Farmingdale in Florence

By Katie Schultz

Imagine, strolling through the city of Florence, Italy on your way to your summer courses. FSC students are heading to Florence starting on May 15. If you haven’t yet applied, there is no need to worry; application deadlines have just been extended. The last application deadline is May 13.

The program is affiliated with the Florence University of Arts, FUA. All courses will be taught in English. Each session lasts approximately three weeks.

The program cost is $3,650. “Anyone who has the opportunity to do the program should take hold of it while they can. It may seem expensive, but I’d rather work harder to earn back the money and use loans to pay for it than miss out on a once in a lifetime trip like this,” said Katie Robertson, a student who has already signed up for the program.

Although round-trip airfare is not included, students should be able to find competitive rates if they act soon. “Try Cheapoair.com. It’s a good web site for finding cheaper airfare, especially for trips overseas,” said Michael Paylor, a program applicant. Program Coordinator, Dr. Beverly Kahn will also be providing students with information on group flight pricing as application deadlines draw near.

At FUA, Dr. Kahn is teaching a course in Italian Politics and Society which will feature a trip to the Museum of Science and Technology. “Students will be able to see Galileo’s telescope,” said Kahn. There may also be an opportunity for students to meet one of Italy’s political leaders.

This SUNY-wide program provides fully furnished apartments. Single room occupancy is available for an additional fee. Upon arrival, students are provided with cell phones and a partial meal plan at Ganzo, a restaurant of the FUA Culinary Institute. Student ID’s will provide free access to local museums and also to the on-premises gym facility.

The first session is May 15 to June 14. The next session will be June 5 to June 25 and the third session will be July 1 to July 21.

Flying With New Wings

By Katie Robertson

The FSC Aviation Center and Program just recently expanded its fleet for training student pilots. The only public college aviation degree program in the state has purchased three new airplanes totaling $1 million.

SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher and FSC President W. Hubert Keen christened the addition of three modern new planes, two Piper Warriors and one Piper Arrow with confetti and a formal ceremony on March 31.

The new aircraft add the first state-of-the-art glass cockpit technology in the aviation program for the college. New computerized displays in place of dials and gauges continue to modernize the Aviation program’s technology.

Patrick Calabria, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, said, “Bonds were taken out to cover the cost of funding for the new planes. These bonds will be repaid.” These three planes expand FSC’s fleet to 22 planes.

Michael Hughes, Chief Pilot of the FSC aviation program, said, “These new planes will allow 20 flight slots once the aircraft are fully operational.” The new aircraft expand the program giving students hands-on experience.

“Students continue towards their careers [after graduating] with skills necessary to succeed in today’s competitive industry,” said Hughes.

President Keen said at the christening, “We are very proud of our Aviation program. Student pilots go on to careers with some of the most well-known firms in the aviation industries.” There are 160 students enrolled in the Aviation department. The new planes will increase the capacity for the Professional Pilot track from 80 to 125 students.

Mandatory rehearsal is Friday, May 13 at 9:30 a.m. in Nold Hall
Hidden Halls On Campus

By Michael Miller

Tucked away behind the teaching gardens, a simple sign on the door reads “No admittance – Building Temporarily Not In Use.”

Farmingdale State College was founded as an agricultural school of higher education in 1912. Cutler and Hicks Halls (Formerly Agronomy and Horticulture) stand as forgotten testaments to the college’s past.

“Hicks and Cutler Halls have been closed for a few years,” said Kathy Coley, Director of Communications. Many of the classes held at Farmingdale State College take place in buildings built as the college’s curricula grew from agricultural to technical and applied science in the second half of the 20th century. Institutional architecture based on utility has taken precedence over the smaller, more ornate structures of the past.

Pat Calabria, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at FSC, said, “In constructing the buildings today, needs would be different and certainly construction materials and architecture would be different.” The needs of the student body have changed over the years and with them, the landscape of the school.

“Smaller buildings like this would never be built in this day and age,” said Calabria. “You’d more likely build one larger building which would be more cost-efficient.”

This is evident in the college’s $185 million dollar construction and renovation project presently taking place, the cornerstone of which is a new 50,000 square foot campus center.

“The buildings are in terrible shape,” said Dr. Natalie Naylor, a retired professor and former Director of the Long Island Studies Institute at Hofstra University, who was granted a rare tour of the abandoned halls’ interiors for an article she wrote.

Also at risk are four depression-era murals contained in the stairwells of the buildings. The murals, like the buildings are not beyond repair said Naylor. The cost to repair and restore both halls is several million dollars for each building, according to Calabria. Various past private funding attempts have stalled in recent years.

On a hopeful note, Calabria said that both Hicks and Cutler are what is called Historic Register Eligible which means they meet most or all of the criteria to be placed on the historic register.

“As such, they cannot be demolished without clearance through many agencies,” he said. A state funding project aims to prevent further deterioration by repairing the exterior roofs of the two buildings. “Like any project, this too could change with the uncertain budget outlook,” said Calabria.

For now, Cutler and Hicks Halls will stand their ground, as the ivy continues to encapsulate the outer walls, the future is uncertain for these buildings.
Haitian-American students at Farmingdale State College Campus are more conscious of the election after the January 2010 earthquake. Haitian-Americans all over the country have been much more aware of the hardships going on in their homeland.

Consequently, Haitian-American students have paid close attention to the results of the Haitian presidential election, which took place on March 4, 2011. The election had been postponed due to the catastrophic earthquakes that took the lives of over 230,000 people, left 300,000 people injured, and left an estimated 1,000,000 Haitians homeless.

“It becomes more important to us in the States because we have family there who are directly affected by the situation down there,” said Jeffrey Brignol, a senior. “We have to pay attention because it has affected our families,” he said.

The impact of the election has had a huge affect on Haiti, which was already the poorest country in the western hemisphere before the earthquake, and is even more so after. The effects of the January 12, 2010, earthquake, which measured 7.0 on the Richter scale, has hurt Haiti’s financial status even more because the most populated part of the country was hit-Port-Au-Prince the capital of Haiti which houses 2.35 million Haitians.

A large number of Haitian-American students are making a point to pay attention to the results of the Haitian presidential election so they can convey information to their families back home.

“A lot of our families down there have nothing now, not even a television to watch the coverage of the election,” said Luichard Jean, a Haitian American student. “We watch the coverage up here and relay necessary information back to our families in Haiti. It is the only way that most of them can get a thorough insight into the election and its candidates,” he said. There is a lot of information about Haiti on the internet and American television that provides Haitian with essential information about the election. Unfortunately, many Haitian Americans do not have any access to the these resources because of their deprived living conditions.

The Haitian presidential election has had some high profile candidates such as Wyclef Jean, who has been prohibited from running because he did not live in Haiti for five consecutive years, leading to the election. “I actually kind of think it’s a good thing,” said Val Hilare, a Haitian American senior. “I think people in Haiti may have gotten caught up in the hype of having a celebrity as a president instead of a qualified politician to help the country recover.”

Hilare said he is happy that Wyclef Jean continues to bring awareness to the struggles of Haitian people. “He has been a good representative of Haiti,” said Jessica Aime, a Haitian-America junior. “He’s probably the most known Haitian in America, and he’s bring a lot of attention to Haiti; we need that,” she said.

Haitian Americans in the United States are also worried about the increasing violence that has plagued the country.

Unfortunately, Martelly’s radical supporters took to the streets in a violent revolt to express their displeasure over these events. “It is unfortunate because it distracts Haitian citizens from the real issues facing the election, instead of paying attention to the issues. Now Haitians are fearing for their lives,” said Bertrand Fils-Aime, who formerly worked for the United Nations at the Haitian embassy.

Four months after the election it was announced that Martelly, also known as “Sweet Micky,” a popular singer, has been elected as President of Haiti. Although he has never been a politician he was the favorite to win.

HAITI: A Year Later
By Dominick Fils-Aime

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The Rampage Student Newspaper 3 Farmingdale State College
The Greening of FSC

By Roberta Lane

The Green Building Institute focuses on a variety of sustainability issues, including green roofs and alternative energy. Students and staff expressed their own ideas of how to improve green technology on campus.

The President of the Horticulture Society, Amy Bortzfield, said the Horticulture Department could play a key role along with the physical plant team to create innovative green ideas on campus with little effort.

“A more active recycling program, where sorted recycling bins in all buildings and classrooms would capture paper, plastic and regular garbage for recycling would be beneficial,” said Bortzfield. “We can help make the campus more welcoming to students, prospective students, faculty, and staff.”

Professor Michael Veracka, Chair of the Ornamental Horticulture Department, said sustainable practices are not standard practice on campus.

“Change is up to the young people. Recycling goods, composting leaves from the physical plant, and a sustainable garden with composting collections from the kitchen would make a significant impact,” said Veracka. “Colleges today are closing the loop in sustainability.”

One such example is the April 9 unveiling of the FSC Ornamental Horticulture Garden, a sustainable garden showcasing composting techniques, rainwater collection, and numerous other green ideas.

Students appear receptive to recycling on campus. “We need to promote more active recycling on campus,” said student, Mark Lanzer.

“I feel personally responsible to recycle, because it represents how I was brought up,” said Chris Madona. “If recycling isn’t on site, it’s likely to just end up in the trash.”

Farmingdale State College will soon be home to a new campus center. The center will have a new bookstore, food court with an all you can eat buffet, a new student lounge, a multi-purpose room/ballroom, and meeting rooms.

“There will be all kinds of events from dinners, and lectures to job fairs and new student orientation,” said Tom Corti, Vice President for Student Affairs. “The building will be the main portal to the campus,” said Corti.

The new events that will take place in Farmingdale State College’s Campus Center will bring students closer to the real world by exposing them to lectures and job fairs. “It will have a community feel to the college,” said student Michael Wasowicz. “Anywhere to sit down and relax is great,” said Wasowicz.

The construction of the campus center is the beginning of a $185 million dollar project to build new buildings for academic and research purposes. The cost of the new campus center is $25 million dollars. The campus center will cover 50,000 square feet and have qualities of environmental sustainability.

The roof will be constructed of energy-efficient materials. The center will have an architectural element called oculus, which is a rounded skylight. The oculus will bring more light into the new campus center. The new multipurpose room will hold up to 300 people for dining and 700 people in a lecture or theater setting.

“It will bring people to the college, will be an attraction, and bring many organizations,” said student Eric Marciso. The campus center will add to Farmingdale State College’s appearance. The campus center is scheduled to open by the Fall of 2012.

Teaching Gardens Open House

By Mariam Omar

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Teaching Gardens Open House

By Katie Schultz

After a long winter, spring is finally here. On April 9, FSC unveiled a new community garden for students to enjoy at an open house located at FSC’s Teaching Gardens. “I can’t wait until it’s warm,” said Zachary Weinreb, a student. “It’ll be nice to spend more time outdoors.”

The Teaching Gardens had a dynamic panel discussion covering important topics on sustainability ranging from composting to finding jobs in sustainability.

Tim Reis, an FSC student, sees the community garden as an opportunity for students to learn about conservation in the future. He also hopes that one day students could learn to grow their own food on campus. “I’ve seen the greenhouse,” said Reis. “It would be great for students to learn hydroponics and other kinds of organic growing techniques.”

Presently, the FSC greenhouse serves mostly as an ornamental horticulture facility but there is plenty of potential for introducing hydroponic farming techniques or organic farming methods in the future. As student demand grows, greener options will become more available on campus.

Professor Veracka, chairman of FSC’s Horticulture program, is interested in implementing sustainability education as part of the curriculum for Horticulture students and as elective study for students who possess a casual interest in going green. There is growing concern for the sustainability of modern mass food production. “The current national food system is not sustainable,” said Veracka. “Our food travels 1,500 miles before it reaches a dinner plate or shopping cart.”

There is a growing interest in organic dining options on campus. “I think an organic salad bar on campus would be good,” said Ishmiah Brocks, a nursing student.

When warm weather soon arrives, students will enjoy a blossoming garden and fresh opportunities to become involved in creating a more sustainable campus.
Southpaw Pitcher

By Matt Sagona

Left-handed pitcher, Vinny Messana, is looking to step up his game this coming baseball season. Messana, a 19 year old sophomore, has been working hard in the off-season with one thing on his mind, an NCAA Division III championship.

Messana, who finished with a 4-2 record last season, was not satisfied. “I need to work on my consistency in inning, and learn how to locate some of my pitches better,” said Messana. Messana’s fastball tops-off at around 85 mph. “I don’t consider myself a power pitcher, I focus more on working the counts and getting the hitters to ground out,” said Messana.

“Vinny has a lot of talent. As long as he finds his groove on the mound and throws strikes, he should be a great asset to the team this season,” said David Zilnicki, starting third-baseman for the Rams. As a freshman, Messana finished the 2010 campaign with 50 strikeouts and a 1.27 ERA in conference play, allowing 44 hits and 31 runs allowed in 41.1 innings pitched.

“I was only a freshman last year and I pitched pretty good. I only see myself getting better and having more confidence this season,” said Messana. “Hopefully the hard work that I’ve put in during the off-season will pay off.” Messana finished with a promising 5-0 record in summer league play.

Farmingdale is favored to win their fourth consecutive conference title this season and advance to the New York State Regionals. “I think we have a great shot in winning it all this year,” said shortstop Ron Remi. “We have a very talented pitching staff led by our ace pitcher, Chris Phelan, and our big hitter, outfielder Terrence Bohanan.”

Many of the players believe the key to their past success has been a result of both good coaching and good team chemistry.

“We’ve got an overall great team that gets along with one another and we are led by a great coach with Major League experience,” said senior Ray Levan. Farmingdale’s main competitors this season are Old Westbury and St. Joseph’s College. The first game of the regular season began on March 26 at Old Westbury.

New Women’s Lacrosse Coach

By Roberta Lane

FSC’s new women’s Lacrosse coach is Katie Mollot. Fresh from her Division I assistant coaching job at Colgate University, Mollot said she needed a change, and found it in her first head coaching job at FSC.

“Academics, regardless of where you’re playing, is my first concern for my players,” said Mollot. Among her many undertakings as coach, recruitment is at the top of her list, along with keeping the players healthy. Excited about the upcoming Skyline Championship, Mollot feels the team has a good chance in the tournament.

At 24, Mollot feels her age complements the connection she has with her players and considers herself a role model for the team. Mollot leads by example, and always maintains a positive attitude. She doesn’t believe in stats and would rather her players get points from ground ball assists. “Not one person can get on that playing field alone against twelve other players,” said Mollot. “We aren’t I or me, it’s we.”

An accomplished player herself, Mollot played in college at Towson University. She is thrilled with her team and the energy the women bring to the field every week. Spending time at her dad’s lacrosse practices to gain new ideas for her team she says one of her first phone calls is to her dad when she is looking for advice.

Captain senior Justine Rothar, is a nursing student and a scholar athlete. In 2009 Rothar and her teammates won the Skyline Championship, one of the highlights of her playing career. “I hope my final season doesn’t go by to quickly,” said Rothar.

Fellow teammate and nursing student, Kristyn Shand said, “Usually it’s hard for a team to adjust to a new coach, but we felt instantly connected to Coach Mollot. Her knowledge and enthusiasm for the game inspires us each day,” said Shand.

“IT’s Justine’s final semester, and I know I can speak for the whole team when I say that we really want to win this year not just for ourselves but for her. She has been devoted to this team since her freshman year, and everyone on the team respects her and looks up to her not just as captain but also as a person.”
## May Calendar

### Women’s Athletics

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