Earlier this month, Pace University was host to some of the most influential and prominent figures in the American academic and political communities.

These figures gathered at Pace to take part in the University’s landmark conference, “Aftershock: Rethinking the Future since September 11, 2001,” a three-day conference planned by the Center for Downtown New York to coincide with the fifth anniversary of 9/11, between the dates of September 6-8, 2006.

The conference featured keynote addresses from David Gergen (Editor-at-Large, U.S. News and World Report), Lee Hamilton (member of President Bush’s Homeland Security Council), Doris Kearns-Goodwin (Author and Presidential Historian), and William Kristol (Editor, The Weekly Standard).

Aftershock began the morning of September 6 with a breakfast co-sponsored by Crain’s New York Business, and featured a presentation from Deputy Mayor Dan Doctoroff, who addressed the state of the Manhattan economy.

Discussion panels followed, addressing a wide range of 9/11-related topics. These panels were attended by State Gubernatorial Secretary John Cahill, Pace University President David Caputo, New York State Congressman Jerrold Nadler, and a number of other officials from national, state and community agencies including the Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center, The Partnership for New York City, and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Congressman Nadler also addressed the audience before a special screening of Imagine Entertainment’s Project: Rebirth, a forthcoming documentary that examines the lives of several people affected by the events of 9/11, and the reconstruction of the Ground Zero site in Lower Manhattan.

Each night of the conference featured a Town Hall discussion televised live by NY1 News.

The conference events were held in the Schimmel Theater at One Pace Plaza. Throughout the week, the theater lobby was home to a New York State Museum exhibit featuring artifacts recovered from World Trade Center following the tragedy and a replica of “The First 24 Hours” a timeline depicting the events of September 11, 2001 that was displayed at Ground Zero.

The conference was planned not only to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the attacks, but for Pace to give back to the community, many of which experienced the tragedy first hand. It was attended by approximately 900 residents and students, all of whom were given the opportunity to participate via audience question and answer sessions during the panels and keynote addresses.

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