

Alumni Spotlight



Cheryl A. Yager

Master's in Computer Science, '04
IT Project Manager, Knolls Atomic
Power Laboratory (KAPL)—A
Lockheed Martin Company

Not only have I significantly improved my technical skills as a result of going through the degree program and gotten a promotion, but I have also built leadership skills and a network of professionals that I can rely on. The school's rich history for providing quality education to students has made me a more marketable individual.



Aaron Edelstein

Master's in Biomedical Ethics, '07
Senior Consultant, Rood Research

When I applied for my current position in healthcare consulting, the degree set me apart as someone who understood a complicated and often misunderstood component of healthcare delivery. After three years of working in healthcare, I have been accepted to Tufts University School of Medicine. A major component of the medical school interviews centered on my original thesis work and my summer on-site experiences at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, Union's partner school in the program.



Armin Kick

Master's in Business
Administration, '02
Project Manager, Siemens
Transportation Systems, Inc.

The MBA helped me better understand many aspects of management taking place in large organizations. Leadership, cross-cultural issues, globalization, competitive advantages, and other topics are very real in today's business environment. It prepared me to feel comfortable in boardroom discussions with upper management, which helped management get comfortable with the idea that I was ready for certain tasks.



Timothy Dugan, Jr.

Master's in Teaching, '96
Theatre/English teacher, John Sayles
School of Fine Arts, Schenectady City
Schools and
professional actor

The full year teaching internship and intensity of the one year program were pivotal in my formation as a teacher. Upon graduation I was hired by the Schenectady City School District (where I interned) and have been teaching there for the past twelve years. I teach acting, English, playwriting and am co-director of the school's Blue Roses Theatre Company. The professionalism of the MAT program more than prepared me for the challenges of public education and has continued to inspire me to affect change.

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President's Message

Dr. John Huppertz
Interim President

In the last newsletter, I discussed my role as interim president. As the search continues for a permanent president of Union Graduate College, my responsibility is to continue growing the school, improving our ability to serve our students and community. We've taken several important steps toward that goal:

First, this very publication has changed. We know your time is valuable, so we have redesigned our newsletter to make it quick and easy for you to stay up-to-date.

Visit our website (www.union-graduatecollege.edu) and you'll find re-tooling there as well. We listened to students and alumni and have responded with a site that is easier to navigate and more useful. Prospective students can apply on-line, while current students enjoy more access to class schedules, faculty research and publications.

We have also added an important new member to our leadership team. **Daniel Christopher** (MBA '05) has returned to Union Graduate College as Vice-President for Institutional Advancement. In this newly-created position, Dan will grow our fund-raising and alumni relations programs.

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Emerging Energy: School of Engineering Taps Local Experts to Teach New Solar and Wind Energy Courses

Alternative energy is a hot trend—and a growing industry in Tech Valley. Now, Union Graduate College's School of Engineering is tapping local energy experts to teach a new style of engineering course.

"It takes more than good technology to bring a new energy product to market," explains Robert Kozik, Dean of the School of Engineering. "Our new solar and wind energy courses look at other factors such as economics and public policy and how they impact these emerging technologies. Students are getting a broader perspective—from expert engineers who are grappling with these issues every day."

Last trimester, the first Solar Energy Technology Course was taught by a team from GE Global Research. Each week, a different person discussed their area of expertise. Todd Tolliver, a photovoltaic engineer at GE, designed the course and says his team compressed several years of learning into one course.

"Every one of my colleagues, including me, wish we had a course like this as we began to learn about the solar industry and its technology," Tolliver says. "A number of our students worked in the energy industry but in different areas. This type of course broadens their understanding of the entire energy picture and how solar fits in."

Kozik first proposed the solar course concept to Mark Little, senior vice president and director of Niskayuna-based GE Global Research. Little, a member of the Union Graduate College Advisory Board, helped connect the college with Tolliver and others at GE who were interested in teaching.

"Today's engineers and scientists not only need to be experts in technology, they need to have a solid business management background and an awareness of global policy implications to complement their expertise," Little says.

Experts from GE Global Research and AWS Truewind—an Albany-based renewable energy consulting firm that sites wind turbines worldwide—have joined forces to teach a similar-style wind energy course this spring. Kozik says the solar course will be offered again next year and eventually, both courses will be part of a new



Todd Tolliver (right), a photovoltaic engineer at GE and lead instructor of the new Solar Energy Technology Course, discusses the construction of a solar panel with students (from left): Francis Igo, Kevin McGrath, both of Lockheed Martin, and Ann Zearfoss of Atlas Copco.

emerging energy degree he's developing.

Because the School of Engineering targets working professionals, courses are offered at night on both a full and part-time basis. Kozik says this flexibility attracts students from leading companies, including General Electric, Plug Power, Atlas Copco, Lockheed Martin and SuperPower.

Scott Lobdell, Lead Application Engineer for GE Energy-Wind, says the variety of students, combined with the "multiple professor" approach used in the solar course, led to some of the best class discussions he's had at Union Graduate College. He's pursuing a Master's in Mechanical Engineering.

"All of us in the energy industry have to be nimble," Lobdell explains. "I don't work with solar technology right now, but I could down the road. This type of course gave me the background to adapt, if I need to."

President's Message continued on page 2

We are excited to have an alum serving in this vital role. Not only can Dan speak first-hand about his graduate education here, he also brings valuable development expertise to the UGC team. Most recently, he directed gift planning at The Sage Colleges, where he also created their corporate giving program and led the fundraising effort for a new athletics facility.

As many of you know, plans are underway to build a new home for Union Graduate College. We are confident Dan's fundraising experience and passion for his alma mater are the right combination to lead this major campaign. You'll be hearing more about our plans in future newsletters and other correspondence.

We are always looking for ways to better serve our students, alumni as well as the industries and professions who hire our graduates. We welcome your feedback. Please drop me a line anytime at: huppertz@uniongraduatecollege.edu.

Read on. Exciting things are happening here—we invite you to be a part of them.

Head of Children's Hospital Boston and UGC Alum to Speak at Commencement



James Mandell, MD, president and CEO of Children's Hospital Boston, will be keynote speaker for the 2008 Union Graduate College Commencement, Saturday, June 14th. Dr. Mandell, a pediatric urologist, received his MS in Healthcare Management from Union Graduate College in 1999.

School of Management

Curt V. Solomon (MBA '09) selected for Business Review's 40 Under 40: Curt Solomon, Vice President/Regional Manager, New York Business Development Corporation, was named one of the *Capital District Business Review's* "40 Under 40." In his profile, Solomon cited "Leading the Learning Organization," by Union Graduate College's Dr. Alan T. Belasen, as a book he would recommend.

Thomas Gabriele (MBA '01) recently completed his first tour of duty in Iraq, prosecuting insurgents in the Central Criminal Court. Gabriele joined the Air Force in 2003 and currently serves as Chief of International Law at Aviano Air Base in Italy.

Dr. David Putnam (Healthcare MBA '08), an Albany cardiologist, was interviewed by several local media outlets after Fidel Castro resigned. Putnam traveled to Cuba last September to study its health care system as part of an independent study with Dr. Marty Strosberg.

Ryan Guay (Healthcare MBA '08) has been accepted to the University of New England medical school.

New "Marketing High Tech Products" offered this summer: As "Tech Valley" continues to grow, this advanced course explores successful marketing of high-tech products. **Michael Boskin**, Albany Law School and RPI professor, will tackle everything from pricing to sales force management. Offered Term III. Contact Dean Chudzik: chudzikm@uniongraduatecollege.edu or 518.388.6447.

Labor Relations offered on-line: For more flexibility, this advanced management course will be offered on-line during Summer Term I. Dr. Ari Belasen will explore the history of the U.S. labor movements, including current topics like globalization and international outsourcing. Contact Dean Chudzik: chudzikm@uniongraduatecollege.edu or 518.388.6447.

Dr. Rudy Nydegger recently presented "Stress and Coping Strategies in Professional Firefighters" at the Applied Business Research Conference in Orlando. The paper was a collaboration with Union College student Frank Basile.

Dr. Jay Carlson recently discussed "Whole Number Dominance in Price Evaluations" at the American Marketing Association conference in Austin.

Dr. John Huppertz recently addressed "Student Assessment and Outcome Management" at The Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA) annual conference in Chicago.

School of Education

Two summer courses to extend 5-12 certification: Teachers already certified 7-12 can take either summer course to extend certification to 5-12. Both are approved by the NYS Dept. of Education and cost \$1,000 each. **Rick Reynolds** (Burnt Hills/Ballston Lake Middle School) will teach middle school structures, plans and models. **Judy Morley** focuses on middle school literacy and standards. Morley is the first National Board Certified Teacher in the Capital District and has directed the NBC support group for five years.



Professor Yudong Wang, of the Union College Visual Arts Department, discusses the history of Buddhism and Buddhist statuary as part of the *National Consortium for Teaching about Asia*. The School of Education offers this national program to Capital Region high school teachers.

Teaching about Asia: A group of art, social studies English and media arts teachers from across the Capital Region spent seven Saturdays at Union Graduate College, learning about Asian countries and exchanging ideas about teaching their history and culture. *The National Consortium for Teaching about Asia* is a national, multi-year program funded by the Freeman Foundation. To apply for next year's session, contact Associate Dean Catherine Snyder: snyderc@uniongraduatecollege.edu or 518.388.6361.

"The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly" in Science: **Professor Bruce Tulloch's** recent article focused on the NYS Dept. of Education's declining enforcement of state science standards. "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly" will be distributed to hundreds of science teachers across New York State.

Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) finishes visit: A big thanks to alumni, supervisors, mentors, and students who participated in the accreditation process. At the final visit in March, TEAC officials offered very positive feedback about their interactions. Notification about accreditation is expected later this year.

Center for Bioethics & Clinical Leadership

Welcome new faculty:

Joining Union Graduate College to teach clinical ethics and research ethics are:

Devra Cohen-Tigor, former president, Association of Standardized Patient Educators;

Robert Macauley, Director of Clinical Ethics, Fletcher Allen Health Care and the University of Vermont;

Sean Philpott, Policy and Ethics Officer, Global Campaign for Microbicides, and former executive editor, *American Journal of Bioethics*;

Robert N. Swidler, editor, the *New York State Bar Association Health Law Journal*.

Participant in NIH Grant Chairs Poland's first Center for Bioethics: Through a prestigious grant from the National Institutes of Health, the Bioethics Program, in partnership with Lithuania's Vilnius University, is training scientists, scholars and other professionals in Central and Eastern European countries through distance-learning courses. In many of these emerging countries, there are no bioethics standards to protect human test subjects. The goal is to for the participants to institute stronger ethical practices for health research in their home country. Now, a participant in the program—Dr. Marek Czarkowski—is chairing Poland's first Center for Bioethics. He and another participant and lecturer, Joanna Rozynska have written "Informed Consent in Medical Research," a first-of-its-kind handbook, which will be distributed to Polish physicians and investigators.

Charis Torok ('07) has been appointed a research fellow at the Hastings Center, the country's oldest bioethics think tank.

Aaron Edelstein ('07) has been accepted into the Tufts MBA-MD program.

Louise Winstanley, a current student, was appointed to the University of North Carolina Public Health Advisory Board

Elena Bennet and **Jamie Hirsh**, both current students, published an article in the American Medical Association's ethics newsletter, *Virtual Advisor*.

School of Engineering

Joseph Rowny (ME '08) started interning locally for GE Energy while pursuing his degree, which included the new *Electric Power Conversion, Modeling and Control of Power Electronics and Modern AC Electric Machinery* courses, developed by **Dr. David Torrey**, adjunct professor and founder of Advanced Energy Conversion in Malta. Rowny is still with GE Energy, but got his wish for a warmer climate after graduation. He is now at GE Energy's Control and Power Electronics headquarters in Salem, Virginia.

Benet Labs Hosts Armament Engineering Course: To support the needs of Benet Labs at the Watervliet Arsenal, *Advanced Launcher Armament Engineering* is being taught on-site this spring. This is the second group of Benet employees to take the course. The course concludes with "Spud Day," a test-launch of student designs, using potato missiles.



Students test a launcher design using potato missiles at the first "Spud Day." This spring, the *Advanced Launcher Armament Engineering* class is being taught on-site at the Watervliet Arsenal to better accommodate students from Benet Labs.

New Motor Acoustics course: In response to student requests, this course focuses on new technologies that reduce noise, while improving efficiency and performance of complex motors. Both electrical and mechanical engineers benefit from studying vibration and torque in the design process. Contact Dean Kozik: kozikr@uniongraduatecollege.edu or 518.388.8068.

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