

University at Albany Magazine • Fall 2020

UAlbany



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As a TikTok “popular creator,” UAlbany senior Zahra Hashimee travels the world to cover such exciting events as the Grammys and Milan Fashion Week – and more than 2.6 million fans, including pop-culture icons Miley Cyrus and Justin Bieber, follow her every move.

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www.albany.edu



The 109th Airlift Wing flies its LC-130 “Skibird” over UAlbany’s Uptown Campus as part of its salute to medical professionals, first responders, and essential workers across the State of New York.

I just finished reading the article about Toni Morrison in the spring *UAlbany* and wanted to share an experience I had with her as an undergraduate in 1985 or '86. As an English major, I was invited to attend a meet-and-greet where she was going to read an excerpt from her work in progress (*Beloved*). I remember sitting in a small circle in a classroom with perhaps 10 other students. Toni Morrison introduced herself and gave a brief description of her background, then proceeded to read from her book for about 20-30 minutes.

I remember how involved she was in the text and how emotional she was about the characters and the plot, and I recall the expressions of pure astonishment on the faces of the students. It was as if we were all witnessing a historical event. I'll never forget how kind she was and how patiently she answered questions. I wished that more students had shown up for a chance to sit with a legendary writer destined for greatness and international renown.

As a teacher in the New York City Department of Education, I often tell my colleagues this story, and it's very rare for someone to believe it. But it's true and an incredible moment from my education at Albany.

Gary Collins '87



Since I graduated, I have always looked forward to receiving news from my *alma mater*. In the last few years, *UAlbany*/"The Carillon" has evolved into a first-class publication that I really look forward to finding in my mailbox. The articles and updates are current and very interesting. Congratulations!

Fred Culbert '65



Wonderful to see Toni Morrison when she was at Albany. I was head of Women's Studies when Martha Rozett, et al., successfully bid for Toni as the first SUNY Schweitzer Chair. Ms. Morrison was an amazing meld of self-confidence and generosity.

Her impact was felt far and wide. That included adding one of her novels to the essential

books in the Humanistic Studies doctorate program, a rare female author deemed good enough. And she did receive other recognition with the Pulitzer and then the Nobel Prize.

We miss Toni Morrison's clear eyes, courage, and extraordinary creativity and skills.

**Bonnie Spanier, Retired
Department of Women's Studies
(now Women's, Gender, and
Sexuality Studies)**

First, congratulations on the Spring 2020 edition of *UAlbany*, which I thought was very well done. The remembrance of Toni Morrison paid moving tribute to one of UAlbany's most illustrious faculty members, and the article on the unexpected career paths of some alumni and inside cover acknowledgment of Awkwafina's Golden Globe showcases the amazingly diverse talents of UAlbany graduates. What I most enjoyed was "Journey to the Top of the Carillon," particularly the incredible photo looking straight down the length of the tower. That is undoubtedly the most unique view of UAlbany I have ever seen. Kudos to Brian Busher for having the grit to make the trip to the top, and for his excellent photography.

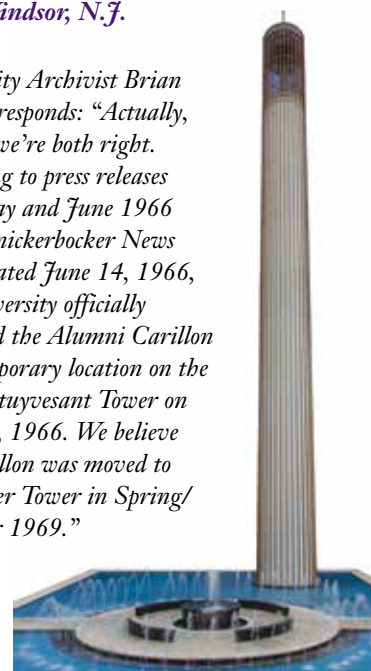
There is one statement in the article that gives me pause, however. It says that the Carillon was first installed in Stuyvesant Tower and moved to the podium water tower in 1972. As a student at UAlbany (or SUNYA, as it was then known) from

1970-74, I don't recall the Carillon being anyplace other than the water tower. Has the intervening half-century addled my memory, or did the article get it wrong?

Kind regards,

**Robert Harris '74
West Windsor, N.J.**

University Archivist Brian Keough responds: "Actually, Robert, we're both right. According to press releases from May and June 1966 and a Knickerbocker News article dated June 14, 1966, the University officially dedicated the Alumni Carillon at a temporary location on the roof of Stuyvesant Tower on June 18, 1966. We believe the Carillon was moved to the Water Tower in Spring/Summer 1969."



Letters have been shortened to meet space considerations.

U.S. News Cites Rockefeller College for Excellence

Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy is the highest-ranked public-affairs college at a public university in the Northeast, according to the most recent rankings published in *U.S. News & World Report* in March. The college placed 19th in the nation overall in the rankings for



the 2021 Best Graduate Public Affairs Programs, and also ranks in the top 15 for four public-affairs specialties.

“We are very proud to be one of the 20 most respected public-affairs programs in the country and to once again be the most highly ranked public-affairs college at a public university in the Northeast,” said Dean R. Karl Rethemeyer. “With affordable tuition, a nearly 100-percent career-placement rate, and four concentrations in the top 15 nationally, Rockefeller College provides an unparalleled combination of excellence and value for students beginning or accelerating a career in public affairs.”

Inspired Alums Raise Awareness Through New Scholarship

In solidarity with last summer’s Black Lives Matter rallies against racism and systemic inequalities, UAlbany alumni Bria McKiver, MA ’20, and Jorge Chacon ’19 wanted to make a difference. Their plan: the #Juneteenth Challenge, a private grassroots scholarship initiative they created for Black and Afro-Latinx students in honor of Juneteenth, a long-celebrated day of liberation and legacy in the African-American community. “Black history is very rich and complex. It is filled with countless triumphs despite the centuries of systemic racism and should be recognized and celebrated. I think this scholarship is a step in the right direction. **ALL BLACK LIVES MATTER**,” said McKiver via email.



Bria McKiver



Jorge Chacon

Their inaugural scholarship will benefit five UAlbany students in the current academic year. Recognizing the importance of the initiative, the alums have partnered with The University at Albany Foundation to make it an official UAlbany scholarship to ensure its long-term success and to promote the values of diversity and inclusion on-campus. “We are proud to steward this meaningful scholarship that commemorates Juneteenth; recognizes and supports our students; and embraces the critical importance of diversity, equity, inclusion, and tolerance throughout UAlbany,” said Fardin Sanai, vice president for University Advancement. Gifts to the Juneteenth scholarship can be made at www.albany.edu/giving/juneteenth.



A Welcome Makeover

This fall, visitors to University Hall on the Uptown Campus will experience a new, larger-than-life welcome thanks to an interior makeover that features vibrant colors, bold graphics, an immersive historical timeline, and large-scale photos of campus life. The project was a collaboration between the Office of Facilities Management and the Office of Communications and Marketing.

Dual-Degree Program in Engineering Launches

UAlbany is expanding its electrical and computer engineering program with a new BS/MS in the field.

The program combines the bachelor's degree in electrical and computer engineering (ECE) with the master's degree program; both were launched in 2018. The first group of students from the programs graduated in 2019.



Students accepted to the accelerated BS/MS program may count up to six credit hours of graduate-level courses towards the ECE electives within the registered BS Electrical and Computer Engineering Program. These six credit hours will also be used to satisfy part of the depth, breadth, and/or technical elective requirements of the registered MS Electrical and Computer Engineering Program.

Readers' Sanctuary Opens at Albany International Airport

In the Mario & Matilda Cuomo Pavilion at Albany International Airport, book lovers now have a sanctuary where they can indulge their favorite pastime – and they can even take a book with them when their flights are called.

Located on the first floor of the terminal, the 800-square-foot, glass-enclosed lounge affords readers a quiet space where they can rest and enjoy works by contemporary authors. The room also contains historic materials and artwork.

Created in partnership with the New York State Writers Institute at the University at Albany, the pavilion honors the late Gov. Mario M. Cuomo and his wife, Matilda, for their

efforts in promoting literacy and learning. In 1984, Mario Cuomo signed legislation establishing the Writers Institute to promote authors, afford them opportunities for collaboration, and fuel the artistic imagination. Matilda Cuomo founded the New York State Mentoring Program, the first statewide one-to-one mentoring initiative in the U.S., as a means of supporting at-risk students.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author and UAlbany professor William Kennedy founded the Writers Institute. Toni Morrison, Salman Rushdie, and many of the other authors whose works are featured in the Cuomo Pavilion have visited the institute over the past 36 years.



eSports Celebrates Gaming Greatness

UAlbany's esports team triumphed in its historic inaugural season, pulling in championships in Fortnite and League of Legends within the highly competitive Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC), as well as a championship title in the SUNY Chancellor eSports Challenge, securing \$5,000 in prize money to benefit UAlbany's Student Emergency Fund. With more than 100 members, the Great Danes fielded one of the largest teams in the ECAC and led the 60-school conference, with 32 students earning All-Academic Team honors for Spring 2020.

Complementing its success in competitive gaming, UAlbany is strengthening its academic offerings with courses and programs in eSports and the Digital Gaming ecosystem, an esports internship, and a pending concentration in Game Design and Development in Informatics. "We want to try to build an ecosystem of gaming on campus," says Michael Leczinsky, CEHC professor and UAlbany's esports coach.

In 2020, global esports revenue exceeded \$1 billion.



At left, CEHC Professor and eSports Coach Michael Leczinsky '11 speaks at the opening of the gaming arena on the Downtown campus. At right, ECAC and SUNY Fortnite Champions Jin Long Shi and Aldair Hernandez are pictured.

TIKTOK TUTOR TEACHES THOUSANDS

When schools locked down in March during the early days of the pandemic, UAlbany physics major Josh Martin was ready to help by indulging a personal passion: online learning.

Martin, who hails from Cobleskill, N.Y., has been providing his own brand of online tutoring on YouTube since freshman year through videos consisting mainly of mathematics topics, a core component of the physics curriculum. His channel has more than 60,000 subscribers, a clear indication that his approach is popular with a large group of eager students. But his recent foray into TikTok, a short-form mobile video service, boosted his online presence even more.

For the first four or five TikTok videos, Martin recalls, "I was just messing around with the idea of creating a math-help niche. I decided to make a promotional video for my YouTube, where I had more resources for students trying to study for finals. I made a quick 15-second TikTok with text labeling the topics I could help with. With my fingers crossed, I went outside to plow my snowy driveway. After roughly 20 minutes,

I came back inside, kicked off my boots, checked my phone, and the video had already gained over 70,000 views."

In one night, Martin jumped from 1,000 YouTube subscribers to 40,000 for his channel, 'ludus,' (named after a virtual environment featured in the book Ready Player One). The number of his TikTok followers soared from 1,000 to 100,000. At that point, Martin knew even the short-form (59 or fewer seconds) environment of TikTok could have a positive impact on the expanding online-learning community. In all, his videos, which tackle subjects aimed at students from middle school through early college, have accumulated more than 30 million views.



UAlbany magazine is published twice a year for alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends of the University at Albany, State University of New York. Our objective is to produce a lively, informative publication that stimulates pride and interest in UAlbany.

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UAlbany magazine is available online at
www.albany.edu/ualbanymagazine

The University at Albany's broad mission of excellence in undergraduate and graduate education, research and public service engages more than 17,000 diverse students in eleven schools and colleges. For more information about this internationally ranked institution, please visit www.albany.edu.

UPDATE

THIS IS OUR TIME

The Campaign for the University at Albany

A MOMENT TO BE PROUD, A REASON TO PERSEVERE

Together, we've made history! Thanks to the collective generosity of more than 34,000 alumni, parents, and friends, *This Is Our Time*, UAlbany's fundraising campaign, has surpassed its \$150-million goal – five months ahead of schedule.

You have been the heart of a campaign to ensure UAlbany remains an engine of opportunity for talented, hard-working, ambitious students. We cannot possibly thank you enough for your support.

Under normal circumstances, we would loudly celebrate this success. But these are not normal times. We are sensitive to the challenges they pose for many. So while we're thrilled by our collective accomplishment, we feel it's less a reason to celebrate than it is a reason to persevere – to continue to seek ways to make an uncertain world better. We firmly believe there is no better way to do this than to empower deserving young people with a life-changing education.

Please take a moment to feel proud of what you've made possible for UAlbany students. And please continue to join us. Together we will continue to be a force for positive change, not only because the times demand it, but because – now more than ever – *This Is Our Time*.

GOAL SURPASSED!

\$150M
RAISED

Cover photo:
Patrick Dodson '12



ON THE COVER

With the help of some of our talented staff in the Office of Facilities Management, the Eastman Tower was aglow in April with a One UAlbany message for all to see and to unite our community. Architect Diana Delp used autocad to create the design, and construction manager Bob Morawski cut the nearly 1,000' of craft paper used in the installation. Installing the paper took a few days. As Diana noted, "What was interesting about the process was seeing that every window blind and light in the tower was actually part of the design, even if they just had to be off and closed. Each of the building components needed to do its part to complete the design, oddly paralleling community response needed for this pandemic."

How many window panels and how many feet of craft paper did it take for the design?

- (90) Full panel 64"
- (58) Three-quarter panel 48"
- (58) Half panel 32"
- (86) Quarter panel 16"
- Nearly 1,000' of paper and 10 rolls of tape



preliminary sketch of the tower design

Emergency Fund Supports Students During Pandemic

To respond to students' unanticipated needs for rent, travel, food, and other necessities during the COVID-19 pandemic, University at Albany donors generously answered the call to support the Student Emergency Fund (SEF) last spring.

Established in 2017 with the objective of keeping students experiencing financial difficulties or emergencies on track to graduate, the SEF receives annual contributions from the Heckscher Foundation for Children and the Gerstner Family Foundation, which partnered with the SUNY Impact Foundation to create the fund. As 2020 began, according to UAlbany Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations Richard W. Becker, the account balance totaled about \$90,000, including a \$30,000 donation from the two foundations. "Then COVID-19 hit, and the need skyrocketed," he added.

Alerted to the situation, alumni and other supporters rallied to the cause. Between March 13 and mid-July, 871 gifts totaling \$242,463 were made to the SEF. During that same period, 608 graduate students and undergraduates received \$295,400 in awards.

Recipients included:

- a first-generation student who used the funding to purchase a laptop.
- a College of Arts and Sciences graduate student who received assistance for basic needs while seeking summer and fall work opportunities.
- a School of Education international student who requested a grant to cover costs for a minor medical emergency and a computer replacement.
- an out-of-work undergraduate who needed to replace a laptop and required assistance for food.

"The fact that we had the funds to support all those students is a testament to our donors, as well as to our Development, Alumni, and Annual Fund teams," said Becker. While requests for SEF funding have temporarily ebbed, he expected an uptick by Aug. 20 – "the date the eviction moratorium ends in New York State."

To make a gift to UAlbany's Student Emergency Fund, link to www.albany.edu/giving/SEF.



Hearst Foundation Supports CEMHD's Fellows Program

The University at Albany is pleased to announce a \$1-million grant from the Hearst Foundations to support the expansion of the Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities (CEMHD) Health Disparities Fellows program.

The establishment of the Hearst Fellows comes at a time when the University has undertaken, at New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's request, an interdisciplinary examination of the disparate impact of COVID-19 on racial and ethnic minority communities.

The Health Disparities Fellows program was developed in 2016 with an S-21 endowment grant from the National Institute of Minority Health Disparities. The program actively recruits scholars from




traditionally underrepresented minority groups, who often have firsthand experience with the types of health disparities they will be studying.

The Fellows obtain doctoral degrees in fields related to health disparities, along with training that is transdisciplinary and includes experiential learning in community-based settings, linking academic work to real-life skills.

"The generosity of the Hearst Foundations will allow us to increase the number of opportunities to recruit engaged scholars and, through those scholars, develop a diverse workforce that is committed to understanding and responding to the widening health-disparities gap," said Dr. Lawrence M. Schell, center director and Distinguished Professor of Anthropology.





Meeting the Moment

It's been months since COVID-19 upended all of our lives and, even now, no one can say with certainty when the pandemic will end. However, we do know that the end will come more quickly if each of us does our part. This issue of *UAlbany* magazine is dedicated to the many Great Danes who are meeting the moment in whatever ways they can. It's a reminder that greatness rises to meet profound challenges and that we are bound together as one community ... one UAlbany.



By Paul A. Miller

REMOTE RESPONSE

Zoom. Aside from describing a now ubiquitous brand of online meeting (or a children's television show, for those of a certain age), the word is also an apt description for how the world rapidly responded to the COVID-19 pandemic that, practically overnight, upended nearly every facet of our lives. With little time to act and under directives from state and federal officials to guard public safety, nearly every institution – from your corner grocer to higher education – scrambled to keep their organizations moving forward. Quite simply, everyone had to zoom.

To blunt the mandatory isolation and physical distance, UAlbany – along with much of the world – turned to technology. For Chris Moore '00, the University's associate director of Educational Technology Services, that meant he and his team needed to bring an entire university's teaching and learning community – hundreds of faculty members, thousands of students – fully online in just a matter of weeks. "The scale of the task was something we would not have considered in the past," said Moore, who earned a master's degree in Curriculum Development and Instructional Technology from UAlbany. "Typically, creating an online course requires months of planning and building in Blackboard," Moore noted, referring to the University's online learning management system. At the beginning of March, pre-pandemic, there were more than 2,200 classes using Blackboard. Yet, the vast majority of those classes were not fully online, and nearly none were geared towards extended and entirely remote instruction. "I knew we

needed to quickly take an all-hands-on-deck approach to provide opportunities for the faculty to learn and select new technology tools that would best support their course for the remainder of the term and to help them become comfortable with them,” added Moore. In short, that meant two things: tools and training.

The tools offered by the Information Technology Services department included additional software, increased server/storage capacity, and a super-sized videoconferencing ability – thanks to a newly purchased enterprise-wide license with Zoom – described as a “video-first unified communications platform” on the company’s website. Videoconferencing, as a technology, has been around since at least the 1920s when Bell Labs tested a one-way “videophone” transmission between Washington, D.C., and New York City with then-Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover. What is breathtaking today, however, is the rapid worldwide adoption of the technology during the pandemic to share nearly every facet of human life – from childbirth to funerals and from middle-school homerooms to middle-aged happy hours. In May, a Texas jury was believed to be the first to deliver their verdict via Zoom. Zoom’s explosive growth included UAlbany’s increased paid license with the company – growing from around 100 users before COVID-19 to more than 6,100 activations by early April. “Zoom was new to almost everyone and the faculty needed a very quick crash course in the ways it can be effective for teaching and learning,” said Moore, which led to the other prong in UAlbany’s “Keep Teaching” response: training.

Helping prepare faculty members for online and remote teaching was UAlbany’s Institute for Teaching, Learning, and Academic Leadership (ITLAL), an on-campus group with expertise in research-based, innovative teaching and learning methods. “We have done a great deal of work in helping instructors prepare face-to-face, hybrid, and fully online courses, but this was a completely different context,” said Billie Franchini, ITLAL’s director. She noted, however, that ITLAL’s guidance for faculty was relatively unchanged: Focus on what’s most important for students to learn, develop “learning experiences” that foster engagement, and show compassion while maintaining high standards. “I think all the work we have done with faculty in the past ensured that we were well positioned to help them think through the teaching decisions they needed to make in this unprecedented situation,” Franchini said.

On Sunday, March 15, just days after the University announced it was moving instruction fully online for the rest of the semester, professors Danny Goodwin and Kristin Corbosiero sat under bright lights in a television studio located deep below the main fountain on the Uptown Campus. They had been contacted earlier in the day and rushed in, as volunteers, to record a series of training videos to help fellow faculty members understand the capabilities of Zoom for instruction. “I’ve used Blackboard for years but had only used Zoom for the first time a day or so prior,” said Goodwin, an associate professor in the Department



Top photo: Chris Moore, UAlbany’s associate director of Educational Technology Services, stands outside his home in Delmar, N.Y., where he has been working remotely during the pandemic. Bottom photo: Undergraduate history students participate in a research symposium via Zoom videoconferencing.

of Art and Art History. "I knew my colleagues might appreciate some guidance in making the transition quickly and was already considering doing some tutorials just for my department. Seemed much more efficient to do them for the whole campus."

Working with the Digital Media team from the Office of Communications and Marketing, Goodwin and Corbosiero recorded nearly a dozen "quick-start" training videos for Zoom and Blackboard. Corbosiero, an associate professor in the Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences, said her participation was partly self-motivated. "I volunteered to help record the videos mainly because I wanted to learn from the folks who were prepping the videos and really understood the technology," she said. "I had used Blackboard a little bit, and Zoom not at all, and knew they would be the key ways I was going to be communicating with my students."

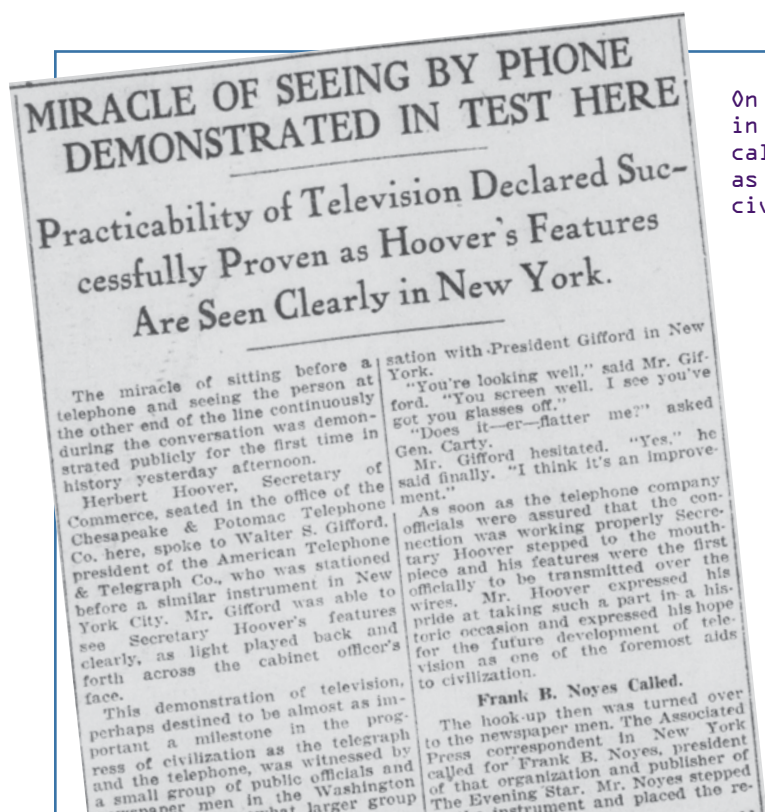
Providing for students was at the center of UAlbany's actions, said JoAnne Malatesta, interim vice provost and dean of Undergraduate Education. "The immediate response from the provost and ITS [was] to ensure that our students have the technology that they need." ITS, in partnership with the Office of the Dean of Students, identified and prepared nearly 200 desktop computers, taken from the Libraries' public spaces, and redeployed them to students in need of the technology. UAlbany's Mail Services department and the University Police Department coordinated delivery.

Smaller groups, such as the Writing and Critical Inquiry department, answered the call for help by providing laptop computers to students who didn't have them.

"The reality is that people from all across campus rallied quickly and put things into motion as soon as possible," said Malatesta.

However, she acknowledged that the transition to remote instruction was difficult for some. "This disruption was tremendous and, in some cases, devastating for our students and, perhaps, even some faculty. I think that our awareness of this impact and the continued efforts to address these concerns are incredibly important."

Despite these efforts, UAlbany was named as a defendant, along with SUNY, in a class-action lawsuit filed by a parent, alleging that the "remote learning options are in no way the equivalent of the in-person education that Plaintiff and the putative class members contracted and paid for." Across the country, scores of universities – public and private – find themselves in the center of class-action crosshairs. According to the website classaction.org, a searchable database of class-action lawsuits, there were more than 40 similar legal cases filed against public and private colleges at the time of this writing. In an article on



On April 8, 1927, *The Evening Star* newspaper in Washington, D.C., wrote that the video call demonstration was "destined to be almost as important a milestone in the progress of civilization as the telegraph and the telephone."



In this archival image, Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover uses a prototype created by Bell Labs to place a video call from Washington, D.C., to New York City.

Courtesy of AT&T Archives and History Center



Susan Detwiler



Paul Miller

Associate Professor of History Christopher Pastore moderates a Zoom meeting of more than a dozen undergraduate researchers who gave "lightning-round" presentations of no more than five minutes using the online videoconference platform.

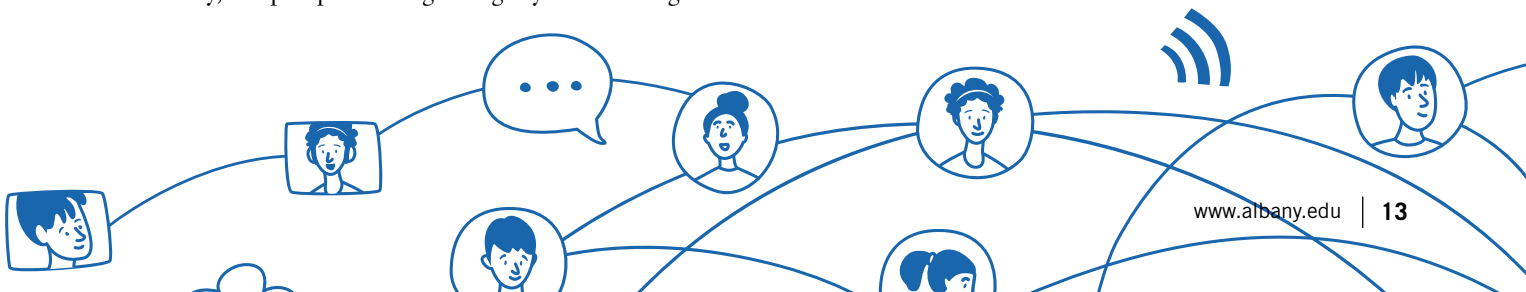
May 29, *The Chronicle of Higher Education* put the number of lawsuits at more than 100, while a publicly available SUNY document called "One-Stop Resource for Tracking Class Action Lawsuits and Institutional Responses to Coronavirus Pandemic" tallied 117 lawsuits as of June 5. "Some will review the Spring 2020 remote-learning activities in hindsight and focus on glaring deficiencies of online learning," said Moore. "I think we need to view it for what it was – an emergency response."

Some professors and students expressed mixed reactions: sympathy for the circumstances beyond the University's control, but also lamenting the loss of in-person connections. "Overall, I have had a pretty seamless transition to online learning," said Hannah Cast, a junior double-majoring in history and criminal justice. "The biggest strains have been the uncertainty of it all and the severing of in-class interactions with professors and my peers. Being part of the Albany community is what makes the University so special, so not to be able to be with classmates and talk to professors lessens the experience. I think the school has been trying their best with the circumstances they were given." Shouyue Zhang, an international student from China, echoed Cast's assessment: "My overall experience in this online transition is great. My professors built online courses swiftly and fruitfully." Feelings were different, however, for another student who graduated in May and wished to remain anonymous. "My overall experience with the online transition has been stressful," said the student via email. "In all honesty, the prospect of beginning my master's degree

[at Rockefeller College] remotely is incredibly anxiety-inducing. While I understand that the ultimate decision will be in large part outside of the control of administration, I will need to re-evaluate academic plans at that time."

Faculty members Susan Detwiler, a lecturer in the Writing and Critical Inquiry department, and Christopher Pastore, an associate professor in history, shared their views on how classroom dynamics were affected (Detwiler and Pastore are married to each other.) "Because we had already developed a strong learning community [before the online transition], it was difficult to leave the classroom learning environment. Students and I all missed the face-to-face interactions," said Detwiler. "However, one thing the students said was nice was having the Zoom one-on-one conferences. They said it was 'easier' to find my office!"

For Pastore, the difficult circumstances revealed the students' character. "One of our core learning goals for history students is cultivating a sense of resilience," he said of the students who overcame personal challenges. "Some were moving home with family. Some were taking care of sick family members. Others were holding down full-time jobs. And still others lost their jobs. But those same students were doing their best under the circumstances. They were logging in to Zoom meetings, submitting work through Blackboard, creating final course presentations and delivering them digitally with verve. Simply put, they demonstrated the type of grit that would make anyone proud."





OUR ESSENTIAL

PHOTOS BY PATRICK DODSON '12

UAlbany has often been likened to a small town where thousands of people live, work, and play. Like any town, it also depends on departments of essential personnel — people who are largely unseen and often unheralded — who do the hard work to keep everything running ... 24 hours a day, seven days a week ... pandemic or not. The individuals in these portraits represent not only their departments, but also the ideals of commitment and service — values that are everlasting and essential.





Clockwise from top left: Representing Information Technology Services, **Latoya Taitt**, Senior Programmer Analyst; Representing the University Police Department, **Steven Santa Maria**, Police Officer; Representing Human Resources, **Merissa Mabee**, Benefits Manager; Representing Parking Management/Transportation, **Michele Eller**, Bus Driver; **Bozena Grosman**, Head Grounds Supervisor; **Casey Ann Michalski**, Head Janitor-Day Custodial; **David Addante**, Facilities Operations Assistant; **Anil Mangal**, Associate Director Plant Operations

Standing Together

By Carol Olechowski

Three UAlbany deans joined forces to address the University's needs – and those of the larger community – during the pandemic.

Even before the coronavirus arrived in the U.S., College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity (CEHC) Dean Robert Griffin was following the threat and becoming “concerned about elements of its spread.”

David Holtgrave, dean of UAlbany's School of Public Health (SPH), had begun to think of the looming pandemic as “a hurricane watch” that would soon make landfall.

School of Education (SOE) Dean Jason Lane was also on high alert, weighing the impacts of a potential lockdown, school closures, and K-12 readiness for remote education. In its 176-year history, observes Lane, SOE and the University at Albany have survived “a civil war, two world wars, the 1918 flu pandemic, and other world-changing events. Such events require a collective community effort and are a time

to strengthen our relationships, and also reflect on what is important now and in the future.”

It made sense, therefore, for SOE, SPH, and CEHC to “join in leveraging our expertise and resources to support the community and its people. We have worked together over the last couple of years on various initiatives, so this was a natural opportunity for us to come together to support the University and the broader community,” says Lane.

**Robert Griffin,
Dean of the College of Emergency Preparedness,
Homeland Security and Cybersecurity**



David Holtgrave,
Dean of the School of Public Health



“Collectively, we bring to the table a highly interdisciplinary set of skills that can help address COVID-19 in a wide variety of ways,” Holtgrave explains. “Truly, this response shows just how strong and unique UAlbany is in terms of confronting public-health and other emergencies in New York State, the U.S., and around the globe. This is a signature area for the University.”

Griffin agrees. “We all stand stronger together. I prioritize partnerships and our working relationships with all the other schools and colleges at UAlbany. CEHC was made for events like the pandemic. Gov. [Andrew] Cuomo wanted a college dedicated to training the next generation of disaster-response leaders. When you add our tremendous data-science and applied-technology efforts, CEHC provides both operational and academic leadership in a growing field that desperately needs both. CEHC has held, and continues to hold, multiple town halls, Q&A opportunities, social-media blasts, and appearances in media as subject matter experts.”

By the time the pandemic hit, CEHC and SPH were already planning a joint degree in emergency management with a public-health concentration.

The college also joined with SPH to conduct weekly town halls, sessions that allowed for “real-time discussions in the challenges facing us all. The special guest speakers from across UAlbany and around the globe were great,” notes Holtgrave. He cites SPH’s founding by David Axelrod, M.D., 35 years ago as “a grand experiment that brought the NYSDOH together with the University at Albany to begin a new model for public-health education and research.

“We were delighted when the department of health asked for partnership on many aspects of the COVID-19 response – from doing research on hydroxychloroquine, to calculating the reproductive rate for the state, to doing analyses on antibody testing serosurvey data, to assisting with the early assessments of possible COVID-19-related inflammatory diseases in children, among many other examples.”

In addition, NYSDOH asked Holtgrave to take a key role – along with other SPH faculty, students, and staff – in assessing the impact of treatments (especially hydroxychloroquine) for patients with COVID-19. [To read the widely cited report, published May 11 in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, link to <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2766117>.]

To support teachers and parents in navigating the new remote-education environment, SOE faculty and graduate students launched a new online resource hub (www.remoteED.org). SOE also instituted a weekly free webinar series, Community Conversations (archived at <http://aatlased.org/community-conversations/>). The series, explains Lane, was designed to “bring together educators and leaders from local school districts, other community partners, and SPH and CEHC colleagues to discuss the impact of the pandemic on such areas as educational equity and social justice; support for students with special needs; mental health and mindfulness; and guidance to share learning management between teachers and parents.”

In addition, the Capital District Writing Project, a partnership between SOE faculty and local K-12 teachers, began hosting weekly sessions to “provide a space for teachers to write and reflect with one another as they assessed the effects of the pandemic on their students, classrooms, and schools,” Lane says. The project received the 2020 University President’s Award for Exemplary Public Engagement.

“I hope that, on the other side of this, we remember our sense of our shared humanity, as well as the vital role that education plays in our societies, now and in the future.”



Adds Lane: “The impact of the School of Education’s collective work has been extensive and builds upon our reputation as one of the top 10 providers of online graduate education in the United States. More than 3,000 visitors from 86 countries visited the website as of July 1, and more than 1,300 individuals have participated in our webinars. As a result, we are also seeing the strongest application numbers to graduate programs in years.”

The deans praise their faculty, students, staff, and administrators for making the partnerships possible. “My previous work and friendships with Dean Holtgrave and Dean Lane made our partnership a natural fit,” Griffin says.

The pandemic will change the future in many ways, the deans believe. One of the most pressing issues facing both K-12 education and higher education, Lane says, is the long-term effect of the pandemic on learning. “We all would like education to return to some form of face-to-face instruction, but it’s still not clear what that will look like either for Fall 2020 or Fall 2021. It’s very likely we’ll continue to use some form of remote instruction for the foreseeable future, and that raises important questions from how it will affect student learning to how to structure the school day.”

Holtgrave hopes the crisis “will afford us an opportunity as a society to reimagine what we want the world to be like and to set new priorities. Social justice must factor into the ways we respond to emerging and ongoing health threats. Telling someone to ‘self-quarantine at home’ implies that the individual has a home. Saying, ‘Stock up on supplies for a few weeks’ assumes the person has the resources to do so. Instructing someone to ‘stay home if you are ill’ suggests the individual has paid sick leave. A recent study in San Francisco found that about 90 percent of persons testing positive for COVID-19 antibodies had jobs that prohibited them from working at home.

“Social distancing served to remind us all how much we need each other,” Holtgrave continues. “The more we are separate, the more we need to find ways to come together through videoconferencing, phone calls, and even parades to salute teachers, graduates, health-care workers, and first responders. This crisis has helped us to reflect on what is truly important in this world, and how we can best be there for each other in a truly global family.”

While the pandemic has negatively affected millions of people, particularly the young, who have missed out on graduations, proms, athletics, and other shared educational and social opportunities, “we have found new ways to connect and engage with one another and support our communities,” observes Lane. “I hope that, on the other side of this, we remember our sense of our shared humanity, as well as the vital role that education plays in our societies, now and in the future.”

Jason Lane,
Dean of the School of Education



on the **FRONT LINES**

In every crisis, there are those who — either by profession or passion — are called into service.

Day after day, they see what few of us ever will; they experience, firsthand, the pain of unimaginable loss and the pride of hard-won, if sometimes fleeting, victories. They are charged with great responsibilities upon which rest even greater consequences.

Undaunted, they still answer the call — and we are all the better for it.

the COMMISSIONER

WHEN COVID-19 ARRIVED IN ALBANY IN EARLY MARCH, DR. ELIZABETH WHALEN AND HER ACDOH STAFF IMMEDIATELY BEGAN “INVESTIGATING CASES AND CONTACT TRACING – NOTIFYING PEOPLE WHO MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO THE VIRUS AT WORK AND IN SCHOOL.” IN HER OWN WORDS, SHE REFLECTS ON THE DEPARTMENT’S RESPONSE TO THIS PUBLIC-HEALTH EMERGENCY.



Elizabeth Whalen, MD, MPH '12
Commissioner, Albany County
Department of Health (ACDOH)

Will Waldron/Times Union

A CDOH has trained on pandemic response since before the early 2000s, when I started working here as a medical director. Our Division of Public Health Emergency Preparedness conducted drills and created guidelines. Our Division of Public Health Education was ready with messaging for the public, and our excellent Epidemiology staff had expertise in disease investigation and contact tracing.

Before our first case, we had a public forum with Albany County Executive Dan McCoy, legislators, and the media to discuss the likely course of events once we had cases in Albany. We also issued CDC guidance on important ways people could prevent infection. Operating in an “incident command” framework, we used news conferences, social media, and our website to get information out to the public in a timely fashion. I love my job and am passionate about public health. While I never thought I would be part of daily news conferences, I have appreciated the opportunity to share the work that we do, and science-based information on COVID-19, with the residents of Albany County during this difficult time.

COVID-19 continues to spread across the country, and it is more important than ever that the public adhere to guidance to stem the spread. This includes important protective measures, such as wearing masks, social distancing, avoidance of large gatherings, and hand washing. Until we have a safe, effective, and widely available vaccine, these strategies are our best tools to contain the virus.

For me, the global magnitude of COVID-19 has been occasionally overwhelming. Despite all my years in public health, I don’t think I could have envisioned this unique set of circumstances and impacts. It has been heartbreaking to see the effects on our vulnerable populations, including those in nursing homes and congregate-care facilities. The nationwide lack of available testing early on was frustrating and made it difficult to understand the burden of disease in the community. The ongoing challenge with inconsistency in public messaging from federal leaders on appropriate guidance and response has been a tremendous hurdle.

In addition, I think the mental-health effects of the pandemic cannot be overstated. People with pre-existing conditions report worsening due to both isolation and uncertainty. The Albany County Department of Mental Health set up a hotline [(518) 269-6634] to help Albany County residents who need assistance during this time. For many, a qualified mental-health professional can be so beneficial. There are many ways to access services now, including a rising presence in telepsychology. I would advise anyone with concerns to reach out to their health-care provider or local department of health for resources. Help is available.

The most rewarding part of my work is seeing the inspirational dedication of our ACDOH staff. We have around 90 full-time workers, and everyone continues to step up to meet our many challenges. Staff works late evenings and weekends, and continually focuses on process improvement to ensure timeliness and effectiveness.

We know we are in this for the long haul and work together to streamline processes and avoid burnout, which is a challenge. I feel very lucky to work with this tremendously smart and committed group of people. Our Medical Reserve Corps volunteers, who include school nurses, teachers, and others, are also essential to a response of this magnitude.

It has been a joy to have Monroe Marshall [MPH] working with us. He is universally respected, and his work in contact tracing is essential to controlling the spread of COVID-19. [Marshall is profiled on page 22 of this issue.] The health department contacts every laboratory-positive case in Albany County the same day the test result is out to provide support and education and ensure that the case is isolated at home to decrease the risk of spread to others. We ensure this is done with daily phone calls and home check-ins, and we arrange needed services, like food delivery and prescription pick-up. We also identify contacts that may have been placed at risk by the case, and ensure they remain on home quarantine throughout the potential incubation period of the virus. This work is time

intensive and requires training to be done well. I know through my own experience that the School of Public Health does a great job training graduate students, so we were very happy to have Monroe help us.

While most of us have never lived through an experience like this, there have always been infectious and other public-health threats, and with the rise of chronic disease and significant health-inequity and -disparity issues across the country, we need to promote how essential this workforce is. The federal government needs to re-evaluate the strengthening of public-health infrastructure. Our workforce needs significant reinforcement and support.

One unforeseen good that could come out of the pandemic is the time and strength put into family relationships. People who have stayed home have had the opportunity to slow down, spend more time with their immediate families, and analyze what is important in life. I am the mother of three teenagers who are normally all go – usually in different directions – all the time. They have become closer through this experience.

“IMPORTANT *and* NECESSARY”

The work of public-health departments is “important and necessary,” Whalen notes, adding that ACDOH’s various divisions:

- Work with the NYSDOH to monitor and analyze county health data and mobilize community partnerships to address health concerns in our county using a collective impact strategy approach.
- Implement evidence-based public health programs and strategies to improve the health of Albany County residents.
- Offer pediatric dental services and childhood immunizations.
- Provide restaurant and pool inspections.
- Oversee children’s camps.

ACDOH:

- Works extensively towards the reduction of health disparities and inequities in at-risk communities.
- Holds clinics for sexually transmitted infections and tuberculosis.
- Conducts investigations for all reportable communicable disease.
- Educates the public on chronic disease and many public-health threats, such as pandemic and acts of bioterrorism.
- Provides home visits in high-risk neighborhoods to moms and babies and homes with asthmatic children.
- Provides and promotes many public-health partnerships, working with hospitals, first responders, law enforcement, schools, community-based organizations, and our sister county agencies.



Albany County Executive Dan McCoy, left, and Albany County Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Elizabeth Whalen hold a press conference to discuss COVID-19 cases in the county on Wednesday, March 25, 2020, in Albany, N.Y.

the CONTACT TRACER

BY PAUL A. MILLER

On April 29, 2020, nearly 5,000 people in New York State tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.

At a press conference the next day, Gov. Andrew Cuomo described the enormous response needed to halt the spread of the disease: “It will require, under any estimate, a tracing army.”

Monroe Marshall '20, a School of Public Health graduate, was a “soldier” in that army.

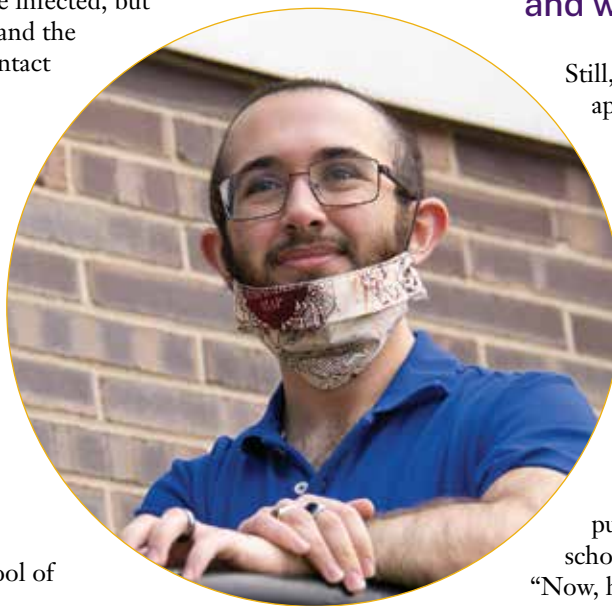
As a volunteer case investigator at the Albany County Department of Health, Marshall's responsibilities included contact tracing, what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention calls a “core disease control measure” needed to battle highly infectious diseases like COVID-19. After a person tests positive for the virus, labs notify local health departments, and the contact tracers are mobilized. Their mission: Identify and alert all of the people who came into close contact [within a 6-foot distance for longer than 10 minutes] with the infected person in the 14 days prior to the onset of symptoms in that individual. It is a critical task, because individuals who are infected, but don't know it, can infect others and the infection rate multiplies. For contact tracers, it's a race against time.

For Marshall, Brooklyn-born and Long Island-raised, it was an opportunity he had long awaited. “I had known I was interested in epidemics since middle school, when I was the only student who appeared to be ‘obsessed’ with H1N1,” he said, referring to the 2009 novel influenza virus that was first detected in the U.S. and spread globally. That obsession eventually led him to study epidemiology at UAlbany's School of Public Health.

In the fall of 2018, at the urging of a classmate, Marshall registered for the Albany County Medical Reserve Corps, a trained group of medical professionals and volunteers deployed to assist the county in a public-health emergency. However, it wasn't until more than a year later,

on March 17, 2020, that Marshall would be called into action. The next day, he reported to the Albany County DOH, which is led by SPH alumna Elizabeth Whalen, MD, MPH '12 [see her first-person piece on page 20]. The work was challenging and sobering: seemingly endless phone calls notifying individuals of their exposure and/or enrolling them in mandatory quarantine. Often, the reality of the life-and-death stakes hit home for Marshall. He noted, in an interview last May while he was still actively working cases, that the job wasn't all gloom and doom, however.

“The most rewarding parts of this work are the wholesome phone calls I have with individuals . . . who appreciate us checking in on them and helping them be safe. Sometimes, I have amazing conversations, and we end up laughing.”



Still, Marshall, who is gentle and approachable, wrestles with the paradox that a terrible tragedy has provided him a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. “I am ‘appreciative’ of all of the opportunities I have, but then I also think, ‘This is a crisis, and people are sick and dying. Many lost their jobs and even their homes,’ and I feel bad,” he says of the public-health emergency.

Yet, the experience has only inspired the recent graduate to pursue the passion born in a middle-school classroom so many years before.

“Now, having actually experienced doing the work of a county epidemiologist, I am applying to a wide range of positions in multiple cities (including many here in Albany!) that range from epidemiologist to community-health worker to clinical researcher,” says Marshall – now a battle-tested “soldier” ready for his next fight.



President Havidán Rodríguez speaks to the media about UAlbany's role in deploying a COVID-19 drive-through testing site.

the COMMUNITY LEADER

BY KELSEY BUTZ

Gov. Cuomo charged President Havidán Rodríguez and the University at Albany with leading a team of public health, social welfare, emergency preparedness and other experts to study the environmental, socioeconomic and occupational factors causing Latinx and Black populations in the state to be disproportionately harmed by COVID-19.

According to July fatality data from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), the Latinx and Black populations comprise 51 percent of the population in New York City – yet account for 62 percent of the deaths. Outside of New York City, New York has Latinx and Black populations comprising 21 percent of the population but 31 percent of the deaths.

The team is looking at a number of factors, such as housing and food security; employment opportunities, including an individual's ability to work remotely; how communities learned and responded to the dangers of COVID-19; and the availability and access to health-insurance coverage and

health care. By further analyzing and building upon research that's already been done on these disparities, the team will engage stakeholders – such as community leaders and COVID-19 survivors – to develop data-driven prevention strategies to help inform New York's response to this and future public-health threats.

"The University at Albany is proud to partner in this important research at the direction of Gov. Cuomo and on behalf of all New Yorkers," said Rodríguez. "As one of the most diverse research institutions in the country, and with our extensive expertise in minority health disparities, public health, social welfare, public policy, criminal justice and emergency preparedness, UAlbany is a powerful partner in this urgently needed research."

At UAlbany, the work involves the School of Public Health; the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity; the College of Arts and Sciences; the School of Social Welfare; Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy; CTG UAlbany; and the Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities. A preliminary report completed this summer will propose actionable intervention strategies and recommendations aimed at improving health outcomes and saving lives. A more detailed analysis will follow at the end of the year.

The project is another demonstration of the University's longstanding commitment to address and eliminate racial and ethnic disparities in our communities. Beyond 2020, UAlbany intends to build on its extensive expertise and strong commitment to social and economic justice to expand its health equity research portfolio.



David Gold '79, J.D.

Co-founder and CEO, Global Health Strategies (GHS)
B.A., Rhetoric and Communication; Minor: Political
Science; J.D., Boston University School of Law



the COLLABORATOR

BY CAROL OLECHOWSKI

For David Gold, the coronavirus pandemic presents two challenges: to support groups working to develop a vaccine that will prevent future outbreaks of the disease, and to ensure that people all over the world have access to the vaccine and broader health care. Gold found his calling in health-care advocacy during the AIDS epidemic as a treatment activist for ACT UP, then while working for Gay Men's Health Crisis and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative.

Q: What surprised you most about the COVID-19 pandemic?

A: The utter failure of the U.S. to get ahead of it. This was a wake-up call: Shortages of testing, personal protective equipment (PPE), and ventilators hindered our response, but South Korea, Germany, and other nations had those supplies on hand.

Q: What are you doing to end the pandemic and lessen the chances that the coronavirus will recur?

A: We are working with a range of partners, including World Health Organization (WHO), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Johnson & Johnson, and Facebook, to accelerate the discovery of effective drugs, a vaccine, and diagnostics for COVID-19. GHS has 150 employees

and offices in 12 countries, including the U.S., China, India, Brazil, Kenya, South Africa, and the United Kingdom, so we are well positioned to assist our partners in building collaborations with governments, non-profits, and international groups that will help to achieve these goals more quickly. I'm confident that technology and innovation will get us through this.

Q. What other issue or issues should be addressed?

A: The lack of health care for so many. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, 28 million U.S. citizens were uninsured. By early May, an additional 33 million had lost their jobs – and their health coverage – as a result of the outbreak. Government has the responsibility to help the most vulnerable. Preparing for such emergencies includes making basic health care and health systems available throughout the world. It's critical that public policymakers and government work together to formulate and support good public-health policy; UAlbany's School of Public Health is doing just that in many ways.

Viruses do not recognize walls or borders; if there's a disease in one part of the world, there's a possibility it will become a global problem. And if people don't have health care, all of us are at risk.



the CAREGIVERS

COVID-19 Through the Eyes of Social Workers

the CAREGIVERS

BY PAUL A. MILLER



Eden Hunter '19, LMSW

Social Worker

Shaker Place Rehab & Nursing Center

You each work in different settings. How did COVID-19 alter your job and workplace?

Nursing homes are some of the most regulated institutions in the state to begin with, and even more so with the current pandemic. We are not allowing visitors, staff are being tested on a weekly basis and required to wear PPE at all times, and residents are put on various precautions and restrictions. There was a period where residents could not leave their rooms because of the risk of getting COVID-19. This was challenging, because humans are social by nature, so that period was extremely isolating for residents. It is hard to communicate with someone when you have a mask on. Many residents are hard of hearing so they rely on lip reading to communicate. This experience has made me realize just how much I use my facial expressions to communicate with people – I squint my eyes harder than normal just so people can tell I'm smiling under my mask!

What has been the biggest challenge for the clients/patients you serve?

Not allowing visitors has been the biggest challenge for our residents. Before the pandemic, we would have an average of 40-50 visitors a day. Some families and friends would visit every day, so you can imagine how difficult this period has been for some of our residents. In a way, staff have had to take on the responsibility that friends and families provided to residents [but] we simply cannot provide the same level of attention that our visitors provided. Many residents have felt disconnected from the world, which can lead to emotional and behavioral issues. I have gotten creative as a social worker to make sure psychosocial needs are still being met. I help facilitate FaceTime calls, phone calls, and window visits for our residents and families. It's not the same, but it is definitely better than nothing.

A large part of your job is to provide support to others in times of crisis, but how have you, personally, coped with the stress?

I try to stay as mindful as possible and take one day at a time in order to cope with the stress. I continue to tell myself that this experience is only going to make me a better social worker – this is my first year and first job outside of graduate school. If I can handle this now, I can handle anything! I also prioritize self-care. Self-care, for me, is simple. I make sure to take my full hour for lunch, away from my desk, if I can. I read each day, as this helps me slow down and be in the moment. One of my favorite forms of self-care is to indulge in a bouquet of flowers every now and then. Flowers work wonders for stress!

This global health crisis has put a spotlight on social work and its essential role in our society. What do you think will change in your field as a result?

I think (and hope!) that there will be more interest in this field because we are in the spotlight right now. There are a lot of misconceptions about social work and what social workers actually do. My hope is that this period will highlight the diversity of social work, and show just how rich and rewarding this work truly is. I also think social-work education will change as a whole, as well; I think there will be more emphasis on crisis intervention, as this is a skill that is definitely needed during a pandemic, or any other unexpected life event.

Responses have been edited for clarity and space



Rulizabeth Soto '16, MSW
*Social Service Supervisor
Carter Burden Network*

The very nature of a senior center and the structures within it is to provide services, support and a safe space for seniors to engage with other members living in the community [and provide] the ability to remain active while they age in place [in their homes]. COVID-19 forced centers across NYC to close their doors. Currently, my focus as a social worker is to connect with seniors in the comfort of their homes via phone/Zoom to ensure they are safe. The goal is to assess safety in terms of overall well-being as it pertains to access to a steady food supply and medication, as well as access to tele-health and mental-health support systems. We also keep an open communication with our seniors and provide them with information and education about COVID-19, steps they can take to protect themselves.

Many of my clients have never been isolated before, and they find themselves navigating complex emotions and thoughts. COVID-19 has had a huge impact in seniors' mental well-being as their sense of self was very much tied to their independence and their self-direction. Much of that has changed since the pandemic began, therefore greatly impacting every aspect of their lives. It is not uncommon to find a senior experiencing one or two symptoms of anxiety, and/or depression. Particularly seniors living alone, and without access to online programming feel extremely isolated.

The beginning was truly a heart-wrenching time for me both as a social worker and as an individual. Thankfully, I have a great support system with family and friends. I constantly remind myself that I am doing the best I can during these unprecedented times. I have set realistic professional and personal goals since the pandemic began. If I can accomplish a few of those weekly, I take the time to recognize it and celebrate it. In the spare time I do have, I've begun doing things I loved to do pre-pandemic yet never seemed to have time to do (baking, reading, etc.).

Social workers often don't have power to change policies and/or big programs in their day-to-day work. But in the age of COVID-19, as well as in the face of numerous social movements, such as #BLM, I think social workers in the aging field have an opportunity to step up to bring awareness about our clients' needs [and to] advocate proposed strategies to be inclusive to the 60+ community in NYC and across the country. If we can be an integral part of the biggest safety net used to address the biggest public-health crisis this country has ever faced, then we can and should be part of the conversations, planning teams, and policy-developing spaces to ensure our clients' needs are met during a post-COVID-19 world. I am hopeful about the future of social work as a change-enabling profession.



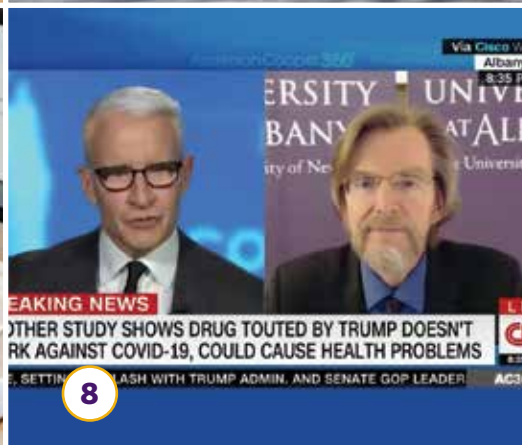
Kevin O'Keeffe '15, LMSW
*ICU Medical Social Worker
Albany Medical Center*

When the crisis was at its height, the ICU I work on had 34 COVID patients daily who required ICU-level medical interventions. I would say a majority of them were on life support. My job responsibilities were not necessarily altered. I would do the same tasks and provide the same level of support to families making tough decisions; it was just at a much higher volume. We [needed] to get creative and use technology (iPads) to communicate with families. This was especially true for the patients from NYC we took to assist with the volume down there.

The biggest challenge was assisting families and patients in making difficult medical decisions – oftentimes end-of-life decisions, without them being [physically] present in the hospital. Typically, we would have a day or two to build rapport with families and let them acclimate to the ICU/hospital environment. Due to visitor restrictions, that was no longer possible. In addition, due to the unknown nature of the virus, patients would become critically ill very quickly. I worked very closely with doctors to explain what interventions were available and the consequences of those interventions. For the patients who were awake and aware, I think it was difficult for them to be so removed from their families at such an uncertain time.

I will say it was very difficult for me to remain stress-free during the crisis. I am an active person, yoga, volleyball, exercise. With most of that shut down, I was forced to find other ways to cope. I have a supportive family at home. I did try to run as much as I could outside, weather and energy level permitting. I also utilized my co-workers and supervisors a lot during this. I felt as though talking to others on the front lines validated my feelings and [I] got energy from talking to them.

I always thought that the field of medical social work was very misunderstood. I think it is seen as a "discharge planner," when in practice, it is so much more than that. There were times when I was empowering families to ask tough questions before the doctors. Being hospitalized can be traumatic, stressful, and emotional. Families and patients need someone on their side [to navigate] the complexities and supporting their decisions. I hope that [I and my colleagues] at the hospital have shown that social workers are essential workers and are valued members of a medical team. I think the future of social work, in general, is going to be much more respected.

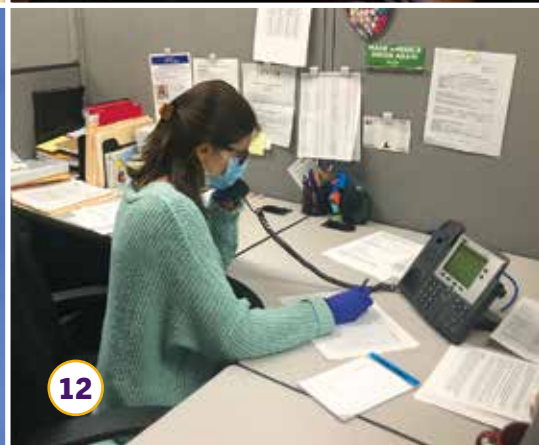


#ONEU

Faculty, staff, students, alumni, and parents

1 UAlbany hosted upstate New York's first state-run COVID-19 mobile testing site. 2 UAlbany buses delivered meals to Albany Meals on Wheels clients and the Cohoes Senior Center. University Parking and Mass Transit Services partnered with LifePath, a not-for-profit senior-services organization. 3 Mark Yang '92 donated 2,000+ masks and gloves to St. Peter's Hospital in Albany. 4 A generous alumnus matched all gifts to the Student Emergency Fund, dollar for dollar, up to \$25,000. 5 "It's a heck of a feeling to see the place I go to school has got my back at work. Thanks for looking out for us; we really are putting these to good use". (Robert Vivas, UAlbany student and nurse

who found a new supply of PPE awaiting him at work.) 6 Coach Will Brown and his wife, Jamie, helped raise \$100,000 for Capital Region cancer patients facing new struggles due to the pandemic. 7 The School of Education is offering several resources to K-12 teachers as they navigate the transition to remote teaching and learning. 8 The School of Public Health helped with two state-led studies examining potential COVID-19 drug treatments: a randomized controlled trial and an observational study. UAlbany is NYSDOH's lead academic partner on the observational study, while another leading university will be the academic partner on the randomized trial. 9 Virtual Purple Friday endures...virtually!

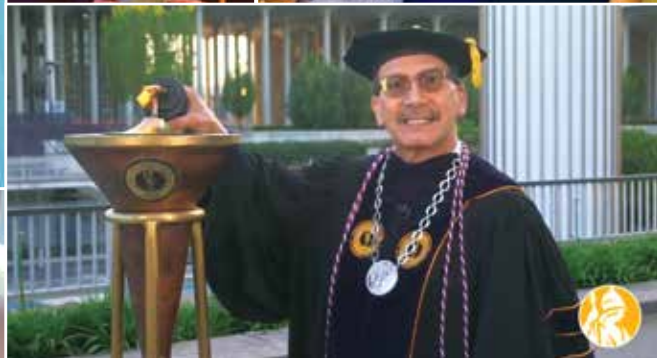


ALBANY

step up to help during the COVID-19 pandemic.

10 Mom decorated a 2020 graduate's living room when she came home. **11** Tom and Mary Casey Stadium lit up in blue to honor health-care workers and essential front-line responders. **12** MPH student Makensy Jabbour conducts contact tracing as part of her internship with the Albany County Department of Health. **13** The College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity are producing face shields for distribution to health-care providers using 3D printers. **14** More than two dozen student volunteers and two ambulances from Five Quad, UAlbany's student-run volunteer ambulance

service, traveled to Rockland County in downstate New York to help local ambulance squads keep up with high call volumes. **15** Staff orchestrated the first virtual open house for accepted students. It was very well attended. **16** UAlbany's student-led Virtual Operations Support Team (VOST) is tracking COVID-19 on social media to aid emergency management. **17** UAlbany's academic advisors met to keep advising on track. **18** The Alumni Association has sponsored a series of live talks featuring alumni in different fields. Dr. Evan Zahn '82, congenital heart cardiologist, took us inside a pediatric ICU (video on UAlbany's Alumni Association Facebook page).



ONE UALBANY GRADUATION CELEBRATION

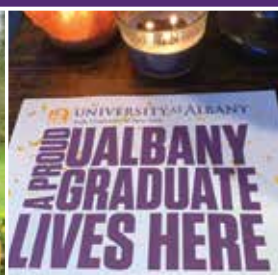
A Hollywood A-Lister. Powerful singing performances. Inspiring alumni messages. An emotional candle lighting shared by thousands. And a live broadcast from the Podium! UAlbany's graduation celebration on May 16 was epic in every way. In case you missed it, watch it at www.albany.edu/graduationcelebration. Congratulations to the historic Class of 2020! We're proud of you.

O N





E U A L B A N Y





Zahra Hashimee



Positive INFLUENCER

By Jim Sciancalepore, M.A.'93

UAlbany senior finds fame and breaks down barriers on viral video platform, TikTok

One evening about a year ago, while dishing up burritos and bowls at her part-time job at Chipotle, Zahra Hashimee realized that her life was about to change.

"A complete stranger came up to me and said, 'I saw you on TikTok,'" Hashimee recounted. Though her videos had been viewed on the social-media platform by thousands of people at the time, the encounter made her virtual fame suddenly feel more real.

These days, the 21-year-old computer-science major is no longer surprised by fan

encounters. She said she gets recognized pretty much every time she goes out in public, whether walking across the UAlbany campus or during a pre-pandemic visit to Dave & Buster's, where a tipsy 26-year-old woman followed her into the bathroom to tell her, "I just love you!"

Hashimee is a TikTok star. She is a verified TikTok "popular creator," essentially giving her elite status and a dedicated account representative, with more than 2.6 million followers (and growing). Most of her videos have been played more than a hundred thousand times, and her posts have been liked and shared by pop-culture icons Miley Cyrus and Justin Bieber. She has even been invited, all expenses paid, to high-profile events, such as the Grammy Awards and Milan Fashion Week.

In other words, she's come a long way since Chipotle. "It feels surreal," she said. "To think that so many people want to hear what I have to say blows my mind."



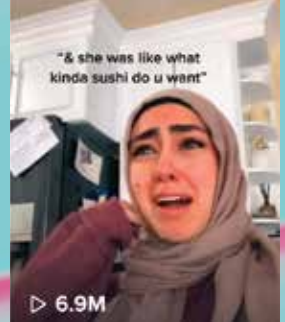
muslimthicc ✓

zahra

Follow

281 Following 2.7M Followers 78.6M Likes

check out my instagram :) @zahr4
follow me or ur racist 🚫
21 NY

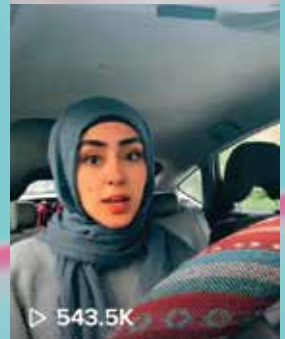


6.9M



**BEST
HAIR**

3.4M



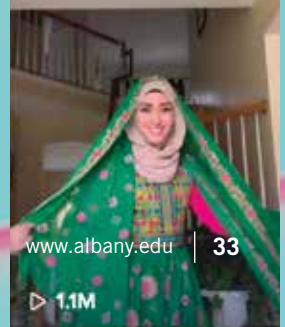
543.5K



836.6K



725.3K



1.1M

For the uninitiated, TikTok is the world's fastest-growing social-media platform with 800 million active users. Whereas Twitter primarily involves short, written posts or Instagram is mostly photos, TikTok users share short videos, often featuring humor, dancing, lip-synching, or quirky editing tricks. The platform is extremely popular with young consumers, ages 13-24, but its appeal has recently expanded to a broader range of demographics during the COVID-19 crisis, as activity-starved people have sought new ways to engage the world.

More than just a content creator on TikTok, Hashimee is also a fan. "TikTok encourages people to be creative," she noted. "It's much more positive than some social-media channels, much more of a community: We celebrate each other versus tearing each other down."

Hashimee admitted that she joined the platform "as a joke" in early 2019 during a sleepover with a friend. She made a few short, silly videos, including one featuring an angry note from a fish that had been mistaken for dead and prematurely flushed down the toilet. She woke the next day to see that her posts had been viewed hundreds of times.

Clearly, she was onto something. Her quick wit, self-effacing humor, and bright, engaging smile seemed a perfect fit for the video platform. As she continued to post new content, her base of followers steadily grew.

Once she reached 200,000 followers, she suddenly had an "unexpected problem."

"I had to tell my parents!" said Hashimee. Coming from what she terms "a fairly traditional Muslim family," she was nervous about how they would react to her social-media stardom. They were, of course, surprised.

"My father said, '200,000 people watch your videos? You're not that funny,'" Hashimee recounted with a laugh. Both of her parents were understandably concerned, but they were ultimately supportive. She was also backed by her two brothers, including her younger brother, who is often featured in her videos.

From the very beginning, she decided to focus on what she terms "wholesome, cute content."

She has posted about topics such as wearing her hijab headscarf, her college major, and everyday things like fashion and makeup. She frequently shoots her videos on and around the UAlbany campus, and fellow students sometimes play a role. As a Muslim woman on social media, Hashimee provides a voice for an under-represented population. She always keeps her content light and positive, and she abides by her "don't post anything you wouldn't want your family to see" guideline.

While her fanbase has grown, so have Hashimee's opportunities. In January 2020, she received an email from her TikTok rep, who asked her if she'd like to fly out to Los Angeles to attend the Grammy Awards as one of their special guests.



TIKTOK YOU DON'T STOP:
HASHIMEE CHECKS HER
TIKTOK PAGE; ROCKS
THE RED CARPET AT THE
GRAMMY AWARDS; SHARES
THE FRONT ROW AT MILAN
FASHION WEEK WITH
OTHER TOP TIKTOKERS;
AND MAKES HER WAY TO
CLASS AT UALBANY.



“I was so excited – ‘I’m going to the Grammys!’” Hashimee recalled. “And then my parents were like, ‘No, you’re not.’”

She was able to mollify their concerns by agreeing to have her older brother accompany her on the trip. Hashimee enjoyed the awards show and particularly loved meeting fellow top TikTok Creators, whom she previously knew only from their online videos.

Not long after, Hashimee received another incredible invitation. This time, the message was from luxury fashion brand Dolce & Gabbana, and the event was a front-row seat at Milan Fashion Week – including the opportunity to pick out a dress and shoes. Once again, she made the trip with her brother.

She noted that “Milan was amazing,” and she still can’t believe that she has a pair of designer shoes sitting in her closet at her home in Clifton Park, N.Y.

Amidst all of this excitement, of course, Hashimee had to juggle a full-time schedule at UAlbany. “I’m going to the Grammys, and I still have homework!” said Hashimee, who noted that her professors have been “extremely accommodating” about her travels. She is grateful for the support of her UAlbany community and observed, “The faculty really is there for you.”

As she prepares for her senior year, Hashimee’s sphere of influence continues to grow. She was recently signed by Digital Brand Architects (DBA), a talent agency for the

world’s leading digital influencers. She has pending inquiries regarding a social-media event in Abu Dhabi, a virtual women’s conference, and other exciting opportunities.

WHEN ASKED ABOUT HER PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT FROM HER SOCIAL-MEDIA FAME, HASHIMEE SAID IT’S THE POSITIVE REACTIONS SHE RECEIVES FROM YOUNG WOMEN – PARTICULARLY YOUNG MUSLIM WOMEN.

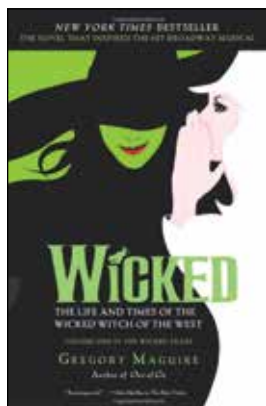
“I’ve heard from young Muslim girls who say that I’ve given them the confidence to wear their hijab,” she said. “It’s such a good feeling.”

While her content is purposely not political, Hashimee acknowledged that she is helping to break down barriers between Muslims and non-Muslims by simply putting herself out there and interacting with the world in an authentic way.

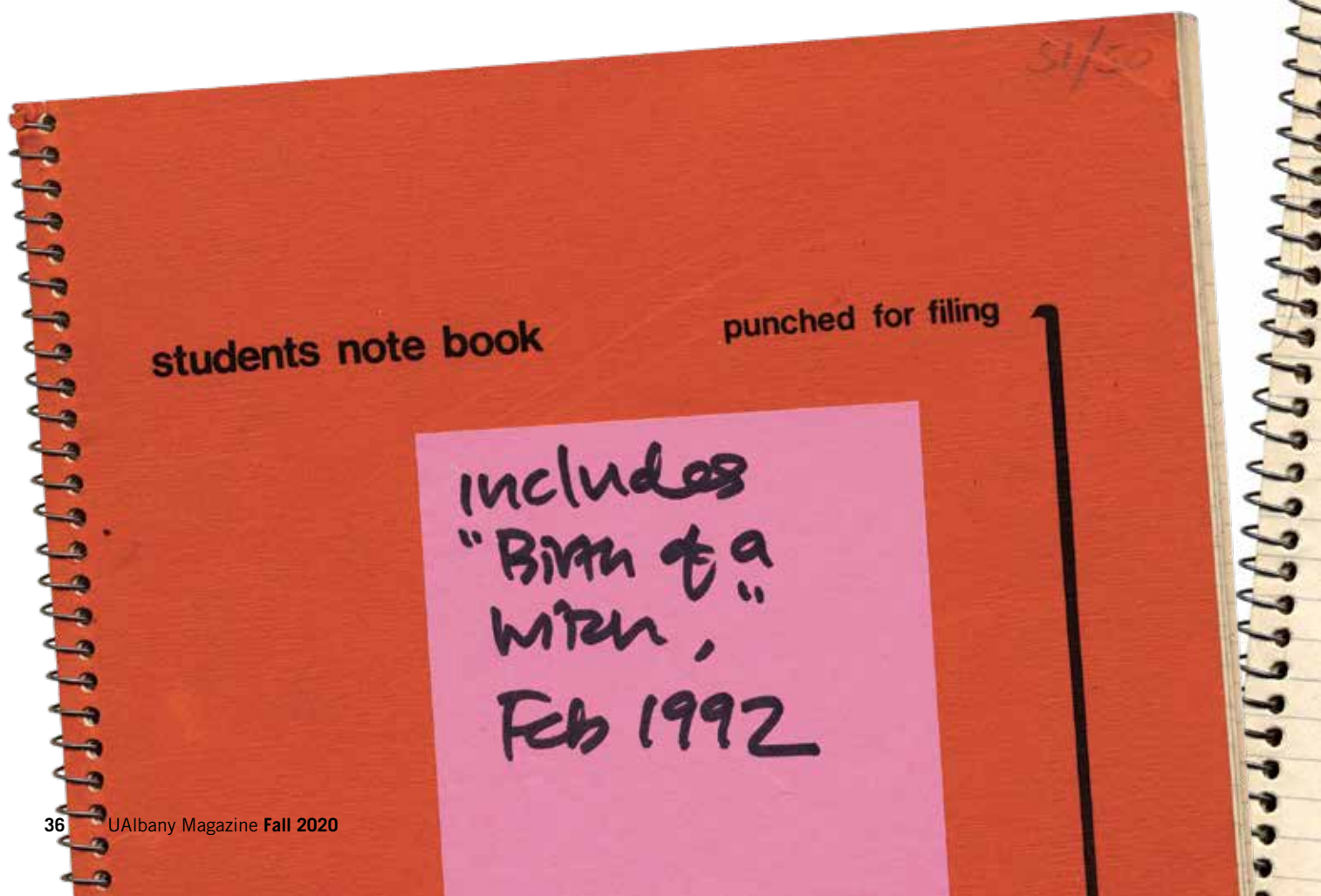
“If making silly videos helps start conversations and remove some stigmas, I’m proud to do it,” said Hashimee.



Celebrated author and alumnus **Gregory Maguire '76** cast a spell over the public with his captivating novel *Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*, that spawned the smash Broadway musical. We asked him how he summoned such an imaginative tale.



“The opening passages of my novel, *WICKED* – this page, ‘A Brief History of Oz,’ being a trial beginning, a dead end, that I jettisoned – were written in a student notebook I bought in Kenya in 1992,” said Maguire via email. “I usually begin books by hand, finding that the slower process of hand-writing helps me choose my words more carefully (if only because I pause to rest my wrist). Honing in on tone is more important than the invention of incident. Once the tone seems to have set, as it were, I transcribe early pages onto a laptop, thereby tricking my creative subconscious into being able to continue creating on a keyboard.”



These notebooks, along with a vast collection of personal and professional papers, manuscripts, diaries, and memorabilia spanning more than 50 years, were donated by the author to the University in 2012. The Gregory Maguire Papers are housed in the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives and are available for research by appointment.

Wicked.

17 Feb 1992

1. The Birth of a Witch

The child who would be known as the Wicked Witch of the West was born inside a travelling clock. We have only folk memory to rely on for the notions on weather: broad the night of torches and fog had given way, to broad bluffs of thundercloud, ^{at dawn} iterations of dyspeptic lightning dancing broken skeletons of lightning, and canvas of lightning when it was it.

2. A Brief History of Oz

24 Feb 1992

Oz, ~~the~~ ^{one} poet has it, "land of green abandon / land in endless leaf." Its position as an oasis bounded on all sides by desert, an island as it were of temperate weather, has ^{tempered} ~~been~~ this poet to a pronounced lapse of integrity. "Endless leaf" no more characterizes Oz than "endless sand" denotes the desert - The trackless wastes, on closer examination, are not devoid of beasts, tribes, relics of ancient corroded cultures. ^{For are they even trackless, or endless?} The lore about the desert being poison is, like much lore, a symptom of cultural imperialism. Likewise, The schoolchild's picture of Oz (which seems to serve most adults without amendment) is of rolling meadows; distant blunted hills; spirit-throbbled forests; quaint villages of blameless not to say insipid "original" country folk; fecund farms; and at the heart, the so called Emerald City.

The schoolchild's travel brochure image of Oz, concocted in part by lore, in part by gargantuan ignorance born of Ozian ^{immunity} legendary aversion to ~~travel~~ wanderlust. It is only as closely related to reality as an advertisement of say an agent is to

A Message from Lee Serravillo

Executive Director, UAlbany Alumni Association



Adjusting Our Approach to Advance UAlbany

As the Spring 2020 issue of *UAlbany* magazine rolled through the printers mid-March, the University grappled with constantly developing news related to COVID-19 and how we, as a community, would adapt moving forward. It hasn't been easy, but we're here – thanks to the energy, passion, and perseverance of the UAlbany alumni family. With your support, the Alumni Association will continue to move forward with creative and easy ways for you to stay engaged, as well as intentional programming that makes all Great Danes feel welcome.

In June, the Alumni Association Board of Directors issued a statement regarding racial injustice and our commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB). We are taking steps to ensure that we are conscious of our implicit biases and are putting in place the tools to continue the good work that we do. We also are opening our collective ears to hear from our Black and other communities of color, as well as other underrepresented groups, about their needs, goals and suggestions on how we move forward. We provided financial support to DEIB Funds and are implementing training of our board and staff; creating the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee; and considering a staff position dedicated to these efforts. These are only preliminary steps, and we are continuously striving to increase the diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging of all groups affiliated with the UAlbany community.

In response to the pandemic, the Alumni Association launched a new virtual programming initiative: *Great Danes Connect*. From March-May, more than 40 alumni volunteered as hosts for Zoom discussions and virtual gatherings on Facebook and Instagram Live. To our alumni volunteers, most of whom participated in live social-media video for the first time ever, thank you. By sharing your personal stories and professional expertise, you helped engage thousands of people inside and outside the UAlbany family during one of the most challenging times in history.

We look forward to continuing our Great Danes Connect virtual programming as the year continues. With diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging at the forefront, we will continue to focus on our top initiatives: enlisting alumni to become admissions ambassadors who will help to recruit the next generation of Great Danes, encouraging donations to help support our students' unmet financial needs through coordinated efforts with the UAlbany Fund, and providing career consultations through UCAN (UAlbany Career Advisory Network) – using virtual platforms that make it easy for alumni to make a difference.

STAY CONNECTED

Don't miss alumni news or event invitations – visit alumni.albany.edu/update.



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1949

Jean Pulver Hague will join **Joe Zanchelli** as co-councilor for the Class of 1949. Jean was the editor of *State College News* and a member of the Myskania Honor Society.

Sadly, two of our most loyal classmates passed away within five days of each other. **Betsy Franks Schuhle** passed away May 7, and **Jake Schuhle** passed on May 12. They were married for 71 years. Jake and Betsy always added a sparkle to our class reunions. They will be sorely missed.

Bob Kaiser and Mary Ann celebrated the birth of their fourth great-grandchild in April.

Ursula Neuhaus Schiff of Sarasota, Fla., spent a few days in the hospital recovering from a TIA. She was then quarantined for two weeks in her assisted-living facility. Ursula has two sons and five grandchildren.

Jack Kirby is still playing the trumpet. Go, Jack!

For several years, **Beverly Coplon Engle** lived in a large house in the woods of Lake George and had no neighbors – great training for the shelter-in-place life she leads today.

Gloria Maistelman Herkowitz attended her grandson's wedding in Battery Park in February. She watched another grandson's wedding on Long Island and observed her great-nephew's graduation from Yale in May, both virtually.

Jerry Dunn and Shirley Wiltse '50 were married 70 years ago. They have four children, eight grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. Jerry and Shirley are in reasonably good health, though they have lapses in memory. Jerry learned to play bridge while living in Sayles Hall Annex. He still plays daily with three fellow residents.

Helen Cook Rumsey is happily living in a senior residence in Bloomington, Minn. Because of the pandemic, she is concerned about two of her grandsons in New York City. Her son died from stroke complications last October at the age of 64.

Joe Zanchelli and Joyce Leavitt Zanchelli '52 celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary in June. They have three children, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Joe underwent a transcatheter aortic valve replacement procedure in May and is now the proud possessor of a cow valve.

Class Co-councilors: Joe Zanchelli, jjzanch@yahoo.com; Jean Pulver Hague, jeanhague@aol.com

1952

Jane Jennings is out of rehab. She has one great-great-grandchild and two more on the way.

Mary Ann Lanni participates in a book group on Zoom. She also is an active gardener.

Tom Holman has stayed healthy through the pandemic. His friends in St. Maarten are not doing well financially due to the tourism industry.

Vicki Eade Eddy welcomed her newest grandson in May. She now has 12 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Her grandsons Jeff and Andrew are avid mountain climbers. Andrew completed the Appalachian Trail, and Jeff climbed Mt. Rainier.

Marilyn VanDyke enjoys living at The Landing in Queensbury, N.Y. Her two daughters live nearby. Marilyn has four grandchildren.

Jeanne Seymour Earle is coping well despite breaking her hip last October. She manages her large property with aplomb and good cheer. Jeanne stays in touch with **Joan Bennett Kelly**, who is adjusting to life in an assisted-living complex.

Joyce Leavitt Zanchelli reports that husband Joe underwent a successful aortic valve replacement through a much simpler procedure than the old way.

Class councilor: Joyce Leavitt Zanchelli, jjzanch@yahoo.com

1953

A note from your class councilor:

Hello, Red Devils of 1953! Here we are, in the year of the great pandemic! Our lives have been consumed by COVID-19. We've learned about social distancing, self-quarantine, hydroxychloroquine, wiping everything down with disinfectants, and lots more.

Doug Nielsen's granddaughter Kara gave birth to Daniel Matthew Friebe in May. Doug and Gail now have four great-grandchildren but are unable to visit since they live in a senior residence. They rely on email, pictures, and phone calls to stay connected. Doug and all fellow residents and staff tested negative for the virus. Doug wishes good health for all of his classmates and their families.

Howie Fenenbock is sheltering in place and "slowly becoming more decrepit."

Linda Hopkins McGrath and **Rosie Keller Hughes** had a long phone conversation about the lonely effects of quarantine, among other things. Linda loved golfing in retirement, but the quarantine ended that activity. Linda and Rosie were first-year roommates. They lived with eight other frosh girls in the Sayles Hall locker room during the first semester; in the second semester, they shared a regular room.

Betty "Coy" Coykendall-Hart didn't go on her pre-planned trip to Scotland in June. She hopes to be back working in the math lab at Webster Schroeder High School in the fall.

Joe Lombardi misses hugging his family and friends. "I can handle just about everything else, but human touch is missed the most."

Martha Nevlezer Zonneville is doing well and looks forward to the easing of restrictions as things reopen.

Joan DeVinny Bitely is still active. She enjoys playing tennis, reading, and "eating things I shouldn't."

Yvonne Kloosterman Farmer lives alone in the woods and has little contact with people in large groups. Very few cases of COVID-19 were reported in her area, so Yvonne celebrated by getting a haircut during Phase 3 reopening in June.

Peg Hebert Wernette shared that friend and classmate **Barbara Grim Dann** died just before Christmas last year in Plattsburgh, N.Y. "In addition to our four years together at SUNY, our first jobs were in Saranac, where we taught together for three years." Peg has eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. She and her husband had to cancel their annual summer-long visit to England. Peg's granddaughter completed her first year at the University of Michigan online after moving off campus in March due to the pandemic.

Rosie Keller Hughes welcomed great-grandson Theodore Robert on Dec. 12, 2019. He was named after his great-grandfather Bob Hughes. Rosie was able to hold him once before the pandemic, and saw him on Zoom through spring and summer. Rosie's three grandsons were greatly impacted by the change to online education. She wanted to do something for others during the pandemic and turned to comedy to help her loved ones relieve stress. Rosie shared daily videos of herself reading jokes she found online and received from friends. She misses human contact, especially hugs, with family and friends, and has experienced the loneliness felt during quarantine. Rosie has taken care of herself by utilizing telemedicine, online grocery ordering, and curbside pickup, and practicing social distancing while exercising with two friends. "I am not listing things for your sympathy... all I can suggest to you is if the virus is not vanquished by the time this issue of *UAlbany* magazine reaches your mailbox,

keep busy, stay strong, stay safe, stay well, be ready to laugh and reach out to others. Remember to wear your mask, wash your hands often, and practice social distance. Stay strong, Red Devils! We've lived through several wars – we can face COVID-19!"

Al Brown remembers Dr. Josiah T. Phinney, who chaired the social-studies department at NYSCT. "As a sophomore transfer student, I enrolled in the business curriculum. In my junior and senior years, electives from outside the business department could be taken. I chose statistics courses taught by Nora Turner and Dr. Ralph Beaver, and *Theory and Principles of the Stock Market*, led by Dr. Josiah Phinney. I was convinced this might be a way to earn money – if not a yearly income, then at least some extra pay in addition to my teaching salary. During our first class meeting, Dr. Phinney stated he had not done that well in his own personal stock investing – perhaps as a warning to us wide-eyed



Authors & Editors

Sally Valentine Steinmiller '71 recently published *Fire in Genesee Country*. This is the sixth novel in Steinmiller's Rochester Series for kids.

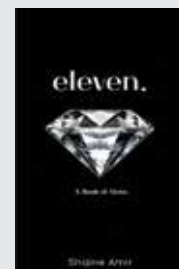
John Whitehead, PhD '83, is the co-author of *Teaching Justice*, which encourages teachers and students to examine the different relationships they share in learning about criminal and social justice. It was published by Carolina Academic Press.

John Friedman '85 is the author of *Managing Sustainability: First Steps to First Class*, published in April by Business Expert Press. More: amazon.com/author/johnfriedman.

Maria J. Veri '92 is the author of *Gridiron Gourmet: Gender and Food at the Football Tailgate*, published by University of Arkansas Press.



Casey T. Jakubowski, CAGS '12, CAGS'13, PhD '20, is the author of *Thinking about Teaching: A Rural Social Studies Teacher's Path to Strive for Excellence*, released in February by Edumatch Publishing.



Shaïne Holloway '18, MS '20, is the author of *Eleven: A Book of Gems*. Read more of his work at wordsbyamir.com.



MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 1954, WHO CELEBRATED THEIR 65TH REUNION LAST OCTOBER, MADE A DONATION TO THE UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM.

students who might have fanciful thoughts. In the beginning, with my small investment purchases, many foolish choices were made, but I realized what worked for me. I retired at age 55, assisted my children and grandchildren, donated to various charities via stock contributions/capital gains, and wrote two books, published by Amazon, that do not involve stocks. Thank you, Dr. Phinney, for not only shaping my future, but also for being an outstanding teacher." Al contributed to the alumni fund in Phinney's memory.

Class notes counselor:
Rose Mary Keller Hughes,
rhughes5@rochester.rr.com

1954

Jim Thompson and Carol Bromley '50 attended the Class of 1954 65th Reunion Luncheon. They sat at a table with **Bill Floyd**, whom Jim has kept in touch with since. The virus brought Jim and Bill's monthly lunches to a halt. Jim and Carol participated in a drive-by birthday parade for their longtime friend, Phoebe Lewinski, who turned 100 in May.

When the pandemic shut down NYC, **Joan Hartman** missed reading to children at her local library and attending New York Philharmonic concerts. She left her home only for food and doctor appointments. She hopes her classmates are in good health.

John and Rosemary Bratt Zongrone, married for 64 years, have lived in their Voorheesville, N.Y., home for 53 years. John's insurance agency has been in business for 60 years in Schenectady, N.Y. The family-owned business is currently being managed by John's children, Gale and John Anthony. The Zongrone family has expanded to 35 people living in nine different states. The annual family gathering, held in the summer since 1991, was canceled this year. The Zongrones rely on technology to stay connected.

Class notes counselor: Joan Paul,
fpaul1@nycap.rr.com

1955

Bob Inglis and **Dean Gilchrist**

Inglis were honored for over 50 years of volunteer work with the Jansen Community Library, Hillsdale, N.Y. Bob and Dean have had a special regard for childhood literacy and recently established an endowment to ensure the vigor of the library's children's programs.

Class counselor: John Orser,
xiety3jo@hotmail.com



1959

Dr. H. James Owen and wife Leah of Roxboro, N.C., are enjoying life with family nearby. A former SUNY "Statesmen" member, James's nearly 50-year career in higher education culminated with 22 years at Piedmont Community College in Roxboro, where he is now president emeritus.

Bob Kampf recently lost longtime golfing partner Dennis Dempster '57, who passed in May following a long illness.

Ginny Buddenhagen

Guglielmone's granddaughter Francesca graduated from Macalester College with a degree in archeology. She will attend the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, in the fall.

Ron Short's daughter Katie married her high-school sweetheart, who is now a pastor of a large church in the Midlothian/Richmond area of Virginia. Amid the pandemic, many people watched his Sunday morning services online. Ron has enjoyed being able to hear him preach and is excited to visit family in person.

Raymie Sepe Neilson is still very active in music and plays at several upscale bistros. Classmates may remember when she had the lead role in *The Boyfriend* junior year.

Class co-counselors: Bob Kampf,
redhookbob@outlook.com; Ron
Short, skilab3@tampabay.rr.com

1962

Dan Shultz has been staying home and communicating with family on Zoom. He's the author of *Tarnished Hero and The Political Lives of James McGuire*. Classmates can find more information on Dan's books by searching Google.

Linda Levinson Kessler, Sue Byron Wallace, Doris Edelstein Hirschorn, and Rochelle Gruber Karp wintered in Boynton Beach, Fla.

Alice Orr moved safely in the middle of the pandemic to Queens. She still writes and has authored more than 80 romance novels.

Robert Sweeney is currently an adjunct professor of environmental science at Daytona State College. He has spent a lifetime in research and teaching, and he volunteers on science-related projects.

Lillian Skadberg Upcraft and Lee Upcraft '60 transitioned to independent living. Lil says she still has to do a lot of cooking.

Sheril McCormack adopted a Siamese/Snowshoe with special needs.

1964

UAlbany graduate student Shirley Machado is our first Class of '64 scholarship winner. A first-

generation college student, she is completing a master's degree in special education and literacy. Shirley has been actively engaged in numerous campus activities, which include serving as president of UAlbany's chapter of the Council for Exceptional Children.

Vita Marino Reddy and husband Tom embarked on a four-month cruise from Los Angeles to London, but it was cut short due to the pandemic. They visited French Polynesia, New Zealand, Australia, New Caledonia, Indonesia, and Bali, and saw such wildlife as Tasmanian devils, blue penguins, kangaroos, koalas, and Komodo dragons before safely returning home.

Sadly, **Corky Petrick**, a devoted member of the reunion-planning committees for our 50th and 55th reunions, passed away Jan. 18, 2020, due to complications from Type 1 diabetes. Corky was very organized, conscientious, and thoughtful in planning the details for our reunions. Her experience as editor of the *1964 Torch* yearbook and her 30 years of teaching French were helpful to our committee, as she edited and organized our communications. Corky will be missed.

We also are sad to report the death of **Edward S. Grosek**, March 4, 2020.

GREATNESS IN EDUCATION

Six UAlbany alumni received 2020 Success Academy Excellence in Education Awards for their work in closing opportunity gaps for New York City kids. Success Academy is the largest and highest-performing charter school network in NYC and serves 18,000 mostly low-income children of color.



Imani Whitfield '14
School Psychologist
at SA East Flatbush
Middle School



Danielle Rias '14
Assessment Specialist
at SA Bronx 2
Middle School



Daneen Austin '15
Second Grade
Integrated Co-Teacher
at SA Bergen Beach



Sariba Levin '15
SPRINT Associate
at SA Lafayette
Middle School



Kyle Chittum '16
Science teacher at
SA Harlem 5



Devin Caravello '15
School Psychologist
at SA Cobble Hill

We hope that all of you stay safe and healthy during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please keep us informed of your activities and changes in your contact information.

"Happiness is relative... to the time... the situation... the individual." - from the 1964 Torch

Class co-councilors: Bill Robelee, wvrobelee31@gmail.com; Columba DeFrancesco Heinzelman, heinzel779@aol.com

1965

Susan Packard Sidney of Texas was interested to read about Ruth Cassel Hoffman's project "Who Is My Neighbor? Learning Spanish as Church Hospitality" in the last issue of "Alumni News and Notes." Susan's United Methodist Women reading group completed the program in Summer 2019. "It was wonderful for those of us feeling too old to learn a new language."

Dr. Marlene Caroselli submitted class notes shortly before she passed away in June. Marlene wrote extensively about education and business. After teaching English in the Rochester City School District, she heard Sirens singing in Los Angeles and moved there, where she began teaching at UCLA and National University. That work led to requests to teach in Fortune 100 firms and federal/state agencies, as well as opportunities to teach in Singapore, Brazil, and several other places where Sirens were also singing. When she started her own small business, her first contract was with the Department of Defense. Twenty-five years later, reflecting the tendency of things to come full circle, her last, pre-retirement assignment was teaching Navy SEALs. Her first book, *The Language of Leadership*, was named a main selection by the Executive Book Club. *Principled Persuasion*, a more recent title, was designated a Director's Choice by the Doubleday

Book Club. Her 62nd book, *Driving Mr. Einstein: 365+ Einstein-Inspired Brain Boosts*, will be released by HRD Press this year. Marlene also published articles advising parents who are new to homeschooling children.

Class Councilor: Judy Madnick, jmadnick@gmail.com

1967

A note from your class councilor:

Greetings, Beloved Green Gremlins. I am counting down the days to celebrate with you at our 55th Reunion. In the meantime, your '67 classmates and I would love to hear your news or any news you hear about our classmates.

With a very heavy heart, I must share the sad news that our dearly beloved classmate **John F. Kienzie** passed on suddenly from a heart attack at Albany Medical Center, April 18, 2020. He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Patricia, of Nassau, N.Y. John was so incredible, so full of life, vision, generosity, and laughter, and so very much more. His untimely passing leaves an empty spot in the hearts and spirits of those of us who loved and admired him over the years and were powerfully blessed by his goodness. In so many ways, John personified "State" and our '67 Class. With enormous gratitude, we can look back on his incredible presence at our glorious 50th Reunion in 2017. John was a deeply passionate and energetic teacher, widely known and adored for his use of period costumes, music and love of History. He taught global studies and history at Maple Hill High School in Castleton, N.Y., for 36 years and was adjunct professor at several colleges. John was selected as Schodack Teacher of the Year in 1996-97 and was awarded the Capital District Council for Social Studies Neidenberger Award in

Are you a current student who:

- has questions about your major/career path?
- wonders what it's like to work for a specific company?
- needs advice on working and living in a specific city?

Are you an alum who:

- recently graduated and would like to build your network?
- wants to change career paths or industries?
- enjoys providing career advice to others?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, UCAN is for you.

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1999. After retirement, he continued to inspire all through his music and magic on his "Music Wizard Presents" shows on Youtube.

Dr. Lonnie Morrison retired from Syracuse University after serving 35 years as director of Metropolitan Admissions and 24 years as an adjunct instructor. He established LM & Educational Associates, LLC.

Class Councilor: Canon Kay Carol Hotaling, FHC, aspenpaepke@msn.com

1979

Elizabeth Chapline was named chief of Social Work Service at the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center, Indianapolis. As an undergrad,



Liz was a resident assistant on Colonial Quad and a member of Chi Sigma Theta Sorority.

1986

Janice Maurizio serves as vice president of Behavioral Health Programs at BlueCare Tennessee, the Medicaid-managed care division of BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee.



1988

Paul Linzer, partner in the labor relations group at Certilman Balin in Brooklyn, was named to "Who's Who in Labor Law" by Long Island Business News.



2004

Curtis Johnson was elected partner of Bond, Schoeneck & King at the firm's Rochester, N.Y., office.

2005

Lee Peretz was promoted to director of Marketing and Business Development at Farrell Fritz. He previously served as business development manager. Lee currently is on the Long Island Advisory Board for Junior Achievement of New York.



2009

Kendra Rubin, Esq., joined SEFCU's executive team as chief legal officer.



2010

Lazar Feygin and Jillian Richards were married on May 24, 2020.



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JONATHAN JONES '05,
MS '07 AND WIFE
JORDINE WELCOMED
SON JAXEN LEWIS,
FEB. 15, 2020.



MEGHAN NYMAN
POPCUN '13, MPA
'14 AND JOSEPH
POPCUN MPA '14
WELCOMED SON
WALTER
EDWARD,
DEC. 24, 2019.



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ALUMNI NEWS AND NOTES

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1930s

Estelle Sommers Dwore '38, April 7, 2020
Ramona Vanwie Weissbard '38, Jan. 11, 2017

1940s

Janet Busacker Mathews '41, Feb. 22, 2020
Helen M. Jennings Eidens '47, Nov. 12, 2019
Shirley Gross Levine '47, March 17, 2020
Beverly Broderick Strube '47, April 26, 2020
Alice Williams Fox '48, March 13, 2020
Arlene Lavender Kaplan '48, Jan. 1, 2015
John A. Moore '49, Jan. 18, 2016
Anne S. Sulich Raser '49, Nov. 8, 2019
Jacob H. Schuhle '49, May 12, 2020
Margaret Franks Schuhle '49, May 7, 2020

1950s

Anthony L. Davey, Jr. '50, Feb. 8, 2020
Ruth Matteson Holliday '50, Jan. 31, 2020
Alice M. Phillips McAndrew '50, Nov. 19, 2011
Helen L. Robinson '51, March 12, 2020
Robert J. Umholtz '51, Feb. 10, 2020
Lois Cruden Yunker '51, April 1, 2020
Barbara A. Grim Dann '53, Nov. 27, 2019
Sally S. Swanson Devine '53, July 31, 2019
Robert F. Dean '54, March 11, 2020
Dolores A. Donnelly '54, April 6, 2020
Sally Gerig MacLachlan '54, Feb. 1, 2020
William Walker '54, Feb. 17, 2020
Barbara Devitt Mahoney '55, April 29, 2020
Lucie J. Johns Maier '55, April 4, 2020
Sara Hoyt Smith '55, Feb. 28, 2020
Barbara A. Moore Bacon '56, May 16, 2020
Joyce Tannatta Keating '56, May 16, 2020
John R. Ertle '57, April 24, 2020
Robert A. Pfeiffer '57, Feb. 3, 2020
Burnetta K. Bromfield Bard '58, April 24, 2020

1960s

Jack B. Burton '60, Jan. 4, 2019
Linda Cross Koblenzer '60, Feb. 25, 2020
Joan D. Hagon Lafalce '60, April 6, 2020
James E. Brower, Ph.D. '61, March 1, 2020
Janice Dumond Morris '61, April 06, 2020
Angela Theodore '61, May 9, 2020
Edward Tomcho '61, Aug. 2, 2016
Roger C. Casey '62, March 10, 2020
Robert B. Harris '62, May 6, 2020
Mary Jane Yanko Crotty '63, Aug. 30, 2017
Richard L. Egelston '63, Jan. 31, 2020
Eugene A. Stanczyk '63, May 21, 2020
Joel F. Drapalski '64, May 2, 2020
Edward S. Grosek '64, March 4, 2020

June E. Fairchild Hendrickson '64, March 23, 2020
Robin Rexford Burton '66, March 7, 2020
Diane C. Glock '67, April 23, 2020
John F. Kienzie '67, April 18, 2020
Joseph C. Lareau '68, May 18, 2020
Virginia Brownell Levine '69, March 29, 2020
Barbara J. Pallozzi '69, March 25, 2020
Joseph R. Pascale '69, Feb. 1, 2017

1970s

Germaine R. Caroselli '70, Feb. 22, 2020
Paul B. Curry '70, Aug. 15, 2018
Hedwig A. Da Costa, S.J. '71, July 31, 2019
Donald L. Hanson '71, May 19, 2017
Ronald R. Rice '71, Feb. 24, 2020
Julia M. Huemmer Comins '72, Nov. 12, 2019
C Jane Kirstel '72, April 13, 2020
David P. Rinaldi '72, Aug. 8, 2018
Ron I. Simmons, Ph.D. '72, May 28, 2020
Linda Feingold Stackman '72, March 30, 2020
William D. White '72, April 20, 2020
Marguerite I. Botton '73, April 10, 2020
Colleen A. Cosgrove, Ph.D. '73, June 5, 2017
Gerard M. Graniero '73, May 1, 2020
Joseph Jozefowicz '73, Feb. 9, 2020
Christopher T. Phelps, Ph.D. '73, Feb. 18, 2016
Kenneth C. Rudolf '73, Dec. 5, 2018
John H. Wilson '73, Feb. 5, 2019
Theresa A. Hoover Levin '74, Feb. 7, 2019
George E. Muller '74, April 17, 2020
Kurt E. Jasielonis '75, June 20, 2017
Lottie M. McCoy '75, Dec. 2, 2014
Edward P. Reich '75, March 6, 2020
Elizabeth Sturtevant '75, March 29, 2018
Agnes C. Livingston '76, March 28, 2020
Ellen A. Noonan '76, April 21, 2020
Michael Elmer '77, Feb. 23, 2020
Sarah L. Horan '77, May 2, 2020
Eileen M. Kilday '77, Jan. 29, 2020
John M. Murray '78, Dec. 27, 2019
Michael J. Kenny '79, March 26, 2020

1980s

Mark A. Brisendine '81, Sept. 13, 2013
F. K. Moody, Ph.D. '81, April 11, 2020
Joanne J. Jess Perry '81, May 8, 2020
Margaret W. Slocum '81, Feb. 9, 2020
Brian D. Murphy '82, Oct. 28, 2018
David L. Schienberg '82, April 20, 2020
Gregory VanDerzee '83, Feb. 29, 2020
John E. Traver '84, April 27, 2020
Nicholas W. Manfredi '85, Jan. 27, 2020
Esther Klein Seelig '85, April 4, 2020
Howard I. Cohn, Ph.D. '87, Feb. 17, 2020

Allan J. Janssen '87, April 3, 2020
Lawrence F. Kath '87, March 31, 2020
Gayle L. Grenis Farman '88, March 25, 2020
Lenny R. Wulkan '88, Jan. 28, 2020
Susan J. Banks '89, April 13, 2020

1990s

Orin D. Griffin '90, May 3, 2020
Rocco G. Verrigni '90, Feb. 17, 2020
Suzanne M. Tripp Pratt '91, March 12, 2020
James O'Connor '93, Aug. 20, 2019
George I. McIntosh '95, May 31, 2019
Linda M. Sullivan '95, April 4, 2020
David Ziskind '96, Oct. 30, 2018
Maureen Duncan '97, Jan. 24, 2020
Steven A. Bunkowski '98, Jan. 16, 2020

2000s

Ann C. Mataraso '02, June 10, 2020
John J. Hynes '03, Jan. 30, 2020
David J. Moon '06, March 16, 2020
Geoffrey V. Waltz '07, March 22, 2020
William J. Andrew '08, Feb. 6, 2020
Larissa M. Suparmanto Suparmanto '09, Jan. 20, 2020

2010s

Paul J. Noroski, Ph.D. '11, Feb. 7, 2020
Schuyler E. O'Brien '14, Aug. 29, 2019

Deceased Faculty/Staff

David H. Bayley, Ph.D., May 10, 2020, School of Criminal Justice, Distinguished Professor, 25 years

Timothy E. Bruton, May 14, 2020, HVAC, Maintenance Assistant, 23 years

Laurie Curry, May 27, 2020, Information Technology Services, Supervising Programmer Analyst, 16 years

Richard D. Ellis, Ed.D. April 27, 2020, Athletics and Recreation, 20 years

Masa Harry, April 25, 2020, Custodial Services, Cleaner, 6 years

Bruce Robinson, Feb. 3, 2020, Custodial Services, Janitor, 15 years

Charles P. Rogle, Ph.D., May 17, 2020, Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Lecturer, 27 years

Mary Ann Woodell, March 17, 2020, Registrar, Secretary I, 18 years

Gary A. Wright, Ph.D., April 20, 2020, Anthropology, Professor, 31 years

Sculptor **Theresa (Terri) Cosma Boor**, a longtime supporter of the University at Albany, passed away March 17 at the age of 101. The Utica, N.Y., native began studying at UAlbany after the passing of her husband, Edward Milan Boor, in 1978. She cultivated friendships with numerous faculty, including Professor of Art Edward Mayer, whom she regarded as her mentor; staff; and fellow students. In addition to supporting fellowships, scholarships, and other student and academic initiatives, she made a gift for construction of the Boor Sculpture Studio, located on the Uptown Campus and named in her honor. In October 2019, the American Italian Heritage Museum and Cultural Center in Albany recognized Boor for her lifetime of contributions to the arts.



Distinguished Professor Emeritus and former Dean of Criminal Justice **David H. Bayley**, 87, died May 10 in Ohio. A graduate of Denison University, he earned his PhD in political science at Princeton. Bayley taught first at the University of Denver, then joined the University at Albany School of Criminal

Justice (SCJ) faculty in 1985. Widely known for his academic work and his mentorship, Bayley, a leading authority on policing, advocated creating policing policies that built community ties and minimized coercion. In addition to contributing to new policing practices in the aftermath of political conflict in Bosnia and Northern Ireland, he wrote 18 books, including *Governing the Police: Experience in Six Democracies* (Transaction Press, 2016) and numerous journal articles. His decades of contributions to the criminal-justice field brought him such recognition as the Order of the Rising Sun, Golden Ray, from the government of Japan. He was also a Fulbright Scholar at Oxford University. Bayley, who served as dean of SCJ from 1995 to 2004, retired in 2010. Survivors include his wife, Anita (“Chris”); daughters Jennifer and Tracy; and a granddaughter.

Noted AIDS and HIV advocate, activist, and educator **Isaiah Ronald (Ron) Simmons ’72, MA ’78, MS ’79, PhD**, died of prostate cancer in Washington, D.C., May 28. He was 70. Diagnosed with AIDS 30 years ago, Simmons dedicated his life and work to helping HIV+ gay black men, and those with AIDS, to remain healthy by embracing a holistic regimen, as he himself had through Us Helping Us, People Into Living, Inc. (UHU). He later served the non-profit organization as a volunteer and went on to become president and CEO, a post he held until 2016. An accomplished photographer, Simmons was also a prolific writer whose work appeared in such publications as *Brother to Brother* and *Port of Harlem Magazine*. The many honors accorded him during his lifetime included the University at Albany’s Harvey Milk Alumni Award, which he received in 2010.



Todd Franson-Metro Weekly

Ann Mataraso, MFA ’02, passed away June 10. The Troy, N.Y., native earned a bachelor’s degree in history and a master’s in elementary education from The College of Saint Rose. While raising five children with husband Matt, Mataraso began working in the textile arts. In the 1990s, while recovering from breast cancer, she took painting classes from several local teachers; subsequently, she enrolled in the University’s BA art program, not intending to earn a degree. Three years later, Mataraso recalled in an interview for *UAlbany* magazine (Fall 2009, “An Unexpected Joy”), her painting teacher, Mark Greenwold, invited her to apply for admission to the MFA program. She did so, focusing on abstract art and earning her degree in 2002, at age 70. Grateful to UAlbany for “teaching me how to express myself in art” and making her life “so wonderful and different,” she established *The Ann C. Mataraso Endowment Fund* to support the University Art Museum’s annual MFA thesis exhibition. In addition to her husband of 65 years and their children, five grandchildren and her brother survive Mataraso.



Gary Gold ’70



Capital Region businessman, entrepreneur, and philanthropist **Walter Robb**, 91, died of coronavirus March 23. A chemical engineer, Robb began his career in the early 1950s with General Electric and Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory. He transferred to Milwaukee, where, as GE Medical Systems general manager, and later senior vice president and group executive, he oversaw the company’s transformation into the world’s leading producer of medical diagnostic-imaging equipment. Robb returned to the Capital Region in 1986 and became the first engineer to serve as director of GE’s Research and Development Center. He was also involved with such community organizations as the Double H Ranch and Proctors Theater. In retirement, Robb served as president of Vantage Management, Inc., and CEO of MeOH Power. He also owned the Albany River Rats and the Albany Conquest sports teams. Robb, who held 12 patents, received the National Medal of Technology in 1993 and was named The University at Albany Foundation’s Community Laureate in 2016. His wife, Anne; three sons; and five granddaughters survive.

By J. Frank Wiley

A friend asked me if I was hopeful that the current Black Lives Matter protests for fundamental fairness (in opposition to institutional racism symbolized by police oppression in the deaths of Black people) would be successful in catalyzing the establishment of a fair and just society. My response was, “Damn right ... if.”

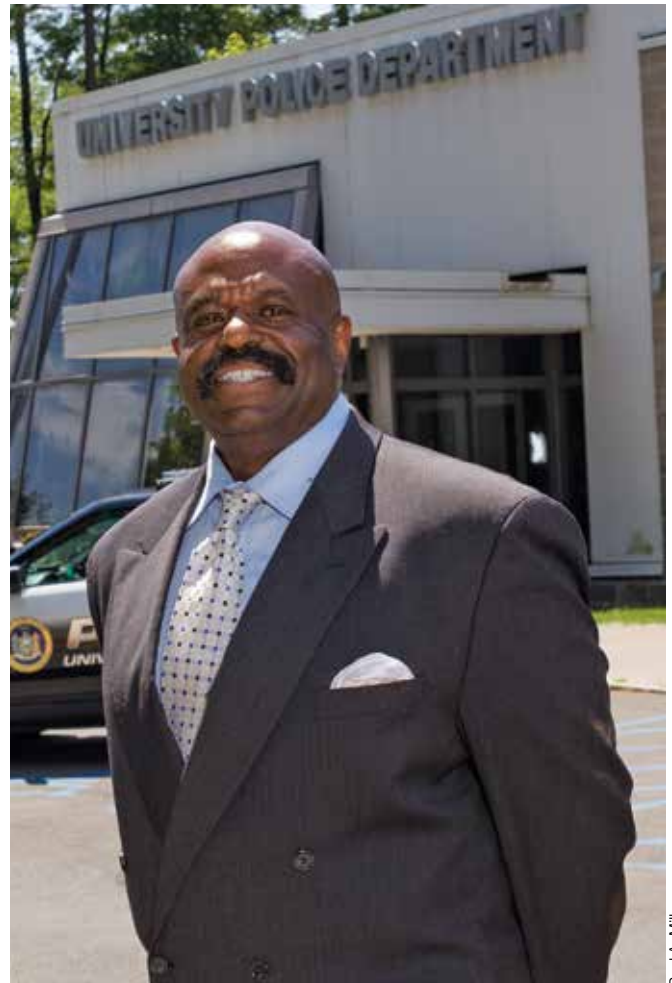
First, the cause is just ... period! Fundamental equality is antithetical to stated (possible ostensible) democratic values. The reality of inequality and fundamental race-based unfairness is both historical and current in all social institutions and is in too many of the citizenry.

Martin Luther King Jr. once said that the greatness of America is the “right to protest for right.” The Black Lives Matter movement is doing that magnificently as the “marvelous new militancy.” I am inspired by the persistence and effectiveness of the protests – and the protestors. The protests should be effectuated in the streets, legislatures, boardrooms, and classrooms. This is happening. The protests are being superbly effective in challenging and changing culture. Clearly, this is a principle-driven movement, not a moment.

Frederick Douglass said: “There is no Negro problem. The problem is whether the American people have the loyalty enough, honor enough, and patriotism enough to live up to their own constitution.” It appears that much of contemporary culture is accepting Douglass’ challenge and is committed to transformative change.

The protests are angry, uncompromising, and tenacious – as they should be. There is a “fierce urgency of now.” There is no value whatsoever to put off until tomorrow what should have been done yesterday. Protests for equality have always been diverse (Civil War, civil-rights era). Though not new, the intensity of commitment by white protesters is right, moral, appreciated, and admired.

Perhaps people have come to understand, as George Bernard Shaw said, that “some men see things as they are and ask why. I dream things that never were and ask why not.”



Paul A. Miller

Because I have been around a long time, optimism is always tempered by circumspection. Be mindful of backlash! Historically, reactionary elements have mobilized to mount active opposition to civil-rights protests. My hope is that changing culture and changing demographics – race, ethnicity, age – will blunt reactionary opposition. If it is not blunted by culture and demographic change, resolve and determination will be needed.

And finally, I hope that the activists don’t make the mistake of my generation: declaring “Mission accomplished” prematurely.

University Police Department Chief J. Frank Wiley recently retired after 24 years. He came to UAlbany from the University of Maryland, where he directed the University Police; previously, Wiley was an officer with the Baltimore City Police Department. We congratulate him and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

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Born to Jamaican immigrants and raised in The Bronx, Caryl English grew up with “a community-minded outlook” that has informed her graduate studies and career plans. After completing her M.P.H. at UAlbany, English aspires to establish her own organization to “provide holistic care to everyone in The Bronx,” while bringing community members together to enjoy “after-school programs, book clubs, Zumba, painting, and more.”

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