

## LOCAL NEWS

*\$400-a-plate gala doubles as fundraiser for college's Center for Global Learning*

Guest of honor Dr. Richard Guarasci accepts greetings and congratulations from Patricia Fitzpatrick, his administrative assistant, as Richard Hersch, former president of Hobart and William Smith Colleges, and his wife, Judith Meyers, look on.



Chatting at the gala are, from left, Palmer Higgins; Wagner College graduate Elisabeth Cardiello, a member of the event committee; Dr. Frederic Koehler Sutter, grandson of the school's founder Rev. Dr. Frederick Sutter, and Robert Vega.

# Wagner President Guarasci feted at Ritz

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

They came by bus, by boat and by car.

Some 350 made their way across the bay Friday night to the Ritz-Carlton in Manhattan's Battery Park to celebrate 10 years of service by Wagner College President Dr. Richard Guarasci.

But the \$400 price for a seat didn't just go toward the dinner. Besides honoring Guarasci, the event was a fundraiser to help construct a new building for the school — The Center for Global Learning on the old campus of Augustinian Academy on Grymes Hill, closed decades ago and purchased by Wagner.

Luminaries, judges and a smattering of elected officials from around Staten Island were at the gala.

District Attorney Dan Donovan was there, as was Deputy Borough President Ed Burke. Supreme Court Justices Phil Minardo and Steve Rooney celebrated with the crowd.

Philanthropist Alice Diamond, the wife of the late Advance publisher, Richard E. Diamond, attended, as well as longtime Wagner supporters Bob and Aletta Diamond. Richard Diamond, Mrs. Diamond's son and an executive with the Newhouse newspaper group, attended with his wife, Francesca.

And former Surrogate Charles D'Arrigo came with wife, newly elected Advance Woman of Achievement Norma.

Richmond University Medical Center board chair Kate Rooney, wife of the judge, was there, too. Staten Island Republican Party Chairman Bob Scamardella, there with wife Gail, talked politics with the guests.

Guarasci was praised for the rehabilitation of the campus' Main Hall, as well as the construction of an academic building, Founders Hall. Guarasci created an innovative academic program, dubbed the Wagner Plan, and dramatically increased the school's endowment.

Video presentations from Borough President James Molinaro and Mayor Mike Bloomberg also praised Guarasci's 10 years at the school.

And perhaps the best part of the evening were skits by students from the Wagner College theater department — hailed for decades as the next-best-thing to Broadway, right here on Staten Island.



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE PHOTOS/STEVE ZAFFARANO

Dr. Richard Guarasci shares a laugh with Priscilla Angelo, a friend of 39 years, at the Ritz-Carlton gala celebrating his 10 years as president of Wagner College.