



Fall 2007

Message from the President

After months of hard work, our new web-site is up and running! Greg Wasserman and Jackie Pravda put forth a tremendous effort to revitalize the site. The site offers many new features, including: member email accounts, online membership signup/renewal, online financial transactions, and job postings.

I invite you to visit us at <http://www.nysacac.org>. A special thank you to Joe Tweed, Past President, for spearheading this project during his presidency.

As you may already know, we hired a full-time Executive Assistant. Riana Ardis, a 1999 graduate of Siena College, joined the NYSACAC team in July. Feel free to contact Riana at 518-472-1977 or nysacac@nysacac.org for assistance. Several new individuals have joined the Executive Board this year. In addition, many thanks to all of our board members for the past year, your help and expertise is much appreciated.

For a complete list of [2007-08 NYSACAC Executive Board](#) members, click [here](#).

The Seedling Program was offered at two locations this year (CUNY Hunter College and Manhattan College) and 105 rising ninth graders took part in these programs. Overall, the programs were a huge success. Our goal for 2008 is to have at least five programs, one in each of the five New York City boroughs. Kudos to Committee members Carla Shere, Huthaifah Kareem, Njemile Davis, and Natalie Sandy.

It was another successful year for Camp College. Two Camp College programs took place this summer at Union College and SUNY Potsdam. SUNY Potsdam was the first ever SUNY school to hold a Camp College experience on their campus. A total of 139 students attended Camp College and had a wonderful experience. In addition, over 50 college admission and high school guidance professionals volunteered to serve as mentors and chaperones to the students. Thanks to all who gave of their time by participating in this program. Special thanks to Chris Milton and Karen Staller for their extraordinary effort.

Fall 2007 kicked off with the NACAC National Conference, September 26th-29th in Austin, Texas. See the article "Update from NACAC Austin" for details!

Thank you all for the great work you do. See you soon!

Sean P. Kaylor
President, NYSACAC



Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Access

Beryl S. Jeffers, Ed.M
Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Access

One of our greatest public servants, Robert Kennedy, once wrote, "America's answer to the intolerant man is diversity."

Merriam Webster Dictionary defines

Diversity: the condition of being diverse: especially the inclusion of diverse people (as people of different races or cultures) in a group or organization.

Equity: justice according to natural law or right; specifically: freedom from bias or favoritism.

Access: permission, liberty, or ability to enter, approach, or pass to and from a place or to approach or communicate with a person or thing.

Many have often asked what are the responsibilities of the VP for Diversity, Equity and Access?

The Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Access coordinates the work of several key committees within the organization (A.P Committee, Community-Based Liaison, Government Relations and Human Relations Committee). As the voice of these committees, it is also the role of this Vice President to reach outside the association in an effort to enhance relationships with parallel committees in other State and Regional Associations across the country. It is critical that this individual be a knowledgeable advocate in representing related needs of the membership.

I have had the opportunity to work with such wonderful and diverse people. This past year has been quite rewarding for me and NYSACAC. I am both honored and humbled to have the opportunity to work with such dedicated committee chairs and co-chairs.

So, what are you doing at your high school or college/university to advance the mission and purpose of diversity, equity and access? Many times when we think of diversity, equity and access, the first subject that comes to our mind is racial or ethnic diversity. This, of course, is the result of the ever-present controversy over issues of affirmative action in our profession. Despite the contentious atmosphere surrounding this issue, many forget our society was built on the idea that diversity, equity and access is tantamount to strength.

Diversity in our profession is not simply defined by the racial characteristics of the membership. Rather, diversity, equity and access are also intellectual, geographical and ideological; NYSACAC can have the greatest opportunity to improve and increase the membership and diversity at many of our institutions.



College Admissions: Making Your HS Student "A STAR"

Ed Woodyard is the President of CollegeAdvice, a college admissions consulting service based in Armonk, NY, and serves as an independent college admissions consultant as well as a member of NYSACAC. This article was adapted from his book, Getting Into the College of Your Choice: A Parents' Guide to the College Admissions Process, which is awaiting publication.

It can seem unfair when one applicant is successful over another, especially when the denied or waitlisted student may have been more adept in more categories than the accepted candidate. In truth, the unknown variables of admission change yearly on every campus.

In today's extremely competitive college acceptance environment, GPAs, test scores, recommendations and essays are not enough. Often it is finding, recognizing and emphasizing "something extra" that a student will bring to a college campus. That "something extra" is a special project solely identified with the student and is most effective when originality, creativity and enterprise separate the student from thousands of other applicants.

It usually takes five things to give students "A STAR" quality. The five points that make "A STAR" shine at a college admissions office are Academics, Stature, Tests, Altruism, and Reputation (A STAR).

Academics means having an outstanding transcript which shows top grades and a balanced but rigorous curriculum. The course load should challenge the student to do as well as possible.

Stature allows students to demonstrate personal characteristics of confidence, commitment, leadership, discipline, teamwork, and responsibility; such accomplishments acknowledge their quest for excellence outside the classroom. Performance and participation in athletics do count.

Tests relate to the standardized exams of most concern for college-bound students: the SATs, SAT Subject Tests, and the ACTs -- in addition to all those classroom tests taken to get the best grades possible.

Altruism is giving of one's self to school, hometown and others. Volunteering for community service and actively participating in extracurricular activities (clubs, organizations, groups in or out of school) demonstrate selfless qualities that show how the student puts others first.

Reputation assesses a student's character, perceived by others, especially in considering recommendations from teachers, mentors, employers, alumni/ae, coaches and friends.

After the five points of being "A STAR" are identified, a specific strategy commences, aimed at making that star shine most brightly in admissions offices. The successful conclusion to a strategy is based on teamwork and preparation. As in any quest, it is advantageous to know where you want to go and find the best pathway to get there. While the highways are the same, the routes to get there can be different.

Want to respond to Ed's article? E-mail us at newsletter@nysacac.org.



Greetings from the Membership Committee

Membership Update
Tim Lee, Hilbert College

We are hard at work preparing for the upcoming membership drive for 2008! With 2007 memberships ending on December 31, now is a great time to either renew your membership or join our organization for the first time! To update your membership information, visit the NYSACAC website, www.nysacac.org.

With over 1300 members, NYSACAC is the largest single state organization in NACAC. Our members have achieved regional and national positions within the association, giving our members unparalleled opportunities for networking and professional development. NYSACAC also has one of the most geographically diverse groups of members, as well, with over 10% of our members coming from outside of New York State. While our membership level is strong, it is our goal to reach out to everyone in New York State and increase our membership even more!

What can members do to help us increase our organization's membership? Several things:

- Renew your current membership.
- Encourage new staff members to join NYSACAC.
- Invite other members of your campus, school, and organizations to join.
- Reach out to others in the industry who may not yet be members.
- Take part in professional development opportunities available through NYSACAC.
- Tell others about your experiences with NYSACAC.
- Help us record who has left your organization during the 2007 membership cycle.

If you have any questions or would like to be a part of the membership Committee, feel free to contact us at membership@nysacac.org, or at the below contact information.

Looking forward to working with you as a part of NYSACAC in 2008!

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Chief Delegate Report

Joe Tweed, NYSACAC Past-President

With outside temperatures hitting the mid-nineties and bats flying about at night, the pulse of the NACAC Delegates Assembly remained high, despite the air conditioned rooms of the Hilton Hotel in Austin, Texas. This year 250 delegates gathered for two meetings and a full agenda.

NYSACAC delegates had been preparing for this Conference since the spring. The NACAC leadership did an outstanding job this year in encouraging delegates to review the Assembly issues starting in the Spring of 2007. The NACAC E-List was a buzz discussing all of the issues making assembly very productive.

I think we were all more excited than usual given that two of our NYSACAC colleagues were running for positions on the NACAC Board of Directors. We were (and are) so proud of Richard Alvarez and Scott Hooker for agreeing to run for national office. Congratulations to Richard and Scott, who were elected by the Assembly to the Board of NACAC.

As was the case last year, nominees presented a prepared speech but stayed at the podium in front of the entire Assembly and answered one question, which they had not seen in advance.

After the candidates were elected, the Assembly heard discussion on several key issues. To begin, two motions came before the Assembly: The Mackin motion and the Jump motion. In both cases the assembly approved these motions dealing with changes to the SPGP. The Assembly had a long debate and discussion about a third motion asking that the Delegates reverse the work of the 2006 Assembly with regards to when colleges can notify students of the institution's decision. After careful deliberation and thoughtful comments, the Assembly did change the SPGP and removed the September 15th deadline for notification of admission decisions. Overall, the level of discussion and topics raised during Assembly were evidence of the strong leadership in this association.

I want to personally thank all of our NYSACAC delegates for their hard work and dedication in preparing for and carrying out their responsibilities at Assembly. A big thank you to NYSACAC current President Sean Kaylor (Marist College) and President-Elect Mike Acquilano (Staten Island Academy) for serving as Delegates. I would also like to thank Ann Wallace and Marjorie Jacobs for serving as Alternate Delegates.

Throughout the year, please contact your delegates with questions about NYSACAC. They represent you, the NYSACAC membership, and we all work towards making our organization stronger. As this was my last year of a three-year term as delegate, I simply want to say how much of a pleasure it was to represent NYSACAC at the last three Assemblies. I encourage everyone to become more deeply involved in all NYSACAC initiatives. It is truly rewarding.



2008 NYSACAC Conference Save the Date

Save the Date!
2008 NYSACAC Annual Conference

The NYSACAC Conference will be held at Manhattanville College, in Purchase, NY, June 4-6, 2008. The theme for this year's conference is "Building our Future, One Student at a Time". □

The Conference Steering Committee held its first meeting in Austin during the NACAC Conference and has been hard at work planning events that will address the needs of counseling and admissions professionals. Our conference will offer educational workshops with ample opportunities for individual enrichment, as well as many networking opportunities, from one-on-one conversations to events for charity to excursions around the NYC area. □

Manhattanville College will be a tremendous venue for our annual conference. The campus provides a wonderful setting, and the facilities at Manhattanville provide versatility for our workshops and social gatherings. This conference will include all the popular events of the past, including bocce, golf, live music, and all of our fundraising events.

Please mention the conference to your colleagues and help us to get the word out about this event. Registration materials will be mailed in February.

Please visit the NYSACAC Web site (www.nysacac.org) for regular updates regarding this year's conference.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at Manhattanville in June!



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Stacy Ledermann
St. John Fisher College

Jo Anne Phang
Syracuse University

David Weisbord
Columbia University

Delegates (HS)

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John Jay High School

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Editor's Note

*Bryan D. Adams, Co-Chair of Newsletter Committee
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*James Luciano, Co-Chair of Newsletter Committee
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As you may have noticed, the newsletter for NYSACAC has changed. With the new e-newsletter we can get more information to our members in a timely manner. We hope this format will better serve the NYSACAC membership by giving information relevant to enrollment management, financial aid, application processing, standardized testing, student academic profiling and various other issues regarding the college admission process.

We invite you to share your articles throughout the year. You may submit your editorial piece via e-mail to newsletter@nysacac.org. Every article will be considered for publication.

If you submit an article that is chosen for publication, you could win a gift card to one of the following: Barnes & Noble, BestBuy, iTunes, Target, or Starbuck's.

If your article is not chosen for one of the newsletters, you will still be entered into a drawing for an iPod Nano! The drawing will be held at the 30th Annual Conference at Manhattanville from June 3-6, 2008.