



The Liberty Times



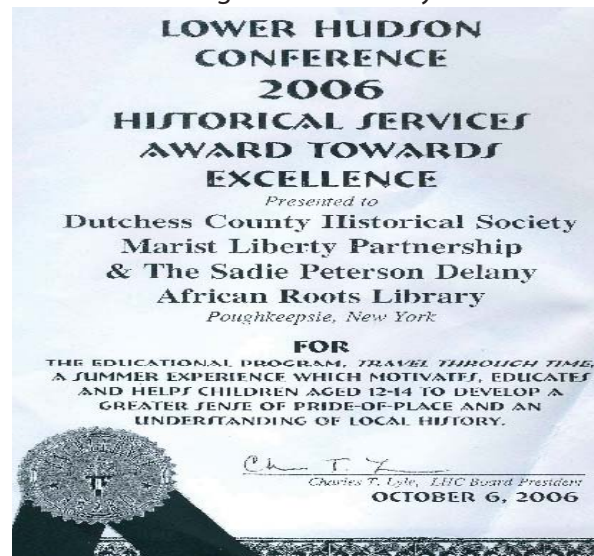
A newsletter for the Liberty Partnership Program of Marist College

Spring 2007

LPP wins award of Excellence for "Travel through Time"

LPP received an Award Towards Excellence from the Lower Hudson Conference of Historical Services for its annual Travel Camp. Middle School students from Poughkeepsie and Kingston have the opportunity to attend this summer program. They visit historical sites in the Hudson Valley and make connections to what they learn in Social Studies. They also participate in reading and writing activities with a certified teacher.

Travel Camp 2006 was themed "history connected to the land" and the students visited local farms, the Francis Leham Loeb Gallery, Sprout Creek Farm, Poughkeepsie Farm Project and a revolutionary war era home. They made salsa, painted, and went swimming. They learned how food is raised and cheese is made. Other activities included picking blueberries and meeting 4-H youth and the animals they are raising. The program has been sponsored by the Dutchess Historical Society, KeyBank, and the Sadie Petersen Delaney African Roots Library. Travel camp 2007 will be held during the week of July 16.



LPP Thanks Partners

LPP thanks the following organizations for their support: Poughkeepsie School District, Kingston School District, KeyBank, Upward Bound, Family Partnership Center, Poughkeepsie Chamber of Commerce, Mid-Hudson Association of Pre-collegian Programs, Boys and Girls Club of Kingston, Mill Street Loft, Family Services, Inc., Literacy Connections, Ulster County Office of Employment and Training, Dutchess County Historical Society, Poughkeepsie Public Library District, Planned Parenthood, Community Foundation of Dutchess County, and Sodexo.

Liberty Partnership Program
29 North Hamilton Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601



LPP is sponsored by Marist College and funded through the New York State Education Department.

Marist Mentors

Middle School students from both Poughkeepsie and Kingston have the opportunity to work with Marist students at the college. Marist mentors are Psychology/Special Education majors who meet with Poughkeepsie students once a week and Kingston students on a monthly basis. The mentors prepare activities that enhance students learning of a

particular subject; this semester the focus is Social Studies.

Mentors also take students to see different parts of the campus or help them with additional homework. Each mentoring session concludes with a meal in the cafeteria.



Liberty Academy

High School students from Poughkeepsie and Kingston were given a taste of college this past fall through the LPP Academy at Marist College. The program was held over six weeks. Students were able to choose from several classes including Math Lab, Writing Lab, and Computer Lab, which were taught by Marist faculty and students who are pursuing a degree in Education. LPP, in conjunction with campus clubs, also gave students several electives to choose from including, recreation with Marist athletes and learning television production. Following the academic portion of the program, students had dinner in the dining hall.

2006 Graduates Complete 1st College Year

Of the 22 college-bound graduates last year, all have completed their first year. These students are attending Howard University, Marist College, Russell Sage, Mount St. Mary's, St. Rose, Dutchess Community College, Nyack, Ulster County Community College, College of Film & TV, and SUNY Brockport. Many of this year's graduating LPP class have been accepted into college as well- Others are waiting for acceptances.

Camp Marist

Camp Marist is a summer program for high school students, that helps them experience college life. The students actually stay on the Marist campus for three days and two nights, giving them an idea of life on a college campus.

During this time they attend several seminars about topics such as, applying to college and financial aid. Other workshops focus on topics such as self-man-

agement, health issues, using technology, resume writing, and freshman mistakes.

Along with these workshops, students attend a mock college class. Last year students enjoyed a field observation class by an Environmental Science professor. The students also get free time to enjoy recreation in the McCann Center.

Lunchin' with Liberty

Once a month high school students in Poughkeepsie High School are given the opportunity to "Lunch with Liberty." Besides given lunch, the students are also fed knowledge on such topics as study skills, time management, and personal issues. We invite all students to participate, just be sure to bring your appetite!



*LPP would like to thank the interns from this semester.
Amanda Figueiras
Dave Brangaitis
Cindy Spiecker, editor of this edition of The Liberty Times*

April is Career Month!

“What do you want to be when you grow up?”

Deciding on a career or college is not an easy task for high school students. For this reason, LPP offers several programs for our students. Beginning in Middle School students complete inventories and learn about possible types of careers to consider. High school students will complete inventories as well,

but they will explore careers in more detail. Students attend career events in the community, the Job Fair at Marist College, as well as meet with Marist students, to discuss choosing a major.

At a recent meeting, middle school students from Kingston completed a career interest inventory to discover possible career options. The majority of the students agreed with the outcome. For example

Marquise felt that a chef or a career in the culinary arts would be a good fit. Taaig, however, disagreed with the idea of a physical therapist and instead would like to pursue a career in fashion.



Job Shadow Day: Great Success!

During career month, 25 students from Poughkeepsie and Kingston High Schools came to Marist College to participate in the annual Job Shadow Day. A group of students interested in healthcare careers toured St. Francis Hospital with Denise Kenney, counselor. Four students were hosted by the Supervisor of Security and the Associate Dean of Student Affairs. The remaining students met with staff for informational interviews. They learned about careers in sports, medicine, culinary arts, accounting, security, property management, coaching, library science, informational technology, and management.

Following the job shadow day, students enjoyed dinner in the cafeteria and few students from Marist spoke and answered questions with students regarding their majors.

LPP in the News

- Susan Repko, director, will be interviewed by the president of the Poughkeepsie Chamber of Commerce on the Disney Radio Station regarding LPP.

-Three Radio/TV/Film majors from Marist have been working all semester to create a documentary about LPP. When the project is complete, they plan to put it on the Marist website.

Students Share Great Stories

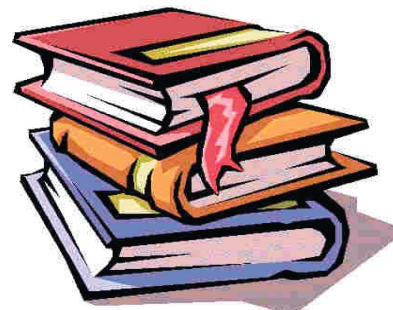
The Poughkeepsie Public Library has been working with students from the Marist Liberty Partnerships Program and Poughkeepsie High School to bring young adults together to form an after school book club.

The Great Stories Club was funded by a grant from the Oprah Foundation, which paid for the books distributed free of charge to participants. Deborah Shon and Angela Panzer from Adriance Memorial Library hold meetings in the PHS library to discuss the book of the week.

Angela Panzer reports that the discussions are lively, “We spend about one hour each time with the teens and they are very responsive, giving their thoughts and ideas on

the book discussed.”

Although funding for the book club has ended, Adriance Memorial Library will continue the program by funding the purchase of three more books for the teens to read and keep. The PHS book club is meeting again during the Spring semester.



Spotlight on Sarah Boutros

Sarah Boutros, a LPP senior at Kingston High School, has been accepted to Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, her first choice for college. Sarah is very excited about attending college and what her future holds. She gives a lot of praise for her counselor, Jeff Gold, in helping her with the college process. This has included taking college tours, filling out applications, and having someone put in a good word to college admissions.

Along with aiding in the college process, Sarah feels that

Liberty has helped her maintain good grades, throughout her four years in the program.

"Liberty helps you stay on track, and also helps minorities," she says, "It has also enabled me to see the environments on college trips, which was helpful."

She has also been able to participate in events such as Job Shadow Day, in which she found a tour of the Lab at St. Francis Hospital very interesting.

Besides keeping her grades up, Sarah also does shotput for the

track team, is the statistician for the Wrestling team, babysits, and enjoys helping her neighbors. She also has three brothers, who have participated or are currently in the Liberty program. Philip attends University of Albany, Ramsey goes to Marist College, and her youngest brother Peter is a Junior at Kingston High School.

Sarah is looking forward, not only to college, but the annual Liberty trip to the Great Escape Six Flags.

Liberty to the MAX

LPP's after school program at the Poughkeepsie High School has been "blown up" to include tutoring and Regents review with teachers, a daily meal, and enhancements. Students are enjoying enhancements such as African Dance, vocal music, college tours, and etiquette sessions in preparation of a masquerade ball at Marist.

Teachers are also offering sessions in advanced computer skills, entrepreneurship skills, using technology, and presentation skills.

There are daily drawings for prizes of CDs, DVDs, and tee-shirts. Monthly drawings are for iPod shuffles. Students with good attendance will be invited to go to New York City for dinner and to see The Color Purple on Broadway.

LPP is partnering with the Poughkeepsie School District and the Community Foundation of Dutchess County to provide Liberty to the MAX.

Over 80 PHS students have participated since the program began March 5th.



Reflections of an LPP Graduate

Deciding what to do after graduating from high school is a big decision, but making it after college is even more difficult. Chenell Swan, a senior and Liberty graduate, feels exactly that same way. Chenell graduated from the Liberty program and Kingston High School in 2003. She went on to Marist College, where she majored in Biology, not an easy task.

Chenell chose Marist over other options including Long Island University,

LeMoyne, and Utica because she obtained a scholarship from the Liberty program and wanted to remain close to home.

Chenell feels that her seven years with Liberty helped her stay out of trouble as a student at Bailey Middle School and Kingston High School. She especially felt the tutoring and mentoring were valuable aspects of the Liberty experience. She also cites the college tours and assistance with filling out ap-

plications as helpful.

"Liberty should stay because it opens a lot of doors and helps kids that don't have opportunities. It is a good alternative to guidance counselors."

Chenell plans to enter the medical field, but is remaining at Marist another semester to pinpoint exactly what she wants to do. After that she hopes to move to the Baltimore/Washington D.C. and attend graduate school.