Awards, Construction Updates and Middle States Progress Highlight President Keen's Address at the Campus Spring Convocation

President Keen praised departments, faculty, and staff for individual achievements and awards, revealed the theme and logo for next year’s 100th Anniversary Celebration, and updated the campus on a variety of important issues, including the state budget and Chancellor’s remarks, during an hour-long address at the annual Spring Convocation held last month. The event was attended by senior administrations, deans, chairs, professors, students and staff.

Dr. Keen also reported on academic programs, fund-raising activities, athletics success, on-going and planned construction, and acknowledged the 52 classified staff and faculty/professional staff who have recently retired.

“We are advancing in so many important ways,” he said. “This is a tribute to the hard work you all do.”

Among Dr. Keen’s chief messages was the progress being made in the Middle States Accreditation process, which is being led by Dean Eleanor Fapohunda and Professor Marjaneh Issapour. He also provided an update on the “Students First” effort, following the publication of the committee’s report last June. Plans call for the implementation of specific recommendations and discussion on the feasibility of adopting additional recommendations.

One of the highlights of the event was the announcement of the theme for the upcoming centennial. The slogan “Cultivating Innovation” was approved by the 100th Anniversary Committee, which is being chaired by Senior Vice President and CFO George LaRosa. An official rollout of the theme and logo is expected to begin next month, and the celebration will take place during the 2011-12 academic year.

Dr. Keen revealed that the College is experiencing increasing revenue from sponsorship programs and research, with a total of $8.6 million in such revenue for a four year period—placing Farmingdale No. 1 among the SUNY colleges of technology and second only to Stony Brook in the Long Island region.

“I’ve always said that we can greatly enrich the campus by generating funding from other sources,” he said. “Sponsored programs can play an important role in this area, and we are making great progress in this way.”

Among the largest grants received by the College to be spread out over several years is a $4.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy for which Farmingdale will partner with LIPA in a SmartGrid project, as well as a total of $3.1 million in awards from the U.S. Department of Education to enhance student services.

In addition, Dr. Keen announced that Farmingdale is expanding its Study Abroad opportunities to Florence this summer. Dr. Beverly Kahn is spearheading the effort, in which seven Farmingdale faculty members will offer courses.

The complete powerpoint is available on the President’s Page on the College website.
Director of “Farmingdale First” Program Named

Elizabeth Sierra-Zarella, PhD has been named Director of the “Farmingdale First” Program, which has been established with a federal grant to assist in the transition of first generation college students to graduate or professional school.

She will supervise the activities of the program and execute the requirements of the $1.1 million grant which was awarded by the U.S. Department of Education and spearheaded by Beverly Kahn, PhD.

Sierra-Navella was most recently a philosophy instructor at the University of Texas-Brownsville/Texas Southmost College, where she also was the Student Support Program Coordinator, creating and managing the student support services component of a $2.8 million Department of Education grant. She also established collaborations with high schools as well as comprehensive counseling services for high school and college students.

She has been an instructor at Binghamton University and Syracuse University. She obtained her PhD in Philosophy from Binghamton and her MS in School Counseling from Syracuse.

Sierra-Navella will be joined by Farmingdale alumna Ms. Sona Brahmibhatt, as technology support specialist, and Rosemarie Lee Chan, as academic counselor, for the “Farmingdale First” Program.

Dental Hygiene Department Awarded Long Island Business News 2010 Healthcare Hero

**Dental Hero Awarded for Smile Programs**

The dental hygiene department is a recipient of the Long Island Business News’ 2010 Health Care Heroes Awards.

“Farmingdale’s department is a prime example of how students and faculty can teach as well as learn” the publication said. “In addition to its Head Start program, the department, in partnership with Stony Book University and the Suffolk County Dental Society, welcomes about 200 children on ‘Give Kids a Smile’.”

Farmingdale State’s 50 dental students were also praised for their Head Start program that won an “Embracing the Vision” Silver Star Award this year from the Nassau County Equal Opportunity Commission, as well as for other outreach programs.

More than 930 kits including dental supplies and encouraging letters were sent to troops in Afghanistan through the “Give a Soldier a Smile” program. The students decided to take action after hearing that professor Adele Spencer’s son-in-law, who had recently returned from Iraq, thought young marines in Afghanistan would appreciate support from home.

During “Give Kids a Smile,” the students examined more than 200 children and educated them on foods that prevent tooth decay and oral disease.

“We are pleased to have won this award from the Long Island Business News,” says Laura Joseph, chair of the dental hygiene department. “Our students and faculty dedicate much time and effort to make great strides in creating awareness of good oral hygiene as well as dental care.”

Dental Hygiene Department Awarded Long Island Business News 2010 Healthcare Hero

**Dental Hero Awarded for Smile Programs**

The dental hygiene department is a recipient of the Long Island Business News’ 2010 Health Care Heroes Awards.

“Farmingdale’s department is a prime example of how students and faculty can teach as well as learn” the publication said. “In addition to its Head Start program, the department, in partnership with Stony Book University and the Suffolk County Dental Society, welcomes about 200 children on ‘Give Kids a Smile’.”

Farmingdale State’s 50 dental students were also praised for their Head Start program that won an “Embracing the Vision” Silver Star Award this year from the Nassau County Equal Opportunity Commission, as well as for other outreach programs.

More than 930 kits including dental supplies and encouraging letters were sent to troops in Afghanistan through the “Give a Soldier a Smile” program. The students decided to take action after hearing that professor Adele Spencer’s son-in-law, who had recently returned from Iraq, thought young marines in Afghanistan would appreciate support from home.

During “Give Kids a Smile,” the students examined more than 200 children and educated them on foods that prevent tooth decay and oral disease.

“We are pleased to have won this award from the Long Island Business News,” says Laura Joseph, chair of the dental hygiene department. “Our students and faculty dedicate much time and effort to make great strides in creating awareness of good oral hygiene as well as dental care.”
Dr. Kenneth A. Card Jr. and David M. Curry Appointed to College Council

Dr. Kenneth A. Card, Jr., an assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction in the Huntington School District, and David M. Curry, associate at Farrell Fritz, P.C., have been appointed by the Governor to serve on the College Council.

Card earned his PhD in educational administration, leadership and technology from Dowling College. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree Summa Cum Laude in 1997 and a Master of Arts degree in 2000, both in history, from Stony Brook University. He obtained a Professional Diploma in school administration at Dowling in 2002.

Curry received his Juris Doctor degree from St. John’s University School of Law in 2003, where he served as a member of the Journal of Legal Commentary. He earned his MA in Teaching in 1997 from Towson University and his BA in Philosophy, Politics and the Law in 1995 from Binghamton University.

Farmingdale Goes to Florence

The College’s ever-expanding Study Abroad program will offer three-week courses in Italy this summer in cooperation with Florence University of Arts. The program represents yet another step in Farmingdale’s global reach, following similar programs in Europe and its hosting of 19 students from China during the 2008-09 academic year—which resulted in an academic visit by President Keen to meet with top education officials in Beijing and Chengdu. In Florence, qualified students will be able to take courses in Political Science, Physics, Visual Communications, Film and Literature, Sociology, and Horticulture. A second course can be selected from a wide range of programs offered by FUA, and students also will have the option of extending their stay to travel through Sicily and Tuscany.

Kemoy Allen, President of the Farmingdale Student Government and a student in the Professional Pilot program, is one of the students featured in a SUNY video titled “The Power of SUNY.” The video is a streaming series of brief clips of a student from each campus tossing a blue beach ball with the letters SUNY boldly printed in white.

Farmingdale’s portion of the video was filmed at the Aviation Center in front of one of the planes flown by student pilots in the program. The video can be accessed from the home page of the College web site.

People in the News

- The APICS student chapter, along with the Golden Key International Honor Society, the Modern Language Club, the Ice Hockey Club, the Sociology & Anthropology Club, Epsilon Pi Tau, the Women’s Student Union, and SNA united to feed Long Island’s families in need. They collected a record-breaking total of 635 pounds of food to be donated to Island Harvest.
- George Fernandez placed second (Certificate of Merit) at the 21st Members Open: Paint it Red at the Society of Illustrators. The exhibit ran from December 1 - 30 at the Museum of American Illustration at the Society of Illustrators in New York City. A second piece which was recently added into museum’s permanent collection is being exhibited in the Museums Hall of Fame Gallery. For information on the Society of Illustrators, visit http://www.societyillustrators.org/
- MET sophomore student Alexandre Pereira has been accepted in the Mini Semester Program at BNL. This prestigious program is nationally recognized and students from all over the U.S. compete to attend this program. This program will prepare students such Mr. Pereira to join any summer research programs conducted at BNL in collaboration with the IRTT.
- Professional Communications student Mark Sheiman had a front page article published in the Farmingdale Observer and student Tania Lasenburg’s photos accompanied the article. In January, PC student Justin Carrano also had a front page article published in the Farmingdale Observer.
- Dr. Ann Shapiro and Dr. Carole Kessner guest edited the 2010 issue of the scholarly journal Studies in American Jewish Literature, a special issue in honor of the late Sarah Blacher Cohen, a leading scholar in American Jewish literature. Editors at Purdue University Press are offering the journal in a book edition as well as journal in order to reach the largest possible audience.
Hockey Club Players Receive Prestigious Honors

Seniors Joe Mazzie and Joe Kublbock were named to the American Collegiate Hockey Association Division III Select team that traveled to Europe over the winter recess to play games against European opponents in Austria, Sweden, England, and Germany—one of the most prestigious honors awarded to players from the ACHA, a national collegiate organization of club hockey teams.

Mazzie, a center, and Kublbock, a defenseman, are among the top players for Farmingdale’s highly successful ice hockey club program. The Rams won eight of their first 10 games and recently were ranked No. 2 in the ACHA’s Atlantic Division. Earlier this month, the team played the University of Albany in a game that benefited cancer charities and featured President Keen dropping the puck for a ceremonial opening faceoff.

MET Student Recognized for Research Work

In November, more than 1400 individuals including engineers, scientists, academics, government personnel and other professionals attended the Advanced Energy Conference (AEC) in New York City. Over 60 posters were presented by leading nationally recognized Universities. IRTT/MET Senior student Daniel Santiago, who conducted his research work at IRTT in collaboration with BNL, won the second prize in the poster contest. Daniel’s work was conducted during the summer of 2010 on the Development and Optimization of Direct Methanol Fuel Cell (DMFC) Stack. This development will enable the replacement of Laptop computers and cell phones batteries with more efficient DMFC. Batteries are also plagued with short lifetime and long recharging time unlike DMFC.