



Welcome to the fall 2001 issue of *Hofstra Horizons*. As Hofstra's new President, I am particularly pleased to introduce this publication, which showcases the scholarly work of our very accomplished faculty.

As a faculty member myself for more than 29 years, I applaud the excellent research and scholarship being done by our faculty and appreciate the effort, time and hard work involved. Excellence in research and scholarship, coupled with excellence in teaching, are essential for our University to thrive and flourish. I strongly believe that research and scholarship complement and enrich teaching, enabling the exploration of new insights and ideas in the classroom. I further believe that research and scholarship, like excellent teaching, need to be nurtured and supported, and the University will be studying ways in which this might be further accomplished.

I have read the articles in this issue of *Hofstra Horizons* with great interest, and appreciate the contributions of its authors. I look forward to future issues that will enable all of us to learn more about the scholarly pursuits of our talented faculty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Stuart Rabinowitz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "S".

Stuart Rabinowitz  
*President*



I encourage each of you to read *Hofstra Horizons* and learn about Hofstra University. Our faculty are a diverse community of scholars, offering our students – tomorrow's leaders – a broad-ranged and well-grounded perspective about the world that they will help shape. We are at once both a community that identifies closely with a geographic region, and assumes responsibilities to promote it; and, we are a community of scholars that looks far beyond local boundaries to the national and international arenas.

In this issue of *Hofstra Horizons* the reader will find an article and pictorial prepared by Martha Kreisel, sharing her appreciation for the downtown building murals that have become so recognizable to Long Islanders, and an article by Stephen S. Lawrence that will take us beyond the confines of our world in "Dead Stars Do Tell Tales: The Intriguing Case of Supernova 1987A."

In addition, Janice Koch discusses her efforts and the efforts of several colleagues working with teachers to improve classroom instruction in science, mathematics and technology in our elementary schools. Given that America's universities are being called upon to help improve student preparation at all levels, these efforts are especially important.

We also offer two thought-provoking articles with an international flavor in this issue of *Hofstra Horizons*. Magnus Bernhardsson offers important insight into ownership of historical artifacts, raising moral questions about the return of cultural properties in his article, "The Spoils of History: The Return of Cultural Property and the Samarra Collection Episode." Carolyn M. Dudek presents a foreign perspective to the difficult question of pension payouts in the light of demographic changes – a legacy of the baby boom – in her article, "The Role of the European Union in National Pension Reform."

Hofstra University is currently home to many of tomorrow's leaders. Our goal at Hofstra is to continuously extend knowledge beyond that which is known and to prepare our next generation of leaders to do the same. Thanks to the Hofstra faculty, we are able to meet this goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Herman A. Berliner". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Herman A. Berliner, Ph.D.

*Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs*