

From the Podium

By CAROL OLECHOWSKI

UAlbany Breaks Ground for Cancer Research Center

The University has broken ground for its \$45 million Gen*NY*Sis Center for Excellence in Cancer Genomics on the East Campus. The center, slated for completion in the fall of 2004, will provide 113,000 square feet of laboratory and office space dedicated to cancer research.



Architectural rendering of planned Gen*NY*Sis Center for Excellence in Cancer Genomics.

Research partners will include Albany Medical Center, the Stratton Veterans Administration Medical Center, and the University's Center for Functional Genomics. Taconic Biotechnology, which operates the Mutant Mouse Regional Resource Center, a facility that produces genetically modified laboratory mice used in biomedical research, and the Research Foundation of the State University of New York are also partners.

State Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno joined UAlbany President Karen R. Hitchcock and molecular biologist Paulette McCormick at

groundbreaking ceremonies last June 24. With them was former Rensselaer resident Mary Polsinello Hanley, who presented a \$65,000 check to the Fund for Memory and Hope. It honored the memory of her son, James R. Hanley, who passed away from brain cancer in 2002. His name will be the first inscribed on the Wall of Memory and Hope to be erected in the lobby of the center.

One of the center's goals is to achieve designation as a Comprehensive Cancer Center by the National Cancer Institute. The project, which has secured

\$22.5 million in start-up funding through the state's Gen*NY*Sis (Generating Employment Through New York Science) economic development program, is expected to create more than 100 new jobs.

Lowery Named VP for Finance; Phillips and Bloniarz Are Deans

Kathryn K. Lowery has been appointed vice president for Finance and Business, a position she had held on an interim basis since April 2002. Lowery joined the University in 1978.

Susan D. Phillips has been named dean of the School of Education. A

UAlbany professor and administrator for more than 20 years, Phillips had served as the interim dean for more than a year. She is a licensed psychologist whose research has focused on decision making and career development.

Former Interim Vice President for Research **Peter Bloniarz** has been appointed dean of the School of Information Science and Policy. Bloniarz was a founder and director of program development for the nationally acclaimed Center for Technology in Government.

Jeryl Mumpower is serving as interim vice president for Research. During his years at UAlbany, he has held a number of administrative posts, including those of associate provost, dean of Graduate Studies and director of the Center for Policy Research.

Awards and Honors

Judith Langer, director of the National Research Center on English Learning and Achievement, was



Kathryn K. Lowery



Susan D. Phillips

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Photos by Mark Schmidt



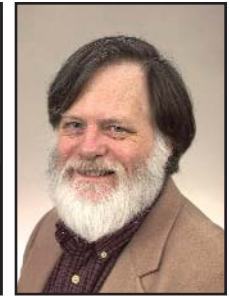
Peter Bloniarz



Jeryl Mumpower



Judith Langer



John Justeson



Mark Schmidt

President Karen Hitchcock awards the Medallion of the University, UAlbany's highest honor, to World Jewish Congress President Edgar M. Bronfman Sr. at a Center for Jewish Studies celebration June 3 in Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y. The honor recognizes Bronfman's leadership of the Jewish community and commitment to perpetuating Jewish life.

inducted into the Reading Hall of Fame and also received the International Reading Association's Albert J. Harris Award last May. The award honored Langer for her article "Beating the Odds: Teaching Middle and High School Students to Write Well." Langer, who also chairs the Department of Educational Theory and Practice, joined the faculty in 1987.

Anthropology Professor **John Justeson** has been named a 2003 Guggenheim Fellow. Justeson's research focuses on evolution and adaptation in the organization of symbolic systems, chiefly on writing in

ancient Mesoamerica. Justeson will use the \$35,000 Guggenheim award to research and co-author, with Terence Kaufman of the University of Pittsburgh, a book on deciphering the hieroglyphic writing of the epi-Olmecs, an ancient civilization that inhabited the Gulf Coast of southern Mexico from 300 B.C. to 550 A.D.

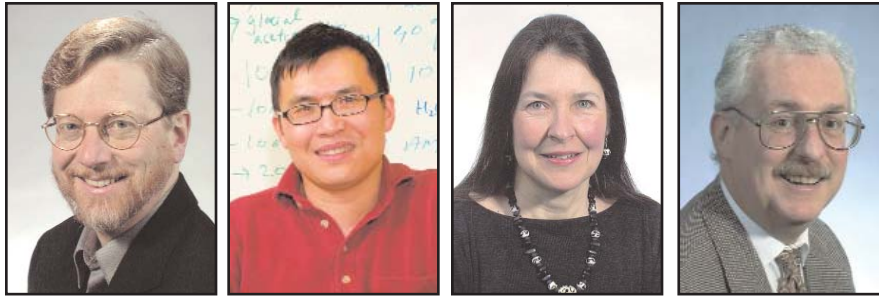
John Logan, director of the Lewis Mumford Center for Comparative Urban and Regional Analysis at UAlbany, ranks among the top 25 "demographers, market researchers, media experts, niche experts and futurists," according to *American Demographics Magazine*. The rankings, published in the April issue, cited Logan's segregation analysis of Census 2000.

Associate Professor of Biology **Ing Nang Wang** has received a research

fellowship from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Selected from hundreds of scientists in the early stages of promising careers, he was the only winner from a SUNY school. Wang uses bacteriophage, viruses that infect bacteria, as a model system to study various issues of the evolution of life history traits, and isolates various lysis proteins from small bacteriophages in the hope that these proteins can be used as an alternative source for antibiotic drug design.

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded Professor **Mary Beth Winn** of the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures a third fellowship. The most recent award will permit Winn, a UAlbany faculty member since 1974 and director of the D.A. program in humanistic studies, to investigate patronage and printing in early Renaissance France.

Richard Hamm, an associate professor of history and public policy, received an NEH stipend for his project, "Arthur Garfield Hays and American Civil Liberties in Times of Crisis." The funding supported summer research into the life of Hays, an advocate of civil liberties in the U.S. from the 1920s to the 1950s, as background for Hamm's planned biography about the Wall Street attorney.



John Logan

Ing Nang Wang

Mary Beth Winn

Richard Hamm

Juried Exhibition Recognizes UAlbany Alumni

Three UAlbany M.F.A. candidates and two graduates were recognized for their talents at the opening reception for the 2003 Artists of the Mohawk Hudson Region Juried Exhibition. Seventeen artists and 35 works were represented at the event last July 10.

Christopher Cassidy earned the Swyer Companies' Best in Show Award for his work *From Albany to the Adirondacks*. **Kenneth Ragsdale** took the *Times Union* Juror's Award and the UAlbany Purchase Prize for his work

Farmyard I, II, III, IV. **Jenny McShan's** entry, *The Twelve Realms of Purity*, was presented the Austin & Co., Inc., Juror's Award. Alumni winners were **Michael Oatman**, M.F.A.'92 and **Harold Lohner**, B.A.'80, M.A.'82, M.F.A.'84. The Friends of Mayor Jennings Juror's Award and the Albany Institute of History and Art's Purchase Prize went to Oatman's work *The Birds*. Lohner earned the McGreevy ProLab Award for *The Long Sleep*.

The exhibit continues through November 1.



Recognized for their artistic talent: **From left**, standing are Ragsdale, McShan, and Oatman. **Seated** are Cassidy and Lohner.

The Chronicle of Higher Education featured UAlbany's nanosciences research successes in a cover story titled "How A University Landed \$850-Million (and Counting)." The February 7 article focused on how high-profile research at the University has drawn state aid and federal grants, and in turn led to the creation of cutting-edge facilities and business partnerships in nanotechnology.

The May 18 issue of *Hoy* featured a profile of recent UAlbany graduate Hector Mejia. The article, "De Perfil Y De Frente" (Profile Up Close), focused on the emerging career of the honors graduate. Mejia, an accounting major from New York City, is a native of Honduras. Before graduation, he accepted a position with Pricewaterhouse Coopers. *Hoy* publicizes happenings in the Latin American communities and countries of origin from a Hispanic point of view.

The June 9 issue of *Newsweek* magazine featured an interview with Bonnie Steinbock, chair of the Philosophy Department. The article, titled "When Can it Feel Pain?" was part of the cover story "Should a Fetus Have Rights? How Science is Changing the Debate." The article focused on how changing state laws and new science are causing many Americans to rethink long-held beliefs. Steinbock, who has written several books on medical ethics, discussed how viability makes the moral difference on this issue. She addressed topics such as cloning and adopting embryos.

Mark Schmidt