

CSI Willowbrook campus recalls site's past

Memorial lecture planned on former institute for disabled

ADVANCE STAFF REPORT

Despite the new buildings, students and other peaceful sights of university life, College of Staten Island officials haven't forgotten the brutal past of the Willowbrook campus.

"Willowbrook Remembered: Perspectives for the Future," CSI's first memorial lecture, will take place Monday at 2:30 p.m. on the new campus.

The guest speaker will be Dr.

Herbert J. Grossman of the University of Michigan.

A past president of the American Association on Mental Retardation, Grossman helped close the facility that previously occupied the Willowbrook property, the Staten Island Developmental Center.

Once known as the Willowbrook State School, an institution for the developmentally disabled, the facility was exposed in the early

1970s as a snakepit of abuse. After a series of articles in the Advance documented the horrific conditions in which residents lived, the story was brought to national attention by journalist Geraldo Rivera.

Grossman is the editor of "Classification in Mental Retardation," a book that earned him international recognition as an expert in the field of disabilities.

He will focus on what he has learned about disabilities and institutions during his career.

The event is co-sponsored by the City University of New York Consortium for the Study of Disabilities, the Council on Exceptional Children and the Division of Humanities and Social Science.

On the same day as the lecture, CSI officials will host the opening of the the permanent library space in which a Willowbrook memorial exhibit will be placed.

Admission to the lecture is free and open to the public. Call Dr. David Goode at 983-3757 for more information.