I want to thank you for allowing me to serve as your president these last two years and for supporting the University with such great enthusiasm and energy. Witnessing the growth of this great institution through recent projects, advancements and celebrations has been exciting and inspiring, and has made me an even prouder UAlbany alum — but none of this growth, this success, this Great Dane pride, would be possible without your tireless efforts.

With a strong strategic plan in place, the Alumni Association has made great strides in alumni giving, admissions and career services. Alumni donations through event registrations have increased by over 200 percent, directly contributing to the success of the University’s capital campaign, This Is Our Time, which kicked off in fall 2018. UAlbany has been represented at more college fairs than ever before, with the help of over 100 alumni admissions ambassadors who have introduced UAlbany to prospective students at college fairs from coast to coast. Over 1,500 career advisors have volunteered their time and expertise to help pave career paths for fellow grads and current students through our constantly growing UAlbany Career Advisory Network (UCAN).

Those who know me well, know that I appreciate UAlbany’s rich and inspiring history. This year, I experienced several history-making moments firsthand, including the inauguration of the University’s 20th president, Dr. Havidán Rodríguez, and the men’s lacrosse team’s historic season that ended with their first-ever trip to NCAA Championship Weekend in Boston. Other highlights included hosting graduates and their families at the recently revamped Torch Reception, rededicating the UAlbany Veteran Memorial Plaques at the new Garden of Remembrance on the downtown campus and commemorating the 100th anniversary of the death of 1st Lt. Edward Eldred Potter. To be a part of these events, as well as the planning and implementation of the University’s 175th anniversary year celebrations, has been an honor.

As my term comes to a close, I feel confident that we will continue to strengthen our impact on the University under the leadership of incoming President Richelle Konian ’95 and a committed board of directors. I encourage you to keep giving back to the University through volunteering and giving to student scholarships and programs that matter to you. Your strong connection to UAlbany enables the alumni family to make an impact both globally and in our communities. It truly has been a privilege to serve as your president, and I hope you will continue to Unleash Greatness in the years ahead.

Brian C. Fessler ’06, ’07
President
TIME FOR A REFRESH
As the University rolled out the Unleash Greatness brand, we rolled up our sleeves and gave the Alumni Association website a new look with our three key initiatives at the forefront.

ADVANCING THE UNIVERSITY
(ONE TWEET AT A TIME)
Strong partnerships between the Alumni Association, UAlbany Fund and institutional marketing strategists resulted in highly successful online campaigns including the This is Our Time Giving Challenge, Unleash Greatness brand launch and March Matchness giving challenge.

Many alumni who are featured in the University’s Unleash Greatness marketing materials volunteered to push the initiative on their personal social media accounts, including UAlbany track standout and Olympian Grace Claxton ’17.

BIRTHDAYS ALL AROUND!
In honor of the University’s 175th anniversary, our daily alumni birthday email took a historic turn 2019 with a monthly giveaway of anniversary T-shirts.
THIS IS OUR TIME – CAMPAIGN KICK OFF

Over 2,000 alumni attended campaign-related events held on Homecoming weekend. More than 350 UAlbany graduates, students, parents, faculty and staff gathered around the main fountain for the official This Is Our Time campaign kickoff celebration. The excitement carried over to Great Dane Game Day, as 1,100+ alumni enjoyed pregame activities before the football game. Milestone class reunions and affinity groups had the chance to reconnect, meet University President Havidán Rodríguez and his wife, Rosy, and learn about the University’s $150 million comprehensive campaign.

AN EMPHASIS ON ALUMNI GIVING
MAKING IT EASY TO GIVE

The Alumni Association presents all event registrants and attendees easy opportunities to give to the University. Every online registration site includes an option to donate, and we deliver an audience-specific giving message at every event.

A 259% Increase
through online event registrations
April 1, 2018-March 31, 2019,
613 donations were made, totaling over $9,000.

The previous year, 112 donations were made totaling $2,516.

GOLD
(Graduates of the Last Decade) selected three initiative that young alums want to support:

1. Emergency Relief Fund
2. Jonathan Whyte-Dixon ’16,’18 Memorial Scholarship
3. Disability Resource Center

Seven students received Alumni Association scholarships for the 2018-2019 academic year.
VALUABLE CAREER CONNECTIONS

Over 120 students and alumni attended our annual Network NYC event in January. In addition, 25 alumni and students participated in Dining with NYC Great Danes.

Partnerships at Work: Alumni Association & Office of Career and Professional Development (OCPD)
25 alumni mentors offered advice and shared expertise with students during the fall and spring semester Career Readiness programs. Five alums participated in OCPD’s “Speed Daning” event.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH ONLINE NETWORKING
We rolled out a new chat-based, online networking platform powered by Brazen in the fall, and hit the ground running with a series of events that connect alumni with students and each other over career-specific topics. Online events included “Trailblazers: First Gen College Students”; “Careers in Informatics”; and “The Art of the Elevator Pitch,” which connected Blackstone Launchpad students with alumni entrepreneurs.
UALBANY CAREER ADVISORY NETWORK

1,500+ alumni career advisors volunteered to provide advice to fellow alumni and current students. The number of students using the platform more than doubled from the previous year.

230+ completed consultations.

The Alumni Association partnered with the Student Association and Residential Life on several career-focused events including SA’s “Scholar Series” panels, “My Story” events and more, to promote UCAN to students.

We also delivered UCAN presentations to over 700 students in 18 undergraduate and graduate seminar courses, and partnered with the School of Business, School of Social Welfare, EOP and Student Affairs to promote UCAN to students.

Testimonials & Success Stories

“Jonathan was a great mentor in helping me rearrange my resume in a way that helps employers connect the dots with my different positions. After speaking with Jonathan, I was able to secure my job of choice and I believe his advice and guidance played a role in that.”

— Paola, recent MPA grad

Brian Navichoque ’18 landed a paid summer internship with Snapchat thanks to UCAN Advisor, Cristian Palma ’16, who told him about a foundation that provides opportunities for minorities in media. Brian was admitted to the foundation, where he learned about the Snapchat opportunity.

FINANCIALS

Alumni Association of The University at Albany, Inc.

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<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<td>Accounts receivable</td>
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<td>$2,522,241</td>
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<th>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</th>
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<th>LIABILITIES</th>
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<td>Deferred income</td>
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<td>Due to foundation</td>
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<td>Due to class groups and others</td>
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<td>Pledges payable to Foundation</td>
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<td>Unrestricted:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Designated by governing board for arts and culture</td>
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<td>Designated by governing board for chapter activities</td>
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<td>Designated by governing board for endowments</td>
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<td>Undesignated</td>
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<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
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<td>Total net assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total liabilities and net assets</td>
<td>$2,778,030</td>
<td>$2,522,241</td>
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</table>
ALUMNI ADMISSIONS AMBASSADORS

Over 80 alumni admissions ambassadors represented UAlbany at 52 college fairs this year. Fifteen alums attended accepted student receptions. With the help of our alumni volunteers, undergraduate admissions has been able to participate in more college fairs than ever.

“I’ve had the opportunity to represent the university in a volunteer capacity with the Admissions department college fairs, and most recently, at an Accepted Student Reception. What a pleasure it was/is to share my perspective as an alumna, interacting with prospective students and those who have committed to our great university is a joy. I encourage every alum to give it a try, you’ll be glad you did!”

- Monica Britton ’91

GRADUATES OF THE LAST DECADE

646 young alumni attended seven events geared specifically toward their interests and needs as recent grads.

GOLD events included social and networking opportunities, professional development and personal branding panels in the Capital District and NYC.

GOLD alumni connected with 725 graduating seniors through three student-engagement events including the Torch Reception and tabling on the podium during Senior Week.
“POSTCARDS FROM ALUMNI”

GOLD collaborated with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to create and carry out the “Postcards From Alumni” project, an effort to add a personal touch to Admissions recruiting efforts. 101 volunteers handwrote messages and mailed postcards to 1,560 prospective students accepted through the University’s early action program.

EVENT SNAPSHOT

2808 alumni attended 10 events in the Capital Region;
667 alumni attended six events in Metro-NY; 905 alumni attended 14 events in other cities including D.C., Syracuse and Pittsburgh.

EVENTS FOR EVERYONE:

By collaborating with on-campus partners like New York State Writers Institute, the Office of International Admissions and UAlbany Athletics, we were able to plan a variety of engaging events this year.

Alumni attended a live recording of Randy Cohen’s ’71 podcast, Person Place Thing, featuring Marc Guggenheim ’92 at SUNY Global in November.

340+ attended the annual Big Purple Growl and Ferocious Feast.

International alumni joined current International students for a Men’s Basketball pregame event in February.

300 alumni attended a sold-out Night at the Yankees in August and received an exclusive Yankee-UAlbany hat.
MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Zainub Amir ’17

Zainub Amir was born in Albany County and grew up in Bethlehem, N.Y. As a UAlbany student, she interned with the University's Office of Communications and Marketing, served as president of the American Marketing Association and was a member of the School of Business Dean’s Leadership Council. After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in business administration in 2017, Amir started her career at Bloomberg as an analytics specialist. She was promoted to account manager in sales in just over a year. Amir currently manages Bloomberg’s client relationships with supranational organizations in D.C. and travels back and forth from NYC weekly. She makes time to mentor UAlbany students and assists Bloomberg with university recruitment efforts. Amir is a member of New York Women in Communications. She also is a long-time fan ambassador to Taylor Swift and helps to run social media campaigns with Swift’s team and sponsors.

Bill Robelee ’64, ’66, ’78, ’87, ’89

Gloversville native Bill Robelee is a proud graduate of the New York State College for Teachers. After earning a bachelor’s and a master’s degree in social studies, Robelee began his 52-year career in education. During that time he served as a teacher, administrator, school psychologist and college faculty member in both private and public settings, and earned additional graduate degrees in curriculum and instruction and school psychology. Robelee served on the board of the New York Association of School Psychologists for several years. He retired from Marist College in 2017, where he served as director of the School Psychology Program. Robelee is a member of the Great Dane Athletic Club and the Legacy Society, serves as co-councilor of the Class of 1964, and is a Kappa Beta fraternity brother. He lives in Saugerties, N.Y.
Steve Cirami ’94

Steve Cirami is a class action and mass tort attorney and has served on the business side of the legal world in various capacities for over 15 years. A 1998 graduate of Duke University School of Law, Cirami has served in nearly every capacity of the class action process including negotiating class action settlements and setting up a notice and claims process. He has testified as both a notice expert eye witness and fact witness overseeing the claims process, and has been appointed by courts as both a special master and fund administrator. Cirami has been integrally involved in the set up and implementation of dozens of historic class action administration programs. He served as the global head and chief operating officer of Garden City Group, one of the oldest and largest claims administrators, 2003-2018. Cirami was recognized as one of Law Dragon’s Top 100 Leading Legal Strategists and Consultants in 2016 and 2017. Cirami resides in Syosset, N.Y., with his wife and fellow UAlbany alum, Marilu, and their three children.

Benjamin Spear ’10, ’12

Ben Spear is the director of the Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center (EI-ISAC) at the Center for Internet Security in Albany. A cybersecurity resource for state and local election officials, Spear coordinated the nationwide deployment of an elections-focused cyber defense suite in advance of the 2018 midterm elections. Previously, he served in various roles on the MS-ISAC cyber intelligence team, developing innovative new ways to identify and present current cyber threat trends and providing expertise on critical infrastructure security. He also developed active shooter trainings at UAlbany’s National Center for Security and Preparedness for two years. Spear earned a bachelor’s degree in global politics and European history and a master of Public Administration from Rockefeller College. He and wife, Christine, also a UAlbany alum, are actively involved in the campus community and enjoy working with students as well as supporting events for Rockefeller College, the Honors College, and the Alumni Association. They reside in Niskayuna, N.Y.

Deborah Stewart ’99

Deborah Stewart is an award-winning marketing strategist who has worked with some of the top financial firms in the world, including JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley, Citigroup and AXA. For the last 20 years, Stewart has designed and implemented marketing and communication plans that have helped top financial advisors meet their business development objectives. She was the creative mind behind the New York City Department of Correction’s first branded social media strategy in 2015, Brooklyn’s first Small Business Crawl in 2014 and Chase Bank’s first recruiting videos in 2013. Stewart was named Innovation Champion by Morgan Stanley and was a finalist in the Black Enterprise Business Plan Competition. In her current role as executive director of Employer Brand & Marketing at the NYC Department of Correction, Stewart is responsible for the strategic brand direction of the agency as well as recruitment marketing and communication strategy. She lives in Brooklyn and is an active volunteer for the NAACP, NY Cares and Children of Promise. Stewart manages her consulting practice, Lionheart Gal Consulting, and is the founder of Deltas on Wall Street.
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