

DEBATE '08: A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

By Bridget Tobin, M.S., '10

On October 15, 2008, an event took place at Hofstra that may have forever changed the way the world looks at our University. It also changed how I and, I believe, many of my fellow students, think about being (or not being) involved in our democratic political process. The third presidential debate between Republican candidate John McCain and Democratic candidate Barack Obama was held on campus.

Many, many months of planning, hours of hard work, and for some, a few sleepless nights, contributed to the success of this event. And what a success it was: the debate took place without a hitch. The campus was buzzing with energy and excitement for weeks before the debate as everyone — students, staff, administrators, and faculty — put their Hofstra Pride before all else and pitched in however they could. During this time, being a member of the Hofstra family set us apart from others. Our school, our home, our education was in the public eye, and under this scrutiny, the University thrived. Students everywhere — all years, all backgrounds, all interests, and all walks of life — wanted to be involved and participate

in every way that was offered to them. There were protests, demonstrations and noted speakers. The campus was alive with politics and Hofstra students were at the forefront of all initiatives.

I still cannot believe my luck — at the last minute, almost second, I received a ticket to attend the actual debate! The experience was surreal, sitting on the last Secret Service-vetted bus, pulling up in front of our resplendent David S. Mack Sports and Exhibition Complex, surrounded with hundreds of TV, radio and print media reporters and their lights. As we walked down that red carpet into the building, it finally hit me: this was something that I would remember forever and that I would probably never have the chance to experience again.

I rubbed shoulders with politicians, pundits, actors and news anchors. Being that this was the third and final debate, presidential candidates presented their best information and most spirited arguments. Everyone in the debate hall, as well as at four packed simulcasts around campus (I heard), was engrossed in what was being said. It was at

Spring 2009

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Some of the Debate '08 student volunteers on October 15, 2008. Bridget Tobin is third from the right, second row.

this time that I realized American government and politics and presidential debates is about more than conservatives and liberals or Democrats and Republicans; it is about our great nation and how we can make it better. We watched and listened to candidates and made up our own minds. No other country in the world gives people better opportunities to truly participate in democracy.

Not only was it an honor that Hofstra was given the chance to host this event; it was also so special that it was this particular debate and during this particular time in history. A change was about to occur, just as the debate has forever changed our campus.

INVEST IN YOUR STUDENT'S FUTURE

Although the primary responsibility of meeting college costs rests with the student and family, our financial aid professionals seek to maximize financial aid opportunities by providing guidance and information about scholarships, grants, loan programs, student employment, and payment options. As the economic situation has declined in the United States, the University remains mindful of the needs of its current and future students. Jessica Eads, vice president for enrollment management and dean of admission and financial aid, reassures that "Hofstra is committed to offering the best financial aid packages that we can, maximizing the monies that are available each academic year. The Office for Development and Alumni Affairs continues to raise funds to grow our scholarship pool. In the 2008-2009 academic year, the university offered a new Economic Assistance Grant to first-year students and a new institutional loan program, the Hofstra HELP loan, for families having difficulties obtaining loans."

In addition, the Office of Enrollment Management is reaching out to current students by offering a workshop each semester titled "Paying for College in Slowing Economy." The workshops allow students to hear from professionals from different departments discussing financial aid, payment options and the current economic landscape. These workshops enable students to take advantage of the most up-to-date information. To learn more, visit hofstra.edu/financialaid.

The Office of Student Financial Services is committed to high quality customer service and providing new and creative outreach initiatives to assist families through these challenging financial times. We encourage you to file the new year 2009-2010 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon after January 1, 2009 as possible, but no later than March 15, 2009, to ensure adequate processing time for the fall semester. You may file the FAFSA at FAFSA.ed.gov with Hofstra's school code, 002732. The Federal Student Aid Information Center provides assistance with completing the FAFSA and federal aid questions at **1-800-4-FED-AID**.

Please feel free to contact the Office of Student Financial Services via e-mail at financialaid@hofstra.edu or by phone at **(516) 463-8000** if you need further guidance in financing your student's education. You may also visit the Office of Student Financial Services on the Web at hofstra.edu/financialaid.



Jessica Eads
Vice President for Enrollment Management

HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY HONORS COLLEGE SPONSORS NEW PRE-COLLEGIATE SUMMER SCHOLARS PROGRAM IN JULY 2009

Hofstra University's Honors College is sponsoring a four-week summer program for high school students this July. We are looking for motivated high school juniors and seniors who want to experience college life, earn college credits and enhance their preparation in the college search process.

Summer scholars earn three transferrable college credits in classes offered by Hofstra faculty. Students live in Liberty/Republic Hall (our honors residence hall) with a residential life professional and a staff of undergraduate program assistants. There is a host of extra- and co-curricular activities that complement and enrich the academic experience and take advantage of Hofstra's proximity to New York City and Long Island's outdoor opportunities. Finally, to help with the college search process, summer scholars attend a series of seminars and workshops led by professionals in admissions, financial aid and career development.

Honors College summer scholars is the *only* program on Long Island offering high school students the complete college experience, including on-campus accommodations and a special program designed to help prepare students for their own college searches.

For more information and application materials, call **(516) 463-4842**.



“FREDERICK DOUGLASS CIRCLE” STANDS DISTINCT

Hofstra University, in conjunction with the Hofstra University Museum, dedicated a new sculpture titled “Frederick Douglass Circle” on October 29, 2008, at the Monroe Lecture Center Courtyard, South Campus. The sculpture, designed by artist Vinnie Bagwell (fourth from right), was chosen from five other finalists by President Rabinowitz (second from right), based on a recommendation from Hofstra University Museum Director Beth Levinthal (third from right), Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Herman A. Berliner (first from right), and students.



THANKSGIVING IN VP JOHNSON'S HOME

Fourteen Hofstra students, who were staying on campus during the fall 2008 Thanksgiving break, accepted an invitation from Vice President for Student Affairs Sandra Johnson to have Thanksgiving dinner with her family. Many were international students, having our traditional turkey dinner for the first time!



FAMILY WEEKEND 2008

Thank you to the more than 1,000 family members and students who came to Hofstra's annual Family Weekend on October 24 and 25, 2008. It was a pleasure and privilege to spend the weekend with so many of Hofstra's parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, etc. Parents and families are a true asset to our community. We hope to see you again this year on Friday and Saturday, October 23 and 24, 2009!



MY DAUGHTER'S DEBATE '08 EXPERIENCE

Written by Donna M. Lipari, Parent of Jill, Class of 2010

When Jill called to tell us she had been selected to work on the third presidential debate, I was overjoyed. I was hoping she would be able to get involved in this once in a lifetime experience, especially since she is a communications major. It seemed as though she would have no chance of getting involved due to her commitment to the women's soccer team. Her extra time is taken up almost exclusively with practices, games and traveling. In fact, when she called to give us the news, she was in Virginia, where she had traveled with the team for a game. As much as I was happy with her commitment to play for the Pride, it was now Jill's junior year and I was hoping she would want to start concentrating on her next phase of life — her career. It was with this in mind that I had hoped she'd be able to add the experience of working for a presidential debate to her resume.

We knew little about what she was going to be doing, but my husband and I were very intrigued when she said she had to get security clearance to participate. She was finally able to tell us that she was to be responsible for transporting Barack Obama's staff and guests to-and-from the Marriott

Hotel and Hofstra's campus. I was a little stunned and a bit nervous to think that my daughter would be driving these VIPs. Jill, however, seemed quite comfortable with the whole idea!

It is worth noting that I am a big fan of politics, and quite frankly, I was not in the Obama camp for this election. Nevertheless, I could not be more excited or proud of the experience my daughter was about to enjoy. As the day of the debate neared, Jill was kind enough to keep me abreast of the many interesting riders she had the opportunity to meet. Through the number one means of communication available to us, I received texts of her historic meetings with senators and their families, celebrities, and Obama's staff members. Later that evening she called to inform her father and I that she was one of four volunteers chosen to meet Senator Obama the next morning at LaGuardia Airport.

At this moment, I really had to pause and reflect on the enormity of this opportunity. First, I was so appreciative of Hofstra University, more specifically, President Rabinowitz and the generous supporters of



Student Jill Lipari with President Barack Obama

the University that made this opportunity possible. But it went much deeper than just my own daughter's experience. As a parent, I am so proud to have my daughter associated with Hofstra University. As a member of the Hofstra Parent Council, I am equally proud to have had this historic event take place at Hofstra for all our students, faculty, staff and friends of the University. I have watched this University soar in the three years my daughter has attended. Hofstra University is making its mark and we should all be proud of its achievements. An event of this magnitude is hard to ignore. The eyes of the world were on Hofstra. Our University rose to the occasion, and the hard work of all who worked and participated in this event was a testament to the quality of this institution.

Jill ended up meeting Senator Obama, now President Obama, at the airport early the next morning. She was moved by his kindness and warmth as he took time to speak to each of the volunteers. Of course, we have pictures of the moment and yes, even as a McCain supporter, the photo of Jill and our 44th president is proudly on display in our home.



PARENT VOICE

REGIONAL SENDOFF:

“OH, THE MORE WE GET TOGETHER, THE HAPPIER WE’LL BE!”

Written by Christine Wulf, Parent of Justin, Class of 2011

This refrain from the classic children’s song certainly rang true this past summer at Hofstra’s first regional send-off reception for incoming first-year and transfer students.

As a member of the Hofstra Parent Council and parent of a Hofstra sophomore, I was pleased to host this event along with my husband. It allowed us to share our enthusiasm for the University, but, more importantly, it provided a forum for Boston area families to learn more about Hofstra in a friendly, informal setting. The hope was

that connections would be made, fears would be quelled, and comfort levels raised at this tricky transitional time.

Held on a Tuesday evening in August, the send-off drew about 40 inquisitive students and parents. The atmosphere was abuzz with questions and conversations as Jane LaRocco and Jessica Kowalewski from the Office of Undergraduate Admission and Branka Kristic from the Office of Parent and Family Programs provided information, answers and funny anecdotes.

As the “experienced” student, my son presented his “real-life” perspective. At one point in the evening I noticed he and other students had unconsciously formed a large circle reminiscent of campers conversing around a campfire. Of course, as college students, they’re too old and too cool to do so, but I imagined them breaking into song, “the more we get together ...” By the end of the evening I think everyone was happier as a result of this wonderful get-together!

If you are interested in hosting a regional reception, please e-mail parents@hofstra.edu.



The very talented Richard Houseal, Jr. (on the right) won *Hofstra Idol* 2008 during Family Weekend last fall.

Parent Orientation: Summer 2009

All incoming first-year and transfer parents are invited to Parent Orientation on June 9, 16, 23; July 7, 15, 21, 28; or August 4, 2009. Your students need to register you online at the same time they register for New Student Orientation.

SAVE THE DATE! FAMILY WEEKEND 2009 Friday and Saturday, October 23 and 24, 2009

We cordially invite you to join us for Family Weekend 2009. Family Weekend brings together students and their families in fun events and programs that include faculty presentations, athletic events, campus tours, a resource fair, and a variety show featuring students. There are also opportunities for families to enjoy both New York City and Long Island attractions.

Online registration for Family Weekend 2009 begins in June (with a 15 percent discount during the summer), and making early hotel reservations is strongly recommended. Please visit hofstra.edu/hotels for a list of nearby hotels. For more information about Family Weekend 2009, please visit hofstra.edu/fw, and be sure to book your reservations early.



YOUR STUDENT'S "HOME AWAY FROM HOME"

ROOM SELECTION PROCESS – FALL 2009/SPRING 2010

Advantages to On-Campus Living:

More and more students are discovering the benefits of on-campus living. As a campus resident, our students forge lifelong friendships, get to know students from other states and countries, and gain valuable leadership and team-building experience. Living on campus means our students are close to classes, the library, computer labs, the Mack Student Center, recreational facilities, and the hundreds of activities, sporting events, and educational, social, and cultural programs that take place on campus throughout the academic year.

Even if your home near is Hofstra's campus, living on campus may be the perfect choice for your student and their development as young adults. Students living on campus have an opportunity to live independently while having the support of resident assistants (RAs) who live on their floor, sponsor programs, provide informal counseling, and oversee community life in the residence halls. Students living on campus have the added advantage of developing time management skills and communication/interpersonal skills as they learn to live with fellow residents. Our halls are staffed 24 hours a day by resident security representatives and have full-time live-in professional staff available to respond to student issues and concerns.

Options for On-Campus Living:

There are many options for residence hall living, including traditional corridor style, suite style, and living-learning residence hall communities. All residence halls have Internet access, lounge areas, laundry facilities, cable TV, and our rooms are furnished so each student has their own bed, desk, chair, dresser, and closet/wardrobe. Students living in suites with lounges are permitted to bring in furniture, such as small couches, televisions, etc., to make their living space feel like home. Living-Learning Communities provide students who have a passion in a particular area (Civic Engagement, the Arts, Wellness, etc.) to live with other students who share that same interest. Students work collaboratively to plan programs, workshops, trips and other activities related to their area of interest, and many times incorporate what they are learning in class with their living communities.

ROOM SELECTION PROCESS

Current Resident Students:

It is time for current resident students to secure their space for the fall 2009-spring 2010 academic year. This process is called "Room Selection" and requires each student to meet the terms of eligibility for living in campus housing, as outlined below. **A student must:**

- have paid a \$300 housing deposit by Monday, March 9, 2009, at 7 p.m.;
- have lived on campus for less than eight semesters; and
- have cleared up any outstanding balances on his/her Hofstra University account.

For more details regarding this process please visit the Residential Programs Web site at hofstra.edu/reslife. Each resident student will receive a packet of information detailing this process during the first week of February.

Current Commuting Students:

A special day is being designated in early April for commuting students to participate in a lottery to select rooms following the room selection process for current residential students. **A commuting student must:**

- be a current full-time student during spring 2009 and be registered as a full-time student for fall 2009;
- complete a housing application and pay a \$300 deposit; and
- clear up any outstanding balances on his/her Hofstra University account.

Additional information will be forthcoming on the Residential Programs Web site and the Commuting Student Affairs Web site. For additional information about on-campus living, please contact the Office of Residential Programs at (516) 463-6930 or reslife@hofstra.edu.





HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF PARENT AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

200 PHILLIPS HALL

128 HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY

HEMPSTEAD, NY 11549-1280

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SAVE THE DATES!

Hofstra Siblings Day:

Saturday, February 28, 2009

Hofstra University invites all siblings of current Hofstra students, ages 13-17, to visit the campus for a day of fun events and a sleepover in their older brother's or sister's residence hall room. Siblings will enjoy, among other events, a Nintendo Wii tournament, Hofstra basketball game, movie, and bowling. For more information, please contact the Office of Parent and Family Programs at (516) 463-4698, parents@hofstra.edu or visit hofstra.edu/parfam (click on "Family Events").

Upper-Class Students Family Day:

Saturday, April 25, 2009

Haven't been to Hofstra since Family Weekend during your student's first year? Want to see Hofstra's beautiful arboretum in the spring's splendor? Wish to learn about The Career Center services and what your students can do to optimize their job searches?

To show our appreciation for your continued support of Hofstra's community and to allow you to network and get to know other Hofstra families, the Office of Parent and Family Programs is cordially inviting you, your students and your family members to attend our Upper-Class Students Family Day on Saturday, April 25, 2009. This is a great opportunity to visit your son or daughter and renew your connection to the Hofstra campus. More information is available at hofstra.edu/parfam (click on "Family Events").

SPRING 2009 CALENDAR

Wednesday, January 28: All Classes Begin

Monday, February 16: President's Day – No Classes

Saturday, February 28: Hofstra Siblings Day

Monday-Sunday, April 6-12: Spring Recess – No Classes

Saturday, April 25: Upper-Class Students Family Day

Thursday-Friday, May 7-8: Snow/Study/Reading Days

Saturday-Friday, May 9-15: Final Exams for All Classes

Friday, May 15: Semester Ends

Sunday, May 17: Commencement

OFFICE OF PARENT AND FAMILY PROGRAMS

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