The following are excerpts of the address that President Stuart Rabinowitz delivered on Tuesday, September 6, 2005, welcoming all new students to our annual convocation to begin the academic year.

I am delighted to welcome each member of the Class of 2009 to this wonderful community of scholars. I also extend a heartfelt welcome to our visiting students from Tulane and Loyola Universities. We will do everything in our power to make you feel at home while you are here. Indeed, our thoughts and our prayers are with all who have experienced the horrific effects of Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath.

To all of our students, I urge you to think of yourselves as members of our community: For the next four (or so) years we will work together, and to varying degrees, live together on this campus; we will pursue together the common goal of helping to maximize the potential of each and every one of you; we will commit to treat each other with respect, tolerance and civility. Because of our common identity with Hofstra University, we know that each of our individual actions will have the capacity of affecting and reflecting upon all of us. In fact, even after you have earned your degree here, you will remain a member of our community. As alumni of Hofstra University, our reputation and our futures will always be intertwined.

Points of Pride ...

• Fresh from accepting his second Emmy Award for Best Comedy Series, Phil Rosenthal, the creator and executive producer of Everybody Loves Raymond, appeared at Hofstra University’s John Cranford Adams Playhouse on October 16 for a special performance in which he revealed the real-life family situations that inspired many of the sitcom’s funniest episodes. Performing that afternoon with Mr. Rosenthal was Monica Horan, who played “Amy Barone” on the show. Both Phil Rosenthal and Monica Horan are Hofstra graduates, classes of 1981 and 1984, respectively.

• May 2005 Hofstra graduate Christina Cipriano, 21, of Holtsville, New York, was awarded a 2005 Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Graduate Scholarship. Christina is among the 76 new recipients of the foundation’s graduate and professional scholarships. Recipients were chosen after a nationwide selection process that drew 1,290 nominees from more than 600 colleges and universities. Each scholarship is worth up to $300,000, which is among the largest scholarships offered in the United States. Christina is pursuing a master’s degree in international education policy at Harvard University.

Helpful Hofstra Phone Numbers

Hofstra University Switchboard
(516) 463-6600

Academic Advisement
(516) 463-6770

Dean of Students
(516) 463-6913

Financial Aid and Academic Records
(516) 463-8000

New Student Support Services
(516) 463-6320

Office of Commuting Students Affairs
(516) 463-3469

Residential Life
(516) 463-6930

Student Accounts
(516) 463-6680
The Class of 2009 is one of the most highly accomplished and most diverse freshman classes in the proud history of this University. You have been painstakingly selected from a pool of almost 16,000 applicants. Your presence on our campus this morning invigorates and energizes all of us. We do not harbor any doubts about your capacity to succeed here. …

Our promise is that Hofstra will give you every opportunity to make your vision of the future a reality. For most of you in this audience, this day will call for changes in your behavior and attitudes that will strongly affect the opportunities made available to you for the rest of your life.

These concepts of inevitable change and unprecedented opportunities will recur frequently in the Hofstra educational experience you are about to begin.

Why, in the midst of a rapidly changing world, are we so confident that Hofstra can do so much for you? In large part, it is because Hofstra is committed to the enduring values of a truly liberal, liberating educational program. A liberal arts and sciences education teaches you to think critically, to write and to analyze, to speak and to create. It puts the world in context and gives you the confidence to adapt to a world that never stops changing. It is the very best preparation for any profession that you might wish to pursue.

But living a good life involves more than earning a good living, although that is certainly a good start. Hofstra’s liberal arts education hopefully will prepare you to be better friends, spouses and parents; to be informed participants in a democratic society; to be people who will know how to use leisure time not only for entertainment, but to improve themselves and the world; and to be caring and compassionate men and women with an abhorrence of injustice and intolerance. …

News Briefs

11th Presidential Conference to Be Presented in November

The Hofstra Cultural Center, acclaimed internationally for its academic contributions in such fields as art, music, literature, history, science, philosophy, popular culture and drama, celebrates its third decade.

One series for which the Hofstra Cultural Center is best known is the Presidential Conferences, which have brought together scholars from a wide variety of fields, journalists, former government officials and, in some cases, the former presidents themselves to subjectively discuss the policies and issues of the various presidential administrations.

The 11th Presidential Conference, William Jefferson Clinton: The “New Democrat” From Hope, will be hosted by the Hofstra Cultural Center November 10, 11 and 12, 2005. We are honored that President Clinton has accepted our invitation to participate on the first day of the conference.

Among those expected to attend are Senior Advisers to the President Sidney Blumenthal and David Gergen; Deputy Chief of Staff Harold Ickes; Secretary of Commerce and Counsel to the President Mickey Kantor; Congressman Peter King; Press Secretary Joe Lockhart; Director of the Office of Management and Budget and Chief of Staff Leon E. Panetta; Secretary of Defense William Perry; Chief of Staff John D. Podesta; Secretary of Labor Robert Reich; Attorney General Janet Reno; Secretary of Education David Gergen; Deputy Chief of Staff Harold Ickes; Secretary of Commerce and Counsel to the President Mickey Kantor; Congressman Peter King; Press Secretary Joe Lockhart; Director of the Office of Management and Budget and Chief of Staff Leon E. Panetta; Secretary of Defense William Perry; Chief of Staff John D. Podesta; Secretary of Labor Robert Reich; Attorney General Janet Reno; Secretary of Education

Former President William Jefferson Clinton has accepted the University’s invitation to participate on the first day of the conference that analyzes his years in office.


For registration information on William Jefferson Clinton: The “New Democrat” From Hope, please visit www.hofstra.edu/clinton.

New Digital Language Lab Debuts on Campus

In time for the start of the fall 2005 semester, Hofstra University opened a state-of-the-art digital Language Learning Center with IBM flat screen computers, SMART™ interactive white boards and Sony Virtuos™ software.

Located on the second floor of Calkins Hall on Hofstra’s South Campus, the 44-station Language Learning Center, language classroom and small wireless lab feature a total of 65 computers. The flat screen monitors have PC-TV cards that allow the computers to receive satellite or digital cable footage. Advanced language students – studying everything from Arabic to Swahili – will be the primary users of the three facilities. However, other members of the campus community, such as professors who may be traveling to other countries to study and ESL students, will also use the equipment to refine their language skills. The rooms will also be used to test and place freshmen and transfer students in appropriate level language classes.

The instructor station in the 18-seat classroom allows particularly close interaction between the professor and his or her students. The instructor controls what the students see on their monitors. Each computer has a headset and microphone so students can practice their pronunciation with relative privacy from one another, and the instructor can give guidance or suggestions either to the class as a whole or to an individual student. The instructor’s computer also has analog capabilities, so if classroom materials are only available on cassette or VHS, they can still be played and transmitted to all the student computer stations in the room.

Former President William Jefferson Clinton has accepted the University’s invitation to participate on the first day of the conference that analyzes his years in office.

Former President William Jefferson Clinton has accepted the University’s invitation to participate on the first day of the conference that analyzes his years in office.
Hofstra's new digital Language Learning Center opened in time for the fall 2005 semester.

Among the languages offered by Hofstra are Arabic, Chinese, Danish, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Punjabi, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swahili – and for the first time Persian, which is already boasting a substantial enrollment.

Wall Street Comes to the Zarb School

Starting this fall, students at the Frank G. Zarb School of Business will gain a real competitive edge in preparing for high-level positions in the financial world, when they become the first classes to use the new trading room facility in the newly constructed Financial Technology Center. “We want to integrate the trading room into existing courses so our students can experience how the market actually works,” says Dr. Ralph S. Polimeni, dean of the Zarb School.

The simulated electronic trading room, located on the main floor of C.V. Starr Hall, was completed during the summer. Upon their return to campus for the fall 2005 semester, students found this 1,500-square-foot facility complete with wall boards and a ticker displaying data from various equity, fixed income, foreign exchange, and derivatives markets. These features join the 34 dual-panel Bloomberg terminals that were installed in January 2005, to provide students and instructors with access to Bloomberg professional data and information services – the same industry-standard data, analytics and software used by Wall Streeters to make investment, trading and financing decisions.

Dean Polimeni promises, “The trading room will enhance the overall reputation of the Zarb School. It’s a very powerful tool that puts us at another level, among top-notch business schools. It gives Hofstra and our students a major competitive advantage.”

Besides the 30 Bloomberg terminals for class use, there are four terminals set aside where faculty and advanced students can do research. The room also houses television monitors tuned to CNBC or Bloomberg Television.

S. Polimeni, dean of the Zarb School.

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A Message From the Vice President for Enrollment Management

Dear Hofstra Parent:

A new academic year is underway, and the campus is alive with activity! In this issue of Hofstra Parent, you’ll find events listed, such as a performance by Phil Rosenthal, the Emmy Award-winning creator and executive producer of Everybody Loves Raymond, and our presidential conference on the administration of William Jefferson Clinton.

Our Center for New Student Support Services schedules activities and helps our students make a smooth transition into the Hofstra community. The Office of Dean of Students, Student Activities and Academic Advisement are other areas that your son or daughter may want to contact with any concerns or questions – academic or otherwise. We have wonderful tutorial services and regularly scheduled study skills workshops to assist students with their course work.

Hofstra’s Parent Office will open later this fall, and we’ve added to our family services a special Web page. Visit www.hofstra.edu and click on “Parents and Families” in the left margin. This will take you to a site that offers important information and helpful links for parents and family members of both current and incoming students, as well as past issues of the Hofstra Parent newsletter.

Throughout the year, I will continue to bring to your attention the many different avenues available to you to become actively involved as a Hofstra parent and member of our campus community. Whether it’s joining our Parents Advisory Council, cheering on The Pride at our athletic events or enjoying a spectacular theater production, your participation will undoubtedly enhance our dynamic community. I look forward to working with you in the months and years ahead!

Sincerely,
Gigi Lamens
Vice President for Enrollment Management

Gigi Lamens, vice president for enrollment management.

Hofstra's new digital Language Learning Center opened in time for the fall 2005 semester.
Students who are mulling over their career options would do well to look at the experiences of successful executives for inspiration and ideas on making career choices, as well as for career advancement.

One executive whose three-decade career in the world of high finance may yield some pointers is Hofstra graduate Salvatore Sodano ’77, ’83. Mr. Sodano recently retired as chairman and CEO of the American Stock Exchange and vice chairman of the National Association of Securities Dealers (NASD). He currently serves as Hofstra’s executive-in-residence.

Mr. Sodano’s advice for students is applicable to a wide range of careers, including those outside the financial sector.

Be flexible.

Although Salvatore Sodano had enrolled at Hofstra as a pre-med student, he quickly realized he was on the wrong path. “My first semester, I found that I just did not like science,” he said. “So I went to one of the guidance counselors and asked about business, specifically accounting.”

He recalled asking, “Can I make a good living in accounting?” to which the guidance counselor replied, “Yes, you can.”

“So I tried that, and I took a class with Dr. Nathan Slavin,” Mr. Sodano said. “I remember he just absolutely motivated me. He got me to like what business was about. I remember he explained to the class that accounting is the language of business. That stuck with me right to this day. I always make sure that the people I work with understand that – that accounting really is how everything comes together.”

After graduation, Mr. Sodano worked briefly as an accountant at Price Waterhouse on Long Island and in Manhattan. “Then I was recruited by one of my clients to work at JP Morgan. I did treasury work, accounting work, that kind of stuff, for a subsidiary of JP Morgan called Morgan Guaranty International Finance Corp.”

After five years, Mr. Sodano was lured away again, this time to Bankers Trust Co. for seven years. By the time he left in 1990, he was vice president and group head, responsible for running the global functional controller network.

Gradually, Mr. Sodano took on additional duties and titles – chief operating officer, acting president of Hofstra’s newly acquired American Exchange and later chairman and CEO of the AMEX.

Mr. Sodano recalled, “When we had Hofstra students come to the American Stock Exchange, I would tell them it is really not so much about the technical stuff they learned, but what matters are your interpersonal skills, how you deal with people, integrity, giving back to people you work with, volunteering. Those are the things that clearly make you better as a whole.”

Salvatore Sodano, Hofstra alumnus and chair of the University’s Board of Trustees, recently retired as chairman and CEO of the American Stock Exchange and vice chairman of the National Association of Securities Dealers. He currently serves as Hofstra’s executive-in-residence.

Hone interpersonal skills.

While running North American operations for Westpac Banking Corp., Mr. Sodano was interviewed by Frank Zarb (another Hofstra alumnus) about an opportunity at NASD and hired as chief financial officer. “I had a reputation of rebuilding and taking on big problems and projects,” Mr. Sodano said, “and working on things that were broken and trying to fix them – and to do that in a way where you sort of gain consensus and not just come in as a bull in a china shop.”