“Hofstra University is a private institution whose primary mission is to provide a quality education to its students in an environment that encourages, nurtures, and supports learning through the free and open exchange of ideas, for the betterment of humankind.” These first lines of Hofstra’s mission statement summarize what we are about: an institution of academic and personal excellence in a nurturing community.

Hofstra University is known for superior academic programs taught by award-winning faculty members, from best-selling author and Pulitzer Prize winner Oscar Hijuelos, to Fulbright scholars like Dr. Laurie Johnson, to elite scientists and recipients of Guggenheim Fellowships. Ninety percent of Hofstra faculty members hold the highest degrees in their respective fields.

To complement academic success, Hofstra University takes great pride in encouraging students, faculty and staff to engage with the campus community. This involvement leads to the development of character and supports students’ academic goals.

For students, their college years constitute a transition into adulthood when both academic and personal growth is taking place. Faculty and administrators aspire to nurture students’ social and ethical responsibility, intellectual curiosity, creativity, and emotional and physical well-being, with programs such as living-learning communities and charity fund drives. Our educational, co-curricular and cultural programs and activities encourage students to be active citizens and contributors to their local, national and global communities.

We also consider you, parents, guardians and families, a part of our college community, Hofstra Pride. Engaged and informed families greatly enrich Hofstra’s campus life.

Every spring, the Division of Student Affairs honors student leaders at the Co-Curricular Awards Ceremony, which is a proud moment for the awardees’ families. This year, Nicolette Smithson, Class of 2007 (left), and Lara Dakwar, Class of 2008 (right), were some of the students who were honored at the 24th Annual Co-Curricular Awards Ceremony. Nicolette received the “Dr. Holly J. Seirup Woman of the Year Award” and Lara, “The Community Service Award.”
Message from Sandra Johnson
Vice President for Student Affairs

Our focus is on students. The Division of Student Affairs’ offices work collaboratively with administration across the University to promote student learning, growth and success, both in and out of the classroom.

What does that mean for your students? They are welcome to come to any office at the University, ask a question, and be promptly and courteously answered or pointed in the right direction. They are encouraged to make personal connections with faculty and staff, especially their advisement dean, who stays with them until graduation. They are strongly encouraged to participate in our numerous clubs, activities and events. An involved student is more likely to succeed academically and grow personally.

We consider students our partners in building the Hofstra community. We listen to them and learn from them. We are extremely proud to see how much they contribute and how much they grow in character.

Hofstra families’ support of our community is tremendously important. We know that informed and involved parents and families are great assets to Hofstra. I invite you to ask questions, contribute your talent and time, and visit our campus often.

Message from Branka Kristic
Director of Parent and Family Programs

Our new Office of Parent and Family Programs is here for you. We think of you as our partners in supporting students to take increasing responsibility for their journey in academic and personal growth. If you have questions, suggestions or concerns, please let us know. (Contact information on back cover.)

Here is how you can get involved:

› Volunteer as an event greeter: Greet and guide visiting students and their families during Admitted Students Day, Parent Orientation, Family Weekend and other campus events.

› Become a “Parent Voice” writer: Submit “Parent Voice” articles for this newsletter, Family Connection.

› Volunteer to host regional receptions: Families, students and alumni in your area will be able to connect and get to know each other.

› Provide internship opportunities to Hofstra students in your company.

Hofstra Greeks Give Back to the Community

The past year was very successful for our fraternities and sororities. Through philanthropy and community service projects, the Greeks made their presence known to the local community. In the fall, the Homecoming parade was one of the best ever, and during the holidays, the Greek blanket drive collected more than 450 blankets. In the spring semester, Hofstra’s fraternities and sororities helped to collect more than 4,700 pounds of food for those in need!

Throughout the year, these organizations hosted many events, and were able to raise more than $50,000 for various causes and charities. As a community, Hofstra’s fraternities and sororities hope to continue giving back and making a difference.

Hofstra University maintains a strong fraternity/sorority community. As of October 2007, there are 33 active chapters: 14 sororities for women, 17 fraternities for men, and 2 co-educational fraternities. Each organization has different traditions, styles and personalities. Recruitment is open to all full-time undergraduate students who have completed at least 12 credits. Students are encouraged to check the bulletin boards around campus during the first few weeks of each semester for recruitment dates and times. For further information, contact the Office of Student Leadership and Activities at (516) 463-6914.

Community Pride

One of the most exciting (and sometimes scary) aspects of attending college can be the sense of freedom, autonomy and independence that a student experiences. However, to achieve success, it is essential to provide students with guidelines to master this independent decision-making. The Office of Community Standards is one of the many support services that can assist both students and families with these challenges.

Under the direction of the Dean of Students Office, Hofstra’s Office of Community Standards works directly with students to educate them on the rights and responsibilities of living independently within our community. We assist students in developing strategies that will promote healthy decision-making and help them to understand how their behavior and conduct affects other community members.

The Code of Community Standards is outlined in Hofstra’s student handbook, The Guide to Pride. Serving as the foundation of our community standards are Hofstra’s “Pride Principles.” These five principles define the behavioral
standards that all community members are expected to uphold and promote:

- **Personal/Social Responsibility**
- **Respect for all Individuals**
- **Integrity and Ethics**
- **Development of Community Expression and Free Exchange**

As members of Hofstra’s extended community, parents and families play a vital role in helping their students recognize their responsibility to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with our Pride Principles. How can you help us uphold our Pride Principles?

- Keep the lines of communication open with your students. Ask questions to make sure that students understand not only the content of the Pride Principles and codes, but also the rationale behind these important behavioral standards. Ask your students about their opinions on issues like: alcohol or drug use; quiet hours in the residence halls; living/working with others from diverse backgrounds and cultures; plagiarism/cheating; etc. Talk with them about appropriate ways to handle different situations. Share with them your expectations of how they should conduct themselves at Hofstra.

- Encourage honesty, cooperation and taking responsibility for one’s actions in the event that your student has violated a student conduct code. Encourage your students to follow all directions and deadlines that they receive. Sometimes students feel that if they ignore the issue, it will go away. In most situations (and as long as a student has not repeatedly violated behavioral codes), neither their academic nor their social standing with the University will be jeopardized. They will be required to meet with a dean or another administrator to discuss the incident and to identify alternative decision-making strategies for the future.

- Understand that there are stages in your students’ development that can present a greater challenge to them. The behavior typical of your student may change during these periods. It is important to maintain open lines of communication with your student, and to be sensitive to different issues that they may be experiencing, as these stress periods can sometimes negatively affect their behavior.

The Office of Community Standards and the Dean of Students Office is always available to answer any procedural questions that families may have about the Code of Community Standards at Hofstra University. If your student has completed a FERPA waiver, we will be able to speak with you about a specific incident and/or a specific student’s conduct record. You can reach us by calling (516) 463-6913 or by e-mailing deanofstudents@hofstra.edu.

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**Fall 2007 at The Career Center**

This year, The Career Center has planned a new Career Series to assist students in all aspects of their career planning, from career/major exploration to finding internships and full-time jobs.

**Career Center Special Events for Fall 2007:**

- **Communications Internship Fair:** Friday, November 16, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- **Not-for-Profit/Human Services Job and Internship Fair:** Wednesday, December 5, 4-7 p.m.
- **PrideRecruiting On-Campus Interview Program (for December 2007, May and August 2008 graduates, and junior/graduate business accounting students):** Mandatory orientation sessions, available throughout September and October. Visit our Web site, www.hofstra.edu/career, for specific dates and times.
- **Introduction to Internships Workshops:** This workshop provides information about the benefits of an internship, the most suitable time to take part in an internship, conducting a successful search, applying for an internship and gaining the most from the experience.

The Career Center is located behind C.V. Starr Hall. Please contact us with any questions at (516) 463-6060 or e-mail plapride@hofstra.edu. The calendar of events is listed at www.hofstra.edu/career.
Should your student complete the FERPA waiver?

There is no substitute for keeping communication channels open with your student. We would hope that your student is the first source of information for your family. On the other hand, University administrators can talk with you about specifics of your student's financial and academic record only if the waiver is on file.

How can your student complete the FERPA waiver?

Your student can access the FERPA Authorization Form by logging onto the Hofstra portal, clicking on the Hofstra Online tab, clicking on the Student Record link and then choosing the link to the “Academic Records-FERPA Authorization Form.”

By completing this form, your student is allowing University personnel to share otherwise confidential student records with the specific individuals indicated on the form.
New Student Initiative Campaign - “Focus on Students”

In March 2007, Vice President for Student Affairs Sandra Johnson announced a series of initiatives designed to assist students with their college experience, complementing and supporting students’ experience in their academic pursuits.

“The Hofstra experience prepares students for success after college,” said Vice President Johnson. “These initiatives are designed to give our students comprehensive, nurturing support and enable them to take full advantage of everything Hofstra has to offer, while creating administrative support teams and relationships that recognize each student’s individual needs and potential.” The comprehensive reorganization initiatives announced by Vice President Johnson are the first steps of the “Focus on Students” campaign. As a multi-year effort to create a culture of excellent student service and support, “Focus on Students” will improve communication, processes and service across all departments, through defining the goals of administrative areas, administrative process refinement and a comprehensive training and communication program with University employees and the entire community. “There is no better place for our University-wide focus on student service and success to begin than with the Division of Student Affairs,” said Hofstra University President Stuart Rabinowitz.

Salman Rushdie

Salman Rushdie spoke at Hofstra University on Wednesday, March 21, 2007, in the Monroe Lecture Center Theater. The lecture was sponsored by The Donald J. Sutherland University Lecture in the Liberal Arts in conjunction with Hofstra University Office of the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Hofstra University School of Communication and the Professional Organization in Speech Education (POISE).

Rushdie has received many awards for his writing, including the Whitbread Prize for Best Novel (twice) and the European Union’s Aristeion Prize for Literature. He is also a fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and holds the rank of Commandeur des Arts et des Lettres - France’s highest artistic honor.

Although he achieved success with many of his novels, it was the controversial The Satanic Verses (1988) that made him a household name.

John Ashcroft

Hofstra University and Hofstra University’s College Republicans hosted former United States Attorney General John Ashcroft on March 20, 2007, at the John Cranford Adams Playhouse. Mr. Ashcroft’s address, “Leadership in Challenging Times,” focused on the leadership and conviction required to make tough decisions and implement historic policy. During his time in President Bush’s administration, Mr. Ashcroft has been credited with overseeing a historic era of safety and security for our country in the wake of the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

Parent Orientation - Summer 2007

Last summer, the Office of Parent and Family Programs organized eight Parent Orientation sessions, concurrent with the first day of the summer New Student Orientation. Parents and family members learned about campus resources, curriculum and advising, wellness and safety, and college transition issues, among other topics.
Hofstra welcomed more than 2,400 first-year and transfer students and family members on Thursday, August 30, 2007. Under the parent tent, Parent and Family Programs staff met with more than 920 families who exuded both excitement and enthusiasm as their students began their transition to college life.

Thank you to all who attended our first “President’s Welcome,” when Hofstra University President Stuart Rabinowitz addressed students and families. John Cranford Adams Playhouse could not accommodate all family members; therefore we staged a simulcast in the tent just outside the Playhouse. Hofstra’s faculty, administration and staff enjoyed meeting with you and your families over refreshments during the Welcome Reception when many of you were preparing to say goodbye to your students.

As parents of two students at Hofstra University (a senior and now a transfer sophomore), my husband and I can certainly testify to the many great experiences, as well as trials and tribulations, of university student parenthood. As a senior in high school, my daughter Alexandra was determined to become an environmental engineer. She was accepted into that program here at Hofstra, but soon discovered her love of education and English literature. She is now on her way to obtaining a degree in secondary education and English. I can’t wait to see what’s in store for my youngest daughter, Elizabeth. She’s registered in the School of Education and Allied Human Services, but has also shown an interest in child psychology and business. Oh boy!

Being an old-fashioned and sometimes overbearing parent, why would I do things differently? Dear parents, we are not all perfect, and I can certainly say that I learned much from these past three years. I went from being an overbearing, controlling parent to now a “behind the scenes” parent. Let me propose that you be there for your sons or daughters, but be there “behind the scenes.” Let them grow at their own pace. Let them make their own choices, but make sure to intervene when you get the feeling that their choices might not align with the values you instilled in them. Try to know as many of their friends as possible and invite them to your home. Get involved in all that this community at Hofstra University has to offer. Let the world know that you are there, even if “behind the scenes.”

As I write this article, it dawned on me that I would not do anything differently. I will stand by my daughters’ decisions and support them in every way possible. I will guide them and gently intervene when...
necessary. I will not swoop down and do everything for them. I will allow all the values instilled in them over these many years to be their guide. Along with all the rest of the family members that have been so influential in molding them into the beautiful ladies that they are, I promise to let them grow and flourish on their own. This has truly been a learning experience for my husband and me, as well as for both my daughters.

One Family’s Impressions of Hofstra So Far
Written by Peter and Linda Joyce, Parents of Jennifer ’11

We didn’t know what to expect when our daughter, Jennifer, starting applying to colleges. All we knew was that it seemed like a daunting task filled with stress, anxiety and the unknown. We tried to do a careful job selecting a college and visited more than 16 campuses. Hofstra’s campus ranked among the more impressive campuses. However, our daughter was far from convinced that Hofstra was the college for her. It actually ranked toward the bottom of Jennifer’s list. She was convinced she wanted to go to a smaller school. Hofstra just seemed too big and impersonal to her. Yet, it kept nagging at her that there was something special about Hofstra.

So, we kept scratching Jennifer’s annoying itch by visiting the campus often. We attended three open houses and with each visit came more reasons for Hofstra to move higher up on Jennifer’s list. In fact, we found each open house, by far, the most well-planned and informative of all the open houses we went to. In addition, we were most impressed that Hofstra’s President, Stuart Rabinowitz, spoke at every open house, which showed us that he cared enough to be available to prospective students on a weekend.

The turning point came when Jennifer came back to Hofstra to take a day of classes and “shadow a student for a day.” She had spent similar days at several other schools, but her experience at Hofstra was unique. From the moment she arrived on campus that day, the Office of Admission worked very hard to make her feel special. Several deans came out to greet her and asked how they could make her feel comfortable. They worked hard to schedule the right classes - and one admission counselor even drove Jennifer to a class across campus when the timing was really tight. Jennifer was stunned by the level of attention she was given - especially compared to that shown to her on other campuses. In addition, she was very impressed and comfortable with the academic level of the classes she observed. Her host for the day (a sophomore) was friendly, very helpful and quite knowledgeable. At the conclusion of that day, all of Jennifer’s concerns had disappeared, and Hofstra had risen to the top of her list. She came home excited, knowing that Hofstra was the right place for her.

Now that her decision has been made, Hofstra continues to impress both Jennifer and us, with the information packets we have received in the mail and the time we spent at the Hofstra Orientation in June. We were pleasantly surprised to have even been invited to a Parent Orientation. Certainly, the schools never “oriented” our parents when we went to college! The Hofstra staff did a great job at Parent Orientation - the staff was completely open and addressed every parent question or concern. Campus safety was a big issue to us, and every concern was thoroughly covered. It was clear that Hofstra really cares about involving and informing parents of entering students, which is extremely important to us. We could not be happier with Jennifer’s decision to attend Hofstra.

Campus Memories
Written by Laurie Rozakis, B.A. ’73, M.A. ’75, Parent of Samantha ’07

My husband Bob and I attended Hofstra in the early 1970s, and were very active on campus, enjoying every minute of our college experience. As a result, we were delighted when our daughter, Samantha, decided to attend our alma mater. Since Sam is very active on campus as well, we often come to hear her sing at athletic events, to enjoy the Dutch Festival and to see plays. As we walk across campus, the conversation invariably goes like this:

Bob: “See that building? It used to be a parking lot. I often parked there.”

Sammi: “Yes, Dad, I know. You say that every time we walk here.”

Laurie: “See that building? It used to be the gym. I took an English final there. It was really chilly inside.”

Sammi: “Yes, Mom, I know. You say that every time we walk here.”

Bob and Laurie: “All these trees! All these flowers! The campus is so gorgeous. It was never this beautiful when we were here.”

Sammi: “AAAAAAAArrrrgg!”

[Laurie, Bob and Sammi Rozakis are featured on the cover of the Parent and Family Handbook 07-08].

Hofstra students on the Central Park Walking Tour, one of many Welcome Week trips.
Welcome Week 2007: Some of Hofstra’s friendly RA’s: Dina, Jennifer and Lauren

Parent Survey Prize Winners

Last July, parents/guardians of current students were asked to fill out the Parent Survey online and enter the survey sweepstakes. The Office of Parent and Family Programs values input that will help us create better programs and services for families. We are very grateful for your numerous responses. Here are the names of lucky winners of the Parent Survey Sweepstakes:

First Prize ($400 airline voucher): Laurette Klein, New City, NY; Second Prize (two nights at the Garden City Hotel during Family Weekend 2007): Joanne Dearie, Attleboro, MA; Two Third Prizes ($100 Barnes & Noble gift certificates): Deborah Radcliffe, White River Junction, VT and Thea Rhiannon, Bend, OR.

We will invite you to complete this annual survey again next spring. Please look for the announcement on our parent and family Web site, www.hofstra.edu/parfam.