STUDENT Accomplishments

Clockwise, Inaugural Scholars Zakhar Berkovich, Jeffrey Castillo, Jessica Gunsch, and Sheila Gaddy.

- Jeffrey Castillo, Zakhar (Zack) Berkovich, Jessica Gunsch, and Sheila Gaddy are the first students to receive Inaugural Scholarships. The four are University at Albany undergraduates who aspire to successful careers, want to leave a mark on the world, and plan to give back to the University. The scholarship fund recently topped $1.68 million.

- Eric Christensen, a senior political science major from Dundee, N.Y., and a transfer student from Corning Community College, shadowed President Kermit L. Hall on Jan. 31 as President for a Day.

- Four University at Albany students participated in the American Collegiate Moot Court Association (AMCA) national moot court tournament at the University of Texas, Arlington, Jan. 20-21. Alison Bain-Lucey and Matthew Laroche comprised one team, and Patrick Chamberlain and Matthew McLaren made up the other. Bain-Lucey and Laroche advanced to the final four of the tournament — in a competition that began with 71 teams — and earned “All American” status in addition to bringing home the semi-finalist trophy. In the semifinal round, Bain-Lucey and Laroche were defeated by the team from Patrick Henry College that advanced to the final and then won the national championship.

- Liberal Arts Education and the Hip-Hop Generation
  Derrick Darby, Ph.D., a philosophy professor from Texas A & M University, spoke at the 27th annual Martin Luther King Jr./Black History Month Luncheon Feb. 9 in the Campus Center Ballroom on the topic of “Bridging the Gap: Philosophy, Politics, and the Hip-Hop Generation.” An online audiocast of Darby’s speech is available at http://www.albany.edu.

  UAlbany’s Department of Africana Studies is sponsoring several events that are free and open to the public to celebrate Black History Month. For more information, contact Leonard A. Slade Jr., chair, Department of Africana Studies, at (518) 442-4726.

  WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15, AT 1:30 P.M. IN HUMANITIES 039
  Professor Lucy Ann Hurston from Manchester Community College, Conn., will present “Remembering My Aunt Zora Neale Hurston.”

  THURSDAY, FEB. 16, AT 4 P.M. IN THE CAMPUS CENTER ASSEMBLY HALL
  The New York State Writers Institute and UAlbany’s Department of Africana Studies present “Tips for Writing Poetry” by Professor Honoree Jeffers from the University of Oklahoma.

  TUESDAY, FEB. 28, AT 7 P.M. IN THE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER RECITAL HALL
  The Martin Luther King Jr. Choir, conducted by Elgin Taylor, will present “A Celebration of Black Music.”

- Siena–UAlbany Connection Unites Business Students in CPA Quest
  Siena’s undergraduate school of business and the University at Albany’s graduate school of business have developed an agreement to help students obtain a fifth year of accounting for Certified Public Accounting (CPA) license required under a 1998 amendment to New York’s Education Law. “This is a win-win for both institutions and ultimately our students who seek to fulfill the state’s CPA licensure requirements,” said University at Albany President Kermit L. Hall.

- Governor Announces $435 Million Nanoelectronics Research Institute to be Located at Center of Excellence in Albany
  Gov. George E. Pataki announced on Jan. 3 that a major new $435 million Institute for Nanoelectronics Discovery and Exploration (INDEX), one of only two to be created in the nation, will be located at the Center of Excellence in Nanoelectronics at the University at Albany. A similar institute will be located in the Silicon Valley in California. The governor also announced that as part of this effort, a 250,000 square-foot state-of-the-art building will be constructed, including a 100,000 square-foot clean-room wing, at the Albany Center of Excellence.

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Board of Visitors Named
President Kermit L. Hall has announced that more than 20 distinguished leaders will serve on the University at Albany’s newly created Board of Visitors. The group will help the University test key assumptions being developed through compact planning against the broader framework of higher education. The group will make two visits this spring. The members are:

- STEPHEN R. PORTCH, chancellor emeritus, University System of Georgia
- WALTER R. ALLEN, Allan Murray Carter professor of higher education and professor of sociology, Graduate School of Education and Information Studies, University of California, Los Angeles
- GRETCHEL BATAILLE, interim chancellor, North Carolina School of the Arts
- CHARLOTTE BUCHANTAN, Esq., civic leader; founding chair, Albany-Tula Alliance; former chair of the State Commission on the Capital Region
- F. ALBERT COTTON, W.T. Doherty-Welch Foundation chair, Department of Chemistry, Texas A&M University
- TERRY DRISCOLL, director of athletics, College of William and Mary
- MILDRED GARCIA, president, Berkeley College
- WILLIAM GRAVES, senior vice president for Academic Strategy, SunGard Colleges Inc.
- KEMAL GURUZ, former president of the Council of Higher Education, Turkey
- GEORGE KENNEDY, senior managing partner, High Peaks Venture Fund
- JOHN L. KING, professor and dean, School of Information Science, University of Michigan
- DAVID P Y LUNG, professor and head, Department of Architecture, The University of Hong Kong
- HERBERT A. LURIE, retired chairman, Merrill Lynch & Co. Global Financial Institutions Investment Banking Group
- JAMES E. MORLEY JR., president and CEO, National Association of College and University Business Officers
- SUZANNE ORTEGA, vice provost and dean, University of Washington Graduate School, Communications

Campus Compact Accepts University at Albany Proposal
The New York Campus Compact has accepted a proposal from the University at Albany to do a presentation on a service learning project and University-school partnership at the Northeast Regional Campus Compact Conference April 7 in Nashua, N.H. The UAlbany proposal focuses on service learning and civic engagement for high-impact, community building partnerships. The project presents the collaborative journey of a University-school partnership, under way for more than five years, as it has fostered improved outcomes for impoverished children and their families, and enhanced service learning for University students. Presenters will include James Anderson, Vice President for Student Success and Vice Provost for Institutional Assessment and Diversity, and Sandra Austin, Assistant Professor, School of Social Welfare.

Athletics
Game times and telecast outlets for the 4th annual BracketBusters presented by eBay — a 13-game men’s basketball event matching NCAA tournament hopefuls against each other — were announced Feb. 7. UAlbany (14-8, AE 9-2) travels to Colonial Athletic Association opponent Virginia Commonwealth (15-6, CAA 9-4) on Feb. 17. Tip-off is 7 p.m. ESPNU, a 24-hour college sports network, will televise the contest nationally.