Claudia Matthews Wins Stanley Fink Legislative Internship
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The internship, which is supported by the Bell-Atlantic Foundation, is named for the late Stanley Fink, former speaker of the New York State Assembly and a former senior executive with Bell-Atlantic.

After the Tsunami: UAlbany Faculty Help Survivors Cope
In the aftermath of the tsunami that devastated Southeast Asia, the world rushed money, food and other humanitarian aid to the region. Now, relief efforts are also addressing survivors’ mental health needs, and UAlbany faculty members are assisting those efforts.

School of Social Welfare faculty member Eric Hardiman recently traveled to Jakarta to conduct a workshop aimed at providing Indonesian mental health professionals with background in trauma and traumatic stress, grief and loss, and the potential role of sport and physical activity.

Joining Hardiman in designing and delivering the intensive four-day program — The International Workshop on Addressing Trauma and Depression Through Sport — were Dawn Anderson-Butcher of Ohio State University and Tom Martinek of the University of North Carolina-Greensboro. Their training materials included resources adapted from the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress and the National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Support for travel and the workshop was provided by each school, in partnership with the Indonesian government.

Hardiman, Martinek and Anderson-Butcher used a “train the trainers” approach to maximize the impact of the training throughout Indonesia. The 50 participants represented various universities and nongovernmental organizations.

Paul Leonard Is School of Business Dean
Paul Leonard, B.S. ’75, M.B.A. ’76, has been appointed dean of the School of Business. Leonard, who completed his doctoral studies at the University of Oregon, joined UAlbany’s Department of Finance faculty in 1979. He had served as interim dean for more than a year before his appointment last November.

Leonard and his wife, Kristine Leonard, B.A. ’75, M.A. ’76, met while attending Onondaga Community College in Syracuse. Through a bequest, they are endowing a fund to support both need- and merit-based scholarships for community college students who transfer to UAlbany.

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Vincent O’Leary Recounts His Time As UAlbany’s Leader

Vincent O’Leary’s new memoir, The Improbable President, is University at Albany history from a front-row seat. O’Leary, UAlbany’s 14th president, guided the campus from 1977 to 1990 — when it was struggling to transform itself from a teachers’ college to a major university center. The University was also wounded by the closing of several academic programs and faced deep budget cuts. Despite his book’s title, O’Leary offers ample evidence that he was the perfect choice for the tumultuous times.

How he handled it all makes for an invaluable chapter in the University’s 160-year history; O’Leary also allows us fascinating glimpses into his personal life, including how he contended with the lifelong, crippling effects of polio. What emerges is a self-deprecating portrait of a politically shrewd administrator who relies on grit, grace and even some occasional groveling to get through the toughest days.

O’Leary was a nationally recognized criminal justice figure when the University recruited him in 1968 for its new School of Criminal Justice. He embraced his role as a teacher and scholar, but was at first a reluctant acting dean when that job was thrust upon him. Later, he agreed even more reluctantly to serve as a caretaker president when Emmett Fields departed on short notice. After 12 months as an interim leader, however, O’Leary eagerly accepted the offer to stay as the University’s permanent president. “I had discovered that being Mr. President was fun,” he recounts.

Editor’s note: Vincent O’Leary lives in retirement with his wife, Lihua, in his native San Francisco. The Improbable President may be purchased through Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, or at the University bookstore. Royalties from purchases at the bookstore will support the inaugural Albany Symposium on Crime and Justice, scheduled for April 2005.

— Christine Hanson McKnight

UAlbany in the News

Albany NanoTech was featured in the February 4 issue of Business Week in an article titled “New York’s Big Hopes for Nano,” which focused on how the state is shaping up as a power in the emerging technology. Alain Kaloyeros, dean of the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering, was quoted.

For the January 16 edition of the Baltimore Sun, Ron McClamrock, a professor in the philosophy department, wrote an article titled “Horrors Such as Tsunami Tragedy Pose Difficult Questions for Faithful.” In the article, he discussed how commentators have turned to philosophical considerations of how such events affect belief in God.

The January 9 edition of the Chicago Tribune featured comments from Rob Edelman of the UAlbany art department in an article titled “Coach Celluloid: The Teacher, the Motivator, the Father Figure.” Edelman, author of Great Baseball Films, discussed America’s affinity for coaches portrayed on the big screen.

Associated Press news outlets worldwide carried a new report by UAlbany’s Center for Women in Government and Civil Society detailing the challenges faced by minorities in achieving top state appointments. The AP story ran in at least 57 newspapers or news websites, including Newsday, the Kansas City Star and The Guardian in the United Kingdom.

— Lisa James Goldsberry
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.

Planned gifts can reduce estate taxes, income taxes of your heirs, or capital gains taxes. Find out how your gift can secure UAlbany’s future.

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

Briar-Lawson Leads National Group of Social Welfare Deans
School of Social Welfare Dean Katharine Briar-Lawson has been elected president of the National Association of Deans and Directors of Schools of Social Work (NADD). She is a national expert on family preservation, child and family policy, the world of work, and other social work issues. Since 2001, Briar-Lawson has co-chaired the NADD Gerontological Task Force, which is advancing Medicaid financing strategies for social work education in aging and is spearheading the development of a NADD Leadership Academy.

UAlbany’s School of Social Welfare is ranked second in per capita scholarly productivity among the social work programs in the nation. The School’s mission is to further social and economic justice and to serve those who are vulnerable, marginalized or oppressed.

UAlbany Researcher to Study Cancer Cells with NIH Grant
Julio Aguirre-Ghiso, an assistant professor at UAlbany’s Gen*NY*Sis Center for Excellence in Cancer Genomics, has been awarded a $1.43 million grant from the National Institutes of Health. Aguirre-Ghiso’s research will explore ways to delay or prevent the growth of metastatic cells that kill half of cancer patients, sometimes months or even years after tumors have been removed from their bodies. The grant will help fund study of a newly identified signaling mechanism and gene programs that are essential to maintain dormancy of metastatic cells.

Arthur Vining Davis Grant Supports High School English Teachers
High school English teachers will now have Web-based professional development materials at their fingertips, thanks to the Arthur Vining Davis Foundation’s recent $150,000 grant to the Center for English Learning and Achievement (CELA).

The funding will be used to adapt a multi-linked guide, currently in use by middle school English teachers, for teachers of high school English. Users have ready access to such topics as helping students to develop deeper understandings of what they read, and fostering reading, writing, and thinking skills through class discussions. Literary examples suitable for high school students, as well as samples of student work and teacher plans, will substitute for those in the middle school version, which was produced by CELA. CD video clips from high school classrooms will also be included.