Three University at Albany freshmen, Michael Lazore, Akeela Makshood, and Nicholas Simons, won this year’s Explore UAlbany raffle drawing. Thanks to a generous donation from SEFCU, each received a University at Albany Bookstore gift certificate for $500 to cover the cost of their textbooks this semester. The drawing, held on August 25th, was open to incoming freshmen and transfer students who attended an Explore UAlbany lecture on Friday, August 23rd as part of the Great Dane Beginnings Opening Weekend.

Michael Lazore is from Syracuse, NY and hopes to major in business. He chose to come to UAlbany to explore a new city, make friends, and get involved. After looking at the Explore UAlbany brochure, he picked the session on the Death Penalty by Prof. James Acker because it looked really interesting. He wasn’t disappointed and said he left the session feeling like he learned a lot about a very controversial topic.

Akeela Makshood is originally from Sri Lanka but came to this country about six years ago. She is one of our commuter students. She chose UAlbany specifically for its Criminal Justice program and chose an Explore UAlbany session to get to know faculty from that discipline. She attended “Ten Things You Thought You Knew About Crime (And Were Wrong) with Prof. Jamie Fader. Akeela found the quiz at the beginning of the session to be a really engaging way to start – and she did, in fact, get most of the questions wrong. She is even more convinced that
Criminal Justice is for her and hopes to become involved with student groups like Amnesty International while at UAlbany.

Nicholas Simons hails from Binghamton and plans to major in political science. He attended the session by Prof. Joseph Sheehan entitled, “You Couldn’t Make This Stuff Up: Life Lessons Learned from the Bench”. Nick was excited to be able to meet a judge before classes even started. He hopes to attend law school after his time at UAlbany. He chose UAlbany because of its diverse student body but he is finding making friends on his residence hall to be easy. As a political science major, he also liked the fact that there are lots of internship opportunities available because UAlbany is in the capitol of the State of New York.

The three winners were congratulated on their strong academic start by Senior Vice Provost Sue Faerman. Dr. Faerman welcomed them to UAlbany and encouraged them to “continue to take advantage of all the opportunities here to develop your interests and your intellect.” All three students plan to continue to Explore UAlbany by joining various teams and clubs and attending events on campus. SEFCU representative Mark Duffy congratulated the students on behalf of SEFCU.