

Fiat editor receives first Sharon Hoover Award

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Alfred University's Communication Studies Program presented the first Sharon Hoover Fiat Lux Award to Soukxhavanh Tim Inthirakoth, the incoming editor of the Fiat Lux, the AU student-run newspaper, during Honors Convocation. The award honors Dr. Sharon Hoover, professor emerita of English, who was the newspaper advisor for 15 years prior to her retirement. Inthirakoth, a junior majoring in communication studies, received a \$500 stipend, thanks to in large measure to gifts from grateful alumni who benefited either professionally or personally from their experience with the newspaper and Dr. Hoover. The annual award will be presented to a Fiat Lux staff member to "support those activities that enrich, promote and sustain the vision of the independent student-run newspaper." Inthirakoth will use the funds to offset some of his expenses to attend a national journalism conference to be held in June in New York City. "While at this conference, he will attend minority coverage training sessions, run by professional journalists from our nation's top papers and journalism think-tanks," said Dr. Robyn Goodman, associate professor of communications and the current Fiat Lux advisor. "When he returns to Alfred in the fall, he will be able to use what he's learned at the conference to improving the Fiat Lux's coverage of minorities," including people of color and sexual minorities, said Goodman. Goodman noted that Alfred University has been sending Communication Studies students to the conference for a number of years because of the "big-name" journalists it attracts as speakers. Scheduled to speak this year are Diane Sawyer, Dan Rather and Christopher Reeves, as well as several New York Times staff reporters and Congressman Barney Frank. A graduate of Bishop Kearney High School in Rochester, Inthirakoth is the son of Amphay Inthirakoth of West Henrietta and Somkhith Inthirakoth of Rochester.