



March 2004

President's Corner



*Grant Thatcher
Onondaga
Community
College*

the demands on your time.

www.nysacac.org.

Two important activities offered by NYSACAC at this time of year are the New York State Legislative Forum and the Regional Forums. The New York State Legislative Forum was held February 2-3 in Albany, and was a great success again this year. Chaired by Joanna Broda, NYSACAC/Pace University, and Brian Petraitis, College Board, the Legislative Forum is made possible by a consortium among nine organizations, including NYSACAC and the College Board. The Forum focused on making education funding a priority in 2004, and included 95 appointments with NYS legislators. Participants advocated for restored funding for education; protected affirmative action initiatives; counseling legislation; and the rights of undocumented students. An exciting feature of this year's program was the participation of 20 high school and college students, in addition to the high school and college admissions counselors who attended. We hope to expand the participation of students in next year's Forum. The success of the Legislative Forum over the past six years demonstrates how important it is for every member of our Association to contact their State representatives and let them know that the proposed cuts to education in the Governor's budget are unacceptable.

The Regional Forums/Professional Development Forums are a continuing source of pride for NYSACAC and the colleges/universities which host them. Maryelizabeth Amico and Patty Peek have worked with colleagues from across the state to prepare for this year's Professional Development Forums. They will be held at seven sites in March and one site in April. The topic this year is "Back to Basics: Revitalize and Rejuvenate." Everyone was sent a postcard with the list of dates, places, and contact information. There is no fee for the Professional Development Forums, so if you haven't already reserved your seat at the one nearest you, check our website for dates, locations, and registration information

Plans for other upcoming events are also proceeding apace. Kelly Herrington is spearheading the plans for Camp College 2004. He and his steering committee are making plans for two Camp Colleges this year, to be held at Niagara University and Manhattan College in Summer 2004.

Stay tuned for further details. Carl Forbes, Jo Anne Phang, and the Human Relations Committee are making plans for the highly successful Coming Together Conference, which will precede the Annual Conference in June. Which brings me to Lisa Sohmer, Dennis DePerro, and the Conference Steering Committee, who are working tirelessly on the 26th Annual Conference, which promises to be another exceptional professional development opportunity. This year's Conference, being held June 2-4 at Le Moyne College in Syracuse, will include over 50 interesting and innovative workshops. The Legislative Session will once again precede the Opening Session; NACAC President-Elect Frank Sachs will be the Keynote Speaker; and Friday morning's closing workshop will address early intervention programs. As always, there will be lots of good conversation and good entertainment at this year's Conference. I hope you will mark your calendar to join us in June.

So, while it is a busy time for us all, I hope that you will be able to take a few moments to stoke your own personal and professional fires. Many thanks for all that you do. Take care of yourselves.

Sincerely,

Grant Thatcher

Grant Thatcher
President, NYSACAC

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

It is still February as I am writing, and I am reminded yet again of what a busy time of year this is for both admissions offices and high school counseling offices, right on through the spring. During this time of year, it can be difficult to keep up our enthusiasm and feed our own personal and professional development, when there is so much to do. Both high school and admissions counselors are experiencing that "in-between" time with high school seniors and juniors. The seniors are hearing from the colleges to which they have applied, and the juniors are just beginning to think about the college search process in earnest. High school counselors are meeting with both groups to allay fears and plan strategies. Colleges are corresponding with seniors in anxious anticipation of May 1, and with juniors in what will be at least a yearlong relationship. Plans are being made on both sides of the desk for events and activities centered around advising and informing. Given the weather in New York State, February has often seemed the longest month of the year (despite what the calendar says), and Spring a long way off. For me, all this activity has traditionally provided a welcome distraction, making February go just a little faster and Spring seem to come just a little bit sooner. I hope that is the case for you. However, it is also a time of year when there are many opportunities for professional development. I hope that you will have time to participate in some of them, despite all



SAVE THE DATE

Forum Topic and Sites:

Back to Basics: Revitalize and Rejuvenate

SUNY-New Paltz March 9
 rosek@newpaltz.edu

St. John Fisher March 9
 sledermann@sjfc.edu

Molloy College March 12
 mlane@molly.edu

Syracuse University March 10
 catefft@syr.edu

University at Buffalo March 19
 tat@buffalo.edu

Fordham University March 23
 peek@fordham.edu

College of Staten Island April 7 (Limit: 40)
 topple@mail.csi.cuny.edu

Pace University March 16
 jbroda@pace.edu

- To Register:
- Log on to www.nysacac.org
or
- Email site coordinator
or
- Mail registration form to site coordinator

If you have any questions or cannot access the registration form on-line please contact:

Professional Development Co-Chairs:

Maryelizabeth Amico
 518-454-5150
 amicom@strose.edu

or Patricia Peek
 212-636-6715
 peek@fordham.edu

or Ann Marie Clare
 800-843-1517
 clarea@canisius.edu

Our Annual Conference Is Just Around the Corner!

It's hard to believe that the NYSACAC Annual Conference at LeMoyne College is just around the corner, but for the members of the Conference Steering Committee, work has been on-going since last summer.

Plans for the Conference, "On Common Ground, Reaching New Heights," continue to solidify. The Conference registration booklets are being prepared and should be mailed by mid-March. Pre-Conference activities include three college tours and the traditional golf outing. The full schedule includes over 50 professional development sessions, many fundraising events (such as bocce, tennis, and the 3K run), a keynote address by NACAC President-elect Frank Sachs, a legislative session, and a special closing panel, "Early Intervention Programs: Partners in the Process." The exhibit hall will be open on both Wednesday and Thursday, with more than 30 exhibitors and vendors expected to be on site. And of course, the closing session will include the Conference Slide Show and Raffle.

Sounds busy? Don't worry—conference attendees will have plenty of time to relax and socialize. After the Opening Session, first-timers will attend a reception hosted by the NYSACAC past presidents, while other attendees go to the Summer Institute or Vendor Receptions. A DJ/karaoke

party on Wednesday night, along with the Sports Bar and Coffee Lounge, should provide something for everyone. The Thursday night Conference Social, featuring "Ruby Shooz," will be a highlight of the Conference, and the Sports Bar and Coffee Lounge will be available as well.

The entire LeMoyne College community is preparing for the arrival of NYSACAC on June 2. Every effort is being made to assure comfortable accommodations, delicious meals, and easy navigation of the campus. Many people are hard at work, and it's not too soon for attendees to start getting ready for the Conference. Watch your mailbox for the registration booklet, and visit www.NYSACAC.org often for Conference updates.

Newsletter Deadline

April 2, 2004

Submit articles to
sledermann@sjfc.edu

Executive Board 2003-2004

PRESIDENT (Term 2003-2004)
 Grant Thatcher
 Associate Director of Admissions
 Onondaga Community College
 315-498-2201
thatcheg@sunyocc.edu

PRESIDENT-ELECT (Term 2003-2004)
 Lisa Sohmer
 College Counselor
 Garden School
 718-335-6363
sohmernyc@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENT FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY and ACCESS (Term 2003-2006)
 Angel B. Perez
 Director of College & Career Services
 High School of Economics & Finance
 212-346-0708, x2962
aperez@pace.edu

VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE (Term 2001-2004)
 Mark Spencer
 Director of Admissions, Cornell Engineering
 Cornell University
 607-255-5008
mds64@cornell.edu

VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE-ELECT (Term 2003-2006)
 Sean Kaylor
 Vice President, Admissions and Enrollment
 Marist College
 845-575-3441
sean.kaylor@marist.edu

VICE PRESIDENT FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING (Term 2003-2006)
 Richard Alvarez
 Univ. Director of Admission Services
 The City University of New York
 212-290-5602
ralvarez@uapc.cuny.edu

SECRETARY (Term 2002-2004)
 Janet Pacifico
 Director of Guidance
 John Jay High School
 914-763-7425
jpacifico@klsd.lhric.org

CHIEF DELEGATE (Term 2003-2004)
 Michael Konopski
 Director of Admissions
 Niagara University
 716-286-8716
mjk@niagara.edu

The College Fair Committee encourages you to take advantage of the upcoming NACAC College Fairs:

New York City National College Fair
Jacob Javitz Convention Center
New York, NY
March 21 from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

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

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

In addition, the following program did not appear in the 2003-2004 College Fair Directory:

Capital District Counseling Association Spring College Fair
Sponsored by Hudson Mohawk Association
Hudson Valley Community College, Edward McDonough Recreation Center
Wednesday, May 5, 2004 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 6 p.m.-8 p.m.
For more information, contact Carol, John, or Connie at Hudson Mohawk Association at 518-694-3320 or orrc@hudsonmohawk.com.

Solicitation will begin soon for the 2004-2005 College Fair Directory and the second annual Open House listing. Information on College Fairs and Open House dates should be sent to Renee Orlick at Alfred University at orlickr@alfred.edu. To list a college fair program in the 2004-2005 College Directory, please provide us with the following information:

- Name of the program
- Time, date, and location (address)
- Host of the program,
- Contact person's name, institution, and contact information (including mailing, phone, and e-mail address)
- Be sure to indicate if the program is by invitation only.

The Legislative Forum: A First-Timers Impression

By Renee Orlick, Alfred University

As a new member on the Executive Board, I went to the Legislative Forum because I felt I should. I have to admit, I wasn't overly excited to go. It's not that I'm not interested, it's just that I am rather apathetic about most things political. And, while I firmly believe that educators and educational institutions never receive all of the funding that they deserve, I also understand that the buck needs to stop somewhere. Unfortunately, there are more good causes than there are tax dollars.

As a newcomer, I wasn't sure what to expect. Me, a lobbyist? Kudos to Brian Petraitis and Joanna Broda for their excellent training. In a very short time, we learned *how* to lobby, *why* we should lobby, and *what* issues are important. The information sheets distributed to us clearly and concisely laid out the issues and the statistics we needed to focus on. The

appointments had been made and all we, as new lobbyists, needed to do was show up and demonstrate how much we care.

In the elevator on our way to our first appointments, Lisa Sohmer and Joan Zimmer pointed out to me that no one in public office will tell you that they do *not* support education. Our job, then, was to help the legislators and their aides understand—in a direct and personal way—how these funds benefit individuals. As lobbyists, we needed to humanize the process; to explain that without HEOP funding, some students simply won't be able to attend college; and by reducing TAP, other students will be required to take on more loans, severely limiting their options when it comes to higher education.

Seriously—they listened! In general, the Representatives, Senators, and their aides know what the issues are, but they may not know how cuts in grants and other education funds affect their constituents. One of the aides I spoke with had no idea that HEOP and EOP students are more likely to stay in NYS

after their college graduation than are other students. My interest in class issues (I was a sociology major in college) also came into play as I explained why first generation college students were more likely to come from families who are reluctant to take out loans, and from backgrounds where credit cards and debt were NOT an acceptable way to live from day to day. Thus, if going away to college (or even staying home and attending college) meant taking out loans, it might mean not attending at all.

I am pleased to report that my experiences at the Legislative Forum were truly positive. It was well worth my while to go. I encourage all NYSACAC members with an interest in these very critical issues to consider attending the Forum next year. (This is especially true of traditionally under-represented geographic areas, i.e., school districts in more rural areas). As a result of this experience, I have come to realize the important role that we, as educators, and as voters, play in the political process.

NYSACAC Members at the NYS Legislative Forum



Pictured at left: Abby Hirsh, Assemblyman Felix Ortiz, Brian Petraitis, and Joan Zinner



Pictured at right: Joan Zinner, Senator Liz Kreuger, Beryl Jeffers, and Lisa Sohmer



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