Honors College Unveiled
As the centerpiece of its commitment to excellence in undergraduate education, the University at Albany unveiled Dec. 1 a new University-wide, interdisciplinary Honors College. The college will begin in fall 2006, and will ultimately include approximately 500 top-flight undergraduate students who will complete specialized course work, conduct research, and work closely with distinguished faculty in a vibrant living-learning community.

UAlbany Inaugural Scholarship Fund Exceeds $1 Million Goal
The Inaugural Scholarship Fund (ISF) has exceeded its $1 million annual goal two months ahead of schedule. A $700,000 donation from the estate of Irving Harold Losee helped push the ISF to more than $1.5 million. Established in February by President Kermit L. Hall when he took office, the ISF provides need-based undergraduate student scholarships. The fund was jumpstarted with $100,000 that the campus could have spent on a presidential inauguration. Currently $1 million has been earmarked for the Honors College. This includes Losee’s donation, which will create the Irving Harold Losee Scholarship Fund to support Honors College students. Losee was a 1938 graduate of the University. Another $500,000 of the fund has been allocated for other need-based student scholarships.

Winter Commencement
During Winter Commencement Dec. 11, the University awarded 406 bachelor’s degrees and 449 graduate degrees, including 88 doctoral degrees. Undergraduates hailed from 22 different countries, including Bangladesh, Belarus, Egypt, India, Ireland, China, Colombia, and Mexico. The graduate degree candidates represented 27 countries, including Russia, Poland, Pakistan, Jamaica, China, and Brazil. Hall addressed the graduates and their friends and families, and Brianne Myers, a Fredonia native and graduating summa cum laude, gave the student address.

Study Abroad Program Ranked #1 in SUNY System
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school year, outpacing #2 Brockport (475) and #3 New Paltz (399). Binghamton (394), Buffalo (391), and Stony Brook (200) ranked lower.

University Reading Project
Provost Susan Herbst recently announced the first University at Albany Reading Project. The project’s purpose is to engage the entire University community – students, faculty, and staff – in reading and reflecting on a common text. The text is Tracy Kidder's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, a book about race, poverty, and the role of the United States in the world.

Energy-Efficiency Project
On Tuesday, Dec. 13, Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno and President Kermit L. Hall announced a $1.5 million energy-efficiency project for the East Campus. The initiative is a cooperative program among Bruno, the New York Power Authority (NYPA), and the University at Albany Foundation. It includes a $250,000 grant provided by Bruno from the Petroleum Overcharge Recovery account. The other $1.25 million is provided as a low-interest loan from NYPA to the foundation, which will be repaid from energy savings.

Business-Higher Education Roundtable (BHER)
Bruce J. Katz, a national policy expert from the Brookings Institution, told a forum of the BHER Dec. 13 there are new rules for economic success in metropolitan areas. These rules require leaders to move beyond parochial concerns and to think and act regionally.

Coming Soon ...
As one part of the president’s commitment to further diversifying the UAlbany workforce, the Office of Diversity and Affirmative Action is in the process of shooting, and will soon be releasing, the Recruitment and Selection Procedures video. The video will assist employees serving on search committees.

ATHLETICS
University at Albany's Colin Disch has been named to The Sports Network's 2005 I-AA Mid-Major All-America Football Team. Disch, one of nine players from the Northeast Conference on the squad, was voted to the all-star unit by a panel of I-AA media and sports information directors.

Four UAlbany student-athletes have made the inaugural America East Conference All-Academic Team for the fall sports of cross country, volleyball, field hockey and soccer, as announced by the conference office Nov. 16. Ashley DeNeal, Shelby Goldman, and Ashlee Reed of the volleyball team and Stephan Hall of the men's soccer team were named to their respective all-academic squads.

FACULTY HONORS

Jeryl L. Mumpower, professor of Public Affairs and Policy, was elected vice president of the Federation of Behavioral, Psychological, and Cognitive Sciences, of Washington, D.C. Federation efforts focus primarily on legislative advocacy and education, and the communication of information to scientists about developments in the legislative and executive branches of the federal government.

Katharine Briar-Lawson, dean of the School of Social Welfare (SSW), received the annual Community Builder Award from the United Way of Northeastern New York.

Mary L. McCarthy, SSW faculty member, was elected president-elect of the National Association of Social Workers. She will become president July 1, 2006, and will serve a two-year term.

Sharon Dawes, director of the Center for Technology in Government (CTG), has won the fifth annual Rudolph W. Giuliani Leadership Award. The award was presented by New York State Chief Information Officer Jim Dillon at the Executive Leadership Institute at the 17th annual Government Technology Conference East held in Albany in September. In October, Dawes was named to the National Archives and Records Administration's Advisory Committee on the Electronic Records Archives. This committee makes recommendations to the Archivist of the United States, Allen Weinstein, on the development and use of the Electronic Records Archives system.

Rachel Baum, assistant dean of the College of Computing and Information, has been voted president-elect of the New York State Library Association.