HOFSTRA PARENT

A Welcome from Hofstra’s Vice President for Enrollment Management

The academic year is well underway, and the Hofstra campus is alive with activity! Hopefully your son or daughter is enjoying the challenges and social opportunities available to our students. In this issue of Hofstra Parent, you’ll find many events listed, such as conferences, lectures, and theater and musical performances. Many of these events are open to the public and provide the perfect opportunity for you to visit our campus and take advantage of Hofstra’s programs and facilities.

When applying to Hofstra, Enrollment Management was open to your questions and helped facilitate the application process. The service continues. We have a Center for New Student Support Services that schedules activities and continues to help our students make the smooth transition into the Hofstra community. The Dean of Students Office, Student Activities and Advisement are other areas that your son or daughter may want to turn to regarding any concerns or questions—academic or otherwise. We have wonderful tutorial services and regularly scheduled study skills workshops to assist students in their classes.

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 no doubt 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

Convocation Welcomes New Students to Hofstra

The following are excerpts of the address that President Stuart Rabinowitz delivered on Tuesday, September 7, 2004, welcoming all our new students at our annual Convocation to open the academic year.

I am delighted to welcome each of you, the members of the Class of 2008, to this wonderful community of scholars. And I urge you to think of yourselves and to act as members of our community. For the next four years we will work together and, to varying degrees, live together on this campus; we will together pursue the common goal of helping to maximize the potential of each and every one of you; we will share the values of freedom of thought and expression, tolerance and civility; and we will care about each other’s
well-being. 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, once you have joined this community, you will never truly leave it. Fear not, that does not mean we will never let you graduate. What it does mean is that as alumni of Hofstra University, our reputation and our futures will be intertwined.

The Class of 2008 is one of the most highly accomplished and most diverse freshman classes in the history of this University. You have been painstakingly selected from a pool of almost 12,000 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.

We gather this morning to welcome you and also to introduce you to many of our distinguished faculty. You will have years to get to know the faculty, to learn from them, to talk with them and share experiences. If you are fortunate, you will make the kind of connections with some of your professors that last a lifetime. In my years here at Hofstra, as a professor, as dean of the Law School and now as president, I have learned from first-hand experiences and from our alumni, about the importance of the bond that forms between student and teacher, and the careers and personal growth that have developed as a result of those mentoring relationships.

Thus, you have chosen well. Hofstra University has a superb and dedicated faculty, a caring administration and staff, a wealth of majors and programs, and a vibrant campus life. In short, Hofstra has all you will need to make your college experience as rich and as full as you would like it to be. Indeed, your experience at Hofstra is entirely about you … about your hopes, your aspirations and your dreams. Hofstra will give you every opportunity to make your vision of the future a reality. Hofstra will provide you with the means to explore possibilities and passions, to discover interests, and awaken and sharpen abilities. And Hofstra will support and nurture your studies, your work and your interests …

For most of you in this audience, this day will call for changes in your behavior and attitudes that will strongly affect the opportunity 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 in the days ahead.

You will receive an education at Hofstra that is designed to equip you with the knowledge and skills to deal with changes growing out of the technological and other advances in critical fields of human endeavor. At the moment we cannot assess the magnitude of the changes, but we can be certain that change is on the way.

Why, in the midst of all these uncertainties, are we so sure 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 …

To those of you who are feeling a little uncertain right now, I’d like to offer you some hope. Once this feeling passes – and I promise, it will – you will find a satisfaction unlike any you’ve known before: the satisfaction of scholarly work well done; the companionship of like-minded colleagues and professors; the chance to find out who you are and what your place in the world will be; the exhilaration of knowing that not only do you not want anyone else to direct your life, but that you don’t need anyone else to do so.

I want to take this time to give you some deceptively simple advice … advice important enough that I actually had the nerve to offer it to my own children when they left for college: do not, I repeat, do not – waste this unique opportunity. Instead, relish and revel in your college experiences – take advantage of what is available to you, of this special time in your life. Become involved – in your classes, programs, clubs and activities. This is your turn to discover who you are and who you will become. There will never be another time in your life quite like this. There will never be another time that you will have so many resources, so many interests, new experiences and new friends and colleagues all in one place …

The best insurance you can provide for yourself and for your future is to work hard at Hofstra. There will be many occasions for fun and relaxation, but the investment you make here in sustained commitment and hard work will pay you high dividends throughout a rewarding and productive life. The more you learn at Hofstra, the greater will be your capacity to meet far-reaching changes that will surely lie ahead.

On behalf of the faculty, administration and staff, I welcome you to Hofstra University. Your introduction to Hofstra is complete. Thank you for choosing us. Now it’s time for you to go and make your mark. Stop to tell us what you need and how we might help. And good luck on your journey.

Calendar of Events

**Conference**

November 4 to 6: Don Quixote: The First 400 Years. Celebrating the well-known work by Miguel de Cervantes, praised by many to be the first modern novel. The conference will feature scholarly discussions, exhibitions, and musical and theatrical interludes. All conference events, with the exception of meals, are free to members of the Hofstra community upon presentation of a current HofstraCard. Registration is $75, $65 for senior citizens and $50 for matriculated non-Hofstra students with I.D. For more information call the Hofstra Cultural Center at (516) 463-5669.

**Drama and Dance**

November 11 to 14: Fall Faculty Dance Concert. Featuring new, restored and cutting-edge choreography that has either been created or re-created by the department's dance faculty and guests. Tickets are $10, $8 for senior citizens (over 65) and matriculated non-Hofstra students with I.D. One free ticket with current HofstraCard. For tickets and more information call the Box Office at (516) 463-6644.

November 12 to 25: The Department of Drama and Dance presents Vaclav Havel's The Memorandum. Directed by Hofstra alumna Kara-Lynn Vaeni, this play is a satirical spearing of bureaucracy by the former president of the Czech Republic. Tickets are $10, $8 for senior citizens (over 65) and
Dance Program Celebrates 20 Years of Rave Reviews

For 20 years Hofstra’s Dance Program has been preparing students for successful careers in the performing arts, education and physical therapy. Today graduates can be found living out their dreams, performing with the world’s most prestigious dance companies, forming their own dance companies, teaching new generations of dancers and working behind the scenes at performing arts organizations.

As the popularity of the program has grown, so has the diversity of the classes. Initially there were only modern dance classes, but ballet, jazz and choreography at all different levels were quickly introduced.

To highlight the artistry of the Dance faculty and the students, the first Faculty Dance Concert was presented at the John Cranford Adams Playhouse in 1988. It was the start of a performance tradition at Hofstra, where students would collaborate closely with their professors and guest choreographers on a unique and innovative dance production every fall and spring.

Through December: Issues in Judaism Lecture Series – South of the Border: Jewish Life in Latin America. 8 p.m. at the Sondra and David S. Mack Student Center Theater. A limited number of free subscriptions are available to members of the Hofstra community upon presentation of a current HofstraCard. Subscriptions are $24, $21 for senior citizens and $15 for matriculated non-Hofstra students with ID. For more information call the Cultural Center at (516) 463-5669.

- November 17: “Sephardic Jewish Life in Panama: A Historical Overview” presented by Cantor Moshe Tessone, director, Sephardic Community Program.

For matriculated non-Hofstra students with I.D. One free ticket with current HofstraCard. For tickets and more information call the Box Office at (516) 463-6644.

Lecture Series and Reading

November 17: Hofstra’s Inaugural “Great Writers, Great Readings” series presents former Poet Laureate Louise Glück. The reading will take place at 11:15 a.m. at the Lowenfeld Conference and Exhibition Hall, Axinn Library, 10th floor, South Campus. For more information call (516) 463-6818.

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Hofstra Museum

Admission to the following exhibitions is free. For viewing hours and more information call (516) 463-5672.

Through December 5: Playing, Learning and Working in Amsterdam’s Golden Age. Emily Lowe Gallery, South Campus.

Through December 17: The Provost Collects: Dreidels as Art. David Filderman Gallery, Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library, ninth floor, South Campus.

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Some notable Dance alumni over the years include:

Dorie Artese ’95, a dance education major, is teaching dance classes on Long Island.

Jamie Goldberg ’96 understudied in the recent Broadway revival of The Man of La Mancha.

Nami (Kagami) Kakiya ’97 is performing with the Rod Rogers Dance Company, a multi-ethnic company best known for works that creatively explore the struggles of people of color.

Lawrence Keigwin ’94 is a winner of the prestigious Bessie Award, which acknowledges achievements in New York City dance. He has performed on Broadway and Off-Broadway and formed his own dance company, Keigwin + Company, that presents concerts at the Joyce SoHo theater in Manhattan and around the country. Dance magazine has named Mr. Keigwin one of the top 25 dancers to watch.

Lindsey Leduc ’04 and Christina Lynch ’04 were selected last spring to perform an original dance piece, “Labor of Lightness,” for the 2003 American College Dance Festival’s Gala Performance. Ms. Leduc is currently performing in The Bronx Casket Company, a horror metal musical workshop, under the auspices of Tony Award-winning actor/dancer/choreographer Hinton Battle. Ms. Lynch and classmate Adrienne Rodgers ’04 are performing and continuing their studies with the prestigious Amy Marshall Dance Company.

Makeda Thomas ’99 has performed with the New York dance company Urban Bushwomen, which included a yearlong collaboration with The National Song and Dance Company of Mozambique. Last year she was a guest artist with choreographer Rennie Harris’ Facing Mekka production at the Joyce Theater, which received rave reviews for its presentation of African and Capoeira dance and classical ballet.

This year’s Fall Faculty Dance Concert will be held at the John Cranford Adams Playhouse, November 11 to 14. For more information on the Department of Drama and Dance call (516) 463-5444.
Hofstra Students Dig in Backyard of a Colonial American Hero

What does freedom look like? How would the home and lifestyle of an anti-slavery advocate differ from those of a slave owner? Assistant Professor of Anthropology Chris Matthews and 13 students enrolled in Anthropology 33 (“Archeology Field Methods”) attempted to find the answers as they conducted an archeological dig this summer at the historic home of Rufus King, located in the heart of Jamaica, Queens.

King, a New York state senator, was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1787, where he played an important role in forging the Constitution. Throughout his life he was noted for his anti-slavery stance, which drew criticism from Southern colleagues. Before King lived in the Queens house, Christopher Smith, a slaveowner, resided at the estate. Working from maps and documents of the home dating back to the early 1800s, Hofstra students and Professor Matthews hoped to find artifacts demonstrating the differing lifestyles of the enslaved workers and paid laborers, as well as the opposed values of Smith and King.

Professor Matthews, an expert in historical anthropology, is celebrating his fourth year teaching at Hofstra and has participated in digs across the United States, most notably in Annapolis, Maryland; New Orleans, Louisiana; and Stanford, California (researching the 1906 earthquake). He chose the King Manor estate for Anthropology 33 because of its proximity to Hofstra and for the fact that it is a public location where visitors would benefit from the class findings.

T.J. Altieri, a senior anthropology major, said he knew he'd be getting “down and dirty” this summer when he signed up for the class. “I'm having a ball,” he said. “You're constantly digging and scraping to find something other than dirt. When you do uncover an artifact – you know you are the first person in hundreds of years to see and touch it.”

For many of the students, the majority of whom are anthropology majors, the class was their first experience in archeological field work. “We might as well be in Peru on an archeological dig. We are using all the same techniques and equipment,” said senior Ted Triantafillou, who uncovered some pottery fragments and rusted screws.

At the conclusion of the class on August 6, all completely excavated areas were again buried. Other parts where there is still work to be done will be temporarily covered until next summer when Professor Matthews returns with a new group of students.

Professor Matthews and Gideon Steinberg collect an artifact that will be taken back to the Hofstra campus for further analysis. Photo by Brian Ballweg.