LaGuardia Students Take Charge

From the Student Government Association, Shah Amanat, President

“I wish I could give more to LaGuardia, it really has changed my life and given me so many opportunities,” says Desiree Rotundo, a LaGuardia student who donated $100 of the nearly $1,300 raised at this semester’s Student Giving Day on April 10. “I can’t tell you how other students have inspired me.”

Now in its second year, the fundraiser led by the College’s Student Government Association (SGA) encourages students to give back and help their peers who struggle to pay tuition and remain in school. Donations are contributed to the LaGuardia Community College Foundation, which uses them to create student scholarships.

Giving Day is a great day when the general student population can contribute to fulfilling the dreams of worthy students in need, said Shah Amanat, president of SGA. If the government doesn’t help us, we will help ourselves.

Proving that there’s no shortage of comradeship and generosity at LaGuardia is the brilliant success of this semester’s fundraiser.

Attention Potential Graduates:

LaGuardia Community College’s 41st Commencement Ceremony will be held on Thursday, June 6, 2013, at the Jacob K. Javitz Center North.

More information about the ceremony, portraits and the graduate cruise can be found on the commencement website at www.lagcc.cuny.edu/commencement.
Spring has finally sprung and with it a renewed sense of hopefulness is filling the air at LaGuardia! However, don’t let Spring fever overcome you just yet.

The spring semester is an important time to build academic momentum. We want you to make most of your educational experience. A big part of that is keeping your grades up. Academic performance impacts your future in many ways including schools and programs you will be able to transfer into, potential scholarship opportunities you would be eligible for and, in some cases, internship and job opportunities that will be available to you.

Additionally, making connections at the college not only makes sense, it could make the difference. Attend college events, join a club, and visit your academic department, Career Services or Student Life. All of these connections can be of help to you as you consider where you want to be after you graduate from LaGuardia.

As always, feel free to post your comments by emailing me at: TellVPBaston@lagcc.cuny.edu. It is your input that helps us to create and strengthen our college and create a vibrant campus community.

Spring is all about new beginnings, so find ways to broaden your horizon and challenge yourself!

Sincerely,
Michael Baston
Vice President of Student Affairs

Have an idea or concern regarding your LaGuardia experience?

Tell VP Baston!

Michael Baston, Vice President of Student Affairs, is interested in knowing your ideas and concerns for improving your student experience.

Email: TellVPBaston@lagcc.cuny.edu

Keep up the momentum!

Michael Baston
Vice President

"Hope" is the thing with feathers —
That perches in the soul —
And sings the tune without the words —
And never stops — at all —
-Emily Dickinson
On April 17, LaGuardia raised awareness with the Earth Day Fair in the E Atrium. There was much to enjoy and learn at the fair, here are some of the highlights just in case you missed it.

The first thing that caught most people’s attention at the event was the carbon foot printing test. In layman’s terms, carbon foot print is the measure of how much greenhouse gases are emitted into the environment per individual. With a simple questionnaire, they assessed your daily activity and calculated the energy it consumes, and then propose the resources required to keep up this energy. The purpose of the test is to see what the Earth would be like if every individual does the same activity in just America alone. At the fair, I learned that on average, an American’s Carbon Footprint equals up to 4-5 Planets. This means it would take the resources of four to five planets in order to support everyone by the year 3000. This is partially due to the average daily activity of food and energy consumption which takes a heavy toll on our human resources. While this may seem dire, the purpose of the fair was to offer solutions and hope in addition to raising awareness, so those who were interested in lowering their carbon foot print were given suggestions on how they can improve the biosphere.

Attending the fair was the activist group, Food and Water Watch. The group’s representatives explained that their current goal is to prevent fracking in the United States. Fracking is a drilling technique where water, sand, and chemicals are injected through the dirt with high pressure in order to obtain oil and natural gas from previously inaccessible locations underground. The locations of fracking are, believe it or not, mostly in farmlands where farmers have leased their land to oil and gas companies for profit. This leads to potential damage to agriculture due to water contamination and toxic spills. Additionally livestock can be killed and crops withered, as a result of fracking. The Food and Water Watch were at the Fair to inform the campus that the group is petitioning a stop of fracking in New York.

The petition is available online at the group’s website, www.foodandwaterwatch.org

Additionally, I found a few people hosting a NYC Compost Project for students. I asked the gentleman for more information about compost. He informed me that Vermicompost is the process of harvesting compost from worm droppings in order to fertilize your plants. To summarize, you feed the worms your leftover fruits and coffee grounds, the worms do their business, and you collect the heap of manure to fertilize your plants. The gentleman had his very own worm bin on hand to display. The bin inside was covered in shredded newspaper on the top, worms and compost on the bottom. Surprisingly, it smelled like fresh dirt, which is intended.

The Earth Day Fair was an excellent event because it makes you consider the possibility of change in our daily lives. Earth Day can be an overlooked holiday because there’s no such way we know to celebrate it. There are no parades and school is still open. Ironically, Earth Day is one of the most important holidays because its awareness is not just recommended, but needed in order that we become better individuals for the sake of ourselves and the planet. I’m not asking anybody to go out there and start hugging trees, but at least consider how you can do something better for the Earth. Take a walk, bike ride, recycle, quit smoking for one day, the list goes on because even small difference in our habit can make a positive change and then possibly you can lower your carbon footprint.

You can read more of Anthony Burgos’ work by going to: lagcfreshman.blogspot.com

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2013 Graduate Cruise
on board the
Spirit of New York!
Friday, May 24, 2013
Chelsea Piers, NY
Boarding Time: 6:00pm
Cruise Time: 7:00 – 10:00pm
$35.00 per person
Pay at Bursar Window
Pick up your ticket at the
Student Government Office, M-161
Bursar Window Hours
Monday 9:00am – 7:00pm
Tuesday 9:00am – 6:00pm
Wednesday 9:00am – 5:00pm
Thursday 9:00am – 7:00pm
Friday 9:00am – 4:30pm
Your 3 Hour Fun-Filled Excursion Includes:
• Open Buffet
• Dancing (Live DJ)
• Live Entertainment
• Sinfully Delicious Desserts
Catch the Spirit!
For more information, visit:
The Office of Student Life, 427 or call (718) 482-5190
Profile from p. 1

Theater major strictly, I would have never seen how these two connect,” she says. “I had the freedom to take many different courses. So I ended up taking an acting course, and my passion for theater came back. I also took a class in linguistics and completely fell in love with the field,” she adds.

While her international career plans percolate, Amalia participlate in extracurricular activities and programs that enrich her and her peers. She was the only community college keynote presenter at the 2013 Association of American Colleges and Universities’ annual conference where she showcased LaGuardia’s e-Portfolio program in front of an audience of hundreds. She is also a member of the College’s Honors Program and was selected for the Exploring Transfer Program at Vassar College, a rigorous summer program.

Amalia expects to graduate in Spring 2013 and continue her studies at an interdisciplinary programs offered at the University of Chicago, the Gallatin School at NYU or Bard College. She currently works as a marketing assistant for TeatroStageFest, a New York-based non-profit that promotes Latino theater and artists from around the world.
**Dollars & Sense**

**Time to Fill Your 2013-2014 FAFSA**

File your FAFSA and TAP applications in the Student Financial Services Resource Center, Room C109.

**LAB HOURS:**
Monday and Thursday 9:00 AM - 6:30 PM
Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

If you are a Dependent student (under 24 years of age, living with parents) you must bring the following documents in order to apply: See Independent Student for exemptions.

- Social Security number
- Income tax returns for 2012, if any
- Proof of citizenship (only if green card or asylum number is available)
- If income is from foreign country, provide proof

AND

- Parent’s 2012 Income Tax returns and all W-2 forms
- Parent’s marital status (If married, date is required)
- Parent’s Social Security number and date of birth
- Savings or Checking account balance
- If Parents own/rental property, must have property value (Schedule E, Net Value)

If you are an Independent Student (over 24 years of age, married or legally claiming a dependent) please bring the following documents:

- Independent Student(s) Over 24 Years of Age/Married or Claiming a dependent
- Student/spouse social security number.
- 2012 Income tax returns and W-2 forms.
- If eligible non-citizen (green card or asylum number).
- If Own/Rental Property, must have property value (Schedule E, Net Value).
- Savings or Checking Account balance.

**Important Financial Aid Deadlines:**

- 2012-13 Federal Direct Loan request deadline is May 15th, 2013
- 2013-14 Priority deadline to file your FAFSA was April 15th, 2013
- 2013-14 Verification documentation submission priority deadline is May 15th, 2013

**Avoid a Pell Overpayment:**

**Effects of Withdrawing on your Title IV Aid**

*Last day to officially Withdraw from a Course was April 23rd, 2013.*

If you withdrew from one or more of your classes after the first day of classes but before the official withdrawal date listed in the schedule of classes and remain with at least 1.0 tuition unit through 5.5 tuition units, the amount of Pell funds you receive for the session will be reduced. If this amount is less than the amount you charged or credited towards tuition/fees and a book advance, you will immediately have to pay the difference to the Bursar’s Office.

**Federal Financial Aid Spring Refund Checks**

Students eligible for a Spring refund check started to receive payments starting April 17th, 2013 and will happen throughout the end of the semester.

For the full list of Spring 2013 Pell disbursement dates please visit LaGuardia’s financial aid page: [http://www.cuny.edu/Financial-Aid/Check-Disbursement-Dates/](http://www.cuny.edu/Financial-Aid/Check-Disbursement-Dates/)

**Avoid lost checks and delays by signing up for the CUNY Scholar Support Prepaid Card or direct deposit.**

**CUNY Scholar Support Prepaid Card**

This is not a credit card. It’s a prepaid MasterCard accepted at any store or ATM where MasterCard debit is accepted. Student payments will be automatically deposited to the card and can be used immediately.

Sign up for the CUNY Scholar Support Prepaid Card at [www.cuny.edu/scholarssupport](http://www.cuny.edu/scholarssupport) or in the Student Financial Services Resource Center.

**Direct Deposit through Any Bank**

Arrange your Financial Aid to go directly to your bank account. Simply complete and submit the Direct Deposit Request/Authorization Form to the Bursar Window in room C110. Forms are available at the Bursar window and online at [http://www.claagcc.cuny.edu/Financial-Aid/forms-to-download/](http://www.claagcc.cuny.edu/Financial-Aid/forms-to-download/).

**Steps to Check Your Financial Aid on CUNYFirst**

1. Log in to your CUNYFirst account at [www.laguardia.edu/CUNYFirst](http://www.laguardia.edu/CUNYFirst).
2. Click to expand the Self Service options and select Student Center.
3. Under the Finances section, click Make a Payment.

By clicking on the Account Inquiry tab you will look for your Pending Financial Aid. You can also see your account activity, current balance after Financial Aid, a detailed list of charges, payments and refund amount.

**The IRS Data Retrieval Tool on the FAFSA**

The IRS Data Retrieval Tool makes it easier to complete your FAFSA application by authorizing the IRS to release the necessary income information to populate the application. You will have the option to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool when you fill out the application. To use the tool, all parties must have filed their 2012 tax return at least two weeks prior to filling out the FAFSA.

**Students who don’t use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool and are selected for verification will be required to provide an IRS Tax Transcript.**

**IRS Tax transcript Quick Facts**

- Provided by the IRS free of charge
- Available for processing by IRS:
  - 2-3 weeks after filing for E-filed returns
  - 6-8 weeks after filing for paper filed returns
- Transcript should arrive within 5-10 business days after it is available for processing.

**Ways to obtain IRS Tax Return Transcripts**


**Phone:** Self-service line at 1-800-906-9946

**Mail:** Fill out a Request for Individual Tax Return Transcript, (Form 4506T-EZ)

**IRS Office Walk-In:** Visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) to look up your local office.

**Satisfactory Academic Progress**

In order to continue to be eligible to receive Federal Financial Aid (Title IV funds) you must be maintaining satisfactory academic progress. Your academic progress is reviewed annually to determine eligibility for the upcoming academic year. The Office of Student Financial Services reviews your academic progress after Spring grades are submitted.

Federal regulations require students to remain eligible by maintaining at least a “C” average, or its equivalent according to the College’s retention policy; and accumulating credits towards your degree according to the following standards:

- A student’s earned credits are equal to or greater than two-thirds of the credits the student has attempted at the institution.
- The credits a student has attempted are not more than 150% of the credits normally required for completion.
- There is a maximum of 90 attempted credits allowed in order to be eligible for financial aid while attending a two-year college.

If the above stated standard is not met, eligibility may be retained by meeting the following conditional standard:

- The credits the student has earned are equal to or greater than .875 of the total amount of credits attempted minus 21.

**The CUNY Board of Trustee Policy for Satisfactory Academic Standing** requires students to maintain a certain grade point average based on the number of credits attempted as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Credits attempted</th>
<th>Required minimum GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0.1 – 12.0</td>
<td>1.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.5 – 24.9</td>
<td>1.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 or more</td>
<td>2.00</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Federal Work Study**

The Federal Work Study funds are awarded on a first come first served basis hence we urge you to file your FAFSA application and remember to indicate that you are interested in the program.

If you are a current work study student and will be graduating after Spring session I your last day to work is June 5th, 2013. If you have a work study award it’s not too late to earn it, the last day to work for the academic year is August 6th, 2013. FWS Orientation is ongoing in C-109.

The 33rd Annual Library Research Review Competition

The 33rd Annual Library Research Review Competition, co-sponsored by The Library and Faculty Council, is now accepting research papers written for courses taken at LaGuardia during the 2012-13 academic year, including Session II. Students or faculty may submit research papers until the June 29, 2013 deadline.

Prizes
- First Place: Kindle Fire, a 7” Full Color Multi-Touch Display Tablet with audio and built-in Wi-Fi
- Second Place: Kindle Touch 3G, with audio and built-in Wi-Fi
- Third Place: Kindle Touch, with audio and built-in Wi-Fi

For additional information, please contact Professor Clementine Lewis in the Library, Room E101. You may also visit the Research Review Competition website at http://library.laguardia.edu/researchreview.

The Annual Alan J. Berman Scholarship Award

The LaGuardia Faculty Council encourages you to apply for the annual Alan J. Berman Scholarship Award of $500. To be eligible, you must have a minimum of 20 credits earned at LaGuardia. The application and personal essay will be evaluated on the basis of your grade point average, personal growth, service to the college and service to the community.

The deadline is May 31, 2013.

For additional information about this award, please visit Faculty Council’s website located at http://www.lagcc.cuny.edu/facultycouncil/awards-scholarships.aspx.
**A Brief Look**

**at May 2013**

May 22  
Spring Jam Festival

May 24  
Graduation Cruise

May 24  
Phi Theta Kappa Induction Ceremony

May 27  
College Closed - No classes

*Check your Live Student Email account for details on these and other events like Student Government elections, Asian Heritage celebrations and advisement*

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**LaGuardia students represent at the Northeast Regional Honors Council Annual Convention**

Early in April 14 LaGuardia students from the College’s Honors Program served as delegates at the annual convention of the Northeast Regional Honors Council (NRHC), the regional association of honors programs from 4- and 2-year colleges. This year, the convention took place in Philadelphia with the theme, “Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness: Foundations, Tensions and Mediations.”

During the four days of the convention, over 400 delegates participated in activities designed to stimulate deep thought about a city that is so woven in the nation’s history and to nurture student research. Honors student Freda Raitelu proudly represented LaGuardia as one of two elected representatives on NRHC’s Executive Board. She worked with fellow student representative to organize all the activities at the convention, addressed the audience at the luncheon on day three, and co-chaired the Student Caucus.

The convention began on a Thursday evening when student delegates joined in a scavenger hunt that took teams out into the city of Philadelphia to locate and photograph important sites. And with the spirit of learning and networking established right off the bat, delegates were in a good place to embark on City as Text the next day.

On the second day, along with other students, the LaGuardia delegates explored key Philadelphia neighborhoods to learn about the interplay between history and the present through observation of architecture and monuments, and interaction with locals. In addition, delegates had the honor of meeting 11 elders from Philadelphia who are part of the Best Day of My Life project, which fosters inter-generational conversation and learning. They recounted stories of Philadelphia and American history, including the effects of gentrification, the Vietnam War and the desegregation of Philadelphia schools. Day two ended with a wonderful banquet featuring a provocative keynote speech on a university’s civic responsibilities by Drexel University’s vice provost.

Day three was a big one for all student delegates; it was Student Presentation Day. Twelve LaGuardia delegates presented their research on interdisciplinary panels and a roundtable, and held a very successful interactive workshop on teamwork and communication. LaGuardia students’ papers included “The Economics of Happiness” by Rachael Villacis Spanos and Alexis Perez; the DREAM Act by Freda Raitelu; and strategies to prepare Black and Hispanic students at a Queens high school for college by Tremaine Wright.

That evening was spent at a party for all delegates where they networked and celebrated the good work done by LaGuardia’s Honors students. Tired but exhilarated and inspired, the last convention day was for debriefing and discussing ways to bring all that was learned at the convention back to the College.

If you would like to be considered for future opportunities like this one, you are welcome to join the Honors Student Advisory Committee (HSAC). Drop by HSAC’s home in Room M222 to get involved in upcoming HSAC activities like the June 13 Honors Recognition Dinner and ongoing Transfer Initiative.

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**Short Takes on Literature, Spring’13**

Family comes in all forms, flavors and colors. This spring, join us as we engage with stories about the world of “family” with stories, discussions and treats.

Feel free to drop in or stay for an entire session on May 2, 9 and 16 in the Library Conference Room, 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Students who attend will receive a certificate of participation. Students who attend at least three sessions will receive a copy of a collection of short stories.

*Reading Schedule:*

May 2  
"My Mother’s Car” by Marjorie Saunders  
“What Will Happen To The Sharma Family” by Samrat Upadhyay

May 9  
"Lost Children” by Melanie Rae Thon  
“Tenth of December” by George Saunders

May 16  
"My Child Is Missing” by Kristin Hannah  
"Mother Bear” by Jann Everard

*Please visit the Library Reference Desk for more information on the event and accessing these short stories.*
### Asian Heritage Celebration 2013

#### May Events

**TALK by Kenneth Vitale, MD on good nutrition and academic success (and a little bit about his medical career)**
- Dr. Vitale will talk about general advice about good nutrition, which is indispensable for surviving through the final few weeks of the semester and the final exam week. This is also a good opportunity for those who are seeking a medical career with bilingual and bicultural background.
- For more information: Tomonori Nagano (tnagano@lagcc.cuny.edu)

**FILM: The Routes video screening and artist lecture by Sin-ying Ho and Fanny Lawren.**
- *The Routes* is a TV documentary series showcases the spiritual odyssey of 12 Chinese American visual artists. Sin-ying Ho is one of the featured artists.
- For more information: Nozomi Kato (nozomirose@gmail.com)

- For more information: Ann Matsuuchi (amatsuuchi@lagcc.cuny.edu)

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

**MAIN CELEBRATION ON**

**MAY 8, 2013 * 2PM-4PM**

**COBBLESTONE COURTYARD**

*Free food, music and performances by student and professional performers.*
MAY 8–12

AN LPAC + HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT COLLABORATION

THE FACTORY • Directed by Professor Stefanie Sertich (Humanities Department)

LaGuardia Community College students have adapted George Orwell’s novel, Animal Farm into a unique theatrical experience. Fear, oppression and blind obedience; our students are speaking up!

MAY 8–12

Wed–Sun, May 8th–12th @ 2:00pm & 7:30pm
BLACK BOX THEATER: 31-10 Thomson Avenue, Long Island City, NY

Admission: $5

Part of funding for L.P.A.C. is provided by NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs, THE NEW YORK COMMUNITY TRUST, Lila Atchison Wallace Fund for the Arts and The Merit Gilmore Foundation. Partial funding for this production is also provided by New York Community Trust through the CUNY Dance Initiative.

Directions: 🚇 Take the 7 train to 33rd/E. 34th or the E, G, V, R to Queens Plaza; 10 minutes from Grand Central Station
By car please call Box Office or visit www.LaguardiaPerformingArts.org

Box Office: 718 482-5151 Monday - Friday, 10:00am - 4:00pm

AN LPAC + HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT COLLABORATION