Opportunities, Collaboration and Compassion

Former President Bill Clinton recently launched Pace’s Centennial Celebration with an eloquent, uplifting and inspiring speech about opportunity, interdependence and global citizenship. Clinton’s remarks definitely struck a chord with the Pace community because our values, priorities and commitments at Pace so closely mirror what he was advocating.

Opportunity and Innovation
Clinton wove these two concepts into his entire speech, highlighting their importance in this increasingly interdependent and integrated world. Students here at Pace have a world of opportunities to: make a difference by volunteering; gain career-related experience; travel abroad; receive all the free tutoring and writing assistance they need; develop leadership skills; participate in civic engagement activities and classes; join or create virtually any club they want; become incredibly well rounded and enlightened through our nationally ranked Model UN; participate in national and international service learning trips; chat with our President online; develop an E-Portfolio; and take learning communities, interdisciplinary and other alternative courses where they can learn how to convert refuse into electricity, raise money for children in Africa and the removal of landmines in Bosnia, participate in sweatshop awareness campaigns, coordinate campuswide panel discussions on the effects of war on children, or take a life-changing, month-long trip to Rome.

Collaboration and Integration
Clinton talked about the importance of living in an integrated world where nations and people collaborate to accomplish tasks for the greater good. The CAE’s mission is to promote student success, yet we would not be able to accomplish any of our goals without the collaborative and integrated efforts of a wide variety of other departments throughout Pace. The same is likely true of most other departments at the university.

Spreading Compassion and Effectuating Change as Private Citizens
It’s almost unfathomable that while most of us can’t seem to live without our cell phones, computers, Blackberries, and TVs, there are billions of people in the world who don’t have enough money to eat a full meal in a given day. According to Clinton’s statistics, 130 million children in the world have never gone to school; 3 billion people live on less than $2/day (1 billion of whom live on less than $1/day); 1 billion people go to bed hungry each night; and 2 1/2 billion people have no access to sanitation. Clinton emphasized the need for citizens to band together to change such conditions. He went on to say that 100 years ago, private citizens seemed to have very limited power to effectuate change and do public good, but fortunately, that is no longer the case. He was hopeful about the changes, we, as citizens, can achieve by working both as individuals and as part of a larger whole. There are so many courses, clubs/organizations, activities, programs and departments that allow (and encourage) the entire Pace community to make a change. As Margaret Mead said, “A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”


Sue Schmid and the CAE Team

Knowledge is like a garden – if it is not cultivated, it cannot be harvested
--African proverb
An Opportunity to Shine at Pace University: Lambda Sigma

This semester, we will welcome our first Pleasantville Campus class of inductees into the national Second Year Student Honor Society, Lambda Sigma. After a lengthy application process, we were thrilled to be granted our own chapter, and the application process for the spring, 2006 induction has begun.

Students inducted into Lambda Sigma must have a GPA higher than a 3.5, and also must demonstrate leadership potential and a strong record of service to their community. We have sent out applications to qualified students in their second term at Pace, and we look forward to making the final selection of 25 finalists early this spring.

Lambda Sigma, founded in the 1920’s, has a distinguished record as a national student honor society, and gives members the opportunity to serve their campus, their fellow students, and the larger community during their sophomore year. We will recognize our inductees at a ceremony in late April, and look forward to working with them in their second year at Pace University.

For more information about Lambda Sigma please contact:
Susan Crawford
Phone: (914)-773-3757
Email: Scrawford@pace.edu

There is always a good side to every situation. Stay optimistic and try see an opportunity in your calamities, not pessimistic and see calamities every opportunity
--Unknown

2nd Annual
Summer Environmental Program for High School Students

The Center for Academic Excellence, in conjunction with many other departments and schools, will be running this exciting program again for current high school sophomore and juniors. During this 3-week course, students will earn 3 college credits while gaining hands-on experience and knowledge about water resources, air quality, the biosphere, sustainability and other important environmental issues!

If you know of anyone who might be interested, please have them contact:
Allyson King
Phone: (914)773-3847
Email: aking@pace.edu

Or, you can visit our website at: www.pace.edu/hsenv
Making the Most of Opportunities in CAP

Making the Most of Opportunity! This year more students than ever in the CAP Program on the Pleasantville campus—19 (nearly 17% of total)—have made the Dean’s List with a GPA of 3.5 or better after their first semester at Pace. In addition, the total number achieving CAP Honors with at least a 3.0 GPA—50 (43%)—is greater than ever! And, on the other end, we have fewer students in our Probation Seminar this semester (15%) than we have had in a good while. How to explain it? We’d like to think that the work we do in CAP and the CAE, the dedicated faculty, people we work with from various student support programs, and the adjustments we make from year to year, is what makes the difference. We also just might have a more outstanding group than ever this year, and we are proud of them!

— Dr. Michael Gillen, Associate Director of CAP

1906-2006: The Opportunity Continues

“Small opportunities are often the beginning of great enterprises.” So said Demosthenes, many centuries ago, and the words still have great resonance. In 1906, Charles and Homer Pace created a “small opportunity” for motivated students to obtain a solid grounding in accounting and business, and today, their “small opportunity” begun with a few hundred dollars has become the “great enterprise” of Pace University.

At the Special Projects and First Year Program Office, small opportunities take many forms. Since adding the “special projects” designation several years ago, the office has gone into the publishing business! Each semester, e-newsletters are sent out to students at Pace. New first year students, new transfer students and students in their second year receive email newsletters several times each term. In each issue, students receive news of upcoming events, important dates to remember, study skills and time management tips and much more, in a format that is informal, colorful and user-friendly. Transfer Transitions, Second Year News YOU Can Use, and First Year News YOU Can Use allow the SP and FYP Office to reach out to a wide cohort of students at Pace, providing ongoing support and information. We plan to continue – and expand - this opportunity to bring students the information they need to survive and thrive at Pace.

Students in two sections UNV 101, taught by Dr. Dan Bender (ENG) and Dr. Bill Ventura (BIO) have been given the opportunity to participate in a pilot program of continued bonding and mentoring this spring. Email outreach, a UNV 101 Reunion Pizza Party, and enhanced academic advising will build lasting bonds. A mentor relationship with their UNV 101 instructor will endure throughout their time at Pace, and will help to create a solid foundation of knowledge and skill sets for academic and personal success.

We had an opportunity in the fall to speak to our new transfer students when we coordinated Pace’s first Transfer Phone-a-thon. Dozens of Pace faculty, staff and administrators made phone calls to our new transfer students to say a friendly hello and see how these students were doing in their transitional semester. One of the most encouraging outcomes was to hear that many students were feeling positive and excited about their Pace experience. And where students had questions or problems, we were able to provide immediate assistance, information and connections to important support systems. So, as the spring term unfolds, we’ll continue our “small opportunities”. Improving the quality of our students’ lives is the “great enterprise” that we are all working to build.

— Susan Crawford, Associate Director for Special Projects/FYP
CAE Interns: Practicing What We Preach!

Throughout the year, the CAE generally has one or two students who choose to complete their practicum experience in our office, primarily focusing on exploring students and related projects through Academic Resources. This semester Allyson King is again supervising 2 wonderful students who are seniors in the Applied Psychology and Human Relations program. The two interns, BethAnn Corbett and Jarrett Foster, are already actively involved in:

- Working with students on exploring, majors and minors (and will also be helping with registration advising in April)
- Working with individual students, and doing workshops on time management and study skills

They are also assisting with the creation, planning, and coordination of many student events and initiatives. As part of our holistic advising approach in Academic Resources, and in conjunction with Pace’s philosophy of ‘Opportunitas’, we encourage our students to utilize University resources such as Co-op and Career Services and the Center for Community Outreach to help them find internships and volunteer opportunities that will allow them to gain hands-on experience in areas of interest, become more well-rounded and learn more about themselves. Therefore, we enjoy putting our philosophy into action by helping our own interns do the same! Each semester, the CAE has been fortunate to have interns who contribute creativity to our initiatives and who connect well with other students. After all, students can usually relate best to their peers. We enjoy working with our interns to help them hone their advising and interpersonal skills, so that they can effectively work with these students in a professional capacity. In return, we learn a great deal from their fresh outlook and student perspective. Our interns have helped us fulfill the CAE’s commitment to student success; we hope we have contributed their own success as students and as future professionals. We look forward to many more semesters of joint learning experiences with our student interns!

—Allyson King, Associate Director of Academic Resources

Student Opportunities at Pace University

It is fitting that opportunities is the motto for Pace University’s centennial because that is exactly what they have spent the last hundred years offering. I entered Pace as a transfer student my sophomore year, and I felt intimidated by the university experience but after only a few weeks I began to realize all the opportunities that I could have if I engaged myself into the Pace community. I realized that college is what you make of it, and if you look around you will find yourself surrounded with possibilities for life changing and enriching experiences!

I have since joined the Honors College, under which I founded Pace’s UNICEF campus initiative Pace C.H.I.L.D. Project, joined and now help direct Pace’s national champion Model United Nations team as vice president. I have done several events through Pace’s wonderful Center for Community Outreach office and Project Pericles, a prestigious organization (only fifty universities nationwide have been offered participation), of which I have been recently elected a leader. In addition to being a member of Pace’s Political Action Club, I have had the opportunity to join many honor societies such as Alpha Chi, Phi Gamma Mu, Golden Key, and Sigma Tau Delta. Recently I began a work-study here at the CAE, which has not only helped me pay for my education but given me invaluable life skills.

—Dov-Sara Magit, CAE College Work-Study Student

The golden opportunity you are seeking is in yourself. It is not in your environment; it is not in luck or chance, or the help of others; it is in yourself alone. —Orison Swett Marden