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AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN POLICE
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SILVER STAR FOR BRAVERY

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSERVATION PIPE AND
DRUMS BAND

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
PARKING MANAGEMENT

SODEXO CATERING

2013-2014 RECOGNITION DINNER AND AWARD CEREMONY



UNIVERSITY POLICE
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY
State University of New York

JULY 24TH, 2014

LAWRENCE E. GAAL

A proud University at Albany alumnus, Larry Gaal was an officer with the University Police Department for ten years, 1978 to 1988, before succumbing to his battle with leukemia.

Officer Gaal personified the University at Albany's Ideal Officer Profile. His quick smile and easygoing manner were well known and he had a way of putting people at ease even under the worst of circumstance.

He took his oath to serve the University community with the utmost commitment; sometimes that meant risking a more humane option than utilizing deadly physical force. In 1979, Officer Gaal was cited for extreme heroism when without regard for his own safety, he physically subdued a subject armed with a rifle after that subject had already fired three rounds into Officer Gaal's patrol car, the shots narrowly missing his head. In spite of the imminent danger, Officer Gaal did not return fire, opting instead to physically disarm the man who was later determined to be emotionally disturbed and headed to the home of his ex-wife to murder her. At least two lives were spared due to his actions that night.

For the Academic Year 2013-2014, the University Police have renamed the Police Officer of the Year Award, given to those officers who exemplify leadership and professional service, in the memory of Officer Larry Gaal.

ROBERT F. FOSTER

A lifelong Albany area resident and graduate of Albany High School in 1977, Bob Foster devoted his life to his family and the community he served. Bob was employed by the University Police for nearly twelve years before passing away on February 19, 2000. Bob was hired as a Security Services Assistant and later promoted as one of the first SSA Supervisors in 1995.

Although being only one of two supervisors for the University Police's then very large contingent of SSAs, Bob made it a point to humanize the job by being there for any individual, be it assistance or a friendly word of encouragement. His calm demeanor, steady mannerisms, and gentle ways would help diffuse potentially dangerous situations in the field, ultimately helping both the community members and the responding police officers. As both an SSA and supervisor, Bob excelled in his role, setting the standard and benchmark for those who follow.

For the Academic Year 2013-2014, the University Police have renamed the SSA of the Year award, given to the SSA who best personifies excellence in service to the community with honor and distinction, after Robert Foster.

CLARK W. DIX

Clark W. Dix was a police officer with the University Police for eight years, having begun his career with the Capital Police in 1980. Officer Dix passed away from a heart attack in 1988 at the age of 51.

Clark was well known for being soft-spoken, a family man, a hockey fan and lover of Canadian beer. Clark could be counted on as both a friend and officer.

For the duration of his tenure with the University Police, Clark served as dispatcher on the afternoon and midnight shifts. Ironically nicknamed "The Road Warrior," Clark excelled at his role as the shift's communications center and is remembered as the department's finest dispatcher. The qualities and skills he demonstrated are easy to state as they were so numerous. Clark perfectly multitasked long before there was even the catch phrase to describe the act. He gathered information whether in person or on the phone, with incredible accuracy. His record keeping was always performed to perfection and with perfect legibility, no small task in the pre-computer age. He accomplished all of this while being pulled in numerous directions, including radio traffic, telephone calls, and walk-in complaints. The best compliment that one could give Clark was that he made it look easy. His methods were organized, attentive, and respectful.

The Clark W. Dix Award was created and awarded periodically, to recognize those communications officers who meet the high standard set by Officer Dix.