

AU selects recipients of Miller Outstanding Senior Awards

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Monica Edmiston, an art and design major, and Soukxhavanh (Tim) Inthirakoth, a communication studies major with a minor in business administration, are this year's recipients of the Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Awards, announced during Alfred University's annual Honors Convocation. They were chosen for the honor by a campus-wide committee on the basis of their scholarship, extra-curricular leadership and personal character. Candidates for the award are nominated by faculty and staff. Along with a hand-crafted tile made by Wayne Higby, an internationally acclaimed artist and professor of ceramic art in the School of Art & Design at AU, each also received \$5,000 in cash, thanks to an endowment created by Robert L. MacNeil Jr. of Wyndmoor, PA, a friend and business colleague of Miller's. While Alfred University has for several years presented outstanding senior awards to the man and woman in each class selected by a campus-wide committee, in 2004 the awards were named in honor of Miller, a member of AU's class of '54, a member of its Board of Trustees since 1972, a former chairman of the board, and the University's largest donor. Edmiston has combined her interest in photography and graphic design with course work in business administration. "Alfred University was the perfect place for me," said Edmiston. "I knew in my heart that everything was how it was supposed to be." Throughout her time at Alfred University, she said, "I have been refining myself as an artist, and the ways that I process information. I realized that I am drawn to opportunities that incorporate the business-related aspects into the art world. Alfred has allowed me to change directions and transfer my artistic knowledge into my marketing and economics classes." She says, however, that she has also found that success is not just in the portfolio and resume she will take with her when she leaves AU in May. "I have found success through the relationships I have made and the people I have encountered. Alfred University has helped me to become a confident young woman, not afraid to step out of the familiar in all aspects of my life." In addition to her academic work, Edmiston has been an orientation guide and orientation director; member and secretary of the Career Women's Association; member of InterVarsity worship team; assistant photo editor of *The Fiat Lux*, the student-run newspaper; an Alfies Award presenter and performer; and a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, the national student leadership honor society. She also played intramural volleyball; served on the hospitality committee for the Student Activities Board's large concert; and was a member of the Hot Dog Day committee. Her photographic series, "Desire," was nominated by the Women's Issues Coalition for inclusion in the "Body Image" art show. Her work has been featured in the Freshman Foundation art show; "Brandtastic," a graphic design exhibition; and a show of work made through alternative processes in photography. Edmiston has also been very active in AU's Performing Arts division and related activities. She is a member and coach of the AU Dance Team; a member of the AU Dancers' Union; performed in an informal dance concert in December '04 and was both a performer and choreographer for the February dance concert; assistant choreographer for the spring '04 performance of *Fiddler on the Roof*; choreographer and performer for an AU Jazz Band performance; member of the folk-dancing, belly-dancing and hip hop dance groups; and performer in RAICES, a multicultural dance concert. "Monica is an exceptionally giving member of the AU student body," wrote Dan Napolitano, director of Student Activities for the University. "I have always been impressed with the endeavors she undertakes." She is the daughter of Terrence and Elaine Edmiston of Second Street, Youngville, PA, and is a graduate of Youngville Middle-Senior High School. "As a first-generation American and the first member of my family to attend college in America, I appreciate every opportunity I am offered," said Inthirakoth. "My parents immigrated to America in 1980 from Laos. They were not only forced to leave their lives behind, but to endanger themselves as they fled the communist regime. My parents serve as role-models and inspirations for me in all aspects of my life." "The Alfred University community "has given me more than I ever expected," said Inthirakoth. "Alfred became not only my place of higher education, but home. I have faced challenges, both positive and negative, that tested my personal character and helped to strengthen it. I have forged friendships not only with classmates, but with professors that motivate me to be a better person each day." Active in campus media, which is all run by students, Inthirakoth is the editor-in-chief of *The Fiat Lux*, and has previously been the features editor and a staff writer. He is a news anchor for AU TV and has been a news reporter. He also represents AU TV in the Student Senate. For WALF, AU's award-winning student radio station, he was co-anchor and producer of a local news program. Inthirakoth has been involved in other campus activities as well, including People for Animal Welfare; the Hot Dog Day committee; the badminton club; and the Political Science Organization. As a member of the men's varsity tennis team, he was named "most valuable player" for the spring '04 season. He was also named to the Empire 8 President's List for

athletics whose GPA is greater than 3.75. A Presidential Scholarship recipient, Inthirakoth is a Dean's List student; was one of 12 students, selected from schools across the country, to attend a national journalism conference in Los Angeles, CA, in fall '03; received the Sharon Hoover Fiat Lux award in spring 2004; the Fiat Lux Valuable Contribution Award in spring '04 and was nominated for Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities this spring. In addition to his academic work and extracurricular activities, Inthirakoth has worked for the Office of Admissions as a campus tour guide; the Registrar's Office, and completed an internship with the Office of Communications. He has also had internships at Eric Mower and Associates and WHAM-TV, both in Rochester. "I cannot think of any other senior man that deserves the Outstanding Senior Award more than Tim," wrote Dr. Robyn Goodman, associate professor of communication studies. "I have watched him grow from a shy, unsure freshman to a confident, remarkable, compassionate young man. I cannot think of a more exemplary AU model student. Since he has totally immersed himself in the AU experience, we can be proud of his many successes." A graduate of Bishop Kearney High School, Inthirakoth is the son of Amphay Inthirakoth of West Henrietta Road in Henrietta, and Somkith Inthirakoth of Jewel Street, Rochester.