



October 2003

President's Corner



Grant Thatcher
Onondaga
Community
College

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Happy New Year! I say that to people every year as a new school year begins. Many just look at me like I've lost my mind, but most get it. It occurs to me every year at this time that for those of us involved in academia (both schools and colleges), that the year really runs September through August, rather than January to December. While there is no doubt that it will be a year full of challenges (for what year isn't?), I trust that it will, indeed, be a happy new year for us all.

Our challenges may be great, but I'm confident that our successes will be, as well. Part of my confidence comes from the fact that our association is full of dedicated people, who are already working on those challenges. My confidence also stems from the terrific accomplishments we have already achieved. This past summer saw two of those accomplishments.

The Summer Institute celebrated its 17th year with nearly 100 participants. The Summer Institute brings together experienced high school counselors,

college admissions professionals, and those new to the profession, introducing new counselors to the nuts and bolts of the college selection process and college admissions. Organized by co-chairs Mary Ann Reichhardt and Mary Karen Vellines, this year's Summer Institute was an unqualified success.

Camp College celebrated its fourth year this summer. Three Camp Colleges were planned: Union College, Niagara University, and Manhattan College. Unfortunately, the massive power outage in August forced the cancellation of the Camp College at Manhattan College. Still, those that were held at Union College and Niagara University were definite successes, hosting over 125 students. Camp College provides an opportunity for "underserved" students to experience college classes, as well as workshops, on every aspect of the college application process. Volunteers from the counseling community joined with parents and professors to make Camp College a valuable learning experience. Kudos and many thanks go to Susan Nesbitt Perez of CICU, and to our own Kelly Harrington, Carl Forbes, Joe Tweed, Kevin Cavanaugh, Shannon Sparacio, and Genevieve Mbamalu for their tremendous efforts.

Planning is already well underway for NYSACAC's 2003-2004 calendar of events, as we provide opportunities for professional growth. A brief sample includes Counselor Education Outreach in counselor training programs across the state; the Legislative Forum in February, which will provide us with an

opportunity to meet with our legislators in Albany to discuss our educational concerns and initiatives; and our Professional Development Forums, which will be held across the state in March. The theme for this year's Forums will be *Back to the Basics: Revitalize and Rejuvenate*.

Of course, the success of these and other programs depends on more than the work and planning that goes into them. Their success also depends on your participation. So, I hope to see many of you actively involved this year.

I am deeply honored to serve as your president, and am excited about the year ahead. I look forward to working together in the following months.

Sincerely,

Grant Thatcher

Grant Thatcher
President, NYSACAC

2004 Conference Plans Are Underway

The Steering Committee for the 2004 NYSACAC Conference met in July on the campus of LeMoyne College, and plans are now well underway for our annual meeting in June. Mark your calendars for June 2-4, 2004!

The theme of the conference will be "On Common Ground: Reaching New Heights," reflecting NYSACAC's commitment to the Plan for Diversity and Inclusion that was adopted at last year's conference. The committee plans to develop sessions and activities that will strengthen our understanding of diversity and our ability to serve students. Professional development will remain the focus of an event that also includes networking and socializing opportunities. For the conference to be successful, the committee needs the input and involvement of professionals throughout the organization. The Program Committee will issue the "Call for Proposals" by early November, and everyone is encouraged to submit ideas for sessions. The Hospitality, Fundraising Events, Publications, Program and Vendors/ Sponsors/Major Gifts (a.k.a. "Everything") co-chairs are currently seeking committee members and on-site volunteers. Please e-mail Lisa Sohmer at lsohmer@gardenschool.org if you are interested in joining a committee.

Each year the spring conference gives us a chance to spend a few days together focusing on the year ahead and the ways

that we can improve our profession. "On Common Ground: Reaching New Heights" will do that and also move us towards a greater understanding not just of our differences, but also our commonality and the ways we can work together.

The Transition to College: Tips to Share with College-Bound Students

By Fran Bernstein, University at Buffalo

- Participate in the summer orientation program offered by your college. This will help you get off to a good start.
- Once you register for classes, get a fall reading and textbook list. Begin

gathering and reviewing these books. Be sure to register for the college's freshman transition course.

- When you are given the name of your roommate, get in touch and determine which items each of you will bring.

- Move onto campus as soon as the residence halls open. Get to know your way around campus prior to the start of classes. Seek out upperclassmen for advice on being successful.

- Learn how to use the campus libraries and other computer-assisted facilities right away. Establish your campus computing and email accounts. Librarians and computing staff will be happy to assist you.

- Set up a regular exercise regimen to ease the stress of college life.

- Become involved in campus life, clubs, and activities right away, but balance this with academic demands.

- Be proactive in initiating contact with helping professionals—your academic, financial aid, and career counselors are all available for your benefit.

- All professors keep office hours. Stop by to seek extra help, discuss something from class, or just to say hello!

- Remember that with additional freedom comes additional responsibility. Be a responsible time manager and money manager and take good care of yourself. Work to achieve the appropriate balance between work, school, and play.

- College professors may not formally take attendance or collect homework, but attendance in class and keeping up with assignments is of utmost importance in achieving success in college.

- Review class notes and the textbook regularly. If you miss a class, get the notes from a classmate. Study throughout the semester. To ease the stress of final exam time, do not save these chores until the end of the semester.

- Keep all class assignments and the course syllabi in one place for easy reference.

- Enjoy your college years. Your learning experiences and friendships will last a lifetime!

College Fair Directory Updates

By: Renée Orlick, Alfred University and
Meryl Wiener, University at Albany

The 2003-04 NYSACAC College Fair Directory was mailed to the Association in August. Please make note of the following programs which did not make it into the directory:

Monday, 10/20/03 8:30 a.m.-Noon
Franklin Roosevelt High School
College Fair
5800 20th Ave, Brooklyn, NY
Contact: Theodore Timmins
718-256-1346 or ttncv@yahoo.com

Tuesday, 3/30/04 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Penn-York College Night at St.
Bonaventure University
Reilly Center Arena
Contact Monica Emery
716-375-2455 or memery@sbu.edu

Also, a special reminder that the Long Island National College Fair will be held at the Nassau Coliseum on Sunday, November 2, 2003. Hope to see many of you there! Future NACAC fairs in New York will be held March 21st (New York City), May 2nd & 3rd (Rochester), and May 4th (Syracuse).

Finally, the cover of the NYSACAC College Fair Directory mistakenly identified the colleges for two of the committee members. The correct information is: Susan Reantillo, Hofstra University, and Steve Kerge, New York Institute of Technology. We're sorry for this error!

UB Hosts NYSACAC Conference

By Brett Essler, University at Buffalo,
and Scott Hooker, Alfred University

The University at Buffalo proudly hosted the 25th Annual New York State Association for College Admission Counseling (NYSACAC) conference this past June. The conference celebrated the organization's milestone year and allowed UB's admissions staff to showcase both the University's campus and the Buffalo-Niagara region to 600 secondary school counselors, college admissions professionals, and vendors from across the state.

For Fran Bernstein, UB Associate Director of Admissions and the conference on-site coordinator, the conference was a way to reach out to high school counselors who may have never seen the UB campus. "A lot of attendees were really surprised at how much the campus, and the Buffalo area, had to offer," she said.

The conference provided an opportunity for counseling professionals from across New York to enjoy both work and play, with a variety of workshops and special sessions, as well as social and cultural events.

Grant Thatcher, NYSACAC President-elect and conference co-chair, pointed to the conference's strong commitment

Regional Forums 2004

NYSACAC Professional Development Committee Announces Regional Forums

By Patricia Peek, Fordham University and Maryelizabeth Amico, The College of Saint Rose (Co-Chairs)

The NYSACAC Professional Development Committee is proud to announce that we will offer nine sites for our Regional Forums in March 2004. Special thanks to the colleges listed below:

2004 Professional Development Regional Forum Sites - March 2004

College of Staten Island	Syracuse University
Fordham University	St. John Fisher College
Molloy College	University at Buffalo
Siena College	Pace University
SUNY New Paltz	

2004 Professional Development Forum Topic: "Back to the Basics: Revitalize and Rejuvenate"

The committee stresses that the most intriguing element of this topic is that it allows for interaction to take place between presenters and participants. One of our committee's goals is to foster conversation between high school and college participants. The committee is hoping that host sites will include one or more of the following in their formats:

- APs
- Grade inflation
- "Safety" schools
- Merit scholarships
- Financial aid
- Early intervention (9th and 10th grade)
- Networking among counselors and admission professionals
- Urban youth; 1st generation students
- Abused students
- Transfer students
- Regents

As a reminder, we will be mailing "SAVE THE DATE" postcards as opposed to traditional invitations to the NYSACAC membership during the early part of 2004. (Make sure your membership is up-to-date!) The invitation to the Forums will be posted on our new website so folks can review the site data and print a copy of the registration form to mail to their selected site(s). Please go to <http://www.nysacac.org/> to check out our new website! Information about the Forums will be posted soon!

to diversity, noting a number of workshops geared toward inclusiveness and multiculturalism. According to Thatcher, keynote speaker Judy Shepard was among the highlights.

"She was a wonderful keynote speaker and did a great job of addressing the issues of diversity in our schools," he said. Shepard's son, Matthew Shepard, was murdered in 1998, a victim of an anti-gay hate crime.

Thatcher also pointed to the workshop "Affirmative Action and its Impact on the Culture of Higher Education," which prompted frank discussion on the issue weeks before the Supreme Court ruled on this case, and the Coming Together Conference—a "pre-conference" for counselors working with students who have been traditionally underrepresented.

While the conference was dedicated to addressing serious issues impacting the counseling profession, attendees also had ample opportunities to catch

up with colleagues and friends. A number of local excursions showed off the Buffalo-Niagara region, and UB's Alumni Arena was host to a performance by a West African dance and drum troupe led by Youssoupha Lo. The troupe elicited audience participation and provided some of the most memorable moments of the conference. The performance followed a "Taste of Buffalo" dinner that sampled a variety of cuisines from both the region and around the world.

The election of new officers was also announced at the conference. Lisa Sohmer from Garden School was selected as President-elect. The membership also chose Sean Kaylor, Marist College, Vice President for Finance-elect; Richard Alvarez, CUNY, Vice President for Professional Development and Planning; and Angel Perez, High School of Economics and Finance, Vice President for Human Relations. In addition, eight new delegates were elected including Maryelizabeth Amico, The College of St. Rose; Cathy DeLorenzo, RPI; Peter

Farrell, NYU; Meryl Wiener, University at Albany; Mike Acquilano, Staten Island Academy; Courtney Black-Swisher, Shenendehowa High School; Steve Marcisz, Fox Lane High School; and Elenor Reid, The Brearley School.

And what conference would be complete without awards? Among this year's NYSACAC award winners were Marcy Kraus of the University of Rochester and Rose-Ellen Racanelli of Scarsdale High School, who received Distinguished Service Awards; Barry Ward of Manhattanville College, who received the President's Award; and Sean Callaway of Pace University, who received the Human Relations Award. According to Bernstein, the conference lived up to its promise, celebrating the distinguished past and limitless future of NYSACAC.

"We've come a long way, we're proud of where we've come and do feel the future holds a lot of opportunities," she said.

**New York State Association for College Admission Counseling
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Hardy souls prepare for the Cave of the Winds excursion during our annual NYSACAC Conference last June.

Marcy Kraus of the University of Rochester is congratulated by Scott Hooker on winning the Distinguished Service Award at the NYSACAC Conference at the University at Buffalo.



Stacy Ledermann, Editor
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