By CAROL OLECHOWSKI

**John R. Ryan is UAlbany’s Interim President**

The State University of New York Board of Trustees has named SUNY Maritime College’s president, Vice Admiral John R. Ryan, USN (Ret.), as interim president of the University at Albany.

Ryan will lead UAlbany until a permanent successor to Karen R. Hitchcock is chosen. Having announced her intention last fall to resign as president effective June 30, Hitchcock went on leave January 30, citing an illness in her family.

SUNY Board Chairman Thomas F. Egan described as an “ideal choice” for UAlbany.

“His significant academic, philanthropic and fiscal achievements at our Maritime College, and at the Naval Academy, combined with his extensive experience ... organizations, make him an ideal choice to lead the University at Albany until a permanent president is chosen,” Egan said.

Ryan will continue serving as president of the Maritime College, located at Fort Schuyler in New York City, and will not be a candidate for UAlbany’s permanent position.

George M. Philip, chair of UAlbany’s University Council, announced in February the selection of Korn/Ferry International as a search consultant and the formation of a Presidential Search Committee. The Council will submit its recommendations to the chancellor and the trustees.

Ryan said he viewed his role as “the bridge between two outstanding presidents.”

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Ryan started his presidency of the Maritime College in June of 2002. Before that, he served as superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis from 1998 to 2002, overseeing a $220 million annual budget and 7,000 faculty, staff and students. He received his master’s degree in administration from George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and completed the Program for Senior Executives in National and International Security at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. He is a 1967 graduate of the Naval Academy.

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Santiago, who joined UAlbany in 1988, was associate provost and dean of graduate studies at UAlbany prior to being named provost. He earned his Ph.D. in economics from Cornell University.

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The latest information about the presidential search is available at: http://www.albany.edu/presidentialsearch/The National Football League team, which has trained at UAlbany since 1996, has renewed its contract through 2006. Giants Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer John Mara said, “UAlbany has been a great summer home for us, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with the University for many years to come.”

Team members will report to the uptown campus the last week of July, led by new head coach Tom Coughlin.
Lydia Davis Wins MacArthur Prize

Acclaimed short story and fiction writer Lydia Davis may have won a prestigious $500,000 MacArthur Fellowship last fall — but she’s still down to earth enough to take the bus. Davis used her 90-minute Adirondack Trailways ride twice a week to Albany to good advantage, reading, relaxing, and “getting a lot of good work done” while scribbling storylines in a notebook. Once in the capital, the Hudson Valley resident would take a city bus to UAlbany’s uptown campus, where she taught a graduate fiction workshop and an undergraduate creative writing class last year.

The 56-year-old author of such works as The End of the Story and Almost No Memory first came to the University in 2000 as a guest of the New York State Writers Institute. She joined the faculty in 2002 as associate professor and writer in residence.

Bionarz is the new dean of the School of Information Science and Policy. In his 25-plus years with UAlbany, he has served as interim director of the Center ... director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning, research director of the Center for Technology in Government, and director of UAlbany’s information science Ph.D. program. Most recently, Bionarz was interim vice president for Research.

Mumpower, a professor of public administration recently appointed interim vice president for Research, joined the UAlbany faculty in 1984. A fellow of the Society of Risk Analysis, he has served in numerous posts at UAlbany, including those of director of the Center for Policy Research and associate director of Rockefeller Institute of Government. Mumpower, who also holds joint appointments in the University’s public health and information science programs, continues to serve as dean of Graduate Studies.

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