $22.5 million grant from the New York State Gen*NY*Sis program, which was sponsored by New York State Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno. That funding is helping to finance a new building, slated for completion in 2005, that will serve as the home of the cancer genomics center. While the new building rises on the east campus, the researchers are hard at work in laboratories in existing buildings adjacent to the construction site. Their investigations include studies of how chemotherapeutic medicines called “alkylating agents” work in different types of cancer cells; how tumors spread from one part of the body to another; and how bioinformatics analysis and identification can help determine which genes to focus on.

In addition to funding from the National Institutes of Health, Thomas Begley, one of the scientists who joined the UAlbany faculty this year, won a $200,000 James D. Watson Investigator award from the state. He is investigating why some cancers can be put into remission using certain chemical compounds, while others do not respond. Julio Aguirre-Ghiso, who studies tumor metastasis, won a Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation grant this past summer.

In the past, cancer researchers often focused on one gene, one type of cancer. By contrast, the Gen*NY*Sis center, directed by Paulette McCormick, uses high-throughput, multi-modal approaches that apply to many different cancers with many different causes. The research goal is rapid translation of basic research findings into clinical treatments for multiple cancer types.

Donors Making a Difference

UAlbany’s donors are critical partners in developing world-class research and academic programs.

While New York State has provided major funding for the construction of the Life Sciences Research Building and for the Gen*NY*Sis Center for Excellence in Cancer Genomics, private support is needed to help equip the facilities and to attract and retain the best and brightest researchers.

With a $1 million gift, Constance and Thomas D’Ambra launched the campaign for private support for the Life Sciences Research Initiative, and at the building’s opening, the high-tech auditorium was named in their honor. Morris “Marty” Silverman also made a $1 million donation. D’Ambra, who is chair, president and CEO of Albany Molecular Research, Inc., is chair of the life sciences fund-raising effort, which has raised nearly $6 million so far toward the goal of $20 million in private support.

For the cancer genomics center, the University is seeking to raise $25 million through individual, corporate and foundations gifts to The Fund for Memory and Hope. At the groundbreaking for the center, Mary Polsinello Hanley made the first gift in honor of her late son, James, who died of brain cancer. The new building’s entrance lobby will feature the Wall of Memory and Hope, displaying memorial plaques, and the first plaque installed will be dedicated to James R. Hanley.

The support of partners is essential for realizing the full potential of these UAlbany initiatives, and in appreciation, the University offers recognition opportunities through the naming of facilities, funds and programs.

For information about ways to help support life sciences, visit: www.albany.edu/lifesciences/ or contact Penelope Benson-Wright at pbensonwright@uamail.albany.edu. Cancer genomics information is at www.albany.edu/cancergenomics/ or contact Carol Bullard at cbullard@uamail.albany.edu.
A Growing Impact Through Research

The University at Albany’s evolution from a distinguished college for teachers to a high-quality research university has been a rapid one, and the growth of its research enterprise is having a wide-ranging impact.

One striking sign of institutional momentum is the record level of funding awarded to faculty in the 2003-2004 fiscal year for research across UAlbany’s nine schools and colleges. Research funding flowing through the Research Foundation (RF) of the State University of New York (SUNY) totaled $141.7 million — double the level of just two years ago. Nanosciences and nanoeengineering, the fastest-growing research area at UAlbany, accounts for $29 million, or 20 percent of that total. Other units accounting for substantial increases include the schools of Education, Social Welfare and Public Health. In addition to the $141.7 million, another $90.9 million, processed through Health Research Inc. (HRI), was awarded to School of Public Health faculty.

UAlbany’s School of Social Welfare has established a center to promote healthy families in environments where drug abuse, HIV/AIDS, and child welfare issues intersect, with support from a $1.9 million grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse.

Faculty conducting population-related research in areas as varied as fertility, criminology, and epidemiology received important support for their efforts through a $1.08 million grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) that funds the Albany Population Center.

The Northeast Regional Forensic Institute, a collaborative effort of UAlbany and the New York State Police, received nearly $1.5 million from the National Institute of Justice to help meet the need for highly trained forensic scientists.

Faculty researchers are also having an impact through such efforts as the development of a new gauge to measure trends in the U.S. economy; a comprehensive study of which teachers most effectively improve student performance; research into the mysteries of climate and its impact upon human populations; and a study of contaminants in farm-raised salmon.

These projects are but a few examples of the strength and leadership of UAlbany faculty in areas important to our society today. While the impact of their work clearly extends beyond the campus, UAlbany’s researchers also bring their distinctive strengths into the classroom, enriching the experience of both undergraduate and graduate students.

The funding attracted by UAlbany faculty is a major part of the University’s budget, playing a vital role in helping to support graduate students and secure essential equipment for research, while advancing discovery across the disciplines.

Albany NanoTech: An Advanced Center for the Nanotechnology Revolution

Experts say nanotechnology, or the science of manipulating matter at the atomic scale, could revolutionize every area of our lives over the next several decades. Albany NanoTech, the most advanced research complex of its kind at any university in the world, is positioned at the center of this revolution.

Truly a global center, Albany NanoTech attracts corporate partners from around the world and offers students a one-of-a-kind academic experience, and it is growing. Albany NanoTech marked several significant milestones during the past year that further strengthen its leadership in education and research in the fields of nanosciences and nanoeengineering.

UAlbany’s new College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE), the first of its kind in the world, formally welcomed its entering class of students this fall. The college’s unique multidisciplinary structure mandates that students and faculty be cross-trained in chemistry, engineering, mathematics, biology and physics. The goal is to give scientists and students all the tools they need to be at the forefront of 21st-century knowledge creation.

Located at the Albany NanoTech complex, the college enjoys the most extensive nanoelectronics facilities in any academic setting in the world. Its 450,000-square-foot complex has over 70,000 square feet of Class 1 capable 300 mm water cleanrooms, with some of the most state-of-the-art tools for supporting the nanoelectronic industry’s research and development needs. One of the newest tools installed is the world’s first 193 nm pre-production immersion lithography system.

Nearing completion in the fall was NanoFab300 North, the third building in the complex that houses Albany NanoTech and the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering. The building was financed through funding from New York State and corporate partners; the overall investment of governmental and corporate partners now amounts to $1.4 billion.

As the advanced research infrastructure has grown, so has the number of scientists, research projects, and partnerships based at Albany NanoTech. One example is the $12 million research and development partnership recently formed by the German semiconductor company Infineon, Genus and Albany NanoTech to create an atomic layer deposition center of excellence. In September, the California-based EV Group, a recognized technology and market leader for wafer processing equipment, relocated their northeast headquarters from Cranston, Rhode Island to Albany NanoTech.

Current research projects led by faculty include:

- Vince LaBella’s spintronics program, which focuses on developing magnetically doped semiconductors with the potential for faster computer processing speeds with lower power consumption.
- Pradeep Haldar’s E2TAC program, which helps companies produce working models of products that employ alternative power technologies, such as fuel cells, microturbines, and solar cells.
- Robert Geer’s work on a new nanometrology capability for measuring the stress state in strained silicon, the fundamental material at the heart of microchips.

IBM now has nearly four dozen scientists working at Albany NanoTech, with the total number of industry and University faculty and staff numbering more than 500. The College has close to 80 Ph.D. and master’s-level students.

Another recently formed partnership recognizes the importance of international cooperation in nanotechnology, particularly within the global economy of the 21st century. Albany NanoTech and NanoQuébec, a consortium of five Canadian colleges and universities, have agreed to work as partners in education, research and development, and technology commercialization in the field of nanotechnology.
**University Highlights**

**UAlbany Graduate Programs Are Highly Ranked**

The latest U.S. News & World Report survey of the best graduate schools in the nation places four University at Albany programs in the top ten in the country. Placing tenth in "American's Best Graduate Schools 2005" was the Nelson A. Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy. The college’s concentrations in information management and technology, public administration and management, and public finance ranked fourth, sixth, and ninth, respectively.

Rockefeller College’s public policy program ranked 25th in the nation. UAlbany’s School of Social Welfare ranked 19th on the list, and the School of Education rose to 36th in the 2005 U.S. News rating, up from 46th place in 2003. The master’s degree program in Africana Studies was recognized as one of the top five in the nation by Black Issues in Higher Education magazine.

**Karen R. Hitchcock New Frontiers Fund Tops $300,000**

A new Initiatives for Women (IFW) fund honoring former UAlbany President Karen R. Hitchcock will help women doctoral students blaze new trails. Established by members of the business community and her friends and colleagues as a tribute, the Karen R. Hitchcock New Frontiers Fund will help women doctoral students blazes new trails. The fund now totals more than $300,000.

Hitchcock, who served as UAlbany’s 16th president, played a key role in promoting IFW.

**Celebrating the New York State Writers Institute**

Some of the nation’s most popular writers joined UAlbany faculty, students, and staff for the spring 2004 observance of The Writing Semester, which celebrated the 20th anniversary of the founding of the New York State Writers Institute. Pulitzer Prize-winning author and UAlbany Professor of English William Kennedy founded the institute in 1984 with a portion of a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation fellowship he received. In the two decades since, the Writers Institute has become the “literary crossroads” for Albany as envisioned by Kennedy, offering a host of cultural and educational activities and access to some of the world’s greatest living authors.

Humorist Dave Barry, now on hiatus from The Miami Herald, and syndicated columnist Ellen Goodman were among the writers who visited UAlbany during The Writing Semester.

Go, Great Danes!

For the University’s Division 1 sports teams, 2003-04 was a very good year. UAlbany won America East Conference championships in men’s indoor track, men’s lacrosse, and women’s golf, and captured a share of a second straight Northeast Conference title in football.

Men’s lacrosse made its second consecutive appearance in the NCAA tournament after winning the America East Conference tournament crown. The men’s track team came from behind Northeastern to take first place in the America East Conference indoor track and field championship in Boston last February. In May, UAlbany’s women captured the America East Conference women’s golf championship in Hebron, Conn.

**A Focus on New York’s Latinos**

UAlbany scholars have joined with their colleagues at Hunter College and Columbia University and with other professionals in a partnership to improve understanding of the diverse concerns and experiences of New York’s Latinos.

The New York Latino Research and Resources Network (NYLARNet), the genesis of a “think tank,” will articulate Latino health, education, immigration, and political and public policy issues to the public. In addition, it will disseminate information about Latino affairs to lawmakers, public agencies, community organizations, and the media.

NYLARNet’s founding partners are UAlbany’s Center for Latino, Latin American, and Caribbean Studies (CELAC), the Institute for Urban and Minority Education (IUIME) at Columbia’s Teachers College, and Hunter’s Center for Puerto Rican Studies. The project, sponsored by New York State Assemblyman Peter Rivera, who chairs the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Legislative Task Force, was made possible by a grant from the New York State Legislature.

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**UAlbany to Continue as Summer Home of New York Giants**

The New York Giants have extended their summer training camp contract with UAlbany through 2006. The team has trained at UAlbany’s uptown campus from late July to late August since 1996.

The Giants’ ninth training camp at UAlbany concluded August 25 with nearly 1,400 fans on hand to watch final practice. In 2004, 45,040 Giants fans turned out for the team’s 21 practice days, shattering the previous attendance record of 38,750, set during the first camp in 1996.

**A Partnership to Address Cybercrime**

Law enforcement agencies are faced with a growing need to deploy highly skilled investigators to combat computer and cyber-based crime, yet there is a shortage of properly trained investigative personnel.

In order to address this challenge, a consortium of state district attorneys in the Capital Region, the New York State Police, the New York Prosecutors Training Institute (NYPTI), and the University joined forces in January 2004. They created the Capital Region Cybercrime Partnership, a first-of-its-kind operational-research-learning laboratory dedicated to improving capacity in investigation, forensic analysis and the prosecution of computer-related crime, cybercrime and cyberterrorism throughout the region.

Prosecutorial training is being provided by the NYPTI, which will also tailor its training programs to meet the needs of local law enforcement. The University is providing expertise, coursework development and delivery of instruction and training modules in computer/network forensics and cyber security to meet the needs of local law enforcement.

UAlbany is implementing a new signage and wayfinding system on each of its three campuses. Through a system of external and internal signs, maps and banners, visitors will have an easier time navigating their way to their campus destinations.

**New signage and wayfinding system on each of its three campuses.**

Through a system of external and internal signs, maps and banners, visitors will have an easier time navigating their way to their campus destinations.
Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
July 1, 2003 - June 30, 2004

Revenue % of Total
Tuition & Fees $74,222,900 19%
State Appropriations $55,283,740 14%
Federal Grants & Contracts $29,260,029 8%
State Grants & Contracts $86,601,190 22%
Private Gifts, Grants & Contracts $29,768,830 8%
Auxiliary Enterprises $114,251,148 29%
Total Revenue $389,467,837 100%

Expenditures & Transfers % of Total
Instruction $69,660,951 18%
Research $136,098,330 36%
Public Service $5,412,991 2%
Academic Support $15,190,341 4%
Libraries $12,819,274 3%
Student Services $13,957,658 3%
Institutional Support $28,278,447 7%
Operations & Maintenance $26,469,619 7%
Scholarships & Fellowships $21,299,427 6%
Residence Halls $29,378,579 8%
Food Service $16,012,747 4%
Other $5,745,996 2%
Total Expenditures & Transfers $380,363,360 100%

Surplus/Loss $9,104,477

The positive net revenue relates, in total, to the increase in net assets from the University at Albany Foundation and University Auxiliary Services. Of the surplus for the University at Albany Foundation, $21,970,427 is the result of a $22.6 million state grant restricted for use in constructing the Gen*NY*Sis Research Center and is not available for general Foundation use.

University Facts

Number of Students 16,336
Undergraduates 11,423
Graduate students 4,913

Number of Employees 3,462
Undergraduate Tuition New York resident $4,350
Graduate Tuition $10,920

Degrees Awarded
Bachelor’s 2,648
Master’s 1,547
Doctorate 39

Certificates 117
Alumni (living) 130,828

Number of Faculty (Fall 2004) 925
Full-time 619
Part-time 306

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