PRESIDENT’S REPORT  
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STUDENT Accomplishments

Elizabeth Gray of Ithaca, N.Y., a sophomore with a major in philosophy/ cognitive science, was President for a Day on April 26, and had the opportunity to join the Spring Faculty Meeting with President Kermit L. Hall.

U A L B A N Y Athletics

UAABany Captures America East Track Crowns
Joe Greene won two individual titles and was named the Most Outstanding Track Performer and Rookie of the Year as the UAABany men won the America East Conference championship on May 7 at New Hampshire’s Reggie F. Atkins Track Facility in Durham. The men earned their second consecutive title and third in the last four years with 199.5 points. The UAABany women were also crowned champions as they took home their first-ever America East title, finishing with a best-ever 180 points. The Great Danes boasted nine individual titles, plus won two relays at the conference championship.

Facility Needed
Attention faculty! Eight faculty in academic regalia are still needed to shake hands with graduates before the undergraduate ceremony. In addition, more than 30 volunteers are still needed for various shifts on commencement weekend. Call Linda Wheeler at 437-4907 or visit the commencement Web site at www.albany.edu/commencement.

Li Headlines School of Business Ceremony
Li Yuanchao, party secretary of China’s Jiangsu Province, will address the School of Business graduation ceremony at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 21, in the Recreation and Convocation Center (RACC). Faculty and staff are invited to attend.

In other commencement news, former University at Albany President Vincent O’Leary, alumna Maureen A. Baginski, and Alphonse Fletcher Jr. will receive honorary degrees at this year’s Graduate Commencement Ceremony, which begins at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 20, in the RACC. Fletcher is the keynote speaker.

Vice President for Student Success James A. Anderson will speak at the Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony, which starts at 10 a.m., rain or shine, on Sunday, May 21, on the Science Library lawn.

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Board of Visitors Returns
Twenty distinguished national and international leaders in higher education and business returned to UAABany on May 9-10 to help UAABany shape its future. The Board of Visitors, chaired by Stephen Portch, Ph.D., chancellor emeritus of the University System of Georgia, offered insights on advancing UAABany’s stature as a highly competitive public higher education institution through selective investment.

At the board’s inaugural meeting in March, members received a thorough introduction to the functional areas of the University and issues that affect UAABany’s ability to capitalize on quality. At the May meeting, members came prepared to discuss the compact planning process and the recommendations of the Selective Investment Committee (SIC). After a series of meetings, the board offered a view from “30,000 feet” to UAABany’s leadership groups, giving the campus community kudos for its hard work and accomplishments during the compact planning process. A key conversation on the first day was with the SIC, during which Chair Teresa Harrison summarized the committee’s work, process, and challenges. On the second day, the board members framed observations and recommendations where they felt they could be most useful to UAABany going forward. Portch summarized the results in two back-to-back meetings — first with the University Council and Executive (Campus Highlights continued)
Committee, then with the deans and members of the University Senate Executive Committee. At each meeting he sought participants’ feedback. All four groups came together for lunch and the opportunity to talk with board members individually. The board’s observations will be summarized in a report and distributed to the University community in the next two weeks. Portch will return for the Fall Faculty Meeting to share the observations of the board.

East China Normal University
On May 11, the University signed a Memorandum of Understanding with East China Normal University (ECNU), People’s Republic of China, to develop a strategic partnership. Both universities began as teacher or “normal” schools. The agreement is the result of the efforts of President Kermit L. Hall and ECNU President Yu Lizhong to build a working relationship in many areas, including student and faculty exchanges, research collaborations, and joint degree programs.

UAlbany NanoCollege to host first-ever NanoCareer Day
On May 23, more than 300 middle- and high-school students from city, suburban and private schools in the Tech Valley region will get a firsthand look at careers in the emerging field of nanotechnology when they visit the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering (CNSE) for its first-ever NanoCareer Day.

Provost Susan Herbst has announced that Jeffrey J. Haugaard will become the first head of the University at Albany Honors College. Haugaard was chosen after a national search, led by Vivien Ng, and will begin his duties as assistant provost on Aug. 1. Haugaard is currently an associate professor of human development at Cornell University, where he also served as associate chair as well as director of undergraduate studies.

Undergraduate Research Conference
The third annual Honors Conference was held April 27-28 in the Life Sciences Research Building. The conference featured students who are a part of the undergraduate research initiative, as well as students enrolled in the honors programs of their academic major. The conference ended with remarks by Associate Dean for Honors Vivien Ng and Interim Vice President for Research Lynn Videka.

Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Psychology Edward B. Blanchard has received the 2006 Career Lifetime Achievement Award of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies. Department of Psychology Chair Elga Wulfert said, “This is a wonderful recognition of Ed’s sustained outstanding contributions to clinical psychology by one of our largest and most prestigious psychological associations and we are proud of him and the honor this distinction brings to our clinical program and our department.”

President Kermit L. Hall named the first recipients of two endowed professorships at the Spring Faculty Meeting on April 26. Hall named Professor Kenneth L. Demerjian, director of the Atmospheric Sciences Research Center (ASRC) and professor in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, as the Ray Falconer Endowed Chair in atmospheric sciences. He named Distinguished Professor of Chemistry Eric Block to the Carla Rizzo Delray ’42 Professorship.

Distinguished Service Professor of Sociology Richard Hall was named as this year’s Collins Fellow. The award is named for the late Evan Revere Collins, who served the University as president from 1949 to 1969. It is presented to senior members of the teaching faculty to recognize “extraordinary devotion to the University and the people in it over a sustained period of time.”

Joachim Frank, professor of Biomedical Sciences in the University at Albany’s School of Public Health, was elected to the prestigious National Academy of Sciences, it was announced on April 25. The day before, he was elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, another honor of national significance.

Elected to the NAS with Frank was John W. Saunders Jr., professor emeritus, Department of Biological Sciences, a faculty member at UAlbany from 1967 to 1985.