



Message From the President

Welcome From President Jose Flores

Dear Friends and Colleagues:



So much has happened since leaving behind the Queen's Hall of Science at our Annual Conference this year at St. John's University. Several colleagues have completed their terms of service and rotated off the Executive Board. I thank each of them again for their service to our organization. We welcomed new board members at the first meeting of our NYSACAC Leadership Retreat in August; they are an impressive group that is looking forward to supporting and invigorating our organization.

In July, Michael Aquilano, Greg Wasserman, and I traveled to Arizona to participate in NACAC's Leadership Development Institute. During the conference, we engaged other state national affiliates and strategized on effective ways to support our organization, especially during these difficult economic times.

At the NYSACAC Leadership Retreat in August, the Executive Board focused on the public relations and marketing of our association. The Executive Board engaged in strategic initiatives that focused on elevating the reputation of NYSACAC as the premier college admissions counseling organization in the State of New York.

This year's NACAC Conference in Baltimore provided the opportunity for the NYSACAC leadership to meet and discuss the goals set during the retreat, our current financial standing, and our current membership. We surpassed our goals as set by the retreat by accomplishing the following:

Message From the President Continued...

- A new web site has been designed containing a membership portal that will allow us to serve as a resource to our members. The membership portal will include association newsletters, conference workshops, a membership directory, college fairs listings, our regional forum presentations, and delegate guidance counselor and college admissions counselor presentations.
- Our newsletter has changed; the newsletter has become a resource for the members of our organization. This is the first of four newsletters; please make sure to submit your professional articles for the spring edition.
- We have asked Jodi Burack from Burack Communications to join our Media, Marketing, and Technology Committee. Jodi is a PR professional with many years' experience; she will begin sending out PR releases in the near future.
- We have created a **Facebook** and **Twitter** presence. It is our hope that those of you who are on these social networking sites will start following NYSACAC.
- The executive board voted on a new President's Council. The President's Council will serve as an advisory group to the Executive Board and the membership. We hope that many of our past Presidents will join the council to support the organization.

students have with a highly trained counselor, for the specific purpose of helping them to plan their Post-secondary options.

Co-Chairs Kristen Neary and Laurie Austin have organized several professional development regional forums at:

- C.W. Post - March 5
- College of St. Rose - March 17
- Iona College - March 19
- Colgate University - March 30
- Roberts Wesleyan College - April 9
- Fordham University - April 13
- Canisius College - April 14

As I consider the future of the organization, I realize that we must continue to recruit other college professionals to our organization. We must also make sure that Superintendents, Principals, and government officials see a value in our organization. As a member, you can also recruit others to join, so I call upon all of you to help in this effort. The Executive Board will begin a marketing campaign to make sure these other groups understand and recognize the benefits of NYSACAC.

“There is always strength in numbers. The more individuals or organizations that you can rally to your cause, the better.” - Mark Shields ★

The Vice President of Finance, Dennis DePerro, reported that the organization is in good financial health, and that our membership is up to an all time high of 1400 members.

Government Relations Co-Chairs Susan Cohen and Michael Courtney are calling upon all of us to support the Pathways to College Act; a program that would increase the amount of one-on-one time

Chief Delegate's Report

By Michael Acquilano- Past-President

It is my pleasure to report on the 2009 NACAC Assembly held in Baltimore on Saturday, September 26, 2009. Twenty-three NACAC delegates from New York began preparing for the Assembly since August at the annual Leadership Retreat held this year at Marist College.

This year, the Assembly was a one-day event unlike in previous years when it was split between Wednesday and Saturday sessions. Nominees for national office presented a prepared speech to the entire Assembly which incorporated the question "How can the Statement of Principles of Good Practice provide a supportive framework for member institutions in today's changing admission landscape?"

Jim Miller, Coordinator of Enrollment Research at the University of Wisconsin Superior, was elected President-elect of NACAC. Jim ran against a fellow former Board of Directors member, Carl Peterson, who is a retired counseling department chair at Forest Hills Eastern High School in Michigan. Two new Board Directors were elected: Phyllis Gill, the Associate Director of College Guidance at Providence Country Day School in North Carolina, and Mike Willis, the Director of College Counseling at Bellarmine Preparatory School in Washington. Others running for Board Director seats were Jennifer Blair from Boy's Latin School in Maryland, Nancy Caine from St. Augustine High School in California, Ralph Figueroa from Albuquerque Academy in New Mexico, and Beverly Woodson Day from Texas State University. Congratulations to all of the candidates who ran for NACAC positions this year!

In late 2008, the NACAC Admissions Practices Committee received a report from NACAC's Commission on the Use of Standardized Tests in Undergraduate Admission that included several recommendations for consideration. The Admissions Practices Committee proposed several revisions to the Statement of Principles of Good Practice as a result of the Commission's recommendations. Two of the revisions were placed in the "Best practices" section of the SPGP and both had to do with educating staff on the uses of test scores relative to how the tests are designed. One other revision to the SPGP was made dealing with the sending of transcripts by high schools to colleges. For the specific language used in the revised SPGP, please see the Assembly minutes or a NACAC Conference update when available.

The other big topic discussed at Assembly was its size and its effectiveness as a governing body. In 2004, an ad hoc Committee on Assembly Structure was recommended by then-president Sandy Behrend, one of our own NYSACAC Past-Presidents. The Committee made recommendations to the NACAC Board involving a strategy to better engage delegates prior to Assembly, and NACAC has been doing this ever since. As NACAC has grown so has the size of Assembly, this year seating 262 delegates. In 2008, the Presidents' Council recommended to the Board that the size of the Assembly should be looked at again. At the 2009 Assembly, it was agreed that a study of the Assembly size would be undertaken by the Governance Committee. Growth models will be discussed and voted on at the 2010 Assembly in St. Louis.

I want to personally thank all of our delegates for their hard work and dedication in preparing for and carrying out their responsibilities at Assembly. I would like to thank Joanne Phang of Syracuse University for serving as an Alternate Delegate this year.

NYSACAC Delegates

2009-2010

Throughout the year, please contact your delegates with questions about NYSACAC. They represent you, the NYSACAC membership, and work towards making our association stronger.

College/High School

Laurie Austin	Michael Courtney	New York, Kings, and Richmond
Chris Milton	Karen Staller	Nassau, Suffolk, Queens, Bronx
Andrea Nadler	Marissa Guijarro	Westchester
Lou Santiago	Ralph Donnell	Rockland, Orange, Putnam, Dutchess, Ulster, Sullivan
Dennis Nicholson	Kristen Neary	Otsego, Schoharie, Delaware, Greene, Albany, Columbia, Rensselaer, Saratoga, Schenectady
Dennis Nicholson	Heidi Green	Oneida, Onondaga, Oswego
Jerry Oberst	Dave Motta	Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Warren, Washington, Fulton, Montgomery
Karen Brown	Damaris Maclean	Cayuga, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, Yates, Tompkins, Cortland, Broome, Tioga, Chemung, Chenango
Kevin Reed	Maryanna Fezer	Niagara, Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, Livingston, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany
Jennifer Hess	Art McCann	Monroe, Steuben, Schuyler
Tim Lee	Jane Mathias	Erie



Bike Ride for Camp College Recap

By David P. Coates- VP for Professional Development and Planning

As many of you are aware, myself and my good friend Joe Gambacorta actually did ride our bicycles from Niagara University to the State Conference at St. John's University last spring. The ride exceeded our expectations in so many ways. Joe and I were overwhelmed by the support given to us by the NYSACAC Executive Board and the NYSACAC members throughout the state. With everyone's support, we raised over \$11,000 for Camp College.

Joe and I would like to send out a special thank you to Brockport College, LeMoyne College, Marist College and Dave Motta (E-Board member) for providing housing and food for us during our adventure. Without their generosity, we would not have been able to complete the ride. Each night, we were treated like kings as people opened up their campuses and houses for us after a long day of riding. Another very special thank you needs to be extended to my brother Gary, who was our constant advisor and support from Niagara University all the way to Queens. He was always within ear shot in case we needed anything, from food to help with directions.

The three of us were extremely humbled and blown away by the incredible reception we received at St. John's University at the completion of the ride. Karen Staller and Chris Milton organized a dynamic welcome for us at the Coming Together Dinner on Tuesday evening. Joe and I were a little behind schedule, so unbeknownst to us we were taken directly to the dinner as we arrived on campus. Little did we know what a warm and overpowering reception awaited us as we rode directly into the Coming Together Dinner.

Overall, it was an event Joe and I will never forget. With the help of everyone involved, you helped us create so many memories that will last a lifetime. If you would like to revisit or experience the ride for the first time you are welcome to read our nightly recaps during the ride at www.campcollege.org. Again, thank you for everyone's support and I encourage our members to continue to support Camp College and the other fabulous programs offered by NYSACAC. ★



How to Plan a College Night

By Lisa Sohmer -Director of College Counseling, The Garden School

College nights have been around for a long time and they remain one of the most effective ways to engage students and families in the college process. While different schools will benefit from different types of programs, there are ways to maximize the strength of your school's college nights as a key element of creating a college-going culture.

When should you host your program? In truth, it's never too early and it's never too late. College Night programs work in grades 9-12, but your content will vary depending upon your audience.

Who's in the Room? Involving other administrators is always a good idea. Seniors and alumni can share their personal anecdotes and experiences with the application process. Your guests will include students and families and they should be treated as guests. Be a gracious host by welcoming attendees and providing adequate seating, signage and handouts

Keep your message clear. Avoid using "college speak" and always remember to define your terms.

College Night Formats:

Talking to Ninth Graders: A ninth grade meeting about college is a wonderful opportunity to get to students early and allow them to hit the ground running. This is the right time to help students believe that they can go to college. Remember that many students think they can't go to college because they can't afford it. Do what you can to remove these perceived financial barriers:

- Take the time to challenge the "\$40,000 Myth." It can cost that much to go to college, but it usually doesn't
- Explain that different institutions have varying tuitions and fees
- Make families aware of FAFSA and how to file for aid using the FAFSA 4Caster (www.FAFSA4Caster.ed.gov)

Explain the elements of the college application and what students can do to make their applications stronger.

- Transcript
- Standardized testing
- Common Application
- Teacher letters (with names omitted)
- Activities resume

- Application
- Supplemental materials (portfolios, CDs, etc.), if applicable

Dispel the idea that "ninth grade doesn't count anyway" and tell them that freshman year is not for practice. Since a "D" in English 9 has the same weight in the GPA as an "A" in English 11, they need to focus on their grades now. Share the additional content of your transcript (such as attendance, summer school, etc.) so students know what to expect.

The Tenth Grade Meeting: By the Tenth grade, students already have a completed year of high school behind them. This is a good time for students to assess what they have accomplished and to make plans for improving their future performance. Since the end of the Tenth grade is the mid-point of the high school experience, students still have time to make positive adjustments.

Ask students to reflect on the work they have done so far and to take stock of their high school experience. Let them ask themselves, "What have I accomplished? What can I improve?"

Remind students that there is still time to make changes that will impact the college process:

- Planning to take the PSAT and/or PLAN in the junior year to prepare for the SAT and/or ACT
- Working to improve grades
- Exploring the availability of AP and/or honors courses (if appropriate)
- Joining clubs and activities
- Researching summer opportunities
- Seeking a leadership position

How to Plan a College Night Continued...

The Eleventh Grade is when most high schools begin working with students in groups and individually to help them prepare to apply to college. Depending on the school's schedule, the college night programming for eleventh graders can be done in one meeting or separated into two segments.

Entering the Process with the Eleventh Grade: The Fall Meeting

As students begin their senior year, they are ready to start the college process in earnest. This is the time to review the nuts and bolts of the process while also inviting students to take ownership of the search and application process.

Now is the time to:

- Review the college process
- Provide a testing overview
- Get students and families excited about the college process
- Reinforce your belief in their ability to succeed in college

Continuing the Process with the Eleventh Grade: The Spring Meeting

A spring meeting in the second semester of the junior year college night is an opportunity to introduce students and families to the people on the other side of the desk.

Invite college representatives to speak to your juniors and their families. Try to include a range of colleges in the panel so that every student in the room can imagine applying to one of the colleges that is represented.

- Students and families love to hear directly from admissions counselors
- Students and families become engaged in the process of speaking with college reps

College representatives should be given a chance to describe their institution, its programs and its admission criteria, but can also address topics such as:

- Leadership and building a resume
- Transitioning to college life
- Freshman Orientation programs
- Decision Plans (including Early Decision)
- Student empowerment in the college process
- Support systems for freshmen
- Finding the Fit

- Changing perceptions
- Campus Visits
- FERPA (Family Education Rights and Privacy Act)
- FAFSA and CSS Profile

Focusing on the Finish Line: The Twelfth Grade Meeting

A back-to-school meeting for students and their families provides a chance to reinforce the activities that students will be involved in during at least the first half of the senior year. This is also the time to keep students on track and to identify students who are not yet involved in the process. Group sessions keep students from feeling "singled out" and allow more active students to motivate others.

Meetings in September and October provide an opportunity to explain how students' applications are processed at the school.

Making the College Night Count:

In every case, the purpose of a college night is to provide information and enhance the students' ability to successfully apply to and matriculate in college. Students and families are eager to expand their knowledge of the process and appreciate the support that college nights provide. Some tips for successfully organizing a college night include:

- Publicize your college night early and use all means available including bulletin boards, flyers, websites, and e-mails to students and families
- Use power point presentations (if possible) so that the audience can have a visual reinforcement of your remarks
- Provide hand-outs
- Provide translation into languages other than English (if necessary)
- Leave ample time for questions
- Invite others to add their perspective as well
- Encourage all students to attend ★



“Being first time participants in the conference, we were unsure what to expect when we arrived on campus.”



A First Timer Perspective NYSACAC Conference

By : Bryan Smith- Freshman Admissions Counselor, C.W. Post
Christine Rossi- Freshman Admissions Counselor, C.W. Post
Eric Kopp- Freshman Admissions Counselor, C.W. Post

As first year Admissions Counselors, the freshman team at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University eagerly anticipated the annual NYSACAC Conference being held at St. Johns University in Flushing, Queens. With spring travel and reading season coming to a close, the conference provided a great opportunity for professional development, networking and reuniting with colleagues from the road before the start of the long summer ahead.

Being first time participants in the conference, we were unsure what to expect when we arrived on campus. The Conference Welcome along with the various receptions that followed gave excellent insight into the busy schedule which would ensue on Thursday and Friday. The program committee obviously worked diligently at providing over 60 professional development workshops for participants to choose from. With such great programs available, we found it difficult to select just a few. Our staff decided on a number of sessions which included New Recruitment Strategies, Effective High School Visits, Engaging Student Ambassadors in the Recruitment Process, Social Networking tools, and Retention Improvement just

to name a few. Also, the ability to interact with High School guidance counselors from across the state gave us the chance to not only make connections but to learn more about their students and what they need from a University and Admissions staff. From these workshops and networking, we were able to bring back an abundance of new information to share with the rest of our staff!

No conference is complete though without a little fun and relaxation. The fundraising events included a Bocce Tournament, a 5K walk/run (which our staff respectfully declined as we decided on relaxation rather than fitness) as well as a Cigar Bar and Spa area. The “Roll out the Red Carpet” dinner at the New York Hall of Science served as a great opportunity to mingle and network with friends and colleagues. The closing session, raffle and slide show was an excellent conclusion to a very informative and enjoyable experience. Overall, we loved our first NYSACAC conference and are looking forward to next year at Niagara University!

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Government Relations

By **Susan E. Cohen**- Associate Director of Admissions, The Cooper Union

The 2008-2009 academic year was a busy one for the Government Relations team of the New York State Association for College Admission Counseling. We can't wait for another strong year!

Following the successful trip to Albany last February, several members of NYSACAC traveled down to Washington, D.C. to attend the annual NACAC Legislative Conference. Our members and members of other state and regional affiliates visited the offices of their congressional representatives to ask them to support the Pathways to College Act. The bill is designed to support counselors who are helping low-income, first-generation students create pathways to college. It would support professional development activities and increase counselors in the neediest districts.

Thanks to the support of many representatives, the Pathways to College Act was introduced in both the Senate and House. We are particularly excited at NYSACAC that Representative Tim Bishop (D-NY), representing parts of Suffolk County, championed the bill in the House and introduced the bill with a bi-partisan co-sponsor Vern Ehlers (R-MI).

NACAC and NYSACAC are working to gain support for both The Pathways to College Act and The DREAM Act. The Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM) Act would provide conditional residency status for undocumented students who

have graduated from a US high school and have lived in the US for five or more years. The student would be given six years to obtain a two-year degree, complete two-years of a four-year degree or serve in the military and then would be allowed to apply for permanent residency.

To support this legislation, please visit: <http://capwiz.com/nacac/home/>

Government Relations Highlight

The Legislative Session at the annual conference allowed for an interesting discussion about undocumented students and immigration reform. Our speaker, Jason Riley, is on the editorial board of the Wall Street Journal and is author of the book *Let Them In: The Case for Open Borders*. His book supports the notion that there should be legal pathways to US citizenship for immigrants. Mr. Riley argues that immigrant populations come to the United States to work and to provide for their families. He disputes arguments that immigrants come to the US to be a drain on our society and collect welfare and other social services. He rallies against the work of Lou Dobbs and other anti-immigration propaganda and is in support of the DREAM Act as well as national immigration reform. ★

Please join us for the **Legislative Session** on June 4th, 2010 at the 32nd Annual NYSACAC Conference at Niagara University.



Tips for Making the Most of an Online College Fair

By Stephanie Ko - CollegeWeekLive

College fairs are a great way to learn more about colleges you are considering. A virtual college fair makes the admissions process easier than ever before. The market leader, [CollegeWeekLive](http://www.CollegeWeekLive.com) (<http://www.CollegeWeekLive.com>), brings all the benefits of a physical college fair conveniently to any computer.

The virtual fair is FREE---you can [Sign-Up](#) online at any time. Any student who registers will be eligible to win a \$2500 scholarship! More than 300 colleges and 100,000 students are expected to attend this year's online event, so plan your visit before you go!

Here are a few tips to make the most of it:

Mark your calendar

If you snooze, you lose. [CollegeWeekLive](#) Fall is scheduled for November 4th till November 7th between 9:00 AM and 10:00 PM EST. There is also New England Day at CollegeWeekLive on Oct. 15th where there will be over 30 schools in the New England area participating. Block your calendar ahead of time so you have enough time to attend and see the schools and conference sessions of most interest.

Register in advance

[Sign-Up](#) in advance to save the time and day of event and receive useful updates regarding new schools exhibiting, speaker sessions and topics added, or new scholarships available only to attendees. Since the website's debut in 2007, CollegeWeekLive is growing both topically and geographically. We have added CollegeWeekLive New England Day (Oct. 15th 2009), our first ever Guidance Counselor Day (Oct. 8th 2009) and our biggest event of the year, CollegeWeekLive Fall (Nov. 4th-Nov. 7th 2009)!

Target the schools of your choice

View the list of [schools](#) exhibiting ahead of time and plan your booth visits accordingly. Virtual booths for the schools are manned by admission representatives, who are ready to answer your questions or help you through the application process

online at the event. Ask questions to your top choice schools and really make an impression!

Attend Speaker Sessions of Interest

There will be live conference tracks, with top experts offering tips on topics such as how to craft a compelling application essay or how to pay for a college education in today's economy. Presenters will field and answer questions live via chat from the audience. This is a great opportunity to find information that is most relevant to you. Review the [agenda](#) in advance. Need help paying for college? Login and attend CollegeWeekLive Paying for College on January 14th 2010!

Hear it from the Horse's Mouth

No one knows better what college life is *really* like than today's college students. One hundred video chats are offered, so find a few to attend starring students at the schools that interest you most. Eye-opening in more ways than one.

Follow-Up After the Event

Many of the schools continue to man their booths after the event is over, providing an easy way for you to access college admissions counselors if you have questions after the event. More than sixty hours of content is archived and accessible for free up to ninety days after the event, so if you miss a session of interest, you can go back and watch them on demand and take notes.

[Sign-Up](#) Now! ★



Tips for Making the Most of an Online College Fair

Upcoming events

- Thursday, October 15, 2009 New England Day at CollegeWeekLive
- Tuesday, October 20, 2009 CollegeWeekLive Virtual College Visit: UC Riverside
- November 4-7, 2009 CollegeWeekLive Fall
- November 17-19, 2009 BioConference Live
- Sunday, December 6, 2009 CollegeWeekLive Virtual College Visit: University of New Haven

- Thursday, January 14, 2010 CollegeWeekLive Paying for College

- Friday February 12, 2010 CollegeWeekLive Counselor Day

- March 24-25, 2010 CollegeWeekLive Spring

Below are links to some of our latest features:

Here is our feature in the San Francisco Chronicle: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2009/09/20/BAM919P7VB.DTL>

Here is our feature in the District Administration: <http://www.districtadministration.com/viewarticle.aspx?articleid=2152>

Counselor Information: http://www.collegeweeklive.com/en_CA/guest/app-counselors

Please feel free to contact me if you need additional information.

Stephanie Ko
 CollegeWeekLive
 100 Crescent Road
 Needham, MA 02494
 phone: 617.938.6020
 fax: 617.938.6010
 email: sko@collegeweeklive.com
 web: <http://www.collegeweeklive.com>

Ten Things You May Not Know About Camp College

By: Estrella Buevas- City University of New York
Jo Anne Phang- Syracuse University
Lisa Thompson- SUNY Brockport

Imagine spending your weekend with an eclectic group of high school students and colleagues representing community based organizations, secondary school counselors and college admission officers. Transport yourself back in time to your college years where you slept in a twin bed and trudged down the hall with a shower caddy and towel because you shared the bathroom with several people on your floor. This is capped off by an interruption to your regular sleep schedule. *Wait!*

There's More! - here are

Ten Things You May Not Know About Camp College!

1) Camp College celebrated its 10th anniversary this year!

The 1999 inaugural camp at Union College consisted of 37 campers and 10 mentors. Much has changed since then. The number of campers and mentors has steadily increased. Camp College was offered at two sites in 2009: ***Hobart and William Smith Colleges*** followed by ***Marist College***. The list of 94 campers and 36 mentors trekked up to Hobart while 116 campers and 44 mentors navigated their way onto the Marist campus bringing the overall totals 210 campers and 80 mentors.

2) Visibility of the program has attracted interest from other organizations!

Our colleagues with the New Jersey Association of College Admission Counselors (NJACAC) brought 3 students to Marist. NJACAC members participated in observation mode as they hope to implement a Camp College program in New Jersey. In addition, Robert Morris University also transported 14 students from Chicago to the Marist site.

3) We wear a Camp College T-Shirt!

Orientation began on Friday afternoon with a welcome from Co-Directors Chris Milton (CUNY – Brooklyn College) and Karen Staller (Lawrence High School). An explanation of the code of conduct and dress code brought groans from the students especially when they learned we would be

in uniform for the entire weekend. The comment *“But I brought this cute outfit for the dance party!”* fell on deaf ears as we were ALL wearing similar Camp College t-shirts as well as name tags. They were not amused that this was done to identify each other on the college campus. Curfew brought a few protests as well.

4) We connect with ice-breakers!

The schedule was full from morning ‘til night. Campers were placed into small groups led by mentors and chaperones. Various ice-breaker activities allowed everyone to loosen up and bond as a group.

5) Learning takes place!

Students learned about the college search process, finding the right college fit, participated in an interactive workshop about financing their education and attended simulated college classes. Courses offered were *Business - The Role of Marketing; Communications – Perception and Its Effect on Interactions; Fossils in Action; King Arthur: Myth, Reality and Cultural Need; Introductory Physics – Forces, light and matter; and Psychology 101*



Ten Things You May Not Know About Camp College

Continued...

6) **Everyone is busy!**

List of activities include: *There's No "I" in Team*; Hobart campers and mentors spelled out CAMP COLLEGE with their bodies on the stadium field; *bowling* - this usually a great experience for all and a first time experience for several mentees; the *ice cream* treat; the *dance party* – a favorite for mentors and campers alike; *poetry slam*; campers *wrote a letter to themselves* on what they need to accomplish by the end of January - that is around the time they receive them in the mail; a *photo hunt* – allowed the campers to have a better understanding of the function of various offices and departments of the college; *group photo*, and an optional early bird morning football game.

7) **We laugh a lot!**

The capstone to the weekend was a group skit where students staged a performance of what they learned during Camp College. They incorporated hilarious impressions of Chris Milton, Jason Barnes (SUNY – Onondaga Community College), faculty from their simulated college classes and a few mentors. We were astonished by their talents - future actors, directors, playwrights, artists, singers, and song writers/lyricists to name a few.

8) **Campers receive a lovely parting gift!**

Every mentee left with a bag of assorted promotional college and educational apparel. Several students expressed an interest in returning next year while many mentors are looking forward to repeating the weekend(s) in 2010. Students acknowledged the importance of having the college admissions process brought to a personal level. They are grateful for the information and support they received as well as the connections and contacts made with college admission officers. They are humbled when they learn the mentors are not paid for the weekend. Mentors and campers alike were exhausted but appreciative of the wonderful experience.

9) **It is a memorable and rewarding experience!**

As mentors, we know that we have made a break through when students express their relief about affording and attending college. It is amazing to witness their “AH HA” moments. In three short days, the students are transformed from being anxious and fearful to excited and confident. Most are familiar with the college admission process but had lingering questions about SAT scores, college interviews, athletic scholarships, and credit from AP and other college level classes. Speaking from the veteran mentor point of view, we can honestly say that each year Camp College is getting bigger and better. We have students who are more focused, and chaperones are inviting students who WANT to be there for the weekend.

10) **We couldn't do it without our Mighty Mentors and coordinators!**

Much gratitude is due to the staff at our host sites including the college students who afforded mentors the opportunity to get some rest. Those students monitored the hallways providing order throughout the night. Special thanks to Chris Milton, Karen Staller, Robyn Ford (Hobart and William Smith Colleges), and Lou Santiago (Marist College) for orchestrating a seamless event.



Ten Things You May Not Know About Camp College

Continued...

We deeply appreciate the following mentors and chaperones who volunteered their weekend(s) to help our underserved students realize they can access higher education and follow their dreams:

- Jessica Acklin** – Robert Morris University (IL)
Erin Alberghini – Goddard Riverside Community Center
Priscilla Alicea – Bryant University (RI)
Meylin Andares – University at Albany
Anne Anthon – D’Youville College
Luis Barcelo – Suffern High School
Jason Barnes – SUNY Onondaga Community College
Estrella Buelvas – City University of New York
Sonia Bhuta – Educational Alliance
Bryanne Bowman – Colgate University
Annie Brickel – FLAGS High School
Kevin Brooks - New Settlement College Access Center
Christopher Callas – SUNY Cobleskill
Linda Carpenter – SUNY Cobleskill NY GearUp
Karaline Carr – SUNY Environmental Science & Forestry
Amanda Casali – University at Buffalo
Nekia Chambers – SUNY Upstate Medical University
Feona Chance-Huezo – Thurgood Marshall Academy
Joe Cosentino – Marymount Manhattan College
Tiffany Corbett – Pace University
Michael Courtney – SAR High School
Marvin Diaz – Western New England College (MA)
Sarah Graham – Princeton Day School (NJ)
Leton Hall – Science teacher at MS 215, Bronx
Rhonda Hands – Canisus College
Megan Harmon - D’Youville College
Shoshanah Harvey – Spring Valley High School
Tiara-Kerrin Hawkins – Merrick Park Baptist Church
Amber Hernandez – Educational Alliance
Christine Huang – Pace University Liberty Partnership Program
Beryl Jeffers –SUNY System Administration
Du’Ane Johnson - FACTO
Deven Kane – NY GearUp
Christine Krut – NY Institute of Technology
Chano LaBoy – Goddard Riverside Community Center
Jessica Landis – New York University
Kate Lincoln – Cazenovia College
James Luciano – Union College
Barry Mask – Merrick Park Baptist Church
Kory McBride – Urban Assembly School for Applied Math & Science
Katherine McMillan – Bronx Expeditionary Learning High School
Brandon Miller – City University of New York
Jason Miller – Plainview Old Bethpage JFK High School
Eva Moberg-Sarver – Keuka College
Diva Morillo – Aviation High School
Tameka Moses – parent chaperone
Alexia Myers – Queens Community House
Joseph Nagy – National College Advocacy Group
Jacob Navvarete – Skidmore College
Marie Nocella - Syracuse University
Casey Pedrick – High School for Arts & Business
Jamie Pena – Robert Morris University (IL)
Jo Anne Phang – Syracuse University
Robert Piurowski – CUNY Baruch College
Jennifer Polanco – St. John Fisher College
Jessica Pitcher – Cazenovia College
Frank Pomota – NY GearUp
Yelena Ramautar – New Settlement College Access Center
Khalilah Ramdene – mentor/chaperone
Stephanie Ramirez - mentor/chaperone
Andre Richburg – Brookdale Community College (NJ)
Christine Rossi – Long Island University, CW Post campus
Ritu Sen – Henry Street Settlement
George Sanchez – Aviation High School
Andrew Sherwood – FLAGS High School
Marie Simmons - AIG
Jay Silverstein – Lawrence High School
Cheri Smith – West Windsor Plainsboro High School South (NJ)
Deyanira Smykowski – Roosevelt High School
Jessie Solomon-Greenbaum – Goddard Riverside Community Center
Michelle Stathers – Marist College
Lisa Thompson – SUNY Brockport
Julio Torres, Jr. – Marist College
Charmain Walkin – Pace University Liberty Partnership Program
Camille Wallace – Young Women’s Leadership School of Queens
Iris Waters – mentor/chaperone ★

The Gap Year

By Kristin White

Do you know a student who gets top grades but seems bored and uninspired at school? Do you know a young person who gets excited when given the opportunity to learn experientially? Many high school graduates are at the point in their lives where they want to explore a passion, help a cause, or live within another culture. The gap year is an interlude between high school and college which can invigorate a young person and get her ready to succeed in college and in life.

Most counselors know something about the gap year, or have perhaps worked with a student who has gone on a gap year. My research has brought out a few facts which might be new or interesting information for you.

1) The gap year does not have to be expensive. And in fact, for thousands of students, it is entirely free. Students who spend their gap year with AmeriCorps or other select government agencies receive not only a free program, but also a stipend and a college tuition bonus of \$4750, which is then doubled by many universities. Bentley College and Dickinson College offer large financial incentives to students who complete a year of service prior to enrolling.

Students are able to use their federal financial aid to cover tuition and airfare for select overseas gap year programs. There are also innovative, new gap year programs which have the private support that enables them to offer full scholarships to select low-income students. And finally, many hard-working students have funded their own travels and program fees by working for the first part of the year to fund their travels. Very often, the working block of the gap year is the one which students cite as having affected them the most.

2) Students can apply to college from their gap year: Of course the safest route is to get accepted at your college of choice, and then defer your admission to go on a gap year. But things don't always work out so smoothly. Students who are not

happy with their college acceptances, for whatever reason, can start the process again. Those attending "post graduate year" or other academic gap year programs will get the added opportunity to improve their grades and test scores.

3) The gap year does not have to involve travel or volunteering. There is a gap year program for just about any interest a student has. Independent-minded students forgo structured programs and use the time to work on an invention, join a political campaign, write a novel, or study music. There are gap year programs which focus on such varied subjects as oceanography, sailing, sports, art, or archeology; and there is even a program on the art of being a DJ!

4) All types of students can benefit from a gap year. There are some people who think that a gap year is targeted to young people who haven't been successful academically, and there are others who think the gap year is mainly for Ivy Leaguers or for brilliant and creative types. In fact, the gap year is truly for all types of learners. Students often find their passion on a gap year, or they remember how to love learning again-- new ideas which will help them make a great transition to college life. ★

Kristin White is the author of "The Complete Guide to the Gap Year: The Best Things To Do Between High School and College" published by Jossey Bass, an imprint of John E. Wiley. Contact info at: www.completegapyearguide.com

NYSACAC Book Review

“Acceptance: A Legendary Guidance Counselor Helps Seven Kids Find the Right Colleges – and Find Themselves” by David L. Marcus

By **Barry Ward**- Pine Manor College, VP for Enrollment & Strategic Connections

I was standing next to the photograph of Lenny Marino watching the NYSACAC Conference Bocci Tournament when my colleague and friend of 30+ years, Gwyeth Smith Jr., handed me a colorful flyer. “You should read this when it comes out, I’m in it” is what I remember him telling me. It wasn’t until I was unloading my NYSACAC Conference bag that I read the flyer again and realized that the “legendary guidance counselor” announced in the book’s title was Gwyeth “Smitty” Smith himself. Suddenly the world stopped for moment, my knees buckled and I broke out into a cold sweat. I know a legend. It’s a book about Smitty.”

Well, as usual, I got that one wrong. Not to blame someone else for my serious misjudgement, however, the mystery writer of the dust cover summary led me astray. It tells us, “David L. Marcus, a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and former education writer for U. S. News & World Report, follows Smitty and ‘his’ kids around Oyster Bay High, a diverse public school in Long Island, as the guidance guru works his magic on their applications and their lives.” Now be honest, doesn’t that conjure up images of Smitty as Professor Albus P. W. B. Dumbledore showing his Oyster Bay (aka Gryffindor) counselees how to cast spells on the likes of Fordham University’s John Buckley and Stonehill College’s “Hello, I’m” Mary Beth Carey. Alas, just as Smitty would have it, the book is “all about the kids.”

If you were visiting Oyster Bay High School during the 2007 – 2008 school year, your car’s GPS system would have you turning right off of Route 106 onto East Main Street, in order to enter into the world of Gwyeth, Kathi Reilly (English teacher), Matt Brown (Social Worker) and Jeff, Allyson, Chelsea, Lee, Riana, Nathaniel and Layla (OBHS students/college applicants/amazing young people). It’s during Smitty and Kathi’s “Essay Writing for College” English elective class where we begin to witness true magic. Without adding any additional stress to the already outrageously frenzied world of the college application process, Smitty, Kathi and other student-influencers shine the guiding light along the pathway

that will lead the students to the place where they will discover their true voice and discover themselves as they craft their college essays. The end results will put a smile on your face.

So, buy this book and read it. Buy this book and give it to a student, parent, guidance/admission colleague, and/or Rev. Joseph M. McShane, S.J. (President, Fordham University). I’m sorry, at first I just couldn’t understand why John Buckley was mentioned so, so, so many times in this “nearly” perfect book. Does John Buckley know Smitty for 30+ years? Well, I finally got it. This book is about wisdom and learning! ★



2008/2009 NYSACAC Membership increased 14%

By **David Follick**-Long Island University/C.W. Post Campus

Tim Lee- Hilbert College

NYSACAC has had a record breaking membership year for 2009. Our membership is currently over 1400 members, this is an increase of more than 200 members compared to a year ago at this time. Our committee contacted admissions officers and high school counselors via mail, email and personal phone calls to help increase this year's membership. Our hard work has paid off!

In addition to the personal contacts, the committee created the official NYSACAC "Map of New York State Colleges and Universities." All New York state colleges and universities had the opportunity to join or renew their NYSACAC membership and their school would be advertised on this map. The membership committee received over 110 colleges and universities who joined NYSACAC and selected to be part of the map program. The map will be mailed in late fall to all New York State high school guidance/counseling offices in order to serve as a reference for both students and counselors.

One of our goals with this project is to help promote NYSACAC throughout the state. Not only will post-secondary schools be advertised on this poster, but we included the dates of our annual NYSACAC events for reference for the school counselors. If you are a high school counselor and your school has not received your map by late November, please feel free to contact us and we will make sure a poster arrives at your high school shortly.

As we look forward to 2010, a few goals for the membership committee this year are the following:

- Continue to increase our secondary counselor membership.
- Create a membership liaison for every New York state county. This will allow NYSACAC to continue to grow and another avenue to hear from our members as well as keep them better informed.

If you are interested in joining the NYSACAC Membership Committee or serving as a NYSACAC membership liaison, please feel free to contact us, we would love your support.

We wish you the best of luck with the 2009/2010 school year. ★

Helping Students Find Scholarships

The 1-2-3 Approach

By **Stephanie Stock**- Senior Account Executive, Sallie Mae

You can't beat free money for college. That's why smart students use a 1-2-3 approach to paying for college: first, use money that doesn't have to be repaid like grants and scholarships; second, explore federal loans; and third, fill any gap with private loans.

How do students find scholarships? What are some keys to qualifying for them? The following are some tips you can give your students to help them locate and take advantage of scholarship dollars.

Don't Rule Yourself Out Scholarships are not limited to class valedictorians and star athletes. They're awarded based on any number of factors- from career goals to exceptional writing skills displayed in an essay contest.

Apply for as many awards as you qualify for. Even small awards can be helpful in covering costs such as books and other expenses, and, taken together, they can really add up.

Understand the conditions of the award. You may be required to maintain a specific grade point average or even play in an orchestra to qualify.

Proofread: Review everything before you send it. Having a typo on your application may limit your chances of being considered for a scholarship.

Enlist support: Supplement your application with personal letters of recommendation.

Pay attention to deadlines. Miss a deadline and you'll likely miss out on scholarship money. You may even want to try to submit your application early to stand out from the crowd.

Follow up. Confirm that the organization sponsoring the scholarship received your application.

Send a thank-you note after you receive a scholarship. This small courtesy often has a disproportionately big effect.

Make use of free scholarship directories. Never pay for scholarship information. SallieMae.com and Fastweb.com are two reliable sources of free scholarship information.

More information about scholarships is available at Salliemae.com/scholarships and ThesalliemaeFund.org/scholarships. ★

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty:

The Importance of College & Community/National Partnerships

By **Barry Ward**- Pine Manor College, VP for Enrollment & Strategic Connections

The work of local, regional and national college-access organizations has been at the forefront of efforts to develop a “college-going attitude/atmosphere” with and for our students. By guiding more under-served, under-financed, first-generation students into and successfully through college, we provide our country with a creative, productive citizenry that better mirrors the glorious ethnic diversity of the United States and helps to break the cycle of poverty throughout our nation. Given NYSACAC’s brilliant Coming Together event (pre-conference) and Camp College, the leadership and members of NYSACAC should be extremely proud of the fact that we have been champions of access, diversity and success for many years.

This workshop which took place during June’s NYSACAC Conference brought together some of the leading voices those local, regional and national college-access organizations (College Summit / AVID / Summer Search / Boys & Girls Clubs Boston / Students Rising Above). Freda Richmond, Director of Program Partnerships, represented College Summit (NY) which is one of College Summit’s regional offices within its national structure. College Summit has worked with schools, school districts and colleges to develop a sustainable model for raising college enrollment rates community wide. With a goal of serving 10,000 students in 100 high schools by 2012, the New York office currently serves 6,000 students throughout NYC and 750 students with partnerships in Bridgeport and New Haven. Jinan Sumler, Northeast States Director, represented AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination). AVID is a college-readiness system designed to increase the number of students who enroll in four-year colleges. Although AVID serves all students, it focuses on the least served students in the academic middle. The formula is simply – raise expectations of students and, with the AVID support system in place, they will rise to the challenge. Currently, AVID has been adopted by nearly 4,000 schools in 45 states, the District of Columbia and 15 countries, and serves more than 320,000 students, grades 4 – 12. Elena Yesner, College Counselor, represented Summer Search (NY) which is component of Summer Search’s national youth-leadership development program. In her current role, Elena counsels over 120 under-served students and their families. Elena is also a member of CACNY and formerly worked in Milwaukee, Wisconsin for Public Allies, an AmeriCorp service program, advising low-income Latino students on their college options, applications and financial aid. Josh Kraft, Nicholas President and Chief Executive Officer, represented the Boys & Girls Clubs of Boston (BGCB). An entrepreneurial leader and experienced manager, Josh brings his dedication to youth work to his leadership of BGCB, whose high-impact programs enable nearly 14,000 children and teens from low-income neighborhoods in Greater Boston to become responsible citizens and leaders. Barb Hendricks, Director of Student Programs, represented the San Francisco-based Students Rising Above (SRA). SRA’s mission is to help extraordinary, low-income Bay Area high school students who are overcoming tremendous odds of poverty, homelessness, and neglect, to fulfill their dreams of a college education. 100% of SRA graduates are low-income and first-generation students. 80% of SRA students graduate with a bachelor’s degree in 4.5 years. When comparing graduation rates (Pell Institute / Study of Opportunity in Higher Education) that indicate that 11% of low-income and first-generation students graduate with a bachelor’s degree in 6.2 years (nationally – 4 year colleges), the SRA results are off of the charts. William “Brit” Kirwin, Chair, Commission on Access, Admissions and Success in Higher Education stated that “the effect of diminished access has a devastating impact on the lives of individuals seeking advancement through education and on our collective hopes for advancing our society’s interest and welfare.” Upon learning about each of these organizations, it was abundantly clear that they doing their part to help solve this nationwide challenge. Now, colleges and universities throughout the country need to aggressively pursue “all” of these students and shine a light on the pathway that leads them to their institutions and invest in creative methods that will help them achieve a degree. These are students who have been mentored in significant ways. They will succeed. They are our future!

Breaking the Cycle of Poverty Continued...

By Barry Ward

Please take the time to read “Coming to Our Senses: Education and the American Future” – a report of the Commission on Access, Admissions and Success in Higher Education that was published by The College Board in December, 2008. Also, please visit the websites of these incredible organizations:

College Summit - www.collegesummit.org

AVID - www.avidcenter.org

Summer Search - www.summersearch.org

Boys and Girls Clubs Boston - www.bgcb.org

Students Rising Above - www.studentsrisingabove.org

The College Access Consortium of New York - www.cacny.com

Harlem’s Children Zone - www.hcz.org

National Partnership for Educational Access - www.educational-access.org

Center for Student Opportunity - www.csopportunity.org ★

“By guiding more under-served, under-financed, first-generation students into and successfully through college, we provide our country with a creative, productive citizenry that better mirrors the glorious ethnic diversity of the United States and helps to break the cycle of poverty throughout our nation.”



First-Time Delegates Report

NACAC Assembly

By Marissa Guijarro

On an overcast morning on Saturday, September 24 in Baltimore, 262 delegates from the 23 state and regional affiliates (known as "S & Rs") of NACAC gathered for Assembly. The first national conference took place in 1944 in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin with 47 members attending. This year's conference had over 5,000 members in attendance, with over 500 from New York. Our Assembly delegation of 23 members arrived promptly to secure coveted spots on the breakfast line. Experienced members had warned the neophytes of the crowds, and we had ample time to enjoy a balanced meal with obligatory infusions of caffeine and other beverages. We settled comfortably in our assigned area, enjoying a bird's eye view of the entire assembly from the back of the ballroom. SACAC (Southern Association) had the largest delegation and NEACAC (our colleagues in New England) comprised the third largest.

Signs at the tables identified the various S & Rs, such as Great Plains, Rocky Mountain, Dakota, Overseas, and others. At precisely 7:37 AM, the meeting began, following parliamentary procedure. With 262 of 266 delegates present, we clearly had a quorum and began what most believed would be a non-controversial Assembly. However, I purposely timed any restroom breaks, not wanting to miss any important discussion or (even worse!) a vote.

Eight candidates (two for President- Elect, six for two Board of Directors) spoke for six minutes each in response to a prompt regarding the role of the Statement of Principles of Good Practice (SPGP). Most of the candidates skillfully highlighted their experience and issues of priority while answering the question. Their stories were both inspiring and humbling. My process of reviewing the candidates had begun at the Executive Board leadership retreat in August, followed by scrutiny of the candidates' statements and resumes, and then a phone conference with the other delegates a few weeks prior to the conference (thank you, Mike Aquilano, Chief Delegate!). However, the candidates' speeches served to crystallize my voting decisions. We had a generous 90 minute caucus after the speeches, which allowed the delegations from the S & Rs to meet for further discussion. New York does not vote as a block, but we agreed on the strengths of some of the candidates. After returning to assembly, we voted by paper ballot. The remaining agenda items included proposed changes to the SPGP. The Assembly approved three amendments. One amendment concerned a best practice that members provide professional development for staff using the standards for educational and psychological testing. The spirit of this change was to encourage members to gain knowledge in the areas of test bias and variations among various sub-groups. The second amendment, somewhat hotly debated among delegates, involved a best practice of educating staff regarding standardized testing through non-biased parties and obtaining training from the sponsoring testing agencies. In my opinion, the intent was to encourage members to have a thorough understanding of tests such as the ACT, SAT and TOEFL via training from the respective testing agencies, and implied a cautious use of test scores for purposes other than admission. The third amendment involved a mandatory practice, requiring that transcripts are provided in a timely manner for all students (not just transfer students).

The issue regarding the size of the Assembly, a seemingly innocuous issue, generated a fair amount of discussion. Curiously, SACAC advocated strongly for a smaller assembly. Many of the S & Rs pay their delegates' expenses, including hotel and transportation, so an increased delegation demands considerable expense. To date, NYSACAC has not paid delegate expenses to the national conference. However, some of our delegates have pursued NACAC President's Council grants to help defray costs. The members of the Assembly supported a motion that the Governance and Nominating Committee devise a proposal on reducing the size of the Assembly. The proposal may be ready for discussion at next year's meeting in St. Louis. With a few minutes until noon, the meeting concluded on time despite the unanticipated discussions and amendments to amendments. Overall, I found it very energizing and motivating to be among dedicated professionals representing the global membership of NACAC, and I look forward to next year's conference in St. Louis. ★

Save The Date

Annual Conference 2010

The New York State Association for College Admission Counseling will be hosting its 32nd Annual Conference **June 1-4, 2010 at Niagara University**. Colleagues from around the state will gather for exciting professional development and networking opportunities. This special event celebrates over thirty years of bringing counseling and admissions professionals together for its annual conference.

Conference Events Include:

- Our 13th Annual Coming Together Conference
- Pre-Conference Tours of local Colleges/Universities
- Pre-Conference Golf Outing
- Keynote Speaker: TBA
- NACAC Update
- Over seventy workshop sessions for high school counselors and admissions professionals
- Fundraising Events: Bocce, 5K run/walk, and more
- Legislative Session
- Silent Auction, Raffles and More!

Job Board

Position Openings

Rochester, NY – **Rochester Institute of Technology – Director of Admissions, National Technical Institute for the Deaf**

NTID, one of the eight colleges of RIT, is the first and largest technical college serving deaf and hard-of-hearing students. Nearly 1,450 deaf and hard-of-hearing students from across the United States, as well as other countries, study and reside at RIT with 16,000 hearing students.

Requirements: Minimum of master's degree in field relevant to admissions work and minimum of six years experience in higher education in the area of admissions, enrollment management, administration, marketing communications or related field. Knowledge of deafness, education of the deaf and American Sign Language strongly preferred, but not required initially. The director will be expected to demonstrate competency in this area within one year of hire and will be provided opportunities for training. The anticipated starting date for this position is January 2010. For a detailed job description please visit: RIT Career Zone at <https://mycareer.rit.edu> and enter the **IRC32806** or select National Technical Institute for the Deaf for College/Division.

FOR MORE JOB OPPORTUNITIES BE SURE TO VISIT
https://www.nysacac.org/index.php/job_postings/

Would you like to be a committee member

Involvement in the committee planning process can be a fun and rewarding way to develop professional skills. The organization is always open to new members on our various committees. If you have an interest in being a leader join one of our committees today.

Contact Riana Ardis Phone: (518) 472-1977 Email: nysacac@nysacac.org

Newsletters are published in October, December, March, and April. Submission deadlines are as follows: September 30, December 1, March 1 and April 15. The newsletter is distributed electronically. Print copies are available upon request.

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Articles submitted for consideration for publication should be concise. Articles may be edited. Please include contact information of persons mentioned in articles, as well as the contact information of person (s) submitting articles. Email submissions to newsletter@nysacac.org.



**NYSACAC
Office
Hours
9am-3pm
Monday-
Friday**

NYSACAC MAIN OFFICE

126 S. Swan Street
Suite 101
Albany, NY 12210