News Clips
February 2014
Farmingdale State College

LONG ISLAND

ENGINEERING
a change

LI colleges enrolling women for mostly male engineering programs

said. What Long Island needs are more programs and scholarships targeting young girls that will help boost enrollment in mechanical, electrical and computer engineering degrees, she said.

Officials at engineering schools at Stony Brook University, Hofstra University and Farmingdale State College said they see some progress in their enrollment and graduation numbers, crediting high school science camps and other programs that support young girls.

At Stony Brook, the number of female students in the undergraduate engineering program rose more than 50 percent in the last five years, from 197 in 2007 to 298 in 2013. The university hosts several programs that include a focus on pulling girls into engineering and technology studies, including the Women In Science and Engineering (WISE) after-school program for high school girls, an engineering summer camp co-sponsored by National Grid and TechnoBridge, an after-school technology program targeting girls and teens in grades six through eight.

Hofstra’s engineering school this year has an enrollment of 242 men and 81 women. The university has a club on campus for women engineers and sponsors a Women’s Engineering Luncheon that brings together female professors in engineering with upper-class female engineering students and first-year female engineering students. Hofstra also offers programs for middle and high school girls officials said.

NYIT’s engineering school now has 168 women, or 10.3 percent of the 1,635 enrollment. That’s a 21.4 percent gain over the female enrollment of five years ago, administrators said.

Sobhy, the sophomore at NYIT, and her classmates Sara Anvari, 20, of Hicksville, said they want to make sure the few women in their electrical engineering program don’t drop out. “Sometimes the guys put you down,” Sobhy said. “They don’t think you can handle the work or they second-guess you.”

She said she found it difficult to keep up academically and seriously considered changing majors until supportive faculty and classmates persuaded her to continue.

“We have to stick together,” Anvari said. “It motivates us all to do better.”

Part of the problem is the dearth of female professors in the ranks of engineering school faculty, which leaves girls and young women without adequate role models. Long Island’s educators said.

And because NYIT’s first female engineering school dean in 2009, The school’s engineering faculty has about 50 members, four of whom are women, she said.

Women help one another

Farmingdale State College also has four women in an engineering faculty of 115.

“It’s an uphill climb for us and other institutions to find women faculty,” said president Robert Keen, who pointed to stiff competition for qualified female engineers, because they are so few and private-sector demand for them is high.

In the fall semester, Farmingdale professors and students started a chapter of the Society of Women Engineers to support one another. Organizers were nearly unable to get the 10 numbers required to start the club.

This year, there are more than five times the number of men — 1,365 — than women — 251 — enrolled in the engineering school.

Bahar Zoghi, one of Farmingdale’s engineering professors and the mother of two girls, said her female students excel and graduate at the same rate as their male counterparts. Getting them to enroll in the first place is the challenge, she said, noting that the young women who gravitate toward engineering studies often have strong role models, such as a father or mother, working in the field.

“We need to grab them. And it must start young,” Zoghi said.
Preparing students in global economy

BY CHRISTINE GORDANO
Special to Newsday

Changes are afoot at Farmingdale State College, says newly named dean Richard Vogel. Business management is now the largest program on campus, with 1,200 students, and the school's new building, with a videoconference room and a technology-enhanced classroom, is due to open by next year. Vogel, recently promoted from acting dean, says he will place greater emphasis on international relations and resource sustainability.

"With the globalization of the economy as a whole, our students, our graduates need to have a greater level of exposure to the global economy," he said. He'll be encouraging faculty members to build international connections and building global business studies and sustainability programs within the college.

Vogel, 56, a Fulbright scholar with a PhD in economics, was studying in Florida when Hurricane Andrew devastated South Florida. The title of his dissertation was "Regional Growth, Structural Change, and Natural Disaster." He joined the Farmingdale faculty in 1998.

What challenges do you face when job hunting in the region?

One of the big problems on Long Island is the cost of living. It can be difficult for our graduates when they're moving into entry-level jobs and facing cuts for entry-level rents. Many of our students are working part-time while going to college, and a lot of them do find employment within the local community and move into entry-level positions.

Which grade has the best luck finding work?

Our computer programming students. There's a high demand for students in those areas within Long Island and within the New York metro area as a whole.

How can your students heighten their skills to move into the financial arena?

One way is through our agreement with SUNY Old Westbury, where students can move seamlessly into Old Westbury's master's degree program in accounting and complete all the requirements to be eligible to sit for the CPA exam.

You have a horticulture program?

The college started out as a college of agriculture a hundred years ago... and there still is a strong agricultural community on Long Island. Our program is focusing on sustainability. Students maintain and operate operations at some of the major gardens on Long Island.

You also oversee government internships?

I oversee an internship program with the state Assembly and Senate, which runs during the legislative sessions. I tell students that literally everything they can think of has some relationship with the activity of government.

In studying the economics of the aftermath of superstorms, what are some common truths?

The surprising thing with almost all disasters is that they very rarely lead to a region essentially going into decline. They tend to either accelerate or change the direction of growth.
LI space freed for startups

OSI agrees to end Farmingdale leases

BY JOE RYAN
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OSI Pharmaceuticals Inc. has agreed to terminate its leases at the Broad Hollow Bioscience Park, allowing the Farmingdale complex to resume its original mission as an incubator for startups.

OSI vacated the two-building facility last spring. But its leases extended for several more years, preventing smaller companies from moving into the space on the campus of Farmingdale State College.

Now, after months of negotiations, OSI has agreed to a financial settlement to dissolve the leases early, clearing the way for new tenants, the college announced yesterday. It did not disclose the terms of the deal.

“The agreement serves the interests of both parties and ends the relationship in a positive way,” said Greg Ewiski, the bioscience park’s executive director.

When it opened in 2000, the Bioscience Park was conceived as a launching pad for fledgling companies that spin out of Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and local universities. But the 102,000-square-foot complex wound up being entirely occupied by OSI as part of an effort to keep the company on Long Island.

That left little commercial laboratory space in Nissequogue and Suffolk counties, prompting some of Long Island’s few homegrown biotech startups to look elsewhere, officials said.

Then OSI’s parent company, Astellas Pharma Inc., of Japan, announced in May that it was shuttering its local operations as part of a global consolidation. Its leases, however, did not expire until 2016 and 2022.

Now that those leases have been terminated, officials want to fill the space with companies they hope will be part of a broader high-tech startup movement to reignite Long Island’s economy.

“There has been genuine interest from fledgling biotechnology companies in the space,” said George P. Lakoza, chairman of the facility’s board. “We’re very confident that we will have several new tenants ... in the not-too-distant future.”
State to debut disaster training classes on LI

BY LAURA FIGUEROA
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Long Island will play host to the first in a series of state disaster preparedness workshops aimed at training New Yorkers on emergency response.

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo announced yesterday that the state will launch the Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program on Saturday at Farmingdale State College with the goal of hosting similar workshops throughout the state this year and providing training for up to 100,000 New Yorkers.

"Severe weather events are becoming more frequent and extreme, and to make sure that our communities are safe, we need more New Yorkers than ever to be prepared and trained to respond," Cuomo said in a statement.

The program, which is free and open to the public, will feature training sessions led by the New York National Guard, the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, and the Office of Fire Prevention and Control. Cuomo said local emergency management officials will also be on hand for the training sessions that will include advice on developing a family emergency plan and tips on stocking up on emergency supplies.

"In times of emergency or extreme difficulty caused by a disaster, it is often citizens in their homes or on their residential blocks who are immediately faced with the need to respond," said Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Commissioner Jerome M. Hauer in a statement.

"This training effort will better prepare them for the types of response activities they should engage in to safeguard themselves and their families and possibly their neighbors."

Cuomo's office said space is limited for the program being held Saturday from noon to 2 p.m. at Farmingdale State College's Roosevelt Hall.

Those interested in attending are required to register online at nysprepare.gov/aware-prepare/nysprepare.
Sitting with an anatomy workbook open on his lap in the veterans center at Nassau Community College, Nick Zinani pointed areas of his body and named them — cervical region, axilla, cubital fossa — as a fellow veteran nodded approvingly.

It was a campus collaboration that would have felt unbearable to him only months earlier, said Zinani, 26, a former infantry scout who served in Iraq with the Army's 1st Infantry Division.

"When I first got back to school, I didn't talk to anyone from September until halfway through October," Zinani said.

But veteran organizations like the college's Student Veterans Association are providing a springboard toward campus life for Zinani and other veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan whose age and combat experience often leaves them feeling out of place among students as much as 10 years their junior.

Zinani, who before joining the 3VA last semester spent little time on campus at all, said he has since felt more engaged by college life. Having never felt so isolated he would spend his free time studying in his car, he recently joined the college's Gaelic Society.

"Before this, I would just get to class 15 to 20 minutes early, sit in the front, write everything down and go home and study," said Zinani, an all-arms Long Beach resident whose assortment of tattoos hint at his military service. "Until I met the guys in the group, I had no interest in making friends on campus."

Although veteran study groups have sprung up in most of the country's 2-year colleges, they tend to be less engaged in campus life, according to a study released in December by the American Council on Education.

Some student veterans say they have found campus involvement because they were antagonized by anti-war attitudes evidenced by their non-military student counterparts.

"A lot of times, the first question out of their mouth is, 'Have you ever killed anybody?'" said Mike Capra, a former Marine Corps combat medic who served in Afghanistan and is now one of about 170 veterans among Farmingdale State College's 8,000 students.

Others have said that after enduring military life, in which hardship is routine and success rarely tolerated, it is hard to fit in with classmates who work or parents who refuse to pay cellphone bills. Still others have said lingering combat-related anxieties make them crave the companionship of people who have shared similar experiences and know their pain.

A need for networking

But this self-isolation can harm veterans whose academic careers are typically years behind their civilian counterparts, college officials say. It robs them of collaborative opportunities and social networking that could help their struggle and boost their careers.

And because veterans make up a tiny fraction of students at area campuses — there are about 300 veterans among Nassau Community College's more than 22,000 students — camaraderie veterans associations have provided a useful focus for information, resources and camaraderie that can boost a veteran's chances of success.

"A guy who has been in the military for four or eight years and now has to jump back into college with classmates who are right out of high school — it's hard to fit in," said Eric Farina, director of veterans services at Farmingdale State College.

Farina has seen it himself. A former Army National Guard platoon sergeant, he served in Afghanistan in 2008-2009 with the 69th Infantry Regiment. When he was hired in 2011, the growing number of veterans on Farmingdale's campus had no central source of information on GI Bill financial aid or other veteran-friendly resources.

Feeling welcome

Joseph Malloni, 24, a former National Guard soldier, said he was still so stressed from combat in Iraq when he began tak
ing classes at Farmingdale in
2009 that he quit within a few weeks. But since re-enrolling two years ago and joining Farmingdale’s veterans organization, he felt welcome enough to volunteer as president of the campus tech club.

He attributes his early anxiety to a deployment that exposed him to episodes of extreme danger, including one while he was Skyping with his mother. A mortar shell exploded close enough for her to see his tent suddenly clouded with dust before the screen went blank. It was two days before he could let her know he had survived unharmed.

He returned from combat four days before the fall 2009 semester began, but had not yet shed his wartime anxieties. Being surrounded by crowds of unfamiliar students left him uneasy on campus. Even driving between Farmingdale and his Commack home reminded him of the roadside bombs that had been a constant threat during his time in Iraq.

"It was tense. Not hostile — but just suspicious of everyone," Mulleri said of his first time at Farmingdale. "It wasn’t the place I needed to be at that point.

Determined to get a degree in computer security, he enrolled again three years later. By chance, he met Farnation, who was in the process of setting up Farmingdale’s veterans association.

Now the organization’s office daily draws a steady crowd. On a recent Wednesday, one vet helped another with an assignment. Another handled phone inquiries. A small group swapped stories they said they would never feel comfortable sharing with someone who hadn’t been in the military themselves.

"The ability to come here decidedly allowed me to relax about being on campus," Mulleri said. "Before this, there was no place on campus I could really feel comfortable."
Spotlight on disaster readiness

BY ROBERT BROOKS
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Four feet of water flooded Jean Eno's Lindenhurst home during superstorm Sandy, causing more than $90,000 in damage and the loss of irreplaceable personal items.

If there is another major storm, Eno plans to be ready.

"I want to do everything I can to be prepared for the next one," said Eno, who was among more than 40 Long Islanders yesterday at a state-run disaster preparedness training seminar at Farmingdale State College.

Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo, who kicked off the inaugural Citizen Preparedness Corps Training Program said its aim is to help residents become "first responders" in their homes, protecting family, friends and neighbors.

"We want to make sure you have the training you need," Cuomo said. "You will be an asset in your own home and in your community."

The state plans to host disaster workshops throughout the year — a similar event was held yesterday in Staten Island — with the goal of providing emergency management training for up to 100,000 New Yorkers.

Members of the state's National Guard, which led the 90-minute seminar in Farmingdale, instructed residents on the supplies needed during an evacuation, including water, batteries, a pocket radio, a first-aid kit and a flashlight. The supplies, officials said, should last seven to 10 days.

Additional guidance was focused on developing a family emergency plan, following proper evacuation routes and ensuring that smoke detectors and fire extinguishers work.

"The groundwork you are laying today will pay dividends down the road," said Brig. Gen. Raymond Shields, the New York National Guard's director of joint staff.

Edward Harrold of Hauppauge, a retired shop teacher at Suffolk County BOCES, said he attended the seminar "to give back to my community and volunteer. I want to know how to prepare to help my neighbors and my community."

But Barbara Schaffer, whose Lindenhurst home is uninhabitable 15 months after Sandy, said local and state governments need to improve their communication to better advise residents on storm preparations.

"I don't feel like anyone is ready for the next storm," Schaffer said. "I feel like municipalities need more training on how to get the word out to us about evacuations."

Gov. Cuomo opens emergency preparedness seminar.
Inside Long Island Business

Engineers Week event to focus on K-12 STEM education

Monday February 10, 2014 3:05 PM By Newsday business staff

The need to fortify science and math education for students kindergarten through twelfth grade will be the keynote topic at a Thursday event hosted by the Engineers Joint Committee of Long Island.

The event, part of Engineers Week, will also include a full day of seminars on topics including improving energy efficiency in boiler systems, risk-based design, and a communication-based train control system that could be used to upgrade the New York City subway system.

Lunch speaker Marjaneh Issapour, a member of the Farmingdale State College engineering faculty, will focus on K-12 science and math education and the need to encourage more students to pursue advanced engineering to meet the future needs of industry.

The event runs from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Dave & Busters, 261 Airport Plaza Blvd., Farmingdale. For information, email Amanda Haines at ajhaines@gmail.com. For more information about Engineers Week and other Long Island activities of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, go to ieee.li.

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N.Y. center to help aerospace firms transition to composites

By Michael Lauzon
CORRESPONDENT
Published: February 20, 2014 2:36 pm ET
Updated: February 20, 2014 9:14 pm ET

A new technology center is opening its doors to help Long Island aerospace and defense suppliers replace metal parts with plastic composites.

Long Island Forum for Technology represents a $15 million investment in machinery and facilities to educate companies and engineers in composites. LIFT’s Composite Prototyping Center has just begun negotiations with companies for its services, said CPC project manager Philip Congiolo in a telephone interview.

"On Long Island there are 400 to 500 companies supporting the aerospace industry," Congiolo explains. "Most of them cut metal but a lot will transition to composite parts."

The 25,000-square-foot CPC in Plainview, N.Y., has a range of composites processing equipment already installed and is adding more. In February CPC is installing an automated fiber placement robot system and a Class 100,000 clean room which includes a machine shop, test and inspection cells and storage area. Also being installed in February is a Stratasys 3D printer capable of making prototype parts 16 inches square by 13 inches deep. Components made by the polymer printer can be bonded together to create large parts.

Other equipment such as cutting systems, autoclaves, presses and ovens are ready to run to promote composites based on carbon fiber, fiberglass, aramid fiber and similar reinforcements.

Congiolo said CPC services won’t be restricted to Long Island companies but the focus is to foster employment in the state of New York.

'Although the [DOE] have let the Long Island area, the supply chain is still here," Congiolo said in an interview from CPC’s office. Large companies can afford to invest in composites equipment as they go through a learning curve to replace metal, but small companies lack the resources to make the leap to composites, according to Congiolo.

To educate a composites workforce, LIFT is working with Stony Brook University of New York and Farmingdale State College to develop curricula for certificate and degree programs. CPC itself has a dedicated training room with CAD/CAM composite software to help engineers design composite parts and production technologies.

One major local composites company supplying the aerospace and military markets sees big opportunities ahead for advanced materials.

"What LIFT has done in developing this dedicated composites resource is give our region’s manufacturers both the incentives and seamless entry to capture these opportunities," stated Alexander Bozko, president of Russell Plastics Technology Co. Inc. of Lindenhurst, N.Y., in a news release.

LIFT, based in Bethpage, N.Y., is a non-profit economic development agency working with the New York State Foundation for Science, Technology and Innovation and the National Institute of Standards and Technology Manufacturing Extension Partnership.
Michael Canders
Associate Professor, Department of Aviation
Farmingdale State College

An aviator and an educator, Canders spent more than seven years as a U.S. Navy officer and helicopter rescue pilot and eight-plus years with the U.S. Air Force— which he joined after 9/11, leaving his role as vice president at global electronics manufacturer Telephonics. In all, he has more than 20 years of business experience with high-tech corporations. He returned to Telephonics after his Air Force tenure, but left for a teaching position at St. Joseph’s College before joining Farmingdale. He served as a technical consultant and flew in the film “The Perfect Storm.”
Opening up education
SUNY expands access by pooling resources online

By BERNADETTE STARZEE

It just got easier for students at the State University of New York to take classes and earn academic degrees entirely online.

Last month, SUNY launched its multiprogram Open SUNY program, with the goal of making education at its 64 colleges and universities more accessible to state residents—and ultimately to anyone in the world.

The new program lists all 12,000 online courses that are offered at the individual institutions on one searchable website.

"If students are waiting for us to offer a particular course, it will take longer for us to get the critical mass of students needed to have that class, versus the pool of students that we can get from all of SUNY," said Lucia Cepriano, provost of Farmingdale State College.

For instance, very few students are interested in studying Parsi, Arabic or Chinese, she said. "Yet these are all languages of emerging importance. We can offer these courses collaboratively through Open SUNY to meet the need immediately," she said. "If we tried to do it campus by campus, we would do a bad job or not do it at all."

As part of the launch, eight pilot online degree programs were selected to be accompanied by a suite of support for students and faculty. The initial "Open SUNY Plus" degrees include a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering at Stony Brook University.

Stony Brook advocated for this particular degree "because it's innovative in its pedagogy and it's an area of high economic demand," said Eric Rabkin, associate provost for online education for the university.

All eight degrees are in fields of high employer demand and offer attractive employment opportunities after graduation. The other degrees focus on nursing, business, mathematics, health sciences administration, tourism administration and information systems.

While four are bachelor's degrees, two are master's and two are associate's.

The Open SUNY Plus degree programs feature 24/7 access to a help desk and tutoring, so students who are struggling to figure out a calculus problem or who can't download their homework at 4 a.m. will receive the assistance they need.

THE NEW PROGRAM LISTS ALL 12,000 ONLINE COURSES OFFERED AT SUNY INSTITUTIONS ON ONE SEARCHABLE WEBSITE

"Students can receive help with both software and hardware issues, so if they have a virus and they have a test coming up on Friday, that's invaluable," Cepriano said.

In addition, faculty members receive extra resources and training on best practices in presenting material online.

"Pedagogical techniques shown to be effective in online teaching are different from classroom teaching," Cepriano said. "For instance, PowerPoint presentations work very well in a traditional classroom, because you have a professor talking and moving, but online, they're a disaster."

Interaction between the teacher and student is the most important factor to student success, she added.

"Teachers must learn ways to hold students' interest online and create the same sort of relationship that they have in the classroom, or students will walk away," she said. "It's vital to have the professional development that faculty need to deliver online programs with quality."

As Open SUNY Plus grows, Farmingdale will have the opportunity to add degrees to its program. The college is currently considering degrees that it was hesitant to put completely online previously because of limited resources, including programs in dental hygiene and security systems.

"As the number of Open SUNY programs increases, SUNY central will have an ever-expanding contract with commercial vendors who provide online tutoring," Rabkin said. "A small SUNY institution may not be able to offer after-hours tutoring, but with this program, Open SUNY will offer a contract that the institution can buy into."

Students looking to pursue an Open SUNY Plus degree at a particular college, such as the electrical engineering degree at Stony Brook, must apply and be accepted by that college.

"Open SUNY is only a facilitator and setter of standards—it is not in any way a 65th unit of the university," Rabkin said.

The goals of the program include active recruitment of the 6.9 million adult New Yorkers who do not have a college education. SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher said in her 2014 State of the University Address.
REAL ESTATE

OSI ends leases at Farmingdale State College

Farmingdale State College has announced an agreement with OSI Pharmaceuticals that cancels the remaining years of the company’s leases at the school’s Broad Hollow Bioscience Park.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

OSI had occupied a 62,000-square-foot building with a lease originally set to expire in 2022. The company’s lease on 40,000 square feet in another building was to expire in 2016, according to a university statement.

The agreement allows the bioscience park to pursue new tenants. OSI, which was purchased by Japan-based Astellas Pharma Inc. in 2010, had begun to vacate the site in May 2013.

“There has been genuine interest from fledgling bioscience companies in the space, which we will more actively pursue now that we know the lease is settled and the space is becoming available,” George LaRosa, chair of the bioscience park board, said in the statement. “We’re very confident that we will have several new tenants in the not too distant future, and that bodes well for the success of the bioscience park as well as the growth of the bioscience industry on Long Island.”
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STEPPING OUT

Art from the heart
Creative passion shines at ‘Women of the World’ and other area exhibits
By Karen Bloom

This year’s seemingly endless winter leaves us longing for something to lift our spirits. Some artistic inspiration may be the answer right now. The latest round of exhibits on the local scene offer divergent creative perspectives that look back on the past while reflecting thoroughly modern viewpoints.

‘Women of the World’
Local female artists are a force to be reckoned with, as evidenced by the art and photography exhibition that will be unveiled at Nassau County’s Theodore Roosevelt Executive Building in Mineola on Feb. 26. “Women of the World,” the inspiration of Searingtown-based photojournalist Jill Rader Levine, who curates the exhibit, gathers 53 of Long Island’s most and brightest creative talents — who all happen to be women.

As curator of “Women Of The World,” it was an amazing ‘adventure’ for me to set out on a quest to locate and invite outstanding women artists from every corner of Long Island to showcase their individual styles,” Levine said. “The results of their creativity in expressing the theme of the feminine mystery are brilliant unique images that will leave a memorable impression on all.” The event, honoring the region’s many award-winning artists and photographers, kicks off Women’s History Month in March. After next week’s showcase, an expanded version of the exhibit — featuring over 100 works — moves to the Hutchinson Gallery, located in LIU Post’s main library on its Brookville campus. It opens there March 4 and will run through the end of the month.

Meanwhile the contributing artists and photographers are gearing up for the exhibit’s premiere on Wednesday. Each artist will have one piece on display on opening night, when they’ll compete for awards. A distinguished panel of judges will evaluate each piece and award six prizes in two categories: Fine Art/Multimedia and Photography.

Keywords
Women of the World, Jill Rader Levine, Spirit and Identity: Melanesian Works, Hofstra University Museum

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The eight-member judging panel includes: Donna Tuman, Ph.D., chair of LIU Post’s Art Department; Dr. Joan Powers, director of photography at LIU Post; Professor Marc Heiman, of Hofstra University, and Farmingdale State College; artist Tom Sammon; Newsday Photo Editor Ken Sawchuk; Dr. Regina Oli, director of the Great Neck Arts Center; and Estimah White, art education director at the African American Museum of Nassau County.

“This is the first time anything like this has been done in Nassau County,” Levine said. "I am so pleased that the county, with Commercfar George Maragos as our host, is so willing to recognize and honor these artists for their contributions in furthering the arts on Long Island.”

It was Levine’s intent to limit the exhibit to 10 artists, but when word got out about what was being planned, she was inundated with interest from the region’s artistic community.

“Artists are very grateful for the opportunity to show their work,” Levine said. “There has been tremendous enthusiasm about this exhibition. Everyone involved is incredibly excited about it. I thought 10 women would be a lot to include, and then it went up by three!”

Not only is the exhibit an opportunity to showcase the talents of the region’s artistic community, it also serves as a chance to promote area museums, Levine explained. “We want to bring awareness to the Nassau County’s wonderful museums. And it fits in perfectly with Women’s History Month.”

The exhibit’s theme is “A Moment in the Life of Women: Past, Present, and Future.”

Within that theme, there is a wide range of creative inspiration. “You’ll see works that reflect birth, death, women of various ages, and women all around the world doing different types of tasks,” Levine said. “It’s all very spectacular and I’m very excited to have it shown at the Hatchins Gallery, Kathy Leitner, of East Rockaway, and Lynbrook’s Nancy Wernebroch, along with Katherine M. Trunk, are among the artists whose works will be on display.”

Key Information

Women of the World, Jill Rader Levine, Spirit and Identity: Melanesian Works, Hofstra University Museum
Art from the heart

Leistner, a professional photographer, submitted her previously published photo, Next Generation. “The photo of pregnant mother with her daughter has always been one of my favorites,” she said. “The mother is a special friend of mine and her daughter Abigail wanted to be a part of the portraits I was shooting of her mother, Leistner explained. “The image was taken on a hot July day, just a few weeks before my sister Theodore was born. The image was shot with a digital camera using only the available light from the window in my studio and then converted to black and white, cropped into a square format and printed to fit it into a 9” x 9” inch frame. My friends and I have both Abigail and Quentin are looking forward to attending the exhibit to see their ‘famous’ photograph. Wemmersbach, whose oils and watercolors have been exhibited in national and juried shows, looks to nature for her subject matter and believes that nature and art can ease us out of our frenzied daily lives and into a place of rest and renewal. “A painting, like a good book, should lift us out of one world and into another,” she said. Trunk is an award-winning member of the National Art League whose paintings and glass animal ornaments have been shown throughout the area. In addition to creating expression-filled portraits, his abstracts sizzle with energy indicated by golden flecks.

“Spirit and Identity” examines the culture of the South Pacific

The Hofstra University Museum delves into its extensive holdings for its newest exhibit, “Spirit and Identity: Melanesian Works from the Hofstra University Museum Collections.” The exhibit, which opened this week and runs through Aug. 29 at Hofstra’s David Flicklerman Gallery, highlights ethnographic art and objects created by distinct regional communities of the South Pacific. It’s a rarely seen and extraordinary aspect of the university’s collections, according to the museum’s staff.

Keywords
Women of the World, Jill Rader Levine, Spirit and Identity: Melanesian Works, Hofstra University Museum

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Art from the heart

Curated by Kristy L. Caratzza, the exhibit showcases ancestral figures, ceremonial masks, warrior shields, and ritualized material objects crafted from natural materials sourced from sacred sites. It also includes sophisticated carved and hand-painted wooden sculptures. "As visitors engage with the works in this exhibition, they will be transported to another time and place, through interactions with authentic works of art introducing us to fascinating cultures in another hemisphere," said Beth E. Leventhal, the museum's executive director.

'Women Of The World'
Exhibition Showcases/Competition: Wednesday, Feb. 26, 6-9 p.m.
Theodore Roosevelt Executive & Legislative Building, 1550 Franklin Ave.

'Spirit and Identity: Melanesian Works'
Hofstra University Museum's David Friedman Gallery, Joan and Donald E. Asmussen Library, ninth floor, South Campus, Hempstead. (516) 463-5672 or www.hofstra.edu/museum.

Keywords
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