

October 23, 2008

Dear UAlbany Parent:

This week has been a very sad and difficult one for the UAlbany community as a result of the tragic death of one of our students, Richard Bailey. Richard was shot and killed off campus in the downtown area in the city of Albany late Monday night.

The University, through our parent liaison, Holly Barker Flynn, has been keeping you up to date on the messages that have gone out to our campus community. I want to thank those of you who have sent emails expressing condolences to the Bailey family. We are in the process of compiling these messages and I believe they will be of comfort to the family.

We are working diligently to take care of our students during this very distressing time. While the University routinely schedules two safety fairs per semester, a special "open forum" on safety was set up for this past Tuesday evening for all our students. University staff, including the President and Vice Presidents, counselors, the Chapel House ministry and University Police, joined with two officers from Albany City Police to talk with students and address their issues and concerns with regard to personal safety. We have three more of these forums scheduled over the next two weeks.

I want you to know that the University shares both your concern and your interest in protecting our students, faculty and staff and in keeping our community safe. On campus, our University Police and Environmental Health and Safety departments, in particular, focus on safety related issues with significant support from many other campus departments such as Residential Life and Facilities Management. Off campus, the Albany City Police have jurisdiction over the areas where many of our non-resident students reside. The City of Albany is an urban area and as such, experiences violent crime not unlike other cities of its size. The University, however, has and will continue to work cooperatively with the Mayor of the City, Albany City Police, and other local colleges with off-campus populations, to address the issues of student safety in a proactive manner.

You may already be aware that we are recognized as one of the safest universities in regard to on-campus safety in the entire SUNY system. On campus, including Alumni Quad which is located three miles from the main campus, our University Police Department maintains police and security personnel 24 hours a day, every day, with an average response time to all calls for assistance of less than 2 minutes. Our police department has long held a proactive and progressive approach to keeping our campus safe, including the training and equipment necessary to address any potential violence. If you would like to know more about what is happening on campus, both in terms of what incidents have been recently reported as well as what we are doing to promote a safe and successful learning community, the University has

set up a “Frequently Asked Questions” web site located at [http://www.albany.edu/studentaffairs/campus\\_tragedy\\_faq.shtml](http://www.albany.edu/studentaffairs/campus_tragedy_faq.shtml). There is also a wealth of information available on our University Police web site (at <http://police.albany.edu>). If you do have questions regarding the University Police Department or policing on campus please feel free to contact Inspector Aran Mull at 518/442-3130 or by email at [AMull@uamail.albany.edu](mailto:AMull@uamail.albany.edu).

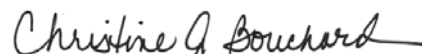
While our campus takes a multi-faceted approach to safety that includes on campus safety programs and cooperation with local law enforcement agencies, we work very hard to educate our students to understand that the safest communities are those in which all members cooperate to promote a safe environment. One of the most effective steps anyone can take to improve their personal safety as well as the safety of their community is to increase their awareness of what is happening around them and identify potential safety risks. Monday’s senseless and tragic act makes us all the more aware of the potential for violence anywhere at any time. No person deserves to be victimized in this way. As a community, we are promoting a heightened sensitivity to looking for, identifying and addressing those factors that may contribute to a safety related incident *before* such an incident occurs.

I encourage you to talk with your son or daughter often about matters of personal safety, especially as they relate to walking downtown in the city of Albany after dark. This is especially relevant and important to those students who live in off campus environments where it is especially critical to take the necessary precautions. We strongly encourage our students never to walk alone after dark, and if you must walk at night, it is best to be in groups of three or more in well lit areas. Other tips regarding personal safety are included in the Frequently Asked Questions web site listed above.

I also encourage you to communicate with Holly at [parents@albany.edu](mailto:parents@albany.edu). She is always willing to help address your concerns and if she is not able to answer your question, she will know where to direct it in order to help you. You may also reach the Office of the Vice President for Student Success at [ovpsa@uamail.albany.edu](mailto:ovpsa@uamail.albany.edu).

Thank you for your time and concern.

Sincerely,



Christine A. Bouchard  
Vice President for Student Success