

Giving Back



KEN WU, A CO-OP EMPLOYER AND A LAGUARDIA ALUMNUS.

LaGuardia alumnus provides internships to current students

◆ **ROCHEL PINDER, PROGRAM ASST., COOPERATIVE EDUCATION DEPT.**

Owning a successful accounting practice that offers tax preparation and accounting services to local small businesses and individuals for over six years is a dream realized for 1996 alumnus, Ken Wu. As a student, Ken interned at The New York City Comptroller's Office where he received training in accounting and exposure to daily business operations, which he points to as part of his success. "This internship experience provided me with a competitive edge to obtain a bookkeeping position shortly after graduation," said Ken. "But more importantly, I applied accounting knowledge from my courses and learned how to solve problems, which enables me to operate my own business efficiently."

The LaGuardia graduate and small business owner now offers invaluable internship experience to LaGuardia students. Ken hosted his first intern, Yanjing Chen, a business administration major who graduated with honors last June. As an intern at Wu & PC Corp., Yanjing assisted with general bookkeeping and gained practical experience in accounting; experience she was extremely grateful to receive from a LaGuardia graduate.

In the Classroom

Understanding Math at the Met

LaGuardia Students Attend Rehearsal of Met Opera's *Doctor Atomic*

In October, LaGuardia students accompanied by math professor Dr. Frank Wang attended the final dress rehearsal of John Adams' *Doctor Atomic* at the Metropolitan Opera House. The Office of the Chancellor organized the event, and 300 students and professors CUNY-wide were invited to see the preparation for the Met premier of a modern masterpiece.

Doctor Atomic explores a momentous episode of modern history—the creation of the first atomic bomb. The opera investigates society, social responsibility, and ethical practice on a grand scale, focusing on a group of scientists, and military personnel within the secret operation known as the Manhattan Project in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

"Although there was plenty of 'physics talk' and scientific jargon in the libretto that passed right over my head, the show, at times, was able to pull me into the drama of that day in New Mexico," noted Rebecca Posner, a secondary education major at LaGuardia who is currently taking MAT096 Elementary Algebra and plans to be a theater arts teacher.

During the intermission, Mr. Adams described how he wove American cultural and historical material into a work of musical drama. Max Zampieri,

another LaGuardia student, was inspired by Adams's comments. "As a physics-prospect student, I thought this was a great opportunity to see the interaction between science, society, history, music and art." Later in the month, Max and other students from the Engineering Club attended the *Doctor Atomic* Symposium at CUNY's Graduate Center to learn more about the scientific and the spiritual clash in Adams' opera.

Dr. Judit Török of the Center of Teaching and Learning also attended the rehearsal. As one of the leaders of Project Quantum Leap (PQL), an innovative pedagogy that connects math and civic engagement by teaching through complex public issues, Dr. Török earlier this year arranged for Professor Michael Burke of the College of San Mateo to visit LaGuardia. Professor Burke's expertise is integrative learning in the mathematics classroom, and he mentioned the possible use of *Doctor Atomic* for PQL courses.

"Situated in New York, LaGuardia offers students wonderful opportunities to connect classroom activities to world-class cultural events in the city," said Dr. Török.

For Dr. Wang, the teachable moment came after the first act, when the audience had a chance to witness the hard work needed for producing the intricate layers and harmonic sonorities in Adams' score. "Doing math is like playing music: practice makes perfect," Professor Wang told his students.

Ken believes internships are an important complement to classroom learning. "The skills and experience gained from an internship are helpful whether students decide to run their own business or work for an employer," he asserted. "It is important that students develop confidence, good communication and networking skills while they are interning."



LAGUARDIA STUDENT YANJING CHEN INTERNS FOR KEN WU