Guided Tour of the Year at UAlbany

The University has a set of traditional events that build community, celebrate our outstanding faculty, staff and students, mark various phases of our academic year and recognize University progress toward our mission and goals. Watch for these special occasions as you plan your academic year.

August

- **Discover UAlbany**: you will hear from Human Resources and the office of the Provost about a series of orientations for faculty and staff about the responsibilities of, and resources and opportunities offered by each of the Divisions of the University. *These run throughout the year at about one per month!*

- **The Fall Faculty Retreat**, an annual occasion to renew connections with faculty colleagues from across campus and hear from a nationally recognized presenter about effective teaching. This takes place the Thursday before classes begin.

September

- Watch for the call for nominations for the **Excellence Awards, Collins Fellows Awards, and Distinguished Faculty Awards**. These are the main ways we recognize our exceptional faculty and staff.

- **Faculty and Staff Picnic**: Mid-late September

- **John E. Burton Lecture & Distinguished Public Service Awards Ceremony**: This lecture series honors John E. Burton, who served as New York State’s Director of the Budget from 1943 to 1950. At this event, Distinguished Public Service Awards are given to citizens with extraordinary achievements in public service.

October

- **Fall Faculty Meeting**: this is the occasion where the President communicates about the State of the University, and makes announcements about any special recent faculty and staff honors, awards and achievements.

- “**Fallbany**” and Homecoming, **Mid-October**—UAlbany’s Fall Festival celebrating our achievements in knowledge, sports, culture and entertainment. Meet UAlbany authors, enjoy student performances, tailgate for the UAlbany Great Danes Football game, shop at the farmer’s market, watch sheepherding demonstrations, learn from science demonstrations and more.

December

- **Winter Commencement**—takes place on Saturday during Finals Week.

- **Winter Session**, December 21-January 21: this a special shorter term during which many students engage in study abroad opportunities, and faculty offer intensive online courses.

- **Food for Finals**: watch for an invitation to stay up late the night before final exams begin to serve breakfast to students who take a break from studying. The results: smiles on both sides of the serving line!
February

- **Martin Luther King Jr. Lecture**: each year, a prominent African American scholar, citizen, or leader is chosen to present a lecture that kicks off the many events of UAlbany’s Black History Month.

- Watch for the invitation to the **UAlbany Day at the Capitol**, when UAlbany showcases its talents at the Downtown Plaza for the public and our legislators to see. See live student performances, faculty & researcher demonstrations & exhibitions, School and College displays, sustainability demonstrations, and more.

March

- **Spring Faculty Meeting**: this is the semi-annual occasion where the President communicates about the State of the University, and makes announcements of any special recent faculty, staff or departmental honors, awards and achievements.

April

- **Excellence Awards Ceremony**: This is UAlbany’s annual event to celebrate the achievements of our most talented faculty and staff. Awards are given in the categories of Excellence in Teaching by Full-time Faculty, Excellence in Teaching by Part-time Faculty; Excellence in Teaching by Graduate Instructors; Excellence in Academic Service; Excellence in Professional Service; Excellence in Classified Service and Excellence in Research and Creative Activities.

- **Earth and Wellness Fair**: designed to support your personal wellness efforts and to celebrate Earth Day, the fair is open to the entire campus community and features many exhibits providing information for health and well-being, a clothing exchange, free soil sample analysis courtesy of the Master Gardeners from Cornell Cooperative Extension, Cholesterol and Glucose Screening Clinic and more.

- **Clean-up Day**: watch for invitations to this day set aside for faculty and staff from across the university to work together to beautify our several campuses by cleaning them up, replanting and mulching gardens, etc.

May

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- **Torch Night** is a UAlbany tradition dating back to 1930 featuring a dramatic candle lighting ceremony, offering a time for graduates to reflect upon their experience at the University, welcoming the graduates into the alumni community, and passing the senior torch down to the junior class. This usually happens Saturday evening of Commencement weekend.

- **Commencement—Mid-May**: 2 days of graduation events for graduate and undergraduate students. Graduate Commencement takes place on Saturday in the SEFCU Arena and the Undergraduate Ceremony takes place on Sunday at the Podium. A Lavender Graduation for LGBTQ students takes place Friday evening of Commencement Weekend. Departments hold their own graduation ceremonies and events during the week before Commencement.

Go to Calendars and Schedules ([http://www.albany.edu/calendars.php](http://www.albany.edu/calendars.php)) to find more information about cultural events at our museum and performing arts center, athletic events, academic schedules, class and exam schedules and more!