

UAlbany

Magazine

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UAlbany magazine is published three times a year for alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends of the University at Albany, State University of New York. Our objective in producing *UAlbany* is to provide lively, informative content that will stimulate pride and interest in our University.

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Cover photo: Jamar Wilson, courtesy the *Times Union*
Visit <http://www.timesunion.com/sports/ualbany/>
for more photos of the 2006-07 basketball season.

From the Podium | And Beyond

By Carol Olechowski
Photos by Mark Schmidt

Herbst Is Officer in Charge

Provost, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of



Political Science Susan Herbst is serving as the University at Albany's officer in charge. State University of New York Chancellor John R. Ryan announced the appointment in October, two months after the death of former University President Kermit L. Hall.

Herbst came to UAlbany in September 2005 from Temple University, where she was dean of the College of Liberal Arts. A graduate of the University of Southern California and Duke University, she has also completed advanced research and study at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

McElroy Reappointed

Lee A. McElroy has been reappointed vice president for Athletic Administration and director of Intercollegiate Athletics for an additional five-year term.



Since McElroy joined the staff in 2000, UAlbany has won 19 conference championships and made NCAA appearances in men's basketball, men's lacrosse, women's volleyball, softball, and men's and women's track and field.

McElroy has led the way in developing a master plan to upgrade the University's athletic and recreational complex.

Wilcox Promoted

Kevin Wilcox, who served as UAlbany's deputy controller from 1999 to 2006, was named assistant vice president and controller Jan. 2.



In that capacity, Wilcox manages the offices of State Accounting; Institutional Services; Parking and Mass Transit Services; Sponsored Funds Financial Management; and the SUNY Student Loan Service Center. He also provides broad leadership and policy guidance for a range of fiscal and administrative topics.

Wilcox succeeds Leo Neveu, who has retired.

Women's Studies Program Celebrates 35 Years

UAlbany's Department of Women's Studies is marking its 35th anniversary with a yearlong series of events.

The observance began Nov. 30 with the fifth annual Women's Studies Student Conference, "Looking Back, Moving Forward: Celebrating 35 Years of Women's Studies." Special events planned during 2007 include a faculty exhibit of department history through the College of Arts and Sciences.

A New Name for the RACC: SEFCU Arena



Thanks to a \$2.75 million commitment from SEFCU, the University's former Recreation and Convocation Center (RACC) has a new name.

SEFCU, the Capital Region's largest credit union, made a 10-year commitment last November to name the SEFCU Arena. Located on the uptown campus, the arena has a seating capacity of 4,538 and is the home of UAlbany's men's and women's basketball teams.

The UAlbany community and SEFCU and SUNY officials celebrate the naming of SEFCU Arena.

Three Graduate Programs Ranked in Top 10

University doctoral programs in social welfare, educational administration and criminal justice are among the best in the nation, according to a new index for rankings prepared by Academic Analytics.

The 2005 Faculty Scholarly Productivity

Index ranks 7,294 individual doctoral programs in 104 disciplines at 354 institutions; institutions in broader categories, such as the humanities and biological sciences; and institutions as a whole.

UAlbany's social welfare program was No. 5 in its discipline; the educational

administration and criminal justice programs were No. 7 and No. 10 in their respective disciplines.

Index ratings were published in the Jan. 12 issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

MDA Awards Grant to UAlbany Researcher

Zhen Huang has received a \$135,000 grant from the Muscular Dystrophy Association to identify RNA aptamers that are potential candidates for developing new drugs for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) therapy.

Huang, a postdoctoral fellow, works with Professor of Chemistry Li Niu. The researchers are studying a special family of proteins crucial to such brain functions as memory and learning. Abnormal functioning of these proteins has been implicated in stroke, epilepsy and ALS.



Zhen Huang (standing) works with Amy Novakovic in Professor of Chemistry Li Niu's lab.



Kim Named Woodrow Wilson Fellow

Minjeong Kim, a doctoral candidate in sociology, is one of only seven Ph.D. students nationwide to be designated a 2007 Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Fellow in Women's Studies.

A native of Korea, Kim was recognized for her dissertation *Gendered International Marriage Migration under Globalization*. Her interest in the subject was piqued by a Korean television documentary focusing on the Filipina wives of Korean farmers. She spent a year in two South Korean rural communities studying the experiences of the women and their husbands.

Kim, who received a bachelor's degree in women's studies from The Ohio State University, earned a master's in the same field at UAlbany. Her \$3,000 Wilson Fellowship will enable her to disseminate the results of her research to both the academic community and the public.

SSW Students Help New Orleans to Rebuild

Nine School of Social Welfare graduate students spent part of their winter break assisting with efforts to repair New Orleans homes ravaged by Hurricane Katrina in September 2005.

Jennifer Lathrop; Jwakyum Kim; Rosalyn Galvan; Debra Miesing; Lauren Jacobs, Miriam Nalweyiso; Aline Miraglia; Lindsay Homenick; and Elizabeth Howard spent a week in January gutting homes in the devastated 9th Ward. Their work allowed other teams to begin the reconstruction process.

The experience, observed Lathrop, "provided the opportunity to move our education from the classroom to the real world."

State Funding Boosts Elder Network

The Elder Network of the Capital Region (ENCR), based at UAlbany's School of Social Welfare, will use \$800,100 in New York State funding to forge sustainable, aging-prepared communities that will serve as models to augment the state's long-term care policy reform initiatives.

Created from a partnership of the University's Center for Excellence in Aging Services and the state Office for the Aging, ENCR works to enhance the health, well-being, quality of life and independence of seniors, and reduce their reliance on out-of-home care.

DOJ Grant Will Enhance Forensic Services

UAlbany's Northeast Regional Forensic Institute (NERFI) will use a \$100,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services to improve its services.

Through its collaboration with the New York Prosecutors Training Institute, NERFI is establishing a link to enhance communication between forensic laboratories and state prosecutors, ensuring timely and accurate information on the status of cases and approved forensic reports required for court proceedings.



Northeast Regional Forensic Institute Director W. Mark Dale, U.S. Rep. Michael McNulty and Officer in Charge Susan Herbst announce a new IT initiative for NERFI.

CARD's New Home

UAlbany's Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) opened its doors at 1535 Western Avenue in Albany Feb. 1 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and an open house.

Director Kristin Christodulu noted that the new location "is easily accessible for the many parents and children who utilize our programs." Christodulu and her staff serve Capital Region families living with autism spectrum disorders.

CARD was created in response to pleas from school districts in New York State and throughout the U.S. concerned about the increasing numbers of children diagnosed with autism. Centers for Disease Control data indicate that prevalence rates range from one child in 500 to one in 166 diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder.



Director Kristin Christodulu (second from right) officiates at the CARD ribbon-cutting ceremony Feb. 1.

NYSTAR Supports CNSE-Vistec Initiative

A \$750,000 grant from the New York State Office of Science, Technology and Academic Research to the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering will support a joint research initiative with Vistec Lithography Inc.

The CNSE-Vistec Center for Nanolithography Development will accelerate development and commercialization of the company's E-beam lithography technology. Vistec is targeting a host of emerging business applications, including nano- and bioelectronics, telecommunications, aerospace and defense markets, currently valued at \$400 million worldwide.

UAlbany: A Great Start

One went on to a distinguished career in U.S. Intelligence. Another worked for the U.N. for years, feeding the world's hungry. A third went on to head the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. Two others – twin entrepreneurs – have operated several highly successful businesses. Still another applies nanotechnology to pharmaceutical research.

Although Maureen Baginski, Catherine Bertini, Thomas Constantine, Lisa and Debbie Ganz, and Jack Henion have gone on to vastly different careers, they have two things in common: Each graduated from the University at Albany and exemplifies the ideal "Reaching Higher, Achieving More."

They are among the dozen alumni now featured on a series of posters at University Hall touting UAlbany as a great starting point for career success. New rounds of posters are planned for each academic year.

Begley Receives NIEHS Award

Assistant Professor of Biomedical Sciences Thomas J. Begley of UAlbany's Cancer Research Center has been awarded an Outstanding New Environmental Scientist Award from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.



The honor is presented to "exceptionally talented and creative new scientists who are pursuing careers in environmental health research," says David Schwartz, M.D., NIEHS director.

Begley will use the \$2.2 million award to continue his research on molecular pathways activated by such cancer-causing agents as cigarette smoke and pesticides.

Hollings Scholarship Awarded to Komaromi

UAlbany junior William (Will) Komaromi has received the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship Award in Atmospheric Science.



The scholarships, which honor the former South Carolina senator, are presented annually to approximately 100 college juniors majoring in oceanic, environmental, biological, social, physical and atmospheric sciences; mathematics; engineering; and related fields. Each award provides academic assistance for full-time study during the student's junior and senior years, as well as a 10-week, full-time summer internship at NOAA or a partner facility.

Komaromi, a Presidential Scholar with a double major in atmospheric science and physics, plans to earn master's and doctoral degrees in atmospheric science.

Allen Makes History as 2006 Turing Award Recipient



IBM Fellow Emerita Frances E. Allen, B.A.'54, became the first woman in the 40-year history of the A.M. Turing Award ever to receive the computer science field's most prestigious honor.

Presented annually by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), the Turing Award recognizes recipients for their technical contributions to the computing community. Named for an English mathematician, it carries with it a \$100,000 prize.

Allen, who majored in mathematics at the former New York State College for Teachers, went on to earn a master's from the University of Michigan. She intended to become a math teacher but instead accepted a job offer from IBM in 1957. An active member of the National Academy of Engineering, Allen founded the Theory of Program Optimization. In the 1980s, she established the Parallel Translation Group (PTRAN), recognized as one of the top research groups in the world dealing with parallelization issues. Allen was the first woman to be designated an IBM Fellow, the highest technical honor the firm confers. She retired in 2002 from IBM's T.J. Watson Research Center.

A member of the Women in Technology International Hall of Fame, Allen is also a recipient of the Anita Borg Award for Technical Leadership and the ACM's Special Interest Group on Programming Languages' Achievement Award. The University at Albany honored her with a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2004.

For more details about these and other UAlbany stories, please visit <http://www.albany.edu/news/index.shtml>.



Emeritus Center Vice President Toby Clyman (left) visits with retired faculty Ray Ortali and Findlay Cockrell at the opening of the center.

Emeritus Center Opens

A project 37 years in the making came to fruition Nov. 1 as a standing-room-only crowd gathered in University Administration Building 134 for the opening of Emeritus Center.

Professor Emeritus of Philosophy William Reese took the idea for a place where retired faculty could continue to pursue research, teaching and community activity to UAlbany President Kermit L. Hall shortly before Hall's death last summer. The president's response was, "That's a great thing; let's do it," noted Officer in Charge, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Susan Herbst, who officiated at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the center.

Reese, Emeritus Center president, was ill and unable to attend the ceremony. Professor Emerita of Languages, Literatures and Cultures Toby Clyman, the center's vice president, read a statement from him lauding the opening.

A plaque recognizes Hall for instituting "this long hoped for Emeritus Center."

Journalism Lecture Series Debuts

A \$25,000 grant from the Ethics and Excellence in Journalism Foundation to the College of Arts and Sciences' journalism program is supporting visits to campus by leading science writers and journalists.

NPR science correspondent Richard Harris was the first guest lecturer for the series, which commenced Feb. 8. Other speakers have included Dan Shapley, environment editor of the *Poughkeepsie Journal*; John Allen Paulos, author of *Innumeracy* and *A Mathematician Reads the Newspaper*; and Laurie Garrett, author of the Pulitzer prize-winning *The Coming Plague* and *Betrayal of Trust: The Collapse of Global Public Health*.

Going Green!



What's purple and gold and green all over? The University at Albany.

In October, the University community kicked off UAlbany Goes Green, a comprehensive environmental initiative designed to encourage conservation, recycling and beautification of the campus and the environment. At the Go Green Festival held on the uptown campus, Indian Quad took the prize in a campus-wide recycling

competition. For collecting and recycling 15 cubic yards of glass, metal and plastic in a two-week period, quad leaders received a trophy: a Great Dane crafted of recycled metals.

Altogether, the quads collected a total of 60 cubic yards of recyclable materials during the two-week challenge.

Indian Quad students claimed the trophy last October for winning a recycling competition on campus.

