One in a Million: COLA receives $1,000,000 endowment to fund new program
by Nicole Robinson

The Starr Foundation of New York City recently pledged $1 million to the College of Liberal Arts as an endowment for its new degree program in International Studies. This large donation will go towards supporting a professorship and research. Although more funds will be needed, this first major gift intends to go a long way towards funding the program.

The endowment was given to COLA in honor of Barber B. Conable, Jr. Conable, who passed away last November, served as District Congressmen of Genesee County and much of Monroe County (1965-1985). He graduated with a law degree from Cornell University and was a veteran of WWII. As leader of the House of Representatives, Conable was voted most respected by his fellow Congressmen.

Most importantly, Conable was involved in international issues. In 1991, he retired after more than five years as President of the World Bank in Washington, D.C. He also served on the board of several multinational corporations, including the American International Group where the Starr Foundation is housed.

Dr. James Fleming, Professor of American Politics, recently published a biography on Conable entitled, *Window on Congress: A Congressional Biography of Barber B. Conable Jr.* While gathering information for the book, Fleming encouraged his students to accompany him to Conable’s home. During this time, the students gained respect for Conable, and learned a great deal about international issues.

Ironically, Conable passed away the day before Fleming submitted his completed biography to the publisher. This endowment was given in honor of his memory. “Conable was a very brilliant, kind man,” said Fleming. “He was dedicated to young people, and their education.”

The Bachelor of Science degree program in International Studies is designed for students whose careers demand an understanding of global issues and how they play out in different regions of the world. It focuses on issues of scientific and technological changes and solving global problems.

Students will be allowed to choose a field of specialization that is organized in terms of region or function. The regional fields include Latin America, Europe, and East Asia. The student will then study the language of their chosen field. The functional fields are International Business and Science, Technology, and Society. Upon graduating, students will be able to pursue a career in private, governmental, and non-profit organizations.

The program will also prepare students to focus on different dimensions of business operations, and allow them to communicate in the languages most commonly spoken in the three important regions of the world. The program also requires a mandatory international experience. This may include an approved study abroad program, or a cooperative education experience overseas.

The International Studies program is currently awaiting New York State approval and the college hopes to begin accepting students in the fall of 2005.

“We’re delighted to have this significant gift which will not only enhance the program, but also the college,” said Deputy Dean Glenn Kist.

**Success in the Making: 2004 Conference for Undergraduate Research in Communication**
by Kevin Ptak

RIT recently played host to the 2004 Conference for Undergraduate Research in Communication on April 8. Sponsored by the Department of Communication, this was not only the first time an event of this nature was held at RIT, this was the first occasion an event of this kind was held in the entire Northeast.

Along with the College of Liberal Arts participants were scholars from five other area colleges and universities: State University of New York at Brockport, SUNY Geneseo, Alfred University, Ithaca College and SUNYIT Utica. The student presenters brought with them a variety of top-notch research to share with their peers.

The conference began with opening remarks from Andrew Moore, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and Bruce Austin, Chair of the Department of Communication. Following the opening ceremonies, the morning presentation sessions featured research centered on communication in the continued inside...