

SLC GOES DIVISION III: COLLEGE BEGINS EXPLORATORY YEAR IN NCAA

Sarah Lawrence College has won approval from the NCAA to begin the process of competing in Division III athletics.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association's membership council has approved Sarah Lawrence's application, which now allows the College to conduct an exploratory year to bring its program in line with NCAA rules.

"Most of our peer institutions compete in Division III, so it really makes sense for us to have that opportunity to offer to our students," said Carolyn Miles, the College's acting director of physical education and athletics.

Becoming a member of the NCAA's Division III is a five-year process, which includes the exploratory year, and then four probationary years in which the College's program is reviewed by the NCAA, and College officials are trained



Men's soccer team plays at the Tibbetts Brook Soccer Field in Yonkers

Photo: Quyen Nguyen

in NCAA procedures. Sarah Lawrence would be eligible for NCAA Division III championships by the 2015-16 school year.

Sarah Lawrence, which competes in the Hudson Valley Men's Athletic Conference and Hudson Valley Women's Athletic Conference, has a long history participating

in intercollegiate athletics, with women's tennis and swimming fielding strong teams for many years. Other teams in the leagues include Yeshiva University, Culinary Institute of America, Albany College of Pharmacy, Berkeley College, St. Joseph's

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YONKERS MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS ENJOY CHEMISTRY SHOWS

Chemistry came alive at Westchester Hills School 29 this spring when Sarah Lawrence College chemistry professor Colin Abernethy arrived with an array of elements that the eighth grade students had mostly known from glancing at the Periodic Table.

There was lead—dense, heavy, and poisonous. There was copper—strong, flexible, and relatively inert. Abernethy also had some magnesium—a highly reactive element that caught fire and burned with brilliant white light when heated by the flame of a torch.

"We are recruiting the next generation of chemists," says Abernethy, the Scottish-

born academic who joined Sarah Lawrence's chemistry faculty in 2010.

Abernethy's outreach at Westchester Hills School 29, a K-8 school on Croydon Road in northeast Yonkers, is part of the American Chemical Society's efforts to expose elementary and middle-school students to the science of chemistry. Abernethy hopes the outreach efforts in Yonkers become a regular program throughout the city.

JoAnn DiMaria, assistant director of mathematics and sciences for the Yonkers Public Schools, says the visit by Abernethy and the Sarah Lawrence students sparked



Photo: Dana Maxson

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Sarah Lawrence Goes Division III *continued from page 1*

College, College of New Rochelle, Webb Institute, and Medgar Evers College.

Max Mallory, co-captain of the Sarah Lawrence men's basketball team this past year, welcomed the decision. Mallory, who graduated in June, was named the College's athlete of the year in 2011.

"On a practical level, it represents a college's commitment to its athletic program," said Mallory, who was working this summer in the College's admission office. "It also gives us the opportunity to attract a wider range of students who want to compete in Division III."

Under NCAA rules, Division III schools must offer at least six sports for men and women, and have at least one sport for each, in the fall, winter, and spring. NCAA rules, for example, govern recruiting activities by coaches, prohibit student-athletes from

gambling on games, receiving payment to compete in their sport, or accepting money or any benefits from a sports agent. The rules also govern the length of playing seasons, and require that athletes rest at least one of every seven days.

Unlike Division I and II, Division III schools cannot provide athletic scholarships. There are 447 colleges and universities in Division III, compared to 335 in Division I and 302 in Division II.

In 2011-12 Sarah Lawrence will field men's teams in cross-country, swimming, basketball, soccer, tennis and volleyball. Women's teams will include tennis, volleyball, swimming, rowing, softball and cross-country. Most of Sarah Lawrence's coaches have coached previously at Division III schools.

On campus there are tennis courts,

basketball courts, a swimming pool, and the Mary LeVine Softball Field, located behind the Marshall Field Music Building, which was dedicated this spring in honor of the school's former athletic director.

The soccer team plays at Westchester County's Tibbetts Brook Park in Yonkers, and the rowing team practices in Long Island Sound, from a boathouse on Glen Island in New Rochelle that the team shares with Iona College.

"Sarah Lawrence students are passionate about all they find themselves involved with. Not only do we have strong scholars on this campus, but also a group of talented athletes. The move to the NCAA will afford our student-athletes the opportunity to compete at a level comparable to their peers at similar institutions," says Miles.

Yonkers Middle School Students Enjoy Chemistry Shows *continued from page 1*

interest in chemistry among the students participating in the demonstrations.

"It caused quite a wave of enthusiasm about chemistry," she said. "The younger students heard about it, and can't wait to have access to the program. It really connected with students."

Abernethy and four members of the Sarah Lawrence chemistry club also brought the chemistry show to classes at Enrico Fermi School for the Performing Arts and Yonkers Middle School last spring. They plan to return to the three schools in the fall to reach more students with the dramatic demonstrations.

"Chemistry can be very analytical and challenging," said Abernethy. "It's also a hands-on science, so it's important for students to see, touch, and smell the materials, and find out how chemicals react."

SLC chemistry club member Alison Chiu, a junior in Abernethy's general chemistry class, assisted as he talked about mercury, the heavy metal once used in thermometers. He then held up a vial filled with the metal in its liquid form and circulated it among the 30 students in attendance.

"We'll pass this around, but don't open it," Chiu warned the students.

Mercury was among several elements Abernethy brought along that afternoon. With each element, he talked about its properties, and described its use—and potential dangers—in the world. Lead, for example, was used by the Greeks and Romans for plates, bowls, and water pipes. Lead was also an additive to gasoline, and was a deadly air pollutant until the federal government banned it, he explained.

"Fortunately, we don't have those poisons pouring out of our tail pipes anymore."

Abernethy also showed the students what happens when different metals are heated. Copper, for instance, glowed red-hot, but didn't catch fire. Magnesium, on the other hand, burned brightly.

"It turns into magnesium oxide when it burns," Abernethy said. "That's why you don't see much magnesium just lying around on the ground. It's just too reactive."

Then the Sarah Lawrence students tested several elements in water. Nothing happened when zinc and magnesium were dipped in the beaker. But when Chiu put calcium in the water, it bubbled up, with hydrogen gas released into the air.

Sodium and potassium put on a better show, as both caught fire when placed in the beaker of water, with the sodium burning

with a yellow flame, and the potassium flickering with a lilac hue.

Carlos Zapata, an eighth-grader at Westchester Hills School 29, said the experiments opened his eyes to chemistry, a science he'll consider exploring in high school.

"I was a little scared at first," he said. "But then I just relaxed and started to learn. And now I'd like to learn more."

inTOUCH

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NEW FACES IN THE SARAH LAWRENCE COMMUNITY

David Donnelly, PhD is the new director of continuing education and special programs. He comes to Sarah Lawrence with a broad background in higher education including program development, strategic planning, and adult education. Donnelly, who formerly served as dean of the college for graduate studies at Chatham University, dean and professor of communication at Quinnipiac University, and member of the faculty at the University of Houston, says that one of his first goals is to refine and articulate the role continuing education and special programs can play in enhancing the mission of the College.

“There are wonderful programs and activities available to the local community that capitalize on the outstanding faculty and facilities of the College,” he says. “We will explore new opportunities for programming, while nurturing and developing existing programs, like the degree-completion program for returning adults, which formed the original Center for Continuing Education, approaching its 50th anniversary next year.”

Courses, workshops, and classes offered in the fall through continuing education and special programs can be found on the calendar page of this issue.

Mara Gross EdD joined Sarah Lawrence College as director of community partnerships last spring with a background in progressive education, having created and implemented a service learning program at the Ethical Culture Fieldston School. She has also been an education consultant in program and curriculum development, qualitative research, and teacher and administrator training, working in the higher education arena.

Citing Sarah Lawrence’s distinctive pedagogy that requires independent study and values and encourages field placements in the community, Gross says she “looks forward to supporting and building mutually beneficial relationships with local organizations while enhancing the College’s rich tradition of practice-based learning.”

Photos: Quyen Nguyen



Please see
Calendar for Courses,
Workshops, Classes,
and Events



Photos: Quyen Nguyen

Children attending Yonkers’ Iglesia de San Andres summer camp enjoyed a day on the Sarah Lawrence campus. With College students and camp counselors, the children played games, splashed under the sprinkler, and enjoyed arts and crafts. Iglesia de San Andres and Sarah Lawrence College’s Community Partnerships and Service Learning Program, have a longstanding partnership. During the academic school year, students from the College provide tutoring to children in San Andres’ afterschool program and offer a Saturday enrichment program.

POP-UP PLAYGROUND FOSTERS CREATIVITY

Con Father's Day in June, approximately 40 Yonkers kids—from toddlers to teens—came to the Sullivan Oval Park on Park Hill to discover the wonders of the Sarah Lawrence College Child Development Institute's latest Pop-Up Adventure Playground.

It was the third such event held in Yonkers over the past year, as proponents of non-directed play brought low or no-cost materials to a public place and invited the children to be creative.

In the shady park by School 23 on Spruce Avenue, as a cool breeze blew across the hilltop, the children and youths found cardboard boxes, which they transformed into tunnels with the help of duct tape and some ingenuity. Others took bamboo poles, lashed them together to make a figure, and used aluminum foil to create a dragon's tail. Still others built castles with cardboard squares, gloried in the fine mess they made by mixing paint on paper, and created streamers on a stick to lead their own parade.

The playground adventure, organized by the Child Development Institute staff in association with Groundwork Hudson Valley, was part of the Institute's weeklong workshop, "Play's The Thing: Facilitating Play for Young Children."

Participants in the program explore the role of play in early childhood education, and learn strategies to encourage and enable play in a wide range of settings—from public parks and schools to hospitals and children's museums. The workshop will be held again in June 2012.

"Pop-up playgrounds support children's play without directing it," says Morgan Leichter-Saxby, a co-founder of Pop-Up Adventure Play, who has worked with groups in the US, United Kingdom, and Africa and helped to facilitate the June 18 play space. "Here, they have the freedom to play, to create something, and then tear it up and just make a mess."

Such playgrounds, which are popular in Europe, are just catching on in the US. The concept is simple: bring a range of recycled, natural, and other materials, such as cardboard boxes, paint, rope, bamboo, and fabric to a site and invite children to make their own creations from the material. Trained playworkers set up the playground and are on hand to help at the children's invitation.

The children at Sullivan Oval Park were quite focused on their creations—far from the electronic gadgetry that commands the attention of today's younger generation with increasing allure.

Barbara Schecter, director of Sarah Lawrence's graduate program in child development, watched an eight-year-old develop the tunnel system out of cardboard boxes.

"He's been working on this for an hour," observed Schecter. "He's studying the stability of the box, and figuring out how to make it work."

One 12-year-old worked for hours on his creation with bamboo sticks and sheets. It began with a sheet secured with duct tape to two sticks, which were placed in plastic buckets. He found nearby rocks to secure the bamboo in the containers, and soon the sheet was billowing in the breeze. He then found two more sticks and two more buckets, and before long the sheet was a roof, under which the boy relaxed. Then the sides were enclosed with more sheets to provide privacy.

"It's amazing how the materials get incorporated and become such a part of this imaginative play," Sharon Unis, co-founder of Pop-Up Adventure Play said.

Matthew Torres, 8, who lives on South Broadway, was there with his mother, Tanisha, and sister, Deborah, 4. With an empty shoe box and a third grader's vivid

imagination, he concocted what he called a nest, and tied it up snugly with string.

His mother, who was sitting on the park bench watching her children focused on play, was pleased.

"We got the flyer from school and decided to check it out," says Mrs. Torres. "What a great opportunity for my kids to have fun."



Photos: Dana Maxson

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CALENDAR ^{Fall '11} Preview

COURSES & WORKSHOPS

Center for Continuing Education

BA Completion and Post-BA Programs for Adults

(credit-bearing courses or classes to audit)

Academic courses to complete the bachelor's degree or prepare for graduate school, a career change, or career advancement. **For more information, call (914) 395-2205 or visit www.sarahlawrence.edu/cce**

The Writing Institute (noncredit workshops)

Twenty writing workshops focusing on the writing process, nonfiction, fiction, screenwriting and poetry—half of which are new—will be offered at The Writing Institute this fall. Workshops run from two to 11 sessions, between September 19 and December 10. **Registration deadline: Thursday, September 15.** Prospective students can meet the faculty, learn more about the workshops, ask questions, and meet other students, at an **Open House: Saturday, September 10, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**, at 45 Wrexham Road, home of the Institute. **Please call (914) 395-2205 or send an e-mail to cce@sarahlawrence.edu to RSVP. Lunch will be served.**

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Adult Fitness

Cardio Fusion, Total Body Conditioning, Boot Camp, Pilates, Pilates Plus

Swim Program for Adults

Swim for Fitness classes (mornings); Master Swim class (open swim—evenings)

Private Swimming Lessons for Adults and Children

Swim Program for Children

Learn to Swim group lessons (seven levels - Saturdays)

Culinary Arts and Delights

Nutritional Parenting; Wine Series Events: Wines of the World; Italian Desserts & Dessert Wines: Japanese Sake, and Oktoberfest: Cooking with Beer; Fantastic Fall Pies; Gastropolis: Food and New York City

For more information, call (914) 395 2693, e-mail: specialprograms@sarahlawrence.edu, or visit: www.slc.edu/special programs

EVENTS

For all events information, please call (914) 395 2412 or e-mail: collegeevents@sarahlawrence.edu

Theatre

Suzanne Werner Wright Theatre

November 17 – 20

Christmas Windows of 1937

Book: Cheri Magid

Composer: Even Palazzo

Directed by Jackson Gay

Music

All performances are in Reisinger Concert Hall, except where noted.

September 18, (open dress rehearsal)

Sailors & Dreamers, a collaborative work

commissioned by the Library of Congress
Premiering September 19 at Merkin

Concert Hall

Chester Biscardi, composer;

Shirley Kaplan, lyrics

September 27, 1:30 p.m.

Mbira, music of Zimbabwe

November 10, 8 p.m.

Sarah Lawrence String Orchestra

Sungrai Sohn, conductor

December 5, 6 p.m.

Wall to Wall Chamber Music

Sungrai Sohn, director

Suna Chung, piano

December 5, 8 p.m.

Sarah Lawrence Jazz Ensembles

Glenn Alexander, director

December 6, 7:30 p.m.

Sarah Lawrence Orchestra

Jonathan Yates, conductor

December 7, 5:30 p.m.

African Classics: SUPERferendji

(musical traditions from Ethiopia, Congo and Guinea)

Jonathan T. King

and Andy Algire, directors

Marshall Field Music Building

December 8, 7 p.m.

Gamelan Angklung Chandra Buana

Jonathan T. King and

I. Nyoman Saptanyana, directors

December 11, 5 p.m.

Sarah Lawrence Chamber Choir and

Women's Vocal Ensemble

Patrick Romano, director

December 12, 7 p.m.

Sarah Lawrence Jazz Ensembles

Glenn Alexander, director

December 13, 1:30 p.m.

Cygnus Ensemble

Ensemble-in-residence performs

works by contemporary and

SLC student composers

Dance

All dance concerts are held in the

Bessie Schönberg Dance Theatre in the

Charles DeCarlo Performing Arts Center

Student Dance Concerts:

November 18, 19; December 9, 10, 11,

Barbara Bray Ketchum Artist in

Residence Patti Bradshaw:

December 14, 15

Lectures/Films/Readings

All events in the Donnelley Theatre,

Heimbold Visual Arts Center

except where noted

October 11

Brigid O'Farrell

Author of *She Was One of Us: Eleanor Roosevelt and the American Worker*—details the work of the former first lady

October 27, 5:15 p.m.

Sherry Turkle

November 1, 4 – 6 p.m.

The Writing Institute Faculty Reading

45 Wrexham

November 10, 5:30 p.m.

Su Friedrich

Spencer Barnett Experimental

Film Forum

Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Freedom Riders of 1961 with art, film, and spoken word

All commemoration events in the Heimbold Visual Arts Center

November 1 – 30

Art Exhibit

Barbara Walters Gallery

November 1

Film: Freedom Riders by Stanley Nelson Opening of Art Exhibit

November 2

Lecture by Mark Warren

November 3

Personal accounts of

Freedom Riders/spoken word

Art Exhibit

September 1 – December 16

"Flat Lands"

paintings by Nicoletta Barolini '83

on the role of employment and work structures within society—in the gallery, Esther Raushenbush Library

For up-to-date information, visit
www.sarahlawrence.edu/events

in SPIRATIONAL

WRITING THEIR WAY TO COLLEGE

Applying to college can be intimidating, especially when it comes to writing the personal essay that's required. Graduate writing students at Sarah Lawrence, who in 2010-11 helped teens with essays at several Yonkers high schools, are gearing up to resume the eight-week program this fall.

"Everybody has a story," says Kendra Rajchel, in the second year of the College's two-year graduate writing program. "It's just finding that story, and telling it."

The program was developed through Yonkers Partners in Education, the nonprofit organization founded in 2007 that provides support for the state's fourth-largest school district including college and career centers at six Yonkers high schools.

The partnership between Sarah Lawrence and YPIE began in the fall of 2010, with graduate students going weekly to Yonkers Middle High, Gorton, and Saunders Trades and Technical to work with seniors applying to college. In the spring, Sarah Lawrence students went to Yonkers Middle High, Lincoln, and Riverside High to work with juniors getting a jump on the college application process. Between three and

20 students attended the eight-week clinics, which met weekly in a 90-minute after-school program.

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Jane Wermuth, principal at Yonkers Middle High, says the partnership with YPIE and Sarah Lawrence has become increasingly important, in light of cutbacks to guidance services in the Yonkers school district. In 2010-11, there were five guidance counselors for 1,900 students. Come September, the school is slated to have two guidance counselors.

"These partnerships become more and more critical for our kids so they can gain access to college and have choices beyond high school," she says.

YPIE's executive director Wendy Nadel, and program director, Ellen Cutler, developed the program with SLC's Alexandra Soiseth, associate director of the College's master's of fine arts in writing program, matching an important need in Yonkers, where many of the students will be the first generation in their families to attend college, with Sarah Lawrence's graduate writing students, for whom field work is an integral part of the nationally recognized MFA program. Working on the college essays seemed a perfect fit for the college and career centers, which provide preparation for college entrance exams and help students and their families navigate the college admissions process. Sarah Lawrence faculty members have also provided professional development for English teachers in the Yonkers schools, says Cutler.