Another academic year has finished, and with it an active schedule of Spring semester programs. Topics ranged from land conservancy to evolutionary medicine to ancient Mesoamerica. Speakers include Patricia Snyder, former Artistic Director of the NYS Theatre Institute, Jeff Quain from Governor Cuomo’s Office, and Dean Kim Boyer of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Our Fall semester program is still under development, but I can confirm that President Rodriguez has agreed to open the semester with a talk at the Emeritus Center on September 9 at 1:30 PM. We’re also planning a panel discussion later in the fall on a topic of current interest. Stay tuned - more details to come later this summer.

We are ending the academic year with a review of small grant applications from the Emeriti as part of our Three Voices program. This year we have approximately $15,000 to fund as many as 10 applications. Decisions will be announced by June 30 with funds to be disbursed in July.

Enjoy the summer and see you in September.

Ed. Fitzgerald, Ph.D.
Editorial: Expression of Gratitude

Ram Chugh, Ph.D. Distinguished Service Professor of Economics (Emeritus)

With this issue of the newsletter, Emeriti Voice, enters its third year of publication. The newsletter is published by the University at Albany Emeritus Center (UAEC) as a communication tool for its emeriti members and the campus community. It is published three times a year – Winter, Summer, and Fall. This is the Summer 2019 issue.

Overall direction for the newsletter is provided by the UAEC Board. The Board member, Dr. Ram Chugh, Distinguished Service Professor (Emeritus), serves as its editor and he is supported by an editorial advisory committee composed of Ed Fitzgerald, UAEC President, William Hedberg, Associate Vice President and Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and liaison, and Neil Murray, Communication Director. Ken Jacobie, Technical consultant, does the design and formatting of the newsletter.

The newsletter contains articles on a variety of subjects of interest to our emeriti and to the campus community. Most of the articles are written by the emeriti and some by invited speakers and professionals. It also contains some regular features, such as News You Can Use; Emeriti in the News; Retirement Stories; and In Memoriam.

We wish to express our gratitude to all contributors who took time to write the articles. Their contributions make the newsletter what it is today. However, we are always interested in receiving suggestions and ideas for further improving the newsletter. We would like the Emeriti Voice to become the true voice of our emeriti. Please send your suggestions to Ram Chugh at Ramchugh@gmail.com.

Thank you.

Ram

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UA Emeriti in the News

1. Gary Kieppal, Professor Emeritus

Technical and Research Papers:
Kleppel, G.S. 2019. Microbial community structure in pasture and hayfield soils of the Helderberg region of New York State: a comparison of management strategies. Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems, DOI: 10.1080/21683565.2019.1591564. 2 additional papers (with Dr. Xiaobo Xue’s modeling group in the School of Public Health) in progress. These papers use Life Cycle Analysis to identify the principal sources of greenhouse gases and pollutants from corn and CAFO dairy production over a range of spatial scales.

Public Presentations:
- Eden 2.0 – How farming with nature can save the food system and maybe the planet. Bethlehem –

Academic Lectures:

Other Activities:
Co-founder and Chair. Agricultural Advisory Committee, Town of Knox, NY.

2. Berel Lang, Prof of Philosophy (emeritus)

The Vision for the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences: Science in Service to Society

Kim L. Boyer*, Ph.D.
Founding Dean

We are building a research-intensive college of engineering in the mold of the high-caliber public programs in the Big Ten, albeit on a smaller scale. With sufficient investment to launch, engineering will be transformational and profitable for UAlbany, bringing more and stronger students, prestige, and extramural funding. The benefits that accrue from engineering on campus will grow with the College. The early signs of this phenomenon are already emerging with enrollments and extramural research activities both on sharply upward trends.

We have begun with programs and research thrusts for which we are particularly well positioned. These initiatives arise from unique on-campus strengths, regional needs and opportunities, and/or simply because the nation’s more established programs are focused on their own agendas, leaving that intellectual space to us. The National Academy of Engineering’s Grand Challenges for the 21st Century inform these decisions, but do not constrain them.

Since its founding July 1, 2015, the College has grown to offer programs in Computer Science (CS, our only “inherited” program), Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), and Environmental and Sustainable Engineering (ESE) – just recently approved by the NYS Education Department. Unburdened by legacy, we offer a number of innovations in our new programs. For instance, the degrees in ECE (BS, MS, and PhD) are all in “electrical and computer engineering” with a “knob,” provided via technical electives, for students to adjust the mix between those two limits (but not to extremes); we do not offer separate electrical engineering and computer engineering degrees. This approach puts us on the leading edge of an emerging trend and in the company of such powerhouses as Berkeley, Purdue, and Ohio State.

In ESE, we can point to two significant innovations: First, we are almost alone in the US in placing this academic program into its own department, as opposed to bundling it with civil engineering. (We may very well launch civil engineering someday, but in a separate department.) Second, we have developed a rigorous, cutting-edge curriculum that incorporates a specific, intense focus on engineering for sustainability. We view the engineering of sustainable materials, devices, processes, and systems as the essential scientific “companion” to environmental engineering to create a sufficiently rich body of engineering science to prepare our students for the challenges of the forty-year career arc they will navigate. Taken together, these two innovations make our ESE program unique in the United States and, very possibly, well beyond.

Finishes on Page 6
Immigration Issues: My Current Passion
By Carol Whittaker*, MA, MPA

As a ‘snow bird’ like so many retirees from upstate New York, I have begun spending three winter months each year in a warmer climate; my choice has been southern Arizona where I have become a volunteer with the Green Valley-Sahuarita Samaritans, an organization believing that humanitarian aid is never a crime. Situated close to the U.S.-Mexican border, Samaritans often come in contact with migrants from Central and South America in need of assistance. Those wandering in the desert may be injured, dehydrated, or lost.

Samaritans conduct desert searches, leave water along known migrant trails, and bear witness at Operation Streamline, the federal assembly-line judicial process leading all apprehended unauthorized migrants to spend time in privately-owned and operated correctional facilities. Samaritans also volunteer at the Jesuit-run feeding and first aid station in Nogales, Sonora, Mexico just across the border from Nogales, Arizona, and in shelters in Tucson for those seeking asylum who have been released by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) until they can move on to their sponsors.

I began doing research on immigration policy when I worked closely with international graduate students at the University at Albany’s School of Public Health. I saw how many challenges they faced including economic hardship, adjusting to a new culture, and competing with students for whom English was a first language. But over the past couple of years the challenges facing students are also being felt by the universities that recruit and admit them (there has been a rapid decline in international student enrollments due to a number of factors as described by the Institute of International Education, IIE) as well as the businesses that employ them (changes to the H1B program in particular are problematic) and our nation which is losing out on some of the most highly-educated talent, especially in STEM fields, where these graduates are sorely needed.

A friend who had worked with me and others in the Samaritans’ Writers Group, Alyson Ball, has assembled some very well-researched information on immigration, immigrants, and unauthorized residents. For example, one of the things we hear often is that America’s immigration is now uncontrolled and ‘unprecedented.’ In reality, U.S. immigration is limited and highly regulated. About one million immigrants become citizens each year. Most new citizens are family members of U.S. citizens or green card holders while others are admitted through our highly-vetted refugee system or through the strict employment-based system. Those in the selective lottery system are also highly vetted before being allowed to come to this country with a green card in anticipation of a citizen.

Another point often made about unauthorized immigrants is that they cost American taxpayers for services such as for medical and educational services without paying taxes or paying ‘their fair share.’ In actuality, unauthorized immigrants generally cannot receive benefits from government programs, except in some cases such as when unauthorized immigrant children receive public education, and in some states that allow unauthorized immigrants to attend state colleges at in-state tuition rates. Nevertheless, most of these unauthorized immigrants will still pay taxes. The vast majority pay sales taxes in states with sales taxes, and property taxes through properties that they own or rent. And most unauthorized immigrant workers also pay payroll and income taxes. The Social Security Administration estimates that 75 percent of unauthorized immigrants are on formal payrolls, either using fraudulent Social Security numbers or the numbers of the deceased. Although unauthorized immigrants pay about $7 billion per year into Social Security via automatic payroll deductions, they can never claim Social Security benefits.

Finishes next page
Immigration Issues: My Current Passion

People often ask why these unauthorized citizens don’t ‘just get into line to become citizens’? It’s true that our current immigration law allows people living outside the U.S. to apply to relocate, come here, and become citizens. Almost all of these people are those with some family connections already in the U.S. Our laws specify that each country of origin has an annual maximum number of immigrants that can be admitted to the U.S.

For some countries such as Mexico and the Philippines, an individual would have had to apply twenty years ago to be admitted for citizenship this year. And currently there is no mechanism for unauthorized residents living in the U.S. (often for decades) to apply and be considered for U.S. citizenship.

Until the twentieth century, our country was in growth mode and we accepted people from most countries to come here, to work, and to become citizens. This is how most immigrants, including Europeans coming through Ellis Island, found their way here and were allowed to stay. But in 1924 the U.S. passed immigration quota laws which limited the numbers born persons residing in the U.S. and the countries of origin for people who were to be allowed to relocate, work, and become U.S. citizens.

Immigrants have been and continue to be very important to New York State where in 2017 our foreign-born population was 4.5 million or 22.9% and we were second only to California; for the U.S. as a whole the percentage of foreign-born population is 13.1%. The Pew Research Center (2016) reported that total unauthorized residents in the U.S. was 10.7 million (3.26% of the total population) and in NY they represented 5.4% of the state's workforce. They were represented most prominently in the leisure/hospitality, service, and construction industries.

Without a doubt, we need immigration reform. It’s difficult to see how the current ‘system’ benefits anyone. When we see families separated at the border and children assigned to cage-like enclosures, our hearts and spirits are broken. Better ways must be found soon to ensure no additional emotional damage is done to those who seek a life of safety, economic security, and the benefits our ancestors found here for us.

Carol Whittaker earned her undergraduate degree and three masters degrees at the University at Albany. She started her career in Governor Rockefeller’s Office as an education policy analyst then worked for the NYS Health Department before enjoying close to 25 years at the University's School of Public Health where she taught and began new programs including the Center for Global Health. In retirement she continues to teach on-line courses and to follow her new passion related to immigration issues.

“The true mystery of the world is the visible, not the invisible.”

— Oscar Wilde
The Vision for the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences: Science in Service to Society (continued from page 3)

The College will be broad-based, fully-featured, and research-intensive. We will offer BS, MS, and PhD programs in all disciplines; there will be a reasonable range of disciplines in the engineering sciences available to choose from, and the extramurally-funded research enterprise will be substantial.

With three disciplines in place, and with plans for at least another three (Bioengineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Industrial and Systems Engineering – with more under consideration), we are well on our way to meeting the broad-based objective. With each department offering (or in the process of developing) MS and PhD programs to accompany its BS program, we address the fully-featured objective head-on. And with research expenditures climbing from less than $600,000 in all of FY 2016-17 to more than $1,500,000 in just the first nine months of FY 2018-19, and with new awards on the books in that same nine months approaching $4,000,000 – up from just over $1,500,000 in 2016-17 – we are well on our way.

CEAS enrollments now exceed 900 students. This fall we will launch our freshman “Direct Admission” program for better-prepared applicants, which will improve our recruitment of strong students. This fall we also welcome the first cohort of CS seniors from Chongqing University of Posts and Telecommunications in China. These students complete the first three years of their studies in Chongqing, including 10 courses taught by our faculty (for which they pay us), and then come to Albany to complete their degrees. When combined with the newly-approved BS ESE program, these two developments promise to expand CEAS enrollments, further strengthening the College while providing the financial return necessary for the University to continue its investments. The next critical step will be to receive accreditation for all our programs by ABET (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology), a process now underway.

From our initial footprint in the Schuyler Building downtown, we will engage the community, looking to inspire a more diverse generation of students to pursue careers in the engineering and applied sciences. With the quality of our programs we will provide an engineering education that prepares students for careers not just in the engineering sciences, but also for careers and/or postgraduate studies in many other fields, including law, medicine, finance, management, and more.

*It's a great day to be a Great Dane... Engineer!*

*Kim Boyer received the PhD in electrical engineering from Purdue University in 1986. In July 2015 he was appointed as the Founding Dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, University at Albany, State University of New York. He is a Fellow of the IEEE, a Fellow of IAPR, and a former IEEE Computer Society Distinguished Visitor. He is also a National Academies Jefferson Science Fellow at the US Department of State, spending 2006-07 in Washington as Senior Science Advisor to the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs. He has published seven books and more than 100 scientific papers covering all aspects of computer vision and medical image analysis, and has lectured in nearly 30 countries around the world. His work has been cited nearly 6000 times.*
Retirement as a Process
By Christian Bose,* Ph.D.

After becoming Professor Emerita, I moved to Seattle, Washington, whose natural beauty and culture I always loved, and where I started my academic career. While many people embark into retirement thinking they know what they will do—write a great book, spend time with family, or travel to faraway places—a single goal like that often is not enough.

I find that retirement is a process, one that I am constantly trying to figure out; and I modify my goals and projects as life takes me in new directions. I think of myself as “semi-retired” because I have some remaining PhD students that I work with, I am finalizing publication of the last research articles that were planned when I left UAlbany (one supported in-part by an Emeritus Center grant), and I actively work on committees for two professional organizations. You might say that I am having fun with my favorite parts of a faculty job—just on a more flexible schedule. In addition, I am donating some of my stored political/feminist activist papers and other materials from the 1960s through the 1980s to various archives, and that process has reconnected me to groups that I was part of—one research group is even holding a reunion in August 2019 because of this paper-collection process.

On the other hand, in the next few years, I can imagine easing out of these activities into something related, but different. For example, I thought I would engage more in “public sociology.” I have not figured out how to do that yet, because I moved to a city that is located far from where I spent most of my career—and this would be a new role for me too, which would involve establishing closer links with feminist activists and writing in a different way. Instead, I find myself starting to do fund-raising or investment planning for professional and activist groups, and considering writing a book that one publisher asked me to develop.

Overall, I have decided to take the excellent advice of my best friend, who I have known for over 45 years. She says that in retirement you should try everything of interest and then see what works for you—sometimes you find new unexpected things, sometimes things you thought were a good idea are not, and at other points you continue with old favorite endeavors. This isn’t a definitive answer on how to spend retirement (or how I am spending my retirement), and it raises some questions rather than providing straight-forward answers, but it suggests a process by which to decide what kinds of activities you might engage in at any given time.

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* Christine Bose is Professor Emerita, Departments of Sociology and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She resides in Seattle, and is an affiliate faculty member at the University of Washington in both Sociology and Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies. Her most recent articles (currently under review at several journals) are on topics related to global gender inequalities

“Remember that the most valuable antiques are dear old Friends.”—H. Jackson Brown, Jr.
Social Media, Digital Legacy, and Grief in Today’s World
By Carol Sofka*, Ph.D. Siena College

The past couple of decades have witnessed a remarkable expansion of social media and digital technology; the resources of this technology are now being explored in the field of death education and grief counseling in order to better understand how social media is used to help individuals cope with illness, death, and grief. I have coined the term “thanatechnology” to describe this new field. Today each of us has “digital assets” (e-mails, digital photographs, social media accounts, online bank accounts, etc.) that become our “digital legacy,” a new aspect of our existence that must be considered and planned for as we age.

Digital and social media are rapidly impacting how we receive “bad news.” For those of us who remember having only one telephone in the house, we recall receiving news about the death of a family member or friend in a very personal manner - either face-to-face or by a phone call from someone closely related to the deceased in the privacy of our own home. Now it is possible to learn of someone’s death in a public place via a text message, a newsfeed, or a social media posting on our smartphone.

Unless parents or others are teaching young adults about “netiquette,” the norms/rules regarding the appropriate use of technology during times of loss, death notification via technology will become commonplace. It is important to “think before texting or posting” and to refrain from sharing this news online unless you are an immediate family member of the deceased. If not, the news is not yours to share. Once the information becomes available online – and this can happen almost immediately via the news media in some circumstances - the family no longer controls how quickly and with whom the news is shared.

Password protected websites are available to provide information about someone’s illness to multiple people and allow for the posting messages of support during times of illness (e.g., www.caringbridge.org). On www.mealtrain.com you can coordinate the delivery of meals to caregivers or the bereaved. These sites facilitate the efficient transmission of information, provide emotional support during stressful times, and prevent multiple meals from being delivered on the same day.

Social media sites, particularly Facebook and Instagram, are often used to notify family and friends of funeral arrangements or memorial services and provide an opportunity to share memories and photos of the deceased. While many people find comfort in having social support that can be available 24/7, others believe that grief should remain private and prefer not to participate in social media during times of loss. If the deceased has not specified what should happen to his or her social media (e.g., appointing a legacy contact for Facebook) and a page is not memorialized, notifications from the deceased person’s page (e.g., birthday reminders) will continue to be sent, creating the perception of an “Internet ghost.” These notifications and the automatic “Your memories on Facebook” based on past postings that may involve the deceased can be unsettling for the recipient.

Preferences regarding the use of digital and social media are as unique and varied as individual responses to loss. In addition to thinking about one’s advance directives for health care and making plans for one’s physical assets (estate planning), it is important to carefully consider and document your wishes regarding your “digital legacy.” Do you want your digital assets to be available to your family and friends after your death? What role would you like social media to have in how you are remembered? Do you want these digital resources to be available or would you prefer that they be deleted? These are all important things to consider, and it is equally important to have conversations with your loved ones to gain an appreciation for their thoughts and preferences about what they believe will help them to cope with your death.

The Digital Legacy Association has created helpful resources to assist with these tasks, including a digital end of life planning tutorial and a social media will template (https://digitallegacyassociation.org/resources-2/). Becoming familiar with these will assist you with the decision-making process regarding your digital assets, and having a proactive conversation with someone you trust to become your “digital executor” is a wise thing to do in this digital age.

Benefits / Risks and Challenges of Digital and Social Media Use (Sofka, 2017)
Benefits:

- Notification of a death: Factual information can be sent quickly to multiple recipients (can reduce the burden of making numerous phone calls or sending multiple messages) provided that the intended recipients see the information.

- Links to online information can be shared easily (e.g., online obituary, information about funeral services or memorial events, online guestbook, fundraising sites, coordinating a “casserole brigade” at www.mealtrain.com).

- Memorial (RIP) Pages / Blogging / Microblogging:
  - Provides a 24/7 outlet for the expression of thoughts and feelings through the sharing of photos and memories.
  - Memorial pages creates a “social support internetwork”; visitors can express condolences and post messages of support.
  - Postings can educate social media users about grief; comments can validate a person’s experiences.

Risks / Challenges:

- Notification of a death:
  - Some people may prefer to receive “bad news” in a more personal way (face to face or a phone call) or under different circumstances (in a public vs. private place when receiving the news; being alone vs. with someone to provide support).
  - Inaccurate information can be shared prematurely, particularly in the case of a sudden/accidental death.
  - Once the information is shared publically, no one can control how and with whom the information is ultimately shared.

- Anyone can post anything online; digital/social media users must carefully evaluate the reliability of information.

- Memorial (RIP) Pages / Blogging / Microblogging:
  - Administrator(s) of a site need(s) to monitor postings, remove inappropriate comments, and/or block trolls.
  - Users may experience distress in reaction to photos or content that is unanticipated, upsetting, or unwanted.
  - Users may experience cyberbullying or criticism for publically sharing one’s personal experiences.
  - Public postings online may contribute to a loss of privacy in “real life”.
  - Users may experience a dilemma about the decision to stop blogging / posting (feeling responsible for “followers”).
  - Anyone can memorialize a FB page. Please do not memorialize someone’s page without explicit permission from the deceased (as his/her Legacy Contact) and/or following a conversation with the deceased’s significant other(s).

Note: References can be obtained from the author: csofka@siena.edu

* Carla Sofka, Ph.D, MSW is a professor of social work at Siena College. In addition to teaching a course on death and grief in the digital age, her research documents the role of social media in coping with illness, death, grief, and tragedy. Carla is a member of the Board of Trustees at Albany Rural Cemetery and is a past president of the Association for Death Education and Counseling. She taught at the School of Social Welfare at the University at Albany from January 1993 - May of 1998 and guest lectures periodically about her research for the Internships in Aging (IAP) program.
Retirement Reflections
By Carol Bullard*, Ph.D.

Having retired in 2008 as Assistant VP of Corporate and Foundation Relations, I have had the vantage point of 10 years to reflect upon this “post-professional” stage in my life. Admittedly I did not have a totally clear map of just how life would unfold, but looking back I can definitely see how this past decade has been marked by three different areas of interest and activity.

The first was handed to me by circumstances that I did not have time to address while working: the desire to sell our current residence, and at the same time find, buy, and settle into a new home—all at a time when the market was less than ideal. A little later came the selling of a downtown rental property that my partner and I no longer wanted to manage. A burden was dispensed with, and greater freedom was achieved – always a good retirement move!

During this time I also expanded my community activities by serving on the board of Albany Pro Musica, a well-known choral group, and working in an advisory capacity for Music Mobile, a long-established arts-and-education community organization. Associating myself with two arts organizations was a natural choice given earlier years of teaching art history, followed by many more years of hands-on experience in arts management and fundraising.

Undertaking things for which you have experience seemed like a no-brainer. However, in my third year of retirement, I began thinking that I needed some new challenges. “Try something quite different,” I kept telling myself, “something that hopefully contributes to the greater good of society— and something that will provide new ways to grow.” Two opportunities came along.

The first was to work with Albany’s Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) to develop a new program to attract and train other volunteers to provide support to long-term veterans living at the Center. With the establishment of the Veteran-Volunteer Companionship Program, wonderful friendships started to blossom and continue to do so, enriching the lives of both veterans and their care-givers.

The second was to work with the Albany’s Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) to develop a new program to attract and train other volunteers to provide support to long-term veterans living at the Center. With the establishment of the Veteran-Volunteer Companionship Program, wonderful friendships started to blossom and continue to do so, enriching the lives of both veterans and their care-givers.

3. John G. Gunnell, Distinguished Professor, Emeritus, SUNY Albany
Since I retired at the end of 2007, the basic change in my professional life is that I have ceased teaching. During this period, I have published three books:

- *Political Theory and Social Science: Cutting Against the Grain* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011).

And I have contributed to an edited volume on my work: *John G. Gunnell: History, Discourses, and Disciplines*, ed. Christopher C. Robinson (Routledge Series on Innovators in Political Theory, 2016). During this period, I have also published more than forty articles and book chapters as well as participated in several national and international meetings on philosophy and the study of politics.

4. Pierre Joris has recently published the following books:
- *Pierre Joris: Arabia (not so) Deserta: Essays on Maghrebi & Mashreqi Writing & Culture*

This is a treasure, a caravanserai of a book, erudite, personal, enlightening.
— Anne Waldmann

5. Ivan D. Steen, Associate Professor of History Emeritus

Here are comments from two advance readers: "This is a major contribution to our understanding of unions." (Stan Lugur, author of *Corporate Power, American Democracy, and the Automobile Industry*).
"This book should interest, and be required reading for, anyone concerned about public higher education in the United States." (Brian Waddell, coauthor of *What American Government Does*)
Retirement Reflections
By Carol Bullard*, Ph.D.

My long-time interest in political issues and civic activism led to a second major challenge: working with national good-government organization Public Citizen to convince the New York State Legislature to ask Congress to propose a constitutional amendment to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2010 Citizens United vs the FEC decision. This disastrous ruling gave corporations permission to spend unlimited sums promoting or attacking candidates for elected office. Success was achieved on June 15, 2016 when a majority in both houses of the New York Legislature signed a letter, making NY the 17th state to ask Congress to overturn Citizens United. Total victory is not yet at hand but national support continues to build.

Now, at the age of 76 I am entering a third phase by focusing attention on the greater needs of family and friends. Age and the debilitating changes that inevitably occur as we approach “four score” is beginning to take its toll in ways big and small. If good health holds out, new growth will surely keep happening as this truly is the spice that makes life joyful and worth living, don’t you think? “Carpe Diem” is a great motto to live by no matter what one’s age or circumstances!

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*Carol Bullard received her BA from Connecticut College, and her MA in Art History and Ph.D in the Humanities from Syracuse University. After five years on the faculty of several institutions of higher education, in 1973 she became the first Executive Director at the Albany League of Arts for 6 years, then served for 12 years as the first director of development at the Corporation of Yaddo. During these years, she and her husband lived in Loudonville and raised two children. In 1993 she joined the development staff at the University at Albany, retiring as assistant vice-president for corporate and foundation relations.

UA Emeriti in the NEWS

6. Iris Berger, Emerita, History Department
Since retirement, I have continued to do research and writing. My latest publications include Women in Twentieth-Century Africa (Cambridge University Press) that traces the tensions between women’s power and their oppression over the course of a turbulent century and the co-edited book, African Asylum at a Crossroads: Activism, Expert Testimony, and Refugee Rights (Ohio University Press), which includes an article inspired by my experience as an expert witness in the asylum claim of a woman from the Central African Republic. In 2017 I received the Distinguished Africanist Award from the African Studies Association, an honor that recognizes a lifetime of outstanding scholarship and service to the Africanist community. I have also presented papers at the annual meetings of the African Studies Association and at the Berkshire Conference on the History of Women and taught courses in the lifelong learning program in our community in Sarasota.

7. Phyllis Galembo: Professor Emerita, Department of English
A book by Phyllis Galembo: Mexico, Masks & Rituals --- RADIUS BOOKS/D.A.P. 2014 Guggenheim Fellow, Galembo has photographs in numerous public and private collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the New York Public Library. Her photographs of ritual masks in Africa, the Diaspora and beyond have been the subject of several monographic publications, including Maske (Aperture, 2016). After retiring from English and Graduate Studies, I taught as a 2-year sabbatical replacement at Cornell, then moved to Baltimore, where I am the official mentor to the Beekeeping Club at Goucher College—where I also occasionally teach. In addition to beekeeping, I am focused on writing (memoir and creative non-fiction), photography, gardening, and helping out with my almost 6-year-old granddaughter. —Marjorie Frye, Professor Emerita, Department of English

Useful Links for Retirees

• Medicare Information
• NY State Commission on National and Community Service
• TIAA-CREF
• NYSUT Retirees and Retirement
• LIUP
• ARCOHE

FOR FUN:
• Think like a 94 year old genius
• 50 Ways to live longer
• How to live to 100 and enjoy it
The library is the heart of any great university, and at the University at Albany, the Libraries are central to the success of the University’s mission. The Libraries have aligned our goals to the Universities’ priorities: student success, research excellence, diversity and inclusion, internationalization, and engagement and service.

The Libraries support student success in many ways. We offer workshops and tutorials on information literacy and plagiarism, and will be offering a micro credentialing platform for the fall 2019 semester. This platform leverages technology allowing faculty to assign information literacy “quests.” As students complete the assignments, they learn valuable skills and earn “badges” that they can document on their CV or portfolio.

Our librarians have also developed a MOOC on metaliteracy; with this innovative technology, our librarians connect with many more students than through traditional methods.

The Reference and Research Services Department recently began offering a new service that will particularly help our online students. With the Virtual Reference Consultation Service, the Libraries expanded its repertoire of reference services, which includes in-person, telephone, chat, email, and by appointment, to include virtual consultations, allowing students to interact with librarians on in-depth discussions in which both the student and librarian can view the same screen. This will be a great benefit to students as the University grows its online programs.

The Libraries offer dozens of classes every year on many topics. Free and open to all, they include creating and editing audio and video files, working with a variety of software packages, making a news show, creating a podcast, maximizing research impact, using citation software, and much more. Over the next year, we hope to expand those offerings and add data visualization tools, geographic information systems support, and research data management support.

One of the most exciting developments over the past few years is the Libraries’ migration to a new library services platform, Alma. This will replace the Libraries’ online catalog (Minerva) and will be a significant technological improvement, providing a superior search capability that can search our own online catalog as well as all of our electronic resources, our institutional repository (Scholars Archive), and more.

UAlbany Libraries’ are partnering with 60 other SUNY institutions in the new service, which will result in many savings across all institutions. Patrons will be able to search across all 61 participating institutions, and request items from them, resulting in a more seamless interaction.

Migrating to a new library services platform is a many years’ long endeavor, starting with a request for information (RFI) from potential vendors and proceeding to the many working groups that are needed to ensure a good transition. The University at Albany Libraries were represented on nearly all of the working groups including the RFI Team, the Request for Proposal Team, and working groups dedicated to metadata standards and policies, data migration, acquisitions, electronic resources, systems, analytics, resource sharing, training, and more.

UAlbany librarians and staff are doing all they can to ensure a successful transition, and demonstrating the leadership expected of one of the university centers within the SUNY system. The migration will take place on July 1, and I expect there will be a big sigh of relief once it has been completed!  

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The M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives supports research in disciplines critical to the curriculum of the University. For example, it is currently completing a grant funded by the Council on Library and Information Resources to digitize records on capital punishment from the M. Watt Espy Papers. These resources will be made available for interdisciplinary research. The project has identified almost 10,000 previously undocumented executions, more than a 60 percent increase from the previously-known total, which will reframe scholarship on the death penalty.

The University Libraries hosted a conference: “After the Big One: Navigating Disaster Recovery for Cultural Organizations,” bringing together librarians, archivists, and other practitioners from cultural heritage organizations to discuss and learn about how to manage and protect cultural resources, buildings, and people after a disaster such as a flood or fire. This conference is an example of how the Libraries’ faculty and staff are engaged with and committed to our communities.

The Libraries support the research enterprise in other ways. We maintain an open access repository where faculty can place publications and data to make them available to researchers worldwide. Our librarians are reaching out to faculty across campus to encourage them to submit materials to Scholars Archive and to demonstrate how their work is exposed to a much larger audience when it is not hidden behind the paywall of a publisher database. We are working closely and providing leadership to the University’s efforts to draft an open access policy that will encourage faculty to share their work in open access databases, broadening the impact of their scholarship.

For the past several years, the University Libraries hosted visitors from other countries. In 2016, the Libraries hosted a visiting librarian from China for a semester. Since then, we have hosted four visiting students from National Taiwan University. As we gear up for yet another two visitors from NTU, the Libraries are preparing to offer them a robust field experience in which they will learn about academic library management, administration, and organization over a five week long period during which they will be mentored by a UAlbany librarian.

Space is a critical issue for our students. Over the past few years, the University Libraries renovated several areas to make our spaces better, cleaner, and more modern for our students. We purchased new chairs, renovated the basement of the University Library, built four new group study rooms, and renovated the University Library’s lobby and service desks. With these changes, we added electrical outlets and improved WIFI to allow students to work throughout the Libraries with their laptops, tablets, and phones. These spaces are popular with students and support their increasingly collaborative learning styles. In the coming years we will turn our attention to the Science Library, so look for improvements and renovations there.

Throughout the year, we sponsor a Student Advisory Board (SAB) that meets twice each semester. This is a group that represents undergraduates and graduate students from many disciplines, majors, and backgrounds, and they advise us on initiatives, services, collections, and spaces. Every year we make changes based on feedback provided by the SAB. They have proven to be an invaluable resource to the Libraries.

In the fall, the Libraries will be surveying faculty, staff, and students across the University with the goal of gauging their satisfaction with all aspects of our services, collections, and spaces. The results of this survey will inform our planning as we develop new services and initiatives.

*Rebecca L. Mugridge* is Dean of University Libraries at the University at Albany, State University of New York. Prior to this she was Associate Director for Technical Services and Library Systems. She has held positions at the Pennsylvania State University, Yale University, Robert Morris University, and the University of Pittsburgh. Rebecca has a BA in history from Penn State, an MLS from the University of Pittsburgh, and an MBA from Robert Morris University.
Minds Matter. Raising Mental Health Awareness in Our Community

By Tina Lee*

Tina Lee, the Community Education and Outreach Manager at The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) New York State, spoke at a recent Emeritus Center meeting about mental health and how NAMI can be an added community resource. One in four adults and 1 in 5 young people are impacted by mental health conditions. Ms. Lee discussed the serious and often fatal consequences of unaddressed mental illness including school drop outs, limited job opportunities, homelessness, incarceration, the connection to the opioid pandemic that plagues our country as well as the fatal consequence of suicide. Ms. Lee also emphasized the importance of increasing mental health literacy and addressing the stigma that prevents many individuals from seeking help. The passing of the New York State Mental Health Education Bill is a step toward ending the silence and prioritizing mental hygiene in schools. The presentation also included the ten warning signs of mental health issues, how best to support those struggling with mental illness, the myths surrounding suicide, and offered information on community resources.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), is a 501(c)(3) not for profit, one of the largest mental health organizations in the nation. NAMI provides support, free education, and advocacy for families impacted by mental illness. NAMI-NYS is the state office located in Albany, New York; it oversees the twenty-four NAMI-NYS affiliates that span New York State. For more information on NAMI programs, please visit: www.naminys.org, call: 518-462-2000, Helpline: 800-950-3228 (NY Only), or email: info@naminys.org.

* Tina Lee is the Community Education and Outreach Manager at The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) New York State. She was formerly the Executive Director for NAMI Mid-Hudson. Her passion for mental health stemmed from her own daughter's battle with mental health and addiction issues. In 2016, Ms. Lee was appointed as a member to the Statewide Multicultural Advisory Committee (SMAC) with the Office of Mental Health and is currently a member on the New York State’s Suicide Prevention Advisory Task Force.
Report on the Three Voices Grant Funded Project

Report by Gary Kleppel,* Ph.D.

Currently, farmers produce enough food to meet the caloric needs of everyone on Earth. This will change by 2050 when production will fall short of demand. In the United States, where food is abundant, more than 10% of the population is unable to achieve a reasonable caloric ration. Furthermore, most Americans are under-nourished. Our food is deficient in essential nutrients because our soils are severely degraded.

The industrialization of agriculture – monoculture production, animal confinement, dependence on fossil fuels, and synthetic chemical fertilizers and pesticides – has led to the deterioration of the qualitative integrity of our food system and Earth’s ecosystems. The industrial system is unethical and unsustainable. It epitomizes the non-sequitur: Food is a key part of our life support system, but to produce food, we must destroy our life support system.

Dr. Gary Kleppel suggests that there’s a better way. By following ecological principles in food production we can feed ourselves well and sustain or even enhance the functioning of Earth’s ecosystems. To this end Kleppel created a project called, Eden 2.0 – How farming with Nature can save the food system and maybe the planet. With the help of a 3-Voices grant, he conducted research into how to farm in ways that produce abundant food while respecting the ecosystems upon which we all depend.

Dr. Kleppel spoke with Distinguished Professor of Soil Science Rattan Lal at Ohio State University who, over 50 years, has created a collection of practices he calls ‘Conservation Agriculture’. His approach involves capturing carbon with crops (through photosynthesis), storing it in the soil by keeping the soil covered and untilled, and by rotating crops. Professor Lal’s ideas are being popularized by University of Washington Professor and MacArthur Genius Grant recipient David Montgomery, who Kleppel interviewed last winter and whose work connects the health of the soil microbiome with the microbes in our digestive tracts.

Kleppel also travelled to the Rodale Institute in Kutztown, PA, where scientists have been conducting a comparative trial on conventional and organic agriculture for the past 38 years- the longest systematic comparison in history. Dr. Drew Smith, chief scientist at the Institute explained that there is now clear evidence that organic production can meet or exceed the yields of conventional agriculture. Rodale’s executive director, Jeff Moyer has developed a “crimper” that fits on the front of a tractor allowing the user to cut a cover crop and push it into the soil. Farmers can use the cover crop for fertilizer while using a no-till seeder on the back of the tractor to plant a crop. Studies are underway on the integration of livestock into crop production.

Kleppel used some of his 3-Voices grant funds to visit Joel Salatin, at Polyface Farm, in Swoope, VA. Salatin’s pioneering work in sustainable agriculture was popularized in Michael Pollan’s best seller, The Omnivore’s Dilemma. When Kleppel visited, Salatin’s pigs were restoring a forest by foraging in the understory.

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Report on the Three Voices Grant Funded Project

Kleppel also attended the 2018 Acres, USA meeting in Louisville KY, where he attended talks by leaders in regenerative farming and interviewed Utah State Professor Emeritus (behavioral ecology) Dr. Fred Provenza about the ways diverse plant diets improve health in both livestock and people. In addition, he spoke with Gabe Brown, one of the pre-eminent Nature-based farmers in America. Brown has been restoring the fertility of the soil on his family’s ranch in Bismarck, ND since 1993. He runs cattle, sheep and poultry and grows a variety of crops without synthetic inputs. In the 26 years that he has farmed this land he has increased the amount of organic carbon in the soil by a factor of 10. He has 150 species of plants on his ranch, which provides refuge for pollinating insects. He has eliminated drought and floods in his fields, and he is profitable without government subsidies. His results with Nature-based farming track Kleppel’s experiences on his farm in New York’s Helderberg Mountains. His sheep and poultry have helped to restore fertility and microbial communities in the soil. The biodiversity of plants has increased from 4 to 49 species in four years. His pastures are drought and flood resistant and numerous pollinator-friendly plants live in the fields.

Finally, Kleppel used some 3-Voices funding to address the question: Can we feed everyone in the US with food produced on small and medium sized farms (<1000 acres). Farmers at these size scales tend to use or to be willing to convert to Nature-based practices. Kleppel hired Biology student, Ali Wrobleski, to help with this research. Using USDA and US Census data, they showed that in four food categories (meat, dairy, fruits and vegetables) farms <1000 acres can easily meet the nation’s food demand. In one food category, grains, demand could not be met by small and medium size farms; most grains are produced on large farms. However, with the appropriate policies many farmers who grow large monocultures of grain (and often are plagued by debt from loans) might be willing to downsize.

Ultimately, Dr. Kleppel’s research suggests that Nature-based agriculture is a realistic, sustainable alternative to industrial farming. Nature-based processes can meet our nation’s food needs while reducing or eliminating synthetic inputs. It can restore soil fertility and thereby the nutritional quality of our food, while removing substantial amounts of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. It can contribute to the health, food sec

*Gary Kleppel is professor emeritus of Biology where his research and teaching focused on agricultural ecology and sustainable agriculture. Kleppel and his wife also have a small farm about 15 miles west of Albany, where they use Nature-based practices to raise sheep and poultry for food and fiber.

Only the guy who isn’t rowing has time to rock the boat.” —Jean- Paul Sartre

“I say there is no darkness but ignorance.” — William Shakespeare
Chronic Loneliness among Older Adults: An Emerging Public Health Threat

By Benjamin A. Shaw,* Ph.D., MPH

Chronic loneliness among older adults in the United States (U.S.) is a massive and growing problem, perhaps one of epidemic proportions. Approximately 28% of the U.S. population of older adults currently live alone, and more than 1/3 of older adults report being lonely. Risk for experiencing chronic, sustained periods of loneliness appears to be particularly common among older adults with low socioeconomic status, and among those residing outside of metropolitan areas. As more of the Baby Boomer generation reaches old age during the next decade, the number of older adults who report being lonely is only expected to increase.

Chronic loneliness not only has profound impacts on quality of life, but has also been linked to increased risk for developing mental and physical health problems, and even shorter life expectancies. As such, a growing population of chronically lonely, socially disconnected, older adults will have profound implications for our health care system.

To address this problem, widespread efforts to reduce and prevent chronic loneliness among vulnerable older adults living within our communities are desperately needed. With my colleagues at the University at Albany School of Public Health, I am working to develop one such effort. In particular, we are currently developing a research project focused on assessing the potential for home-delivered meals programs, like Meals on Wheels, to serve as “loneliness preventers” for our society’s most vulnerable, socially isolated, older adults.

Home-delivered meals programs for older adults are ubiquitous across the entire country, serving more than 2.4 million older Americans annually, and engaging more than 2 million staff and volunteers nationally. Across New York State, home-delivered meals programs operate in nearly every community. Adults aged 60 or over who are unable to prepare meals for themselves, and have no help from friends and family, are eligible for home-delivered meals. The majority of recipients of home-delivered meals programs live alone and need assistance with activities of daily living, and close to 20% report minimal contact with friends and family. For many older adults, the delivery of a meal provides their only opportunity for social interaction throughout the entire day.

According to Meals on Wheels America, approximately 92% of meal recipients state that these programs are a key factor in enabling them to remain living at home.

Some large-scale evaluations of the nation’s home-delivered meals programs have found them to be effective tools for reducing feelings of loneliness among participants, while also reducing the need for institutional care and reducing Medicaid spending. These “proof of concept” results are extremely promising, and have been used as the rationale for proposing home delivered meals programs as a key strategy for promoting aging in place.

However, we currently know very little about which aspects of these meal-delivery programs have the strongest impact on feelings of loneliness. Moreover, it is not clear that the “loneliness prevention” potential of these programs have been optimized. In fact, in most communities, the volunteers who deliver home-delivered meals to clients have not received any formal “loneliness prevention” training.

Our project, therefore, seeks to learn new insights into how the loneliness prevention aspects of these meal-delivery programs can be optimized. Ultimately, our research aims to develop a set of “best practices” for preventing chronic loneliness through home-delivered meals program, which might, for example, include a training manual for delivery persons. These best practices, then, can be disseminated throughout the country. Given the wide reach of home-delivered meals programs in the U.S., implementing best practices for preventing loneliness through these programs could have a profound and sustained public health impact.

*Benjamin A. Shaw, Ph.D. is the Associate Dean for Research at the University at Albany School of Public Health, and a Professor in the Department of Health Policy, Management, and Behavior. He is a Fellow in the Gerontological Society of America, and currently serves on the editorial boards of Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences, Journal of Aging and Health, and Research on Aging.
Volunteer Opportunities at UA

The University welcomes expressions of interest in volunteer service from emeriti faculty and staff. There are a variety of opportunities for mentoring, sharing your experience through guest presentations, and participating in campus activities. Please contact Willam Hedberg in the Provost’s Office (whedberg@albany.edu) to discuss your particular interests.

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Bonita Sanchez, MSW - Retired from the UA School of Social Welfare as Assistant Dean and Director of Field Education after 28 years of service as faculty/staff. In retirement, she continues volunteering with organizations that provide support to seniors, domestic violence survivors, and homeless teens.

Carol Whittaker, MA, MPA - has had many roles at the School of Public Health since joining as the “Assistant Dean for New Fun Stuff” in 1993. More recently she established and directed the Center for Global Health and now, retired from the NYS Department of Health.

Send comment or story suggestions to Ram Chugh at ram.chugh@SUNY.Edu

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