



Spring 2006

President's Corner



*Richard P. Alvarez
The City University
of New York*

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Greetings! I hope your admission year is going well. At this point, many of us have completed the arduous task of selecting this year's entering class, while others are still working hard to complete the admission cycle. To my secondary school colleagues, I hope all of your students have finalized their plans and are now enjoying the rest of the senior year.

This has been a busy and productive year for me and for NYSACAC. In February, we had a record number of members attend the NYS Legislative Conference in Albany. This two-day conference provided an opportunity for participants to meet and share concerns about the Governor's budget submission, hear from Albany insiders, and visit the offices of our elected State officials to personally deliver the message that funding for K-16 education needs to remain a priority.

A NYSACAC Delegation participated in NACAC's Legislative Conference in Washington, DC at the end of February. Similar to the NYS Conference, we met with our colleagues from across the country, participated in several workshops and presentations to learn about the issues associated with the federal budget, and visited our elected officials and their legislative aides to advocate on behalf of students and our profession. This year, we

were able to have photos taken with two prominent New York politicians: Senator Charles Schumer and Congressman Charles Rangel of Harlem.

During March, we sponsored nine Professional Development Forums throughout the state. All were well attended and the feedback has been very positive. Many thanks to Ralph Donnell and Ann Marie Moscovic, Co-Chairs of the Professional Development Committee, for the planning and execution of these forums. Our host colleges, once again, made a commitment to the forums and did an amazing job of welcoming us to their campuses. Many thanks to Fordham University, Manhattanville College, Molloy College, Roberts Wesleyan College, St. John's University, SUNY Institute of Technology, SUNY Oneonta, Syracuse University, and University at Buffalo.

Our 28th Annual Conference is just weeks away. Joseph Tweed and the Conference Steering Committee are ready for our arrival at Nazareth College in Rochester, NY. As always, the Conference will provide a full schedule of workshops, fundraising activities, and social events.

NYSACAC membership continues to grow, with our membership count at approximately 1300. We must continue to reach out to our counterparts at high schools, community-based organizations (CBOs) and community colleges. It is important for all of us, as we appreciate the benefits of membership in NYSACAC, to encourage membership among our colleagues. The ability to affiliate with a network of professionals who share a common set of goals is one of the greatest benefits of NYSACAC membership. Please remember to complete your NYSACAC membership renewal form if you have not yet done so. If you know of a colleague who is not a member, share a copy of the membership form. As was the case last

year, we continue to rely on e-mail and web-based applications to disseminate information to our membership, so I encourage you to visit our website regularly for the most current information on the Association.

The Executive Board and other NYSACAC members continue to engage in fundraising activities. Our non-profit status allows us to provide tax deductions for donations to the Fund for the 21st Century, and programs such as the Silent Auction at the Conference provide new ways for members and friends to support the fund. Please remember to contribute to the Fund for the 21st Century at the Conference at Nazareth.

Congratulations to Lisa Sohmer, NYSACAC Past President, who is a candidate in NACAC's 2006 Board of Directors Election. Lisa is running for one of two three-year terms as Director under NACAC's new board structure.

As I complete my year as President, I am encouraged by the dedication and enthusiasm shared by all of you. Your drive, motivation, and willingness to give of your time to provide access to a post-secondary education to the broadest audience possible—traditional high school students as well as the growing number of adults returning to education—has inspired me. NYSACAC needs your help to continue building the reputation of being the preeminent professional organization for counselors and college admission professionals. Your continued involvement will ensure that we achieve our goals.

See you at Nazareth!

Richard P. Alvarez

Richard P. Alvarez
President, NYSACAC

Annual Conference at Nazareth College

June 6-9, 2006

The 28th Annual NYSACAC Conference is here! As the Conference Steering Committee puts the finishing touches on the event, it is clearly shaping up as one of our fullest and most exciting Conferences ever.

The Annual Conference is the highlight of the NYSACAC professional development calendar, and it is an opportunity for professionals at every stage of their careers. With over 35 workshops and a brand new delegate's workshop, every attendee should find a variety of appropriate and interesting sessions. In the evenings, the social events offer a range of activities and settings, and their proximity will allow attendees to participate in more than one each night.

Every effort is being made to assure that the Conference is an event that is interesting, productive, and fun. Details are available in the Conference registration booklet and at www.nysacac.org. Highlights include:

- *Washington Post* columnist and author Jay Mathews will be the keynote speaker.
- The Conference Social will be a first-of-its-kind costume theme party.
- All of the fundraising events will benefit NYSACAC's *Fund for the 21st Century*. The *Fund for the 21st Century* supports NYSACAC's programs, such as Camp College, as well as grants and scholarships.
- The Coming Together Conference (June 6-7) will have 4 workshop sessions and 3 plenary sessions.

Please call Nazareth College's Conference hotline at 1.800.462.3944 with any questions you may have about Conference registration, events, or special needs.

Nazareth College and the Conference Steering Committee look forward to welcoming you to the Conference. See you there!

Another Year of Successful Regional Forums

This year's Regional Forum series was a huge success. Forums were held at nine locations across the state, covering Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Utica, Oneonta, Westchester County, New

York City (two locations), and Long Island. More than 500 people attended the forums and participated in lively discussions involving the role of parents and families in the college admissions process. Topics included issues important to all involved in college admissions, including college nights and other college preparation programming, effective communication to families, working with first-generation college-bound students, and keeping the focus on the student.

Special thanks go to all of the colleges and site coordinators who made this year's forum series possible:

Jose Flores
Manhattanville College

Kirk Kettinger
Roberts Wesleyan College

Marguerite Lane
Molloy College

Rebecca Lynch
SUNY Oneonta

Tim Matthews
University at Buffalo

Patty Peek
Fordham University

Jennifer Phelan-Ninh
SUNY Institute of Technology

Jennifer Pye
St. John's University

Charlotte Tefft
Syracuse University

If you are interested in hosting a forum on your campus in 2007, please contact Ralph Donnell at rdonnell@ccsd.edu or Ann Marie Moscovic at moscovia@canisius.edu.

Important Dates

9th Annual Coming Together Conference
Nazareth College
June 6-7, 2006

28th Annual NYSACAC Conference
Nazareth College
June 7-9, 2006

NYSACAC Summer Institute
Skidmore College
August 1-4, 2006

62nd Annual NACAC Conference
Pittsburgh, PA
October 5-7, 2006

Election and By-Laws Update

by Lisa Sohmer, Garden School

For the NYSACAC Past President, spring means ballots and by-laws, and it has been a busy and exciting few months.

The fifteen members of the 2006 Nominating Committee were charged with developing a slate of candidates to present to the membership. After a careful review of the nominees for office, the Committee presented a slate of candidates with a tradition of service to NYSACAC and who promise to bring enthusiasm and commitment to the Executive Board. Our members' support of the slate can be seen in what appears to be a record number of ballots being submitted. As always, the new members of the Executive Board will be announced at the Annual Conference.

Many thanks to Michael Acquilano, Carl "Sandy" Behrend, Theresa Cowdrey, Scott Hooker, Howard Kligerman, Lonnie Morrison, Marlene Muscarnera, Janet Pacifico, Patricia Peek, and Cesar Sanchez, who will continue on the committee, and special thanks to Jan Goldstein, Jane Mathias, Rob Pertusati, Mike Roche, and John Young, who will leave the committee this year after three years of service.

The annual by-laws review process is complete and NYSACAC members who attend the General Membership Meeting at the Annual Conference this June will have the opportunity to vote on a series of proposed changes. As you know, the By-Laws of the Association help to define NYSACAC and the way we operate, and they are a critical document. By-Laws changes are proposed to assist the Association in the future; they are designed to keep us current and to maximize our effectiveness. Information on the proposed changes is available at www.nysacac.org for your review. Many thanks to Michelle Colamartino, Scott Hooker, and Mike Konopski for their work on the 2006 By-Laws Review Committee.

On a personal note, I will leave the Executive Board in June after five years, and I want to thank all of you for helping to make my time on the Board such a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

Legislative Forum 2006

Many members of NYSACAC attended this year's State Legislative Forum in Albany on February 5-6, 2006.

The Counseling, Admission, and Financial Aid Legislative Consortium brings together 10 organizations, representing thousands of elementary, secondary, and higher education counselors, academic and financial aid professionals, and admissions professionals in New York State. Consortium partners represent K-12 and both independent, not-for-profit colleges and universities, and state supported campuses; one of which is NYSACAC.

This year, the lobbying efforts focused on four main priorities:

- Support a State Budget that will guarantee full funding for student aid programs, ensuring and expanding access to higher education for the neediest students.
- Maintain appropriate funding levels for K-12 and higher education.
- Continue to support legislative policies and initiatives that advance the goals of affirmative action and diversity, and expand educational opportunity.
- Guarantee certified school counselors in every elementary, middle, and secondary public school to maintain programs that ensure the mental and physical well-being of students; appropriate responses to crises in our schools; and K-12 guidance curriculum leading to access to higher education.



Members of the New York delegation to the NACAC Legislative Forum stopped to talk with U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer in Washington, D.C., earlier this month. Pictured from left to right are Matt Gill (Liberty Partnership, Pace University), Richard Alvarez (CUNY), Lisa Sohmer (Garden School), Joe Tweed (Trinity-Pawling School), Senator Schumer, Lynda Mandlawitz (Scarsdale High School) and Mitchell Thompson (Scarsdale High School).

Newsmakers in NYSACAC

Melissa Burgio was hired as an Admissions Counselor at Niagara University this past fall.

Sheila Coney (St. John Fisher College) will be leaving higher education, as she has accepted an HR position with the VA Medical Center in Syracuse. In May, Sheila received her Master of Science in Human Resource Development from Fisher.

Chris Coons has returned to his alma mater of West Virginia Wesleyan College as the Director of Admission.

Harry Gong, formerly Director of Admissions at Hilbert College, is the new Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Niagara University.

Dana and Mitchell Lipton (The Cooper Union) had a new baby, Max Henry Lipton, on January 19, 2006, in Cortlandt Manor, NY. He joins his big brother, Noah Jack.

Joe Latimer, formerly of Hobart and William Smith Colleges, has been appointed the Regional Director of Admissions for New York City at the University of Rochester.

Janielle Lugo-Martin was promoted from counselor to an Assistant Director of Admissions at Nazareth College.

Michael McGwin, formerly Associate Director of Admissions, is now the Director of Enrollment Research and Communications at Nazareth College.

John Mordaci, formerly Associate Director of Admissions, is now the Director of Undergraduate Admissions at Nazareth College.

Haliann Mara Schwalb was born last November 23, 2005, to Jon and Meryl Schwalb (SUNY Albany).

Barry Ward, formerly of Manhattanville College, is now the Dean of Enrollment Management at Florida Southern College.

To receive your NYSACAC newsletter via e-mail *only*, please contact Stacy Ledermann at sleidermann@sjfc.edu with your request. Thanks for your interest!



Stacy Ledermann, Chair
St. John Fisher College
3690 East Avenue
Rochester, NY 14618