

Internationals Connect

December 2009

ICHS Women's Coalition

Yadira Echevarria
Community Coordinator and Public Relations

Being a teenage girl is hard enough, but being a teenage immigrant in New York City, presents a unique and complex set of challenges. This year at **International Community High School** the staff has established the ICHS Women's Coalition, a group founded to exclusively support the diverse needs of our female students. The Coalition aims to provide activities and forums to enable female students to explore issues such as health, body image, peer pressure, roles and responsibilities, power, literacy and artistic expression. The Women's Coalition holds weekly Ladies Lunches, where students have a 'family meal' round table discussion and debate, and weekly after school events where students can participate in a diverse range of activities such as yoga, film club and literature circles, where they can experience positive female role models and explore more opportunities for an empowered future through modules such as job shadowing with women in power.

Establishing ways to provide a voice for those who need it has always been a priority for staff at International Community High School and we are proud to expand opportunities for our female students to further their journeys towards becoming strong, articulate and educated women. ■



Students exploring SUNY New Paltz campus



Tony Plana with students from PAIHS

New Member joins the Internationals Community!

Anna Macal
Development and Communications Associate

On November 4th, **PAIHS** and **Flushing International** had a very special visitor. Tony Plana, the Cuban-American star of the hit show *Ugly Betty*, came to meet the principals, staff, and students of these schools.

Accompanied by Internationals Executive Director, Claire Sylvan, Tony spent the day learning about our model, visiting classes and speaking with teachers. He also spoke with principals as well as focus groups of students in each school. Tony has always had an interest in helping minority youth, especially English learners and Latinos. He is the founder and Artistic Executive Director of East L.A. Classic Theatre, a non-profit organization that brings classic theater and educational programs into the schools. His Beyond Borders program serves over 26,000 students, teachers, parents, and community members every year in the Los Angeles area.

Tony was very excited about our schools and extremely interested in our students. We are thrilled to welcome him to the Internationals Community! ■

International High School at Lafayette News

• One of our graduates from June 2009, Katrina Li's artwork is part of a parent resource document for immigrants. She worked with one of our internship partners over the summer to design it and was credited at the end. Please view below for the link of the document:

http://www.vera.org/download?file=2933/UnderThe-Maze_FACTSHEET_FINAL_English.pdf

• Last week at the Frederick Douglas Academy Veteran's Day Chess tournament, IHSL Senior Elinton Vorbe scored a perfect 4 points through 4 rounds of chess to bring home a trophy. This was Elinton's first chess tournament in the US since arriving from the Dominican Republic 3 years ago where he was a junior high champ. On November 21st, we're planning a return to FDA for a Saturday morning tournament. Elinton will be accompanied by his math teacher and coach, Mr. Nikola, as well as classmates in the chess club. We wish him luck!

PAIHS Career Day

Carly Fox
Director of School Programs and
Community Partnerships

Our annual **Career Day** event on November 13th was more successful than ever this year – with over fifty professionals from a diverse set of careers holding dozens of panel sessions in classrooms, keynotes speeches in assemblies and lunch with student leaders. We are incredibly grateful to our partners with LYHEP – the Latino Youth for Higher Education Program – for organizing such a successful event.

Thanks to the networking efforts of Internationals Network and **Prospect Heights I.H.S.**, this month **PAIHS** partnered with **Learning Leaders**, an organization that places volunteers in NYC public schools to help tutor students.

This month PAIHS launched our partnership with CLACS – NYU's **Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies**. Four Ph.D candidates and professors are coming

SUNY New Paltz Trip

Cindy Choi
Data Specialist

International High School at Lafayette took 50 students to visit the SUNY New Paltz campus. This was our third time to experience this trip and has been a great introduction to life on a college campus. We engaged in the following events:

•The day started in a lecture hall at 10:55 am with a 60 admissions presentation. Particular attention was given to the Educational Opportunity Program, the Scholar's Mentorship Program, and general freshmen support programs.

•Students went on a 90 minute campus tour led by college students. This was lots of fun, especially visiting the dorm rooms.

•The last part of the trip we enjoyed an all-you-can-eat buffet in the student dining hall! ■



Students listening to a panel session on Career Day

The 6th Annual NYC Fall Professional Development Conference

Janine Martyr
Academic Affairs Associate

Internationals Network for Public Schools held its 6th Annual New York City Fall Professional Development Conference on November 3, 2009 at **Manhattan International High School**. For the first time, the event was organized around a theme which, appropriate to the wider education conversation, was "What every International High School student needs to know to be college, career, and life ready".

to our school in November and December to present their research to our advanced Latin American Studies class. The students write reflections in the form of a “blog” that CLACS will be posting on their website. The presentations range from issues such as populism in Argentina, Afro-Latino identity, Indigenous Rights and the Cuban Revolution.

Finally, *we are in need* of internship placements for our eleventh graders. This is our first year running the **internship program**, and we are working to gather enough sites to accommodate all of our juniors. If any of your schools would like to have an intern, or you have heard of potential site placements, please contact Lauren Maggiacomo, lmaggiac@hotmail.com, our internship coordinator. ■

There were approximately 300 participants in attendance, including a group of educators from the Global Village School in Decatur, GA. Daria Witt, Director of Academic Affairs, opened by framing the day’s activities within the need for a college and career ready focus. Camille Rodriguez, Director of College Readiness, further expanded on the theme and facilitated the panel discussion of professors and IHS alumni who spoke about the experiences of immigrant students in higher education. Subsequent morning and afternoon workshop covered topics such as discipline-specific literacy, graduation proficiencies, developing a comprehensive college readiness program, and non-college post-secondary options such as Year Up and LaGCC’s construction trades program. In addition, all participants received a CD of the Teacher Toolkit of their discipline and of the new resource binder on Enhancing College Readiness. Materials from all workshops will be posted shortly on Knowledge-Base at the following link:

<https://knowledge.newvisions.org/CustomAOIIndividual.aspx?id=640>

Participants rated the event highly, with over 90% marking “agree” or “strongly agree” to the statements: “The presentations was engaging, well-planned, and professional” and “I got something from this presentation that I can use”. In addition, 81% marked “agree” or “strongly agree” to the statement: “The session changed/expanded my thinking about this topic.”

Internationals would like to thank Alan Krull, Principal at MIHS for hosting this year’s Fall Professional Development Day, Gladys Rodriguez, Assistant Principal, for her help in the behind-the-scenes and logistical aspects of the event, and James Barkley, Computer Technician, for his technological assistance and expertise. Finally, thanks to everyone who participated and contributed to the success of the event. ■

Internationals in the News:

[Back-to-school for grown-ups: Oakland’s Principal for a Day program for immigrants](#)



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