

AU professor, wife earn prizes in international competition

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The odds were more than one in a million, but an Alfred University professor and his wife both earned bronze medals in the Shell/Economist 2003 writing competition. The prizes were announced Thursday by the London-based magazine, The Economist. "In an amazing coincidence the organisers of the Shell Economist writing competition 2003 discovered after anonymously making the awards that two of the third prize winners, Dr Alan Goldstein and Kate Braverman, both of Alfred, NY, US, are in fact husband and wife. One a writer, the other an academic, their essays take very different approaches to the theme reflecting their differing backgrounds in arts and science," according to the press release from The Economist. Dr. Alan Goldstein, director of Alfred University's Biomedical Materials Engineering Science program won a bronze prize for his essay entitled "Nature vs. Nanotechnology." His wife, Kate Braverman, also won a bronze prize for her essay entitled, "The Fusion of the Natural and the Artificial: Growing Up in Los Angeles." Ms. Braverman is a nationally known experimental fiction writer who has previously won both the Best American and O'Henry short story prizes for creative fiction. This year's competition sought to encourage thinking about the future- entitled 'Do We Need Nature?' Entrants were asked to discuss the difficult choices facing society in its continuing development and how far society should harness nature to aid development and how much it should protect nature. The competition was judged by a panel of experts chaired by Richard O'Brien, Strategy Consultant at Outsights (the international consultancy in external change and strategy). The panel included: *Sally Feldman, Head of the School of Media, Arts and Design, University of Westminster *Peter Warshall, a biologist and environmentalist and Editor of Whole Earth Magazine, from Tucson, AZ *Christine Loh, co-founder and CEO, Civic Exchange from Hong Kong *Bill Emmott, editor of The Economist *Adrian Loader, Director of Strategic Planning, Sustainable Development and External Affairs, Shell International Diane Brooks Pleninger, as the first-place winner, will receive a prize of US\$20,000 and her essay will appear in The Economist's annual publication, "The World in 2004," published worldwide on Nov. 21. Two second prizes of \$10,000 are awarded to Lisa Woodson, USA and Jennifer Saunders, USA, and five third prizes of \$5,000 go to Dr Alan Goldstein, USA; Dr William Hamilton, USA; Kate Braverman, USA; Dr Noel Castree, UK and Dr Dietrich Schmidt-Vogt, Thailand. Shell's Adrian Loader said "One of the things that has been really impressive about this year's writing prize is the range and quantity of entries, from all parts of the world. It is clear that there are common themes of concern and debate that really are shared across the globe, from genetic modification through to environmental sustainability . As well as offering congratulations to those individuals who won prizes, I'd like to thank all those people who made the effort to contribute to the debate and share their thinking."