

Long Island Business Institute Hosts French School

By Donna E. McCullough

The Long Island Business Institute (LIBI) recently hosted the Charles de Foucauld, which is a part of L'Estrian – a group of Catholic schools that range from pre-K to College level located in Brest near Brittany, France.

The students who were here started in the Charles de Foucauld Lycee where they earn the equivalent of our high school diploma. That is then followed by 2 years of what is called superior studies – equivalent to an Associate's degree in the U.S.

The programs they offer are a Client Relations and Negotiations Degree and a Technology and Administration Degree with an option of applications developer or network administrator (IT). The students who visited LIBI's Flushing campus were traveling to New York as the finale to their studies at the school.

The students worked during their two years of studies to finance the trip. The French students, who ranged in age from 20 to 22, were being trained to become sales representatives or hold jobs in banks among other places.

As part of their programs, they study law, economics, sales, management, French, English and about one third also study Spanish.

LIBI held a luncheon, tour and informal discussion to welcome the group. Two LIBI faculty members who speak French – Dominika McPartland and Thierry Marcellus – were on hand to make everyone feel welcome.

The students provided Donna E. McCullough, President of LIBI, with a book on Brittany that all the students signed.

In addition, the teachers invited the LIBI Institute to organize a trip to France for LIBI students and teachers and asked that we visit them in Brittany, France. A trip is currently under consideration for 2009.

McCullough was contacted by Director; Reginé Briand about the possibility of a visit to LIBI after one of Briand's teachers had spotted LIBI's advertising banners on a train during a November 2007 vacation to New York.



Students from the Charles de Foucauld recently came to America and spent some time with the students, faculty and staff at the Long Island Business Institute.

Donna E. McCullough is the President of the Long Island Business Institute, which is a corporate member of the Queens Chamber of Commerce.

Muss Delivers Keynote At Biz Forum

By Pete Davis

One of the biggest developers in Queens spoke about the long history of city policies preventing development in the borough – a trend that could be ending with major developments planned throughout the borough.

"The future I believe for Queens is as bright as it's ever been," said Joshua Muss, Principal of the Muss Development Company, at a Queens College Business Forum event on Friday, May 2.

The Muss Development Company, which has been developing large and small projects throughout the city for more than a century, is currently working on Sky View Parc in downtown Flushing.

When completed, the 14-acre Sky View Parc site will contain 1,100 condominiums in six towers, 800,000 square feet of retail space, a four-acre park, swimming pool, tennis courts, golf and a fitness center, among other amenities.

In addition to Sky View Parc, Muss spoke about another development project that his company has submitted a proposal to redevelop – Willets Point.

"Willets Point is the poster child for eminent domain," said Muss, who referred to the current site as "God-awful."

"There is no earthly reason for anyone to be on the site," said Muss, who believes that the

current landowners knew the situation when they decided to start their business there.

"That is the perfect location for development now," Muss said.

Meanwhile, Congressman Joseph Crowley, who is the Chair of the Queens County Democratic Organization, talked about the painful and difficult times that lie ahead for the borough, state and nation.

"We will be looking to the business community and all sectors of society to help us through this," Crowley said.

In addition to Crowley, Assemblymembers Audrey Pheffer and Mark Weprin and City Councilmembers Leroy Comrie and David Weprin attended the business forum.

"This business forum has turned into a great event; great for Queens County and great for businesses in Queens," said Assemblymember Mark Weprin, who chairs the Assembly's Small Business Committee.

The Queens College Business Forum, which is sponsored by the Queens Chamber of Commerce, Queens Borough President's Office, Chase, Con Edison, Farrell Fritz, PricewaterhouseCoopers, and The Times Ledger began in the fall of 2005.

At the conclusion of Friday's forum, the sponsors presented two \$2,500 scholarships to two Queens College business students in order to help them continue their studies.



Joshua Muss, Principal of the Muss Development Company, delivered the keynote address at the most recent Queens College business forum.