The Great *Julius Caesar* Returns to Hofstra’s Globe Theater

From March 3 to 13, Hofstra University celebrates its 56th annual Shakespeare Festival with the great Roman tragedy *Julius Caesar* at the John Cranford Adams Playhouse performed on the Globe Theater stage. *Julius Caesar* marks the continuation of the “Power Play” season presented this year by the Department of Drama and Dance and portrays the political and personal conflict of a man torn by what he feels is best for his country and the admiration and friendship he feels toward his leader.

The Shakespeare Festival is widely considered by the theatrical community to be a terrific training ground for aspiring actors. Many Hofstra graduates with acclaimed careers in the performing arts – such as the late Madeline Kahn, Lainie Kazan, Robert Davi, James Barbour (Broadway’s *Beauty and the Beast* and *Assassins*), Peter Friedman (Broadway’s *Twelve Angry Men* and *Ragtime*) and Tom McGowan (“Frasier”) – have credited the Festival for playing a part in their subsequent success. Actress Susan Sullivan and Broadway director Susan Schulman (*The Secret Garden, Little Women*) both performed in *Julius Caesar* when it was last presented at Hofstra in 1964.

The five-sixth scale replica of the original Globe Theater stage was created by Hofstra’s second president, Dr. John Cranford Adams, known as one of the country’s most distinguished Shakespearean scholars. The reconstruction of the Globe stage in 1951 was the first such venture in the Eastern United States.

Multiple performances comprise each Shakespeare Festival: a full-length Shakespearean play, a shorter dramatic piece and the “Festival Musicale,” a concert by the Hofstra Collegium Musicum, an ensemble from the Music Department devoted to the performance of early music.

For show times and ticket information for *Julius Caesar, The Dentist* and “Romans, Countrymen, Friends,” call the Hofstra Box Office at (516) 463-6644.

**F. Scott Fitzgerald – On Long Island and New York, April 14-16**

The Hofstra Cultural Center, in cooperation with the F. Scott Fitzgerald Society, presents the Eighth International F. Scott Fitzgerald Conference at Hofstra, April 14, 15 and 16. The conference, *F. Scott Fitzgerald – On Long Island and New York*, will focus on the portrayal of these locales in Fitzgerald’s novels, primarily *The Great Gatsby*.

This conference also marks the 15th anniversary of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Society, an international organization founded and based at Hofstra University, which holds conferences every two years, alternating in the United States and abroad.

This Cultural Center conference is unique in the sense that many of the events include off-campus excursions to the places featured in Fitzgerald’s writings and sites that figured prominently in his life, including Long Island’s Gold Coast, the Merchant Marine Academy, Scribner’s Publishing and Columbus Circle. For fees and registration information, call the Hofstra Cultural Center at (516) 463-5669.
UN Course Gives Students an International Perspective

In January Hofstra was once again present and accounted for at the United Nations, as the annual Workshop at the UN (Political Science 192) convened for a series of briefings explaining the workings of the institution. For three weeks, 14 students joined Professor David Green on international territory to hear about and observe the mechanics of the organization and the interests of member-states represented there.

Each day began with a briefing from an ambassador or other national delegation representative, usually held on site at the country’s mission. Approximately 15 member-states hosted the class and took the students’ questions, including the United States, Iraq, India, Pakistan, Israel, Palestine, Cuba and Mexico. A second briefing was held each day with a member of the UN staff, on topics ranging from Security Council reform (held in the Council’s actual chambers), to humanitarian relief, peacekeeping, terrorism and a representative variety of other issues.

This hands-on course provides Hofstra students with a rare experience – direct access to the people who actually practice international politics and policy-making. And, because of the students’ efforts at advance preparation each day, they made the experience engaging for their interlocutors as well. Many of the diplomats and UN staff who gave the briefings commented on the unusually high quality of the dialogue with Hofstra’s young representatives.

New Campus Comedy Series Is Launched

Hofstra USA Productions and Hofstra Concerts have partnered to present a new comedy series titled “Hofstra Laughs” this spring, featuring top-name comics in performances open only to members of the campus community.

On March 7 comedian Wendy Liebman, with opening act Michele Balan, launched the series at Monroe Lecture Center Theater. Liebman was voted Best Female Stand-up Comic in 1996 by the American Comedy Awards. She has appeared on “The Tonight Show” with both Johnny Carson and Jay Leno, “The Late Show with David Letterman,” HBO’s “Larry Sanders” and “The New Hollywood Squares.”

April 4 at 8 p.m. the laughs continue with local stand-up comics John Trueson, Ted Alexandro, Betsy Wise and Brad Lowery at Monroe Lecture Center Theater.

The series concludes on May 2 with the social and political rantings and ravings of Lewis Black, currently seen on The Daily Show. Black’s performance will take place at the John Cranford Adams Playhouse at 8 p.m. For ticket information, members of the Hofstra community may call Hofstra Concerts at (516) 463-6767.

New Athletic Director Named

Jack Hayes, former athletic director at the University of Connecticut, was appointed Hofstra’s new athletic director, a position he assumed in October 2004. Mr. Hayes, Hofstra University’s seventh director of athletics, oversees Hofstra’s 18 Division I teams, an athletic administration of more than 70 professional staff, and 430 student-athletes.

Mr. Hayes came to Hofstra University with more than 14 years of athletic administration experience, including management positions at four Division I institutions. His expertise in enhancing academic and athletic success of student-athletes, strategic planning, fundraising, marketing, university relations, facility enhancement, budgetary management, and NCAA compliance will complement Hofstra University’s athletic department in its quest to further enhance its athletic program, and assist Hofstra’s student-athletes both on and off the field.

“We are pleased that the national search we have conducted for our new athletic director has resulted in the appointment of someone of Jack Hayes’ caliber,” said Hofstra President Stuart Rabinowitz. “At Hofstra University, student-athletes strive for excellence both on and off the field, and Jack’s broad experience in athletic administration and as a former student-athlete will help Hofstra’s Athletic Department continue its development as a national program which recognizes that student-athletes are students first.”
March 13: Seventh Annual Irish Experience Festival. The Irish Experience is a fun-filled day for the entire community. Top-named Irish bands and step-dancing are among the many entertainment acts during the day. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Hofstra University Arena, North Campus. $3 suggested donation. For more information call the Festival Hotline at (516) 463-6582.

March 19: Morton Estrin Family Concert. Hofstra Professor Morton Estrin, a noted pianist, composer and music teacher (he counts hundreds of Hofstra alumni and Billy Joel and Deborah Gibson among his students) will share the stage for the first time with his daughter Coren, son Robert and granddaughter Jennifer. The performance will include compositions by Grieg, Ravel, Prokofiev, and Brahms. The concert is 8 p.m. at Monroe Lecture Center Theater, South Campus. For tickets and more information call the Box Office at (516) 463-6644.

Through April 1: The Hofstra Museum presents From the Market to the Mall. This show chronicles the transformation of Long Island from an agricultural community to one of suburban neighborhoods in need of a variety of goods and services. It is to be held in conjunction with the Hofstra Cultural Center conference New Visions of Suburban Life. David Filderman Gallery, Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library, Ninth Floor, South Campus. For more information call (516) 463-5672.

Through April 17: The Hofstra Museum presents France – Near and Far: Ralph Gibson Photographs. A working photographer since 1961, Gibson’s numerous trips abroad over the past few decades have resulted in a large body of work celebrating France. France – Near and Far is a portfolio consisting of 10 Cprint photographs taken between 1990 and 1992 in France and the French Antilles Islands. Rochelle and Irwin A. Lowenfeld Conference and Exhibition Hall, Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library, 10th Floor, South Campus. For more information call (516) 463-5672.

Through May 8: The Hofstra Museum presents Poetic Dimensions of the Modern Still Life. Featuring the still life paintings of approximately 20 members of the artist group Zeuxis. Emily Lowe Gallery, South Campus. For more information call (516) 463-5672.

What is FERPA?

Hofstra University desires to maintain an open and productive relationship with the parents and family members of our students. (See news about new Parent Office on page 4.) However, there is some information that Hofstra is legally unable to release under the guidelines stated by FERPA.

The Family Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, (commonly known as the Buckley Amendment) is a federal law which provides that colleges and universities will maintain the confidentiality of student education records. The law basically says that no one outside the institution shall have access to students’ education records nor will the institution disclose any information from those records without the written consent of students. There are exceptions, of course, so that certain personnel within the institution may see the records, including persons in an emergency in order to protect the health or safety of students or other persons.

At the postsecondary level, parents have no inherent rights to inspect a student’s education record. The right to inspect is limited solely to the student. Records may be released to parents only under the following circumstances: (1) through the written consent of the student, (2) in compliance with a subpoena, or (3) by producing a copy of the most recent Federal Income Tax form showing that the student was claimed as a dependent. An institution is not required to disclose information from a student’s education record to the parents of a dependent student.

For more information on FERPA, visit the Hofstra University Web site at www.hofstra.edu/policies/policies_legal.cfm.
New Parents and Families Web Site and Office Announced

As part of an ongoing effort to keep the parents of Hofstra students involved with the University and apprised of changes and progress, a new Parents & Families Web site started this winter with information for parents of current and prospective students. Go to the Hofstra homepage at www.hofstra.edu and click on Parents & Families in the right hand margin.

Additionally, plans have been made for fall 2005 to open a Parent Office in Memorial Hall, located on the South Campus. The purpose of this facility is to provide parents with information and guidance to ensure their experience with Hofstra is as happy and productive as their son's or daughter's.

The opening of the Parent Office is just another step Hofstra is taking to enhance its relationships, not only with students, but with family members who are an important part of our campus community. Finding new ways to meet the needs and address the concerns of parents and students complement the University's growing competitiveness and focus on student achievement.

Since the fall of 2000, Hofstra University has seen a significant increase in the quality of our entering freshman class, as measured by average SAT and high school GPA. In addition, Hofstra University has welcomed more students from outside New York state, an increase from 32 percent in 2000 to 42 percent in the 2004-2005 academic year.

Parents should also note that Hofstra is creating a number of new programs and centers, including women's studies, religious studies and global studies, as well as area studies centers focusing on the Middle East, Africa and Latin America.

There are exciting plans to enhance physical facilities. This spring, a groundbreaking is scheduled for a new academic building that will house a 230-seat theater, orchestra rehearsal room, music practice rooms and seminar and faculty offices. We are upgrading the Joan and Donald E. Axinn Library, as well as its electronic resources, and investing in additional technology that will enrich our Computer Center, classrooms and labs. Within C.V. Starr Hall, the Frank G. Zarb School of Business has built a simulated electronic trading room, where faculty and students can access the same data, analytics and software used by finance professionals.

I hope you find these announcements to be as exciting as I do. Should you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call me at (516) 463-6691 or e-mail Gigi.Lamens@hofstra.edu.

Financial Aid Reminder

Students and parents are reminded that 2005-2006 Free Applications for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) are now available. To receive federal aid for the summer, fall or spring, the FAFSA must be on file. Students may complete the application online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Applications are also available at the Office of Financial Aid, located in Memorial Hall, Room 202.

If your son or daughter filed a FAFSA via the Web last year, he or she should have received a federal PIN by mail. Students without a PIN should visit the FAFSA Web site and apply for one. This allows students to complete and electronically sign their FAFSA.

Please call the Office of Financial Aid at (516) 463-6680 with any questions.