Dr. Michael Shugrue

Good afternoon. As we approach the holiday season, a season in which we celebrate the act of giving to others, I would like to take a moment to remember someone who gave so much to the College of Staten Island.

Last week, CSI lost a very dear friend and colleague, Dr. Michael Shugrue. Dr. Shugrue was a distinguished scholar. Teacher, academic
administrator and philanthropist, who came to the College of Staten Island in 1974 as Dean of Faculty. He then became a faculty member of the Department of English and Director of its Graduate program, focusing his publishing in 18th century literature.

In addition to his 25 years of service with the College, Dr. Shugrue was a tremendous benefactor to CSI, establishing the Robert E. Jackson Scholarship and the Shugrue Family Fund in memory of his brother. He also established the Shugrue Cultural Development Fund which brought world-class musicians to the College’s Center for the Arts including the New York Philharmonic.
Dr. Shugrue’s selfless dedication and generosity to CSI will be remembered and missed.

Please join me in a minute of silence in memory of our colleague.

THE SECOND ANNUAL CELESTIAL BALL

The generous spirit of giving exemplified by Dr. Shugrue was felt and shared by all those who attended the College’s second annual Celestial Ball this past Saturday at the Richmond County Country Club. Over 200 people attended the gala which raised over $600,000 for student scholarships and support, surpassing last year’s total. This was a truly
remarkable achievement considering these increasing difficult economic times.

While we honored three exceptional constituents of the College including New York City Fire Commissioner Salvatore Cassano, Emmy Award winner Dolores N. Morris, and our very own Distinguished Professor Fred Naider, the most significant beneficiaries of the Gala were, of course, our students. The event proceeds will allow students to attend our great institution and, in the process, transform their lives.

MIDDLE STATES
As we approach the completion of the first semester, I am pleased to report that two of the College’s major initiatives, the Middle States Reaccreditation and Strategic Planning Processes are progressing according to schedule.

Each of the seven Middle States Working Groups are diligently completing their research and developing reports on their assigned Middle States standards. Final reports due in early spring 2011 will become part of an initial draft of the self-study document by mid semester. The working document will be available for review and comment in late
spring, leaving time for appropriate revision suggested by the College community.

And recently, the College launched its Middle States website, which provided comprehensive, up-to-date information concerning the Middle States process. I encourage everyone to visit the site.

As for the Strategic Planning Process, I will be providing a full update of our progress concerning this major initiative later in the meeting when I present the report of the Institutional Planning Committee.
Kwanzaa will be celebrated here at the College tomorrow at 7:30 PM.

The Psychology department’s Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling program, a two and a half year, full time day program will be holding an information session this afternoon at 4PM in building 4S room 116.

Congratulations to the Center for International Services for hosting a delegation of Vietnamese educators this past week and for hosting a number of exciting activities during International Education Week.
Congratulations to Leo Song a graduate studying Physical Therapy here at the College of Staten Island who was invited by the Northeastern Chapter of the Korea American Scholarship Foundation to serve on a panel with students from Columbia and Harvard University which addressed “Postgraduate and Career Strategies”

CLOSING

In closing, I wish you the most joyous holiday season and the happiest of new years.

Thank you.