Here’s to research!

Beer provides student researchers with a case study in molecular science.
If there is one thing that truly defines the Pioneer spirit, it is our transformative capacity to rise to a challenge. We as a community have once again demonstrated that enduring strength.

This spring, with the support of one of the College’s most generous benefactors, we embarked on a vital effort to secure UC’s mission through incremental growth in annual giving. The initiative, dubbed the “All For One” Challenge, had a goal of achieving 2,500 donors to the Unrestricted Annual Fund in its inaugural year, which ended May 31. I am happy to report that we have met and exceeded that goal, resulting in a substantial additional gift to the Fund and a grand total that will certainly outstrip last year’s strong finish.

This represents a remarkable first-year success, particularly in light of the fact that it was realized as our nation is recovering from the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression.

Even more remarkable, though, is the degree to which alumni, students, families, faculty, staff, and supporters of the College were eager to pull together and make a difference for this institution. In difficult times, you truly rose to the challenge, and your commitment to this effort will redound to the benefit of deserving students who rely on scholarship support to continue their studies.

Our community’s response to the “All For One” Challenge came in a diversity of ways. It came through traditional and non-traditional means of communication, travelling person-to-person by various forms of social networking. But whether you learned of the Challenge in person, by phone, or on Facebook, you responded with the kind of enthusiasm and generosity that has characterized the UC tradition since our founding days.

Meeting this year’s Challenge goal is cause for celebration. Still, we need remind ourselves that this is but a single step in what remains a long journey from where we are as an institution to where we must be if we are going to meet the many challenges that lay ahead.

UC is, with this year’s result, within striking distance of achieving $1 million in unrestricted annual giving for the first time in its history.
Before You Enter

Join UC’s growing community on Facebook and connect with alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends of the College who have “liked” our page. Do it now – it only takes a minute. Then you can continue reading in peace.

www.facebook.com/uticacollege
The Duffs never let a good opportunity pass. When Ron’s future wife May dropped her glove in the UC library, he gallantly retrieved it for her. When a job came up at a “Big 8” accounting firm right after graduation, Ron ’61 took it. When offered a move to the company’s Los Angeles office, he and May ’60 gladly left the cold weather behind.

And when the Duffs needed sound investment vehicles for their retirement, they found one in a Charitable Gift Annuity at UC. It enables them to support student learning at UC and earn a competitive dividend on their money at the same time. They also saw it as a good opportunity to give something back to their alma mater. “If it hadn’t been for UC,” Ron says, “I would not have met May, would not have had our four children and six grandchildren, and would not have had the success I’ve enjoyed.”

That’s what the Duffs call a good return on investment.

Learn more about Charitable Gift Annuities and other Planned Giving Options at UC.

Call 1-800-456-8278 today.
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Visit us online.
www.utica.edu
Well, we’ve finally done it. As people my age are given to saying, “I never thought I’d see the day.” But I have, and as far as that goes, so have you. It’s just taken different ones of us different lengths of time to get here. But here we are. What have we accomplished?

Ever since I was a student going to class on Oneida Square, UC has been working to become independent of Syracuse University, and we’ve done it.

While I was reading a recent Pioneer, I got to thinking about things I remembered over the years, beginning with my undergrad days, and wondering how similar and how different the UC experience had been for students from then to now. Okay, time to ‘fess up to how long ago the then was – I entered in 1949, and graduated with the Class of 1953. Good grief, that was a long time ago. But I haven’t been completely cut off from college. I’ve spent most of my life teaching at various colleges and universities, and am retired from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA.

After I retired, I got to thinking that it might be fun to write a book about my experiences at Utica College. We have a book about the early days from the faculty point of view in Dr. Virgil Crisafulli’s work, Reflections, and a book about the early days from an institutional point of view in Professor Jack Behren’s Pioneering Generations. Why not something from the students’ viewpoint?

I’ve been thinking about this particular endeavor as a kind of preface to that book. I tried to think of something by way of preface that would touch the student experience over all these years. What did UC students have in common from mid-20th century to early 21st? Finally, a blinding flash of inspiration – quizzes. No matter how hard you try, one way or another, you can’t get through without quizzes…

Jean Halladay ’53
Norfolk, VA

Read more about Jean Halladay and take her UC quiz, beginning on page 27.

Correction
In the article “Jackson Lunch Hour Series Turns 30,” which appeared in the Fall 2009 issue of the Pioneer, Professor of Biology Lawrence Aaronson was incorrectly identified as having performed on the viol de gamba. The article should have identified Professor of Physics Lawrence Day as the performer.
Around Campus

Nursing lab named for Dr. Albert ’49 and Gloria ’82 Shaheen

Utica College dedicated the Dr. Albert and Gloria Shaheen Nursing Laboratory at a May 15 ceremony.

The Shaheens are major supporters of Utica College, having contributed more than $500,000 over their lifetime. They established the Dr. Albert H. and Gloria A. Shaheen Scholarship, and have made generous gifts to the Annual Fund, the Crisafulli Fund for the Advancement of Teaching, and the Utica College Biology Challenge. They have additionally given to various scholarship funds in memory of colleagues and friends in the community, and also contributed to the construction of Charles A. Gaetano Stadium.

Dr. Shaheen graduated from Utica College in 1949 as a member of the College’s first graduating class and became a prominent and highly respect member of Utica’s medical community. He served on the Utica College Foundation Board from 1990 to 1995, and received the National Alumni Council’s Alumni of Achievement Award in 1998 and the Utica College honorary degree Doctor of Humane Letters in 2006.

Gloria Shaheen graduated from the evening division of UC in 1982 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration, and also attended the American University of Beirut and Syracuse University. She and Albert are the parents of five children.

The facility, located on the second floor of F. Eugene Romano Hall, provides state-of-the-art teaching space for the College’s nursing programs, and has served as a model for universities across the country.

PBS correspondent Suarez delivers Commencement address

Award-winning broadcast journalist Ray Suarez addressed Utica College’s graduating class on May 16 during the College’s sixty-first Commencement ceremonies and was conferred an honorary Doctor of Letters degree.

Suarez is the host of National Public Radio’s America Abroad and a Washington-based senior correspondent for the PBS NewsHour. His in-depth professional work has taken him all over the globe. Prior to joining PBS in 1999, he spent six years hosting NPR’s Talk of the Nation. He also had a seven-year run as a reporter for WMAQ-TV in Chicago and has spent time as a Los Angeles correspondent for CNN, a producer for ABC Radio Network in New York, and a reporter for CBS Radio in Rome.

“He is perhaps one of the most thorough and trusted journalists working in broadcast news today,” David Chanatry, associate professor of journalism, says of Suarez. “It was a great opportunity for our students to learn from his nuanced and thoughtful insights into today’s most important and pressing issues.”

Suarez has received numerous awards as a journalist and an author. He was a co-recipient of NPR’s DuPont-Columbia Silver Baton Award for his on-site coverage of the first all-race elections in South Africa and his reporting on the first 100 days of the 104th Congress. He received the Ruben Salazar Award from the National Council of La Raza in 1996 and the Distinguished Policy Leadership Award from UCLA’s School of Public Policy in 2005. His latest book, The Holy Vote: The Politics of Faith in America, won the 2007 Latino Book Award for Best Religion Book.

Suarez earned a bachelor’s degree in African history from NYU, completed his master’s degree in social sciences at the University of Chicago, and has been awarded honorary doctorates from several institutions. He is a past recipient of the Benton Fellowship in Broadcast Journalism at the University of Chicago, and has been honored with a Distinguished Alumnus Award from NYU and a Professional Achievement Award from the University of Chicago.
John Cormican, professor of English, is the 2010 recipient of the Virgil Crisafulli Distinguished Teaching Award. The award was presented to him by Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Judith Kirkpatrick during Utica College’s May 16 Commencement ceremonies.

“This year’s recipient is practically an institution, both at Utica College and in the community,” Kirkpatrick said. “[He] was nominated for this award by an impressive array of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members... one nominator spoke for everyone when he described him as an ’entertaining, iconoclastic, and intensely fair-minded professor.’”

Cormican joined the UC faculty in 1974.

Named for the late Professor Emeritus of Economics Virgil Crisafulli and underwritten by the Crisafulli Fund for the Faculty, the award exemplifies the finest tradition of teaching. It is given annually to a full professor on the recommendation of faculty and students in recognition of demonstrated teaching excellence, dedication, and effectiveness.

Utica College dedicated the first of two pieces of outdoor sculpture that recognize the prominent place that distance running occupies in the local community.

Artist and Professor of Psychology Steven Specht unveiled "Runner with a Heart" to the UC community at an April 30 ceremony in front of Addison Miller White Hall.

Specht’s painted work, a gift from the Class of 2008, includes symbolic references to Utica’s annual Boilermaker 15K road race and America’s Greatest Heart Run and Walk as well as a number of Utica College traditions.

“Runner with a Heart” is one example of Art of the Run, a community pride project spearheaded by local runners, artists, and individuals inspired by Breakthrough Central New York. The initiative is modeled after the popular CowParade public art exhibit that originated in Sweden and has been replicated in Chicago and cities around the world.

A second runner, in a female form, is located on the UC campus near the Clark Athletic Center.

Utica College conferred the honorary degree Doctor of Laws on Martin Biegelman on May 16 at its Commencement ceremonies.

Biegelman is the director of financial integrity at Microsoft Corp., and is the chair of UC’s Economic Crime Institute Board of Advisors.

He has more than 35 years in conducting fraud, corruption, and security investigations. Prior to his time at Microsoft, he was a federal law enforcement professional with the United States Postal Inspection Service. He was also director of litigation and investigative services in the fraud investigation practice at BDO Seidman, LLP, an international accounting and consulting firm. He serves on the board of directors for the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners Foundation.

He has also written several books, including Building a World-Class Compliance Program: Best Practices and Strategies for Success and Identity Theft Handbook: Detection, Prevention, and Security. He is co-author of Executive Roadmap to Fraud Prevention and Internal Control: Creating a Culture of Compliance and Foreign Corrupt Practices Compliance Guidebook: Protecting Your Organization from Bribery and Corruption.

Biegelman earned a bachelor’s degree from Cornell University and a master’s degree in public administration from Golden Gate University.

Biegelman receives honorary degree

UC professor unveils “Runner” work

School of Arts and Sciences

Cormican earns Crisafulli Distinguished Teaching Award
School of Health Professions and Education
UC students host health fair for refugees

Utica College’s chapter of Project SHINE (Students Helping in the Naturalization of Elders), the Student Gerontology Society, and students from the health studies program hosted a health fair for the city of Utica’s refugee community.

UC students worked with nearly 200 refugees, providing hands-on instruction and presentations on a range of health-related topics, including immunizations, physical fitness, first aid and basic emergency response skills. Participants were also provided information about how to access local health care services.

Utica is home to one of the largest refugee centers in the United States. More than 400 refugees resettled in the city last year, according to Peter Vogelaar, executive director of the Mohawk Valley Resource Center for Refugees.

“[The health fair] is so important to our area refugees, especially in the ways we involve them in helping to educate their children about health practices,” says Darlene Heian, assistant professor and director of gerontology.

The April 14 event was made possible with the support of MetLife.

School of Business and Justice Studies
ECJS Building honored for design excellence

Utica College’s Economic Crime and Justice Studies Building received the American Institute of Architecture, Buffalo/Western New York Chapter, Merit Award for design excellence.

The building, completed in 2008, was designed by the Grand Island, NY-based architectural firm Cannon Design.

UC launches new online M.S. in cybersecurity

The threat of cyberterrorism is real and rapidly expanding, warned FBI Director Robert S. Mueller at a conference recently.

Cyber-crime – including cyber-terrorism, cyber-espionage and online fraud – poses a grave threat to national security, economic health and even personal safety. Utica College has designed a new master’s degree that will address these critical national issues and arm professionals with the skills they need to prevent and counter the growing threat of cyber attacks.

The new degree, Cybersecurity – Intelligence and Forensics, is the first of its kind with an emphasis on intelligence and the global complexities of infrastructure operation and protection.

“Utica College designed this program in response to an appeal from cybersecurity professionals in the public and private sectors for the development of a graduate program in cybersecurity,” said Randall K. Nichols, associate professor of criminal justice and director of the new program. “The addition of the master’s program to our suite of economic crime, computer forensics, cybersecurity, and information assurance programs reflects the burgeoning needs in the field.”

The degree will be offered online beginning this fall. The program offers two specializations: cybersecurity and computer forensics.
Soon-to-be UC graduate Will Lanfear’10 accepts a few kernels of wisdom from classmate Emily Koch ’10 at this year’s Commencement ceremony.
Haiti Comes Home.

“PICTURES DO NOT DO THE DEVASTATION JUSTICE.”

The first jolt came at just before 5:00 in the afternoon. It felt as if someone had kicked his mattress.

Mike Sanchez dropped what he was reading and cocked an ear. Having worked with munitions in the Army, he thought this might have been a shockwave and was anticipating the sound of an explosion.

Seconds later, there was another jolt, and then the apartment building started rocking back and forth. He jumped up and sprinted through the kitchen, calling to his wife, and they both ran down the stairs and outside where they watched in shock as U.N. vehicles bounced up and down in the parking lot.

Haiti’s devastating January 12 earthquake had struck.

Sanchez, a Deputy Regional Commander with the U.N. Stabilization Mission in Haiti and a student in UC’s master of science program in criminal justice administration, was sent to Haiti in May 2009 because of his extensive administrative experience. Dispatched to the Les Cayes region instead of the mission headquarters in Port Au Prince, he had not been pleased with his posting but now believes that it may well have saved his life. The earthquake flattened the main U.N. facility, killing many, including Sanchez’s colleague Douglas Coates, a Canadian police commissioner stationed at the headquarters building.

“Doug was a wonderful man and a good friend of mine,” Sanchez says. “If I had gotten the position I’d wanted, I would have been right there with him.”

The reports that came in from the capital were, in Sanchez’s words, horrific beyond belief.

“I drove through Port Au Prince in the weeks following the quake, and pictures do not do the devastation justice,” says Sanchez. “Even at that point, there were so many dead that they were clearing the bodies from the streets with earth-moving equipment.”
“WE FOUND DIFFERENT WAYS FOR PEOPLE TO EXPRESS THEIR FEELINGS.”

Haiti’s earthquake was felt strongly in communities all over the world, including the residence halls of Utica College.

Monique Sidberry ’11, a criminal justice major and an R.A. in North Hall, started receiving late-night knocks on her door as soon as students returned from Winter break. “Three of my residents were directly affected by it,” she says. “Sometimes the best thing to do is to just sit there and listen, let them vent, and then they can go on about their day.”

But she and some of her fellow R.A.’s felt moved to do more. On the first Tuesday of Spring semester, Sidberry met with students Martine Samson and Darven Dodard as well as Assistant Director of Student Activities Maureen Murphy and Residence Life Secretary Monica Brown-Hodkinson to coordinate a community response to this catastrophe.

During the first week in February, the group put on a benefit pub night in the Pioneer Café. Director of Student Activities Paul Lehmann and others supplied items for a silent auction, and $550 was raised in four hours. Donations for Haitian relief came pouring in from students, faculty, and staff even after the event had ended. “It seemed like every time I turned around, Maureen was saying that somebody gave her $10 or $20 for Haiti,” Sidberry says.

The group also held a candlelight vigil on campus. Many spoke at the gathering, including Kennia Vernard, who was in Haiti during the earthquake and whose family had been deeply affected. Samson, who is also of Haitian descent, read a poem she had written titled Ayiti Cherie.

Many chose instead to write their thoughts on a “Reflection Wall” organizers posted in Ellen Knowler Clarke Lounge. Others scribbled impressions on sheets of paper and tossed them into a box that was later burned at the vigil. “(Assistant Director of Residence Life) Elizabeth Hartzell came up with that idea,” says Sidberry. “It’s a way of letting your thoughts go. We found different ways for people to express their feelings, and students, faculty, and staff took the time to show their support.”

More
Read Martine Samson’s poem at www.utica.edu/pioneer
A pair of UC biology majors takes a fresh look at one of the collegiate world’s most storied beverages.

When Kimberly Foote ’10 and Jessica Wilczek ’10 answer “Beer” to the question of what they’re studying in college, the range of reactions are what one might expect.

“We definitely get a few chuckles, and people definitely want to hear more about what we’re doing,” Foote says.

Chuckles, piqued interest, and from parents at least mild concern, perhaps coupled with head-shaking disbelief. Foote recalls, “When I first told her what I was thinking of doing for my senior research, my mom said, ‘Really? All that education? All that money?’”

Indeed, Foote and Wilczek have spent much of their senior years studying beer. That very notion calls up very familiar stereotypes of college life. So to debunk any visions of Animal House, some clarification is in order. This is not a consumption-related study. The lab partners are researching decomposition and degradation processes in beer involving light and temperature.

In other words, they’re exploring the causes of stale and light-struck, or skunked, beer taste.

Their research interest originated as a squabble between their research advisor, Assistant Professor of Biology Daniel Kurtz, and his daughter, Patti. One morning last year, Patti accosted her father as he was removing from the refrigerator bottles of beer that were leftover from a party she held the night before. She told him the beer would get “skunked” if it was taken and left out. While scientific literature supported his daughter’s assertion, Kurtz was skeptical. An academic scientist and former commercial scientist, he needed firsthand evidence.

When he returned to campus the following week, he shared the encounter with Foote, his teaching assistant at the time. The discussion quickly developed into a debate and, ultimately, a simple pilot study. In essence, Kurtz and Foote left some beer out in the sun for a few weeks that summer to see if Kurtz’s daughter’s prediction would be confirmed.

“And low and behold, it does get skunked,” Kurtz says.

This outcome ended Kurtz’s skepticism. However, the pilot study did not provide scientifically relevant data. Now that the question of whether had been answered, Foote wanted to better understand why skunking occurred so that she could contribute to the growing body of scientific research on how to keep packaged beer tasting fresh.

While the incident involving the Kurtz family refrigerator suggested cooling (or lack of same) might play a role, Foote soon understood that the chemical puzzle she was considering was more a question of light than of heat.

Beer, specifically the hops that help flavor beer, is light sensitive. When light hits beer, it causes a photochemical reaction through which hop acids called isohumulones degenerate into 3-methylbut-2-ene-1-thiol, a sulfur-containing compound that is virtually identical to that present in a skunk’s spray.
So in essence Kurtz was partially correct. Removing the beer from refrigerated temperatures did not put it at risk of skunking. Exposing it to light, however, did. It was in fact the darkness of the refrigerator, not its coolness, that kept the pungent odor from occurring.

Foote explains, “We had found the process of skunking is largely determined by light penetration, not really having much to do with warmth. And we also came to the conclusion that it’s not largely detectable by taste, but definitely by smell.”

What’s more, the stale taste in beer occurs through a separate process. “And that’s where Jess came in,” Foote recalls.

Whereas Foote’s focus was on bad beer smell, Wilczek introduced the taste component of beer gone bad. Bad-tasting beer is most commonly associated with staleness. Particularly when exposed to fluctuating temperatures, oxygen trapped in the bottling process can react with ethanol and fatty acids, producing trans-2-nonenal, which causes a distinctly bad flavor. “The same process applies to a whole bunch of grain-based stuff,” Foote says. “It’s like what happens when bread goes stale. It gets that horrible, cardboard-like taste.”

CASE STUDY

The two biology majors are not alone in their academic interest in beer. They have, in fact, joined an army of scientists studying the molecular properties of the popular beverage, including the groundbreaking researchers at the University of North Carolina and Ghent University in Belgium who first discovered the cause and explanation of skunked beer.

With Kurtz’s assistance, Foote and Wilczek are building on this foundation of knowledge by examining the role packaging plays in the degradation process. Specifically, their work is focusing on how the skunking/staling processes occur when beer is delivered in clear bottles, brown bottles, and aluminum cans.

It is, in effect, a case study in molecular science.

“We hypothesize that packaging pilsner lager in aluminum cans or in brown glass bottles will reduce or prevent this light-struck flavor or ‘skunking’ effect. In addition, the production of ‘stale’ flavor should be reduced by continuously cold storage,” Kurtz says.

The research will be carried out by means of duo-trio sample comparisons. Subjects test a reference beer sample before partaking of the two coded samples. They then mark a ballot indicating which coded sample was more similar in taste or smell to the reference.

“These are sensory techniques that we’re using: trio testing, statistics, double-blind studies,” Wilczek explains. “We’re using everything we’ve learned in four years here.” She and Foote both attribute the robust design of the study to Kurtz’s tutelage in sensory evaluation, a specialty of his.

“Sensory psychophysics is his thing. He’s just very knowledgeable,” says Foote. “Anything that you have a question on he will clarify, and if you are on the wrong track, he’ll tell you about other techniques to get a better result.”

Even so, gaining approval from the College’s Institutional Research Board (IRB) – a requirement for studies involving human subjects – was less than a sure thing, given the subject matter.

“The IRB hears ‘beer’ and ‘human subjects’, and they think, ‘I don’t know about that,’” Wilczek says. “So there were many clarifications. In our testing we allow inhaling, wafting, and smelling for the olfaction portion of it. For the gustation or tasting we do not allow the subjects to drink the beer. It’s a sip and spit method, which is very common in sensory testing.”

The two biology majors are not dismayed by the chuckles or the movie references to beer-drinker favorites like *Animal House* and *Beerfest*. And while the biology majors are the first to admit their research is not of the world-saving variety, they believe their subject matter is important.

“Is it gene therapy or anything like that? No. But there’s a place for everything,” Wilczek says. “Our whole purpose behind this is to see how do we avoid these decompositions so you can get a better brew because a lot of people enjoy beer, and it’s an important question for beer companies.”

Important to the tune of nearly $100 billion in annual beer sales in the United States alone.

Kurtz, who worked as a research and development scientist for one of the U.S.’s largest consumer product companies before beginning his academic career, appreciates the often-overlooked value of consumer product science.

“In this country, or maybe in the west in general, one of the things that we do really well is look for ways to improve consumer products. So therefore we have hairdryers that dry and deodorants that do what they’re supposed to do. This is all the result of consumer research in product development,” he says. “Some product research is important in terms of saving the world and some is important just in terms of mak-
ing life easier and more pleasurable. We have many products that do a really good job because people have done this work.”

As counterintuitive as it may seem to the skeptics, Foote and Wilczek are, through their study of beer, building a deeper and more profound understanding of the scientific process.

Wilczek, for her own part, sees this project as an opportunity to flesh out the knowledge she’s gained over the last four years. “The classes I’m taking now – we do research papers, we’re always sifting through the literature, and we’re doing hard chemical mechanisms all the time,” she says. “So for me it was a nice way to apply what I’m learning and just do it in a fun way that meant something to me.”

“They’re learning a little bit of chemistry in addition to the biology,” Kurtz says. “They’re learning a little bit about smell and taste and sensory procedures. Whether they go into sensory research as a field, they’re still learning how to ask the important questions, and I think they’ll be able to use that.”

GOING “WEIRD PLACES”

More importantly, Kurtz adds, the study has helped foster in both students an element of inquisitiveness that he sees as an essential component in any scientific inquiry.

“You look at the lives of some of the great scientists, and some of them approached their work knowing exactly what they were looking for and the goal was to get there first. But a lot of the others just kept looking at things and realizing when something is odd that maybe it should be looked at more closely. I think many of the greatest discoveries have come from that,” he says. “We get caught up in asking questions that we think NIH is going to fund, but somewhere back there we maintain the inquisitiveness. And that’s how you get graduate students who can go off and explore things in weird places.”

While such “weird places” may lay ahead for both of these inquisitive minds, the two researchers are now considering immediate next steps. Wilczek is currently applying to medical schools, while Foote plans to pursue a research career after graduate school. Their deeper understanding of the research process, gained through the study of beer, will likely prove an asset in these pursuits.

What’s more, they’re glad for the opportunity to show their mentor that beer can be considered – in one sense, at least – an aid to higher learning.

“To a large extent,” Kurtz says, “they’re proving that I’m totally ignorant.”
Assistant Professor of Chemistry Michelle Boucher inspires a cadre of undergraduate researchers to break new ground.
“I’ve got just one word for you,” went the line from the 1967 film *The Graduate*. “Plastics.”

Comedic value aside, the word represents a serious source of intellectual enthusiasm for Michelle A. Boucher, assistant professor of chemistry at UC, who has been experimenting with the molecular composition of plastics most of her adult life.

“Traditionally there is a 30 percent loading of clays in plastics. I’m looking to get the same properties at about 5 percent loading,” she says with some excitement in her voice. “That’s what I’m aiming for, and I’m seeing good results.”

Boucher and her students are currently engaged in two branches of primary research – one involving plastics, the other, sugars – that may ultimately represent significant contributions to the field of materials science and the College’s reputation as a center of research excellence.

Perhaps more importantly, the projects offer UC’s third- and fourth-year chemistry majors what may be considered an extremely rare commodity in the broader world of undergraduate science education: an opportunity to do real science with some of the best tools available and conduct meaningful research of a quality typically seen only at the graduate level.

Boucher admits that this is a far cry from her own undergraduate experience.

“I did my undergrad at an R-1 (research) institution, and I worked with a group for a year and a half,” she recalls. “The research ended up getting into a very good journal, but I will tell you, I was the crystals monkey. I made the crystals, made the crystals, made the crystals… I did not do any of the analysis, and they did not trust me with any of the instruments. So I went to graduate school with a lot less hands-on experience with instrumentation than my students have right now.”

Though her current research interests first took root during her graduate work at Case Western Reserve University, much of the lab work involved is appropriate even for first- and second-year UC students. “The concepts of my research really do tie closely into freshman chemical concepts. Most of my students start working with me in their sophomore year because there is a highly synthetic component to the work. It still involves very simple syntheses, and it’s a very accessible project for the undergraduate hands and skill set,” says Boucher.

Even so, the objectives are lofty ones. Boucher’s sugar research – a project she’s been laboring on for years in collaboration with Dr. Kimberly Musa Specht, assistant professor of chemistry at Dennison College – involves building a foundation of basic science that may lead to breakthrough medical applications such as permanent sterilization of surgical instruments.

“Sugars have been known to interfere with the protein bindings of bacteria,” Boucher explains. “Kimberly Specht’s research looks at applying sugars to the surface of an object to try to make it antibacterial. Up to now, biochemists have often just been splattering the sugars on and hoping they get a thick enough layer for the desired effect. Chemists don’t like that – we like control. So we’ve been working on a kind of silicon framework that will make the sugar molecules stand in neat little rows.”

That work starts with minerals like apophyllite, a naturally occurring silicate that has a two-dimensional lattice-like molecular structure – a kind of “backbone,” as Boucher terms it. Minerals of this kind, both naturally occurring and artificial, provide the basis for synthesizing materials with properties applicable to the sugars project.

“Silicates provide something like a sheet with pre-assembled order to it – groups of molecules set at fixed distances,” Boucher says. “Biochemists are interested in the idea of taking a sugar and building a silicon framework around it. Well, I’ve got the silicon framework. I’ve just got to find a way to stick it on there.”

Silicates are also useful in developing new types of plastics that may ultimately prove relevant to a range of industrial applications. That process starts with a pre-plastic, such as a silicone fluid or an organic polymer, into which Boucher introduces a chemically modified silicate. “I then tangle them all together and cast them into these tiny little bricks of plastic,” she explains.

Assisting her is a small cadre of juniors and seniors – chemistry majors who were Boucher’s students at the sophomore level, at which time they showed an interest in research. “We have an apprenticeship model,” says Boucher. “By the time they’re seniors, they’re coming up with their own ideas and they’re taking ownership of the project – that’s exactly where I want them to be. But at the end of the day, the system is that a student comes into a professor’s project and it is in the context
of that research that they learn the physical skills of being a chemist.”

She starts them out on something relatively simple: synthesizing a material she calls AM3, which is a simple tri-methyl apophyllite polymer.

“This material has been known for 20 years. It’s the simplest thing on earth. But we make it a couple of times simply so that they can get the hang of the synthetic route,” says Boucher. “And because it is so well characterized and understood, they can see where their batches differ, what they’ve done wrong, how they can improve it.”

This proves to be a kind of prequalification round. Boucher works closely with them at this stage, helping them develop their skills and define their interests.

“Once they get the hang of that – I have six students working with me at this point – we start talking about what project they might be interested in.”

A "BRAG-ABLE" SUITE OF INSTRUMENTS

For the non-scientist – particularly someone whose concept of chemistry was gleaned from old science fiction movies – the aging laboratory spaces within Gordon Science Center where Boucher and her charges do their work contain some familiar-looking items: beakers and test tubes, an old glove box, Bunsen burners, and so on. But appearances can be deceiving.

“We don’t use open flame that much anymore,” Boucher says, smiling. “We do a little glass work, and I did use it in college. In the ’90s they still thought that was a skill we ought to have, and I had one older professor who felt like we needed to respect the history. But nobody’s going to use open flames in industry. We want to teach the students up-to-date stuff.”

To that end, UC offers an extremely sophisticated suite of chemistry instrumentation.

“We have an instrument suite that is brag-able for any small institution,” she says. “I always planned my projects to be workable for a small school with teaching instrumentation. The fact that we’ve got huge amounts of teaching instrumentation is a bonus.”

Boucher says that she and her students frequently use the infrared spectrometer, depending upon what project they are working on. “For the soluble molecules you’ve got the entire array of instruments open to you,” she continues. “We use the Bruker 250Mhz Fourier Transform Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrometer (FTNMR). It’s like an MRI for molecules. [Associate Professor and Chair of Chemistry] Curtis Pulliam wrote the grant for that years ago, and it’s a huge feather in our cap. And the quality of the high performance liquid chromatograph (HPLC) and gas chromatograph - mass spectrometer (GC/MS) we have is really top-drawer.”

Much of the advanced technical equipment was funded through a NASA grant, which the College invested in teaching instrumentation. Boucher describes this as an important factor in attracting students to UC’s chemistry program.

“We’re starting to get students whose parents are professionals,” she explains. “They are looking at other schools that might – perhaps unfairly – have a better reputation than ours. And then they come into our instrument suite and say, ‘Wow, you’ve got this, and you have small classes? And you care about the students?’”

In spite of the unusually high grade of technology available to her undergraduate charges, Boucher admits that, on occasions, their laboratory work does at least superficially resemble the B-movie stereotype. “In the plastics project, we use solvents and water condensers, we boil it and it comes back down, so it looks a little bit like we’re running a mad scientist’s lab,” she says, laughing.

“GOOD LAB HANDS”

In high school, he was told he was a good writer. It was that and little else that convinced Mike Bayne ’10 to become an English major.

Bayne is now a fourth-year student of Boucher’s and a key member of her chemistry research A-team. Not the outcome he had expected when he started at UC, but a highly satisfactory one, nonetheless.

“I may not be the typical example of a chemistry student,” Bayne warns. “In high school, I was strong in math, but I never had a teacher who could get me interested in science. I had a very good English teacher, though, so I thought I’d be an English major in college.”
Bayne says he applied to UC because it had a strong English department and small class sizes, but in spite of these strengths, he felt out of place in the major. “I was a good writer; I just didn’t like doing it. An essay that took other students maybe an hour to write might take me six hours. It came out well, but it took forever. After a while I thought, I can’t do this,” he says.

His change of direction was prompted by a freshman-level science course he took to satisfy his core requirements: Chemistry and Society, taught by Assistant Professor Michelle Boucher.

“It was a very basic class. You learn about how soap works, that sort of thing. But it was the first time I had a really good chemistry instructor who was excited about teaching and gave real-world applications,” says Bayne. “And I discovered I was pretty good at it.”

Bayne’s research is focused on what his professor describes as very typical organic synthesis related to the sugar project. Bayne’s research continues the work of one of his predecessors, Emily Corcoran ’08, who is now attending graduate school.

“You only have about two years to do research,” Bayne says. “Sometimes we don’t get the opportunity to finish the projects we’re working on. But I think you do get a sense of ownership about them, nevertheless.”

“Mike’s been working with me for over a year,” says Boucher. “He’s got really good lab hands.”

By March of 2010, Bayne – by then finishing his final semester before moving on to graduate study at Syracuse – was more hopeful of realizing closure on his project. “I’m seeing signs of completing it, but we still have to get better yields,” he says.

Two other members of Boucher’s research team, Shannon Penoyer ’10, who also graduated this year, and Thuy Nguyen ’11, have already completed their pieces of the apophyllite puzzle.

On the other hand, fellow researcher Craig Sherwood, a junior, has been working on what Boucher calls a “persnickety” reaction – synthesizing a polymer that they haven’t made before – and running into some challenges in the process. “It hasn’t been going so happily just lately,” Sherwood says, laughing.

Boucher considers this one of the great things about research. “Craig will do a reaction and ask, is this the way it’s supposed to look? And we’ll just kind of look at each other and say, I don’t know – no one’s ever made it before,” she says.

AN INTELLECTUAL HOME

Whether or not their work yields scientifically interesting data, the process of students working collaboratively produces some very positive outcomes. It is, in fact, an integral part of the apprenticeship model.

“There’s a definite mentorship process here. Students who don’t think of themselves as leaders or teachers realize that they are able to help younger members of the group, and they actually come to have more confidence in their own abilities because of it,” says Boucher.

The younger students benefit too. “Some of my students start in my group not because they are interested in my chemistry but because they liked me as a teacher, which is flattering and kind,” she says. “But I am aware that they are looking for an intellectual home. And it’s great to see them respond not just to me but to the older members of the group. They think, ‘Hey, this cool senior actually wants to teach me something. I might not be half bad.’ And they discover their confidence that way. Learning from peers makes a huge difference. It’s a lot of fun.”

Bayne jokingly refers to their collaboration as “a triangle of confusion,” but it’s clear that these researchers share a strong rapport with one another, as well as a high regard for their professor.

“I really like working with Dr. Boucher,” Penoyer says. “She’s comfortable to talk to. When I have a question about anything, I go and ask her – even things outside of chemistry. She probably knows my entire life story. If I’m having a bad day, she’ll say, ‘It’s okay, we’ll do something more relaxed.’ She’s very caring.”

“Every day, she makes a huge difference for the younger students. It’s a lot of fun.”

– Michelle Boucher, Assistant Professor of Chemistry
Eight hours of practice and an utter lack of common sense have brought me here, poised to descend 19 steep steps to the ballroom floor of “Dancing With the Stars.”

I lean heavily on a backstage railing, hyperventilating, and await the cue. Outwardly, I have undergone the transformation from entertainment reporter to salsa dancer, ready to perform before a live audience in strappy heels and a zebra dress with a plunging neckline and beaded fringe that sways with every teetering step.

Inside, I am a knot of anxiety.

I ask my professional dance partner, Jonathan Roberts, whether he’d be able to carry me down the stairs should I faint. He laughs and says there’s a bucket at the bottom in case I feel sick.

As the audience begins to applaud, Roberts takes my hand and we make a grand entrance. Mercifully, the lights blind me to the 720 people seated in Studio 46 in the Fairfax district – and to the panel of three judges who will evaluate my performance. Paddles and all.

Host Tom Bergeron greets us onstage and asks: “What possessed you to do this?”

It started as a dare.

A few months ago, an ABC network executive told me about a team-building exercise he’d gone through: a crash course in ballroom dancing similar to what the celebrity contestants on “Dancing With the Stars” endure. He challenged me to take the same test of stamina and nerves, and I quickly accepted. Having never watched the network’s top-rated show, I had no idea what I was in for.
“Dancing With the Stars,” chronicles a 10-week competition between dance pairs, each consisting of a professional dancer and a celebrity. Every week, the pros teach their partners a waltz, fox trot, cha-cha or other dance routine, which they perform live on Monday nights before the judges. The couples are scored on technique, footwork, posture, and overall theatricality. Then viewers vote by phone or online. The results are revealed live on Tuesday nights, when contestants with the lowest scores are eliminated.

Camera crews capture the whole stressful stew: the six- to eight-hour rehearsals, the frayed nerves, and the sheer nakedness of stepping outside one’s professional comfort zone.

I agreed to five days of training over two weeks, about the amount of time the pros and their partners have to master a new routine. At the end, Roberts and I would perform before a studio audience. The only difference was that our Latin number would not be broadcast to 17 million viewers. Like the musicians, entertainers, sports figures, and others who risk their dignity on “Dancing With the Stars,” I had no ballroom training. I’m also bereft of coordination, and worse, I’m a control freak who can’t allow a partner to lead.

So it was with more qualms than confidence that I arrived at Roberts’ optimistically named You Can Dance Ballroom Studio in Hermosa Beach on a Thursday afternoon last month to start training.

Roberts, the 2008 U.S. and world smooth ballroom dance champion, is regarded as one of the show’s most talented and patient instructors. He tells me we’ll perform the same salsa routine he danced in fall 2007 with singer Marie Osmond — “minus the fainting,” he adds, referring to the entertainer’s on-camera collapse after a dizzying samba.

It soon becomes clear that I have my own issues. My posture is rigid, my movements stiff, like the toy soldiers in Tchaikovsky’s “The Nutcracker.” Balance is another challenge. I’m taking awkward giant steps, instead of the dainty ones called for, and it throws me off-balance, making me sway precariously — and I’ve not yet strapped on my 2 1/2-inch Latin heels.
Roberts and I spend 90 minutes walking through the opening of the dance, in which we circle one another and cast suggestive glances. Later that night, I watch Osmond’s performance on YouTube and come to a disconcerting realization: We’d spent an hour and a half learning 21 seconds of a dance that stretches on for another minute. We hadn’t gotten past the easy introductory part.

What have I gotten myself into?

I arrive at the studio at 9:00 a.m. Friday, over-caffeinated, eager, and an hour early. Roberts greets me with the news that he’s cut the routine down to 50 seconds. He takes me through the three major sections. Then, he adds a new element: music. We’ve been rotating around the dance floor, counting out the steps to a 1-2-3 rhythm. Adding the brisk “Mambo No. 8” – even at a radically slowed tempo – proves overwhelming. I lose count and forget everything we’ve just rehearsed.

Roberts talks about the importance of using mnemonic tricks to recall the segments of the dance. Typically, women construct a narrative – you’re rejecting me here, you’re drawing me in there, you’re stopping me now – to carry them through. Alas, I’m one of those people who learns through repetition. He says this means we’ll be dancing the routine over and over, until the salsa becomes a reflex.

“Some people learn really, really quickly, and forget about it tomorrow,” Roberts said. “Other people take a really long time to learn, but once they learn it, they’ve got it, no problem. People that do the best are people that can, like cramming for a test, just memorize… and forget by tomorrow.”

My quick course resumes the following Tuesday with a trip to wardrobe, where costume designer Randall Christensen conjures the show’s rhinestone and jewel-encrusted creations under the constant pressure of the clock.

After each Tuesday show, Christensen meets with the remaining pairs to discuss the next week’s routines. The pros describe their visions for the choreography while he furiously sketches costumes to fit the mood.

Wednesday mornings, Christensen scours the downtown garment district. Hours later, the silks and satins are delivered to cutter-fitters who translate Christensen’s sketches into performance pieces. The costumes are sewn at a breakneck pace, in time for fittings Friday and Saturday. The garments are beaded, stoned, and feathered overnight Sunday.

Often, the glue’s still wet when the dancers don their costumes for dress rehearsal Monday.

I’m getting a more off-the-rack experience. Christensen hangs six dresses in a fitting room that range, in terms of body exposure, from “oh my” to “no way.”

One orange-and-red fringe micro-dress, worn on the show by Olympic gymnast Shawn Johnson, is cut out at the sides. A blue-sequined dress boasts a lightning-bolt cutout that extends from neckline to navel. I opt for the relative cover of a body-gripping, backless black-and-white dress with a revealing neckline.

Christensen says former Spice Girl Melanie Brown once performed in this costume – although I’m apparently not spicy enough. He hands me some padding to fill out the garment.

When training resumes Wednesday, I have the singular focus that only raw panic can produce. With
just three rehearsals left, I worry that the only authentic aspect of my salsa will be Mel B’s sultry dress.

In the predawn hours, one of my neighbors spies me in my driveway, camcorder in hand, counting aloud as I try to follow along with a video of Roberts stepping through half of the routine.

Roberts arrives for our 10:00 a.m. lesson exhausted from the night before, when he and his wife, dancer Anna Trebunskaya, did a fox trot on the show while Taylor Swift sang “Love Story.”

We begin adding arm movements to our routine. He asks me to incorporate a shimmy with a series of side-steps. I tell him Catholic girls don’t grow up shaking it in front of the bedroom mirror. He laughs and says Marie Osmond didn’t know how either. He demonstrates the technique – which I playfully re-create for my husband over breakfast the next morning, prompting my 17-year-old son, Alex, to cover his eyes and wail, “Warn me before you do something like that.”

On Friday, Roberts and I tackle the part that continues to bedevil me – the “partner” section, in which he guides me through three sweeping backward dips and a series of drops. I keep missing transitions and flirting with a face plant. And my shimmy has all the sexiness of a convulsion.

I promise to hone the move at home, but Roberts says there’s not enough time. He substitutes a bit of modest shoulder-rocking.

I’m seated among the authentic stars, 20 professional dancers and celebrities awaiting the show’s 5:00 p.m. start. Kelly Osbourne shows off photos of her and fiance Luke Worrall at model Heidi Klum’s Halloween party, dressed as bacon and eggs.

By now, my performance anxiety is high. I wake in the middle of the night and mentally rehearse the dance steps. I practice in front of the bathroom mirror in the morning.

A video crew arrives at Roberts’ studio at 11:00 a.m. Saturday to capture our final rehearsal. My 10-year-old daughter, Madison, accompanies me. I stand poised to begin – hands on my hips, right leg bent jauntily, my right heel resting on my left foot. “Mambo No. 8” opens with the familiar “uno, dos, tres.”

I freeze.

It’s good this has happened now, Roberts assures me. He explains that adrenaline or stage fright can make a dancer’s mind go blank. He advises doing whatever I can – running, jumping, screaming – to expend nervous energy in the 20 minutes before we reach the ballroom floor.

Madison volunteers that she can’t tell I’ve missed a step unless I make “that face.” Roberts nods and emphasizes the need to smile and project the impression that I’m having fun.

Sunday afternoon, I’m at the McCadden Rehearsal Space in West Hollywood, the setting for the video vignettes that document each week’s rehearsal sessions.

“Iron Chef America” star Mark Dacascos, whose pro partner Lacey Schwimmer has the flu, is in the main rehearsal room, nervously going over his routine with Trebunskaya. Across the hall, pro dancer Dmitry Chaplin lies prone on the dance floor, waiting for his partner, Grammy winner Mya, to emerge from her black Escalade. He frets aloud about the upcoming group dance, a pasodoble, which he says looks like “a mess.”

I’m here for something far less arduous: a spray-tan.

I have never been so exposed for a story.

On show day – Monday, Nov. 2 – a morning traffic jam makes me a half-hour late for my 8:00 a.m. call time.

I’m fussied over like a bride on her wedding day, spending three hours in hair and makeup. I’m seated among the authentic stars, 20 professional dancers, and celebrities awaiting the show’s 5:00 p.m. start. Kelly Osbourne shows off photos of her and fiance Luke Worrall at model Heidi Klum’s Halloween party, dressed as bacon and eggs.

Melanie Mills, head of the makeup department, sits me in front of a mirror and says: “We’re going to sex you out, big time.”

She’s aiming for a smoky look with double sets of false eyelashes and enough bronze and silver color on my eyelids to make my eyes “pop” for those seated in the balconies.

Before we start, Mills sends me off for an additional layer of liquid tanning solution. I spend the morning covered in a thick maroon bathrobe and a deepening tan. Looking like Hugh Hefner in drag – with my shoulders bared so Mills and an assistant can apply red-and-black body art and rhinestones to my upper left arm – I’m introduced to Donny Osmond, who confides that a season on “Dancing With the Stars” has been more physically demanding than he expected.

Chief hairstylist Mary Guerrero works a traditional Latin theme with my hair, going for a flowing, volup-
tuous look. She creates rows of tight pin curls in preparation for a sweeping wave in front, hair extensions to add length, and giant red flowers to add interest.

By noon, my nerves are wound as tightly as the locks on my head. The show’s publicist, Amy Astley, leads me to the lunch trailer and encourages me to eat, although I have zero appetite.

At 1:00 p.m., Roberts meets me on the ballroom floor for our dress rehearsal. He has the flu but insists he’s well enough to perform. We do the routine three times, trying to move in sync with the faint strains from a boombox. I continue to miss steps as I make the transition to our big spin move. “Something always goes wrong,” he says, advising me not to worry. He’ll get me through it.

I make a final, frantic swing through hair and makeup for hair extensions and another coat of lipstick and eye makeup. Next stop: wardrobe, for quick repairs to a shoulder strap. At 4:00 p.m., I arrive backstage in the “red room,” familiar to viewers of the show as the place where the celebrities and their pro partners lounge on overstuffed couches.

Roberts and I will perform before the start of the broadcast. I compulsively step through the dance, trying to keep the flight instinct at bay and tune out the sounds of the audience members taking their seats.

“Make some noise for Dawn Chmielewski,” announces the show’s warm-up host, Cory Almeida, and the audience responds with riotous applause.

I take my mark on the dance floor, back turned to the judges and crowd, and stare fixedly at Roberts, who is beaming a confident smile.

Roberts says some people don’t remember their performances afterward. I can recall each 1-2-3 step (and misstep) with clarity, although it seemed as though we were moving at twice our usual pace, propelled by applause-fueled adrenaline.

As we complete the number, Roberts hugs me and escorts me to the judges’ table. I hold my breath.

“Dawn, like the rising sun, you were very, very lovely,” says judge Len Goodman. “You did a marvelous job.”

Clearly, the judges have been nipping at flu medicine backstage.

“I didn’t know such a prestigious newspaper would have such slutty, slutty girls,” says judge Bruno Tonioli, by way of compliment.

Carrie Ann Inaba, a former fly girl from the variety show “In Living Color,” nicely sums up my off-kilter salsa.

“It’s not as easy as it looks, is it? I think the hard part for the women are the heels, am I right?” she says. “You were a little wobbly out there, but I think you did your thing.”

We receive a score of 21 out of a possible 30. Not bad for a beginner.

My husband, daughter, and some friends come backstage to congratulate me. I’m talking too loud and too fast, hugging anyone within reach, juiced on the thrill of live performance. Suddenly, I understand why stars subject themselves to such a stressful, body-punishing ordeal.

The show’s executive producer, Conrad Green, says he admires my guts.

“You couldn’t have got me out there for love nor money.”

Dawn Chmielewski ’83 is a staff writer with The Los Angeles Times.
The Heart Of The Matter.

Dr. Jean Halladay ’53 looks back on a lifetime of teaching and learning.

Photo by Chuck Thomas

Two wooden chairs adorn the living room of Dr. Jean Halladay’s Norfolk, VA apartment.

And, save for a couple of overflowing bookshelves, that’s it.

Halladay has always preferred substance to frills and furnishings. She has little tolerance for fussing about material things, be it home décor, fashion, or gadgets, all of which cost money that she assumes could be better spent. Such is evident not only in the modest apartment, located two miles from the campus of Old Dominion University, but also her second home, the college classroom, where she’s spent three quarters of her life.
Halladay’s simplicity and prudence are an outgrowth of her working-class roots in Little Falls, NY as well as her own undergraduate experience on Utica College’s original makeshift campus on Utica’s Oneida Square. A child of the Great Depression and a farming family, she was on the verge of being an adult before she knew she was poor. “I knew we didn’t have any money, but then I didn’t know anybody who had any money, and so it never occurred to me to worry about it very much,” recalls Halladay, associate professor emerita of English at ODU.

If not serendipity, Halladay believes it was to some level lucky circumstance that led her to UC. She graduated from Little Falls High School in 1949 at the age of 16 with her sights squarely focused on attending St. Lawrence University. (What the Halladay family lacked in riches, it made up in values, at the center of which was a strong belief in education.) Knowing the tuition cost at any college, let alone a private institution, was out of her family’s financial reach, she intended to work for a year or two before submitting her application.

In August of 1949, she received a letter from Albany notifying her that she had earned a highly competitive Regents scholarship for scoring in the top 10 among students in Herkimer County in a statewide examination earlier that spring. “I wasn’t exactly brimming over at the top of my (high school) class,” she says. “The family motto was try out for anything that comes along, and so, well, I had a fling at the exam.

“I don’t know that there’s any real correlation – I never have thought so – between being able to do well on that kind of exam (multiple choice questions) and how smart you are, but as a kid I was always real good at that kind of exam.”

With the financial means for college suddenly and unexpectedly at her disposal, Halladay hoped to enroll at St. Lawrence for the fall term. By that point, however, St. Lawrence, a residential university, had filled its freshman class. To make matters worse, the scholarship award she received stipulated that she enroll for the fall term at an in-state institution.

“Here I was with this scholarship and this wonderful opportunity and looking at not being able to use it,” Halladay recalls.

Circling the Square

To this day, Halladay has no memory of who suggested Utica College, then a three-year-old branch college operated by a university that was flush with virtue but not dollars.

She showed up to UC’s administration building with her high school transcript, met with the vice president and treasurer, Clark Laurie, and earned admission.

“There I was, scholarship in hand, decent enough grades to get in, and they said, ‘No problem about getting in’ – and they had a bed for me to sleep in,” Halladay says.

To put it kindly, UC lacked the curb appeal of her first choice, “the campus on the river.” The campus consisted of a collection of rented or purchased properties – including houses, a garage, a condemned school building, and a church – scattered around Oneida Square that were converted into academic, administrative, and residential space.

What the College could not offer in terms of amenities and prestige it made up for in the character of the learning experience as well as the student body and the quality of teaching.

“At the time that I was at Utica College as far as I was concerned the classroom experience was just about perfect for me and for a lot of people,” Halladay says. “Most of us were the first in our family to go to college. We were gasping for education. And the faculty. I don’t know that we had any Nobel laureates, but we had a lot of excellent, excellent teachers. As far as I was concerned it was just about the perfect combination.

“I was sold on the place. I gave up all thoughts of wanting to go up into the North Country for the rest of my education.”

Her learning extended outside of the classroom. She played on UC’s first women’s basketball team, and...
participated in a number of clubs and activities. As well, she recalls with particularly great affection and humor her experiences in the women’s residence hall at 16 Watson Place.

“It was a fun place to live,” she deadpans. “The young women who lived there, we were interested in getting an education. We were not a bunch of drags or anything like that. But we were also interested in all sorts of other things as well – the sorts of things that young women have always been interested in.”

However, it was the teaching and learning at the core of UC’s mission that nurtured in Halladay, who completed her English degree with honors in 1953, a lifelong interest in higher education.

“(Utica College) was the beginning of a great deal of learning not in quite the way that I had thought about it,” she says.

“A BIT LIKE GOING HOME”

It was a sort of eerie but most pleasant déjà vu.

After holding teaching positions at Valparaiso University in Indiana; the University of Kentucky, where she earned her Ph.D.; and High Point College in North Carolina from 1955 to 1965, Halladay was looking for an institution at which to lay roots. That search brought her to Norfolk and what was at the time Old Dominion College.

Old Dominion started life as a branch campus of the College of William and Mary. When Halladay joined the English faculty in 1965, the institution was still in the throes of branching out into a freestanding, autonomous four-year, degree-granting institution. She taught in a condemned grammar school, where classes were regularly interrupted by desks collapsing or windows crashing down. Other classes were held in prefabricated buildings left over from the second – and, in some cases, the first – World War. It was mostly a commuter college, although there were two residence halls.

In other words, Old Dominion when Halladay arrived bore a striking resemblance to Utica College – a fact that more than casually influenced her decision to make Old Dominion her academic home for what would ultimately prove to be the balance of her career.

“I had been hopping around from school to school until I got to ODU,” she says. “I think one of the things that attracted it to me and me to it was the similarities to Utica College. Not to sound too much like a recruiting poster, but I had had such a good experience there that, in a certain sense, it was a little bit like going home.”

The parallels between her experiences at the two institutions ran even deeper.

Halladay, who retired from ODU in 1997, says, “As long as I taught there, I was still running into students who got around to saying to me in a kind of shy sort of way they were the first person in their family who ever went to college. It was the same kind of experience.”

Her teaching and research interest was Victorian literature, predominantly the later-era and lesser-known writers. She published a number of articles in that area as well as bibliographical pieces on a number of American women, and in 1993 she published her crowning work, Eight Late Victorian Poets Shaping the Artistic Sensibility of an Age. Though Halladay enjoyed and took pride in her scholarship and every facet of her academic work and campus life, she never concealed nor wandered from her first passion – teaching.

“I loved library work. I loved research. I loved the kind of thing that leads to a book or a published article. I loved to sit in the library lobby or the student union and argue with people about where the world is going and what it all means,” she says.

“I loved every part of the job, but not as passionately as I loved teaching. I was always more interested in trying to see if I couldn’t get through to the person who I knew was inside the kid in front of me. Or the older man or woman – but mostly woman – who had finally worked up the courage to come back to school and was scared out of her wits that she couldn’t possibly keep up with the young people. I was always more comfortable in the classroom.”
1. What athletic venue still in use today was, in the Old Timey Days, flooded in winter and used for an ice skating rink?

2. When The Tangerine ran a contest for students to choose a mascot for Utica College, what was the winning entry? (Hint: it wasn’t a Pioneer.)

3. Identify as many as you can of these early administrators: Douglas Webster, Henry Varhely, Flora Williams, Barbara Welton.

4. What was the name of the game played at intermission in the dinky little movie theater just off Oneida Square?

5. Name the coach of the first women’s basketball team at UC. How many games did the team win during its first season?

Answers: Murnane Field; Monkey; Webster, Dean of Men, Varhely, Athletic Director, Williams, Head Resident of Women’s Residence Hall at 16 Watson Place, Welton, Dean of Women; Screeno; Frank “Hank” Scalise and one pioneer

Halladay owes her passion for the classroom to her undergraduate faculty – people like Norman Nathan, Thomas O’Donnell, and even Owen Roberts – and it was not by coincidence that her teaching reflected their individual influences as well as the teaching mission of Utica College.

“I don’t think you can avoid that, or at least I don’t think anybody with an education like mine can avoid it,” says Halladay, who was routinely recognized for her teaching and advising during her 32 years at Old Dominion.

A SIMPLE TRUTH.

Old Dominion has seen many changes since Halladay arrived there in 1965 and in the 13 years since she retired. There has been significant expansion of campus facilities, faculty, and the student body, which now comprises more than 23,000 students.

“When I came here everybody on the faculty knew everybody else on the faculty, and we had a little faculty quorum where we socialized and read each other’s papers and that sort of thing,” Halladay says. “Nowadays, even before I retired but in the latter years of the time that I worked there, there were dozens and dozens of faculty members who I not only didn’t know but didn’t recognize, and so it was a very different kind of situation in that way.”

This experience provides Halladay with a unique perspective on UC’s growth over the decades since her departure. “The physical differences are the most obvious and the least important, obviously,” she says.

For Halladay, the new campus, the state-of-the-art facilities – these are mere furnishings. The heart of the matter, both at UC and at Old Dominion, will always be the teaching.
Pioneer Hall of Fame inducts new members

The Pioneer Athletic Hall of Fame inducted its third class during a May 12 ceremony.

Doris Miga, Mentor
Affectionately known as “Mother” Miga, Professor Emerita of Sociology Doris Miga has advised, mentored, and forged close friendships with generations of UC student-athletes and coaches. She began teaching at the College in January 1963, and continues to teach part-time. For her dedication to students, Miga has received several of the College’s highest honors, including the Crisafulli Distinguished Teaching Award, Honorary Alumna status, the National Alumni Council’s Outstanding Faculty Award, and the Dean Robert Woods Student Life Award. In 1997, the College dedicated its intramural basketball league in honor of Miga and her husband, Walter, who have attended nearly every UC men’s and women’s basketball game during their time at the College. Miga has served on UC’s Board of Trustees, and has supported fundraising efforts through her own contributions and through her efforts on behalf of the Office of Advancement.

Joan Kay ’89, Women’s Basketball, Coach
Joan Kay guided the Utica College women’s basketball team during one of the most successful eras in program history. She took the helm in 1974, and led UC to winning records in 10 of her 11 seasons. During that time, her teams compiled a 147-77 overall record, earned two NCAA Division II Tournament appearances, and won two conference titles. She was a major contributor to the Empire State Games as a coach, director, and chairperson. She was honored as the 1978 Mohawk Valley Woman of the Year and the 1991 YWCA Woman of the Year. After retiring from coaching, she developed and brought into national prominence the College’s undergraduate program in therapeutic recreation. As an athlete, she earned national and international recognition. She competed in the U.S. National Fencing Championships, and narrowly missed Olympic qualification.

David Ancrum ’81, Men’s Basketball
In just two seasons, David Ancrum cemented his place among Utica College’s greatest men’s basketball players. Following his junior college playing career, Ancrum enrolled at UC and proceeded to post two of the most prolific seasons in school history. To this day, he holds the College’s career (23.1) and season (24.0) scoring average records, and ranks seventh on UC’s all-time scoring list with 1,084 points. He is the only player in school history to score 1,000 points in less than four years, and the only player to break the 600-point mark in a single season. He later enjoyed a decorated professional basketball career in North America and Europe. He played for the CBA’s Albany Patroons under Hall of Fame coach Phil Jackson from 1984 to 1987, and finished his career in Europe with Iraklis BC, Maccabi Tel Aviv, and Hapoel Afula. He was Europe’s top scorer, and earned best American player honors in 1991-1992. He ended his playing career in 1996, at which time his jersey number was retired in Greece. He is now the head basketball coach at Sacramento Country Day School in Sacramento, CA.

Sideline Report

The women’s ice hockey earned its ninth consecutive ECAC West Conference Tournament appearance. The team has never missed postseason play.

Ashley Van Patten ’11 qualified for the NCAA Division III National Diving Championships in Minneapolis, MN. She is the second diver in UC history to qualify for NCAAs.

Quarterback Andrew Benkwitt ’13 was named ECAC North East Rookie of the Year. He is the first UC player to earn the honor.
It was described by some as a one-in-a-million shot. Utica women’s basketball head coach Michele Davis maintains it is a staple of her team’s offense. “We’ve run it – and won on it – numerous times. Heck, we run it probably five times or 10 times a game,” Davis says.

The Pioneers were trailing Ithaca 37-36 with 1.3 seconds to go. Inbounding from the baseline, Stephanie Nara ’12 lobbed a pass to Jessica Berry ’12, who was positioned in the low post, just in front of the rim and immediately behind center Meghan Fiore ’14. Berry caught the ball, took one step toward the rim, and forced up a buzzer-beating shot.

What made the play special – if not one-in-a-million – to everyone gathered inside Ben Light Gymnasium on February 27 were the stakes at hand. Utica College and top-seeded and host Ithaca College were meeting in the Empire 8 Championship Tournament final. At stake, in addition to the conference crown, was a trip to the NCAA Tournament.

However many times the team has run the play in practice or in games, Davis allows, “It’s still a very difficult shot to make.”

“And,” she continues, “the stakes were very different this time. This is what they worked for all year long, and if we don’t win that game, our season is over.”

Berry punched the Pioneers ticket. Her last-second heroics earned UC its second conference championship and accompanying automatic NCAA bid in three years, and cemented her case for All-American honors.

UC carried its resilience onto the big stage. The Pioneers opened their NCAA tournament play facing tall odds. Nationally-No. 8 ranked Moravian College was riding the momentum of a 20-game winning streak, had the nation’s sixth highest-scoring offense, and were playing on their home court, where they had lost only once this season. The Pioneers overcame a 15-point second half deficit to advance to the tournament’s second round for the first time since 1984.

Davis owes her team’s knack for coming from behind to the character in the Pioneers locker room, namely the players’ commitment to playing hard until, literally, the final buzzer.

“We were down in a lot of games this year, and we consistently fought back,” says Davis, who, with the team’s victory over Moravian, set the program record for coaching wins, passing Joan Kay. “There are negatives to playing from behind as often as we did – certainly, you always want to be ahead – but we never quit. If we were down 15 at the half, their attitude was always, ‘Well, we can outscore them by 20 in the second half.’ They never felt like any game was over – ever.”

Of course, it never hurts to have a player of Berry’s caliber. The Empire 8 Player of the Year, D3hoops.com All-American, and Women’s Basketball Coaches Association All-American finalist ranked 11th in the nation in scoring this season. Her conference-best 21.3 scoring average was 6 points better than the second ranked scorer. She also finished second in the Empire 8 in rebounds.

Berry is one of only nine players in the College’s history to score more than 1,000 points, and her 1,549 points currently ranked third of UC’s all-time scoring list. She also ranks second all-time with 111 blocked shots and fourth all-time with 791 rebounds. She needs 209 rebounds next season to join fellow UC All-American Sharon Lyke ’85 as the second player in program history with more than 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds in a career. In addition, she is on pace to become only the 11th player in Division III women’s basketball history to score more than 2,000 points and have 1,000 rebounds.

“Jess is that kind of once-in-coaching-lifetime player who you’re going to get,” Davis says. “Joan Kay had one in Sharon Lyke, and I think Jess Berry may end up being my Sharon Lyke. They don’t come around a lot.

“It’s fun to watch her play, and it’s got to be fun to play with her because she’s not a selfish player. She doesn’t have a lot of weaknesses. She can shoot the three. She can drive to the basket. She can play with her back to the basket. She can hit baseline jump shots. And, of course, she’ll take and hit the big shot.”
1956
Frank V. Tomaino, Constantia, NY, was selected on the 2009-10 board of directors for The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter.

1959
Barbara K. Klein, Utica, NY, was selected as an Education Hall of Distinction honoree at The Genesis Group’s Celebration of Education 2009.

1961
George H. Whitaker, Marcy, NY, a retiree from ConMed Corp., received the American Society of Manufacturing Engineers Award at the Mohawk Valley Engineers’ Executive Council Technical Awards Banquet.

1962
Kenneth W. Boyce, Amsterdam, NY, retired in 2005 from the New York State Department of Health.

1968
Philip M. Williams, New Hartford, NY, was selected as an Education Hall of Distinction honoree at The Genesis Group’s Celebration of Education 2009.

1969
Harriet L. Adkins, Fayetteville, GA, still loves flying, and celebrated 40 years of working for Delta Air Lines.

1970
Donna M. LaTour-Elefante, Utica, NY, received the Mohawk Valley Business Women’s Network Award for her contributions to the community-at-large that have made a difference in the lives of others.

1971
Dr. Raphael J. Alcuri, Whitesboro, NY, was installed on the 2009-10 board of directors for The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter.

1972

1973
Bruce A. Brodsky, Utica, NY, works at Upstate Cerebral Palsy.

1974
Peter A. Caruso, Utica, NY, was selected as an Oneida County Legislator in the 26th district.

1976
Janet M. Bennett, Rome, NY, is the supervisor of special employment programs, employment training program/internships.

1977
David J. Roberts, Whitesboro, NY, founded Bootsy and Angel Books after the loss of his 18-year-old daughter to cancer in 2003 to support others who have suffered a loss. He is a co-author of two books.

1979
Brian E. Russell, Northfield, IL, is the owner and CEO of Home Run Consultants. He has taken the award-winning Z-Hanger patent to market and mass distribution. He is also the chief operating officer for Coin That Phrase, an innovative e-commerce site that launched June 1, 2009.

1980
Natalie L. Brown, Barneveld, NY, is the executive director for theYWCA of the Mohawk Valley.

1965
Angelo D. Izzo, San Mateo, CA, is the owner of California Business Opportunities in San Jose, CA.

1966
Frank A. Peretta, Clinton, NY, was selected as an Education Hall of Distinction honoree at The Genesis Group’s Celebration of Education 2009.

1976
Louis B. Tehan, Utica, NY, was appointed to fill an unexpired term during October at the Kirkland Library Art Gallery in Clinton, NY.

1977
Peter A. Caruso, Utica, NY, was elected president of the Whitesboro Central School District board.

1978
John J. Bach Jr., Yorkville, NY, is the director of institutional advancement at Munson Williams Proctor Arts Institute.
Michael A. Cardamone, Baltimore, MD, is the director of finance for Johns Hopkins Medicine. He was appointed associate professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management in the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. He was also elected treasurer of the Chesapeake Regional Information System for Patients, an initiative to develop an electronic health record for patients available to all health care providers and entities within the East Central U.S. region.

Joseph G. Fariello, New Hartford, NY, is the support service provider for The Neighborhood Investment Association (NIA) Group of Utica, formed to replace inner-city blight with commerce.

1981
Gene A. Allen, Utica, NY, is the housing director for Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency, and is a certified lead risk assessor.

D. David Dylis, New Hartford, NY, is a reliability and maintainability program manager at the Griffiss Business and Technology Park in Rome.


Raymond L. Philo, New Hartford, NY, is the economic crime and justice studies research director at Utica College.

1982
Krista M. DiBerardino, Lake Villa, IL, is global marketing vice president for Newell Rubbermaid.

L. Joseph Dumas, West Springfield, VA, retired from the U.S. Coast Guard on July 1, 2009 after more than 30 years of service. He has since taken a position as a senior analyst IV with Analytic Services Inc., working in the office of the Secretary of Defense, Homeland Defense, and Americans Security Affairs.

Cynthia J. Powers, West Winfield, NY, was selected as an Educator, K-12 category, honoree at The Genesis Group’s Celebration of Education 2009.

1983
Lance W. Williams, Rome, NY, is the president of Williams Stationery Company, Camden, NY.

1984
Donna L. Mead, Homosassa, FL, is studying with *The Institute of Children’s Literature*, and in her retirement writes short stories and articles for children.

Lauren M. Swierat, Remsen, NY, is an accounting manager at Benefit Plans Administrators in Utica.

1985
Judith R. DiCioccio, Clinton, NY, is the marketing coordinator for The Estate Planning Law Center.

Dr. Brian J. Jackson, Utica, NY, presented his peer-reviewed publication *Socket Grafting: A Predictable Technique for Site Preservation* in Las Vegas. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Oral Implantology/Implant Dentistry and Fellow of the American Academy of Implant Dentistry.

Timothy A. Madonia, Whitesboro, NY, was selected as an Educator, K-12 category, honoree at The Genesis Group’s Celebration of Education 2009.

Paul D. Stallnaker, Ava, NY, is the quality systems coordinator at the International Wire Group in Camden. He received the American Society for Quality Award at the Mohawk Valley Engineers’ Executive Council Technical Awards Banquet.

1986
Mary E. Greene, Cold Brook, NY, was installed as town justice for Ohio at The Herkimer County Magistrates Association.

Carolyn E. Farnsworth, Rome, NY, was elected historian of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Michael A. Tirado, Herkimer, NY, moved back to the United States from the Caribbean.

1987
John F. Kenealy, Whitesboro, NY, was named president of The Ancient Order of Hibernians, John C. Devereux Division 1 of Oneida County.

Kevin R. March, Easton, KS, is an Army engineer with the 705th Military Police Battalion.

Deborah VanAmerongen, New York, NY, is the strategic policy adviser at Nixon Peabody LLP in the firm’s Affordable Housing practice.

1988
James C. Brown, Clinton, NY, was named Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the School of Graduate and Extended Studies at Utica College.

Patrick A. Rubino, Wnyantskill, NY, is an assistant assessor for the Town of North Greenbush.

William A. Tagliaferri Jr., Rome, NY, is a jayvee soccer coach.

Marguerite F. Wesołowski, Ilion, NY, was selected as an Educator, K-12 category, honoree at The Genesis Group’s Celebration of Education 2009.

1989
Michael P. Giacobbe, New Hartford, NY, is vice president of commercial lines and risk management at Gilroy Kernan and Gilroy Insurance.

David M. Hart, New Hartford, NY, is president of Hart Settlement Group, Inc. He is an experienced financial professional whose firm provides structured settlement services while working with attorneys, claims personnel, and risk managers in the evaluation, design, and negotiation of structured settlements.

Helen M. Rico, Rome, NY, was named director of Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways.

1990
Judith A. Arcuri Nole, New Hartford, NY, was installed on the 2009-10 board of directors for The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter.

1991
Christopher D. Beach, Tulsa, OK, was appointed senior pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church in Tulsa. He is working to help the congregation restore its historic role in showing God’s love to the community by reaching out to inner-city children.

Anthony F. Perrone, Ashland, NJ, was promoted to vice president of employee performance and capability for Chubb and Son Insurance in Warren, NJ.

Todd G. Womuth, Queensbury, NY, is the sports editor for Tribune Media Services.

1993
Jean A. Card, Rome, NY, received the New York State Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance’s Health Education Teacher of the Year Award.

Gina M. Antonelli-Hensel, Utica, NY, is a solo practitioner/attorney at law.

Dr. Scott S. Brehaut, Clinton, NY, received the American Added Qualifications in hospice and palliative medicine. He works for Faxon-St. Luke’s Healthcare’s Palliative Care with Dr. William Krause and Dr. Kevin Mathews.

1994
Nigel A. S. Hernandez, Chelsea, MA, graduated from Northeastern University with his doctorate degree in Law and Policy in May 2009. He teaches at West Virginia University and Northeastern University.
Dr. Sherry Ann Lints, Utica, NY, received a 2009 Accent on Excellence award for her work at Better Health Chiropractic as a doctor of chiropractic and certified fitness trainer. The award is given to young adults who are making a difference in their jobs and community.

Dannell R. Lyne, Trumbull, CT, is a Certified Public Accountant, and was appointed senior tax manager at Dylewsky, Goldberg, and Brenner, LLC.

Sukena M. Stephens, Fredericksburg, VA, is a federal air marshal at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Transportation Security Administration in Arlington, VA.

1996

Kory M. Aversa, Philadelphia, PA, is the senior development officer at the Philadelphia Senior Center. He created and helped implement the center’s 60th Anniversary Campaign, which received a prestigious first place Pepperpot Award, the greater Philadelphia region’s equivalent to the national PRSA’s Silver Anvil Award for public relations excellence.

Catherine Bitely Davis, Port Saint Lucie, FL, is retired, and enjoys spending time with her great grandchildren.

Lewis J. Kahler, Utica, NY, is dean of the Center for Art and Humanities at Mohawk Valley Community College.

Michael T. Loveric, Rensselaer, NY, was selected as an Educator, K-12 category, honoree at The Genesis Group’s Celebration of Education 2009.

Jennifer M. Martin, West Hartford, CT, is director of nursing with CURE International in Kabul. She has been on medical missions to Egypt, Kenya, Uganda, and now Afghanistan.

Casey L. Napoli, Ilium, NY, was promoted to assistant director of human resources and volunteer services at Faxton-St. Luke’s Healthcare, Faxton Campus. She serves as the human resources representative at the Faxton Campus, and assists the director of volunteer services with strategic goals for the volunteer services department, including volunteer recruitment, processing, and scheduling.

1997

Ricardo A. Bueno, Kensington, MD, is the director of intelligence operations for Paradigm Solutions.

Shannon M. Coniber, Corfu, NY, is a medical technologist at United Memorial Medical Center in Batavia.

Jennifer A. Herzog, Verona, NY, published two articles, ASM-CUE 2009 and Journal Watch, in Focus on Microbiology Education, the news magazine for the American Society for Microbiology’s Microbe Library.

David P. Kingwater, Rome, NY, earned his certification as a sports performance coach through USA Weightlifting. He owns and operates Kingwater Chiropractic and Empire Strength in Whitesboro. He previously earned certification muscle mastery, which offers an advanced understanding of muscle-fiber typing, fitness, recovery, nutrition, and longevity of power.

Loretta A. Myers, Boonville, NY, is the director of the emergency department at Rome Memorial Hospital.

1998

Dennis C. Webster, Utica, NY, published Adirondack Mysteries, a followup to his first novel, Daisy Daring.

1999

Rock J. Schneider III, Whitesboro, NY, was installed on the 2009-10 executive board for The Greater Central New York Association of Health Underwriters.

2000

Brandi B. Boyanski, Syracuse, NY, is an outpatient physical therapist, certified athletic trainer, and strength and conditioning specialist at Fitness Forum Physical Therapy.

Lisa K. Casab, Whitesboro, NY, is the activities director at Rome Memorial Hospital’s Residential Health Care Facility.

LaToya D. Jordan, Brooklyn, NY, is assistant director of communications and public relations manager at New York Law School in New York. She also graduated from Antioch College in Los Angeles with an MFA in creative writing.

2001

Linda E. Talerico, Oriskany, NY, received the Constance St. Phillips Hunter Nursing Scholarship from The Nursing Alumni Association of Upstate Medical University. She is pursuing the specialty post-master’s certificate for Family Psychiatric Mental Health Practitioner at Upstate’s College of Nursing.

Joseph V. Tropea, New Hartford, NY, was part of The Community Habilitation Aide Training Team that was recognized as Team of the Year at the Upstate Cerebral Palsy annual meeting in May.

Jason R. Whiteman, Fredericksburg, VA, was promoted to assistant vice president of SunTrust Bank. He has a successful motivational program called Success is E.A.S.Y. The program provides students the tools that they need to motivate themselves to become a better student and encourages them not to drop out of school.

Michelle A. Young, Frankfort, NY, was promoted to unit manager for the fashion jewelry company Lia Sophia.

2002

Amberlee M. Baccari, Schenectady, NY, is an executive assistant at Special Olympics New York.

Thomas Bock, Staten Island, NY, is the executive director at Daylight Forensic and Advisory LLC.

Daniel A. Sweetland, Manlius, NY, is the governmental policy adviser for Mosaic Federal Affairs. His concentration is on the firm’s legislative objectives and priorities.

Randy Patterson Jr., Albany, NY, is the county manager for the Day Communication Opportunities Program at Living Resources.

2003

Cynthia Ackerman, Boonville, NY, was part of The Community Habilitation Aide Training Team that was recognized as Team of the Year at the Upstate Cerebral Palsy annual meeting in May.

Ashley A. Martuarno, Rome, NY, was appointed guidance counselor for the Denti and Gansevoort schools in Rome.

2004

Jeffery S. Whalley, University Place, WA, is the owner of JSW Sports & Entertainment LLC in Washington.

Mark A. Wilson G ’06, Oriskany, NY, is an occupational therapist at Valley Health Services. He is also an adjunct occupational therapy professor at Utica College.

2005

Michael J. Levine, Clinton, NY, is the assistant men’s hockey coach at Utica College.

Sarah R. Smith, Rome, NY, was promoted to operations project manager at Excellus BlueCross BlueShield in Syracuse. She also graduated from Marist College with her master’s degree in communication.

Barbara L. Stack, Rome, NY, is an assistant analyst/project administrator at Utica College.

Brittany J. Wolanin G ’09, Whitesboro, NY, works at ADK Physical Therapy.

2006

Mary A. Davidson, Pittsburgh, PA, is the marketing and communication manager for The Oakland Business Improvement District, a small not-for-profit. The organization promotes the businesses within the section of Pittsburgh where the University of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon campuses intersect.

Cassidy J. Marchev, Yorkville, NY, was promoted to wireless testing product manager for the firm’s new wireless division for Fiber Instrument Sales. He interprets and responds to customer needs in the evolving wireless market.

Sarah J. Sorge, Utica, NY, is a science teacher at Notre Dame Junior/Senior High School in Utica.

2007

Amber M. Cruthers, Oneonta, NY, is a community event coordinator at CNY Radio Group in Oneonta.

Evon M. Ervin, Utica, NY, was named community educator for Mohawk Valley Community Action Agency.

Jessica M. Murphy G ’09, Cohoes, NY, is an occupational therapist for Jackson Therapy Partners.
Jillian A. Smith, New Hartford, NY is an adjunct nursing clinical instructor and registered nurse in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Crouse Hospital in Syracuse.

Christina H. Zawatski, Rome, NY is a pre-school teacher at Rome Catholic Schools.

2008

Ronald D. Allard, Rome, NY is an adjunct professor at Mohawk Valley Community College.

Ross L. Cristman, Holland Patent, NY is a staff public accountant at Rinehard, Fitzgerald, Depietro and Wojnaj, CPAs.

William J. Dunodon, Utica, NY was promoted to senior childcare worker at Madison-Oneida BOCES in Verona.

Brittany R. Fusare, Oriskany, NY is an occupational therapist at The House of the Good Shepherd.

Pamela S. Goodison-Bick, Utica, NY is a financial Manager at Kforce Government Solutions in Fairfax, VA.

Keith G. Grygiel, Holland Patent, NY is a special education teacher at Clinton Middle School.

Tricia A. Hall, Ilion, NY is an animal care assistant at Spring Farms Cares.

Amber M. Hoffman, Utica, NY is a contract specialist at Air Force Research Laboratory in the Griffiss Business and Technology Park.

Catherine E. Kidder, Jamestown, NY is a physical therapist at Aureus Medical.

Pavel K. Krastev, Lake Zurich, IL, is a sales engineer at Yamazen Inc.

Jessica M. Krupa, New York Mills, NY is an associate claims representative at Preferred Mutual Insurance.

Amy L. Kuzio, Clinton, NY is a first grade teacher for the Whitesboro Central School District.

Tiffany A. Lewis, Columbia, SC is an auditor for the South Carolina Department of Revenue.

Attia Nasar, Syracuse, NY is a graduate student in the Public Diplomacy program at Syracuse University. As part of the program, she is a candidate for an M.S. in Public Relations from the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications and an M.A. in International Relations from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. She is the Web chair for the Association of Public Diplomacy Scholars and Public Diplomats for Human Rights.

Janette R. Peri, Broadway, NJ is a developmental assistant at the Women’s Resource Center of Monroe County, in Delaware Water Gap, PA. The organization provides shelter and support for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Kyle M. Perry, Oak Park, IL is an English teacher at Fenwick High School.

Hida J. Piersma, New York, NY is a registered nurse at Mount Sinai Medical Center. She published her biography, The Gnawing Thoughts, which provides a rare, first-person glimpse of growing up in Uganda during the regime of Idi Amin and the incredible fortitude that gave her a fighting chance at a better life in Europe and America. She is also the founder of Lanekatuk Memorial Inc. The organization’s mission is to bring health, education, and social intellectual development to people whose lives were negatively affected in the war zones of Uganda.

Nancy J. Paladinino, New Hartford, NY is an English teacher at Proctor High School in Utica.

Kia S. Paige, Brooklyn, NY is a patient services specialist at YAI Premier Healthcare.

Gregg B. Riffle, Clinton, NY is the senior business practices officer – Americas at Carrier Corp. in Syracuse.

Kristin Rockwell, Clinton, NY, is an accountant at the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, an agency of the Department of Defense.

Joseph C. Salamida, Clark Mills, NY is authoring/illustrating a book for Osprey Publishing of London, England, and is pursuing a master’s degree in informational science at SUNYIT. He is also the owner of two companies, Gavel Slam Auctions Inc. and The Exhibit Factory, a company that develops museum exhibits.

Matthew R. Shearin, Rome, NY is a Spanish teacher for grades 7-8 at Clinton Central School.

Briana M. Spencer, Jamesville, NY is an events coordinator at Bath Fitter in East Syracuse.

Bethany C. Stephens, Port Crane, NY is a 10th grade teacher at Norwich High School.

2009

Thomas J. Armitage, Barneveld, NY is a community development specialist at Upstate Cerebral Palsy.

Daniel J. Bell, New York Mills, NY, is the payroll manager for The Arc, Oneida-Lewis Chapter.

Paulette C. Brown, Utica, NY is the corporate community coordinator for Madison-Oneida BOCES.

Nicolette M. Capodiferro, Marcy, NY is a contract specialist at Assured Information Security Inc. in Rome.

Trisha M. Cashman, New York Mills, NY, is a CMA at United Cerebral Palsy.

Jennifer L. Chambrone, Utica, NY, is a speech therapist at Herkimer BOCES.

David H. Charles, Tallahassee, FL, is the director of operations for Intuition Systems, and is pursuing his MBA at Post University.

Susan H. Clymo, Geneseo, NY, is an occupational therapist at Hillside Children's Center in Rochester.

Thalita DeJesus, Buchanan, NY, is a registered nurse at White Plains Hospital Center.

Amanda J. Felton, Chittenango, NY is a teacher at Syracuse Academy of Science Charter School.

Katie M. Gardner, Amsterdam, NY, is a receptionist at the Montgomery County Office for the Aging in Amsterdam.

Tudor Gradea, East Peoria, IL is a design engineer at Kress Corp.


Allen Huntington, Delray Beach, FL, is an AP Specialist II at SBA Communications Inc./SBA Network Services Inc.

Stephanie E. Kleps, Oneida, NY, is an integrated facilitator at Upstate Cerebral Palsy.

Samantha A. McMahon, Stamford, CT, is an occupational therapist at Constellation Health Services in Norwalk.

Patricia S. Metzger, Mohawk, NY, is a biology teacher at Proctor High School in Utica.

Robert E. Montgomery, Port Jefferson, NY, is a revenue cycle analyst for John T. Mather Memorial Hospital.

Jennifer M. Montross, Weedsport, NY, is a registered nurse at Upstate Medical University in Syracuse.

Erin M. Murphy, Johnson City, NY, is a physical therapist at Susquehanna Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Daniel E. Nichols, Waterville, NY, is a cyber security analyst for ITT Corp.

Matthew P. Petell, Penfield, NY, is a data technician at D4LLC.

Sead Pjanic, Utica, NY, is an algebra and ESL algebra teacher in the Utica City School District.

Suzanne L. Probst, Utica, NY, is an occupational therapist at Utica Community Hospital.

Robert E. Montgomery, Port Jefferson, NY, is a biology teacher at Proctor High School in Utica.

Samantha A. McMahon, Stamford, CT, is an occupational therapist at Constellation Health Services in Norwalk.

Patricia S. Metzger, Mohawk, NY, is a biology teacher at Proctor High School in Utica.

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Daniel E. Nichols, Waterville, NY, is a cyber security analyst for ITT Corp.

Matthew P. Petell, Penfield, NY, is a data technician at D4LLC.

Suzanne L. Probst, Utica, NY, is an occupational therapist at Utica Community Hospital.

Traci L. Gregory and Mark DeLore, NY, are married October 31, 2009.

Kristen M. Sexton and James Omanwa, Baltimore, MD, were married October 9, 2009.

Brian McHale and Jaime Meyer '04, Toms River, NJ, were married September 12, 2008.

Benjamin M. Schoen and Kristen A. Hotaling '05, New York Mills, NY, were married July 25, 2009.


Jessica M. Vassalotti, Ithaca, NY, is a psychiatric technician at Cayuga Medical Center.

Kimberly J. Wandley, Whitesboro, NY, is a behavioral specialist at Upstate Cerebral Palsy.

Colleen Welch, Westerville, OH, is the national bank examiner for the Comptroller of the Currency.

Charles W. Whitlock, Richmond, NY, is an eastern regional manager at Origen Biomedical Inc. in Austin, TX.

Weddings and Anniversaries continued

Kristen A. Hotaling and Benjamin M. Schoen ‘04, New York Mills, NY, were married July 25, 2009.

2006
Brent M. Beasock and Genevieve Kriger ‘04, G’06, Fredericksburg, VA, were married August 2, 2008.

2007
Kira A. Lowell and Shawn Occhipinti, Utica, NY, were married August 15, 2008.

Allison E. Brown and Griffin A. Reid ‘07, Syracuse, NY, were married July 18, 2009.

Michael P. Van Dusen and Sarah A. Clark, Dryden, NY, were married October 25, 2008.

2008
Tricia A. Clemens and Adam J. Hall, Ilion, NY, were married September 12, 2009.

Pamela S. Goodison-Bick and Alan Bick, Utica, NY, were married October 9, 2009.

Births and Additions

1986
Michael A. Cialdella and his wife, Adriana, Alexandria, VA, had a son, Lucca, on July 21, 2009.

1988
Michael Fitzgerald and his wife, Julianne M. Fitzgerald ‘90, Clinton, NY, had a son, Michael John, on January 11, 2010.

Timothy P. Killian, Oneida, NY, had a son, Logan Mathew, on April 6, 2009.


Julianne M. Fitzgerald and her husband, Michael Fitzgerald ‘88, Clinton, NY, had a son, Michael John, on January 11, 2010.

Kathryn F. Lopez and her husband, John, Silver Springs, MO, had a baby in 2009.

Stephen J. Feduccia and his wife, Nicole, New Hartford, NY, had a daughter on December 4, 2009.

Gina M. Antonelli-Hensel and her husband, Anthony, Utica, NY, had a daughter, Te’ re’ sa Antonella, on April 26, 2009.

Edward S. Majka and his wife, Brenda, Utica NY, had a son, Nico Edward, on February 8, 2010.

Regina M. Rayhill and her husband, Paul, New Hartford, NY, had a daughter on October 3, 2009.

Herbert H. Bingel III and Malary Church, Munnsville, NY, had a daughter, Nevaeh Larene, on September 23, 2009.

Andrew Goodelle and his wife, Nicole M. Duxbury G’05, New Hartford, NY, had a son, Thomas Andrew, on November 19, 2009.


Lori A. Maher and her husband, Joseph, Brockport, NY, had a daughter, Jessica Violet, on August 23, 2009.

Scott M. Bowman and his wife, Christiane, Cortland, NY, had a son on December 7, 2009.

Yessika A. Murga and her husband, Ervin L. Murga ‘91, Bronx, NY, had a daughter on September 17, 2008.

Michael J. Wilkosz and his wife, Melissa L. Milham-Wilkosz ‘99, Whitesboro, NY, had a son on November 7, 2009.

Jessica M. Nelson and her husband, Robert, Vernon, NY, had a son, Joshua Daniel, on October 9, 2009.

Lisa M. Schilling and her husband, David T. Schilling ’99, G’06, New Hartford, NY, had a daughter, Lauren, on August 3, 2009.

Melissa L. Milham-Wilkosz and her husband, Michael J. Wilkosz ‘00, Whitesboro, NY, had a son on November 7, 2009.

Suzette M. McKay and her husband, Anthony W. Edick, and her son, Logan Mathew, on April 6, 2009.

Donna, Whitesboro, NY, had a son on November 7, 2009.

2002
Erica N. Hagan and her husband, Mark, Whitesboro, NY, had a son on September 14, 2009.

Kristin L. Phelps and her husband, David, New Hartford, NY, had a daughter, Katelynn Rose Phelps, on September 25, 2009.

Suzanne M. McSweeney, New Hartford, NY, had a son on June 29, 2009.

Rebecca L. Williams and her husband, Greg, New Hartford, NY, had a daughter, Delainey Elizabeth, on August 13, 2009.

Heather M. Jadlowski G’07, and her husband, David, New Hartford, NY, had a daughter on January 8, 2010.

Richard J. Snyder and his wife, Melissa, Camden, NY, had a daughter, Kinley Shay, on September 22, 2009.

Michael E. Voltz and his wife, Jamie, Utica, NY, had a daughter, Rylee Elizabeth, on October 30, 2009.

Brian M. Wermter and his wife, Donna, Whitesboro, NY, had a son on November 3, 2009.

2003
Jamie Cavallo and her husband, Michael E. Voltz ‘03, Utica, NY, had a daughter, Rylee Elizabeth, on October 30, 2009.

2004
Jamie Cavallo and her husband, Michael E. Voltz ‘03, Utica, NY, had a daughter, Rylee Elizabeth, on October 30, 2009.

Kristin L. Gallagher and her husband, Jamie, Rome, NY, had a daughter, Riley McKenna, on November 25, 2009.

Shawn M. Weber and his wife, Jamie, Utica, NY, had a son on November 3, 2009.
In Memoriam

Estie L. Bomzer ’50, Chevy Chase, MD, October 25, 2009.
James C. Clipston ’60, Utica, NY, September 8, 2009.
George D. Velesko ’61, Miami, FL, June 24, 2009.
Keith D. Harvey ’63, Sunnybrook, NY, September 14, 2009.
William F. Wagner ’64, Remsen, NY, July 9, 2009.
Peter A. Totten ’67, Marietta, GA, April 2, 2009.
Harold W. Russell ’68, Oneida, NY, October 1, 2009.
Donald A. Abrams ’69, Utica, NY, September 28, 2009.
Jane Alexander ’69, Shrewsbury, MA, April 9, 2009.
David E. Caprile ’72, Franklin Park, IL, March 1, 2009.
Charlene A. Widrick ’75, Utica, NY, July 28, 2009.
Karl F. Zimpel ’75, Clinton, NY, September 17, 2009.
Ruth M. Rogers ’77, Hubbardsville, NY, August 30, 2009.
Georgia L. Kilpatrick ’78, Utica, NY, December 6, 2009.
Christopher P. Surridge ’91, Fort Lauderdale, FL, December 10, 2009.

Faculty and staff who have passed

Richard E. Major, retired facilities management staff member, March 24, 2010.
George J. Dmohowski, professor emeritus of mathematics, April 13, 2010.
Helen Milograno, adjunct professor of history, June 12, 2010.
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