

University Faculty Senate



Traditions

*An esprit de corps among
faculty, staff, and students*



SUNY

THE STATE UNIVERSITY *of* NEW YORK

**State University of New York
University Faculty Senate
Student Life Committee 2007-08**

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First Printing – April 2008

Introduction

Traditions are a significant part of the college experience. At their best, they celebrate life, recognize individual or group achievement, and contribute to the development of a distinct campus identity. It is for these reasons that the Student Life Committee decided to investigate, sample, and prepare a compilation of current campus traditions within the SUNY Family. Timing was a motivating factor, as well, since SUNY is celebrating its sixtieth anniversary, an opportune moment to examine what has transpired during the course of six decades in campus traditions.

In the pursuit of our objective, we appealed to campus representatives for descriptions of their campus traditions that enhance academic, cultural and/or social life, and are possibly unique to their respective institution. We initially focused on Student Assembly leaders and vice presidents for student life as key contributors for generating these descriptions of campus traditions. The Student Life Committee ultimately expanded its base of contributors to also include other academic and student affairs professionals.

The Student Life Committee intended to have all of SUNY units represented in this compilation. However, as it is often the case in system-wide surveys where overworked employees are asked to undertake additional work, we fell short of this goal. Nonetheless, all of the SUNY sectors are represented in this initial compilation.

We consider this compilation of SUNY Campus Traditions a work in progress. The Student Life Committee recognizes that it has organizational shortcomings, and that not every campus is represented, even though we sought responses from all campuses within the system. However, we anticipate that the next generation of contributors will significantly improve on this first attempt.

In the final step of drafting our compilation of SUNY campus traditions, we evaluated the contributions and identified several commonalities among the submitted descriptions. Four conceptual categories emerged: **Traditions of Celebration**, **Traditions of Cultural Diversity**, **Traditions of Public Service**, and **Traditions of Recognition**. These submitted and edited descriptions of Traditions are presented in alphabetical order by campus.

Traditions of Celebration



Traditions of Celebration

Fountain Day – This event, held every spring, when the large fountain in the center of campus is turned on attracts over 6,000 students who gather to celebrate. – *Albany*

Clash of the Quads - Classes compete during the day in physical activities such as relay races, egg and spoon races, *Twister*, *Jenga*, and banner making. Whichever class accumulates the most points wins “bragging rights” for the rest of the year. About 800 students participate in this annual event. – *Albany*

Blessing of Animals - On or near the feast of St. Anthony, the Newman Center and the Campus Ministry Office conducts a “Blessing of the Pets” ceremony in the Pet Wing of the residence halls. Many of the residents of this wing bring their pets to school with them for the year. These residents and most Veterinary Technician majors bring their pets to the ceremony and there is a small reception afterwards. Pet lovers share funny stories about their pets during discussions of pet care. – *Canton*

Mardi Gras - A campus wide celebration held near “Fat Tuesday.” Open to all students and employees, Mardi Gras is usually held during the dinner hours in the gymnasium with a multitude of games and entertainment. – *Canton*

Hot Dog Day - Began in 1972 by two students, Mark O'Meara and Eric "Rick" Vaughn, this event focuses on that ever-popular (and inexpensive) student staple, the hot dog. This student-run event raises money for local charities and community-based organizations. Hot Dog Day has come to mark the beginning of spring. Typically held the third weekend in April, it features a parade, ice cream social, fun run, mud Olympics, and a carnival. Main Street is closed off for booths featuring food, games, and entertainment. Each year over 5,000 hot dogs are served and about \$8,000 is raised for charities chosen each year by students. Family weekend and Honors Convocation also take place on the Friday of Hot Dog Day weekend. – *Ceramics*

Cornell Chimes - The Cornell Chimes, located in McGraw Tower, are played by the Cornell University Chimesmasters in three daily concerts. The Cornell Chimes performances are the university's oldest musical tradition. The Chimesmasters are a group of students, faculty, and staff who are selected in an annual competition. The door to McGraw Tower opens to visitors before each concert when visitors can climb the tower's 161 steps to watch the Chimesmasters perform and enjoy a view of the campus and surrounding areas. Originally a chime of nine bells that was first rung in 1868, the chime has been expanded to 21 bells and is still played manually by manipulating a wooden console by hand and foot. All the bells were tuned together for the first time and the tower was refurbished in 1998. – *Cornell*

Dragon Day - Dragon Day has its roots in the antics of Cornellian Willard Dickerman Straight. Mr. Straight attended the School of Architecture, and from his early days as a freshman, developed a reputation as a prankster, leader and developer of class unity. It was said that that the Architecture class of 1901 was perhaps the most spirited the university had ever seen, mainly because of the actions of Willard Straight.

The idea of Dragon Day was conceived from a tradition that followed Mr. Straight's belief that there should be a distinctive College of Architecture Day. Later, the additional theme of celebrating St. Patrick's success in driving the serpents out of Ireland also became attached to the holiday. Dragon Day as it is celebrated today (with an actual constructed dragon and the associated ceremonies) evolved in

the 1950s when the snakes previously used grew up. The 1950s architects were particularly ambitious, sometimes constructing both a male and female dragon.

Dragon Day has also been used as a means of political expression. For example, in 1933-34, to celebrate the repeal of Prohibition, students constructed a large paper-mache beer stein for College of Architecture Day. In 1968, the dragon was painted entirely black by several students involved in the project to protest the Vietnam War - making that year's parade one of the most controversial amongst the student body. Most recently, in 1994, the theme of Dragon Day was The Fall of Rome in protest of the possible cancellation of the Cornell in Roman Architecture Program. Other notable dragons appeared in 1964 and 1976, when students built dragons on tops of cars and drove them through the parade route. In 1987, the engineers constructed a large Viking ship to combat the dragon.

In 1990, the Department of Architecture severed all ties with the holiday, citing the associated campus pranks and sometimes violence that came with the holiday. Prior to this time, the architecture facilities were fully open to the students for materials and resources in constructing the dragon. The rivalry between the College of Architecture and the College of Engineering students before and during Dragon Day celebration seems to have simply developed through history perhaps as expressing opposition to the Architects having a full day to themselves. Although the rivalry still exists between the Engineers and the Architects, it appears less violent than in prior years. On Dragon Day since 2000, creatures (a phoenix in 2000, and 2002, and a cobra in 2001) were constructed on the engineering quad to fend off the approaching dragon. In addition, an engineering student organization society, the Phoenix Society, was formed to construct the creature and to work with architecture to keep the day safe. Every year, a T-shirt is designed by the class and sold to the Cornell community to help raise money for the Dragon Day project including a dance/party held by and for the freshman of the Architecture class later in the semester.

As for the founder of Architecture Day, Willard Straight fought in World War I and died in 1918. He left provisions in his will for the creation of a building to make a more humane environment on campus for students. The building, Willard Straight Hall, was dedicated to him by his wife and the university upon its completion in 1925. – *Cornell*

Convocation - On the Sunday before classes begin each fall semester, this formal convocation with the faculty in full academic regalia and a bit of pomp and circumstance welcomes students to campus with a faculty keynote speaker and a dinner for new students to dine with faculty from their respective departments. It is planned by the orientation staff and some of the members of the Intellectual Climate Committee. – *Cortland*

Earth Week - Instead of celebrating just Earth Day, the sophomore class chair plans a week-long series of events including a BBQ, community service projects, educational presentations on environmental issues, bands, talent shows, and craft fair. All of which surround the theme of earth and the environment. – *Environmental Science and Forestry*

TGIF Parties and Morning Munches - Held once a month on Fridays, these parties are open for the entire campus with free food and beverages. Morning Munches, also sponsored by our student government, are held every other month on Tuesdays. The munchies include free donuts, bagels, coffees, and juices to the campus community as a “break from the grind” and to get a chance to socialize. – *Environmental Science and Forestry*

Greek Tree - It has been speculated that the "Greek Tree," the painted tree in the Sturges Quad, dates back to the 1950s. As the story goes, the campus fraternities and sororities began painting a small portion of the tree where the bark had been stripped away. Over time, as more and more Greek organizations painted over each others marks, the small area eventually became the entire tree. While the tree does get painted throughout the school year, it changes colors the most during the six weeks of pledging in the fall and spring semesters. This is a time when both active and new members paint their names and colors on the tree to symbolize their pride in their organization. – *Geneseo*

Opening Meet of the Genesee Valley Hunt - In October, students join the community in the oldest foxhunt in the nation by riding down Main Street with horses and hounds to begin the season. – *Geneseo*

MidNight Breakfast - Sponsored by the first-year class, faculty, staff and administrators cook breakfast on the last day of classes. It gives a chance for first- year students to celebrate the end of the semester and take a break before the push of final exams with food, crafts, and live entertainment. – *Geneseo*

Passing Through the Pillars – Planned for freshmen on the day before classes begin and seniors on the day before graduation. Each student “walks and passes” through the pillars of the original normal school building, Old Main, followed by an ice cream social where faculty, staff, and classmates are invited to celebrate the ceremony honoring their school years, past and present. – *Oneonta*

Bear Pride Night - Bear Pride Night brings together students and local alumni in support of athletics. Activities center around three specific sporting events - Men's and Women's Basketball and Men's Hockey. At half time of the basketball games and between periods of the hockey game, fans are encouraged to participate in free throw and slam dunk contests, sub-marine eating contests as well as half court and center ice shots. Students attend the event decked out in school colors, bear ears, and a variety of unique and wonderful costumes. Local vendors participate and support many of the events that occur. – *Potsdam*

Candlelight Concert - The Crane School of Music's annual Candlelight Concert is a celebration of the various music traditions that surround the December holiday season. Two performances to standing room only audiences fill Hosmer Hall's 1,300 seats. The music is performed by the Crane Chorus and Crane Symphony Orchestra with occasional student and faculty soloists and is a celebration in which the entire campus community participates. For the past several years, the concert has been videotaped for broadcast on WPBS of Watertown and has recently been made available for broadcast to PBS stations around the country. – *Potsdam*

Opening Gala Concert - Having just finished its sixth consecutive year, the Crane Opening Gala Concert is the first concert of the new academic and concert years at The Crane School of Music. These concerts feature up to 35 faculty performers in a variety of solo and chamber performances that showcase the talents of Crane's extraordinary faculty. - *Potsdam*

Family Weekend - This annual fall celebration of families and community begins with the Crane School of Music Annual Jazz and Wind Ensemble concert. Some students and family members run or walk our in the 5K Fun Run while others head off to the Breakfast with the Presidents where they are welcomed by the President of the College, the Alumni Board, the College Council and the Student Government. Then it is off to class as over 20 classes taught by volunteer faculty on a Saturday morning! Class topics range from the mathematics of knots to the ethics of the end of life to witchcraft in 1692. Family members have commented that the classes are their favorite parts of the weekend. A wellness fair with

cholesterol checks and massages in the afternoon precedes the Family Dinner. A light festival, coordinated by faculty and students in the departments of art, dance and drama, involves hundreds of lighted sculptures in the quad, dancers and musicians, all celebrating forms of light. – *Potsdam*

Midnights at Stony Brook - Thousands of students come to the Student Union to eat their favorite breakfast foods and get a second or third wind while studying for final exams. It is a great diversion where students can laugh, see friends, and take a well-deserved break from studying. – *Stony Brook*

Earthstock - Celebrated in late April on or around Earth Day, this day features exhibits, displays, lectures, and concerts to promote and support environment-friendly living. Although Earth Day celebrations have been in existence for a number of years, it was officially named Earthstock in 2005. – *Stony Brook*

Roth Pond Regatta - Get Ready! Set! Go! This is what you'll hear at the Roth Pond Regatta, while makeshift boats race across the pond at the center of a residential quad for first place. The craziest part of this event is that you'll see boats unlike any you've ever seen before—and with good reason. The boats for the regatta must be made of cardboard and duct tape. Many faculty and staff also participate in this event, and watching your professor sink into the water and doggy paddle to land offers amusement for all. In addition, the Roth Yacht Club names an admiral, a vice-admiral, an honorary commodore and various other nautical appointments to preside over the event.

This event is a tradition held during the last Friday of April. Started in the year 1987, the Roth Pond Regatta is a sure day of fun and excitement even featured on many popular television networks. There also is a barbecue and great entertainment throughout the day. – *Stony Brook*

Evening of Arts - Began in 1998 by a former student, the School of Medicine faculty, staff and students contribute visual art to an exhibition and perform poetry readings, instrumental pieces, dance, vocal performances including classical, operatic, jazz, etc. Proceeds from the event go to a local charity. – *Stony Brook School of Medicine*

Pot Luck Dinner - The longest running tradition at the School of Medicine beginning in 1978 by a former student and is not your typical Pot Luck Dinner! Attendees bring a (preferably home cooked) covered dish. During dinner, the standing room only crowd is entertained by a variety of performances from send-ups of faculty members (always a favorite), to roasts, skits, stand-up comedy etc. Think edgy but not offensive....irreverent but not disrespectful. There are also musical performances, bands, guitarists, singers, etc. Dancing to a DJ ends the evening. Over the years, student classes have added traditions to the event, such as an auction of items and services donated by faculty/staff (proceeds to a local charity) and the "Golden Paddle" awards in all satirical categories. – *Stony Brook School of Medicine*

White Coat Ceremony - Began in 1998 at the School of Medicine, this ceremony occurs during orientation for each entering medical student class when new students are given a white lab coat and the book, On Doctoring, by faculty as a symbol of the student's entry into the profession of medicine. For the first time, students recite a modern version of the Hippocratic Oath in front of invited parents, faculty and guests. – *Stony Brook School of Medicine*

Haunted Union - A Halloween celebration throughout the entire Student Union that includes a haunted house, pumpkin carving stations, a showing of the *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, costume and office decorating contests, psychic fair and much more. – *University at Buffalo*

Ooz Fest - Oozfest is an energetic display of school spirit and fun! Every April, 128 teams compete in Oozfest, one of the largest collegiate mud volleyball tournaments in the United States, which involves over 1,000 players and volunteers consisting of students, alumni, and members of the community. This all day event involves not only mud volleyball, but food, music, special events, and contests with great prizes. – *University at Buffalo*

Traditions of Cultural Diversity



Traditions of Cultural Diversity

Caribbean Carnival – Running for 27 years, this is the largest Caribbean Carnival in the Northeast. About 60 different schools are invited to come to this event. – *Binghamton*

Culture Fest - A festival that features food from various countries prepared by students who select the country that they wish to feature. Individual students and clubs set up displays to provide information regarding the various countries including traditional dishes. – *Canton*

Hispanic Heritage Month - Artistic displays, movies, concerts and poetry/literature readings are shared. Hispanic scholars are discussed in courses, etc. – *Fredonia*

La Fiesta - Latin American performers are invited and salsa dancing and music are enjoyed. – *Fredonia*

International Education Week - Different displays are presented as well as movie night, international food tasting and guest speakers who have benefited from Study Abroad programs. – *Fredonia*

Multicultural Feast - An evening of sharing and tasting in which foods are served from all over the world are served. Students use their meal ticket to attend this dinner. – *Fredonia*

Black History Month - The Black Student Union sponsors an entire month of events on campus related to Black history, scholars, etc. Films are screened, poetry slams are held as well as musical concerts and a ball. – *Fredonia*

Cultural Harmony Week - A week of transformative, engaging programs challenging students to think about the value of our diverse community. Experiential dinners, intercultural nights, movies, and lively debates are organized by student organizations such as Black Student Union, Latino Student Association, Hillel and Jewish Student Union, Geneseo Chinese Cultural Club, Korean-Americans Student Association, Pride Alliance, Women's Action Coalition. – *Geneseo*

The World in Potsdam - The World in Potsdam Diversity Festival was created so that the Potsdam Community could celebrate its unique and diverse cultural profile and to learn to appreciate each other's heritage through music, dance, arts, storytelling, food and religious services. The Festival has been successful in bringing together the college population (largely temporary residents) with the more permanent residents of the area in positive and enjoyable interaction. By partaking in this community service project, students and townspeople have the opportunity to meet and develop working and fun relationships through volunteer festival activities. Residents and students have worked

in unison on a number of projects: preparing and serving international foods, presenting hands-on craft demonstrations, creating public cultural displays and staffing activities throughout the Festival. In addition, townspeople and students have interacted with each other by participating in the Festival's dance and performance events. – *Potsdam*

Multicultural Weekend - In an effort to assist SUNY Potsdam in its commitment to diversity and multiculturalism in student enrollment, this weekend provides an excellent opportunity for students from diverse backgrounds to visit campus and engage in various activities both academically and socially. Students are given the opportunity to tour the campus, attend class, review admission/financial aid applications, talk with students and student leaders, and participate in co- and extra curricular activities. This weekend affords current students, administrators and faculty the opportunity to meet highly motivated and qualified students of color. – *Potsdam*

Kwanzaa Ball - The annual Kwanzaa Ball brings people together to commemorate the African custom of Kwanzaa, which is a holiday that celebrates family, community and culture. Celebrated from December 26th – January 1st, its origins are in the first harvest celebrations of Africa from which it takes its name. It's a time for celebration of the Good, the good life of existence, the good family, the good community and culture. The evening begins with the recital and candle-lighting ceremony, followed by student talent and ending with a DJ playing nonstop music giving everyone a chance on the dance floor. – *Potsdam*

Diversity Months - Each of six months during the academic year is devoted to the celebration of a different aspect of our diversity: Hispanic Heritage Month (October), Diversity of Lifestyles Month (November), Diversity of Religions Month (December), Black History Month (February), Women's History Month (March), and Asian-American Month (April). Campus clubs and organizations join faculty and staff in developing and promoting educational, cultural, recreational, and social programs that take place during each of these months. – *Stony Brook*

Diversity Day - Diversity Day, the brainchild of the President's Student Advisory Council, was conceived as a way to bring individuals of different backgrounds together for a day of celebration and togetherness. The campus celebrates its diversity every spring semester during Strawberry Festival, with both events go hand-by-hand promoting and celebrating our strengths in our differences. Diversity Day is a time to celebrate the many dimensions of difference: culture, religion, age, sexual orientation and nationality. – *Stony Brook*

International Fiesta - This giant celebration of the different cultures that are represented at the university includes events such as a buffet and cultural show. – *University at Buffalo*

Traditions of Public Service



Traditions of Public Service

University Fest – Community members are invited to campus to sell posters and other merchandise to students to decorate their rooms and dormitories. – *Binghamton*

Make a Difference Day - In conjunction with the national Make a Difference Day, students head out into the community and volunteer their time to help local residents who are elderly and/or disabled with fall chores. This has proven to be a wonderful opportunity for students to get to know their neighbors while improving the neighborhoods in which they live. – *Canton*

9/11 Remembrance Service - A variety of activities have taken place to honor those who died on September 11, 2001. This past year's ceremony was very impressive with a large American flag hanging between two fire trucks. – *Canton (numerous 9/11 memorials are held within SUNY)*

Health Fair & Blood Drive - Sponsored by the Health Center, a blood drive and free informative health displays are set up by various community organizations. – *Canton*

Community Learning Environments - Faculty have developed student learning opportunities with members of the community in which valuable services are provided by students to the community. For example, landscape design majors construct landscape design plans for homeowners in the area. These homes are prescreened by faculty and then students interview the clients, compose their landscape designs and present them to the client as well as the faculty. Archeology majors also participate by uncovering an ongoing archeological site. In conjunction with the local Iroquois Museum, the students perform basic research that is required to fulfill several grants. Economics students and faculty provide consulting services and conduct market analysis for business in the surrounding community. – *Cobleskill*

Village of Delhi Harvest Festival and Street Fair - The campus welcomes parents and families of students to tour dormitories, academic halls, and lab facilities. Student skill demonstrations and various entertainment acts take place throughout the day. A barbeque lunch is served. The Automotive Program hosts a vintage car and motorcycle cruise-in, while the Village of Delhi Chamber of Commerce hosts the annual Harvest Festival with dozens of vendors set up on Main St to sell local crafts, produce, and art. – *Delhi*

Community Service Day - Students, faculty, and staff perform various jobs for the Village Beautification Committee, which has student teams for plantings and small projects. Fraternities perform Adopt-A-Highway work while other students visit homes for the aged to entertain the residents. – *Delhi*

Take Back the Night Walk - Students gather to express disdain for violence against women. They display poetry, art etc. – *Fredonia*

Operation Clean Sweep - Students assist community members in raking leaves. – *Fredonia*

Buffalo News Kid's Day - Students join the greater Buffalo community in selling the *Buffalo News* for one dollar as a fundraiser. – *Fredonia*

Alpha Chi Rho Deep Freeze - The Alpha Chi Rho fraternity has held their annual Deep Freeze during the chilly month of February to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The Deep Freeze lasts six days and nights during which time members of the fraternity camp out in tents on the Sturges Quad. Each

fraternity brother registers for multiple shifts during both the day and night time hours. Donations are collected prior to and during the week-long event with all proceeds going to the Rochester chapter of the American Cancer Society. This past year's Deep Freeze raised just over \$2,200. – *Geneseo*

100 Volunteers - New students volunteer in the community on Labor Day morning, helping out and making friends. Among the places that benefit from their work are the Teresa House (hospice), campus facilities, etc. – *Geneseo*

Knights Work - A Day of Caring when hundreds of students head out into Livingston and Monroe counties to clean up, build things, and otherwise help out in this annual campus-wide day of community service. – *Geneseo*

The Oh-Fest - Is an annual community street fair and concert for students as well as the entire community. – *Oneonta*

First Saturday - Together with Clarkson University, this event takes place on the first Saturday after classes begin in the fall semester. Similar to a "First Night" program for New Year's Eve, the event is designed to provide activities in the Village at various participating businesses throughout the day. The primary goal of the event is to introduce students to all of the wonderful businesses and services available to them within the Village and to encourage them to shop locally for needed items for their rooms/apartments. Another equally important goal of the event is to provide activities for students to kick off the academic year and create a welcoming environment, both on campus as well as in the local business community. Free bus transportation for students with stops on campus, downtown and Outer Main Street are provided to facilitate student participation. A concert featuring popular student bands from both colleges is also scheduled. Finally, all participating businesses are listed on a passport and students who visit at least 8 businesses are entered into a drawing to win a \$150 Village of Potsdam Shopping Spree. In keeping with the event goals, the colleges fund the shopping sprees utilizing Potsdam Chamber of Commerce Gift Certificates to ensure that students are shopping locally. One spree is awarded to a SUNY Potsdam student and one to a Clarkson University Student. – *Potsdam*

Stony Brook Day in Albany - Takes place every February since 1963. Students rally for state support to ensure the growth and development of their campus. Early on, the Student Alumni Association and the Faculty and Staff Union (UUP) took a handful of students annually to the capital on a lobbying day to express concerns and hopes for the future of the campus. As time went on, the program flourished and students, faculty, and staff joined together to showcase their campus and take an active role in showing legislators the importance of our school. The first official Stony Brook Day in Albany occurred in May 1989 and attracted about 150 students. The numbers have grown progressively since to more than 1,000 transported by a caravan of buses.

This has been one of the year's most anticipated traditions, bringing students, faculty, and staff from both sides of the campus (Main and Health Sciences Campuses) together to take part in this great advocacy day for Stony Brook. Although making a strong impression on the state legislators is the agenda, the entire day is filled with fun and food. All who attend enjoy a great sense of camaraderie and shared purpose. – *Stony Brook*

Wellness Awareness Day - It's important to take care of your health, but scheduling check-ups, exercising and eating right, and simply taking the time to find the health and wellness resources that are available locally are tasks that busy people often struggle to fit into their daily routines. The annual Wellness Awareness Day sets out to address this issue by providing free presentations and activities to

learn how to improve physical and psychological health. Local health representatives, on-campus groups and academic disciplines, such as those in the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, host informational booths, while exercise demonstrations are scheduled in areas such as *Pilates*, aerobics and yoga. Cooking demonstrations by chefs from local restaurants and supermarkets will be featured, and dieticians lead presentations on healthy eating. – *University at Buffalo*

Traditions of Recognition



Traditions of Recognition

Honors Convocation - This program is held in late spring, typically 2-3 weeks before graduation with the Vice President for Academic Affairs presiding. Among the highlights of the day include the presentation of Student Leadership Awards such as the Outstanding Senior Men & Women, Student Activities Awards, and the presentation of the Honors Scholar. Each of the college's four schools recognizes their respective students with the highest cumulative average by program. Another unique aspect of Honors Convocation is that each year the ceremony is named after outstanding faculty emeriti. – *Canton*

Honors Luncheon - A week or two before Honors Convocation, a luncheon is held for the award recipients and their guest. Recipients are asked to invite his/her favorite faculty member to be a guest at the luncheon. The keynote speaker is the honored faculty emeriti for whom the Convocation is named. – *Canton*

Student Leader Dinner - This dinner occurs at the end of each semester and is an event that honors clubs and individuals for outstanding achievement in community service, programming, and most improvement. The Presidents' Cup is awarded by Student Cooperative Alliance each spring to the outstanding club of the entire year. – *Canton*

Character Recognition Program - A program to formally recognize individuals and organizations who have demonstrated through action the virtues named in the Campus Creed (honesty, respect, responsibility, fairness, citizenship, and care). Any student, faculty or staff member may nominate another member of the campus for recognition. Normally the President or the Vice President for Student Affairs presents a certificate to the individual in the presence of the nominator. – *Canton*

Athletic Banquet - Academic awards as well as the Nicole Fleury Leadership Award and Al Chadwick Leadership Award are presented. – *Canton*

The Alfie Awards - Known as the classiest night in town, the spring Alfie Awards mimic the Academy Awards. Students, faculty and staff are awarded "Alfies" based on outstanding contributions to campus life, best radio show, performing arts accomplishments, best event marketing, community service, etc. The dress ranges from extremely formal to extremely outrageous. Again, this is organized completely by students, and all nominees and winners are chosen by students. – *Ceramics*

Undergraduate Research Forum - In April, all students who have conducted research are encouraged to participate in this event. Some research is funded by ARGUS grants (Alfred Research Grants for Undergraduate Students), by CEER (Center for Environmental and Energy Research), or by private companies. This is a great opportunity to showcase the quality of undergraduate research in all academic areas. In addition, some student affairs areas have presented research; for example, the Women's Leadership Center had a poster illustrating research on sexual harassment. – *Ceramics*

Student Affairs Recognition of Teaching Faculty - For several decades the staff and students (primarily residential assistants) have hosted a recognition luncheon for select teaching faculty. Five faculty members are chosen at the end of the academic year for this honor. Medallions are presented along with statements of accomplishment and contributions. These awards represent excellence in service to students outside of the classroom. These teaching awards have come to be highly prized by faculty as the nomination process is quite rigorous. – *Cobleskill*

Scholars Day - Held the Wednesday before Honors Convocation and is a day where students and faculty show off their research through presentations, poster sessions, etc. The alumna/us keynote speaker is the highlight of the day. Classes are canceled for all to be able to participate. – *Cortland*

Student Awards Dinner - This is an appreciation dinner for student clubs. Awards for Student of the Year, Advisor of the Year, Club of the Year, and community service recognitions are announced. – *Delhi*

Robin Hood Oak Awards - Legend and tradition hold that the stately tree behind Bray Hall grew from an acorn obtained by a faculty member from the mighty oak that sheltered Robin Hood and his band of Merry Men in England's Sherwood Forest. The first tree to be listed on the National Register of Historic Trees in the United States, it is a popular shady spot on campus, and the namesake of the coveted Robin Hood Oak Award. The Robin Hood Oak Award is presented to graduating seniors and graduate students in recognition of their outstanding service to their fellow students, the campus and the community. – *Environmental Science and Forestry*

Academic Honors Ceremonies - Each of the three Schools (Arts and Sciences, Education and Professional Studies, and Crane School of Music) has an awards ceremony at the end of the academic year to give awards, prizes, and scholarships to students. The College Honors Convocation is held on the Saturday of Commencement weekend and it honors graduating seniors who receive awards for academic performance, college service, and other activities. In addition, almost every academic department has an awards ceremony at the end of the year for that is typically an evening event with a reception following. These ceremonies are indicative of the care and concern for individual students and widespread commitment to college's mission as a highly personalized, learner-focused institution. – *Potsdam*

Celebration of Academic Excellence - Recognizes outstanding student and faculty achievement by honoring scholarly, research and creative excellence with a particular emphasis on undergraduate student accomplishments. Artistic performances by undergraduate students are also part of the program as well as poster presentations that are chosen based on input from deans, who were asked to identify and select outstanding undergraduate research and creative projects from their respective areas. – *University at Buffalo*

Linda Yalem Safety Run - Celebrating its 17th year, this run/walk sponsored by Student Affairs is to promote safety on and around campus. It is in memory of Linda Yalem and occurs on the last Sunday of September. – *University at Buffalo*



Booklet design by
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April 2008

