



Over the course of two decades, Hofstra University's 240-acre campus, once a part of the Mitchel Field air base, sparsely treed and devoid of any aesthetic components, has been transformed into a nationally recognized arboretum. This transformation was accomplished without a sizeable allocation of money but with a great deal of ingenuity. Mature

tive improvements, the growth and regeneration of the Hofstra campus was formally recognized in 1985 when the Hofstra University Arboretum became a member of the prestigious American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta (AABGA).

Since the goal of the University administration is, and always has been, to steadily increase the variety of trees, shrubs, annuals and perennials campus-wide and, in general, to provide Hofstra University students with a beautiful and serene environment, all opportunities for new gardens have been explored. Today Hofstra's Arboretum boasts more than 525 varieties of trees, some of which are exceptionally rare, and thousands of annuals, perennials and spring flowering bulbs. In

cational and senior citizen groups, and the local community as well. In 1993 Hofstra University was granted permission from the New York State Department of Transportation to convert its two-acre recharge basin (commonly referred to as a sump) into a Model Bird Sanctuary. Following an extensive cleanup by a group of volunteers, native bird-attracting plants were gradually added to the Sanctuary.

The Sanctuary relies entirely on the goodwill efforts of volunteers and Hofstra Arboretum members. Financial support has been provided primarily through donations and special Arboretum fundraising events as well as grants received from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Highlights of the Sanctuary include: a

## The Hofstra Arboretum and Model Bird Sanctuary



Entrance to Hofstra's Model Bird Sanctuary and Environment Studies Center.

trees were carefully transplanted, individuals were asked to donate memorial gardens, berms were erected as wind-breakers using tons of donated soil, and new trees and sitting walls were added. An innovative policy was established providing that for every tree that died or was damaged on Hofstra's campus, two new trees would be added to the Arboretum. Although students, faculty and alumni were all aware of these posi-

1985, due to Hofstra's strong connection with the Netherlands, the Dutch Bulb Growers Association cultivated a pure white Darwin hybrid tulip and named it "Hofstra University."

One of the most significant improvements to Hofstra's Arboretum was the addition of our Model Bird Sanctuary, which has proven to be a natural resource for Hofstra faculty and students, edu-

**Eve I. Glasser**  
Executive Director  
Friends of the Hofstra Arboretum



A statue located in the Model Bird Sanctuary.





A variety of trees adorn Hofstra's 240-acre campus.

lean-to educational building, a large gazebo with binoculars and a bird identification guide to aid visitors, and a hummingbird and a songbird study garden. A large pond with a winding boardwalk is also an integral part of the Sanctuary, and our very latest addition is a naturalistic rock waterfall.

Each year the number of visitors to our Bird Sanctuary increases considerably, and the improvements to Hofstra's campus affect all segments of the Hofstra family. The Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Engineering and Environmental Studies Departments have all brought classes to Hofstra's Model Bird Sanctuary, and Hofstra's Diane Lindner-Goldberg Child Care Institute frequently brings their young charges to the Sanctuary as well. During the summer months, the day campers are often seen there. Regardless of their age, young and old seem to enjoy the quietude and naturalness it provides.

In an effort to bring the Hofstra University Arboretum even more recognition, and to add to its educational value, the Friends of the Hofstra Arboretum sponsored a Major Flower and Garden Show on April 18, 19, 20 and 21, 2002. The show, held at the Hofstra Arena, featured a professionally designed Harry Potter Children's Educational Garden and educational and horticultural displays from 30 groups. The second federated District Garden Clubs (58 from Nassau, Suffolk, Queens and Brooklyn) are held their annual Standard Judged Flower

Show at our show. In addition, a Preview Reception honoring Horace Hagedorn, founder of Miracle-Gro, and Dr. David Salten, one of the Hofstra Arboretum's main benefactors, took place at the show. There were free lectures all weekend long and a garden marketplace selling a variety of garden-related items.

We have been growing continually, as an Arboretum should, but we still have miles to go before we sleep (to paraphrase Robert Frost).



"Hofstra University" tulips prominently displayed on Hofstra's campus.



Eve Glasser has been a member of the University community for more than 20 years. Prior to assuming her current position as Executive Director of the Friends of the Hofstra Arboretum, Ms. Glasser was Assistant Director of Public Relations.

Her current position was created in 1985, during President Emeritus Dr. James M. Stuart's tenure. Dr. Stuart had a genuine interest in the growth and beautification of the Hofstra campus. Ms. Glasser vividly recalls Dr. Stuart approaching her after an annual holiday party to inquire if she would be interested in assuming this position. "Do whatever you feel necessary to promote Hofstra's Arboretum," Dr. Stuart replied when Ms. Glasser asked what his expectations were of this position. Ms. Glasser is responsible for the development and furtherance of the Hofstra Arboretum, Bird Sanctuary and Environmental Studies Center.

The Hofstra Arboretum has evolved through the years. In addition to more than 525 different varieties and more than 8,000 trees, the campus is enhanced by the use of annuals, perennials and bulbs, particularly tulips. Numerous plant sales, lectures/luncheons, and private garden tours have taken place, and a bird sanctuary was established in a New York State recharge basin, all under the auspices of the Hofstra Arboretum. In addition, the Hofstra Arboretum Flower and Garden Show was held for the first time this spring at the Hofstra Arena, directed by Ms. Glasser.

Ms. Glasser has a longstanding interest in horticulture. She is the author of *Orchids* (Macmillan Publishers, 1995), a complete guide to the cultivation of orchids. She has authored more than 35 articles for *The New York Times*, primarily focusing on horticulture. Her genuine interest in this field makes her a "natural" for her current position at the University. -SK