



Counseling Center Receives National Recognition

Every autumn, students across the country take their first steps onto college campuses as undergraduates, where they will meet new friends and explore a vast array of educational opportunities. As with any new venture, there are also some potential pitfalls to avoid, and it can be a learning experience to navigate these challenges.

The University at Albany Counseling Center is being recognized nationally for providing a prevention and intervention framework for students so they learn to reduce their risk for alcohol use and related negative consequences.

In 2005, with the support of more than \$3 million in grant funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and the U.S. Department of Education, Counseling Center psychologists launched their award-winning STEPS Alcohol Screening and Brief Intervention Program. This program screens first-year students, student-athletes, and students seeking primary health and counseling care on campus for risky alcohol use. Those students who may be at risk for dangerous alcohol use are invited to participate in a brief one-session intervention, which has been shown to lead to reductions in drinking and associated negative consequences.

"The STEPS Program has allowed us to develop a collaborative endeavor with campus colleagues to identify and offer specialized and responsive services to those at risk," said **Dr. Estela M. Rivero**, Director, Counseling Center. "This initiative adds a significant pillar to our comprehensive abuse prevention and intervention program."

Next week, the Counseling Center will be recognized for the success of its STEPS program. On March 10 in Seattle, Wash., the Center will be receiving a "Grand Gold Medal" for program excellence from the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), the largest professional student affairs organization in the United States.

During the next two years, the Counseling Center plans to expand its STEPS program, broadening the scope of the positive changes which have already been realized. For instance, since the beginning of the STEPS Program, the Counseling Center has seen a 32 percent increase in the number of students who abstain from engaging in high-risk drinking.

Memorial Service for Richard Bailey Scheduled for March 26th

To honor the memory of 22-year-old senior **Richard Bailey**, the University will host a memorial service on March 26th. In the wake of Richard's death this fall, UAlbany student leaders created an endowed scholarship in memory of their fellow student. "Richard will always be a member of the University community," said **Interim President George M. Philip**.

Bailey, a sociology major and criminal justice minor from Wantagh, N.Y., was scheduled to graduate in December. He was awarded a bachelor's degree posthumously at December's commencement ceremony.

The memorial service will begin at 1:30 pm in the Campus Center Assembly Hall.

President's Awards for Leadership – March 15, 2009

The President's Award for Leadership recognizes students who have made significant contributions to enhance the quality of life at the University at Albany. These students have demonstrated extraordinary leadership, dedication to service, academic achievement, and beneficial involvement on behalf of the University community. A complete list of recipients may be found at www.albany.edu/involvement.

Please join us at the award ceremony on **Sunday, March 15th** at **2:00 pm** in the **Campus Center Ballroom** as we honor these deserving students. Please respond to the Office of Student Involvement & Leadership by March 6th via involvement@uamail.albany.edu or 442-5566.

Spellman Awards – March 29, 2009

The academic achievements of UAlbany's African American, Asian, Latino, and Native American students will be recognized on **Sunday, March 29th** at the 23rd annual Spellman Awards ceremony at **2:00pm** in the **Campus Center Ballroom**.

Fountain Day 2009 – April 26, 2009

Fountain Day 2009 is scheduled for Sunday, April 26, 2009. As in the past, UAlbany faculty and staff are encouraged to volunteer to assist with the afternoon's activities. Fountain Day will begin at 1:00pm and conclude at 4:00pm on the Academic Podium. Look for information on how to volunteer in the coming weeks.

UAlbany's Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture Celebrates 30th Anniversary



Chicago State University Interim President **Frank Pogue**, who initiated UAlbany's first Martin Luther King Jr.

Luncheon, was the guest speaker for the event's 30th anniversary on February 5th in the Campus Center Ballroom.

Pogue served as UAlbany's Vice President for Student Affairs from 1983-1986, becoming the first African-American to hold a vice presidential office at the University. He was also formerly an associate professor and chair of African/Afro-American Studies at UAlbany and worked in the SUNY system for 23 years, including as Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Special Programs for SUNY Central Administration.

"Dr. Pogue is a leader of vision and principle who has made a difference at UAlbany and beyond," said **Interim President George M. Philip**. "It is an honor to welcome him back to campus to help us celebrate Black History Month."

Pogue's career in higher education spans over 45 years. After serving for one year as Interim President at the SUNY College at Cobleskill, Pogue was appointed president of Edinboro University in 1996, becoming the first African-American to lead a traditionally white college or university in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. His years at Edinboro were marked by unprecedented growth and advancement in academic programs, graduate enrollment, campus facilities, and fund raising. Pogue created the Edinboro Family concept, a learner-centered environment where students come first in a caring and supportive campus community functioning under the core value of civility.

Pogue has served on the American Council on Education's (ACE) Commission on Women in Higher Education and as chair of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) Millennium Leadership Initiative. He also served on higher education advisory panels for Pennsylvania governors Tom Ridge and Edward G. Rendell.

In 2000, the UAlbany Council of Trustees presented him the Distinguished Service Award for Leadership and Vision. He continues to use his own paradigm for 21st century leadership to teach future college presidents. He consults for two national university presidential search firms.

Promoting Achievement for Students with Disabilities

The Disability Resource Center is focused on building caring relationships with students while providing practical hands-on support. This is how Director **Nancy Belowich-Negron** sets a positive tone of achievement on campus for students with disabilities.

"When students with disabilities come to UAlbany, they will find a campus that welcomes them and supports their participation in all of the academic and extracurricular activities that we offer," Belowich-Negron said. "A supportive campus means that our administration and faculty will do whatever it takes to guarantee that our students receive the full benefit of the superior education and wide array of developmental and social activities that occur outside of the classroom, regardless of a student's disability."

Evan Ginsberg, Class of 2011, who is still deciding on a major, has a hearing impairment. "What is so special about the Disability Resource Center is that its staff look into the overall needs of the student. In addition to helping academically, they assist in so many other ways," Ginsberg said. "They helped me to obtain an FM system so that I could hear what my professors were saying and then they made sure to advise professors of its use."

The Center also arranged for Ginsberg to have a special telephone and fire alarm system installed in his residential room. "All these things certainly have helped me to have a happy and successful college experience," said Ginsberg.

UAlbany senior **Bridgetta Fields**, of Albany, N.Y., is a Communication major who has a learning disability. "The Center has meant a lot to me and has been a big part of my life. Nancy has helped me to become successful academically by providing me with the assistance I needed for my classes," said Fields.

Belowich-Negron's office builds relationships with academic departments and professional offices across campus in order to work out reasonable accommodations for disabled students. One example is the more than 25 University volunteers who serve as test proctors and help disabled students as readers or writers. Last year the Center gave more than 2,000 tests under this type of supervision.

On **April 29**, the Center will award scholarships at its 27th annual Outstanding Achievement Luncheon.

Res Life Learning Outcomes Winners: Inviting, Intellectual, Inclusive

Learning does not end in the classroom at UAlbany. Each semester, Residential Life staff and students offer hundreds of programs for students in the residence halls on topics ranging from learning about other cultures to managing your money.

Through the Learning Outcomes Showcase, programs that improve life in the residence halls in one of six ways are highlighted and the best ones selected. They need to:

- Promote mutual respect
- Make a positive contribution to the community
- Overcome challenges
- Display life skills
- Show leadership
- Demonstrate pride in UAlbany

Rashaun Allen, a senior Finance/Management and English major from Brooklyn, offered a financial outline to help students manage funds from their work-study or other part-time job to make sure their bills are paid. "So if I go out at the end of the week, I have so much to spend rather than scrambling," said Allen, who was recognized for his program during a Learning Outcomes awards ceremony on Jan. 20.

Whitney Sperrazza, an English major from Buffalo, N.Y., created a multicultural night, which offered music, food, and dance from Japan, China, and Latin America. Sperrazza said her goal was to raise "awareness about people from different cultures." She said UAlbany is diverse, and added students may live with others from many different cultures and religions, with which they are not at first familiar.

"These programs truly bring meaning to our departmental mission of making our residence halls and apartments inviting, intellectual, and inclusive," said Director of Residential Life **Laurie Garafola**.

A complete list of fall 2008 Learning Outcomes Showcase winners can be found on [page 4](#).

UPD Officers Recognized



From left, UPD officers **Johanna Fitch**, **Aaron Cady**, and **Nicholas Sidoti**.

Three new police University Police Officers recently finished six months of training at the regional police academy, learning about everything from first aid and DWI enforcement to defensive tactics and the law.

University Police Department (UPD)

officers **Johanna Fitch**, **Aaron Cady**, and **Nicholas Sidoti** completed the training. All three joined UPD in 2007.

Since 1999, UPD has sent its officers to the academy – known as the Zone Five Regional Law Enforcement Academy – for training. The basic course ran from July 16 through Jan. 8, the date of graduation ceremonies.

"We are proud to say that these University at Albany Police Officers performed in an outstanding manner," said **Chief J. Frank Wiley**. "We believe that our greatest asset is our people. These officers distinguished themselves individually and brought recognition to UPD and its members."

University Police Officer Fitch graduated first overall academically. Sidoti ranked second overall academically. Cady achieved the best overall score during firearms qualifications and ranked first overall in the academy in this category. All three were recognized during the ceremony.

UPD is dedicated to providing outstanding service in keeping with its motto of "Community, Professionalism, Excellence," as it works to maintain and improve the safety and security of the University at Albany.

Popular Sex Columnist Dan Savage Headlines Sexuality Week

A talk by nationally acclaimed author and columnist **Dan Savage** topped the list of educational lectures during Sexuality Week at UAlbany this spring. Savage spoke on Tuesday, February 10th, in the Campus Center Ballroom. Savage writes an advice column called Savage Love, which is syndicated to alternative weeklies across the nation. He grew up in a "loud, argumentative, and very Catholic" family, and came out as gay in that context.

Other educational topics were addressed during Sexuality Week, and throughout the month of February, ending with the sold-out Vagina Monologues performed by University at Albany students. Proceeds from the highly acclaimed play went to domestic violence shelters.

"During the 26 years that Sexuality Week has been in existence at UAlbany, college students across the nation have been faced with critical issues and choices. Concerns related to gender issues, HIV/AIDS, relationships, identity, and reproductive health have remained at the forefront across time," said **M. Dolores Cimini**, Director, Middle Earth Peer Assistance Program, University Counseling Center. "We hope the information that was presented encouraged learning, dialogue, and critical thinking. and will continue to move Middle Earth forward in its mission of prevention education."

Fall 2008 Learning Outcomes Winners

Continued from page 3

Demonstrate Behaviors of Mutual Respect

- Gold - **Whitney Sperrazza** for University Apartments Invites the World
- Silver - **LaShaina Shakes** for Gaydar
- Bronze - **Denise Cruz** for Crossing Over: To What Extent Are You Willing to Go?
- Bronze - **Danielle Jettoo** for What's With All of the Vacations?

Positively Contribute to their Community

- Gold - **Michelle Villaprino-Gonzalez** and **Gifty Ameyaw** for Walk With Me
- Silver - **Akua Awuah** for Sweet Dreams
- Bronze - **Nicole Fox, Akwasi Danso, Jessica Wood, Liam Staley, Adam Herod, Diana Nikonchuk, Vincent Randazzo, Brett Baschnagel, Leah Rotella, Danielle Jettoo** for Tower of Terror: Movie Addition
- Bronze - **Kenneth Burford, Chantal Irwin, Veronique Laroque** for Do You Know Who Will Be the Next President of the United States?

Work to Overcome Challenges

- Gold - **Diana Perry** for Tryna Make a Dollar Outta 15 Cents
- Silver - **Dan Foerste** for Step Up
- Silver - **Kim Williams** for Graduate School Expo
- Bronze - **Robert Green** for There is Always a "Bull Market" Somewhere!
- Bronze - **Carla Neckles** for The Voices of Children

Display Life Skills

- Gold - **Rashaun Allen** for Stackin'
- Silver - **Tiffany Williams** for D.I.Y.: Learn How to Do It Yourself
- Bronze - **Janelle Murphy** for Let's Get Down to Business

Demonstrate Leadership Skills

- Gold - **Allyson Kocivar** for A Pizza Party Fit for a Princess
- Silver - **Debbra-Kay Grant** for My Room is Hate Free

Exhibit Pride in the University at Albany

- Gold - **Tamara Gonzalez, Anthony Phipps, Warren Isaac** for Hall Olympics
- Silver - **Michelle Berkowitz** for You Don't Know Jack About UAlbany
- Silver - **Racquel Eustache** for What's Your IQ?
- Bronze - **Gifty Ameyaw, Pernel Wilfred** for Come on State Quad, Let's Tie Dye

Learning Community All-Star

- **Nicholas Jarret** for You Are What You Eat

Campus All-Stars

- **Sonya Meaders, Mary Ellen Mallia, Jovan Starks, Cleon Grey** for Energy Campaign – Do It in the Dark

Student Success 2007-08 Briefing Book

Interested in the good work that Student Success is doing? You can view the Division's 2007-08 "Briefing Book" at <http://www.albany.edu/studentaffairs/docs/0708briefbook.pdf>.



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