PRESIDENT’S REPORT
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STUDENT Accomplishments

University at Albany sophomore Laura L. Fredriksen of Center Moriches, Long Island, has won a competitive Goldwater Scholarship, effective for the 2006-2007 academic year.

“Winning this scholarship has motivated me even further to study hard and to work hard in my research class,” Fredriksen said. “It is invigorating to hear that someone appreciates how badly I want to study science and how hard I’ve worked to get to where I am today.”

Fredriksen has worked in UAlbany Assistant Professor of Chemistry Igor Lednev’s lab for three consecutive semesters on an investigation of the mechanism of amyloid fibril formations, which may be associated with neurodegenerative diseases linked with aging such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s, as well as Lou Gehrig’s disease and diabetes.

STUDENT Accomplishments (continued)

Vincent Porfirio, a senior English major from Schoharie, N.Y., had the opportunity to view the life of a public university president when he shadowed President Hall as President for a Day on March 22. Porfirio, who has a minor in history, is a transfer student from the State University of New York College at Oswego.

This year’s Spring Faculty Meeting on April 26 at 3 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center will offer a new format. After President Hall introduces the Executive Committee, University Senate Chair Steve Messner will act as moderator, and the committee will take questions from the audience. During the meeting, Hall will also introduce the Task Force on Environmental Sustainability, which he launched in early February. George Robinson, one of three co-chairs, will present the task force’s progress in assessing current sustainability efforts in areas ranging from energy use to waste management. The group will develop a scorecard to benchmark and track conditions, and will recommend ways to raise awareness University-wide, as well as improve policies and practices. In addition to Robinson, an associate professor in the Department of Biological Sciences and a trained botanist, co-leaders are: Andrei Lapenas, associate professor in the Department of Geography and Planning and a climatologist; and Kathryn Lowery, vice president for Finance and Business.

The University at Albany Celebrates Commencement Weekend May 20 and 21. The graduate ceremony is Saturday, May 20, at the Recreation and Convocation Center at 9 a.m. Participating faculty are asked to be in the gym (Physical Education Building) by 8:15. The undergraduate ceremony is Sunday, May 21, at 10 a.m. on the Science Library Lawn. Faculty are asked to be in the West CETL Room (Science Library) by 9:15.

There is still time to volunteer for Commencement Weekend May 20-21.

The University at Albany will join forces with the College of Saint Rose on Tuesday, May 2, (rain date May 5) for Mid-town Cleanup Day. Students, faculty and staff will be volunteering their time to clean up around the downtown campuses and surrounding area.

University at Albany President Kermit L. Hall, fourth from left, unveiled a new sign for the University’s downtown campus on March 29, symbolizing the first step of a $2.4 million signage initiative that will make the University’s three campuses welcoming and easy to navigate. Completion of the project is expected by the start of the fall semester.

University at Albany President Kermit L. Hall, center, unveiled a new sign for the University’s downtown campus on March 29, symbolizing the first step of a $2.4 million signage initiative that will make the University’s three campuses welcoming and easy to navigate. Completion of the project is expected by the start of the fall semester.

From left, Vincent Porfirio and Hall.

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(continued)
and girls’ development and co-authored or edited five books with her students. A member of the Harvard faculty for more than 30 years, Gilligan became Harvard’s first professor of gender studies in 1997, occupying the Patricia Aliberg Graham chair. Gilligan is also a visiting professor at the University of Cambridge.

15th Anniversary
On March 21 the University at Albany honored individuals who shaped, strengthened, and ensured the success of the Committee on University and Community Relations - a partnership between UAlbany and area residents, businesses, local law enforcement, and colleges. The celebration at the First Lutheran Church Hall in Albany commemorated the 15th year of educating students and the community about alcohol, safety, and crime prevention. Thomas Gebhardt chairs the committee.

Fountain Day
Fountain Day was wet but far from a wash-out. More than 7,000 registered for the event. Despite the rain and temperatures in the mid-40s, over 4,000 turned out to splash in the fountain and revel in this rite of spring. Our appreciation and thanks go out to over 200 faculty and staff volunteers for helping to celebrate this school spirit event.