Imagine being a 76-year-old grandmother of three, and a college student. For Dyson College student Rubelle Myers, it’s simply a devotion to her lifelong goal. “It has always been my dream to earn a college degree,” she reveals.

A Professional Communication Studies major, Ms. Myers has accumulated 89 credits, all on a part-time basis, since 1983. “I’ve just been plugging away at it purely for my own intellectual satisfaction. But if it weren’t for the tremendous support I have gotten from all my professors all these years, I don’t know if I would still be here,” she reflects.

Rubelle is no stranger to overcoming obstacles. Raised in Eutawville, South Carolina, she was seven when her father died. She, her mother, and three sisters worked the fields picking cotton, planting corn, and raising chickens to support themselves. She could not finish high school then, and not until 1982, after marrying and having four children, attending beauty school at night, opening her own beauty parlor, moving to New York, and earning a real estate license, did she earn her high school equivalency diploma.

This past spring, Rubelle was awarded the Charles H. Dyson Profile in Courage Scholarship, established in memory of the late Charles H. Dyson for a Dyson College student who has demonstrated extraordinary perseverance, often in the face of obstacles, in their pursuit of a Pace University education. Political Science Professor Anthony Capaiuolo recommended that Rubelle be considered for this award. “Rubelle is a truly extraordinary individual who, in all likelihood, is our oldest undergraduate student. She was an asset in my sociology class and epitomizes civic involvement by working the election polls,” he says.

“When Dr. Capaiuolo brought Rubelle Meyers to my attention, it was apparent that she was a perfect candidate for the Profile in Courage Scholarship. Dean Gottlieb and I were most pleased to recognize her commitment and determination in pursuing her degree with this merit award,” says Dr. Joseph Thomas, Assistant Dean, Dyson College. “When I found out about the scholarship, I said, ‘Why me?’ But I was very happy about it,” beams Rubelle.

She began her studies at Pace in 1983. “I was frightened to death at first,” she admits. “But Dr. McManus, Dr. Driver, and Dr. Edelson really encouraged me and helped me realize that I could do this.” She interrupted her studies from 1991 to 2000 in order to care for her ailing mother and to put her children through college.

Also at Professor Capaiuolo’s recommendation, this past spring Rubelle was a guest speaker at Pace’s annual Martin Luther King, Jr. recognition breakfast. She spoke of her life in the segregated south and urged students, “Do not become impatient because life throws you a curve. Keep the vision and faith that you can succeed.” It was sage advice from someone who has experienced a few bumps in the road.

“I don’t know how I could thank Dr. Capaiuolo enough for helping me with the
Graduate Kim Misevis Awarded Coveted Fulbright Fellowship

“I’ve always been fascinated by how people from different cultures view one another...”

It’s such an honor to receive a Fulbright,” communications major Kim Misevis beams. “Above all, I’m grateful for everything that I’ve gotten.”

Ms. Misevis, class of 2003, also received the Trustee Award, presented to the student whose positive contributions to University life and whose academic accomplishments exemplify the highest level of achievement attainable for an undergraduate.

Kim will spend 13 months in South Korea teaching children English as a foreign language. “I don’t speak Korean, but my step-mother is Korean. She’ll teach me the basics before I leave in July.” A Rotary scholar exchange student to Sweden in high school, Kim is confident that her communications skills and strong desire to bridge culture differences will serve her well in South Korea.

“I’ve always been fascinated by how people from different cultures view one another and find ways to understand one another.”

She will also be working with the United Nations Association of Korea to help establish a Model United Nations (MUN) program at the high school and college levels there. This year’s Vice President of the Pace Model United Nations and a political science minor, Kim was among the Pace MUN students who helped the Dominican Republic launch its first MUN conference. She has also been a member of the MUN team that has won numerous delegation awards at regional and national levels since 2002. “The Model UN has helped me become a better writer and public speaker. I have enjoyed it immensely!”

“I am eagerly looking forward to teaching in South Korea. I want thank my mentor, Professor Gregory Julian, who urged me to apply for the fellowship and helped me to establish and reach my goals.” Upon returning to the U.S., Kim plans to attend graduate school in International Relations. “Ultimately, I would like to work for the United Nations.”

Congratulations on your many accomplishments, Kim!

7th Annual Dyson Distinguished Achievement Awards Benefit Reception

This year’s Dyson Distinguished Achievement Awards Benefit Reception was a heartfelt evening of celebration and remembrance for Pace alumni and faculty.

Special guest honoree Dr. Charles S. Hirsch, Chief Medical Examiner of New York City, spoke of his involvement with the families of the victims of September 11, 2001 and recognized the many unsung heroes of that day. Several forensic scientists who work full-time for Dr. Hirsch and teach in Pace’s forensic science program attended the event.

In support of Dyson scholarships, Court TV has awarded a $5,000 scholarship to forensic science graduate student Devon Pierce.

Look for the date of next year’s reception in an upcoming issue of Dyson News.

We sincerely thank all of Dyson’s supporters for their generous contributions to the Dyson Scholarship Fund and for making this event a success!

College for a Lifetime  Continued from page 1

...scholarship, and for reviewing my speech for the Martin Luther King, Jr. breakfast,” says Rubelle.

“My husband has been so supportive of me getting my degree and has worked very hard, at times holding down four jobs, so that our children and I could go to college. He deserves the credit for helping me to pursue my goal,” she asserts.

Since 1982, Rubelle has operated her own real estate office in White Plains, New York, where she, her daughter, and three part-time employees now work. Active in the community, she is an Inspector of Elections, verifying voter identity on Election Day, a member of the White Plains Democrats City Committee, and is District Leader–District 41 in White Plains. She is a member of the NAACP Executive Board and chairperson of its Freedom Fund. Rubelle is also a member of the Bethel Baptist Church Bible Class, Missionary Society, Adult Sunday School, Chancel Choir, and Gospel Chorus in White Plains.

Rubelle expects to graduate in 2005. She hopes to work in the White Plains community helping children to stay in school and achieve their goals. Who could be a better role model than she?
Students Ease the Load for Human Beasts of Burden in Peru

Service learning class goes beyond the U.S. border to make a difference

Cuzco, Peru—a city that sits 11,200 feet above sea level in the Huatanay River valley of southern Peru—known as one of the jewels of Latin America’s pre-Columbian past. Yet, life there, for the homeless Quechua (Native American Peruvians), is far from sparkling.

A community service learning class of nine Pace students and faculty went to Cuzco to work in a soup kitchen serving Quechua people who are “human beasts of burden” this past spring, and were deeply touched by the experience.

They are called “cargadores”—human beasts of burden—because they carry heavy loads of food and other goods strapped on their backs to Cuzco’s central market. These men of Incan descent are from the nearby mountains, and have no job skills other than their brute physical labor. The soup kitchen where the students prepared meals for this homeless population is run by an agency that provides the homeless with food, temporary sleeping quarters, and job training that helps them to transition out of a life of bearing heavy burdens.

Students, along with Professor Daniel Greenberg, not only prepared and served meals but also purchased additional food that the Quechua cannot afford, such as beef and apples, with money out of their own pockets.

“The trip had a greater impact on me than it did on these people— but they did understand that people do care about them,” reveals student Katie Carver. “All of us found working with the Quechua a truly moving and worthwhile experience that gave us an appreciation of what we have in this country.”

Dr. Greenberg explains, “When students work with local people like the homeless Quechua, they break through barriers. At first, we’re strangers, but then we become friends through the common bond of humanity.

As student Heather Martin observes, “These people want the same things we want—a better life for their families.”

Web master and student Adnan Chaudhri hopes to do even more. He has pledged to develop a Web site for the agency that runs the shelter, with the purpose of providing them a new funding source. Look for the Web site announcement in a future issue of Dyson News.

Professor Martin Kotler Retires

When the doors closed on the spring 2003 semester, the academic career of one of the most admired professors in the history of Pace University closed as well. Dr. Martin Kotler, one of the founders of the Pace Westchester Mathematics Department and the department head for 21 years, will be sorely missed.

Dr. Kotler began his teaching career at Pace in 1965, and since 1983 has been the mathematics department chairman. As chairman, he created a family-like atmosphere among those who worked with him. His wisdom, legendary wit, and direct and honest dealings with people worked magic, enabling faculty to work to their full potential.

No one has fought harder and has had such a positive influence in defending and protecting the rights and benefits of Pace University employees than Dr. Kotler. His vision was for both a strong faculty and student body voice in determining the affairs of Pace University. His efforts have resulted in preserving important employee benefits and have insured an active role of the faculty in the governance of the University.

Despite an intense workload, Marty always made time for students, who, he says, “keep you thinking and feeling young.” He generously offered his expertise and guidance to help students enhance their education and remove roadblocks to achieving their goals.

As Marty commences a new chapter in his life, he can be assured that his extraordinarily positive influence on the mathematics department he helped create will endure among and be treasured by the department’s faculty and staff.

- Mathematics Department Faculty

“...All of us found working with the Quechua a truly moving and worthwhile experience....”

DEAN’S MESSAGE

The Liberal Arts Degree in Today’s World

Five hundred to one thousand years ago, the liberal arts were established as those areas of intellectual discourse that were the purview of the “free” person. That is, academic areas separate from the trades, such as business, engineering, and medicine. The disciplines for the “free” included art, literature, philosophy, natural science, etc. The questions we now face are: What are the liberal arts of today? What areas of intellectual discourse are important for the development of today’s “free” person? Are they different now than they were 500 years ago, or 50 years ago?

I see the coming academic year as a time for crystallizing Dyson’s recent innovations in the core curriculum and a new approach toward service learning, while identifying areas ripe for growth by initiating a broader discussion among Dyson’s various constituencies on what is considered cutting edge in the liberal arts.

From these discussions, we hope to identify both discipline-specific and cross-disciplinary areas of study that are ready for creative development. By working to build both liberal arts programs relative to today’s world and academically rigorous centers within Dyson College, its position within the University will become an even more valued resource, essential to Pace’s success. I hope to develop a process over the coming year that will allow us to say to Dyson students: “Building upon the past, we provide ‘The Liberal Arts of Today’ to ensure your successful future.”

Michael H. Roberts
Acting Dean
Once again, at this year’s annual National Model United Nations (MUN) Conference, held at the New York Hilton in New York City, Pace MUN students with both the New York City and Pleasantville teams won Honorable Delegation awards. The Pleasantville team of 34, led by President Debbie Sequeira, won for position papers from the point of view of Tunisia. The 45-member New York City team, led by President Stephen Ackerman, won for their representation of the Republic of Sudan.

The MUN replicates the United Nations as it actually functions, and students are judged as to how well they embody the country they represent, as well as their ability to compromise and reach agreement. Ambassadors from the countries represented meet with students to give them information about their positions on the issues of the day, such as AIDS in Africa, the debt crises, and the Middle East conflict, which are debated at the conference.

New York City faculty advisor H.R. Clarke explains, “The students actually become the country they represent. It makes for a very real-life exchange of ideas that teaches students the art of negotiation and compromise. I wish I could motivate every single Pace student to join.”

“One of the most valuable things we learn from the Model UN experience is how to work as a team and reach a consensus of opinion,” says Kim Misevis, Pleasantville MUN vice president.

The National Collegiate Conference Association organizes the conference, where this past April, 250 countries were represented by approximately 3,000 students. The conference provides a unique opportunity for students to meet others from countries all over the world.

“Our international students are a tremendous asset to the Model UN. Many students come to Pace for this very reason—our Model UN draws them here,” boasts Professor Clarke.

Alumni are involved with teams on both campuses. “They help us by editing the position papers and assisting with research. And they look forward to the conferences as much as we do,” says Ms. Misevis. “I highly recommend the Model UN to every student at Pace. It’s unlike any other experience on campus,” Ms. Misevis adds. Congratulations to all who participated!”

“I wish I could motivate every single Pace student to join.”

“Pleasantville (left) and New York City MUN teams

photo by G. Julian

photo: Pace Press Online

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

PACE UNIVERSITY

I. Pace Plaza

New York, NY 10038-1598

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

PACE UNIVERSITY

1 Pace Plaza

New York, NY 10038-1598

NON-PROFIT ORG.