Meet IMG Models’ Ivan Bart, B.A.’85, pictured with client Emily DiDonato.

FASHION Forward

Talent, creativity and style are always in vogue for UAlbany alumni who work in the fashion business.
Great Danes of all ages turned out Feb. 4 for the 15th annual Big Purple Growl. Among the guests enjoying the event were these two youngsters, who were all decked out in the traditional purple and gold. We hope to see them at next year’s BPG – and perhaps we’ll welcome them to campus one day as members of the Class of 2025.
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Amaury Muñoz and Raven Profit use their life experiences and knowledge to help others.

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The Spring 2012 collection – of UAlbany alumni in the world of fashion, that is! – includes a veritable galaxy of superstar stylists, designers, retailers and other luminaries.

25 The Prince of Premium Coffee
Bean by bean and cup by cup, Peet’s Coffee and Tea CEO Patrick O’Dea, B.S.’83, is brewing the recipe for a larger share of the specialty-coffee market.

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SPH Honors AIDS Doctors

Months after being released from prison in their native Iran, doctors Kamiar and Arash Alaei were honored in December at “Human Rights and HIV,” a School of Public Health symposium.

The brothers were incarcerated in 2008 for educating and treating patients diagnosed with HIV and AIDS. Kamiar, principal education specialist at SPH, was freed in late 2010 and returned to Albany to continue his doctoral studies at the school. Arash was released last August.

DEC Recognizes UAlbany Conservation Efforts

Its energy-conservation efforts have earned UAlbany the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s Environmental Excellence Award.

Led by the offices of Environmental Sustainability (OES) and Energy Management and their respective directors, Mary Ellen Mallia and Indu Lnu, students, faculty and staff have become more aware of the need to conserve. Turning off lights, printers, computers and other equipment not in use; lowering the heat in vacant offices and dorm rooms; and encouraging the recycling of paper and plastic materials have made the University’s campuses more “green.” Other benefits, according to the January 2012 OES Sustainability Bulletin, have included a 7.5 percent reduction in electricity usage and a $700,000-plus yearly saving on energy costs.

Armao, OCCRP Receive Daniel Pearl Award

Professor of Journalism Rosemary Armao and the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) received the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists’ prestigious 2011 Daniel Pearl Award last October.

As an editor, Armao worked with OCCRP, which focused on eastern European criminals and corrupt politicians using offshore havens as fronts for money laundering, tax evasion, and drug and weapons-smuggling activities. Reporters went undercover for six months, infiltrating havens in Delaware, the Cayman Islands, the Seychelles, New Zealand, Romania and Ukraine.

SEED Program Cultivates Local Businesses

Local businesses are growing, thanks to the Small Enterprise Economic Development (SEED) program at UAlbany, a partnership with SEFCU and Empire State Development (ESD). To date, the character-based microloan program – which trains entrepreneurs in business planning, marketing, financial management and other aspects of business ownership – has awarded 11 local entrepreneurs $385,000 to create 52 new jobs. The businesses include a Web portal for people with disabilities, a spa and a recyclables-redemption center.

For more information about these and other stories, visit us online at www.albany.edu/news/.
University Building Projects Continue

Liberty Terrace, housed in two five-story apartment-style residences at the east end of the uptown campus, is set to open in the fall. Meeting spaces, a fitness center, lounge areas and shared laundry facilities are among the amenities planned for the buildings, which will accommodate 500 students. The project is heated and cooled with a ground-source heat-pump system.

When completed in Fall 2013, UAlbany’s new School of Business – located near Grand Entry Plaza – will house 28 classrooms, 10 group-study rooms, a trading room and five conference rooms.

The latest College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering expansion will add nearly 500,000 square feet of state-of-the-art infrastructure; 50,000 square feet of cutting-edge cleanrooms; and more than 1,000 scientists, researchers and engineers from CNSE and its global corporate partners. Part of the NanoFab Xtension will headquarter and house the world’s first Global 450mm Consortium, a $4.8 billion, first-of-its-kind collaboration comprised of five leading international companies – IBM, Intel, GlobalFoundries, TSMC and Samsung – working to create the next generation of computer chip technology. Completion is expected at year’s end.
“A Great Day for Great Danes Athletics”

By the end of 2013, Great Danes football, soccer, and track and field will have a new home: a multi-sport complex located on the uptown campus.

Plans for the $24 million, 6,000-seat complex were announced at a news conference Feb. 15. “It’s a great day for Great Danes athletics,” said University at Albany President George Philip, B.A.’69, M.A.’73. “Thanks to overwhelming public and private support, we are moving forward with a project that will upgrade our athletic facilities’ football, soccer, and track-and-field competition to the standard that our successful Division I program merits.”

The project, to be completed in three stages, will be supported by $18 million in New York State capital funding already earmarked for construction. The remaining $6 million is being raised through private donations from alumni, friends and other UAlbany benefactors.

An anonymous donor has also offered a $1 million challenge grant. That individual will match each contribution made, up to a maximum of $1 million.

To date, contributions and pledges totaling more than $2 million have been designated for the project.

Original plans for a 10,000-seat venue were scaled back in recent years in response to the sluggish economy. However, the potential for expanding the complex to 24,000 seats by adding private suites does exist.

Current plans include accommodations for hospitality booths, concessions, a press box and several suites.

While the complex will upgrade UAlbany’s Division I facilities, it will also “provide year-round use for student recreation, intramural and club sports activities,” Philip noted. Its availability to community organizations, Vice President for Athletic Administration Lee A. McElroy Jr. observed, “will not only make our University better [but] make our community better.” UAlbany Head Football Coach Bob Ford cited the facility’s benefits as a recruiting tool that will enable the University to “continue to attract great students and great faculty.”

Once the contract is awarded, construction will begin; tentative dates for the groundbreaking are being discussed. The complex will be built on existing athletic fields along the southern side of the campus.

To support UAlbany’s multi-sport complex, please contact Paul Norcross at (518) 937-7158 or pnorcross@albany.edu.

A number of donors have already responded generously to the fundraising effort. They include:

- John Bertuzzi, B.S.’76
- Michael Motta, B.A.’74
- Ty Curran, B.A.’76
- Neal Rosenberg, B.S.’74
- Bruce Dey, B.S.’80, M.B.A.’82, and Steven Dey, B.S.’82
- Dan Nolan, B.S.’74
- William Fuller, B.S.’86
- Peter Bulger, B.S.’77
At age 85, poet Naoshi Koriyama, B.A.’54 (Spring 2002, “The Poetry of Friendship”), continues his life’s work from his home in Kanagawa, Japan. The retired Toyo University professor of English is working with American scholar Bruce Allen on a “delightful, enjoyable and ambitious project: a translation of selected tales from the huge 12th-century anthology of Japan, Konjaku Monogatari (Tales of Old Times).”

Koriyama recently published his first Japanese-language work, Shijinno Inryoku (The Poet’s Pulling Power). The collection includes ‘A Loaf of Poetry,’ ‘Unfolding Bud,’ ‘Jetliner,’ ‘Time and Space,’ ‘Summer on the Home Island,’ and others which have been reprinted in about 26 grade-, middle- and high-school anthologies in America, Canada, Australia and South Africa,” says Koriyama.

His talent was nurtured six decades ago at the New York State College for Teachers. As a transfer student from the University of New Mexico, Koriyama “felt quite lost,” but “Miss Vivian Hopkins and the other professors were very kind and helped me adjust.” He took up writing poetry at Hopkins’ suggestion: “As I wrote in one of my poems, ‘All the poems I have written, I owe you (Miss Hopkins).’”

A staunch opponent of nuclear power, Koriyama notes that “about 20,000 people lost their lives and are still missing” as a result of the massive earthquake, tsunami and nuclear plant meltdown that struck Japan in 2011. “Those who lost their family members and homes are trying courageously to start their lives. The deplorable nuclear plant disaster has deprived many people of their farms, houses and cattle. Many are now in favor of stopping the nuclear power plants,” observes Koriyama, a translator of Against Nuclear Weapons: A Collection of Poems by 181 Poets, 1945-2007.

Unable to answer his middle-school-age daughter’s question, “Daddy, did we have any relatives who came through Ellis Island?” Nolan Altman, B.S.’77, set out to document and publish his family’s history. Now, the president of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island (JGSLI) is working with Center for Jewish Studies Interim Director Barry Trachtenberg to “engage younger people in genealogy.”

To that end, UAlbany students visited local Jewish cemeteries to “help index and photograph tombstones and catalogue memorial plaques from two synagogues.” The information gathered will be added to JOWBR, JewishGen’s Online Worldwide Burial Registry database, to “create historical indexes and benefit the greater Jewish genealogical community.” Altman, JewishGen’s vice president for Data Acquisition and International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) board member, hopes other organizations can replicate the project, which gave many of the students “a real appreciation for family history and ancestors.”

Altman, who teaches Introductory Accounting and Business Organizations and Management as an adjunct at Queensborough Community College, also heads his own firm, Oceanside, N.Y.-based NTA Consulting.

The University at Albany Alumni Association will honor Altman in April with the Excellence in Alumni Service Award.
Out and About
By Christy Doyle, M.B.A.’04

Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Inspires
Photos: Mark Schmidt
About 3,000 students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends attended the Oct. 15 World Within Reach Speaker Series talk by basketball legend, entrepreneur and philanthropist Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson.

Above, left, Student Association President Zaffir Uddin chats with Johnson prior to the talk. SA sponsored the event, which also afforded the sports legend the opportunity to greet other admirers, above, right.

UAlbany Visits the Big Apple
Photos: Marty Heitner
Manhattan’s Hard Rock Café was the setting Oct. 27 for the Metro New York alumni event. Guests included Purple and Gold Student Ambassador Ian Ellis-Jones and Elda Di Re ’83, and Stacy Kanter ’79 and Howard Cohen ’77.

Winter Commencement Celebrates Achievement
Photo: Island Photography
UAlbany’s Winter Commencement Ceremony, held Dec. 4 at SEFCU Arena, celebrated the accomplishments of more than 1,000 graduates. Of that number:

- 577 students earned undergraduate degrees in 50 different majors and represented seven countries, including Korea, China and Jamaica. Ages ranged from 19 to 52. Fifty-four percent were women; the class also included nine military veterans.

- 463 students earned graduate degrees; they came from sixteen states and 23 countries, including China, Korea, India, Canada and Morocco. Ages ranged from 22 to 60. Sixty percent of the graduate students were women.

Citizen Laureate Awards Dinner Honors Altes, Curley, Balint
Photo: Joan Heffler
The 32nd annual Citizen Laureate Dinner, held at the Hall of Springs in Saratoga Springs Nov. 16, honored three civic leaders and grossed more than $110,000 to support University at Albany Foundation scholarship initiatives. Pictured, from left, are University President George M. Philip; Community Laureates Wallace W. Altes and Robert M. Curley; Academic Laureate John Balint, M.D.; and UAlbany Foundation President George R. Hearst III.

For more event photos, go to http://www.albany.edu/uafoundation/citizenlaureateawards.shtml.
Amaury Muñoz ~ A “Fortunate” Young Man

Amaury Muñoz is “passionate” about public policy and political science. The junior from Brentwood, N.Y., knew UAlbany, with its location in New York's capital, was the ideal place “to pursue my political ambitions. The University offers opportunities no other college in the state can match: the endless number of internships available.”

As an intern in Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s Office of Regional Affairs, Muñoz researches matters affecting localities and towns; he also writes a brief updating the governor and other officials on important issues. One highlight of his internship experience was attending a press conference announcing a $4.4 billion investment by an international technology group to develop next-generation computer chip technology in New York State. Another was meeting Cuomo, Lt. Gov. Robert Duffy, former President Bill Clinton, and Albany Mayor Gerald D. Jennings at a reception at the governor’s mansion. Both experiences were “humbling,” notes Muñoz, who came to the U.S. from the Dominican Republic with his family at age 15. “They made me realize how fortunate I am to have this internship.”

Raven Profit ~ Role Model

Raven Profit was thrust into the foster care system at 15 when her mother was diagnosed with schizophrenia. While an aunt eventually gained custody of the Queens, N.Y., native and her brother, Profit’s experience with the system made her determined to assist other foster children. The UAlbany junior now attends seminars year-round, explaining to youngsters in foster care the benefits available to them and coaching them on career and life skills.

Recalls Profit, who majors in human biology and women’s studies: “I was blessed to have a great support system and access to a lot of programs. I know how vital they are to children in foster care.”

Profit plans to pursue a medical degree so that she can provide affordable health care to the disadvantaged.

– Michael Parker
FASHION Forward

In this issue, meet designers, merchandisers, public-relations professionals and other alumni who represent UAlbany in the world of fashion.
Stuffing envelopes may seem a humble task, but for IMG Models Senior Vice President and Managing Director Ivan Bart, it was the precursor to an exciting career. He started in the public relations business by promoting a New York City physician's speaking engagements, then took a position with a PR firm “that had a modeling agency attached to it. I stuffed envelopes with people’s pictures and mailed them. Little by little, I gained recognition and represented some big people. I worked at various other firms in New York and eventually got into IMG. I’ve been there for 17 years.”

Bart, who “thought psychology was what I wanted to do,” transferred to the University at Albany after two years at SUNY Oneonta. “In retrospect, I valued the opportunity of living in the city and going to a good school in an urban environment. I was thrilled to be at Albany. The University had everything a college should have.

A college education is supposed to help a young person evolve and learn about himself. I was able to do that at Albany.”

He lived in an apartment on Lark Street and “couldn’t wait to hang out with all the hipsters there and be part of the scene” after classes. Bart also enjoyed the concerts, theater and other cultural attractions on and off campus.

On his way from one class to another, he admired the uptown campus environment. In his native New York City, Bart marvels that “the same architect [Edward Durell Stone] who designed Lincoln Center” designed his alma mater. “Every time I go to Lincoln Center, I think of UAlbany.”

At the University, he also met “so many diverse people.” Bart found a lifelong friend in Deborah Kelsey, a student five years his senior; the two met in class and “were very close.” The friendship lasted for 20 years, ending only with Kelsey’s passing a few years ago. Bart, who still mourns his friend, takes comfort in the memory of having met her at Albany. “The whole gestalt of the experience,” he reflects, “was very positive.”

Bart remained in Albany for a year after graduation. After treating himself to a European tour, he returned home and landed “in the fashion space,” where he has worked for 25 years “with some of the biggest models: Lauren Hutton and Stephanie Seymour and Carolyn Murphy.” Bart negotiates
fees for endorsements, catalogue and magazine work; “manages how they look, how they dress”; and otherwise guides their careers. He has also worked with actresses Liv Tyler, Julianne Moore, Milla Jovovich “and some other famous people.”

The fashion business, Bart points out, is “a young environment. I’m surrounded by college-age people all the time, so as I hit midlife, I’m still very much in touch with the latest music and celebrities. We’re in a world that’s moving quickly, and it’s important to understand the ways young people communicate or are communicated with. That’s a very big plus in my business.”

When he isn’t working, Bart enjoys his country home, where “I garden, eat fresh food and go to the local farmers market.” Travel likewise remains one of his passions. “I love seeing new places and experiencing different things. I’m adventurous; I don’t need tour guides. I love to find little gems, like a tiny restaurant where Mama is cooking in the kitchen, or the chicest little stores.” His favorite destination is Paris, “a big, daunting city that feels uniquely familiar. I’m never lost in Paris. I’ve connected also in Africa and in various parts of Asia and Latin America, and I like to vacation in Sicily.”

Bart’s must-see list includes Easter Island. “I would also love to explore the Middle East and its culture, which intrigues me. I think I would be pleasantly, sweetly surprised and would delight in some unique experiences with people who are very warm and friendly.”

While Philip Sklar was studying communication at the University at Albany, he wasn’t even thinking about a career in fashion. But an internship with Estee Lauder changed his mind and helped him to discover a passion for purchasing.

Philip Sklar, B.A.’00

A Passion for Purchasing

By Tyler Stratman
Interaction Is the Key

By Tyler Stratman

When Michael Bowes stepped onto the UAlbany campus freshman year, he intended to prepare for a career as an editor. That ambition lasted until Professor of English Robert Goldman, who taught Shakespeare, inspired Bowes to pursue something he loved: It turned out to be retail.

Bowes graduated from UAlbany with a bachelor’s in English. After beginning a temporary job at Saks Fifth Avenue, he became a full-time retail human resources (HR) professional. After several years, Bowes was hired by Coach, where he now serves as divisional vice president for Talent Acquisition.

The greatest thing about his job “is meeting new people every day and learning from them,” says Bowes, who believes that a liberal arts degree is “a great foundation for any profession” and considers his time at UAlbany “the four greatest years of my life.” He advises anyone who wants to pursue a career in the fashion industry to “learn how to interact with people.”

After a three-year run at Estee Lauder, Sklar was picked up by Avon. He spent four years there before taking his current job with Gilt Groupe, where, as purchasing director, he invests in bulk buying to facilitate day-to-day operations. Sklar credits his communication degree with propelling him toward a great career; he also recalls UAlbany’s “diversity and variety” as “life changing.”

To future UAlbany graduates, Sklar offers this advice: “Be passionate about any company you work for, and don’t settle for the money.”
Adrienne Lazarus and celebrity stylist Rachel Zoe pose for a photo with, left to right, Zoe’s husband, Roger Berman, and Intermix co-founders Khajak Keledjian and Haro Keledjian. Khajak is CEO of Intermix; Haro is chief operating officer.
Finding the Right Career Path

Adrienne Lazarus, B.A.’90

A political science major and a history minor led Adrienne Lazarus to a career in the fashion business.

“I planned to pursue a career in international relations, politics or law,” recalled Lazarus, now president of Intermix, a leading fashion multi-brand retailer based in New York City. “I chose political science and history because I loved learning about those subjects, and I believed that if you love what you study, you will find your career path.”

Lazarus found that studying political science allowed her “to develop strong written and oral skills, which are necessary in most business roles.” From history, she learned “to see issues from multiple angles and opinions,” a dynamic that encouraged “creative thinking.” History, Lazarus added, “also taught me to understand and appreciate the history of an issue while making decisions, an asset in running a business. Fashion is a creative, dynamic business that requires smart decision-making and the ability to communicate well with many different people. It is a people-intensive business, so interpersonal skills are critical.”

Her first job after graduation was with May Department Stores Company. “May Company was very selective in the schools it recruited from, and Albany was one of them. One day on campus, I met a recruiter who asked me to bring my résumé over, so I did, on a whim, and that led to my career in fashion. I left May Company after a year because I wanted to be in New York City, but I enjoyed it very much.”

Lazarus joined Ann Taylor in 1991. She worked her way up through the ranks, launching the Loft division and propelling it to more than $1 billion in sales before being promoted to president of Ann Taylor. After 17 years with the firm, “ready for something different and more creative,” Lazarus went on to head Intermix, which carries more than 200 brands, including Helmut Lang, Stella McCartney, Rag and Bone, J Brand, and Chloe and Mulberry. Intermix has seen a 40-percent increase in business since Lazarus’ arrival three years ago.
Elizabeth Ukpe, B.A.’07

A
n internship at Vogue magazine the summer before her senior year at UAlbany eventually led Elizabeth Ukpe to her current post as merchandising manager for Moda Operandi (http://shop.modaoperandi.com).

After graduation, Ukpe spent three years as a junior account manager with a New York City-based hedge fund support firm. Her internship was key as she made the leap to fashion: “I learned the world of fashion wasn’t as glamorous as it seemed from the outside. It [demanded] tireless hours and required you to be sharp, innovative and a creative thinker.”

Ukpe says her education and extracurricular activities, including the Chamber Singers and Student Senate, taught her dedication. The experiences allowed her to thrive in both workplaces, but especially in the demanding environment of the fashion industry.

“My day to day is so focused around awareness of our vendor and customer profiles, and being able to come up with new ways of organizing and strengthening our business,” says Ukpe.

Elizabeth Ukpe, B.A.’07

FASHIONForward

Sharp, Innovative and Creative

By Amy Halloran, B.A.’90

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n internship at Vogue magazine the summer before her senior year at UAlbany eventually led Elizabeth Ukpe to her current post as merchandising manager for Moda Operandi (http://shop.modaoperandi.com).

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FASHIONForward

Sharp, Innovative and Creative

By Amy Halloran, B.A.’90
Some people believe that we make our own luck. Steven Goldsmith doesn’t. “I think luck is a mixture of hard work and opportunity,” says the Brooklyn, N.Y., native.

Judging by Goldsmith’s career success, he’s right. His plans to attend graduate school and become a clinical psychologist after earning a bachelor’s in psychology “all changed when I worked my junior and senior years at American Eagle Outfitters in Crossgates Mall. The fashion/retail bug bit me.

“Everything about my experience at Albany prepared me for my career,” remembers the former WCDB sportscaster and Student Association Central Council member, who lived at Colonial Quad for two years before moving off campus. “The life lessons, combined with student life, prepared me for the many strategies and tactics I still employ to this day in my current role.”

Through the Career Services Center, “I interviewed on campus with Lord & Taylor Department Stores in New York City and got into the executive training program to become a buyer. I held positions at Lord & Taylor, then Filene’s, then Foley’s, then Bon Ton and was lucky enough to go up the ranks quickly,” recalls Goldsmith, who also numbers ShopNBC; Smartbargains (now Rue La La); Amazon; and Limited Brands (Victoria’s Secret and Bath & Body Works) among his former employers.

Goldsmith is now executive vice-president of Merchandising, Apparel & Accessories at Sears Canada – “the largest department store in the country and my first venture outside the United States. When I was at Limited Brands, I discovered how much opportunity there was in Canada.”

Goldsmith points out that Sears Canada is more akin to Macy’s and “serves a different customer base than Sears in the U.S. Whereas I was a leading steward of a great brand, Victoria’s Secret, Sears Canada provides me the opportunity to be both author and steward.”

Since joining Sears Canada last July, Goldsmith has found that learning a new culture “is challenging but, at the same time, very exciting. Canada is essentially a hybrid of the U.S., England and France all wrapped together.

“I’ve been blessed,” he adds. “I’m always very appreciative and humbled by all the opportunities that present themselves. I love my career. If I could do this all over again, I would be a retailer. I would encourage UAlbany students to enter retail. Although the landscape continues to evolve in a multi-channel way, it also continues to grow.”
Louise Chazen graduated from UAlbany with a degree in social work that prepared her to “communicate well in every environment.” She used that skill to full advantage as her career path took a decidedly different direction when she entered the training program at Macy’s and discovered her true calling: retail.

Later, recruited to Saks Fifth Avenue, Chazen held a number of positions in merchandising and store management. At her next stop, Victoria’s Secret, she was involved in merchandising and product coordination for catalogue, Internet and stores. All of her previous experience and training would prove valuable when she attained her current position, president of 7thOnline, a software-solution business that promotes company return on investment by providing analytical planning and communication tools.

In the years since completing her undergraduate studies, Chazen has established a close relationship with UAlbany’s School of Business and frequently attends events sponsored by the school.

One of the often overlooked but critical steps in fashion design occurs at the production phase: turning a design team’s vision into a product that can be manufactured efficiently and sold at a reasonable price for its target consumer.

This is where people like Linda Delgado come in.

Delgado is the vice president of Production for Kenneth Cole’s line of women’s footwear. Her highly complex, collaborative job involves working with shoe designers, selecting the right materials for the shoes, choosing the factories, negotiating prices, and managing orders and inventory.

Though her psychology major may not directly relate to her career path, Delgado said that her UAlbany education helped to lay some of the groundwork for her current success. “I learned how to problem-solve in college,” explained Delgado. “And to focus on important details.”

Between her current 11-year tenure in women’s footwear at Kenneth Cole and a previous four-year stint at Nine West, Delgado has developed a real passion for shoes. In fact, she has a sizable collection.

“That’s one of the benefits of the job,” she said with a smile.
From the time Maria Dempsey took her first high school French class, she knew she had found her passion – for the language, culture and all things related to France. This love ultimately led her to UAlbany … and her current position as executive vice president, Marketing, for Clarins, a leader in skin care and makeup.

In a decision she calls “the best deal of my life,” Dempsey chose UAlbany because it offered a degree in French and business and the ability to study abroad as part of the curriculum. She ended up spending 14 months in Paris, an experience that would forever shape her career.

“Studying in Paris took me out of my comfort zone and taught me how to adapt,” Dempsey explained. “It was one of many ways that my UAlbany degree helped me find and define what I love to do.”

After graduation, Dempsey worked her way up to vice president of Marketing for the Lancome Division of L’Oreal USA and, later, to vice president of Marketing for John Frieda.

In her current role at Clarins, she oversees the company’s advertising, marketing, promotions, Internet and customer relationship management (CRM) efforts in the United States – helping Europe’s No. 1 cosmetics brand grow its American market share.

Dempsey works in Manhattan, but she travels several times a year to the company’s headquarters in Paris – a trip she doesn’t mind at all.
Always in Fashion

By Lauren Servideo

Evan Ross, B.A.’92
ucked away in the NoLita district of Manhattan, vintage clothing store FROCK is nothing short of an otherworldly sartorial anthology, and Evan Ross is the magician behind it.

Ross’ flair for fashion was evident even at UAlbany, where he was a standout in the sweatpants-clad student body. A pair of ultra-short denim cut-off jeans – worn in rain, sun and snow – was a staple of his early-'90s club kid-influenced wardrobe. Today, his résumé boasts styling high-profile celebrities like Tina Fey and Cyndi Lauper and coordinating editorial attire for Elle, GQ, Rolling Stone and numerous other publications.

Six months prior to graduation, the Bronxville, N.Y., native had secured a job at San Francisco’s Haines Gallery. While serving as gallery administrator and organizing all exhibitions allowed him to utilize his communication major and fine arts minor, it didn’t fulfill his ultimate goal: to explore his own creativity and build upon his own experiences related to the world of fashion and his love of vintage clothing.

Back in New York, Ross established a career as a freelance wardrobe stylist. When his career aspirations changed, a friend suggested he open a store selling the collection of vintage clothing he had amassed over the years, but Ross wasn’t sure he was “ready to give it a shot.” In 2003, however, FROCK was born, originally as a showroom. At his clients’ urging, FROCK became a retail location in 2004, leading to the magnificent store of historical clothing Ross has now. He keeps a keen eye out for vintage pieces to be used in movies, magazines, and at design houses, where inspiration is gleaned from the clothing.

Life experience has convinced Ross “the most successful people take a hobby and turn it into a job. If you do something you enjoy doing, the money and success will follow, and life doesn’t feel like so much work.”
From Finance to Fashion

By Jim Sciancalepore, M.A.’93

“I got into this industry by accident,” said Steve Leibow, senior vice president of Planning for Branded Sportswear & Secondary Markets at PVH Corp.

PVH is best known for its portfolio of trend-setting brands, such as Calvin Klein, IZOD, Arrow and Van Heusen. In his current role, Leibow manages a team in charge of budgeting and planning $280 million in annual wholesale sales revenue for PVH – working with some of the nation’s top retailers to determine product offerings, logistics and pricing.

It all started with Leibow’s degree in finance and management information systems (MIS) from UAlbany … and a small twist of fate.

Unable to find an immediate position in his concentration after graduation, Leibow took a job as sales manager at Herman’s World of Sporting Goods. His finance background led to a position in the company’s buying office and, later, to his initial role as retail analyst at PVH. Sixteen years later, Leibow has worked his way up to senior VP.

Leibow credits UAlbany with teaching him how to work as part of a team with people from different backgrounds, as well as the importance of meeting commitments and deadlines. A member of the business fraternity Delta Sigma Pi, he still counts his fraternity brothers among his closest friends.
“A New Way to See the World”

By Amy Halloran, B.A.’90

Kerri Bender develops color cosmetics for the Smashbox Cosmetics brand. Some of her favorite projects include the Be Discovered eye shadow palette, which is new for spring.

“I started my career in cosmetics as a formulation chemist,” says Bender. “It was my degree in biology that got me in the door to the lab, but it was the variety of arts and humanities courses that I took that really enabled me to transition to the more dynamic role I have now and be part of a global product-development team.”

UAlbany’s diversity, in terms of student population as well as curriculum, has served her well.

Working in a field that requires constant creativity and innovation can be challenging. One course in particular – Professor Helen Ghiradella’s Biological Architecture – was useful in fueling, and refueling, Bender’s inspiration. “It taught me a new way to see the world,” she recalls.

William Shakespeare wrote, “The apparel oft proclaims the man.” Nobody understands this concept better than Tom Ott, senior vice president of Menswear, Home and Gifts at Saks Fifth Avenue.

Ott works with his team to locate the best products available and devise novel ways to appeal to customers.

In an economy that has made people thriftier and less indulgent, Ott’s team has succeeded: Total sales were up 7.3 percent in 2011, with menswear listed in the top-performing product categories.

“Camaraderie and teamwork are very important,” Ott says. “At the end of the day, I can’t do everything. It’s about my group and what they can do.”

Ott’s teamwork skills date to his days as captain of the lacrosse team at Albany, where he majored in business administration and minored in history. “I had a great educational and athletic experience. In particular, some of the finance and marketing classes taught me to think about the business world and their application in real life,” says Ott, who has instilled his love of lacrosse in each of his four daughters.

He is also setting an example for them by supporting both the School of Business and the lacrosse team. “I think it’s very important to give back,” notes Ott.

– Lauren Servideo

Thomas Ott, B.S.’88

 Giving Back
Albany’s diversity and sense of community prepared Karina Spar for her career. “I encounter so many different people and cultures in my daily life and feel fortunate to have been exposed to them early on,” she says of her work as senior vice president, International Licensing, for Tommy Hilfiger.

Spar traces her success to her major in Spanish. Professor Armand Baker, then head of the Spanish department, had a way of making students want to go to class and learn something new. He encouraged Spar to continue to develop her language skills. These helped her land her first job as an administrative assistant in the international division of a fashion company.

Spar recalls a lot of advantages in her education and says UAlbany’s scale promoted a healthy sense of competition.

“Working at big companies, you have to navigate a lot of different people and personalities,” Spar reflects. “Attending a large university helps you to be able to find your way and become resourceful.”
Lauren Kucerak’s time at UAlbany helped make her constantly curious – a quality invaluable in her work as vice president of Global Communications for Juicy Couture. The position “involves everything from large-scale initiatives, such as creating the global PR blueprint; to more acute everyday projects, like editing press releases; to the strategic pinpointing of which celebrities and tastemakers best represent the brand.”

One of her communication classes taught Kucerak the power of independent thinking, while an English course with Associate Professor Mary Valentis taught her to think outside of the box. Valentis “made you want to learn and be a better student,” says Kucerak. “She had an amazing way of making class and assigned readings comparable to modern-day life.”

As an intern, Kucerak “took advantage of every single learning opportunity.” At the New York State Economic Development Program, where she focused on the “I Love NY” campaign, and later, with Atlantic Records in New York City, “I offered my assistance to every executive.” Interns who “demonstrate skill sets and dedication,” she noted, reap rewards in the form of “recommendations for jobs after graduation.”

Joining Phi Sigma Sigma sophomore year extended Kucerak’s perspective beyond what she had known growing up on Long Island – and gave her lifelong friendships and support. “I still consider my sorority sisters my family and best friends,” she says.
Ron Offir, B.S.’91

Enjoying the Journey

By Lauren Servideo

Ron Offir’s position as president of Retail and E-Commerce for The Jones Group (JNY) might sound glamorous, but his day-to-day duties would test the mettle of any business major. Offir runs five different Web businesses, “digital expressions” of brands that include Nine West, Easy Spirit, Jones New York, Anne Klein and Rachael Roy. “We like to think of our e-commerce stores as digital flagship stores,” explains Offir. “We bring the best of the brands online and leverage the technology in ways we simply can’t leverage retail.” He also runs several different retail concepts: Nine West full-price stores, Nine West Outlet Stores, Easy Spirit full-price stores, Jones New York Outlet stores and Kasper Outlet stores. In all, Offir’s division, which includes more than 4,000 employees, contributes over $500 million in sales annually to The Jones Group.

During his undergraduate days at UAlbany, where he majored in business administration, Offir was “fascinated with technology. I had the good fortune of selling ad space for the Albany Student Press (ASP). One of our accounts at that time was IBM, and they’d advertise personal computers for students,” he recalls. Offir’s minor in art gave him an opportunity to explore more creative endeavors: Dig through the ASP archives, and you might stumble upon some comics drawn by Offir. Through the minor, he “got to meet a whole host of people I would not otherwise have come into contact with on campus. It also helped me to begin to understand the world of fashion.”

Upon graduating, Offir focused on retail and technology as a business analyst with Deloitte Consulting’s New York City offices. He worked with The Gap, Banana Republic, Old Navy, Coach, Steve Madden and other brands before joining The Jones Group and attributes his current position to years of perseverance, hard work and significant business results.

“Graduates today need to recognize that they are truly starting at the bottom,” notes Offir. “It’s not a fun place to be, but it’s rich in learning. You need patience and an understanding of the process – you don’t instantly become the president of a division. It’s a journey.”

UAlbany In Style

A Menswear Magazine crew visited campus in February to do a Fall/Winter 2012 photo shoot. The fashion magazine chose the uptown campus because its staff had read about the University’s architecture and liked its post-modern look. The photos will appear in Menswear Magazine’s next issue.
Patrick O’Dea, B.S.’83
The Prince of Premium Coffee

After earning a degree in business administration from UAlbany in 1983, Patrick O’Dea held a singular mission.

“I wanted to run a business,” the Mount Kisco, N.Y., native says.

Mission accomplished, as O’Dea enters his 10th year as the CEO of Peet’s Coffee and Tea, an Emeryville, Calif.-based company revered by coffee aficionados and gaining share in the ultra-competitive specialty-coffee world.

Fresh off going public in 2001, Peet’s management courted O’Dea and his consumer marketing experience from Mother’s Cookies. As O’Dea had never heard of Peet’s prior to moving to the Bay Area in 1997, he performed his own man-on-the-street research. At one Peet’s shop, he asked fellow customers why they ventured to Peet’s instead of that other coffee shop. After multiple customers pledged their unwavering devotion to Peet’s, O’Dea knew Peet’s was the spot for him.

“The customers’ loyalty fascinated me,” O’Dea says of Peet’s, which was founded in 1966 by Alfred Peet, the patriarch of specialty coffee in the U.S.

When O’Dea joined Peet’s in 2002, the company had 58 retail stores, a small e-commerce platform, product in about 100 niche grocery stores, and sales totaling $94 million.

Under O’Dea’s leadership, Peet’s has exploded alongside the entire specialty-coffee market. With a novel direct store delivery program and strategic expansion, O’Dea built the large-scale infrastructure necessary to make Peet’s a major nationwide player.

Today, the company claims 330 stores, robust Internet business, and a presence in 11,000 retail outlets. Sales in 2012 are expected to approach $400 million.

“I’m most proud that we’ve taken this small, distinctive, high-end, but West Coast-based brand and expanded it nationally in spite of some high-level, better-resourced competition,” O’Dea says.

The father of four credits UAlbany, and specifically a course in organizational structure and effectiveness, with introducing him to the magic of business management.

“It’s such a fascinating ecosystem to work all of the levers in an integrated way to produce a successful company,” he says.
Through the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), and subsequently through the Works Progress Administration (WPA), William B. Van Ingen, an accomplished artist and muralist from Philadelphia, was commissioned to create murals for Hawley Hall. Van Ingen’s creations included murals for the Panama Canal Headquarters Building and the Pennsylvania Capitol building. Nothing is known about how the contract was awarded, but Van Ingen’s early conception of the project had been to fill the walls with verdure tapestries – primarily of green trees – but he soon decided the images should relate to the history of Albany, New York State and the State College for Teachers. One of his murals is an idealized image, on level ground, of the Albany and Schenectady railroad station on State Street, where the college opened in 1844. The building was actually on State Street below the Capitol building, an area so steep that the railroad quickly abandoned the building, as steam engines couldn’t pull the railcars up the hill. Horses had to be used instead to pull the cars into the station.

Van Ingen, who had a studio in New York City at the time, collaborated with NYSCT President Abram Brubacher on the choice of themes for the Hawley Murals. The artist sought photos or etchings of the subjects he was portraying, and Brubacher frequently traveled to New York to monitor his progress. Occasionally, there were creative differences: Brubacher overruled Van Ingen’s intent to portray the first airplane flight from Albany to New York City, insisting instead on a depiction of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The college president won the argument, but the switch also provided Van Ingen a fine opportunity to portray his green...
Below is an itinerary for a self-guided tour of downtown campus art. Enjoy your tour and UAlbany’s art, both old and new!

**Itinerary**

Starting at Hawley Hall, where the Dewey Library is located, and continuing west to Milne Hall, you’ll find the following, a partial list of downtown campus art treasures:

- **Dewey Library:** stained-glass windows; Van Ingen murals
- **Draper Hall, second floor:** studies of Bannerman’s Castle in the Hudson River, a suite of etchings created as an assignment for students of Professor Emeritus of Art Robert Cartmell
- **Husted Hall, lobby:** modern University at Albany photos taken by longtime staff photographer Mark Schmidt
- **Husted 100:** the MacWeeney photos of Ireland
- **Richardson Hall, first floor:** “Autobiography,” a rare suite of three Robert Rauschenberg offset lithographs donated to the University by Professor of Social Welfare William Roth and Carol Roth, and other contemporary works from the University’s collections
- **Page Hall, the Levitt Room (Page 120):** paintings and etchings, some from the Rockefeller Collection
- **Milne Hall, first-floor Rockefeller College lobby and conference room:** works from the Rockefeller Collection (Milne Hall, first-floor lobby) First and second floors: framed posters of exhibition openings at the University Art Museum and other museums
- **Milne 200:** Lithgow murals and Thorvaldsen friezes (University Photographer Mark Schmidt’s images of the murals and friezes may also be viewed online at http://www.albany.edu/main/photo_proof/milnemurals.)

Below, left: If the Milne Conference Room isn’t being used, have a look at this work by Theodore Stamos, one of the original Abstract Expressionist artists working in New York City in the 1940s and ’50s. Below, right: Another mural depicts the World War I Student Army Training Corps, which was stationed at the college.

trees in the work. (In Milne 200, David Lithgow did paint a mural of Glenn Curtiss’ 1910 Albany-to-New York flight.)

With Brubacher’s approval, Van Ingen sketched his ideas on 17-foot-by-4-foot canvas sheets with a total width of 250 feet, but most of the actual brushwork was done by his assistant, John E. Jackson, a noted magazine illustrator. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) paid the artists $2.50 a day. (Images of the murals may be viewed online at https://library.albany.edu/dewey/murals/history.)

In the 1990s, the University Art Museum began displaying works from its collections of contemporary art, previously kept in storage, on the walls of University buildings. While I knew there was some contemporary art on the downtown campus, I was surprised to learn that there are 81 pieces from the University’s art collection exhibited downtown. Some of that art, such as Alen MacWeeney’s “Selected Images of Ireland,” a collection of large-format color photographs loaned to the University, is located in the Edith Tanenbaum Rudolf Room (Husted 110). The Arthur Levitt Room (Page 120) contains items from Gov. Nelson Rockefeller’s collection, including a piece by his son, Michael. Much of the art, however, is displayed in corridors (Draper Hall, second floor; Husted Hall, entrance lobby; Richardson Hall, first floor; Milne Hall, first and second floors) and is accessible to the public whenever the downtown campus is open.

All of the buildings, except Hawley, have elevators and are handicapped accessible. In Hawley, all the art is on the first floor and can be accessed by elevator from Draper Hall. Keep in mind that the conference rooms are often in use at noontime and during the evenings and may be unavailable for public access at those times.
Jo-an Haluska is residing in the Eddy Village Green in Cohoes, N.Y. She is a great-grandmother seven times and is visited by her sons regularly. Although wheelchair bound, she has an active social life with her family and friends and would enjoy hearing from friends at jhaluska1@nycap.rr.com.

Miriam Newell-Biskin is now an octograndma, with five great grandchildren in Israel, three in the United States and another on the way. Her beloved husband, Irving, passed away in 2005. Fully retired from Cohoes High School, she is doing some freelance writing to express her “leftist leanings.” Miriam’s book *My Life among the Gentiles*, which has been reprinted, “is still relevant, unfortunately,” she says. A note from your class councilor: It has been 70 years since the Class of 1941 graduated. Our numbers are fewer all the time. Charlie Quinn was under the weather but is recovering well. His wife, Marion Dufy ’42, is holding her own in a care center. I turned 93 Oct. 4, and my wife Margaret was 95 Nov. 2. We celebrated our 69th wedding anniversary Nov. 21. Members of the Class of 1941 are welcome to contact me.

A note from your class councilor: Opening on a very sad note, we have just been informed of the death of Dr. Arthur Collins of Lenox, Mass., professor emeritus of English at the University at Albany. I had sent about 28 e-mail messages to our classmates, and the first response was from Amy, Arthur’s daughter, telling us that he had died Dec. 2, 2011. Arthur joined our class in 1946 after discharge from the Air Force. He earned his B.A. in English in 1948 and in 1951 returned to the State College for Teachers to teach English, retiring from this position after 35 years. Amy assured us that he loved the University and that he cherished staying in touch with us. He always replied to my requests for news about himself whenever I contacted him. We have lost three other classmates during 2011: Arlene Riber Bochever, Florence Mace and Lorraine Malo Zaremba. Doris Wester Miga was inducted into the Utica College Sports Hall of Fame. As a mentor for the men’s basketball team for over 20 years, she and husband Walter have attended almost all home basketball games for over 45 years. She is a professor emerita of sociology. Helen Schick writes that she is living in the Atria in Bay Shore, but still remains active in West Islip affairs. She serves on the board of the Sagitos Manor Historical Association and is a member of the West Islip Bicentennial Committee, which has sponsored a fair for 36 years. She celebrated her 85th birthday with 16 of 18 members of her “clan” present, and for Christmas, all 18 family members were together. Her address is 53 Ocean Ave., Apt. 231, Bay Shore, NY 11706. Joan Sittner Sherwood from Richland, Ore., writes that she lost her husband, Frank, in May 2011. The weather in Richland last fall was wonderful; there were no major problems like some of the country experienced. Joan continues to volunteer at the library book sale and remains a docent at the CREHST Museum. She reminds us that Richland is the third city of the Manhattan Project; it was there the plutonium was produced for the bomb that ended World War II. The museum tells its story. Ruth Doran of Baldwinsville, N.Y., has been recovering from a serious illness but still keeps abreast of the news. In a Syracuse newspaper, she recently read an article that highlighted an award presented to Sam Dickieson and wife Dorothy ’47 at the “It’s a Wonderful Life” festival in Seneca Falls, N.Y. Sam and Dorothy, both retired Seneca Falls teachers, were presented with the annual George Bailey Award, which is given to people who embody the spirit of the movie character by contributing to the lives of their neighbors and improving the community. The presenter of the award said, “You are the essence of what Bedford Falls is all about.” Lucille St. Priest Horton is busy as
the organist and pianist for the Sullivan County Choral Society. After 35 years with the society, she will retire. **Rita Shapiro Schwartz** has been recovering from back surgery but remains active with AARP, helping the aged disabled. Gari and Eleanor get together twice a year and often keep in touch by telephone. We are working with the other class councilors of the 1940s to plan a reunion of all our classes. When you receive your letter from the Alumni House, please respond **ASAP**. Thank you.

Class councilor: Eleanor Holbig Alland, ealland214b@nycap.rr.com

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**Can you make a difference? Yes, UCAN.**

Jennifer was lost. A senior majoring in English, graduation was fast approaching and she was not feeling ready. While her resume was in good shape and her interviewing skills honed, she was looking for some advice from those who had already entered the “real world.” She contacted the Alumni Association.

The Association was ready to help and connected Jennifer with a handful of alumni in her field who could share their personal insights and advice. This spring, the Alumni Association is going to be able to help hundreds, even thousands, of students and young alumni like Jennifer when they introduce UCAN, the **UAlbany Career Advisory Network.**

UCAN is an online advisement program that provides alumni with an effective means to help students and young graduates. For many, it is the ideal situation – a way to personally encourage and inspire with a minimal time commitment. (See “Can you give 15 minutes to a UALBANY student? UCAN.” on page 49.)

For years, alumni have been providing advice and guidance through an informal alumni network. With UCAN, we’re creating an online database of alumni that can be an invaluable resource students and young alums can tap into directly. Advising a student doesn’t involve a big commitment of time or resources, just a willingness to listen and share your experiences. I encourage anyone who can spare a few moments (15 minutes can do so much!) to become a UCAN advisor. For more information, contact Melissa Samuels at msamuels@albany.edu or (518) 442-3083.

And what about Jennifer? She made a connection with an alumna that had a huge impact. Together, they discussed Jennifer’s career path, classes, and extra-curricular activities. Now, she is well on her way to a bright beginning and pledges one day to be a career advisor herself.

UCAN make a difference.

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Lee Serravillo  
Executive Director  
UAlbany Alumni Association
Alumni Association Recognizes Outstanding Achievements

The University at Albany Alumni Association will bestow Excellence Awards on the following alumni and friends for their outstanding achievements and service. The awards will be presented at the 2012 Excellence Awards Gala on April 28.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI
Honors an alumnus or alumna for an extraordinary achievement; or honors an individual who, over the course of a decade or more, has exemplified outstanding success in a chosen profession or outstanding service to society
Gary M. Jacobson, B.A.’82, Money Manager, Apex Capital LLC

CITIZEN OF THE UNIVERSITY
Recognizes a nongraduate’s outstanding contributions of service, leadership or a special gift to the University
Charlotte Buchanan, Esq., Retired, McNamie, Lochner, Titus & Williams P.C.

EXCELLENCE IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Recognizes the accomplishments of an individual who has demonstrated the spirit, leadership and drive of an entrepreneur
Hamdi Ulukaya, President and CEO, Agro Farma

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD
Recognizes early outstanding achievements in a chosen profession or field and/or service to the community by an alumnus aged 35 years or younger
James Malatras, B.A.’99, M.A.’00, Ph.D.’08, Deputy Secretary for Policy Management, New York State Office of the Governor

EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS
Pays tribute to alumni for distinction in for-profit business
Thomas Metzold, M.B.A.’87, Vice President, Eaton Vance Management

Michael Weilheimer, B.S.’83, Vice President, Eaton Vance Management

EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE
Pays tribute to alumni for time volunteered to benefit a community or its nonprofit institutions
Carolyn H. Grosvenor, M.P.H.’06, Physician, Stratton VA Medical Center

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION
Honors alumni for extraordinary distinction in the field of education, including pre-K through post-secondary classroom teaching, school services and administration/supervision
Joseph Brosnan, M.S.’69, Ed.D.’81, President, Delaware Valley College

Donna Scanlon, B.A.’76, Ph.D.’87, Professor, UAlbany School of Education

EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE
Recognizes alumni for outstanding contributions to local, state or national communities, generally, but not exclusively, through opportunities in appointed or elected office or public service nonprofit organizations
Theresa Tobin, M.A.’88, Ph.D.’11, Deputy Inspector, New York City Police Department

BERTHA E. BRIMMER MEDAL
Celebrates alumni for excellence in teaching K-12 and for dedication to their profession
Heather O’Leary, M.S.’99, Teacher, Van Corlaer Elementary School

EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
Pays tribute to alumni for distinction in science and/or technology
Sreejit Chakravarty, Ph.D.’86, Distinguished Engineer, LSI Corp.

INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI AWARD FOR EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT
Recognizes international graduates who are highly distinguished in their professions and who have helped their nations and/or the world through outstanding contributions to government, science, art, education, business or human welfare
Keiko Miwa, Ph.D.’00, Assistant to the President, World Bank

Ayodele Coker, M.S.’74, Ph.D.’78, Director General (Retired), Sheda Science & Technology Complex

MAKE YOUR NOMINATION FOR 2013:
If you are interested in nominating someone for a 2013 Excellence Award, contact the Alumni Association at (518) 442-3080 or alumni@uamail.albany.edu. The deadline is Oct. 21, 2012. Visit www.albany.edu/alumni/excellenceawards.php for more details.
Alumni News & Notes

abroad and have spent many winters in Arizona and Mississippi. Milli states that she is a cancer survivor and in reasonably good health. Until recently she worked extensively as a volunteer but is now spending considerable time at home caring for her husband. Abe Trop is still going strong! His Habitat for Humanity crew just completed a yearlong renovation project (seven houses) in Delano, 30 miles north of Bakersfield, Calif. As of November, his crew was building a playhouse for the Ronald McDonald House in Bakersfield. Congratulations to Bill Sheehan, who celebrated his 90th birthday Dec. 11. Bill retired from teaching at SUNY Albany in 1985 and from his private law practice the same year. He enjoys writing articles on sports and national holidays for a local Mechanicville newspaper, The Express. If you want to drop Bill a line, his e-mail address is wsheehan3@nycap.rr.com.

Horty Zeilengold Schmeirer had a delightful visit with Betsy and Jake Schuhle in Cortland in July. Horty enjoyed a wonderful tour of Italy in October; it included a stop in Pompeii, where she spent her birthday. The tour included a private evening visit to the Sistine Chapel, which Horty said was great for an “old” history teacher. On Nov. 13, her oldest granddaughter was married, with the two younger sisters serving as maids of honor. Gerry Reisner spent much of 2011 recuperating from a series of small strokes and a damaged right knee. By December, he was progressing well with the help of doctors, nurses and Estelle. We wish you a full and speedy recovery, Gerry. In November, Anne Sulich Raser traveled to northern California for the wedding of her grandson. She is continuing her participation in two research studies: Women’s Health Initiative and the California Teachers’ Study.

Freddy Laemmerzahl Miller spent a couple of weeks in December in the Black Forest of Germany with her brother and sister-in-law. Bob Kittredge reports that his recovery from knee-replacement surgery in September has gone very well. He and Diana attended a Rhodes Scholar (Elderhostel) program in Tiburon, Calif. (the Bay Area). Their granddaughter, Lauren, has enrolled in a 12-month Montessori training program. When Lauren finishes the program, she will be a certified International Montessori teacher and will have completed an M.A. degree through Loyola University in Baltimore, Md. In the fall, Jean Pulver Hague once again visited France, one of her favorite countries. She traveled with her sister, brother and sister-in-law, and they had a great time together. Jerry Dunn is the principal author of a recently published book on the history of the Methodist Church in East Greenbush. The three-year project not only covered the 138-year history of the church, but also interweaves the growth of the Town of East Greenbush.

Larry Appleby attended a SUNY Albany alumni mixer in Buffalo and said there were three “oldies” from our era, and the rest were “youngies.” In September, Bonnie Totten Adkins’ husband, Lee, baptized their first great-grandchild. Also in September, Bonnie and Lee, with two other Vermont couples, hosted a group of 14 from nine different states in an Elderhostel-like program that combined learning and light volunteer work. Bonnie stated that the devastation caused by Hurricane Irene made travel with the group quite a challenge. If any of you know of volunteer teams interested in coming to Vermont this spring or summer, Lee and Bonnie are part of the volunteer-coordinating system and can be contacted at btadkins@comcast.net for further information.

Robertson Baker and Isabel are proud to welcome their fourth great-grandchild, Noah Robertson Vormer, born in October. There may be a multi-class reunion for the 1940s classes sometime this year; you will receive information about this. Our reunion committee chose not to participate in the planning but rather to concentrate on our own 65th anniversary in 2014. I’d like to close by expressing my appreciation to those of you who are cooperating so well in sending news about your lives to share with your classmates. Thank you so much.

Class notes councilor: Joe Zanchelli, jzanch@comcast.net

A note from your class councilor: Irwin Baumei, Elise Desewe Brown, Marjorie Lyons and Sparky Vaughn met over dinner for a mini-reunion in an Italian restaurant just outside Washington, D.C. Irwin and Elise were visiting from California, a prolonged visit, and Marjorie for a brief visit from Florida.

Class notes councilor: Audrey Koch Feathers, akochfeathers@roadrunner.com.

Stuart Gates and wife Elinor are enjoying their three grandsons and “slowing down” after 51 years. Stuart has been blessed to serve 13 years as an elected officer of the Firemen’s Association of the State of New York and as president of 10 volunteer fire organizations (local, county, sectional

Seventeen members of the Class of 1951 celebrated an unforgettable 60th milestone reunion at the Alumni House Oct. 1.
and state levels). He remains a “Top 10” responder to fire alarms in the Stony Point, N.Y., community.

52 A note from your class councilor: It was nice to hear from Evie Kampke Johnson who let us know she’s been married to Rube for 59 years. They have been blessed with three sons, eight grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. All were at Evie and Rube’s home at Tellico Lake near Knoxville, Tenn., in July. Kitty Kloser Irons and husband Marty are as active as ever. In September, they were in Quebec at an interesting Rhodes Scholar program; they stayed at a hotel built into the side of a mountain, explored the old city and enjoyed an excursion down the St. Lawrence River. They were in Vermont with their son for Thanksgiving and had a chance to see the devastation caused by Hurricane Irene. Kitty and Marty lost their phones for two weeks due to the storm. Jeanne Seymour Earle had some good news: Her son has set a wedding date of Sept. 29, 2012, and Jeanne is excited about that.

Jane Minckler Jennings reports that her Virginia granddaughter, who just graduated from Sweet Briar, is working for the CIA in Virginia. (Congratulations on having a job!) Her other granddaughter is working at her father’s electrical engineering firm and teaching part time at a local community college. Jean Faville Smith writes from Florida that she and Smitty are looking forward to our reunion in September. She has contacted several friends to encourage their attendance – a good idea for all of us! Let’s all be cheerleaders. Tom Holman is also planning to attend the September reunion. In the meantime, he spent Christmas at home in Naples, Fla., with family coming in from Japan, Virginia and Connecticut. Shortly thereafter he flew off to St. Maarten, where he has spent the winter for the last 25 years. Vicki Eade Eddy sent enthusiastic greetings to all her classmates. She stayed in Olean several months longer this year before returning to her place in Yuma, Ariz. Joan Bennett Kelly has four grandchildren in college – one in West Point, one in Binghamton, one in Wilmington and one in Springfield. Kayla, who graduated last year, is trying to make it in theater. She had a walk-on part in two TV plays, so that’s a beginning. Good luck, Kayla. Joan and Charlie are planning to attend the reunion and report that the Wileys will be there, too. Bert Jablon is still working with adult students in the healthcare program at Empire State College. This is Bert’s 32nd year there, and he said working with students “keeps me up on all the new medical, technological, and quality advances occurring in this fast-moving industry.” His son, Brian, and Brian’s wife are now posted in New Delhi, India, with the American Embassy. As for Bert, he’s still playing tennis, running, and racing every weekend somewhere on Long Island. Some reminders from your councilor: 1) UAlbany magazine is now being printed in a limited run. However, all alumni for whom we have a good e-mail address will receive a copy electronically. If you have a computer but are not receiving the magazine electronically, let me know. 2) If you want to earmark any contributions to the Class of ’52 Scholarship Fund, please write “University at Albany, Class of 1952 Scholarship Fund Program” on your check. We continue to award scholarships honoring our professors in a different department each year. 3) Plans for our 60th reunion, to be held Sept. 6-9, are moving right along. In the meantime, mark your calendar.

Class councilor: Joyce Zancheili, jjzanch@yahoo.com

54 Thomas Hoppey was inducted into the Port Jervis School District Alumni Hall of Fame. Thomas impacted the lives of three decades of students at the Port Jervis Middle School – first as a science teacher and later for 22 years as principal.

Stu and Myra Macnofsky cruised the Caribbean in January 2011. John Cooper and his wife spent time on the beautiful Oregon coast and also enjoyed a cruise through the Panama Canal, with visits to several countries, including Mexico, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Howie Fenenbock would like to share the Web site www.sudokumarvel.com with former classmates. John Granito and wife Dolores continue to share amazing travel adventures, including a Mediterranean trip on a four-masted sailboat for two weeks in late April.

UAlbany Lecture Series

Join the Alumni Association and the Center for Jewish Studies for the UAlbany Lecture Series April 29. The event will feature poet and Princeton professor Esther Schor, who will discuss her 2006 National Jewish Book Award Winner, the biography Emma Lazarus. The event will take place at the Jewish Heritage Museum, which is featuring an Emma Lazarus exhibition.

Register at www.albany.edu/alumni/register.htm.
More than 82 Pottermen and 50-plus guests gathered in Albany Sept. 30-Oct. 2 to mark the end of an era: the 80th – and final – formal annual reunion of the Potter Club. The event also celebrated the 120th year since the birth of Edward Eldred Potter in 1891. Created in 1931 as a social club, the Potter Club – in contrast to the only other fraternity on campus at the time – was open to all State College men, regardless of race or religion. The club was named in honor of Edward Eldred Potter, who left school to join the service during World War I. He was commissioned a 1st lieutenant in the Signal Corps, the precursor of the Air Force, and died in a plane crash near Paris in 1918.

The club was disbanded in the 1980s, but the Edward Eldred Potter Club Alumni Association, formed in 1948, has remained active. Despite time and distance, the Pottermen have remained a tight-knit group, holding numerous reunions and regional meetings. Their membership numbers close to 1,000 and includes many distinguished alumni. Over the years, 35 Pottermen have received the Alumni Award for Excellence. Since 1996, the alumni members have donated more than $20,000 to establish and renovate the Edward Eldred Potter Memorial Room at Alumni House.

Although no future all-member reunions are planned, the Edward Eldred Potter Club Alumni Association remains active with area luncheons, a Web site and the possibility of regional reunions.

Front row: Bob Lanni ’52; Tom Yole ’52; Tom Singleton ’52; Paul Ward ’53; Matthew Potter ’11; Susan Potter Mintzer; Gloria M. Potter
Row 2: Canon Kay Hotaling ’67, UAlbany Alumni Association president; Dave Manly ’52; Art Batty ’52; Dan Taureony ’52; Carlton Coulter ’35; Ray Champlin ’52; Ken Doran ’39; Bob Umhozlitz ’51; Ed Bonaheu ’53; Pat Pearson ’65
Row 3: Milan Krchniak ’53; Jack Higham ’57; Bernad McCreary ’57; Gerry Holzman ’54; Vinnie Maurillo ’68; Jim Sweet ’56 (in white coat); George Wood ’54; Bob Fairbanks ’64; Ross Dailey ’58 (behind Fairbanks); Bob Sage ’55; Joe McCormick ’53; Joe Zanchelli, ’49 (in light coat); Carl Miller ’68; Grant Downs ’68; Roger Gorham ’69
Row 4: Franz Zwicklbauer ’62; Doug Penfield ’60; Harry Johnson ’51; Fred Culbert ’65 (behind Johnson and Schneider); John Schneider ’65; Gene McLaren ’45 (behind Schneider and O’Loughlin); Tom O’Loughlin ’56; Geoff Williams; UAlbany archivist; Joe Persico ’52; Eric Kafka ’60; Harold Smith ’53 (behind Kafka and Palczak); Claude Palczak ’53 (behind Dailey and Sage); Ron Graves ’58; Jim Panton ’53 (behind Graves and Zanchelli); Bob Benton ’64; Gerry Leggieri ’68; Ray Shipman ’61
Row 5: Peter Schroeck ’65; Bill Lindberg ’55; Bob Coan ’55; Joe Stella ’54; Dave Sull ’65; John Contra ’54; Ed Franco ’55 (behind Persico and Kafka); Frank Ioelle ’52; Peter McManus ’54; Bob DeMichiell ’55; Herb Egert ’53; Richard Szymbanski ’67; Don Kiel ’66; Henry Maus ’62; Dan Schultz ’62
Row 6: Lee Serravillo, executive director, UAlbany Alumni Association; Art Weigand ’53; DeWitt Combs ’55; Dick Persico ’55; Doug Davis ’69; Joe Dolan ’52

Missing from the photo but in attendance at the Friday reception were Al Alcon ’71; Ron Alexander ’58; Stewart Crowell ’64; Eric Fogelgaren ’68; Carl Herman ’62; Carroll Judd ’53; Dave LeBlu ’65; John Lewis ’62; Ken Ludum ’51; Gary Penfield ’63; George Philip ’69, ’73, UAlbany president; and Richard Sayers, UAlbany football coach.
They also hit the French Riviera, the Italian Riviera, Sardinia, Corsica and then Rome. They missed the Class of ’54 reunion, but for a great reason: Surrounded by family and friends, John celebrated his 80th birthday with a surprise party. Highlights included a “this is your life” bus tour taking John to all the places he worked, lived and went to school and ended with a delicious dinner at Lombardo’s Restaurant. Malcolm Blum has returned from San Francisco to reside in Whitesboro, N.Y., to be close to family. He looks forward to attending Homecoming 2012. Anne Filipowski Gilday and her husband, John, traveled to Myrtle Beach and are enjoying their 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Joan Hartman enjoyed a family-filled year with visits to Washington to visit her brother and sister-in-law, then on to Utah for her great-niece’s wedding. She spent some time in Virginia with her brother and shared the Thanksgiving holiday in Ohio with her sister. Donald Voellinger enjoys spending part of his year in New York City and the other on Cape Cod. Frank and Laura Giannone enjoyed 10 weeks of sand, sea and sun in Maui this winter after hosting family and friends for Christmas in their 117-year-old Victorian home. Art Stone and wife Nancy are still busy with business and will travel to Cambodia, Laos and China. Barbara Cumber Edwards is spending time with her eight grandchildren, who keep her traveling from Johnson City to Syracuse, Virginia, North Carolina and Huntsville, Ala. Patty Zyliko Prindle is sorry to have missed the reunion; she is spending a lot of time at camp in the Adirondacks and volunteering at the Adirondack Research Center in Niskayuna, N.Y. Shirley Dillon does not have much news since the death of John on Jan. 17, 2011. She missed the last reunion, since she was in Las Vegas and Lake Havasu City, Ariz. She came up with no winnings and it was too hot, more crowded and bigger since the ’90s. Ken Schoonmaker was in the hospital four times in 2011, mainly for urinary infections, which seem to have been cleared up. However, he had to cancel a planned trip to China. Beverly Brousseau does not have too much in the way of news, as it has been a quiet year. Her husband had two stents implanted early in the year. It took him a while to get back to normal, but he seems to be doing fine now, and they chose to stay close to home this year. John Cooper had medical treatments (all successful and complete) that limited his activities last year. But he and his wife spent some time on the beautiful Oregon coast and on a cruise through the Panama Canal, with visits to several Latin American countries, including Mexico, Guatemala and Nicaragua.

The Class of 1961 celebrated its milestone 50th reunion at Western Turnpike Clubhouse Oct. 15.

Calendar of Events

April

14 – Spring Stomp
28 – Alumni Volunteer Council Luncheon
28 – Excellence Awards Gala
29 – UAlbany Lecture Series, NYC

May

19-20 – Commencement

October

12 – GOLD Reunion
12-13 – Homecoming, Reunion & Family Weekend

For additional events and details, visit www.albany.edu/alumni
A note from your class councilor: Several 1955 alumni and their wives attended the October Potter Club 80th anniversary in Albany. Joining the celebration were Ed and Anne Franco, Bob Sage, De and Mary Combs, Dick and Joyce Persico, Bob and Cathy Coan, and Bob and Nan DeMichiell. Fred and Mary Ann (Johnpoll) Stanton’s son, Greg, became mayor of Phoenix, Ariz., in January 2012.

Class councilor: John Orser, xiety3j@hotmail.com

A note from your class councilor: We hope you received the initial letter about our 50th reunion Oct. 12-14 and are planning to attend. Also, by April 30, please e-mail one of us a summary of your last 50 years for publication on the SUNY Albany Alumni Web site. When construction is complete, you will be e-mailed a link to view the site. It will be fun to catch up on a half-century!

Paula Ablove Gilbert and Shelley Kelierman Pollero ran into each other and enjoyed shared time in August at the Jewish Genealogical Conference in Washington, D.C.

Andrea Joanne Weddigen Perry enjoys her seven grandchildren and is a very active volunteer in Brockport.

Andrew Neiderman, originator of our underground newspaper, Suppression, had been enjoying a thriving career as a successful novelist and prolific playwright after leaving teaching. You will recall his book, The Devil’s Advocate, which was turned into a great film.

Linda Bosworth, Susan Blank, Sheril McCormack and Hannah Schnitt Rogers enjoyed their triennial trip in November. It was a great week in the historic district of Savannah, Ga., savoring Southern food, seeing shows, and touring.

A Facebook page has been created for the Class of 1959. Simply log on to Facebook and search “Class of 1959, SUNY Albany” to join. Dr. Miriam Sanderson Russell will present a paper on facilitating online discussions at the 19th Annual International Conference on Learning in London in August 2012. Gary Holway was a member of the gold medal team that won the 80+ three-on-three basketball bracket at the National Senior Games in Houston, Texas, in June. One teammate, considered by some to be the best all-around player in the senior games, fell and broke his arm while practicing two days before leaving for Houston. That left Gary’s team with just four players for the tournament. However, after an initial loss, no team scored more than 15 points against Gary’s team. Gary notes that he and Elma are both well and keeping busy.

Class notes councilor: Miriam Sanderson Russell, Miriam38@hotmail.com

A Facebook page has been created for the Class of 1959. Simply log on to Facebook and search “Class of 1959, SUNY Albany” to join. Dr. Miriam Sanderson Russell

Mary Vigliante Szydlowski, B.A.’71

Reading, Writing and Research

By Amy Halloran, B.A.’90

Author Mary Vigliante Szydlowski’s book Kia’s Manatee was published last September.

The story of a girl who recruits her community to help an injured manatee in a polluted bay, the picture book is part of a nationwide children’s literacy program.

“When they’re done reading the book in class, the children are allowed to take the book home,” says Szydlowski, who also writes fiction for adults.

In all of her writing, research plays an important role. Getting to know a subject is crucial, and Szydlowski enjoys immersing herself in a topic, whether for a novel, a picture book or another project. She works for testing companies, preparing reading comprehension passages for standardized tests.

At the University, Szydlowski was an anthropology major. She says, “I had some really great professors who assigned a lot of papers” and demanded excellent research and good writing skills. “That’s where I learned to write.”

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Elena Rabin Halady finally realized her dream of retirement. Boca Raton is her new home. Ballroom dancing, golf, tennis and gym time keep her busy. Bridge, which she learned in Albany, fills her “extra” time. Her motto: “There is no time like the present to enjoy it all.” Dr. Gene Altman, retired president of Technology Rentals of America, is a Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) counselor and water-safety instructor. He also remains active with the ski patrol. Gene has started “Your Businesses’ Best Friend,” a consulting firm serving startup and small businesses. He and Shelley Levin ’66 travel and visit their four grandchildren. Dr. Robert Sweeney is directing an Asheville, N.C., hydroponic program that engages people with disabilities in growing herbs.

Class councilor: J. Sheril McCormack, vanillastar202@yahoo.com

UAlbany alumni make it a family affair at the UAlbany vs. Siena men’s basketball pregame party in December.
A note from your class councilor: We will have our 50-year reunion in 2014. It is still two years off, but the Alumni Office asked that I notify you now. So please make it a point to remain alive for the next 24 months! Our two class stewards on the alumni council, Piret Kutt Kelly and Carole Potts Bruno, retired from their task. We are grateful for their service for these many years. Please send along any news, anniversaries or accomplishments you wish to share, and I will make sure that the information is included in the class notes. I am sure that we have much to honor, remember and celebrate. Gary Smith has retired as the St. Joseph’s College men’s soccer team head coach. During his 26 years at SJC, he established both the men’s soccer and women’s softball programs. In 2000, Gary became the first coach to lead a team to a Skyline title and compete in the NCAA Division III Tournament, with the women’s softball team. He was inducted into the Golden Eagles’ Athletic Hall of Fame in 2009. Gary currently lives in Hampton Bays, N.Y., with his wife, Paula. Marilyn Pendergast, a partner at UHY LLP, has received a special award for outstanding volunteer service from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Marilyn, the national co-leader of UHY’s Education/Nonprofit Group, is based in the firm’s Albany, N.Y., office. She is a nationally recognized expert in directing audit, accounting and management service engagements for educational institutions, governmental entities, closely held businesses and nonprofit organizations. Class councilor: Alan Minarcik, amcmouse@hotmail.com

After 42 years as a faculty member and administrator at six colleges and universities, Jim Hotto retired as president of Palo Verde College in December. He and wife Sue plan to split their time between their homes in Blythe, Calif., (in the winter) and Vancouver, Wash., (in the summer). Last fall, Jim was honored as the Counter Drug Officer of the Year for the Pacific Region of the Civil Air Patrol. Carole Harvey (AKA Kate Jacobs) and husband John live on a lake in Tellico Village near Knoxville. Their busy schedules include village governance, Episcopal Church work, community theatre and 14 grandkids. The most recent additions to their family are two 5-year-old girls adopted from Rwanda.

A note from your class councilor: John Haluska enjoyed an 18-year career as a social studies teacher and has been self-employed as a real estate appraiser in the Mid-Hudson Valley for the last 21 years. He is also a small-claims assessment

At the University at Albany, Carol Charniga “took classes in the sciences and theatre, and both have continued to be important and balancing aspects of my life.” That’s probably why the Troy, N.Y., resident works as a lab manager for the Neural Stem Cell Institute and enjoys acting and directing! Pictured here as Fraulein Schneider in a 2011 UAlbany production of Cabaret, Charniga returned to campus this February to portray Miss Piedmont, a character based on Miss Haverson from Charles Dickens’ Great Expectations. She has amassed an impressive array of credits in New York City (A Murder is Announced, Queens Theater in the Park) and, closer to home, at Capital Repertory Theatre, the New York State Theatre Institute (NYSTI), Cohoes Music Hall, Mac-Haydn Theatre and The Theater Barn. Her directing credits include Gross Indecency: the Three Trials of Oscar Wilde at Albany Civic Theater (ACT) and On the 20th Century for the Schenectady Light Opera Company (SLOC).

Offstage, Charniga has two favorite roles: mother of three, and grandmother to Hayden, 13, and Violet, 3. “They are future [UAlbany] students, I hope,” she says.
review hearing officer in the 3rd and 4th judicial districts. He and his wife, Sherry, enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren on Canadarago Lake in the summer months. John would love to hear from classmates and college friends at jhaluska1@nycap.rr.com. **Richard Thompson** has been named senior counsel by the law firm of Patton Boggs, LLP in Washington, D.C., continuing a 40-year career in government affairs. He recently retired from Bristol-Myers Squibb Company as senior vice president for Policy and Government Affairs. Richard led the company to the top tier of advocacy in the pharmaceutical industry, developing a leadership role in political fundraising and chairing a number of successful industry working groups on tax, intellectual property and Medicare prescription drug benefits. Richard recently was elected chairman of the board of trustees of Syracuse University. He is married to the former Jean Terry of Syracuse. They have two daughters, Kristin and Beth, and four grandchildren, Stephen, 15; Kaitlin, 12; Kenny, 6; and Catie, 4. Richard says they are his real accomplishments! He lives in McLean, Va.

**Class councilor:** Gary Spielmann; spielmann92@fairpoint.net

**Steve Jensen** has volunteered as full-time chaplain for Marine/Navy Wounded Warriors and brought some of the vets to hear and greet First Lady Michelle Obama, who thanked and encouraged them individually.

**Simon Sinnreich** is now a proud grandfather: His first grandson, Nathan, is the son of his son, Michael. He is married to the former Jean Terry of Syracuse. They have two daughters, Kristin and Beth, and four grandchildren, Stephen, 15; Kaitlin, 12; Kenny, 6; and Catie, 4. Richard says they are his real accomplishments! He lives in McLean, Va.

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**Steve Jensen with First Lady Michelle Obama**

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of his eldest daughter, Helene, and her husband, Wesley.

Barry Kirschner lives in Tucson, Ariz., and practices law at Waterfall, Economidis, Caldwell, Hanshaw & Villamana, P.C. He represents people with claims against insurance companies for disability insurance benefits, personal injury, and ERISA litigation; and investors seeking recoveries against their broker dealers for fraud or unsuitable trading. Harvey Stoler has retired from the federal government after 32 years of service as a human resources management specialist. Harvey will continue to live in Alexandria, Va., and plans to do some traveling and enjoy all that the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area has to offer. The Rev. Charles Ackerman has been named honorary canon of the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City, N.Y., by the Rt. Rev. Lawrence Provenzano and the Cathedral Chapter.

A note from your class councilor: The Class of 1972 will be celebrating its 40th reunion during Homecoming Weekend, Oct. 12-14. Anyone interested in volunteering for the reunion committee to help plan and organize special activities, please contact me.

Class councilor: Rick Corcione: rickcorcione@yahoo.com


John Simson has been named of counsel to Lommen, Abdo, Cole, King & Stageberg. John has re-established a law practice in Washington, D.C., where he most recently served as the founding executive director of SoundExchange, the performing rights organization formed to collect digital performance royalties for recording artists and sound-recording copyright owners. John has spent his entire professional career engaged in the music industry.

Virginia Dolins passed away suddenly July 24, 2011. The Albany Collegiate Interfaith Center-Chapel House, which has served the UAlbany community since 1966, dedicated its new Interfaith Meditation and Prayer Room in her memory Jan. 25. Virginia’s husband, Richard Dolins, is the president of the board of directors of the Albany Collegiate Interfaith Center.

President Obama has nominated Judith Singer, the senior vice provost for Faculty Development and Diversity and a James Bryant Conant Professor of Education at Harvard University, for membership on the board of directors of the National Board for Education Sciences. She

Frantz Michel, B.A.’86

The Best of Both Worlds
By Amy Halloran, B.A.’90

Frantz Michel – just promoted to colonel in the New York Army National Guard – is also a New York State Police investigator specializing in computer forensics. He describes this dual career track as the best of both worlds: “I have two careers that I like.”

“A good academic foundation,” which included an emphasis on writing and speaking skills, has assisted Michel in both careers. He says that studying criminal justice has made him a better police officer, giving him insight into the psychology of people involved. “I could apply a lot of the concepts I learned right to the job,” he notes.

Michel remains active at UAlbany, speaking to students who are interested in a similar path. He also assisted in fundraising efforts for Haiti after the January 2010 earthquake.
has been a member of the Harvard University faculty since 1984. Judith’s scholarship focuses on improving the quantitative methods used in social, educational and behavioral research. She is an elected member of the National Academy of Education and a founding board member of the Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness. Judith, who has been honored with a fellowship at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, was also elected to the initial class of Fellows of the American Educational Research Association.

Manuel Ossers received the 2011 University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Outstanding Research Award. Manuel was also inducted into the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society’s Orden de Don Quijote in March 2011: “The highest honor conferred by Sigma Delta Pi, the Order of Don Quijote recognizes ... nationally or internationally distinguished scholars in the field of Hispanic studies ...” In addition, Manuel was the recipient of the 2010 College of Letters and Sciences Award for Excellence in Research. His past awards include the National Collegiate Hispanic Honor Society’s Orden de Los Descubridores in 1996 for outstanding teaching of Spanish or Hispanic studies at the university level, the 2006 College of Letters and Sciences Award for Excellence in Service, and the 2007 University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Faculty Service Award. Manuel is professor of Spanish and Spanish American literature and civilization at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. He and his wife, Judy, have two daughters: Elizabeth, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Cristina, a student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Ann Hurley, a professor of English, was given the Excellence in Teaching Award at Wagner College’s annual Faculty Awards Dinner. Ann, who earned her Ph.D. from the University at Albany, has taught at Wagner since 1996.

Robin Mello is currently an associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where she is area head of B.A. theatre studies and runs the theatre education program. She recently has been involved with a production, Finding Penelope, that was highlighted in American Theatre.

Diane DiGiorgio is now teaching an undergraduate course in child welfare through the UAlbany School of Social Welfare Social Work Education Consortium. The course, part of a statewide partnership between a number of state offices and various colleges, recruits and prepares graduates for employment in public child-welfare roles. The course reaches students at various locations around the state via videoconferencing technology.

Eugene Oppo has been appointed to the position of senior consulting actuary with Garden City, Alumni News & Notes

More than 120 business students and alumni gathered in New York City over winter break. Alumni shared their insights and experience with current students through a panel and a networking reception.

There are many ways to give to UAlbany. When you volunteer, not only do you stay connected, but you help make UAlbany stronger. Share your knowledge, your expertise, your time.

Here are a few ways you can make a difference:

• Help plan a class or affinity reunion.
• Represent UAlbany at college fairs, contact prospective students, host or attend receptions for admitted students and their families.
• Be a career mentor or a regional volunteer.
• Host a Dinner With a Dozen Danes.
• Assist the Alumni Association with events such as Homecoming and Big Purple Growl, Commencement, Campus Clean-Up Day.
• Be a board member or join a board committee.

To find out more about volunteering, visit our Web site or call 1-800-836-2586.

SAVE THE DATE: April 28, 2012
Fourth Annual Celebration of Vital Volunteers
N.Y.-based Chernoff Diamond & Co., LLC, Retirement Plan Services division. With more than 25 years’ experience in actuarial consulting to Fortune 100 clients and a sub-specialization in partnerships, Eugene has extensive expertise in providing solutions with respect to the financing and design of pension, retiree medical and defined contribution plans.


Stanley Bond Jr. has been named chief archeologist of the National Park Service. He previously served as superintendent of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park in Georgia.

Sandra Doorley has been named Monroe County (N.Y.) District Attorney. Class councilor: Patty Salkin, psalk@albany.edu

Kathleen Dixon has been appointed assistant director for the Intensive English Center at SUNY Stony Brook. Darlene Delancey has been named deputy network director for VA Health Care Upstate New York, which oversees the Albany, Bath, Canandaigua, Syracuse and Buffalo VA medical centers and 29 community-based outpatient clinics. The healthcare organization serves more than 130,000 veterans in upstate New York.

Samantha Rider has joined Gannett Digital in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., as manager of Social Commerce. Mary Alice Hunt is the senior product manager for Cúram Software, overseeing its Global Income Support, Child Support Enforcement and Health Care Reform solutions. Cúram is the leading provider of Social Enterprise Management software solutions.

Kerin Coughlin, an attorney with Constantine Cannon LLP in New York City, presented the United States perspective on antitrust regulation of intellectual property licensing in "Comparison & Analysis of IPR Licensing Guidelines of Several Competition Authorities in an International Context." The presentation was made at a June 10 seminar in Seoul, Korea, given by the Innovation, Competition and Regulation Law Center. While in Seoul, Kerin also taught a seminar on United States antitrust litigation and procedure at the Korea University Law Institute.

Sally Corbett was named Chapter Champion June 2011 for the Public Relations Society of America-Georgia Chapter in recognition of her volunteer service. She recently was appointed the inaugural executive director for ArtWorks! Gwinnett. Gwinnett County is one of Atlanta’s five core metropolitan counties.

Jason Samuels has joined Farrell Fritz P.C.’s commercial litigation department with a concentration in construction law. Jason serves on the Legislative Committee for the Subcontractors Trade Association.

Larry Friedman is a founding partner in the Manhattan real estate firm AC Lawrence. The company, which has seen strong growth within its first five years, has been featured in The New York Times.

Micah Kovacs is now a mixer...
Alumni News & Notes

for Verbatim Studios. Formerly of Pink Noise, Micah has nearly a decade of experience editing, mixing, engineering and sound designing in almost every medium. Frederick Greisbach has been selected as a 2011 Math for America San Diego Noyce Master Teaching Fellow. Now in its fourth year, MfA SD is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving mathematics education in San Diego County public secondary schools.

Byron Hakimi is now an associate in the commercial litigation department, concentrating in construction and real estate law, for the Farrell Fritz law firm.

Rob Salkin was appointed membership officer of American Mensa, Ltd., the high-IQ society. American Mensa is an organization for intelligent people who enjoy interacting with like-minded individuals, attending exciting events and participating in community service.

Joshua Sisskind is a geographic information systems applications engineer with SAIC in Chantilly, Va. Joseph Coe was recognized in October by the Rockland Economic Development Corporation as one of Rockland County’s “40 Under Forty Rising Stars.” Joseph is the community liaison for the Volunteer Counselling Services Social Justice Program. He is a community organizer and gay rights activist who works tirelessly for social justice. Since the age of 15, Joseph has been involved in diverse nonprofit, government and community organizations.

Erin Elfledt, director of Community-Based Programs for Whitney M. Young, Jr. Health Services, was troubled by the above-average rates of asthma in some City of Albany elementary schools. Through her work with the Pediatric Asthma Coalition of the Capital Region, which works to decrease asthma morbidity and mortality in children aged 1-17 in lower socio-economic situations, she has been instrumental in bringing the Open Airways For Schools Program to the Capital Region. After initially reaching out to the Lung Association, Erin helped build a unique partnership with Respiratory Therapy program within Hudson Valley Community College’s School of Health Sciences. To date, Open Airways For Schools has been delivered in two Albany elementary schools, Arbor Hill and New Scotland Elementary, with plans for further expansion to more schools next year.

Danielle Wohlenberg and a team of nine other AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps members served for 10 weeks in Center, Colo., last spring. The team’s goal was to assist the town in providing a safe and constructive environment for the town’s youth. Projects included working with Head Start, assisting in the library and summer reading program, organizing recreational clubs, mentoring, and repairing town parks.

The competition got hot during Trivia Night at the GOLD Reunion during Homecoming.

Almost 300 GOLD alums turned out for a sold-out beer-and-food-pairing event at the Heartland Brewery in New York City last September.

For a complete list of class councilors: www.albany.edu/alumni/avc.php or call the Alumni Association at (518) 442-3080.
Alumni News & Notes

Weddings

2004 – Geri Zorskas and Shaun Smath, April 15, 2011
2004 – Kathie Legg and Rajib Chanda, July 9, 2011

Births

2000 – Andreea Constantinescu and husband Jonathan Arnoff, a daughter, Catherine Lilly, May 9, 2011

Deaths

1920s
Mary Hart Shelden '29, Sept. 6, 2011
1930s
Mary Davies Downing '34, April 26, 2011
Helen Goddard Smith '34, Nov. 29, 2011
Fannie Mollicone Rea '35, July 1, 2011
Herbert S. Bailey '36, Aug. 31, 2010
Eunice Cotton Brooks '37, Nov. 11, 2009
Edmond F. Erwin '37, Nov. 17, 2010
Phyllis Tucker Pattengill '37, Oct. 29, 2011
Joyce Maycock Davis '39, July 17, 2009
Wilhelmina Greene Henley '39, Aug. 18, 2010
Vera Kaiser '39, Aug. 10, 2011
June Palmer Robertson '39, Dec. 16, 2010

1940s
Alice H. Murphy '40, Dec. 31, 2011
Doris Saunders Nolan '40, Sept. 14, 2011
Bernard Broderick '41, Sept. 11, 2007
Geraldine Pleat Herrington '41, Oct. 26, 2011
Virginia Hobbs '41, July 25, 2011
Ruth Pellette Koepp '41, Nov. 4, 2011
Donald C. Minturn '41, May 21, 2011
Ethel Reineck Noisieux '41, May 13, 2011
Harold Duffey '42, Aug. 8, 2009
Doris Sturtze Kelly '42, Jan. 27, 2011
Anna Rapacz Politylo '42, Nov. 23, 2011
Doris Nellis Rockefeller '42, July 6, 2011
Margaret Ledbetter Schulteiss '42, Jan. 30, 2011
R. Clay Sprowls '42, July 12, 2011

Alice Hastings Murphy, B.S.’40

Alice Hastings Murphy, former head librarian at the University at Albany, passed away Dec. 31, 2011, in Albany at the age of 94. The daughter of New York State College for Teachers faculty members, Murphy grew up on what is now UAlbany’s downtown campus and earned a bachelor’s degree in library science at NYSCT. After completing her master’s studies at Columbia University, she returned to upstate New York and joined the staff of the University Libraries in 1948. Murphy retired in 1970 as head librarian but remained involved with UAlbany’s Friends of the Libraries. Survivors include her brother, Henry Hastings; and four stepchildren and their children and grandchildren.

To honor her parents’ memory, Murphy established the Harry and Louise Clement Hastings Fund. Memorial donations in her name may be made to the fund, which benefits the University Libraries, through The University at Albany Foundation, 1400 Washington Ave., UAB 226, Albany, NY 12222.

Births

2000 – Andreea Constantinescu and husband Jonathan Arnoff, a daughter, Catherine Lilly, May 9, 2011

Deaths

Alice Hastings Murphy, B.S.’40

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To honor her parents’ memory, Murphy established the Harry and Louise Clement Hastings Fund. Memorial donations in her name may be made to the fund, which benefits the University Libraries, through The University at Albany Foundation, 1400 Washington Ave., UAB 226, Albany, NY 12222.

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Deaths (cont.)

Arliene Riber Boochever ’48, Aug. 24, 2011
Coleman Ryther ’48, March 17, 2010
Marilyn Avaler ’49, July 2, 2011
Mary S. Dunning Fisher ’49, Aug. 15, 2010
Jean Anderson Schmieder ’49, March 20, 2002

1950s
Edith Minch Noeltner ’50, May 20, 2011
Paul N. Buchman ’51, July 16, 2011
David S. Duncombe ’51, Aug. 26, 2003
Evelyn G. Kaupp ’51, June 19, 2011

New York State College for Teachers alumnus and Professor Emeritus of English Arthur N. Collins, who maintained a close connection with the college and its successor, the University at Albany, for more than 60 years, passed away Dec. 2, 2011, in Lenox, Mass. He was 87.

In UAlbany magazine’s Spring 2010 issue (“The Last Word,” page 48), Collins recalled enrolling at NYSCT in 1941 as “a naïve 16-year-old farm boy.” After serving with the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II, he returned to State, graduating in 1948 “with honors as a cultivated citizen.” Collins completed master’s and doctoral studies at the University of Minnesota.

He went back to State in 1951 to teach for one year – and remained for 33 more. In addition to teaching both undergraduate and graduate students, Collins served on the Faculty Council, the University Senate, and numerous other committees, as well as five consecutive terms on the Alumni Association board. The recipient of both the Class of 1952 Excellence in Teaching Award and the Distinguished Service Award, he was designated a Collins Fellow – an honor named for University at Albany President Evan R. Collins – in 1985.

Collins established three Charitable Gift Annuities at UAlbany to endow a fellowship in his name and that of his first wife, Marion B. Collins. The endowment will support a first-year graduate student in the humanities.

Survivors include four children, two stepchildren, 10 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Gifts in Arthur Collins’ memory, payable to The University at Albany Foundation, may be mailed to the Foundation office at 1400 Washington Ave., UAB 226, Albany, NY 12222.

Richard M. Buck ’52, Dec. 20, 2011
Jeannine Burke Elder ’52, April 14, 2010
Virginia downsland Lewan ’52, Aug. 3, 2011
Marguerite E. Mullenneaux ’52, Oct. 22, 2011
Beverly Rinebold Talbot ’52, July 18, 2011
David Treharine ’52, Sept. 14, 2011
George R. Volz ’52, Nov. 3, 2010
Douglas T. Adamson ’53, Aug. 16, 2011
Walter Decker ’54, June 3, 2011
Kenneth E. Everard ’54, Aug. 4, 2011
Leonard Kronick ’56, Feb. 3, 2011
Robert Granados ’57, Aug. 20, 2011

Clifford S. Udell ’57, July 26, 2009
Dudley Williams ’57, Aug. 9, 2011
Donald E. White, Jr. ’58, Sept. 7, 2011
Harold A. Garne ’59, Nov. 3, 2011
Frieda Bachmann Harrington ’59, Jan. 17, 2006
Phyllis Romano Coates Mason ’59, May 19, 2011
Frank J. Murabito ’59, Oct. 30, 2011
Maurice H. Pease ’59, July 31, 2011
Nancy F. Catalfamo Pease ’59, Aug. 24, 2011
Donald L. Stainstreet ’59, Oct. 28, 2011
Neal E. Warren ’59, Dec. 20, 2011

1960s
June S. Alexander ’60, Sept. 3, 2011
Wilhelmina Burton Calhoun ’60, Sept. 29, 2011

Gary Gold, B.S. ’70

Arthur N. Collins, Ph.D., B.A. ’48
Arnold E. Newman, B.A.’56, M.A.’57, class councilor for the Class of 1956, passed away last October.

Edith Minch Noeltner, B.A.’50, M.A.’51, former class councilor for the Class of 1950, passed away last May.

The Alumni Association is grateful for their many years of service to their classmates and alma mater.

Faculty/Staff Deceased


Donna J. Collins, Secretary, Physics Department, 2010-2011, Nov. 3, 2011


Harry Raymond, Associate, Community Relations Institutional Services/Rapid Copy, 1968-1987, Nov. 20, 2009

2000s

Maureen M. Murphy ’00, Dec. 21, 2011

John C. Collier ’02, Nov. 28, 2011

Christina E. Santiago ’04, Aug. 13, 2011
Roberta Roy, ’58, has published *Jolt: A Rural Noir*, set in an imaginary part of the northern United States. The novel, a saga of love and survival in the apocalyptic aftermath of a post-nuclear meltdown, is one of courage and hope. Roy’s insightful depiction of how a terrorist mass event affects life for miles beyond its site is well supported by thorough research into the effects of mass events and effective survival skills.

Ellen Datlow, B.A.’71, edited four original anthologies published in 2011: *Teeth: Vampire Tales*, with Terri Windling (Harper Collins Children); *Naked City: Tales of Urban Fantasy* (St. Martin’s Press); *Supernatural Noir* (Dark Horse Books); and *Blood and Other Cravings* (Tor). Datlow recently was awarded the Life Achievement Award by the Horror Writers Association.

Mary Vigliante Szydlowski, B.A.’71, is the author of a new children’s book, *Kia’s Manatee*. The story follows a little girl named Kia who discovers an injured manatee swimming in a small debris-filled bay near her home. She worries that the animal won’t survive unless someone gets rid of all the garbage. It’s a big job, but Kia is determined. The book was published in August 2011 by Operation Outreach-USA Press, a nonprofit children’s literacy program that provides books to children and teachers in inner-city and rural classrooms around the country. The book is available on Amazon.com. Szydlowski has also authored two other children’s books and six adult novels.

Barry Kirschner, B.A.’71, has written and published *Bella, a biography by her son*. The memoir depicts the life and times of his mother, who was born in what would soon be a battle-ground village in the Eastern front of World War I. Bella immigrated to the United States in 1930 and lived the rest of her life in New York City. The book is decorated with many lovely period photos and immigration documents.

Randye Kaye, B.A.’73, has published *Ben Behind His Voices: One Family’s Journey from the Chaos of Schizophrenia to Hope* (Rowman and Littlefield Publishing Group). This memoir tells the heartbreaking but uplifting story of the challenges Kaye and her family experienced as they watched the changes in her son, Ben, due to schizophrenia and the joys of his first steps toward recovery. *Ben Behind His Voices*, described in a recent *Publishers Weekly* starred review as a “well-written, well-researched, and brutally honest book [which] will provide information, inspiration, and encouragement for many parents,” is a universally relatable story of a family’s struggle, and is especially relevant to anyone working or living with the mentally ill or their families.

Ed Moser, B.A.’77, has published *A Patriot’s A to Z of America*, a riveting primer for everyone interested in this nation’s past. The work features heroic events and creative individuals who surmounted great difficulties to accomplish great things – traveling to the moon, defeating the Nazis, wiring the planet, settling the first large democratic republic, and largely banishing starvation overseas, among many other feats.

Kate (Kathy H.) Winter, D.A.’82, has published a historical fiction book, *Lost Twain: A Novel of Hawai‘i*, available on the Amazon and Barnes & Noble Web sites.

Abby Danziger Donnelly, B.A.’84, a partner with Sandler Training®, was recently recognized for the global release of *Networking Works: Building Relationships, Building Business*, a book and training program designed to train sales professionals to create a strategic referral system. It is now available in 28 countries and offered exclusively through Sandler Systems. More information: www.training.sandler.com.

Eric Lowitt, B.S. ’95, has written *The Future of Value*, which tells the story of companies embracing sustainability as a way to succeed in these tough economic times. The book was published in October 2011 by Wiley. Lowitt lives in Boston with his wife, Allegra, and their children, Dana, 6, and Alex, 4.

Ronn Torossian, B.A. ’95, the founder and CEO of 5W Public Relations, one of the 25 largest United States public relations firms, has written his debut book, *For Immediate Release: Shape Minds, Build Brands, and Deliver Results with Game-Changing Public Relations*. Torossian discusses the power of public relations in today’s 24/7 media-driven society. Torossian defines great public relations as “making the impersonal personal” and discusses the importance of helping companies define themselves and become game-changers and thought leaders through carefully constructed public relations campaigns.


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When the waters receded after hurricanes Irene and Lee inundated upstate New York late last summer, UAlbany students mobilized to help their neighbors. Chapel House Interfaith Center organized five bus trips to rural Schoharie between Sept. 17 and Nov. 13, said Rev. Sandra Damhof, Protestant campus minister. About 200 students, individually and in conjunction with such campus groups as Service Is Key, Fuerza Latina, Sankofa Africa, Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry, Newman Catholic Campus Ministry, Circle K and Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK), rolled up their sleeves to assist with the massive cleanup of homes, businesses and fields.

Damhof noted that the effort brought together supporters both on and off campus. Leah Rotella and Jay Oddi, members of Cornerstone Protestant Campus Ministry and Residential Life staff, helped recruit student volunteers, as did Beth Conrad of ODK. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America awarded a grant to provide money for tools, while another from UAlbany’s Office of Student Success helped cover transportation costs. And Parking and Mass Transit Services “gave us a great deal on the buses,” Damhof added.

More visits to Schoharie are planned this spring.
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