Hofstra Ranks 14th on *The Princeton Review’s* “Most Connected Campuses” Listing

It was announced this fall that Hofstra University ranked number 14 on *The Princeton Review’s* second annual listing of the “Top 25 Most Connected Campuses” in the country. In 2003 Hofstra ranked 18th in the country, making this the second consecutive year that Hofstra ranked in the top 20.

To determine the rankings for America’s “Most Connected Campuses,” *The Princeton Review* solicited data from 357 top colleges and universities around the country, asking them 20 questions about the technological sophistication of their campuses. Only the top 25 schools received rankings.

To refine its ratings and reflect the importance of new emerging technologies, the Review made several changes to last year’s survey, adding questions ranging from whether a school offers network access in residence hall lounges to if it has a computer ethics policy in place. As a result of those changes – and new initiatives and programs underway at the surveyed campuses – the rankings changed radically from last year. Only four schools in 2003’s top 25 (Hofstra, Bryant University, The University of South Dakota and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) remain on the list for 2004.

Hofstra is reported as having online registration, remote access to e-mail, and a wireless network. The University provides full support for handheld computing and specialized technology curricula. Hofstra also offers a computer ethics policy, a variety of multimedia equipment, and the ability to stream audio and video as well as perform various administrative functions online.

Ralph Nader Gives Guest Lecture

In his first public speaking appearance since the November 2 presidential election, Ralph Nader delivered Hofstra’s second annual Arnold A. Saltzman State of the Union Lecture to a packed house at Monroe Lecture Center Theater on November 17.

Mr. Nader spoke about the election and domestic and international issues, including education, the economy, consumer issues, the media and the war in Iraq. He also fielded questions from the students in the audience. Following the lecture, a book signing and reception where students met Mr. Nader was held at C.V. Starr Hall.
Hofstra students Catalina Peralta and Alex Zaharakis won awards in the Best Undergraduate Research Poster Competition at the fall 2004 New York Sectional Meeting of the American Physical Society.

Ms. Peralta tied for second place for her presentation on "Controlled Excitation of the Belousov-Zhabotinsky Reaction," based on research with student collaborators Carolyn Cammalleri, Stephen Chaterpaul, Claudia Frank, Daniel Lang and Daniel Ravinovitch. Mr. Zaharakis tied for second place for his presentation on "Temporal Patterns of Ectopic Activity in a Simple Cardiac Cell Model," based on research with fellow student Christian Hilaire.

Hofstra Professors Harold M. Hastings and Sabrina G. Sobel supervised Ms. Peralta’s project, which was partially supported by a National Science Foundation grant. Professor Hastings and Senior Research Scientists Elizabeth Cherry and Flavio Fenton supervised Mr. Zaharakis’ project, which was partially supported by a National Institutes of Health grant.

The fall 2004 meeting was held at City Technical College of the City University of New York in Brooklyn, New York, in October. Ms. Peralta and Mr. Zaharakis are the third and fourth Hofstra undergraduates recognized in this American Physical Society competition; in fall 2003 Hofstra University students Maurice Hayon and Jordan Pekor tied for first place in the competition held at Brookhaven National Laboratory.

### Donald Axinn’s **Spin** Celebrates Its East Coast Premiere at Hofstra


The bittersweet story of *Spin* centers on Eddie (Merriman), who at 8 years of age loses his parents in a plane crash. He is sent to live with his emotionally distant Uncle Frank (Tucci), who is a pilot. Frank takes a job abroad and leaves his nephew with the ranch foreman (Blades) and his school-teacher wife (Delany) who raise Eddie as a member of their own loving family. Growing up, Eddie is faced with difficult emotions about the loss of his parents, his distant relationship with Frank and the love he has for the couple who cared for him. Eddie is also dealing with falling in love for the first time with Francesca (Garces), a young woman who is facing her own demons.

Proceeds from the *Spin* premiere benefited The Interfaith Nutrition Network. The screening was followed by a panel discussion with Donald Axinn, Paula Garces and James Redford, son of show business legend Robert Redford.

### Inaugural “Great Writers, Great Readings” Series Launched

Recognizing the importance of writing and literature in a liberal arts education, Hofstra announced last fall the inaugural “Great Writers, Great Readings” series.

In addition to a baccalaureate degree in English, Hofstra offers a master of arts in English and creative writing, which may be used as the basis for further graduate study in an M.F.A. or a Ph.D. program or as a terminal degree for high school certification. The program’s faculty include eminent essayist Philip Lopate; writers Eric Brogger and Ron Janssen; and two Guggenheim Fellows, novelist Martha McPhee and poet Phyllis Levin.

All events in the series are free and open to the general public. For more information on the reading events listed below, call the Department of English at (516) 463-5454.

**Cynthia Ozick**  
**Author of Art and Ardor, Levitation**  
February 7, 2005, at 7 p.m.  
Guthart Cultural Center Theater, Axinn Library

**Kenneth Lonergan**  
Playwright and screenwriter, *You Can Count on Me, This Is Our Youth*  
March 10, 2005, at 7 p.m.  
Guthart Cultural Center Theater, Axinn Library

**Vivian Gornick**  
Essayist and journalist, *The End of the Novel of Love*, *In Search of Ali Mahmoud*  
April 13, 2005, at 11:15 a.m.  
Guthart Cultural Center Theater, Axinn Library

**William S. Merwin**  
Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, *The River Sound, The Carrier of Ladders*  
May 4, 2005, at 7 p.m.  
University Club, 1 West 54th Street, New York City
Sophomore’s Play Receives Star Treatment

Megan Allison, a sophomore film major at Hofstra and Houston, Texas, native, received the surprise of a lifetime last summer when a play she wrote for a playwriting class at the University won a prestigious competition sponsored by the Alley Theatre, Houston’s resident theater company. Allison’s father secretly submitted the script for Mary Tyler Moore and the Amazing Technicolor Basement to the Alley Theatre’s Houston Young Playwrights Exchange, a program that offers aspiring writers a professional forum to develop their play. The students hone their scripts in group meetings and one-on-one sessions with professional mentors. Ironically, one of the professionals Allison worked with was Laurie Brooks, the Alley Theatre’s artist-in-residence, who is a 1977 alumna of Hofstra.

The culmination of the program allowed Allison to work on staging her play in a professional theatrical setting and seeing it performed before a live audience. Her award-winning play is a romantic comedy about a lonely shoe salesman who conjures up a 1970s Mary Tyler Moore as an imaginary friend, and then finds her reluctant to exit his life when he falls in love for real.

Calendar of Events

Through January 9: Visual Interpretations of Don Quixote. Presented by the Hofstra Museum, this show commemorates the 400th anniversary of the novel Don Quixote. This exhibition will be on display at the Rochelle and Irwin A. Lowenfeld Conference and Exhibition Hall, Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library, 10th floor, South Campus. Admission is free. For more information call the Hofstra Museum at (516) 463-5672.

January 28 to 30: Hofstra Opera Theater presents “Dialogues of the Carmelites” by Poulenc. Show times are 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. on Sunday at the John Cranford Adams Playhouse. Tickets are $10, $8 for senior citizens and matriculated non-Hofstra students with ID. Members of the Hofstra community receive one free ticket upon presentation of a current HofstraCard. For tickets and more information call the Hofstra Box Office at (516) 463-6644.

Save the Date!

Sunday, March 14: Seventh Annual Irish Festival. The newest of Hofstra’s festivals, the Irish Festival is a fun-filled day for the entire community. Top-name Irish bands and step-dancing are among the many entertainment activities planned for the day. Also featured are food, crafts and children’s activities. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Hofstra Arena. For more information call Hofstra’s Festival Hotline at (516) 463-6582.
HOFSTRA BASKETBALL

NCAA Division I Basketball
State-of-the-Art Arena
Affordable Family Entertainment

Parents: Great Holiday Gift
CAA Packs
This mini plan features all 9 men’s home games against conference opponents. This option is an affordable sample of Hofstra Basketball. Call (516) 463-6633 for information.

Family Weekend
Men’s Basketball Saturday, January 22nd 4:00 p.m.
Women’s Basketball Sunday, January 23rd 2:00 p.m.

Take a Kid to the Game Day
Youth tickets only $3 when a full-priced adult ticket ($8) is purchased.

FOR TICKETS CALL (516) 463-6633 ext. 1