

First year international students, along with their international student mentors had a “welcome” luncheon at the home of President and Mrs. George. The students represented countries from around the globe including Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Ghana, Israel, Italy, Mexico, South Korea, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe.

Concordia College-New York is increasing its effort to attract academically able international students to its campus in Bronxville. Currently, students from more than 40 countries have come to CCNY for its liberal arts education; expecting that it will expose them to a broad range of topics and approaches to analysis that will help them develop the habits of mind to succeed in their chosen fields—and at life. And they’ve come to take advantage of the limitless experience offered by one of the world’s most exciting cities. These students plan to take full advantage of New York City’s culture, entertainment, internship, service-learning, and research potential.

While CCNY faculty and staff work to create an intellectually and culturally supportive environment, it’s the international student mentors who offer an on-the-ground supportive network for their mentees. In addition to providing social activities, they assist new students in the cultural transition to the United States; assist in the academic and social transition to CCNY; and act as a source of information and guidance.

And while it may take a *village* to raise a child, it takes a *community* to support a new international student. The return gift, to the community, made by these global students is a broader and deeper understanding of the world in which we live. President and Mrs. George helped to get this process underway with a luncheon that was far more meaningful than it may have appeared.

David Leonard