As I write this column, Hofstra is over halfway through the fall 2002 semester. We have an exceptional entering class, an increased number of entering students in our Honors College and an outstanding group of continuing students this year. Our faculty remain committed to excellent teaching and accessibility to students as well as to scholarly productivity. As an example, I would like to highlight a few of the many recent faculty awards:

School of Communication Professor Lisa Merrill was awarded the 2002 Lila A. Heston Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Interpretation and Performance Studies. Two HCLAS faculty members won National Endowment for the Humanities fellowships for this year – James Berger (English) and Sharryn Kasmir (Sociology/Anthropology). Professor Louis Kern received a Fulbright Scholar grant, and Professor Frank Bowe (CRSR) received the Mary E. Switzer Scholar grant, and Professor Frank Bowe (CRSR) received the Mary E. Switzer Scholar grant, and Professor Frank Bowe (CRSR) received the Mary E. Switzer Scholar grant, and Professor Frank Bowe (CRSR) received the Mary E. Switzer Scholar grant.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you about Hofstra’s Cultural Center, which coordinates concerts, lectures, conferences, plays, exhibitions and symposia every academic year. This fall we presented conferences on the 75th anniversary of the execution of Sacco and Vanzetti and the life and work of Primo Levi. Our most ambitious event this semester was a major three-day conference on Bing Crosby and his impact on the world of entertainment and American culture.

The Hofstra Cultural Center was founded in 1976 by the late Joseph G. Astman, Professor of Comparative Literature and Languages at Hofstra. The Cultural Center has evolved into a dynamic instrument for fostering scholarly exchange and intellectual debate. The majority of the Cultural Center’s events are free to Hofstra students and give them a great opportunity to hear discussions by the world’s leading figures in education, politics, business and entertainment. The programs are also open to the public, allowing the University to share its vast resources with the community.

This spring we have programs planned on the history of the Broadway musical and an aviation conference focusing on the history of the autogiro and gyroplane. If you live close enough to Hofstra to take advantage of these events, I urge you to do so. They are an enjoyable way to continue your Hofstra education. Even if you live out of state or outside the country, you never know when the Cultural Center may be planning a conference focused on your favorite topic, prompting a visit to your alma mater. We look forward to seeing you then.

Stuart Rabinowitz
President