The RNA Institute promises to be the portal to create a new class of medicines and the technologies to develop them for difficult-to-treat diseases like Alzheimer’s, ALS and cancer. Paul Agris, Director of the RNA Institute, has received word of a $5.37 million award for their competitively reviewed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant. This $7.3M facility, located in the 5-year-old LifeSciences Research Building, will be completed in summer 2012. It will be a state-of-the-art facility for RNA research that you would find in a modern pharmaceutical company. The facility will include $3M for high end instrumentation for early phase drug discovery.

It was two years ago, when the College of Arts and Sciences initiated a national search to locate and hire scientists identified as specialists in RNA. Professors Al Millis (Biological Sciences), John Welch (Chemistry) and Li Niu (Chemistry), along with their colleague, Biomedical Sciences Professor Marlene Belfort, met many times with Edelgard Wulfert, Dean of the College, to plan the development of The RNA Institute. The idea came out of the cluster hires that were achieved for the Life Sciences initiative. It was serendipitous how this percolated and in 2007 it was brought to the forefront as a way to create Life Sciences as the leader in RNA science and technology for the development of RNA-based medicines. From those discussions one senior faculty appointment was made—Professor Paul Agris from North Carolina State University. He officially began his faculty appointment as Professor in the Departments of Biological Sciences and Chemistry in September 2010 and his appointment as Director of The RNA Institute May 2009.

Paul Agris, in an interview said, “When I thought about a vision for the Institute, it would be a global portal for RNA research with two purposes. One is a place for the investment of intellectual capital, not just at UAlbany, but within a number of organizations. Currently, there are more than 40 principal investigators within the capital region, located at the University at Albany, New York State Wadsworth Center, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and Skidmore College. There are a dozen more at the University of Rochester, Williams College, and SUNY Upstate Medical Center. This type of investment has up to

(RNA continued on p.2)
10-12 people per research group resulting in as many as 300 scientists working on RNA in the Capital District alone. The second purpose is to create a collaborative research environment that produces novel technologies, innovative drug discovery, and a world class educational environment."

The mission for the establishment of The RNA Institute at UAlbany is to focus Life Sciences research on RNA molecules (RNAs) as regulators of human disease; develop designer RNA or therapeutic applications; create a new generation of RNA-based diagnostic sensors; provide state-of-the-art training and education for the next generation of life scientists; and propel UAlbany to the forefront of RNA-based biomedical science and research.

This mission is built on over 50 years of researchers investigating the molecular basis of tissue development and human disease with focus on the study of DNA (information storage molecules) and proteins (molecules that provide biological structure and function). Only 15% of the human genome encodes proteins, the target of traditional medicines. The remaining 85% of the human genome manages the production of these products as small non-coding RNAs. It is believed that RNAs can lead to a new generation of medicines, a future advance where every patient is treated according to his or her individual genetic constitution to minimize side effects and reduce expense while maximizing efficacy.

The outstanding core of RNA scientists at The RNA Institute bring research expertise in a collective way with an array of state-of-the-art technologies to the analysis and solution of specific medical and scientific problems.

The collaborations that bring these research synergies together requires funding and a comprehensive, cutting edge research facility with instrumentation, methods, and staff to serve as a resource to extend the investigation of novel inventions.

While the $5.37 million in funding will help build a state of the art facility, Agris is quick to point out that the Office of the Vice President for Research provides funding for The RNA Institute’s pilot research program. With matching funds through partnering institutions, this program is able to fund projects to gather preliminary data for larger collaborative grants. The Institute funds student and post-doc travel to national and international conferences so they can present their research. The Institute funds an entrepreneurial lecture series that last year brought in 4 alumni of UAlbany who graduated from CAS and climbed the corporate ladder to share their experiences and how they are different from the academic track. Finally, the Institute is home of the RNA Modification Database, an international database resource for the RNA community and host of Michael Zuker’s mFold algorithm, the benchmark in RNA science, with future plans for an on-line journal.

The major ARRA construction grant with matching funds from UAlbany will provide the resources to create the LEED-Silver certified state-of-the-art facility that Agris envisions—an extraordinary institute with mobile benches. Agris describes the labs as “geometrically oriented from the center with the ability to reconfigure the benches at very low cost to accommodate the changing research when necessary.” He continues, “There will be movable walls to make labs larger or smaller and heat will be recovered for the entire building.” This facility is designed to save energy over time with state-of-the-art monitoring systems for electric, water, and air pressure and the use of ambient light coming through windows and skylights. The walls will be designed with as much glass as possible to take full advantage of ambient lighting and so that one can see in labs and see students at work. The environment will be such that the hallways will be constructed in an open way for scientists to see all the way through the facility—something that is attractive and encour-ages people to interact. Also, space will be available for visiting scientists to conduct research on site at the Institute and hopefully to help with an array of future matching funds.

Meanwhile, Professor Daniele Fabris was hired in June 2010 to head The RNA Institute Mass Spectrometry (MS) Center, dedicated to the development of MS-based technologies for investigating the structure-function relationships of natural and synthetic RNA as tools for drug discovery. Consistent with the mission of The RNA Institute, the unique collection of modern instruments and enabling technologies developed by Dan Fabris at the MS Center will be utilized in full-fledged collaborations with colleagues who have projects aimed at reaching a greater understanding of the role of non-coding RNA in gene regulation and viral replication. These insights will lead to the identification of possible targets for early drug discovery operations that could produce new treatments for orphan diseases and alternative drugs for resistant strains responsible for infectious diseases.
A Message from Dean Edelgard Wulfert

Since the publication of its last newsletter in 2010, the College of Arts and Sciences has faced unprecedented challenges. Like many public universities nationwide, over the past three years UAlbany has suffered dramatic cuts to its State budget. The concomitant erosion of the College’s budget was so severe that we were forced into the very difficult decision of reducing several degree programs to minors.

Despite these extremely unfortunate developments, the College has also had many reasons to celebrate. Our newsletter prominently features two initiatives in CAS illustrating the energy and commitment of our faculty to create research activities that will deliver lasting benefits. One refers to the continued success of our Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities. CEMHD has received substantial new funding from the National Institutes of Health for its mission to address serious differences in health access and outcomes of racial and ethnic minorities in the smaller cities and towns of New York. A second new initiative is the College’s recently launched RNA Institute, committed to the advancement of RNA science and technology and drug discovery. The College was awarded a substantial grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that will fund the construction of the physical space for the RNA Institute in the Life Sciences Research Building.

Another reason to celebrate is the continued success of our grant-funded research scientists who have been more successful than ever in attracting extramural support this past year. External funding in the 2008-09 fiscal year totaled $12.2 million, which was an increase of 33% over the previous five-year average. Awards for the 2009-10 fiscal year showed a further substantial increase totaling $15.3 million.

Members of our faculty have also successfully competed for prestigious awards such as Fulbright scholarships that allow them to conduct their research in exciting places around the world (p.4). For 2010 and 2011 a total of seven faculty and one professional staff member from the College have been recognized for their contributions to the University with Excellence Awards (p. 3 and 22) and two of our faculty have been named Collins Fellows (see right).

Likewise, many of our current and former students continue to receive awards and honors for their commitment to their chosen academic careers (p. 12-15).

As Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, I am proud of the achievements of our researchers, teachers, professional staff and students mentioned above. You will find many more examples in CAS Today of the successes of others who bring important recognition to the College, the University and their profession.

Awards

College of Arts and Sciences Excellence Awards, Spring 2010

CAS Faculty Receive University Honors

President George Philip recognized and honored recipients of the University’s Excellence Awards at a ceremony and reception held in May 2010. We are pleased to recognize the following recipients from the College of Arts and Sciences:

Excellence in Teaching (full-time)
- Eloise Briére, Languages, Literatures & Cultures

Excellence in Teaching (part time)
- Rocco Ferraro, Geography and Planning

Excellence in Academic Service
- Gwen Moore, Sociology and Women’s Studies

Excellence in Professional Service
- Steven Galime, Assistant Dean, Arts & Sciences

CAS Newest Collins Fellows

Professors Iris Berger (May 2010, History) and Lindsay Childs (December 2009, Mathematics and Statistics) were named Collins Fellows by President Philip.

Professor Berger is known as a take-charge person and voice of wise counsel who reaches across the boundaries between academic departments to work for the good of the University at Albany. She was a key figure in the development of Women’s Studies and served as the first program director from 1981-84. Professional accomplishments include her current position as Vice President for Research of the American Historical Association, the preeminent organization of her profession, and past presidency of the 3,200 member African Studies Association.

Professor Childs discovered his passion for mathematics as an undergraduate student, and for more than four decades he has shared that excitement with his students. He has earned recognition as a much-loved mentor of students, as well as a renowned expert in algebraic field theory.

(AWARDS continued on p.4)
Faculty Awards & Honors

▲ Allen Ballard (History) had his novel Carried by Six chosen by the Black Caucus of the American Library Association (BCALA) for its 2010 Fiction Honor Book award. The BCALA’s annual Literary Awards recognizes excellence in adult fiction and nonfiction by African American authors.

▲ Walter Little (Anthropology) won a School for Advanced Research (SAR) Seminar for “The Politics of Street Vending and New Economic Regimes in the Urban South.” It was one of two accepted for a seminar to be held during 2010-11.

▲ John Spalek (Emeritus Professor of German) has spent a lifetime working to keep the memory of German exile to the United States between 1933 and 1945 alive. He is the 2010 recipient of the Goethe Medal, an official decoration of the Federal Republic of Germany.

▲ Ryan Torn (Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences) was voted by The American Meteorological Society Council (AMS) for the Editor’s Award for his reviews in both Monthly Weather Review and Weather and Forecasting with the citation: “For providing thorough and timely reviews of numerous manuscripts in both journals.”

Fulbright Scholars

Stephen North—English

Professor North will be teaching research writing and academic argument in Ternopil, Ukraine, beginning February 2011. To prepare, Professor North is studying Ukrainian and is conducting research on the teaching/learning context for Ukrainian culture in general. He has served before as a Fulbright Professor of English at Turku University and Abo Akademi in Turku, Finland during 1996-97.

Lawrence Schell—Anthropology

Professor Schell traveled in January 2011 to Florence, Italy, where he conducted research for a book on cities and human health. Part of his book will look at the Middle Ages in Europe, where there is a fair amount of documentation about health, epidemics, and city organization. Since Florence is fairly well preserved and remnants of early city life are evident, it provides on-the-ground examples for his research.

Mark Blum—East Asian Studies

Professor Blum will travel to Japan in the city of Kyoto during his sabbatical to conduct research and the writing of a manuscript on the history of a common religious ritual found in East Asia called nianfo in Chinese and nenbutsu in Japanese. He has said that the impetus for undertaking this study and writing comes from his teaching experience at UAlbany. After ten years of teaching Buddhism and trying to explain the aspects of Buddhist tradition, he finds that his students want to know why this form of practice came to have such authority. He plans to have a first draft for a book completed after his Fulbright is concluded.

Also, doctoral student Winston Scott, from the Department of Anthropology, is studying Mayan culture through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program.

Recent UAlbany graduate Audrey Schneider was awarded an assistantship to teach English in Mongolia under the Fulbright Program.

CAS Dean’s Award for Outstanding Achievement in Teaching

The College of Arts and Sciences Dean’s Award for Outstanding Achievement in Teaching recognizes our faculty members’ many fine contributions in teaching advisement and mentoring. Nominees have completed at least three years of full-time instruction at Albany and have demonstrated exceptional contributions and sustained excellence in teaching and mentoring activity. This year there were two winners: Duncan Cumming (Music) and Christine Wagner (Psychology). For more information about these two outstanding teachers, please visit the CAS website at http://www.albany.edu/cas/faculty_wagner-christine-teaching-award-2010.shtml for Christine Wagner and http://www.albany.edu/cas/faculty_cumming-duncan-teaching-award-2010.shtml for Duncan Cumming.
College of Arts and Sciences faculty member Professor Lawrence Schell (Anthropology) realized his goal to fund the Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities (CEMHD) when in May 2009 the Center received a $6.8 million National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to help reduce minority health disparities in New York state. Initial support for the Center came from the National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities and their Centers for Excellence program through their EXPORT program (Excellence in Partnerships for Community Outreach, Research and Training).

The NIH grant to the CEMHD has specific goals: 1) to identify community needs, focusing on barriers to utilization of prevention programs and health care; 2) to conduct specific projects in partnership with affected communities on the causes and solutions to health disparities; 3) to increase our knowledge of health disparities; and 4) to increase the quality and quantity of researchers working on health disparities.

Since planning and applying for funding to establish a center where minorities in smaller cities and towns in New York could be identified for access to health screening and quality health care, the efforts of a group of faculty along with community members were realized. The first step was to identify community health concerns and sources of disparities, then plan strategies to alleviate them and finally test their effectiveness.

It takes a village to tackle these problems. Although the Center is housed within the College of Arts and Sciences, there are faculty from other schools and colleges at UAlbany who are vitally engaged in this endeavor. The Center has a number of faculty, graduate students and community people working in many roles from research to local community health task forces. In fact, community partnerships are key to the success of the Center.

At the Center for the Elimination of Minority Health Disparities, the Community Engagement/Outreach Core partners with the local communities to facilitate the development of strategies and the management of culturally and linguistically sensitive resources aimed at empowering the community to improve health. This has been accomplished via e-mail groups and forums where guest speakers have provided their expertise in the areas of health reform and local, state and federal mandates for the provision of culturally and linguistically appropriate services to community based organizations and health care providers. In addition, the Outreach Core has been identified as a resource for state organizations such as the New York State Department of Labor and the Office of Mental Health in areas involving the underserved and underrepresented communities in addressing barriers contributing to health disparities. In order to ensure collaboration with the community and faculty, the Outreach Core has served as a link between the Research Core study involving issues impacting African American women’s health and other women’s health initiatives in New York state.

The Center’s Research, Training/Education Core promotes the growth of minority health and health disparities research among new untenured professors. Additionally, this Core cultivates interest in increasing minority health and health disparities research skills in undergraduate and graduate students within the university.

In October 2010, CEMHD’s second workshop, “Community–Campus Partnerships to Eliminate Health Disparities: SUNY Works in Progress,” was held. This workshop brought researchers from multiple SUNY campuses together with community partners, students and faculty. Keynote speakers included Dr. Garth Graham, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Minority Health, Department of Health and Human Services, and Dr. Wilma Waithe, Director, Office of Minority Health, NYS Department of Health. Talks were provided by faculty from UAlbany, Oneonta, Potsdam and Cortland. A particular highlight of the event was the time Dr. Graham shared with 20 students from departments, including Public Health, Social Welfare, and Anthropology, answering questions and encouraging their interest in eliminating health disparities.

(CEMHD continued on p.6)
Currently there are major research projects underway that include the following:

Reproductive Healthcare

Overcoming Barriers to African American Women’s Reproductive Healthcare Seeking is a project that involves working with women in the Hudson community who are underserved in the health area. This project is headed by Professors Annis Golden and Anita Pomerantz (Communication) who are studying and evaluating the impact of community-based education and transportation interventions on healthcare seeking. The project’s main goal is to help women take charge of their health, including having annual exams, being mindful of nutrition, and getting screened for breast and cervical cancer.

The second distinctive feature of the health education events is that the providers of health information in the presentation portion of the program come from the community and reflect the diversity of the audience. The project strives to do this on a consistent basis both because it represents the best practice in terms of connecting with the audience, as well as because it is a strategy for building a sustainable model of community health events past the life of the grant.

Environmental Contaminants

Professor Lawrence Schell, along with Mia Gallo, Ph.D. and Professor David Carpenter, M.D., has launched the project Environmental Contaminants and Reproductive Health of Akwesasne Mohawk Women. This study is concerned with the possible effects of endocrine disrupting compounds, such as polychlorinated bi-phenyls (PCBs) and lead (Pb) on human reproductive health. Their study takes them to the Akwesasne Mohawk Nation which is located on the St. Lawrence River and near a site of major environmental contamination as it is adjacent to a federal and two state Superfund sites.

Faculty from UAlbany have collaborated with the St. Regis Mohawk Nation at Akwesasne for more than 20 years on studies of health effects from pollutants in the federal and state Superfund sites that are adjacent to Akwesasne. Drs. Lawrence Schell, Mia Gallo and David Carpenter from the University at Albany are leading a current investigation of how PCBs, other persistent organic pollutants and lead are associated with characteristics of the menstrual cycle in 20-35-year-old Mohawk women living in Akwesasne and it has special significance for the community. The community seeks knowledge of how, or if, the pollutants it has been exposed to has affected their reproductive health. Exposure can occur through activities that express and reaffirm Mohawk identity so avoiding those activities is not desirable. At the same time, preserving reproductive health is essential for the preservation of the Mohawk people. The findings of this study will have great significance not only for the promotion of good reproductive health (critical to the survival of the nation as a culture and a people) but also for understanding the risk possibly related to activities that have been traditionally associated with Mohawk ways of life.

Racial/Ethnic Disparities

A research project entitled Decomposing Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Health is led by Professors Kajal Lahiri and Pinka Chatterji. The study calls for the examination of disparities not only between, but also within racial/ethnic groups (non-Latino whites, Latinos, African-Americans, Asians, American Indians/Alaskan Natives) in the U.S. Data for the study comes from the 1994-2008 waves of the national Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS). Using BRFSS, Professors Lahiri and Chatterji construct indices of individual quality of health based on a 5-category self-assessed health status measurement.

The overarching goal of Project 3 is to estimate racial/ethnic disparities in health outcomes in the U.S. and to examine the causes and consequences of such disparities. The Project 3 team is working on numerous linked papers related to this theme, and at this point has completed three draft manuscripts.

The first paper estimates racial/ethnic disparities in individuals’ awareness of chronic disease using biomarker data from the 2006 Health and Retirement Study.

The second paper applies innovative methods from econometrics to estimate racial/ethnic disparities in child health in the U.S., and examines how disparities change as children enter adolescence.

In the third paper, data from the Child Development Supplement (CDS) and the Transition into Adulthood (TA) Supplements of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID) is used to examine the role of health at birth and in early childhood as a contributor to racial disparities in academic achievement and educational attainment later in life.
G. Barker-Benfield—History—has been approved by the Faculty Board at the University of Cambridge for Visiting Scholar status for Fall 2011. As Visiting Scholar he will be entitled to access the Seeley Historical Library in the Faculty of History.

Amy Bloch—Art—is the recipient of the Renaissance Society of America Samuel H. Kress Foundation Fellowship in Renaissance Art History. This prestigious and selective fellowship supports research trips during semester breaks which will assist Professor Bloch in the completion of tasks associated with the writing of a new book.

Rachel Cohon—Philosophy—took her place among some of the more esteemed members of the philosophy profession with an invitation to deliver the 2011-12 Belgium Lectures at St. Olaf’s College.

Sheila Curran Bernard—History—was interviewed by Maria Puente of USA Today for “Can Documentaries Save Us?” and “Waiting for Superman: Is it the Next Hard-Hitting Documentary?”

Leona Christie—Art—exhibited new work (Courier) at the UAlbany Art Museum. Courier is an exhibition of contemporary artists who have created works that are rooted in the physical, communicative, or iconic properties of the typewriter.

Phyllis Galembo—Art—is a recipient of the 2011 New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Photography.

Audrey Kupferberg—Art—produced the film, “Confinement,” that was broadcast on WMHT-TV on August 29. Chancellor Nancy Zimpher showed interest in the film and requested a screening copy to review. Several undergraduate students worked on the film under the guidance of Professor Kupferberg.

Igor Lednev—Chemistry—has been selected to serve as an advisory member of the inter-agency Working Group for the White House Subcommittee on Forensic Science (SoFS). The SoFS is leading new federal initiatives to strengthen and enrich forensic science in the United States.

David Lewis—Geography and Planning—partnered with The Erie Canalway National Corridor to conduct a major surveying effort to collect data on the travel and spending patterns of tourists to heritage sites in the National Heritage Corridor. The survey generated 800 responses at 22 participating heritage sites. The conclusion from the survey was that the eastern part of the National Heritage Corridor has a significant economic impact on the region generating an estimated $38 million in sales at local businesses, supporting 507 jobs with $14 million in wages.

P.D. Magnus—Philosophy—received an invitation to join the prestigious University of Pittsburgh Center for the Philosophy of Science as a Visiting Fellow (Fall 2010).

Bonnie Steinbock—Philosophy—is serving on an expert panel to peer review a report by the Royal Society of Canada/La Société Royale du Canada (RSC/SRC) on “End of Life Decision-Making” (www.rsc.ca)

David Strait—Anthropology—was a featured speaker at the international symposium of the EVAN-Society (European Virtual Anthropology Network Society) which is the world’s leading association of scientists studying the evolution of morphology (shape or form) in humans and primates.

Barry Trachtenberg—History—recently participated in the radio program The Capitol Pressroom, a daily public radio news magazine. The broadcast was about Republican gubernatorial candidate Carl Paladino’s anti-gay statements to the Orthodox Jewish Community.

David Wills—Languages, Literatures and Cultures—was recently appointed an International Fellow of the London Graduate School. See http://www.thelondongraduateschool.co.uk/. International Fellows represent “a world leading cast of outstanding scholars from around the globe who are invited to participate in events.”

CHEMISTRY

Aliaksandra Sikirzhytskaya (Ph.D. student) has published with Professor Igor Lednev in Chem Comm, the premier European chemistry journal. She designed the cover that illustrates “live fibrils from the title of the paper.” The paper describes a discovery of a new protein folding-aggregation phenomenon, which we call the spontaneous refolding of amyloid fibrils. Amyloid fibrils are associated with devastating neurodegenerative diseases including Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, and Huntington’s disease. This discovery is instrumentation driven and became possible due to a unique home-built apparatus in Professor Lednev’s lab. In addition to a significant fundamental impact, this discovery might have serious medical implication. The matter is that the biological activity and associated toxicity of amyloid fibrils depends on their structure. This discovery shows a new way to control the fibril polymorphism (structure) that could be used to control their toxicity. The Royal Society of Chemistry interviewed Professor Lednev and published highlights about the discovery. Future Medicinal Chemistry magazine published a press coverage. This project is supported by the National Institute on Aging (NIH, $1.1M) and NSF ($374K).
The Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences and the Atmospheric Sciences Research Center celebrated their 50th anniversary of Atmospheric Sciences at the university. A two-day event was organized to mark this milestone. The anniversary celebration was kicked off in early October with a public lecture given by Dr. Kevin Trenberth from the National Center for Atmospheric Research who spoke about “the scientific evidence for global climate change and ramifications for society.” A day of talks was organized on the following day devoted to a 50-year perspective on various research areas including chemistry and climate, weather and climate modification, weather prediction and lightning. This was followed with a number of presentations by some of the department’s most prestigious alumni. The day concluded with a banquet and a number of speeches from a few former Department Chairs, ASRC Directors and Senior Faculty.

CAS Dinner
November 3, 2010

Dean Edelgard Wulfert with Albin Zak, Fan Pen Li Chen, Shu-Hab Yeh

Gregory Stevens with Provost Susan Phillips

Gene Bunnell, James Mower, Barbara Mower

Laura Hill, Erzsebett Fazekas, Glyne Griffith, Mike Hill
Atmospheric Science News from Summer 2010

Large Contingent at AMS Conference

The Department of Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences had one of the biggest representations at the American Meteorological Sciences (AMS) 29th Conference on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology held in Tucson last May. A total of six faculty, 12 students, one post-doctoral researcher and a member of the research staff attended the meetings. Nine of the students presented talks and four posters were presented by students from UAlbany. An award was given to the best student paper presented at the conference. Of the nine students short-listed, four were from UAlbany including the eventual winner, Michael Ventrice. The paper was about the mechanisms that gave rise to the formation of tropical cyclone Debbie in the summer of 2006. This is the second time a student from the department has won this award in the past four conferences.

Numerical Weather Models Aid Hurricane Forecasters

The National Hurricane Center designated two numerical weather models as semi-operational, meaning that the output from these models would be available to hurricane specialists to make their operational forecasts. This process involved running these computer models over many different hurricanes and many different times, and comparing the model’s track and intensity forecast against the best estimates of these quantities. One of the two models is the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) Advanced Hurricane Weather Research and Forecasting (AHW) model. Over the past two hurricane seasons, the initial conditions for that model have been generated using an advanced technique that combines the information from observations and a previous computer model forecast. The application of this technique to hurricanes has been developed over the past three years by Ryan Torn in collaboration with scientists at NCAR. Current forecasts from this system are available at: http://www.wrf-model.org/plots/realtime_hurricane4km.php

Four faculty, along with their students, participated in two hurricane field campaigns in August and September. NASA supported GRIP and NSF supported PREDICT worked together with NOAA-supported IFEX (Intensity Forecasting Experiment) to improve our understanding of the nature and causes of hurricanes including their genesis and rapid intensification.

One of the campaigns was Genesis and Rapid Intensiﬁcation Processes (GRIP). The GRIP experiment was a NASA Earth science field experiment that was conducted to better understand how tropical storms form and develop into major hurricanes. Professors John Molinari and Chris Thorncroft, who are members of the NASA Hurricane Science Team, were involved in this project. Professor Molinari and two of his students (Leon Nguyen and Diana Thomas) and Professor Thorncroft with his student (Matt Janiga) were based in Fort Lauderdale for two weeks this past summer Together they flew into storms on a NASA DC-8 and helped with forecasting.

The second campaign was the PRE-Depression Investigation of Cloud-systems in the Tropics (PREDICT). The goal of the program was to explore the nature of the precursor disturbances that can become tropical storms (and eventually hurricanes). To do so, they used high endurance NCAR G-V aircraft to fly into seeding disturbances (cloud clusters) to obtain measurements to help scientists find answers. Professors Lance Bosart and Ryan Torn were co-PIs on the NSF PREDICT project. Professor Bosart was the lead forecaster and responsible for scientific mission planning. Professor Torn ran a computer model in the department that assimilated the additional data in real-time to assess the impact of this data as well as provide guidance for mission planning.

Doctoral students Heather Archambault and Jason Cordeira, 2010 doctoral recipient Thomas Galarneau and new doctoral student Kyle Griffin helped forecast for PREDICT aircraft operations and analyzed data collected during the experiment.
Phyllis Galembo (Professor, Art) was interviewed for an article about her masquerade photography in the February/March issue of *Fader Magazine*. The article contains about a half dozen of Professor Galembo’s photographs. Also, with Nick Cave, she opened on June 5 *Call and Response: Africa to America* at the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art in Charleston, South Carolina. The exhibit brought together the work of two American artists who were inspired by the rich ceremonial traditions and elaborate guises of African nations.

Mark Greenwald (Professor, Art) exhibited at the DC Moore Gallery on Fifth Avenue in New York City. The exhibit brought together, for the first time, controversial paintings made between 1967 and 1975, and watercolors and drawings from the period.

Patricia Keyes (Languages, Literatures and Cultures Italian instructor) with the College of Saint Rose Student Association, MENC and MEISA, organized a concert to help raise funds for Haiti Relief and other relief services. An accomplished pianist, she was one of the performers at this benefit concert.

Catherine Lawson (Associate Professor, Geography and Planning) has been selected and appointed to be a member of the Transportation Research Board Oversight Committee for the National Cooperative Freight Research Program (NCFRP) for a term that began March 1, 2010 and continues through December 31, 2013. America’s freight transportation in the United States makes critical contributions to the nation’s economy and demand for freight transportation service has been increasing. NCFRP will carry out applied research on problems facing the freight industry.

Igor Lednev (Professor, Chemistry) had his work covered in *BioOptics World*. http://www.optoiq.com/index/biophotonics/display/bow-article-display/6629448. He also had work cited by an internet news agency, SpectroscopyNow.com. The work cited was that of a technique to preserve DNA.

David Lewis (Professor, Geography and Planning) testified at a hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Small Business entitled “Business Incubators and Their Role in Job Creation.” Innovative business incubators from around the nation were invited to present testimony about the importance of business incubators as a tool for helping new businesses launch and existing firms grow.

Max Lifchitz (Professor, Music) and his North/South Chamber Orchestra presented a concert at Merkin Concert Hall. The concert marked the 30th anniversary since the founding of North/South Consonance in 1980. Dr. Lifchitz has devoted much effort to promoting the work of composers underserved elsewhere through a regular series of concerts.

Corianne Scally (Assistant Professor, Geography and Planning) completed a report for the New York State Division of Housing & Community Renewal entitled “Measuring Up: Evaluating Affordable Rental Housing at Project, Household, and Community Scales—Recommendations for New York State.” Graduate students enrolled in her spring 2010 class put several of the recommendations into action through a class project evaluating outcomes in several New York jurisdictions.

Youqin Huang (Associate Professor, Geography and Planning) who has studied gating a political control in China was recently interviewed for an article by Associated Press writer Cara Anna. The article tells of China’s capital gating and locking some of its lower-income neighborhoods overnight using police and security checking identification papers to stem the millions of rural Chinese migrating to the cities for work.

National Academy Publishes Paper

Professor Jayanti Pande (Chemistry), along with honors student Julita Patrosz (Goldwater recipient), had the following paper accepted in one of the most prestigious periodicals in the world: *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA* (PNAS). It was accepted as a “direct submission,” which was not sponsored by one of the NAS members. The paper from the Pande lab is entitled “The Cataractogenic Mutation Glu107 to Ala in Human gammaD-Crystallin Leads to Increased, Attractive, Heterologous Interactions With alpha-Crystallin, and Enhanced Light Scattering.”
Under the auspices of the Center for Humanities, Arts and TechnoSciences (CHATS), directed by Professor Mary Valentis, the Spring 2011 semester focused on the significant works and pivotal thought of two brothers, Henry and William James, whose contributions helped shape the 20th century and more particularly the intellectual, artistic, and philosophical moment we now call modernism. This initiative was launched from a panel discussion that included Skidmore Professor Linda Simon, UAlbany Distinguished Professor Ronald Bosco and UAlbany College of Arts and Sciences Dean Edelgard Wulfert. The New York Council for the Humanities has awarded a $20,000 grant to provide support for the James Family Celebration for community outreach.

A community reading project will engage us in this rich literary, family, and cultural legacy and to animate the imaginative worlds of the novelist, Henry, and the philosopher, William, the father of modern American psychology. Interactive events explore and investigate the brothers’ impact on society and the humanities in general and examine their roles in the history of ideas and aesthetics.

Two books have been selected for a Capital Region community read: William James’ *The Varieties of religious experience: a study in human nature* and Henry James’ *Portrait of a Lady*.

Henry and William James’ Irish immigrant grandfather made his fortune in Albany in the early nineteenth century. Their father, whose keen interest in literature and philosophy fueled their curiosity and eccentric education, graduated from Albany Academy. The city of Albany is the setting for *Portrait of a Lady*, perhaps Henry James’ most famous novel. The reader encounters the young Isabel Archer in her grandmother’s brownstone on State Street in downtown Albany.

Local library partners for The Community Reads are the Altamont Free Library, Bethlehem Public Library, Brunswick Community Library, Cohoes Public Library, East Greenbush Public Library, Guilderland Public Library, Menands Public Library, Stephentown Memorial Library, Watervliet Public Library, and William K. Sanford Town Library, Colonie.

The schedule for events can be found at: http://www.jamesfamilycelebration.com/events.html.
The following is a brief description of the reasons behind the outstanding community service Ph.D. candidate Lissette Acosta Corniel has been doing and for which she has become known and recognized in her homeland. These are her words:

The memories of my arrival to the United States at the age of 12 from the Dominican Republic (DR) in 1989 are not very pleasant, yet my vision is still the same. The reason for all I do, my vision behind this work I love to do is simple; I want to be able to give to my mother and grandmother an improved quality of life. As my strongest role models, these two women made sure to push their own to do better, to lead a better life. I have many memories of my Abuela (grandmother) filling our home with needy children even when there was no room for her own. My vision is to give back to a community who taught me the virtue of giving, the miracle of what it really means to share, of humility. My vision is to show others like me that while it is okay to strive for better, to never forget the ones you leave behind – to remember to give back.

The memories of my childhood in the Dominican Republic could best be described as devastating. Poverty is reality and surviving one day at a time is a way of life. At home in DR I rarely felt cold in the subtle winter season from December to February because I was kept warm in a cozy mattress where four of us slept: my grandmother, my mother, my sister and me. (Today my friends make fun of me because I do not move in bed when I sleep). In contrast, in the U.S., we slept with our coats on when the electricity was out for days in the middle of winter. Thus, today I carry the warmth and the strength of four generations of women and the hopes of thousands of fellow immigrants from across the globe with me, pushing me forward to do better, to do bigger, and to share greater.

As I watched my mother work at a factory earning $4 an hour, it forced me to look at my life and self-examine my worth and contributions. In this self assessment I concluded that if I did not know how to sing, draw, play a sport or any musical instrument, or act, I might as well learn, as Dominicans say, “to turn pages to the left”–to move forward and see what comes next.

Language fluency has always been a barrier. This however, did not weaken or lessen my drive to learn and increase my education. I completed my bachelor’s in English literature, my master’s in Developmental Disability and I am now a Ph.D. candidate in the Latin American, U.S. Latino and Caribbean Studies. With the help of scholarships and campus jobs, I was able to escape the burden of college loans.

Once I became fully employed as a public school teacher in 2000, I began to use some of my earnings for charity work in my hometown of Rio San Juan in DR and other places such as Cuba, Haiti and Africa. On a trip to Cuba in 2001, I was able to interview participants of an international delegation which was broadcasted on Cuban national television. For the past 10 years, under the name “Alegria Gri Gri,” I have carried out, with the help of many, charity projects in DR and abroad. Alegria Gri Gri will be the name of the foundation I and others hope to formally establish as a not-for-profit foundation. The name Alegria comes from the name the children gave me and means “joy,” whereas Gri Gri is the name of a lake in my hometown of Rio San Juan which is known nationally for its mangroves and connection to the ocean.

Some of Alegria Gri Gri’s events include: beach baseball with the town’s shoeshining kids, Christmas baskets to individual families, scholarships for college registration, school supplies for elementary and middle schools, and in March 2010 we gave clothes to 600 people. In January 2010, two days after the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti, Alegria Gri Gri coordinated lodging, translators, security and helped finance a private plane for the members of the neighborhood

People on line to receive goods

Cuba, 2001
Christian Baptist Church in Irvington, NJ to arrive in Haiti. Alegria Gri Gri also assisted The New York Times freelance photographer Willie Davis to get to Haiti. Most recently, in August 2010, Alegria Gri Gri worked with FUSURA (a natural environment foundation) in a reforestation project along the river of Neyba in the Dominican Republic where 1,500 trees were planted, and also worked with Cthen Films (awarded the country’s national award for its voluntary community service in the Dominican Republic and documenting the life of people with AIDS/HIV in the country) on a two-day campaign to eradicate dengue (a disease caused by mosquitoes) in the town of Manzanillo, close to the Haitian border.

This past summer (2010), I was awarded the Initiatives for Women award at the University at Albany for my doctoral research on Spanish women in colonial Hispaniola. I was also acknowledged by the Dominican government’s Ministry of Youth as their Young Outstanding Dominican Abroad for my academic achievements and community service in DR and abroad.

Additionally, I have written a children’s book that I hope to get published one day about the happy moments of my childhood and growing up in two different places.

Public Anthropology Award Winners

Twelve students in Professor Walter Little’s Cultural Anthropology (AANT 108) class recently participated in Public Anthropology’s Fall 2010 Community Action Project and were Public Anthropology award winners. The competition included over 4,000 students from 21 schools across North America using a special software program to draw students together into an intellectual community.

Dr. Borofsky, founder of the project, commended Professor Little for “how he takes classroom knowledge and applies it to real world challenges, thereby encouraging students to be responsible global citizens.” He said, “In actively addressing important ethical concerns within anthropology, Professor Little is providing students with the thinking and writing skills needed for active citizenship and a productive life after graduation.”

The goal of the Public Anthropology’s Community Action Website Project is to provide students with key skills they will need to be successful in their future careers: objectivity, critical thinking and effective communication. The Project encourages critical thinking regarding ethical issues in anthropology, a sharing of ideas among students from different universities and improved writing skills. The topic the students wrote on was “Who Should be the Beneficiaries of Anthropological Research?”

Students awardees are: Hannah Buckbee, Victoria Cox, Erin Vollmer, Melisa Erwin, Ryan Bunts, Jenna Lazzaro, Lisa Fuchs, Nicole Palmer, Morgan Wheatley, Christina Castro, Elizabeth Kardas, and Kevin Nugent.
Anthropology

△ Doctoral students Marx Navarro Castillo and Sarah Taylor were awarded the 32nd annual Christopher DeCormier Scholarship at an award ceremony in honor of the DeCormier family.

△ Doctoral student Winston Scott has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to continue his research in Guatemala. Mr. Scott conducts research among Q’eqchi’ Mayan speakers in the central highlands of Guatemala.

Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences

△ Ph.D. candidate Heather Archambault was the recipient of a NCAR Advanced Studies Program Graduate Student Visitor fellowship that funded her stay at NCAR in Boulder, CO for three months. She collaborated with leading scientists on her Ph.D. research.

Biological Sciences

△ Ph.D. recipient in 1974, Sallie (Penny) Chisholm, currently Lee and Geraldine Martin Professor of Environmental Studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is the recipient of the Alexander Agassiz Medal. Dr. Chisholm was honored with the medal for her pioneering studies of the dominant photosynthetic organisms in the sea and for integrating her results into a new understanding of the global ocean. The medal recognizes original contribution in the science of oceanography.

Chemistry

△ Matthew Platz, an alumnus with a B.S. in Chemistry and B.S. in Math in 1973, has been named Director of Chemistry at the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Communication

△ Senior Communication major Madysyn Lubba has been selected to teach in the Teach for America program. A very competitive program with a multi-step written application process, Ms. Lubba was one of only 3,700 people selected from an applicant pool of 24,718. Ms. Lubba has completed a rigorous five-week training program and she is now teaching 8th grade history at Livonia High School, located just outside of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Her goal is to help fulfill the Teach for America mission that “one day all children in this nation will have the opportunity to attain an excellent education.”

△ CSEA Director of Communications Stephen A. Madarasz, who earned a Master’s degree in political communication from UAlbany, oversaw a project and wrote most of the narrative for book that chronicles the history and growth of CSEA from the early 20th century to present day. Mr. Madarasz has been an adjunct professor at UAlbany for about ten years and teaches a course in marketing communication for the department. A Century of Service: The Story of CSEA’s First 100 Years can be ordered online at www.csealocal1000.org

English

△ Hope Harris, class of 2010 graduate, has leveraged her highly competitive English department internship with the New York State Office of the Attorney General into a future in the field of law. Through her internship, Ms. Harris served as a mediator in the Consumer Frauds and Protection Bureau where she investigated consumer complaints against business.

△ Randall Horton, class of 2009 Ph.D., who is currently Assistant Professor at the University of New Haven has been awarded a $25,000 Creative Writing Fellowship by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). Horton, a poet, was one of 42 writers selected from over 1000 candidates and is the sole awardee from Connecticut.

△ Amy Mallory-Kani, doctoral student, received the Edna Steeves Prize, awarded to the presenter of the best graduate student paper at the conference of the Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (NEASECS).

△ James Belflower, doctoral student, won the 2011 Spring Gun Press Poetry chapbook contest with his entry Bird Leaves the Cornice which will be published in early 2011.

History

△ Doctoral candidate Mark Johnson was recently selected to receive a military history research fellowship from the General Omar N. Bradley Foundation. The fellowship is for Army officers working at the Ph.D. level and is awarded to ten officers annually through an Army-wide competition.

△ Doctoral candidate Cameilia Lenart is a Mellon Fellow at the Institute of Historical Research at the University of London. She will be doing research of the Victoria and Albert Collection located at Rothschild Archive, Rambert Archive, The Place Library British Library and British Archive in London. She also will travel to Hertfordshire and Cambridge.

Humanistic Studies

△ Arlene Pericak, doctoral student in the Humanistic Studies Doctoral Program and Assistant Professor of Nursing and Director of the Graduate Program at Sage Colleges, has been honored as the 2009 Nurse Practitioner of the Year. She received the award for excellence in service to the chapter and education of nurse practitioners.

Languages, Literatures and Cultures

△ Spanish students Benjamin Mielenz and Aaron Stearns are 2 of the 10 students chosen from throughout the SUNY system to receive the SUNY-CRUE scholarship for 2010-11. A third student, Rachel Luscombe, a Latin American, Caribbean, and U.S. Latino Studies student was also a recipient of a CRUE scholarship. This award is given to excellent undergraduate students who plan careers in the humanities.
teaching in Spanish. They will spend the year abroad studying at the Universidad de Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

▲ French doctoral student **Abeer Aloush** was awarded a $6000 grant to attend the Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition (CARLA) in Minnesota. During the summer, Ms. Aloush focused on the examination of assessment fundamentals. The training included use of technology in developing speaking assessments. The CARLA program is one of the country’s top institutes.

**Latin American, Caribbean and U.S. Latino Studies**

▲ Doctoral candidate **Dustin Knepp** was awarded the Richard L. Millett Student Recognition Award by the Midwest Association for Latin American Studies for his paper, “A Construction of ‘Home’ in a New Kitchen: Food in the Lives of Mexican Immigrants and Their Descendants.” This award is given to the outstanding graduate student paper of the 2009 MALAS Conference.

**Psychology**

▲ **Sean Sheppard**, Ph.D. student, received the 2010 Student Research Grant Award from the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies (STSS) to support his dissertation.

▲ **Jana Vanderslice-Barr**, Ph.D. student, was awarded a dissertation research grant from the American Academy of Forensic Psychology.

**Sociology**

▲ **Matt Vogel** and **Michael Barton** won third place in the American Society of Criminology’s Gene Carte student paper contest for their paper “Impulsivity, School Context and Adolescent Behavior: Is the Association between Impulsivity and Misconduct Moderated by School Characteristics?”

▲ **Megan Rolfe** received the Patricia Stocking Brown Award for Feminist Social Justice Research through the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives at UAlbany.

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**Students Create Crime Prevention Brochure**

Two Geography and Planning graduate students, **Kisha Santiago** and **Omar Peters**, prepared a community crime prevention brochure for the city of Albany in conjunction with a neighborhood planning effort focused on improving quality of life and safety in the mid-city Education District of Albany. The students’ initiative in preparing the brochure is an excellent example of the kind of community service and outreach encouraged and fostered in the Department of Geography and Planning’s Master’s in Regional Planning Program.

The final version of the brochure prepared by Santiago and Peters was distributed to everyone in attendance at a recent well-attended public meeting in the District. An electronic version to the brochure was also provided to the city, and has been posted on the University at Albany Graduate Planning Student Association website.

The attractive and informative brochure identifies a number of ways residents and property owners can deter crime in their neighborhoods by applying an approach called Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED). Design strategies encouraged by CPTED include promoting natural surveillance, reinforcing public/private areas, and maintaining defensible spaces by controlling access. In addition to offering helpful crime prevention strategies, the brochure provides contact information for reaching the Department of General Services, the Police Department and members of the Albany Common Council.
On a March afternoon in 2010, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences hosted a reception for CAS Authors and Artists. At that time we celebrated the creative and scholarly work of over 50 faculty. Those who attended the reception were treated to a display of published works about the artistry of a pianist, political and scientific issues to name a few. In this issue of CAS Today, we will highlight some of those works.

2009 Publications include:

- Thomas Bass (English) *The Spy Who Loved Us*
- Jeffrey Berman (English) *Death in the Classroom*
- Sheila Curran (History) *Archival Storytelling*
- Lee Bickmore (Anthropology) *Cilungu Phonology*
- Carl Bon Tempo (History) *Americans at the Gate: The United States and Refugees during the Cold War*
- Jean Francois Brière (LLC) *Haiti et la France*
- Andres Byon (East Asian Studies) *Basic Korean: A Grammar and Workbook*
- Rachel Cohon (Philosophy) *Hume's Morality: Feeling and Fabrication*
- Randall Craig (English) *The Narratives of Caroline Norton*
- Richard Fogarty (History) *Race & War in France: Colonial Subjects in the French Army, 1914-1918*
- Eric Keenaghan (English) *Queering Cold War Poetry: Ethics of Vulnerability in Cuba and the United States*
- Gail Landsman (Anthropology Emeritus) *Reconstructing Motherhood and Disability in the Age of “Perfect” Babies*
- Walter Little (Anthropology) *Mayas in Postwar Guatemala: Harvest of Violence Revisited*
- Patrick Nold (History) *Marriage Advice for a Pope*
- Hans Pohlsander (Women's Studies) *Security Disarmed*
- Helene Scheck (English) *Reform and Resistance*
- Bonnie Steinbock (Philosophy) *The Oxford Handbook of Bioethics*
- Roger Stump (Geography & Planning) *The Geography of Religion*
- Barry Trachtenberg (Judaic Studies) *The Revolutionary Roots of Modern Yiddish: 1903–1917*
- Maurice Westmoreland (LLC) *Selected Proceedings of the 4th Workshop on Spanish Sociolinguistics*

2010 Publications include:

- Shamshad Ahmad (Physics) *Rounded Up*
- Allen Ballard (History) *Carried by Six*
- Iris Berger (History) *South Africa in World History*
- Eric Block (Chemistry) *Garlic and Other Alliums: The Lore and the Science*
- Christine Bose (Sociology) *Global Gender Research*
- George Aaron Broadwell with Kosuke Matsukawa (Anthropology) *The Origin of the Sun and Moon: A Copala Triqui Legend*
- Louise Burkhart (Anthropology) *Nahuatl Theater*
- Duncan Cumming (Music) *The Fountain of Youth: The Artistry of Frank Glazer*
- Lydia Davis (English) *Varieties of Disturbance*
- Teresa Ebert (English) *The Task of Cultural Critique*
- Susanna Fessler (East Asian Studies) *Hanatsumi Nikki–Flowers of Italy*
- Cheryl Frye (Psychology) *Physiology & Behavior*
- Jagadish Garg (Physics) *Basic Concepts of Nuclear Physics*
- Bob Gluck (Music) CD (1)- *Trio Sideways*
- David Griggs Janower (Music) CD (3)- *The Great Choral Tradition; Durufle Requiem; Mozart Regina Coeli, K. 276; Brabms Requiem*
- Pierre Joris (English) *Justifying the Margins*
- John Kimball (Physics) *Physics of Sailing*
- Richard Lachmann (Sociology) *States and Power*
- Kajal Lahiri (Economics) *Introduction to Econometrics, Fourth Edition*
- Steven Leibo (History) *East and Southeast Asia*
- Max Lifchitz (Music) CD (3)- *Sound Paintings; Landscapes; Moods*
- Carolyn MacDonald (Physics) *Handbook of Optics*, V. 1-5
- P.D. Magnus (Philosophy) *New Waves in Philosophy of Science*
- Jon Mandle (Philosophy) *Rawls’s: A Theory of Justice*
- Matthew Matsaganis (Communication) *Understanding Ethnic Media –Producers, Consumers, and Societies*
- Patricia Pinho (LACS) *Mama Africa*
- Warren Roberts (History) *Early Albany Studies*
- Robert Rosenswig (Anthropology) *The Beginnings of Mesoamerican Civilization*
- Leonard Slade, Jr. (Africana Studies) *Triumph*
- Leonard Slade, Jr. (Africana Studies) *Sweet Solitude*
- Bonnie Steinbock (Philosophy) *Ethical Issues in Modern Medicine, 7th Ed*
- Eszter Szalczer (Theatre) *Writing Daughters: August Strindberg’s Other Voices*
- Lisa Thompson (English) *Beyond the Black Lady, Sexuality and the New African American Middle Class*
Sample books:

**South Africa in World History**  
By Iris Berger

How did South Africa become one of the most segregated and unequal societies in the world in the mid-twentieth century? And how did local and international struggles against apartheid contribute to a democratic transformation that launched a new era in 1994? Beginning with early human history in Africa, this overview of South African history takes the country’s story through the remains of thriving early kingdoms based around dry-stone enclosures to the Dutch East India Company conquest in the seventeenth century that brought new settlers from Holland, France and Germany, while devastating indigenous communities, and bringing in enslaved labor from elsewhere in Africa and the Dutch empire.

**Understanding Ethnic Media**  
Sage Publications  
By Matthew Matsaganis with Vikki Katz and Sandra J. Ball-Rokeach

This is the first book to provide a comprehensive review and analysis of how media produced by ethnic communities, and for ethnic communities affect identity and perceived lines of division between “us” and “others” as well as how the production and consumption of ethnic media affect the character of the larger media and societal landscapes.

Integrating key ethnic media studies with original research, this book makes a unique contribution by covering both consumers and producers of ethnic media, as well as the history of ethnic media, its role in ethnic communities, the effect of globalization, and the professional challenges faced by ethnic journalists. A compelling discussion on the future of ethnic media concludes the book and points the way toward further research.

**Sweet Solitude**  
State University of New York Press  
By Leonard Slade, Jr.

Drawing deeply from the well of the African American experience, Leonard A. Slade, Jr.’s poetry addresses a wide variety of subjects and themes, from beauty, family and nature to racism, religion, and politics. Running throughout, however, are the importance of love, faith, and the human need to be connected to others. Included in Sweet Solitude are new poems, previously uncollected in book form, as well as selections from the author’s thirteen volumes of previously published poetry. These are poems of celebration and endurance for all readers.

**Garlic and Other Alliums: The Lore and the Science**  
By Eric Block, with a foreword by 1990 Nobel Laureate E.J. Corey

This heavily illustrated book summarizes the colorful history of edible and ornamental genus Allium plants—garlic, onion, leek, etc.—illustrating how they have been portrayed in literature, the arts, and in the world’s oldest cookbook, as well as discussing their health benefits, chemistry, and utility as natural pesticides.

New Faculty

**Daniele Fabris – Chemistry and Biological Sciences**

Our laboratory is dedicated to the investigation of the structure-function relationships of protein-nucleic acid complexes involved in the lifecycle of viruses responsible for infectious diseases, using mass spectrometry (MS) as the main instrumental platform. Professor Fabris states, “The greatest discoveries in biology and medicine have always been the fruit of significant technological advances and, vice versa, the greatest technological breakthroughs have always been prompted by the need to rise to the challenge of the biomedical problems of our times.” It is that belief that has brought Professor Fabris to UAlbany and his appointment as Professor of Chemistry and Biological Sciences.

Professor Fabris received his Ph.D. from the University of Padua in Italy in 1989, studied at the National Research Council in Padua, then at the University of Maryland Baltimore County as a Postdoctoral Fellow and Assistant Research Scientist. Prior to his appointment as Professor in Chemistry and Biological Sciences, Professor Fabris held an appointment on the faculty of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Maryland Baltimore County where he rose to the rank of Full Professor. In 2001 Professor Fabris received the Research Innovation Award, Research Corporation, “Investigation of the tertiary structure of HIV-Ψ-RNA by biochemical probes and electrospray-ion cyclotron resonance mass spectrometry.”

(New Faculty continued on p. 18)
New Faculty (continued from p.17)

Philip Goyal – Physics

Professor Philip Goyal’s research over the last several years has centered in the areas of foundations of quantum theory and information physics. His goal is to derive the formalism of quantum theory from a small number of physically compelling postulates, and to develop a way to understand the nature of the reality described by quantum theory. One of the key motivations for such work is to guide the development of future theories of physics, such as a theory of quantum gravity. Professor Goyal also has research interests in the theory of inference (Bayesian inference and information theory) and in the acoustical foundation of musical harmony.

In the fall, Professor Goyal taught an undergraduate course in Modern Physics and will be teaching graduate courses in statistical mechanics and classical mechanics in future semesters. Professor Goyal is very “keen” to learn new teaching methods. With help from ITLAL, he would like to experiment with team-based learning methods.

Educated in the UK (Ph.D. from Cambridge University in 2005), this was followed with three-year research fellowship positions at Cambridge University (2004-7) and Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics in Waterloo, Canada (2007-2010). He completed an undergraduate degree in Physics from Oxford University and spent five years pursuing research interests in music (Stanford University) and dolphin cognition, neuroscience, and complex systems (Project Delphis, Hawaii, and the University of Hawaii, Oahu).

Drawn to the University at Albany through associations with two colleagues in the physics department, he said, “I am delighted to be at a department with such friendly colleagues who are supportive of my research vision. I look forward to many fruitful years of collaboration.”

Oleg Lunin – Physics

Professor Oleg Lunin has always been fascinated by mathematics and physics, and becoming a theoretical physicist was an ideal way of combining these two interests.

After receiving an undergraduate degree from Moscow State University in Russia, Professor Lunin attended Ohio State University to pursue a Ph.D. in theoretical physics. After graduating from OSU, he spent several years as a post-doc at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton and at the University of Chicago. This fall, Professor Lunin joined our Department of Physics as Assistant Professor.

As a particle physicist, Professor Lunin says that “he is very fortunate to work at this exciting time, when significant progress happens in theory as well as in experiment.” Last year, the largest experiment in human history, Large Hadron Collider, started its operation in Switzerland, and it is believed that its results will revolutionize particle physics. He says, “I am very lucky to have two senior colleagues at Albany who participate in this historic experiment. I am also very impressed by the friendly and collaborative spirit in the physics department.”

Professor Lunin is also very excited about teaching. This fall he is teaching a course on Mathematical Methods for Physicists, and he is very impressed by the level of the physics majors at UAlbany. They seem to be genuinely interested in the subject, and he is certain that many of them will have successful careers in the field. In the spring he will be teaching Waves, another course for physics majors, and he looks forward to the opportunity to interact with graduate students next academic year.

Marco Varisco – Mathematics and Statistics

Marco Varisco began his appointment as Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics in September 2010. Born and raised in Milan, Italy, he earned a Master’s degree from the Università degli Studi di Milano and a Ph.D. from the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität in Münster, Germany. After receiving his doctorate and before joining our faculty he was a Visiting Assistant Professor at Binghamton University, SUNY. Dr. Varisco’s research interests are in topology, and more specifically in algebraic and geometric topology and algebraic K-theory, branches of modern theoretical mathematics at the intersection of geometry and algebra.

Alan Zemel – Communication

Assistant Professor Alan Zemel comes to us from the Department of Culture & Communication at Drexel University. He received his Ph.D. in 2002 from the Department of Rhetoric and Communication at Temple University, having trained as a conversation analyst. He was then a post-doctoral researcher with Tim Koschmann on the Deixis Project at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine from 2002-2004. He also worked as a post-doc with Gerry Stahl on the Virtual Math Teams project at Drexel University from 2004 to 2006.

Professor Zemel’s current research interests involve conversation analysis, ethnomethodology, computer mediated communication, health communication, and multimodal interaction. Specifically, he is interested in how learning and instruction are accomplished in medical settings, and how mutual understanding is managed and accomplished in computer mediated communication.

Professor Zemel has taught a variety of courses including Communication Theory, Qualitative Research Methods, Computer Mediated Communication, Conversation Analysis, Techniques of Speaking, Intercultural Communication, Technical Writing, Argumentation, and Grant Writing.

In addition to his academic interests, Dr. Zemel has been performing music from Russia, Greece, Macedonia, and Romania for almost forty years on authentic folk instruments, including the balalaika, domra, laouto, baglamas, and tambura.
Recent Faculty Research Awards (reported as of Spring 2010)

- **Jeanette Altarriba** (Psychology) – co-PI with PI Chi-Shing Tse – $92,237 (US$$) from the Chinese University of Hong Kong to study the “Relationship between Language Proficiencies and Attentional Control among Cantonese-English Bilinguals in Hong Kong.”

- **Kristin Christodulu** (Psychology and Center for Autism and Related Disabilities) received two grants from the New York State Education Department. One is for $490,000 for “Support for Center for Autism and Related Disabilities at University at Albany” and $500,000 for “Support for Regional Centers for Autism Spectrum Disorders.” She also received a $132,824 grant from the New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities for “Parent Education Program for Families of Children Newly Diagnosed with Autism.”

- **Richard Cunningham** (Biological Sciences) – $647,886 from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory for “Structural biochemistry of DNA Base Repair.”

- **Sharon DeWitte** (Anthropology) was awarded a $20,000 Wenner-Gren Foundation Post Ph.D. Research Grant to fund her paleodemographic and molecular investigation of the mortality patterns and causative agent of medieval plague.

- **Laurie Feldman** (Psychology) – $29,825 from the National Science Foundation for “Conference Support for Women in Cognitive Science: 2010-2011.”

- **Samantha Friedman** (Sociology) was awarded a $28,000 grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development entitled, “Cybersegregation: Is Neil a More Desirable Tenant than Tyrone or Jorge?”

- **Daniele Fabris** (Biological Sciences and Chemistry) – $960,377 from National Institutes of General Medical Sciences for “Structural determinants of HIV-1 5’-UTR in virions and infected cells.”

- **Susanna Fessler** (East Asian Studies) received a grant through the Nippon Foundation to attend the British Centre for Literary Translation “Summer School” in Norwich, U.K. (summer 2010). The session brought together ten translators to work with the award-winning Japanese novelist Yoko Tawada.

- **Cheryl Frye** (Psychology) – $29,522 from the National Institutes of Health (subcontract from Brigham and Women’s Hospital) for “Neuroactive Steroids and Seizure Control during Pregnancy in Women with Epilepsy.” Also, $1,287,752 from National Institute of Mental Health for “Progestogens during Pregnancy in Women with Epilepsy.” Also, $1,287,752 from National Institute of Mental Health for “Structural determinants of HIV-1 5’-UTR in virions and infected cells.”

- **Vincent Idone** (Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences) – $197,595 from Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) (subcontract from the University of Florida) for “Lighting Initiation, Propagation, Attachment, Upper Atmosphere and Ionospheric Effects.”

- **Kajal Lahiri and Pinka Chatterji** (Economics) – $1.1 million from part of a successful NIH Center Grant to examine whether health differences among racial and ethnic groups in small cities and towns are similar to those in major cities.

- **Catherine Lawson** (Geography and Planning) with Erica Powers, Esq. – $50,000 subcontract, as part of the National Cooperative Freight Research Program (NCFRP) project “Freight Trip Generation and Land Use,” funded by the National Academies of Science and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

- **Igor Lednev** (Chemistry) – $1,074,000 from the National Institute on Aging for “Structural Characterization of Amyloid Fibrils Using Deep UV Raman Spectroscopy.”

- **David Lewis** (Geography and Planning) – $24,938 from the National Park Service, Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.

- **Pan Li** (Biological Sciences) received an award in the amount of $500,000 from the National Science Foundation for “CAREER: A Single Molecule Study of Alternative Folding of a Retroviral Untranslated RNA.”

- **Zai Liang** and **Glenn Deane** (Sociology) received a two-year $143,727 grant from the Russell Sage Foundation to study new patterns of immigrant settlement in non-gateway destinations in the U.S.

- **Braddock Linsley** (Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences) – $339,877 from National Science Foundation for “Coral-based Reconstruction of Salinity and Temperature Variability in the Southern Makassar Strait and its influence on the Indonesian Throughflow.”

- **Carolyn MacDonald** (Physics) – $303,970 from Illinois Institute of Technology/National Institute of Health for “Design Studies and Optimization of Phase-Contrast Mammography.”

- **Ewan McNay** (Psychology) – $80,000 Alzheimer’s Association award for “Diabetes, insulin, amyloid and AD: Cognitive and metabolic mechanism.”

- **Antun Milas** (Mathematics and Statistics) – $23,623 from the National Security Agency for “Vertex Algebras and W-Algebras.”

- **Jayanti Pande** (Chemistry) – $1.6 million National Eye Institute award to study cataracts.

- **Robert Rosenstwig** (Anthropology) – $280,000 from the National Science Foundation to continue his research in Chiapas, Mexico.

- **Alexander Shekhtman** (Chemistry) – $1,228,768 from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences for “In-cell NMR technology to study protein interactions.”

- **Hua Shi** (Biological Sciences) – $491,012 from National Institutes of Health (subcontract from Cornell University) for “Use of Aptamers in Dissecting the HSF-Regulated Cancer-Enabling Network.”

- **Ben Szaro** (Biological Sciences) – $480,000 from the National Science Foundation for “Post-transcriptional Regulation of Neurofilament Expression during Axon Outgrowth.”

- **Kate Strully** (Sociology) – $625,730 K-Award from the National Institute of Health for five years.

(Research Awards continued on p. 20)
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Recent Faculty Awards and Honors:
(Since December 2010)

● Duncan Cumming (Music) had his new CD, “A Book of Hours: Music of William Matthews” was featured on the cover of Fanfare magazine.

● John Delano (Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences) has been named the recipient of the “2011 Citizen of the University Award” by the UAlbany Alumni Association.

● Keith Earle (Physics) has been chosen with Dr. Graham Smith (Physics, University of St. Andrews, Scotland) to receive the international EPR Society’s Silver Medal for Instrumentation 2011. The Silver Medal is awarded for significant contributions to EPR (ESR) Spectroscopy in the areas of Biology/Medicine, Chemistry, Physics/Materials Science, or Instrumentation on a rotating basis.

● Richard Fogarty (History) received an award for study in Berlin from the Deutscher Akademischer Austauch Dienst (DAAD) for intensive language study, summer 2011.

● Phyllis Galembo (Art) has been awarded New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) Fellowship in Photography. Founded in 1971, NYFA’s goal is to empower artists at critical stages in their creative lives.

● Mary Katherine (Katy) Gonder (Biological Sciences) - research was the cover story of the March 22nd issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). This research, conducted with her colleagues, has added a great deal of new information about the understudied Nigeria-Cameroon chimpanzee.

● Nadia Kizenko (History) has been awarded a NEH Summer Institute Grant for a three-week Institute at Columbia University.

● Ross Lazear (Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences) received a “Best of our Blogs” honor in the Times Union newspaper February 1, 2011 for his January 30, 2011 Historic snow, and a mid-week storm...blog.

● Tomas Urayoan Noel (English) has been awarded a Ford Foundation Fellowship for the 2011 postdoctoral competition. Dr. Noel will be in residency at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College conducting archival work and completing a book manuscript on Nuyorican poetry from 1960 to the present.

● Jayanti Pande (Chemistry) – work on eye cataracts was published in one of the very top periodicals: PNAS (Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA) and was featured in an article in the Science & Technology news section of Chemical & Engineering News, the house organ for the American Chemical Society.

● Ivan Steen (History) was honored at the Annual Conference of the Association of Public Historians of New York State with the “Hugh Hastings Award”. This award is named in honor of Hugh Hastings, First State Historian for New York State (1895-1907), and is awarded in recognition of Distinguished Service to and support of the Public History Community of New York State.

● Amy Murrell Taylor (History) has been appointed to the Board of Advisors of The Society of Civil War Historians (the preeminent academic organization for the study of Civil War-era history).

● Lisa Thompson (English) is currently a Sheila Biddle Ford Foundation Fellow at the W.E.B. DuBois Institute where she is researching her next book-length project “Performances of Black Cultural Trauma in Contemporary African American Theatre.”

● Ryan Torn (Atmospheric and Environmental Sciences) received two editorial awards at the recent American Meteorological Society (AMS) Conference in Seattle, Washington. The awards were for the Monthly Weather Review and Weather and Forecasting.

● Michael Werner (Art) has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship for the 2011-12 academic year.

● Albin Zak (Music) – recent book “I Don’t Sound Like Nobody: Remaking Music in 1950’s America” was reviewed in The Wall Street Journal.

Newly Published Faculty Books:
(2011 Publications)

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<th>Branka Arsic (English)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Allen Ballard (History)</td>
<td>Breaching Jericho’s Walls: A 20th Century African American Life</td>
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<td>James Bellflower (English)</td>
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<td>Pierre Joris (English)</td>
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<td>Eszter Szalczer (English)</td>
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Recent Faculty Research Awards
(Since December 2010)

- **Gregory Lnenicka** (Biological Sciences) – $379,192 from the National Science Foundation for “Synaptic Homeostasis.”
- **Robert Osuna** (Biological Sciences) – $698,807 from the National Science Foundation for “Regulation of dksA in E.Coli.”

College of Arts and Sciences Excellence Awardees, Spring 2011

President George Philip recognized and honored recipients of the University’s Excellence Awards at a ceremony and reception on May 3, 2011. We are pleased to once again recognize the following recipients from the College of Arts and Sciences:

**Excellence in Teaching** (full-time)
- **Christine Wagner**, Psychology
- **Joanne Kaufman**, Sociology

**Excellence in Teaching** (graduate student)
- **Matt Vogel**, Sociology

**Excellence in Research and Creative Activities**
- **Iris Berger**, History
- **JoAnne Carson**, Art

Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Scholarship and Creative Activities, Academic Year 2010-11

**Steven Messner**, Sociology