

## Nolan Altman, B.S.'77

### Honoring His Parents by Helping Students

Although his mother wasn't a UAlbany alumna, Nolan Altman honored her memory and her contributions to secondary education after her passing in 1996 by establishing the *Martha Bealler Altman Scholarship Fund* to benefit undergraduate business majors at the University.

"I thought it would make sense to start a scholarship fund based on academic ability, as well as on economic need," said Altman, who returns occasionally to UAlbany in his role as University at Albany

Foundation director and to present scholarships at the annual School of Business luncheon. A business and secretarial studies teacher at Maxwell Vocational High School in Brooklyn, N.Y., and a Hunter College graduate, Mrs. Altman viewed education as a way out of poverty for her students. Through the Future Business Leaders of America, an organization she introduced to Maxwell, she helped the young women in her classes to make contacts that could benefit them in the business world. "She would take them to conferences, one of which was in Albany," Nolan Altman remembered. "Most of her students had never left Brooklyn."

When Altman himself left his native Queens, he headed for the University at Albany, where he discovered "a feel for accounting. There was an emphasis on doing something in college that would give you a career when you came out; business seemed like a logical path." Today, he heads his own firm, NTA Consulting, which is based in Oceanside, N.Y. Having been a partner in a public accounting firm's financial services group for 16 years, then



*UAlbany volunteer Nolan Altman presented a scholarship to student Stephanie Sutherland at the School of Business luncheon last May.*

employed as chief fiscal officer for an international hedge fund and money management practice for eight years, Altman currently serves as an independent director of hedge funds and consults to investment managers and their boards.

In 2000, when his father passed away, Altman established the *Morris Altman Research Fund* at UAlbany with an additional \$30,000 gift. "My father was a TV repairman and a very affable kind of guy. He was thrilled by what I'd done for my mother at the University. After my mother's death, I discovered the fascinating and addictive field of

genealogy. My father gave me the basic information to continue to research and document our family's history. It came as a complete surprise to me to discover that an entire branch of his family was lost during the Holocaust." The fund named for Altman's father supports undergraduate research projects within the Department of Judaic Studies.

When not working in the financial services industry, Altman continues his involvement with genealogy – an interest sparked by a cache of photos and documents his mother left behind. "I spend a significant amount of time coordinating JewishGen.org's Holocaust Database, which partners with the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. and Yad Vashem in Israel. I've taught *Introduction to Genealogy* to the Holocaust Studies class at the University on two occasions; I also teach the course at adult and continuing education venues at high schools, colleges, libraries and community groups. It has been very satisfying," added Altman, who met his wife, the former Susan Diamond, B.S.'77, at the University.