



## College awarded grants to address local issues

The college recently received two grants, totaling more than \$500,000, from the Millbrook-based Dyson Foundation.

One grant will be used to fund scholarships for local students in the Secondary Education Department. The other will be used to create a new English as a Second Language (ESL) program within the college's Language Immersion Institute (LII).

The \$254,000 awarded to the Secondary Education Department is designed to help alleviate the teacher shortage in math and science within high-needs districts

throughout the Mid-Hudson region.

Secondary education students who transfer to New Paltz from community colleges in Dutchess, Orange and Ulster counties are eligible for the scholarships. Over the course of the next three years, the Dyson Foundation will award grants of up to \$6,000 to each of six students per year for two years. In addition to scholarships, recipients will receive \$2,000 for living expenses during the semester they spend student teaching.

"We are delighted to have this support," said **Robert Michael**, dean of the School

of Education. "We look forward to working with the students receiving the extra support from the Dyson Foundation."

The first scholarships awarded under the new grant are available to students enrolling at New Paltz in fall 2007.

The Dyson Foundation has also awarded the Language Immersion Institute a three-year grant, totaling \$225,000.

The funds will be used to implement an innovative new English Immersion program. Speaking Proficiency in English for Adults and Kids (SPEAK): An English

Immersion Program for the Whole Family will offer intensive English instruction to children and adults for whom existing ESL programs are not readily accessible.

Focusing on verbal communication in English, SPEAK will use a life skills approach to developing language proficiency. The institute will collaborate with the Mid-Hudson Migrant Education Outreach Program to identify and place program participants.

"The Dyson grant will finally allow us to address the need for an English immersion program in the Mid-

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## Reunion Weekend promises fun for alumni and campus

The college will welcome back alumni with a series of events, on and off campus, during Alumni Reunion Weekend, Oct. 12-14.

Events range from a sitar performance to the Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

The weekend will begin at 9 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 12, at the Welcome Center in the Haggerty Administration Building with a reception and registration. Throughout the weekend there will be luncheons, networking socials and campus tours.

A weekend highlight is the Theatre Arts Department's production of "The Pirates of Penzance," which takes the stage on Friday and Saturday.

Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to take part in the many educational and cultural events, as well as the All-Class and Campus luncheon on Saturday.

For a full schedule of events, visit [www.newpaltz.edu/alumni/reunion](http://www.newpaltz.edu/alumni/reunion).



## 9/11 call of duty

Second-year graduate students in the Psychology Department's Mental Health Counseling program (left to right) **Brandon Roman**, **Allison Trusso**, **Laura Caccavone**, **Diane Grimaldi** and **Keith Rico** volunteered with the American Red Cross as disaster mental health volunteers on Sept. 11 at a memorial ceremony at Ground Zero. The students traveled to New York City with **James Halpern** (Psychology), director of the Institute for Disaster Mental Health. They attended the event to offer support to the friends and families of the victims. Some of the students distributed flowers, helped handicapped people get in and out of vans transporting them to the memorial site, handed out tissues and provided comfort for those having a difficult time. Others were stationed where memorial participants were walking down to Ground Zero and at the actual memorial site.