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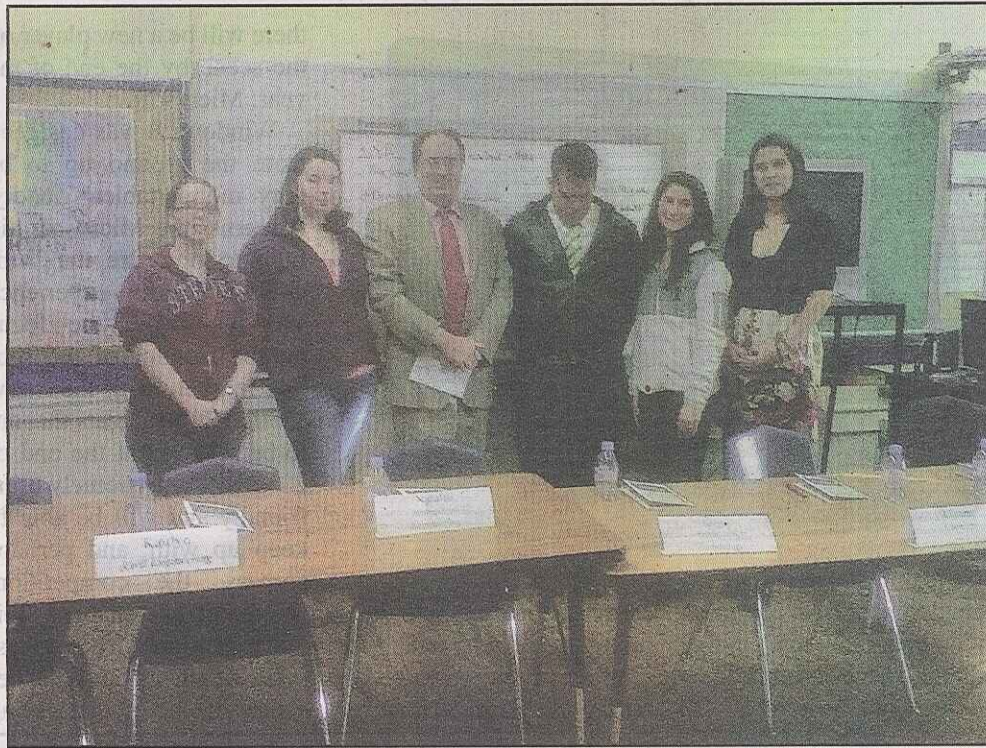
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Stevens Rotaract reaches out to Charter School students



COURTESY OF JORGE RIVERA

Kaitlyn Halloran, Natalia Kafel, Staff Advisor Brian Blackmore, Jorge Rivera, Gianna Pizzella, and Marissa Liberacki participated in the program with the Hoboken Charter School.

by HOWIE ALLEN

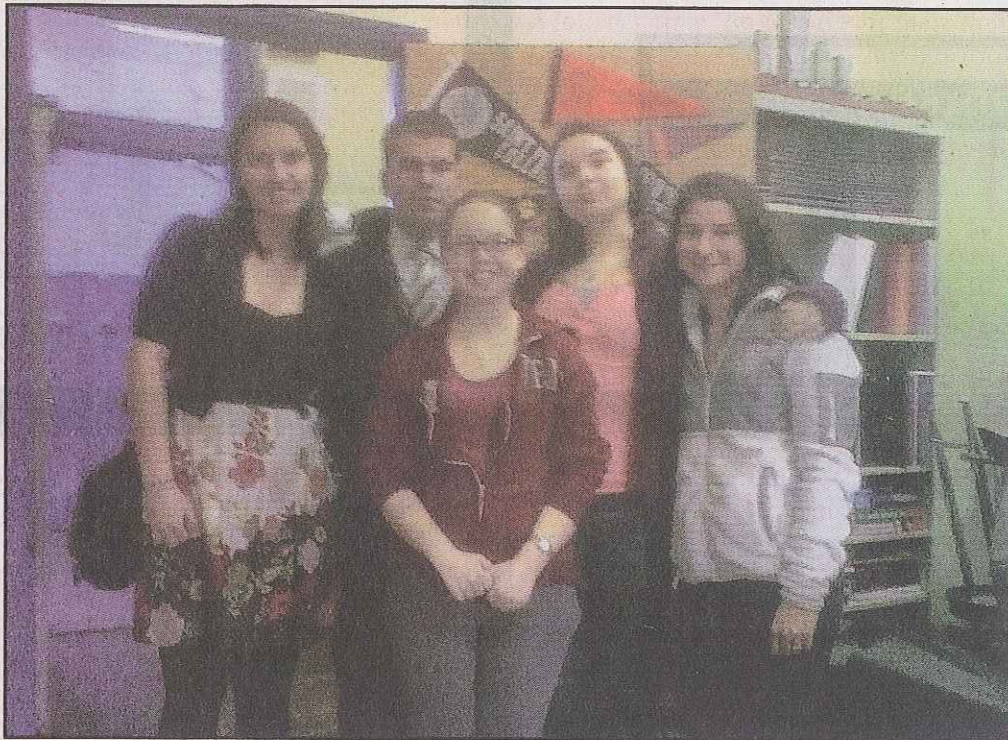
The Stevens Rotaract Club visited select Hoboken Charter School upperclassmen last Friday, January 20. Five of the Rotaract Club members held a panel discussion about their college and engineering experiences at the Science & Engineering College Preview, hosted at the Hoboken Charter School by their Interact Club counterparts.

The students asked questions about typical topics such as getting into college, what co-op is like, how internships work, and how to decide on a specific engineering major. The Rotaract Club members answered these questions with personal anecdotes.

Kaitlyn Halloran, a civil

engineering major, talked about the environmental engineering aspect of civil engineering and her goal to earn a doctorate and be CEO of a sustainability company. Natalia Kafel spoke about how her major in biomedical engineering is a good precursor for medical school. She also mentioned that she has the option to teach high school biology through a joint teacher certification program from the Stevens Center for Innovation in Engineering and Science Education (CIESE) and St. Peter's College. Marissa Liberacki, a computer engineering major, talked about her co-op experience with Intel. According to Liber-

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COURTESY OF JORGE RIVERA

Stevens students help educate high schoolers about careers in math, science, and engineering.

Rotaract

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acki, today's widespread use of smart phones and devices means that high-technology careers will continue to be in demand. Gianna Pizzella spoke about her goal to pursue a research career in chemistry. She also mentioned that a chemistry major is a good precursor to medical school. Jorge A. Rivera Reyes, a business and technology major, spoke about his interest in economics and managing companies. Reyes also gave out pointers concerning the SATs, grade point averages, extra-curricular activities, service leadership, and admissions interviews.

According to Andrea Saturno-Sanjana, who serves as Vice-Principal for

grades 9-12 and College Advisor of the Hoboken Charter School, the high school students paid more attention and listened better to the Stevens students than they would have for adult college representatives.

The Rotaract Club is a group of undergraduate and graduate students whose objectives are local community service, international goodwill, social fellowship, professional networking with Hoboken and New York City business professionals, and interaction with Rotary Clubs worldwide. As such, this "near-peer" mentoring is central to their ideals they. In traditional Rotary Clubs, members mentor college students and/or professionals aged 18-30 who are members of Rotaract Clubs. Rotaract Club members then themselves mentor high school Interact Clubs for their local

community service. The Stevens Rotaract Club hopes to tutor the Hoboken Charter School in math and computer services as a local service project.

Aside from the Hoboken Charter School project, at the local level, the Rotaract Club recently held a blood drive on campus, as well as a coat drive benefiting the Hoboken Shelter and the Jubilee Center. It also raised money with the Hoboken Rotary Club to re-furbish the Hoboken Boys and Girls Club and assisted with the Hoboken 4th Grade Spelling Bee. The Rotaract Club also participates in many international Rotary/United Nations projects like the PolioPlus worldwide vaccination campaign, ShelterBox disaster relief emergency shelter and water distribution, and Gift of Life pediatric cardiac surgery missions.