

NEWS

THE UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY • OFFICE OF MEDIA RELATIONS
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C O N T E N T S

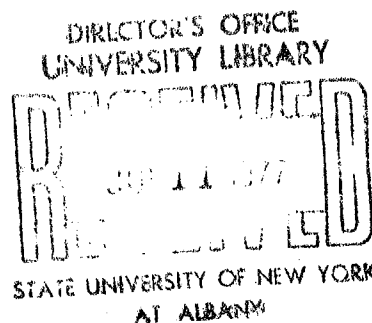
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JULY 8, 1977



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SCHAEFER TO SPEAK AT WHITEFACE

Vincent Schaefer, retired director of the Atmospheric Sciences Research Center at State University of New York at Albany, will discuss "Some of the Natural History of the Whiteface Area" Tuesday, July 12, beginning at 8:30 p.m. at the ASRC Whiteface Mountain Field Station on Memorial Highway, Wilmington.

The program is the second in the current free summer science lecture series offered by the center. A report on the latest weather, using colored projections, will be presented before Dr. Schaefer's talk.

The scientist served 10 years as director of ASRC. He is the co-inventor with Irving Langmuir, of a high efficiency artificial fog smoke screen generator, and discoverer of dry ice seeding technique for cloud modification.

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SECOND TAFT INSTITUTE SEMINAR AT ALBANY UNIVERSITY

Thirty junior high school and high school teachers from both public and private schools throughout the state are taking part in the Robert A. Taft Institute of Government seminar underway at State University of New York at Albany. The two-week program is being sponsored for the second consecutive year by the university's School of Education and Graduate School of Public Affairs with Professors Edward Sargent and James Riedel serving as co-directors. All arrangements are funded through a grant from the Taft Foundation.

Among the scheduled speakers are Albany Surrogate Court Judge Lawrence Kahn; Dr. Bernard Kilbourn, newly-elected chairman of the Republican State Committee; Congressman Edward Pattison and Eleanor Pattison; Rensselaer County Executive William Murphy, an alumnus of the university; State Senators Hugh Farley and Howard Nolan; and Albany Mayor Erastus Corning. The seminar program also includes visits with legislators and staffs at the State Capitol and a tour of the Albany County jail.

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UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY COUNCIL ENDORSES

DNA RESEARCH RECOMMENDATION

The University Council of State University of New York at Albany has endorsed the report of the university's Council on Research which in May recommended to President Emmett B. Fields that recombinant DNA work proposed by Albany university investigators be permitted to go forward, subject to specific guidelines and standards. President Fields has directed his staff to proceed with implementing the recommendations.

Dr. Fields, who recommended that the University Council endorse the report, stated, "As the exhaustive research council report makes clear, the proposed research holds strong promise for scientific advancement and the safety precautions being taken meet or surpass National Institutes of Health guidelines as well as the guidelines that are being considered by the State Legislature."

He continued, "The university has a high responsibility to protect public safety as it pursues its fundamental role of the advancement of knowledge and I am now completely satisfied that we are abundantly fulfilling those responsibilities. We do intend to continue educational efforts that will enable members of the university community and the larger community to be kept abreast of matters and to become fully knowledgeable with respect to DNA research."

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Richard E. Orville, associate professor of atmospheric sciences, chairs the committee which prepared the report to President Fields. Other members are Stephen E. DeLong, geology, vice chairman; Duncan C. Blanchard, Atmospheric Sciences Research Center; Josiah B. Gould, Jr., philosophy; Robert E. Hicks, psychology; Leonard Lerman, biology; Reuben Rusch, educational psychology and statistics; Charles P. Scholes, physics; Susan R. Sherman, School of Social Welfare; Dean R. Snow, anthropology; Jon A. Zubieta, chemistry, and William Hedberg and Frank Lucarelli, both of the Office for Research.

Vice President for Research Louis Salkever said of the research committee, "I have never seen a group explore an issue in the depth they did. They familiarized themselves with all the relevant literature and engaged in protracted discussions with informed and concerned scientists and scholars. They devoted endless hours to all conceivable impacts of the conduct of recombinant DNA research on this campus and arrived at what I believe to be sound judgments as to the policy we should attempt for this campus."

One project requiring P-1 level of physical containment is now underway in the department of biological sciences under the direction of Joseph Mascarenhas. Also, in the biology building, plans are underway for modifications to a laboratory on the third floor to provide a facility suitable for conducting experiments requiring the P-2 level of containment. Procedures follow those prescribed either by the National Institutes of Health guidelines or are extra-precautionary measures imposed by the university's Bio-

hazards Committee headed by Richard D. Kelly, biology.

The principal aim of the research at Albany is basic knowledge about the location and structure of genes and about the mechanisms that are responsible for genetic expression. Ultimately, recombinant research may lead to breakthroughs in knowledge about how genetic and viral diseases, including cancer and hemophilia, work.

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SHUMAKER NEW DEAN OF HUMANITIES AND FINE ARTS AT UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

John W. Shumaker, 34, who was associate dean of the College of Humanities at The Ohio State University for the past three years, is the new dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts at State University of New York at Albany.

In commenting on the appointment, President Emmett B. Fields said, "From among the many able people we considered for the deanship of the new College of Humanities and Fine Arts, John Shumaker emerged as the most exciting and attractive. He is a young and energetic man whose appreciation of the humanities and fine arts is manifest and his lively ideas for their advancement augur well for the future."

Dean Shumaker was graduated in 1964 from the University of Pittsburgh, where he was a Phi Beta Kappa member, with a major in classical Greek. Later he received a Master of Arts and a Doctor of Philosophy in classical studies from the University of Pennsylvania. He served on the faculty of Ohio State in several capacities beginning in 1969, including associate professor of classics, assistant dean, and acting department chairman. In 1973 he held a research appointment for six months at the University of California at Irvine.

Dean Shumaker's academic interests are ancient Greek literature and papyrology and his research centers in those areas. He

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also has been involved in discussions at a national level on the status of foreign language study at universities. During the past two years he has been director of a project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities to implement a comprehensive system of individualized instruction in foreign language at the university level. The project was funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities to the amount of \$821,751, the largest grant NEH ever has made in the area of foreign languages.

Dean Shumaker, who has assumed his responsibilities at The University at Albany, spoke of the importance of the various disciplines represented by departments in the college. "Humanities and the fine arts have an enormous contribution to make to undergraduate education. One of our major challenges is to introduce the humanities to those students not majoring in that field. We must work very hard to maintain close contact with our colleagues to avoid becoming isolated."

He added, "We also must maintain a competitive posture in graduate education as well as find ways in which the humanities and fine arts can relate to adult parttime learners beyond the research-oriented master and Ph.D. degree programs."

The new dean looks forward to his new duties, commenting, "I am very much impressed with the quality of faculty and students within the college. It was one of the major considerations in my coming here. I look forward to getting into the classroom on occasion."

Dean and Mrs. Shumaker are residing in the Colonial Acres section of Glenmont.

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