



One of the measures of the excellence of a university is the quality of its faculty, their academic expertise and the research they pursue. At Hofstra University, we are privileged to have a faculty committed to academic excellence and to the furtherance of knowledge.

This issue of *Hofstra Horizons* provides five

examples of the excellent scholarly work our faculty produces, as well as the breadth of disciplines represented in business, science, humanities, communication and education.

David Weissman, professor of engineering, looks at the impact of satellite imagery and data collection on the study of the Earth's oceans, while Journalism Professor Susan Drucker studies how communications technology interacts with the changing urban and suburban landscape. Biology Associate Professor Russell Burke studies how Italian wall lizards are flourishing on Long Island, and Susan Lorde Martin, the Cypres Family Distinguished Professor of Legal Studies in Business, discusses the litigation finance industry and its impact on the legal process. Lastly, John Louis DiGaetani, professor of English and freshman composition, analyzes the attraction of Wagner's *Ring* for today's audiences.

This is a fascinating collection of scholarly work and a representation of the quality of the scholarship of our faculty. Yet at Hofstra University, these scholars are also dedicated teachers and mentors who bring their scholarship into the classroom, making Hofstra a true academic community that connects scholars and students. This connection was clearly visible at our recently held 11th Presidential Conference, *William Jefferson Clinton: The "New Democrat" from Hope*. It is also evident in our Financial Technology Center, a simulated trading floor with 34 Bloomberg terminals, where students and faculty can meld theory and practice.

I am pleased to introduce this issue of *Hofstra Horizons*, another example of our faculty's dedication to scholarship, and an example of why Hofstra University's reputation is becoming ever more prominent nationally.

Sincerely,

Stuart Rabinowitz
President

HOFSTRA HORIZONS

Research and Scholarship at Hofstra University

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Cover image: Photo of Chicago uncannily captures the shifting face of the new city. Photo by Susan Drucker.

HOFSTRA HORIZONS is published semiannually in the fall and spring by the Office for Research and Sponsored Programs, 144 Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York 11549-1440.

Each issue describes in lay language some of the many research and creative activities conducted at Hofstra. The conclusions and opinions expressed by the investigators and writers are their own and do not necessarily reflect University policy.

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I am always pleased to introduce a new issue of *Hofstra Horizons*, and this issue is no exception. Our faculty is a diverse community of scholars who offer our students a fully textured and well-rounded perspective about the world they will help to shape. The articles in this issue underscore the ways in which Hofstra scholars are leaders in their fields, and how, through noteworthy research and scholarship, they continue to

focus on pertinent issues as we move further into the 21st century.

I urge you to read, for example, David Weissman’s highly relevant research on remote radar sensing. By accurately reading the winds on ocean surfaces, this cutting-edge technology plays a critical role in predicting weather patterns and may help citizens prepare for natural disasters, such as the devastating Hurricane Katrina that most recently struck North America’s coastline.

Inside this issue, you will also find a very timely article by Susan Drucker, in which she examines the relationship between our concept of the modern city and its dependency upon the use of media, so prevalent in today’s changing world.

John DiGaetani contributes a fascinating article on his forthcoming book, *Inside the Ring: Essays on Wagner’s Opera Cycle*, in which he contemplates the revival of the *Ring*, and the reasons it still has relevance for new audiences.

Still, in another important and high-interest article, Susan Lorde Martin responds to a deficiency in fairness in the legal system. As a solution, she advocates for litigation financing, used quite successfully to the advantage of plaintiff Abner Louima, in his highly publicized case of police brutality against the New York City Police Department. In a precisely drawn argument, Susan advocates for its use as a method to level the playing field among plaintiffs regardless of their ability to finance their lawsuits.

And, perhaps dealing with adaptability in its purest form, I urge you to read an informative and entertaining article by Russell Burke, who provides us with a full history of the Italian wall lizard. These lizards, native to Italy, can now be readily spotted right here on the Hofstra campus.

As the articles in this issue clearly demonstrate, Hofstra faculty bring enthusiasm to their teaching as well as their scholarly pursuits. Congratulations to all authors for their fine work. We are proud to present your research and opinions in *Hofstra Horizons*.

Sincerely,

Herman A. Berliner, Ph.D.
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs