College Unveils Its International Hall of Flags

In a reaffirmation of the college’s strong 25-year commitment to its rich international diversity, LaGuardia formally unveiled its International Hall of Flags.

The permanent exhibition of 135 flags, representing the countries of origin of faculty, staff, and students, was officially unfurled during a stately ceremony that included a special performance by ’60s folk legend Richie Havens, proclamations by government officials, and a ribbon cutting ceremony.

To explain the significance of the exhibit, the largest display of international flags in the nation, second only to the United Nations, President Raymond C. Bowen, gave the

(Continued on page 6)

President Bowen presided over the ribbon cutting ceremony that officially unveiled the college’s International Hall of Flags. Also in the photo (left to right): Jack Lynch, English professor; Bill Negron, vice president of Student Government; Elaine Cheng from Governor Pataki’s office; George Ross, commissioner of Records and Information Services, who represented Mayor Giuliani; Peter Magnani, deputy Queens borough president; Harry Heinemann, dean of Cooperative Education; and Mian Qadru-Din, director of Promotions for Public Service Division, who represented Secretary General Kofi Annan of the United Nations.

LaGuardians Set Off on Mystery Cruise

A pleasure cruise attended by a group of LaGuardia faculty, staff, students, and alumni suddenly ended in violence when a guest not connected with the college was brutally murdered.

While guests wined and dined as the party liner cruised in the New York Harbor, a gun shot rang out and the victim, who was later identified as Ali Boobie, staggered onto the dance floor with a sword through his cranium and a gun in his hand.

A typical New York experience? Not quite. This was just the college’s Alumni Association’s answer to Murder on the Orient Express. Welcome to Murder on the Spirit of New York. The 200 LaGuardians who embarked on this journey knew exactly what was in store: a special evening of dinner, dance, and a good, old-fashioned who-dun-it.

To get the night officially underway, President Raymond C. Bowen, donning a LaGuardia baseball cap, made a toast to a 25th anniversary event that has brought every faction of the college community together.

As the cruiser left dock for its three-hour excursion, the mystery slowly unfolded. Mingling among the guests were four professional actors who picked six innocent LaGuardians and gently coerced them to "act"-ively participate in this drama. Given a few cue cards and

(Continued on page 2)

Dr. William Julius Wilson Featured at Spring Lecture

Dr. William Julius Wilson, a distinguished professor from Harvard University whose most recent book on the impact of the disappearance of jobs in the country’s segregated neighborhoods has sparked a heated national debate, addressed this issue at the college’s 25th anniversary spring lecture.

Before a packed audience of faculty, staff, and students, the nationally-known scholar passionately described the unprecedented levels of joblessness in the inner cities, the devastating consequences the economic collapse in those neighborhoods has on the
President’s Goals Unfurled in Hall of Flags

The International Hall of Flags dedication ceremony held on May 12 was certainly one of the high points of this year’s 25th anniversary celebration. Several ambassadors to the United Nations and other representatives from foreign lands participated in the various gala festivities. Proclamations from the governor, mayor, and borough president lauded the college on its commitment to cultural pluralism. Every unit of the institution participated—students, faculty, and staff including security personnel who looked so official in their dress blue uniforms with white gloves. Maintenance and custodial staff ensured the building was in tip-top shape. The cafeteria folks presented an outstanding array of foods—and so delicious!

The concept of the International Hall of Flags was conceived about 10 years ago by Umoja Kwanguvu, who has since retired from the Student Affairs Division. Its diversity and incorporated it into our daily lives.

The International Hall of Flags that we dedicated symbolizes the rich international diversity of LaGuardia Community College. It also represents our commitment to make this world a much better place in which to live. I am grateful to the students, faculty, and staff that brought this idea to fruition. I am also indebted to the international recording star Mr. Richie Havens who volunteered his time and performed so eloquently during the program.

As expressed by the singers from the Early Childhood Learning Center...

"WE ARE THE WORLD!"

Mystery Cruise

(Continued from page 1)

The rest of the guests watched the drama unfold, carefully listened for clues, and attempted to identify the killer.

Easier said than done. The play revolved around ten suspicious characters who were on a mad search for a genie’s lamp, $30 million, and an amulet to the city, and would stop at nothing (not even murder!) to retrieve the booties. The ploys and subplots could have confounded the most astute sleuth.

Despite the convoluted plot twists and turns, 17 keen detectives deduced that Kissame Yafreik was the killer. Winning Dr. Watson sleuth awards were Terry Parker of Media Services and and Andy Saluga of Recreation.

"It was a lot of fun," said Mr. Saluga, who took home a Dr. Watson double-beaked hat. (Other comments that echo the same enthusiastic response can be read in the Inquiring Photographer column, page 15.)

Evelyn Franco’s Princess Sheeba gets a good laugh when Bob Rosa’s Shazzaam expresses his love for her
University of Santo Domingo Recognizes LaGuardians' Role in Launching a New College

Fifteen LaGuardia faculty, staff, and administrators were recognized by the rector of the Universidad Autonoma de Santo Domingo for their efforts and support in establishing the Dominican Republic's first community college.

During a formal awards ceremony, certificates of appreciation were presented to Dan Aulinico, mathematics professor; Amparo Barrera, junior design coordinator; Raymond C. Bowen, president; Richard Elliott, dean of Administration; Mohammad Fakhari, cooperative education faculty advisor; Cathy Farrell, associate dean of Cooperative Education; Jose Flores, senior design coordinator; Michael Frank, cooperative education faculty advisor; George Hamada, vice president/provost; Harry Heinemann, dean of Cooperative Education; Roberta Matthews, former associate dean of Academic Affairs; John Melick, assistant director of Planning and Design; Delltly Forras, mathematics professor; Dorrie Williams, executive director of the School-to-Work program; and Bob Weidemann, professor of Computer Information Systems.

"Since the collaboration between the two institutions was established some four years ago," said Rocio Bellini, spokesperson for Rector Edyberto Cabral, "LaGuardia's faculty, staff, and administration helped the university bring the community college project to fruition by enthusiastically sharing their expertise with our faculty and administration."

The fruits of their efforts have already paid off. The Centro Universitario Regional de Suroeste in Barahona, which has been in operation for over two years, has recently graduated its first class. Among the first 31 students to enroll in the college's computer technology and travel and tourism programs, 19 out of 20 travel and tourism majors graduated and 13 of the 15 computer tech majors received a diploma. Of the computer tech students who did not graduate, one opted to accept a full-time position with his cooperative education employer and the other will graduate with the next class.

With their degrees, Dean Heinemann reported that job prospects look bright. He said that 75 percent of the graduates were now working for their cooperative education employers.

"With the success of this program," he said, "the two institutions are looking forward to establishing new colleges in the Dominican Republic."

Faculty and staff receiving certificates of appreciation were (left to right): John Melick, Delltly Forras, Jose Flores, Amparo Barrera, Cathy Farrell, Rocio Bellini, Mohammad Fakhari, David Schoenberg, Harry Heinemann, George Hamada, and Bob Weidemann.
College Theaters Get Make Overs

The college’s Little and Mainstage Theaters are undergoing cosmetic surgery.

The Little Theater, which was showing its age after fifteen years of continuous college use, has gone through a complete make-over from the upholstery of its 220 seats to new carpeting to a fresh coat of paint. As for the six-year-old Mainstage, its nonfunctional orchestra pit, which was viewed as a potential safety hazard, will be given a protective cover.

Spearheading the two quality-of-life construction projects were Dean Richard Elliott and Associate Dean James L. Buckley of Administration who received approval from the executive council and $100,000 in tax levy funds to make the necessary improvements.

"During the years that the college was faced with dramatic budget restraints, monies for construction were directed to classrooms and labs, while such projects as refurbishing the theaters, redoing the cafeterias, and sprucing up public space, had to take a back seat," said Dean Elliott. "Now with the budget picture a little brighter, the college can focus on these two very important initiatives that not only affect the college community but the college visitors who enjoy the events that take place in the two venues."

After a two-month operation the Little Theater is almost unrecognizable. Gone are the soiled red fabric seats whose foam padding was disintegrating and the shabby carpeting that was being kept down in certain spots with duct tape. Now adorning the repaired and repainted seats is a smart black fabric enhanced by a subtle red design. Complementing the seat design is charcoal tweed carpeting.

"In deciding upon the color, the committee members all agreed that the LaGuardia red had seen its day," said Zuri McKie, the theater director, who approved the interior design decisions in consultation with Eileen Murray and Diane Colon of Administrative and Support Services and Amparo Barrera of Planning, Design and Construction.

The renovations were done by J. M. Murray Center, Inc., a company that employs only disabled workers. And Building Operations played a role in the project by refurbishing the burned out recessed lighting fixtures and painting the ceiling and trim.

John Melick, assistant director of Planning, Design and Construction, pointed out that another feature that now enhances the theater are aisle lights that were installed during the original construction of the theater but were only recently discovered when the carpeting and seats were removed.

Another nicety that will aid people in finding their seats when the house lights go down are illuminated strips placed on every aisle stair.

As a safety measure, the Mainstage Theatre's orchestra pit, which has never been used, will finally be covered.

"We do not use the pit to house an orchestra, and because of the kinds of activities — dance-school recitals, high school performances and divisional graduations — that are performed here, we felt it was imperative to cover the pit to prevent possible accidents," said Ms. McKie.

Mr. Melick explained that after looking at a number of ways to deal with the orchestra pit, the committee decided upon a modular set that is made up of durable aircraft quality aluminum pieces and covered with composition-type sheet material.

"It addresses all our safety concerns," said Mr. Melick. "With this heavy-weight system we can have our children's recitals, graduations, and school-time performances without fear that an accident may occur."
Faculty Exhibit Innovative Wares

To celebrate the college faculty's 25 years of innovations in teaching and learning, a group of faculty invited their colleagues to participate in a two-week program filled with a panoply of educational workshops and demonstrations highlighting the creative activities and projects developed by individuals throughout the institution.

"This event is the continuation of LaGuardia's longtime commitment to fostering innovations in teaching and learning at the college," said Meryl Sussman, who co-chaired the committee with Maureen Doyle of the Natural and Applied Sciences Department.

Kicking off the professional development program, which ran from May 7 to 22, was what the committee coined an "intellectual market." In this informal setting, various departments set up tables displaying a sample of the projects and activities that were discussed in depth at workshops that were held later. The 17 workshop topics ranged from new approaches to curriculum, such as the revamping of the math curriculum, collaborative learning and learning communities, to methods of teaching students with disabilities.

"It was a marvelously varied set of ideas," said Professor Doyle.

Some 75 faculty members perused the materials and casually talked shop with their colleagues. "People seemed to enjoy having the opportunity to share their creative ideas about teaching," Professor Doyle added.

"The forum provided a novel and informal way for faculty members to showcase their projects and to exchange ideas and pedagogy," said Professor Sussman. "And we hoped that the market would pique faculty interest and entice them to go to the workshops over the two-week period."

While faculty members went from one display to another, Gustavo Moreto of the Humanities Department led "Kaleidoscope," the college's newly formed Latin-jazz ensemble, in several musical interludes.

Professor Sussman said that the event was put together by a variety of different committees involved in faculty development. Among them were the Teaching Development Subcommittee of the Professional Development Committee of the Senate, the President's Taskforce on Pluralism, and members from the Steering Committee for Teaching and Learning.

The committee members included Toby Feinberg of Computer Information Systems, Michael Frank of Cooperative Education, Jie Gao of the ESL Department, Terence Julien of Social Science, Janice Karlen of Accounting/Managerial Studies, Gail Mellow of Academic Affairs, and Paul Saladino of Cooperative Education.

The intellectual market was made possible by funds provided by the Coordinated Freshman Program grant of which Professor Sussman serves as director.

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Professor Macheski
Awarded Fulbright

It's a "threepeat" for Dr. Cecilia Macheski.

The English professor was recently awarded her third Fulbright Senior Scholar grant that will take her to Norway where she will be sharing her educational expertise with high school educators.

During the yearlong stint, which will span the 1997-98 academic year, Dr. Macheski will travel to Oslo where she will conduct workshops for upper secondary teachers of American civilization and literature. The professor also will lend her expertise by assisting Scandinavian schools in selecting textbooks on American culture and consulting on language teaching methods. The grant will also enable her to visit schools throughout the country.

"Teaching in other institutions always forces me to come home and reassess how I teach at LaGuardia where there are students from over 100 countries," said Dr. Macheski. "I need to know what it feels like to be in my students' seats, not feeling fluent in the local tongue, and struggling to get by. I think the year in Norway could bring me that new perspective."

Her first fellowship, which was at the University of Waikato in New Zealand, was awarded in 1991. Seven years later she returned to New Zealand as a fellow at Victoria University.

The Fulbright Scholarship Program, which was established under congressional legislation introduced by Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas, was designed to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.

Some 4,000 grants are awarded each year to American students, teachers, and scholars to study, teach, and conduct research around the world. The award is also extended to foreign nationals who wish to engage in similar activities in the U.S. All candidates are selected on the basis of academic and professional qualifications, as well as their ability and willingness to share ideas and experience with people of diverse cultures.

Dr. Macheski is one of approximately 1,600 American who has been awarded grants this year.
International Hall of Flags Ceremony

(Continue! from page 1)

The audience that filled the Mainstage Theatre some facts on the college population: “The LaGuardia community comes from more than 130 countries and regions of the world and speaks more than 75 languages,” he said. “The number of international students alone is almost three times the total number of students that entered when the college first opened its doors 25 years ago.”

“ar recognize the rich international diversity that makes this college an inclusive and multicultural institution,” he added, “we have erected a permanent monument that identifies the countries that make our college a global community.”

Representing the college’s students, Bill Negron, vice president of the Student Government Association, declared this “milestone” event “a testament to the students of LaGuardia Community College and a proud reflection of the different cultural makeup that makes this institution what is today... a golden mosaic, the melting pot into the melting pot.”

Dehily Porras, the chairperson of the International Hall of Flags Committee, described the exhibit as a “dream come true” for our students, our faculty, and staff. She also said that LaGuardia, where 59 percent of our students come from foreign lands, recognizes that individuals are equal but not the same. “Equal, in the sense that we are each respected for the strengths we bring to the campus; not the same, in that we bring different gifts of racial or cultural heritage,” Professor Porras said. “We bring these gifts to a community defined by inclusion, within parameters of mutual respect and appreciation of our differences.”

The ceremony’s theme of brotherhood was deeply reinforced when Richie Havens, the folk, blues, and pop singer, whose poignant songs have conveyed the messages of brotherhood and personal freedom for three decades, performed. Without saying a word to the audience, Mr. Havens picked up his guitar and began to sing. The recognizable, soulful voice that has been heard in Greenwich Village clubs and the Woodstock Rock Festival, sang a medley that blended two of his most famous songs—“Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child” and “Freedom.”

He ended his ten-minute set with a moving rendition of “The Turning Away.”

The sweet voices of the future were heard when the children of the Early Childhood Learning Center took the stage. After greeting the audience in nine foreign languages, the young performers, waving little flags of their country, sang “We Are the World” and “It’s a Small World.” Other performances by the college community included Toby Horowitz of International High School, Nancy Dumetz of International High School, and Jerry Ianni of the Mathematics Department, who played Mozart’s “Clarinet Trio” in E-Flat Major, John Williams of Humanities, who was accompanied by Marjorie Deutch of Computer Information Systems on piano, sang “Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor.”

The international song of unity, “Let There be Peace on Earth” was sung by Patricia Dillon of the Nursing program. And Jack Lynch of English read an original poem entitled, “Flags All Around Me.”

It was also a time for government officials to praise the college’s 25-year tradition of providing quality education to the city’s underserved population.

Governor George Pataki, whose message was read by Elaine Cheng of the governor’s New York City office, said LaGuardia is a “shining example of our nation’s diversity,” and that this “magnificent exhibition is another example of LaGuardia’s commitment to educational excellence.”

Borough President Claire Shulman and Mayor Rudy Guiliani both proclaimed May 12th: “LaGuardia Community College International Hall of Flags Day.”

Presenting the borough’s proclamation to President Bowen, Deputy Borough President Peter Magnani, who represented the borough president, said that “this unveiling is symbolic of LaGuardia’s 25-year tradition of global harmony as manifested in the countries of origin of the faculty, staff, and students represented by the 135 flags that hang in this hall.”

Dr. George Sussman, The City University of New York’s dean for Academic Affairs and International Programs, spoke about the university’s long-standing tradition of welcoming immigrants to its campuses where they learn English and earn degrees that can “secure their positions in the American society.”

He compared LaGuardia’s student body, which is “mixed in its origins,” to the college’s namesake who could speak both Italian and Yiddish. Of the 59 percent of the freshmen who are foreign born, he indicated that 44 percent came from the Caribbean, 23 percent from South and Central America, 19 percent from Asia, 10 percent from Europe, and 2 1/2 percent from the Middle East.

“The most wonderful thing about the internationalism of LaGuardia is it is it is a two-way street,” he said. “The college takes from the rest of the world and it gives back.”

He explained that the college does this by spreading the idea of community college education in the Caribbean, South and Central America, Russia, Africa, China, and the Middle East, and by encouraging its students to venture overseas and learn about the rest of the world.

“For all these reasons the Hall of Flags is a very fitting symbol of LaGuardia Community College,” he concluded.

To identify the flags that make up the exhibit, 11 members of the college community stood before the audience and read off the countries represented. The readers were: Nancy Santangelo (U.S.) of the Foreign Student Office, Mohammad Hoque, a student from Bangladesh, Phillip Mandalidis (Switzerland) of Student Life and Development, Irene Sosa (Puerto Rico) of Student Life and Development, Felicia Williams, a student from the U.S., Carmen Long (Vietnam) of the Business Office, Aatika Uddin, a student from Pakistan, Naomi Greenberg (U.S. with Austrian and Polish roots) of the Occupational Therapy Department, Luis Merchant (Panama) of Student Activities, Chuki Wangdu (Tibet) office of the dean of Institutional Advancement, and Grace Cumberbatch (Barbados) of the Nursing program.

The ceremony culminated with the president leading a procession of faculty, staff, students, and guests to the site of the exhibition where the official ribbon cutting ceremony took place. Standing in front of the hallway lined with 135 individually identified four-by-five flags, the president and a group of United Nations’ delegates, local dignitaries, and college community members cut the ribbon and proceeded to lead the crowd through the sun-lit hallway emblazoned with a gallery of international symbols.
Wilson Lecture

(Continue from page 1)

country, and some possible strategies to reverse the present trend.

Dr. Wilson's visit, which also included an informal chat between the guest and a small group of faculty and staff, as well as a book signing session, was part of the college's yearlong 25th anniversary celebration.

"We are very fortunate to have a scholar of Dr. Wilson's stature help us celebrate our 25th anniversary," said President Raymond C. Bowen.

Introducing the guest was Audrey Harrigan, director of the college's College Opportunity to Prepare for Employment program and Dr. Wilson's sister, who gave a touching salute that offered a glimpse of the personal side of the speaker. She spoke about an older brother who became the man of the house when their father died at the age of 39, a brother who managed her football team, and someone who had always directed his energies to community involvement.

Before addressing the major topic, Dr. Wilson praised the college's 25 years of educational innovations and the integral role it has played in serving the city's disadvantaged.

"Because my sister is a faculty member of LaGuardia Community College, I have closely followed its innovative programs, including COPE and Project Enable, which deal with joblessness in the inner cities," he said.

"Your rare preparatory programs designed to move graduates immediately into the labor market are very important. And when you consider that so many colleges and universities remain aloof from the day-to-day problems of the city, it is refreshing to see an institution that is so engaged, so connected with the city."

In helping the audience to understand the dire employment picture in inner-city ghetto neighborhoods, Dr. Wilson compared the employment situation in three historically black Chicago neighborhoods in the 1950's and now. He pointed out that forty years ago, although urban poverty was extensive, people held jobs as opposed to the 1990's where jobs are scarce. He supported his remarks with statistics that show that in 1950, 69 percent of all males 14 and over in those neighborhoods worked, compared to only 37 percent in 1990.

"It is one thing to have a neighborhood where people are poor but working, which was indeed the case in the 1950's," said Dr. Wilson. "It is an entirely different condition when people are poor and jobless."

In explaining the reasons for the growing proportion of jobless adults in the inner city communities he cited three conditions. One reason has to do with the nation-wide decline in low-skilled jobs as an increased number of employers are seeking workers with high-technology skills. Another has to do with the exodus of companies from cities to the suburbs that prevents people who rely on public transportation from applying to those businesses. Still another cause of joblessness, is the negative perception of employers, both black and white, toward job applicants from the inner cities.

"The combination of functions presents a real challenge to policy makers on how to alleviate the inner-city jobs problem," said Dr. Wilson. "And it is a problem that will undoubtedly grow when the new welfare reform bill takes full effect."

In examining the Clinton Administration's passage of the recent welfare reform bill, Dr. Wilson chided the action. He criticized the omission of a jobs creation program and the emphasis the plan places on the private sector to hire welfare recipients.

"The track record of private employers is not especially encouraging," said Dr. Wilson. "Past efforts to subsidize employers to hire welfare recipients and other disadvantaged individuals have generally failed to work on a large scale. Why? Simply because not enough employers have been willing to hire people whom they view as troublesome or 'damaged goods.'"

Instead of dangling tax credits and wage subsidies in front of private businesses to motivate them to employ inner-city residents, Dr. Wilson said that the government should encourage the nation's governors and mayors to design their own strategies that mix private and public sector approaches. He pointed to Governor Tommy G. Thompson of Wisconsin who has already put in place a successful welfare reform program that is built on the public-private strategy.

Another way Dr. Wilson believes the country can tackle this insidious problem is through the establishment of broad-based community coalitions. He elaborated on this point during the informal chat session when Sandy Watson of Family College posed a question on how communities can establish such unions.

"We need multi-ethnic groups working together in an effective coalition," he said. "Right now there is so much emphasis on the racial divide there is a general assumption that it is not possible. But it is possible, and we need to talk about those efforts that have demonstrated it is possible."

The scholar who has looked at the problem of joblessness for the past 20 years foresees a bleak future if adequate strategies to enhance employment opportunities of inner-city residents are not put in place.

"If steps are not taken soon to enhance the job prospects of hundreds of thousands of inner-city youths and adults, we could be facing a real catastrophe in many urban areas, including a sharp increase in the number of homeless families with children," he warned. "As a nation, this is something that we must not tolerate."
NAS Opens New Study Hall

Future scientists now have a place to call home on campus with the opening of the Natural and Applied Science Department’s new study hall. The department hosted an open house on April 9 to welcome visitors to the modern hall, located in room M-238.

Modeled on the college’s very successful writing center and the CSTEP study center, the science study hall has much of the equipment any student-scientist could want: models, skeletons, specimens, standard and projecting microscopes, a VCR, and computers with CD-ROM. The hall is funded with monies from the Vocational and Applied Technology Act (VATEA).

The study hall is a student-friendly environment where peer tutors are always on call and opportunities for collaborative group learning experiences are plentiful. Students can also work alone.

A lab supervisor is always on duty in the study hall to maintain student usage records for evaluative purposes. In the few months the hall has been open, the usage rates have been high. For example, during the Fall II Session, 72 percent of the students enrolled in anatomy and physiology sections regularly used the hall. And according to department administrators, the usage rate is translating, so far, into better grades for the students using the facility.

Faculty and staff are invited and encouraged to visit the study hall and should feel free to encourage students to make use of this exciting addition to studying science at LaGuardia.

Helping to celebrate the opening of the science study hall are (left to right) Gail Mellow, Carol Haspel, John Bohn, Michael Gottlich, Gunther Eichholz, and George Hamada.

Math Department Revamps Curriculum

In recognizing math’s increasingly vital role in contemporary society along with the business world’s need for more teamwork among professionals, the Mathematics Department has revamped the curriculum of four of its courses.

The redesigned courses—MAT 095, Essentials in Mathematics I; MAT 096, Essentials in Mathematics II; MAT 120, Elementary Statistics; and MAT 200, Pre-Calculus — will employ heavy use of problem-solving skills, collaborative learning techniques, and the use of technology and writing skills.

According to Jorge Perez, chairperson of the department, the four courses have had a successful piloting phase and full implementation is currently taking place. “Based on information gathered from the courses’ pilots, students who attended the courses found many benefits in the new curriculums,” he said.

To help faculty modify their teaching and assessment strategies to reflect the new curriculums’ goals and objectives, the department conducted a series of professional development workshops during the spring semester.

These included an all-day workshop featuring two nationally-known professionals in the area of mathematics education. Karl Smith from the University of Minnesota conducted a session on collaborative learning and Alfred Patrick from Adirondack Community College looked at alternate learning strategies. Other workshops were geared toward helping faculty make the transition from old to new curriculums.

In another series of workshops designed to meet the specific needs of the college’s student body, Renan Sezer conducted two workshops for faculty, tutors, and lab techs involved in MAT 095. Participants examined the new course textbooks and saw samples of the new departmental exams. Also at that session, the group discussed

(Continued on next page)
COPE Succeeds in Placing Graduates

At a time when the nation’s new welfare legislation is challenging states and cities to place recipients of public assistance in jobs, LaGuardia’s College Opportunity to Prepare Employment (COPE), has been very successful in finding employment for that target population.

Of the 139 students who graduated as of last February from the COPE program, an academic program designed for recipients of Aid to Families with Dependent Children, 129 have found jobs—89 in full-time positions and 40 in part-time jobs.

The remaining 10 are full-time students at various four-year institutions.

COPE Director Audrey Harrigan attributes the program’s placement success to Rosalie Kahn, the program’s employment specialist. “Ms. Kahn is dedicated to the task and has a commitment to helping COPE students take a practical approach to their job search,” she said.

Ms. Kahn’s role in placing students is multifaceted. Her first task is to help students build their self-confidence and guide them toward a position that suits their needs, interests, and training.

“The employer-employee match is made,” said Ms. Kahn, “when I have a true grasp of the student’s attitude toward work, capabilities, and personal attributes, as well as a clear idea of what potential employers are seeking in employees.”

When the time comes for the student to go on a job interview, Ms. Kahn transforms into a fashion consultant. Any student needing an interview outfit can obtain a business suit or dress and matching accessories from Ms. Kahn’s “Clothes Closet.” The “closet,” as it is known by the students, is the result of the employment specialist’s contacts with a number of clothing manufacturers.

And then there is the job of developing jobs. Ms. Kahn has been successful in developing positions and placing graduates at McCann Erickson, WNET-Channel 13, United Cerebral Palsy, as well as Pitney-Bowes, Time-Warner, Federal Express, American Banker Bond Buyer. Placements have also been made at a number of health care and child-care facilities.

Graduates who have secured full-time positions at these companies and agencies are receiving average weekly salaries of $300 while those in part-time jobs are averaging $8.25 per hour.

She also works closely with Ronald West, the coordinator of Employment Services for CUNY’s COPE programs at the college, Borough of Manhattan, Kingsborough, and Hostos Community Colleges.

According to Mr. West, LaGuardia’s program is the most responsive program and has the highest student participation rate of various employment activities.

“Ms. Kahn has placed students earning the highest income, has maintained one of the highest monthly placement rates, and has developed jobs with the most prominent business organizations,” he said.

Math’s Revised Curriculum

(Continued from previous page)

such issues as why the curriculum was changed, new teaching and assessment strategies, the new syllabus, course objectives, and grading policies.

To acquaint faculty with all the changes being implemented in MAT 096, JoAnne Kennedy held a session that focused on changes in the text, assessment methods, and the overall delivery of instruction. Because the required use of the graphing calculator is a major course addition, a separate session was held to introduce faculty to the features of the calculator.

After going through extensive reform, Elementary Statistics is now a course with a stronger technology component and more topics in statistics. “The changes were made primarily to facilitate credit transfer to four year institutions,” said Professor Perez.

Elliston Little, the course coordinator, conducted two workshop sessions familiarizing faculty with the SPSS software product now included in the statistics curriculum.

Jerry Ianni was in charge of a development workshop on revamped MAT 200. There he demonstrated the use of MAPLE in the new curriculum and discussed pedagogical strategies, student dynamics, syntax, and specific laboratory projects for pre-calculus. In a second workshop, he presented various theoretical concepts that were drawn from various applied contexts. In both workshops, Mr. Ianni demonstrated the use of writing as both an instructional and evaluative tool.

Joseph Gallo, a security officer at LaGuardia, who purchased a commemorative brick in the name of the college at the Atlanta 1996 Olympics, presents a Centennial Olympic Park Brick Certificate to LaGuardia President Raymond C. Bowen. The college’s brick will be one of some 475,000 inscribed bricks lining the walkways of Atlanta’s Centennial Olympic Park.
Division Participates in Forum to Move Queens into the 21st Century

The college hosted a gathering of prominent leaders last March to discuss and define the path the communities of Queens should take to meet the challenges facing the borough in the coming century.

The concept behind the Queens forum, said Despene Gaziannis, special assistant to the dean of Adult and Continuing Education and co-organizer of the event, was to provide a place where leaders of the community, governmental, business, and religious sectors could meet within an academic setting to identify the crucial issues facing their specific constituencies and Queens as a whole.

“The ultimate goal is to work together to develop common strategies to meet the defined challenges,” she said.

At the conference, focus was placed on four major areas of concern: education, business/economic development, ethnic diversity, and public safety.

To address these concerns, the 72 community leaders who attended were divided into four focus groups each charged with developing recommendations for action and presenting findings to a group of attending elected officials that included Comptroller Alan Hevesi, Queens Borough President Claire Shulman, Commissioner Edward Mercado of the New York State Division of Human Rights, and Director of Strategic Planning Sandy Hornick. Also attending were representatives from Senators Frank Padavan and Emanuel Gold's offices.

The meeting was the culmination of the work of the Queens Forum, a committee headed by Ms. Gaziannis, Robert Kaplan, director of Intergroup Relations at the Jewish Community Council, and others from the community, governmental, and business sectors.

“The conference was very successful,” said Ms. Gaziannis, “and now the recommendations, along with the responses from the elected officials, are being developed into a document that will be sent to all participants. Next steps will be planned by the Queens Forum at their next meeting.”

Three Departments Start Up New Initiatives

The division’s Family Institute, Program for Deaf Adults, and the Adult Career Counseling and Resource Center are involved in a number of new programs and initiatives.

The Family Institute has established WORKWISE, a program that will provide training to 100 JTPA adults in customer service, sales, and computers, both on campus and on the job. The goal is to place at least 85 percent of the participants in jobs that are geared to make New York City a more attractive place to work and visit.

The Program for Deaf Adults has been asked by the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology to serve as the New York State center for a federally-funded grant that the institute has received. The grant allows NTID to provide technical assistance to post secondary educational programs in the northeastern region that service deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

The Adult Career Counseling and Resource Center has joined with Bronx Community College and the New York State Career Options Institute to form the New York State School-to-Work Career Development Consortium to provide staff development and technical assistance in career development to the school-to-work partnerships throughout the state. Through design and implementation of a kindergarten-through-twelve comprehensive career development system, the consortium will enhance the school-to-work partnerships’ capacity for student career development.

Cooperative Education

Co-op Celebrates College’s 25th Anniversary

As part of LaGuardia’s 25th anniversary celebration, the division sponsored a lecture that examined diversity in the workplace.

Speaking on the many benefits and challenges that come from a diverse work force was Claude V. Weir, Jr., senior vice president at Chase Manhattan Corporation. Mr. Weir, who has spent many years in employee and labor relations at Chase, provided insight into the many issues employees and companies face in today’s multi-faceted society.

The event also provided the division with the opportunity to honor five organizations and companies for their long-standing commitment to the college's cooperative education programs. The awardees were: Goldwater and Coer Memorial Hospital, Jacmel Jewelry, Pfizer Corporation, The City of New York, Department of Design and Construction, and The City of New York Office of the Comptroller.
In an ambitious attempt to help immigrant students become United States citizens, the Admissions Office's staff recently conducted two workshops to guide students through the process.

Converting room E-242 into an immigration and naturalization center complete with fingerprinting and photographing sections, the trained personnel helped close to 170 students go through the steps to citizenships.

The college's program is part of a 17-CUNY campus drive to recruit and help immigrant students become U.S. citizens at a time when the federal government is enacting a welfare law that denies certain benefits to legal immigrants who are not citizens.

“Our goal is to help as many students as possible receive their citizenship, especially those who are in the high-risk category,” said Allan Wernick, an immigration lawyer and Hostos Community College professor who heads the “Citizenship Now” program.

Since the campaign was launched in January over 1,800 CUNY students have been served.

At LaGuardia, Linda Tobash, director of Admissions, said that students go through the efficient seven-step process toward their citizenship. The first step for the students is to fill out the application. Once the application is completed and reviewed, the students are ready to be fingerprinted and photographed. The prospective citizens then go to a table where copies of the application are made and then another area where they sign the photo and print their green card number on the back. The last stop is the exit table where all the materials are checked to see if everything is in order and ready to be mailed out. At every juncture, applicants were able to seek the aid of college personnel who had gone through a special training program conducted by CUNY.

“It was fast and easy and people were always there to help me,” said Mr. Jose Saul Rodriguez, an employee in the college's computer laboratory. A native of El Salvador who emigrated to this country in 1984, Mr. Rodriguez explained that although he has wanted to become a citizen for some time, he explained that what made him finally decide to go through the process was his desire to continue his education. “I want to go beyond my bachelor's degree,” he said, “and felt it was important to be a citizen.”

“When I was 18, I planned to become a citizen,” said 30-year-old David Venancio who came to this country from Honduras when he was a year-old, “but when I saw the long lines at Federal Plaza I changed my mind.” The business management major said that what motivated him to change his status was that he was told that retirees do not get a pension if they are not citizens.

Describing the CUNY campaign as a "great" success, Mr. Wernick pledged that it will continue. He said that now that every campus has trained personnel, the individual colleges will be able to conduct workshops on their own and his role will be reduced to simply supplying the camera and fingerprinting materials.

Ms. Tobash said that the college will support this cause by running two workshops every fall and spring semester.

“As long as there are students who wish to become citizens, we will supply this service,” said Ms. Tobash. She estimates that there are some 3,000 legal immigrants enrolled at the college.

Although there is no official count of the number of citizens or permanent residents at CUNY, nearly half of the 203,000 students in the system are foreign born. And according to official estimates, by the year 2000, half of CUNY’s first-year class will be foreign born.
LaGuardia Hosts First Town Meeting

A standing-room-only crowd engaged in a question and answer session last January with a panel of administrators consisting of President Raymond C. Bowen, Vice President/Provost George Hamada, Dean Richard Elliott of Administration, Dean Ruth Lugo of Student Affairs, Dean Harry Heinemann of Cooperative Education, Dean Judy McGaughey of Adult and Continuing Education, and Juan Gonzalez, Student Government representative. The audience participants asked the panel members a variety of questions ranging from the cost of photocopies to the need for larger child care facilities.

The Town Hall Meeting Planning Committee, composed of members of the various constituencies of the college, designed and implemented the town hall meetings. Based on the format used at John Jay College, these meetings bring together students, faculty, staff, and administrators in a comfortable setting so that they may express their ideas, share concerns, and seek solutions to problems in the operations of the college.

The college received a grant from the CUNY Dispute Resolution Consortium that provided a consultant to work with the planning committee in designing the program.

The feedback provided through the evaluations at the town hall meeting has been very positive, and the panel members as well as the planning committee are very enthusiastic about the future of Town Hall Meetings at LaGuardia. The second town hall meeting is currently being planned. For further information contact the planning committee co-chairs, Irene Sosa at extension 5196 or John Kotowski at extension 5053.

Faculty Mentor Program to be Fully Implemented in Fall 1997

Student Life and Development has examined the role faculty advisors to student clubs and organizations play in student development and has established a new program that redefines the advisors’ job.

Under the division’s new faculty mentor program, which will be fully implemented next fall, advisors of all the college clubs, the Bridge, the Student Government Association, and the Student Center for Women, will serve as mentors in an effort to shape students’ leadership skills.

According to Irene Sosa, coordinator of Student Life and Development, in this new program, faculty and student groups will develop a more structured relationship where definite roles and responsibilities will be laid out.

“Faculty advisors play a critical role in the overall development of our students,” said Ms. Sosa. “And through the new program they will further foster and nurture the development of the ‘whole student.’”

She went on to say that the mentor role will foster closer interaction between the students and faculty, and provide greater opportunities to assess and address the needs of the organization and the individuals through increased learning and skill-building experiences.

“The students and faculty who have been involved with the design of the program are enthusiastic about this proactive, developmental model,” Ms. Sosa said.

For further information please contact Ms. Sosa at extension 5196.

Dean Names New Director of Personal Counseling/Student Life & Development

Dean Ruth Lugo of Student Affairs recently announced the appointment of Noma Krasney as the director of Personal Counseling/Student Life and Development Cluster.

Dr. Krasney comes to LaGuardia from Pratt Institute where she was the director of Counseling and Health Services and the director of Fall Orientation Programs. She also has taught psychology at Marymount Manhattan College. She earned her doctorate and master of arts in counseling psychology from Northwestern University and a bachelor of arts from Marymount Manhattan College.

Dr. Krasney may be reached at extension 5964, room M-166.

Matthew Joffe, director of the Office for Students with Disabilities and Learning Project (in background of photo at right), and Paul Hearne, executive director of the Dole Foundation, look over materials at a NYNEX display during one of the college’s Disability Awareness Week events. At the event, Mr. Hearne was invited to the college to give the keynote address on disabilities in the 21st century. Other events held throughout the week, included a wheelchair basketball game; an original play performed by the Inner Faces Players, a troupe of actors with craniofacial disabilities; and a teach-in where faculty demonstrated to students how disability issues are integrated into various curriculums.
Dean Lugo Named an American Council on Education Fellow

Dean Ruth Lugo of the Division of Student Affairs has been named an American Council on Education Fellow, which will permit her to participate in a new fellowship option for vice presidents and deans.

The new option, which was offered by ACE for the first time this year, was developed to help vice presidents and deans expand their vision while strengthening the leadership skills they need to lead their institutions more effectively in the national, state, and local arenas.

"I am excited by the opportunity to participate in this program," said Dean Lugo, "and appreciate President Bowen's continuous support of my professional growth and work at the college." The president submitted her name for consideration.

During the 1997-1998 academic year, Dean Lugo will spend one semester working with a college or university president at a host university. There she will be involved in the highest level of decision-making as well as administrative activities.

The dean will also attend three week-long seminars on higher education issues organized by ACE, will read extensively in the field, and will engage in other activities to enhance her knowledge about the challenges and opportunities facing higher education today and in the future.

"The experience allows me to learn what other schools are doing on a local and national level," the dean said. "These ideas, which I will bring back to the college, will help in the development of the college as we move toward the 21st century."

The ACE Fellows Programs, which was established in 1965, is designed to strengthen institutional leadership in American higher education by identifying and preparing promising faculty and staff members for responsible positions in college and university administration.

Dr. Marlene Rosse, director of the Fellows Program, said that most previous Fellows have advanced into major positions in academic administration. Of the 1,147 participants in the first 31 years of the program, more than 200 have become chief executive officers in 260 institutions and higher education organizations.

The American Council on Education is the umbrella association for the nation's colleges and universities. ACE membership includes over 1,600 accredited, degree-granting institutions and more than 200 higher education associations and organizations. Through voluntary and cooperative action, ACE coordinates national public policy positions on higher education issues and provides comprehensive leadership for improving educational standards, policies, and procedures.
Middle College and International High Named 21st Century Schools

The New York State Education Department has invited Middle College and International High Schools to participate in a program that gives the schools the freedom and flexibility to develop innovative academic programs that improve student achievement.

Through the Twenty-First Century Schools program, the state is allowing a select group of exemplary public schools to request waivers from existing State Education Department rules and regulations in order to implement innovative strategies. International and Middle College are among 11 high schools that received the 21st Century School designation for the 1996-97 academic year. By the 1999-2000 school year, the program plans to identify up to 250 elementary, junior, and high schools.

With this state designation, the two high schools automatically become a part of Schools Chancellor Rudy Crew’s “learning zone.” This program will also give exemplary schools more autonomy to experiment with innovative approaches by exempting them from local regulations that inhibit experimentation.

“Through the state’s Twenty-first Century Schools program and the city’s learning zone,” said Cecilia Cunningham, principal of Middle College, “regulatory barriers to creativity are removed and schools can freely take on the challenge of implementing programs that result in high standards of student performance.”

The state has approved the high schools’ individual five-year plans that will carefully look at alternative approaches to the conventional Regents exams used by the state to measure students’ mastery of specific content areas.

“Our concern is that the state is moving more and more in the direction of indirect forms of assessment—pen-and-paper tests—and we believe they are not true indicators of student work,” said Eric Nadelstern, principal of International High School.

“We are interested in a performance-based assessment process that is actually more intellectually rigorous than a battery of pen-and-paper exams.”

Instead of having students take short-answer exams in math, English, social studies, and science, both principals hope to create a process where a compilation of actual student work will serve as a viable test of mastery in a particular subject. “So rather than pass-fail tests,” said Mr. Nadelstern, “kids may be expected to write a powerful literary essay, to present an in-depth research paper in social science or social studies, or to conduct an original experiment where the findings will be useful outside the context of the lab.”

For the past two years, International has been experimenting with a portfolio process where students submit a collection of individual work and projects for final-grade evaluation.

“We discovered that the portfolio evaluation is much more difficult, much more painstaking, much more intellectually challenging for staff and students,” said Mr. Nadelstern, “but, ultimately, a much better indicator of the students’ grasp of the content area because it deals with authentic student work.”

At Middle College, where teachers are in the early stage of assessment development, Ms. Cunningham said that she does not know what shape the assessment package will finally take, but it will probably involve presentations and applications, with a strong emphasis on final writing projects that take shape during a methodical rewriting process.

“This is the way to get students to improve what they put out,” said Ms. Cunningham.

“When kids have an opportunity to write and rewrite, the contents, mechanics and writing have to improve every time they do a draft.”

Both administrators agree that students’ work will be evaluated by a collaborative committee that will include teachers, parents, internship supervisors, and LaGuardia representatives. “This use of a panel that invites the business and college community, ensures the reliability of teacher assessment of student work,” said Ms. Cunningham.

With the new approach to assessing a students’ understanding of a subject, the principals agree that the plans will satisfy the mission of the 21st Century Schools program—increase student performance.

“The standards that we have currently established for the class of 2000 are higher than the standards that now exist for a local diploma that merely require successful completion of course work and Regent Competency Tests,” said Ms. Cunningham. “We expect that over the next five years our outcomes and assessments will reach even higher standards.”
At the Murder Mystery Dinner Cruise on May 8, guests were asked: "What are your impressions of this 25th anniversary event?"

Raymond C. Bowen
President
It is a great idea. For the first time, faculty, staff, alumni, and students can get together at a special event that is informal.

Evelyn Franco
a.k.a.
“Princess Sheba”
Office Assistant, Administrative & Support Services
It is marvelous, great, a lot of fun!

Andy Saluga
Recreation & Intramurals Coordinator and 1976 graduate
It is lovely and a lot of fun. Cold beer, good food and good company. I think that Tom Smith might have discovered another career.

Michael Cox
Computer Science Student
This is a graduation party for me. It holds special importance for me because while the college is celebrating its 25th anniversary, I'm celebrating the completion of my education at LaGuardia.

Carole Lazorisak
a.k.a.
“The Genie”
Substitute Lecturer, Human Services Department
It's a magical evening filled with lots of glittery mystery. And, because I am ‘the genie,’ I have brought a lot of spirit and magic to the event.

Teresa Exum
Nursing Student
It is a very nice cruise that allows everyone to get together and celebrate the 25th anniversary of the college.

Eneida Rivas
Assistant to the Director of College and Community Relations and event organizer
I am very happy that everyone seems to be having a nice time. It looks as if the Alumni Association committee's hard work has paid off.

UPCOMING 25TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

JUNE
Sunday, June 22 at 12 noon
25th Anniversary Picnic Celebration
Gala family-style picnic at Hempstead Lake State Park with lots of food, games, and fun
Call ext. 5396.

SEPTEMBER
Saturday, September 13, 1997 at 9 am
Alumni Association Garden Party/Reunion
Reunion socials will be given to the classes of 1973, 1978, 1983 and 1993. Garden party luncheon, workshops, seminars and entertainment
Call ext. 5054.

Tuesday, September 16, 1997 at 11:30 am
25th Annual Commencement Ceremony
Madison Square Garden. Call ext. 5056.

Friday, October 10, 1997 at 9:30 am
Golf Outing
The event will be held at Pelham Split Rock Golf Course, The Bronx, with lots of prizes and giveaways. Pre- and post-golf receptions will be included. Call Ray Villafonaba ext. 8012 or Bob Rosa ext. 5396.
City’s First Lady Dubs International High School a “Cool School”

New York City First Lady, Donna Hanover, presented her “Cool School” Award and a $2,500 check to International High School for its innovative approach to teaching recent immigrants with limited English language skills.

Speaking before an audience of enthusiastic students who proudly donned their brightly colored “Cool School” tee-shirts, the city’s First Lady said: “Your school is a nugget of gold, a treasure, that not too many people know about. I plan on spreading the word about your school.”

For the past 11 years, this hidden gem has been successfully serving recent arrivals whose limited command of their new language has prevented them from succeeding in the city’s traditional high schools.

“This school will continue to impact secondary education on a national level,” said Roy McLeod, acting dean of Institutional Advancement, who told his guest that the high school serves youngsters who come from over 60 countries and speak 40 different languages. “And we can truly claim that it is on the cutting edge of school reform at a time of vastly shifting world demographics.”

Ms. Hanover established the award shortly after becoming First Lady as a way to recognize public schools that are approaching their job in a special way. Schools are encouraged to write to her describing a program that distinguishes them. Since the award was founded, some 35 schools have had the “cool school” distinction bestowed upon them.

Anthony DeFazio, a teacher at International, informed Ms. Hanover of the high school’s transformation from a content-based curriculum to an interdisciplinary program. In his letter, he explained that in the school’s “motion” program, for example, students take classes that integrate math, science and literature around that particular theme.

With the award’s $2,500 gift, Mr. DeFazio said the high school will purchase bilingual books on different subjects.

“Because the interdisciplinary concept is so new, there are not many resources out there,” said Mr. DeFazio. “This gift will help make the approach more user-friendly.”

Along with the tee-shirts and check, Ms. Hanover presented the school with another gift. “What can I give the cool school that they will look at everyday?” she said. “What do kids and teachers look at at least four, five, six times a day?” With that she held up a wall clock with the award logo on it.

International High School Receives Grant

International High School has recently received a grant from the City University of New York to develop and implement a curriculum that will expose its students to the United States' voting system.

Through the $25,000 grant, the high school’s immigrant students will study the United States Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights movement leading up to it. They will also survey their communities on voting attitudes and practices.

“The program aims to encourage students to become active and understand the importance of voting in the American political process,” said Dr. Claire Sylvan, an International High School teacher.

The program, which was developed by its American Dream Team, will serve as a model for other city high schools.