On Saturday, August 25, new students had the opportunity to attend one of ten lectures being given in a variety of fields and disciplines. The Explore UAlbany event is an opportunity for new students to investigate a topic of interest and meet esteemed members of UAlbany faculty all before their first day of class. In addition to exploring a new area of interest, every student was automatically entered in a raffle sponsored by SEFCU. Every student was automatically entered for a chance to win a gift card to the UAlbany Bookstore. One student from each lecture, a total of ten students, walked away from Explore UAlbany with $100 to spend at the campus bookstore for the new semester.

Dr. Robert Griffin, the Dean of the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity, and a first timer at Explore UAlbany, gave a lecture titled “Droning On: How Drones Will Change Our Lives.” He spoke about the impact technology has on society and the future of the world with drones. Dr. Griffin described Explore UAlbany as an opportunity for “new students to sample the wealth of subjects offered at UAlbany.” He said that by attending Explore UAlbany, students were “asked to begin to really think about the myriad of issues facing complex problems,” something they will do for the rest of their time at UAlbany.

Dr. Richard Fogarty, an Associate Professor of history at the university and a returner to Explore UAlbany gave a lecture titled “Is Race Real?” He spoke about how depending on time, place and context, race is subject to change, variety and debate more than people think. He explained how
race is a more complex issue than just “black and white.” Dr. Fogarty described Explore UAlbany as “a great way to get back into the academic environment” after summer break. Dr. Fogarty has participated in Explore UAlbany for several years and said he always comes back because it “puts [him] in contact with really smart, curious students who are beginning one of the most important phases of their intellectual growth.”

Nicole Giordonello, one of the winners of the gift cards, attended Dr. Acker’s lecture titled “The Death Penalty in the United States: Cruel and Unusual?” Nicole chose to attend this lecture not because it had to do with her major, but because it seemed like something that would be “really cool to learn about.” Explore UAlbany got Nicole “extremely excited to start the year.” She plans to spend the gift card she won on a calculator and school supplies.