

On Campus

Vol. 41 No. 4 Dec. 2007

On Campus

is published monthly during the academic year by the Office of Communications and Public Relations
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If you have information on upcoming campus events or story ideas for the *On Campus* newsletter and/or for press releases and other publicity, please send them to news@niagara.edu



Save the date!

Tuesday, Dec. 18, will be the annual employees Christmas party. It will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Clet Dining Commons.

Building safety team augments emergency procedures

Niagara University has two groups responsible for planning and handling emergency situations for the campus. The first is the Committee on Crisis Management, which is responsible for setting policy and developing the university's Emergency and Disaster Plan. The second is the Crisis Response Team, which is a group of individuals prepared to play various roles in handling a campus emergency or disaster.

The CCM is currently in the process of developing a building safety team as part of the university's overall efforts to strengthen emergency preparedness. Dr. David Taylor is heading the team on behalf of the CCM.

Individuals assigned to the team will act as liaisons between the university and building occupants to disseminate information on the emergency plan and, if necessary, to assist in the event of an evacuation or the need to secure the building.

Staff members who have agreed to serve on the team and their areas of responsibility are: **Mary Anne Brown**, teacher education, Academic Complex; **Edwin Cabrera**, information technology, St. Vincent's Hall; **Regina Cecconi**, Castellani Art Museum; **Linda Coram**, academic affairs, Alumni Hall; **Maryanne DeMizio**, athletics, Dwyer Arena; **Marian Fisher**, College of Education, Academic Complex; **Virginia Garcia**, Continuing and Community Education, Dunleavy Hall; **Pat George**, facility services; **E.J. Gonser**, residence life, O'Shea Hall; **Connie Guthrie Greene**, biology, chemistry and psychology, DePaul Hall; **Wendy Herbst**, information technology, St. Vincent's Annex; **Lisa Jackson**, library; **Darlene Jones**, admissions, Bailo Hall; **Mary Kinney**, education department, Academic Complex; **Peg Lacki**, theater, Clet Hall; **Mary Matias**, athletics, upper-level Gallagher Center; **Maggie McGurk**, CIS and honors program, Marian House; **Mark**

McKibbin, hospitality services, Clet Hall; **Pam McPherson**, military science, Alumni Hall; **Elaine Morreale**, College of Business, Bisgrove Hall; **Jennifer Nagelhout** and **Deborah Parker**, campus store, Butler Building; **Bill Newton**, campus activities, Gallagher Center; **John Pastore**, document center; **Jan Reele**, Meade Hall; **Amy Smith**, human resources, Alumni Hall; **Christopher Stoj**, biochemistry, DePaul Hall.

Campus gets update on emergency procedures

Members of the university community received an update on emergency planning and communications during the fall meeting at the Castellani Art Museum. Dr. Bonnie Rose, executive vice president/vice president for academic affairs, noted that a number of measures have been taken to ensure that the campus is prepared to deal with natural disasters, human threats to security, and safety and public health issues.

Among the highlights were these:

- The campus Emergency and Disaster Plan was updated in August. An edited version of it is available on the university's Web site.
- The university has mutual support agreements with Canisius College and DePaul University. In the event of an emergency, equipment and supplies would be available from Canisius, while DePaul would assume responsibility for hosting the NU Web site. NU provided assistance to Canisius during last year's "October Surprise" storm.
- The university's emergency plan has been tested in simulated exercises. Additional tests are planned.
- Card access is being used for more campus buildings, and building access policies and practices are being updated. Closed-circuit TV monitoring is also being introduced in campus buildings.

See SAFETY, continued on page 4

Drs. William Edwards, assistant professor of biology; **Robert Greene**, chair of the department of biology; **Michael Kotarski**, associate professor of biology; **Deborah Leonard**, senior scientist and research laboratory technician; **Mary McCourt**, chair and associate professor of chemistry; **Ronny Priefer**, assistant professor of chemistry; and **Christopher S. Stoj**, assistant professor of biochemistry, attended the Rochester Academy of Sciences 34th annual Paper Session at SUNY Geneseo on Nov. 10. A number of students gave platform and poster presentations at the conference: seniors **Shella Dargout**, **Jessica Mason**, **Theresa Mihalic**, **Megan Reeb**, and **Dom Rutherford**; juniors **Sarah Brodzik**, **Megan Gombert**, **Megan Keeter**, **Cara Lucas**, and **Matthew S. Pinto**; sophomores **Ashley Bantelman**, **Mike Gallagher**, **Janelle Ludwig**, **Jamie Rogemoser**, **DiAndra Rudzinski**, and **Elizabeth Smith**. These research projects were funded in part by NU's Academic Center for Integrated Sciences.

Mustafa Gokcek, professor of history, presented at a conference on "Islam in Turkey Today" at Columbia University in New York Nov 3-4. The participants included Turkish deputies, top scholars and intellectuals in the field. The conference was widely covered on the news in Turkey. A prestigious Turkish newspaper which is published in English referred to Gokcek's presentation in a news article, which can be viewed at www.turkishdailynews.com.tr/article.php?enewsid=87821.

Dr. Brian Murphy, associate professor in the department of communication studies, presented a paper titled, "Independent/Alternative Media: Reaching a Critical Mass?" at the International Conference of the Union for Democratic Communication, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Oct. 25-28.

Mark R. Marino, lecturer in the department of mathematics, was recently elected to the board of directors of the University at Buffalo's graduate school of education alumni association.

Heather McEntarfer, writing coordinator in the office of academic support; **Sharon Green**, reading coordinator in the office; and **Dr. Rita Pollard**, adjunct professor of English, gave a presentation about the critical literacy course that they developed to administrators and English faculty at Villa Maria College in Cheektowaga in October.

Dr. Ronny Priefer, assistant professor of chemistry, and four students presented at the eighth annual Penn-York Undergraduate Student Research Conference in Houghton, N.Y., in October. Three of the following students presented posters and one gave a 20-minute oral presentation on scientific research performed over the last year: **Jeffrey St. Denis**, **Megan Baumler**, **Michelle Ingalsbe**, and **Mallory van Dongen**.

Jay Stockslader, director of the Office of Continuing and Community Education, has been accepted as a member of Leadership Niagara's class of 2008. The organization, in its 24th year, is New York state's longest operating leadership development program.

Praetzel named chair of Tourism Educators Council

Dr. Gary Praetzel, dean of the College of Hospitality and Tourism Management at Niagara University, has been elevated to the position of chairman of the New York State Hospitality and Tourism Association's Tourism Educators Council. His two-year term will begin in January of 2008.



The council is for individuals who are employed at any institution of learning in New York state offering educational courses relating to the hospitality and tourism industry.

"This (post) is a reflection of the college's practical industry applications focus that has resulted in outstanding placement rates for its students," said Dr. Praetzel. He added that the university is constantly offering programs statewide to meet the educational needs of the hospitality and tourism industry.

The College of Hospitality and Tourism Management is only the fifth college of its kind in the United States and is a national leader in study-abroad opportunities, offering a unique work-abroad program in Lake Como, Italy. The college, along with the Hotel School the Hague and The Leading Hotels of the World, is a founding member of The Leading Hotel Schools of the World.



Koperski named museum director

Kate Koperski, curator of folk art at Niagara University's Castellani Art Museum, has been named director of the on-campus educational and cultural attraction.

A native of Buffalo, Kate has served the museum since 1991, curating and developing exhibitions, workshops and performances, family activities and arts-in-education projects. She holds a Master of Arts in Humanities from the University at Buffalo.

During Kate's tenure, innovative exhibitions combining contemporary art and folk art have been a hallmark of Castellani Art Museum programming. She has also been recognized for her collaborative approach to the curatorial process.

Kate is the recipient of both a state and national award for excellence in children's programming funded by the National Endowment of the Arts, and a 1998 nominee for

Niagara University's Perboyre Medal, which recognizes extraordinary contribution and service to global society. She was honored as a 1996 Citizen of the Year by the Am-Pol Eagle, and in 1993 she received the Dorothy Mullen National Arts and Humanities Award for family arts programming.

She has served as a grant review panelist for the New York State Council on the Arts; as a regional editor of *Voices: The Journal of New York Folklore*; a review panelist for Special Opportunity Stipend Grants awarded to artists in all disciplines through the Arts Council in Buffalo and Erie County; and as a project consultant for "The Beauty of the Beast: Animal Imagery in American Folk Art," an exhibition produced by the Carnegie Art Center. She participated as a member of the curatorial team for "Beginning a New Century: Emerging Artists in Western New York," produced by the Burchfield-Penney Art Center. She is also an active member of the Cultural Alliance of Niagara.

Seven students honored with Ockerman Award

Niagara University's College of Business Administration has presented seven students with its annual Everett Ockerman Award. The award acknowledges academic excellence.

The recipients, all seniors who were chosen by the faculty, are: **Shannon Bollinger** of Gainesville, supply-chain management; **James Kelley** of Farmington, human resource management; **Christopher Leendertse** of Ancaster, Ont., marketing; **Christopher Patti** of Cheektowaga, accounting; **Michael Placito** of Rochester, economics and finance; **Michelle Urban** of Blasdell, international business; and **Mark Wilson** of Peterborough, Ont., management.

The College of Business established the Ockerman Award in 1976 in honor of the former chair of the department of commerce, who taught at Niagara from 1953 until his retirement in 1975.



STUDENTS "LYNC" UP AT NU — Niagara University hosted Leadership Niagara's youth program, LYNC, on Nov. 2. The group consisted of 34 student leaders from high schools throughout Niagara County. The students enjoyed a tour of the campus, including

the Castellani Art Museum's Underground Railroad exhibit, and participated in activities with members of the College of Education in the new Academic Complex. The students broke out into three groups to work on assigned topics and then presented their solutions/outcomes to the whole group during lunch. Students from the Eagle Leadership Program were paired up with the LYNC students as mentors and enjoyed lunch and watched the presentations with them.

Alumni of Distinction

Nominations for the 2008 class of Niagara Legacy — Alumni of Distinction are now being accepted. You can obtain a nomination form on the Eagle's Nest at www.niagaraalumni.com or by calling Amy at the alumni office at ext. 8787. All nominations must be received by March 31, 2008.

- Plans to deal with violence and emergency medical situations on campus are also being updated.
- Campus emergency communications have also been enhanced with the addition of digital signage, improved residence hall public address systems and building teams.

Emergency plan designed to protect lives, property

Niagara University's Emergency and Disaster Plan is a comprehensive document that outlines procedures designed to protect lives and property through the effective use of university and community resources. The plan, which was last updated in August of 2007, outlines the responsibilities of various university personnel who are charged with planning for or responding to campus emergencies. These include members of the Committee on Crisis Management, the Crisis Response Team and the Data Recovery Team.

The CCM is responsible for overall development and maintenance of the Emergency and Disaster Plan, while the CRT is charged with the implementation of measures designed to respond to particular emergencies or disasters. The Data Recovery Team is charged with protecting important university records in the event computer systems fail because of power outages, hardware and software failures, fires or floods.

The plan lists a number of possible emergency situations, including inclement weather, fire, utility failure, bomb threats and earthquakes, and outlines the procedures to be followed in responding to them. Evacuation procedures are also outlined, as are procedures for assisting individuals with disabilities. Alternate campus shelters are also identified.

Also included in the plan are separate plans for the library and Castellani Art Museum.

Those wishing to view an edited version of the plan may do so by accessing the Web site index and clicking on "Emergency and Disaster Plan."

Several communication vehicles available to alert campus

In the event of an emergency, several vehicles of communication would be employed to alert the campus community about potential danger or, in the event of weather-related problems, to disseminate school-closing information.

Remember, dial 9911 to access off-campus help from on-campus phones

Most recently added to the list of available options is a text-messaging alert system. Employees and students can sign up for it by updating their personal profile on the myNU section of the university's Web site. Cell phone numbers and alternate e-mail addresses can be entered as part of your contact information.

The Web site itself is a good source for emergency information. In the event of a crisis or emergency, advisories will be posted on the front page of the site for easy access and viewing.

The campus e-mail and voice-mail systems are also used to transmit urgent information, as are the new digital display screens located in major buildings across the campus.

The three Buffalo television stations, channels 2, 4 and 7, and most of the popular radio stations in Western New York and Ontario also carry

emergency snow-closing information. Radio station WBEN, 930 on the AM dial, is a timely and reliable source for such information.

"Wash your hands" best advice against MRSA

"Wash your hands!"

This common germ-fighting remedy has been a popular refrain of parents and health professionals from time immemorial. And it is being repeated frequently today in the wake of isolated cases of MRSA among students in schools and colleges in various parts of the country.

MRSA, the abbreviation for methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus, "was one of the first germs to outwit all but the most powerful drugs," according to MayoClinic dot com. It can cause serious illness and even death, especially in older adults and people who are ill or have weakened immune systems.

To date, Niagara University has experienced no cases of the infection among the student body. Nevertheless, health service professionals are addressing it, but from the standpoint of prevention. Information has been prepared and distributed to residence halls, the athletics department and the Kiernan Center, and an educational session was conducted in the Gallagher Center, according to Joe Cuda, dean of student affairs.

A special disinfectant is also being used to clean bathrooms, showers and locker rooms on a daily basis, according to Cuda.

Meanwhile, the Mayo Clinic Web site offers the following common-sense precautions to reduce the risk of contracting the infection:

- **Wash your hands.** Careful hand washing remains your best defense against germs. Scrub hands briskly for at least 15 seconds, then dry

Library swaps fines for food this holiday season

How does a fine at the NU library turn into a food donation? Very easily during this time of giving. By contributing canned or boxed food items from now until Dec. 19, the library will waive \$2 of your fines for every item you contribute. The library will also accept donations even if you do not owe fines. The donations will go to the needy in our area.

Please note, though, that the fine amnesty does not apply to lost book charges and Ramen noodles will not be accepted for donation.

For more information, log on to <http://nulibrary.blogspot.com/>.



Niagara University welcomes the following individual who recently joined our community: **Michelle Skiba**, part-time reference librarian.

NU mourns

Stephen G. Baker, brother of **Bill Baker**, director of hospitality services — Nov. 5.

Rebecca Duke, mother of **Greg Duke**, senior research associate in the Office of Institutional Advancement — Nov. 19.

them with a disposable towel and use another towel to turn off the faucet. Carry a small bottle of hand sanitizer containing at least 62 percent alcohol for times when you don't have access to soap and water.

- **Keep personal items personal.** Avoid sharing personal items such as towels, sheets, razors, clothing and athletic equipment. MRSA spreads on contaminated objects as well as through direct contact.
- **Keep wounds covered.** Keep cuts and abrasions clean and covered with sterile, dry bandages until they heal. The pus from infected sores may contain MRSA, and keeping wounds covered will help keep the bacteria from spreading.
- **Shower after athletic games or practices.** Shower immediately after each game or practice. Use soap and water. Don't share towels.
- **Sit out athletic games or practices if you have a concerning infection.** If you have a wound that's draining or appears infected — for example is red, swollen, warm to the touch or tender — consider sitting out athletic games or practices until the wound has healed.
- **Sanitize linens.** If you have a cut or sore, wash towels and bed linens in a washing machine set to the "hot" water setting (with added bleach, if possible) and dry them in a hot dryer. Wash gym and athletic clothes after each wearing.
- **Get tested.** If you have a skin infection that requires treatment, ask your doctor if you should be tested for MRSA. Doctors may prescribe drugs that aren't effective against antibiotic-resistant staph, which delays treatment and creates more resistant germs. Testing specifically for MRSA may get you the specific antibiotic you need to effectively treat your infection.
- **Use antibiotics appropriately.** When you're prescribed an antibiotic, take all of the doses, even if the infection is getting better. Don't stop until your doctor tells you to stop. Don't share antibiotics with others or save unfinished antibiotics for another time. Inappropriate use of antibiotics, including not taking all of your prescription and overuse, contributes to resistance. If your infection isn't improving after a few days of taking an antibiotic, contact your doctor.

Accessing help through your telephone

- Remember, when calling 911 from on-campus phones, you must dial a 9 first to access an outside line.
- Use your cell phone as an emergency tool by putting "ICE" (in case of emergency) contact numbers on your phone. Program the acronym "ICE" before the names and numbers of family members or friends who know your important medical conditions so EMTs, the police or hospital staff can contact them if you are unable to respond.

Border moves to O'Shea

Border Community SERVICE has moved from Roosevelt House to offices in the basement of O'Shea Hall, Rooms B-12 to B-15. The new phone number is 286-8010; the fax number is 286-8016. The Web site and e-mail addresses remain the same.

The Academic Senate met on Oct. 22 and Nov. 12.

At October's meeting, the Senate received reports from all its standing committees. It named members to the new Academic Integrity Board and college ombudspersons to serve under the policy. The new policy can be found on myNU, under Academic Integrity. If you would like further information, or have any questions, please contact Dr. Marilyn Fleckenstein, the chair of the AIB. She can be reached at mpf@niagara.edu or at ext. 8360.

Also at the October meeting, Matt Villnave gave a presentation on the new University and Colleges Accountability Network. This is an online system developed by the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities to provide information on member schools to the public. The site is an interesting source of information about NU, and comparisons with other institutions. It can be accessed at www.ucan-network.org.

Minutes of the October meeting are now available on myNU.

The following are the Academic Integrity Board members and ombudspersons.

Academic Integrity Board 2007-08: **Connie J. Shields**, nursing; **Marilyn Deighton**, theater; **Walt Steiner**, biology; **Kevin Blair**, social work; **Barry Donner**, business; **Lisa Kilanowski-Press**, school psychology; **Fr. Steve Denig**, educational leadership and counseling; **William Frye**, hospitality and tourism.

Academic Integrity Ombudspersons 2007-08: **Ronny Priefer**, chemistry; **Mary Ellen Bardsley**, teacher education; **Jim Kling**, supply chain management; **Mike Gentile**, hospitality and tourism.

At its November meeting, the Senate again received reports from standing committees. The main item of business for the meeting was a strategic planning session with Dr. Judy Willard. Among the topics discussed were the role of the Senate, and the need to streamline committees on campus with better information on "who does what."

Minutes of the November meeting will be posted after they are approved at the Dec. 10 meeting.



CELEBRATING DAY OF THE DEAD — Students from the campus club *Beinvenidos* marked *Dia De Los Muertos*, or the Day of the Dead, Nov. 1, with a Mexican cultural celebration. It featured a feast complete with hard and soft shell tacos and *flon*, a Mexican dessert. *Dia De Los Muertos* is a holiday celebrated mainly in Mexico and the Mexican immigrant community living in the United States. The Mexican celebration occurs on Nov. 1.

Smoke out at NU

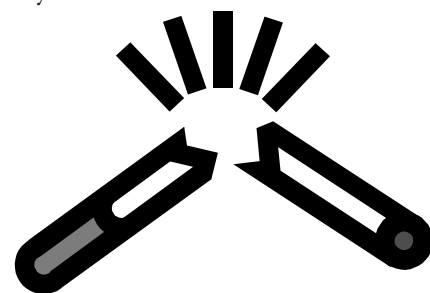
The Smoker's Challenge that began Nov. 15 as part of the the Great American Smoke-Out raised over \$170 for the American Cancer Society. More than 60 individuals donated the funds by sponsoring challenge participants Don Smith, controller; Dan Guariglia, director of facility services; and Jennifer Sutor, interim director of human resources, in their quest to stop smoking.

"We thank you for your support and encouragement in our effort to become healthier individuals," they said in a joint statement to the university community. The three supporters who won turkeys by participating in the adoptions were: Dale Curry, carpenter in facilities services, for Dan Guariglia; Maria Hamilton, senior business services technician, for Don Smith; and Herm Platt, director of media resources, for Jennifer Sutor.

The smoking challenge is part of other university-funded wellness programs, including:

- Smoking cessation clinics on campus in January 2008
- Employee Assistance Program services from Triple Track effective Jan. 1, 2008, for all full-time faculty members
- Pilates and spinning classes

For more information, log onto myNU.



Sports Section

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On
Campus

NU baseball ranks high in NCAA academics

Niagara University's baseball team has been ranked by the NCAA in the top 10 percent of all Division 1 baseball programs in Academic Progress Rate. The rankings are based on data from 2005-06. In 2004-05, the women's cross country and women's ice hockey teams fell into the same category.

The baseball team garnered a multiyear APR of 984. The rate awards two points each term to student-athletes who meet academic-eligibility standards and who remain with the institution. A team's APR is the total points earned by the team at a given time divided by the total points possible.

The APR was developed as a more real-time assessment of teams' academic performance. The NCAA member colleges and universities adopted this comprehensive academic reform package, which is designed to improve the academic success and graduation of all student-athletes.

For more information on NU APR score, log on to: http://web1.ncaa.org/app_data/apr2006/482_2006_apr.pdf.

CAPTAIN CARUANA HITS CENTURY MARK—Niagara University honored men's hockey captain Matt Caruana (right) for reaching the 100-career-point plateau. The senior was feted prior to the Purple Eagles Nov. 16 game against Sacred Heart University. Caruana potted two goals as NU shut out Robert Morris 4-0 on Nov. 9 at RMU Island Sports Center to hit the century milestone. Head coach Dave Burkholder (left) presented the puck to Caruana during the on-ice ceremony at Dwyer Arena.

Over the past month, two other Purple Eagles have set career milestones on the court. Men's basketball forward Charron Fisher became the 39th member of the 1,000-point club with his first basket of the season against Central Michigan, and Raelean Rush of the women's volleyball team earned 1,000 kills in her final collegiate match, a 3-1 victory over St. Peter's.



"BANNER" NIGHT FOR MEN'S HOOPS—Niagara University's men's basketball team kicked off the 2007-08 season in style by raising a banner marking the Purple Eagles' appearance in the 2007 NCAA tournament. The Rev. Joseph L. Levesque, C.M., Niagara University president, helped to unveil the banner prior to tip-off.

The Purple Eagles went on to defeat Central Michigan University 79-73 in front of 2,400 fans, which included the University of Dayton Pep Band. The group made the trip to Monteaugle Ridge, rejoining the hoopsters after it tagged along during last season's postseason run.

By Father John Maher, C.M.

The “Reason for the Season”

Someone once told me that beginnings and endings are always untidy. University life seems to bear out the truth of that dictum. No matter how well we prepare, May and September always seem fairly chaotic times. December is no exception, especially when factoring in the stress of the holiday season.

That’s why Advent can be a special time of year — one that calls us to lift ourselves beyond the “conventional wisdom” of how we *should* be (busy, stressed, shopped and Christmassed-out) to what we *can* be: focused, faith-filled, and waiting patiently for God. Making that shift is not easy. Everything around us and within us seems to contradict it as we “prepare” ourselves to “celebrate” the holidays. A commonly heard refrain often heard after Christmas is: “Thank God it only comes once a year!”

Advent is a time in which we are given a “pause” and (if I can steal an advertising line), it is meant to be the “pause that refreshes.” The readings, hymns, and liturgy of Advent give us a true focus on the “reason for the season” God — with us — Emmanuel. And looking at our world today, isn’t it needed now more than ever?

How to do this? I make a simple suggestion this Advent: stop into Alumni Chapel for a few moments at lunch, between meetings or class to reflect on one of the four weekly Advent themes highlighted on the altar. They are: **Watch ... Prepare ... Wait ... Rejoice.** Each of these themes contains a nugget of truth and faith for how we can better live our lives not only now, but all throughout the year. And in these few moments of quiet, we can reflect on two simple questions: How well do I live this theme in my life today? What do I need from God to help me live it better?

A friend once told me to pray to be liberated from the “tyranny of the shoulds.” Maybe this Advent can be a time of liberation from obligation to oblation — the true offering of all we have and all we can be before the Lord. The Psalmist said it best: “What return can I make to the Lord for all the good done for me?” (Ps. 115:12) Now there’s a questions without beginning or end, wonderfully “untidy” but well worth asking!

NU issues commercial challenge

Niagara University launched the 2007-08 Commercial Challenge, a contest for current students to make 60-second television commercials to promote the university to prospective students. The top 10 entries will be posted on the university’s Web site.

Entries will be judged on creativity, originality of idea, and technical quality. Judging the competition will be Fred Heuer, assistant vice president for marketing; Dr. Mark Barner, chair of the department of communication studies; Jan Terry, president of The Brockden Group; and the director and production coordinator for Niagara’s current commercials.

“This commercial challenge is one of the many ways we get our students involved with hands-on experience as part of their academic studies,” said Heuer.

Barner added, “Participating in a challenge like this is not only a great way for students to learn or refresh their video production skills, but an impressive piece to add to their resumes and portfolios for later job opportunities.”



NU GIVES BACK— Students in Niagara University’s Leadership and Team Development class held a series of fundraisers for two needy families in Niagara County. The fundraiser was part of a project in the class, which is taught by Mitchell Alegre. In three weeks, the students raised over \$2,000 that went toward Christmas gifts for 11 children in the two separate families.



Employee of the Month: Kris Schrader

Kris Schrader, library technical assistant, has been named employee of the month for November 2007. Kris, a native of Sanborn, joined the university in September 1997 as a part-time night supervisor in the library. In September 1999, she accepted the full-time position of library technical assistant.

Kris' upbeat personality and exceptional customer service skills were mentioned in several nominations. "These qualities are especially important at times when she is called upon to work in the circulation department, which is the 'front line' of customer/student service," a nomination said.

Kris' supervisor commented that one of her best qualities is her attitude. "She is always upbeat, positive and friendly," he said. "She goes out of her way to assist others, whether it's fellow workers, students or faculty." Kris also has an excellent sense of detail and can be counted on to do high quality work, another nomination stated.

NU partners with Niagara County Health Department

Nurses from the Niagara County Department of Health and faculty of Niagara's nursing department collaborated to offer a workshop to NU's nursing students on Oct. 12 at the Niagara County Public Safety Training Building in Lockport.

Also represented at the program were members of New York's state and regional departments of health, including the county's public health educator, Claudia Kurtzworth. The goals of the workshop were to increase students' overall understanding of public health and how the state, region and local areas work together, and to clarify the role of public health nurses. A variety of topics was presented, including an overview of public health nursing, environmental health, public health preparedness in emergency situations, health education, and the program for children with special developmental needs.

In addition to students from NU's BS nursing completion program, school nurses, public health nurses, other health department care providers, and Jill Shuey, director of NU's Community Outreach Partnership Center, attended the session.



THEATER Q&A — Actor David Hyde Pierce (right), best known for his role as Niles Crane on the television series "Frasier," director Scott Ellis (left), and actor Debra Monk met with NU theater students for a question-and-answer period in the Leary Theater prior to the theater convocation that honored them for excellence.

Preferred Merchant Program: Book store added

Bob's Olde Books in Lewiston is the latest addition to NU's preferred merchant program. The store, operated by NU alum and adjunct professor Bob Giannetti, is located on 480 Center St. Niagara students, faculty and staff are entitled to a 10 percent discount. For more information, call 861-9741.

NU CCE helps secure EMS training class

An elite emergency response training squad from Texas A&M put on a three-day training session in the area, thanks to Niagara University. Jay Stockslader, director of continuing and community education, partnered with John Malinchock, assistant chief of the Upper Mountain Volunteer Fire Department, to secure the "Emergency Medical Services Operation and Planning for Weapons of Mass Destruction" training session at Upper Mountain Fire Hall in Lewiston Oct. 19 to 21.

The session was made for the Town of Lewiston's Department of Hazardous Materials, which includes all four volunteer fire companies. The program consisted of facilitated discussions, small-group exercises, hands-on activities, and task-oriented applications using both adult and pediatric training mannequins. The Texas A&M team, which provides training programs for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, came away impressed with the way the local sessions went.

Coming Events

Castellani Art Museum

Now through Feb. 17, 2008 — “**Beyond in Western New York,**” featuring new work by Jay Carrier, A.J. Fries and Kurt Von Voetsch.

Now through Jan. 13, 2008 — “**To Market: Changing Strategies for Family Farming on the Niagara Frontier.**” The heart of this exhibition will focus on the “art” of farm marketing: architecture, signage, and display techniques that encourage people to stop, look and purchase.

Now through Jan. 13, 2008 — “**Rural America: Remembering the Family Farm — Prints from the Collection of Steven Schmidt**” provides visitors with an historical look at the evolution of the family farm. Depicting elements of invention, architecture, and production, artists have captured the American spirit through the print medium.

Now through Jan. 20, 2008 — “**Dorothy Fitzgerald: Take the Next Right onto Roller Coaster Road.**” This exhibition of new paintings by Buffalo artist Dorothy Fitzgerald is part of the CAM’s TopSpin series sponsored by Tops Markets. In these large-scale paintings, Fitzgerald reflects on her experience of undergoing a double hip replacement.

Museum hours: Tues.–Sat. 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Sundays 1–5 p.m. To learn more about the Castellani Art Museum’s classes, exhibitions and special events, call

286-8200 or visit www.niagara.edu/cam/. To view a calendar of events, visit www.niagara.edu/cam/calendar/calendar.html.

NU Theater

Dec. 6-16 — “**Birth and After Birth**” at the Church in Lewiston. The joy and terrors of parenthood are explored in the wildly comic tale by Tina Howe.

For NU Theater ticket information, call the box office at 286-8622.

Niagara University Athletics

Men’s Basketball

Dec. 22 vs. Marist 1 p.m.

Women’s Basketball

Dec. 17 vs. Cleveland State 7 p.m.

Dec. 20 vs. Jacksonville 11 a.m.

Men’s Hockey

Dec. 12-13 vs. Wayne State 7:05 p.m.

Dec. 30 vs. Canisius 7 p.m.

(at Buffalo State College)

For information about the exciting athletic events held on and off campus, visit www.purpleeagles.com.

NU to host seventh annual conference on teaching and learning

Niagara University’s Committee on College Teaching and Learning will host “Strategies for Student Engagement in Higher Education,” on Jan. 10 and 11, 2008, in St. Vincent’s Hall, fourth floor. The conference keynote speaker and facilitator will be Dr. Milton D. Cox, director of the Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching at Miami University of Ohio.

Educators from the United States and Canada are invited to contribute their experience and expertise with active and integrative learning in its many varieties and how it is best encouraged and assessed.

Niagara University is sponsoring the conference that will showcase various facets of active and integrative learning,

exploring practical ways that faculty and academic leaders can build engagement strategies into their courses and describe curricula and programs that encourage student engagement within and across fields of study.

Cox founded and directs the Lily Conference on College Teaching. He is also the founder and editor-in-chief of the Journal on Excellence in College Teaching. Cox is co-editor of the book, Building Faculty Learning Communities. He is the recipient of the C.C. MacDuffee Award for distinguished service to Pi Mu Epsilon, the national mathematics honorary society.

For more information about the conference, contact Dr. Peggy Choong at ext. 8168, or pmc@niagara.edu.