



January 2005

President's Corner



Lisa Sohmer
Garden School

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

As I write this, I find myself at the midpoint of my year as President of NYSACAC, and I am amazed at the year so far.

Looking at what has happened and what is planned for the 2004-2005 year, the year's overarching focus highlights ways that we can work together. The 2005 Conference at Manhattan College has "Education and the Future: Joining Efforts to Light the Way" as its theme, our spring Professional Development forums are entitled "Bridging the Gap: Strengthening School/College Relationships," and NYSACAC's goals include several new initiatives aimed at ways that we can develop and support programs and professionals in every region of New York State.

During our December meeting, the Executive Board voted to expand NYSACAC's involvement in the NY GEAR UP program, and we have applied to become a sector partner in the program. If we are approved, NYSACAC will receive a grant to support Camp College and our other GEAR UP activities. The decision underscores NYSACAC's commitment to every student in the state.

In addition, the Executive Board voted to create a NYSACAC "speaker's bureau," which will connect the association's leaders and members with high schools and CBOs for the purpose of providing workshops, guidance, and support.

NYSACAC's activities have expanded over the past several years, and as we seek to be involved in more projects, our need for committee members and other volunteers expands as well. NYSACAC committees are responsible for all NYSACAC events and communications, with a hand in every action of the association. NYSACAC's committee chairs are available to answer your questions about involvement in the association as well as to provide information about NYSACAC's projects. If you have been considering getting more involved, I encourage you to do so now. Contact information for all NYSACAC committee chairs, as well as other members of the Executive Board, can be found on the NYSACAC website.

NYSACAC's not-for-profit status has allowed us to begin an enhanced fundraising program that will provide additional financial support for our projects. Joe Tweed, as Development Chair, approached all members at year-end as a reminder that the *Fund for the 21st Century* needs our support. The Walk for Scholarship, which we participated in for the first time in October 2004, promises to be a successful annual event. Other fund-raising efforts are underway for Spring 2005.

The Nominating Committee solicited nominations for the NYSACAC Executive Board elections that will be held in April. Ballots will be mailed to the membership in March, with detailed information on the candidates posted on the website. Don't forget to vote!

NYSACAC members participate in two Legislative Forums each year—the NYS Legislative Forum in Albany and a NACAC-sponsored Forum in Washington, D.C. NYSACAC members are encouraged to participate in both conferences, and consistently serve as able advocates for students and institutions. Educating our elected officials about the needs of NYS students is a way that we can influence the future of education in our state and across the country.

Richard Alvarez and the 2005 Conference Steering Committee have met several times, and are on track to provide a fantastic professional development experience at Manhattan College in June for the more than 800 attendees that are expected. The "Call for Proposals" generated a tremendous response, and it looks as though we will once again have a record number of workshops. The School-College Relations Committee will be posting grant applications on the website; please apply early to take advantage of these funds. The Human Relations Committee continues to plan for the 8th Annual Coming Together Conference. The program, which includes programming that can benefit all professionals, will take place at Manhattan College on May 31 and June 1.

As the Annual Conference draws closer, all NYSACAC members will be asked to serve as mentors for Conference first-timers, providing a personal welcome not only to the event but to our association. I hope that you will join me in serving as a mentor at the Conference, and that you will see mentoring younger and newer professionals as part of your role, not just during the Conference, but every day. Each of us, no matter how seasoned, can remember our first years in the profession. Let's make mentoring—not just of our students, but also of our colleagues—a consistent priority and a resolution that we make together in the New Year.

In closing, I would like to thank each of you for the work you do, on behalf of students and for NYSACAC.

Lisa Sohmer
President, NYSACAC
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Delegates' Corner

The Role of a Delegate

By Michael Acquilano, Chief Delegate,
Staten Island Academy

At this point in the year, you should have heard from the NYSACAC delegate representing your New York State county. A listing of county delegates appeared in the October issue of this newsletter. As you may know, delegates are elected representatives of NYSACAC to the National Association for College Admissions Counseling (NACAC). Delegates are expected to attend the National Conference as voting members of the Assembly and are also a part of the NYSACAC Executive Board. If you have a question regarding the organization, your initial contact should be with your county delegate. Your delegate is the best resource for obtaining information about programs, resources, or getting involved in the Association.

Aside from our annual conference, which will be held June 1-3, 2005, at Manhattan College, professional development opportunities exist through the NYSACAC Regional Forums, which will be offered again this spring. These one-day professional development sessions, held at sites throughout New York State, are a great way to discuss issues that affect our profession and to network with colleagues as we head into the spring. Your delegates will attend the regional forums to welcome you and to serve as an on-site resource. I hope you will be able to attend one in your area.

If you have questions or comments regarding the role of delegates, please feel free to contact me at Macquilano@statenislandacademy.org.

A Delegate's Reflection of the NACAC Conference

By John Brennan,
Horace Greeley High School

As I sat waiting for my delayed flight to Milwaukee, I found myself reviewing all the materials for the Assembly. As a rookie delegate preparing for my first NACAC Conference, I figured I had better read through everything twice more.

On my return flight, I realized how well prepared I was and that it had nothing to do with my last minute reading in the airport on the way to Milwaukee.

NYSACAC had gathered all of its delegates together for a pre-conference planning session at Union College weeks prior to the NACAC Conference. During that time, we discussed various issues that would be coming up at the conference, and our NYSACAC leaders outlined what would be happening each day in Milwaukee. This was a tremendous help to me.

While in Milwaukee, I had the opportunity to hear speeches and vote for candidates running for national positions. As a delegate, I was also involved in discussions and voted on the proposed budget, which passed. A focal point of the conference was the topic of early admission options, which was a very important part of both Assembly I and II. Each session included discussions on the decision options, which included the early-action single-choice option, as well as early decision and early action. It was during Assembly II that the Assembly voted to draw up the proper language to include an early-action single-choice option. It was intriguing to hear varied opinions on the options from all the attendees.

I enjoyed the opportunity to be involved in the Assembly, but also enjoyed attending some of the other workshops. One such workshop centering around the hot topic of early admission was entitled "Single-Choice Early-Action and the First Year" with John Mahoney from Boston College, Robin Hamlet from Stanford University, Lee Coffin from Tufts University, and Sally O'Rourke from Andover High School in Massachusetts. Each spoke about the new early-action single-choice option and its impact on their school. The room, which held approximately five hundred people, was filled to capacity. For me, this reinforced how this issue touched so many people in a variety of ways.

The NACAC Conference served as an opportunity to come together with professionals from all sides of our profession. With our varied backgrounds and experiences, we all had our students' best interests at heart, understanding that our decisions would not only impact the profession but future students as well.

As a result of my involvement leading up to the NACAC Conference and at the conference itself, I realized just how significant a delegate's role is and the

responsibility it entails. A comfort level stemmed from how well prepared I felt from the leadership and direction the other veteran executive board leaders and delegates had provided. To be in Wisconsin and witness how effectively and efficiently things ran and with such cohesion were remarkable to me.

Working with other delegates from both the college and high school side at the NACAC Conference was another valuable experience. I enjoyed meeting with my colleagues and discussing the issues and candidates, as well as meeting to discuss matters related to our NYSACAC organization.

I encourage all of you to become engaged in our organization and hope that one day you, too, may benefit from a similar experience. Those few days in Milwaukee have given me tremendous insight into what our executive leaders do within our organization as well as what occurs at the national level.

To witness and be part of a group of individuals who are so passionate, enthusiastic, and committed to our profession was inspiring. As a result, I am eagerly looking forward to next year's NACAC Conference and the opportunity to be a part of another amazing experience!

Visit NACAC's 2005 National Conference Website

Plan now to join NACAC for the 2005 National Conference, September 22-24, 2005, in Tampa, Florida. The website for the 2005 National Conference, www.NacacConference.com, is already available to help exhibitors and attendees make plans, including hotel reservations.

The NACAC Professional Development Committee invites you to submit a session proposal for the 61st NACAC National Conference. To do so, log on to www.NacacConference.com/call.cfm.

With more than 100 sessions planned, unlimited networking opportunities, and an exhibit hall featuring more than 100 companies in a state-of-the-art convention center, the National Conference promises to be the college admission profession's most valuable educational event of the year.

Steering Committee Prepares for NYSACAC's 27th Annual Spring Conference at Manhattan College

Following a great response to the "Call for Proposals," the Program committee met 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.

The conference will begin with a NACAC update. While the keynote speaker has not been confirmed, the opening session promises to set the tone for three exciting days of professional development and networking. The Hospitality Committee has taken steps to assure that the evenings provide a number of ways to relax, have fun, and spend time with friends and colleagues. The First-Timers Committee is looking for mentors to help new members of our profession feel a part of the conference and of NYSACAC. To volunteer to become a mentor, please contact Janet Pacifico at 914.763.7425 or via e-mail at jpacifico@klsd.lhric.org.

Updated conference information will be available on the NYSACAC website (www.nysacac.org) throughout the Spring. Registration materials will be sent in late March, along with details about the program sessions and evening activities.

The Steering Committee is looking forward to welcoming you to the 2005 Conference on the beautiful campus of Manhattan College. Save the dates—June 1-3, 2005!

2005 Annual Conference Grants

Shortly, NYSACAC members will receive information about conference grants for the NYSACAC Annual Conference.

Colleges will be asked to support a grant for secondary school counselors, CBO counselors, graduate school counseling students, or two-year college counselors. They will have the option of requesting a specific grant recipient.

High school counselors will be sent forms to request a conference grant.

The grants cover the full cost of conference attendance, which includes registration, lodging, and meals. Grants

are generally offered for first-time conference attendees who, because of budget constraints, would be unable to attend the conference without receiving the grant. Extra efforts are being made this year to utilize these grants to increase the diversity of both conference attendees and NYSACAC active members.

For further information, please contact Dennis DePerro at 315.445.4707 or deperrdr@lemoyne.edu; or Michelle Mason at 718.665.3555 x120 or MMKLPPNY@aol.com.

NY GEAR UP

The Class of 2005 includes the first graduating cohort of GEAR UP students—nearly 20,000 in New York State alone. Admissions offices here and across the country will be seeing applications for these students in this admissions cycle.

GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a combined State and Federal program. It aspires, through its sites, to enroll all of its graduates in college—2-year, 4-year, public, and private—in Fall 2005. If you are an admissions officer, these students are heading your way.

For the past 6 years, GEAR UP students have participated in Camp College. Last year, over 100 NY GEAR UP directors at NYS high schools and CBOs joined NYSACAC. Their insights made us all more aware of the value of GEAR UP and the role that it lets each of us play

The New York State Association for College Admission Counseling has had a very busy fall as the executive board has been working feverishly to plan for the 2005 year. New professional development programs, the Conference at Manhattan College, the Legislative Forum, and new scholarships have either been announced or are nearing the final stages of planning. It will truly be an exciting year.

Your past support of the *Fund for the 21st Century* is truly appreciated and was helpful in surpassing our goals for 2004. The *Fund for the 21st Century* goal for 2004-2005 is \$10,000. I hope you will take this opportunity to contribute to the fund and be part of NYSACAC's continued success. You might also consider a matching gift from the institution that you represent. For more information or to donate, please contact Joe Tweed at jtweed@trinitypawling.org or (845) 855-4839.

in the lives of these students. Now, we hope to work with them to communicate with admissions offices all over the United States, explaining the experiences that have been shared by NY's GEAR UP alumni and the strengths that these students will bring to campus.

GEAR UP makes the high school-to-college transition real for students, with the goal of a college education creating the foundation for many years of training and hard work in the schools and at GEAR UP sites. GEAR UP students receive academic support in middle school and high school, designed to supplement their schools' academic programs and other services, such as tutoring and mentoring. GEAR UP students, like many others throughout New York State, have been working towards a college education since they entered high school. Now it is time for us to help them achieve their goals and become college freshmen next September.

For more information about NY GEAR UP, please visit www.nysacac.org, www.collegeboard.com, www.cicu.org, or www.hesc.org.

Visit our website at
www.nysacac.org



Darrell DeVoe joined NYSACAC members Joan Zinner, Richard Alvarez, and Lisa Sohmer in October's "Walk for Education" in NYC. The team raised over \$1,100 for NYSACAC's "Fund for the 21st Century."

2005 Legislative Forum

By Jon Westover,
Co-Chair, NYSACAC
Governmental Relations Committee

Mark February 7 and 8, 2005, on your calendars. Those are the dates for the 2005 New York State Legislative Forum. The theme of this year's forum is "Help Make Education and Higher Education Funding A Priority in 2005"

In 2005, the New York State budget will be just as difficult as 2004. Once again look for Governor Pataki to try to restructure the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and propose cuts to fundamentally important opportunity programs for our students. Also, the debate will continue regarding how to adequately fund public education in New York State at the elementary, secondary, and post-secondary levels. All of these issues not only impact our students, but also impact how we effectively do our jobs.



Rose-Ellen Racanelli, Assemblyman Felix Ortiz, Carol Bedell, and Gigi Lamens at last year's Legislative Forum

So why do we do this? Aren't there professional lobbyists who do this every day? Yes, there are. However, our system of government allows you, as a New York State citizen, to hold your elected officials accountable, based on how those lawmakers look after the needs and wants of their constituents. If an elected official ignores the views of their constituents, he/she puts his/her own job in jeopardy. Your elected officials work for you!

So, if you haven't attended a Legislative Forum before, come to Albany and let your voice be heard. Or, more importantly, speak for your students whose voices are seldom heard. You advocate for your students on a daily basis. So, I promise you, if you tell the stories of your students to your elected officials it will be fulfilling to say the least.

Attending this forum is also a great opportunity for students. Students can talk to the personal impact that financial changes have on their education. This is quite the asset when we lobby on Tuesday morning! Scholarship opportunities are available for high school, undergraduate, and graduate students who wish to attend the 2005 Legislative Forum. These scholarships are available to a limited number of participants on a first-come, first-served basis, so we encourage you to find students and have them complete the registration form as soon as possible.

If you have attended in the past, thank you for your support. You know first hand how important it is to let your elected officials know that education funding has to be a priority in New York State.

I look forward to seeing you in Albany this February!

The Coming Together Conference is Coming Together

Plans are already moving for NYSACAC's Coming Together Conference in 2005. This year's conference will take place at Manhattan College from May 31-June 1, 2005. Prepare yourself to discuss issues of diversity and access, have lots of fun, and make important contacts.

If you would like to make suggestions for this year's conference, help out with the conference, or ask for more information, please e-mail Carl Forbes at forbesca@lemoyne.edu.

Call for Articles

Do you have an idea for a newsletter article? Maybe you want to write an article yourself. Or perhaps you have already written an article on the college counseling or admissions profession. We are always looking for new and exciting articles to include in our newsletters. So, if you have an idea, or already have an article, contact Chris Coons at coonscr@alfred.edu or Stacy Ledermann at sledermann@sifc.edu. We look forward to seeing your article right here!

Regional Forums Coming Soon

The 2005 NYSACAC Regional Forum series, **Bridging The Gap: Strengthening School/College Relationships**, will soon begin at colleges across the state. The forums are free of charge to all attendees and offer an excellent opportunity to engage in professional development while networking with colleagues. Workshops relating to this year's theme will be offered at the following colleges and universities:

St. John's University	March 3, 2005
Fordham University	March 15, 2005
Syracuse University	March 16, 2005
St. John Fisher College	March 16, 2005
Hofstra University	March 24, 2005
Canisius College	April 1, 2005
Berkeley College	April 15, 2005
Skidmore College	TBD

Visit the NYSACAC website after February 1st for registration information.

Important Dates to Remember

Newsletter Deadline	March 15th (mailed in April 2005)
NYS Legislative Forum Albany, NY	February 7-8, 2005
NACAC National Legislative Conference Washington, D.C.	February 26-March 1, 2005
NYSACAC Regional Forums	March and April 2005
Annual Coming Together Conference Manhattan College	May 31-June 1, 2005
NYSACAC Annual Conference Manhattan College	June 1-3, 2005
NYSACAC Summer Institute Skidmore College	August 2005
61st Annual NACAC Conference Tampa, Florida	September 22-24, 2005

A Tribute to Mary Ann Reichhardt
By Penny Oberg, Rye Country Day School



Mary Ann Reichhardt

I would like to pay tribute to my colleague, Mary Ann Reichhardt, who died suddenly on December 17. We are all reeling from the shock and finding it hard to focus on her absence. Mary Ann had been at Rye Country Day School (RCDS) since 1986—all but three of those years as the sole college counselor. Before coming to RCDS, Mary Ann worked at the Cranbrook-Kingswood and Foxcroft Schools. She was President of NYSACAC, 1994-95, and co-chair of the Summer Institute, 2003-05. She was honored with the NYSACAC President's Award in 2001.

It was obvious to anyone who knew her that she loved her job. She liked it all—whiny parents, grateful kids, old friends

in the business, rookie admissions officers. When she called colleges, she had conversations with old friends, even if they did not know it. After she asked about the person's own family, she would frequently add, "I don't think you want to miss out on this one." She could advocate for the angels and the demons in a class with equal tone. She could accept a denial and help her students move on. "Of course," she would say to them, "Life is not fair. If it were, we wouldn't be sitting in this office in our privileged independent school."

Mary Ann was a college counselor for 40 years. When she started, early decision barely existed, students applied to 3 schools, the Internet had not been invented, college costs did not exceed the average family's income, students did their applications without consultants, and the life determinant was whether you went to college, not where you went. The changes in the profession hardly fazed her. In fact, she resisted much of what the computer could do to help. For her, the essential was the face-to-face with the student and the family. "Tell me what your dreams are; let's see if I can help you." "You are a worthy person." "Genuine acceptance." Those were her mantras.

Everyone who knew her appreciated her humor. It was not the storytelling kind, but wry, one-line comments. This past fall was not an easy one for her; while she awaited knee surgery she was in more pain than she was willing to admit, but when asked about her health, she would say, "I'll tell you about that later." Then the conversation would drift to the last student she saw or the phone call she was about to return. I have been blessed in my career to have had colleagues who listen, share their lives, and honor the profession. Mary Ann was one of those.

Rye Country Day School has established a scholarship in Mary Ann's name to help students fund their first year of college. Contributions can be sent to RCDS, Development Office, Cedar Street, Rye, NY 10580.

**NYSACAC has established the
"Mary Ann Reichhardt Memorial
Scholarship for Summer
Institute."**

**To contribute, please contact
Joe Tweed at
jtweed@trinitypawling.edu
or visit www.nysacac.org for
information.**



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