I’m pleased to share the Division of Student Affairs 2017-2018 Annual Report which highlights the high-impact experiences, programs, and services that continue to #MakeADifference in the lives of our students.

With the unveiling of the University’s strategic plan – Authoring Our Success – Student Affairs identified five objectives focused on enhancing the student experience:

» Community Connections
» Student Well-Being
» Diversity and Inclusion
» Leadership and Civic Engagement
» Career Exploration and Development

In this report, we feature just some of the transformative initiatives from across Student Affairs that support these five objectives while driving student success and helping our students author their own success at UAlbany!

I’m proud of our amazing staff, our remarkable students, and our collective impact. Thank you for your continued support of Student Affairs and of UAlbany.

Go Great Danes! #MakeADifference

Michael N. Christakis, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

CULTIVATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS – BOTH IN PERSON AND ONLINE – TO CONNECT WITH MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY, ALUMNI, LOCAL, AND GLOBAL COMMUNITIES THAT PROMOTE LEARNING, ENGAGEMENT, PERSONAL ACCOUNTABILITY, AND BELONGING.

CAMPUS CENTER WEST OFFICIAL OPENING
In November 2017 the students, faculty, and staff converged in the Great Hall of Campus Center West and celebrated the completion of the expanded Campus Center facility. The celebration marked the 500th event in the Campus Center West expansion since it opened at the beginning of the fall 2017 semester. The estimated academic year’s total attendance in this new area exceeded 160,000 attendees.

NEWLY EXPANDED CAMPUS CENTER
Hosted 1,500 meetings/events and welcomed over 160,000 visitors!

FOOD PANTRY PARTNERSHIP
A partnership between the University and St. Vincent De Paul parish in Albany was established in 2016 to address food insecurity among UAlbany students. The University supports the pantry by supplying volunteers, conducting food drives (via student groups), and raising funds. In exchange, the pantry has opened its doors to all students who reside on campus as well as those living in the Eagle Hill or Pine Hills neighborhoods.

This partnership expanded in 2017 to include a delivery and distribution mechanism for students to order food via UAlbany’s MyInvolvement platform and pick up their order on campus.

MEET, MUNCH, AND MORE
Meet, Munch, and More is an annual community fair organized jointly by the University and the Pine Hills Neighborhood Association. The event brings students and neighbors together at the beginning of the year to interact with one another and form lasting relationships. The program has grown from approximately 100 students in attendance in its first year to over 600 in attendance in 2017.

500% increase in participants in Meet, Munch, and More, and 80% increase in off-campus student engagement since 2015.

RESIDENTIAL LIFE FACILITIES
ENHANCEMENT HERKIMER HALL
Herkimer Hall underwent a complete renovation, providing a suite configuration with all new windows, air conditioning, lighting, and energy improvements, interior reconstruction, new furniture, and other modern upgrades. The interior of the building has been completely rehabbed to meet student needs. The basement floor provides a large multi-purpose room, two study rooms, and a vending area.

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS ANNUAL REPORT 2017 / 18
#MAKEADIFFERENCE
STUDENT WELL-BEING

Promote the physical, behavioral, and relational health of students in support of their academic and personal success.

Clinical services provided over 22,304 appointments, CAPS consultations saw a 5-year increase of 168.8%, and SHS saw an 18% increase over last year.

The total number of unique fitness users in 2017-2018 increased by 7.3%, representing 7,314 participants. Total usage increased by 6.7%, representing 135,389 participants.

REORGANIZATION OF HEALTH, COUNSELING, AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The 2017-18 academic year saw the reorganization of health, counseling, and behavioral health services to build upon the natural synergies between Student Health Services (SHS) and Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), as well as formally establishing a Behavioral Health Promotion and Applied Research unit. This reorganization capitalizes on the strengths of our services in translating evidence-based research to practice and informing innovation and best practices at UAlbany and across the nation.

STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND

Thanks to a SUNY grant funded by the Heckscher Foundation for Children/Gerstner Family Foundation, UAlbany was awarded $100,000 over two years to help undergraduate students facing unforeseen emergencies that threatened their forward academic progress. In 2017-18, $37,000 was distributed to 28 undergraduate students. Sixty percent of the funds went to support student housing costs, as well as incidental medical costs, and school-related expenses. We will seek to sustain these funds through additional grants and private philanthropy.

CAMPUS RECREATION

Campus Recreation has increased wellness opportunities by organizing 13 Campus Recreation wellness events and 39 co-sponsored events with 656 total participants. A highlight was the annual Fit Fair, designed to address the importance of living a healthy lifestyle through interactive activities focused on exercise, mental health, and nutrition. The Bike Share program was also expanded to 10 bikes, which resulted in 275 Bike Share participants and 506 Bike Share check-outs. Finally, group exercise class offerings expanded and for the first time included Sundays and weekdays after 9:00 PM.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

The Sexual Violence Prevention Ambassador Program was developed and piloted during the 2017-18 academic year. Twenty-one student Ambassadors were selected, trained and involved in promoting campus-wide sexual violence prevention efforts, including the facilitation of the Empowered Bystander training program to student leaders. The Ambassadors earned academic credit through the Community and Public Service Program, completing 1,098 volunteer hours in 2017-18.
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) was the recipient of the 2018 Senior Class Gift—the largest Senior Class Gift in UAlbany’s history. This gift will support the purchase of individual software licenses and equipment to provide listening or sight enhancement in classrooms, and support DRC staff participation in additional training opportunities.

Resource Centers
Both the Gender and Sexuality Resource Center (GSRC) and the Multicultural Resource Center (MRC) were successfully relocated to the new Campus Center addition. These new and vibrant spaces expanded each center’s original footprint and have become an exciting hub of student activity.

Leave Hate Behind
The partnership between Intercultural Student Engagement and Residential Life continued this year by providing programs that develop students’ cultural competency. This year’s C.H.A.R.G.E. (Celebrating ethnicity, Honoring our histories of struggle, Acting for change, Rising to our higher humanity, Gaining empowerment, and Educating self and others) Peer Educator Program, “Leave Hate Behind” was a huge success. The program invited students to write derogatory and hateful words on a wall, which was then painted over and transformed into positive art. As a result, 97 percent of participants reported feeling more connected to UAlbany.

Diversity and Inclusion

Fosters diversity and inclusion by creating opportunities, providing programs, and supporting communities that raise awareness of all aspects of self-identity, and encourage cross-cultural networking, collaboration, and intercultural competency.
LEADERSHIP AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Provide students with the knowledge, skills, opportunities, and experiences to be informed, engaged, and contributing members of their communities.

An 18 credit leadership minor has been established, incorporating Global Leader Experiences in four different cities.

THE BIG EVENT
We introduced UAlbany’s inaugural BIG Event on Saturday, April 21, 2018. This event engaged 1,750 campus community members who completed 5,442 service hours—with an economic impact of $145,247. At the same time, to streamline the process of posting available service opportunities in the community, The Center for Leadership and Service partnered with the United Way of the Greater Capital Region to design a new platform for community engagement through Galaxy Digital. The platform, EngageUAlbany, will serve as a clearinghouse for service opportunities, both episodic and long-term. The platform was utilized to facilitate the registration process for The BIG Event.

LEADERSHIP MINOR
In fall 2017, the School of Education’s Department of Educational Policy and Leadership, working collaboratively with the Student Affairs Center for Leadership and Service, introduced the new 18-credit hour leadership minor opportunity for students of all majors to advance the study and practice of leadership across campus in a wide variety of disciplines. Additionally, in partnership with the Center for International Education, and Global Leadership, SUNY SAIL Institute, the Center for Experiential Education, and Common Purpose the Global Leader Experience was introduced to the minor entitled Leading with Cultural Intelligence. The Center for Leadership and Service worked to host five Global Leader Experiences in four different cities: Albany, New York City, Edinburgh, Scotland; and Madrid, Spain.

PINE HILLS CLEAN-UP
The Pine Hills Clean-Up is a bi-annual program that takes place in the fall and spring. Students and neighbors come together to help clean-up the Pine Hills Neighborhood. Materials for the clean-up are coordinated through the City of Albany. In fall 2017, we had a record turnout of over 500 students participating in the clean-up. In spring 2018 the Pine Hills Clean-Up was incorporated into The BIG Event.

ANNUAL DANCE MARATHON
Student Activities organized the 3rd Annual Dance Marathon to raise funds for the Bernard & Millie Duker Children’s Hospital at Albany Medical Center, where 211 dancers raised $13,000. The Dance Marathon at UAlbany was organized to provide emotional and financial support to patients and their families and to bring awareness to the community. To culminate the year-long efforts, we celebrated with a 6-hour event where students, faculty, alumni, and community members pledged to stand on their feet in honor of the struggle children face every day at the Bernard and Millie Duker Children’s Hospital.
CAREER EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Provide opportunities to gain and expand the knowledge and essential skills necessary to navigate an ever-changing global society.

CAREER READINESS/ESSENTIAL SKILLS CLASS
Career and Professional Development piloted this semester-long program introducing first-year students to career competencies that employers find critical when hiring interns and entry-level professionals. The 90 students who completed the six-session program were matched with an alumni mentor who was available for multiple phone or in-person conversations.

90 students completed the pilot Essential Career Skills program. 90% said the content covered is important toward developing a career path.

FIRST DESTINATION – INCREASE IN OUTCOME DATA
In conjunction with the Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Effectiveness, the Office of Career and Professional Development, and Student Affairs Assessment and Planning, the annual First Destination survey was conducted to gather data about our graduates. The collaboration between the three offices provided the most updated results and yielded the highest percentage of outcome data, 40.5%. The results show that 94% of 2015-2016 graduates and 89% of the 2016-2017 graduates are either currently working or in graduate school.

STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER
In 2017-18, UAlbany’s Advisement Services Center, Residential Life, and Orientation and Transition Programs worked together to create a comprehensive support framework to aid first-year students in transitioning to the University community. Tutors are available Sunday through Thursday and are accessible to all students in need of additional support. In 2017-18, nearly 1,400 students utilized the Success Center in State Quad; in the coming years, this successful model will be scaled and expanded to include multiple locations including the Campus Center.

Over 1,400 students participated in Fridays at the Success Center.
Through our partnership with University Advancement, we continue to see an increase in philanthropic support to enhance programs and services that impact student success and persistence. A giving strategy focused on “Investing in Student Life” has bolstered annual giving support to the Student Life Fund, contributed to the establishment of two endowments, and successfully secured corporate and foundation support to advance our work.

» The Student Life Fund saw a 23% increase in unique donors and a 97% increase in total dollars raised.

» The Student Affairs Advisory Board and the Student Affairs Leadership Team had 100% giving participation.

» $110,000 from the Heckscher Foundation for Children and the Gerstner Family Foundation to launch a Student Emergency Fund program.

» $25,000 from Turf Hotels to support parent orientation for the next five years.

» The UAlbany Student Experience Fund (endowed) was established by Dr. Peter W. Brusoe ’03, ’04 pledging $25,000 to the endowment and $4,000 for current use through April 2023.

» Established the Christakis Family Student Development Fund (endowed) to support the work of the Center for Leadership and Service, pledging $25,000 to the endowment and $6,000 current use through April 2024.
2017 SUNY OUTSTANDING STUDENT AFFAIRS
Program Award Winners
Three offices in Student Affairs were honored by the State University of New York Outstanding Student Affairs Program awards.

FRATERNITY AND SORORITY LIFE was recognized for the All Greek Council Junior Board Seminars, a comprehensive eight-week program for existing and newly elected directors giving them an opportunity to engage with their peers, University administration, and leaders of the sub-governing councils to advance UAlbany’s Greek community.

ORIENTATION AND TRANSITION PROGRAMS was recognized for the redesign of the Transfer Orientation Program to better meet the needs of students. The program fosters connections among transfer students and their peers as well as with UAlbany faculty and staff, provides transfer students with the information needed to complete requirements and tailor an academic plan unique to their needs, and contributes to a University-wide effort to improve the transfer experience and increase retention.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING was recognized for developing a Student Affairs Media Team Internship. The interns provide the Division of Student Affairs with media support through social media posts and live event coverage, photography, photo editing and photo library maintenance, video creation, photo-journalism series creation, web page design and maintenance, and graphic design production.

2017 NASPA EXCELLENCE AWARDS
BRONZE WINNER
Community Standards, CoRe Program
Community Standards created the “CoRe” (for “Community Reengagement”) Program as an innovative way to positively engage students placed on Disciplinary Probation in an effort to end their probation early. CoRe is a voluntary and self-directed, yet highly engaging, program designed for students to demonstrate that, in the period following a serious violation of the code of conduct, they have taken steps to reflect on their behavior and become productive and engaged members of the University community.
**STUDENT AFFAIRS MISSION:**
The Division of Student Affairs creates an inclusive student experience that promotes academic success, social engagement, personal growth, and resilience. The Division strives to advance the University’s commitment to excellence by preparing students to live, learn, and lead in an increasingly complex, diverse, and global society.

**STUDENT AFFAIRS VISION:**
Provide students with outstanding and innovative programs, services, and activities that enrich their collegiate journey.

**UALBANY VISION:** To be the nation’s leading diverse public research university—providing leaders, knowledge, and innovations to create a better world.