Vaughn Ranked Among Best Baccalaureate Colleges in US News

Nearly $10 Million in Federal Grants Provide for Next Phase of Transformation

Expanding Programs Internationally: Vaughn’s Partnership in India
Dr. Paul LaVergne, chair of the arts and sciences department, and student Abbygail Mohan ‘09 together comprise the rich academic community at Vaughn.
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BACK COVER
Student Events Throughout the Fall 2008 Semester
For the first time in its history, Vaughn has been ranked among the best baccalaureate colleges in the 2009 edition of the *US News & World Report* college rankings.

“Achieving a first-tier position in the *US News* rankings is an acknowledgement of the diligence by this community to provide a quality higher education experience for the students we serve,” said Dr. John Fitzpatrick, president of Vaughn College. “The continued transformation of this institution, given direction by our strategic plan and supported by the board of trustees, has provided the impetus for this recognition.”
Baccalaureate colleges are ranked by region: North, South, Midwest and West. Vaughn was ranked in the first tier among such institutions as Cooper Union in New York City and the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, both of which focus on undergraduate education but grant fewer than half of their degrees in liberal arts disciplines. Vaughn was also ranked the most racially diverse and the most economically diverse in the North.

The ranking for baccalaureate institutions is based on several key measures of quality which fall into seven broad categories: peer assessment; graduation and retention rate; faculty resources; student selectivity; financial resources; and alumni giving. The indicators include both input measures, which reflect the quality of students, faculty, and other resources used in education, and outcome measures, which capture the results of the education an individual receives. The accompanying ranking chart indicates the weight of each category and the subfactors that comprise that category.

### US News Ranking Components

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking Category</th>
<th>Category Weight</th>
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<th>Subfactor Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Universities Master’s and Baccalaureate Colleges</td>
<td></td>
<td>Peer assessment</td>
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<td>Peer assessment survey</td>
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<td>Student selectivity (Fall 2006 entering class)</td>
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<td>Acceptance rate</td>
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<td>High school class standing—top 10%</td>
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<td>High school class standing—top 25%</td>
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<td>SAT/ACT scores</td>
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<td>Faculty resources (2006)</td>
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<td>Faculty compensation</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<td>Percent of faculty with top terminal degrees</td>
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<td>Percent full-time faculty</td>
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<td>Student/faculty ratio</td>
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<td>Class size, 1-19 students</td>
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<td>Class size, 50+ students</td>
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<td>Graduation and retention rate</td>
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Racial Diversity

Vaughn has always been a highly diverse institution, drawing largely on the next generation of immigrants to the United States and the metropolitan region. US News ranks institutions based on racial diversity so that students may choose an institution with different people from differing backgrounds as integral aspect to their educational experience. To calculate the diversity index, US News factors in the total proportion of minority students at a given institution (not including international students) and the overall mix of groups. The formula produces a diversity index that ranges from 0.0 to 1.0. The closer a particular institution is to 1.0, the more diverse the student population.

Economic Diversity

Access and affordability are two important topics regularly discussed within and about higher education. Vaughn prides itself on providing both. Not only do we serve a racially diverse group of students, but we also serve those for whom a college education can make a significant difference in their lives and the lives of their families. To calculate economic diversity, US News uses the percentage of undergraduates receiving Federal Pell Grants. Again, Vaughn ranked first in this category.

Moving Forward

“While achieving these rankings is significant for Vaughn in terms of awareness about the institution and recognition of our dedicated faculty and staff, we must continue to make decisions based on what is in the best interests of the institution and its students,” noted Fitzpatrick. He adds that Vaughn must continue on the transformational path it set upon in 2001, with its first strategic planning effort, and subsequent update in 2004.

To that end, Vaughn is currently focusing its efforts around creating a more engaged academic experience for its students. These efforts will seek to heighten not only the in-classroom experience with different teaching pedagogies such as supplemental instruction and learning communities coupled with technologically up-to-date facilities and laboratory equipment, but also greater integration with what occurs in the time spent outside of the classroom in terms of student activities, clubs and greater interaction with faculty. “The goal is to create an academic experience at Vaughn that provides students with all of the tools they need to succeed, persist and graduate,” said Dr. Sharon DeVivo, vice president of academic and student affairs. “Ideally, we seek to create a campus environment that is intellectually stimulating and exciting and one that students consider an oasis in their academic career.”
In 2008, Congress approved the awarding of $100 million to Hispanic-Serving Institutions as part of the College Cost Reduction and Access Act. Of the 80 recipients who received grants across the country, Vaughn was awarded two, totaling nearly $10 million with about $6 million of that going directly to Vaughn over the next two years.
The first grant provides funds for a collaborative relationship with LaGuardia Community College and the second grant significantly enhances the first-year experience for students.

“At this critical time in our transformation, these grants could not be more significant to the long-term success of our students and faculty,” said Dr. John C. Fitzpatrick, president of Vaughn College. “These grants are truly capacity-building for the institution as they will provide the resources we need to significantly impact the complete learning experience for our students.”

As a small, private, four-year college, Vaughn takes great pride in having transformed the lives of thousands of students who would otherwise not have gone to college. As a Hispanic-Serving Institution, Vaughn has also undergone transformation in recent years adapting our founding mission, focused primarily on training aviation mechanics, into a fully accredited, non-profit college awarding 11 bachelor’s degrees and a master’s degree. Vaughn now prepares students for careers in high-need areas in which math and science are core competencies, one of the greatest areas of need nationally. While the College has done much to become a fully accredited baccalaureate college, resources are now necessary to provide support to critical first-year students and to enable those who are under prepared to succeed and achieve a four-year degree.

Vaughn provides both two- and four-year degree opportunities to diverse students from disadvantaged backgrounds, and provides a learning environment which enables them to succeed in college as well as to be trained, qualified and successful in their chosen fields. Vaughn serves students who are more career-oriented than traditional students, but who are less likely to succeed in college according to national research. Vaughn enrolls about 1,100 students: 75 percent are first-generation, and 80 percent come from families earning less than $30,000 per year, with 35 percent of student families earning less than $17,000. Students typically work a minimum of 30 hours per week, and 87 percent are receiving financial aid. Ethnically, 83 percent of Vaughn students represent minority backgrounds, and 38 percent are Hispanic. Vaughn has traditionally relied on its small, caring environment to address student needs, and has succeeded with many at-risk students who were deeply motivated by their desire to work in aviation.

As the aeronautical industry has undergone major changes, Vaughn has invested in developing attractive new programs with much more emphasis on college degree completion and preparation for the math– and science–related careers available in the aviation and related industries today.

The LaGuardia-Vaughn partnership will develop a program that directs high school students on a pathway to an associate’s degree in engineering at LaGuardia and a bachelor’s degree in mechatronics from Vaughn.
The LaGuardia-Vaughn “pipeline” program begins with the recruitment of high school students who are interested in engineering. The students will participate in the LaGuardia Youth Center for Engineering Excellence (LYCEE), which will offer summer and after-school programs in the field of robotics. There, LaGuardia and Vaughn faculty will work with students on hands-on projects involving the design and construction of robotic devices. Following graduation, the students will enroll in LaGuardia’s engineering program. During the summer, they will participate in a summer program at Vaughn where they will have access to the college’s advanced mechatronics labs, which will be constructed using grant funding.

To ensure student success, LaGuardia will assist Vaughn in designing and implementing such programs as learning communities, supplemental instruction and electronic portfolios.

“By combining expertise and resources and linking faculty and programs across institutions,” said Dr. Gail O. Mellow, president of LaGuardia Community College, “LaGuardia and Vaughn will develop a model engineering pathway for students from high school through a bachelor’s degree that will ensure success in terms of degree completion and will prepare students for the field of mechatronics.”

Located in Long Island City, Queens, LaGuardia Community College, part of the City University of New York, is a nationally recognized leader among community colleges. Founded in 1971, LaGuardia Community College has been recognized as an innovator in educating students who are under prepared for college work and/or are not primary English speakers. Its tradition of academic excellence has opened doors for its students to prestigious four-year colleges and satisfying careers.

The second grant is focused primarily on assisting first-year students in being successful and persisting through to graduation. The resources this grant provides will allow Vaughn to purchase much needed technology, including a new computer infrastructure and technology upgrades in the classroom to allow students and faculty to take advantage of Internet-based resources both in the classroom and from the comfort of their residence hall room or home, as well as new flight simulators. The goals of this project also include developing a cohesive summer bridge and first-year experience program; developing a culture of evidence focused on improving institutional effectiveness related to student outcomes and degree completion that in turn drive retention practices; and strengthening the in-classroom experience for both faculty and students that leads to greater levels of engagement and contributes to a vibrant intellectual community.

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EXPANDING PROGRAMS INTERNATIONALLY:

Vaughn’s Partnership in

INDIA
In April 2006, Vaughn College began its first foray into international programs with a memorandum of understanding with Sreenidhi Institute of Science and Technology (SNIST) in Hyderabad, India.

This initiative was designed to raise awareness about Vaughn and to expand the institution beyond the main campus. Vaughn was able to obtain all of the required approvals within a record time frame—15 months—from several regional accreditation bodies in both countries including the India Council on Technology Education and the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

Three degree programs were launched in October 2007, with an enrollment of 60 students at the SNIST campus. Within a year, enrollment has tripled and there are 183 students enrolled in Vaughn’s two degree programs: a bachelor of science in electronic engineering technology (avionics concentration), and a bachelor of science with a dual major degree program in airline and airport management. Vaughn students in India have also begun to create learning opportunities outside of the classroom by forming student clubs, and the first academic honors ceremony for students with significant academic achievement took place in October. Finally, 40 Vaughn students participated in the International Aviation Conference and Air Show at Hyderabad also in October. Students were able to interact with top aviation industry leaders who attended from the United States, Europe and Indian aviation companies.

The success of this collaborative model in India created the need to provide a dedicated effort, and in May the administrative office of academic and student affairs for international programs was created. Under the continued leadership of Dr. Kalpana Jain, the vice president of this office, a vision and supporting objectives for the effort has been developed. The vision for Vaughn’s international programs is to develop a comprehensive international model of higher education in the field of aviation, as well as to prepare global aviation professionals through collaboration with regulatory agencies, industries and academic institutions. To assist in these efforts an International Advisory Council was formed comprising of leaders from the US and Indian aviation industries, regulatory agencies and airlines. Jain also plans to create a long-term strategic plan for international initiatives that builds upon the current success in Hyderabad.

**Vaughn’s Participation in the Aviation Cooperation Program (ACP)**

The Aviation Cooperation Program (ACP) is an initiative of the US government that includes the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) and US manufacturers (e.g. Airbus, Honeywell and Boeing). It promotes collaborative partnerships between India and the US with the help of the Indian government. ACP is comprised of 19 industry members and Vaughn is the only academic institutional member. Vaughn was recently showcased as a member of ACP along with other companies at the International Conference and Air Show in Hyderabad in October. As a result of Vaughn’s involvement in ACP, the College has submitted a proposal to the USTDA to offer corporate aviation training.
Management Degree Programs Receive Specialized Accreditation

Vaughn College was granted specialized accreditation for its associate of applied science and bachelor of science management degree programs through the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE).

IACBE accreditation provides external assurance of the quality of Vaughn’s airport, airline and general management degree programs, and ensures that the characteristics of excellence are evident in the management department. This mark of distinction provides prospective students and employers with information about Vaughn’s continuous improvement process, ability to adopt best practices as learned through the IACBE network of institutions and accountability for the quality of the program.

The process of accreditation began more than a year ago with a self-study by the faculty of the department, including Drs. Naveen Seth, Stephen Braccio and Maxine Lubner. Chair Seth led the self-study and subsequent site visit by a team of faculty members from other institutions designated by IACBE.

“The rigorous nature of this accreditation process allowed us the opportunity to more closely examine the structure and format of our management degree programs, as well as think strategically about how we prepare graduates for their professional careers as well as advanced degrees,” said Seth. “Accreditation by IACBE provides external validation of the quality of our degree programs.”

Seth looks forward to applying for and receiving IACBE accreditation for the department’s recently approved master’s degree in airport management, which will occur after students graduate from the program.

Dr. Naveen Seth (center), chair of the management department, discusses economics with students (left to right) Luisa Moreno ’09, Alicia Shiwram ’09, and Andres Aguilar ’09.
Vaughn College Launches Its First Intercollegiate Basketball Team and Signs Female Coach

Warriors to Compete in the Hudson Valley Men’s Athletic Conference

Vaughn College has joined the intercollegiate Hudson Valley Men’s Athletic Conference (HVMAC) and signed Coach Amy Elizabeth Mulligan to lead its basketball team to victory. HVMAC is a conference of four-year colleges drawn from the metropolitan area that do not offer any financial aid based on athletic ability.

Mulligan brings an impressive background to Vaughn, having been the assistant coach for the Dartmouth College women’s program, and sharing the 2008 Ivy League championship with Harvard. She also helped to develop the first all-Ivy player, two honorable mention all-Ivy players, and the rookie of the year. Prior to Dartmouth, Mulligan was an assistant coach with the US Merchant Marine Academy. During 2004 and 2005, she led the Queens College Women’s Basketball team.
Mulligan’s appointment as a female coach of an all-male collegiate basketball team is highly unusual. There are no female head coaches of men’s basketball teams in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I, the top level of competition. Women only hold about two percent of head coaching jobs in all male collegiate sports, a figure that has remained steady for the past three decades, according to a study by the Project on Women and Social Change at Smith College and Brooklyn College.

Upon her recent appointment, Mulligan noted that her favorite aspect of coaching is working with the players, “I look forward to getting to know each player, building the team into a cohesive unit and helping them to win for Vaughn,” she said. The eight-man roster includes students pursuing bachelor’s degrees from across the metropolitan region.

As part of the HVMAC, the Warriors will compete against such colleges as St. Joseph’s, Cooper Union, Webb Institute, the College of Mount Saint Vincent, Sarah Lawrence, Berkeley and Pratt Institute. The 2008–2009 schedule of games appears on the home page of Vaughn’s web site (www.vaughn.edu).
Following 11 years of dedicated teaching service, Dr. Hossein Rahemi has taken the helm of Vaughn’s growing engineering and technology department.

Rahemi has plans to grow the enrollment in the department, upgrade the laboratories and increase faculty and student engagement both inside and outside the classroom.

One of his first priorities is to assist students in the area of math—a foundation for every engineering and technology student. “A curious mind leads to the basis of mathematical understanding,” Rahemi said. “The student needs to ask, ‘Is this correct? Will that work?’ Through experiments, you can prove why you obtained a certain result. In engineering and engineering technology, mathematics is everything.”

To engage students in becoming analytically strong, his first plan was to introduce a new lecture series, The Industry Connection Seminar. Its purpose is to create a bridge between academia and industry. “Given the rapid pace of technological change,” he explained, “this lecture series will help our students to develop a mind-set to adapt to changes in technology and prepare for future challenges.”

The very first guest speaker chosen for this series was Cesar Solano, a 2007 Vaughn College graduate who is now
an airframe engineer at Sikorsky Aircraft. In this seminar, Solano talked about his work experience, the issues he encounters and the process he follows to develop solutions. As an airframe engineer, Solano models all the parts and assemblies related to the fuselage of the aircraft in CATIA V5 using the part design, shape design and assembly design workbenches. His design work must satisfy company and government standards, as well as be endorsed by Sikorsky’s Stress Analysis Group in order to be implemented. Other seminars are planned throughout the academic year.

Vaughn will also continue to work closely with its industry advisory councils, which consist of leaders in leading manufacturers, designers and repair facilities that assist the department in strengthening the curriculum and students ability to be successful in their chosen field. “We want to open their minds to researching by making solid investments in state-of-the-art laboratories taught by competent, qualified faculty,” Rahemi noted. “Then, we will approach our goals through student clubs, such as the new math club and a robotics club, where students can compete with other institutions, and attendance at technical seminars for a continuous adaptation to changes in technology.”

In the area of laboratory space, Rahemi and the entire department will be developing a mechatronics lab with a recently awarded grant from the federal government under the College Cost Reduction and Access Act. This lab will integrate Vaughn’s new rapid prototype machine which allows students to print in three dimensions using a wax or resin material. The same skill set used to model 3-D game characters and objects can be applied to product design and manufacturing—skills that are in high demand today. These machines are highly used for the toy, automotive, apparel and aerospace industries. Rahemi also plans upgrades to the avionics labs.

Finally, in an effort to further expand students desire to pursue learning, Rahemi, Dr. George Kizner and Professor Donald O’Keefe visited the Center for Composite Materials at the University of Delaware to explore a possible alliance that will benefit students of both institutions. Students can learn the fundamentals of manufacturing composite materials at the University of Delaware, and their students can come to Vaughn for computer-aided three-dimensional design experience through the use of CATIA V5 software. An additional benefit for students is the opportunity to pursue graduate school at Delaware. “Today’s engineering students must continue to implement new technology, not only for their personal enrichment, but also for the betterment of people’s lives through ‘smarter’ products. Engineering is an exciting and growing field to be in, and I want to ensure that Vaughn students remain enthusiastic about their studies,” concludes an enthusiastic Rahemi.
Departments

New Leadership in Career Services

Davinder Kaur has joined Vaughn as the director of career services.

Formerly, she was at DeVry College, where she served as assistant director in employer services.

Her duties at Vaughn will include overseeing all aspects of internships and employment for current students and alumni. Kaur can be reached by e-mail (davinder.kaur@vaughn.edu) or by phone (718.429.6600 ext.189).

Kaur’s office is located in the faculty area to foster greater connections between academics and careers.

New Scholarship Honors Alumnus

A new scholarship has been founded for incoming freshmen enrolled in a bachelor of science degree program.

The Michael Joseph Cannon Scholarship will be awarded annually to a student who is in the top 10 percent of his or her class and demonstrates financial need. The scholarship was created in honor of Cannon, who attended the Academy of Aeronautics from 1977 until his death in fall 1979. Born in the Dominican Republic, Cannon was the youngest of four brothers and emigrated to the US with his mother and siblings, settling in the Bronx.

Cannon’s family was on hand at this year’s spring academic honors ceremony to award Brian Linhares the first Michael Joseph Cannon Scholarship.
A Lasting Tribute to a Long-time Friend

Vaughn College recently received a donation for the purchase of a bench and planter to honor the memory of Raul Moreno Castillo.

The bench and planter are at the entrance to Vaughn’s new residence hall. Castillo passed away on April 20, 2008, at the age of 27, and left behind a rich legacy that included his love for aviation. Prior to his passing, Castillo was a banker at JP Morgan Chase and was on the verge of completing his studies at New York University. His friends wanted a lasting tribute to his memory, and contacted Vaughn to create a permanent memorial for Castillo. A plaque honoring this aviation enthusiast is affixed to the planter with the following inscription:

In Loving memory
Raul Moreno Castillo
10/29/80 to 4/20/08

“Life isn’t measured by how much time we have, but rather what we do with the time we’ve been given. Dare to live each second with wild-eyed enthusiasm, contagious generosity and amazing grace.”
Dear Fellow Alumni:

First and foremost, I am honored to be the newly elected president of the Alumni Association. As I look back to the time when I was a student, all I could think about was graduating and starting my career.

Of course many students, myself included, hit bumps on the road to success. In fact, for me the Alumni Association has played a pivotal role in the journey. Our vision for the Alumni Association is to bring graduates and soon-to-be-graduates together with those working in aviation and related industries. We would like to see alumni more involved in Vaughn by attending meetings and events to help share their experiences with graduates on how to get a foot in the door of desirable employers.

The Alumni Association wants to assist students and graduates with the skills they need to achieve a position in their chosen field by conducting mock interviews at our meetings. I am also working with the president of the Student Government Association to coordinate this effort. With this alliance, we will be able to understand the concerns of upcoming graduates. After we assess those issues, we will develop a plan to assist current students.

I would like to share the way I was able to break into the aviation industry. After graduating in 2007, I was working as the assistant manager of Vaughn’s Barnes & Noble bookstore, and experiencing problems gaining entry into the industry. I was encouraged by an alumnus to attend an Association meeting. At that meeting, I met Iaisha El-Tawil, ‘05, who works for jetBlue Airways. She was one of the managers at the support center located in Queens. She told me that jetBlue was hiring schedulers, and that she would help me by giving me a recommendation. The next day I went online, found the job title that she referred to and applied. After I had completed it, I was in high spirits about the process.

In a matter of days, I received a call to come in for an interview. After the interview, I had the job. I started out as an in-flight (flight attendants) scheduler; now I am in the process of becoming a flight (pilots) scheduler.

I owe my thanks to the Alumni Association, and in particular to Iaisha, who is now our vice president, for helping me to network and to have a vision for opportunities in this industry. As president of the association, I can share my information and knowledge with recent graduates. Our primary goal is to network and use communication to help all of us achieve professional goals (and have fun!). You may contact me at shauna.lang@vaughn.edu with any suggestions and or concerns you may have.

Shauna D. Lang ‘07
Alumni Association President

Alumni Update

2008
Ali Boukheir works as an electrical assembler at Sikorsky, a United Technologies company, in Stratford, Connecticut.

2001
Moumouni Dieguième has been named director general of the civil aviation authority for Burkina Faso.

2002
Trendt Simon married his girlfriend, Patrice, on July 19, 2008.

1982
Rudy DiMaggio, Jr. is a senior construction project manager for the City of New York. He was also a member of the city’s Department of Design and Construction at the World Trade Center recovery project. He lives with his wife in Bellmore, New York. They have one daughter, who is 20 years old.

1975
Ed Kassof has been recently elected as president of the Association of Certified Background Investigators. The organization represents all the investigators who conduct background checks.

1959
Larry Tosto works for the Boeing Company on the space station in Webster, Texas. Previously, he worked for Grumman Aerospace for 31 years. He also taught at the Academy of Aeronautics in the mid 1960s for two years. At 69 years old, he has no intentions of retiring any time soon. He stays fit by lifting weights and going for long walks.

IN MEMORIUM

1959
Allen Hegleun’s wife, Barbara, passed away on January 29, 2008.
Student Events throughout the Fall 2008 Semester

1. The winners of Vaughn’s annual Halloween contest this year were student Mechanical Engineering Student Chamila Arampath ’08 (the pirate) and Assistant Director of Grants Neil Gouveia (the little old lady).

2. Johnny Velasco ’11, president of the Student Government Association, meets with fellow Leadership Academy members. Left to right: Johnny Velasco ’11, Chamila Arampath ’08 (vice president of the Student Government Association), Jessenia Diaz ’10 and Don Raghunandan ’13.

3. Members of this year’s Leadership Academy gathered for a retreat at the Frost Valley YMCA in Claryville, New York. Left to right: Don Raghunandan ’13, Jennifer Shum ’11, Dominic McCalla ’09, Kenneth Andwood ’09, Mohammed Sultan Abdul Azeem ’12, Jennifer Gracia, Jessenia Diaz ’10, Vernon Scott ’10, Chamila Arampath ’08, Johnny Velasco ’11, Christopher Germain ’12, Kristal Singh ’09, Cesar Revelo ’11, Nicole Legister ’09, Evan Kisseloff and Christopher Salcedo (front).

4. Jessenia Diaz ’10 tests her courage on a zip-line during the Leadership Academy retreat. Also known as a flying fox or Tyrolean crossing, a zip line consists of a pulley suspended on a cable mounted over an incline. Zip lines give riders a sense of adventure and challenge.

5. Student Javier Montoya ’11 (right) contemplates his future in the aviation industry as a guest at The Wing’s Club (a professional aviation organization) luncheon with fellow classmate Evan Kisseloff (left).

6. Vaughn students enjoyed their recent paintball excursion to Skirmish, USA in Jim Thorpe, PA. Left to right: Aman Sharma, Dominic McCalla ’09, Jennifer Shum ’11, a Vaughn friend, Aldrin Yumal ’11, Samuel Carrion ’13, a Vaughn friend, Karele Gonzalez ’10, and another Vaughn friend.

7. Students in a tug of war during lockdown - the all-night entertainment and sporting event held in the hangar at Vaughn. Left to right: Emmanuel James ’10, Abbygail Mohan, Juan Marmol and Andrew Samuels ’11.