Tricia Barbagallo and her family grew up here in the historic city of Albany and have always appreciated its historic diversity. Her grandparents often gave her early American historic literature as reading material and this contributed to her interest that continued into her collegiate years.

Barbagallo attended SUNY Fredonia where she received her bachelor’s degree in English and Communications. Following this, Barbagallo returned to Albany to pursue her graduate studies in History and Public History at the University at Albany. She completed several internships at the New York State Museum while studying the Colonial Albany Social History Project. Then, from 2003-2006, the university awarded her with three Research Fellowships. This was research funding that helped with the development of her dissertation research. A recognition Barbagallo received was the University's President's Initiatives for Women Award presented by then President Kermit Hall.

While studying at the university, Barbagallo put together her dissertation, The Birth of Culture: Indigence, Adversity, and the Law of Early Albany. It focuses on Albany paupers and analyzes why people became poor, the laws that they used to overcome poverty, and the economics that define poverty. It studies the legal, political, social and economic systems used to distinguish and control poor people.

This is a very unique dissertation because of the subject’s complexity. Barbagallo says that nobody has ever really been able to compile all the data and have the ability to interpret factual information from them. But this is what Barbagallo loves...“the complication of colonial social history.” She also states that because of complexity, people tend to avoid or lose interest in this subject matter. The only state in our country to ever really pursue something like this type of research is Virginia. “But even so, those studies did not include statistics of the wealthy status,” Barbagallo adds.

Her cross-cultural study incorporates average citizens like merchants, slaves, and Indians focusing on the social relationships as a key factor in determining the poverty wealth gap. She wanted to answer the question of “why do we see people who once started off as wealthy and raise families that ended up poor?” The answer can be found in her study of weak family systems, which are major factors in poverty as compared to labor.

As an intern studying at the University at Albany, Barbagallo joined the Colonial Albany Social History Project. She was able to secure the lists with the early colonial classes of Albany that helped rebuild those families over generations. She took this information and reconstructed these living class patterns through their changes over the years. She would then pay close attention to the money figures attributed to everyday needs for commodities like coats, blankets, pots, pans, labor pricing, and real estate, and could determine how much was needed to meet those needs. Those results would lead her to draw facts from this information to explain the wealth gap demonstrating the economic progression that occurred in early Albany.

Barbagallo also had access to records showing the money that was given to the people by the city. She explained that at one time the church was responsible for that duty. But in 1783 with the first laws after the Revolution, the New York state government was required to take the responsibility for poverty. With this study, Barbagallo notes that the government maintained the same trend that goes on today. There has always been a constant level of poverty; the same thing occurred back in the 1800s. Unlike today though, the church and the state tried to maintain a balanced relationship. Despite this, there would still be some church attendees who would be denied any aid from the government. But, it was in the best interest of the church attendees since they would receive more aid from the church than they would have from the state.

So how can we apply Tricia Barbagallo’s dissertation research to today’s societal problems? “We can’t fix the problem because it’s so individualistic. Blanket programs do not work for every single person. Not everyone qualifies,” she said. She uses the WIC program as an example. WIC stands for, “Women, Infants, and Children” as universal qualifiers for aid. This program provides the qualifiers, usually women who are single mothers, with milk, butter, eggs, cereal, etc. for the needs of the children. However, this program does not extend to men who are single fathers. Another problem with the program today is that people take advantage of this, as historically the first generation learned to draw facts from this information to explain the wealth gap demonstrating the economic progression that occurred in early Albany.
A Message from Dean Elga Wulfert

Spring is time of renewal, a time when we emerge from the cold winter months and look ahead with a fresh perspective. On campus, spring is a time of celebration as we bring another academic year to a close.

My first year as Acting Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences seems to have flown by. I have found that the rewards (and challenges!) of this job are great. I am particularly proud of the many outstanding students enrolled in our numerous College departments and programs. On any given day these young scholars are quietly engaged in pursuing their studies, assisting in faculty research, and helping better their community through volunteer and service learning work. It is at this time of the year that many of our students are honored for their achievements. One such student, Julita Ewa Patrosz, a Biochemistry and Molecular Biology major, was recently awarded the prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. My congratulations to Ms. Patrosz on this noteworthy accomplishment, and to our many other students who have also been recognized for their achievements.

I am repeatedly impressed by the commitment and hard work of our faculty. Their research accomplishments and dedication to the classroom experience of our students are at the heart of the College of Arts and Sciences. By the time you receive this newsletter we will have recognized our College Authors and Artists with a reception in their honor on April 17th. The wide variety of publications and creative work that was celebrated at this event is a testament to the depth and breadth of the expertise and interests of our College faculty.

We have enjoyed this past year the steady and inspired leadership of Interim President George Philip and Interim Provost Susan Phillips. Both have committed themselves to moving this University forward and their passion for UAlbany is evident. Just a few weeks ago on March 18th, I joined with President Philip, Provost Phillips, and faculty, students, staff, and alumni at UAlbany Day at the State Capitol. This was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our University and to share its collective accomplishments with those in the community as well as our state legislators. I was quite impressed by the presentations given by a number of our alumni, many of whom were first generation college graduates, who credited the University at Albany for providing them with the necessary foundation to pursue their life’s goals. With commencement on the horizon, it is time to wish our soon to be alumni the best of luck as they embark on this journey and pursue their professional careers or begin their graduate studies.

We said goodbye this year to three faculty members who have been making a difference in the lives of our students for decades. I extend a heartfelt thank you and best wishes to Distinguished Professors Richard Hall and Richard Alba, both of the Department of Sociology, and Judaic Studies Professor Stan Isser upon their retirement. All three faculty members are highlighted in this issue.

I thank all of you who have made this past year such an enjoyable and fruitful one. I encourage you to remain engaged with the College and its many programs, faculty, and students. I look forward with great anticipation to next year as we continue to work together to advance the College of Arts and Sciences, which has played, and continues to play, such an important role in so many of our lives.
This year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the existence of the Christopher DeCormier Scholarship fund, which was created following Christopher’s death, November 1977. Louise and Robert DeCormier, parents of Christopher, felt a need to reach out to find a way to honor their son. In a recent letter to Friends of the DeCormier Memorial Scholarship, they explained their need to find a way to honor their son. The answer for them was through their involvement with young men and women who shared their son’s commitment to humanity, his passion for the adventure of life, and his willingness to meet it more than halfway. From that need, the scholarship fund was created and subsequent donations have helped many young scholars with assistance to pursue a variety of exciting field research opportunities.

So on May 10, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in Page Hall Auditorium, Peter Yarrow of Peter, Paul and Mary, along with the choral group Counterpoint, will perform a benefit concert for UAlbany’s Institute of Mesoamerican Studies. The concert, “A Folk Song Celebration,” will offer an eclectic mixture of music from Latin America and favorite songs from Peter, Paul and Mary’s repertoire. Robert DeCormier, father of Christopher, is director of the Vermont-based eleven-person choral group Counterpoint and he has been Peter, Paul and Mary’s Music Director for the past twenty years.

Tickets for the concert are open seating for $10-$12 and can be purchased at the door or from ticketweb.com—a direct link for online purchase is provided at UAlbany’s Anthro web-page: www.albany.edu/anthropology.

Additional celebratory events planned by The Institute for Mesoamerican Studies are free and open to the public and include a day of invited talks by distinguished alumni: “The Legacy of Mesoamerican Studies Symposium,” on Friday, May 9, in the Campus Center Assembly Hall from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and a poster and photo exhibit of work by UAlbany’s Mesoamerican scholars on Saturday, May 10, in the Campus Center Assembly Hall from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Recipients of the 2008 the Christopher DeCormier Scholarship:

**Jared Latimer:**

Originally from California, I received my undergraduate degree from the University of Colorado at Denver with a major in anthropology. I am currently a Ph.D. student at SUNY-Albany (in my third year) and my dissertation work is focused on the archaeology of Costa Rica. After completing my degree, I hope to remain in academia by teaching at a college or university.

**Summation of DeCormier Work:**

With this scholarship award, I will be visiting the site where my dissertation work will take place. The site is called Las Mercedes, and it is located in the Atlantic Watershed region of Costa Rica. There, with the help of Ricardo Vásquez, I will perform a preliminary survey of the site and its surrounding areas. The purpose of this survey is to locate houses where inhabitants of the site once lived. Once we find these houses, we will be able to see how common people lived and worked at the site, and how their local, household economy integrated into the larger region.

**Winston Scott:**

I am originally from Salt Lake City, Utah. I am in the third year of my Ph.D. program at the University at Albany. I received my Masters of Arts in Anthropology at the University at Albany. I received my B.A. in anthropology at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City, Utah.

My career path involves finishing my Ph.D. in anthropology at the University at Albany. After which, I plan on teaching at the University level and continuing research in Guatemala on issues of social and economic strategies of contemporary Mayas, human rights in Guatemala, and language strategies in bilingual (Mayan-Spanish) communities in Guatemala.

The research that I am conducting with the DeCormier funds:

My research focuses on Q’eqchi’ Mayas who have been negatively impacted by the global demise of coffee market prices. Economic recession in the Guatemalan coffee market has forced Mayas, who labor on coffee plantations, to incorporate new economic strategies in order to make a living and remain in their home community.
john bailey jones (economics) has received a grant from the national institute on aging. the objective of his project is to construct a richer version of the life cycle model that can reconcile two observations: households keep large amounts of assets even when very old and people with high lifetime income save at a higher rate than those with low lifetime income. from that a model will be used to assess empirically the relative importance of its competing features, and to perform a variety of policy experiments.

eric block (chemistry) is the recipient of a $474,800 grant from the national science foundation to continue his research on the organic compounds in garlic and onions. as noted by vice president for research lynn videka, with this grant for funding through 2011 dr. block will have a 30-year program of funded research. dr. blocks plans to complete a book that will highlight the science and folklore of garlic, onions and other genus allium plants in his book garlic and other alliums: the love and the science, to be published by the royal society of chemistry (uk) in 2009.

hajim chen (biological sciences) is a recipient of the american heart association’s national scientist development grant. he will use the funds to study a class of molecules that play a key role in controlling the rate of a human’s heartbeat. dr. chen attributes years of biomedical research by many labs for scientists understanding why cardiac arrhythmias happen.

mary gonder (biological sciences) is the recipient of a $317,000 award from the national science foundation to track chimpanzees in nigeria and cameroon. dr. gonder will research the importance of the sanaga river as a barrier to chimpanzee migration and compare gene pools of chimpanzees inhabiting the guinea of nigeria area to chimpanzee populations from other african regions. she along with other scientists will track wild chimpanzees to their sleeping sites in the forests.

marilyn masson (anthropology) and director of the institute for messoamerican studies recently received a national science foundation grant of $255,000 to reconstruct the complex economy of the ancient city of mayapan. she will study the little known structure of family labor and the affluence of elites and commoners through the examination of production and consumption patterns of mayapan.

mark muraven (psychology) has received a grant from the u.s. army research institute for the proposal “improving coping by building self control.” the proposed research will test the relationship between coping and self-control using 350 undergraduate students. the goal is for the results to lead to applied research on helping soldiers deal with stresses, be better leaders and followers, and succeed in their missions.

barry trachtenberg (judaic studies) is the recipient of an award from the summer stipends competition. the award will provide a stipend for two months of research time this summer. dr. trachtenberg’s project is an examination of the holocaust’s impact on jewish historical knowledge.

we had four faculty from the college of arts and sciences awarded external funding of a half a million dollars or more during fiscal year 2006-2007:

- lance bosart – department of earth and atmospheric sciences
- kristin christodulu – center for autism and related disabilities and department of psychology
- min-ho lee – department of biological sciences
- jayanti pande – department of chemistry

other college of arts and sciences faculty with external funding of a quarter of a million or more during fiscal year 2006-2007:

- richard alba – center for social and demographic analysis and department of sociology
- evgeny dikarev – department of chemistry
- cheryl frye – department of psychology
- john molinari – department of earth and atmospheric sciences
- monica rodriquez – department of psychology
- lawrence schell – department of anthropology
- ben szaro – department of biological sciences
- christopher thorncroft – department of earth and atmospheric sciences
- ing-nang wang – department of biological sciences

Richard Hall (Sociology)

Of all the things now retired professor Richard Hall could miss, he says what he misses the most is “simply not doing it.” Retired as of this semester, Hall is already ready to come back to the job he has done for nearly fifty years.

With degrees from Ohio State University and Denison University, Hall taught at Indiana University for six years and University of Minnesota for ten years before landing at UAlbany — that would be his home for the next three decades.

“I loved it and loved it and loved it, from beginning to end,” Hall said of working with undergraduates — his favorite part of teaching.

What Hall liked most about undergraduate students is how they listened to what people talked about. “They chatted about it, talked to other students, and talked with people in other programs,” said Hall. With their “new ideas, new challenges, and new places to go,” they forced Hall, as a faculty member, “to keep up with them, what they were doing, and how they were doing it.”

With the newfound freedom Hall has found as a retiree, major plans include a possible trip to New Zealand to visit his children.

But don’t be surprised if you see the 73-year-old around campus again. “I want to keep touch with what’s going on in the University and what’s going on in Albany as a place,” he said. “Though I might teach one class instead of ten.”

Richard Alba (Sociology)

By Heather Senison

Distinguished Sociology Professor Richard Alba is retiring at the end of this semester, but he is taking everything he gained from the University at Albany to continue his research at the City University of New York graduate center.

Alba, who earned his doctorate from Columbia University and founded the State University of New York Center for Social and Demographic Analysis, began working at UAlbany in 1980.

“UAlbany made it possible for me to really have an exemplary research career,” Alba said.

“I have written significant books in my field,” he said, including Ethnic Identity: The Transformation of White America, 1990, and award-winning Remaking the American Mainstream: Assimilation and Contemporary, 2003.

Although he will be able to narrow his research to a few subjects while working at the CUNY Graduate Center, Alba said he will miss having the “interesting influence of young people.”

“Undergraduates keep one on one’s toes,” he said.
Ancient History.

Isser began his doctoral work at Columbia and graduated in 1973 with a Ph.D. in working full-time teaching in the CUNY History Department. While working, Hellenistic history. He held that position from 1966 until 1970 when he began his job at CUNY as a lecturer teaching about Western Civilization and Greek and Roman studies. By the end of his studies as an undergraduate he has made it his goal to establish good relations with his students through his interest in his academics and by the end of his studies as an undergraduate he earned the bachelor's degree in History and then went on to pursue the master's degree in his field of study.

While attending Columbia University in the 1960s, Isser’s goal was to go into graduate schools to become professors. “The intellectually curious students are the most interesting,” he says. Before coming to the University at Albany in 1975 as Associate Professor of Judaic and Religious Studies, he was at the University at Binghamton from 1973 to 1975 as Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies. While at Binghamton he was director of the interdisciplinary program but without a department affiliation. At the University at Albany, Isser joined a department and taught ancient and post-Biblical Jewish history. In January, Isser retired from his full-time teaching position, but fortunately for the university he continues to teach on a part-time basis, which he enjoys. When asked what kind of memory he has of the university, he mentions how exciting it can be to work with his colleagues “bringing various perspectives together.” He really enjoyed team teaching in the Project Renaissance program, something he had the opportunity to do during its first few years. He loved putting together the material for students with a team of three to four faculty members. He also enjoyed creating social relationships with the students, something our university takes great pride in as one of its strengths. When asked how former students under his guidance have turned out he mentions about some going on to graduate schools to become professors. “The intellectually curious students are the most interesting,” he says.
CAS Notes

African Studies
The Department of Africana Studies hosted a Research Symposium on April 16, 2008. Presentations were made by faculty and graduate students.

Art
Associate Dean and Professor Rachel Dresler is one of three national-level scholars invited to speak at Case Western Reserve University as part of the Northeast Ohio Medieval and Renaissance Studies year-long workshop entitled, “Disciplinary Intersections: Medieval and Renaissance Cultures and Studies.”

Professor Mark Grenewold’s solo exhibit “Mark Grenewold: A Moment of True Feeling 1997-2007” was on view from October 10 to November 10, 2007 at D.C. Moore Gallery in New York City. The exhibit received favorable reviews and is accompanied by a 64-page catalogue with an essay by Sanford Schwartz and a self-interview by the artist.

Callain Deversaux Lewis, Visual Resources Curator, was invited to participate in a series of national design workshops funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The design panel consists of representatives from many of the world’s preeminent art museums, smaller specialized collections in archaeology, biology, history, popular culture, science and technology. The University at Albany will be one of three public higher education institutions represented on the panel.

Adam Frelin has completed a commissioned light sculpture, White Line (Tokyo) for the International House of Japan in Tokyo. The sculpture was awarded a Public Art Network Award by the US organization, House of Japan in Tokyo. The sculpture was awarded a Public Art Network Award by the US organization, House of Japan in Tokyo.

Amy Bloch spoke at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in the fall and in the spring she spoke at the Renaissance Society of American meeting.

English
The Department of English hosted the Institute on Critical Climate Change (IC3) conference April 4-6, 2008. This important international conference premiered critical voices working in philosophy and technics, critical theory (Benjaminian “deconstructive,” “Deleuze”), new media, religion, environmental studies, global literary studies, “materialist” politics and others.

Languages, Literatures and Cultures
Robert Summers, Coordinator of the Center for Languages and International Communication, was featured on local Channel 10 in February regarding language delivery.

Center for Autism and Related Disabilities Receives State Appropriation

Dr. Kristin Christodulu, Director, Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, reported that the Center has received $1 million in appropriations in the Executive Budget for the 2008-09 year. In addition, it was announced that the Center has received a $1,490,000 grant from the state legislature for the upcoming year. Acting Dean Wulfert congratulated Dr. Christodulu citing her excellent leadership and continued success.

Music
Professor Robert Gluck (Music) had a gallery showing at the Joseph Sifta Center for Jewish Life at Yale University. The title was “Layered Histories”, an interactive video and sound installation relating to the imagined journey of the Marseilles Bible. Professor Gluck also performed at The Third Practice Electroacoustic Music Festival at the University of Richmond.

Psychology
Professor Gordon Gallup’s work on grip strength was featured in The New York Times Magazine, “The 7th Annual Year In Ideas” (December 9, 2007). Department of Psychology’s work on kissing was featured in Time magazine (January 28, 2008) and in Scientific American (February/March 2008).

Sociology
Donald Hernandez was the subject of front page articles in USA Today and the Albany Times Union regarding his radio interviews with local CBS affiliates in New York City and Los Angeles about his recently released report in collaboration with the Foundation for Child Developmet on trends in child well-being from 1985-2004 using 48 indicators to focus on racial and ethnic disparities.

Anthropology Professor’s Research Scores with the Media

By Dona Parker

Institute co-wrote the article. Professor DeWitt was featured prominently and mentioned the University at Albany as her affiliation. Their article also drew the attention of The New York Times, the Daily Telegraph, Reuters, and on-line at http://www.livescience.com. She also filmed an interview for Discover Channel Canada.

The article looked at the mortality of the Black Death of 1347-1351 with respect to preexisting health conditions as the reason why so many died. Past researchers assumed that the epidemic killed indiscriminately and had nothing to do with age, sex or frailty. Professors DeWitt and Wood designed their research using new methods of paleodemographic age estimation and a recent multivariate model of selective mortality to test the assumption that the Black Death killed indiscriminately. They studied skeletal remains from medieval England and Denmark. The results suggest that it killed selectively in terms of frailty, “although probably not as strongly selective” as normal mortality.

The article drew quite a bit of attention to their findings and Professor DeWitt noted that the “publicity was great” and she has been able to correspond with people she probably would not have met if not for the media attention.
Awards and Honors

Professor Christine Bose of the Departments of Sociology, Women's Studies and Latin American, Caribbean and U.S. Latino Studies was selected as a Fulbright Senior Scholar. She spent four weeks this spring at the University of Costa Rica in San Jose. While there she taught a graduate seminar on "Transformations of Capitalism and Women's Paid and Unpaid Carework" and presented a conference paper, both based on her recent co-edited book Global Dimensions of Gender and Carework by Stanford University Press 2006.

New faculty member Patrick Nold (History) has been accepted for a prestigious fellowship through the Harvard University Center for Italian Renaissance Studies at Villa I Tatti, Florence, Italy for the 2008-09 academic year. (See Winter issue of CAS Today for biography.)

Professor Edward Schwarzschild (English) was named a Fulbright Scholar and is spending the spring 2008 semester in Spain teaching courses in American literature and American writing and visual arts to students at the University of Zaragoza.

Professor John Monfasani (History) received a grant from the Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation to spend two weeks in Venice during summer 2008 to work on three Bessarion projects at the Biblioteca Marciana.

Professor Lynne Tillman (English) was nominated in 2007 to the PEN Executive Board, is on the Advisory Board for the Wesner Prize in the Arts, and is fiction editor of Fence Magazine.

Student Success

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Student chosen for Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship

A College of Art and Science sophomore, Julita Ewa Patrosz, who is majoring in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, has been chosen to receive the prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. This premier award is given to outstanding students in the field of science, engineering and mathematics. Ms. Patrosz’ plans are to pursue a Ph.D. in biology or chemistry and is considering an emphasis in the field of bioinormatics as a future career. She has special interest in the application of mathematics and chemistry to biological problems.

In a recent interview, Ms. Patrosz states that "I am honored to receive the Goldwater Scholarship" and thanked Associate Professor Jayanti Pande, her current research adviser. Along with her adviser, she is working in a research program using modern biophysical techniques to understand how mutations in lens proteins lead to the formation of cataracts.

In the same interview, Dr. Edegard Wulfert, Acting Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, said, "I am thrilled that Biochemistry and Molecular Biology major Julita Ewa Patrosz has been awarded a prestigious Goldwater Scholarship in recognition of her impressive achievements, and I congratulate both Julita and her research adviser, Professor Pande.

Recent Chemistry Ph.D. Graduate Breaks Record

Professor Igor Lednev from the Department of Chemistry and former doctoral student, Victor Shashilov, Ph.D., have recently had their article “Deep-UV Raman: Spectroscopy directly probes a fibrillation nucleus” published in the journal Laser Focus World (December 2007). Dr. Shashilov completed the requirements for the doctorate and defended his thesis in only three and a half years, breaking the all-time departmental record of years to completion of the doctoral degree. Victor was consistently at the top of his class in graduate courses and cumulative exams.

Dr. Shashilov’s main research in Professor Lednev’s group involved the development of an application of novel statistical methods for analyzing Raman spectroscopic data. Victor has developed into a world expert in statistical analysis of spectroscopic data. While a student, he achieved distinction publishing nine papers in top journals including two communications and one full article in the Journal of American Chemical Society, the number one chemistry journal in the world. Victor has four additional manuscripts currently in preparation.

Africana Studies Outstanding Seniors

The Department of Africana Studies is pleased to recognize two of their outstanding graduating seniors. Barnaby Nicolas has a 3.91 overall grade point average with a minor in Classics-Latin. Also recognized is Melissa Little with a 3.91 GPA and a recipient of the President's Award for Outstanding Seniors.

Dissertation Research Fellowship Recipients

Five doctoral students have received Dissertation Research Fellowship Awards from the Office of Graduate Studies. They are: Jennifer Marlow (English—dissertation advisor Laura Wilder), Mazin Tadros (History—dissertation advisor Warren Roberts), Daniel Santore (Sociology—dissertation advisor Steven Seidman), Joleen Loucks (Sociology—dissertation advisor Glenn Spite), and Anna Sackett (Psychology—dissertation advisor Sylvia Roch).

Congratulations to all recipients and their advisors.

Anthropology Student Thesis

Jennie Jeppeson is currently working on a senior honors thesis in paleoanthropology, the study of human evolution. She is a double major in Anthropology and History and is working with Professor David Strait. She is examining fossil evidence in an attempt to determine how many species of humans have existed during the last one million years, and how those species are related to each other in terms of evolutionary patterns of ancestry and descent. To do this, she is learning about the anatomy of the skulls of nearly one hundred fossil humans. Dr. Strait tells us that Jennie is incredibly independent and determined and he is confident she will produce a thesis that will represent a significant, original piece of research. Jennie plans to pursue a doctoral degree in paleoanthropology after graduation from UAlbany.

SUNY Chancellor Honors UAlbany Student Excellence

Interim Chancellor John B. Clark recently honored students from SUNY campuses with the 2008 Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence. From the College of Arts and Sciences, the following students are recipients of the award:

Veronica Agueeva – Biological Sciences
Zakhar Berkovich – Biological Sciences
Seth Buckwalter – Communication
Corban Caliguire – Communication
Michael Cattani – Psychology
Robert Cherry – English
Courtney D’Allain – Sociology
Nicholas Fahrenkopf – Physics
Ian Feinstein – Biochemistry
Jessica Forbes – Communication
Elizabeth Gray – Philosophy
Jeffrey Greenberg – Psychology
David Grimes – English
Shannon Hahn – Psychology
Sarah Horan – English
Chengyuan (Judy) Hu – Psychology
Natasha Jean-Louis – Biological Sciences
Jennie Jeppesen – History
Kendra Joseph – Biological Sciences
Eric Koch – Biological Sciences
Sociology – Nina Konar
Emily Lamontagne – Spanish
Junias Lamothe – History
Allison Leventhal – Psychology
Melissa Little – Africana Studies
William Meredith – History
Matthew Mikaelian – Sociology
Rita Pearlman – Psychology
Kelly Pendergrass – Mathematics and Actuarial
Kareema Pinkney – English
Nicholas Pisciotta – English
Mayra Raxon – English
Sarah Tsang – Sociology
Dimitri Vaughan, II – Chemistry
Neil Volk – Biological Sciences
Alyson Walter – Communication
Ray Watson – Africana Studies
Kim Williams – Psychology and Judaeic Studies

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New Books

Jeanette Altarriba
Roberto R. Heredia

An Introduction to Bilingualism: Principles and Processes

This important text provides a general overview of the methods and theories used in the broad domain of bilingualism. The unique interdisciplinary approach, which is reflected in the various topics covered, gives students a global picture of the field. Topics range from early childhood intellectual development to educational and social-cognitive challenges to the maturing bilingual brain. Important developing areas such as cognitive aging, creativity, the social and cultural context perspective, communication disorders and sentence processing are also covered within the volume. This text is aimed towards undergraduate courses and graduate courses in psycholinguistics, especially those with an emphasis on bilingualism or second language learning.

Kevin Bell

Ashes Taken for Fire: Aesthetic Modernism and the Critique of Identity

Kevin Bell surveys fiction by Conrad, Woolf, Faulkner, West, Ellison, and Himes to show that modernism is a sharply philosophical archive. In Ashes Taken for Fire, he argues that modernism exposes cultural identities, such as blackness, as mere strategies of conforming the self into belonging. Bell’s examination pursues the question of nonidentity through sound, silence, and gesture, treating these as technologies of reading the contradictions, breakdowns, and erasures that constitute subjectivity. His analysis of these texts reveals that the aesthetic investigations they perform undo the logic of cultural identity, destabilizing such reductive rubrics as “race” or “gender.” Ashes Taken for Fire explores the experience of blackness in both its chromatic/ocular and “racial” registers. For while blackness operates as a standard figural expression for disorientation, its presumably “voided” character is re-projected in this work as an immanent force of possibility and experimentation.

Jeffrey Berman
Patricia Hatch Wallace

Cutting and the Pedagogy of Self-Disclosure

Cutting, a form of self-mutilation, is a growing problem in the United States, especially among adolescent females. It is regarded as self-destructive behavior. This is the first book to explore how college students write about their experiences as cutters.

Patricia Chu

Race, Nationalism and the State in British and American Modernism

Twentieth-century authors were profoundly influenced by changes in the way nations and states governed their citizens. The development of state administrative technologies allowed modern Western states to identify, track and regulate their populations in unprecedented ways. Patricia E. Chu argues that innovations of form and style developed by Anglo-American modernist writers chart anxieties about personal freedom in the face of increasing governmental controls. Chu examines a diverse set of texts and films, including works by T. S. Eliot, Katherine Mansfield, Zora Neale Hurston and others, to explore how modernists perceived their work and their identities in relation to state power. Additionally, she sheds new light on modernists’ ideas about race, colonialism and the post-colonial, as race came increasingly to be seen as a political and governmental construct. This book offers a powerful critique of key themes for scholars of modernism, American literature and twentieth-century literature.

James M. Hargett

Riding the River Home: A Complete and Annotated Translation of Fan Chengda’s (1126-1193) Diary of a Boat Trip to Wu (Wuchuan lu)

This book presents a complete and annotated English translation of the text Diary of a Boat Trip to Wu (Wuchuan lu), a travel journal written by the famous Southern Song dynasty (1127-1279) government official and writer Fan Chengda (1126-1193). The journal describes a boat journey the author made in the summer and fall of 1177 from Chengdu (Sichuan) to his home near Suzhou (Jiangsu). Fan’s trip covered a distance of approximately 1,700 English miles and took 122 days to complete. The Diary of a Boat Trip to Wu is especially valuable because it provides detailed, first-hand descriptions of many aspects of the Song dynasty (960-1279) geography, history, literature, art, and religion. Perhaps most noteworthy are the author’s lengthy and often fascinating accounts and assessments of scenic and historic sites he stopped to visit during the trip.
Kevin H. Knuth  
Ariel Caticha  
Adom Griffin  
Julian L. Center Jr.  
Carlos C. Rodriguez  

Bayesian Inference and Maximum Entropy Methods in Science and Engineering  

For over 25 years the MaxEnt workshops have explored the use of Bayesian probability theory, entropy and information theory in scientific and engineering applications. This volume considers Methods, Applications, and Foundations. Application areas include, but are not limited to, astronomy, physics, chemistry, biology, Earth science and engineering.

Glyne Griffith  
Linden Lewis  
Elizabeth Crespo-Kebler  

Color, Hair, and Bone: Race in the Twenty-first Century  

This anthology is an interdisciplinary collection of essays that builds on the presentations from a conference on race held at Bucknell University that addressed the issue of the persistence of race in the new millennium. These essays all deal with various critical dimensions of race from a sociological, anthropological, and literary perspective. The essays engage with history, either textually, materially, or with respect to identity, in an effort to demonstrate that these discourses about race are still relevant and still central to everyday experiences. The chapters are mainly about U.S. race relations but in some cases the analysis extends beyond national boundaries. The volume disabuses any notion of color blindness and affirms the position that race still matters in America and beyond.

Joana Sabadell-Nieto  
Jon Kortazar  
Lucía Fraga  
José Paz Gago  

Cien Anos de Poesía  

This second volume is dedicated to the "other" peninsular literatures. It wants to serve as a bridge among the poetry in Catalon, Spain and Basque. Each taxpayer has selected a poem of their chosen poet and writes about their production by means of the translation of the text to Spanish, in many cases, unpublished to the present. The approximations to the work of the small and the large poets are analyzed. Not only are they of plural kind and diverse origins, but they are geographical, because the studies proceed both sides of the Atlantic and are more prominent, because they are given quotes, diverse methods of analysis, and approximation to the literature and to the culture.

Harry Willis  

Inner Mountain  

It’s the mid-1980s. Gil Danton, a rugged individualist and outdoorsman, has been scarred by his father’s recent and tragic death. When he goes for a day hike on the Sheltowee Trace, he meets Rex Applewhite, college ballplayer and reluctant conformist. Their experiences together immerse the reader in the natural beauty and danger of the Appalachian and Rockies landscapes. There is humor, introspection, conflict, and ultimately, the moment when each man must make a decision that will determine survival.

Lawrence S. Wittner  
Glen Harold Stassen  

Peace Action: Past, Present, and Future  

Peace Action: Past, Present, and Future is a collection of short, lively essays written by prominent leaders and supporters of Peace Action and its two important predecessors—the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy and the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign. Just in time for its 50th anniversary, *Peace Action* brings together reflections on the largest and most influential peace organization in history. At the same time, this book provides a unique resource for understanding popular protest against nuclear weapons and war in the modern era. It illuminates the local, national, and international role of Peace Action today and outlines Peace Action’s strategies for the future, including ongoing protest against the war in Iraq and a negotiated resolution of nuclear issues in Iran and North Korea.

See page 12 for more book reviews.
Pinka Chatterji
Economics

Chatterji is a Binghamton native who is pleased to be back in the upstate region after finishing her Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University, as well as stints as a researcher at The Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Harvard Medical School. "I love upstate New York," she said. "My entire family is still in Binghamton, plus I don’t mind the weather, and I’m finding Albany to be a great place for my children."

Within her specific area of study, Health Economics, she is particularly interested in behavioral health and the connection between substance abuse and mental health to policy and employment. "I consider myself a public health person with a core of economics," she said.

As an undergraduate Economics major at Cornell University, she took one fateful course in Urban Economics, which started her on the path to her current area of academic passion. It was this course that sparked her interest in the relationship between health and economics; the course focused on the disparities in infant mortality across Chicago. From here, Chatterji found her academic calling in Health Economics.

This semester she is teaching "The Economics of Healthcare" to undergraduates, and next fall she expects to be teaching an undergraduate Intermediate Microeconomics class. Chatterji is new to teaching after her substantial work as a researcher, but she is finding her new role as an educator to be going well thus far. "In Health Economics, it’s easy to bring in policy examples, such as the policy stances of Obama and Clinton," she said. "Everyday I can bring in articles or journals to my students."

Currently she is doing work for her grant from the National Institute of Health, focusing on maternal work characteristics. Previously, she has published scholarly articles in Health Economics and The Journal of Health Economics.

Rosemary Armao
Journalism

After many years as both a teacher and professional journalist, Communications Professor Rosemary Armao has taken her first full-time teaching position in the fast-growing University at Albany Journalism Department. "I had always been an adjunct or associate professor while also working in the press," she said. "I think Albany has an exciting new program and it’s good to be back home; I’ve forgotten how cold it is here!"

Armao is an Albany-area native, born and raised in Colonie, NY. She attended Syracuse University, graduating in 1972 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in both Journalism and Political Science. She got her reporting career started at The Knickerbocker News, a now defunct publication that was once based out of the former Albany Times Union headquarters. Since her first professional reporting job, she has held many more, most notably as editor for the Baltimore Sun, the managing editor for the Sarasota Tribune, and the Investigative Editor for the Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel. During professional reporting time, Armao also earned her Master of Arts in Journalism at Ohio State University.

In 2004, she shifted gears dramatically. After being awarded the Knight Interna Press Fellowship, known in the reporting industry as the “Peace Corps of Journalism,” Armao took her skill in reporting and interest in free press across the world. “I just left everything and took this fellowship to work with newspapers in Uganda,” she laughed.

Armao worked with three newspapers as well as teaching Investigative and Environmental Reporting at Makerer University while she was stationed there. Originally expecting to stay abroad only five months, she ultimately stayed for 3 years, going on to work in Bosnia and Algeria, where she trained professional journalists to adapt to free press and learn modern journalism.

Now back stateside, Armao is pleased to continue training aspiring journalists, approaching teaching with a hands-on and active style. “I tell my students to regard it not as a classroom but as a newsroom,” she said. “They should be shouting questions like they’re at a press conference and have their phones on, maybe waiting for a call for an article they are working on.”

This spring she teaches “Introductory Reporting and Newswriting.” In the fall she is looking forward to conducting a workshop in Investigative Reporting.

Mathias Vuille
Earth and Atmospheric Science

As an undergraduate majoring in Physical Geography at the University of Bern in Switzerland, Earth and Atmospheric Science Professor Mathias Vuille probably never imagined himself going as far abroad as the Andes Mountains in Bolivia, yet that is exactly where he ended up during his post-doctoral work. "My interest evolved slowly as I pursued my studies," he said. "After earning my Ph.D. and completing a three year fellowship from the National Science Foundation in Switzerland I really started to enjoy it and I knew I wanted to go abroad.”

Initially the Swiss native, who also earned his Masters and Ph.D. at Bern, went as far abroad as Massachusetts, where he took a position as a research professor at UMass-Amherst. There he worked at interpreting ice core records from glaciers in the Andes and helped to install weather stations in the South American mountain chain. “I climbed up areas of the Andes to help with the weather stations, which we use to see the weather at the summit,” he said. “We also had to go back every year to help maintain it, and we still have one station up in Peru and also one on Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa.”

Vuille continued for 11 years at UMass doing this mixture of fieldwork and analysis. Eventually he desired a teaching job, as his position then was mainly based on grants. Deciding that he preferred not to leave the Northeast, he found a good match in Albany’s Earth and Atmospheric Science Department, who was looking for a specialist in climate change. “This department has a very good reputation and I had read papers from this faculty before,” he said, “Also, I obviously like snow.”

In the fall 2008 semester he will teach a graduate course "Climate Variability and Predictability" and also possibly an undergraduate course in the spring. Currently he is working on reviews for journals, travels for seminars, and is continuing research on the impact of climate change in the glaciers in the Andes.

Katherine Gonder
Biology

An anthropologist by training, Biology Professor Katherine Gonder applies the way anthropologists ask questions to her studies in biology. After earning degree in Anthropology with a minor in Biology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, she went on to pursue her passion for evolutionary primatology in places as far and wide as New York City, Maryland, Nigeria, Cameroon, and now, Albany.

Of course, Gonder was no stranger to travel. After taking one primatology class, a master’s student called her after he moved to the University at Stony Brook where he continued his studies and invited her to do fieldwork. She enthusiastically accepted his invitation, and while still an undergraduate, traveled with him to study Biliense temple monkeys in Indonesia. She continues to travel, but she has started to pass the torch on to her own students, one of whom, a post-doctoral student at Albany, just left for West Africa.

“My research is both in the lab and field,” she said. “I study primates, mostly chimpanzees, because very little is known about their population history, as well as related issues of forest history and climate change, and we make evolutionary comparisons all the time.”

For her Ph.D. she was in a consortium program through the CUNY system called The New York Consortium in Evolutionary Primatology, which also involved lab work at New York University, one of the best programs in the world for primate studies. She was inspired to go there for not only its reputation but also for her desire to do fieldwork in West Africa with primatologist Jane Goodall in various countries such as Uganda and Nigeria. "She is one of the very best in the world at human population genetics," said Gonder.

Currently her main scientific interest is in the population genetics of chimpanzees in Nigeria and Cameroon, particularly focused on the significance of the Sanaga River’s role in genetic history. The research covers a variety of disciplines outside of population genetics, including pathology and conservation. “The window of time for us to understand the significance of the Sanaga is very small due to the critically endangered status of the chimpanzees in the area; extinction is predicted within 14-15 years,” she said.

“The reason I get up and come to the lab every morning is because time is so critical, and in my heart I’m a conservationist.”

Gonder is working on her continuing research in this area through a Senior Research Grant from the National Science Foundation. She is also teaching a graduate course in population genetics for the Forensics program and expects to teach an undergraduate course in Spring 2010. She is presently looking forward to a trip to Cameroon in May.
The Director of Econometrics Research Institute, Distinguished Professor Kajal Labiri (pictured fourth from the left), the faculty of the Economics Department and Acting Dean Wulfert (pictured fourth from the right) welcomed 2003 Nobel Laureate in Economics Robert F. Engle (center). Professor Engle held a seminar on high dimension dynamic correlations at the Institute.

A Correction to Winter 2008 issue of CAS Today…

I apologize to Professor Jing Zhang, new Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, for an unfortunate error. The text of the biography referred to Professor Zhang as a male throughout. Her picture that accompanied the biography was that of a female and Professor Zhang is certainly a female. As Executive Editor I take full responsibility for not carefully proofreading the text.

Dona Parker

Staff Changes

Professional Staff on the move…

Alexander Filatov was hired in the spring as an Instructional Support Technician for CAS Technical Services. Alexander has an M.A. in Organic Chemistry from Moscow State University in Russia and has previously served as a Research and Teaching Assistant with the Department of Chemistry.

Hired as an Instructional Support Specialist for the Department of Chemistry, David Burz has an M.A. in Chemistry from the University of Texas and a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry from Wesleyan University. He was most recently employed as a Research Associate for the Department of Chemistry.

Karla Gareau, Event Supervisor, joined the Performing Arts Center in January. Karla earned a B.A. in English from Marist College. Previously, she served as the Executive Assistant at the Capital Repertory Theatre in Albany.

Support Staff on the move…

Thomas Hurd was recently hired as a Keyboard Specialist II with the Department of Economics. Prior to joining the University, Thomas was employed as a Data Entry Machine Operator with the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Brenda Miller is new in her role as a Secretary I for the Department of English. She previously worked as a Keyboard Specialist II with the Health Center.

Veronica Mott joined the Department of Theatre in October as a Key-board Specialist II. Previously with CAS, she served as a Secretary I/Clerk I for the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

Kimberley Simmons was hired as a Secretary I with the Department of Art in October. Previously, Kimberley was employed as a Clerk II in the Accounting Office.

Retirements

The Department of Judaic Studies extends best wishes to Stanley Isser, Professor, who retired effective spring 2008. Dr. Isser has served the University since 1975.

The Department of History extends best wishes to Richard Kendall who retired effective this semester. Dr. Kendall had served as an Associate Professor since 1971. He has been with the Department of History since 1983.

Andrew Yencha retired from his role as Professor with the Department of Chemistry in January. Dr. Yencha has been with the University since 1970.
University at Albany students Asante Shipp-Hilts and Zara St. Criox completed a trip to Haiti in the summer of 2007 where they worked for the non-governmental organization (NGO) Fondation pour la Santé Reproductrice et l’Education Familiale (FOSREF), which is dedicated to reducing the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections among sex workers in Haiti.

Shipp-Hilts, born on July 28, 1984 and raised in Rochester, New York, went last summer as a UAlbany graduate student working on her thesis for a Masters in Epidemiology. Shipp-Hilts visited Haiti originally as a freshman in 2003 with Languages, Literatures and Cultures Associate Professor Eloise A. Brière. Shipp-Hilts said last summer she helped FOSREF collect data to get “more of a picture of what sex-work looks like in Haiti and how it’s different for different women,” and to learn how to make appropriate interventions and treatments for that population of women.

St. Criox, born on February 18, 1983 in St. Lucia in the Caribbean, is also a UAlbany graduate student, studying for her Masters of Public Health with a concentration on social behavior and community health. She was in Haiti working on a documentary for the Haitian sex-workers.

“I felt that creating the video would be a good way to show them,” St. Criox said, “that there are women who are participating in the program, and that if they can do it, you can too.”

“It was definitely a very, very inspirational experience,” she said.