WHAT IS FORTNIGHT?

A **fortnight** is a unit of time equivalent to 14 days. The term derives from the Old English *fearwertyne niht*, meaning “fourteen nights.” Inspired by the opportunities and challenges of Middle States Standard 14 and the desire to share information and best practices, **FORTNIGHT** is a communication vehicle, which is distributed online to the campus community.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY COLLEGE DAY OF ASSESSMENT

On Friday, April 19, members of the College of Staten Island community joined visitors from City, Brooklyn and John Jay Colleges, Hostos, Borough of Manhattan, Queensborough and Bronx Community Colleges, and the CUNY Central Office of Institutional Research and Assessment, for the tenth anniversary Day of Assessment. The first Day of Assessment, in May 2003, was based on a panel discussion structure and covered topics in very broad ways, rather than in a specific fashion.

The first speaker, CUNY Director of Assessment Dr. Raymond Moy, brought his knowledge of the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) to the event. As we join more than 700 institutions that have used the CLA, it is important for the College of Staten Island to understand how the instrument functions and the uses to which it can be put. To this end, Dr. Moy helped contextualize the information that we will receive about these students with respect to their critical thinking, analytic reasoning, problem solving and written communication skills. The College administered the CLA to 101 first year students in fall 2012, and 98 seniors this semester; Dr. Moy explained the types of results that we can expect, how to frame that against institutions across the country, and how the results can be used to answer research questions about student learning.

Following Dr. Moy, Associate Professor and Director of the Social Work Program at the College of Staten Island, Dr. Lacey Sloan, explained how the BS in Social Work program at the College has responded to the requirements of accreditation by the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE). The program is already in candidacy status, and Dr. Sloan spoke about the ten competencies and 41 practice behaviors that all students graduating from a CSWE-accredited program must master. She also reviewed the competency-based education model used by the CSWE along with its integrated approach to learning assessment. She then gave examples of how the Social Work program uses data from multiple measures to ensure that the curriculum addresses all the requirements of accreditation.

After sharing lunch together and enjoying our Director of College Testing, Mr. Alan Hoffner, making his annual innovative post-prandial linkages between the day's presentations, attendees benefitted from the years of assessment experience of Associate Professors of Computer Science Dr. Sarah Zelikovitz and Dr. Deborah Sturm. Dr. Zelikovitz was unable to attend the event, so Dr. Sturm made the full presentation and discussed how the changing requirements of ABET Computer Science accreditation have shaped curriculum and pedagogy in the program. Focusing on "thinking inside the box," Dr. Sturm demonstrated how faculty can maintain their creativity even while adhering to rigorous accreditation standards, and how the selection of easy-to-use assessment tools can allow fundamental assessment approaches to be applied in many disciplines.
Finally, the College's own Director of Institutional Research and Assessment, Dr. Sam Michalowski, spoke about the assessment of the student experience through instruments such as the Noel Levitz Satisfaction Inventory. All CUNY schools including CSI will begin using this survey of student engagement every two years as a replacement for the CUNY Student Experience Survey. Dr. Michalowski used examples from our own Noel Levitz data from 2000 and 2011 to illustrate how the survey questions are designed to be aggregated to develop an understanding of discreet aspects of the College. The survey includes a way to rank the importance that students place on these dimensions, which can help both non-academic and academic programs estimate the impact of making changes to services.

The Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and the staff of the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment wish to thank all those who participated and attended this year's event, as well as those who have attended and supported all assessment efforts over the past decade.

CUNY NEWS

The CUNY Performance Management Process – The City University of New York follows an annual Performance Management Process (PMP) that links planning and goal setting at the University level to its constituent colleges and professional schools, then evaluates progress towards key goals and recognizes excellent performance. At the end of each academic year, the College of Staten Island and its sister campuses take stock of how well they have met their annual goals. The University posts college reports, background information, and University-wide goals and targets on a central the Performance Management Process web page at www.cuny.edu/pmp. A review of the documents on that page reveals how individual college targets reflect differences in campus missions, resources and circumstances.

The purposes of the PMP, as written by the Office of the Chancellor, are many: to ensure clarity about University and college priorities and expectations for the year; to recognize and acknowledge progress at all levels; to unite a diverse set of colleges into an integrated University; to ensure that the CUNY Master Plan guides the plans and priorities of the colleges while each retains its own identity, mission, and governance; and to introduce more accountability into the system.

CAMPUS UPDATES

"Substantive Change" Ushers in a New Era at the College of Staten Island – With the acceptance of a Substantive Change document by the Middle States Commission on High Education, the College of Staten Island is now recognized as a professional doctoral granting institution by our federally authorized accrediting body. The road to this status required approval by the College’s Institutional Planning Committee and Faculty Senate, the CUNY Board of Trustees, and the New York State Board of Regents; it was then acknowledged by Governor Cuomo and by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education which accredits our Doctor of Physical Therapy program. On April 30, 2013, the College was notified of the final step, the approval of the Substantive Change request, when the Middle States Commission issued a letter to Interim President Fritz indicating that the granting of the Doctorate in Physical Therapy is now included within the scope of the College’s accreditation. Congratulations to all those who have been involved in this lengthy process!

FORTNIGHTLY NOTES

April is, according to T. S. Eliot in The Waste Land, the cruellest month. In his poem, Eliot likens modern life to a waste land through such examples as “Phlebas the Phoenecian, a fortnight dead,” whose brief story appears in section IV, Death By Water.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to submit items related to departmental assessment projects, College institutional effectiveness activities, committee announcements, and best practices by May 17, 2013, for consideration to appear in the next communiqué.