



March 2003

President's Corner



*Rose-Ellen Racanelli
Scarsdale HS*

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I find it difficult to write this article when the world around us is in such turmoil. The threat of war with Iraq, the deaths of the Columbia space shuttle crew, and the ongoing financial concerns of both federal and state governments present a bleak and sad picture. In times like this, the ray of light for me has always been my students. They possess the ability—unique to adolescents—to go within minutes from the depths of despair to laughter and happiness. It's their positive outlook and their belief in the unending possibilities in their lives that raise my spirits and are a source of confirmation for me about how much I love my work with them. I hope each one of you, as you search for positive, comforting news in the world, can find joy and hope for a better tomorrow in your students.

As I reflect on the occurrences of the past months and look to the future for NYSACAC, I take pride in our programs and outreach activities. The Executive Board at its last meeting voted to actively seek the participation in NYSACAC of counselors from community-based organizations. Dean, Kim, and Callaway, in their position paper, Identifying and Supporting CBO College Advisory Programs, noted, "In inner cities and rural areas where school counselors often have an untenable caseload, more direct service to families and college-seeking students is being provided by agencies that are community-based. It appears that CBOs are the future of college counseling for lower-income students." It is important for NYSACAC to gain a better understanding of the resources that CBOs provide to students and explore together the ways that we can be mutually supportive. To advance this effort, I have appointed Antonio Aponte, Director of Independent School Placement and College

Bound Programs for the New York Boys Club, to serve in a liaison position to the NYSACAC Executive Board. Prior to this position, Antonio had been Director of Minority Recruitment and Retention at SUNY Purchase College. In addition, Antonio runs the Latino College Expo, which will be held this year in New York City on April 5th. This is the thirteenth annual college fair which brings together 125 college representatives and over 1,000 students.

Other efforts by the Executive Board to reach underrepresented groups in our organization include the establishment of a committee to research and present an inclusion and diversity policy for NYSACAC. As a guideline, we are using the inclusion and diversity policy recently established by NACAC. In addition, NYSACAC will again sponsor the highly successful "Coming Together" Conference. Under the skillful leadership of Angel Perez, the sixth annual "Coming Together" Conference will be held at the State University at Buffalo on June 3rd and 4th prior to the annual NYSACAC June conference. The "Coming Together" Conference is an ideal professional opportunity for counselors of color and any counselor who works with, mentors, and/or recruits diverse populations. This year's theme is "Aiming Higher: Quantity vs. Quality of Diversity at Institutions of Higher Education." Registration and information is available on our website at www.nysacac.org.

In addition to our outreach efforts, NYSACAC has continued to be a leader in bringing together an educational consortium to support and lobby for educational initiatives and funding. On February 3rd and 4th, a highly successful State Legislative conference was held in Albany. Co-chaired by Joanna Broda of NYSACAC and Brian Petriatis of the College Board, this conference, now in its sixth year, is comprised of nine organizations. The theme, "Help Make Education and Higher Education Funding a Priority in 2003," couldn't be more apropos as education sustains the deepest cuts in the budget for the State Fiscal year 2003-04. No other broad area takes as large a hit. It is important for all of us to realize that, in order to guarantee the necessary funding to support student aid programs and maintain appropriate funding levels for K-12 and higher education, our efforts need to continue throughout the year. An effective way to achieve this goal is to contact your legislators in Albany and let them know that Governor Pataki's proposed cuts to education in the state budget are unacceptable.

Our professional development forums are another source of pride for NYSACAC. For the month of March, Maryelizabeth Amico and Patricia Peek have put together an excellent quality program in ten sites throughout the state. This year's topic is "Rights and Responsibilities: Legal and Ethical Issues in College Admissions." These forums provide a great opportunity to explore issues in college counseling, as well as share ideas and concerns with other counseling professionals. Camp College, under the auspices of Kelly Herrington, along with CICU will be receiving a \$60,000 grant. This grant will enable us to run three camps this summer. They will be held at Union College, Niagara University, and Fordham University. Bravo Kelly!

Grant Thatcher and Fran Bernstein have been working tirelessly to put together a June conference that promises to be exceptional. This is the 25th annual NYSACAC conference and is cause for a celebration. The professional workshops number over forty and address the many issues that counselors and admission professionals deal with in their daily lives. In addition to Judy Shepard, our keynote speaker, who lectures throughout the country on issues of tolerance and making our schools safer, there will be two special sessions: "Drugs and Alcohol In Our Schools" and "Current Trends and Outlooks in Higher Education." As we head west to Buffalo, we can expect to sample Buffalo's ethnic cuisine, experience excursions on the Maid of the Mist and Niagara Clipper, and visit Albright Knox Art Gallery. Good conversation, dancing, and laughter with our colleagues are always a given at our annual conference. Mark your calendars to join us for June 4th-6th at the University of Buffalo.

In closing, I think of the numerous contributions to NYSACAC by so many dedicated professionals and feel fortunate to be a part of an organization where so many people give so much of their time and energy. I thank all of you for your contributions.

Sincerely yours,

Rose-Ellen Racanelli

Rose-Ellen Racanelli
President, NYSACAC

Spring 2003 College Fair Programs

3/23/2003, 11-4 p.m.

New York City National College Fair
Jacob K. Javits Convention Center, New York City

3/28/2003, 9-1 p.m.

Rochester National College Fair
Rochester Riverside Convention Center

3/29/2003, 10-2 p.m.

Rochester National College Fair
Rochester Riverside Convention Center

3/30/2003, 12-4 p.m.

Syracuse National College Fair
Onondaga County Convention Center
OnCenter, Syracuse

3/31/2003, 9-12 p.m.

Syracuse National College Fair
Onondaga County Convention Center
OnCenter, Syracuse

4/1/2003

Chenango County Spring College Day
Greene

4/3/2003, 10-1 p.m.

Mohawk Valley CC Transfer Day
Utica

4/8/2003, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Penn-York College Night
St. Bonaventure

4/9/2003, 7-9:30 p.m.

New Rochelle High School College Night
New Rochelle

4/10/2003, 10:30-1 p.m.

New Rochelle High School College Fair
New Rochelle

4/28/2003, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

United Nations International School
New York City

4/30/2003, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Post High School Education Night
Holy Trinity Diocesan High School, Hicksville

5/1/2003, 11-1 p.m.

WNY Suburban Consortium College Fair
Program
Orchard Park High School, Orchard Park

5/1/2003, 7-8:30 p.m.

Niagara-Orleans Counselors Association
College Fair
Niagara University

5/5/2003, 5-9 p.m.

Spring College Expo—Nassau Counselors
Association
Hofstra University Arena

5/7/2003, 4-9 p.m.

Orange County College Night
West Point

5/8/2003, 6:30-9 p.m.

Southern Westchester College Night
Westchester County Center, White Plains

College Fair Committee Report

by Tom Yanno—National College Chair,
Co-Chair for Fairs, NYSACAC,
East Syracuse-Minoa High School

News on the state of college fairs, nationally, is encouraging, with the number now growing to 43. New initiatives will be piloted at selected sites:

- Drugstore.com will offer literature on careers in pharmacy at selected sites this spring
- The Syracuse National Fair will highlight hospital-based careers, as well as colleges and majors that prepare students successfully.
- High school students will be encouraged to volunteer as a means of helping youngsters meet their community service requirements. (As always, college students are welcomed as volunteers.)
- Ethical and operational procedures for conducting a college fair have been created and edited, as a reminder to those chairpersons who oversee the activities of their fair.
- A standard has been created for recruiting and using the resources of commercial sponsors, i.e. lending associations, and will be honored in upcoming fairs.
- A partnership with HOBSON'S will offer literature on participating colleges in the 15 Performing and Visual Arts Fairs, which showed increased attendance this past fall.
- Wired scholar.com will provide bags at 17 fairs for the Fall Fair Season.

The NYC Fair on March 23rd at the Javits Center will kick off the New York State Spring Fair Programs. One week later, the initial Rochester Fair, led by Tom Darin from Nazareth College, will be held March 28-29, as a lead-in for the eighth Syracuse Fair, March 30-31. The Thruway will be busy that weekend! Our hope is to keep March from going out as a lion—we anticipate sun! Looking ahead to the fall semester, the annual Long Island Fair will be held on October 11th. (This marks a departure from the traditional weekend dates for this event.)

We thank all volunteers for their efforts and commitment that have come to define the quality of the college fairs New York State is accustomed to witness.

NYSACAC 25th Annual Conference Update

This year's Conference will be held on the University at Buffalo campus in Buffalo, NY, June 4-6, 2003. The Conference theme, "A Distinguished Past, A Limitless Future," pays tribute to where we have been and where we are going as an Association.

The Coming Together Conference, for those who work with students who have traditionally been underserved, will again precede the Annual Conference. This year, for the first time, registration for Coming Together will be included with registration for the Annual Conference, so that attendees can register for both with one registration. The Annual Conference will combine workshops with numerous other opportunities for sharing, learning, and mixing with friends and colleagues. Workshops have been developed by the program committee to address issues pertinent to our profession and highlight the rapidly changing high school and college landscape. Nearly 50 different workshops are now planned for the Conference. Our keynote speaker this year will be Judy Shepard, mother of Matthew Shepard. Ms. Shepard has toured the country as a tireless advocate for diversity and tolerance. In addition, there will be three special sessions offered at times when everyone can attend. They will deal with alcohol and drugs in our schools; current trends and outlooks in higher education; and a NACAC update, presented by current NACAC president Carl "Sandy" Behrend and NACAC president-elect Keith White. There will also be ample opportunities for fun and relaxation at the Conference, including our traditional charity events, the 3K Walk/Run, bocce, and tennis. Dinner on Wednesday will offer three different excursions, from which participants will have to choose one: Niagara Falls and the Maid of the Mist; the Niagara Clipper on Buffalo Harbor; and the Albright Knox Art Gallery. Each of these excursions includes a catered dinner. Thursday's dinner will be "A Taste of Buffalo." Thursday night will also feature comedian David J, and a DJ and dancing.

All in all, this year's Conference promises to be an exciting and informative event. Registration materials will be in the mail and available online in mid to late March. Please plan on joining us on the University at Buffalo campus June 4-6!

Camp College 2003

Camp College returns!

This summer, NYSACAC will offer a three-day college experience for high school students from under-represented college populations. Union College, Niagara University, and Manhattan College will open their campuses and play host to these exciting events. This is the first time NYSACAC has offered three Camp College weekends.

The events, which are funded in part by \$65,000 in federal grants, are sponsored by NYSACAC and the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (clcu). clcu received grant funding through the NY GEARUP program, which is administered by HESC.

Camp College's goal is to encourage students to pursue higher education and to achieve their dreams, regardless of their ethnicity or economic backgrounds. Thanks to the partnership between NYSACAC and clcu, the camp will be able to offer more students this exciting opportunity.

As "campers," students will get a glimpse of college life. They will attend classes taught by college professors, and workshops on financial aid and admissions processes. They also will have the chance to practice interviewing and essay-writing techniques. In addition, they will have plenty of time for entertainment and fun.

The cornerstone of the Camp College experience is the mentoring component, which brings a vast array of professionals to campus in order to promote higher education. Small groups of students are teamed up with mentor facilitators such as school counselors, college admissions counselors, and teachers. The collaborative mentoring process, combined with simulated college classes, gives campers the chance to learn about college through first-hand experience.

To volunteer to be a mentor at one or more of the Camp College weekends, download the mentor volunteer form found on the NYSACAC website at www.nysacac.org, or use the enclosed form and forward to Ms. Yamiley Saintvil, saintvil@binghamton.edu or by mail, Binghamton University, PO Box 6001, Binghamton, New York 13902.

Camp College 2003

Union College	July 11-13
Niagara University	August 1-3
Manhattan College	August 15-17

Camp College at Union College

*by Joy Hudson,
A student in the Westchester
Community College NYGEAR UP
Program*

On July 19, 2002, I had a chance to experience what college life may be like someday. Nineteen other people and I were on our way to a three-day simulation of everyday life in college. We learned many things, such as what type of classes you can take, finding schools on the Internet, star gazing, and African drumming.

We went through everything that a freshman in college would have to go through. We were not paired with our friends—instead we had to share a dorm room with a complete stranger. I thought this was a good experience. It gave me a chance to meet other kids with different opinions on life, college, and other things.

I think the best part on the trip was the African drumming class. I learned that the first drum was made in Africa

during the time of the slave trade. Most of the Caribbean islands created some type of drum, whether it was on Haiti, Trinidad, or Jamaica. The only difference was the type of animal skin used to create the unique sounds. Goatskin allowed the drummer to make a loud noise and cow skin made a low pitch due to how tough it was.

We also went to other classes where we got to meet college professors. I went to two classes, one that dealt with molecular science and the other that dealt with social science. Molecular science kept my attention the most, due to the fact that it explained the importance of genetic manipulation. I thought this was interesting because I may want to major in the field of genetics. In social science, we learned the importance of political involvement. The professor explained that not getting involved could lead to someone making you believe in the things they want you to rather than your own beliefs.

I liked the fact that whenever we had a question, regardless of what it was, they took the time to answer it.

My experience was such a positive experience! Camp College—that is what they called it—got me prepared for what my future will look like when I go to college. It showed me that taking the time and preparing yourself could lead to the best outcome of your life. I truly believe that college will be fun as long as I put in the time to work.

***Be sure to visit
our new
website
at***

www.nysacac.org

Camp College Mentor Form

Mentor Responsibilities:

Attend Orientation (1st day of camp)
Facilitate group activities and discussions
Provide supplementary college admissions advisement to complement workshops
Monitor campers' behavior
Ensure group remains on schedule
Be creative, open-minded, patient, and have fun!

Name: _____

Institution: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

2003 Camp College Sites

July 11-13	Union College	Schenectady, NY
August 1-3	Niagara University	Niagara Falls, NY
August 15-17	Manhattan College	Bronx, NY

To reduce the chances of an uneven distribution in Mentors at the sites, we ask that you choose a first and second choice site. I would like to be a Mentor for:

1st Choice

----- Union College
----- Niagara University
----- Manhattan College

2nd Choice

----- Union College
----- Niagara University
----- Manhattan College
----- I am only interested in my 1st choice location

Please mail completed form to:

Yamiley Saintvil
Binghamton University
P.O. Box 6001
Binghamton, NY 13902

NACAC Responds to President Bush's Statement on the Michigan Case

On January 21, 2003, NACAC submitted a press release to media organizations nationwide as a response to President Bush's recent statement in opposition to the University of Michigan's Supreme Court Case, which is scheduled to be heard later this spring. As a state/regional affiliate of NACAC, NYSACAC fully supports NACAC's response to the President's remarks. The response released by NACAC can be found both below and on the NACAC Press Release link at http://www.nacac.com/media_releases.html.

January 21, 2003

Media Contact: Shanda Ivory, (703) 836-2222

Admission Officers and Counselors Respond to President Bush's Statement in Opposition to the University of Michigan

(Alexandria, Virginia) The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) expressed disappointment in President Bush's decision to oppose the University of Michigan in its upcoming Supreme Court case. "We appreciate the President's mention of diversity as a laudable goal in higher education. However, the college admission process that the President described does not reflect the very thorough evaluation of applications that occurs at Michigan and in admission offices across the country," stated Joyce Smith, Executive Director of NACAC. "We are disappointed that the President chose to use divisive rhetoric of 'quotas' rather than speaking forthrightly about the facts of the case." "NACAC member institutions have for many years stated a commitment to diversity as part of their institutional missions," Smith said. "Colleges and universities are working to ensure that their campuses reflect the changing demographics of the nation's population, and that the workforce reflects the reality of life in our country." While African-Americans and Hispanics together constitute 25 percent of the American population, they represent only 16 percent of students enrolled at four-year colleges and universities. In response to the announcement, NACAC officials conveyed the following key points in contrast to the President's remarks:

- ***Misrepresentation of the admission process.*** As Michigan President Mary Sue Coleman stated, the University does not use "quotas." Academic qualifications are the most important factors in college admission at Michigan and elsewhere. The President's use of the term is inaccurate in this case.
- ***Admissions are not "race-based."*** The President's remarks refer to "race-based admission." A proper understanding of the admission process would reveal that there is no such thing. Race is included as one among many factors in the admission decision, and is not used as the exclusive basis for any admission decision.
- ***"Preferences" set straight.*** Colleges and universities have the right to determine the profile of students in their incoming freshman class. If the language of preferences is to be used with respect to race, then it must also be applied equally to other factors that are beyond the control of students. Preferences in the admission process are given to students from particular geographical areas, students with wealthy or influential parents, and students whose parents attended the institution.
- ***"Affirmative access" is not a viable option.*** "X percent" admission plans have not yielded equity in higher education and are no more merit-based than current policies. Access for minority and low-income students in Texas, Florida, and California to major public campuses has been limited as a result of the implementation of these plans. In addition, the x-percent plans are not applicable to graduate schools, like law school and medical school, which are the subjects of the Michigan and the *Bakke* cases.
- ***Michigan admission policy in compliance with Bakke case.*** Existing judicial review shows that the University of Michigan admission policy falls well within the boundaries set by the Supreme Court in its 1978 *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke* case.

**Update from Albany: The 2003
NYS Legislative Forum in Review**
by Sara Hernández
Cornell University

On February 3rd and 4th, over 130 educational professionals and students convened in Albany for the 2003 New York State Legislative Forum. This year's forum had a record number of participants and, for the first time, was attended by high school students. Keynote speaker Dr. Alan Chartock began the event by sharing his views, regarding the state of affairs in Albany. He was followed by panel of financial aid experts, who provided insights on the past and future of student aid at the federal, state, and institutional levels. It was clear from the facts presented that strong lobbying efforts must take place at every level and from every individual to help save student aid programs that will make higher education both affordable and accessible for the neediest students.

Following the panel, Patricia Martin, Assistant Vice President for The College Board, spoke about "Closing the Gap." The "gap" she made reference to is the 4-year gap that exists between Caucasian students and their Latino and African American counterparts in their performance in math and reading. The facts presented were both disheartening and outrageous, and unfortunately are the reality for many of our students. This session provided additional evidence that our legislative priorities must be met to provide the resources and educational atmosphere necessary for all students to be successful throughout their educational journey. These sessions, combined with the dinner speech delivered by Abraham Lackman,

President of the Commission of Independent Colleges and Universities, set the mood for the remainder of the forum and, for many participants, intensified their purpose for being there. The presentation of this year's legislative priorities made it evident to everyone that education is clearly under fire in New York State. Following is an outline of the legislative priorities the Legislative Consortium, identified as critical to helping students achieve success:

- Support a state budget that will guarantee full funding for student aid programs and expand access to higher education for the most needy students. Including rejecting the Executive Budget plan to restructure TAP; restoring funding for Direct Institutional ("Bundy") Aid to \$44.32 million; restoring funding for EOP, HEOP, SEEK, and College Discovery; and reinstating STEP/C-STEP with \$10 million in funding.
- Maintain appropriate funding levels for K-12 and higher education.
- Guarantee that elementary, middle, and secondary schools have certified school counselors through the support of bill A1962 as introduced by Assemblyman Ortiz.
- Continue to support programs and practices (including affirmative action) and any legislative initiatives that promote diversity and provide academic opportunities for all.

On Tuesday, forum participants traveled to the Legislative and Capital Buildings to meet with their legislators to present this year's legislative priorities. The morning began with breakfast in the Legislative Building, which included the presentation of an award from the Legislative Consortium

to Senator LaValle. Additional awards were given to Assemblymen Hayes, Tokasz, and Sanders, as well as Senators Saland and Stavisky. Although the morning's visits were largely successful, it was clear that this was just the beginning of what must be done to have our voices heard in Albany and for our priorities to become the priorities of the legislative body as well as the executive body.

2003 Regional Forums

The 2003 Regional Forums are being held in March at sites across the state. "Save the Date" postcards were mailed to the membership in late January. If you have not received a postcard or would like an invitation, or, if you need additional invitations for your colleagues, please contact either:

Maryelizabeth Amico at (518) 454-5150 or
amico@strose.edu
Patricia Peek at (212) 636-6715 or
peek@fordham.edu

You can register online at www.nysacac.org.

2003 Regional Forum Sites

March 4	Fordham University
March 4	St. John Fisher College
March 6	Molloy College
March 11	SUNY-New Paltz
March 12	The College of Saint Rose
March 12	Alfred University
March 12	Pace University
March 13	Syracuse University
March 14	Canisius College
March 25	SUNY Potsdam,

The theme is: *Rights and Responsibilities—Legal and Ethical Issues in College Admission*. Also, do not miss your chance to meet a NYSACAC delegate at the forums. One or more delegates will be present at each site and will be available to meet with you.



Legislative Forum 2003 — Brian Petraitis, Assemblyman James Hayes, and Carol Bedell

**Please Note
Newsletter Submission
Deadline**

April 1, 2003

Newsletter articles may be submitted via e-mail to Stacy Ledermann at lederman@sjfc.edu.

A Call to Action

by Jon Westover, The College of Saint Rose

As you may know, the Governor's executive budget proposal cuts Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) grants by a third, halves funding for the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), and eliminates the Science and Technology Entry programs (STEP/C-STEP). These devastating cuts mean students at colleges across New York State will lose assistance for meeting college expenses. Overall, education sustains the deepest cuts at 5.5%. The reductions in support for higher education are even greater at 11.1%; no other area in the proposed executive budget takes a greater hit!

I urge you to send an e-mail to Governor Pataki and to your New York State Legislators supporting tuition assistance opportunity programs. The Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (cicu) has created a Web-based e-mail system that makes sending messages easy and convenient.

The whole process will take approximately 5 minutes. After completing a brief survey that matches you to the legislators who represent you, the system suggests a letter for your review. Your personal information will not be used for commercial purposes.

To take action now to **save student aid**, visit cicu's web site at http://www.cicu.org/support_now.php.

cicu's web site only addresses budget cuts in TAP, HEOP funding, and the STEP/C-STEP programs. In addition, the Governor has proposed cuts in funding for K-12 education, EOP, SEEK, College Discovery, and direct institutional ("Bundy") aid to private institutions.

If you do not want to use the cicu web-based program, I would encourage you to send handwritten letters to Governor Pataki and your elected State Officials. Their mailing information can be found at:

Governor Pataki: <http://www.state.ny.us/governor/>

New York State Assembly: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/>

New York State Senate: <http://www.senate.state.ny.us/>

This is your opportunity to do The People's Work! As a citizen of New York State, it is your duty to let your elected officials know how you feel about these cuts in education, and the devastation it will cause to students across New York State, be they primary, secondary, undergraduate, graduate, or professional students. Make your message clear; ***education cannot be sacrificed through deep cuts in its budget and the slashing of programs supporting the most needy students!***



*Legislative Forum 2003 —
Ken Petraitis and Senator Saland*



*Legislative Forum 2003 — Richard Alvarez, Annie Brickell,
and Abby Hirsch*

Save the Date!
Summer Institute — Skidmore College
July 29-August 4, 2003

Save the Date!



**The Human Relations Committee of The New York State Association
for College Admission Counseling Presents:
The 6th Annual Coming Together Conference
*University at Buffalo, June 3-4, 2003***

The Coming Together Conference provides excellent professional development for admission, high school, and community-based counselors who work with students who have traditionally been underserved in our educational institutions. This year's theme is "*Aiming Higher: Quantity vs. Quality of Diversity at Institutions of Higher Education.*" It is a time to revisit strategies, renew friendships, and rejuvenate our energies!

For registration information, please log onto:

www.nysacac.org

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