

#### **President's Corner**



Richard P. Alvarez The City University of New York

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I hope the fall season is going well. We anticipate a very active year and look forward to working with you as we assist yet another class with the transition into post-secondary education.

So much has happened since our Annual Conference at Manhattan College. Several colleagues completed their terms of service with the Executive Board, and I am happy to report that the VP and Committee Co-Chair positions have now been filled. For your convenience, we are including a directory of the current Executive Board. Please do not hesitate to contact any one of us with your ideas and questions, and, most importantly, to volunteer for committees. We hope to involve more and more members in NYSACAC activities.

In August, we had our annual NYSACAC Leadership Retreat. The two-day meeting provided an excellent opportunity for us to begin working as a team and to set a number of goals for the year. We plan to continue expanding our outreach activities—to increase our membership and its diversity—and to increase the use of technology as a communications tool. Further, we want to make developing future NYSACAC leaders a priority.

Joseph Tweed and the Conference Steering Committee have selected "Counseling Today, Expanding Opportunities for Tomorrow" as the theme for NYSACAC's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference at Nazareth College in Rochester, NY. This theme should be embraced for the year because it is so closely tied to the goals and mission of NYSACAC.

This year's NACAC Conference in Tampa provided a great opportunity to showcase NYSACAC. During the State and Regional President's Council meeting, I had the privilege of accepting a "Certificate of Congratulations" from NACAC in recognition of two recipients of the 2005 State and Regional President's Council Grant Award. During Assembly, our delegation was engaged and vocal on the issues presented to us for approval. Among these issues were the approval of the new Statement of Principals of Good Practice (SPGP) and the re-structuring of the NACAC Executive Board. Please visit the NACAC website www.nacacnet.org for more information. I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to publicly thank Marge Jacobs for running for the position of NACAC President-Elect. Although she did not win the election, Marge represented us well demonstrated why she is one of our most esteemed leaders.

During the NACAC General Membership meeting, I once again had the privilege of accepting an award on behalf of NYSACAC—the 2005 Excellence in Government Relations Award—"for our commitment to and success in the advancement of government relations issues and goals." The Co-Chairs of the NYS Legislative Forum, Joanna Broda and Brian Petraitis, were present to with award accept the me. Congratulations to all for this great recognition.

NYSACAC membership continues to grow, with our summer membership count at approximately 1400. However, we must continue to reach out to our counterparts at high schools, community-based organizations (CBOs), and community colleges. It is important for all of us, as we have learned to

appreciate the benefits of membership in NYSACAC, to encourage membership among our colleagues. The ability to affiliate with a network of professionals who share a common set of goals is one of the greatest benefits of NYSACAC membership. Please remember complete your NYSACAC membership renewal form if you have not yet done so. If you know of a colleague who is not a member, share a copy of the membership form. As was the case last vear, we continue to rely on e-mail and web-based applications to disseminate information to our membership. I encourage you to visit our website regularly for the most current information on the Association.

The Executive Board continues to engage in fundraising activities, and we welcome Jaclyn Bellotti as co-chair of the Development Committee. Our nonprofit status continues to allow us to provide tax deductions for donations to the Fund for the 21st Century, and programs such as the Silent Auction and the Walk for Scholarship provide new ways for members and friends to support the fund.

I look forward to working with you as we continue to provide access to postsecondary education to the broadest audience possible: traditional high school students as well as the growing number of adults returning education. NYSACAC needs your help to continue building the reputation of being the preeminent professional organization for counselors and college professionals. admission Remain engaged and involved with us to ensure we achieve our goals.

Richard P. Alvarez

Richard P. Alvarez President, NYSACAC

## Delegates' Corner

#### **Chief Delegate's Report**

By Michael Acquilano, Staten Island Academy

I knew it was going to be a great week in Tampa when I got to my gate at the airport and saw many familiar NYSACAC faces waiting for the same flight. We had been together over the summer at our leadership retreat and had several conference calls in preparation for the NACAC Assembly, which convened on September 21, 2005.

The NACAC leadership did an outstanding job this year in encouraging delegates to review the Assembly issues starting in the Spring of 2005. Among the Ad Hoc Committee on Assembly Structure's recommendations were strategies to engage delegates before the actual Assembly meeting to stimulate discussion and advance preparation for any business or issues that would come before the Assembly. The creation of an Assembly delegate web page provided us with a resource that proved to be valuable in understanding exactly what was expected of us.

I think we were all more excited than usual, given that one of our NYSACAC colleagues was running for NACAC President-Elect. We were (and are) so proud of Marge Jacobs for her efforts as a candidate for national office. The first item of business was the introduction of candidates for the positions of President-Elect and Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Access. Running for President-Elect were William Dingledine, Jr. from South Carolina; Mary Lee Hoganson, the eventual winner, from Illinois; and our own Marge Jacobs, a 20-year member of NYSACAC, who has been involved in virtually every aspect of our organization during that time, including serving as President in 2000-2001. For the position of Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Access, Tamara Siler from Rice University ran against Jim Miller from the University Wisconsin-Superior, the eventual winner.

This year the Assembly did not break into sub-groups to interview each candidate. Nominees presented a prepared speech but stayed at the podium in front of the entire Assembly and answered one question, which they did not see in advance.

Over the last eighteen months, there has been much work done in preparation for the Assembly. The Statement and Principles of Good Practice (SPGP) revision process and drafts have been presented to the NACAC members in phases and in various forms, including a member survey, electronic requests for feedback, and in-person presentations at state and

regional conferences. Opportunities for motions and amendments to the Proposed SPGP were solicited from the delegates for several months leading up to the 2005 Assembly. The Assembly was asked to act on the complete revised document being presented, with no changes accepted from the floor. The most prominent of the revisions dealt with last year's hot-button issue: Early Action Single Choice. The revisions called for placing the Definitions of Admissions Decision Options into two categories: 1)Non-Restrictive Application Plans, which included Regular Decision, Rolling Admission, and Early Action and 2) Restrictive Application Plans, which included Early Decision and a new category called Restrictive Early Action, which includes Early Action Single Choice.

The other major issue that delegates were confronted with involved several Proposed By-Laws Amendments, the biggest of which dealt with the composition and responsibilities of the NACAC Executive Board. The changes included the following:

- the Executive Board will be re-named the Board of Directors
- the current "Vice President" titles will cease to exist, reflecting the Board's collective responsibility to govern, thus eliminating "silos" or areas of specialty
- the current number of Executive Board members will increase to 15 members, which will include the President, President-Elect, Past President, Coordinator of the Presidents' Council, and 11 Board members, eight of whom are elected and three are appointed by the Board of Directors
- Board governing committees will be established to carry out the work of the Board of Directors
- current standing committees and the Presidents' Council will continue to carry out the functions described in the by-laws, but the business from standing committees and the Presidents' Council will be directed first to the appropriate board governing committees before going to the full Board of Directors.

All of the voting for the election of officers, changes to the SPGP, and changes to the By-Laws took place on Saturday, September 24th. The proposed revisions to the SPGP passed, as well as the proposed revisions to the By-Laws. I believe all of the Assembly delegates felt very good about what was accomplished during our Assembly sessions.

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 Past President Lisa Sohmer, current President Richard Alvarez, and President-

Elect Joe Tweed (Trinity Pawling School) for serving as Delegates. I would also like to thank Joan Zinner of Garden School, Kevin Cavanagh of Manhattan College, and Sean Kaylor of Marist College 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.

#### Dean's Corner: Stories Heard and Overheard

By Jacqueline Pravda and Lynda Mandlawitz, Scarsdale High School

At the end of September, Deans Sarullo, Thompson, Pravda, and Mandlawitz were among 4,200 counselors and college admissions officers in attendance at the conference of the annual National College Admissions for Counseling (NACAC) in Tampa. Throughout the conference, participants took part in formal and informal discussions about the state of college admissions. While there, we heard and overheard many provocative and timely remarks from the luminaries of our profession, and we bring them to you in their freshly minted, unedited version.

Prior to the formal opening session of the conference, the approximately 240 elected voting delegates representing each state assemble to discuss the running of NACAC and its by-laws, to raise motions for consideration regarding the Statement of Principles and Good Practices (the code of ethics of the member institutions), and to bring to the floor any new issues of concern. Among the eighteen delegates representing New York was Jacqueline Pravda who recalls several discussions that may be of interest to our families. One such discussion led to the passing of a motion intended to aid students and institutions affected by Hurricane Katrina and other catastrophic events. Other discussions addressed the use of standardized test scores in admission practices and the language used to categorize early applications. We will now be hearing the terms restrictive and **nonrestrictive** in reference to early policies.

During a session entitled "Counseling The International Student," Dean Lynda Mandlawitz described programs in place in our district for supporting international students and parents, noting that the global

reach of our community has required sensitivity and imagination to enable us all to learn from each other.

At the opening session, the Dean of Admission at Tulane University graciously thanked everyone for the overwhelming outpouring of assistance and attention given the students of New Orleans and the rest of the Gulf region. He reassured the general membership that Tulane fully intends to greet an entering freshman class next fall.

The speeches of two university presidents, Dr. Freeman Hrabowski of the University of Maryland-Baltimore and Dr. Donna Shalala of the University of Miami, were highlights of the conference. Dr. Hrabowksi is a spellbinding speaker whose voice and passion captivated the assembled counselors. He presides over a campus that boasts the nation's collegiate championship chess team and selfdeprecatingly refers to himself as an aging Growing up in Birmingham, Alabama, Dr. Hrabowski was a child leader in the Civil Rights movement and a math prodigy. He spoke of the importance of equity and access in education by recounting life stories and emphasizing their power to influence young people's futures. In his own case, his mother chose to work as a housekeeper in an affluent home instead of opting for a job picking cotton. Her fascination with gaining a glimpse into other life situations prompted her decision. She found her way to the family's immense library and was granted permission to read their books after completing her household chores. As a result, her passion for literature and desire for an education grew. She became English teacher who auoted Shakespeare and Baldwin around the house as Dr. Hrabowski grew up, and then as his English teacher, she gave him his only B.

Dr. Donna Shalala. known to most for her service in the Clinton administration, used a mixture of humor and story telling to discuss the weighty issues of diversity, equity, and access. There were two stories that we most loved and to which we related. In the first, the diminutive Dr. Shalala explained how she came to find a new appreciation for the drama of overcrowded student parking lots. As the recently appointed president just learning the Coral Gables culture, she reasonably and innocently suggested eliminating the option for freshmen to have cars on campus. No sooner had she uttered that suggestion did she hear an audible gasp: "Are you kidding? They sent their children here to be able to visit their grandparents. Do you want to take those phone calls?" Next, not missing a beat, she told of hiking in the cranberry bog near the Madison campus of the University of Wisconsin during her tenure as chancellor and being stopped in her tracks by a parent who took the occasion to thank her

for some flippant advice she had offered years before when his child was closed out of French. What was her advice? "So, take Hungarian. There's plenty of room in that class." As is the way with serendipity, the student not only took her at her word but also ended up pursuing a graduate degree in Eastern European languages and culture!

Intertwined between these magnificent presentations, we overheard some pearls of wisdom from our colleagues on both sides of the desk. One extremely savvy and experienced New York City private school counselor balked at the new SAT Writing section, yet in the next breadth praised the efforts of the College Board, suggesting "if all this new test accomplishes is to get students who weren't writing to do so, then hasn't it been successful?" An admissions director representing a highly selective institution in the Midwest offered his opinion that students arriving on college campuses today are "still in the womb: mature academically but not mature enough to be able to handle disappointments." Another director at a top East coast university echoed his sentiments, adding: "If a student is unhappy with a grade, he will call his parents and ask them to phone the professor to negotiate on his behalf." It was a moment of clarity as we turned to each other to ponder whether we let go enough for our students to speak up for themselves and cope with life's challenges.

The four days proved invaluable in broadening our understanding of admissions issues and in connecting with our colleagues. Gathered together in the Tampa airport terminal, laptops in hand, the four of us shared other bits of advice and news, wistfully faced the reality of returning to desks cluttered with phone messages and half-composed college recommendations, and thought, "If we can just make it through another school year, we'll meet again next fall in Pittsburgh!"

To receive your NYSACAC newsletter via e-mail only, please contact
Stacy Ledermann at sledermann@sjfc.edu with your request.
Thanks for your interest!

#### **First Time Delegate's Report**

By David Weisbord, Columbia University

As the plane began to descend into Tampa, through the outer clouds of Hurricane Rita, I took a final look at my conference delegate materials. My first conference as a NYSACAC delegate would soon begin.

Although serving as a delegate involves a tremendous amount of work, it is a rewarding and exciting experience. To improve NACAC at the national and state levels, delegates do a lot of work "behind the scenes." This year's delegation discussed and voted on a number of issues that would do just that.

Assembly One began at 7:30 a.m. sharp (yes, the doors are locked if you do not arrive on time) on Wednesday, September 21st at the Marriott Waterside Hotel. The set-up of the assembly reminds one of a small political convention. The delegates are seated together, distinguished by signs stating where they are from, with a gallery in the back for onlookers. Assembly One was an opportunity to discuss the issues, which ranged from the approval of the SPGP to how the Executive Board (now Board of Directors of NACAC) would be constructed. In addition, speeches were given by all of the members running for office at the National Level. This year, three highly qualified candidates ran for President-Elect and two for Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Access.

Between Assemblies One and Two, many conference sessions are offered for all attendees and delegates. In addition to the conference sessions and meetings with exhibitors, I also attended the NYSACAC Executive Board meeting, NYSCAC Conference Steering Committee Meeting, and NYSACAC General Membership Meeting. This, of course, was while trying to avoid some of the torrential downpours we experienced thanks to the outer bands of Hurricane Rita.

Assembly Two began at 8:00 a.m. sharp on Saturday, September  $24^{\text{th}}$ . With a quorum of the delegates present, we got down to business. Although there were close votes, many issues were decided upon and each delegate left the conference with a feeling that much had been accomplished.

As I headed for the airport on Saturday night, I reflected back on my experience. Serving as a delegate is not only an excellent opportunity to make a difference in our association, but also a chance to network with other members of NACAC. I am already looking forward to the issues that will be discussed and decided next year in Pittsburgh and encourage you to get involved in both NYSACAC and NACAC.

#### **First Timer's Experience**

By Jeffrey Gates Binghamton University

Where shall I begin? Being a new delegate has come with an awesome responsibility of being a voice in admissions practices within New York and the nation. As I leave Tampa, I have many global thoughts in my head, including;

- How do we secure more money to fund colleges and universities?
- How can we generate more student scholarship funds?
- How do we ensure that all colleges are abiding by the SPGP?

In addition, as an admission professional, I was able to interact with so many colleagues across the nation and for that I am energized. I returned to my office today and have been working at 200% so that I do not forget all of the new ideas that I have taken from attending the conference.

For me the conference was an opportunity to learn, explore, grow, and foster relationships with colleagues and friends. I encourage everyone to try and attend NACAC as often as they can. If your office does not have the funds to support the conference, look to other professional organizations, unions, and groups who may have some scholarship money for professional development.

I have learned one additional lesson: be sure your hotel is close to the convention center . . . and yes, my hotel is booked for Pittsburgh, PA.

## NACAC Fairs in New York State for 2004-2005

#### Buffalo

Colleges participating: 238 Attendance: 10,000

No. of high schools busing: 61

Next year's date: March 21-22, 2006

#### Long Island

Colleges participating: 318 Attendance: 7,000-8,000 Next year's date: TBA

#### **New York City**

Colleges participating: 405 Attendance: 13,000

No. of high schools busing: 1

Next year's date: TBA

#### Rochester

Colleges participating: 257 Attendance: 6,824 No. of high schools busing: 53 Next year's date: March 24-25, 2006

#### **Syracuse**

Colleges participating: 271

Attendance: 2,722

No. of high schools busing: 17 Next year's dates: March 28, 2006

#### **Government Relations Report**

HEA Reauthorization: Senate Committee Approves <u>HEA Bill</u>

On Thursday, September 8, the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee approved their version of the Higher Education Act. Please see a summary below of the bill's treatment of key NACAC priorities:

**Pell Grants:** Would increase the maximum Pell grant to \$6,300 by the year 2010. The current authorized maximum award is \$5,800, while the current budgeted maximum award is \$4,050.

**TRIO:** Would place new "outcome criteria" on TRIO programs, and require the Department of Education to report on success in meeting outcomes every two years. Would also require that certain activities take place in each TRIO program, including (for Talent Search and GEAR UP) tutoring, help with course selection, admission preparation, and other college preparatory help.

GEAR UP: Would require certain activities to take place in all GEAR UP programs, including tutoring, financial aid and college application help, course selection assistance, and other academic help. Would also require GEAR UP programs to set aside at least 50 percent of grant funds in trust to guarantee financial assistance for graduates of the program.

**Campus-Based Aid:** Would reauthorize the LEAP and SEOG programs, increasing maximum grant awards and allowances for book purchases.

Transfer of Credit: Would mandate that institutions not reject credit on the basis of the accreditation of the sending institution alone, and would require colleges and universities to publish transfer policies that would describe the transfer of credit policies at the institution.

Fraud in Federal Aid Programs: Would create an exception to the 50 percent rule for colleges that offer courses "principally" or "primarily" online, but have accreditation status and meet other standards, and would provide a number of ways in which institutions could meet the 90-10 rule by reporting 10 percent of income from sources (some federal) other than Title IV aid.

FAFSA: Would direct the Department of Education to create an EZ FAFSA to streamline application procedures for low-income students, and would direct the Department to phase out the paper FAFSA. Would also make it illegal to charge a fee for the "collection, processing, or delivery of financial aid through the use of [the FAFSA and other federal forms]."

#### **Regional Forums 2006**

The Professional Development Committee hit the ground running this year with aims to have an expanded offering of regional forum sites across the state, as well as a theme that would be attractive to both high school counselors and college admission staff.

This year's series will feature the theme "Counseling Today: Expanding Opportunities for Tomorrow; Creating Partnerships with Families in the College Admission Process" and will kick off in March 2006 at 10 sites across the state. Series workshops will focus on topics such as college information programs for families, specializing communications to families, working with families of first-generation college bound students, and working with Millennial parents, among others.

All of this year's forums will also feature a legislative session to provide updates on key regional and national legislative issues.

Beginning in mid-January, the NYSACAC website will feature information about registering for the programs. The 2006 forum sites are:

March 8—SUNY Institute of Technology

March 9-St. John's University

March 15—Molloy College

March 15—Skidmore College March 15—Syracuse University

March 16—Manhattanville College

March 16—SUNY at Buffalo

March 24—SUNY College at Oneonta

March 28—Fordham University-Lincoln Center

April 11—Roberts Weslevan College

#### **Newsmakers in NYSACAC**

Michael J. Konopski, Niagara University, has accepted the position of Dean of Enrollment Management, effective September 1, 2005.

Mitchell L. Lipton, The Cooper Union, has accepted the position of Dean of Admissions and Records, effective August 1, 2005.

Susan Schlegel, Niagara University, gave birth to a baby girl, Ava Grace, on April 2, 2005.

Meryl Schwalb, University at Albany, gave birth to a baby girl, Haliann Mara, on November 23, 2005.

Jon Westover has left the College of St. Rose to accept a position as Senior Associate Director of Freshman Admissions, University of Massachusetts—Amherst, effective fall 2005. Also, Jon has been named the Chair of the NACAC Government Relations Committee.

#### New York State Association for College Admission Counseling Executive Board Directory 2005-2006

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### Executive Board Elections 2006

Believe it or not, it's time to start thinking about next year's Executive Board elections. In addition to a President-Elect (from the college side) and High School and College Delegates, we will also elect a Secretary and Vice Presidents Diversity, Equity and Access Professional Development and Planning. If you are interested in running, or if you have a colleague that you would like to nominate, please visit www.nysacac.org to download a nomination form. Nominations are due on January 23, 2006 and ballots will be mailed to all NYSACAC voting members in late March 2006. As always, election results will be announced at the Spring Conference.

The By-Laws Review Committee will meet this fall to review any necessary changes for the NYSACAC By-Laws. Of course, your input is welcome as we look at the structure of the Association. If you have ideas about the by-laws review process, or issues that you would like to raise, please contact us.

As Past President, Lisa Sohmer chairs both the Nominating and By-Laws Review committees. If you have questions about the election process or issues you would like to raise, please send an email to SohmerNYC@yahoo.com.



Current and Past Presidents of NYSACAC are (from left to right): Richard P. Alvarez, The City University of New York; Scott Hooker, Allendale Columbia School; Peter Grant Jordan, LaGuardia Community College; Mary Lou Bates, Skidmore College; Joan Zinner, Garden School; Carl "Sandy" Behrend, Orchard Park High School; Joanna Broda, Pace University; Patricia Taylor, Rye High School; Lisa Sohmer, Garden School; and Jack Brennan, Christian Brothers Academy, NJ.

# It's time again to catch us up on the latest news and events in your life! SO LET'S HEAR FROM YOU . . . .

Return by February 1, 2006, to:

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	I was promoted to:	
	I welcomed a new staff member to my office:	
	I changed jobs:	
	I received an award:	
	I published:	
	I presented at a conference:	
	I got married:	
	I welcomed a new little addition to my happy family:	
	Other:	
Nam	ne: Title:	
Instit	tution:	
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#### 2006 NYSACAC Annual Conference

"Counseling Today, Expanding Opportunities for Tomorrow," is the theme of the 2006 NYSACAC Annual Conference. The theme pays tribute, in part, to the work that school counselors and admission counselors do each day to expand the educational opportunities of our students. The Conference will be held at Nazareth College, in Rochester, June 7-9, 2006.

The Conference Steering Committee has been meeting since August 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 Rochester area.

Nazareth College will be a tremendous venue for our annual conference. The campus provides a wonderful setting, and the facilities at Nazareth 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 you colleagues and help us to get the word out about this event. Registration materials will be mailed in March. Please visit the NYSACAC website (www.nysacac.org) for regular updates regarding this year's conference. We are looking forward to seeing you all at Nazareth in June!

Now is the time to complete your New York State Association for College Admission Counseling (NYSACAC) Membership form. If you haven't already done so, please go to <a href="https://www.nysacac.org">www.nysacac.org</a> and click "Renew Your Membership."

Please send the form to our Albany office as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please e-mail Andrea Nadler at admahn@hofstra.edu or Jennifer Hess at hessi@buffalo.edu.

Thank you!

#### **Important Dates**

Newsletter Deadlines: February 1, 2006 May 1, 2006

NYS Legislative Forum Albany, NY February 13-14, 2006

NYSACAC Regional Forums March/April 2006

NYSACAC Annual Coming Together Conference Nazareth College Rochester, NY June 6-7, 2006

NYSACAC Annual Conference Nazareth College Rochester, NY June 7-9, 2006

62nd Annual NACAC Conference Pittsburgh, PA October 5-7, 2006



Stacy Ledermann, Chair St. John Fisher College 3690 East Avenue Rochester, NY 14618