



From the President



This academic year Lexington celebrates its 30th anniversary. We mark three decades of educating women with a legacy of creative, professional, and service oriented educated women.

Our alumnae occupy all areas of the hospitality industry: from hotels and restaurants to conference centers, banks and social service organizations. And of course, many rely on their college education to make and run their households. In every venue, Lexington women have a rich history of outstanding service as well as mentoring others and impacting their communities.

In October 1977 Lexington first opened its doors in a brownstone at 1447 W. Lexington Street in Chicago aiming to establish an educational institution to assist women working in the service industries obtain the same level of education and training as those in other professions such as nursing, teaching and business. More than 30 years later, the hospitality management field is a recognized academic area, with over 100 institutions of higher education offering bachelor's degree programs in this field.

From the start, Lexington's history has been characterized by creative, courageous and committed women. Our 'founding mothers' came to

their historic task from varied backgrounds and were as diverse as the students attending Lexington today.

Although diverse, our founders united behind a common goal: to establish an institution dedicated to the professional development of women. This pursuit was inspired by the words of St. Josemaría Escrivá: "You too have a professional vocation which spurs you on... be sure you acquire all the professional prestige you can for the service of God and of souls."¹

It is difficult to highlight all of the individuals who worked to create the Lexington of today. But as we turn 30, I think it is important to feature a selection of women, many of whom were never formally employed at the College, who courageously worked long hours to make Lexington a reality. And after 30 years, some of these women still continue their work growing Lexington College.

These are women of creativity, courage and commitment. Women like tenacious and soft-spoken Gabriella DuClaud who served as Chairman of the Board for nearly two decades. Her persevering spirit was a catalyst that helped to launch many young women. Mexican immigrant, Petra Jaime offered her home on Chicago's West Side for use as the first 'campus' for the newborn Lexington College. Dr. Alice Thelen put her knowledge of educational institutions to work, writing the first College mission statement and by-laws and worked to obtain operating authority from the state.

Chicago native Helen Healy, mother of six and female entrepreneur, was present at the start of the College and for over 25 years channeled

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MARRIOTT SCHOLARS PROGRAM ENJOYS A SECOND SUCCESSFUL YEAR



Pictured from left to right; Lexington President Susan Mangels, Talonda Stogner, Christina Gates, Candida Velez, Academic Dean Marta Elvira, Rebecca Farver, Rochelle Clay and Ted Selogie of Marriott International.

A celebratory awards ceremony and reception was held at Lexington College on September 12 honoring the new 2006 - 2007 Marriott Scholars. Six returning and four new women associates were awarded the annual \$10,000 scholarship for enrolling in Lexington's bachelor's degree program in Hospitality Management.

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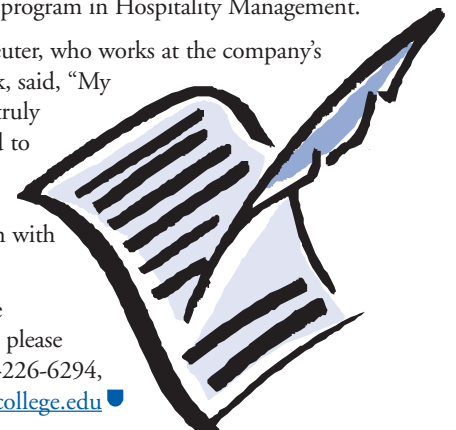
Lexington Launches First Annual McDonald's Scholars Program

Using Lexington's successful Marriott Scholars program as a model, the College recently launched a new program to provide women working in our industry with additional educational opportunities. Lexington and McDonald's share a vision of cultivating talent within the industry and fostering a skilled service orientated workforce.

The McDonald's Scholars program will offer ten annually renewable \$5,000 tuition scholarships to ten female employees from McDonald's. To qualify, candidates must be accepted and enroll in Lexington's bachelor's or associate's degree program in Hospitality Management.

McDonald's Scholar Carrie Reuter, who works at the company's corporate offices in Oak Brook, said, "My event planning coursework is truly valuable. I am looking forward to completing my bachelor's degree at Lexington and to further my professional growth with McDonald's."

For more information about the McDonald's Scholars program, please contact Robyn Schultz at 312-226-6294, ext. 225 or degree@lexingtoncollege.edu



Alumnae

Alumnae members of the Lexington 30th Anniversary Planning Committee are

30 years

1977-2007

working on festivities for the April 20 – 21, 2007 celebration. Contact **Janet Burke Peruzzi '79, Shamika Jefferson '04, Felicia Roberts '88 AAS, '06 BAS, Norma Robles '98 AAS, '07 BAS, Kelley Schmidt '94, or Ginny Schoditsch '92**, for more details!

Ceci Ortega '94, referred Texan Diana Ortega (no relation) to Lexington this past summer. Diana, a high school junior, and her sister visited the College in July, saw Concord Residence and were pleased with their experience. Alum referrals are a valuable source of growth for the College, and we welcome all of them.

Evi Becsei '95, Maria Elena Fregoso '95, Deanna Lober '00, and former Lexington student Adela Guerrero were among the participants of the May 2006 Lexington College Meats Seminar. All four women work as culinary professionals.

Natalie Avila '04, moved to California with her family and plans to enroll in a Baking and Pastry certification program at The Institute of Technology. She hopes to attend the Culinary Institute of America in the future. Avila said, "I loved going to Lexington and I am extremely happy that I did go and I wouldn't take that back ever."

Maren Struve '05 has been promoted to Reservations Manager at the Hard Rock Hotel in Chicago.

Jennifer Hubbard '06, gave birth to her second daughter, Abria, August 30, 2006. Lexington alumnae **Jennifer Teal '06** and **Jennifer Silas '06** are the proud godmothers.

Felicia Roberts '88 AAS, '06 BAS, returned to the College on September 12 to assist with an evening event for Marriott executives. Every Marriott attendee was impressed by Lexington's hospitality, and we acknowledge that this commitment extends to our alums as well. Thank you, Felicia!

Jennifer Silas '06, stopped in at Lexington in early September to say hello. She has fond memories of the friendly, helpful way students were treated here during registration and during their time at the college. "Your staff really took the time to make a difference for us!" she said. We appreciate the compliment, and invite all alum to stop by and let us know how they're doing.

Katy Yerke '06, married Rick Oberst on July 28, 2006 in Elm Grove, Wisconsin. Attending the wedding were **Stephanie Simpson '04, Mary Fricano '05, Elaina Ortiz '05, Angie Dillett '06 AAS, '08 BAS, Chef Linda Rosner**, head of Lexington Culinary Arts department and **Stephanie Leese**, Lexington IAB President. ■

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

At the start of each academic year, Lexington College awards scholarships to new and returning students based on academic excellence and financial aid.

For academic year 2006 – 2007, over 95% of Lexington College students received scholarships and grants totaling over \$250,000.

Lexington Signature Scholarships

Ana Marie Boza Passion for

Hospitality

Meghan Collins

Art of Living

Mercedes Medina

Helen Healy Founders

Scholarship

Dacia Ewing

Industry Scholarships

Angela Echols, Tammie Lockett and Kenitra Shackelford

Lexington Marriott Scholars

Rochelle Clay, Santora Crawford, Anne Eggers, Rebecca Farver, Christina Gates, Angela Jordan, Jennifer Rangel, Cassandra Robinson-Brown and Talonda Stogner

Lexington McDonald's Scholars

Carrie Reuter

Ti-Ti Chen General Education

Samantha Radosta

Transfer Scholarships

Gwendolyn Gilbert

Other scholarships awarded to Lexington College students:

Americorps

Tameakah Gant

Careers in Culinary Arts (C-CAP)

April Jones, and Patryce Washington

Illinois Hotel & Lodging

Association

Anne Eggers, Gwendolyn Gilbert and Lindsey Linder

IRAEE/NRAEF Co-Branded

April Jones

MacDougal Wendell Phillips

Scholarship

DeAnna Joiner

National Restaurant

Association

Anne Eggers

Shellbourne Conference Center

Mercedes Medina

Save the Date!

LEXINGTON'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY ALUMNAE CELEBRATION

April 20 – 21, 2007

Alumnae panel, dinner cruise, Chicago tour, museum visits, cultural activities, restaurant tours and more!

Don't miss it! Stay tuned!

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Stay in touch with the College and send us your news including new addresses, phone numbers and events in your life!

Send to ckustner@lexingtoncollege.edu.



Events Heating up at Concord Residence



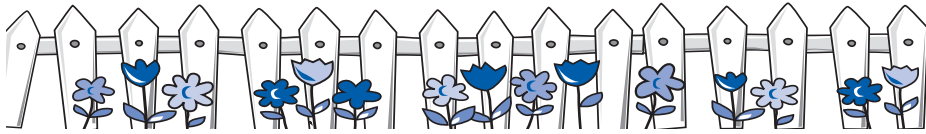
Pictured from left to right; Itzezelle Arienza, Katie Hill, Mercedes Medina, and Maura Martinez, grilling up a delicious barbeque on Labor Day at Concord Residence!

Just a few months after the Concord Residence opened its doors, student residents are making themselves at home and exploring the sights and sounds of Chicago during their free time. Students spent time grilling outdoors Labor Day weekend and connect for movie nights, lakefront outings, and organizing study nights.

Concord is a great residential alternative for students who commute or live out of state. The residence hall also affords the opportunity for students to get to know their classmates, form study groups and live in a family oriented environment. The students also are looking forward to upcoming social events such as a

Halloween Party, Thanksgiving, and other holiday outings.

Concord Residence is a family oriented living space for Lexington College students. Concord is located in the residential Irving Park neighborhood conveniently located near public transportation. Residence space is still available for students this spring semester. Please contact Catherine Kustner at 312-226-6294, ex. 242 or ckustner@lexingtoncollege.edu for more information about this housing opportunity! ■



BISHOP AFFIRMS LEXINGTON DURING U.S. VISIT

In his recent trip to the U.S., Bishop Javier Echevarria, the Prelate of Opus Dei met with Lexington administrators and Board members. He noted the importance of Lexington's work educating women. He also encouraged the team to continue focusing on offering Lexington students a personalized education, seeking opportunities to serve them, and challenge them to grow in all areas of their lives.

A group of Lexington students also met with the Prelate in Houston as part of a gathering with youth from across the country. Freshman Itzezelle Arienza presented him with a Lexington sweatshirt. She commented, "He inspires us to take our faith seriously and to see that we can make a huge difference in the world today!"

Saint Josemaría Escrivá, the founder of Opus Dei provided the founding inspiration for Lexington College. Opus Dei is a Catholic institution with the mission of helping people turn their work and daily activities into occasions for growing closer to God, for serving others, and for improving society. ■

SODEXHO HONOREE INSPIRES STUDENTS TO EMBRACE DIVERSITY

Dr. Rohini Anand, Chief Diversity Officer at Sodexho, Inc and honoree at Lexington College's Building Scholarships for Service Benefit Dinner, spoke to students on September 8 about leadership in a multi-national company and global diversity affecting the hospitality industry. She also discussed her initiative to increase the representation of women and minorities at Sodexho, noting that diversity and inclusion have become a competitive advantage for the company.

"Look around the room, we all experience diversity and will be working with one another in our careers. Employers will be looking at candidates who understand how to work with a diverse group of individuals as the hospitality industry continues to grow," said Anand. "Stay focused, you will see a huge increase in the number of women managers in the hospitality field in the next few years."

Recently, Sodexho USA, a contract foodservice and facilities management company, was named one of the top companies for executive women for 2006 in *Nations Restaurant News*. ■



Kudos

Professor Nathan Breen, J.D., was selected by The Meeting Professionals International as a Platinum Series Speaker. The Platinum Series is a list of pre-approved presentations and presenters available to MPI chapters nationwide.

Chef Instructor Jennifer Lewis continues to publish monthly columns in the *Daily Southtown*. Most recently she published, "Accreditation Important for Pastry Chef," "4 Star Ice Cream + Incredible Melted Ice Cream Cake," and "The Story of Vanilla." She also was an invited expert for Ice

Cream Tasting at the *Southtown*, along with other renowned chefs from Chicago.

Culinary Faculty Linda Rosner and Jennifer Lewis led Lexington's portion of the Silk Road Chicago Tours, "Crossing Culinary Borders," on August 12. Silk Road Chicago Tours are sponsored by the Chicago Office of Tourism and are part of the citywide celebration of Chicago's multicultural legacy that features over 250 events and activities.

Stephanie Leese, Lexington's Industry Advisory Board President, was named one of the benefit chairs for the 17th Annual Chicago Humanities Festival on November 3 at The Field Museum. Other benefit

chairs include Mayor Richard M. Daley, Senator Dick Durbin and Senator Barack Obama.

Academic Dean Marta Elvira started her term as board member of the Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association Educational Foundation. Dr. Elvira also presented her research on cross-cultural employment issues at the annual meetings of the Council of Hotel, Restaurant, and Institutional Education (CHRIE) meetings in Crystal City, VA. In August, she was an invited speaker at two different sessions at the Academy of Management conference in Atlanta. ■

Employers Give Lexington Interns Stellar Remarks

Each year Lexington students intern at hotels, resorts, conference centers, community organizations, popular tourism sites, and restaurants. Surveys and feedback from employers confirm that student internships continue to foster valuable work experience for Lexington students. This year's student internship presentations, which were held on September 28, showcased the rich learning experiences that internships provide.

Students choose a category of internship that best complement their interests and Lexington's Career Services department works with students throughout the year to prepare them, find a position, and succeed in their internship experiences. Internships are paid, required for all students and provide as academic credit towards degrees. Students shared their work experiences with a crowded room of staff, faculty, employers, and peers at several locations around Chicagoland area including Sodexo at the Shedd Aquarium, Chicago Marriott Downtown, Brookfield Zoo, Indian Lakes Resort, Residence Inn-Waukegan, Hampton Inn & Suites and Homewood Suites.

"We are always in the business to hire good culinary students with the ability for learning, also willing to be taught. I feel that Lexington is a great start for their career development."

(Culinary Supervisor, Chicago Marriott Downtown)

"We hope to work exclusively with Lexington student interns in the future!"

(Human Resources Director, Hard Rock Hotel, Chicago)

This program showcased students' outstanding communication skills, tabletop displays and PowerPoint presentations. Employers submitted comments as part of the program assessment, reaffirming the work being done by Lexington students in the hospitality field. Student intern Norma Robles '07 said, "I appreciate the services and experiences Lexington has offered to me. I am grateful for coming to school here."

Weekly Lunch Time Speaker Series Inspires Students

9/26: Sharing Secrets of Convention Success in Chicago

The convention industry represents a \$9 billion dollar profit for the city of Chicago. Who knows the industry better than Lupe Phillips, Service Project Manager for the Convention & Visitors Bureau of Chicago. Phillips spoke to Lexington students on September 26 during her visit to the College for the weekly *Lunch Time Speaker Series* program.

Phillips shared her job experiences in the hospitality field as well as her new position, which focuses on the convention and tradeshow sector in Chicago. This newly created position was designed to implement systems and policies for Mayor Daley's new project for the city of Chicago, "We're Glad You're Here" campaign.

Phillips said, "Whether you want to be an event planner or hotel manager, the booming convention and tradeshow industry projects growth and an abundance of job opportunities for the city of Chicago in hospitality venues."

The weekly *Lunch Time Speaker Series* provide students networking opportunities with area professionals and up to date educational information from experts in the hospitality field. Check out www.lexingtoncollege.edu for upcoming speaker events! 🍷



MARRIOTT SCHOLARS PROGRAM ENJOYS A SECOND SUCCESSFUL YEAR

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Pictured from left to right; Adriana Jurado '08, Darcea Gamble '10, and Amber Barrows '10, pose for a picture while volunteering at the Marriott Business Council reception and Marriott Scholars awards ceremony at Lexington on September 12.

The scholars received award certificates and were acknowledged by their general managers and peers for their accomplishments. These young women who work at several different Marriott properties around the Chicagoland area are now pursuing bachelor's degrees to continue growing in their professions. Other guests at the reception included associates of Marriott properties, friends, and family members.

The reception honoring these students was a joint effort

between Lexington College and the Marriott Business Council. Oscar Rodriguez, leader of the Marriott Business Council, won a cocktail reception as part of a benefit auction through Lexington last fall and wanted to support the scholars by hosting the reception on the evening of the awards ceremony. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments were prepared and served by Lexington College students.

Marriott is pleased with the quality of the program and continues to promote this opportunity with their employees. For more information about the Marriott Scholars program, contact Robyn Schultz at 312-226-6294, ext. 225 or degree@lexingtoncollege.edu.

WELCOME BACK STUDENTS!



Some of Lexington's new students eagerly pose for a group photo during student orientation at the College.

From the President *Continued from page 1*

resources to it. While raising nine children, Nancy McCormack founded and staffed Lexington's first alumnae office and located the building which would house the College for two decades. Ann Jans fearlessly established the College's first development program and with Healy created the College's Industry Advisory Board. Mexican natives Sylvia Vicenteno, Dora Lepe and Elvia Vicenteno led dozens of volunteers for and welcomed literally thousands of guests to the College's annual Mexican Dinner Dance Scholarship Benefit.

Additionally, two noteworthy women, Dr.

Madonna Murphy and Theresa Wisniewski started as volunteers and later led College development in key areas. Dr. Murphy also served as the College's first Admissions Director and eventually Dean. In her 'spare time' she established the first Concord Residence to house Lexington students. And banker Theresa Wisniewski served on the Board of Directors before leaving corporate America to work as Lexington's Controller for over a decade, leading the business office, and overseeing plant management.

For the generosity, courage and

LIBRARY NEWS

Librarian Jo Kujawa announced that Lexington College won the 2007 LSTA grant for her proposal entitled, "The History of Women Hospitality Entrepreneurs."

The Illinois State Library, a program of the Secretary of State's Office, administers LSTA grants with funding from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The new grant further supports Lexington's focus on entrepreneurship, allowing growth in the library collection with a particular focus on women entrepreneurs in hospitality. Portions of the project will also be available for a traveling exhibit that will help Lexington share with others the entrepreneur academic focus.

If you would like to support the library or donate books, please contact Jo Kujawa at 312-226-6294, ext. 235 or library@lexingtoncollege.edu



commitment of these women, Lexington is eternally grateful. They serve as inspirational role models for all of us at Lexington College today.

In the next issue, we will highlight two women who left their own singular marks on the history and development of Lexington College – President Dr. Ana Maria Boza and Dean Dr. Josephine "Titi" Chen. Stay tuned!

'The Way, no.491

LEXINGTON DONORS

Lexington gratefully acknowledges the many individuals, corporations and foundations that generously supported the College during the fiscal year July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006.

These gifts enabled Lexington College to provide an excellent education for women and to continue growing our programs. The following list reflects gifts and grants received:

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Spring 2007 Classes Begin

Jan 16, 2007

Taste of Lexington

March TBA

Hispanic Dinner Dance

March 24, 2007

Alumnae 30th Anniversary Celebration

April 20 & 21, 2007

Welcome

Michael Majerczyk Accounting Faculty

Dr. Rohini Anand, Chief Diversity Officer at Sodexo Inc, visiting with Lexington students on September 8th. (Full story on Page 3)



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