School Spirit is Hot! Hot! Hot!

By CAROL FLAX

School spirit is surging at UAlbany! It was most evident at the Big Purple Growl last Feb. 7, when UAlbany hosted the University of New Hampshire in men and women’s basketball. Outside, the snow was blowing and the wind was howling, but the temperature inside the RAC was fueled by thousands of screaming fans, an all-Quad spirit competition, and UAlbany Go2!Events featuring great giveaways and prizes. If you listened to UAlbany’s new Pep Band, it was Hot, Hot, Hot!

Energetic UAlbany students and staff worked all year to build new traditions, tap into the old ones, and boost pride. The future includes an alumni pride campaign highlighting the accomplishments of successful alumni to prospective and current students. And the first annual UAlbany Spring Stomp, a daylong festival featuring Great Dane athletics events, was set for May 1st.

Building Traditions and Spirit

Clockwise, from bottom left: UAlbany’s Pep Band made its official debut at the Big Purple Growl, belting out such up-tempo songs as “Mony Mony” and “Mambo No. 5.”

Halftime of the men’s game featured grand prize drawings in the UAlbany Go2!Events program, an initiative to build awareness, particularly among new students, of campus activities and traditions. Five lucky students won prizes that included a Spring Break vacation in Florida, a University parking pass, $300 toward textbooks, the No. 1 Housing lottery number and $300 in podium dollars.

Rivalry, Revisited: Rivalry, pitting the classes against one another in competitions during UAlbany’s College for Teachers era, traditionally included a tug-of-war. The tug-of-war is now renewed as part of the Clash of the Quads (inset), initiated last fall.

The Spirit Committee involved the entire campus community in the naming of the baby Dane, UAlbany’s newest mascot. The winning name, Li’l D, was announced to a packed house at the Big Purple Growl (bottom center).

The entire campus turns out for Fountain Day (center), when the University’s fountains are turned on for the first time each spring.

Photo credits clockwise, from bottom left: Mark Schmidt, University Archives, Cheri Hyung (inset), Mark Schmidt and Bob Ewell.