

Commuter P-Ride Connection

Fall 2008

Volume 1, Issue 1

IN THIS ISSUE

Commuting Student Affairs: Who we are
and what we do

Page 2

OCS– Outstanding Campus Stature

Page 3

The Pros and Cons of Different
Commuting Methods

Page 4

NEW! Off-Campus Housing!

Page 5



Commuting Student Affairs: Who we are and what we do

Commuting Student Affairs complements the University's quality education by enhancing the co-curricular life of commuting students. We do so by connecting them to the larger campus community, by programming and outreach, by helping develop off campus citizenship and by advocating for their equal access to all University services.

Our Services:

- Commuting Student Affairs works to assess the needs of the commuting population, then programs activities and events accordingly.
- We advertise and communicate in a way that is easy and convenient to commuting students. Not only promoting our office, but departments campus wide.
- We encourage commuting students to get involved on campus, either in a club or organization, a sports team, intramurals or student employment.
- Our office works to make sure commuting students know that they have equal access rights to all Hofstra University has to offer. In addition, we work to make sure the commuting student voice is recognized across departments.
- We provide off campus housing information and area resources on our website and in our office.

Our Staff:

Arianne Romeo, Director



Jaclyn Congello, Assistant Director



Catherine Daguanno aka "Mrs. D.," Sr. Exec. Secretary



Farrah Stuber, Undergraduate Student Assistant



OCS– Outstanding Campus Stature

By Kathryn Carlson

The Organization of Commuter Students (OCS) has been at it again this year. This up and coming campus group represents approximately half of the Hofstra Campus community and boy, have they made a name for themselves (in a good way, of course!). Once a dominant force in campus life, arguably more notable than SGA itself, OCS fell into the category of defunct organizations in the late 1990's. They were re-instated in 2005 and have made it one of their primary goals to become an important student voice in the campus community. Priding themselves on getting commuters involved, OCS has more than successfully completed this task in the 2007-2008 academic year.

This past May, OCS was awarded with Social Club of the Year at the Hofstra Student Leadership Awards, in recognition for their efforts in getting commuters involved. OCS was noted for increasing membership by over 300% and participating in, co-sponsoring or organizing five major campus events. The club successfully hosted two car-wash fundraisers in addition to hosting their first big social event since the club was reinstated! Held during Common Hour in mid-April, the carnival bash with Resident Student Association (RSA), yielded an outstanding number of residents and commuters alike. Activities included caricaturists, inflatable mazes, basketball shoot-outs, and free lunch and snacks. This type of commitment and co-sponsorship lended itself to giving OCS their edge in winning this award from Student Leadership and Activities.

The outlook for the upcoming year is certainly a bright one. OCS has succeeded in doubling its annual budget, and looks forward to investing in these and other events. As always, member input is a critical part of the process, but the club is certainly interested in continuing some of these annual traditions.

Members of OCS are involved in all majors on campus and commute from all across Long Island, by bus, train, and car. The close-knit network that OCS seeks to create, connects students across disciplines, ages, and counties. The Executive board for the 2008-2009 academic year is excited to recruit new members and reach out to existing students. Meetings are held on a weekly basis, during Common Hour at 11:15am in Breslin Hall, room 112.



“The Barn” Constructed by members of OCS in the annual Sinterklaas competition.

The Pros and Cons of Different Commuting Methods

By Allisa James

Between dishing out \$2000 plus for a used car (and if it's new, the additional monthly installments), monthly car insurance payments, and the ever increasing cost of fuel, it's no wonder that many of the incoming freshmen commuters are turning to public transportation. The LIRR (Long Island Railroad) and the MTA (Metropolitan Transit Authority)/ Long Island Transit are the two major options that you have. This article will give you basic information, fare prices, and the advantages/drawbacks of taking public transportation as opposed to driving.

The Long Island Railroad (LIRR)

It's easily one of the most convenient methods of transportation with virtually no traffic, service that's almost always on time, and comfortable traveling conditions. And with LIRR stations all over Queens, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Nassau and Suffolk County, there is likely one in or near your area. As for the ticket prices to and from Hempstead, they differ depending on what station you're traveling from. These tickets can either be purchased from ticket booths or ticket machines before you board the train or from the ticket collector after boarding. Be warned though, should you wait to purchase your ticket on the train, you'll have to pay in cash with an extra fee! Purchasing the unlimited monthly ticket is probably your best bet, as it allows you to ride from Hempstead to your station and vice versa an unlimited amount of times for a month. The ticket prices are based the station you leave from but can range from a little over \$100 to over \$200

MTA/Long Island Bus (also known as mass transit)

The base fare for either the bus or train is \$2.00, which can be paid in change or with a MetroCard. MetroCards can be purchased at any train station at a MetroCard machine or booth. You can purchase a MetroCard with any amount of your choice or buy a 1 Day Fun Pass, 7 Day Unlimited, 14 Day Unlimited, or 30 Day Unlimited card for \$7.50, \$25, \$41, and \$81 respectively. Dropping \$81 for the 30-Day Unlimited will save you the most money, since you can take any bus for an unlimited amount of times for an entire month. However, if you want to take the same bus that you just got off of again, you need to wait 20 minutes from the time you

inserted your MetroCard. For example, if you inserted your card on the N6 at 11:00AM going to Hempstead terminal and then wanted to take an N6 going to Jamaica terminal, you would have to wait until 11:20AM to do so. Mass transit buses and trains, can be less reliable than the LIRR and can sometimes arrive later than scheduled. Buses are especially vulnerable to slow down due to traffic and accidents, so prepare for these minor inconveniences when you're traveling to class!

While mass transit usually takes longer to arrive at a destination than a car would, this extra time on your hands can be used to your advantage. For example, you can use it to study, sleep, read, or even play with your portable game system. Just like driving your car, public transportation requires you to select a route and become accustomed to using it. Planning ahead of time by figuring out which buses and/or trains stop by your area and which ones connect to each other is the best way to ensure that those feelings of uneasiness are unfounded.

Using public transportation has its ups and downs but it's definitely a worthwhile option that can save you a lot of money, even if you have to sacrifice a little time, effort, and independence to do so.

More information regarding public transportation can be found at:
Official Website for the LIRR/MTA/LIB <http://www.mta.info/>



NEW! Off-Campus Housing!

By Arianne Romeo

The Division of Student Affairs and the Commuting Student Affairs Office is pleased to announce a new and improved off campus housing service to help students, faculty and staff locate places to live near Hofstra University. On April 2, 2008 we launched a new off-campus housing web site that is designed to make the housing search process simpler for both students and landlords!

www.hofstra.edu/offcampushousing

The site will be user friendly for students, staff and property managers, and offers many enhancements!!

- Searchable Database: Fully searchable database you can use to generate a custom list of properties that meet your needs.
- Photographs & Floor Plans: Now see photos of apartments and rooms for rent!
- E-mail Contacts: Listings will include a link for you to e-mail landlords directly to set up appointments or ask questions.
- Message Boards: Message boards where you can find a roommate, sell furniture or look for sublets
- Resources Page: Links to the Village of Hempstead and the Town of Hempstead, as well as tips and helpful information on living off campus.

Did you know...

If you're looking for housing, our website is a free tool to use! Just sign up by visiting the link above!



Important Hofstra Telephone Numbers

463-3469	Commuting Student Affairs
463-RIDE	Commuter Event Hotline
463-SNOW	Weather & Emergency Hotline
463-6914	Student Leadership & Activities
463-6913	Dean of Students
463-6606	Public Safety
463-6789	On-Campus Emergency
463-6942	Card Services
463-4037	Recreation Center
463-6745	Wellness Center
463-6654	Bookstore
463-7777	Student Computing
463-6600	Operator
463-6770	Center for University Advisement
463-5962	Library Reference
463-6680	Academic Records
463-6320	Orientation & New Student Prgms
463-6796	Multicultural & International Student Prgms

How can you reach us?

Phone: 463-3469

E-mail: commuters@hofstra.edu

Drop by: 221 Mack Student Center

Do you want to write for us? Do you have an idea for a program you'd like to see?

Send us an e-mail!