

1997 Researcher of the Year

Donald J. Kagay

Dr. Donald J. Kagay was named Researcher of the Year at Albany State University (ASU) for 1997 academic year. An assistant professor of History and Political Science at Albany State since 1993, Dr. Kagay has spent the past three years researching, "Law and Society in the Middle Ages," which has received critical and international acclaim. As described, Kagay's law research efforts "peer into a mirror to society to view a multi-layered medieval world."

In a series of books and articles related to the "Law and Society in the Middle Ages" project and largely published during his time at Albany State University, Dr. Kagay has produced a translation of a medieval law code, *The Usatges of Barcelona: The Fundamental Law of Catalonia*, in 1994, and 10 articles dealing with various phases of Iberian society down to the time of transatlantic exploration.

Dr. Kagay also edited five collections of essays which focus on medieval Spain in a broader Mediterranean context, including *The Circle of Battle: Essays on Medieval Military and Naval History* and *Essays in Honor of Joseph E. O'Callaghan*.

Dr. Kagay received the bachelor's and master's degrees in History/Classics from Southern Methodist University in 1966 and 1968, respectively. He earned the doctorate degree in Medieval History from Fordham University in 1981.

Dr. Kagay was an adjunct professor at the University of Texas at Arlington and at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth prior to coming to Albany State.

A member of several professional organizations, including the American Academy of Research Historians of Medieval Spain, American Historical Association, Dr. Kagay cofounded *De re militari*: Society for the Study of Medieval Military Affairs.



1997 Teacher of the Year

Samarendra Basu

Dr. Samarendra Basu, a professor of Criminal Justice and coordinator of Forensic Science, was named the 1997 Teacher of the Year at Albany State University.

Born in Calcutta, India, Dr. Basu was influenced at a very early age by his mother, father and a variety of teachers from grade school on. Dr. Basu believes that every student should be viewed as a unique human being who has the potential to make significant contributions to his immediate community and society at large.

In his classroom, Dr. Basu emphasizes the relationship between concepts in the disciplines of Forensic Science and links these concepts to the real world experiences of the students. These concepts are threaded with contemporary events in an attempt to motivate student learning. "Every student is capable of learning, regardless of his family background or life circumstances," he says.

Dr. Basu performed his doctoral work in Physics at the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics at the University of Calcutta. He came to the United States in 1969, to join the Department of Biophysics at the University of Chicago for postdoctoral research.

Since he joined the faculty at Albany State University six and a half years ago, Dr. Basu has written one book, *Electron Microscopy in Forensic, Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences*; 54 peer-reviewed articles or papers, several articles in books, 31 published abstracts and many workshops/symposia presentations.

Dr. Basu organized and co-chairs the Albany Symposium of Evidence, a two-day conference, held annually at Albany State, which examines and explores current issues in criminalistics and forensic sciences.

He is an electron microscopist, a criminologist, diplomate of American College Forensic Examiners (ACFE) and a fellow of American Academy of Forensic Sciences (AAFS).

