

UA Team Competes in Bioethics Bowl

By Dona Parker

By the time you get this issue of *CAS Today*, the results of the Bioethics Bowl for 2009 at Harvard University, an annual event of The National Undergraduate Bioethics Conference (NUBC), will be known. But results



Minerva's Owls: standing l-r: Mac Johnston, Raphael Thomas and Professor Bonnie Steinbock (coach); seated l-r: Rukayatu Tijani, Cameron Waldman, Nalini Kalanadhabbatta, and Karen Torrejon

are not all that important to a group of students from UAlbany, at least that is what organizer Cameron Waldman told me. Cameron, a sophomore Philosophy major and Bioethics minor, along with five other students raised funds, researched issues and took the trip to Harvard to be a part of an environment filled with a diversity of viewpoints. The American Society of Bioethics and Humanities through NUBC brings to-

gether students and speakers across the country. The event is planned and organized by students and covers issues of current interest within the bioethics field. Discussions are led by experts invited by the students.

Cameron Waldman came to the University at Albany in 2007 from Nevada because he had heard about the work that Professor Bonnie Steinbock was doing at UA in the area of bioethics and he wanted to come and be a part of it all. Professor Steinbock was recently featured on the CAS Website to recognize her award of a month-long scholarly residency at the Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center

(Please see **Bioethics** p.21.)

From Star Gazer to "Ultimate Professor"

By Sabrina Katrayan

At the age of nine, Professor John Delano was not interested in seeing Sputnik, the very first artificial satellite in orbit. Most astronomy enthusiasts would find it hard to hide their excitement to see this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, but getting Delano to even go outside by

his insistent parents when he didn't want to was like pushing a stubborn donkey to the well. After finally giving in and spending at least five minutes outside, Delano's life changed as he experienced his very first epiphany. From that point on, Delano knew he wanted to pursue some aspect of science

as a career, making this experience the first step to his long 25-year teaching career.

Delano attended high school with an interest in astronomy, but developed a stronger like for physics and chemistry. He credits his strong interest in physics to his physics/chemistry teacher, Julia Warburton, the mother of

(Please see **Delano** p.22.)



Professor Delano at UAlbany's observatory



A Message from Dean Edelgard Wulfert



We have come to the end of another semester and another academic year. One year ago, the future looked considerably brighter. We did not know that we would soon find ourselves in the midst of an exceptionally difficult fiscal situation marked by hiring freezes and severe budget cuts. Over these past twelve months, the College suffered painful reductions in both one-time monies and permanent funds and this substantial loss of resources has had a serious impact on our ability to support faculty travel, research and scholarship. As we are heading into the new fiscal year that starts with July 1, we anticipate further budget reductions and are concerned about the serious impact that additional cuts may have on our educational programs and our ability to support the scholarly activities of our faculty.

Despite these challenges, we have reason to celebrate because our faculty and students continue with notable achievements, as the many examples in this issue of *CAS Today* show. As you will read in our newsletter, a number of our faculty have garnered highly competitive research grants from private, state, and federal agencies. Other faculty members have received attractive fellowships and awards to pursue their scholarly endeavors. And our students have been no less successful. Many have received awards, Fulbright scholarships, and dissertation grants to assist them in completing their research projects; and fifteen CAS undergraduate majors received the President's Award for Undergraduate Research with topics ranging from scientific discovery to social issues and literary studies.

In this issue of *CAS Today* I call your special attention to our feature stories. You will read about the work of Dr. Kristin V. Christodulu, director of the Psychology Department's Center for Autism; the work of English professor and author Thomas Bass whose latest book, *The Spy Who Loved Us*, is receiving wide acclaim; the research of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences professor John Delano and his dedication to our students; and the research of Chemistry professor Li Niu whose work may have implications for developing a pharmacological treatment for the debilitating neurodegenerative disease ALS (often referred to as "Lou Gehrig's Disease"). Finally, you will also find a feature about UAlbany students participating in the Bioethics Bowl at Harvard University. The trip to the bowl was their second appearance and their performance was described as "awesome."

Last but not least, let me call your attention to a new feature in this issue of *CAS Today*: the "Honor Roll of Donors" to the College of Arts and Sciences for the 2007-08 fiscal year. It is very gratifying to see that our friends have been generous in supporting the College. To all who have contributed to the programs and activities of the College, please accept my sincere thanks. If you have not yet done so and would like to make a contribution to the College, please use the form on page 23 of this Newsletter or go to the College of Arts and Sciences website. I am immensely grateful for your generosity, particularly in these challenging economic times, because your support allows us to reach out beyond our boundaries to share our mission.

Best wishes and warm regards,
Edelgard Wulfert
Dean and Professor of Psychology



Dean Wulfert welcomes CAS researchers and guests

Reception Celebrating Research

March 5, 2009

Provost Phillips visits with CAS researchers



UAlbany Day at the Empire State Plaza

February 10, 2009



Assistant Dean Michael Messitt and Dean Edelgard Wulfert look over the College of Arts and Sciences display.

Editor's Note

The articles and recurring sections of *CAS Today* represent a gathering of information supplied by our academic departments. We welcome articles or ideas for articles as well as highlights from our readers. If you have a topic you would like to have covered in the newsletter, please forward your information to dparker@cas.albany.edu. Tell us what you think—we welcome your opinion as we work to improve your college newsletter.

Mission to Improve Quality of Life for Children with Autism

By Heather Senison

Dr. Kristin V. Christodulu expanded the University at Albany's Center for Autism and Related Disabilities with a mission to improve the lives of children with autism and their families across New York state. The center provides resources and training workshops to families with children who have autism and professionals who work with them. It is mainly funded by legislative grants through the State Education Department, but has also received some federal funding. The center currently has three UAlbany graduate students on its staff. It also has a parent of a child with autism, whose input is essential to the program's work.

Since Christodulu joined the UAlbany faculty in January 2002, the center has expanded to similar programs in five sites across the state. However, the program is not Christodulu's first contribution to UAlbany. After growing up in Penfield, Monroe County, she attended the university to receive her Bachelor of Arts in psychology in 1990 and Ph.D. in clinical psychology in 2000. "Basically I got into the field to improve the quality of life for children and families, and that is why I come to work everyday," Christodulu said. "It is very rewarding."

The center is located in a building on Western Avenue and has a library of books, scientific journals and audio-multimedia that offer information on autism and related disabilities. It has a playroom and a meeting room where the staff holds informational seminars. Parents can call for information on how to improve self-help skills in children with autism or where to look for a pediatrician. "We're trying to help the child and the family gain more independence," Christodulu said. The center also hosts workshops in schools to train teachers in how to assist children with autism in their classes. "By working with the parents and the educators to develop skills, they are able to help their own children which is why this has been so successful."

In addition to individualized work, the center hosts family events, such as a Halloween costume party, a winter holiday party and a barbecue in the summer. The center also hosts two annual conferences each year, including one every fall at the Desmond Hotel and Conference Center in Albany which generates at least 500 guests.

UAlbany's center also conducts research on subjects such as facilitating peer relationships in school classrooms. The center is also finishing a five-year, federally funded research project in May on reducing challenging



Dr. Kristin V. Christodulu

behavior such as aggression, self-injury and tantrums among preschool children with developmental disabilities. Another subject of research at the center is sleep-disorders in children with autism.

As for the future, Christodulu has plans to move its facilities' information from the center to the Internet and onto DVDs. Many of the families UAlbany's center serves live in rural areas and often are unable to travel great distances to attend workshops, so Christodulu said it is necessary to make the center's services accessible through long-distance forms of communication. And, in the spirit of providing accessible resources, the new multi-media and Internet services will be free of charge to those who need them, she said.

Editor's Note: The Center for Autism and Related Disabilities has three appropriations in the 2009-10 fiscal year state budget for a total of \$1.49 million. In recognition of Dr. Christodulu's continued success, her title will be changed to Visiting Associate Professor.



CARD Students Receive Competitive Awards

Two students who work with Dr. Kristin V. Christodulu in the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities have received competitive awards. Ms. Lindsay Washington, graduate student, won the first Dr. Frank Fillipone '41-Hillside House Scholarship. Ms. Jerilyn Jesco has won the James Ryan Northeast Career Planning Scholarship for Rehabilitation Counseling. Ms. Jesco has been with the Center since 2002, working first as an undergraduate assistant, then as a full-time employee, and now she is enrolled in the graduate program in Rehabilitation Counseling.

Chemistry Professor Receives Major Grant Could Lead to Future Drug Discovery for ALS

By Dona Parker

The Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program managed by the Department of Defense (DOD) was established in 1994 to study the health effects on service members deployed in the 1991 Persian Gulf War. In 2001 a large epidemiological study conducted by the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs found preliminary evidence that Persian Gulf War veterans are nearly twice as likely as their non-deployed counterparts to develop amyotrophic (am-ee-otrow-phic) lateral sclerosis or ALS. ALS, as is often called Lou Gehrig's disease because the baseball star died from it, is a fatal neurological disease that affects the nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord that control muscle movement. Scientists don't know much about what causes ALS, although it is generally considered a combination of genetic and environmental factors. About 10 percent of cases are the familial type or are clearly genetic with a family history, while most incidences of ALS are sporadic or without an obvious genetic link. That is why the study of Gulf War soldiers has been an important study for their possible exposure to toxins and other environmental factors. The results of various studies provided the link that more combat soldiers statistically had a higher occurrence of the disease than the civilian population and those who suffered were all sporadic cases and significantly younger than the mean age group (45-60 years old) for ALS. Based on recent studies of the general U.S. population, over 5,000 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with ALS each year; that is about 15 new cases a day. However, there is no cure or treatment today that halts or reverses ALS, although there is a clinical drug that

very modestly slows the progression of the disease.

The Department of Defense is planning a Military Health Research Forum, which will be held from August 31 to September 3, 2009 in Kansas City, Missouri, and our own Dr. Li Niu, Associate Professor of Chemistry, has been invited to participate in presenting the research findings from his laboratory. He is also invited by DOD to participate in abstract reviewing and program planning activities for the meeting. Those who are invited to participate

are civilians and representatives from Congress, DOD, Historically Black Colleges and Minority Institutions, Hispanic Serving Institutions and the Department of Veterans

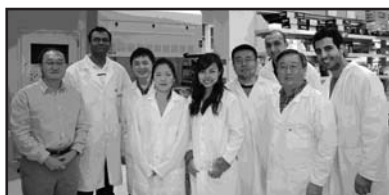
Professor Li Niu

Affairs, in addition to scientists from both academia and military research institutions. Recently, Dr. Niu was interviewed on tape by DOD for the research discovery in his lab, and the interview will be shown during the meeting. Last year, the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program and the Department of Defense featured Niu's research in their published annual scientific report.

Dr. Niu says that it was the \$1.15 million-dollar grant awarded to him by the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program and DOD back in late 2003 that allowed him to launch a major effort in his ALS research. Using this grant support, Niu's laboratory has been developing a new class of RNA inhibitors or aptamers as potent, water soluble molecular reagents as potential templates for drug design. Recently, Dr. Niu was awarded a five year RO1 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). This grant totaling \$1.49 million dollars will support research in his laboratory to study the mechanism of action for a group of small-molecule inhibitors designed to be potential drug candidates for a number of neurological disorders and diseases, such as stroke and ALS. All of these inhibitors target glutamate receptor ion channels, Niu says. These are proteins indispensable for the normal brain activities, but abnormal function of these receptor proteins has been implicated in various neurological disorders and diseases, such as ALS. The ultimate goal of Niu's research is to understand the correlation of the unique structural features of this receptor family to their function, and to provide mechanistic information for rational design of inhibitors that specifically target new and distinct receptor-mediated reaction steps as new molecular templates for drug discovery.

So far, Dr. Niu and his group have published research papers and have a patent pending for the novel discovery in developing better inhibitors as drug candidates. Dr. Niu gives credit to his group in the Life Sciences Research building that includes two postdoctoral researchers, Dr. Zhen Huang and Dr. Jae Seon Park. Dr. Huang graduated with a Ph.D. degree in Molecular Biology/Genetics from Wuhan University in China and Dr. Park graduated with a Ph.D. degree in Biotechnology from University of Tokyo in Japan. Dr. Huang and Dr. Park lead the effort in discovery of RNA aptamers. In fact, Dr. Huang is currently supported by a postdoctoral ALS

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Niu's research group: from left: Li Niu, Sabarinath Jayaseelan (graduate student), Dr. Zhen Huang (postdoctoral fellow), Ms. Hyojung Seo (undergraduate), Ms. Yan Han (graduate student), Joe Wang (graduate student), Dr. Jae Seon Park (front, postdoctoral fellow), Vurghun Ahmadov (back, graduate student) and Mobbammad Qneibi (graduate student)

Awards and Honors

Anthropology

- ❖ Professor **Adam Gordon** (Anthropology) is key investigator in one of the 100 best science stories of 2008, according to *Discover Magazine*. In March of this year Gordon published, with colleagues at George Washington University, a comparative study in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* centering on an ancient skeleton discovered in 2004 on the island of Flores, Indonesia. (From University News release 12/8/08)

Art

- ❖ Professor **JoAnne Carson** has won the Ellin P. Speyer Prize in Sculpture as part of the 183rd Annual Invitational Exhibition, National Academy of Art, New York, NY.
- ❖ Professor **Amy Bloch** has been awarded the prestigious Villa I Tatti Postdoctoral Fellowship, Villa I Tatti, The Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies, 2009-2010. She also has received the Jane and Morgan Whitney Fellowship, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, 2009-2010.
- ❖ Professor and Associate Dean **Rachel Dressler** has been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend for 2009.
- ❖ Professor **John Overbeck** has been awarded the Institute for Study of Aegean Prehistory (INSTAP) for spring 2009.

Communication

- ❖ A joint paper from the **Center for Technology and Government** and **Department of Communication** has been selected for the John Wiley & Sons Best JASIST (*Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*) Paper Award.
- ❖ Professor **Stuart Swiny** received the 2008 Albright Service Award from the American Schools of Oriental Research for outstanding service contributions to the Cyprus American Archaeological Research Institute (CAARI).

English

- ❖ Professor **Charles Shepherdson** has an appointment with the United States Department of State as a Senior Specialist in American Studies with Fulbright from 2006 to 2011.

History

- ❖ The Center for Applied Historical Research (CAHR) has been awarded a \$2,500 planning grant from the New York State Council on the Humanities for traveling exhibit titled "Abandoned New York." CAHR is directed by Professor **Ivan Steen** and **Patricia West** and facilitates broad, democratic access to historical resources and knowledge.
- ❖ Distinguished Teaching Professor **Warren Roberts** was awarded the Nancy Lyman Roelker prize for the mentoring of undergraduate students by the American Historical Association.
- ❖ **Laura Wittern-Keller**, Visiting Assistant Professor and Ph.D. graduate in History is the recipient of the Excellence in Research Award (2007) from the New York State Archives.

Judaic Studies

- ❖ Professor **Barry Trachtenberg** had a NEH Research Grant for Summer 2008. He is currently a 2009 Fellow at the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies and will be a Summer 2009 Research Fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. He also has a 2009 Jack and Anita Hess Seminar Follow-up Grant.

Music

- ❖ Professor **Max Lifchitz's** group, the North/South Chamber Orchestra's recorded album has been nominated for a Latin Grammy for the piece "Variación del Recuerdo (Variations of Memory)."
- ❖ **David Janower**, Professor and Albany Pro Musica artistic director, received an honorary membership in the Tri-M Music Honor Society (a program of MENC: The National Association for Music Education).

Sociology

- ❖ Professor **Hayward Horton** received the 2009 Outstanding Community Service Award from the Black Caucus of the Public Employee Federation for his research on "Diversity in the New York State Government Workforce."

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fellowship from the Muscular Dystrophy Association. His group is also using a laser-pulse photolysis technique to characterize the mechanism of receptor activation and regulation by these inhibitors in the microsecond-to-millisecond time scale. In addition to his two major grants from Department of Defense and the National Institutes of Health, Dr. Niu has

been funded over the years by the Muscular Dystrophy Association and the ALS Association.

In addition to applying for grants and supervising research, Dr. Niu teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in general chemistry, physical chemistry and biochemistry.

Anthropology

- Professor **Walter Little** was elected to two boards: New England Council of Latin American Studies (executive committee member) and Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology.
- Professor **Hetty Jo Brumbach** and **Robert Jarvenpa** have been invited to serve on the board of the new journal *Ethnoarchaeology*, the first volume of which is expected out in April 2009.
- Professor **David Straight** is serving on the editorial board of the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, the primary journal for physical anthropologists. He joins Professor Tom Brutsaert on this editorial board.

Sociology

- Professor **Christine Bose** was elected as the Eastern Sociological Society 2011 President.

Humanities Initiative Continues

The **Humanities Initiative Working Group**, begun in the spring of 2008 under the leadership of College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean **Rachel Dressler**, is a task force focused on reinvigorating and making more visible the contributions of the Humanities scholars on campus. Associate Dean Dressler was encouraged in this effort by CAS Dean Elga Wulfert, who wanted to encourage dynamic and productive interactions among faculty in various Humanistic disciplines and to celebrate their efforts and accomplishments. The task force is informal and is composed of department chairs, graduate and undergraduate directors, and others in positions of leadership in the College.

Among its first activities, the Humanities Initiative sponsored a Brown-Bag Event in November 2008, in which Vivien Ng, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Research and Associate Professor in Women's Studies and Affiliated Faculty in History, presented current research under the title "Disconnect: Early 20th-C Chinese Feminists and the U. S. Women's Suffrage Movement" with a response by Glyne Griffith, Associate Professor and Chair of Latin American, Caribbean and U.S. Latino Studies. A second "Brown Bag Event" was held in April and was presented by Amy Bloch, Assistant Professor of Art History, speaking on "Ghiberti's Creation and the Question of Angelic Intervention," with a response by Ineke Murakami, Assistant Professor of English.

Clinical Psychology Ph.D. is Outstanding

The Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT) has recognized the **Ph.D. Program in Clinical Psychology** with the ABCT Outstanding Training Program award. This award is given to a training program that has made a significant contribution to training behavior therapists and/or promoting behavior therapy. In notifying our Director of Clinical Training, Professor John Forsyth, ABCT noted that "there were many excellent programs nominated, but the rich history of the program as a home for scientist-practitioner training, the leadership of your program faculty in ABCT, and the remarkable accomplishments of faculty, postdocs, and students from the program in research, education, and practice made Albany uniquely deserving of recognition." The award will be presented at this year's convention awards ceremony.

Professor Millis to Continue as Director

Edelgard Wulfert, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, has announced that Professor **Albert Millis** will continue as the Director for the Life Sciences Research Building (LSRB) for the coming year. In announcing his continuation as Director, Dr. Wulfert noted that his leadership since the inception of this initiative has been exemplary and steadfast. In particular, over the past several years, Dr. Millis has been instrumental in recruiting a productive and talented group of scientists for the LSRB. She continued that she was grateful that he will provide guidance and leadership for this important university initiative for another term.

Director of the Center for Jewish Studies is Appointed

Recently, Dean Edelgard Wulfert announced the appointment of Professor **Joel Berkowitz** as Director of the Center for Jewish Studies. In addition to this appointment, Professor Berkowitz will continue as Chair of the Judaic Studies Department. In announcing this appointment, Dean Wulfert stated, "I am confident that under Professor Berkowitz's able leadership the Center for Jewish Studies will flourish, continue to affirm its commitment to academic excellence, and through innovative community-wide programs serve as a bridge between the university and the community at large."

2009 CAS Teaching Awardees

The College of Arts and Sciences recognizes outstanding faculty contributions in the area of teaching and mentoring through the CAS Dean's Teaching Award. A faculty selection committee recommended that two awards be conferred this year:

P. D. Magnus, Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy, received the award for *Excellence in Teaching* in recognition of his devotion to student learning. Such innovations as his on-line, open-access textbook for "Introduction to Logic" and the dictionary of technical terms for Existentialism that he compiled for his class, testify to his commitment to his students. Based on letters of support from colleagues and students, Professor Magnus has a demonstrated ability to stimulate students intellectually and to prompt student learning in new and unique ways.

Cheryl Frye, Professor in the Department of Psychology, received the award for *Excellence in Student Mentoring* in recognition of her successful performance in advising and mentoring. Professor Frye is perceived as highly demanding, but strongly committed to her students' intellectual and professional development. She provides rigorous training in research skills to students ranging from those in the high school to doctoral candidates. She co-founded the yearly regional N.E.U.R.O.N. conference that serves as a forum for students to present their research and interact with neuroscientists from different universities. Her students also regularly present at national and international professional meetings and coauthor papers with her. To date, ten of her students have won research awards, including University at Albany Presidential Awards for Undergraduate Research and similar distinctions.

Department Tweaks Name

The former Department of Earth and Atmospheric Science has changed the name of their department to Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences to more accurately reflect the actual emphasis of the department. The name change also recognizes the growing number of students in the environmental areas.

Obituaries

Sarah (Blacher) Cohen, English

Sarah (Blacher) Cohen died peacefully at home on November 10, 2008. She was a popular professor of Jewish literature and a noted scholar on Jewish female comics. Dr. Cohen was a Professor Emerita at the University at Albany at the time of her death having recently retired after 33 years of teaching. Dr. Cohen wrote or edited seven books of her own, and several of her plays were produced in collaboration with Joanne Koch, from Chicago. Her most recent work in progress was a scholarly book for SUNY Press on the novelist and critic Cynthia Ozick. She was also general editor of the SUNY Press Series on Modern Jewish Literature and Culture and was awarded a Distinguished Fulbright Professorship to Yugoslavia.

Pong S. Lee, Economics

Pong Lee died on February 3, 2009. He was born in Korea and came to the United States to attend and graduate from Simpson College in Iowa. He received his Ph.D. from Yale University in 1965 and began his career as Professor of Economics at the University at Albany. He was a scholar and professor until his retirement in 1995. Dr. Lee was a driving force in the early days of the Department of Economics, serving in a leadership role as Chair of the department.

Shelton Bank, Chemistry

Shelton Bank, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry died suddenly on January 12, 2009, while visiting his children in Oakland, California. He began his doctoral studies at Purdue University where he worked with the Nobel Laureate, Herbert C. Brown. After receiving the Ph.D. he moved to Harvard as a Postdoctoral Fellow in Organic Chemistry with Professor Paul Bartlett. In 1961, he joined Esso (Exxon-Mobil) research and assumed a project leader role in 1964. In 1966, Dr. Bank was appointed Associate Professor of Chemistry at the University at Albany and was promoted to Professor in 1972. He served as Chair of the American Chemical Society. Professor Bank had a career-long interest in nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy and was interested in discovering new ways to use NMR to solve applied problems. He authored and co-authored almost a hundred research papers and was awarded two patents.

Dr. Bank received the University Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1988 and the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1989.

Student Success

Anthropology

- ▲ **Gabriela Aquino**, doctoral student, has received funding through a joint agreement between SUNY and CONACYT (equivalent to the Mexican NSF). Ms. Aquino is the first graduate student co-funded under this joint agreement—she joins another student from Stony Brook.
- ▲ **Maryna Bazlevych**, doctoral student, is being supported by an NSF Dissertation Improvement Grant and by a Wenner-Gren Foundation grant for fieldwork in the Ukraine.

Biological Sciences

- ▲ **Ei Ye Mon**, undergraduate major, has been awarded an Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) Fellowship at the Center for Disease Control. Ms. Mon will be assisting with research this summer in the lab of Dr. James Grainger who works on developing methods for the determination of human exposure to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

Communication

- ▲ **Satomi Kamimura**, undergraduate major, had her paper “Turn-Taking in Japanese and Anglo-American English Conversation: A Comparative Study in Interaction” accepted for presentation at the competitive annual Conference on Undergraduate Research in Communication at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT).

History

- ▲ **Jonathan Nash**, doctoral candidate, received a Research Award from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. The funding will be used to conduct research on his project, “An Incarcerated Republic: Prisoners, Reformers and the Penitentiary in the Early United States,” at the New York Historical Society. Mr. Nash also received travel grants from the Society of Early Americanists, the American Society for 18th Century Studies, and the Social Science History Association.
- ▲ **Mara Drogan**, doctoral candidate, has been awarded a Samuel Flagg Bemis Research Grant by the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR). She accepted the award at a SHAFR luncheon and she delivered presentations of her work.
- ▲ **Alena Kryukovskaya**, undergraduate history major, has won an Undergraduate Research Endowed Fellowship from the UAlbany Foundation to support her project “The Religious Context of Bohdan Khmelnytsky’s Cossack Uprising of 1648.”

- ▲ **Jeffrey DiPaola**, undergraduate history major, has won an Undergraduate Research Endowed Fellowship from the UAlbany Foundation to support his project on tenement housing in New York City during the late nineteenth century.

- ▲ **Denise McGeen**, graduate student, has won the very first Patricia Stocking Brown Award for Feminist Social Justice research in University at Albany’s University Libraries Grenander Special Collections and Archives Department. This award will enable her to conduct research for her project on environmental justice, using the in-house primary records of both Citizen’s Environmental Coalition and Environmental Advocates of New York.

- ▲ **David Jones**, doctoral student, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to research the liberation struggles in Namibia during the 1970s and 1980s. He will conduct extensive oral interviews with participants from the liberation struggle, which ended in 1990 when Namibia gained its independence from South African rule.

Languages, Literatures and Cultures

- ▲ **Beth Kane**, undergraduate student in Slavic, has been selected as a recipient of a U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship for participation in the Russian intensive summer language institute. Ms. Kane will spend two months in Tomsk University studying, living with a host family and participating in cultural events.
- ▲ **Humberto Salgado**, undergraduate student French/Spanish major will be in Paris, France on a scholarship next month. He is one of three winners of the Joseph Yedlicka scholarship funded by Pi Delta Phi National French Honor Society. The scholarship will cover all his expenses, including the cost of a course that grants him a free pass to the Louvre.

Philosophy

- ▲ **Jaime Walker** and **Klaus Ladstaetter**, doctoral graduates, have been appointed to faculty positions. Dr. Walker is at Frostburg State in Maryland and Dr. Ladstaetter is at Washburn College in Kansas.

Sociology

- ▲ **Reese Kelly**, graduate student, won the 2008 New York State Sociological Association Annual Conference Graduate Student Paper Award for “Border-Crossing and Trans Identity Management.”

UAlbany Students Honored for Academic Excellence

The State University of New York recently honored 238 college students from SUNY campuses with the 2009 Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. The event was presided over by Vice Chancellor and Officer-in-Charge John J. O'Connor who explained that the award comes after a three-part process on each campus that evaluates student's academic, artistic and athletic performance as well as their service to the community. Each recipient received a framed certificate and medallion, which is traditionally worn at commencement. Students majoring in programs in the College of Arts and Sciences who were honored are **Courtney D'Allaird** (Sociology), **Carla Neckles** (Chemistry), **Madeline Page** (English), **Kareema Pinckney** (English), and **Whitney Sperrazza** (English).

Biology Students Join Local Dentist on a Mission

Undergraduate students from the Department of Biology accompanied two dentists from the parishes of St. Helen's Church of Niskayuna and Our Lady of Fatima Church in Schenectady on a four day mission to the villages of Cauanacaxtitlan (Cuana) Yoloxochitl (Yolo) and Arroyo Cumiapa (Cumiapa) in Mexico. The students are **Christopher Theall**, **Reena Patel** and **Mariam Sharifapour**. Several years ago, the two parishes raised enough money to build a health clinic in Cumiapa. These students assisted the dentists in treating about 120 individuals, which included on average about three extractions per individual by providing them with a steady supply of sterilized instruments, etc. The students were important to the work the dentists did and are attributed with providing invaluable assistance. They represented their university, their country and their home admirably with dedication and professionalism.

Driving Force Connects Students

Communication student, **Laura Anderson-Gavin**, formed a group called *The Driving Force* for the purpose of creating bonds between students who live on campus and those who commute. She got to thinking about how sad it was that commuter students felt so unconnected, so she connected with Kelly Lamb from the Office of the Transfer Experience, whom she had previously met and talked with about her ideas, including opening a Commuter Lounge and providing lockers for commuters. Ms Lamb told her that the topic had come up before and that she would bring it up at a meeting. Within days, she got back to Ms. Anderson-Gavin and told her that starting in Fall 2008 the Patroon Lounge would be the new Transfer/Commuter Student Lounge. President Philip came to the opening of the lounge. *The Driving Force*

is a service organization, and one of their main tasks this year will be fundraising to provide "Gas Scholarships" to commuter students to help ease the economic burden of driving back and forth to school.

The Driving Force was awarded the President's Award for Leadership-Great Dane Award. The founding members of *The Driving Force* are all Communication majors and along with Laura Anderson-Gavin include Shannon Weil, Krista Klock and Dawn Kassirer.

MFA Graduates and Faculty Prominent at Photo Regional

The Opalka Gallery at The Sage Colleges played host to the 31st Annual Photography Regional Exhibition. From the local press reports, Elizabeth Dubben, curator, created a very different exhibit. She described her mission to create "a window through which to view the many nuances within the world of photography." One significant change was that the Regional Exhibit was "invitation only" instead of the usual juried open call for any artist. Dubben, a professional gallerist, hand picked the 13 artists for the show from the works of about 150 artists that she reviewed. Artists associated with University at Albany include MFA alums **Justin Baker**, **Liz Blum**, **Colleen Cox**, and **Tara Fracalossi**. Also, those exhibiting from UAlbany were Professor **Daniel Goodwin**, Professor Emeritus **Robert Cartmell**, and Adjunct Professor **Mindy McDaniel**.

Undergraduate Research Endowed Fellowship

Students from programs in the College of Arts and Sciences were recipients of the Undergraduate Research Endowed Fellowship. The Fellowship was made possible through the generosity of the Lita and Stephen Greenwald Endowment here at University at Albany. Each faculty mentor received a check made payable to their student in the amount of \$400 to be used for research supplies. Recipients and their mentors are:

- Daniel DaCosta** – Faculty Mentor, Professor Cheryl Frye
- Jeff DiPaola** – Faculty Mentor, Professor David Hochfelder
- Jonathan Friedman** – Faculty Mentor, Professor Cheryl Frye
- Fareed Haddad** – Faculty Mentor, Professor Cheryl Frye
- Amy Kohtz** – Faculty Mentor, Professor Cheryl Frye
- Alena Kryukovskaya** – Faculty Mentor, Professor Nadieszda Kizenko
- Francelina Morilla** – Faculty Mentor, Professor Jeanette Altarriba
- Tang Thu Nguyen** – Faculty Mentor, Professor Jayanti Pande
- James Ruppert** – Faculty Mentor, Professor Lance Bosart

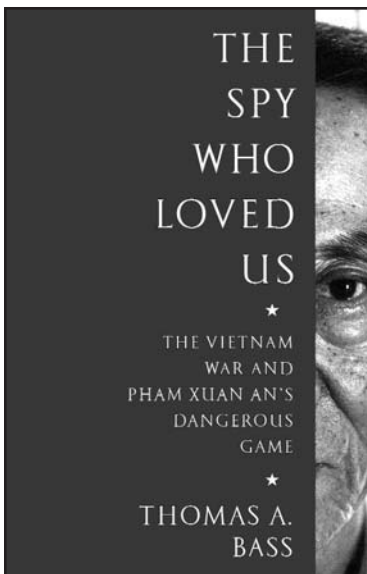
Undergraduate Research Awards

The President's Award for Undergraduate Research has been awarded to students in programs in the College of Arts and Sciences. In all cases the department has supported undergraduate research that has resulted in the completion of an award winning project. A check for \$100 was presented at the appropriate departmental function or ceremony to the following:

Kathryn Gulfo	BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES Insights into the ROCK-mediated pathway leading to branching morphogenesis in mouse SMG Faculty Advisor: Professor Melinda Larsen	Jessica Sweet	English The Narcissistic Mise-en-Abyme in "The Pillar of Salt" Faculty Advisor: Professor Steven Weber
Daniel Leonard	BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES Fibroblast Growth Factors 7 and 10 modulate mouse embryonic salivary gland development in a time dependant manner Faculty Advisor: Professor Melinda Larsen	Karime Gazdik	ANTHROPOLOGY White-Tailed Deer Management at the Ancient Maya City of Mayapan: An Osteometric Perspective Faculty Advisor: Professor Marilyn Masson
Jason Altman	BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES Fluorescence Spectroscopy of RNA Tertiary Hairpin Structure Formation and Dynamics Faculty Advisor: Professor Pan T.X. Li	Elise Bellefeuille	SOCIOLOGY The Gender of Money Faculty Advisor: Professor Christine Bose
Sarah Deaton	BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES Expression of RNA Binding Proteins during Optic Nerve Regeneration in adult <i>Xenopus laevis</i> Faculty Advisor: Professor Ben Szaro	Joseph Boskovski	SOCIOLOGY The Paradox of Felon Disenfranchisement Faculty Advisor: Professor Ryan King
Brooke Seligson	WOMEN'S STUDIES Learning our Gender Faculty Advisor: Professor Barbara Sutton	Erin Duffy	PSYCHOLOGY An Examination of the Self-Control Strength Model and its Application to Gambling Faculty Advisor: Professor Edelgard Wulfert
Charlene Bradt	ENGLISH J.M. Coetzee and Politics of the Human-Animal Distinction Faculty Advisor: Professor Paul Stasi	Amy Kohtz	PSYCHOLOGY Sex differences, and endogenous hormonal milieu, interact with dose-dependent cocaine administration for effects on psychomotor, anxiety-like, and sexual behaviors Faculty Advisor: Professor Cheryl Frye
Whitney Sperrazza	ENGLISH Silencing the Female Narrative: Elements of Folklore in Shakespeare's Macbeth Faculty Advisor: Professor Ineke Murakami	Eric Horvitz	PSYCHOLOGY How Do Age and Negative Emotional State Affect Memory? Faculty Advisor: Professor Jeanette Altarriba
Jennifer Kowalski	ENGLISH Being the Object and the "Other": The Women of Morrison's Paradise and Naylor's Linden Hills Faculty Advisor: Professor Paul Stasi		

Life of Pham Xuan An: A Challenging Discovery

By Heather Senison



When University at Albany English and Journalism professor Thomas A. Bass wrote *The Spy Who Loved Us*, he published more than an award-winning book—he uncovered one of the greatest American mysteries in the 20th century.

The book, dedicated to Bass's twin sons Tristan and Julian, is an account of the life of Pham Xuan An, a spy for the North Vietnamese who doubled as a *Time* magazine correspondent and "reliable source" for David Halberstam, Neil Sheehan, and scores of other American journalists during the Vietnam war.

Bass reported in his *New Yorker* story that An had won four military medals for his contributions to the North Vietnamese.

It was only after An's death that Bass discovered that the great spy had actually won sixteen medals, many of them for providing the tactical intelligence that allowed the Communists to win major battles.

"He had been absolutely crucial in advance planning and tactical maneuvers," says Bass. "He was the secret weapon that allowed the Communists to win the war."

Besides the difficulties Bass overcame uncovering An's story, he also faced the hurdles that come from being a reporter in a Communist country.

Bass had to register with the Vietnamese Ministry of the Interior to secure a press pass, and he assumed that the translators and assistants assigned to work with him were doing double duty as intelligence agents.

"The only way to function in this environment is to make the job of your spies as easy as possible," Bass says. "You tell them in advance about every place you are visiting and person you are interviewing. You keep the spies on your payroll, taking them out for lunch and dinner, even when you are paying for your own translators and assistants. If you are transparent enough about your activities, then there is no need for anyone to seize your notes and tape recordings as you leave the country."

The secrecy and obstacles surrounding An's story drove Bass to dig deeper, until he got the truths published this spring in *The Spy Who Loved Us*.

When Bass is not traveling to Vietnam and other Asian destinations, he teaches fulltime at UAlbany, where he loves what he describes as his students' "spunk" and "curiosity."

Bass received his Bachelor of Arts from University of Chicago and Ph.D. in the History of Consciousness from University of California at Santa Cruz. He is married and has three children.

Bass is currently writing the screenplay for *The Spy Who Loved Us* and working on his next book. He declined to reveal its subject, saying only that it might have something to do with spies and journalists.

Bass first met An in 1992 at the former spy's villa in Saigon.

"I was blown away," Bass says of their first encounter. "I knew that writing about him would be a phenomenal story."

The story was so interesting that Bass pursued it from 1992 until the book was published this year by Public Affairs.

An was a story-teller with a marvelous sense of humor, Bass says. "We would sit in the living room of the house that he had been given for his meritorious services as a spy and An—who by then had been elevated to the rank of General—would regale me for hours with hair-raising tales about his thirty years' service as North Vietnam's most important spy."

Researching An's life was no easy feat. After Bass published an early version of An's life in *The New Yorker*, the spy stopped talking to him, apparently acting on orders of the Vietnamese intelligence agencies for whom he still worked.

Bass says he didn't get the full story until after Pham Xuan An's death in 2006.

"Every spy has a cover story," says Bass, "but An was so good at his job that he had two cover stories."

An's first cover story during the Vietnam War was when he pretended to be a *Time* correspondent sympathetic to the West while actually spying for North Vietnam's Communist leader Ho Chi Minh.

An developed his second cover after the war ended in 1975. "He pretended to have been nothing more than a strategic analyst, observing the war from the sidelines," says Bass. "This second cover story was believed by most of An's American journalist friends."

Faculty Books

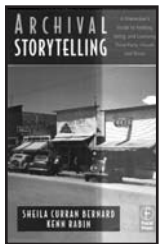


Death in the Classroom

Jeffrey Berman

In his new book, *Death in the Classroom*, Jeffrey Berman writes about “Love and Loss,” the course that he designed and taught two years after his wife’s death, in which he explored with his

students the literature of bereavement. Building on his previous courses that emphasized self-disclosing writing, Berman shows how his students wrote about their own experiences of love and loss, how their writing affected classmates and teacher alike, and how writing about death can lead to educational and psychological breakthroughs. In an age in which eighty percent of Americans die not in their homes but in institutions, and in which, consequently, the living are separated from the dying, *Death in the Classroom* reveals how reading, writing, and speaking about death can play a vital role in a student’s education.



Archival Storytelling: A Filmmaker’s Guide to Finding, Using, and Licensing Third-Party Visuals and Music

Sheila Curran Bernard

Archival Storytelling is an essential exploration of one of the more challenging issues facing media makers today: the use of images and music, including historical and commercial materials, to which someone else holds the rights. How do producers find and negotiate fees for these materials? When are substitutions acceptable, and when do they compromise the final product? What do producers need to know when shooting a world filled with rights-protected images and sounds? Filled with advice and insight, *Archival Storytelling* features conversations with industry leaders including Lawrence Lessig, Stanley Nelson, Patricia Aufderheide, Anthony Falzone, Rick Prelinger, Hubert Best, Rena Kosersky, and Geoffrey C. Ward. The book defines such key terms as copyright, fair use, public domain, orphan works, Creative Commons and more, and challenges filmmakers to become not only archival users but also archival and copyright activists, ensuring their ongoing ability as creators to draw on the cultural materials that surround them.



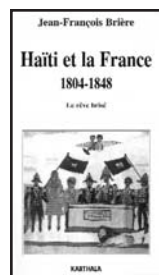
Americans at the Gate

Carl Bon Tempo

Unlike the 1930s, when the United States tragically failed to open its doors to Europeans fleeing Nazism, the country admitted over three million refugees during the Cold War. This

dramatic reversal gave rise to intense political and cultural battles, pitting refugee advocates against determined opponents who at times successfully slowed admissions. The first comprehensive historical exploration of American refugee affairs from the midcentury to the present, *Americans at the Gate* explores the reasons behind the remarkable changes to American refugee policy, laws, and programs.

Carl Bon Tempo looks at the Hungarian, Cuban, and Indochinese refugee crises, and he examines major pieces of legislation, including the Refugee Relief Act and the 1980 Refugee Act. He argues that the American commitment to refugees in the post-1945 era occurred not just because of foreign policy imperatives during the Cold War, but also because of particular domestic developments within the United States such as the Red Scare, the Civil Rights Movement, the rise of the Right, and partisan electoral politics. Using a wide variety of sources and documents, *Americans at the Gate* considers policy and law developments in connection with the organization and administration of refugee programs.

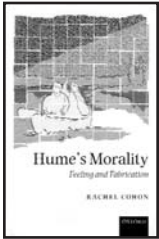


Haïti et la France, 1804-1848. Le rêve brisé (Paris: Karthala, 2008)

Jean-Francois Brière

This book is a study of the rocky relations between France and Haiti after 1804, the year Haiti unilaterally proclaimed its independence from France.

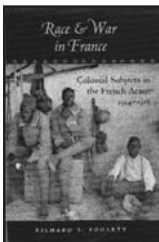
It shows how France tried to reestablish colonial rule over Haiti after 1814 before imposing draconian conditions upon the young nation in exchange for recognizing independence in 1825.



Hume's Morality: Feeling and Fabrication

Rachel Cohon

This book offers an original interpretation of the moral philosophy of David Hume, focusing on two areas: his analysis of what is involved in making a moral evaluation, and his view that some (though not all) virtues of character depend for their existence on social convention. On the first topic, the author argues that according to Hume, human beings discern moral virtues and vices by means of feeling or emotion in a way rather like sensing; but this also gives the moral judge a truth-tapt idea of a virtue or vice as a felt property, contrary to what traditional interpreters have claimed. On the second, she argues that Hume sees certain character traits (such as honesty) as prosthetic virtues that compensate for deficiencies in human nature. Because their true status clashes with our common-sense conception of a virtue, however, it has been concealed, giving rise to the paradoxes about these traits that Hume identifies.



Race & War in France

Richard S. Fogarty

During the First World War, the French army deployed more than 500,000 colonial subjects to European battlefields. The struggle against a common enemy associated these soldiers with the French nation, but racial and cultural differences left them on the outside. This study investigates French conceptions of race and national identity at the time as reflected in the attitudes and policies directed toward these soldiers.

How far did French egalitarianism extend in welcoming and disciplining nonwhite troops? Using the experiences of African and Asian colonial soldiers, Richard S. Fogarty examines how tensions between racial prejudices and strong traditions of republican universalism and egalitarianism resulted in often contradictory and paradoxical policies. Employing a socially and culturally integrated approach to the history of warfare that connects military and political policies with the society and culture in which they developed, Fogarty presents a fresh picture of how the French came to deal with race relations, religious differences, and French identity itself.



Queering Cold War Poetry

Eric Keenaghan

Many feel that individualism, and the security it demands, define democracy and freedom. This belief is characteristic of the attitude that thinkers from John Dewey to Michel Foucault have criticized as "liberalist." In actuality, though, we share intimate associations with one another through contacts established by our bodies and language.

In *Queering Cold War Poetry*, Eric Keenaghan offers queer theory, queer studies, and literary theory, a new political and conceptual language for reevaluating past and present high valuations of individualism and security. He examines four Cold War poets from Cuba and the United States—Wallace Stevens, José Lezama Lima, Robert Duncan, and Severo Sarduy—who lived in an era when homosexuals were regarded as outsiders or even security threats. In their struggles against liberalist state and cultural mandates that foreclosed positive estimations of vulnerability, these poets radically revised ethics and identity in their day. Their work exemplifies how modernist poetry disseminates experiences of differences challenging prevailing attitudes about individuals' relationships to one another and to their nations. These studies of lyric and poetics clear the way for imagining what it means to belong to a passionate and compassionate citizenry which celebrates vulnerability, searches for difference in itself and each of its constituent individuals, and identifies less with a nation than with a global community.



Reconstructing Motherhood and Disability in the Age of "Perfect" Babies

Gail Landsman

This is a book about transformation — about the meanings mothers of "imperfect" children give to motherhood and disability in an age in which infants are commodified and new technologies hold out the promise of "perfect" babies. It is based on two years of anthropological field research at a site at which developmental physicians evaluate young children, and on sixty in-depth interviews with mothers who received the "bad news" that their child has, or is at high risk for disability. In an era in which motherhood is achieved rather than ascribed, public health campaigns suggest the possibility of maternal control over pregnan-

Faculty Books

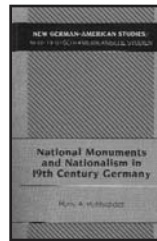
cy outcome, and specific traits of babies themselves increasingly appear to Americans in terms of choice, the author asks, “How do mothers of infants and toddlers with disabilities—the children few would actively choose—make sense of their motherhood? How do they interpret and negotiate the meaning of disability? How might their experience of nurturing a child who differs from what is understood to be “species typical” contribute to disability studies and disability activism, and to our understandings of how personhood is—and could be—constructed in America?” (Gail Landsman is Associate Professor Emerita.)



Marriage Advice for a Pope: John XXII and the Power to Dissolve

Patrick Nold

In Medieval Europe the regulation of marriage fell to the Church, and the Church taught that marriage was an indissoluble union between man and woman formed by the verbal agreement of the two. Patrick Nold's new book investigates a little-known loophole in this teaching: that a marriage could be dissolved by one spouse's joining a religious order after consent had been exchanged but before consummation through sexual intercourse had occurred. He shows how this exception to the rule that consent made an indissoluble marriage vexed Thirteenth-century academics and intellectuals, and how in 1322 Pope John XXII (1316-34) was led to call on a group of big-name theologians and lawyers to study the issue. These professors submitted to the pope consilia, or advice, which sought to explain the exception to the rule of marital indissolubility for a chaste monk or nun, and to explore whether the pope had the power to dissolve non-consummated marriages by extending the exemption to celibate priests and deacons. Such position papers were used by the John XXII to draft his decretal *Antique Concertationi* (1322) which became a part of medieval marriage law. Professor Nold discovered this *Marriage Advice for a Pope* in a manuscript preserved in an obscure library in Rome, and has made the Latin texts available to the scholarly community by editing them in his book. His book supplies a missing link in the evolution of marriage theory in the West—between the twelfth century when popes legislated that consent ‘made’ a marriage and the fifteenth century when popes began to dissolve marriages based on consent alone. It also offers insight into the decision-making process at the Roman curia in Avignon under a controversial pope.



National Monuments and Nationalism in 19th Century Germany

Hans Pohlsander

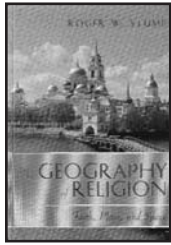
No century in modern European history has built monuments with more enthusiasm than the 19th. Of the hundreds of monuments erected, those which sprang from a nation-wide initiative and addressed themselves to a nation, rather than part of a nation, we may call national monuments. Nelson's Column in London or the Arc de Triomphe in Paris are obvious examples. In Germany the 19th century witnessed a veritable flood of monuments, many of which rank as national monuments. These reflected and contributed to a developing sense of national identity and the search for national unity; they also document an unsuccessful effort to create a “genuinely German” style. They constitute a historical record, quite apart from aesthetic appeal or ideological message. As this historical record is examined, German national monuments of the 19th century are described and interpreted against the background of the nationalism which gave birth to them. (Hans Pohlsander is Professor Emeritus.)



Reform and Resistance

Helene Scheck

This book explores the relationship between gender and identity in early medieval Germanic societies, centering mostly on competing perceptions of female subject formation in times of conversion, reform, and resistance. While women played an active role in the spread of Christianity during the Middle Ages, their freedoms were often restricted by the Church during periods of reform, when uniformity and conformity were important. The author's inquiry extends beyond one specific region or historical moment through two centuries and three diverse Germanic regions: Carolingian France, late Anglo-Saxon England, and Ottonian Saxony. Each of these moments exhibits distinct yet interconnected stages of conversion and reform, different stages of cultural amalgamation out of which various possibilities for female subject formation emerge. The book also connects with current conversations about the interrelatedness of power, knowledge, and subjectivity, opening new possibilities for the study of women in early ecclesiastical cultures.



The Geography of Religion: Faith, Place, and Space

Roger W. Stump

This book provides a comprehensive examination of the geographical study of religion, focusing in particular on the organizing concepts of place and space. The discussion addresses four principle themes: the special distribution of religions, including the emergence of religious hearths and the varied processes through which religions have spread out of their places of origin; the intrinsic diversification of religious traditions as their adherents practice them with specific contexts; the role of religious belief and behavior in shaping the meanings and uses of the secular spaces of everyday life; and the variations in the nature of sacred space and in the ways in which adherents interact with it. In addressing these themes, the discussion adopts a broadly comparative stance, drawing examples from many different traditions.



The Revolutionary Roots of Modern Yiddish, 1903-1917

Barry Trachtenberg

At the beginning of the twentieth century, Yiddish was widely viewed, even by many of its speakers, as a corrupt form of German that Jews had to abandon if they hoped to engage in serious intellectual, cultural, or political work. Yet by 1917 it was the dominant language of the Russian Jewish press, a medium for modern literary criticism, a vehicle for science and learning, and the foundation of an ideology of Jewish liberation. *The Revolutionary Roots of Modern Yiddish, 1903-1917* investigates how this change in status occurred and three major figures responsible for its transformation.

Books Highlighted in this Issue

The College of Arts and Sciences is proud of the achievements of its faculty and each Spring we share their work with publication information. The books, highlighted with their covers, represent a fraction of the work that has been published since July 1, 2008. See below for information about more books from CAS authors.

Lee Bickmore (ANTHROPOLOGY/LINGUISTICS)

Cilungu Phonology is the product of over 15 years of fieldwork. This book is a comprehensive description and analysis of the phonology and morphology of a language whose tonology is extremely complex, necessitating no fewer than 44 separate tone rules that interact with more than 20 segmental processes. As the diversity of spoken languages continues to taper in Africa, this work presents a valuable study of a multifaceted language with several unique elements that might otherwise be lost for future analysis and reference.

Christine Bose (SOCIOLOGY/WOMEN'S STUDIES)

Global Gender Research: Transnational Perspectives provides an in-depth comparative picture of the current state of feminist sociological gender and women's studies research in four regions of the world—Africa, Asia, Latin America/Caribbean, and Europe—as represented by many countries. It contrasts the threads of similarity and strands of difference in feminist concerns globally, covers the breadth of gender research, and facilitates understanding of national contexts.

Andrew Byon (EAST ASIAN STUDIES)

Basic Korean: A Grammar and Workbook comprises an accessible reference grammar and related exercises in a single volume. This book presents twenty-five individual grammar points, covering the core material which students would expect to encounter in their first year of learning Korean.

Hilde Hoogenboom (LANGUAGES, LITERATURES AND CULTURES)

Mapping the Feminine Russian Women and Cultural Difference is a collection of fifteen comparative articles on women over three centuries in Russian literature, autobiography, culture in emigration, and contemporary feminism in Russia. Approaches include transnational, cultural, and performance studies, psychology and the gaze, the recovery of forgotten women, and the canon.

Bonnie Steinbock (PHILOSOPHY)

The Oxford Handbook of Bioethics is an authoritative, state-of-the-art guide to current issues in bioethics. Thirty-four contributors reflect the interdisciplinary that is characteristic of bioethics, and its increasingly international character. Thirty topics are covered in original essays written by some of the world's leading figures in the field, as well as by some new 'up-and-comers'.

Barbara Sutton (*Women's Studies*)

Security Disarmed: Critical Perspectives on Gender, Race, and Militarization is a book where scholars, policy planners, and activists come together to think critically about the human costs of violence and viable alternatives to armed conflict. Arranged in four parts—alternative paradigms of security, cross-national militarization, militarism in the United States, and pedagogical and cultural concerns—the book evaluates and resists the worldwide crisis of militarization. The contributors voice a positive

and encompassing vision of human security by analyzing the relationships among gender, race, and militarization.

Juan Thomas & Maurice Westmoreland (LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, AND CULTURES)

Selected Proceedings of the 4th Workshop on Spanish Sociolinguistics is an edited volume that contains selected proceedings from the Fourth International Workshop on Spanish Sociolinguistics (WSS4), held April 17-18, 2008 at University at Albany. Each paper addresses some aspect of Spanish language variation, identity, or change in the Americas or in Spain.

Laura Wittern-Keller (HISTORY)

The Miracle Case: Film Censorship and the Supreme Court co-written with Raymond J. Haberski, Jr, a UAlbany alum with BA and MA degrees, details the little-known legal challenge that turned the tide of decades of governmental movie censorship in the United States. This was a case fought over an obscure 40-minute Italian film that brought the full weight of the Catholic Church and the State of New York to bear against a small businessman who believed that movie censorship violated the First Amendment. He won, New York State lost, and the process of state movie censorship began to unravel.

Research News

This list of faculty awards covers grants received from January 2009 to the present.

- Dean and Professor of Psychology **Edelgard Wulfert** has recently been awarded a five-year RO1 grant from NIMH, Intervention Mediators and Moderators in Cognitive Motivational Behavior Therapy for Excessive Gamblers. The purpose of the grant is to conduct treatment outcome studies of compulsive gamblers.
- Professor **Kevin J. Williams** (Psychology) received an award in the amount of \$87,498 from Skidmore College/ National Institute on Drug Abuse entitled "Steroid Use in Adolescents."
- Research Project Assistant **Richard Van Dam** (Psychology) received an award in the amount of \$15,000 from the 2008 Mind and Life Institute Francisco J. Varela Research Grant. The grant title is "Exploring the Impact of Meditation on Stress and Psychopathology: Attentional Allocation as a Potential Mechanism of Active Change Following Meditation."
- Professor **Christopher Thorncroft** (Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences) received an award of \$280,000 for four years from NASA to study "Interannual variability of the African Easterly Jet and Easterly Waves and associated weather and climate."
- Professor **Hua Shi** (Biological Sciences) received an award in the amount of \$687,000 from the American Cancer Society titled "Aptamer-Mediated Sub-Molecular Modulation of Estrogen Receptor Activities."
- Professor **Paul Roundy** (Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences) received his first NSF award of \$354,000 for three years to study "Variations in coupling between intraseasonal oceanic Kelvin waves and atmospheric convection."
- Research Professor **John Molinari** (Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences) has received two grant awards, one in the amount of \$523,000 titled "Large-Scale Influences on Tropical Cyclogenesis" from the National Science Foundation. and one in the amount of \$184,751 titled "Convective Bursts during Tropical Cyclone Formation and Intensification" from NASA.
- Professor **Kate Lawson** (Department of Geography and Planning) is co-PI on a \$97,290 grant from the New York

Grant Notification Just Received

Professor **Lawrence Schell** (Anthropology and Center for Minority and Health Disparities) has been awarded a five-year grant totaling \$6,819,703 from NIH National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities for the creation of The Exploratory Center on Minority Health and Disparities in Smaller Cities. The center will support researchers from multiple determinants of health disparities in smaller cities, and, by working with community groups, it will test programs to reduce barriers, and improve utilization and health.

State Energy Research and Development Authority and the New York State Department of Transportation to reduce greenhouse gases. She will be joined in this project with UAlbany's Office of Environmental Sustainability to examine surveys on how people get to work and examine public bus routes.

- Professor **John Justeson** (Department of Anthropology) has been awarded 10,000,000 Mexican pesos (about \$900,000) by Mexico's National Institute of Indigenous Languages (INALI) to support research documenting the vocabularies and grammars of the minority languages of Mexico. The Project for the Documentation of the Languages of Meso-America is co-directed by Dr. Justeson.
- The National Geographic society awarded a \$26,000 grant to Professor **Marilyn Masson** (Anthropology) for her archaeological project *Nodes of Power in the Urban Landscape of the Postclassic Maya Capital City of Mayapán*, to begin summer 2009.
- Professor **Cheryl Frye** (Psychology) received an award of \$14,000 from the National Science Foundation in support of a "Conference-Grant to Support the 5th International Conference on Steroids and the Nervous System" which was held in Torino, Italy, February 2009.

Correction

The Fall issue of *CAS Today* incorrectly described the research interest of Professor Samantha Friedman (Sociology) as an urban anthropologist when it should have read urban sociologist. Also, the Craigslist project "Cybersegregation: Is Neil a more desirable tenant than Tyrone of Jorge?" is designed to look

at how housing providers respond. As Executive Editor for *CAS Today*, I apologize for the publication of incorrect information regarding Professor Friedman's research interest and project.

– Dona Parker

Alum Credits Former Teacher for Interest in Economics

Dino Kos '81 on the Fiscal Issues

His face and voice may be familiar to those who regularly tune into CNBC or Bloomberg for their financial news. Dino Kos '81, oversees equity research at the Manhattan office of Portales Partners, LLC, described as an “independent research boutique” that focuses on financial companies (banks, brokers, consumer finance companies). Its customers include a variety of mutual funds, pension funds, and hedge funds.



Dino Kos

The affable Kos left Croatia (then part of Yugoslavia) for the US at age 8. The family settled in Queens, NY. He enrolled at the university in 1977, majored in economics, and thirty years later, offered three observations of his student experience. “My introductory economics courses taught by Professor Helen Horowitz first got me interested in the subject. She was amazing—always with a cigarette in hand when you visited her. Second, a semester abroad in Copenhagen provided a special introduction to international finance and an opportunity to explore comparative economic systems of former Iron Curtain countries such as Poland. Lastly, I still remain close to my old roommates.”

After receiving a bachelor's degree in Economics, he worked for two years in the insurance industry in California, then returning east to enter the MBA program at NYU, gaining additional exposure to global markets through a study semester in Singapore.

Kos accepted an offer from the Federal Reserve Bank and rose through the ranks in a number of positions over a 22-year period including Manager of International Surveillance Staff in the Bank Supervision Group, Head of Foreign Exchange, and, from 2001-06, Executive Vice President, Markets Group. “Working at the Fed during that time of my life was filled with rewards and challenges,” he added.

In 2006, markets analyst Bill Cara noted on his website, Cara Community, that “Kos could very well be the most powerful man in America. He's the guy who hits the “buy” and “sell” buttons for the Federal Reserve Bank's Federal Open Markets Committee (FOMC).”

In 2007, Kos left the Fed for the private sector and was named Managing Director of Central Bank and Sovereign Wealth Funds at Morgan Stanley, working with the firm's most elite clients. Now, at Portales Partners, his experience and counsel is sought after by the leading players in the investment community.

He commented that the regulatory environment for the markets is likely to change. “There are likely to be new constraints on risk taking and leverage. The financial business will be less profitable in coming years. There will be new players. The large banks that survive need to adapt to this new environment rebuild their franchises.”

Kos offered a few opinions about current newsworthy topics such as the budget and stimulus package recently passed by Congress. “The package is too back-loaded. Not enough will be spent in 2009. Most of the package involves transfer payments. The amount dedicated to improving our decaying infrastructure is disappointingly small. We as a country need to allocate much more for the construction and repair of roads, bridges, electrical and power grids, and my personal favorite—airports and a new air traffic control system.

The budget sets ambitious goals aiming to reverse the increasing gap in income inequality trends over the last 20 years, in part by increasing various government programs. This objective is worthy but comes at a price. The budget deficit this year will be very high—\$1.75 trillion, roughly 12% of GDP, by far a record. More than 55% of our federal debt is held overseas, meaning we are paying interest to foreign creditors. That trend looks set to increase in the near term. The problems we are facing are complex, and creative and bold solutions will be required.”

Despite the current crisis in the world economy, he was upbeat. “Our country has near-term challenges and the period ahead will not be easy, but we have shown the ability to rebound and renew ourselves. We will again. My family immigrated to the United States because of the opportunities this country offers. That defining feature remains.”

Kathie Dello, Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences undergraduate class of 2004, is the Division of Water's Climate Change liaison with NYSDEC in Albany. She is developing an action plan to adapt water programs to the changing climate, working with the Sea Level Rise task force, as well as developing other research projects. Ms. Dello has published an article “Trends in Climate in Northern New York and Western Vermont” in the New York State Bar Association Government, Law and Policy Journal.

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Bioethics continued from p.1

located on Lake Como, Italy. Her main area of research is bioethics with a focus on reproduction and genetics. She is the author of over 60 articles, the most recent, *The Oxford Handbook of Bioethics*. The book edited by Professor Steinbock is an authoritative, state-of-the-art guide to current issues in bioethics.

As a freshman, Cameron formed a Philosophy Club and became its President. Last year the club hosted a Bioethics Forum and invited faculty to speak on issues. Cameron told me that he was inspired by then senior Philosophy major Elizabeth Gray who is now pursuing a graduate degree in Philosophy. She served as mentor to many of the philosophy majors and helped them to apply to compete in the Bioethics Bowl held last year at Union College. Professor Steinbock told me that the Bioethics Conference started in 1999 at Princeton University and has traveled to many colleges and universities. Students at Princeton convened the first NUBC meeting where Dr. Harold Shapiro, then President, was and still is a well known figure in bioethics. He is currently a professor of economics and public policy at Princeton. In 1996 he was appointed by President Clinton to chair the National Bioethics Advisory Commission. He is a Fellow of the Hastings Center located in Garrison, NY, the premier bioethics research institute in the United States, and one of its board members. Since that first meeting, each year a different campus applies to be the host campus and is selected for its geographical location and ability to accommodate the participants.

The students who attend the conference to participate in the Bioethics Bowl must raise the money to make the trip. Even though Union College was less than 20 miles away, students had to raise \$2000 which was accomplished through application to the Alumni Association and funding from the Philosophy Department foundation account. Elizabeth Gray was important to the project by creating an email list which served to reach out to prospective members interested in participating. Out of that effort the first Bowl Team was formed to compete with six team competitors and one researcher plus a couple of other reserves.

This year's team is rich in diversity in terms of gender and race and diverse in discipline interest. Joining Cameron Waldman at this year's Bowl are Nalini Kalanadhabhatta (Biology and Psychology), Raphael Thomas (Physics), Rukayatu Tijani (Political Science and Criminal Justice), Mac Johnston (Philosophy) and Karen Torrejon (Chemistry). This team is a mixture of those who are experts in structuring arguments and others who research the facts for the arguments. The things that the judges are looking for are how in depth you can get into arguments, how well you can reason through different perspectives, team unity and how well you present your arguments. Cameron believes that the UA team has good chemistry—they get along socially. Bonnie adds that an important outcome of participating in the Bowl is the ability to network with other faculty and students with like interests. The competition will be stiff and the UA Team, known as Minerva's Owls, is aware that they will be up against high caliber teams

and some of those teams have had past experience being in the competition. Also, many teams send their debate teams to compete. Cameron is quick to reply that even the best debate teams are not that successful. From her observations of past Bowl competitions, Professor Steinbock points out that it is more important to be thorough and have a not so aggressive approach.

As I write this article the team has been practicing four times a week: Mondays 9 p.m. to 10 p.m., Tuesdays 7 a.m. to 10 a.m., Thursdays 9 p.m. to 12 a.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.—but longer if needed. I guess they need Fridays and Sundays off to do some research and maybe some homework. Sometimes faculty members, like Professor Steinbock, join the team at the practice sessions to act as a resource for information about the topics and to critique the presentations. During our interview, Professor Steinbock and Cameron told me that the most successful teams stick to the questions and work on taking their presentation to a deeper level rather than add new topics to the discussion.

In closing, Cameron reiterated that Albany is a great place to be especially when it comes to being a good resource for Bioethics. Professor Steinbock agrees adding that this area is rich in resources with the Union University cluster that includes Albany Medical Center, Albany Law School, Albany College of Pharmacy, Dudley Observatory and Union College. The city of Albany is the location of the State Capital, New York State Government, and University at Albany with its School of Public Health that deals with health policy issues.

Final note: I had an opportunity to ask Cameron how Minerva's Owls did in the bowl and he felt the team did "phenomenally" well and he was proud of their performance. He went on to say that it was "a unique opportunity" to have to deal with the world's toughest issues and to be guided by one of the world's leading experts. He said that "Professor Steinbock taught us well" and every case they had to debate, their research was always more comprehensive. In every round the team received compliments from the judges and from the opposing team's coaches. Professor Steinbock remarked that "It was a great experience and I couldn't have been prouder of my team."



Minerva's Owl's Prepare for Competition [l-r: Rukayatu Tijani, Cameron Waldman, Mac Johnston, Raphael Thomas, Karen Torrejon, Nalini Kalanadhabhatta, Professor Bonnie Steinbock (coach)]

Delano continued from p.1

two Harvard students and a woman who just “walked on water.” “She was just so helpful and inspiring,” he said. Delano took this interest to Upsala College where he first majored in physics, but changed to geology after growing intrigued with the people being sent to the moon in the Apollo program.

The next part of Delano’s life took him to Cornell University for two years then seven years at Stony Brook University for his Ph.D. He completed his graduate thesis on the chemical composition and origin of the moon by using the data collected from NASA’s Apollo missions visiting the moon every six months in 1969-1972. “It was thrilling to see Saturn V rockets blasting off to the moon and bringing back the next chapter of my thesis,” he said as he recalled getting back samples at the lab, analyzing them, and then reporting the results at conferences while waiting for the next mission.

Delano then completed his postdoctoral fellowship at the Australian National University in Canberra, Australia, working with a member of the Royal Academy of Science and the National Academy of Science of the United States of America. He spent 90 to 100 hours a week as a grad student and postdoctoral research fellow to publish 10 papers.



Students enrolled in Professor Delano’s AENV 250 class (Sustainable Development: Energy and Resources) take two field trips every spring semester, one of which is to the Fenner Wind Project consisting of twenty 1.5-megawatt turbines. The turbines, which have a height of 328 feet and generate energy for nearly 10,000 homes in New York state.

Delano began his teaching and research career at University at Albany as an assistant professor in 1982. He taught geology general education courses and geo-chemistry courses and continued his federal funded research for NASA on analysis of moon samples coming from the Apollo missions. Delano would study these to better understand the moon’s origin, history, and composition. This helps answer questions about the beginning of Earth and its early life since the moon was created around the same time. With this position, Delano continues to serve on scientific advisory panels to NASA, suggesting proposals to NASA for their missions along with other scientists across the nation. If they were found appropriate and useful, the government would fund the proposals. In February, Delano was awarded a five-year NASA grant to continue his astrobiology research.

Delano’s work and activities didn’t stop there. He also worked with the National Science Foundation and with paleontologists from universities in Rochester and Buffalo. Back home at University at Albany, Delano joined the President’s Task Force, a group of faculty, students, and administrators working together to make the campus a “greener” environment by promoting recycling. Delano also practices this lifestyle at home with his son and wife, using solar electricity and solar thermal panels. “On a sunny day we use the sun to heat 105 gallons of water for domestic use and we may not use all that heat, so we save it for literally a rainy day,” he says.

You’d think Delano is the type of person who goes out every night with his telescope to study the stars and other heavenly bodies, but he tells *CAS Today* he really doesn’t. “When I am out, I wonder, ‘Who I am looking up at over there.’ Is there something there that I’m not seeing?” he says. “But it’s going to change,” he said with a shudder of excitement. Beginning this March, the United States launched a spacecraft, Kepler, into orbit that will have the ability to detect planets (even smaller than Earth-sized) orbiting other stars. Delano believes that Earth-sized planets orbiting other stars will be abundant, but not to the naked eye. He will be a part of this new research looking at the results.

His work hasn’t gone unnoticed. In 2000, Delano received the honor in the SUNY system by being promoted to Distinguished Teaching Professor. He is also a proud recipient of the SUNY Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Teaching as well as the University at Albany President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching. And in 2007, students from the graduating senior class selected Delano for the Torch Award because he was one of the faculty members to have a large impact on their academic lives. When it comes to having this trait, Delano credits his beloved high school physics/chemistry teacher. “She was just so bright,” he recalled, “I almost cry every time I think of her not being around anymore. She held you to high standards and would make fun of herself. She was just something!”

Delano says effective teaching comes to him in three steps. First he breaks down course material for students to under-

(continued on p. 23)

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Professor Delano and one other member of the UAlbany community spent hundreds of hours renovating the University's 16-inch diameter telescope at no cost to the institution. The telescope is used to enrich courses in the Honors College, Environmental Science, and Physics, as well as for campus events.

stand by presenting the fifty thousand foot view. "You should look at the forest and then gradually focus on smaller-and-smaller units until you're looking at the bark because by then you'll gain a better appreciation," he says, "And it's a two-way street for students. Some understand it, some don't." Next, Delano shows enthusiasm for his topic. "If you are, students should go 'my gosh if he cares, maybe I should!'" Delano says that it's important to present the topic with a passion and delight, instead of droning on where the students wonder, 'Why am I here?' Thirdly, Delano makes fun of himself. "It's interesting and it communicates to students, 'Hi, I'm approachable.' It gets students to raise their hands in class and participate," he says. If you

want to know how you're doing, Delano says faculty members should really pay attention to student input when it comes to those surveys and questionnaires at the end of the semester because it makes you professionally better. He goes above and beyond this step though by creating a personalized questionnaire asking students for their input or comments to find out what he did wrong in class. "I want students to remember me. They won't remember me because I was the person who gave them 1,000 factoids, but for something more durable like 'he helped me understand many things. If you understand, you don't

need to memorize,'" he says. Finally, Delano says that he really enjoys teaching. "It's why we're here, right?" he added.

Twenty-five years spent as a professor, over 60 papers published, a handful of distinguished awards, actively involved in life-changing research and activities, the respect of many students...it's fair to say that John Delano is the ultimate professor. So how can we become ultimate figures in this world like him? "You do the best you can with what you've got at the time," he says quoting former President Teddy Roosevelt. "If you apply this to academics, your professional life, family life, and athletics... if you keep working hard all the time and keep moving, there's no greater payoff in the future than that. Not because you know what the payoff will be, but that there will be payoff," he adds. During the final moment at the end of the semester, he faces the students in every course, uses the Vulcan gesture, and states the following words from one of his fictional heroes, Mr. Spock, on the original Star Trek: "Live long and prosper."



Professor Delano's family has two kinds of renewable energy systems at their home, including the solar panels shown in this image that generate about 35% of their electricity. During occasional power outages due to storms, the family's comfort is maintained (e.g., following the electrical outage in December 2008 due to the ice storm that knocked out electricity for nearly 7 days). Students in his UFSP 100 course have visited his home to see these renewable systems in operation.

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Retirements

University at Albany faculty member Professor **Boris Korenblum**, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, has recently retired. Professor Korenblum received the D.Sc. in 1956 from Moscow State University. From 1974 to 1977, he was Professor of Mathematics at Tel-Aviv University (Israel) and in 1977 he was a member of the School of Mathematics, Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton, New Jersey).

In 1978 Dr. Korenblum gave an invited address at the International Congress of Mathematicians in Helsinki, Finland. The International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) is the largest congress in the mathematics community and it comes together every four years. It was at the 1900 congress in Paris, France, where Davie Hilbert announced his famous list of 23 open problems in mathematics, aptly called "Hilbert's problems."

The Department of Mathematics held an event honoring Dr. Korenblum in which Professor Kehe Zhu presided with a presentation of the mathematical contributions of Professor Korenblum. The colloquium is posted on the Mathematics and Statistics Department website at http://math.albany.edu:8000/math/boris_talk.pdf. It was noted that Professor Korenblum was instrumental in the development of the mathematics behind the CAT scan that led others to being awarded the Nobel Prize. His colleagues are impressed that at the age of 85, Professor Korenblum continues to produce cutting edge mathematics and that he has retained his keen sense of humor.

Professor **Bonnie Spanier**, Department of Women's Studies, retired from the University at Albany faculty position she began in 1984. At the time of her initial appointment, Dr. Spanier was also appointed as Director of the Women's Studies Program—a position she served in until 1990. In 1990, the Women's Studies Program became a Department and Professor Spanier served as chair of the department until 1994. During her time as chair of the department, Professor Spanier guided the process that led to the approval of a Master's Degree in Women's Studies in 1998.

Professor Spanier received the Ph.D. in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics from Harvard University in 1975. She served as Assistant Professor of Biology in Wheaton College from 1975-78 and it was there that she developed an interest in women in science. She accepted a two-year grant from the prestigious Bunting

Institute of Radcliffe College to conduct research on women in science. Recently Professor Spanier has lectured on research that ties the chemicals in cosmetics to a range of cancers. She is co-founder and co-President of the Capital Region Action Against Breast Cancer (CRAAB). At the University at Albany, Professor Spanier was awarded the 1992 Excellence in Teaching award and in 1996 she received the University at Albany Award for Excellence in Academic Service.

Anne Boehm, Assistant to the Chair for the Department of Biological Sciences, retired January 22, 2009. Ms. Boehm was appointed in 1981 as Assistant to the Chair and served in that capacity until her retirement. During her 27 years at the University at Albany, she assisted six different chairs guiding them and the department through each transition. Ms. Boehm was appreciated by each chair for her commitment to the success of the Department's goals and objectives. She is recognized for her knowledge, skills and talents that have helped her to perform effectively on multiple tasks for the Biology Department and the university community as well. In 2001, Anne Boehm received the Excellence in Professional Service Award that recognizes individuals who have repeatedly sought improvement of themselves and their campus.

Emeritus Faculty News

Professor Emeritus of English **Donald Stauffer** has been honored with an award from Community Caregivers. While looking for a way to give back to the community, Dr. Stauffer discovered Altamont Community Caregivers, which was helping neighbors with transportation to medical appointments. In an article for the campus *Update*, Dr. Stauffer said that he thought it sounded like a good idea so he went to the program director and joined and today devotes up to 15 hours per week lending a helping hand driving neighbors to the doctor's office and spreading the word about the service. Since joining he has seen the group expand beyond its village borders so he and his colleagues now go by just "Community Caregivers." He was honored at the Community Caregivers Gala in November where he received the Victor G. Ross Community Caregivers Founders Award. This award recognizes the highest level of honor by Community Caregivers and is named for Victor Ross, who co-founded Community Caregivers in 1994.