HOFSTRA FACULTY RECEIVE “EXCELLENCE AWARD” …

Dr. Maureen Murphy, Professor of Curriculum and Teaching, and Dr. Alan Singer, Associate Professor of Curriculum and Teaching, were presented with the “Social Studies Programs of Excellence Award” by the National Council for the Social Studies for their work on New York State’s Great Irish Famine Curriculum. The NCSS is the largest association in the United States devoted to promoting social studies instruction.

Hofstra University was chosen in 1999 to develop the curriculum guide and Dr. Murphy was named project director. Dr. Singer and Dr. Maureen Milleta, Associate Professor of Curriculum and Teaching, served as associate directors. The Great Irish Famine Curriculum was field tested in more than 30 school districts representing New York’s diverse student and teacher population and several other states as well as in Ireland, Japan and Brazil.

In September 2002 copies of The Great Irish Famine Curriculum were distributed to all public and private New York schools. The curriculum is comprised of 150 learning experiences and materials framed by the New York State Learning Standards for grades 4-12. Teachers and administrators have praised the curriculum as a model for teaching the New York State Learning Standards. It is interdisciplinary, interactive and project-based, engaging students in active learning.

GYROPLANE CONFERENCE LANDS AT HOFSTRA …

On April 25-26 the Hofstra Cultural Center presented “From Autogiro to Gyroplane: The Past, Present and Future of an Aviation Industry.” This conference addressed aviation technology that all but disappeared with the arrival of the helicopter. Flying pioneers, innovative designers, historic figures and international industry leaders were brought together for the first time at this conference. Nineteen honored guests were presented with Hofstra Pioneer Awards. Award winners included the first female certified flight instructor and the only African-American aircraft designer in the Smithsonian national aviation collection. The conference was presented in cooperation with the American Helicopter Museum and Education Center, Popular Rotorcraft Association, Cradle of Aviation Museum, Experimental Aircraft Association and the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. For more information call the Hofstra Cultural Center at (516) 463-5669.