

PGA EAST SPEAKS AT Career Day

On October 15, 2008, several PGA East members participated in the Second Annual Career Day at the Academy for Careers in Television and Film, sharing their work experience and answering students' questions. This new public high school specializing in film and television production is located in Long Island City, Queens.

The Academy is the brainchild of the New York Production Alliance (NYPA), an industry advocacy organization whose members include a cross section of organizations (including the PGA) in the film and television business. NYPA originated the idea a few years ago, recognizing the need for a school that prepares students with the requisite skills and knowledge to transition into a post-secondary environment and pursue a career in production successfully. Launched in September 2008, the program serves 130 high school freshman students.

The Career Day panel included PGA East member, feature producer Adam Brightman, Gina Santonas, Operations Manager of Silvercup Studios East, and industry colleagues representing soap-opera production, a prop house, film lab and commercial editing house. The students (many were accompanied by their parents) listened attentively as each panelist explained what they did and how they came to do it. They cheered at the mention of television shows and movies they recognized such as *Gossip Girl* and *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist*. Afterward, PGA members Marcia Mulé, Maura McGloin, Anna Sang Park, Nancy Goldman and PGA East student member Tom Nikko circulated among the students to answer their questions. All throughout, several teams of Academy students shot footage of the event, which they will edit for their school archives for students and faculty to view.

—NANCY GOLDMAN



1. Panelists at the "Career Day" for the Academy for Careers in Television and Film: (from left) PGA East's Adam Brightman, Maria Macina, John Palestrini, PGA East's Gina Santonas, Syri Bieler, and Dominic Rom.
2. A focused Chris Hall assists in the production of the event.
3. After the panel, PGA East student member Tom Nikko (right) mingles with students Crysta Machado and Jasmine Velez.
4. PGA East member Marcia Mulé (left) chats with students Dane Pierre and Orah Fields and parent Jasmine Fox.

Photos by Mark Dunetz