Meghan Titus, a student in the college’s new bachelor degree program in agricultural business development, takes a look at the many items for sale at the Nelson Farms Country Store. She was part of a class which recently toured the Nelson Farms food processing facility.
The Future of SUNY

As our SUNY campuses begin the fall semester, I want to commend all of our faculty, staff, and stakeholders for their superb work last year – work that is key to achieving our primary goal of providing each student with the highest possible quality education, one that is affordable, accessible and attainable.

SUNY is one of the best higher education systems in the country and, as we move forward, we must focus on keeping the “public” in public higher education. That means staying affordable and accessible to all of New York’s students. And at the same time, it is imperative that we continue to enhance the quality of a SUNY education and provide a holistic process that enables high levels of achievement for all our students.

If we are not providing all of our students a top-quality education that is affordable, accessible, and attainable, we are not doing our job. It’s that simple.

This is the 11th time I have had the privilege of serving in a leadership position. Many were during my three decades in the United States Navy, then as the president of three colleges, and now as SUNY chancellor. Each new position has been accompanied by its own challenges and opportunities. In public higher education across the nation, one of the greatest challenges we face is maintaining a sufficient level of full time faculty. With our strong SUNY budget now enacted by our trustees, I am pleased that SUNY is able to move toward a major goal: hiring an additional 300-plus new full time faculty.

While part-time faculty perform important service to SUNY, it is our full time faculty who expand our research portfolio, participate in university governance, and shape the culture of our campuses through their commitment to teaching and learning.

SUNY’s 31,000 faculty are already among the most efficient and productive in the nation, but we do not have enough of them. Moreover, less than 62 percent of our State-operated campus faculty are full time, whereas a decade ago, 74 percent were full time. Our part-time faculty do a wonderful job and the use of part-time faculty to meet particular institutional teaching needs is a sound fiscal strategy.

However, when our FT/PT faculty ratio becomes skewed, it does our students a disservice by failing to provide them the highest quality classroom experience and exposure to, and mentoring by the seasoned professors they deserve. We can do better – and we will, starting this year.

Our SUNY students are an incredibly talented and diverse group. Approximately 80 percent of SUNY students receive some form of financial assistance, whether they are receiving aid from Pell Grants or the State’s Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), or are in a work study program. Combined with our low tuition and fees, these programs make SUNY both affordable and accessible.

However, as higher education costs continue to rise and state budgets across the nation are increasingly strained, the need to implement policies that guarantee affordability and accessibility is becoming even more critical. Last year, SUNY Trustees proposed a rational tuition plan, which would prevent students and families from experiencing substantial, unexpected tuition increases as they have in recent years. This unfortunate practice is what I call “tuition roulette.”

(continued on back)
The Future of SUNY (continued)

A rational tuition plan would allow students and parents to plan, not just for one year, but for the length of their degree program, so that from the moment they enroll, our students would know precisely what their tuition bills would be for their entire degree program. No sudden hikes; no financial crises – just sound policy and a commitment to our students that would allow them to focus on their studies instead of worrying about future tuition rates. We will continue to pursue the adoption of a rational tuition plan with the governor and state legislature, and look forward to seeing it enacted.

For a deeper and more long-term view of public higher education, I believe our state leaders need an impartial, bi-partisan, thorough analysis of SUNY – what SUNY is, what it’s accomplishing and what we can and must do better.

After the fall elections, I will urge our state leaders to establish a Blue Ribbon commission that would be made up of a cross-section of stakeholders: business leaders, experienced educators and administrative leaders from New York and comparable states, as well as both a student representative and an international higher education official. The commission would take a comprehensive look at what works best in higher education, not just in New York State, but throughout the country and internationally. After it conducts broad research on SUNY and best practices throughout higher education, the commission would make a series of recommendations regarding SUNY to the governor, the legislature, and SUNY Trustees. These recommendations could then serve as a blueprint for the future of the State University.

One of the areas where SUNY’s role is critical throughout New York State is in economic development. In each and every community where a SUNY campus exists, we are an essential economic engine that drives local economies and the State economy as a whole. Whether it’s through the public-private partnerships at our Centers of Excellence; the cutting-edge research our professors are conducting throughout the system; workforce development at any of our institutions, but particularly at any of our 30 community colleges; or simply through active support in town-gown relations, SUNY is there, making a difference. Our goal is to be even more impactful in the coming years.

Going forward, we need to continue to fuel economic development by producing graduates who meet the State’s growing workforce needs in fields like healthcare, computer technology, engineering and education. We can also focus more of our campus research and community involvement on supporting regional economic priorities and challenges. Our talented SUNY professionals are indeed a great investment, one that will continue to provide solutions for New York State.

With our first steps toward making both SUNY and each institution exceptional now underway, with the help of our Trustees’ adoption of the 2006-07 financial plan and the addition of much-needed full-time faculty, we are off to a great start. I look forward to building on this progress with faculty, staff and stakeholders over the coming years as we join together to make SUNY the nation’s premier public higher education system.

John R. Ryan
Chancellor
The State University of New York

This is the first in a series of columns that will be submitted regularly by SUNY Chancellor John R. Ryan, for your information.
Mustang Weekend Schedule (September 29 and 30)

Friday, September 29
1-5 p.m.  Fish and Wildlife Society Sponsored Fishing Derby (Helyar Pond $3/ person, NYS fishing license not required)
2-6 p.m.  Information Table for Families (STUAC lobby)
2-6 p.m.  Information/Registration for Alumni (STUAC lobby)
4:45-7 p.m.  Family Dinner (Seneca Dining Hall - $7.50 per person)
7-11 p.m.  Casino Management Organization Sponsored Casino Night (Brooks Hall)
9 p.m.  Live Entertainment at the Copper Turret

Saturday, September 30
8 a.m.-2 p.m.  Open House Activities
9 a.m.  Madison Hall 5k Run/Walk ($5 alumni and students, $10 pre-register)
9 a.m.  Information Table for Families (STUAC lobby)
9 a.m.  Information/Registration for Alumni (STUAC lobby)
10 a.m.  Alumni Lacrosse Game
10 a.m.  Estate Planning Q & A, Sponsored by Manning & Napier (101 Bailey Hall)
10 a.m.-3 p.m.  Horticulture Open House and Floral Design Contest
10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.  Massages Given by Students, Sponsored by Health Technologies (in front of Seneca Dining Hall)
10:30 a.m.-3 p.m.  Family Brunch (Seneca Dining Hall - $5.50 per person)
11 a.m.  Parade:  DIII in 3D (line-up at 10 a.m. at MECS elementary school, Route 20-Mustang Lane)
11 a.m.  Craft Fair (STUAC - east side of gym)
11 a.m.-5 p.m.  Campus Store Open
12 Noon  Men's Mustangs Soccer vs. Wells College
12-2 p.m.  Alumni Luncheon and General Business Meeting (STUAC)
12-4 p.m.  Automotive Club Cruise-In (Automotive Technology Building)
1 p.m.  Mustang Football vs. SUNY Maritime College (football field)
1-5 p.m.  Concessions, Hosted by Children's Center
2 p.m.  Alumni Class Photos (Administrative Quad by Mustang Statue)
2-3 p.m.  Morrisville Commons Tour Led by Nathan Flintjer (new suite-styled dorms)
3-7 p.m.  Campus Carnival (Academic Quad)
4 p.m.  First Sports, Nutrition and Fitness Management Alumni Softball Game
5-7 p.m.  Community/Campus Picnic (Academic Quad)
6:15 p.m.  Family Entertainer Regi Carpenter, “Soaring Stories” (Theater)
7-8 p.m.  Ice Cream Social (Administrative Quad)
8 p.m.  Fireworks Over Drake Football Field (half paid for by Alumni and CAB)
8:30 p.m.  Drive-In Movie: Double Feature (Drake Football Field)

** For local hotel/motel/B&B accommodations go to www.madisontourism.com **
Cruise-In
at Morrisville State College
Automotive Building
Saturday, September 30
Noon - 4 p.m.
Sponsored by the Student Automotive Club, the Alumni Association and Student Activities
EVERYONE WELCOME
NO ADMISSION FEE
Anyone wishing to drive their vehicle in the Alumni parade at 11 a.m. should meet at the Elementary School on Eaton Street by 10:30 a.m.
3 Trophies for best: Student Vehicle, Alumni Vehicle and Open Class Vehicle.
For more information, call 315-684-6222.

Norwich Campus Faculty to Host Museum Trip

Professor Mike Foor-Pessin invites Norwich Campus students to join him and his

English 203 class for what promises to be a fun, educational trip to the Sainte Marie Among the Iroquois Museum in Liverpool, New York, on Saturday, September 23.

A chartered bus will depart from the Norwich Campus at 9:15 a.m. and stop at Dinosaur Barbeque for lunch en route to this living museum. The group will enjoy a guided tour and educational interpretations by museum docents. Following the museum visit, the group will go to the Carousel Center for shopping and dinner. The bus will depart Carousel Center at 7 p.m. for return to Norwich at approximately 8:15 p.m.

The trip (including bus transportation and admission to the Sainte Marie Among the Iroquois Museum is free of charge to Norwich Campus students. All those going will be responsible for the cost of meals. Non-student guests and community members are welcome to attend on a first-come, first-served basis. The cost for non-students is $10 to cover transportation and museum admission. For more information on the Sainte Marie Among the Iroquois Museum, visit http://onondagacountyparks.com/parks/sainte_marie/ on the web.

Contact the Norwich Campus Office at 607-334-5144 to sign up. Space is limited.

TAP Application Status Students:

You are strongly reminded to check your status online at www.hesc.com to see if you have completed your TAP grant application and to see what school code is on your application. If you have not completed your application, you can do so by going to https://www.tapweb.org/totw/.

There are many of you that have not completed this process. If you do not complete the application, you will lose this free money. Please take a few minutes to check your account. If you do have an award and the school code is not Morrisville, please let me know and I will change it for you to the proper code for your major.

Thank you for your prompt cooperation in this matter.

Patricia M. Davis
Financial Aid Advisor
Morrisville State College

SUNY Upstate Medical University Representative to Visit Campus

A SUNY Upstate Medical University representative will be available to speak with interested transfer students on Wednesday, September 13, from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in Crawford Hall.
The Academic Support Center Seeks Applications for Peer Tutor Positions

Are you a good student who likes to help other students succeed in college? If so, the Academic Support Center (ASC) has job openings for part-time peer tutors in a variety of subjects taught on campus. Morrisville students who have both a B (3.00) or higher in a course and a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher may apply for a peer tutoring position. Peer tutors work a maximum of 10 hours per week and earn $6.75 per hour.

Application forms may be picked up at the ASC in Room 038 in Onondaga Hall. For more information, please contact Ms. Stephanie Lawhorne, ASC Director, at 684-6042 or lawhorsl@morrisville.edu.

Scott Doty (right), a MAC employee who works at Nelson Farms, helps Zachary Peck and Makoto Matsuoka (left), both agricultural business development bachelor degree majors, select products at Nelson Farms Country Store.

Students in one of Professor Sheila Marshman’s (left) classes get prepared to enter the production area at Nelson Farms.

Zachary Peck watches Richard Wing bottle cole slaw dressing.
Field Trips

The following NATR 250 students had approval to travel to Green Lakes State Park with their instructor, Mr. Bill Snyder, on September 8, 2006. The students left campus at 8 a.m. on September 8 and will returned to campus that afternoon. The students were instructed to contact their instructors in advance of any missed classes to arrange for appropriate makeup.

Dwight Basa
Joel Bezner
Nigel Bisbing
Timothy Bobbett
Robert Brehm
Nathan Butera
Justin Chamberlin
Anthony Cimpi
Malik Drayton
Daniel Ellis
Daniel Farrow
Melissa Hemmerich
Nicole Howey
Mathew Ives
Andrew King
Thomas Liptrott
Tyler Luders
Andrew Maciag
Edward Mcowen
Scott O’Mara
Zachary Reed
Ernest Renaud
William Rode
Peter Sorrell
Suzanne Spencer

The following DANS 220 students have approval to travel to Cayuga County on September 11, 2006, to visit Venice View Dairy with their instructor, Mr. Robert Haight. The students will leave campus at 11 a.m. on September 11 and will return to campus at 5 p.m. that evening. The students have been instructed to contact their instructors in advance of any missed classes to arrange for appropriate makeup.

Alt, Andy
Anderson, Harry
Andrews, Dan
Balmer, Mark
Bennett, Melissa
Bowersox, Angel
Carpenter, Dan
Coons, Brian
Copenhaver, Austin
Creighto...
Makoto Matsuoka views a large selection of Molly’s Choice, the college’s own ice cream, available at Nelson Farms. She is an agricultural business development major.