

Hallmarks

By Carol Olechowski

Photography: Mark Schmidt

Photographs compiled by: Rebecca Salinas and Greta Petry

From the time he arrived Feb. 1, 2005, to take the helm as the University at Albany's 17th president until his untimely death last Aug. 13, Kermit L. Hall became a familiar and beloved figure in his adopted hometown. His presence invigorated the UAlbany campus and the community beyond as he mingled with students, alumni, faculty, staff, neighbors,

Capital Region businessmen and -women, and political leaders at every level.

Although he served as president only briefly, he left his mark on those whose lives he touched, and he will be missed. Here, we feature highlights of Hall's 18 months at the University.

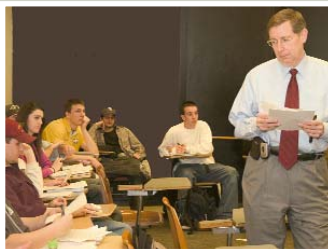


2/2/05: After a "Hail and Farewell" ceremony held to welcome him and bid goodbye to former interim president (now State University of New York Chancellor) John R. Ryan, President Kermit L. Hall chats with students.

5/26/05: At a breakfast for health care workers sponsored by the Institute for the Advancement of Health Care Management, the president demonstrates both his culinary talents and his skills as a host.



1/31/06: Several times each semester, the president would invite an undergraduate student to "shadow" him during a typical—or not-so-typical—day. Senior political science major and President for a Day Eric Christensen of Dundee, N.Y., and Hall check the morning schedule.



4/12/05: Hall, a noted constitutional scholar, Supreme Court expert and history professor, takes center stage as guest lecturer to a public administration and policy class at UAlbany.

12/1/05: Hall signs Faculty Senate legislation authorizing the creation of The Honors College at the University. Building upon the successful Presidential Scholars Program, the college began offering honors courses, vigorous academic advisement and such co-curricular options as honors housing to undergraduates at the start of the Fall 2006 semester.



3/6/06: To assist the University in assessing its future from a national perspective, Hall convened a Board of Visitors comprised of 23 distinguished leaders in higher education and business. Here, he talks with pollster John Zogby, one of the board members.

3/11/06: The president turns out with a capacity crowd to cheer on the Great Danes, who post an 80–67 victory over the University of Vermont. The win advances the men’s basketball team to its first-ever America East Conference championship and a berth in the NCAA Division I tournament.



5/21/06: At the graduate commencement exercises, Hall congratulates FBI Executive Assistant Director for Intelligence Maureen Baginski, B.A.’77, M.A.’79, as she receives an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. At the same ceremony, Fletcher Asset Management Chairman and CEO Alphonse Fletcher Jr. is named an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. Vincent O’Leary, who served as UAlbany president from 1977 until 1990, is awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree.

7/11/–7/20/06: A television crew interviews Hall during his latest trip to China. As UAlbany president, he visited the Asian nation several times in an effort to strengthen ties between the University and its counterparts there.



4/11/06: Hall initiates the University’s new Presidential Lecture Series at New York City’s Princeton Club. “Open Secrets: The Kennedy Assassination and Its Lessons for Today” attracts more than 120 metropolitan-area alumni.



6/23/06: State and local officials gather at NanoFab North with representatives of Advanced Micro Devices Inc. to announce AMD’s plan to construct a \$3.2 billion computer chip fabrication plant at the Luther Forest Technology Campus in Saratoga County. Hall, seated in center at right, applauds as Gov. George E. Pataki and NanoTech President Alain Kaloyeros shake hands.