



December 2003

President's Corner



*Grant Thatcher
Onondaga
Community
College*

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

It is just before the holidays as I write this, and winter has already come and gone at least once here in Syracuse. As I ponder what to write, I can't help but reflect on the past few months in terms of all that has gone on and the people involved.

The fall has been a busy one for NYSACAC, as I'm sure it has been for everyone. For me, the fall really started with the NACAC National Conference. It seems like only yesterday that we were attending the NACAC National Conference in Long Beach, CA. For those of us who were able to attend, it was an exciting and most enjoyable Conference. Not least of all because our own Carl "Sandy" Behrend, Director of Guidance at Orchard Park High School (outside of Buffalo), was leading the festivities as President of NACAC. Sandy was also the keynote speaker for the Conference and delivered an inspiring address. New York State was also well represented during the awards portion of this year's National Conference, with Rising Star Award and Margaret Addis Award recipients. The Rising Star Award honors newer individual members or programs that exemplify excellence and dedication to serving students in the transition from high school to college. One of this year's Rising Star Awards was awarded to Kelly Herrington, Union College, and NYSACAC's Camp College Program. Congratulations, Kelly! The Margaret Addis Award recognizes a person or persons who have provided NACAC with unique and outstanding service. It is named in honor of Margaret Addis, who was a long-standing, dedicated member of NACAC and New England ACAC. It is one of

the highest awards NACAC confers. This year, the NACAC Executive Board elected to acknowledge the contributions of National College Fair chairs, who have served for five years or more as chairs of their local fairs. Five of the eleven honorees are from New York State: Richard Bory, The Cooper Union; Steve Kerge, NYIT; Frank Muzio, Wantagh High School; and Susan Reantillo, Hofstra University. Unique and outstanding service, indeed!! Congratulations!

This is representative of the fact that it is the volunteers—the creative, committed professionals working on behalf of the parents and students of New York State—who make the Association. As president of NYSACAC, I have the privilege of being able to share with you some of the projects now being undertaken by our friends and colleagues.

The College Fair Committee, chaired by Meryl Wiener and Renee Orlick, has seen a successful fall season. National College Fair attendance continues to be strong, and, in addition to a NYS College Fair Directory, Renee and Meryl have overseen the production of a guide to College Open Houses.

Planning for the New York State Legislative Forum is proceeding briskly in cooperation with other professional groups from the field of education. It will be held in Albany on February 2-3, 2004. Given the current climate of budget issues, it is all the more important that we speak out and promote continued funding of educational programs, which ensure students have access to higher education. One of the best ways to do that is to take advantage of this opportunity to meet with our legislative representatives in Albany. Joanna Broda and Jon Westover are working with others to make the Legislative Forum a success. Registration materials for the Legislative Forum will be arriving soon. I hope that we will see as many of you there as possible.

NYSACAC's annual Regional Forums, spearheaded by Maryelizabeth Amico and Patricia Peek, Professional Development Co-chairs, will be held in nine locations throughout the State in March 2004. The topic this year is "Back to the Basics: Revitalize and Rejuvenate." Information on dates and locations is included in this

newsletter, so please plan to attend one of them.

You will also want to mark your calendars for June 2-4, 2004, and the NYSACAC Annual Conference. While June may seem a long way off, planning for the Conference is well underway. Lisa Sohmer has already marshaled her troops (a.k.a., the Conference Planning Committee), and they are busy making plans and preparations for the 26th Annual Conference, which will be held at Le Moyne College in Syracuse. This event will provide outstanding opportunities for professional growth and development. The Coming Together Conference will again be held in conjunction with the Annual Conference, and the Human Relations Committee, led by co-chairs JoAnne Phang and Carl Forbes, is hard at work planning this year's event.

The School/College Relations Committee, Fran Bernstein and Susan Eichenholtz, co-chairs, is coordinating the Counselor Education Visitation Program; the Media, Marketing, and Technology Committee, Mitchell Lipton and Greg Wasserman, co-chairs, has been working hard on improvements and updates to the NYSACAC Website; and the Summer Institute Committee, led by Mary Ann Reichhardt and Cathy DeLorenzo, continues to plan next year's Summer Institute.

This is not an exhaustive list of all the projects and activities currently being undertaken, nor of the people involved, but it does represent the breadth of the Association. As we move into the winter and see 2003 become 2004, I am filled with admiration and pride for the things the Association has achieved, and all it will achieve in the months ahead. I am also in awe of all those people who make it happen, and am honored to call them friends and colleagues.

Warm regards to you all for a great 2004!

Sincerely,

Grant Thatcher

Grant Thatcher
President, NYSACAC

Save the Date!

2004 Professional Development Regional Forum Sites

Theme: "Back to Basics!"

March 9—St. John Fisher College
March 9—SUNY @New Paltz
March 10—Syracuse University
March 12—Molloy College
March 16—Pace University
March 19—University at Buffalo
March 23—Fordham University
April 7—College of Staten Island

Look for more information on
our website at www.nysacac.org

This Time, It's for Real – Reflections of a First-time Delegate

*By Michael Acquilano,
Staten Island Academy*

I had been to NACAC conferences before Long Beach. Fond memories come to mind: meaningful sessions, great friends and colleagues, and wonderful social events (I still cannot believe we partied in Marshall Fields in '94). My experiences at NACAC and NYSACAC conferences have always been enlightening and rejuvenating. Needless to say, I was thrilled and proud to be a part of the New York State delegation. This year, more than any other, I had a real purpose.

Upon arriving in Long Beach on Tuesday night, I prepared for an early morning on Wednesday. Heeding the warnings of my fellow delegates who assured me that the doors to the Assembly meeting room would close at 8:00 a.m. sharp, I made sure I was early. What followed was an introduction to parliamentary procedure with Roberts Rules of Order, which apparently is a 700-page document. No, don't worry, we did not go over the entire document, but a solid orientation for the delegates was presented. At 8:15, President Sandy Behrend stated we were ahead of schedule and could take our first break. Wow, a break after fifteen minutes. This delegate thing wasn't so bad after all.

When the meeting was called to order, some of the issues presented dealt with new language for a specific provision in the Statement of Principles and Good Practices (SPGP) dealing with incentives, and a review

of the proposed budget, which called for dues and fee increases. The latter issue prompted some discussion. What I found most interesting about the morning Assembly session were the candidate speeches. The main theme in several speeches centered on the issue of "access" for students. When President-elect candidate Frank Sachs mentioned more programs were needed like "NYSACAC's Camp College," it was a particularly proud moment for the New York delegation.

Our next task was to conduct the nominee interviews, which was the most interesting part of the day for me. The candidates were very impressive, inspiring actually. Each of the six candidates (for three separate offices) had different styles, which would make my voting decision all the more difficult. After listening to each candidate discuss his/her platform, we, as a delegation, convened to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of each. I was impressed by the open and frank dialogue that followed. Our delegation felt more like a family at that point. We would cast our vote at the Assembly Session II on Saturday morning.

After a wonderful dinner and fun night on the town, sponsored by one of our enthusiastic colleagues, Saturday morning came fast. I signed in and received my pink voting card, not necessarily a "power" color, but it would do. "Tellers, please close the doors" came booming over the speaker, courtesy of Sandy Behrend. The opening of the session was formal. In fact, all of the assembly proceedings were very formal, which, in my mind, underscored the organization's seriousness of purpose. We passed a motion that dealt with admissions options and then it was on to the election of officers. The voting was quick. The next item on the agenda was budget review, which prompted the offering of a "friendly" amendment. Aside from having a serious tone, the assembly discourse was quite civil. I was prepared for some real action, but after some discussion about member dues and fees, the proposed budget was passed. I was impressed with the amount of work that went into creating a budget for NACAC. Actually, I was impressed by all of the folks who currently hold elected office in the organization. When do they find time to spend on their own work? The announcement of the newly elected officers was then read, and I felt great for the winners because I knew what they had gone through on Wednesday during the

interviews. I also felt badly for those that lost the election because, again, I knew what they had gone through on Wednesday. New business focused on expanding NACAC's outreach through education and professional development, and one of the last voices heard called for the revocation of the moratorium on Early Decision and Early Action. The individual stated that the moratorium is counter to what NACAC stands for and that the Association should enforce the SPGP. I have to admit, it was a persuasive argument. However, theory and practice will collide at times, and sorting this issue out is one of the more pressing challenges for NACAC. Future discussions will certainly be intriguing.

For me, the week was terrific. Great dialogue and information, old friends (and new), and lots of laughs made for a positive experience. The 2003 NACAC Conference was thought-provoking, entertaining, and inspiring. I am proud to be a delegate from New York State and look forward to next year's conference. Arthur Fonzarelli and Laverne DeFazio, here we come!

Grant and Fee Waiver Make NACAC Conference Possible

*By Karl Swisher,
Niskayuna High School*

I met Dokowe on my first morning in Long Beach, before the conference officially started. Dokowe had come to the NACAC National Conference from the Federated States of Micronesia. When I asked him where that was, he was kind enough to explain that it was an eight-hour flight from Hawaii, and then from Hawaii it took another four-hour flight to reach Long Beach. My trip from New York didn't seem like such a big deal anymore. I had to adjust to a three-hour time difference. Dokowe had to adjust to an entirely different day.

We discovered other differences in our perspectives. I was at the Conference to find ways to help my high school seniors gain entrance into the "best" colleges and universities in the nation. Dokowe was there simply to find ways to keep students in school. In my community, the parents are doctors, lawyers, and engineers. In his community, many families exist on subsistence fishing and farming. While I found California's ocean breezes to be a pleasant change from October in New York, he felt chilly, having just left the 80-plus temperatures of Micronesia.

NACAC Assembly Report

59th National Conference, Long Beach, California, October 3-4, 2003
by Kelly Herrington, Union College, NYSACAC College Delegate

Twice during the NACAC annual conference in Long Beach, the organization's 207 delegates assembled. The goal of the first assembly was simple: to introduce and interview the candidates for national office and review motions. Demonstrating energy, insight, years of experience, and vision, each candidate addressed the Assembly. Despite varied admissions and secondary careers, all of the candidates possessed one shared trait: a track record of professional excellence.

When the candidate's speeches concluded, the assembly floor was turned over to an equally important, yet slightly less enthralling topic: NACAC's budget. Reversing the trend of the past two years, NACAC posted a net revenue of \$476,686 for the 2003 fiscal year. In order to remain in strong financial standing, motions were made to increase both membership and college fair fees. Membership dues were last raised in 1999. Likewise, 1996 was when booth fees for national fairs were last increased. Additional motions addressing the need to create a college counseling text book for graduate schools and prohibiting colleges from providing incentives for students who apply under early decision plans were discussed.

The second assembly began with a vote on the national officers. All of the motions presented during the first assembly were subsequently voted on and passed. New business for the proceeding year was introduced. Over the course of the next year, NACAC will investigate the following: 1. Developing a tracking system to fully inform members about questionable scholarship and financial aid service providers. 2. Expanding the national counselor of color workshop to include a secondary school counselor track and advanced track for second year attendees. 3. Lobbying congressional leaders to avoid writing penalty fees into congressional financial aid legislation. 4. Assessing whether rankings are an "engine driving the profession in the wrong direction" and suggesting possible solutions.

All in all, the two Assemblies were productive, informative, and lively. The need to consistently examine our professional practices and advocate for our students is the hallmark of NACAC. The National Assembly is where much of this valuable work begins.

After our early morning conversation, I saw little of Dokowe. Once the conference got rolling, we both entered a four-day whirlwind of professional development. We attended outstanding workshops and presentations. We met counselors from all over the United States. We "networked" (aka, found free food and drinks) at receptions sponsored by colleges and vendors. We gathered catalogs, brochures, business cards, and many, many cool pens from the vendors' exhibits and from the college fair. And, of course, we karoked (NYSACAC did itself proud with a show-stopping rendition of "New York, New York").

After 13 years as a school counselor, attending the national conference for the first time was an inspiring experience for me—one made possible by a \$500 grant and fee waiver sponsored by NACAC, with generous contributions from The College Board and *U.S. News & World Report*. This grant program will continue to sponsor one counselor from NYSACAC each year to attend the national conference. And based on my experience in Long Beach, I would highly recommend it to any counselor at any level. The experience and knowledge I gained, as well as the professional contacts I made at the conference, will certainly improve my work as a school counselor.

In the words of NACAC President and New York State's very own Carl

"Sandy" Behrend in his keynote speech, I left the conference, "renewed, reinvigorated . . . and tired." It was also Sandy's speech that really helped me gain perspective on why I was at the conference. Sandy spoke about all of us being there because our work is to make a difference in people's lives—whether the people we work with are lawyers, or whether they are fishermen, whether that means trying to help students find their way into the "best" colleges in the country, or whether it means simply trying to keep students in school.

For further information about the grant program, contact Grant Thatcher at email thatcheg@sunyocc.edu.

LeMoyne College Hosts the NYSACAC's 26th Annual Conference, June 2-4, 2004

Exciting plans are underway for NYSACAC's upcoming annual conference. Following a wonderful response to the "Call for Proposals," the Program Committee met in NYC to evaluate and select the sessions that will be available during the conference. We expect to see a wide variety of programming for both school and admission counselors. Within the sessions, attendees will find information about our profession as well as new programs and initiatives from around the state and across the nation.

This year's conference theme, "On Common Ground: Reaching New Heights," will begin with a legislative session, which we hope will have the participation of one or more elected officials. While the keynote speaker has not been confirmed, the opening session promises to set the tone for three exciting days of professional development and net-working. The Hospitality Committee has taken steps to ensure that the evenings provide a number of ways to relax, have fun, and spend time with friends and colleagues. The First-Timers Committee will be establishing a network of mentors to help new members of our profession feel a part of the conference and of NYSACAC.

For those who would like to learn more about our host campus and its facilities and history, NYSACAC.org now offers both conference information and a link to Le Moyne College's website. Updated conference information will be available on the NYSACAC.org website throughout the spring. Registration materials will be sent in March, along with details about the program sessions and evening activities.

The Steering Committee, including many representatives from Le Moyne College, continues to work hard to make the 2004 Conference a successful and enjoyable event. We hope to see many of you at Le Moyne. Save the dates—June 2-4, 2004!

2003-2004 NYSACAC Delegates

Please feel free to contact the high school or college delegate representing your county any time throughout the year. They are happy to provide you with any information and/or discuss any issues that you feel are important.

High School Delegates:

Michael Acquilano
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Staten Island Academy
Representing: Richmond, Bronx

Trey Gardner
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Clarence High School
Representing: Erie

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East Rochester High School
Representing: Monroe, Wayne, Yates

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The Brearley School
Representing: New York, Queens

Courtney Black-Swisher
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Shenendehowa High School
Representing: Albany, Chenango, Otsego, Rensselaer

College Delegates:

Alison Almasian
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Representing: Clinton, St. Lawrence, Essex, Franklin,
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Alternate Delegates:

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Marjorie Jacobs
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Scarsdale High School

Long Island National Fair a Huge Success

The Long Island National College Fair at the Nassau Coliseum on Sunday, November 2nd was a success, with 8049 visitors and 390 colleges/universities participating. These strong numbers indicate that the later-than-usual date had no negative impact on the program. Several of the featured workshops were standing-room only: Selective College Admission, Financial Aid, NCAA Issues, Students with Special Needs, and the New S.A.T. A special thank you to co-chairs Steve Kerge, NYIT, and Frank Muzio, Wantagh High School, and their committee for a terrific job!

Spring 2004 NACAC College Fairs:

New York City National College Fair
Jacob Javitz Convention Center
Sunday, March 21, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Rochester National College Fair
Riverside Convention Center
Sunday, May 2, 12:00-4:00 p.m.
Monday, May 3, 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Syracuse National College Fair
Onondaga County Convention Center at On Center
Tuesday, May 4, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 6:00-9:00 p.m.

As a new initiative this fall, the College Fair Committee published an Open House Guide. All NYS member colleges and universities were invited to publish their open house dates, and it was mailed to each NYSACAC member college, university, and secondary school in New York State. We plan to publish an Open House Guide again next year, so please make sure that a valid e-mail is listed for your institution to receive requests for information. Thanks to Renee Orlick, Alfred University, for this initiative.

Finally, it is almost time to begin the Fall 2004-Spring 2005 College Fair Directory. If you host, or are the contact person for a college fair, please e-mail Renee Orlick at orlickr@alfred.edu to list the program in next year's directory.



Outgoing NACAC President Carl "Sandy" Behrend, Orchard Park High School, passes the gavel to new President Keith White at the General Membership meeting in Long Beach, California.



National College Fair Chair Susan Reantillo, Hofstra University, is honored along with other winners of the Margaret E. Addis Award at the NACAC Conference.



Congratulations to Kelly Herrington, Union College, (far left) who is pictured with other Rising Star Award winners at the NACAC Conference.

Newsletter Deadlines

February 6, 2004

and

April 2, 2004

Camp College: Reflections from a First-Timer

By Gina Lamanna, SUNY Geneseo

Like many college freshmen, I wondered if I would know anyone, if I would like my roommate, and if I was ready to be a mentor at NYSACAC's award-winning Camp College. I just started my second year as an Admissions Counselor at SUNY Geneseo and am still learning about the fields of admissions and school counseling and meeting colleagues. I drove to the Union College campus with a few butterflies in my stomach and started three of the most rewarding days of my (young) professional career.

Camp College is a three-day pre-college camp available to students of color, students who are first-generation college bound, and/or students from low socioeconomic backgrounds. As a mentor, I provided additional advice and guidance to students beginning the college process. I hope you will consider getting involved with Camp College in the coming year!



Stacy Ledermann, Editor
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