WHAT IS FORTNIGHT?

A *fortnight* is a unit of time equivalent to 14 days. The term derives from the Old English *feorwertyne 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.

THE MIDDLE STATES REACCREDOITATION PROCESS: ANTICIPATING THE NEXT STAGE

After more than two years of work on the part of many of our colleagues (see *FORTNIGHT* Volume 8, Issue 4 for a list of acknowledgements) culminating in the Middle States Evaluation Team visit on April 1-4, the process now moves into a different stage. We would like to take this opportunity to outline the next phase of the self-study.

At the conclusion of the visit, the team was in the process of preparing a draft written report detailing their findings. An overview of this was provided during an Oral Summary on the morning of April 4, in keeping with visit protocol. During that session, Visiting Team Chair Dr. Carlos Vargas-Aburto indicated that the College was found to be in compliance with each of the fourteen Middle States Standards of Excellence. In addition, the team offered some suggestions and some recommendations – considered to be stronger than suggestions – but no requirements. Requirements are the strongest pronouncement that a team can usually include in their summary. In addition to the suggestions and recommendations, Dr. Vargas read commendations that pertained to twelve of the fourteen standards.

In accordance with Middle States protocols, the evaluation team then edits and revises their draft written summary. It is customary for the team to provide this document to the institution, to correct any errors or factual inaccuracies. Following this circular process, the team is then required to submit its final report to the Middle States Commission and to the college under review. Middle States allows the institution a brief period when it may make a substantive response to the final reviewers’ report.

The final report from the visiting team and any substantive response from the college are considered by the Middle States Commission, along with the self-study and the same packet of initial supporting materials received by the Visiting Team. The Commission members consider all materials and meet in June, at which time they vote on the reaccreditation of all institutions that were reviewed in the current cycle, including the College of Staten Island. The College will be notified of the Commission’s decision, and any follow-up activities that may be required or recommended prior to the next review milestone – the *Periodic Review Report*, likely due in 2017.

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM HOSTS NAACLS SITE VISIT

The College’s Medical Technology Program hosted three evaluators from the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) site visit on April 22-24. NAACLS is an international agency that develops guidelines and oversees the accreditation of educational programs in clinical laboratory sciences and related health professions. More information on NAACLS can be found at [www.naacls.org](http://www.naacls.org).

Directed by Carol Hartman, the College’s program is in the process of gaining its own accreditation rather than relying on the accreditation of the sites where students perform the clinical component of their curriculum. The visiting team was comprised of Dr. Herbert J. Miller, of Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, who chaired the group; Mr. Darius Y. Wilson, of Baptist College of Health Sciences in Memphis, Tennessee; and Ms. Karen S. Chandler, of the University of Texas at El Paso.
The reviewers toured laboratory space, and met with clinical representatives, faculty, and students during their campus visit. They also reviewed the program’s curriculum and examined syllabi for learning objectives pertaining to cognitive, psychomotor, and affective curricular areas.

Now that the visit is complete, the College has the opportunity to revise its accreditation submission documents and submit additional information; NAACLS will vote on accreditation in July, and make an official decision in September. Congratulations to Carol Hartman, the faculty and students, and members of the Biology Department who participated in the visit. A special note of thanks goes to Debbie Mahoney in the Office of Academic Affairs, who assisted with the logistics of the site visit.

**CLOSING THE LOOP:**
**OIRA STREAMLINES THE STUDENT EVALUATION PROCESS**

In an effort to save time and effort and to streamline the process, Dr. Sam Michalowski and members of the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment (OIRA) have been working in collaboration with Bill Canary in OIT to streamline the processing of student evaluations of instructors.

Beginning this spring semester, the faculty evaluation forms are no longer pre-printed with instructor names or section numbers. This information has instead been shifted to “batch header” pages that are added to the form stacks prior to scanning, meaning that the processes of preparing the packages sent to classrooms and scanning the completed forms have both been significantly streamlined. In addition, unused and surplus forms in good condition may be re-used the following semester.

Students do not need to fill out the instructor name or section information on the evaluation forms; this information is attached to responses automatically during scanning. It is anticipated that future versions of the evaluation form will take further advantage of this change, by utilizing the area currently taken up by the instructor name and section number fields for additional questions.

**CAMPUS UPDATES**

**College-Wide Academic Outcomes Assessment Committee** – The first post-Middle States meeting of the Committee occurred on April 25; discussion focused primarily on the abovementioned NAACLS visit and a debriefing on the Middle States reaccreditation visit. The Committee learned that the NAACLS guidelines include expectations of extremely detailed course learning objectives, and members of the review team were willing to share some of their colleges’ materials in this area. Given the broad scope of the goals of a Medical Technology degree, this assessment-related material could prove useful to many programs at the College of Staten Island.

**CUNY NEWS AND EVENTS**

**CUNY Assessment Council** – As part of its ongoing series of professional development events every semester, the CUNY Assessment Council held a seminar on program review and evaluation on Friday, April 27. Speakers Meg Krudysz (Director of Joint/Dual Programs and Accreditation, City College), Peter Romaniu (Assistant Professor, Department of Government, John Jay College), and Michael Anderson (Director of Assessment, Brooklyn College) presented on disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to academic program review and the use of findings. In line with national and international expectations, the integration and use of student learning assessment in the program review process, for both accredited and non-accredited programs, was a common thread through all the presentations.

The CUNY Assessment Council holds at least two development events every semester at the CUNY Graduate Center. Please contact Warrick Bell in the OIRA, x2086 or warrick.bell@csi.cuny.edu, to receive information about the Assessment Council or these events.

**FORTNIGHTLY NOTES**

According to landscape-america.com, mowing your lawn once a fortnight during summer may be enough if you raise the mower to three inches, depending on your watering schedule and soil condition.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to submit items related to departmental assessment projects, College institutional effectiveness activities, committee announcements, and best practices by May 25, 2012, for consideration to appear in a future communiqué.