

Alfred University names recipients of Miller Outstanding Senior Awards

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Dillon Stein, a biology major from North Huntingdon, PA, and Bonnie Ye, an accounting major from Flushing, NY, are this year's recipients of the Marlin Miller Outstanding Senior Awards at Alfred University. "Once again this year, the outstanding senior committee chose two exceptionally well-rounded students to represent the senior class at commencement" said Kathy Woughter, vice president for Student Affairs. "Both Bonnie and Dillon demonstrate their dedication to their academic and career goals, but have earned a wide range of accomplishments and gained significant learning experiences outside the classroom. They exemplify the kind of students who do so well at Alfred University." Stein said Alfred University is helping him fulfill his lifelong dream of becoming a doctor. "Alfred University has given me all the tools necessary to reach my aspirations," said Stein. "Medical schools are very competitive and they are looking for candidates who exemplify a well-rounded personality and education. I have honed both of these qualities at Alfred, and have the University to thank for the opportunities that lie ahead of me." Stein, who has already completed interviews at two medical schools, said his "passion for Alfred University has grown over the semesters I have spent here. I have found myself immersed in the University's organizations, athletics and community. Throughout my experiences, I have gained a true liberal arts education and plan to put it to use out there in the 'real world.'" A Presidential Scholarship recipient, Stein is a Dean's List student, as well as an outstanding athlete who is captain of the men's varsity basketball team. He was named Conference Rookie of the Year, 2003 and is a two-time member of the Second Team All-Conference Team. He has been a resident assistant; president of Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Society; a member of the Student Health Advisory Committee and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, and Hot Dog Day Committee. Stein served as a member of the selection committee for the Vice President for Student Affairs, and was named Homecoming King, 2006. He is listed in Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities, 2007. A graduate of Norwin High School, Stein is a son of John and Shelli Stein of North Huntingdon, PA. A native of Fu Jian, China, Ye immigrated to the United States seven years ago. She is the first woman in her family to attend college. Her father attended high school until his own father's death, but her mother, one of nine children, had to quit school after the equivalent of second grade. Even after she arrived in the United States, Ye had no thought of attending school, much less completing college. She worked as a seamstress for several months, communicating only in Chinese to her co-workers. Determined to complete high school, Ye said, "I worked from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m." each day as a typist and layout designer for the Sing Tao Daily News, then attended high school, first at a bilingual high school then at the High School of Economics and Finance in New York City, where classes were taught in English. She received the Albert Shanker College Scholarship from the United Federation of Teachers, and suddenly college became an option for her. Even with financial aid from Alfred University, "I still had to work hard to pay all of my expenses on my own." In spite of her workload, Ye has maintained a grade-point average of 3.28 as an accounting major in the College of Business, and she, too, has immersed herself in extracurricular activities at Alfred University. She is president of the Pacific Rim Organization, and founder and director of "Alfred to Asia," a production that introduces students to Asian cultures. She is also president of the Institute for Management Accountants, a resident assistant; executive producer of "5stories;" vice president of Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Society; and a member of the Pacioli Society, honor society in accounting. Ye is a staff writer and business manager for the student-run newspaper, Fiat Lux; founder of the AU Badminton Club; a leader of the International Student Organization; a member of the Student Senate Finance Committee, the Hot Dog Day Special Events Committee, the ALANA Reunion Committee, the Peer Review Board and Drawn to Diversity. A recipient of the Jonathan Allen Leadership Scholarship at Alfred University, Ye received honorable mention for the Student Innovation Award and earned an Alfie Award for "Best Student-Directed Production" for "Alfred to Asia." She is a recipient of the National Collegiate Gold Circle Award, and is listed in Who's Who among Students in American Universities and Colleges. "Alfred has become a new home for me and has helped motivate me to constantly improve myself," Ye said. As the first woman in her family to attend college, "I am fulfilling my parents' and my dream of having a better education. I believe I will be successful in any field with my ability to take on challenges." She is a daughter of Yu Lin Ye of Flushing. 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 will also receive \$5,000 in cash, thanks to an endowment created by Robert L. MacNeil Jr. of Wyndmoor, PA, a friend and business colleague of Marlin Miller, who created the award in Miller's honor. 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. Miller is former president and CEO of Arrow International, a medical devices manufacturing firm in Reading, PA. Recipients are selected 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. The awards will be presented during the University's annual Honors Convocation April 20 in the McLane Center.