

Contact: Mary Fiess or Brenda Oettinger

PROPOSED SUPERCONDUCTING COLLIDER TO BE FOCUS OF LECTURE

The proposed \$4.4 billion Superconducting Supercollider, for which some 23 states are bidding, will be the focus of a lecture Tuesday, Oct. 13 at 8:00 p.m. at the University at Albany, State University of New York.

Walter Gibson, professor of physics at the University, will discuss the nature and scientific potential of the supercollider, and University economist Donald Reeb will discuss its economic impact. The presentation, which is free and open to the public, will take place in Lecture Center 7 on the University's main campus at 1400 Washington Ave.

The supercollider will be the world's largest scientific instrument -- a racetrack-shaped tunnel nearly 53 miles in circumference -- designed to accelerate streams of protons at nearly the speed of light in opposite directions around the tunnel using superconducting magnets. The resulting collisions will help particle physicists gain a deeper understanding of matter.

New York State formally entered the bidding for the project in September by proposing three sites to the federal Department of Energy. The sites are located in the St. Regis Valley in the North Country, in the Rochester area, and in the Hudson Valley in Orange, Ulster and Sullivan counties.

The supercollider lecture is the second in this fall's natural history lecture series sponsored by the University's Atmospheric Sciences Research Center and the state Department of Environmental Conservation's Five Rivers Environmental Education Center. The lectures are being held on consecutive Tuesdays through Nov. 17 (except Nov. 3).

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT ALBANY

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87-71

Vinny

Contact: Brenda Oettinger or Mary Fiess

**EXPERT TO DISCUSS THEORIES ON
THE ORIGIN OF THE MOON AT FREE LECTURE**

Moon rock expert John Delano says that the moon was originally a part of the earth which was blasted-off by a giant collision that took place about 4.5 billion years ago. How does he know? Find out at the October 20, 1987, Natural History Lecture sponsored by the University at Albany's Atmospheric Sciences Research Center and the state Department of Environmental Conservation. His presentation is free and the public is encouraged to attend. It will begin at 8:00 p.m. in Lecture Center 7 on the uptown, University at Albany campus, just off Washington Avenue.

Delano, a world renowned expert on the geology of the moon, is an assistant professor of geochemistry at the University at Albany. He was one of a handful of scientists selected in 1983 by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to conduct research on moon rock samples collected by astronauts on Apollo 11. As a result of his research and the significance of his findings, NASA continues to finance Delano's studies of the rocks.

Delano's talk will begin following a brief, illustrated discussion of the day's weather. This, and future lectures are organized by well-known area meteorologist Ray Falconer. It is the third in a series of six fall lectures at the University at Albany. Donations to help sustain the Natural History Lecture Series can be made to the University at Albany Fund, Attention Ray Falconer Fund.

October 8, 1987

87-70

Contact: Vinny Reda at 442-3078
or Dr. Robert Koff at 442-4988

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY RECEIVES GRANT OF \$1.5 MILLION
FOR NATIONAL LITERATURE CENTER

ALBANY, N.Y. -- University at Albany, State University of New York has been awarded a \$1.5-million federal grant to create a national center to conduct research on and improve the teaching of literature in U.S. secondary schools, University President Vincent O'Leary and School of Education Dean Robert Koff announced today.

The Center for The Study of Literature and Schooling, the first of its kind in the nation, will be based in the School of Education under the direction of Professor Dr. Arthur Applebee. Dr. Judith Langer and Dr. Alan Purves, also professors in the School of Education, will be co-directors.

The \$1.5 million, three-year grant was awarded to the University by the Office of Educational Research and Improvement, U.S. Office of Education, and was announced today in Washington, D.C. by Education Secretary William Bennett and Chester Finn, Assistant Secretary, Department of Education and Director of the Office of Educational Research and Improvement. The Literature Center is one in a series of such centers to be established by the Office of Education to improve teaching and learning of school subjects. In addition, funding for the Center has been contributed in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, Frank Hodsoll, chairperson.

"The University is pleased to be the recipient of such a significant grant, one that was awarded after a five-month competition among the nation's leading universities," says President O'Leary. "This honor confirms the University's leadership role in the related issues of literature, literacy and education, and pays high tribute to our well-established reputation for scholarship and research in this field."

Dean Koff adds, "Selection of the University as the home for this national Center recognizes our faculty as an outstanding group of scholars with depth and breadth in the areas of writing and literature. The Center will draw upon the strengths of faculty members from the School of Education, the English Department and other academic units as it creates an intellectual community of colleagues committed to the teaching of literature in the public schools."

The Center will study how literature is taught and learned in the nation's middle and secondary schools, and how the process can be improved. Researchers will examine strengths and weaknesses of current teaching methods and materials; the role literature plays in critical thinking; and how students' knowledge and understanding of literature can be tested. Some of the research, national in scope will be conducted in Capital Region schools, and area educators will be asked to join the research teams. Panels, symposia and conferences are planned and the Center will publish its research and conclusions.

According to Dr. Applebee, Center Director, this project represents an effort to advance beyond the "back to the basics" movement of the '70s that stressed the teaching of fundamental skills at the expense of the study of literature.

"Educators have come to believe that the basics are not all we want the schools

to provide," he explains. "It is time for us to rethink what it means to be a literate person in our society."

The belief that too many students lack vital knowledge of literature and other subjects has earned national attention through the publication of two books now on the best-seller lists: "Cultural Literacy" by E.D. Hirsch Jr. and "The Closing of the American Mind" by Allan Bloom.

Until now, says Dr. Applebee, no university has had the resources or mandate to assess and improve literature instruction nationwide. "We hope," he says, "that the Center will serve to crystallize the current national concern over the teaching of literature. Beyond that, we believe it can function as a catalyst to rethink and reshape how literature is taught in this country." The Center, he says, will ask writers as well as educators to contribute to its assessment of literature instruction.

Dr. Langer says that while students need to learn literature because it is a cornerstone of their heritage, they also need to study it because "it helps them learn to think."

She explains, "There are many ways of solving problems, and researchers have found that there are certain processes in literary thinking that are very useful in solving problems in other situations in life. The Center will examine how learning literature can help enhance abilities to think critically." Dr. Langer, in addition to her duties as co-director of the Center, will be involved in research on the role literature plays in critical thinking.

Co-director Dr. Alan Purves' research focus will be on evaluation and assessment of literature instruction. He notes: "The curriculum of American schools is dominated by tests of all sorts. But few, if any, of the tests

measure the depth of students' understanding of literary works and their cultural heritage. Sophisticated tests of critical understanding and knowledge can help restore balance to the curriculum."

The University's leadership in literary research includes the establishment of the Center for Writing and Literacy in the spring of 1986 under the direction of Dr. Purves; and sponsorship of the New York State Writers Institute, established in 1984 by Pulitzer-Prize-winning author William Kennedy.

October 14, 1987

87-71

Contact: Mary Fiess or Brenda Oettinger

A NATURALIST LOOKS AT FLORIDA

The ecology and wildlife of Florida will be the focus of a lecture and slide show on Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 8:00 p.m. at the University at Albany, State University of New York.

Bob Budliger, director of the Bureau of Environmental Education for New York's Department of Environmental Conservation, will give the presentation on his native state. The presentation, which is free and open to the public, will take place in Lecture Center 7 on the University's main campus at 1400 Washington Ave.

With its many beautiful birds and tropical plants, Florida is a naturalist's delight. But the state has undergone many changes in recent years as it has become one of the most populous states in the country. Budliger will discuss the changes he's observed.

Budliger's lecture is the fourth in this fall's natural history lecture series sponsored by the University's Atmospheric Sciences Research Center and the state Department of Environmental Conservation's Five Rivers Environmental Education Center. The lectures are being held on consecutive Tuesdays through Nov. 17 (except Nov. 3).

Oct. 15, 1987

87-72

Contact: Vince Sweeney (518) 442-3075

MINORITY/WOMEN OWNED BUSINESS INVITED TO ALBANY ON NOVEMBER 18

Business firms owned by minorities and women will have the opportunity to participate in a "Meet the Buyers Day," on Wednesday, November 18, 1987, at the University at Albany.

Purchasing departments from 22 state-operated campuses and community colleges in northeast region of the state will be represented. The event, which will be held from 9:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. in the University's Campus Center Ballroom, will provide vendors with the opportunity to contact, at one location, individuals responsible for purchasing most of the materials and services used on the participating campuses. The New York State Dormitory Authority, the University's Research Foundation and University Auxiliary Services, a not-for-profit corporation serving the Albany campus, will also send buyers.

The New York State Department of Commerce will be on hand to assist minority/women owned businesses in their certification process. Further information may be obtained through Jack Haggerty, Director of Institutional Services at Albany (518) 442-3255.

October 19, 1987

87-73

Contact: Dennis Quick

INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING FIRM SUPPORTS ALBANY ACCOUNTING PROGRAM

The University's Accounting Department continues to attract attention from one of the leading international accounting firms.

Coopers & Lybrand, among the top eight firms in international accounting, recently gave \$20,000 to the University's accounting program. Less than two years ago the prestigious firm, headquartered in New York City, bestowed on the department a \$20,000 curriculum-development grant.

"We don't do this for every university," said Joel Gazes, a partner with Coopers & Lybrand. "We're selective. In the last three years we've hired over 40 graduates from SUNY Albany's accounting program. We like Albany's students because they're smart and tenacious and they perform well in a competitive environment." Gazes said that the University at Albany is one of his firm's most important recruiting centers.

Albany accounting students have scored consistently high on the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examinations. "We were the only institution in the nation that finished in the top 10 on both exams last year," said Dr. Enrico Petri, chair of the Accounting Department. "We finished fourth and second, and the previous year we finished fourth and fifth. In fact, we're the only institution that has been in the top 10 every year for the past five years."

In addition to financial grants, Coopers & Lybrand provides the Accounting Department with computer software.

"We're particularly focused on bringing technology into the classroom," said Gazes, "so

that when students reach the real world of business, they're more acclimated to the environment."

Both Gazes and Petri stressed that it is the quality of Albany's accounting students that draws Coopers & Lybrand to the University and, in Gazes's words, "to enhance in whatever way we can the education of the accounting students."

For more information about the Accounting Department, call Dr. Petrie at 442-4979.

October 22, 1987

87-74

Contact: Brenda Oettinger or Mary Fiess

A LOOK AT PEOPLE AND THEIR ENVIRONMENTS
AT THE NEXT NATURAL HISTORY LECTURE

Kay Teale, professor of physical education at the College of St. Rose, will be the featured speaker at the next Natural History Lecture sponsored by the University at Albany and the state Department of Environmental Conservation's Five Rivers Education Center. She will present a slide show depicting the environment, the wildlife and the people of countries around the world on Tuesday, November 10, beginning at 8:00 p.m. in Lecture Center 7 on the uptown, University at Albany campus, just off Washington Avenue.

Teale will show how residents of countries such as India, Brazil, South Africa and Egypt, view their environments and the wild creatures that inhabit them. Her presentation is free and the public is encouraged to attend.

Teale's talk will begin following a brief, illustrated discussion of the day's weather. Organized by area meteorologist Ray Falconer, it is the fifth in a series of six fall lectures at the University at Albany. Donations to help sustain the Natural History Lecture Series can be made to the University at Albany Fund, Attention Ray Falconer Fund.

October 29, 1987

87-75