NU’s nursing program receives national accreditation

Niagara University’s new baccalaureate completion program in nursing has been accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, the accrediting arm of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

The accreditation, which was granted for the maximum five-year period for a new program, followed a self-study by the university’s nursing department and a site visit by a three-member team representing the commission.

Established in the fall 2006 with the approval of the New York State Education Department, Niagara’s program offers nurses holding an associate degree in nursing the opportunity to complete their Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. The first four graduates of the program will receive their degrees at commencement exercises May 18.

“This is an important achievement in the development of our program. It demonstrates Niagara’s commitment to excellence in nursing education and is a great benefit to our graduates in going on to pursue graduate studies,” said Dr. Frances Crosby, chair of NU’s department of nursing. She noted that nurses seeking a master’s degree have more opportunities if they have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited program.

Officially recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as a national accreditation agency, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education ensures the quality and integrity of baccalaureate and graduate nursing programs by assessing and identifying those that engage in effective educational practices.

NU’s degree-completion program is designed with the working nurse in mind, offering flexible scheduling, full- or part-time studies and discounted tuition, while maintaining excellence in quality. Applications are now being accepted for the fall term. For further information on the program, log on to: www.niagara.edu/nursing.

To read more about what the department has been up to, turn to page 6.

Sarah Brand named student employee of the year

Sarah Brand, a student worker in the Kiernan Center, has been named Niagara University student employee of the year for 2008. A senior elementary education/special education major from Gloversville, she has worked in the center for three years.

Brand has successfully facilitated and supervised a wide array of areas at the Kiernan Center, including facility maintenance, program administration, jobs training, and new-program development.

Sarah Brand, Niagara University student employee of the year for 2008, with John Spanbauer (center), director of the Kiernan Center, and Joe Meyer, the center’s assistant director of recreation and intramurals.

See BRAND, continued on page 5
Dr. Brian Bennett, associate professor of religious studies, presented at Sociolinguistics Symposium 17, held at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam on April 3-5. The Sociolinguistics Symposia are held every other year and are billed as “Europe’s leading international conference on language in society.” His paper discussed the connections between orthography and religious orthodoxy in 20th-century Russian history.

Dr. Roselind Bogner, assistant professor in the department of educational leadership and counseling, organized a full day of career awareness activities on April 19 for 13 elementary and middle school students who participate in the Niagara Liberty Partnerships Program. The school counseling and mental health counseling graduate students in EDU664 Career Counseling were given the unique opportunity to apply the concepts and skills acquired during the semester through a one-on-one hands-on experience with children. As an ice breaker activity, the students played the Career Exploration Board Game, which provided information about education and careers. The graduate students demonstrated counseling skills by interpreting an interest inventory to one elementary or middle school student. Dr. Bogner provided instruction on two interactive Web sites specializing in addressing the career development needs of middle school children. Then the graduate students individually assisted the children to log on to the two career Web sites so they could utilize them at home or school in order to further increase their knowledge about the world of work and career planning. Courtney Oke and Jenna Rash, school counseling graduate students working in the career development center, assisted in administering and scoring the interest inventories. The day included lunch in Clet Hall, a campus tour, swimming, and the NU girls’ softball game. Teachers from the Niagara Falls School district will do follow-up activities with the children based on what they learned in Dr. Bogner’s class.

Dr. William Cliff, associate professor of biology, was an invited speaker at the symposium, “Is formative assessment an effective way to improve learning?” It was sponsored by the American Physiological Society Teaching Section at the Experimental Biology meetings held in San Diego, Calif., April 4–8. His talk was entitled “Concept mapping as a window into student understanding.”

Marilyn Deighton, professor of costume technology and design in the department of theater and fine arts, attended the United States Institute for Theater Technology Conference which was held in Houston from March 19–22. She was one of 30 presenters for the Costume Design and Technology Commission's poster session. Her presentation, “Adjustable Petticoats,” included a display featuring patterns and examples of the petticoats made by NU students this past year and a handout with detailed instructions on how to assemble the petticoats. The session was attended by more than 400 members of the costume commission and other attendees of the convention.

The Rev. Stephen J. Denig, C.M., Ed.D., was elected program chair at the annual meeting of the National Assessment of Educational Progress Data SIG of the American Educational Research Association, held in New York City on March 26.

Sharon Green, reading coordinator in the Office of Academic Support, presented a workshop entitled “Surviving and Succeeding in College,” at Transitions: A Conference for Women Returning to School, sponsored by the Buffalo chapter of the American Association of University Women in April.

Dr. Robert Kane, assistant professor of history, gave a seminar on teaching about Japan to a group of local teachers on March 15. The seminar was part of the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia series, through which university faculty present the latest and most effective methodologies on Asian studies to secondary school teachers, who then integrate them into their curricula.

He also presented a peer-reviewed paper entitled, “The Specter of the Shogunate: Restorationism in Japanese Political Rhetoric from Late Meiji to Early Showa,” at the Association for Asian Studies annual meeting in Atlanta on April 4, and was an invited commentator on a paper presented by Jun Saito, an assistant professor of government at Franklin and Marshall College, on “Leadership Transition in Japan and Japanese Foreign Policy” at the Foreign Policy Research Institute’s conference on “Elections, Political Transitions and Foreign Policy in East Asia,” held on April 14 in Philadelphia, and Web cast internationally.

Ronny Priefer, assistant professor of chemistry, led a group of Niagara chemistry students in presenting at the 62nd annual Eastern Colleges Science Conference hosted by Niagara University on April 12. Undergraduate college students from
across the eastern United States presented in either a paper, poster, or oral format. At the end of the conference there was a banquet at which time awards were presented in various judged categories. Of the approximate 20 awards given, NU won six — the most of all attending colleges. Three awards were won by students doing their research in Priefer’s lab. Jeffrey St. Denis won for best oral presentation in chemistry for his work on “Work towards the total synthesis of the novel isoflavone 5,4’-dihydroxy-8-(3,3-dimethylallyl)-2’-methoxyisopropyl-furan[4,5-6,7] isoflavone isolated from the species Erythrina variegata.” Michelle Ingalsbe and Jeffrey St. Denis each won awards for paper submission entitled “Study of the Structure-Activity-Relationship (SAR) of Tetrabutylammonium Counter-Anions as Antimicrobial Agents and in Combination with Salts” and “The Structure Activity Relationship of Para-Substituted Phenol Derivatives on Model Gram Positive and Gram Negative Bacteria: Development of a Novel Assay and Relationship of Lipophilicity to Activity” respectively.

Dr. Todd Schoepflin, chair of Niagara University’s sociology department, was honored on April 7 with the university’s Excellence in Teaching Award. A native of Niagara Falls, Schoepflin has taught at Niagara University since January 1999. He earned a B.A. in psychology from SUNY Fredonia in 1994 and attended graduate school at Stony Brook University, earning an M.A. in sociology in 1997 and a Ph.D. in 2004. He and his wife, Tina, have a 6-month-old son, Troy.

Who or what inspired you to become a teacher?
My college professors at SUNY Fredonia. My professors always were enthusiastic. They were innovative in their teaching methods. They cared about their students. They just seemed to really enjoy their profession.

How would you describe your teaching style?
Everything I do is intended to elicit participation. I try not to lecture. I prefer to moderate discussions. I believe there is great value in having students listen to the viewpoints of their peers.

What teaching tools can’t you do without?
A VHS/DVD player. I frequently show excerpts from documentaries and movies. It’s one of my main tools for generating discussions. YouTube is one of my favorite tools these days. If someone had described YouTube to me 10 years ago, I would not have believed that such a thing would ever exist. It is a valuable tool for finding video clips that pertain to the subject matter in my courses.

How do you define excellence in teaching?
Developing critical thinking skills and instilling a love of learning for the sake of learning.

What would your students be surprised to find out about you?
I tend to be shy when I’m not in the classroom. As a professor I’m very outgoing, but I’m often shy in social situations. I like to hang back and observe people rather than jump in and interact.

What is the most important thing you’d like your students to learn from you?
Be mindful of John Lennon’s insight that “Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans.” Once in a while, I tell my students to remember the “P’s”: be prepared, productive, positive, and persistent.

If you weren’t a teacher, what would you be?
A stay-at-home dad.
The Castellani Art Museum is proud to participate in Tops Markets Cash for Causes Program. Purchasing Tops gift cards at the Castellani will benefit the museum’s educational and public programs. Each time you buy a gift card, the museum receives 5 percent of the proceeds. Tops cards make great gifts for graduations, birthdays or just to say thank you. Gift cards available in $10, $25 and $50 denominations. For more information, call Susan Clements at ext. 8201 or e-mail sclements@niagara.edu.

On Campus:

Take a look around the next time you are at a major Niagara University event; you will most likely see a man with a video camera. That’s Rich Previte, technical operations manager in media resources. Rich, a 1986 NU graduate, has been working at NU since 1991. He has documented many Niagara happenings and has helped produce many of the university’s videos. Rich is also very busy working at his church, First Assembly of God, in Niagara Falls.

On Campus: As technology has changed over the years, how has the department of media resources changed?

Rich Previte: There are now more options for teachers and students to use technology to help them teach and learn. Technology, as well as our department, is more accessible and user friendly because of this.

OC: How does what you are doing at NU translate to your church life?

RP: Aside from being a deacon and being a worship team leader, I am one of a few people at the church that is helping launch a video and multimedia ministry. We are making short videos that will help advance the pastor’s message, as well as doing promotional material for the church.

OC: You are also making your pastor’s messages available for download?

RP: Yes. Parishioners will have the opportunity to hear the pastor’s sermon. It’s a natural extension for the church. We aren’t compromising the message; we are just trying to reach people in a different way. This also makes the message more accessible to the next generation.

OC: You seem to be carrying the Vincentian ideals in your work at the church. That must give you great pride.

RP: I get to help lay the foundation for kids in Niagara Falls with a positive message. If I can help promote the family and community in such a way that it helps, then that is worth it. Ultimately, I want to help people have a closer relationship with God.

To learn more about Rich and what he does at NU, log on to: www.niagara.edu/media/index.htm.

Geraldine (Gerri) C. Goerke has joined the Office of Institutional Advancement as regional major gifts officer for the tri-state area. She will be responsible for identification, cultivation, solicitation, and stewardship of an assigned portfolio of major-gift prospects in and around New York City.

Goerke’s most recent position was with Steelcase Inc., where she was senior sales management executive and New York regional manager. She completed her undergraduate degree at Marquette University and received a certificate in grant making and foundations from New York University.

Goerke will be based in Scarsdale, N.Y., where she resides with her husband.

BERKELEY LAB EXPERT VISITS NU
—Dr. Terry Hazen, senior staff scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in California, delivered the Thomas Morton Lecture on April 11. His lecture was titled “Bioremediation: the Hope and the Hype of Environmental Cleanup.” The lecture series was established by Jack Hughes, M.D., a 1967 alumnus of NU, in memory of the late Dr. Thomas Morton, a longtime professor of biology.
Niagara University will host a campus CERT Train-the-Trainer course for three full days May 20-22. The course is funded by the Department of Homeland Security and will be taught by instructors from Michigan State University. The purpose of the course is to make a campus CERT sustainable by members of that campus community.

Registrations for the course have exceeded the class limit (50). Teams will attend from Niagara, UB, Buffalo State, Medaille, ECC and possibly Canisius and NCCC. The course will also be attended by representatives from San Francisco State, Auburn University, Saginaw State University, Jamestown Community College, Monroe Community College and others.

Several local first responder agencies, including fire and police departments from Niagara Falls, Lockport, North Tonawanda, and Buffalo, have registered participants.

More information can be found at www.c-cert.msu.edu.

BUFFALO CATHOLIC MIDDLE SCHOOLS EXPERIENCE NU — Eighth graders from three Buffalo Catholic middle schools visited NU on April 18 to get a taste of the college experience. Each group went through a variety of activities, including learning about study abroad, the Castellani Art Museum, and what it is like to live on campus.

Employee of the Month: Edwin Cabrera

Edwin Cabrera, ’03, student system administrator in the department of information technology, has been named employee of the month for April. Cabrera has been an employee of Niagara University since December 2003, when he was hired as a full-time computer support analyst. In 2004, he was named the student services coordinator; he became the student system administrator in 2007.

Cabrera is known throughout the Niagara University community as being a very helpful person. A nomination commented, “Edwin always seeks the best solutions for us, not the easiest solution for him.” Another nomination noted his cheerful offering to complete tasks that the award seeks to acknowledge.

Cabrera’s family recently welcomed twins into the world. Having two newborns at home has proved to be a challenge, but his ability to remain focused on his duties was mentioned in several nominations. “The opening of the new academic complex presented many challenges for Edwin,” a nomination noted. “He has done a great job despite having twins at the same time.”

BRAND, continued from page 1

For the last two years, Brand has been the coordinator for swimming lessons. She has worked closely with NU’s ROTC program to provide training to cadets who needed to improve their swimming skills. In addition, she upgraded the swim program to help children with special needs. She is also in charge of the registration process for the center’s annual summer camp.

“Sarah does whatever it takes to get the job done,” said John Spanbauer, director of the Kiernan Center. “If it requires extra time, she is there without complaint, accomplishing the tasks as needed.”

A member of Phi Theta Kappa honor society, Brand coaches Special Olympics swimming and volunteers as a support staff member for the organization. She also serves as a big sister for “Big Brothers/Big Sisters.”

Brand will graduate from Niagara in May 2008 and pursue a graduate degree in literacy from the university in the fall.

NU mourns

Mary Agugliaro, mother of Marian Fisher, secretary to the dean of the College of Education, April 8.

Mary Barbara DiLascia, sister of Bill Baker, general manager of Hospitality Services, April 23.

Paula Irene Gagnon, sister of Marian Granfield, education coordinator at the Castellani Art Museum, April 24.
Our first group of nursing students has completed the final course in the nursing major: a clinical internship. The students were linked with preceptors at area health-care facilities which were selected to meet their individual goals and the course objectives. Students have been at Roswell Park Cancer Institute; the 9th Street Community Health Center, part of Mt. St. Mary’s Hospital; a Niagara Falls-area elementary school; and at Erie County Medical Center.

They have initiated, offered and evaluated special projects to “test out” their new learning and integrate it with their existing skills. One student has participated in creating an electronic medical record program for a specific area of nursing. Another has participated in the startup of a palliative care unit at Roswell. A third created an educational module for elementary schools regarding HIV prevention.

One of the Roswell interns examined the role of preceptor from the new nurse perspective; a hot topic as conditions to support nurse retention is really an issue with the current shortage of nurses at area facilities. Their projects have made a definite contribution to the clinical site as well as serving as valued learning experiences. The results were discussed at the department’s “Nursing Presentation Day” on April 25.

We are very excited and proud that our first four students will be graduating this May; they started in the BS completion program in fall 2006. They have moved right along, while continuing to work full time, and managing the complexities of family responsibilities.

They are outstanding in their dedication to the completion of their education. They deserve our hearty congratulations!

Dr. Frances Crosby, chairperson of the department of nursing at Niagara University, has been named a Nurse of Distinction by the Professional Nurses Association of Western New York and The Buffalo News.

The award recognizes a registered professional nurse who has demonstrated significant achievement in nursing practice, leadership and participation in activities that foster a positive public image of nursing as a profession.

Dr. Crosby, a 1967 graduate of NU’s former College of Nursing, was an active participant in shaping the university’s new bachelor’s degree completion program. She is also president of Gamma Theta, Niagara’s chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, the International Honor Society of Nursing.

Dr. Fran Crosby named a Nurse of Distinction

Busy time for new department of nursing

By Dr. Fran Crosby, chairperson, department of nursing

SISTER NORA RUNS AGAIN! Sister Nora Gatto, D.C., NU’s executive director of mission and ministry, is in training for the Buffalo Half Marathon to be held on Sunday, May 25. Sister Nora is running in memory of Sister Hilary Davis, D.C., a former social worker at Mt. St. Mary’s Hospital’s 9th Street clinic, who died in November 2007. Sister Nora is running to raise money for the Niagara Falls clinic. Here, she prepares for the event by working out at World Gym in Niagara Falls.

NU RETIREES GET TOGETHER FOR LUNCH — Niagara University treated over 40 retirees to a luncheon in their honor on April 25 in the Statler Dining Room. Sue Dokey, retired coordinator of special events (center), took time to catch up with Joanne Presutti (left), retired assistant in student accounts; and Joan Dolce, retired office coordinator of the Castellani Art Museum.
Memory is an intangible and powerful reality in our lives that makes past events present and influences the future. Recalling a joyous or sad memory impacts our mood and outlook. Memories inspire and comfort; they jolt and disturb; they inform and transform our lives for the good.

Spring is a time of so many memories: graduations, weddings, first communions, and anniversaries galore. As we recall these past events, we are linked with today’s memory-makers: our students, children, and grandchildren who graduate, get married, and one day bring their own into the world. In remembering the past, we come face to face with present and future. The prophet Joel told the Israelites of God’s ultimate form of remembrance: “I will pour out my Spirit on you … your elders will dream dreams; your young will see visions” (Joel 2: 28). “Dreams and visions” are the glue to meld past memories into hopes for the future.

Although very early this year, the Easter season illustrates how memory, dreams and vision come together in a powerful way. As we again hear stories of the Risen Christ, an empty tomb, disillusioned disciples, faith-filled women, and Jesus’ commission to “go forth,” we know we are not summoning the past, but being called today to create the future. The disciples’ stories of doubt and delight are ours as well. The Christ, whose only comment on their poor performance at his Passion was “Peace be with you,” offers us the same support and encouragement in our lives, no matter how calm or chaotic. Easter is not a memory of a story long ago, but a dream and a vision for us today.

How do we let Jesus’ resurrection become a present and future event in our lives, and not just a memory? How do we let his conquest of death and rising to new life guide our visions and dreams today? It comes in our willingness to enter his life – often called the Paschal Mystery – and to allow Jesus to guide us. It comes as we admit (not so easily) we can’t do it alone in a “go-it-alone” society. It comes as we let Christ accompany us in the ordinary, everyday events of our daily lives, the “dying and rising” moments of life.

Reflecting on Easter’s great scriptural stories helps us let go of past pains and to focus on today. Easter offers not only a remembrance of things past, but summons us to a present pointing to a future filled with hope. The great Catholic social activist and mystic Dorothy Day wrote: “We must live this life now. Death changes nothing. If we don’t learn to praise God now, we never will. If we don’t learn to thank God now, we never will.”

As we come to the end of another semester and academic year, may your memories, visions and dreams today be directed toward God, whose love comes in the greatest gift: His Son, who offers us true peace, a “peace the world cannot give.”
Niagara University welcomes the following individual who recently joined our community: James Dietz, carpenter in facility services.

NU Day of Service set for June 19

Niagara University will again this year engage in a special project on June 19 to work with local agencies and organizations in need of assistance. Members of the university community are encouraged to volunteer their time and talent from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. that day to provide assistance with various office tasks or odd jobs at locations requesting such help. Last year, over 100 NU employees participated in the Day of Service. Hopefully the number of participants will be greater.

Members of the university community who wish to volunteer or to suggest volunteer projects for organizations in which they may be involved should contact Dr. Marilynn P. Fleckenstein, director of Learn and Serve Niagara; Fran Boltz, coordinator of the Niagara University Community Action Program; Barbara Gallucci, tutor/mentor coordinator for the Learn and Serve office; or Jackie Freeman, office coordinator, at 286-8750 for placement of volunteers.

THE HR REPORT

Free money

By Robert E. Pfeil, Director of Human Resources

I assumed that if I titled this “Retirement,” no one would read this article. But seriously, let me tell you how you can receive “free money.” We all have an aversion to thinking about retirement. Those of you who are new to your careers often procrastinate because you “have plenty of time to worry about it.” Those of us who are more “mature” in our working careers often avoid thinking about it because we do not want to hear how we should have started planning earlier.

I am pleased to tell you that it is never too late to prepare for your retirement. Conversely, it is never too early to start making financial plans for retirement. We are fortunate here at Niagara University that we have a 403(b) plan available to us. Through this plan, we may save money for retirement on a tax-deferred basis. What this means to you is that the funds that you save now are not taxed until withdrawn. The interest or gains to your investments also grow tax deferred until withdrawn.

Additionally, if you participate in the plan sponsored by Niagara University, you will receive a contribution directly into your account from the university. Free money to invest as you desire.

It is clear that the earlier one starts contributing to a 403(b) plan, the greater the amount of money that will be available upon retirement. Furthermore, by contributing and investing wisely, one may be able to retire earlier than planned.

There are many investment choices available to participants. Niagara University has established relationships with TIAA-CREF and AXA Advisors, LLC. Representatives from both of these firms are on campus on a regular basis. Please contact human resources to schedule an appointment.

Enjoy the summer!

Human Resource Advisory Committee

The Human Resource Advisory Committee is a group of employee volunteers who present and discuss employee issues in our university community. The mission of the committee is to effect greater communications, increase employee involvement and address employee issues. The following employees are current members of the Human Resource Advisory Committee:

Antonia (Toni) Knight
Elaine Moreale
Herman (Herm) Platt
Howard Morgan
JonJay (Jay) Stockslader
Lenora Andrews
Lisa McMahon
Patricia (Pat) Kinner
Peggy Choong
Richard (Rich) Kernin
Rita Geiben
Suzanne Wagner

Feel free to contact Robert Pfeil, director of human resources, or any member of the HR staff with any issue or question.
On Campus

The Gallagher Center is about to get an extreme makeover this summer. Renovations to the lower level are scheduled to begin May 12, with a tentative completion date of Aug 11. The construction will encompass the tables and seating area, as well as the servery and kitchen. A construction barrier will allow limited access through the lower level of the building and into the offices, but it may be advisable to enter from the outside door nearest the department you wish to visit.

“These renovations will allow us to provide more variety and quicker service,” said Kim Rothschild, retail and marketing manager in hospitality services. She added that the new equipment set to be installed will allow for a fresher quality of product in the Gallagher Center.

To meet the needs of students, staff and visitors over the summer, there will be expanded dining services at other venues. The following is the schedule for the dining and retail services, which will be available for students, staff and visitors:

**May 5 – 9**
- Gally - LLGC will be open, but will close at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 9.

**May 12 – 16**
- Gally snack bar construction begins in the kitchen and service area only.
- Retail dining will be available at Bisgrove, with expanded service.
- Hours for Bisgrove will be 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**May 19 – Aug. 8**
- Bisgrove will be open from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Retail will also be available in Clet from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- A number of items will be available for a la carte sales. An all-inclusive lunch will be offered for $5.50 (tax included).
- Every Thursday throughout the summer (weather and proposed groups permitting), a picnic lunch will be offered in the Commons on the Ridge for $5.50.

**Aug. 11, 2008**
- Planned opening date of the new facility, which will offer additional menu choices, faster service, a convenience store, air conditioning, new furniture, and a renovated table and lounge area.

Save the Date!

Kist Golf Classic set for June 9

If you like golf and enjoy a day of fellowship with alumni and supporters of Niagara athletics, then the Kist Golf Classic is the perfect event for you. Held at one of the country’s premier golf courses, the Niagara Falls Country Club, this event is held in honor of the late Ray Kist who served as head trainer for NU athletics teams for 16 years. The event benefits the Niagara department of athletics.

The day begins with lunch at 11 a.m.; a shotgun start is at 12:30 p.m., followed by a dinner reception and awards.

Summer Hours

**Summer office hours are in effect Tuesday, May 27, through Friday, Aug. 8.**

**Monday through Thursday:**
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**Friday:**
8:30 a.m. – noon

Enjoy the season!
Niagara University hosted the 62nd Annual Eastern Colleges Science Conference on April 12, which included 14 colleges and universities from the northeastern United States. Over 220 student presenters and faculty mentors were on hand.

Started in 1947, over 50 colleges and universities have participated, with the subject content expanded to include computer sciences, behavioral and social sciences, as well as biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics and engineering.

NU students presented 27 poster or platform papers, representing interdisciplinary work from the departments of biology, chemistry, and psychology.

Student work was mentored by 14 faculty members from the three departments, much with support from the Academic Center for Integrated Sciences at Niagara. Of the total of 20 awards for excellence in undergraduate research, Niagara students gave a strong showing with receipt of six of those honors. This was Niagara’s third time hosting this undergraduate research conference.

“This conference helps showcase the exceptional high quality of the research work done by our undergraduate students and how it is applied to real scientific problems in heart disease, cancer, the environment and psychosocial issues,” said Dr. Robert Greene, chair of biology and academic director of ACIS. “It is a clear demonstration of the high quality and advanced nature of the academic and scientific programs of the colleges and universities participating,” he added.

Dr. Michael Kotarski, associate professor of biology and chairman of the ESCS’s board of directors, said he was pleased that NU was able to host this year’s conference. “This is the real venue for our undergraduates to learn to present and defend their own research work in a professional context mentored by faculty advisers,” he said.

Next year’s ECSC will be hosted by Providence College in Rhode Island.

ARTS AND SCIENCES RECOGNIZE EXCELLENCE — NU’s College of Arts and Sciences held its 28th annual Day of Recognition on May 1. Senior Kelly Knox (pictured at left), a sociology and international studies major, was feted as outstanding senior by Dr. Todd Schoepflin, chair of the department of sociology. The department of history honored senior Daryl Potyuk (pictured below) with the first annual Father Thomas McGourty Award. The honor, given by department chair Zdenka Gredel-Manuele, recognized a nontraditional student in that major.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION HOLDS ANNUAL DINNER — Leman “Chip” Bown (above, center), managing director of regulatory compliance of FedEx Trade Networks Transport and Brokerage, Inc., was honored with the Corporate Leadership Award at the 18th annual Business Appreciation and Accounting Banquet on April 30. The Rev. Joseph L. Levesque (right), Niagara University president, and Dr. Phil Scherer, interim dean of the college, presented the award.

The event, held at the Conference Center Niagara Falls, honored six others including Niagara alumnus Dan DiPofi (at left), chief operating officer of the Buffalo Sabres.
The African Education Alliance of WNY organized the inaugural African Night Celebration held at Niagara University’s Castellani Art Museum on April 19. The event served to introduce Africa in its cultural diversity to Niagara and to Western New York, as well as to raise funds for scholarships to support African immigrant and refugee students for their outstanding academic achievement and civic attitude in their host community.

African Night offered attendees the opportunity to learn about various features of the African cultures through food, music, dance, and clothes. The event was also a moment of reflection and increased awareness of several issues, including Darfur, through visuals and paintings that illustrated the reality of an increasing population of African immigrants and refugees in Western New York in general, and in Buffalo in particular.

The event was held in accordance with the alliance’s mission of “promoting cultural awareness and knowledge among educators, parents, students and community members, to help enhance the social development and academic achievement of the African child,” and made possible by the generous support of many individuals and community groups. Featured guests included Dr. Bonnie Rose, NU’s executive vice president/vice president for academic affairs; Kate Koperski, director of Castellani Art Museum; and Hon. Antoine M. Thompson, New York state senator, 60th district.

**Athletics honors student athletes**

NU’s athletics department honored its student-athletes at the annual Student-Athlete Awards Banquet on April 26. Seniors Charron Fisher, a forward on the men’s basketball team, and Julie Dickhans from the women’s cross-country team were honored with the Vincent O’Malley Award, given to the male and female athletes of the year.

Dickhans also earned the Purple Heart Award for the second consecutive year. The award is given by the Student-Athletic Advisory Committee to the student-athlete who embraces the Vincentian spirit that Niagara was founded upon. Junior swimmer Ray DeWire earned the honor on the men’s side.

Senior women’s soccer player Brittany Bisnott and Mark Wilson, a senior pitcher on the baseball team, were awarded the Scholar-Athlete Award, given to the top graduating student-athlete. Bisnott, a criminology and criminal justice major, has a 4.04 grade-point average, while Wilson boasts a 4.01 GPA in management and economics and finance.

Niagara University’s director of athletics, Ed McLaughlin, honored each team’s departing senior class and also handed out the Purple Eagle Award to senior men’s basketball manager Danny O’Brien. The award is given to the non-student-athlete who has demonstrated, through work behind the scenes, a tremendous dedication and pride to Purple Eagle athletics.

**NU “Stomps Out Stigma” —** Niagara University hosted the second annual 5-kilometer run and fun walk called “Stomp Out Stigma” on April 27. Linus Ormsby (pictured), director of communications and public relations, was awarded a bronze in his category. Other medalists were Dr. Bill Edwards, assistant professor of biology; Dr. David Reilly, chair of the department of political science; and Dr. Mark Gallo, associate professor of biology. All proceeds from the event benefited the Mental Health Association of Niagara County Inc. It was co-sponsored by the university’s Campus Programming Board, Student Government Association and the student chapter of Active Minds.
On Campus

Castellani Art Museum

Through Sept. 4 — "Michael Veit: Unity Park." Like many cities across America, Niagara Falls has seen booming economic periods of growth as well as significant periods of decline. In the shadow of a mass exodus of corporations and populations, the physical and social fabric of the city has been shattered. Michael Veit has captured this atmosphere of decline by documenting the post-habitation of the housing complex Unity Park through the lens of his camera. Many units were vacated hastily, with tenants leaving a myriad of personal items behind. Inadvertently, or perhaps on purpose, abandoned items were left where they sat when the apartment was occupied. These actions created a strange environment as if suddenly all human presence vanished. Veit’s photographic record details countless families forced to leave their homes by the mismanagement of others. Each apartment in the complex housed a family, a history, a story.

June 29 – Sept. 21 — “Currents: Movements in Western Art since 1830.” The scope and range of the Castellani Art Museum’s world-class permanent collection, established by Armand and Eleanor Castellani, offers the opportunity to present a timeline history of art from 1830 to the present. The grand scale, salon-style installation allows a significant number of artworks to be viewed simultaneously, emphasizing the cultural impact of 150 years of visual art trends and movements. “Currents” will provide visitors with a fresh approach to modern and contemporary art, highlighting a broad range of time periods, artists and movements, converging and overlapping through history. Stop in and experience the magnificent educational resource that is the Castellani Art Museum’s permanent collection.

Through Dec. 14 — “Devotional Displays: Personal and Community Traditions.” Devotional displays are created at the crossroads of folk and formal religious belief. They exist in a wide variety of forms in cultures worldwide — and in many communities in the Greater Niagara region. This exhibition draws on photographic works from the museum’s permanent collection as well as new documentation. Hindu domestic prayer altars, Asian shrines to ancestors, Polish American Easter altars and Puerto Rican altars built in connection with the annual spring celebration of the “Rosario de la Cruz” will be among the traditions represented.

Kids ’n Arts Summer Camp — Each week, from July 22 – Aug. 15, Kids ’n Arts summer camp will provide children with an enriching art and theater experience unlike any other camp! Campers will spend mornings creating a number of exciting art projects inspired by the museum’s rich art collection, followed by afternoons of storytelling, theater games, and performing. Your children will have the benefit of working with faculty and students from Niagara University’s theater department, teaching artists and professionals from the Castellani Art Museum, and special guests, including the Niagara University Repertory Theater and a troupe of professional clowns! Contact Marian Granfield, education coordinator, at ext. 8367 for more information or to register.

Castellani Art Museum Sixth Annual Gala — Saturday, Sept. 13. Please mark your calendars for this elegant event, featuring exciting silent and live art auctions.

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.

Niagara University Athletics

Men’s baseball
May 10 vs. Marist at Sal Maglie Stadium 4 p.m.
May 11 vs. Marist at Sal Maglie Stadium Noon
May 15 vs. Canisius at Sal Maglie Stadium Noon
May 16 vs. Canisius at Sal Maglie Stadium TBD

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

Niagara University Theater

The curtain has come down on another great season. Stay tuned for next season’s schedule of wonderful productions.

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