

SUNY Delhi to Recognize Alumnus Douglas Okun with Honorary Doctorate

by [SUNY Delhi](#)

DELHI, NY (05/19/2010)(readMedia)-- SUNY Delhi will present an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to internationally recognized architect Douglas Okun, a 1962 Delhi graduate and principal of the Cambridge, Mass.-based Douglas Okun and Associates, at the college's 93rd annual commencement exercise Saturday, May 22, at 1 p.m. in the Clark Field House.

"Doug Okun credits SUNY Delhi as the catalyst for his professional career, so we are pleased to be able to present him with an honorary degree," said SUNY Delhi President Candace S. Vancko. "We will also be celebrating his remarkable talents and the special gift he has provided for future generations of Delhi students."

Okun was honored in 1987 by the SUNY Delhi Alumni Association for his outstanding achievements, and in 2004, he was among the first alumni to be recognized as a Delhi Titan. As a Titan, Okun had the opportunity to connect with Delhi students and share his professional experiences. Soon after that event, he offered his talents, providing the conceptual design to transform Farrell Hall, Delhi's student union, into a state-of-the-art student and community center.

Under Okun's guidance, Douglas Okun and Associates Inc., has provided comprehensive architectural services for more than 25 years. One of his major clients is Harvard University, where he has completed more than 200 design and renovation projects. His design for the renovation of the 50-year-old Malkin Athletic Center earned a National Trust for Historic Preservation Award. His renovation of Harvard's Weld and Newell Boat Houses also earned an Architectural Showcase Award from Athletic Business magazine.

Okun's extensive commercial experience includes serving as the exclusive architect for five years for Sugarloaf USA Ski Resort in Carrabasset Valley, Maine, an assignment that featured designing the master plan, hotel condominiums, base lodge, ski shop and real estate office. He also designed the master plan for the Goddard House/Homestead Hall assisted living community in Worcester, Mass. He has made his mark in residential design as well, completing projects throughout the Boston suburbs, as well as on Martha's Vineyard.

Okun's professional achievements also include serving as the design unit coordinator for a 200 megawatt power plant in Military City, Saudi Arabia for Brown, Daltas & Associates and as a partner and principal of Developmental Resources of Cambridge, Mass. Okun began his professional career with King and King Architects of Syracuse where he designed two major buildings for Syracuse University: the award-winning Bird Library and the Heroy Geology Building.

After graduating from SUNY Delhi, Okun went on to earn his bachelor's and master's degrees in architecture from the University of Illinois. As a student at Illinois, he was the recipient of Edward L. Ryerson and Francis J. Plym Traveling Fellowships, each providing six months of travel and study in Europe.

This year's graduating class includes approximately 580 candidates for baccalaureate degrees, associate degrees and certificates. Kasey Carpentier, a Culinary Arts major from Hudson Falls, will speak as Baccalaureate Degree Student of the Year, and Terri Brauer, a Hotel and Resort Management major from Kingston, will speak as Associate Degree Student of the Year.

SUNY Delhi's commencement exercises will also recognize four faculty and staff as recipients of the SUNY Chancellor's Awards for Excellence. They include: Dr. Kathryn DeZur, Associate Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Kenneth C. Pyle, Associate Professor of Veterinary Science Technology; Pamela J. Peters, Director of Library Services; and Cynthia A. Haynes, Secretary 2, Technology Division. Also honored are students who have served as exemplary volunteer leaders who will receive the Recognition of Community Service Honors.