School of Public Health graduate Vanessa Saldanha has been named an ASPH/HRSA Public Health Fellow for 2006, one of only 11 graduating students nationwide. The fellows will work on projects in the Bureau of Health Professionals (BHPr) at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Saldanha came to the University from Queens, N.Y., as an undergraduate in 2000. She completed her bachelor's degree in three and a half years with a major in sociology and minor in biology. Last month, Saldanha completed a master's degree in public health. At UAlbany, she was a peer mentor for the Project Excel program, a volunteer in the Albany community as a rape crisis counselor, and the vice president of Golden Key International Honor Society. She also worked and volunteered at Albany Medical Center.
and Brief Intervention (SBI) Strategies with Student-Athletes, for $300,000 over two years to prevent high-risk drinking and violent behavior among college students. The second is for $174,932 over 15 months to the Committee on University and Community Relations, awarded in the Alcohol and other Drug Prevention Models on College Campuses Grant Competition.

Alumni Association Names 2006 Award Winners
Harvey Patashnick ’67 and ’69, former president and CEO, and co-founder of Rupprecht & Patashnick Co. Inc., a world leader in particle-measurement instrumentation and technology, was among those honored with University at Albany Alumni Association Excellence Awards June 2 at the Desmond. Earlier in the day, he gave the keynote address at a breakfast hosted by The University at Albany Foundation’s Council for Economic Growth at the Fort Orange Club. Among the 16 people honored by UAlbany with Alumni Association Excellence Awards were: Carl Rosner, chairman and CEO of CardioMag Imaging Inc., and a member of The University at Albany Foundation board of directors since 2001; and Albany Mayor Gerald D. Jennings ’76. The awards were bestowed during Alumni Weekend, June 2-4.

Special Olympics at UAlbany
The Special Olympics New York 2006 Summer Games begin today at the University at Albany and continue through June 18. More than 2,000 athletes and coaches will take part in the Summer Games, which have returned to the University for the first time since 2000. Opening ceremonies are tonight at 8 p.m. Athletic competition is on Friday and Saturday in eight Olympic-style sports.

President Hall welcomes 33 Special Olympians to the Recreation and Convocation Center 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
The first recipients of two endowed faculty positions were named at the spring faculty meeting. Kenneth L. Demerjian, director of the Atmospheric Sciences Research Center (ASRC) and a professor in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, was named to the Ray Falconer Endowed Chair in Atmospheric Sciences. This endowment was established through a bequest by Gertrude Thompson, a retired psychologist who passed away in 1997 at the age of 89. Thompson owned a camp in the Adirondacks and frequently attended lectures organized by UAlbany meteorologist Ray Falconer at ASRC’s Whiteface Mountain Field Station. Eric Block, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, will hold the Carla Rizzo Delray ’42 Professorship, named in memory of Carla Delray, a graduate of the New York State College for Teachers and former researcher for General Electric’s Research & Development Center.

Professor of English Thomas Bass has received Honorable Mention in the Ed Cunningham Award for the best magazine reporting from abroad in 2005. This award from the Overseas Press Club, granted yearly since 1940, recognizes “the finest in print and broadcast journalism by international correspondents.” He was cited for his article “The Spy Who Loved Us,” which was published in The New Yorker.

Eight faculty members have been nominated for The National Society of Collegiate Scholars’ (NSCS) 2006 Faculty of the Year Award by members of the NSCS chapter on the UAlbany campus. They are: James Acker, Frankie Y. Bailey, John Delano, Donald J. Hernandez, James Neely, Christopher Thorncroft, Thomas C. Walker, and Daniel L. Wulff. The award is student nominated, giving students the power to recognize faculty members who have inspired them in some way.