

UNITED HEBREW



GERIATRIC CENTER

UHGC Showcases Gerontechnology Program

Relationships between youth and elders continue to flourish

New Rochelle, NY - (March 22, 2007) - United Hebrew Geriatric Center (UHGC), a multi-service senior living campus in New Rochelle, NY, recently showcased its innovative Gerontechnology program as part of Westchester County's "Take Your Grandparents to School/Work Week," which was sponsored by the County's Department of Senior Programs and Services (DSPS) SPEAK-UP (Students Engaged in Aging Issues of Key Concern) program. The intergenerational Gerontechnology program provides residents of UHGC the opportunity to learn computer skills under the instruction of students from Pace University. It was developed to enable the growing senior citizen population to become more comfortable with computers and was made possible through the partnership between UHGC, DSPS, IBM and Pace University's Ivan G. Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems.

IBM awarded the UHGC and Pace a \$35,000 grant for software, services and support materials for web adaptive technology. The assistive software makes the Internet easier to read and use by magnifying letters on the computer screen, increasing the font size of text, reading text out loud, and assisting senior users in other ways. It also can make keyboards more sensitive to typing for people with arthritis, tremors, or partial paralysis.

Residents currently involved in the Gerontechnology program are part of the third semester of classes offered as part of UHGC's livable community initiative, which fosters a purposeful and meaningful place to age.

Rita Mabli, UHGC Executive Vice President/CEO, noted that the relationships formed between the students and residents are an added benefit of the program.

"Even though they might be emailing their grandchildren across the country, our residents have an opportunity to spend time with young adults who are interested in eldercare, nursing, technology and giving back to their community," Mabli said. "We look forward to graduating this semester's students in May." SPEAK-UP fosters relationships between students and seniors so that

Photos, from top to bottom:

1. From left to right: Colette Phipps, Research Analyst, Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services; Linda Forman, Vice President of Community Relations, United Hebrew Geriatric Center; and Jean F. Coppola, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Technology Systems, Pace University, gather at United Hebrew Geriatric Center for a demonstration of the Gerontechnology program during Westchester County's "Take Your Grandparents to School/Work Week"

2. From left to right: Kristen Gizzi, Pace University senior and student/teacher and Lillian Williams, resident of UHGC's Low Savin Apartments and third-semester Gerontechnology student, at a computer lesson in the Low Savin Apartments computer lab during Westchester County's "Take Your Grandparents to School/Work Week"

3. From left to right: Linda Forman, Vice President of Community Relations, United Hebrew Geriatric Center; Didio Pequeno, Pace University senior and student/teacher; Miriam Schiff, resident of UHGC's Low Savin Apartments and third-semester

students may learn about the aging population and encourage them to seek out careers in the eldercare arena. According to DSPTS, SPEAK-UP “underscores the pleasures of lifelong learning for the seniors.”

United Hebrew Geriatric Center is located at 391 Pelham Road, New Rochelle, New York 10805. For further information, please contact Linda Forman at 914.632.2804 x224, e-mail lforman@uhgc.org, or visit www.uhgc.org.

Gerontechnology student; and Jean F. Coppola, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Technology Systems, Pace University, at the Low Savin Apartments computer lab for a Gerontechnology class during Westchester County’s “Take Your Grandparents to School/Work Week”

