Our harbinger of spring this year is not the robin, but Dyson’s Distinguished Achievement Awards Reception and Dinner on March 31, 2005. Last year’s gala event set a new standard in ambiance, size, and scope for this occasion, bringing in much needed scholarship funds for our students and recognizing the notable accomplishments of our honorees. This year, with your help and that of our new director of development, Adrienne D. Capps, we hope to do even better.

Capps started at Pace in September and has already brought a new energy and dynamism to Dyson, bringing faculty, staff, and students together with friends, alumni, and Advisory Board members to brainstorm ways to provide the college with the resources we need to better serve the Dyson community. Capps, who recently became a certified fundraising executive, has been involved with notable fundraising events for a child study center, and after-school child care and mental health programs whose honorees include Whoopi Goldberg, Arthur Sulzberger Jr., and Governor George E. Pataki.

As our signature event, the Dyson awards ceremony provides a platform to honor some of the most accomplished leaders, alumni/ae, and educators who demonstrate their continued dedication to enhancing the arts and sciences education at Pace University and in the community. As a fundraiser, this reception helps provide scholarship aid to the nearly 3,000 students of Dyson College each year as well as supports a Dean’s Fund to foster student and faculty excellence and program enhancement at the college.

This year we will honor Bonnie Fuller, chief editorial director, American Media, Inc., and Frank R. Gatti, chief financial officer, Educational Testing Service, for their Distinguished Leadership in Business and Industry. We will also recognize Linda Anstendig, EdD, professor of English and codirector of the Writing Program, with the Distinguished Faculty Award; Bert Ruiz, published author, speaker, and researcher, with the Distinguished Alumni Award; and Denolyn Carroll, deputy managing director, Essence, for Dedication and Service to the MS in Publishing Program at Dyson College. (See pages 2 and 3 for their profiles.)

The 2005 celebration will be particularly notable as we will also recognize the 20th anniversary of the publishing program. Academic programs such as this embody the strong characteristics that we will continue to develop in our liberal arts and sciences degrees; programs that match educational excellence with practical experience, command the support and commitment of the profession, spark the interest and dedication of their students, and create graduates who are now leaders in the field. We congratulate Professor Sherman Raskin for his commitment to this fine program since its inception.

We hope you will support Dyson College by purchasing tickets or an advertisement in the dinner’s journal, or by making a contribution, and look forward to seeing you at the dinner. For further details about sponsorship packages and deadlines, please contact Adrienne Capps at the number below. Your support of the college is vital to our success and very much appreciated. —Nira Herrmann, PhD
Bonnie Fuller
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EDITORIAL DIRECTOR, AMERICAN MEDIA, INC.

Bonnie Fuller was named executive vice president and chief editorial director of American Media, Inc. (AMI), in July 2003. In this newly created position, she oversees AMI’s 20 weekly, bi-weekly and monthly magazines, in addition to monthly specials, mini-mags, digests and the company’s paperback book division. Some of the AMI titles she oversees include: the new Star magazine, Shape, Men’s Fitness, Muscle & Fitness, Muscle & Fitness Hers, Natural Health, Fit Pregnancy, Flex, and Country Weekly.

Fuller was editor in chief of Glamour and of Cosmopolitan, where she revamped the title. In recognition of her work there, Advertising Age named her Editor of the Year. She went on to become the editor in chief of Us Weekly, where she redesigned the then Us magazine and increased newstand sales more than 100 percent. For her achievements, she was again named Advertising Age’s Editor of the Year.

FOR DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP IN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Frank R. Gatti
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, EDUCATIONAL TESTING SERVICE (ETS)

Frank Gatti is chief financial officer/senior vice president of finance, strategic planning and marketing, business development, and administration. Prior to joining ETS he was vice president financial management for the New York Times Company and, before that, he was with Deloitte & Touche.

A certified public accountant, Gatti holds a BBA from Baruch College/CUNY, an MBA from Rutgers University, and has completed several executive programs at the Harvard Business School. He is a member of the Dean’s Advisory Board at the Dyson College, the MS in publishing program at Pace University, and the Rutgers University Financial Advisory Board. Gatti serves on the Boards of Directors of the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce and Blackboard, Inc., and is a member of CFO Magazine’s Editorial Advisory Board as well as the Conference Board’s CFO Council.

FOR DISTINGUISHED FACULTY AWARD

Linda Anstendig, EdD
PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH, DIRECTOR OF WRITING

Linda Anstendig has been teaching at Pace since 1986. As director of writing for her department and as codirector of Writing Across the Curriculum and the Pforzheimer Faculty Development Center, Anstendig has led workshops on teaching writing, using writing to learn course content, developing course assessment techniques and incorporating technology. She recently won Presidential Grants for using electronic portfolios to assess student competencies and promoting student civic engagement within learning communities.

Anstendig’s publications include the book Writing through Literature, written with David Hicks, and numerous refereed journal articles on writing across the curriculum, service learning, and writing with technology, many of which have been written in collaboration with Pace colleagues. Recent publications are a chapter in Peter Seldin’s book Teaching Portfolios, and a chapter in a book for college teachers called It Really Works: Ideas from Award Winning English Teachers. Anstendig has also served as a consultant for local colleges and high schools on teaching writing, and has been an active advocate for the Westchester Library System. She holds an EdD from Teachers College, Columbia University.

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Antibacterial Soap: Doing More Harm than Good?

Pace biology research findings sound an alert

There are many antibacterial products on the market that claim to kill germs that can cause disease. But, there is a potential downside to these products—they may actually be allowing bacteria to become resistant to antibiotic drugs due to the presence of the antibacterial agent, triclosan.

In response to this, researchers in Dyson College’s biology department on the New York City campus are working to demonstrate that the use of antibacterial soap leads to antibiotic resistance in bacteria.

Assistant Professor of Biology Marcy Kelly, PhD, explains, “When we wash our hands with antibacterial soap containing triclosan, we don’t wash our hands long enough, or often enough. We should be washing our hands for at least 15 seconds, every eight hours in order for antibacterial soap to effectively kill all bacteria—but we simply don’t do this. Because of the improper use of antibacterial soaps, many of the Staphylococcus aureus [staph] bacteria are not destroyed, but have been exposed to triclosan. This exposure gives the bacteria time to develop resistance to triclosan. Our research seeks to demonstrate that this, in turn, leads to a resistance to the antibiotic drug cipro.”

Notably, cipro is one of the only antibiotic drugs left that effectively kills many of the staph infections that are now resistant to all other types of antibiotics. “It is something of a last resort antibiotic, which we believe is being compromised by the misuse of antibacterial soap,” says Kelly. An increasing concern to the medical and scientific community, staph infections, transmitted mostly in hospitals, have become much more difficult to combat due to their growing resistance to antibiotics.

“We want to show the public that using these products is not good.”
—MARCY KELLY

LEARNING AND TEACHING INFORMED BY RESEARCH

Kelly and her team of student researchers have been working on this research for the past year. They have found, from a series of tests on staph that have no resistance to any drug and were exposed to triclosan, that 50 strains of staph became resistant to triclosan. And from these 50, they have found that eight became resistant to cipro.

The student research team, which designed this research method, will be presenting their findings at the American Society of Microbiology annual meeting this June. They include Jehona Marku; Daniella Kovascics; Jessica Shepard; Olga Tkachenko; Amy Joy; and Salena Morrongiello.

“Learning and teaching informed by research” is a method by which professors collaborate with students on research projects. Tkachenko credits Assistant Professor Kelly with piquing her interest in biology. “She explains concepts very clearly, and makes them easy to understand. Before taking a biology class with her, I was unsure about my major. After that class, I knew that I wanted to study biology, so I switched my major. Since then, my GPA has greatly improved.”

As a discussion group leader for biology students, Tkachenko leads discussions and fields questions about topics in biology with freshmen. “It helps me reinforce my own learning and I enjoy helping my fellow students as well.”

With medical school in her sights, Tkachenko hopes to become a pediatrician or obstetrician.
In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, an enclave of people with little means have banded together to create a community center with whatever resources they could scrape together. With no help from the government, they have succeeded in creating a center that provides services such as employment placement, daycare, drug treatment, and refuge for battered women. It is the hub of a favela, or shantytown, in the Jacaresinho neighborhood of the city, and offers relief to those who live in urban poverty and homelessness. But help was needed in finishing the project.

This is where Pace students came in, under the guidance of Professor Daniel Greenberg, PhD, and with the support of a Dyson International Initiatives grant. In the multidisciplinary course Service and Study in Latin America, students traveled to this favela to paint the child care and community meeting rooms at the center. Notably, this was the first American college course to work in a favela community.

According to Greenberg, “Students learn first-hand what civic competency is all about in this travel course. Their involvement with the volunteers working on the center, who have so very little in terms of material possessions, helped them understand how important it is to contribute to and be a part of a community of people.”

“What was surprising about this experience was that these people, though very poor, had great dignity and were happy,” says Mariam Hagert, an international management major and Latin American studies and Spanish minor.

“It was an amazing experience to briefly get to know people from an entirely different culture, and to help them. In the face of extreme poverty, these people held their heads high. It was an experience that we all could learn from,” says Hagert.