ONE OF OUR Finest Retires

Pianist Findlay Cockrell is retiring after 40 years on the faculty of the Department of Music, it was announced June 1 at a dinner in his honor. “Findlay has served the University with brilliance and tremendous energy, touching and enhancing the lives of students and colleagues,” said Provost Susan Herbst.

Commencement 2006
The University at Albany celebrated its 162nd commencement ceremonies May 20-21. On Sunday, more than 1,800 students participated in undergraduate commencement on the Science Library lawn. On Saturday, honorary degree recipient Alphonse Fletcher Jr. was the keynote speaker at the graduate commencement ceremony at the Recreation and Convocation Center (RACC), where an estimated 991 graduate degrees were conferred.

Fletcher, the chair and chief executive officer of Fletcher Asset Management, Inc., is known for his success in finance and investment management, and for his philanthropy on behalf of the environment and education. He has contributed to major initiatives to improve race relations. In addition to Fletcher, honorary degree recipients at the graduate ceremony included former University at Albany President Vincent O’Leary and alumna Maureen A. Baginski.

Alumni Weekend
President Hall welcomed alumni from the classes of 1936, 1941, 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, and 1966 to campus on Alumni Weekend, June 4-6. Events included the Alumni Association’s annual Excellence Awards gala, held at the Desmond, an all-alumni luncheon, and a reception at the University Residence. Hall noted that UAlbany’s more than 134,000 living alumni are “truly a global force.” He said UAlbany alumni are leaders in education, the arts, business, and community service.

“Roads Scholar” Tour
President Hall and UAlbany faculty and staff took a bus tour of Long Island June 6-7. The group visited Nassau Community College and Smithtown High School, attended a reception for incoming students and Long Island alumni in Port Jefferson, and visited with Newsday editors and reporters. The UAlbany contingent also toured Jones Beach and Li’s delegation.

Great Dane Awards
Vice President and Director of Athletics Lee McElroy presented Ashlee Reed and Stephan Hall with ECAC Merit Medals on May 1 at the sixth annual Great Dane Awards, held at the Recreation and Convocation Center. The event celebrates UAlbany athletics in the 2005-06 academic year. Presidential Scholar-Athlete Awards were given to Andy Allstadt and Jen Schumacher.
learned about New York builder and philanthropist Robert Moses. Roughly 25 percent of UAlbany students come from Long Island.

School of Education Gains Prestigious Accreditation
The national Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) has granted accreditation to the graduate teacher preparation program at the School of Education (announced May 19). TEAC accreditation signifies that the graduate programs in teacher preparation, literacy, teaching English to speakers of other languages, and elementary, secondary, and special education meet rigorous national quality standards.

“This new accreditation is a very special achievement; one that our faculty has been working toward for a number of years,” said Susan D. Phillips, dean of the School of Education.

SunGard Higher Education Returns
After conducting an in-depth information technology assessment this past December, SunGard Higher Education returned to Albany last week to report on its evaluation and the current state of IT at the University. SunGard’s presentation included a series of findings regarding the University’s information technology organization, deployment, and operation. The campus will follow up on these matters.

Special Olympics at UAlbany
The Special Olympics New York 2006 Summer Games are coming to the University at Albany June 15-18. More than 2,000 athletes and coaches will take part in the Summer Games, which are returning to the University for the first time since 2000.

Opening Ceremonies are Thursday, June 15, at 8 p.m. Athletic competition is on Friday and Saturday, June 16 and 17, in eight Olympic-style sports.

President Hall, head basketball coach Will Brown, his assistant coaches, and eight players volunteered their time June 1 to run a basketball clinic for more than 30 Special Olympic athletes at the University’s sports complex. Four teams from surrounding counties learned ball handling, passing, and shooting skills from the Great Danes men’s basketball team, 2006 America East Champions.

University at Albany President Kermit L. Hall welcomes 33 Special Olympians to the RACC for an evening of drills, skills, and thrills at a basketball clinic with the Danes and men’s head basketball coach Will Brown. (Photo, courtesy of Monique Jacobs for Special Olympics New York.)

FacultY Honors

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.”

Timothy Hoff, an associate professor in the Department of Health Policy, Management, and Behavior in the School of Public Health, is at Oxford University for several weeks this summer, giving lectures and seminars on U.S. health policy, quality of care, and research methods. The programs are for master’s and doctoral students in the Said Business School and Templeton College of Management at Oxford.

The School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J., has awarded philosopher Robert C. Howell a summer in-residence visitorship to continue his work on Immanuel Kant’s theoretical philosophy. This is Howell’s second residence at the institute. He was also a visiting member during the 1982-1983 academic year and through the fall of ’83, where he authored Kant’s Transcendental Deduction: An Analysis of Main Themes in His Critical Philosophy (Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1992).

Assistant Professor of School Psychology Amanda B. Nickerson and her team have been awarded a 2005-2006 National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) Presidential Award for developing one of the first models of crisis intervention explicitly for providers who work in the school setting with children.

The NASP Presidential Award is presented to a highly select group of individuals who have made a significant contribution to the profession and to NASP. Team member Ted Feinberg, assistant executive director of NASP and a 1997 UAlbany alum, was also honored with the NASP Presidential Award.