With Hurricane Sandy packing a devastating punch to Long Island’s South Shore and other communities, the College’s students and staff jumped into action to organize relief and assistance efforts in a variety of ways following the late October catastrophe. In addition, steps were taken to accommodate students who lost power in terms of modifying withdrawal and registration dates.

Many of the relief efforts were administered by Student Affairs following suggestions by student RJ Renna. These efforts included the distribution of toiletries and food as well as raising funds, with oversight of the expenditures provided by Tom Corti, vice president for student affairs. Access to computers throughout campus was expanded and faculty made accommodations for students who had lost power—and even homes.

“It was essential that the College step up and assist the members of our Farmingdale family,” President Keen said. “This hurricane was devastating to many in the campus community, and in the surrounding communities, and I’m proud of the students and staff who gave their time in these humanitarian efforts. We all should be proud of them.”

Students formed clean-up crews, traveling to hard-hit areas to assist in removal of debris. Social Media Director Amy Michelin created a Facebook page for students to seek and offer car-pooling. The Children’s Center organized an Adopt-A-Family effort designed to offer temporary housing for those whose homes were destroyed or badly damaged, and also offered emergency child care.

The Small Business Development Center, one of the most productive in the state, assisted hard hit local business owners with their applications for aid from the Small Business Association Recovery Center. And Island Harvest, operating out of Roosevelt Hall, assisted the public with applications for aid from FEMA.

The Student Government Association created a fund to replace textbooks for students who had their books lost or destroyed in the hurricane and personal counseling services on campus were available to those who required them.

“The way we came together says a lot about Farmingdale,” Dr. Keen said, “and it says a lot about the people who work and come to school here.”
Toys for Tots

For many years, the campus has helped the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve collect toys for underprivileged children. By Monday, December 17, NEW UNWRAPPED TOYS (no stuffed animals, war toys, or movies) can be dropped off to coordinators:

- Barbara Kaplan or Chris O’Connor in Human Resources, Whitman Hall
- Russell Patterson - Roosevelt Hall
- Marilyn Walther - Laffin Hall Lobby
- Chris Dose in Horton Hall, Rm. 252

Rams Picked as Top 20 Basketball Team

DII News, the monthly newsletter of NCAA Division III Men’s Basketball, ranked Farmingdale State College the No.19 team in the country in the magazine’s preseason poll. Rams senior forward A.J. Matthews (Brooklyn) was picked as the Preseason Player of the Year—a first for a Farmingdale player—and a DII News Top 24 Selection. Matthews, a 2012 NABC Division III All-American and DII News First Team All-American, will again lead the Rams this year. Last season, he finished as the nation’s leader in both rebounding (16.3) and double-doubles (26). The Rams finished with a 23-6 record last season. Matthews averaged 22.4 pts.

A New Home for the Children’s Center

President Hubert Keen was joined by Senator Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr. and Assembly member Bob Sweeney to officially break ground for the new Children’s Center in a ceremony held at the construction site last month. Dr. Keen noted that “having the support of Senator Fuschillo and Assembly member Sweeney to secure funding is of vital importance to the campus community. The new facility for our Children’s Center will benefit our students, faculty and staff, and - most importantly – the children.”

The Children’s Center will feature 2 infant rooms, 3 toddler rooms, 4 preschool rooms, and a gross motor room. It will also include staff offices and meeting rooms as well as a kitchen and secure playground space.

“So many good things are happening at this campus,” said Senator Fuschillo. “This place is on a roll.”

“There is tremendous work being done at Farmingdale,” said Assembly member Sweeney. “I commend everyone for all the hard work they are doing to make Farmingdale a special place.”

Director of the Center Linda Crispi added, “Most of the children enrolled at the Center are part of the campus community. With this expansion of the facilities, it is my hope we will be able to accommodate more children of the students, faculty and staff.” She added, “Being located on the Farmingdale campus means the children have access to beautiful gardens and facilities as well as activities sponsored by the college.”

About 40 of the children who are currently cared for at the Children’s Center were in attendance at the groundbreaking as well several parents. Expected to open in the fall of 2013, the new 11,700 square foot Center will provide much-needed space to expand classrooms and provide an indoor playground for use when the weather doesn’t permit outside activities.

The Center serves the College’s students, faculty and staff with children as well as the public based on availability. Currently 68 children ages eight weeks to age 5, can be enrolled. The Center also offers a summer camp program for children ages 3 - 12. School age vacation care is also offered. The new Center is located on the eastern edge of campus, near the Route 110 entrance. In addition to the new building, there will be new play equipment and other amenities.
For Horticulture students Emily Tinalli, Jennifer Capello-Ruggiero, Tom Harty and Mike Runkel, a class project came a real world experience. The team got their hands dirty planting bioswales—essentially, runoff drainage systems that are environmentally-friendly—along the campus ring road this fall.

"Farmingdale gave us a great opportunity to conduct professional work," said Harty, a senior in the horticulture program.

Tinalli (Selden), Cappello-Ruggiero (East Rockaway), Harty (East Islip) and Runkel (Great River), submitted plans to beautify two of the College’s entrance bioswales—150-ft long and 32-ft wide ravines. The challenge was to use plant material with a four-season interest and relatively low maintenance. The month-long project was a result of Horticulture Department Chair Michael Veracka’s commitment to bringing the real world to the classroom.

“We held a competition within the fall 2012 class called The Sustainable Garden (HOR 340) asking teams of students to design much-needed bioswales on campus,” said Veracka. The eventual design was selected by President Keen, who gave the students approval to make it happen.

“We used a number of native plants including Iris, Sweet Flag and Hibiscus which are plants that can handle stress. There’s no need for fertilizer,” said Tinalli, a recent graduate and winner of a 2012 Student Award of Excellence. Tinalli believes Farmingdale prepared her to work in ecology on a global scale using native plants indigenous to natural environments.

Working with the natural landscape underscores Farmingdale’s commitment to sustainable land practices, enabling natural and built systems to work together.

Cappello-Ruggiero, a current student who is interested in pomology, the study of eatable gardens, said, “Professor Veracka lets us get in there and create a real landscape.”

George LaRosa Honored by SUNY

Senior Vice President and CFO George LaRosa recently received the Robert J. Wagner Business Officer of the Year award. The plaque reads “in recognition of outstanding performance, highest professional standards and significant contributions to SUNY and SUBOA as campus business officer.”

The award is the most prestigious of several awards given to individuals at the end of each fiscal year. Robert Wagner was the former VP for Administration at the University at Buffalo who retired in 2002 after 35 years of service to UB and SUBOA.

Horticulture Chair Michael Veracka and students begin plantings along the campus roadway

Horticulture Students Plant Bioswales

Homecoming Was a Blast

Nearly 500 students, faculty, and staff attended Homecoming 2012, which was held on the Great Lawn last month. Games, attractions, music, a Flash Mob, and athletic events all were held, with an old-fashioned BBQ serving as the centerpiece of the event—including chicken seasoned with the College’s own “Professor Becker’s BBQ Sauce.” In addition, a Homecoming King and Queen were crowned followed by the “parade of clubs,” in which members of campus clubs held a procession. The event was supported by contributions from the Alumni Association, Aramark, and Boar’s Head. Leading up to Homecoming, the campus held “Spirit Week,” which included such activities as Silly Hat Day, Pajama Day, Sports Jersey Day, Green & White Day.

Save the Dates

- **Campus Staff Holiday Party** is Tuesday, December 11, 3 PM Roosevelt Hall.
- **Winter Commencement** has been rescheduled for Thursday, December 20, 2012 (snow date Friday, December 21) in Roosevelt Hall, Multipurpose Room at: 3 PM for the School of Arts and Sciences and the School of Engineering Technology; 7 PM for the School of Business and School of Health Sciences.
The artwork of two Farmingdale students, Anthony Kondyra and Matthew Moran, has been selected to be included in the 2012-13 SUNY Best of Show. Oceanside resident Anthony Kondyra’s photograph is titled Approaching Storm and North Babylon resident Matthew Moran’s 3D cardboard construct is titled Cardboard Dung Beetle. The students were invited to attend a fall art reception with Chancellor Zimpher and their work will be on display at System Administration until the end of the year and then transported the NY State Museum from June 2013-September 2013.