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PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

I am very pleased to let you know that Hofstra University will move forward with a $29 million plan for expansion focused on the University’s academic and cultural facilities. After reviewing the previous plans, which proposed the construction of a public performing arts venue, the University’s Board of Trustees approved an alternative plan that will significantly upgrade the facilities for the performing arts, while at the same time meet other crucial academic needs. Hofstra’s stadium will be named in honor of former president James M. Shuart at the first football game of the season on August 29, 2002.

In the coming months and years, we will enhance Hofstra’s cultural venues, as well as substantially improve the University’s physical facilities for our students and faculty. Through the use of funds we already have in hand, we are successfully able to address and meet the major needs of the Hofstra community.

Hofstra’s School of Education and Allied Human Services will soon move to the former site of the Federal Courthouse located on the Hofstra campus. The courthouse building will be completely renovated to provide vastly expanded space to house classrooms, seminar rooms, labs and offices. A new four-story building will be constructed to house a 10,000 square-foot, 300-seat intimate theater, and a spacious 10,000 square-foot band rehearsal hall. The two top floors of the new building will include approximately 70 faculty offices, as well as seminar rooms and classrooms.

The 1,134-seat John Cranford Adams Playhouse will receive a major upgrade and renovations, as will the 385-seat Monroe Lecture Center Theater. A studio drama classroom, dance studio and new music practice rooms will be created for our Music, Dance and Drama programs.

More than 10,000 square-feet of display and storage space will be added to the nationally accredited Hofstra Museum. When the School of Education and Allied Human Services vacates Mason Hall/Gallon Wing, increased and renovated space will be made available for the English Department.

We are very excited about the new physical facilities renovation project, and hope that you will visit frequently to see the progress for yourself.

There are other changes in progress at the University. One such change, the retirement of David C. Christman, Class of 1962, from his post as Dean of New College at the end of the fall 2003 semester, I announce to you with great sadness.

David is the main responsible for what New College is today: a small college within our larger University, dedicated to providing a stimulating education in a nontraditional academic environment. Classes include the “Odyssey” series, which takes students on the road to partake in an intensive learning experience outside the classroom. Recent Odyssey classes have allowed students to follow the mythological journey of Ulysses around the Mediterranean, to sit in on the World Trade Organization summit in Seattle, and to trace the path of the Civil Rights movement through the South.

I ask you to join me in wishing David the best. We are pleased he has decided to stay at Hofstra as Director of the Museum, and thank him for his numerous contributions to New College. His dedication and good work has certainly enriched the lives and education of thousands of Hofstra students.

In the following pages, alumni will learn about many exciting things happening at Hofstra. This is your campus. I invite you to visit us as often as you can. I am looking forward to meeting each of you.

Stuart Rabinowitz
President