

The Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences

Getting Fired Up About Her Major

There's that common question about Fire Science: Do you really need a degree?

And here's the answer, from N.Y. City firefighter Andrew E. Dinkel IV '01 B.S. "If you want to move up, you have to have that degree to back you up." Kaitlin Rohonczy was listening carefully in the University's Alumni Lounge one windy, cold Thursday night this

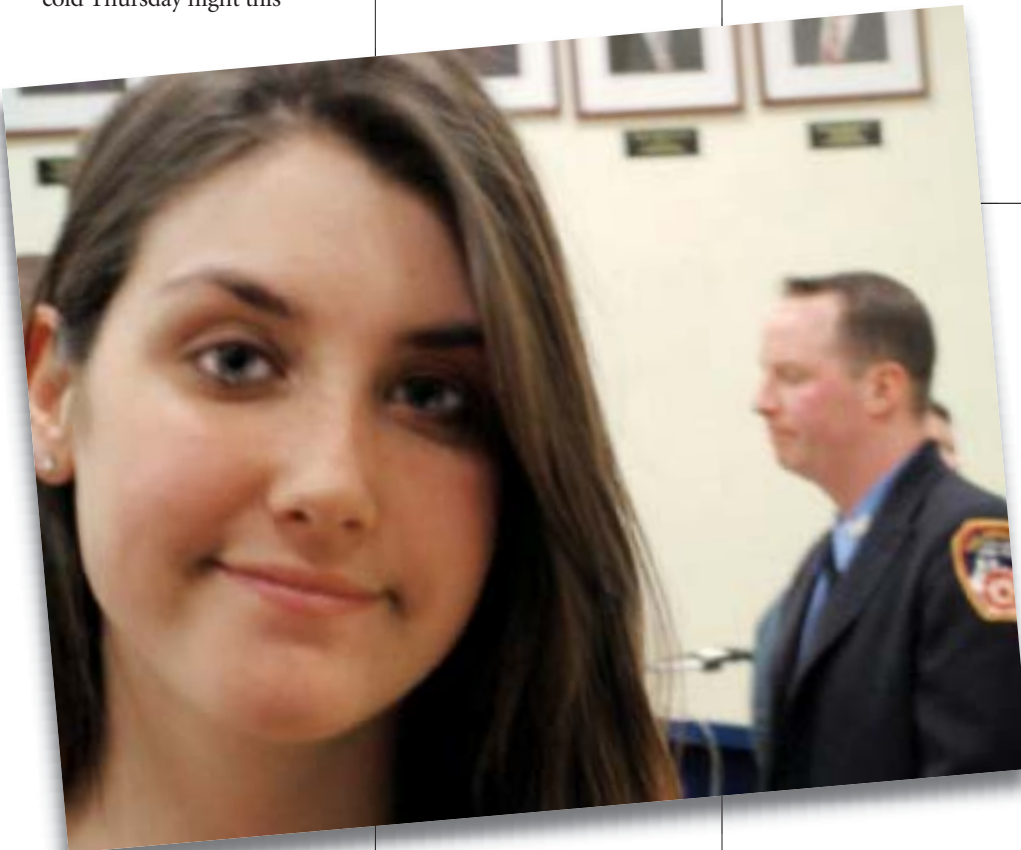
past February when several Fire Science and Criminal Justice graduates gathered to talk to a crowd of prospective students, their parents, alumni and current students about careers in their fields. Rohonczy, 17, then a senior at John F. Kennedy High School in Somers, N.Y., has known since she was 13 that she wanted to be a firefighter. A great-uncle was a firefighter with the renowned Rescue 1

in Manhattan, her grandfather a hook-and-ladder man. But a degree?

Its value was underscored at the career session. "Will you be rich?" Kevin Fry '03 B.S., asked rhetorically. "No. Will you be comfortable? Yes. Will you have a great career? Yes. Will you have a life of self-fulfillment? Absolutely."

The panel members talked about salaries, about the University's vaunted reputation and its valued internships, and about expertise and professionalism.

The discussion sold Rohonczy on the value of a college education in Fire Science. "Tonight I was able to see what everybody has taken from their degrees," she said. And by May, she had been accepted into the Fire Arson and Investigation program, one of four women out of 23 students enrolled, a University of New Haven degree well within her future.



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Kaitlin Rohonczy, a recent graduate of John F. Kennedy High School in Somers, N.Y., will attend UNH this fall. Photo at left shows her at a UNH career session, with New York City firefighter Christopher Brennan '03 in the background.