Vaughn College Magazine Spring 2017

A Lifetime of Success Starts Here

#1

In Upward Mobility

A Lifetime of Success Starts Here
VAUGHN COLLEGE is changing students’ lives, and the proof of that success was published in The New York Times. Vaughn was recognized as having the highest upward mobility rate among 2,137 colleges nationwide in a comprehensive study by The Equality of Opportunity Project.

The College was noted as “an institution doing more to impact social mobility for those who start from less fortunate means,” and listed as the number one institution nationally for raising students from the bottom 40 percent to the top 40 percent in income. The report comes from a study entitled “Mobility Report Cards: The Role of Colleges in Intergenerational Mobility.”

57% of Vaughn students move up two or more income quintiles after graduating

48% of Vaughn graduates end up in the top 20% of highest earners in the United States
THE STUDY provides the most comprehensive look at how well or how poorly colleges have built an economically diverse student body, as well as assessing the upward financial situation of the students, resulting in a new statistic researchers call a college's mobility rate. The mobility rate combines a college's share of students from lower-income families with its success at propelling them into the upper part of the distribution.

"The study's results showcase what we have known for many years—this institution changes lives not just when a student graduates but for their lifetime, and now we have the proof," said Dr. Sharon B. DeVivo, president of Vaughn College.

The researchers tracked about 11 million students born between 1980 and 1982, who are around 35 years old today, linking tax returns to attendance records from nearly every college in the country. Previous studies have found that most Americans remain in a similar place on the income distribution from their late 30s through the end of their careers, so, on average, the highest-earning 36-year-olds are likely to become the highest-earning 60-year-olds.

Simply put, the highest mobility score means that Vaughn is leading the nation in improving the financial quality of life for its graduates. According to the study, the median family income of a Vaughn student is $31,600. More than 57 percent of students moved up two or more income quintiles. Household income is divided into quintiles, and each quintile represents 20 percent of the population.

Studying mechanical engineering technology at Vaughn College put alumnus John Pavon '02 on the path to success in his professional career. Pavon began his career at Grumman Aerospace Corporation and now is the president of his own company, Pavon Mfg. Group, Inc., involved in the engineering and development of advanced modular armor protection (AMAP) for the military. When reflecting on his time at Vaughn, Pavon said "The faculty is outstanding and encourages students to excel. I’m sure the College’s work ethic is what helped me succeed in my career, and I’m grateful to Vaughn for the role it has played in my professional success."

Vaughn continues to help make the dream of going to college a reality for students who might not otherwise attend. More than 90 percent of Vaughn students receive some type of financial aid, and the institution continues fulfilling its mission of serving all who want to attend college.

Students achieve professional success because the College offers an academic community invested in their personal and professional lives. Classes are led by experienced and passionate faculty that care about student achievement.

"Vaughn provides life skills for students that are necessary for success—a shot at the American dream of proceeding up the economic ladder," says Domenic Proscia, vice president of training. Proscia notes that because Vaughn has long-term relationships with companies in the industries it serves, and because Vaughn prepares its students for these professions, students have a high rate of securing employment post-graduation. "The progression in pay scale and success can be very rapid, depending on the type of career graduates secure."

DeVivo agrees, adding, “This achievement is evidence that Vaughn College is fulfilling its vision to change the world one student at a time with a transformational education that creates a lifetime of opportunity. By attaining success, we don’t only change a student’s life, but we change their family’s lives as well."

From its earliest days, the College has welcomed a student body made up largely of first-generation college students and first-generation Americans, with both affordable tuition and the academic assistance necessary for their career success. "Vaughn takes students from where they are to where they want to be. Through our student success center, we identify students who need assistance and provide tutoring and rigorous academic support in math and science to bring students to the level they need to do to succeed," says Dr. Paul LaVergne, vice president of academic affairs and a former executive from Sperry Corporation.

The College is focused on working with every student to achieve personal success. The student-faculty ratio of 14 to 1 ensures a highly personalized learning environment. Faculty work with industry advisory councils to ensure that the programs the College offers are current and prepare students with skills to make them highly marketable for today’s in-demand careers leading to employment and demonstrated upward societal mobility.

A further indicator of success is the College’s career placement rate, with 98 percent of graduates employed or continuing their education within one year of graduation, 81 percent in a related field. Also, the 2017 U.S. News
& World Report ranked Vaughn among the first-tier regional colleges, moving up in the rankings to ninth from 26th in 2016. Support for veterans was also recognized, moving to fourth from 20th in the “Best Colleges for Veterans” category. Vaughn also ranked in the “Great Schools, Great Prices” category for the first time at number 10 in the regional North category.

Another 2002 graduate who has achieved success is Jose Freitas. Freitas always had a passion for aviation but instead began his academic career as a business major at Baruch because his parents, who emigrated from Portugal, felt it was the best career decision—especially since Freitas was the first person in his family to go to college. However, he left Baruch after one year to become an electrician. Freitas was making a good salary, but still he was unfulfilled and decided to pursue his passion and enroll at Vaughn.

“Applying to Vaughn to study aviation was the best decision of my life,” says Freitas. “I’m challenged, I’m happy and I’m on a great career path.” He graduated in December 2002 and was hired in February 2003 by the Federal Aviation Administration. Freitas has been working as an air traffic controller at John F. Kennedy International Airport for six years and loves his position.

Vaughn’s degrees are focused in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines. Alumni hold critical positions in engineering, technology, management and aviation in well-known organizations such as Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) and major airlines including American Airlines, Delta Air Lines and JetBlue Airways. “What makes Vaughn special is the student diversity, the number of people who receive financial assistance so they can attend the College, and the drive they bring to their education,” says DeVivo.

“The College is exceptional in its ability to provide an education to those who face academic and financial challenges. This is a trait that remains true to Vaughn’s legacy as an institution that helps first-generation college students achieve their educational and professional dreams.”

Vaughn’s student-faculty ratio of 14 to 1 ensures a highly personalized learning environment. The College is focused on working with every student to achieve personal success.

>90% of our students receive financial aid

164+ companies and organizations recruited students on Vaughn’s campus last year

14 to 1 Vaughn’s average financial aid package per year for students. Financial aid is key to Vaughn’s mission of serving all who want to attend college

$15,000+

Vaughn College Magazine

JUST A FEW OF THE COMPANIES THAT EMPLOY VAUGHN GRADUATES:

AFCO AvPorts
Aircraft Service International Group
Alaska Airlines/Horizon Air
AMERICAN AIRLINES
BFGoodrich
THE BOEING COMPANY
BOMBARDIER TRANSPORTATION
Cessna Citation
Chautauqua Airlines
CitationShares
Consolidated Edison
Continental Airlines
Copa Airlines
Covenant Security
CUMMINS
DELTA AIR LINES
Embraer
Emirates
Empire Aero
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION (FAA)
General Dynamics
GENERAL ELECTRIC
Gulfstream

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS MACHINES (IBM)
JetBlue Airways
JFK International Arrivals Terminal
KeySpan
LOCKHEED MARTIN
Mesaba Airlines
Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)
Northrop Grumman Corporation
Orion Power
Panasonic Avionics
Panorama Flight Services
Pinnacle Airlines
THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ
Rockwell Collins
Southern Air
Southwest Airlines
Sikorsky Helicopters
UNITED AIRLINES

Studying mechanical engineering technology at Vaughn College put alumnus John Pavon ’02 on the path to success in his professional career. “The faculty is outstanding and encourages students to excel. I’m sure the College’s work ethic is what helped me succeed in my career, and I’m grateful to Vaughn for the role it has played in my professional success.”

John Pavon, President of Pavon Mfg. Group, Inc.

14 to 1

>90%

SciMax Technology, a startup founded by alumni Max Gross ’75 and Joe Bruno ’66, is building on the education they received more than four decades ago and providing opportunity to the next generation of engineers. In cooperation with the new Composite Prototyping Center (CPC), SciMax and Vaughn College are supporting the growth of the composites industry on Long Island.

SciMax is prototyping an innovative aircraft flooring for the United States Navy. The high-impact-resistance flooring is intended for aircraft and helicopters, and must be able to withstand drive-over by heavy machinery, including vehicles. The thermoplastics material is challenging to work with, but at the end of the yearlong phase two base of development, fabrication, and ultrasonically testing of five flooring components, the results came through ultrasonically without a flaw. Follow-up testing by the Navy yielded very good results, which will enable the transition to the phase two option, where a full-scale floor panel is designed, fabricated and tested.

SciMax’s mechanical/aeronautical design engineer Damian Gaona ’16, got together in January 2017 to review its progress. As Gross told President Dr. Sharon B. Devivo, “We looked at each other and realized that we are all graduates of the same institution. We are proud of that and consider ourselves fortunate to have attended the College and to work in a discipline that we truly love.”

The team that had worked on the phase two base development, including SciMax's director of training Jim Karanik, teaching a class on composites. Vaughn alumni Frank Dellamura ’60, Joseph Bruno ’66, Max Gross ’75, Jonathan Shackhmoroff ’15 and intern Darwing Espinal ’18.

WHAT SCIMAX IS DOING EXEMPLIFIES THE WAY SUCCESSFUL VAUGHN ALUMNI HELP FUTURE GENERATIONS, NOT ONLY BY CONTRIBUTING TO THE REGION’S TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIES, BUT ALSO THROUGH EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION.

“Plus, it’s so inspiring to learn from Max and Joe about their past experience at Grumman developing composite materials for aerospace and automotive applications and how they continued to apply that knowledge. For me, I feel like my future is shining brighter than ever now!”

Another Vaughn College intern working on the project is Nicolas Ceballos ’18 who is studying mechatronic engineering. According to Ceballos, "Working at CPC is a great introduction to what engineering is in the real world and it helps understand how all my classes apply. I get to see the full process from design to the final project and am able to put what I’m learning in class, like CATIA, modeling and report writing, to practical use.” When discussing composites, Ceballos says that he is gaining a lot of knowledge about a truly durable and lightweight material that is incredibly
important to the future of the aerospace industry. He concluded by adding, "CPC is a really nice, small learning environment with a really great team."

Inspiring young engineers and technology students is an important objective for everyone at SciMax and CPC. CPC, a regional non-profit organization, aims to further Long Island’s history-making role in composite technology into the future. Long Island was an originator of this industry, going back to the 1960s when George Lubin, "the father of advanced composites," brought the first commercial use of fiber composites to airplanes, followed by the introduction of carbon fiber into composites from oil processing in the 1970s. As Jim Karanik, director of training at the CPC explained, “We want to keep the industry vital here by showing the next generation how dynamic the composite technology industry is and introducing them to a lot of exciting career options they haven’t seen yet.”

The 2015 launch of the STEM High School Composite Technology Program, a four-week, 15-hour program developed by CPC and Vaughn College, was developed to continue that legacy of composite work on Long Island. The program includes lectures and hands-on lab activities in which students get to experience composite materials. The curriculum not only exposes students to sophisticated equipment and high-level engineering, design, analysis and manufacturing processes, it also gives students working experience with building, damaging and repairing parts. This is valuable and unusual, according to Domenic Proscia, Vaughn College’s vice president of training, who is among the program’s teachers. “When students go into an engineering class, they don’t see how you really build, break and repair a part. We do this in class, and it demonstrates to students that there are excellent, high-level technician careers in the field of composites as well as engineering opportunities.”

The program has grown from three high schools, in Bethpage, Syosset and Huntington, to include Half Hollow Hills, Lindenhurst, Farmingdale, Oyster Bay, Plainview, Old Bethpage and St Anthony’s. Almost 200 students have participated, and those who successfully complete the program receive one college credit.

SciMax’s Gross and Bruno are enjoying their teaching role in the STEM program at CPC. Bruno summed it up this way: “I developed a passion for aviation at a young age. Graduating from the College put me in a position to pursue, realize and live my dream. At this point in my life and career I can take great satisfaction in paying it forward by teaching young high school students about advanced composite materials and structures as part of a STEM program. I want to energize and inspire young people to pursue a career in engineering or become technicians and realize their dreams.”

“Inspiring young engineers and technology students is an important objective for everyone at SciMax and the Composite Prototyping Center.”

Annual giving is a central part of Vaughn’s fundraising efforts and provides Vaughn with the responsiveness and flexibility necessary to fund emerging opportunities in scholarships, student programming, faculty research and academic initiatives. Every gift in any amount improves the Vaughn experience for our students.

“The Annual Fund at Vaughn College is a great way to give back. I am very thankful for all the College has done for my professional career. I contribute to the Annual Fund because it is rewarding to see students benefit from all the resources that the institution has to offer. Vaughn truly embraces a student’s thirst for innovation and educates future leaders.”

— Jeffrey Time ’03

Make your gift today at vaughn.edu/give-a-gift.
For more information contact the Annual Fund Office at 718.429.6600, extension 353.

THE POWER OF ONE.
Your gift of $1 dollar a week—$52 a year—will provide new opportunities for Vaughn students.
VAUGHN COLLEGE REPORT 2016–2017
Demographics, Financial Summary and Annual Fund

DEMOGRAPHICS OF ENTERING FALL 2016 FRESHMEN

- **Aviation/Aviation Maintenance**: 22%
- **Aviation Training Institute**: 26%
- **Certificate and Undecided**: 2%
- **Management**: 14%
- **Engineering and Technology**: 14%
- **Enrollment by Degree**:
  - **Aviation/Aviation Maintenance**: 43%
  - **Management**: 16%
  - **Engineering and Technology**: 12%
  - **Certificate and Undecided**: 5%

- **Enrollment by Gender**:
  - **Female**: 13%
  - **Male**: 87%

- **Enrollment by Ethnicity**:
  - **African American**: 21%
  - **Hispanic**: 13%
  - **White, Non-Hispanic**: 10%
  - **Asian**: 4%
  - **Unknown**: 14%
  - **New Resident Aliens**: 4%
  - **Two or More Races**: 2%

- **Geographic Distribution**:
  - **Queens**: 38%
  - **Brooklyn**: 14%
  - **Bronx**: 11%
  - **Manhattan (outside of five boroughs and Long Island)**: 6%
  - **New York State**: 9%
  - **New York State (outside of five boroughs and Long Island)**: 9%
  - **Other US States**: 8%
  - **International**: 2%
  - **Long Island**: 14%
  - **Staten Island**: 11%

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

BALANCE SHEET

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$100,916,115</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Comprising:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
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REVENUES AND EXPENSES

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<td><strong>Tuition and Fees</strong></td>
<td>$31,519,139</td>
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<td>Less: Scholarships and Fellowships</td>
<td>$3,659,826</td>
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<td>Less: Federal Aid</td>
<td>$147,353</td>
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<td><strong>Net Tuition and Fees</strong></td>
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<td>Government Grants and Contracts</td>
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<td>Contributions, Including Equipment</td>
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<td><strong>Investment Income</strong></td>
<td>$395,182</td>
<td>$393,386</td>
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<td>Auxiliary Revenue</td>
<td>$2,312,533</td>
<td>$2,451,637</td>
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<td><strong>Appreciation (Depreciation) in Fair Value of Investments</strong></td>
<td>$923,805</td>
<td>($491,283)</td>
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<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td>$3,085,950</td>
<td>$1,203,027</td>
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<td><strong>Total Unrestricted Revenues, Gains and Other Support</strong></td>
<td>$38,252,169</td>
<td>$34,198,723</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Educational and General</strong></td>
<td>$33,198,633</td>
<td>$33,000,247</td>
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<td><strong>Depreciation and Accretion</strong></td>
<td>$5,513,347</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$38,711,980</td>
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<td>($459,811)</td>
<td>($3,377,764)</td>
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<td><strong>Increase (Decrease) in Temporarily and Permanently Restricted Assets</strong></td>
<td>($1,378,939)</td>
<td>$1,790,089</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Change in Net Assets</strong></td>
<td>($1,438,750)</td>
<td>($1,587,675)</td>
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VAUGHN WELCOMES TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS TO ITS COMMUNITY

With experience in manufacturing, sales engineering and leading large companies and organizations, Vaughn’s newest trustees bring a wealth of experience and connection to the board of trustees.

MARY WARD-CALLAN, CAE, AND DOUGLAS J. IZARRA both bring a vision to assist Vaughn in achieving its mission.

Ward-Callan is the managing director of technical activities for the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), where she has worked for the last 20 years. In her role at the organization, she has served as a successful executive with the ability to balance and enjoy both the technical and organizational aspects of building technical communities.

In her current role, Ward-Callan works with a large number of colleges and universities worldwide, across many different aspects of engineering and computing. When asked about why she joined Vaughn’s board, she noted the distinctive education and diverse populations that are making a real difference in the lives of students and families.

With her 40-year experience in the engineering field, where women are still in the minority, Ward-Callan brings a unique perspective about the challenges of attracting women. “Gender diversity was new and not well accepted when I entered engineering, so I encountered lots of challenges but had lots of successes through hard work and perseverance.” Her perspective will be beneficial to the College as it strives to increase the number of women in the aviation, engineering and technology fields.

Ward-Callan brings her experience with 46 IEEE societies and her work in new and future technologies, and she hopes to provide some insight into innovative thinking. “As a trustee, I hope to impact the environment in which a diverse student population can flourish and grow. I would like to help the new engineering programs be successful and I would like to see the mix of programs become synergistic with the needs of a growing marketplace.”

When asked why she joined Vaughn’s board, she summed it up by saying, “I thought that I had contributions to make as well as things to learn and a strong desire to make a difference, which aligned well with Vaughn’s vision. It seemed like a good match!”

Izarra came to Vaughn College through an old friend and a former trustee, Elaine Asch-Roost, who served the institution for many years and thought Izarra’s experience and industry relationships would be very beneficial to the College.

Izarra wants to assist the institution by reaching out to senior executives in commercial aviation to support students through scholarships, hiring and donating equipment to the College.

What he learned about Vaughn correlated with his experience and goals in life. “What I liked is the diversity of the student body. I was brought up with diverse cultural experiences and understand the immense value to any company that this brings.” He is an active member of the GE Hispanic Forum, which represents several thousand US-based Hispanics. When defining diversity, Izarra notes that it includes all types—race, gender, background, religion and more. “Companies thrive when you have an inclusive culture and work ethic, so I was naturally drawn to Vaughn.”

Born in Venezuela, Izarra was the first in his immediate family to attend college. According to Izarra, “I was blessed to have a family that encouraged higher education, but I know firsthand the struggles of low-income students and their families and was incredibly impressed with Vaughn’s recent recognition as the top-ranked institution in upward mobility.

“I am proof that the sky is the limit, and that you can accomplish anything you put your mind to. I am a firm believer that positive attitude, hard work, dedication and perseverance can get you far in life. Vaughn is the classic embodiment of stories like mine.”

"COMPANIES THRIVE WHEN YOU HAVE AN INCLUSIVE CULTURE AND WORK ETHIC, SO I WAS NATURALLY DRAWN TO VAUGHN."

VAUGHN TRUSTEE DOUGLAS J. IZARRA in life. “What I liked is the diversity of the student body. I was brought up with diverse cultural experiences and understand the immense value to any company that this brings.” He is an active member of the GE Hispanic Forum, which represents several thousand US-based Hispanics. When defining diversity, Izarra notes that it includes all types—race, gender, background, religion and more. “Companies thrive when you have an inclusive culture and work ethic, so I was naturally drawn to Vaughn.”

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IACBE Accreditation Reaffirmed for Undergraduate Management Degrees and Expanded to Include Graduate Program

Specialized accreditation for degree programs is a signal of quality to prospective students, faculty and other institutions. Since 2009, the associate of applied science and bachelor of science degree programs at Vaughn College have been accredited by the International Assembly for Collegiate Business Education (IACBE). Reaccreditation is required every five years. This rigorous, multiyear assessment and reaccreditation process provided significant and surprising findings.

According to Management Department Chair Dr. Maxine Lubner, the value of the IACBE accreditation process goes beyond the external validation of the quality of our degree programs. “It’s truly a continuous improvement and quality assurance process,” explained Lubner. “Starting with a program review and strategic planning, we looked at our courses, degree options, where the jobs are, what students want, what the advisory board recommended, and we ended up making substantive changes.”

Changes were made to the courses Vaughn offered, the design of programs and degree requirements. The department developed many new courses and electives as well, both for the undergraduate and for the master’s program, where it introduced a broader focus to present students with a wider variety of careers within the fields of airport, airline and related aviation management. Among the new electives are several that build on Vaughn’s growing strength in the expanding field of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) or drones, and others that focus on the business side of aviation management, with auditing and risk management, aviation insurance, export and import policy, and how to manage businesses within an airport. “Given that a management degree opens the door to career tracks our students may not even be aware of,” said Lubner, “it is essential that we provide them with the broadest, most flexible curriculum choices, and the IACBE process has helped us enormously.”

Professors Stephen Braccio and Peter Canellis, Associate Professor William Farrell and Administrative Assistant Morgan Stewart all worked with Lubner in an intensive two-year collaboration that included submitting three waves of reports. The reaccreditation process began several years ago with the development of an outcomes assessment plan, which is used to provide annual reports required by the IACBE and available on Vaughn’s website. The final report was submitted in 2016. After a site visit by IACBE in September 2016, Vaughn received accreditation in December 2016 for all of its undergraduate programs, as well as for the graduate program.

“Obviously we are pleased with the external validation we have received for our degree programs,” said Lubner, “but the internal benefits and improvement to our programs and the sheer amount of learning we acquired is equally important.” She added, “We are preparing to present a paper at the IACBE conference this year on how the agency can use technology and Excel-based reporting systems to improve the accreditation process.”

On November 15, 2016, members of the Vaughn College community, along with friends from The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) and noted global architecture firm Arup, gathered together on campus for a celebration and remembrance in honor of former Vaughn College Board of Trustees Vice Chair and aviation pioneer Susan M. Baer. More than 115 attendees were linked by common industry interests as well as a shared affection and respect for Susan, who was a leader at Arup and spent more than 30 years at PANYNJ. She also served on the Vaughn College board for more than 20 years. The reception that evening affirmed Susan’s life and legacy of caring for so many in the organizations and industries she served, and persons cared for throughout her life. Susan believed deeply in the mission of Vaughn College and in the students we support every day. In honor of this extraordinary woman, the Susan M. Baer Scholarship Fund, started by friend and fellow board member Thomas Marotta, who opened the fund with his gift of $10,000 along with donations from other friends and colleagues, was officially launched to benefit students in the airport management program. Scholarships are viewed among the most critical needs for the College. To date, more than $36,000 has been raised for the scholarship fund with strong backing from Vaughn board members, Susan’s family and other friends. Arup also made a major gift and commitment to the fund to honor Susan, who made an enduring impact in the fields she served.

Andy Howard, the chairman of Arup Americas, said of the firm’s support for the fund, “In the relatively short time Sue was part of the Arup family, she had a profound impact on the business of the firm and on all of us who were lucky enough to know her. Her enthusiasm for our work and her eye for new and innovative collaborations were an inspiration to those of us who worked with Sue. We cannot think of a more fitting way to honor her memory than to continue her mission of encouraging and enabling the next generation of aviation professionals. Arup supports the Susan M. Baer Scholarship Fund in celebration of Sue’s life and achievements and to ensure that her commitment to giving back lives on in the New York City community that she so valued.”

These generous gifts along with others will be used for scholarship support that will forever carry her name. The goal is to permanently endow the fund and raise a total of $50,000 or more. You can make a gift to support Susan’s scholarship through the following link: https://www.vaughn.edu/give-a-gift, or call Michael Brady in the office of institutional advancement at 718.429.6600, extension 353.

NEW SCHOLARSHIP FUND HONORS THE LEGACY OF SUSAN M. BAER

“HER ENTHUSIASM FOR OUR WORK AND HER EYE FOR NEW AND INNOVATIVE COLLABORATIONS WERE AN INSPIRATION TO THOSE OF US WHO WORKED WITH SUE.”
After a five-year approval process, the Vaughn College Student Chapter of the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) became an official campus organization in the spring of 2017. The mission of the SWE is to “stimulate women to achieve full potential in careers as engineers and leaders, expand the image of the engineering profession as a positive force in improving the quality of life and demonstrate the value of diversity.” The organization offers scholarships, allows students to attend conferences and encourages K-12 students to continue their interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics studies after high school.

The students involved in Vaughn College’s Chapter of SWE have attended several conferences over the past few years, allowing members to network with professionals, learn about new advancements in the industries they will enter after graduation, and present research and papers for publication. The paper “Create Interests in Engineering with Girl Scouts,” written by Saneela Rabani ’16 and Dimitri Papazoglou ’17, was presented at the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) conference, was published in the journal Transactions on Techniques in STEM Education and was selected as the best paper award winner by the journal’s publisher.

At the 2016 SWE Conference in Philadelphia, Vaughn’s student chapter held a workshop called “Cross-culture Immersion Simulation: An Opportunity to Develop Intercultural Collaborative Skills Firsthand.” During the conference, several students received offers for internships or interviewed for full-time positions: Christina Deluca ’20 interviewed with Johnson Controls, Emily German ’19 accepted a summer internship with Daimler, Jessica Jimenez ’19 accepted an internship with Raytheon, Lovedeep Kaur ’19 accepted an internship with John Deere, and Betsy Sanchez Socolay’s ’17 accepted a spring co-op with Toyota and a full-time job with Cummins.

“Our students attend these events with excitement about their work and enthusiasm about meeting professionals,” said faculty adviser Dr. Shouling He. “And their hard work pays off when they are offered these positions, which will supplement their classroom education.”

On Thursday, September 15, 2016, the arts and sciences department held a poetry session with Phillis Levin, an award-winning poet and author, who read from her works to more than 100 Vaughn students and answered questions afterwards.

Levin is a graduate of Sarah Lawrence College and the writing seminars at Johns Hopkins University. Her works have appeared in numerous publications including The New York Times Sunday Magazine, The New Yorker and The Yale Review. She is the recipient of the Norma Farber First Book Award and the author of five poetry collections.

“Composing a poem is one of the myriad ways of being a citizen, of making a bridge from innermost to outermost reaches,” said Levin. She encouraged students to write more because it can be very therapeutic and expressive for a student’s mind.

As part of the management department’s ongoing speaker series, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Ambassador Michael Lawson was a guest speaker at Vaughn College on Tuesday, December 13, 2016. ICAO is a United Nations specialized agency, established by States in 1944 to manage the administration and governance of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention).

Management Department Chair Dr. Maxine Lubner and Federal Aviation Administration Deputy Regional Administrator Maria Stanco introduced Lawson, who spoke about the function of ICAO, its history and his career track in a fast-moving industry.

“This profession is unlike any other out there,” said Lawson. “This industry takes another approach to safety and has no tolerance for not addressing issues. It’s focus is on finding out the cause of a problem or accident to identify how to prevent it from happening again, to save lives.”

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Ron Fazah had a passion for aeronautics long before he attended classes at Vaughn College.

After high school, Ron found himself at a crossroads: Should he begin a military career or continue his education? “My friend and I decided to check out the College, and we were sold,” said Fazah. His friend went on to study aviation maintenance and he chose electronics.

Fazah received his associate degree in electronics technology from Vaughn, known then as the College of Aeronautics, and was hired by Loral Electronic Systems, which was later purchased by Lockheed Martin. In the years since, he has worked for several major companies in the fields of electrical and software engineering, financial services and commercial aviation.

“I was hired before I even graduated,” he said. “That started an incredible journey during which I worked on both hardware and software designs for the radar warning receivers in F15 and F16 fighter aircraft. It was an amazing way to start my career.”

Fazah is currently an IT solution architect with JetBlue. He credits the experienced faculty and hands-on learning at Vaughn with preparing him for entering the workforce and continuing his forward advancement in his career.

“The ‘real-life’ academics of a Vaughn education have stayed with me forever,” he said. “We didn’t just learn academic theory; we were taught the practical and applied side of the course content. That experience has proven invaluable to my career.”

Fazah now gives back to the Vaughn College community as a guest speaker for the engineering and technology department’s Industry Connection Seminar series, addressing current students’ questions and informing them about the exciting careers waiting for them after they graduate. He feels this opportunity brings his educational experience full circle.

“Find someone, or even a few senior colleagues, to shadow or to have as a mentor,” he tells current students. “Because your intelligence can take you far, but experience and practical knowledge will determine where and how high you will go professionally.”

The annual trip to Bear Mountain to take part in the annual Oktoberfest celebrations was a success despite the rainy conditions. Alumni and friends were able to enjoy the scenic three-hour cruise along the Hudson and the event festivities.

The alumni association kicked off the fall season by hosting a wine tasting reception at Bottlerocket Wine and Spirit in Chelsea, New York. Alumni were able to sample various Latin American wines while reconnecting with each other.

The offices of alumni affairs and career services invited employers and graduates to attend the annual year-end holiday party. Attendees enjoyed live entertainment as they toasted to the new Year.

The alumni association began the spring semester by visiting Iceland as its annual international destination. The group of 15 visited the Blue Lagoon, the majestic Gullfoss Waterfalls and experienced the Northern Lights.
UPCOMING EVENTS

BOLOWING AT FRAMES LOUNGE
Thursday, September 28 | 6 p.m.
Join your fellow alumni for a fun evening of bowling. Enjoy two hours of bowling and an assortment of appetizers and beverages.

WINE TASTING
Thursday, October 19 | 6 p.m.
Come sample wines and connect with fellow alumni at Bottlerocket. Enjoy a variety of white wines along with a cheese and fruit platter.

For more information contact Neil Gouveia, director of alumni affairs at 718.429.6600, extension 112 or neil.gouveia@vaughn.edu.

New Faces, New Places
The staff and faculty who are in new positions or joined Vaughn College recently:

STAFF
John Bifone
associate director from assistant director, public affairs
Samantha BoodooSingh
registrar customer care representative from financial aid customer care representative
Igor Brekman
machine shop and manufacturing lab technician; engineering department
Jihad Caesar
athletics coordinator, athletics
Rebekah Chow
manager of institutional effectiveness, academic affairs

Debra Sypeck
administrative assistant from assistant to registrar, aviation training institute
Cecilia Haralamopoulos
bursar customer care representative
Maria Patricia Jimenez
admissions counselor from financial aid counselor, admissions
Ayoka Lawrence
assistant registrar from registrar customer care representative
Adrian Leslie
residence life coordinator, student affairs
John Robinson
public affairs assistant, public affairs

FACULTY
Peter Canellis
associate professor from assistant professor, management department
Donald Jimmo
writing instructor from ESL instructor, writing center

VAUGHN COLLEGE GALA RAISES MORE THAN $263,000!
Vaughn College’s 2016 Gala honored the President and Chief Executive Officer of Rolls-Royce North America, Marion C. Blakey, for her role as a trailblazer and advocate for the aviation and transportation industries and her dedicated support of the College at Vaughn’s annual gala on Thursday, November 10. The proceeds from the gala were used to fund scholarships and institutional priorities. “We honored Marion and Rolls-Royce, who have been so generous in their support of Vaughn College and have a strong commitment to aviation education, internships and career opportunity,” said Vaughn College President Dr. Sharon B. DeVivo. “We are deeply appreciative of our relationship and shared vision and we are excited about the future of Vaughn and providing advancement opportunities for our students.” More than 260 attendees were present, making a record-breaking attendance by sponsors and patrons.

President Dr. Sharon B. DeVivo welcoming the gala guests.
Greg Hamilton, president, Aviation Week Network; Gala honoree, President and Chief Executive Officer of Rolls-Royce North America Marion C. Blakey; and Brian Elson, vice president of government relations, Rolls-Royce North America.
Lou Young, WCBS reporter, served as master of ceremonies for the evening.

Bowling at Frames Lounge
Thursday, September 28 | 6 p.m.
Join your fellow alumni for a fun evening of bowling.

South Florida Alumni Reception
Spring 2018 | Date to be announced
Join us as we connect with Vaughn alumni who have relocated to the South Florida/Miami area. Enjoy cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and good company.

The staff and faculty who are in new positions or joined Vaughn College recently:

Jorge Gavilanez
maintenance worker, facilities

Cecilia Haralamopoulos
bursar customer care representative

Maria Patricia Jimenez
admissions counselor from financial aid counselor, admissions

Ayoka Lawrence
assistant registrar from registrar customer care representative

Adrian Leslie
residence life coordinator, student affairs

John Robinson
public affairs assistant, public affairs

Debra Sypeck
administrative assistant from assistant to registrar, aviation training institute

For more information contact Neil Gouveia, director of alumni affairs at 718.429.6600, extension 112 or neil.gouveia@vaughn.edu.
ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16 A RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY WAS HELD on the second floor of Vaughn’s library to officially celebrate the opening of the new writing center. The center is staffed by two full-time writing professors who are available to assist students every step of the way during the writing process, from developing a thesis to organizing thoughts and citing sources. Students can schedule appointments ahead of time or drop in anytime for help with projects.

“Our goal was to establish an inviting atmosphere that would inspire writing in a stress-free environment where students would be comfortable seeking the help they require. We are here to help with all projects ranging from developmental writing to public speaking and presentations to the technical aspects of writing engineering reports,” said Donald Jimmo, writing instructor.

According to Arts and Sciences Chair Dr. Margaret Ducharme, the idea for the center derives from the College’s vision statement: “To change the world one student at a time with a transformational education…” “Providing a student with the skills to write well will change that student’s life and affect the lives of others. The writing center was conceived as a place for students to find their voice and develop their identity through language,” she concluded.