

CSI in the News



June 2011

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Arts & Events

Concert tomorrow by **CSI**'s High School for International Studies features multicultural instruments, arrangements

Published: Thursday, June 02, 2011, 3:39 PM



Diane Lore
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - NEW SPRINGVILLE - The program for tomorrow's spring concert at the **College of Staten Island's** (**CSI**) High School for International Studies features a thought-provoking theme that focuses on hope and transformation: Changing ourselves, changing perceptions and changing the world for the better.

The concert will feature carefully-chosen pieces that speak to the topic "Hope for Change." Each piece was transcribed and arranged by the students themselves for each performing group. Pieces by the Black Eyed Peas, Katy Perry, India Arie, and Macy Gray will be performed on the school's acoustic concert stage.



Students from the **College of Staten Island** High School rehearse for their third annual spring concert in the school's auditorium. (Photo Courtesy of Melissa Packowski)

The school's newly-formed Japanese Taiko Ensemble will pay tribute to the spirit and hope of the Japanese people who are recovering from the tsunami and earthquake that struck the country in March. **CSI** was able to acquire a hand-made set of large Japanese "taiko-drums" through the Brooklyn-based, internationally-known ensemble Taiko Masala. Since acquiring the instruments students have made use of the drums to perform original compositions.

Other pieces will speak to the growing worldwide AIDS-HIV crisis.

"Most of the students began playing this past September, most of them new to music altogether," explained Melissa Morris Packowski, director of the high school's music program.

"They work as a team and are proud of what they have accomplished in this short period of time. They are wholeheartedly invested in the performance and determined to have fun on stage," she said.

The music is diverse in style, as well as origin. Mrs. Packowski explained that she has a responsibility to the students, as part of the school's global-focused mission, to expose them to music from different parts of the world as well as a variety of genres and performance techniques. Students also learn to compose, perform and choreograph original pieces.

Music performed by members of the school's World Percussion Ensemble is played on instruments native to African, Asian and Latin American cultures, but instruments also include 5-gallon cans typically found in most home-improvement stores.

The student-musicians say learning to play international instruments helps them bond with each other as well as learn about different cultures.

" I think playing different international instruments together represents our unity and gives us the chance to understand each other through the common bond of music," said sophomore Victoria Manzo.

"It's a very exciting feeling, having been exposed to so many different instruments from around the world; it's like we are uniting different cultures through music when we play each of these instruments together," added Emily Funes.



The concert will feature carefully-chosen pieces that speak to the topic "Hope for Change." Each piece was transcribed and arranged by the students themselves for each performing group. (Photo Courtesy of Melissa Packowski)

Students are hoping the audience will take their work seriously tomorrow. They also are appreciative of the opportunity to showcase their school.

"I think being exposed to a concert such as this one will be great; not only for the students already in the school, but for the upcoming students around the area who might be interested in seeing what CSI High School for International Studies has to offer," said junior Helen Bekhet.

Sophomore Shantell Rowe said she hopes the concert will make an impression.

"Thinking about this concert, I can't help but think about the impact that music can

have on people. To have the ability to come together with the goal of creating a unified piece of music which starts from nothing and grows into an awesome-sounding event makes me appreciate the impact that music has had on us," she said.

Her classmate, Joseph Rodriguez, confessed to being a bit nervous about tomorrow night. "When I think of

the concert we are preparing, I think of nerves, music technique, rhythm, tempo and togetherness. I think about the audience and I hope they will like everything we have been preparing," he said.

The concert is set for tomorrow evening at 7 in auditorium of the Jerome Parker Education Complex at 100 Essex Drive, off Richmond Hill Road opposite the Staten Island Mall. General admission tickets are \$5 at the door.

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Rockland school news

Jun 16, 2011|

TZ student selected for Delta scholarship

ORANGEBURG — The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Alpha Eta Chapter, presented a \$1,000 scholarship to Danielle Armaniaco from Tappan Zee High School. She was honored at an awards dinner in May at Joe and Joe Restaurant in Pearl River.

The scholarship is given annually to a Rockland high school senior woman planning to advance her studies in the field of education. She will attend State University of New York at Oneonta to major in secondary math education.

The selection is based upon academic records, community service, multiple recommendations and an essay explaining why they are considering teaching as a career.

Show nominated for theater awards

CONGERS — Rockland Country Day School's spring production, "Guys and Dolls," won three Metro awards at the 13th annual Metropolitan High School Theater Awards presented June 6 at Paramount Center for the Arts in Peekskill. Colin McCalla won

Outstanding Child Actor for his role as Nicely Nicely Johnson, the stage crew won in the production technical category and the Technical Merit Award (teacher nominated) went to Nathan Paul and Adam Kapilow for lighting design.

The production received numerous nominations including Outstanding Overall Production; Outstanding Actress in a Supporting Role to Meave Crispi for her role as Miss Adelaide; Outstanding Featured Ensemble Member to Keana Outlar for her role as Big Julie; Outstanding Featured Ensemble Group to Nina Heller, Naryn Paul, Danielle Cacioppo, Chemdiya Reed, Amalia Rubino, Aisling Crispi, Jamie Pohs, Brigid Crispi and Elissa Cho as Hot Box Dancers; Outstanding Orchestra to Matt Schmuckler, Nina Heller, Evan Rucco, Zoe Levine and Leonard Choo with special thanks to Ian Heller, Julia Liu, Sam Oats and Michael Heller and Outstanding Direction by Teacher to Marsha Predovic and Matt Schmuckler for assistant musical director.

Music programs win first place

awards

NYACK —The Nyack School District's music programs have garnered a number of awards.

- The Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Christine Gero, earned a rating of superior at the National Orchestra Festival in Kansas City, Mo. The orchestra was one of only seven in the country chosen to compete at the festival.

- Nyack High School's Advanced Chorus achieved First Place (Jazz Choir) in the Philadelphia Heritage Music Festival under the direction of vocal teacher Dru Pluhowski. They received a Gold Medal rating, as well as the Spirit Award for the group's behavior and attitude. The best vocalist Maestro Award went to Nyack student Veronica Torres.

- The Nyack High School Concert Band and Jazz Ensemble, under the leadership of Doug Bish, the chairperson of the music department, competed in the Big Apple Classic Music Festival at the College of Staten Island's Center for the Arts. They competed against schools from around the United States, and both groups received gold ratings (the highest ratings given by the judges at the festival) and took first place in their divisions. The Concert Band won the award as the Big Apple Classic's Grand Champion Instrumental Ensemble.

Holy Communion Day at St. Margaret

PEARL RIVER —The children of the second-grade class from St. Margaret School in Pearl River celebrated their First Holy Communion Day. The class gathered together with family and friends in Toner Hall.

TZHS freshman wins AAA poster contest

ORANGEBURG — Hannah Kim, a freshman at Tappan Zee High School, was the third-place award winner in the Annual AAA Traffic Safety poster and video contest. Her poster was chosen from nearly 1600 entries. She received a plaque and \$100.

Submitted by Barbara Cross.

Submitted by Rockland Country Day School.

Submitted by the Nyack school district.

Submitted by St. Margaret School.

Submitted by the South Orangetown school district.

In the Schools is compiled by staff writer Nicole Futterman.

Announcements are listed on Thursdays in the Rockland Express. To submit information, send an e-mail to nfutterm@lohud.com or a fax to 845-578-2477.

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Ads by Pulse 360

Staten Island: Mom Makes Botox Doctors Furious

[Mom](#) Reveals Clever \$4 Wrinkle Therapy That Makes Botox Doctors Furious
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Sri Lankan Traditional Art Performance

Jun 29, 2011

Ranga Tharanga is a Sri Lankan Art celebration that is open to everyone. June 29, 2011

This year marks the ninth celebration of Ranga Tharanga. The celebration will occur on Saturday, July 9th at the Williamson Theater at the College of Staten Island, 2800 Victory Boulevard, between 4:45pm and 8:30pm. Ranga Tharanga is a Sri Lankan -American children's celebration of Sri Lankan culture through the performing arts: music, storytelling, drama, dance, and poetry. This will be Ranga Tharanga's ninth year of sharing traditional Sri Lankan music and dance with Staten Island. Sri Lankan-American children, and some of the elders of the community, who are the special performers at this event, worked all year to prepare for this joyous celebration. The program will be translated from Sinhalese to English.

The goal of this program is to introduce Sri Lankan culture and Heritage to Sri Lankan-American children living in the Staten Island community, the Tri-State area, and beyond. Staten Island serves as the hub of the large Sri-Lankan community which spans from the Northeast down to the Mid-Atlantic region. This year, participants will include members of the Sri-Lanka communities of Queens, Staten Island, New Jersey, Boston, and Maryland with over 180 participants.

Ranga Tharanga seeks to preserve Sri Lankan culture and heritage among the next generation of Sri Lankan-American Children. It is also a way to share the culture of Sri Lanka with the other cultural communities on Staten Island. The event is open to everyone and anyone interested in learning about Sri Lankan traditions, and the continuation of those traditions here on Staten Island.

Tickets to the event are \$15 per person. All proceeds go to the "Sisu Setha" Scholarship Trust Fund Grants offering educational scholarships and material assistance to Sri Lankan children in need.

For more information on the Ranga Tharanga please contact Suranga Perera at the following email address: info(at)rangatharanga(dot)com. Additional information about the Ranga Tharanga

celebration can be found by viewing the following video: <http://vimeo.com/23659657>.
Photographs are available at the following link:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/49430422@N03/sets/72157626937600129/>

Faculty & Staff

On the Job

ALEX CHIGOGIDZE

The College of Staten Island

Alex Chigogidze was appointed as the dean of science and technology at the College of Staten Island. Chigogidze is the managing editor of the journal *Topology and Its Application* and is a member of the editorial board of the *Tbilisi Mathematical Journal* and the *JP Journal of Geometry and Topology*, and has received research grants from the National Science and Engineering Research Council. Chigogidze's publications include two monographs and numerous peer-reviewed journal articles. In addition, his book *Inverse Spectra* was published in the *North-Holland Mathematical*.

Previous positions held by Chigogidze include: H. Barton Excellence Professor and head of the department of mathematical sciences at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro; tenured full professor of mathematics at the University of Saskatchewan, Canada; senior research associate at the Georgian Academy of Sciences; associate professor at Petrozavdsk State University, Russia; and research associate at Moscow State University.

In addition to holding a PhD and MSc from Tbilisi State University, Chigogidze earned the prestigious DSc Habilitation degree from Moscow State University. His professional development activities include extensive editorial work and the organization of many conferences and steering committee meetings.

One-Man NIH, 1887

By Cristina Luigi | May 28, 2011



The Hygienic Laboratory at the Staten Island Marine Hospital Service building. National Cancer Institute

As epidemics swept across the United States in the 19th century, the US government recognized the pressing need for a national lab dedicated to the study of infectious disease. In 1887, the government set its sights on a small lab located in the Marine Hospital on Staten Island, New York. Its sole member, 27-year-old Joseph James Kinyoun, belonged to a new generation of scientists and physicians who were beginning to understand how microscopic organisms underlay the terrible killers of their day, such as smallpox, yellow fever, and Asiatic cholera. That one-room lab on Staten Island, which Kinyoun originally called “the Laboratory of Hygiene,” ultimately evolved into the 27 institutes and centers that now make up the National Institutes of Health.

Kinyoun’s first order of business was to collect blood and stool samples from the sick in order to culture pathogens in the lab. In his first year on the job, he became the first person in the United States to isolate the gram-negative bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*—providing his American colleagues with their first glimpse of the microorganism responsible for tens of thousands of deaths since it had first reached US shores in the 1830s. This and other successes were duly noted by Congress, which by 1902 had expanded the laboratory to include other divisions, such as chemistry and zoology.

Although microorganisms had been visible to the human eye for nearly 400 years thanks to the invention of microscopes in the 1600s, a definitive connection between bacteria and infectious disease wasn't made until the late 19th century. Instead, filth and poverty were blamed for deadly epidemics, and treatment and prevention strategies were aimed at improving sanitation and welfare. During his time at the Hygienic Laboratory (as it was later called), Kinyoun sailed to Europe for six months to train with the great bacteriologists of his day, including Robert Koch and Louis Pasteur, bringing back laboratory techniques, recipes for effective treatments, and a passionate vision for reforming US health practices, says author and historian Joseph Houts, Kinyoun's great-grandson. "It was in great part due to him that the 'germ theory' made its way back to the United States," Houts adds.

Kinyoun's tenure as the first director of the NIH lasted 12 years, but his role in shaping how the federal government dealt with the country's health continued well after his retirement. Following several deaths due to contaminated and shoddily produced vaccines, he pushed hard for the implementation of universal standards for the production of medicines. He was also acutely aware of the need to monitor infectious diseases across the country, as well as the need for an official body that could enforce drastic measures, like quarantines during deadly epidemics. Such efforts, Houts says, eventually led to the creation of federal agencies such as the US Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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Braun: In easing Haiti's suffering, N.J. doctor finds meaning of joy

Published: Thursday, June 02, 2011, 12:00 PM



Bob Braun/Star-Ledger Columnist
By

Megan Coffee does not offer to explain why she does what she does, except to state the obvious: It makes her happy. It makes her happy to use the knowledge and skills earned from, among other experiences, her medical education at Harvard and her PhD from Oxford, to treat, for no pay, some of the sickest people on earth in one of the poorest places on earth, Haiti.

"I heal very sick people," she says. "I can see them get better because of the things I've done." She estimates she has treated more than 1,000 AIDS and tuberculosis patients.



Aristide Economopoulos/The Star-Ledger

Megan Coffee checks the vitals of a patient while making rounds in the tuberculosis ward of the hospital in Port au Prince, Haiti. She is the only doctor in the ward and is responsible for 50 patients. Now, local students are following in her footsteps, raising money for poverty stricken Haitians still feeling the effects from the 2010 earthquake.

It may be a measure not so much of Coffee but of others that this should be remarkable. Who wouldn't be happy curing very sick people? But Megan has the credentials, the skills, the experience, to, say, be a faculty member at a medical school while running a lucrative medical practice. She could be rich and comfortable.

"She has no material interests," says her mother Jane, who speaks of her only child with wonder and frustration. She is pleased Megan is the woman she is but also would be pleased, maybe more so, if her daughter could be home more often or live in a less perilous place. "I know she is much happier there than she was in California."

Megan was working on a fellowship in San Francisco on Jan. 12, 2010, when an earthquake destroyed much of Haiti and killed 200,000 people. Within days, the young physician and expert on AIDS and other communicable diseases—and a former Star-Ledger Scholar — flew to Haiti and became the non-paid head of

the tuberculosis/AIDS clinic at the main hospital in Port-au-Prince. She works seven days a week, often 12 hours a day, for no salary.



Aristide Economopoulos/The Star-Ledger

Megan Coffee is escorted through the hospital's courtyard by a pair of girls whose mother is an administrator at the hospital. Coffee has worked unpaid seven days a week since January 26.

Since then, she has been home in Maplewood only for brief visits. Like the one she made this week to accept an honor from Columbia High School, from where she graduated in 1994. The next day, she flew back to Haiti.

Coffee spoke to two student assemblies that day, presenting slides of where and how she lives—the background music, not chosen by Coffee but by Columbia students, was, ironically, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow." It was clear from the slides of collapsed buildings and gaunt, sick children that Megan does not live in a place where troubles melt like lemon

drops.

The young physician spoke of the Haitians with her own sense of wonder because, in the midst of an indescribable catastrophe, they endured. "They really helped each other, cared for each other," she told the students at the school's annual "Hall of Fame" ceremony.

Megan Coffee did not go home to raise money but, within minutes of ending her slide show, the student council voted to support the education of some of her patients and faculty members also agreed to pay the school fees of others.

"How come he can't go to school?" a teacher, Robin Patton, asked Coffee about one patient, Jimmy Theogene. Coffee had mentioned him, noting that, while his tuberculosis was under control, he couldn't attend school because he couldn't afford fees of \$300 a year.

It started something of a bidding war among teachers and students over who would subsidize Jimmy Theogene's education. Coffee assured them many patients are children who cannot afford school—the average age of Haitians is 21 and average family income is \$2 a day.

"We're going to make this a priority," said Ben Donald, the president of the high school student council.

She said her patients also could use money to buy medicine and food—the hospital provides only one meal a day—and those who want to help or just learn more about she does can contact her through her website, www.doctorcoffee.org, or Twitter, [docktecoffee](https://twitter.com/docktecoffee).

Megan Coffee became a physician after conducting AIDS research as an epidemiologist in South Africa and Zimbabwe. She said she wanted to help people, not just interview them for scholarly articles.



Aristide Economopoulos/The Star-Ledger

A group of some of the 50 patients Megan Coffee takes care of as she stands outside one of the three tents housing tuberculosis patients.

She stayed at the high school late into the afternoon, meeting with students and teachers, talking about her experiences. This created a problem for her parents—Jane is a math professor at the [College of Staten Island](#), and her father John is a Columbia Law School law professor, a nationally known expert on white-collar crime. They had planned a catered luncheon reception—complete with a champagne toast — for their daughter at home. It was Megan’s 35th birthday.

"That’s just Megan," said Jane Coffee, looking out a window, waiting for her daughter to come home.

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CFP HICSS45 MINI-TRACK ON TECHNOLOGY MEDIATED COLLABORATIONS IN HEALTHCARE

Call for Papers: Technology Mediated Collaborations in Healthcare [Collaboration Systems](#) and Technologies Track Forty-fifth Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (January 4-7, 2012) Grand Wailea, Maui Mini-track Co-Chairs: [Souren Paul](#) Department of Business [College of Staten Island](#) [City University of New York](#) 2800 Victory Boulevard Staten Island, NY 10314 USA Phone: + 1 (718) 982-2938 Fax: + 1 (718) 982-2965 paul@mail.csi.cuny.edu: [Arkaigud Ramaprasad](#) Department of Information and Decision Sciences College of Business Administration University of Illinois at Chicago 601 South Morgan Street, MC 294 Chicago, IL 60607-7124 USA Phone: +1 (312): 996-9260 Fax: +1 (312) 413-0385 prasad@uic.edu: [Nilmini Wickramasinghe](#) School of Business IT and Logistics RMIT University Building 108 Level 17 239 Bourke Street Melbourne VIC 2000 Australia Phone: +61 3 9925 5783 Fax: +61 3 9925 5850 nilmini.wickramasinghe@rmit.edu.au

Proposed area of the mini-track:

[Collaboration technologies](#) are being used in healthcare research, practice, and management. They have potential for even greater use especially in the light of healthcare reforms occurring throughout many countries and greater emphasis on technology to facilitate superior healthcare delivery. Geographically dispersed health professionals can use collaboration technology to communicate with each other, review patient records, manage workflows, and improve the delivery of patient care. Similarly, geographically non-collocated researchers can collaborate with each other. The problem being addressed by this mini-track is encapsulated in the following [ontology](#). The earlier [ontology](#) has been updated based on the papers and discussion at the past two HICSS mini-track sessions on the topic. The changes include the addition of a new partner (Agent/Bot), redefinition of the taxonomy of Content, introduction of a new dimension (Media), addition of a new Purpose ([Education](#)), and relabeling Treatment under Purpose as Care.

Technology:

[for]:

Partners:

[exchange of]:

Content:

[using]:

Media:

[for]:

Purpose

Architecture:

Researcher:

[and]:

Researcher:

Data:

Personal:

Treatment

System:

Clinician:

Clinician:

Analysis:

FTF*:

Research

Strategy:

Nurse:

Nurse:

Diagnosis:

PHR**:

Administration
Patient:
Patient:
Treatment:
E-mail:
Administrator:
Administrator:
Social:
Agent/Bot:
Agent/Bot:
Blog:

Microblog LBS***:

FTF â Face-to-Face PHR â Personal Health Record LBS â [Location-based Services](#) EMR â
Electronic Medical Record HIE â Health Information Exchange

[Networks](#):

Mass:
Radio/TV:
Web:
Institutional:
EMR****:
Tele-medicine:
HIE*****:
:

The five primary stakeholders in healthcare: researchers, clinicians, nurses, patients, and administrators form the basis of any partnership in [health care](#). They are listed under the two partnership sub-dimensions. [Software Agents/Bots](#) which are playing an increasing independent role in the delivery of healthcare have been added to the list of partners. A partnership may be between two researchers, a researcher and a clinician, a patient and a nurse, etc. These dyads are summarized by the two columns under partners. There may also be triadic and higher order partnerships among these partners.

The partnerships may be based on an exchange of data, analysis, diagnosis, or treatment singly or in combination. These are listed under the content dimension of the [ontology](#). Thus collaboration between two researchers may use data, between a patient and a nurse may be for diagnosis or treatment, and so on.

The Media for partnership may be Personal, Social, Mass, or Institutional. The [ontology](#) lists the key media in healthcare in each of the categories. Thus, for example, researchers may exchange analysis via personal media, patients may exchange treatments via social media, and clinicians and administrators may exchange data via institutional media.

The purpose of the collaboration may be care, research, administration, [education](#) or a combination of the four. These are listed under the purpose dimension of the [ontology](#). Thus collaboration between two researchers using data may be for research, and between a patient and a clinician may be for diagnosis for care.

In the above [ontology](#), there are a very large number of basic types of collaborations one can consider in healthcare. The number will change if the dimensions and categories are modified. In a practical [context](#) multiple combinations will likely coexist. A clinician-patient collaboration using data via individual media for care may be supplemented by a nurse-patient collaboration using social media for [education](#).

Technologyâ s impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of these collaborations will be determined by the architecture of the technology, the systems developed around it, and the strategy for implementing it. The efficacy of the architecture will determine the efficacy of the system, and the efficacy of the system will determine the efficacy of the strategy. Thus the three categories under the technology dimension in the [ontology](#).

The [ontology](#) provides a framework for fitting the pieces of the puzzle, synthesizing what is known, [determining](#) the gaps, and directing future research on the topic. We invite papers focusing any one or many of the innumerable combinations in the [ontology](#). We welcome papers which address the state-of-the-art, state-of-the-need, and the state-of-the-practice of these combinations.

We strongly encourage authors to submit original contributions where innovative ideas, implementations, and [empirical studies](#) are described. The technological contributions can highlight applications, systems, and methodological issues on the development and/or implementation of [collaborative systems](#) in healthcare. The social, organizational, and behavioral contributions can report the outcome of [empirical studies](#) on technology mediated collaboration in healthcare.

Submission Process:

Full paper submissions must be made electronically through the HICSS on-line submission system at

Key Dates:

Full Papers Due:: June 15, 2011 by 12 midnight Hawaii Time [This is 3 hours behind/earlier than Pacific time/PST, and 6 hours earlier than New York/EST]

Notification of Acceptance:: August 16, 2011

Final Paper Due:: September 15, 2011.

:

At least one author of each paper must register by October 1, 2011.



When New Yorkers Look Up: Skywatching in the Big Apple

Natalie Wolchover, Life's Little Mysteries Staff Writer

Date: 06 June 2011 Time: 11:42 AM ET



Danielle Pollaci of Brooklyn looks skyward through a telescope at the World Science [Festival's](#) "Night of Stargazing at Brooklyn Bridge Park."

CREDIT: Natalie Wolchover/SPACE.com

NEW YORK — New York City is a great place for spotting movie stars. As for the celestial ones, though, not so much: The night sky above the city that never sleeps doesn't get very dark. But that fact doesn't keep diehard skywatchers from looking up.

"Right now there aren't very many stars visible," Linda Prince, an amateur astronomer from Long Island, told SPACE.com. "Just a handful here."

Prince was one of approximately 500 stargazers on the banks of New York's East River Friday night (June 3) for "A Night of Stargazing at Brooklyn Bridge Park," an event held as part of the 2011 World Science Festival. Attendees waited in long lines for the chance to look through telescopes pointed at the few celestial objects that did show themselves — including the bright stars Vega and Arcturus, and the [ringed planet Saturn](#), which for obvious reasons turned out to be the crowd favorite.

"I saw stars on one telescope and the planet of Saturn on another, which was amazing," said Julie Errico of Brooklyn. "A little tiny, but I saw the rings and everything, so that was cool." [[Photos: The Rings and Moons of Saturn](#)]

Siblings Patrick and Grace Cognato made the trek to Brooklyn all the way from Staten Island to [look through the telescopes](#). "We saw the rings of Saturn and we saw double stars," Patrick said. "That's two stars orbiting each other."

What are stars?

Before the stargazing got under way, a panel of experts regaled the crowd on the joys of astronomy. They each gave their take on what those little points of light up there actually are.

"They're suns," said [Timothy Ferris](#), an award-winning astronomy book author and documentary filmmaker. Suns are thermonuclear devices, he explained, which undergo fusion reactions that spew heat into space. Stars that twinkle with a blue-ish hue burn hotter than those that look red, he explained.

"They are so many different things for me. They are songs, they are poems, they are beauty," said Charles Liu, an astrophysicist at the City [University](#) of New York's [College of Staten Island](#). "A star is a factory that creates the building blocks that make us who we are. Every atom of carbon, iron and calcium in our bodies was formed in those nuclear processes that Tim described and then sprayed outward into the universe over billions of years."

Carter Emmart, an astronomy artist at the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History, said, "Our view of the universe is also sort of a time machine, because light [travels](#) at a fixed speed." He pointed out Arcturus, a yellowy-orange star that appeared in the eastern part of the sky. "That light you're seeing left 40 years ago. So if you're 40 years old, that light left when you were a baby."

"Wow, thank you, I'll take that!" said a 40-year-old woman in the audience.

Yeah, stars!

Barbara Freeman, a Brooklyn physician who moonlights as a stargazer, set up two of her telescopes at Brooklyn Bridge Park on Friday evening. New Yorkers, like everyone else, appreciate stars, she said. [[Hubble Telescope's Amazing Photos](#)]

"It has been said that there are more telescopes in New York than any other location. Everyone jokes that a lot of people must be looking in other people's windows," Freeman said.

"But actually, astronomy and stars, I think people always have an interest in them. When I tell people I'm an amateur astronomer, they always say 'yeah, stars!' Even when they don't see them, they still have an interest in knowing what's going on up there."

Natalie Wolchover is a staff writer for [Life's Little Mysteries](#), a sister site of SPACE.com. Follow SPACE.com for the latest in space science and exploration news on Twitter [@Spacedotcom](#) and on [Facebook](#).

- [The Rings and Moons of Saturn](#)
- [Telescopes for Beginners](#)
- [Photos: 'Midnight' Partial Solar Eclipse of 2011](#)



Women's organizations unite in common cause

Published: Thursday, June 09, 2011, 1:19 AM



By **Letters to the Editor/Staten Island Advance**

By ANN MERLINO
SILVER LAKE

I applaud the women's' organizations that have joined together as a "Sisterhood" to tackle domestic violence and other important issues (Advance, May 31).

As a former dean of the College of Staten Island and a community volunteer who has for many years advocated for positive change on Staten Island, I am impressed that these organizations, with diverse missions, have recognized an important common agenda.

These organizations have united to share their resources and have created a new, powerful and exciting energy that is serious about making gains to improve the lives of Staten Island women and their families.

The legislative and educational endeavors that the "Sisterhood" has developed are significant steps in this agenda, and I look forward to their addressing other issues so important to young girls and women.

Kudos to Staten Island's "Sisterhood."

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06/09/2011 02:19 PM

South Shore Residents Insist They Live In Towns, Not Neighborhoods

By: Amanda Farinacci



Residents of Staten Island's South Shore insist on calling the places where they live "towns," even though they technically are neighborhoods. NY1's Amanda Farinacci filed the following report.

The residents of some of Staten Island's South Shore "neighborhoods" insist that they aren't neighborhoods at all. They say the areas where they live are "towns."

"I'm out here 35 years almost and I've always referred to Annadale as the town I live in," said resident Pat Aversano.

Twelve neighborhoods make up what is known as the island's South Shore and most residents there refer to their communities the same way.

"If you go out to Jersey - Brick township, Howell township, everything is a township - so everybody has their own community and they call it a township," said resident Gary Edwards. "The only thing we don't have is it listed as a township."

Technically speaking, the towns aren't towns at all - they are neighborhoods. In fact, all areas of New York City are classified as neighborhoods.

College of Staten Island Professor Jonathan Peters said that mass transit is the reason locals insist on calling it a town.

"The South Shore towns of Staten Island are classic - what we call - transit oriented development," Peters said. "If you look at the Staten Island rapid transit stations a lot of the activity is clustered within easy walking distance of the train stations. So even to this day this part of Staten Island still retains that density and economic activity that would give you the hallmark of a town."

City Councilman and long-time South Shore resident Vincent Ignizio said that if any outsider wants to insist the locals call it a neighborhood, they'll be out of luck.

"For anybody who wants to call them anything other than towns - they are towns," Ignizio said. "And when you're kids - when you're home and you tell your mom and dad I'm going up to town to go buy pizza or I'm going up to town to go buy gum - and that's how we know them."

Still, some residents complain the small-town feel of the South Shore makes it difficult for newcomers to become part of the community.

"It's a bit closed you know, so if you're in, you're in. But if you're not, you're not, that kind of thing," said resident Brenda Lenahan. "And I don't think it's something you do because they want to, it's just the nature of the way the community was, is."

Others say blending into the community shouldn't be difficult, as long as they're willing acknowledge that where they are living is in fact a town.



Pay it upward

Published: Friday, June 10, 2011, 8:59 AM



Staten Island Advance Editorial
By

The concept of "pay it forward," as put forth in a 1999 novel and 2000 movie of the same name, is wonderfully uplifting: Everyone who commits to participate pledges to do good deeds for other people, even complete strangers. The multiplier effect results in a nicer world.

Lately, government entities have been using a far less benign version of this concept to address their budget issues: Call it "pay it upward."

Government has budget shortfalls, so it attempts to close those gaps by unilaterally imposing higher taxes, fees, fares and tolls, etc. on people, who are required by law to pay those various and sundry charges.

Officials have no problem justifying these hikes - at least to themselves.

Of course, all the ordinary people who are required to pay these taxes, fees, fares and tolls are facing their own budgetary issues these days. But they're at the bottom of the pay-it-upward ladder. They can't charge higher fees to anyone below them. So they have no place to turn for more revenue themselves.

We've seen it countless times with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which seems to have a perennial budget crisis. Mayor Michael Bloomberg has also sought to solve the city's budget problems by putting an ever-heavier burden on the backs of rank-and-file New Yorkers.

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey always seemed to be the exception. For one thing, the P.A. had its financial act together in recent years. For another, the authority focuses on the region's economy and always seemed to grasp how higher tolls sabotage growth.

But now, the P.A., saddled with the mammoth cost of building the new World Trade Center and steeply reduced revenues, is facing its own budget issues. And, according to reports, the agency is looking to alleviate the budgetary stress by raising tolls on its six New York-New Jersey crossings by up to 25 percent by the end of the year.

That would hike the top toll for cars on those crossings from \$8 to \$10. Proportional increases are expected to imposed on discounted and truck tolls.

The P.A. is desperate to get its hands on the additional \$300 million in revenue the higher tolls would yield. But the toll-payers who would collectively be coughing up that \$300 million certainly haven't seen any increase in their "revenue stream"; indeed, many have taken pay cuts and all are paying higher costs for everything from gasoline to health care. Now they stand to be hammered anew by the P.A.

What's more, a disproportionate percentage of those beleaguered people live on Staten Island, already the home of the highest tolls in the nation.

Jonathan Peters, a professor of finance at the College of Staten Island, analyzed Federal Highway Administration and authority data, and says Islanders already contribute roughly half of the \$300 million in tolls collected at the four very profitable bridges in this borough - three of them operated by the Port Authority.

"[The bridges are] huge cash cows already," Mr. Peters said.

Rep. Michael Grimm said, "The Port Authority continues to treat Staten Island residents as a piggy bank for their deficits but does nothing for mass transit."

State Sen. Diane Savino put it bluntly: "We simply are tapped out."

Her colleague, Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis, said, "The Port Authority should focus not on increasing the burden on Staten Islanders, but rather on using its already ample budget in a more efficient manner. Our drivers pay more than their fair share as it stands."

Assemblyman Michael Cusick, noting P.A. tolls have increased 58 percent in three years, said, "In a time of economic stagnation and a rapidly rising cost of living, this is not a prudent course of action."

Unfortunately, their opposition doesn't count for as much, per se. The people with the real clout when it comes to the Port Authority are the governors of New York and New Jersey.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie was at first reported to support the toll increase, but he insisted on Tuesday that he has not yet seen any plan, much less approved one. Gov. Cuomo, who needs P.A. cooperation for certain projects in the state, has not taken a position.

Island officials have already begun to lobby him on this score. Let's hope their persuasive powers are up to the challenge.

The Washington Times

WHITE: The dignity of personal choice

Choosing lifesaving care - or not - shouldn't be left to bureaucrats

By Mark D. White

-

The Washington Times

6:23 p.m., Thursday, June 16, 2011

Much of the discussion about the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has dealt with costs, unintended effects or constitutionality, which are all crucially important. But there has not been much mention of the deeper philosophical issues the ACA raises, such as its effects on human autonomy and dignity, both of which are endangered by the usurpation of personal health care choice by a government bureaucracy.

A patient's interests in his own health, comfort and financial security as well as the well-being of his loved ones are multifaceted, complex and known only to him. As such, choices regarding health care are among the most intimately personal choices one can make, and making those choices oneself is essential to maintaining and expressing one's autonomy. Government intervention in the health care system will lessen the ability of people to make their own choices to promote their own interests and to preserve their dignity as autonomous persons.

Under the ACA, bureaucrats will play a more significant role than ever in rationing scarce medical resources. Of course, scarcity is not the fault of the government (although price controls make it worse). The market must allocate scarce medical resources, too, but it will do so according to the price mechanism, which critics say is unfair or arbitrary. While any allocation of scarce resources is likely to have tragic aspects - especially in the case of medical resources - there is no more ethical way to allocate them than the market. The price mechanism incorporates the choices of many, while bureaucracy represents the choices of few, which is truly unfair and arbitrary.

The issue is not whether choices must be made - for they must - but rather who should make them. In a market system, the patient can assess the value of different treatments compared to other uses for his resources. Perhaps he will decline the recommended treatment, even if he can afford it, in order to leave more money for his children or to take a cruise in the final months of his life. Or maybe he will sell his house to pay for another month on life support - and with his beloved grandchildren. In a market setting, he alone is responsible for the benefits, costs and other consequences; the choice is his, no matter how imprudent others may judge it to be.

In some cases, the patient will not be able to afford his preferred treatment, but there may be less expensive options that also will be of benefit. In a market system, this is the patient's choice, just as it's his choice what size house to buy, what model car to lease, what size TV to own. Past choices will expand or constrain his present options; a person who spends his income recklessly throughout

his life should not expect sympathy when he cannot afford top-of-the-line treatment at the end of it. The same applies to lifestyle choices: If a person chooses to smoke, for instance, he increases his risk of cancer, and in a market system, he would be held responsible for the costs of that choice.

In a market system, those are his choices, whereas under a state-controlled plan, treatment decisions might be made or limited according to considerations of efficiency. (Our current health care system, dominated by insurance companies, has some elements of this, too.) Not every person can receive premium treatment, but this fact is because of scarcity of resources, not the way in which they are allocated or distributed. Under a plan like the ACA, the choice of who gets premium treatment - if anybody - will be arbitrary, made by some distant bureaucracy, with little, if any, role for choice on the part of the patient.

The beauty of the market is that it coordinates individuals' choices to allow each person to pursue his goals, including those regarding health care, consistently with all others doing the same. If many people want the same scarce medical technology or procedure, the market solves the problem impersonally by rationing it on the basis of price, based on the choices countless individuals made in their own interests. A market-based approach to health care preserves an individual's dignity by guaranteeing the expression of his autonomy and control over his intimately personal health care choices. The alternative is choice by bureaucracy, in which the worth of one person's life, health and dignity is traded off against those of others according to a formula that, by its very nature, cannot accommodate these incalculable concepts.

Mark D. White is a professor at the College of Staten Island CUNY and author of "Kantian Ethics and Economics: Autonomy, Dignity, and Character" (Stanford University Press, 2011).

Dryden and White

The moral power of Green Lantern

JANE DRYDEN and MARK WHITE

From Wednesday's Globe and Mail

Published Wednesday, Jun. 22, 2011 2:00AM EDT

We should be loyal to our families and communities, but we should also be concerned about global poverty and the plight of people we may never meet. How can we reconcile these two moral convictions? Maybe a certain emerald superhero and his interstellar comrades can help.

The movie *Green Lantern* features not just the character of Hal Jordan (played by Canadian Ryan Reynolds) but also the Green Lantern Corps: an intergalactic group of superheroes helping to protect the universe, under the leadership of the Guardians of the Universe. One corps hallmark is the way members of different species work together, with no more than a shared loyalty to the corps to bind them.

This loyalty to something that transcends their own backgrounds allows them to express concern for citizens of other worlds. But even with this broadened moral community, they can still run into conflict with each other and with the guardians, given their different world views. It's not surprising that part of the drama of the comics involves arguments about what values the corps ought to be promoting or protecting.

For instance, Sinestro (played by Mark Strong in the movie) believes that maintaining order on his home planet of Korugar is his most important goal as a Green Lantern. Hal, on the other hand, believes that Sinestro's oppressive method of imposing order comes at too high a cost in terms of freedom and well-being. Despite Hal's respect for Sinestro's sense of duty, they continually run into conflict (even before they become sworn enemies).

This conflict fits with psychologist Jonathan Haidt's research. Five foundations of morality, he says, have developed over our evolutionary history – harm/care, fairness/reciprocity, in-group/loyalty, authority/respect, and purity/sanctity. Prof. Haidt finds that people who identify as liberals tend to base their moral reasoning on the first two foundations, whereas people who identify as conservatives tend to use the last two. Consequently, the two sides have difficulty understanding each other: It's not just that they disagree on moral issues, but that they have significantly different ways of conceiving morality itself.

We can also see this play out in the debates between different forms of moral theory. Each of them is assumed as a commonsensical standpoint by its advocates, but they are deeply at odds with each other. For utilitarians, it seems obvious that decisions ought to be formed in a way that will promote the greatest good of the greatest number. For deontologists, who are focused on duty and universal principles, it seems just as obvious that we owe each and every person a respect that can't be overridden. And for care ethicists, who focus on context and relationships between people, the impersonal calculations of utilitarians and deontologists can seem excessively cold and unfeeling. These debates show that, while our own moral principles are obvious to us, they're not obvious to everyone.

In exploring how the Green Lantern Corps members co-operate in the fight for justice while disagreeing about what justice is, we can see the many foundations of morality at play in a way that's removed from our day-to-day worries. By watching these members struggle with different views of right and wrong, we can gain insight into the concerns of people whose moral foundations differ from our own. This can only help in promoting civility within political and moral discussions, even for those of us without incredible power rings at our disposal.

Jane Dryden is a philosophy professor at Mount Allison University and Mark White a philosophy professor at the College of Staten Island. They are the editors of Green Lantern and Philosophy: No Evil Shall Escape This Book.

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PITCHING IN AND CLEANING UP



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/IRVING SILVERSTEIN

City Councilwoman Debi Rose and students from PS 31, New Brighton, pitched in to cleanup the area around the school.



06/23/2011 10:00 PM

New Treatment May Help Paralyzed Patients Move Again

By: Amanda Farinacci



Julia Giammona, 16, was born with cerebral palsy. She's spent most of her young life in a wheelchair, but for the past three years, she's been able to walk with crutches.

"I used to always take my chair, now we just walk in, like straight in," said Giammona. "It's like no hassle taking the wheelchair out of the car, putting it together, now it's just like, more freedom."

Three years ago, Julia was treated by Dr. Zaghoul Ahmed, a physical therapist and scientist who teaches at the [College of Staten Island](#).

For three weeks, electrical pulses were sent to her brain and to different points along her spinal cord. They worked to stimulate her body's natural pulses and muscles, doing what patients with spinal cord injuries and disorders cannot do alone.

"After the stimulation, the brain would be able to activate the muscle, and that, in turn, improves the functional recovery after the injury," said Dr. Ahmed.

After the treatment, Julia was able to climb stairs with her crutches. She could bend her knees with some help and could sleep more comfortably with her legs bent on her side.

Dr. Ahmed recently won a \$250,000 grant from the New York City Investment Fund to help move his idea from the laboratory to the marketplace.

"If he's successful and he gets the approval to do this by the Federal Drug Administration, then his plan is to set up a series of clinics around the city," said Maria Gotsch of the New York City Investment Fund. "So he's not only bringing technology, but then he's got a whole network of clinics that can all hire a range of people."

So far, seven patients with varying levels of paralysis have undergone the treatment. Dr. Ahmed said all of them have had some level of success.

Though he cautions it may be too soon to tell if those results are typical, he's optimistic.

The grant money will fund a clinical trial at Staten Island University Hospital for 96 more patients. Julia hopes to be one of them and that more treatments and improving technology could mean that one day, she won't need crutches, either.

Also Featured on: Abbanetwork.com

Tony Crider appointed to advisory board

Tony Crider, associate professor and chair of Physics, has recently been elected to a three-year term on the national Reacting Advisory Board. This board oversees development and publication of the *Reacting to the Past* series.

Reacting to the Past consists of elaborate games, set in the past, in which students are assigned roles informed by classic texts in the history of ideas. Class sessions are run entirely by students; instructors advise and guide students and grade their oral and written work. It seeks to draw students into the past, promote engagement with big ideas, and improve intellectual and academic skills.

The full membership of the Reacting Advisory Board is:

- Martin Braun (Queens College, CUNY), Director of the Freshman Year Initiative and Professor of Mathematics
- John M. Burney (Doane College), Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of History
- Mark C. Carnes (Barnard College), Professor of History and Director of “Reacting to the Past”
- Larry Carver (University of Texas at Austin), Director of Liberal Arts Honors and Humanities Programs and Professor of English
- Patrick Coby (Smith College), Professor of Government
- John C. Eby (Loras College), Associate Professor of History and Director of the Honors Program
- Elizabeth E. Dunn (Indiana University, South Bend), Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Professor of History
- Gretchen Krehling McKay (McDaniel College), Associate Professor of Art History and Director of the Center for Faculty Excellence
- Michael S. Pettersen (Washington & Jefferson College), Associate Professor and Chair of Physics
- Richard Gid Powers (College of Staten Island, CUNY), Professor of History and Director, CORE program
- Nicolas Wolfe Proctor (Simpson College), Associate Professor and Chair, Department of History
- Judith Shapiro (Barnard College), ex-President and Professor of Anthropology Emerita
- Amelia Vanderlaan (Smith College '09), student representative

Cinematically Queer and Compelling

Gay film industry New Yorkers talk about what works for them

BY GARY M. KRAMER

Published: Thursday, June 23, 2011 11:16 PM CDT

If moviegoers look to the silver screen as a mirror — if you are what you watch and you watch what you are — the queer community is rich today in the number and range of characters and films that provide images that are positive, memorable, or both.

As we celebrate Pride this month, gay New Yorkers involved in the film community discussed what they find inspiring out there.

For Jesse Archer, the screenwriter of “Violent Tendencies,” a comedy in which he also appeared, the idea of “belonging” within the broader society is anathema.



Michael Akers.

“So much of the culture wants desperately to integrate into the mainstream, and I can’t help but wonder if that is some kind of Stockholm Syndrome,” he said. “I prefer deviance. Strong-willed survivors who take oppression and struggle and turn it into something interesting— glittery, fabulous, and entirely individual.

“I’m thinking of freaks like ‘Hedwig and the Angry Inch,’ who are unapologetic, unabashed, and unafraid of taking the wig down from the shelf. For me, Hedwig’s a rock star.”

Sandon Berg, the writer and producer of the forthcoming drama “Morgan,” due out in 2012, also chose a cross-dressing character in identifying his film role model.

“The fantasy and safety of disguise is one often explored in queer cinema,” he explained. “Although it’s not specifically a gay-themed film, ‘Tootsie’ pivots on the enchanting idea that you could cloak your identity in a large red wig, a sensible schoolteacher blouse, a no-nonsense below-the-knee skirt, and a pair of oversized square glasses that cover the top half of your face like the mask of Zorro.”

That is just one example,” Berg continued.

“But if that drag outfit isn’t your cup of tea, anything will do — as long as it makes you a bolder, braver, brassier you,” he said. “You can live your life — at least for a little while — free of all the expectations that others have. And most importantly, free of all the limitations you place on yourself. If you live in a well-structured movieland, like I like to do, while you’re living life as someone else, another person’s perspective is going to teach you what you need to know to live out and proud, brave enough to kiss the person you love.”

Berg's partner and "Morgan" writer and director Michael Akers finds pride in a more traditional queer romance.

"'Big Eden' is probably my most favorite go-to gay film," he said. "You have this big ol' romantic Native American, Eric Schweig, attempting to win over a cluelessly cute Arye Gross with his cooking. And the townspeople are trying to get the two guys together, too. Super romantic and maybe just a little idealistic, but, hey, I'm a sucker for a love story. As a filmmaker, I'm always drawn more to the rural gay experience because it's what I identify with. Sure, the city has hot, smooth dance club boys, but give me a country boy with a long... drawl any day!"

Film Forum's Adam Walker appreciates romantic queer films as well, but also musicals.

"As a closeted high school kid in Indiana, I used my mom's credit card to order 'Beautiful Thing' and 'Trick' from the Columbia House catalogue," he recalled. "For the record, I have since paid her back. While these movies certainly made me feel less alone in the world, and I still pay great respect and gratitude to their creators, I also realized at the time that they weren't very good.

"The films that shaped my identity the most were really more campy and queer in spirit than in explicit content. As a child, I pretty much wore our family Blockbuster card out renting 'The Wiz' and John Waters' 'Hairspray.' These movies, while slightly embarrassing cinematically, have characters that are full of joy, color, music, and love — qualities that I continually aspire to possess."

Some New Yorkers working in the film industry offered a more jaded perspective.

Comedian Eddie Sarfaty, who wrote the short film "Second Guessing Grandma," which starred Kathleen Chalfant, argued, "Gay films don't particularly inspire me — good films do. That's not to say that there aren't gay writers, directors, and actors out there doing good work — there certainly are. It's just that there are a lot of horrible gay films that get a lot of buzz, and that too often I find myself embarrassed to even be in the audience.

"Living in New York, where being gay is easy, I don't feel particularly drawn to characters or stories designed to reaffirm my day-to-day reality. I find myself touched most deeply by characters who remind me that my world isn't the norm — characters who are terrified, but who bravely, though imperfectly, meet the fears and challenges that their worlds put in their way. Jack and Ennis in 'Brokeback Mountain,' Andrew Beckett in 'Philadelphia,' Brandon Teena in 'Boy's Don't Cry,' and Jamie and Ste in 'Beautiful Thing' are all characters that frequently make appearances in my head, reminding me of how grateful I am to have a supportive family and to live in a city where my encounters with hatred are few and far between."

Edward Miller, associate professor and coordinator of the master's program in Cinema and Media Studies at the [College of Staten Island](#) CUNY, has different, more sexually charged cinematic tastes. He cited his admiration for "the early 1970s porn auteurs Peter Berlin and Wakefield Poole, both of whom are profiled in documentaries by Jim Tushinski. Poole and Berlin absorbed influences from experimental film and cinéma vérité, and created new ways of celebrating gay sexuality through film. Berlin demonstrated the erotics of cruising and self-exhibition, while Poole depicted how same-sex couplings enter into the realm of the magical through the realization of fantasy. The embedded argument in both men's visions is that gay identity is both natural and cultural; desire is co-produced by the lustful environments in which gay men live, such as Fire Island and San Francisco."

Then there is the prolific gay filmmaker Todd Verow. The writer and director of the sexually explicit films "Deleted Scenes" and "XX: Where Your Heart Should Be," he brashly stated, "The whole idea of positive role models makes me want to vomit. I have always rooted for bad boys and girls in movies. I would much rather watch gay characters kill or be killed than see them accepted into the military, get married, have kids, and live happily ever after. No thanks! I'd much rather watch 'Cruising' about a closeted gay cop, Al Pacino, and a gay killer who shoots blanks. Maybe I am just really twisted, but the scene where the killer picks up the teacher and kills him always gets me off.

"Recently, I was pleasantly surprised by 'I Love You Philip Morris.' Jim Carrey underplays — well, for Jim Carrey it is underplaying — a gay con man who will do anything to support the lavish lifestyle he has created for the love of his life, fellow criminal Ewan MacGregor. This movie turns the whole naive idea of positive role models on its head and fucks it joyfully up the ass."



Staten Island Foundation elects officers, directors

Published: Monday, June 27, 2011, 7:24 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- At its 13th annual meeting, The Staten Island Foundation board of directors elected two new members, Dolores Morris, former HBO vice president of family programming, and Daniel Master, chief assistant district attorney.

Jill O'Donnell Tormey of Grymes Hill and Allan Weissglass of Todt Hill were re-elected and all four will serve three year terms.

John R. Morris of Castleton Corners, a founding board member, retired and was recognized for his 14 years of distinguished service as treasurer, secretary, investment committee member and chair of the audit committee.

Following, at the regular meeting of the board of directors, Allan Weissglass was re-elected as chairman; Kathryn Rooney of Randall Manor was elected vice chairwoman; Lenore Puleo of Todt Hill was elected treasurer; and College of Staten Island President Tomás Morales was elected secretary.

The current board also includes Alice Diamond and Denis P. Kelleher, both of Todt Hill.

Since its establishment in 1997, The Staten Island Foundation has granted over \$44 million to local organizations for results for Staten Island in the areas of education, health, community capacity and the arts.

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Albuquerque Express

Is there a God? Aliens? Astrophysicist answers

Albuquerque Express
Monday 27th June, 2011
(Source: MSNBC)

"I've never been in a public environment where people know what I do where at least one of these questions was not asked," Liu said.

He is an astrophysics professor at the City University of New York's College of Staten Island and an associate at the Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History.

Over the years, Liu has developed some pretty solid answers, based on scientific evidence and his own opinion, to those three burning questions.

Here's what he told us. ...

Read the full story at **MSNBC**



Betsy Dubovsky, Ariana Hellerman, and Carol Schlitt Tour the Grounds

Credits:

Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel

Snug Harbor Cultural Center Opens Its Doors To Philanthropy

By [Elena Hart-Cohen](#), Staten Island Arts Examiner

In these tough economic times, cultural organizations that rely on philanthropy, are even feeling the financial pressure. One of New York City's finest arts centers, Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden, took its first step towards attracting private support from financial donors. The Livingston, Staten Island cultural center welcomed a group of philanthropists from off Staten Island yesterday, taking them to a personal tour of Snug Harbor and a lunch.

The event to attract support was hosted by the Staten Island Foundation and the Council on the Arts and Humanities for Staten Island. The guests were grantmakers from Philanthropy New York (PNY), an umbrella group of private funders based in Manhattan. The tour was an eye-opener for one funder, Carol Schlitt of the Open Society Foundations, in a report that aired on SI Live. "I was incredibly impressed," she said. "This is such a jewel, such a find."

After touring the Newhouse Gallery, the Children's Museum, the Tuscan Gardens and other attractions, including those under construction like the new Staten Island Museum site, Ms. Schlitt told *The Staten Island Advance* that Snug Harbor is making topnotch use of both its historic buildings and lush grounds. "It's great for children, families and artists," she said. "It really speaks to the community." "There's a wealth of contemporary artists here," she said. "That's something you wouldn't have known." Said Ms. Schlitt on SI Live, "It deserves support from the community. And from the philanthropic community as well."

Foundation Executive Director Betsy Dubovsky said that the Island groups and PNY "have teamed to give the participants a glimpse of all that Snug Harbor Cultural Center does and, given the funding, what more it could do."

Roderick Jenkins of the New York Community Trust told the local newspaper that the event was "a

fabulous idea. "It gets us out there to find out what's going on on Staten Island," he said. "It's an interesting way to introduce people to Staten Island. It's interesting and diverse, and there's a lot to look forward to."

"I hope good things come of it," said Alice Diamond on SI Live, a Snug Harbor founder and immediate past vice chairwoman of the Foundation, "and I'm sure they will."

At the luncheon in the Winter Garden, which was attended by cultural leaders from across the borough, Dr. Jonathan Peters of the [College of Staten Island](#) gave preliminary results of his analysis of the Pew Foundation's Cultural Data Project, which includes figures on cultural spending. "It begs the question of whether you're getting the arts out to the people," he told his audience. Allan Weissglass, chairman of the Foundation, told *The Staten Island Advance* that yesterday's tour was a step in a "long process" aimed at bringing more private, off-Island cultural funding to the borough.

Let's hope that at least when it comes to the arts Staten Island will not be the forgotten borough for much longer.

Deep roots

By [Jim Taylor - Lake Country Calendar](#)

Published: **June 29, 2011 11:00 AM**

Updated: **June 29, 2011 11:07 AM**

I dug a maple stump out of my front lawn. Not a particularly huge stump. We had planted the tree when we moved to this house in 1993, so it was only 18 years old. But it acquired an incurable fungus infection. This spring, no leaves came out. The tree had to come down.

I started work with naive enthusiasm. I'll cut through the surface layer of roots, I thought. Then the stump will come out easily.

Not likely! By the time I got down to the bottom-most roots, I stood in a pit as deep as my hip joints.

So I have added a new maxim to my collection of wisdom sayings – “Underneath every large root lies a bigger root.”

I offer that insight to anyone dealing with conflict resolution.

Because it seems to me, from my experience, that one can spend months analyzing factors that contribute to conflict, negotiating agreements, working towards reconciliation... Only to find that the problem hasn't been resolved at all.

It has merely shifted to a deeper root.

The people involved seem to share the same values. They can talk rationally. They understand the principles of conflict resolution.

Yet it's almost as if they're talking past each other.

Perhaps they are.

Psychologist Jonathan Haidt (of the University of Virginia) has studied the moral values by which we make decisions. He claims that there are five dominant values, found in all societies and civilizations:

1. Care for others, avoiding harm.
2. Fairness, justice, treating others equally.
3. Loyalty to one's group, family, nation.
4. Respect for tradition and legitimate authority.
5. Purity, avoiding disgusting things, foods, and actions.

But we each rank those values differently in importance. According to Haidt, people who identify themselves as liberals tend to give priority to the first two values; people who consider themselves conservatives are more likely to lean on the last three.

More specifically, conservatives ranked fairness lowest; liberals ranked purity lowest.

As a result, wrote professors Jane Dryden of Mount Allison University and Mark White of the College of Staten Island, "The two sides have difficulty understanding each other. It's not just that they disagree on issues, they have significantly different ways of conceiving morality itself."

Both sides assume that their ranking of values makes the only possible common sense. In fact, state Dryden and White, "They are deeply at odds with each other."

They offer three potential scenarios. Some will argue that practical decisions should promote the greatest good of the greatest number. For others, more focused on duty and universal principles, it will seem self-evident that respect for individual rights must take priority. A third group, whom Dryden and White call "care ethicists," will see social contexts and relationships as paramount.

For this third group, the "impersonal calculations" of the other two "can seem excessively cold and unfeeling."

"While our own moral principles are obvious to us," Dryden and White conclude, "they're not obvious to everyone."

The deeper the root, the harder it is to dig down to.

Jim Taylor is an Okanagan Centre author of 17 books and several thousand magazine and newspaper articles. He welcomes comments; rewrite@shaw.ca.

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Professor Kenshasa Shabaka Honored by Cambridge Who's Who for Excellence in Psychotherapy

Professor Kenshasa Shabaka advocates a comprehensive approach to stress through workshops and her own TV show

EAST HAMPTON, NY, June 30, 2011 /24-7PressRelease/ --Professor Kenshasa Shabaka, Founder and Consultant of Wholistic Life Stress Management and a retired Professor from the City University of New York, has been recognized by Cambridge Who's Who for demonstrating dedication, leadership and excellence in psychotherapy.

With 49 years of experience in mental health care, Professor Kenshasa Shabaka is a renowned authority on stress management psychotherapy. An educator and a television host, she is credited for developing the stress management course at the [College of Staten Island](#) and is known for her work with 1001 Ways to Cope with Stress, a show aired over Brooklyn Community Access Television (BCAT) and Manhattan Neighborhood Network (MNN). Now a mental health consultant certified by New York State, Prof. Shabaka counsels individuals, teaches stress management techniques, and conducts workshops on such topics as stress management, parenting and life skills, and challenging behaviors in children and adults.

Touched by tragedy in her own life, Prof. Shabaka knows first-hand the importance of a comprehensive approach to coping with stress. In 1980, she was a happily married psychology professor raising three young children. That year, though relatively young, her husband suffered a fatal hypertension-related stroke. Initially focused on recovering from her unexpected loss and adjusting to life as a single parent, Prof. Shabaka eventually discovered ways in which she could use her experience to help others. Through her work in a Head Start program, she strove to help children deal with emotional trauma and stress and soon found ways to apply her knowledge to adults as well. At the [College of Staten Island](#), she pioneered a stress management course that became so popular it was adopted by other CUNY colleges. Prof. Shabaka is pleased that she played a role in bringing stress management for students to the forefront.

Desiring to bring her message to a greater number of people, Prof. Shabaka joined BCAT in 2000. She took basic production classes and learned to produce her own show, 1001 Ways to Cope with Stress, which offers positive methods to address stress and create self-awareness. With a simple set — only wooden chairs, a table and a Nigerian Yoruba statue, which symbolizes her offering to the community and to the ancestors upon whose shoulders she stands — she offers her ideas for topics and guests, which often come from her own research and suggestions by viewers. Her shows have included meditation, panel discussions on topics like the need for strong ties to family and cultural heritage, demonstrations by dance groups, and interviews with community members who have a unique understanding of stress management. Prof. Shabaka recently completed taping on Control Your Breath, Control Your Life, a seven-part series in which Sifu Roosevelt Gainey, a 40-year martial arts veteran, teaches breathing techniques to relieve stress and improve health. Mr. Gainey professes that disease cannot live in a body that is fully oxygenated and that breathing exercises can improve vitality and treat ailments from heart trouble to cancer.

A more recent seven-part series featured Dr. John L. Bolling, founder of the Mandala Cultural Institute in Harlem, New York City. Dr. Bolling introduces a soul-centered focus back into psychology in the context of the current global paradigm shift and the coming 2012 transformation in consciousness.

Prof. Shabaka received her master of science in clinical psychology in 1962 from The George Washington University and her bachelor of science in psychology from Butler University. She also completed coursework in psychoanalytic art therapy at New York University. She currently sits on the board of the Mandela Soul Centered Psychology Institute.

1001 Ways to Cope with Stress airs Tuesday evenings from 8:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. EST over Brooklyn Cable Access Television on Channels 34 or 67. It can also be viewed on Manhattan Neighborhood Network on Fridays at 10:00 a.m. EST on Channels 34, 56 and 83. It can also be accessed at the same timeslot through the website <http://www.bricartsmedia.org/bcat> (Channel 1). Internet access is available through www.mnn.org.

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Other lives



A billboard of the High Line before its renovation (taken from the High Line). 3:00 PM. Photo: JH.

Thursday, June 30, 2011.

“Lust and greed are more gullible than innocence.” **Mason Cooley.**

Mr. Cooley (I Googled him and got Wikipedia) was an American aphorist “known for his witty aphorisms.” Mr. Cooley, who died in 2002 at 75, was an English professor here in New York at the College of Staten Island and at Columbia.

The quote came from one of the financial web sites I read almost daily called [Jesse's Café Americain](#) which always opens with an interesting quote/thought.

Today was the Wednesday/Michael's bit. I was surprised to see the place packed, since the long holiday weekend is only hours away for some of us. In the Garden Room there was a special lunch hosted by the cast of *Damages*, the **Glenn Close** legal show. Also present were **John Goodman**, **Rose Byrne** and **Dylan Baker**.



Another view from the High Line.

Around the room. **Joe Armstrong** with **Sherrie Westin, Jon Tisch and Matt Blank, Peggy Siegal** with **Stephanie Winston Wolkoff, Nikki Haskell, Joan Gelman and Elena Mannes, Rosanna Scotto, Lynn White, Penny Crone; Ed Minskoff and Steven Gilbert, George Malkemus, Steven Rubenstein, Anne Sutherland Fuchs, Pia Lindstrom** with **Liz Peek; Gerry Byrne, Roger Friedman** with **Larry Hackett of *People*; Diane Clehane** with **Lucy, Laura and Lori**, those three marketeers -- **Lucy Danziger, Laura Brounstein, and Lori Leibovich**. If you don't know who they are, it doesn't matter: they know who you are.

Moving on: **Peter Brown, Jason Binn, Elihu Rose, Andy Marks, Amy Raskin, Chris Meigher, Nikki Field, Paula Wagner** (Tom Cruise's producing partner), **Alice Mayhew, Rob Weisbach, Jesse Cagle, David Sanford** (publisher of the *WSJ*), **Les Goodstein** (of the *Daily News*).

Old friends, other lives. I was lunching with an old friend, **Peter Gina** (*Gin-ay*) whom I have known since the early '60s in New York. Peter lives out in Aspen (in Basalt actually). He is a New York boy, growing up on East 90th and Madison in a 14 room co-op which his mother and father bought in 1949 for \$5300. Peter's mother died two years ago, and he and his sister sold the apartment at a considerably higher price.

Peter went to Collegiate, then Dartmouth, then the Marines, then to work in the family business (Sardi's restaurant – his maternal grandfather and uncle were **Vincent Sardi, Sr. and Jr.**), then to Columbia Business, then to Wall Street. By that time the '60s were over, The War In Viet Nam was finally drawing to its ending, and our generation was busy Finding Themselves, with changing lifestyles and directions left and right. I was one of them although I went farther west.

In the early 1970s, Peter decided to leave the canyons of Wall Street. With a Volkswagen bus holding his belongings, a couple of cats, and a girlfriend at the time, he set out for Aspen, Colorado. Aspen was then a popular ski-community but far smaller, more rustic, and simpler than it is today. It was popular with wealthy Texans and the younger social set of New York who had the time and money to spend a few weeks of winter there on the slopes and kicking back. It was just beginning to become a destination for Arab sheiks, Hollywood



Sardi's today. New owners have expanded the restaurant space by more than twice what it was in the 60s. But the atmosphere remains.

cowboys and jet-setting snow bunnies with their takeover-artist tycoon husbands. Mainly it was a healthy population of women and men, like Peter Gina, who had opted out of city life.

The whole thing was a romantic notion sought by many. Freedom is the key word, whatever it might mean to each. Peter saw freedom in living in the mountains of Colorado – definitely a romantic notion if you’ve never lived there before. Once ensconced in a small rented cabin just outside town, he got a job as a waiter/sommelier in one of the town’s better known restaurants. He worked there for a number of years. In wintertime he worked Ski Patrol during the day. That’s how he supported himself. And put something aside too.

In those days, people changed their directions and lifestyle more than once or even twice. Peter, however, stuck to his decision. What he got from it, by my observation has been: living the simple working life, working day and working night; living for a long time even with just a bicycle, no car. From the looks of it, it’s been frugal but not generously so, and his set of needs – that which satisfies – are basic and require nothing outside of his own ingenuity (and assets accumulated and acquired).

Over the years, Peter also purchased a little property from time to time, with an eye on building a house some day. Eventually he accumulated about 60 acres on a mountaintop in Basalt.

In the late '90s he decided, as long planned, to build on the land, overlooking his perfect view. And so he did, doing much of the construction himself (when humanly reasonable). By the time he got his house – which is very environmentally practical and sound – he got the icing on the cake. It’s quite an achievement, to my way of thinking, and on many levels.

He comes East once a year to see his sister and brother-in-law (who was a classmate at Dartmouth). When his mother was living he came twice a year. He’s now what could be termed “retired” – no more tables at night and slopes by day – and donates his working time to helping out others in the community, such as the elderly, the infirm, those in need.



Vincent Sardi Jr., Peter's maternal uncle. Vincent had a unique personality as a restaurant host. He was often enthusiastic giving his guest of sense of instant intimacy. Then they would be led away to their table and he'd turn it on for the next guest. But it was total charm and camaraderie. By then the name Sardi was part of Broadway lore and legend. All opening nights were held there. It was the heart of the Great White Way.



Apple Cube under construction. It is now completely covered from view by that white siding.

59th. The Cube is undergoing some kind of refurbishment or repair as it is entirely cubed in white.

Peter had never been in an Apple store and doesn't own a computer. I've been telling him for some time that he'd love the access to news and financials that can be found in such wide array on the web, including all of the independents who are often far superior to the mainstream media.

I suggested we go inside the Apple store so that he could see what a hive of activity it

When he and I get together on his annual visits, that is the only time we communicate during the year. Doesn't matter, we talk about the same things we always talk about with each other – politics, the financials and the personal side of all that. After lunch I walked with Peter for a few blocks up Fifth Avenue which was of course bustling on this beautiful summer day. He still wanted to soak up the city life.

There was the always busy thoroughfare in front of the Apple Cube in front of the GM Building (briefly the Trump) between 58th and

was. So we did. He was amazed and marveling. Soon he was discussing with a staff person what to get for his circumstances and needs. The staff person was very helpful in steering him to the right product for him and his needs. I can see one of these days we'll have email conversations.

When Peter was a New Yorker, and working at Sardi's and later downtown, he only wore Italian bespoke suits from Dimitri. Far from a dandy, but he was a thoroughly well turned out young New Yorker. In the decades he's lived in the Rockies, it's been the obvious switch – jeans and open neck shirts, sneakers. Back in New York it's the same. I wouldn't be surprised if he doesn't own a jacket, or one that's not 35 years old.

When we were young men in New York, I, the country boy, had a certain awe for my contemporaries who grew up in Manhattan. They seemed more self-assured about the ways of the world, and getting around. And indeed they were. Yesterday I saw the converse. My former New Yorker friend, now a man from the mountains, was the country boy, and I was the city boy. Or city slicker as they used to say.

It was through Peter Gina during that decade, when I was briefly pursuing an acting career in New York, that I got a part time job at Sardi's. I worked the door as assistant to Jimmy, the maitre d' -- 4:30 to 7:30 for the dinner hour, five nights a week, and the two matinee days, Wednesday and Saturday from 11:30 to 2.

Peter's uncle Vincent owned the place and ran it. Vincent had a world class personality, a celebrated charm and the restaurant that was legendary in Broadway lore. The world came to dine and lunch. All. The. Time. **Streisand** was still on Broadway, *Hello Dolly* was at the St. James. *Fiddler* at the Majestic, *Cabaret*, **Albee**, **Neil Simon**. *A Funny Thing Happened*, **Sondheim**, **Rodgers**, **Jerry Robbins**. **David Merrick** had three or four shows running at a time. And they all came to Sardi's. Every lunch hour and every dinner. Hollywood came too. And Wall Street and Park Avenue. Anyone who was going to the theatre that night.

It was the beginning of my education as a New Yorker with all its bright lights. Sardi's was a little epicenter of enormous talent and celebrity to awe the kid, and awe it did, as you may have noticed at times, dear reader. But that's for another Diary.



I didn't bring my camera along today so I'll have to run this photo I took of Peter when he was in New York last year. On his last day he always goes and buys something practical and necessary (like a bathrobe) at Bloomingdales and then carries it in a recyclable sack. As you can see by his facial expression, he is full of good cheer; an optimistic outlook comes naturally to him.

Sports



CSI Graduation: Congrats Dolphins 2011

Courtesy of Staten Island Sports Information



The **College of Staten Island** celebrated its 35th Commencement exercises today, as over 2,500 graduates donned their caps and gowns and collected on the campus' Great Lawn. The rousing ceremony saw several **CSI** student-athletes in attendance receiving their diplomas, with a collection receiving awards and citations from commencement and academic departments.

President Morales delivered the celebration's inaugural address, citing the **College of Staten Island** degree programs as the one of the most recognized regionally and nationally. Honorary Doctorate Degrees were given to Denis M. Hughes, President of the AFL-CIO, Diane Kelder, professor at the CUNY Graduate Center, and John Noble Wilford, author and journalist. Greetings were then delivered by the honorable Senator Charles Schumer, keynote speaker New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli and 2011 Valedictorian Melissa Horne.



CUNYAC Goodwill Tour 2011 - New Orleans - A Great Success

Alex Lang & Shannon Roberts



Photo by: Kenson Noel

The City University of New York Athletic Conference wrapped up their Goodwill Trip to New Orleans on June 4th, as the group arrived home at John F. Kennedy International Airport. While the group was tired from their flight, they were grateful for the experience of the previous ten days.

“The Goodwill Tour at Home was a resounding success,” said Zak Ivkovic, the CUNY Athletics Commissioner. “It was priceless to see our students work hard to make a difference in New Orleans and do it all with a smile and a helping hand, I couldn’t ask for more from them.”

The Goodwill Tour was the first sponsored by the CUNYAC since 2007 when a team of baseball all-stars went to Italy. This year’s trip was unique in comparison to past tours as it featured scholar-athletes from all of the campuses of CUNY and its main purpose was to participate in community service projects to help in the rebuilding of New Orleans. The student-athletes chosen represented a variety of sports as well as both genders, both firsts for the Goodwill Tour. Another difference from past tours was the addition of non-athletes who represented the Macaulay Honors College and CUNY student government.

In addition to the twenty students selected, ten staff members, including members of various campuses, the CUNYAC and CUNY Central, were chosen for the trip.

The diverse group had the chance to meet twice before the May 25th departure date, allowing for some icebreaking in addition to a brief education on the purpose of the trip, the mission where they would stay, the rules of the trip and an outlined itinerary. While there was some trepidation, including two students who had never been on an airplane, Team CUNY was focused and excited to take part in this meaningful expedition.

Team CUNY departed from John F. Kennedy International Airport on May 25th at 6:30 am Eastern Standard Time and arrived in New Orleans’ Louis Armstrong International Airport at 9 am Central Standard Time.

The diverse group's first adventure was the flight itself as it marked the first time on an airplane for two of the students, Kimberly Battle of City Tech and Janet Goodwin of Medgar Evers. "I felt nervous and a little anxious as it was my first time being on a plane," said Goodwin. "I asked everyone on my Facebook page to pray."

When the group arrived at Annunciation Mission, their home for the next 10 days, they began to receive an education about New Orleans and the city's post-Katrina plight.

Duane Nettles, the Director, spoke passionately about the focus of the mission, the history of New Orleans and its people, and the work that the CUNYAC Goodwill Tour would be doing over the next ten days.

"The most important thing that you all are going to do is arriving today," said Mr. Nettles. He hammered home the point that the city did not receive the much needed help from different forms of government. As much as the community service would physically help New Orleans, the act of being here and helping is far more important to the people trying to rebuild.

The students and staff of the CUNYAC were touched by these words. "The people seem genuine," said Herschel Jenkins of the College of Staten Island. "They are here because they want to be. I was reminded of my hometown of Newark, New Jersey," continued the sophomore men's basketball player.

One of the highlights of Day One was the return home for Hostos Community College volleyball player, Bavaryl Guity, who lived in New Orleans with her family during Katrina. She was actually on a two-week vacation in New York City when the storm hit but was unable to move back to New Orleans for some time, forcing her to relocate to Houston and then Alabama before eventually returning to New Orleans. She chose to leave her family in New Orleans to move to the Bronx and live with her grandmother. While she has been back home to New Orleans a few times since she moved, the last time was just over a year ago on Mother's Day of 2010.

Tonight she was able to see her mother for the first time since the 2010 visit. Returning home and taking part in the days events with the Tour stirred up some emotions for the sophomore. "I am excited to be back home," said Guity "I don't know what to expect. It looks like they are rebuilding but I haven't seen my old neighborhood yet."

Day Two started early for the New Yorkers as breakfast was served at 6:30 am. While somewhat tired from the day before, spirits were high, and the bunch were excited to get to work.

"After a long day yesterday, we got right to work today," Jonathan Castillo of Queensborough Community College said. "We were out at 8 am in the hot sun. I am usually sleeping at that time but it felt good to get working and make a contribution."

First task of the day would be to do some gardening and housework at the Annunciation Mission, the home site of the Tour. A majority of the CUNY party applied some sunscreen, put on their work gloves and headed out to the garden. They got right to work weeding, raking, shoveling and pushing the wheel barrel as they totally reworked the earth. The indoor group worked hard as well, cleaning the bathrooms, kitchen and hallway.

Next on the day's agenda was a trip to the Green Charter School in the Central City section of New Orleans, only blocks away from the mission. Kelly Regan, the director of outreach for the institution's Edible School Yard, gave a brief overview of their history. The school was nearly closed due to poor performance but was reinvigorated with an influx of community help and a creative program.

The CUNY volunteers handled a variety of chores in the garden. Many weeded, while some worked on disinfecting the greenhouse and others helped move equipment. While there, one of the teachers recognized the CUNYAC logo and came out to talk to the group. Her name was Johari Harris, a CCNY graduate, and former soccer player, who relocated to New Orleans two years ago and has been teaching at Green. Harris informed the group that she was just awarded a Fulbright Scholarship before bringing her class of 4th graders over. The children interacted with the CUNY students and staff talking about sports and their experience at the school.

"Today at the school we worked really hard but it is well worth it because we know it was for a great cause," said Alyssa Lubrino a sophomore from Baruch.

"It was interesting to see the children build connections with the cafeteria and the food grown in the garden, as well as their ability to be immersed in the entire process," said sophomore Lorena Russi of Queens College."

On Day Three the Goodwill Team arrived at Bayou Rebirth/Common Ground, a not for profit organization, filled with excitement and ready to get to work. The group was greeted by Amanda, the Volunteer Coordinator, who provided an overview of the organization. Many were impressed with the nonprofit and what they accomplish with limited resources.

Amanda went on to explain that her organization received a donation of 9,000 Cypress seedlings and needed help with potting the seedlings. The seedlings will grow at the nursery for about a year and then be placed in their permanent home within the Louisiana wetlands. The Cypress trees are an imperative component of the wetlands, as they help with filtration and prevent soil erosion. Unfortunately the salt water from the man-made canals and devastation from Hurricane Katrina depletes the Cypress trees at a catastrophic level.

"I feel very touched for the people who were here in 2005, given what we saw in the media," said Loukman Lamany of Bronx Community College. "Society is based on the eco system and many people live off selling vegetation. If this happened in my home country of Togo (in West Africa) it would be disastrous."

An afternoon visit to Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge capped off the day's activities for the CUNY volunteers. This day allowed the group to become more cohesive. It was also a great reminder as to why New Orleans needs help from volunteer groups like the CUNY Goodwill Tour.

Day Four was one of the most meaningful days of the trip as the group had their most eye-opening look at the damage caused by Katrina, as they visited the Lower Ninth Ward, a low-income area of New Orleans where much of the devastation from the hurricane can still be seen. The Goodwill Team was met by Smitty, a historian who grew up in the neighborhood and still lives there. Smitty rode around with the group, giving a tour of the Lower Ninth, while stopping along the way to point out some of the scenery, while sharing some of his own stories of the hurricane.

Smitty, a gentleman of great experience, talked of hurricane Betsy (1965) and how some of the homes in the Lower Ninth Ward never totally recovered from that storm, and Katrina basically finished them off. While driving through the neighborhood the devastation was obvious, as bare lots where houses used to stand was the norm, abandoned houses facing inevitable devastation plentiful and less commonly, some rebuilt dwellings standing strong in the New Orleans heat.

"Compared to pictures & videos, being there was something else, unlike anything that could be seen on television," said Edwin Marrero of BMCC. "Seeing the level of actual devastation and to picture water 10 feet high was unimaginable, and something I will never forget."

Smitty went on to tell stories of how the looting began and of a confrontation with the NOPD in the midst of trying to get water, toilet paper and food during the aftermath of Katrina, where large groups of displaced residents were wandering around the city.

The afternoon activity consisted of a sports clinic, run by the CUNYAC group, that was advertised to the children of the Ninth Ward by All Souls Church. Between 30 and 40 children of all ages arrived to enjoy the day on the levee, in an open field right off the Mississippi River, playing softball, football, volleyball, soccer, frisbee and basketball. The day was extremely hot, as most May New Orleans days are, but the kids and CUNYAC Team found great joy in spending some hours playing games, talking, joking and drinking some gatorade by the cooler. "One of the kids named Gerald came up to me & said you played with me the whole day today and thanked me," said Mickey Abbatiello. "I thought it was really cool that he was appreciative for what we were doing."

Day Five was a day off from volunteering, but there would be no break from learning, as the group took a trip to Jean Lafitte National Historic Park and Preserve. The group was met by Ranger Jack at 11 am at the visitor's center, where he began a hike that would show off some of the park's terrain. He gave them an overview of the history, talked about some of the trees and wildlife of the park, and some tips on how to not get attacked by an alligator.

Once the hike was over, the CUNY students and staff ate lunch and then headed for a tour of the Destrehan Plantation. The guided tour gave information on the history and restoration of this plantation, originally owned by a French Creole family. The tour guides split the CUNY group into two to more easily show them around the main

house, telling stories of the different rooms and showing a bathtub that was a gift to the family from Napoleon Bonaparte. While somewhat glamorizing the lavish style and traditional French quarters, the guide also showed some of the brutality on the plantation, as slaves were a mainstay and driving force behind the cash crops grown on the land. A story of one of the biggest slave rebellions and consequent execution of those slaves involved, left many of the students feeling a great deal of ambivalence toward the day's findings.

"The plantation gave a background to some of the segregation that Smitty talked of the day before," said Alyssa Lubrino a sophomore at Baruch College. "We were able to see some of the history that didn't focus on Katrina and current events, but instead gave us a broader history of New Orleans."

On Day Six, Memorial Day, the group was split up at the beginning of the work day, as fractions went to different worksites. Some stayed on the Annunciation campus while others went to local homes and some went to a local community center. It was the first time on the trip that the CUNY Team would be split into groups.

The fraction that remained at the Annunciation Mission watched a brief video that showed the plight of Father Jerry Kramer, of the Church of the Annunciation. He was shown walking toward the church in the days following Katrina, only able to find his way after he saw some neighbors who gave him their boat. The visual effect of the video was tremendous as it showed Kramer walking into the same entrance to the mission that the group has been going in and out of daily in their stay. The video then went on to interview many of the community members who were left without a home after Katrina and received help from the mission and consequently joined the cause, remaining with the mission.

"Seeing the video was heartbreaking," said Kevin McKessey of Medgar Evers College. "I got a chance to speak with Perry, a truck driver who was interviewed in the video. He was telling me how difficult it was to leave the city during Katrina. The highways were backed up and then if you got off an exit, you would not be allowed to get back on. When he got to Atlanta, he never planned on coming back. When the mission asked for his help, he returned and when he saw how much good he could do for the community he stayed."

After seeing the video, the volunteers from CUNY were highly motivated in the task of painting what will be a community center on the grounds of the Annunciation Mission campus. Duane, the Director of the mission, would lead the painting crew in prepping for their days' work and then they would proceed to climb their ladders and start priming the building.

One of the other fractions of Team CUNY went out to a local resident's home to help him with some work around the house. Jack, an activist in the community, gave much of his time to helping neighbors over his lifetime. Much of the needed help with was actually lighter than what the group was used to doing over their time in New Orleans, but the effect the CUNY students and staff who visited with him was far greater than any chore. "He appreciated talking to us and making a connection," said Danielle Maresca of Brooklyn College. "I got to meet his dog and we found out we are both dog lovers. I could tell that it meant a lot to him that we were there."

On Day Seven most of Team CUNY got right back to work on projects they started the day before. The 8 am start to the work day has become routine for the group and therefore energy was high and the day ahead seemed to be bright.

One of the projects that would be continued on Tuesday was the painting of the Presleys' home a few minutes from Annunciation Mission. The Presleys are a couple who could not afford to make necessary improvements on their home largely due to being conned by an unscrupulous contractor. A large amount of money was taken from the couple and services were not completed. The Presleys turned to asking help of volunteers from Annunciation, however, they discussed that there are many problems with some of the volunteers that have passed through their home. Many volunteers are not diligent and therefore the work must be redone. In addition, many helpers only stay for a day or two and then the couple must train new workers to continue a job that takes a week or more to complete. The couple was glad that the CUNY Team was here because they would stay through Friday and were hard-working and organized. While on Monday the fraction sent to the couple's house mainly prepped, on Tuesday they began to paint and made lots of progress. "At first it seemed like an impossible challenge to paint the Presley house. We came together as a team, created a game plan, and got to work. I'm really proud of all we accomplished for the Presley family." commented Shanita Scott of Hostos Community College.

One segment of the group that would not be continuing with a project from the previous day headed to meet a man named Rene who needed help constructing his house. Rene, who is currently living with a friend while his domicile is being worked on, is a New Jersey native who came to help post-Katrina. Like many of the volunteers who came to

New Orleans, he ended up remaining in the city helping many to rebuild their homes. A charitable man, Rene did not worry about his own living situation but is trying, with help from Team CUNY, to get his own house built. "Rene needed help with his patio. I didn't get a chance to finish but it's coming out nicely. I can't wait to finish it so I can give back to a man that gave so much to his community" explained Kim Battle from City Tech. The CUNY volunteers gave him great reason to be optimistic as they made tremendous headway throughout the day and promised to return tomorrow.

Team CUNY continued to get to work on Day Eight and many saw lots of progress on projects started earlier in the week. One portion of the group returned to help out Rene construct a water filtration system and other projects around his home. Those who participated got useful lessons in construction. "Learning to use a saw was a lot of fun," expressed Jonathan Castillo from Queensborough Community College. "I learned a lot about cutting boards at different angles. Geovanny and I worked on fixing up a fence that a different group had done incorrectly. We had to remove the planks, then cut and reshape the boards so they were straight. We also cut boards for the water filtration system. Today was a lot of fun."

Those working on the community center at the Annunciation Mission campus continued putting primer on before moving to painting. "Everyone was tired but rebounded, pulled it together and finished strong," explained Kaili Insalaco of John Jay. "We ran into some issues with the fact that the primer and the paint looked exactly the same in the sun, so it was hard to remember what was painted and what wasn't. Although we tend to get in the zone when we work and stop talking, we still have a lot of nice conversations and have learned a lot about each other."

Day Nine saw some extreme heat as temperatures neared 100 degrees, but Team CUNY's hard work did not falter. Half of the group continued painting the community center and the other half returned to the home of Rene to finish up the water filtration system and other projects.

Team CUNY members who were working at Rene's home were determined to finish up and they succeeded. Planting, painting, and building rounded out their day and they left with a feeling of accomplishment. "Working with Rene gave me a sense of nostalgia, said Geovanny Arredondo of Lehman College. "Rene told me my task of the day was to paint the fence next to the deck. My father works as a carpenter and a painter so I had previous experience. As I painted away I couldn't help but to think about my dad and all that he taught me."

The day concluded with a fun evening of community involvement. Executive Director, Brad Powers, from the Jericho Road Episcopal Housing Initiative, a neighborhood based nonprofit homebuilder that provides families with healthy and energy-efficient affordable housing options, visited the Mission to speak with the group. Brad provided a background overview of the organization and answered questions across a range of topics including: crime, population, and housing. Team CUNY then traveled to the Lower Ninth Ward Village, a Community Center, to participate in all ages open mic night. Kaili Insalaco, Gloria Cavallaro, Ja'Net Goodwin, Joviette Frederick, Kimberly Battle, Mickey Abbatiello, Bavaryl Guity, Herschel Jenkins, Trina McCandless, Lorena Russi, Staffer Shanita Scott, and Conference Commissioner Zak Ivkovic all showcased their talents: comedy, poetry reading, juggling, "the snake" (a stomach exercise), short story reading, and singing.

Team CUNY's last day in New Orleans started off with an emotional experience. The group that had completed the work at the home of Rene the day before traveled to the home of Germaine. Germaine was greatly affected by Hurricane Katrina and Team CUNY was sent to paint her new home.

Post Hurricane Katrina, Germaine evacuated to Dallas, Texas where she took shelter and volunteered with Habitat for Humanity while she awaited the signal that she could return to New Orleans. Germaine's family home near the Garden District was destroyed by the storm and the amount of damage was irreparable. Germaine lost her mother shortly after Hurricane Katrina; the stress from the devastation of losing their home was too much for the senior citizen. Germaine and her family were welcomed in by the community of Gentilly, and nearly 6 years later she finally has a home to call her own. With the help of St. Paul's Homecoming Center, and their many volunteers, Germaine will be able to live in her home very soon.

The group working in the Community Center finished everything they set out to complete. "It felt good to complete the project we were working hard on all week. To know that we were able to give back to the community of New Orleans was very fulfilling." Alyssa Lubrino of Baruch College.

After a hot and humid morning of work, Team CUNY enjoyed an afternoon of shopping and seeing the sights around New Orleans before moving onto their last meal in the city. A tremendous wrap up to the Goodwill Tour, the group

dined at Galvez, a beautiful restaurant in the French Quarter. Cesar, the owner, is a York College alum, and his niece Jessica, a waitress, briefly attended Medgar Evers College where she played on the softball team. They not only accommodated the large group, but they treated Team CUNY like family. A delicious farewell meal, topped off with impeccable service, left Team CUNY proud of the work they had completed and the new friends they had made. To find the CUNY connection here in New Orleans once more was a realization of the impact CUNY has across the country.

The group would wake up the following morning to catch an early morning flight back to New York, but before they would go their separate ways, many gave their sentiments on this wonderful trip:

Herschel Jenkins, College of Staten Island Men's Basketball: "The CUNYAC Goodwill Tour to New Orleans has been a tremendous experience. We have met the most amazing and inspirational people throughout this trip. We have done more than just paint, build, and clean up the area. We have made a real difference in people's lives just by listening to their stories and the pain they went through. These people have also affected me. I have a greater appreciation for life and what I have. I took for granted the what my parents did for me and the support they provided; now I know how much it takes for me to have what I have. This has truly been a life changing experience."

Alyssa Lubrino, Baruch College Women's Swimming: "The CUNY Goodwill Tour has been one of the greatest learning experiences of my life. Visiting a place in which people are faithful to themselves, each other, and their entire community while rebuilding a destroyed city is one of the best ways to see how simply one's attitude can change a life. By staying positive and accepting the help and support of those around them, New Orleans has been able to keep volunteers who are happy and willing to help. In return, New Orleans makes every person who steps on this soil grateful and ultimately a better person."

Bavarly Guity, Hostos Community College Women's Volleyball: "One of the main things I'm bringing back with me after this amazing trip is effort. I personally didn't come close to knowing exactly what we were going to do in New Orleans but the simple fact that we had a mission to accomplish without knowing if we were really going to change anyone's lives was something that really touched me. We made a great effort to get to our job sites as early as possible just to help others who had been affected by the storm. We didn't feel like we were doing much but the fact that they constantly reminded us that what we were doing was making a huge difference in their lives really made us feel like HERO's. I'm very glad that I was one of the chosen ones to attend this trip. I'm happy that I was able to help heal and also be healed as I helped others. It's amazing how after 6 whole years and counting the New Orleans tradition is still alive. I'm looking forward to another trip and continuing to help heal."

Heather Ruger, City College of New York Women's Soccer and Track & Field: "I came on this trip thinking that I would be helping to build a house. Instead I was assigned to painting the outside of a community center. I was originally disappointed with this assignment, thinking "how is this helping anyone." Then as I proceeded through the week on my project, I saw the difference I was making. Multiple times a day people would walk by the center stop to look and comment on how nice it looked. I finally realized I was helping an entire community. The fresh paint is a new start, the building is on the border of two social classes and it is a safe haven for all. I helped to unite the community and give them a sense of hope and pride. That is more helpful than anything else and can carry the community through anything."

Alisa Jaganjac, Hunter College Women's Volleyball and Tennis: "I have had the opportunity to meet people with the biggest and warmest hearts. Everyone welcomed us with open hands and would not stop thanking us for just showing up. They kept reminding us that our presence here gives them hope. What they don't understand is they have given me more than I could ever give them. They allowed me into their homes, schools, and organizations in order to be a part of rebuilding one of the best cities in the world. It is an honor to be the chosen student-athlete from Hunter College and to be given an opportunity to come down to Louisiana and really make a difference. The biggest lesson the New Orleanians have taught me is to keep fighting. They love their city and despite this terrible manmade disaster, they are not running away from it -they are staying and refusing to give up. They are the living proof of "Where there is a will, there is a way". I thank them for proving that statement and allowing me to be included in the fight."

Joviette Frederick, York College Women's Cross Country and Softball: "It was a great opportunity being selected to participate in such a mission that would greatly affect the lives of people. I felt part of a movement to rebuild New Orleans. With that came great opportunities to meet new people and listen to the stories of what these citizens have been through. Living through a catastrophe such as the earthquake in Haiti, I can relate to every single person's story. Out of this trip I take with me that although we can't heal wounds over night or even in 5 years, the people of New Orleans and Louisiana in whole appreciate every effort given from others and I am very much proud to say I helped these people in some way. One day I can point to that house and say I helped paint it or look at that tree and say I helped pot it long ago. I can also say WE, the scholar athletes of the City University of New York carried our

bags to Louisiana with the intent to move people and the people of Louisiana moved us.”

Elston Alexis, *Medgar Evers College Men's Track & Field*: “This tour to New Orleans has been a good a experience for me. It opened my eyes to the condition of some parts of the US outside of New York. I was surprised to see the horrible state of New Orleans 6 years after Katrina hit. It was saddening to hear the stories of the people here and to see so many homes abandoned or damaged. And the more disturbing fact about New Orleans is that it has ongoing disasters, for example every hour more than a football field of land is lost. New Orleans definitely needs aid from both the Government and the citizens of this country. I will bring back with me a better awareness to the different situations that exist outside of New York. I am extremely happy to know that I have helped rebuild this wonderful city.”

Also Featured on: NCAA

Tottenville's Tierney can honor father's legacy and cement own with title

By ZACH BRAZILLER
3:25 AM, June 11, 2011

Tom Tierney picked up the phone and was talking like any other night, like he hadn't just lost his father, Tom Tierney Sr., the man he grew up idolizing and succeeding at Tottenville. There was no hint of despair or anguish in his voice, though it certainly was there inside somewhere.

To those familiar with the younger Tierney, it was hardly a surprise, to see how he handled his father's death April 12 and has guided the Pirates back to the PSAL Class A finals in the ensuing months.

Unlike his father, who compiled a 940-120 record in 33 seasons in building Tottenville into a city juggernaut, Tierney has never been emotional. He's a thinker instead of a reactor, his sister Colleen says, which has enabled him to deal with adversity well. Good friend and former teammate Mike Mauro described Tierney as a multi-tasker, someone who could mourn his father's death while be there for his entire team at the same time.

"He's just the type that can handle adversity better than anybody I know," says Mauro, the [College of Staten Island](#) baseball coach. "With his dad passing way, you would think he would be crumbling, not able to focus. Yet he has this inner strength. I saw him the very next day after the funeral. He just gives you a little nod, a little wink, 'Hey, I'm OK.'"

Tierney didn't play baseball at Tottenville. He was one of the nation's top golfers and earned a scholarship to LSU. After one year, he grew tired of the sport and got back into baseball, came home and played for John Jay and later briefly in the minor leagues.

He served as an assistant under his father at Tottenville before running the baseball program at New Utrecht for several years until coming back home to Huguenot in 2000. Since taking over for his father, Tierney has picked up where his old man left off, winning five city titles in 11 years and now finds himself one win shy of No. 6 entering Saturday's PSAL Class A championship game against George Washington.

"He had gotten the program to an elite level and I'm just trying to continue that," he says. "He had the blueprint in place for a championship program."

His teams have shown an impeccable ability to improve as the summer nears, a nod to Tierney's challenging ways, McKee/Staten Island Tech baseball coach Mike Grippo says. Grippo, a Tottenville alum who played on the Pirates when Tierney was an assistant, said the yearly improvements of the Pirates are related to the challenging schedule Tierney compiles and his playoff mindset.

Players swear by Tierney, despite the relentless workouts he puts them through. Shortstop Gil Mendoza, a standout on the football team, said baseball practices are by far the toughest, full of running and sprinting.

"It surprised me – it surprises a lot of kids," Mendoza said.

Tierney makes it enjoyable, catcher/designated hitter George Kantzian says, often turning mundane drills into games. He makes it clear there is a time to work and time to have fun.

Joe DiFede, whose had two sons play for Tierney, said he's never seen him yell at a player, let alone scold one. The most DiFede ever saw was Tierney pulling a player aside and gently explain what he did wrong.

He motivates with actions rather than words, treating practices like tryouts.

Last year, for instance, he dropped star center fielder Zach Granite, who is now at Seton Hall, to ninth in the order. He recently dropped clutch postseason performance Kantzian to sixth. When Stony Brook commit Kevin Krause missed 10 days with a broken toe and Kantzian performed well in his absence behind the plate, he remained there upon Krause's return.

"He has a way to make his team ready for big competition," Mendoza said. "Practice is key for him. If he sees your working hard, he'll put you in during a key situation."

Communication is arguably his greatest asset, odd considering he keeps his personal feelings close to the vest. A player will never find out about a demotion through others, Tierney makes sure of that. He will often run by changes with his seniors, getting their input first.

Tierney has picked up coaching tips from many outlets along the way, of course starting with his dad, but not relegated to his knowledge.

He emphasizes fundamentals. His teams, Grippo says, may be cockier than the elder Tierney's club, but that's more a generational byproduct. Mauro says Tierney's greatest in-game strength is his ability to look ahead, to envision moves two or three innings before they happen.

"That's something that's very tough to be taught – it's just in you and he has it," Mauro says.

The teams are similar in their execution and playoff success, and it starts with the coaches, Grippo says. Neither would

ever be content – though they went about it differently.

Getting Tierney to open up about his father is about as easy as scoring a run this postseason off Tottenville Michael Sullivan, who has yet to allow a single runner to cross the plate in 15-2/3 innings pitched. Kantzian joked "he's definitely a hard read." Tierney says he will think more about it by Saturday night, and only then, particularly if the Pirates are able to repeat. His sister, Colleen, knows differently.

"I don't think he wants to talk about it, but it would mean a lot," she says. "I feel my dad with him, looking over him. I'm sure my brother senses him being there. But the fact is he's not there and it's really hard on Tom."

It would be apropos, the first time he wins back-to-back titles – a feat his father accomplished twice – coming just months after Tierney Sr.'s passing. After enough prodding, the coach finally relented.

"It would definitely," he says, "be special."

Tierney says he rarely thinks about future plans, whether he wants to coach Tottenville baseball the rest of his life. He's more focused on Saturday, sending this group out as winners and making sure they have colleges set up, then his own well-being.

At 44 years of age and with two children, he's found a fit, just like the man before him who got the program started. A win Saturday and the two are tied in terms of titles and with junior pitchers like Sullivan and Vin Aiello returning, a dropoff doesn't seem anywhere close.

"The torch was passed to the right person," Grippo says.

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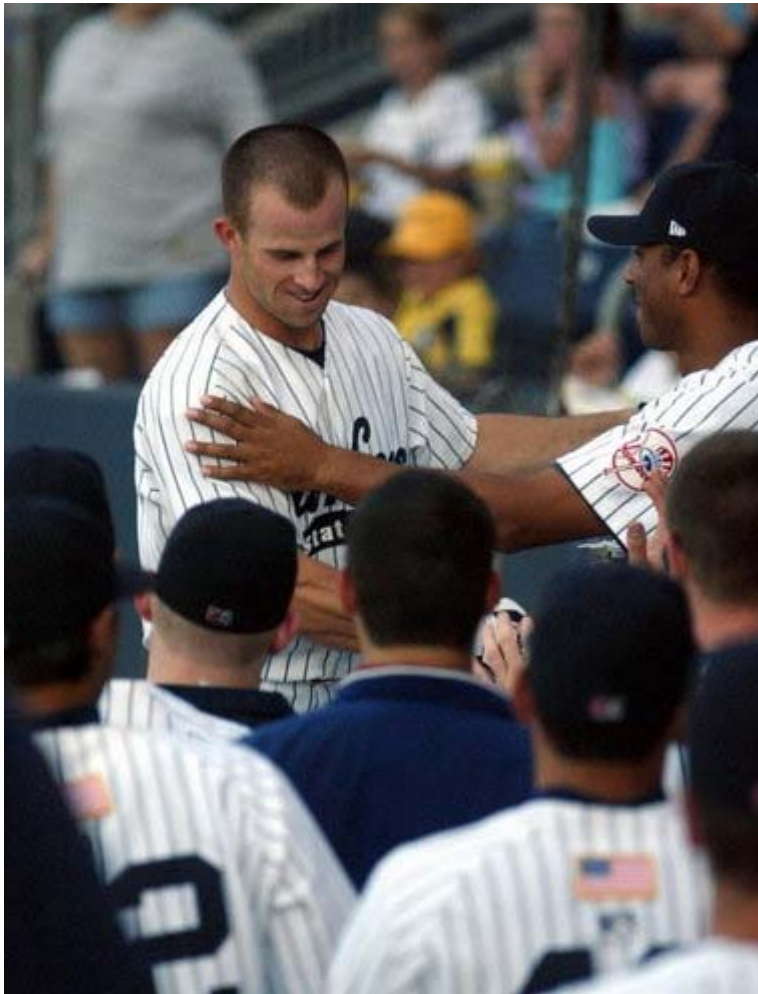


Looking back on the Staten Island Yankees: Future pros, colorful characters have given local team its flavor

Published: Wednesday, June 15, 2011, 8:02 AM



By **Jim Waggoner**



Staten Island Advance file photo

Brett Gardner broke into professional baseball with the Staten Island Yankees in 2005.

When it comes to the Staten Island Yankees, I've pretty much seen it all.

That's not bragging, just the truth.

From the first pitch on the night of June 16, 1999 at a quaint, lively upstate ballpark against the Oneonta Tigers, the Advance has faithfully followed the Baby Bombers on the New York-Penn League trail.

There have been five league championships and more than 50 alumni enjoying at least a cup of coffee in "The Show."

And, my, what a long, strange trip it has been, primarily for my astute colleague, Kevin Flood, and this reporter.

I spent an inning sitting with George Steinbrenner conducting a one-on-one interview outside the owners' suite down the left-field line during his lone appearance at the Richmond County Bank Ballpark nine years ago.

HELLO, BOSS

Even though I was drastically underdressed even by my own lowly standards, I found the guy to be delightful and insightful, for those scoring at home.

Charming, even.

I sat through a 21-inning game one night in rural Batavia, N.Y., that lasted a hardy 5 hours and 48 minutes.

My lead in the July 10, 2003 paper: "You know it's a long night when they're singing Take Me Out To The Ballgame long after midnight."

They sang it three times that odd night, when the Baby Bombers scored three runs in the top of the 21st inning for a 5-2 win over the Muckdogs.

I found myself covering one of the nastiest on-field brawls of any season when festering bad feelings between the Brooklyn Cyclones and Yankees resulted in a 28-minute free-for-all on July 17, 2003 in St. George.

There were pockets of fights breaking out everywhere in the infield. It was a sight to behold and started when Staten Island pitcher Matt DeSalvo hit Brooklyn batter Andy Wilson in the head with a pitch in the top of the sixth inning.

From my Page 1 story: "Eleven players were ejected, one player was taken to the hospital for stitches and police from the 120th Precinct — which has its stationhouse directly across the street from the Richmond County Bank Ballpark at St. George — were summoned to calm the bench-clearing incident."

BACK IN THE DAY

Andy Stankiewicz was Staten Island's manager and Tim Teufel was Brooklyn's manager.

I interviewed both men afterward and wrote three stories for the next day's paper.

I wouldn't imagine the two former Yankee and Met infielders are the best of friends to this day.

The first two seasons of franchise history were played at the College of Staten Island, where an intimate 3,500-seat stadium was hastily constructed in time for the 1999 home opener.

That site currently hosts the CSI Dolphins in one fine NCAA Division III facility.

We loved the first Staten Island manager, feisty ex-University of Florida head coach Joe Arnold, who loved telling stories, evaluating ballplayers, baiting umpires and basically filling up notebooks with juicy quotes.

We miss you, Joe. And we're pretty sure you still hold the record for ejections in a 76-game season.

Next on my personal list of favorite managers was Derek Shelton, now hitting coach for the Tampa Bay Rays.

His door was always open and knocking wasn't mandatory. He was bright, honest, personable and not long for the Yankee system: He left for a job with the Cleveland Indians after winning the 2002 New York-Penn League championship.

The players, of course, make the baseball world go-round.

Anybody remember tall Arkansas right-hander David Walling, the Yankees' first-round pick in 1999?

How about Alabama third baseman Andy Phillips, who played for the Bronx Bombers but is better known on Staten Island for singing the national anthem before the final game in 1999 and hitting two grand slams in another game?

Robinson Cano and Brett Gardner cut their teeth in St. George, as did Chien-Ming Wang, Wily Mo Pena, Ian Kennedy, Jeff Karstens, Phil Coke and Eduardo Nunez.

BURGERS WITH BRETT

Cano and Gardner both struggled at times during their local stays, which should serve as encouragement to the newest crop of Staten Island Yankees.

Everything seems to have worked out fine for them.

Phil Hughes never made it to Staten Island on his way to the Bronx, but the rehabbing right-hander will take the ball Sunday when the Baby Bombers travel to Coney Island for their third game of the season.

Those big-leaguers who made rehab appearances in Staten Island include pitchers Orlando Hernandez, Octavio Dotel and Kevin Brown.

Of course, there wouldn't be minor-league baseball without its fan base, and the Baby Bombers have a strong core that dates back to the College of Staten Island days.

Chris and Carol Caputo, and son Peter, here's a tip of the baseball cap to you and your entire gang behind home plate.

You, too, Jimmy Collins.

We don't cover the Baby Bombers on the road anymore, like we did in the early years, but there's a lifetime of memories.

If you ever get to Auburn, N.Y., shame on you if you don't look up New York-Penn League historian Charlie Wride, who has long fought to keep baseball in that little town.

You can find the retired schoolteacher at Falcon Park, helping out wherever he's needed.

My wife, Judy, and sons Andrew and Danny sat next to Brett Gardner at Oneonta's only late-night diner after a game in the summer of 2005.

Danny still talks about that night.

In a dozen years of covering the Staten Island Yankees, there's a lot to talk about.

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Stories

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Heavy Metal in the Food Chain

New York Coastlines, Spring 2011



Students from the College of Staten Island, under the direction of Dr. William Wallace, collecting invertebrates such as worms and clams from Great Kills Harbor for use in their studies examining the trophic transfer of metals in marine food chains. Photos by William G. Wallace.

Cadmium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, silver, zinc: all are metals that have a place in our industrialized world. But they also can be toxic to the living things of our air, land and sea... particularly when they occur in concentrations typical of urban environments like New York City.

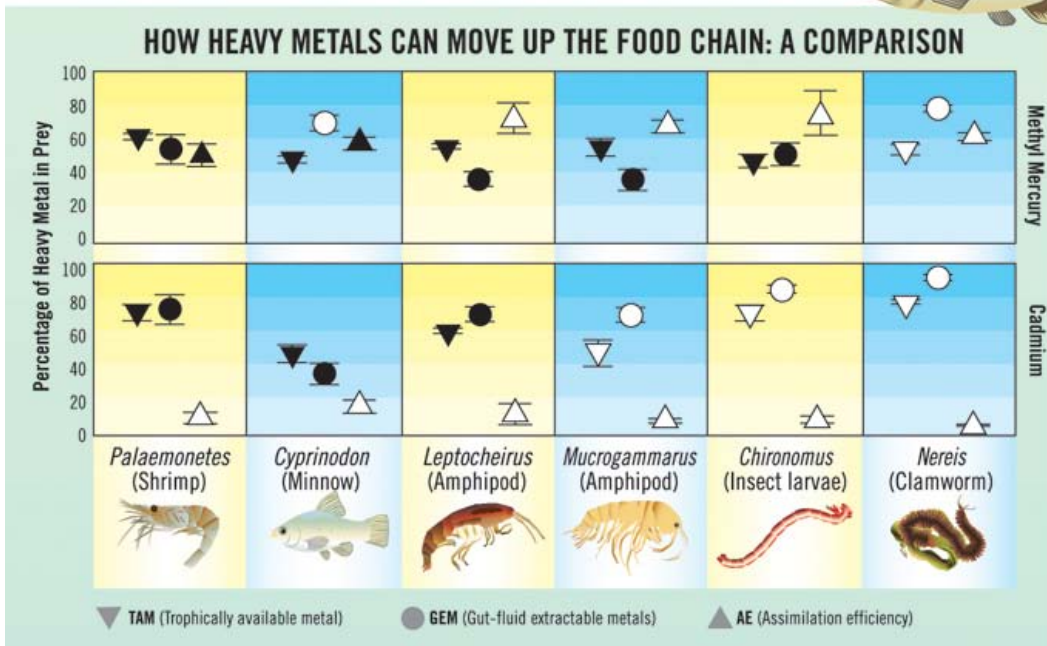
As far back as the 1880s, tons of mercury from industrial processes were dumped into parts of the New York / New Jersey Harbor Estuary (the Hudson-Raritan basin) annually, culminating in the high levels of contamination associated with the mid-1970s. But due to a greater awareness of these contamination issues, the implementation of clean air and water legislation, and more stringent pollution prevention initiatives, mercury discharges are now estimated to be less than those that occurred in the 1880s. However, high

concentrations of some contaminants still remain in some sediments [Hudson River Foundation's report, *Health of the Harbor: The First Comprehensive Look at the State of the NY/NJ Harbor Estuary 2004*].

Today, municipalities and communities are trying to restore bays and marshes to provide better habitat for native species. However, it appears that the food webs taking shape are not as they may have been in a pre-industrial time. Species that are sensitive to metals may have already disappeared from the scene, while those that are tolerant of such conditions can often dominate these impacted systems. A research team from the College of Staten Island led by **Dr. William G. Wallace** and Sea Grant Scholar **Daisuke Goto** looked at how metals move up the trophic levels of a food chain. In a series of research papers published over the last several years, this team observed that local invertebrates have different ways of storing metal internally and that this internal storage and the digestive processes of their predators can control the transfer of metal up food chains.

Wallace and his students took samples near the College of Staten Island and its environs, including the industrial Arthur Kill. (Note: "Kill" is Dutch for "stream" and was so named when New York was New Amsterdam.) They collected common species like shrimp and worms and found that generally these invertebrates tolerate metals. "They can handle some level of contamination because they internally detoxify the accumulated metal by binding it to a special protein or by producing 'kidney stone' type concretions," says Wallace.

Although metal concentrations in the water column have decreased significantly over the last three decades, local water bodies such as the Arthur Kill still have elevated levels. For instance, according to the *Health of the Harbor* report, although mercury loadings into New York Harbor have decreased in the last few decades, sources of this toxic metal still exist from wastewater, landfills, and airborne release from power plants. Furthermore, mercury from previous contamination events may remain in the sediments and become biologically available, either as inorganic mercury or the more dangerous methyl mercury.



The chart compares how two kinds of metal (methyl mercury and cadmium) are transferred to mummichogs after they consumed a variety of prey. Metal transfer occurs in three steps: 1. Metal is bound to the TAM of prey (percentage shown by an upside down triangle). 2. Metal is released into the gut fluid of the predator (circle) and is free to be assimilated. 3. Then, if the conditions are right for transfer across the gut lining, the metal is indeed assimilated by the predator (triangle). When a fish consumes a shrimp, the percentages of mercury available in the tissue, released into gut fluid, and assimilated by the predator are similar in value; these similarities are indicated by the darkened symbols. The results are quite different for cadmium; although there is available metal in the tissue and in the gut fluid, very little metal is assimilated.

According to Wallace, methyl mercury is a driving force in creating the food web found in the moderately polluted creeks surrounding the Arthur Kill. A common small predator is the mummichog, a chubby little fish that travels in schools in marshes along the northeast coast. (The name comes from a Native American phrase meaning "going in crowds." People use them for bait, too, and usually refer to them as killifish or "killies.")

Because mummichogs lay their eggs near the high tide mark where they are exposed to the air, their tolerance for poor, low-oxygen conditions make them an important part of the food web in the polluted marsh ecosystems, preying on small invertebrates and minnows and then in turn, becoming prey to larger fish or shore birds on the next trophic level of a food chain. Wallace and his team used these fish in a series of experiments to examine the interactions between mummichogs and their prey. Some of their results are summarized on the chart.

Let's say a mummichog swallows a worm and begins digesting it. Enzymes break down the tissues and proteins, releasing the metal. In the case of the worm, a very large percentage of the metal within its tissues is bound to proteins making the metal readily available to predators. Scientists call this the trophically available metal fraction or TAM. Once digestion has taken place, breakdown products become soluble and are free to move across the gut lining and become assimilated into the fish. In the case of methyl mercury, almost all of the available metal (TAM) comes out of the protein and crosses the gut lining. That happens because the mercury is bound to an organic portion which makes it fat soluble and thus compatible with the lipid layer of the gut lining.

In the case of cadmium, while the amount of the metal bound as TAM in prey and the amount released into gut fluid (for some prey) can be nearly equal, very little of this metal is taken up by the fish. "That's because cadmium cannot so easily cross the gut lining, which tempers the assimilation of the metal," says Wallace.

There are several different factors that come into play in determining how metals are transferred from one trophic level to the next. First there is the metal in the sediment or the water column and how much of that the prey takes in. Then the prey may have some way of detoxifying the metal, like putting metal into granules or binding it to proteins. These are both prey-dependent and prey-specific factors. Then there are factors that are predator-dependent like the predator's physiology, digestion process, and assimilation rates.

Knowing which organisms are able to sequester and detoxify metal contaminants may be of interest to those municipalities doing habitat restoration work in urban areas. And knowing which predators digest and assimilate metals from their prey and those that excrete the metals back into the water column might also be of interest to managers planning restoration efforts. Although

metal concentrations in the water column have been going down, sportfish consumption advisories for fish caught by anglers in contaminated areas like the Arthur Kill have been in effect for decades and will likely continue for some time to come.

— Barbara A. Branca

JUNE 6, 2011, 2:36 PM

A Prom for Students Who Don't Want One

By *COREY KILGANNON*

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Dijon James, 17, and Jo Doodle, 17, showed up for their prom on Friday night looking as if they had just come from a skate park.

Both teenagers, who attend high school in Harlem, wore dressed-down skateboarder chic, in skinny jeans and sneakers. They munched on food from McDonald's and leaned against the tall marble columns in front of the New York Public Library's main branch, at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street in Manhattan.

Just inside, in the majestic, marbled [Astor Hall](#), library workers were preparing for the annual anti-prom, an alternative prom hosted by the library for teenagers who do not — perhaps because of sexual orientation, style of dress, social cliques or other reasons — fit into the conventional prom routine, with its expenses and conventions of tuxedos and corsages and limousines and catering halls, and golden boy-and-girl couples.

“Some kids come because of their sexual orientation, or the way they dress,” Mr. James said. “We’re just coming to have a good time.”

Mr. Doodle, who attends the [Wadleigh Secondary School for the Performing and Visual Arts](#), and Mr. James, who goes to [Frederick Douglass Academy](#), both of which are in Manhattan, said they were bisexual and not interested in the conventional prom attended by many of their classmates. Mr. Doodle wore a snowboarder's knit hat, two loop earrings in his lower lip, two wallet chains hanging from his belt and high-top Airwalk sneakers.

“He’s kind of an emo-skate punk,” Mr. James said.

There were no simple stereotypes and certainly no old-fashioned categories, like jocks or nerds or greasers. In walked two 18-year-old seniors from Staten Island, Jasmine Mansour and Gisebell Antonetti, whose outfits had elements as varied as Hansel and Gretel and Cruella de Vil.

“You could call us fashionistas, but we can also do goth, punk, house or even American Eagle,” said Ms. Mansour, who attend the [College of Staten Island High School for International Studies](#).

Ms. Antonetti attends [Susan E. Wagner High School](#) on Staten Island.

Giomarie and Joey, a couple from the Bronx, showed up at the anti-prom dressed all in black, with a dominatrix Frankenstein theme.

Giomarie, an 18-year-old who goes to Theodore Roosevelt High School in the Bronx, wore black leather platform boots reminiscent of the rock band Kiss, and a leather choker necklace. Her boyfriend, Joey, 20, resembled the rocker Marilyn Manson, with black makeup, a tight mesh shirt and a flowing cape.

“We aren’t a category — we’re a way of life,” Joey said. “We show off the inner darkness that everyone else tries to hide.”

The couple, along with some of the other guests, did not provide their last names because they said they did not want to open themselves to ridicule.

There were no limos or rented tuxes at the antiprom. For most revelers, it was a chance to let their guard down, and celebrate their individuality without judgment.

Clare Early, 16, of Manhattan, said she came to spend her prom experience with “people who have awesome personalities who aren’t generic.”

She did not want to reveal the name of her high school because she said she did not want to be harassed.

“You get judged in high school,” she said. “You come here and you don’t get judged. Everybody is the same, everybody’s equal, everybody’s awesome.”

The first antiprom, seven years ago, drew 100 people, and it has grown every year since then, said Chris Shoemaker, who oversees teenagers’ programming for the library system.

The library came up with the idea after hearing increasingly negative comments about traditional proms in groups the library runs for teenagers.

“Prom is a big theme in young adult books, and the reaction we got from a lot of teens is that they hated the prom and wanted to do something else,” Mr. Shoemaker said. “The reaction we got was that ‘prom isn’t for us.’ Some teens felt that because they might want to attend with a same-sex partner, they wouldn’t be accepted at their prom.”

On Friday night, a D.J. served up dance numbers from Lady Gaga, Kesha, Katy Perry and others. Soft drinks and snacks were served.

[Jimmy Van Bramer](#), a councilman from Queens who is openly gay, took the microphone and urged the group to “celebrate as themselves.”

“Does everybody like Lady Gaga?” he yelled, to screams of approval. “Was everyone born this way?”

About 600 teenagers from all over the city attended the event. They were mostly strangers to one another, but once the dancing began, there was a palpable sense of unity, akin to the togetherness of a chummy high school class, but in this case, coming from a commonality of spirit.

Near the end, the prom king and queen were selected. The prom queen, Dinae Anderson, 15, of Harlem, who attends [Harry S. Truman High School](#), wore a funky purple tutu outfit that she designed and made a couple hours before arriving, she said. The king wore a black tuxedo — possibly the only tux at the anti-prom. Immediately after being named prom king, he sprinted out of the building and up Fifth Avenue and could not be interviewed.

The antiprom began at 6:30 p.m. and lasted just over two hours. When the music was shut off, the teenagers kept dancing, clapping their own beat.

Yana Paskova for The New York Times At the “anti-prom” at the New York Public Library in Midtown Manhattan.



A mystery no more, street dancer Joel Joseph wows Staten Island dance class

Published: Thursday, June 09, 2011, 8:46 AM



By **Jillian Jorgensen**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- He grooves on street corners, down sidewalks, and in the food court of the Staten Island Mall. But yesterday, Staten Island's mysterious dancer showed off his popular moves in a more traditional spot -- a dance studio.

Joe the dancer appears at Staten Island dance studio

Staten Island's mysterious street dancer, known as Joe, makes an appearance at Brandy's Dance Unique dance studio in Dongan Hills as part of fitness instructor Donny "D-Fine" Brandefine's "textercising" aerobics class, in which participants are instructed to send various text messages while toning up. Joe, who's real name is Joel Joseph, is a Brooklyn resident who regularly visits Staten Island and has been spotted doing his fancy footwork on Hylan Boulevard, Richmond Avenue and other main thoroughfares.

"I dance because I love to feel good," Joel Joseph, 24, said. "I love to express myself. I love to inspire others as well."

Yes, the **Staten Island mystery dancer** -- the focus of a **Facebook page with more than 4,500 "likes"** -- has a name. It's Joel, but he just goes by Joe. Joe the Dancing Guy.

His moves have caught the eye of many a pedestrian and driver, delighting, and sometimes perplexing them with his hybrid of jogging and dancing. Tall and lean, sporting sunglasses and wearing headphones, he has been caught on video by adoring fans.

So when Donny "D-Fine" Brandefine spotted him walking down Hylan Boulevard, he just had to pull over the car.

"I became a fan of the page a while ago, and I just wanted to know more about him," said Brandefine, a personal trainer and instructor at Brandy's Dance Unique.

Their conversation led to Joseph assisting Brandefine yesterday at the studio for a "Textercise" class -- that's exercising and texting. Joseph signed autographs and showed off his skills for an adoring group of girls.

Joseph is from East Flatbush, where he said he doesn't do much dancing.

"I live in a negative environment. People are very judgmental and nasty," he said. "That's why I travel, to get away from the negativity."

Joseph takes the bus over the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge -- though he longs for a pedestrian walkway. He dances in other boroughs, other cities and states, even, but he has a soft spot for Staten Island.

"I come out here because the people are friendly," he said.



Staten Island Advance/Anthony DePrimo

Brooklynite Joseph feels at home on Staten Island.

Joseph said he has always loved jogging long distances and dancing.

"After a while I figured, why can't I jog and dance at the same time?" he said.

So that's what he does every day -- with his headphones blasting Taio Cruz, Lady Gaga, and salsa music.

At the dance studio yesterday, he and Brandefine worked out with a group of girls who held their cell phones in their hands. They had to text Brandefine a sentence before they could stop a certain

exercise. The goal, in addition to staying in shape, was to help illustrate why people should not text and drive at the same time, Brandefine said.

Brandefine also turned Joseph's moves into an exercise -- "The Staten Island Cardio."

Staten Island's dancing man spotted in Staten Island Mall

Readers shoot video of growing celebrity working his way through center court

"It's obviously a good workout," Brandefine said. "I don't think he has an ounce of fat on him."

Joseph said he wanted to thank his fans for posting the videos of him online. He hoped they might lead to an appearance on the Ellen DeGeneres or Wendy Williams shows.

He was glad, finally, to have a chance to get his message out -- be yourself and do what you love.

"They shouldn't have to be ashamed to be themselves. Just go for it," he said. "It's your life. If you want to do what you want to do, do it."

Joseph **launched his own Facebook page**, under the name "JOE The Dancing Guy." He's also slated to make an appearance at the finale of the Brandy's Dance Unique recital Saturday night at the **College of Staten Island**.



College of Staten Island pink-slips 61 part-timers in budget crunch

Published: Friday, June 10, 2011, 9:37 AM



By **Jillian Jorgensen**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- On the heels of mounting budget cuts, 61 part-time employees at the College of Staten Island are slated to lose their jobs July 1.

The college expects to be hit with a budget reduction from the state of \$3.2 million for the next fiscal year — coming on top of just over \$6 million in budget cuts they've faced over the last three years.

There will be 93 part-time positions removed from the budget, 32 of them already vacant, according to communications director Ken Bach. No full-time or teaching positions will be cut.

The remaining 61 positions being cut are those filled by college assistants, who work on annual contracts that will not be renewed July 1, Bach said.

CSI president Dr. Tomas D. Morales was out of state on college business yesterday and unable to comment on the cuts, Bach said.

College assistants work in various departments across the school. Duties vary by department, but they range from clerical work to academic research to tutoring. CSI currently employs 430 college assistants, Bach said.

The college assistants are represented by Local 2054, part of the DC 37 public employees union. In a statement, DC 37 executive director Lillian Roberts said the union has "consistently opposed" cuts to the City University of New York system.



Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel

Students on the Willowbrook campus will register "very little" change, a college spokesman contended.

"Governor [Andrew] Cuomo's unnecessary elimination of the 'millionaires tax' forced CUNY to lay people off," she said. "As a result of the state balancing the budget on the backs of working people, the College of Staten Island is laying off 60 of our members who work as college assistants. The union will continue to fight against these unfair cuts."

Bach took exception to the term layoff, in light of the expiring contracts. But the quibble was cold comfort to the college assistants, many of whom have worked at **CSI** for years.

One, who did not want to be named because she hopes her position will be restored, said college assistants work for "minimal pay."

"We're working for our benefits," she said. "We're hard workers."

She said the decision to cut college assistants was "unfair" when the college continues to spend elsewhere.

"We've been dedicated employees and they're cutting us," she said. "And they're building dormitories."

But Bach said the money for building residence halls comes from a separate budget for capital projects.

Over the last three years, the college avoided cutting staff by virtue of increased enrollment, and by reducing budgets for supplies and discretionary services, Bach said.

"At this time, that part of the budget has absorbed all that it can take," he said.

He said that the layoffs were the "most regrettable action that we could take."

In an e-mail to staff and students, Dr. Morales, the college president, said **CSI** no longer could avoid a reduction of personnel.

"We are committed to preserving our core academic mission, academic programs, and student support services, and we will develop a budget reduction plan that minimizes the operational impact on the College," Dr. Morales wrote. "I want to emphasize that no full-time employee will lose his or her position as a result of the college's plan to meet this fiscal challenge."

But the staff reductions would undeniably present challenges across campus, he wrote. Staff will be redeployed, full-time faculty will increase teaching loads, and caps in some courses will have to be raised, Dr. Morales wrote.

But Bach contended there would be "very little" change noticeable to students.

"The student services and the educational mission and the experience in the classroom will, for the most part, not be affected," he said.

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High School for International Studies marks 2011 prom

Published: Monday, June 13, 2011, 12:30 PM



By **Staten Island Advance**

Students at the [College of Staten Island](#) High School for International Studies marked their senior prom Thursday night, aboard the Romantica cruise ship, enjoying an evening of dancing and music on the harbor.

[Click here for more photos from their celebration.](#)

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Photo submitted by SILive.com user
annette lentini

Students for the High School for International Studies pose during their prom, aboard the Romantica cruise ship.



Staten Island high schoolers get degrees in timely fashion but lag in college index

Published: Wednesday, June 15, 2011, 9:53 AM



Jillian Jorgensen
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The rate of students graduating on time in 2010 rose or held steady at most Staten Island public high schools, but when it came to a new standard measuring college readiness, many fewer students made the grade.

On Staten Island, the graduation rate was 72.7 percent for 2010 -- 74.4, if August grads are included -- the highest of any borough, according to statistics released yesterday. There was no boroughwide measurement of how many Islanders met the new "aspirational performance measure," designed to show college readiness, but at most schools, the figure hovered in the 20s or 30s.

To meet the standard, students had to score 75 or higher on the English language arts Regents exam, and 80 or higher on their math Regents. The benchmark is based on what a student must typically score to avoid remedial course work in college, Department of Education spokesman Matt Mittenthal said.

The city graduation rate for the class of 2010 was 61 percent -- 65.1 percent, if



Staten Island Advance/Nicole Boffa
Members of the Class of 2010 at Staten Island Technical High School

August graduates are included, a record high. But just 21.4 percent of students citywide met the college readiness standard.

Mittenthal said the problem lies not with the students but with the standards. Students need only a 65 on three of five required Regents exams to graduate, well below the college readiness standard.

"They're meeting the standards that our schools have set for them, and our schools are doing that as well," Mittenthal said. "The state standards, it's widely agreed, are too low."

What's indicated, he said, is a realignment of "what it takes to get a high school diploma with what it takes to succeed after high school."

Mayor Michael Bloomberg focused on the rising graduation rates in his announcement of the statistics yesterday, touting shrinking achievement gaps and lower dropout rates at small schools that replaced larger, struggling ones.

"These new high school graduation rates are proof positive that the reforms we've adopted and the investments we've made are paying off in a big way," he said in a statement. "I'm proud of our students, teachers, principals and parents for achieving this all-time high graduation rate, and the fact that black and Hispanic students are reaching new milestones is great news for our City."

Locally, nearly every Island school saw a disparity between the graduation rate and the percent of students who were college-ready. While 63.6 percent of students graduated on time at Port Richmond High School in 2010 --up from 56.4 percent in 2009 -- just 15.4 percent were college-ready.

At New Dorp High School, the on-time graduation rate was 73.7 percent, an increase from 66 percent in 2009, but just 20.2 percent of students met the college-ready standards.

At the College of Staten Island High School for International Studies, the 2010 graduation rate was 95 percent -- but just 23.8 percent were college-ready. At Tottenville High School, the graduation rate was 82 percent -- but just 31.1 percent were college-ready.

The best-performing local school was Staten Island Tech, where 99.7 percent of students graduated on time, and 97.9 met the college-ready Regents guideline. At the Michael J. Petrides School 88.5 percent of students graduated on time -- down from 97.3 percent in 2009 -- and 39.8 percent were college-ready.

The on-time graduation rate fell at McKee, from 61 percent to 55.4 percent, with only 9.1 percent college-ready. At Curtis High School, the on-time graduation rate was 69.2 percent, less than a point off last year, but just 20.3 percent were college ready. The graduation rate rose at Susan E. Wagner High School, from 69.9 to 75.9 percent, but just 31.5 percent were college-ready.

Attempts to reach Staten Island high schools superintendent Aimee Horowitz were unsuccessful.

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Students from Curtis High School and Dreyfus Intermediate School tap resources at CSI for a meaningful, hands-on science lesson

Published: Thursday, June 16, 2011, 10:31 AM



By **Diane Lore**



Mark Irving of Consolidated Edison stops by to watch the students from Curtis High School and IS 69 perform experiments on local water quality in the lab at the College of Staten Island. (Photo Courtesy of CSI)

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - NEW BRIGHTON/STAPLETON - Environmental-science students from Curtis High School have teamed up with the College of Staten Island (CSI) on a program that offers the teens an opportunity to perform hands-on research into local water quality.

The research program offered a day's-worth of science instruction for about 100 Curtis students as well as select eighth-graders from Dreyfus Intermediate School, Stapleton. They traveled to CSI's Willowbrook campus in small groups over the past several weeks.

The initiative was funded through a \$25,000 grant from Con Edison that CSI received in February.

Students began their day with a field trip to Gateway National Recreation Center's Great Kills Park, where they learned about water quality issues. Working in groups, they collected water samples, then they analyzed the samples for levels of dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, salinity and conductivity.

The next stop was CSI, where they toured the Interstate Environmental Commission's laboratory on campus and performed further tests on the samples they'd collected.

CSI geology professor **Dr. Alan Benimoff** talked to students about the role of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in interpreting and analyzing environmental data.

Curtis and Dreyfus students capped off their trip to the college with lunch in the campus center.

Donna Gerstle, director of **CSI's** Center for Environmental Science, summed up the significance of the outreach program to the schools.

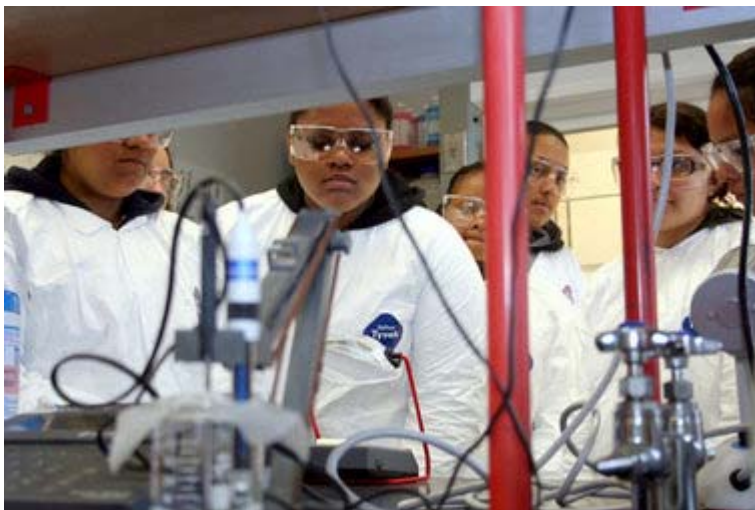
"We would like to introduce students to the importance of doing environmental research. Especially because Staten Island is an island community, we need to teach them about their water, how clean or dirty it is, and how important water is for people who live in an island community," she said.

"But most importantly, we need to show them that environmental science is one of the largest issues today in terms of global, social, and scientific research."

The students seemed to have a great time, especially in the lab.

"I felt very excited. Learning things is always nice. I enjoyed the hands-on research," said Curtis sophomore **Dulce Garcia**.

Her classmate, Curtis sophomore, **Christopher Diaz**, agreed. "I feel very blessed and very happy that I was given the opportunity to come and share this with my classmates and have a fun-filled day – do some science," Diaz said.



Students from Curtis High School perform experiments on local water quality in a lab at the **College of Staten Island**, Willowbrook. (Photo Courtesy of **CSI**)

Jacqueline Giron, also a sophomore at Curtis, was also appreciative. "I feel that it's a privilege, because not every student in my school got to come and see how we record the data that we did and how we go to the lab and look at the maps," she said.

Elise Oliveri, the students' earth science teacher, said the hands-on lessons were invaluable.

"I saw the students actively participating in real-time science collection, something that they don't usually get a chance to do. This is great. They were absorbed. They were excited. Then they came back to **CSI** and processed their samples and saw what science really is. They saw the engineering behind what they read about and learn about," she said.

Ms. Oliveri said the experience benefits her students because "it creates active, participating students in the science community."

"They need to have a little more hands-on experience besides our labs than we do in the classroom. I think that they will continue to hold their interest in the environmental aspects that are so important to future

scientists," she added.

While students were working in the lab, **Mark Irving**, Con Edison's director of public affairs, stopped in to observe.

"I was very impressed with how engaged the students were," he said. "I talked to a couple of them and they really liked what they were learning. That's something that is encouraging to hear."

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Sen. Charles Schumer wants bus safety grades

Published: Sunday, June 19, 2011, 2:28 PM

AP By **Associated Press**

ALBANY, N.Y. -- U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer on Sunday asked the federal government to post letter grades for discount tour bus companies so consumers will be able to easily see the companies' safety records.

The measure is prompted by a string of deadly bus crashes since a March crash left 15 dead in the Bronx. Since then, New York has sidelined hundreds of buses and bus drivers in a stepped-up program to stop buses for safety evaluations. Many drivers were found to have had multiple driver's licenses with histories of violations.

The safety information is already public record and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration already posts safety scores on its website. But Schumer said a simple letter grade is needed to clarify the record and it must be posted so customers can see it before they buy tickets.

Schumer, a New York Democrat, is calling on the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to develop and implement a clear rating system for low-cost tour bus companies.

"If bus companies have a poor safety record, passengers should know about it before they purchase a ticket," Schumer said. "It is crucial that passengers are clearly and unambiguously alerted to a company's safety record before they ever board a bus."



Associated Press

Sen. Charles Schumer speaks at the [College of Staten Island](#) on June 2.

Discount tour buses that often take daylong drives to casinos and other tourist sites have been involved in accidents in several states this year, prompting calls for more safety measures at the state and national level. Better background checks are also being sought after several drivers were found to have had criminal records or previously suspended licenses.

Safety advocates and scientists who study sleep say the roots of the accidents lie with an industry whose economic model often results in fatigued drivers on the road at night or in the early morning when their bodies naturally crave sleep.

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Kudos to our graduates

Published: Tuesday, June 21, 2011, 7:45 AM



Staten Island Advance Editorial
By

Nearly three out of four seniors at public high-schools on Staten Island graduate on time, according to newly available figures. The four-year Island graduation rate of 72.7 percent in 2010 (74.4 percent if August grads are included) is the best of any borough in the city.

For their efforts, Island students and their families are to be congratulated. Thanks also go to our educators - teachers, principals and others - for their hard work.

On college readiness, however, statistics show there is much more work to be done citywide.

The graduation rate for the public high school class of 2010 in New York City was 61 percent (65.1 percent with August grads included), according the state Education Department. The total was a record high for the city.

How does this compare with the rest of the nation?

The U.S.-wide rate of 71.7 percent in 2008 was the best for America's public high schools since the 1980s, the website of Education Week reported on June 7.

So Staten Island's high school students fared a little better than their U.S. counterparts. But those citywide have catching up to do despite the progress they have made.

At most Island high schools, the rate of students graduating on time rose or held steady.

Leading the way in four-year on-time graduations was Staten Island Tech at 99.7 percent.

The results for other Island high schools: College of Staten Island High School for International Studies, 95 percent; Petrides, 88.5 percent; Tottenville, 82 percent; Susan E. Wagner, 75.9 percent; New Dorp, 73.7 percent; Curtis, 69.2 percent; Port Richmond, 63.6 percent; and McKee, 55.4 percent.

Mayor Bloomberg hailed the citywide high school graduation rates as proof that his reforms are working in a public school system of over 1 million students.

The graduation rate has improved steadily from about 50 percent in 2002 when the mayor took control of public schools in New York City.

Mr. Bloomberg also cited progress by the seven out of 10 public school students in the city who are either black (with a high-school graduation rate of 61 percent) or Hispanic (with a rate of 58 percent).

On college readiness, however, new measures for high school students citywide - including whites, blacks, Hispanics and Asians - show that performance lagged. Just 21.4 percent met the requirement in the class of 2010.

To meet the standard, students had to score 75 or higher on the English language arts Regents exam, and 80 or higher on their math Regents.

The benchmark is based on what a student must typically score to avoid remedial course work in college, according to the Department of Education.

Last fall, at City University of New York community colleges, 74 percent of students needed help before starting college-level work.

Which indicates just how much room for improvement remains.

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NYC Solar Potential Shown On Fancy Map

Posted By [Caleb Denison](#) On June 23, 2011 @ 5:30 am In [Renewable Energy, Solar Power](#) | [No Comments](#)

A new interactive tool has just been created that puts into perspective the potential for solar power generation for the entire [New York City](#) area. The scale of the project is impressive, as is the information that it yields. The [NYC Solar Map](#), which was announced at the 5th annual NYC Solar Summit, is [described by its creators](#) as "an interactive online tool that allows users to estimate the solar energy potential for every building in New York City's five boroughs by inputting an address."

To create the map, developers combined information that was gathered from aerial lasers known as 'Light Image Detection and Ranging' (LiDAR), with some highly advanced mapping technology. The result is a map that, according to Professor Sean Ahearn, the Director of the Center for Analysis and Research of Spatial Information (C.A.R.S.I.), "analyzes the solar potential for every square meter of each of NYC's one million buildings."



image via Solar Map NYC

C.A.R.S.I. then used the information to calculate the total usable roof area for solar PV installations for the city, which turns out to be about 615 million ft²." Ahearn clarifies, "This represents a solar potential of 5,800 MW at peak output or over 40 percent of the City's electrical demand at peak."

The map, which is hosted by CUNY at nycsolarmap.com, also shows existing solar installations, displays real-time [solar energy](#) production in the area, and exposes the costs, incentives, and payback period involved in a solar installation for any given building in NYC .

The [U.S. Department of Energy \(DOE\)](#) supported NYC Solar America City Partnership is comprised of The City University of New York, the Mayor's Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability and the NYC Economic Development Corporation. The map's development was reportedly led by Sustainable CUNY and built by C.A.R.S.I. with help from Con Edison, the High Performance Computing Center at CUNY's [College of Staten Island](#) and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL).



South Richmond HS students celebrate graduation at Mount Loretto

Published: Friday, June 24, 2011, 2:58 PM



By **Maura Grunlund**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Graduates of South Richmond High School and Intermediate School were praised today for overcoming adversity and encouraged to be leaders.

The drizzly weather outside didn't sink the spirits of the 29 high school and 18 intermediate school graduates in the ceremony in the school on the grounds of Mount Loretto.

Principal James McKeon noted that every graduate of the District 75 special education school met the same standards as at any other public high school on Staten Island.

"We might take a different road but it's not less in achievements," McKeon said prior to the commencement.

"These kids have been through a lot so for them to be where they are now we're proud of them."



Staten Island Advance/Irving Silverstein

South Richmond High School students listen attentively during their graduation ceremony June 24, 2011.

During the ceremony, McKeon encouraged students to take pride in themselves, to have the highest personal standards and never forget what it took to arrive at



Enlarge

Jan Somma-Hammel

Richmondtown Preparatory School held its graduation ceremony yesterday at the Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomfield. Members of the Class of 2011 included, from left, Bridget Bowe, Amanda Khader, Jared McKeon, Katherine DeSantis, Lucy Gambarian, Meagan Criscuolo, Daniel Fama and Jennifer Cuomo. (Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel)

Staten Island High School graduations 2011 gallery (36 photos)

graduation. If they ever look down at someone it only should be to extend a hand to lift the person.

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***PHOTOS FROM ALL STATEN ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS**

“Be a leader, not a follower, keep trying and never give up,” McKeon said. “The only person who can stop you is you.”



Staten Island Advance/Irving Silverstein

Jennifer Muniz and Monica Falcone, with their awards at South Richmond High School's graduation.

While education is important, what the world needs most are people doing the right thing, he added.

“Education without being a good person will not take you far,” McKeon said. “In life, every day is a graduation day. Dream big and live life to the fullest.”

Valedictorian Douglas Fix, who plans to study electronics at the [College of Staten Island](#), urged his classmates to “pay it forward” by doing good deeds. They could achieve anything with hard work and perseverance.

Salutatorian Steven Buckley, who plans to attend a culinary program at New York City College of Technology in Brooklyn,

praised and gave heartfelt thanks to each of his teachers in a speech read by McKeon.

The graduates, in red gowns for high school and blue for intermediate school, moved to the beat as Ensemble '25 -- a band composed of school staffers, performed selections such as, "Keep on Rockin' in the Free World."

Science teacher Sandra Reher led an enthusiastic rendition of 'God Bless America.' The Marine Corps League presented the colors and also, with the help of Mount Loretto Alumni Association, presented the Marine Sgt. Angel Mendez Alumni Award to Kaseem Pettiford.

The honor is named for Mendez, a Medal of Honor candidate who grew up at Mount Loretto and was buried there after dying as a hero in Vietnam.

SOUTH RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:

Shawn Allen, Shawa Amaty, Michael Bagley, Christian Baker, Steven Buckley, Andre Brown, Christina Brumale, Michael Clay, Camille Collins, Meaghan Corrigan, Ramon Cortez, Monica Falcone, Douglas Fix, Jonathan Holbert, Brian Korenski, Jason Lema, Jasmine Meyer-Britt, Jacqueline Mozo, Jennifer Muniz, Melissa Nero, Jaymes Panepinto, Kaseem Pettiford, Frank Ruvolo, Orlando Santiago, Kim Sewell, Aaron Thompson, Brian Tsarfin, Brandon Tuminaro.

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Staten Island Kennel Club's 106th annual show draws an elite group of talented canines

Published: Sunday, June 26, 2011, 6:47 AM



By **Michael Sedon**



Staten Island Advance/Hilton Flores

Quid, a Border Collie, leaps through a hoop as the pooch shows off its agility skills.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Showing off their pooches during the dog days of summer is a tradition the Staten Island Kennel Club celebrated this weekend at its 106th annual Dog Show.

The furry athletes and their owners from all over the area converged on the [College of Staten Island](#) yesterday and will return today for the chance to win Best in Show and a spot in the 136th annual Westminster Kennel Club's dog show that will be held in Madison Square Garden Feb. 13-14, 2012.

The No. 1-ranked female Australian Shepherd in the country, Jackie D and her owner Neno Pessoa, of Washington, N.J., just finished the agility competition

yesterday with a perfect double Q score, which left both panting in the sun.

"Overall, she's number two in the country, but she's the number one female because the number one (ranked Australian Shepherd) is a male," Pessoa explained as he tried to catch his breath. "She cannot compete in heat, so we have to stop."

Although Pessoa did not have to jump the same hurdles as Jackie D or run through a tunnel or even weave in and out of a line of posts, he did have to run alongside his four-legged companion, directing her to the next obstacle.

Inside, dogs and owners cooled down in the air-conditioned auditorium on campus for the obedience portion of the competition.

"These dogs have to go through a certain number of trials, and if they make one mistake, they lose," explained Dog Show chairwoman Kay Pisile. "The dog who wins Best in Show here [today] could very well go on to Westminster."

Obedience requires unbroken focus between the dog and its owner. The slightest sign that the dog is looking away or fails to keep pace while walking close to its owner and they lose.

They also have to sit still for three minutes, which -- like getting a young child to sit still for the same amount of time -- is a challenge.

Charles Marcantonio of Merchantville, N.J., is a judge for the obedience competition. He keeps a close eye out for those slight distractions that could spell disaster.

"Basically, we're looking for the perfect performance," Marcantonio said. "So it's the dog being in unison with the handler."

"You go in the ring with a 200 in my mind," Marcantonio said. "Every dog is a perfect dog until it lags, until it forages, 'til it starts sniffing, 'til it takes a whiz in the ring, 'til it runs around the ring out of control."

The levels of competition are novice, open and utility -- the most difficult level of competition -- as Angela Apap of Midland Park, N.J., found out with her English Setter Bogey.

"We qualified this morning but not this afternoon," Apap said after Bogey became too distracted to follow her direction in the ring. "The training is constant, and continual."

Jeff Mason of Arden Heights owns a 5-year-old Shepherd-Lab named Layla, but he left her at home while he brought his camera out -- his second love -- to get some portraits and action shots of the pups running the agility competition.

"I have a dog, and my hobby is photography, so it's a great combination," Mason noted. "And I am going to get some good pictures."

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Port Richmond, New Dorp high schools hold graduation ceremonies

Published: Monday, June 27, 2011, 9:54 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Staten Island high school graduations are continuing this morning with Port Richmond and New Dorp seniors receiving their diplomas.

Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott made an appearance at Port Richmond's commencement ceremony at Wagner College, and wished grads well.

The Class of 2011 valedictorian is Danielle Sorrentino while the salutatorian is Navodi Potthawela

Assemblyman Michael Cusick is delivering remarks to the students.

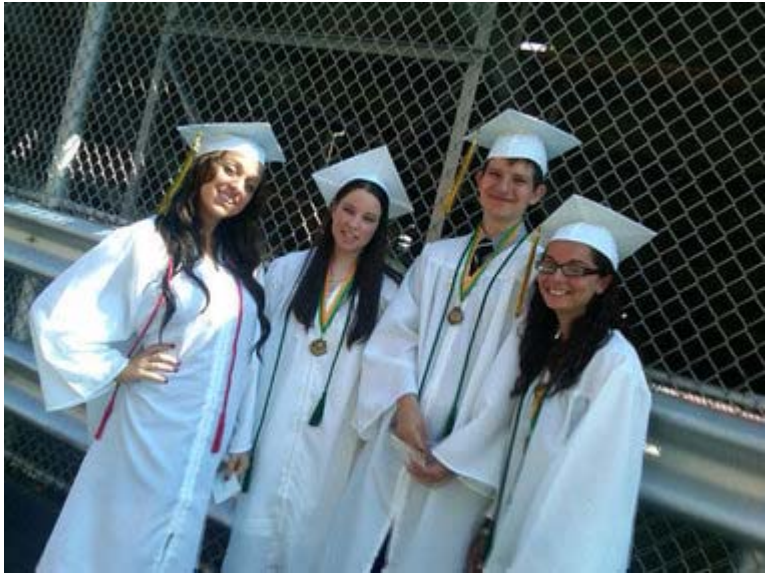
New Dorp graduates are assembled in the school's football field to mark the occasion.

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Jodi Thatcher is the valedictorian and Dennis Keselman is salutatorian. Former City Councilman and Rep. Michael McMahon is the featured speaker.

Concord High School holds its graduation ceremony this afternoon at the College of Staten Island.



Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel

Deanna App, left, Jodi Thatcher, Dennis Keselman and Amanda Sperato are graduating from New Dorp High School this morning.

NEW DORP HIGH SCHOOL

GRADUATES:

Samir Abazi, Senat Abazi, Tania Abbate, Mentallah Abuali, Brittany Adames, Alicia Adamo, Rasheed Afolabi, Farah Ahmad, Sema Ajredini, Michael Alexander, Jessica Altamirano, Jehona Ame, Alexa Andrickson, Kelly Angell, Jeanine Angotti, Deanna App, Christopher Arena, Hugo Arias, Michael Arrington, Summer Ashour, Cara Aspromonte, Kayla Aspromonte, Krystle Bacenet, Dajana Backa, Juliet N. Baidoo, Zainab Bakkour, Gannon Balseca, Marco Banegas, Keith Banks, Khadia Baro, Celeste Barragan, Dominick Barresi, Scott Bash, Nicholas Bavaro, Ralph Bavaro,



Staten Island Advance/Anthony DePrimo
Port Richmond graduates attend their commencement ceremony.

Joseph Benvenuto, Jacob Berard, Louis Bernabe, Jazmine Bestman, Samantha Boffa, Steven Bolella, Tyler Bolster, Desiree Bonilla, Joseph Borrometi, Taheeda Brock, Lauren Brooke, Limore Brown, Matthew Brown, Arthur Budnik, Nicholas Buono, Sabrina Buonpane, Ashley Cappello, Medina Capri, Allma Capric, Christina Capurso, Allen Caraballo, Brandon Caranante, Nikolas Carmona, Christopher Catrama, Jesse Catrama, Jessica Cavallo, Mary Frances Cavanagh, Christina Cernak, Carmen Chan, Zashaun Chawdry, Stephanie Chico, Jimmy Chiu, Aaron Chong, Justin Cintron, Amelia Clare, Daniel Cognetta, Kristin Condon, Kellie Connors, Dana Conrad, Cassandra Cook, Maverick Cornielle, Anthony Costanzo, Tijanae Costanzo, Caitlin Council, Deborah Crisano, Samantha Croce, Nicholas Cruz, Jedaiah Cuffy, Michael Cummings, Naquan Curtis, Silvana Cusumano, Ashley Czirr, Ermina Dalipovska, Robert Damato, Michael David, William Davis, Leigh Anne Delacruz, Amanda Delgiudice, Tiara Delvalle, Nicholas Demarco, Robert Denton, Yekaterina Derevicher, John Deross, Jagroop Dhanda, Kadiatou Diallo, Matthew DiCristo, Roy Dieudonne, Tayana Dieudonne, Michael DiGaetano, Michael DiMattei, Tyler Dizengoff, Nicholas Dobrowsky, Leobardo Dominguez, Thomas Donnelly, Shaina Dorian, Anthony Dugo, Diellza Duka, Nderim Duka, Elizabeth Duker, Arielle Dunn, Yeva Dymova, Justin Edwardsen, Menat Elneanai, Alyssa Fabrizio, Steven Falcone, Megan Fanning, Abigail Farciert, Rhiannon Fasano, Christopher Fawcett, Ronnie Fenton, Louis Ferraroni, Dean Ferrazzoli, Mercedes Feyjoo, Anthony Figueroa, Norbert Fital, Brandon Flores, Steven Flores, Angelica Forlenza, Alexis Foster, Sabrina Fracchiolla, Tracy Francis, Karen Freire, Chelsea Fusco, Vincent Gagliardi, Irvin Galindo, Christopher Gambardella, Menooa Gambarian, Juline Garcia, Michael Garcia, Victoria Gatti, Melanie Gaughran, Michael Gelardi, Gregory Genis, Angine George, Theresa Germinario, Katie Giboney, Melissa Gilardi, Alexis Gilles, Naomi Gilliam, Matthew Giordano, Christa Golden, Alejandra Gomez, Vivian Gomez, Nanyakkara Senal Gooneratne, Christian Gonzalez, Adina Goriva, Danamarie Governara, Jason Green, Lynn Greenwaldt, Colleen Grogan, Madison Gross, Ariel Gutierrez, Asya Gutman, Itzel Guzman, Lydia Guzman, Jorge Guzman-Cruz, Amanda Hafez, Arlena Haley, Jose Haley, Khadryah Handy, Shannay Harewood, Eli Harry, Ayah Hassan, Dana Hawary, Frederick Haynia, Caitlin Hennessy, Bianca Hernandez, Marco Hernandez, Angelica

Herrera, John Herrera, Stephen Heyer, Joshua Higginbotham, Almedina Hodzic, Mason Hoglund, Brandon Holden, Jia Qi Huang, Jia Xin Huang, Abeer Husein, Musa Hussein, Willie Hutcherson, Adrien Hyman, Justin Imperatrice, Michael Improta, Berat Islamovski, Sharif Ismail, Diala Jaber, Raquan Jackson, Michael Jannicelli, Jackie Jiang, Angelica Jones, Adolfo Juarez, Ana Karen Juarez, Craig Kalmikoff, Bai Lamin Kamara, Thomas Kamara, Daniel Karasinski, Jenny Kats, Rajpreet Kaur, Yvette Kavcic, Nicole Kelly, Dennis Keselman, Cindy Khadr, Abdallah Khalil, Alamgir Khan, Aleena Khan, Ksenia Khitrova, Tatyana Khudaynatova, Arthur King, Christopher King, Shakiyla King, Chyna Kirkland, Polena Kostyleva, Alina Kozlova, Steven Kuczera, Alexandr Kuznetsov, Carolyn Kweon, Alexa Lanza, Ralph Lapastina, Maria Larosa, Marjorie Lauria, Danielle Lauro, Sara Laze, Robert Lee, Rebecca Lemoine, Tina Leung, Carianne Lewandowski, Xing Hua Lin, Carmine Lista, Medina Ljuka, Angela Lombardo, Delba Arelis Lopez, Derek Louie, Philip Low, Kevin Ly, Stephon Lynch, Michael Lyons, Sally Mach, Jonathan Mahon, Eddie Maldonado, Richard Maldonado, Salman Malik, Thomas Maloney, James Mangano, Angel Manjarrez, Jessica Manley, Joseph Mannino, Karin Manukyan, Anton Mararenko, Michelle Marciante, Nicole Marino, Teuta Markasheviq, Drilona Marke, Ilirida Marke, Jasmina Marku, Andrew Martinez, Gabrielle Martucci, Salvatore Mascellino, Gani Mashkuli, Osuman Massaquoi, Anthony Mastrantonio, Bukurie Mati, Zephaniah Matthews, James Mayo, Brianna Mazzullo, Idonika McCall, Christopher Medaglia, Julio Mejia III, Jennifer Mendez, Isaac Mensah, Almira Mersimovska, Gjulsen Mersimovska, Timothy Mester, Kristina Mikhnevich, Eugene Milshteyn, John Misisi, Bilal Mjeshtri, Christian Mongiello, Equan Mongo, Gerald Montanez, Jerilee Montanez, Luz Maria Montanez, Marquis Montgomery, Joseph Mooney, Ephren Moore, Tygiere Moore, Lauren Morales, Yael Moran Sandoval, Aaron Morton, Maria Muniz, Jeremy Murillo, Mayar Mussa, Moeas Nahid, William Naismith, Nicholas Nally, Eli Nathan, Morgiana Natt, Daanyaal Neils, Kelly Nelson, Vittoria Nicoletti, Jonathan Nieves, Tiffany Nieves, Kuanysh Niyazov, Benjamin Nuamah, Stephanie Ocampo, Ayat Odeh, Eman Odeh, Devon Oliva, Ashley Olivo, Frank Ortiz, Matthew Ortiz, Nicholas Ortiz, Gresilda Oruci, Ummil Khair Osman, Flanza Osmani, Evelina Ostroukhova, Jessica Oviedo, Michael Pacelli, Julian Pacheco, Thomas Papanier, Klea Papuli, Vincent Parisi, Shivani Patel, Caprice Peele, Matthew Pellicano, Ellaina Pena, Harsha Perera, Christina Perlongo, Domenick Pettinato, Victorya Phillips, Michael Pillarella, Alexander Pinchouk, Ilona Pochtarenko, Kristopher Polanco, Salvatore Polizzi, Samantha Poplaski, Sarina Porzio, Michael Potenza, Michelle Powerman, Bronislava Prazdnik, Sabrina Prestia, Zgjim Qosja, Joseph Quigley, Alban Radoveshi, Albion Radoveshi, Angelo Rago, David Ramos, Erin Ratel, Daniel Rebecca, Dori Reeves, Dino Regato, Taylor Regina, Amanda Reilly, Adriane Reyes, Marilyn Rivera, Michelle Rivera, Victoria Rivera, Alyssa Rocas, Tariq Rodgers, Ashley Rodriguez, Devin Rodriguez, Stephanie Rodriguez, Victor Rodriguez, Benito Rojas, Nicholas Romeo, Ana Leeza Rossilli, Thomas Ruberto, Gregory Rupelli, Anthony Russo, Louis Russo, Adrian Rzonca, Mohamed Zein Safa, Daniel Safonov, Ehtisham Saleem, Samuel Salib, Rachel Samaha, Mirka Sanchez, Angelica Sanford, Amanda Santana, Fabian Santana, Elisa Santiago, Sheaniese Saunders, Nataliya Sayenko, Thomas Schremm, Andrew Scozzari, Thomas Seiler, Dmitriy Shapovalov, Michael Shea, Anna Shershnyova, Thomas Sierra, Tylar Simon, Stephanie Sklyar, Nicholas Smith, Niko Sorgente, Wendy Soriano, Amanda Rose Sperato, Charles Spiteri, Joseph Stazzone, Semra Stebleva, Patryk Stepien, Imani Stevenson, Jade Stone, Michael Sui, Michael Swanston, Fatima Syed, Philip Szumanski, Ryan Tacoronte, Brittany Talvy, Dayse Tapia, Ephraim Taylor, Alena Te, Christine Teichman, Matthew Tesoriero, Jodi Thatcher, Tiffany Theimer, Kyle Thies, Salvatore Tirelli, Samuel Tirelli, Emmanuel Toe, Nicholas Torres, Nicholas Toto, Kristin Townsley, Justin Tracey, Vincent Tredici, Patriot Trepca, Danielle Tripodi, Vincent Tromello, Kseniya Tsiartsichanaya, Ishad Tull, Kemo Ture, Jordan Utley,

Gabrielle Valentin, Robert Valentine, Manuel Valenzuela, Danny Valle, Alena Vedeneeva, Johnson Vega, Gregory Vella, Nicholas Venier, Henry Verner, Stefan Vulichevich, Maryss Weiss, Justin Westcott, Kevin White, Fiona Whyte, Kathleen Whyte, Shonda Williams, Nicholas Wilton, Karolina Wszeborowska, Fion Wu, Jessica Yan, Kimberly Yee, Mark Yevdayev, Jeremiah Yondah, Nicole Young, Mafa Zita, Erum Zubair, Steven Zumba.

PORT RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES:

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College of Staten Island High School for International Studies graduates 95

Published: Wednesday, June 29, 2011, 8:02 AM



By **Kaitlin Cangro**



Staten Island Advance/Irving Silverstein

The graduates of the **College of Staten Island** High School for International Studies stand in the Center for the Arts as the ceremony opens.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The clash of cymbals began commencement exercises for 95 "uniquely united" graduates of the **College of Staten Island** High School for International Studies (CSIHSIS) yesterday in the **CSI**'s Center for the Arts.

Eleven of the graduates welcomed everyone -- each with a greeting in a different language. This was to acknowledge the diversity that CSIHSIS encourages. The graduates later recited the Global Citizens' Pledge as a reminder that their commitment to service is never-ending.

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***PHOTOS FROM ALL STATEN ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATIONS**

Brian Powers, an emissary of state Sen. Andrew Lanza, encouraged the graduates never to stop learning. "Education is the backbone of everything you do in life," he said.

Aimee Horowitz, founding principal and now superintendent for the city Department of Education, reminded the graduates of the doors that have been opened to them by their school and the challenge they will face to apply this wisdom to their daily lives.

"It is my hope that you use your **College of Staten Island** High School for International Studies education for



Family Photo

Kevin Conroy, Graduate of Distinction

good," she said.

Graduate of distinction Jessica Chan, along with graduates Adetola Adeosun, Samantha Furman and Fanny He, addressed the audience. They spoke of the friendships they have cultivated and their transition from the Willowbrook to New Springville campus. Kevin Conroy is also a graduate of distinction.

Paulina Plata concluded the graduate addresses, tying everything together.

"Life is given to us so that we can live it with passion, conviction and purpose."



Family Photo

Jessica Chan, Graduate of Distinction

She added, "Take what you have learned in high school and use it."

Dr. Josephine Ojiambo, the deputy ambassador/permanent representative at the Kenya Mission to the United Nations, encouraged each of the graduates to consider a career with the U.N. or another international organization and wished them "a life full of duty and a life full of honor."

"In all these new settings, you will excel," she said.

Seven senior advisers fought back tears as they called out the respective names of the graduates

they had advised for the past four years. "I ask you not to look at today as the end, but as the best that is yet to come," said Annette Lentini, director of senior activities.

First-year Principal Joseph J. Canale presented the graduates with their diplomas. First-year Assistant Principal Lauren Torres also bid each graduate farewell. Canale concluded the ceremony by reflecting on how the graduates have grown along with the school. He said that the school is unique and that the graduates are "uniquely united."

"You truly have so much power," he said. "My hope is that you will use it."

He added, "Remember where you have been and never lose sight of where you are going."

The graduates are:

Amanda Aasen, Adetola Adeosun, Mariam Airapetian, Jose Aragon, Jamir Archer, Alessandra Asperti, Amna

Baig, Destiny Bangura, Kamylah Bennett, Zachary Boodoo, Lisa Borzi, Amanda Casale, Justin Castro, Jessica Chan, Kenny Cho, Alexandra Cifu, Clarisse Joy Concepcion, Kevin Conroy, Seychelle Cordero, Sarah Corso, Chelsea Cruz, Erin Dennis, Lauren Dente, Alfonso Depalma, Anthony Deravin, Samantha Dimarco, Alyssa Ditre, Shivanna Duncan, Chris Ekonomakos, Raveen Fakoya, Daniel Falero, Christina Faraj, Alexandra Ferrigno, Samantha Furman, Rona Galicia, Jake Goldie, Brenda Gonzalez, Caileen Gonzalez, Peter Grancio, Michael Grigoli, Vincent Guardino, Justin Guevarez, Fanny He, Danielle Ianazzi, Gina Ianniello, Yarelin Iglesias, David Innamorato, Michael Jagiello, Isaiah Jenkins, Carolina Jimenez

Irmak Karakelle, Travis Knight, Gregory Kolesnikov, Vanessa Kreytak, Glenn Kugelman, Devan Labarbera, Ariel Leiva, Adam Levine, Stephanie Llorca, Daelina Lockhart, Amanda Long, Kristoffer Lopez, Dylan Luke, Jessica Mallozzi, Jasmine Mansour, Ashley Miller, Aisha Musa, Michelle Naidoo, Adrian Nieves, Nataly Ochoa, Cristopher Orlando, Marisch Perera, Brandon Pincay, Breanna Pizzolo, Paulina Plata, Leila Rauner, Phillipe Renoird, Justin Roa, Tiana Rodriguez, Talisa Rosario, Angela Salmos, Martin Sanchez, John Schiavone, Nicole Scozzari, Derrick Tam, Henna Tariq, Theodore Thompson, Priscilla Torres, Christina Tsang, Talon Turner, Jose Valentin, Ricardo Vega, James Verdi, Chamika Wanigatunga, Sarai Wanyonyi, Divina Wiley, Kenya Williams, Haynes Yatco.

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Outstanding Chinese high school graduates to enjoy winning the mayor's official residence

Jun 29, 2011

By [MUHAMMAD HARIS](#)



Outstanding Chinese high school graduates to enjoy winning the mayor's official residence

Mayor Bloomberg invited from the city's 28 public schools, the first and second high school graduates, to the Upper East Side in Manhattan, the mayor of West Park Rose guest residence, education director Woke Te also attended the banquet, many Chinese graduates with good academic results students and parents to share their joy with friends, and that everyone experiences when you first came to the United States to overcome language and cultural difficulties, but if we continue to not give up, will be successful.

Bloomberg at the meeting were to celebrate these achievements and Woke Te to encourage outstanding students, they also said that the Mayor and Chancellor have failed to get through the first, second honor, so these students unlimited future. At the meeting, Watson have to thank my parents for their hard work planting and to pay, but also Qimian their lives in the future to learn to work harder to repay their parents upbringing.

The second area high school dual-Wen Peng crown four years ago emigrated to the U.S., he will enter Emory University (Emory University) study. He said the 15-year-old high school on time to the United States, behind others feel that their English for 15 years, the basic vocabulary not only to pay several times the effort to catch up with others their learning progress, others just take an hour read the article, he would spend three hours to look up a word in reading. He said that as long as the effort will be fruitful, when he's ready to do a good job after each course, the language problem will not make him not understand the teacher's class. He has been four years in high school back in upholding the word. He also said the side has been able to quickly catch up with the learning process, thanks to the help of school teachers and students, thanks to dual-language courses are also set. Learn English after he also served as volunteers to help other parents and students.

99.3 points in the first graduated from College of Staten Island (CSI) high school and second Hezi Xin Chen Xin, accompanied by their parents to the party, in the same high school they have been good friends. Chen Xin will enter New York University majoring in biological sciences. Chen Xin Chen Yiguang father and mother grew up on the medical, biological, and other special interest, she said she may continue to rise after the post-graduate and doctorate, she wants to become a scientist. Chen Xin's parents said the junior high school when her class have done quite well but it is not the best, parents still try to respect Chen Xin own learning methods and arrangements, never gave her too much pressure.

He Zixin will also enter the New York University, she chose the specialty is international relations, He Zixin parents said their daughter's request is not to bad, was never learn too much pressure on her, He Zixin will usually they want to have a good how to do it, and then discuss with their parents. Parents believe that self-study is very important, they intend to give He Zixin learn to think independently, not instructions arrangement with her parents to go, the only way to truly foster the children's self-confidence.

Hill & 'Ville - Kayla Repeats As Top Player; Tottenville Regains the Crown

By MARC RAIMONDI; JOSEPH STSZEWSKI

One team returned back to the top after a year absence, one remained there and another made history.

Tottenville won its seventh PSAL city championship in eight years after falling last season to James Madison. The Pirates beat the Knights, 1-0 in 10 innings, in the final, defeating Kayla Hill, the city's best pitcher.

In the CHSAA, Archbishop Molloy won its first state title while the school celebrated its 10-year anniversary of having girls athletics. The Stanners won a third straight Brooklyn/ Queens title before completing something they have been striving toward for a decade.

Poly Prep managed to win a sixth straight NYSAISAA championship despite losing four Ivy League games and finishing third in the division.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Kayla Hill, James Madison

Last year as a junior, Hill gave up just two runs in eight innings to beat Tottenville in the PSAL Class A city championship, earning Madison its first title. What could she possibly do for an encore?

Hill somehow pitched better in this year's final. The Pace University-bound flamethrower allowed no earned runs and scattered eight hits against the city's best lineup, dancing out of jams with aplomb, in 92/3 innings. The one problem was that Madison's lineup didn't hit and Tottenville took back the championship with a 1-0, 10- inning victory.

The 5-foot-2 hurler was as dominant as ever this season, giving up just one earned run the entire season. In the inaugural NYC Mayor's Cup, she earned MVP honors by striking out 12 batters in five innings to lead the PSAL team to a 6-2 win over the CHSAA.

"Without her, we're almost an ordinary team," Madison coach Jeff Meltzer said. "With her, we almost win the city championship again."

COACH OF THE YEAR: Maureen Rosenbaum, Archbishop Molloy

It was the best anniversary present she could ask for. Rosenbaum has been at the helm at Molloy for all 10 years of the program's existence. She finally reached the pinnacle with the school's first CHSAA state title. As the majority of her teams do, the Stanners peaked at the end of the season, becoming an unstoppable force at the plate en route to winning CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens for the third straight year and the city crown for the first time since 2007.

"This is ultimately the win that you want," Rosenbaum said. "This is what we worked for all season."

Rosenbaum can be tough on her players when necessary, but is quick to express her confidence in them to get the job done. No matter how big a spot, her calming influence led to championship plays and contributions up and down the roster. "I have total confidence in them," Rosenbaum said.

SECOND TEAM

3B Sydney Ginsberg, Horace Mann P Victoria Goldbach, Archbishop Molloy CF Danielle Locke, Susan Wagner 3B Samantha Mattsson, Tottenville 1B Dana Moss, Archbishop Molloy DP Taylor Moss, Archbishop Molloy C Jennifer Palase, Tottenville P Britney Rodriguez, Construction C Samantha Rodriguez, James Madison CF Maria Scopellito, St. Joseph by the Sea

HONORABLE MENTION

SS Ashley Burke, Construction P Jackie Cautela, St. Joseph by the Sea SS Danielle Cervasio, St. Francis Prep SS Gina Gerone, James Madison P Blayse Halvorsen, McKee/Staten Island Tech P Jocelyn Jimenez, Environmental Studies P Priscilla Lallave, Francis Lewis P Samantha Lallave, Francis Lewis SS Kristina Mazzarisi, St. Joseph by the Sea P Alyssa McDonald, Bishop Kearney 3B Shannon Minihane, Mary Louis P Tayna Pena, DeWitt Clinton SS Shannon Rhodes, Packer Collegiate CF Krissa Sagona, Moore Catholic SS Jamie Sarubbi, Poly Prep

FIRST TEAM

SS Taylor Baggs, Moore Catholic The senior, who will play women's basketball at Caldwell College, was one of the city's most consistent hitters and run producers. She never hesitated to sacrifice her body in the field as Moore won its first CHSAA Archdiocesan title since 2007.

P Katie Derby, St. Francis Prep The Post University-bound senior led SFP to the CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens final, pitching nearly every single inning this season. Derby, who also excelled with the bat, threw 13 hitless innings at one point during the season.

3B Jackie Kelly, St. Joseph by the Sea There may not be a better- fielding third baseman in the city nor a more professional hitter. The Hartford-bound senior was a force at the plate, batting .543 with 15 RBIs as Sea won a fourth straight CHSAA Staten Island crown.

P Cheryl Lopez, Tottenville The sophomore transfer was up to the challenge in her first year with the city's top team. She pitched Tottenville into the PSAL Class A city championship game with three starts in three days, the last of those a no-hitter of Francis Lewis in the semifinals. In the final, she pitched a three-hitter in 10 innings to down Madison.

CF Victoria McFarland, Tottenville The city's best all-around player, the Albany-bound senior did everything for the PSAL city champs. It was McFarland's single in the title game that eventually scored Samantha Mattsson from first with the winning run.

SS Kate Miller, Fieldston Miller is the best player no one knows about in New York City. The junior superstar plays on a little- known team outside of the Ivy League, but is a true five-tool player. Miller has a host of Division I suitors interested in her services.

3B Laura Montalto, Preston The Manhattanville-bound senior again lived up to her "Monster" nickname. Her feared bat and slick glove earned the Panthers a second-place finish in CHSAA Bronx/Westchester, and she was a menace in the Archdiocesan quarters versus St. John Villa.

SS Nicole Palase, Tottenville She started the season as the team's ace, but eventually deferred that role to Cheryl Lopez. Palase's defense at shortstop, probably the best in the city, was too good not to have here there. The St. Joseph's University-bound slugger was equally adept at the plate.

P/SS Maria Palmeri, Archbishop Molloy The C.W. Post-bound Palmeri put all her skills on display in the postseason. The junior allowed just a run in the CHSAA state final, was superb in the field and hit a mammoth home run in the city title game against Moore Catholic

P Brittany Smith, St. John Villa Smith pitched and hit the Bears to the season's biggest upset by knocking off St. Joseph by the Sea in the CHSAA Archdiocesan semifinals. The College of Staten Island-bound senior has unmatched speed and played each game with unquestioned heart.

Originally published by MARC RAIMONDI AND JOSEPH STSZEWSKI.

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New Soto Skate Park: Where's the challenge? say skateboarders and bikers

Published: Thursday, June 30, 2011, 10:57 AM



Virginia N. Sherry
By



Soto Skate Park's new look with no ramps. "This is a slap in the face," said Stephen Quigley, 17, of Grant City, a constant presence at the skate park for the past four years. "It's like taking tackle out of football." (Staten Island Advance/Virginia N. Sherry)

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - MIDLAND BEACH - Young skateboard and BMX enthusiasts who previously flocked to Benjamin Soto Skate Park from all over Staten Island expressed astonishment and disappointment last week about what they see as the dumbed-down version of the borough's only skate park. The city's Parks Department reopened the site on June 16.

"This is terrible – there are no ramps – this place is not a skate park any more," said Woodrow resident **Matt Duffy**, 14, who attends Tottenville High School and gets from his South Shore home to the Midland Beach facility via the Staten Island Railway (SIR).

Great Kills resident **Chris Nazzaro**, 17, a recent graduate of Monsignor Farrell High School who will enter the **College of Staten Island (CSI)** as a freshman, agreed. "I'll grind the rails for a little, and then find somewhere else to go," he said.

"The old park was fine – we had a good and decent park – all it needed was repairs," said **Joshua Ocasio**, a 20-year-old engineering major at **CSI** who lives in Prince's Bay. "They just tore down everything. It should not have been bulldozed. This is crap."

The Parks Department told the Advance on Monday that "six steel and concrete benches and multiple steel rails planned for the site are now installed," and "a low concrete platform and ramp will be installed this summer."

In a statement, the agency explained that "ramps over three feet require safety equipment and helmets and staff to monitor," adding that "most of the new skate parks being built have primarily 'street elements.'

"We hope to add concrete ramps, bowls and other elements when we have funding, but we will not be adding ramps over three feet as has been discussed with the community and elected officials on previous occasions," the agency said.

"This is a slap in the face," said **Stephen Quigley**, 17, of Grant City, a constant presence at the skate park for the past four years. "It's like taking tackle out of football."

"It's a disgrace that it's come down to this, and there's only this to show," said a disgusted **Tim Cox**, 15, of Bulls Head, a BMX enthusiast who attends McKee High School and sometimes rides his bike from the West Shore to Midland Beach when he cannot catch a car ride.

'NO VARIETY'

Skateboarders voiced similar complaints last week, all of them upset about the lack of ramps that allowed them to ride, "get air," and establish momentum for other tricks. "You can't fly off any of this stuff – there's no variety," one of them said.

"I can't skate transition and do 'tranny' tricks. It's all rails and street stuff," another complained.

"It's the worst thing ever. They should take it back, and put in some real edges," said **Akeim Whyllie**, 16, who lives in Rosebank and attends Ft. Hamilton High School in Brooklyn. "This is like junkyard welding," he commented, pointing to the low metal rails. "I know because my dad is a welder. I want to unbolt this stuff, and bring it home for my dad to make better."

His friend **Rich Rojas**, 18 – a McKee High School student, also from Rosebank – said that the newly reopened park "is not what I was expecting. I'm a little grateful, but they should add quarter-pipes, banks, and ramps.

"They didn't consult with us when they made this. There should be fewer rails," added Rojas, a user of the



From left to right, skateboarders Rich Rojas of Rosebank, 18; Joshua Ocasio of Prince's Bay, 20; and Akeim Whyllie, 16, also of Rosebank. "They should add quarter-pipes, banks, and ramps," said Rojas, who used Soto Skate Park for four years before it was shut down and demolished.

park for the last four years.

The whole point of skate parks is the availability of infrastructure not easily – and legally – found on the streets, the young riders explained.

"Kids go pro at 14 years old," said Quigley of Grant City. "So for those of us trying to go pro, this is wasted time that we can't get back. This was a place to learn – the only place on Staten Island."

WHAT'S NEXT?

"We recognize that the current 'street elements' may not accommodate all styles of riding, and we are working with the skateboard and BMX community to identify and advocate for either future enhancements to Ben Soto, or the complete rebuild of a new skate park at the same location," the Parks Department said in its statement. The agency noted, however, that "there is no budget at this time" to reconstruct Soto Skate Park.



BMX bikers at Soto Skate Park -- "This is a slap in the face," said one.

"We are also investigating additional skate park opportunities in Staten Island parks," the agency added. "We are now considering the possibility of adaptively-reusing the old Safari Amusement Park site (at Arthur Kill Road and Richmond Avenue, owned by the Parks Department) as a skate park," the agency stated, noting that "a Request for Proposal for the operation of the adjacent building facility as a Parks Concession was released on April 20, and the deadline was June 23.

Students & Alumni

Students

Capt. Martin Egan Run still drawing big crowd at Midland Beach

Published: Thursday, June 02, 2011, 3:58 PM



By **Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - MIDLAND BEACH -

It was written when Capt. Martin Joseph Egan Jr., one of the firefighters who gave their lives on September, 11, 2001, that the lifelong Staten Islander was always quick with a joke, and willing to bring smiles to the faces he knew.

And ever since his family and friends decided to honor his memory by holding a road race in his honor, he's still doing that for hundreds of runners of all ages.

This year was no different as the 5th annual Capt. Martin Egan Memorial 5-K Race was held in Midland Beach last month.



Enlarge

Joshua Ryan

Capt. Martin Egan's kids pose at Capt. Martin J. Egan Jr. 5K Run on May 15th, 2011. (Staten Island Advance/Hilton Flores)

5th Annual Captain Martin Egan Memorial 5-K Race gallery (7 photos)

From the many volunteers, above photo left, to the many young runners who participated, above photo right, a grand time was had by all who attended.

Also on hand that day were Egan's children Kerry, 13, and Sean, 15, photo left. The winner of the race was James Wiesner, photo right. Wiesner is a 21-year-old student at the College of Staten Island. The former star at St. Peter's Boys' High School was timed in 16 minutes, 41.8 seconds.

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Musician, math whiz Jenna Calder

Published: Thursday, June 02, 2011, 8:58 AM



By **Mark D. Stein**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - WILLOWBROOK - The education Jenna Calderon received through the City University of New York (CUNY) Macaulay Honors College at the **College of Staten Island (CSI)** was music to her mind.

Ms. Calderon, a Midland Beach resident and senior at **CSI**, graduated from Staten Island Technical High School four years ago and enrolled at the Willowbrook college because it seemed like a good opportunity to stay home while getting a really good education.

She's a music major who specializes in classical guitar and was preparing for her senior recital when the Advance caught up with her.

"That's the culmination for all the work I've been doing for the last four years," the young woman said.

It's her version of the typical senior thesis.

In her studies, Ms. Calderon was able to learn about what New York City has to offer, scientifically, in the arts, its people, and its future.

One topic highlighted was the music that stemmed from the Big Apple. She studied it her first semester of



Jenna Calderon, a senior at the Macaulay Honors College at the **College of Staten Island**, is concluding her four years at the Willowbrook school with a classical guitar senior recital. (Photo Courtesy of the Calderon Family)

college.

"We did a lot on New York City bands," she said, citing Sonic Youth and The Velvet Underground. "I got really into that because I'm a musician."

Her science studies included tree coring in Palisades Park, N.J., and a project on how it relates to global warming.

As most students presented data and details to peers at the same school, Ms. Calderon chose to travel west, and, along with other classmates, discussed her research at the University of Montana last April.

"It was huge," she said, adding that college students from across the country participated in the National Conference for Underground Research (NCUR). "That was a lot of fun. It was definitely something different."

Her experiences in the Macaulay Honors College didn't end there, as she was able to study abroad in Paris, where she learned French.

"It was definitely intense. I came out of there learning a lot in just a month," she said. "I've been able to explore a lot of things."

The math minor, at one point, debated choosing the subject as her major, but wasn't sure if she'd be fully satisfied.

Through the assistance of her advisor, Ms. Calderon was able to pick the field she knew would fit her perfectly.

"They've definitely been very involved," she said of the Macaulay staff. "My advisor always wants to know what's going on. She's kept up with me. She helped me decide my path."

The Macaulay faculty has been very supportive of her, she said, and helpful in preparing for the future.

After graduation, Ms. Calderon will attend Teachers College, Columbia University, in Manhattan.

"They do a lot for you, but you still have the opportunity to do your own thing and get involved. They don't hold you back," she said. "They definitely encouraged me to branch out beyond Macaulay."

College of Staten Island graduates 2,534

Published: Thursday, June 02, 2011, 4:14 PM



By **Frank Donnelly**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Willowbrook resident Marybeth Melendez is 44, divorced and the mother of three children.

She's also legally blind.

And while she'll eventually lose her sight completely to a retinitis pigmentosa, a progressive genetic disease that destroys the retinal muscle, Ms. Melendez could clearly see the road ahead of her today at her graduation from the [College of Staten Island](#).

An honors student and duo major in Psychology and Sociology/Anthropology, she'll pursue master's degrees in disability studies and mental health counseling. Her goal is a career in education helping disabled students receive appropriate services.

"This was the only way I could have a future," Ms. Melendez said of her decision to return to school to earn her degree. "I've survived so much in my life to be here. It's full circle and a new beginning."

The Willowbrook school's 35th commencement exercise marked the first step in a brave, new world for its 2,534 graduates. And while a shaky economy portends an uncertain future for many, they couldn't have asked for a better day to begin their journey: Sun-kissed blue skies, swept by a refreshing breeze.

[College of Staten Island](#) 2011 commencement

The Willowbrook's school 35th commencement exercise marked the first step in a brave, new world for its 2,534 graduates.



[Enlarge](#)

Jan Somma-Hammel

From left: Rachel Ashur of Willowbrook, Christiann Miranda of Huguenot, Diana Huseinovic of Brooklyn, Anthony Irizarry of New Springville and Danielle Morella. (Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel)

[College of Staten Island](#) 2011 graduation gallery (19 photos)

"It means so much to be able to have all four years summed up" in one day,

Anthony Irizarry, 21, of New Springville, said minutes before walking down the aisle to the rousing strains of "Pomp and Circumstance."

"It's a great accomplishment," said Irizarry, who earned a degree in Science, Letters and Society and will pursue a master's degree in education.

"I'm excited," said his fellow grad, Daneille Morella, 22, who plans to earn a master's degree in speech pathology.

Dr. Tomas D. Morales, the school's president, said the graduates would leave behind a legacy of achievement. Some are mothers or fathers, or even grandparents. Others are the first in their family to graduate college. Hundreds worked full-time or part-time to put themselves through school.

He said increasing numbers of high school valedictorians and salutatorians are entering the school, admissions scores are up and students and faculty are earning prestigious awards. Many of today's graduates will pursue advanced degrees at some of the country's top schools and institutions.

"Each and every one of you represents the ongoing transformation of the college as an outstanding public institution of higher learning," he said. "Be proud of your degree. Be proud that you earned it here — at the College of Staten Island."

Senator Charles Schumer (D-New York) urged students to find their passion in life and make it their career.

"Go for it," he said. "Figure out what [your] dream is and try for it. Your life will be enriched forever."

Keynote speaker Thomas DiNapoli, the Democratic state comptroller, told graduates they earned something that only 30 percent of Americans over age 25 have obtained: A college degree.

While their education will give them a leg up in the future, there are no guarantees, he cautioned. Graduates, he said, need to be open to all possibilities and opportunities, wherever and however they may appear.

"Stuff happens. ... Change is barreling toward us," said DiNapoli "You can stand on the tracks and hold up a stop sign or jump on board. Embrace the roller coaster of life."

The comptroller also implored graduates to live by and fight for their ideals, regardless of how popular or unpopular they might be.

"[You'll] be rewarded with a better life," he said.

Valedictorian Melissa Horne said her years at CSI were among the best of her life.

"This place has instilled in me the desire to continuously and curiously search for knowledge," said Ms. Horne, who plans to attend law school. "It's on this beautiful campus that my heart learned to soar."

And seizing the moment, Ms. Horne threw her hands into the air and launched into the chorus of Alicia Keys' "Empire State of Mind."

"New York, concrete jungle where dreams are made of," Ms. Horne sang and danced as her fellow graduates shouted and clapped.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE COMPLETE LIST OF GRADUATES](#)

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Complete list of [College of Staten Island](#) 2011 graduates

Published: Thursday, June 02, 2011, 7:22 PM



By **Staten Island Advance**

June 2011 [CSI](#) Graduates

CUNY Macaulay Honors College University Scholars Program

Kalpita Abhyankar, Richard Louis Algarin,
Vincent Balestriere, Jenna M. Calderon,
Isabella Cardona, Alexa Jordan Cimbali,
Nicholas Dalonzo, Valerie Michelle
DeAngelo, Peter Dellegrazie, Ilirjana Duka,
Tony Boshi Jin, Brian Michael Kateman,
Michael V. Margarella, Regina Miller, Gary
J. Mulligan, Surendar Ravindran, Jonathan
Bart Rossi, Ilyssa Ann Silfen, Gayathri
Sudarsanan.



Enlarge

Jan Somma-Hammel

From left: Rachel Ashur of Willowbrook, Christiann Miranda of Huguenot, Diana Huseinovic of Brooklyn, Anthony Irizarry of New Springville and Danielle Morella. (Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel)

[College of Staten Island](#) 2011 graduation gallery (19 photos)

The Verrazano School

Artur Bash, Annie Breen, Jillian Clemente, Anthony Di Pietro, William Randolph Edell, Michael Ferrandino, Alexandra Leigh Fink, Natalie Gratkowski, Matthew Cararone Greger, Melissa Brevin Horne, Anum Humayun, Martin N. Larrosa, Qing Li, Nicholas G. Litos, Anthony Marciante, Rosemarie Marronaro, Marie Anne Mignone, Jonathan Moll, Ali Neagaip Mubarez, Mark O. Pachas, Alana N. Pagano, Melissa Anne Palladino, George M. Paragham, Sarah Marie Ross, Jessica Scarcella, Laura N. Silecchio, Benjamin Silfen, Nicole M. Stern, Michael Donald Thornton, Melissa Tinaphong, Paul Vincent Valentino, Stephanie Josephine Vlismas.

Teacher Education Honors Academy

Mercedes Chow, Tamara Galkovska, Jacqueline Garriga, Sahidatu Issaka, Lindsey Mednick, Deja Mullings, Maria Pellegrino, Erica Riccardella, Marci Richmond, Raechel Strobel.

Associate in Applied Science

Iwona Allam, Dania Alwari, Alexa Antonacci, Arnel S. Aromin, Sean Bailer, Rashmi Balkaran, Tatiyana Balon, Irina Barahman, Danielle L. Bartow, Kristina L. Basile, Caryn Boland, Cori Bopp, Diane Bright, Nicole Marie Butler, Katherine Cambria, Frederick R. Cappetta, Eddie Cardona, Jacqueline Deanne Carulli, Christina Keli Ann Casciano, Jane Cenatiempo, Monica C. Christian, Peter Ciaravino, Collette Clarke-Hinds, Adisatu A.Colandra, Robert Joseph Corcoran, Kathryn Lynn Creely, Maureen E. Cummo, Jonathan Cvelic, Margaretmary A. Darling, Catherine E. DeRosa, Rohan Asika Dharmasena, Valerie A. DiGenova, Leonard Bernard Donegan, Jr., Maria D'Onofrio, Kimberly Doyle, Barbara Dunn, Angela Errico, Emily Kate Fernandez, Catherine Ferrigno, Candice Marie Ficalora, Dana Fisher, Gina Ann Fiumefreddo, Samantha M. Florio, Marcia Marie Gambale, David Lee Gonzalez, Justin Christopher Goon, Kathryn Gilbransen, Roshika N. Goonawardena, Meagan Grillo, Charity Horrilleno, Rachel Howard, Mirgena G. Hoxha, Lise Britt Hoydal, Jenny Huynh, Agnieszka Jaczynski, Kesha James, Mirena Khaimova, Erica Khanna, Pearl Klein, Tuwain Kolleh, Irina Kotlyar, Yao Kra, Muamet Kurtisi, Michael L. Levine, Vlada Lyzhina, Vinu Malave, Bertha Kapambala Mambwe, Rachel Margalit, Emily Olga Miranda, Jonathan Moll, Ali Neagaip Mubarez, Jamie Murphy, Steve Nelson, Okechukwu Okoronkwo, Cora-Ann O'Regan, Angela Marie Ortiz, Samuel Ortiz, Jr., George M. Paragham, Maria Parente, Moses Peters, Vera Poskotina, Nicole Josephine Prota, Yuliya Rabkina, Caitlin Amanda Raleigh, Ofelia Cariness Garcia Reyes, Tiffany Joy Roberts, Michael D. Saadi, Samantha Scardino, Jetmir Sela, Drenushe Selimaj, Jensine Shaw, Chrisantha Silva, Kristina Espiritu Sixon, Maureen Smith-Pickering, Denise Spoto, Linda Tang, Emily Ann Todaro, Leones Becky Trinity, Sabina Tser, Joseph M. Unrein, Teresa Unrein, Nancy Venezia, Stacey Viciere, Michael A. Vigliotti, Sanela Vukic, Melody Waide, Malikah Nadiyah Weston, Da Na Yi, Roger Y. Young, Suleman Zahid.

Associate in Arts

Ilona Abramovich, Jasmin Abuella, Krystin Alece Aguilera, Andrea Albert, Sarah B. Alexis, Esther Aliotta, Alexandra Altieri, Marina Alvarez, Rachel L. Armenia, Ruth Victoria Arsenec-Smith, Salvatore Balistreri, Dominick P. Balsamo, Gregory Baxter, Eugenia Otchere Bediako, Nicole Sable Bell, Erick Christopher Berrios, Nancy Beshara, Alexandra G. Birmingham, Madeline Bislig, Liana B. Boddie, Mary Ellen Borg, Tomasz Piotr Borowiec, Nicole Danielle Bravata, Danielle Marie Brooks, Ila Elizabeth Brown, Susanna Camaj, Fanta Camara, John T. Campione, Stephanie Capellan, Edgar David Carvajal, Janine M. Catania, Chrystal Chino, Danielle Theresa Ciaramello, Anthony J. Collica, Jose A. Colon, Toni Colucci, Caitlin Ann Condon, Coryanne Cook, Francesca D. Cordone, Deryn Frances Cro, Chelsea M. Cutrona, Sadiya Danilova, Noor E. Daoud, Lucille Davidson, Rachel Christina De Bruin, Marichris Dela Cruz, Dawn M. Derbyshire, Flavia Alexandra Di Bartolo, De Anna Dlug, Kristin Durante, Adam M. El-Maadowy, Eric Fedele, Jeffrey Craig Ferrari, Jessica Ferrugio, Jenna Victoria Fevola, Larita Candice Finisterre, Paul Joseph Foote, Altina Frangu, Yin Cheong Fung, Anthony Michael Galati, Deidra Gallagher, Josephine Amy Gambino, Andy Gil, Dominique A. Gitto, Christina Gobrial, Kristin K. Golat, Brian A. Gonzalez, Malinda Gordy, Audrey Graves, Sarah Greenidge, Elizabeth Denise Grieco, Alicia Guisao, John J. Gulizia, Nikki Gulizia, Jessica Guzman, D'Andre Lynterius Hamilton, Steven Hamm, Sungitha Hasham, Jessica Jimenez, Jehad M. Joseph, Michele Kelley, Donald J. Kiernan, Jr., Kelli Lyn Knapp, Olya Konstantinidis, Virginia Kouros, Jillian Laub, George Francis Lauro,

Hankyu Lee, Kristin D. Lenzo, Melissa Denise Levine, Valira Lewis, Nunziata Lombardo, Danielle L. Lopez, Glorivee Lopez, Maxwell T. Lunde, Amanda Marie Magana, Marco Thomas Manomat, Giancarlo Carmine Maratea, Elizabeth Michelle Marino, Gabrielle Martinez, Vanessa Martinez, Christopher Matarazzo, Norma Matos-Jackson, Lisa Mary Mattera, April Lashaun Mays, Tiffany Marie Mazzio, Shameka C. McKenzie, Alma Rosa Medina, Tara J. Meiners, Christine Menake, Brenda Mercedes Mendez, Alex B. Menjivar, Megan Ann Minadeo, Gabrielle Minucci, Doris Paola Miranda, Mary Mitchell, Ahmed Moftah, Monique Marie Mongiove, Kelly Rose Moore, Jesus Manuel Morales, Jessica MucciarielloJanette Murray, Kasuni Hasara Nanayakkara, Kouame N'Guessan, Michael O'Callaghan, Janice Ojeda, Paul A. Olivier, Jason O'Neill, Nina Orobinskaya, Maria Palazzo, Ashley Marie Palumbo, Sabrina Pardo, Laura Parnizari, Jason S. Passalacqua, Allyson Eileen Pawloski, Anbelica Maria Pellegriti, Victoria Rose Pepitone, Christian Ronica Phillips, Angelica C. Pinto, Albulena Prelvukaj, Ghitana Raife, Laura Ramirez-Cain, Vincent Michael Randazzo, Danielle Marie Resciniti, Christina L. Reyes, Nicole L. Reyes, Daniel E. Riccardelli, Erica A. Riveccio, Lorene D. Roberts, Cassandre Roche, Doron Roth, Anthony James Ruggiero, Mark Anthony Ruiz, Maria Russo, Laurene Anne Saad, Michele Sangiorgio, Justin M. Sarachik, Margaret Mary Scalesci, Kristina Marie Schipani, Kwame Nunya Segbawu, Craig J. Small, Megan Marie Smith, Isabel Sosa, Richard Joseph Spampinato, Gina Ann Spiro, Kadeem Stephen, Kourtney Veronica Stewart, Dafina Strikcani, Kirby D. Tejada, Christopher M. Terranova, Michael Donald Thornton, Kori Elizabeth Tjornhom, Jessica M. Torres, Casey R. Troeller, Jacinta Y. Tucker, Nicole Velez, Chemille N. Warren, Spencer Andrew Welhous, Marilyn D. Williams, Magdalena Wisniowska, Tishana E. Wright, Paula Yee, Mohamed Z. Youssef.

Associate in Science

Christina Rose Flynn, Vincent Giambalvo, Shaimaa Hegazy, Robert Holminski, Richard Leem, Kimberly A. Leonard-Awuku, Katiria Lopez, Rose Fenise Oge, Sheena Rose Sowlakis, Shany Vigdorchik.

Bachelor of Arts

Leyla Abasova, Monica Abdelmalek, Edward Abrams, McCall Adams, Olalekan Afolabi, Abosede Ajayi, Alma Ajdinovska, Andrea Albert-Jones, Louis R. Algarin, Christabel C. Amadi, Maryana Andreyko, Angelica E. Artemis, Sandra A. Asaro, Alan Arthur Aurelia, Vincent Balestriere, Danielle M. Balestrino, Lindsey Anne Barber, Steven Barletta, Lonnie M. Baron, Matthew Bartels, Artur Bash, Elisa Battista, Jonathan Andrew Beckman, Tina Marie Bellocchio, Toni A. Benino, Marissa Elaine Bennetti, Latifa Ashaki Benson, Ewelina Berc, Vadim Berger, Vivian C. Berman, Kimberly R. Bisulca, Shaquana K. Bostic, Elizabeth Boston, Katherine Brandt, Joanne Brennan, Sharon Venise Brown, Anna Brzezinski, Kristin Taylor Burns, Angella Caban, Jennifer Lynn Caggiano, Jenna M. Calderon, Rafael Ivan Calderon, Daniel K. Campbell, Peter Candrilli, Erica Cano, Besart Capa, Lesly M. Carazas, Vincent A. Carbellano, Isabella Cardona, Joseph Thomas Carlucci, Jennifer Cuchie Carrion, Nicole Danielle Castellano, Dana Marie Catalano, Janine M. Catania, Maria Cavaliere, Beth Cefalu, Rosanna Cefalu, Mong Ian Chang, Zachary T. Chapman, Ayesha Chaudhry, Kristina Chechel, Nahesha Georgia Chin, Maria Cilento, Alexa Jordan Cimbali, Lauren Ashley Cirami, Jillian Clemente, Megan Judith Coleman, Miguel G. Commissiong, Gina Contarino, Kelly Cooper, Sasha K. Cooper, Robert Joseph Corcoran, Francesca D. Cordone, Giangrazio Cordone, Nicole Cossu, Frances Croce, Angela M. Cruz, Julyse

A. Migan-Gandonou Cu, Kristen Cucurullo, Noel L. Cullen, Brian Gerard Cunningham, Lauren Cara Cybulska, Nicholas Dalonzo, Jennifer De Rosa, Jenna Decker, Melvin Armando DeJesus, Marichris Dela Cruz, Demetrius George Dermanis, Mark Derry, Lauren Di Dio, Kimberly M. DiGregorio, Casey Diker, Anthony Di Pietro, Danielle Discala, Vildana Djeka, Djordje Dojcinovic, Nicole Thomas Drakontis, Aurora L. Ellis, Adam M. El-Maadawy, Maha Elsheemy, Candice Chanel Everett, Lori C. Faicco, Danielle Fanale, Lucila Margarita Farfan-Narcisse, Teresa Farina, Alyssa M. Fazio, Roman Fedkowskyj, Jessica E. Fenton, Karissa M. Feraiolo, Laura Ferrara, Renee Lynette Ferrara, Gregory Marc Festo, Sonia Hortencia Fiallos, Jehona Fida, Alexandra Leigh Fink, Brittany A. Fiorillo, Danielle Fischer, Gerard E. Forte, Jose Fortuna, Allysha Latina Francis, Paul Gregory Friedman, Suzanne Marie Galati, Rose Grace Galea, Lisamarie Gambino, Michelle Gardella, George V. Gargiso, Debra A. Gaygusuz, Theresa Ann Gerard, Dana Patricia Giallorenzo, Krystine Giammarino, John Gilmore, Joseph Anthony Giunto, Josephine Rosalia Giurdanella, Daniel Edmund Golat, Joshua H. Goldberg, Jessica Goldstone, Alina Golofayeva, Linda Gomez, Patricia A. Gonnella, Amanda K. Gonzalez, Brian A. Gonzalez, Christine Granata, Natalie Gratkowski, Angela Estelle Gray, Matthew Cararone Greger, Kim Y. Grullon, Elizabeth Guarino, Jennifer Ann Guinta, Zoya Gul, Joanna Hammoudi, Margaret Elaine Hampton, Maggy Hanna, Andrea Hansen, Mispa Haque, Madalene Harden, Intissar Hasan, Elaine Henedy, Sean Hennessy, Sarah Elise Hennig, Thomas B. Herron, Jade Hession, Robert T. Hill, Alison Holtermann, Melissa Brevin Horne, Dianne Horning, Stephanie Christine Hunt, Ernesta Hysa, Marina Ilnickis, Danielle Marie Jacovino, Sabha Jawad, Crystal Carla Jimenez, Elisett Jimenez, Scarlett Jimenez, Caitlin Elizabeth Johnson, Nadia Kader, Erin Ashley Kammerer, Kristen Kaplan, Danielle Karasinski, Michele Kelley, Dana Sue Kenefick, Mleeka Khan, Renata Khanis, Jaba Khvedelidze, Jonathan Kiefer, Sean Thomas Kilcullen, Sara Kim, Zara Tristen Kittel, Joanna Kluik, Besim Kodraj, Richard M. Kotula, Monica Kumar, Alisa Kundel, Ashley Kuruvilla, Elizabeth Ann LaGiusa, Maria Lago, Kristina Laktionova, Stephanie Lama, Christina Landolfi, Ashley Marie Lane, Jeanette M. Lane, Nicole Marie Langford, Emelida Larios Leon, Steven Ronald Larsen, Jillian Laub, Margaret Lauro, Dmitriy Lazarev, Elena D. Leggio, Florjana Lela, Qing Li, Sherra Li, Michael Libert, Ruth Lieberman, Mai May Lin, Andrea Lindell, Vincent Liodice, Gina V. Lombardo, Monica Lucarini, Kristi A. Lucchesi, Giacomo Lucchetti, Gershia D. Lynch, Matthew Lynch, Nicole Macri, Candice F. Maiorana, Louisa Mancini, Christina Mannarino, Kathleen Mannion, Lisa Marie Marcello, Joy Rose Marchica, Anthony Marciante, Michael V. Margarella, Lisa A. Marino, Judy Marquez, Rosemarie Marronaro, Karen Andrea Martes, Sade' K. Martin, Eden A. Martinez, Jaime R. Marzan, Michael V. Maslankowski, Christopher Matarazzo, Kristine Michelle Mattiole, Alison Mauro, Peter Mauro, Teresa Rita Mayer, Lori Ann Mazzola, Adrienne McAllister, Tannesha Marie McKoy, Danielle Marie McLaughlin, Laurie Anne McLoughlin, Alma R. Medina, Stephanie Amanda Medina, Kaitlyn M. Meilak, Tara J. Meiners, Krystal Mena, Kayla Stacey Mera, Alyssa M. Merola, Dominique Merola, James Peter Miller, Renee L. Mills, Emily M. Minchin, Christine Michele Minieri, Christiann Miranda, Regina Nicole Mireau, Mariya Mirochnik, Marissa Misiti, Asimina Mitilineos, Maryrose Mongelli, Priscilla Montero, Alicia M. Morales, Audra Nicole Morales, Danielle Patricia Morella, Gary J. Mulligan, Miriam Muniz-Colon, Thomas F. Munks, Jacqueline Marie Murphy, Lorraine Ellen Murphy, Carla Musacchio, Dijana Musovic, Yana Naoumov, Frank Patrick Napolitano, Michelle Lucy Nastacio, Chelsea P. Nasti, Viviana Nativo, Jill Neary, Megan Irene Nellis, Lovicia Starr Newsome, Valbona Neziri, Jessica Marie Ng, Vanessa T. Nguyen, Ngozi Florence Nnaji, Deanna Christie Nobriga, Hailey Nolasco, Anthony Z. Norman, Madeline Nunez, Aleksandra Ogurtsova, Christine O'Kane, Kaosara O. Oladele, Giselle Olivares, Andrew H. Oppenheimer, Mayra A. Orellana, Ashley Orloski, Maguina Ormeno, Nina Orobinskaya, Adam Ali Osman, Fatmazohra

Ouaaz, Mark Orson Pachas, Alana N. Pagano, Marie Palacino, Melissa Anne Palladino, Lucille Palomba, Nikkilynn Pannone, Hanlin Pao, Taryn E. Papia, Joseph Pasquale, Jr., Paul J. Pasquale, Vanessa Pellecchia, Dominick Peluso, Annemarie Pennino, Ana Peradze, Amanda R. Perez, Ashley Nicole Perri, Leonora A. Perry, Brian Arthur Philipps, Michael Picone, Jessica Cecile Pierre, Tara A. Pietromonaco, Larry Pignatelli, Angelicia C. Pinto, Iman-Ayeesha America Platt, Margarita Pokhvisheva, Aleksandr Pomeranets, Marissa Angelica Pontecorvo, Angelica Popolano, Jillian M. Popper, Marquis E. Powell, Kristin Ann Principe, Gregory J. Quagliano, Kristin Marie Rainero, Jessica Anne Ramos, Katherine Caoimhe Ramos, Bree Ann Reina, Leigh-Ann Renaud, Raymond Reyes, Juliya Reznikova, Elizabeth Ricci, Lauren Rimar, Rodolfo Rivera, Justina Rizzo, Melissa Ann Roberts, Jessica Rodriguez, Heather Roldan, Renee Brigid Romain, Dany H. Romulus, Christopher Julian Rosado, Heather Ann Rose, Jonathan Bart Rossi, Doron Roth, Jessica Lynn Rothstein, Naim Rugova, Laurene Anne Saad, Victoria Safarian, Eleena Saju, Hebba Saker, Lisette Sanchez, Amanda Marie Sanguinedo, Jennifer M. Santiago, Theresa Saponaro, Anthony Sarni, Jr., Lisa M. Sattar, Omar Sattar, Jaclyn Yasmin Scali, Jessica Scarcella, Amanda Deana Schimmel, Kristina Marie Schipani, Barbara Schulz, Alexandra Scribani, Katelynn Sefershayan, Nexhmije Sela, Victoria Elise Seminara, Christina Mary Serra, Alexandra Serrat, Colin Edward Sexton, Denise Sforza, Madiha Ashfag Sheikh, Erica N. Shnayderman, Lyudmila Shor, Sadia Sikandar, Laura N. Silecchio, Benjamin Silfen, Ilyssa Ann Silfen, Elizabeth Mae Siller, Jason Smith, Sylvestine N. Smith, Alexandra Marie Soldano, Sarah Ann Song, Isabel Sosa, Wayne Thomas Springman, Jordana R. Syetta, Emilia Szpak, Angela Tam, Elias M. Taweel, Kirby D. Tejada, Alexzandria Tekelch, Michael P. Terracino, George Theodoratos, Kelly Timari, Melissa Tinaphong, Mercury Michelle Tisdell, Nelida Lexine Tolentino, Jamie Tornatore, Washieka Tenieka Torres, Kaylin Rose Trifeletti, Teresa A. Triolo, Casey R. Troeller, Konstantin Trofimovich, Jennifer Troianiello, Gabriella Tabitha Trunzo, Khawlah Turifi, Paul Vincent Valentino, Andrea Elena Valladares, Maria Valonzo, Elmer Vargas, Stephanie M. Vargas, Jenna M. Veech, Diana Verbovetskaya, Nicole Ginette Verde, Amanda M. Verner, Esther Vezzuto, Valente Villarreal, Diana Melissa Villela, Stephanie Josephine Vlismas, Jennifer Nicole Volpe, Tiffany Marie Watson, Gary Robert White, Nancy Maria Williams, Victoria Rachel Williams, Gail Wodkiewicz, Kenny Wu, Esther Ruth Young, Joseph A. Zagame, Tiziana Zagami, Amber Zaidi, Maria Lucia Zappone, Karina Zenkova, Blerina Korbeci Zhezha.

Bachelor of Science

Kristi June Abbatemarco, Mishal Abdelhaq, Mohammad Abdelrazeq, Kalpita Abhyankar, Luz Abreu, Jennifer Marie Adamo, Nadeem Aftab, Anthony James Aglio, Nazmul Ahsan, Asad Akhtar, Dana Alacha, Oluwatoyin Alafe, Kerlin Alendry, Latresi Francine Alexander, Colson Alexis, Richard Louis Algarin, Zakhia Ali, Waleed Amer, Mariam Amjed, Melinda Andrade, Brittney N. Arnold, Phoebe Arriesgado, Khalid Bakkas, Dea Balili, Matthew Baranek, Paul Barry, John M. Barsoum, Tatyana Basanskaya, Lev Bekker, Nicholas Charles Bentivegna, Christine M. Beshara, Yvonne Biney, Natalie Birkin, Eugene Birman, Daniel Bivona, Easton Blake, Philip John Bocchino, David Michael Bochicchio, Alyssa Ann Bono, Grace G. Boone, Shirley Borno, Alban Borovci, Amanda Victoria Boyle, Jeff Keith Brady, Louis Jason Branfman, Seth A. Brawer, Annie Breen, Kenneth Donald Browne, Michele Lina Bufalino, Sharon Burhart, Hillary Kim Burns, Pavel Buyanov, Vladislav Bykov, Norela P. Cadavid, Qingzhen Cai, Pearl S. Cales, Alyson Kaye Cancilla, John Frank Candela, Nicole Marie Candela, Stefanie Candelario, Brian Canizio, Jacquelyn Cannizzo, Hanghai Cao, Christina Cassandra

Carannante, Thomas Carfagna, Anthony Peter Carollo, Wanda Carter, Anthony C. Caruso, Tyrone Cassara, Lauren M. Castellano, Joseph A. Ceddia, Jinnie Cha, Justin Chacko, Raymond Chan, Mong Ian Chang, Mamaie K. Charyoe, Maryam Chaudhry, Naghma Chaudhry, Disha Chauhan, Anna D. Chechurina, Yelena Chekoff, Jerry Chen, Colin Cheung, Vincent H. Cheung, Elio Chianetta, Mercedes Chow, Monica C. Christian, Kwok Kui Chung, Michael Gerard Ciluffo, Michael Cirminiello, Shannon E. Clark, Louise Coberland, Dominique Cofield, Gladys Colon, Michael Thomas Connolly, Douglas Scott Convissar, Nicole Marie Cook, Christopher Thomas Corcoran, Melinda Theresa Corrado, Kimberly Cortes, Ana Cortez, William Corvino, Christopher Costantino, Meagan Crapanzano, Maricruz Criollo, Ibrahim Hassan Dagher, Frank Damiano, Lori DeAngelo, Valerie Michelle DeAngelo, Edward John Delahunt, Michael DellaUniversita, Peter Dellegrazie, Joseph A. DiCaro, Devon Robert DiCasoli, Angela C. DiCostanzo, Vincent DiGiovanni, Maximillian John Dobson, Andi Doci, Elena Donchenko, Kristi L. Draper, Ilirjana Duka, Christina Dunne, William Randolph Edell, Carolyn Edwards, Hayat Elatioui, Fadee Elder, Fatmira Elezovski, Alexa Cristine Elisson, Sal Emelin, Michael Ayoola Esho, Stephen Fagan, Amanda A. Falco, Christopher M. Fama, Nancy K. Fanelli, Christina Fatuzzo, Jason David Feal, Amanda Fedak, Michael Ferrandino, Frank S. Fertitta III, Andrew Fine, Julianne Fishman, Kerri Flagello, Anthony Flotta, Melissa Foo, John Martin Freisen, Arianna C. Freyre, David Eduardo Galeano, Tamara Galkovska, Christian Andres Garabedian, Jacqueline Garriga, Vadim Gekker, Maria C. Gentile, Lisa Marie Gino, Michael Francis Gioscia, Antwan G. Girgis, Galitano Gjoni, Mark Steven Glennerster, Korab Glloxhani, Ingrid Godfrey, Ricardo A. Gomez, James Paul Gonsky, Marc Rubin Gontarski, Ronel C. Gonzales, Brian A. Gonzalez, Dario Gonzalez, Jr., David Lee Gonzalez, Roshika Goonawardena, Charles Graffeo, Ilya Grayzel, Robert E. Guash, Jacqueline S. Gurrieri, Bielka Gutierrez, Tomasz Damazy Hajbert, Paul V. Handog, Ani Haxhini, Keener He, Joseph M. Henriquez, Nyeshia L. Hines, Dan Hoizner, Linda Horn, Liang Hu, Yongxia Huang, Anum Humayun, Amalia H. Hunter, Mingdong Huo, Zaid Hussain, Annam Hussaini, Jenny Huynh, Henry Jovanny Isaac, Sayeed Ishmael, Mohammad Khairul Islam, Ibtisam Ismail, Simon Israilov, Sahidatu Issaka, Malgorzata Jacak, Nikita Jain, Eliza Jarzabek, Katherine A. Jimenez, Tony Boshi Jin, Guy Arnauld Tefegue Kadji, Thomas John Kafkalas, Alexander Kanaev, Ilana Z. Kansas, Brian Michael Kateman, Dimtriy Kaushanskiy, Wajdi A. Khalil, Asad A. Khan, Rokyatu Kiawu, James Kingsley, Steven Klein, Elliot George Klinbovsky, Alma Klobocishta, Nurana Klobocista, Anna Kogan, Merita Kolarevic, Martin A. Kollek, Diana Kosov, Irina Kotlyar, Sergey Kotlyar, Stanley Kotowski, Lukasz P. Krawiec, Rajindra Lasantha Kumarage, Bernadeta Kumor, Dean H. Kunjravia, Muamet Kurtisi, Hang Yu Kwong, Praveen K. Lal, Kenny Lam, Weida Lam, Christopher Andrew Langelotti, Joseph Larkin, Martin N. Larrosa, Ming Chung Lau, Marissa Ann Lauria, Jamarow Shawn Le Flore, Rina A. Lema, Eugene Lempert, Michael L. Levine, Sonia Elizabeth Levine, Nicholas G. Litos, Yonghe Liu, Daniela Rita LoFaso, Danielle Lobosco, Jerry M. Lombardo, Christina M. Love, Zhuoxiong Lu, Jing Lu-Hsieh, Dana Lufrano, Qimei Luo, Desmond Ly, Francis W. Madaia, Jon Dennis Mahoney, Aleksey Makhlis, Shamila Malik, Stephen Alphonse Marascia, Charles Marchese, Dmitry Markovich, Courtney D. Marmion, Daniel J. Marsillo, John Elio Martelotti, Ibraheam M. Masoud, Steven Mazovetskiy, Krzysztof Mazurek, Adrienne McAllister, Chelsea Holly McCauley, Joseph McClean, Yolanda McClelland, Joshua Thomas Medina, Lindsey Ilana Mednick, Maylin Clarissa Mejia, Ensela Mema, Ploina Mendeleovich, Stacy Messina, Kevin L. Michel, Marie Anne Mignone, Yewande Mikoku, Regina Miller, Samuel Alphonso Mills, Giuseppe Milo, Jonathan Moll, Quintin Monsanto, Christian Montervino, Audra Nicole Morales, Catherine Morelli, Lawrence Christopher Morello, Eugene Moretti, Leonid Mosenko, Ghislain Olivier Mteoua, Ali Neagaip Mubarez, Deja Mullings, Latiece Munnerlyn, Taro Murano, Meghan C. Murphy, Tracey J. Murtha, Joyce Siima

Mushumbusi, Diana D. Narepecha, Tanya Nelipa, Jamie Marie Nelson, Ada Ng, Antoinette Arlette Noah, Gabriel A. Norero, Jeiner Alberto Noriega, Jessica O'Brien, Monsurat W. Odeneye, Paa Kwesi Odoom-Tawiah, Agnes Ifeoma Ojeh, Ronald John Oliva, Jennifer Marie Oliver, Gene E. Oliveri, Bonnie M. Olsen, Christina Osgood, Fatmazohra Ouaz, Adebayo Oyinloye, Maria Pagani, Nishanthi Palachandran, Sofie Palaj, Althea Sydonie Palmer, Geri Paloli, Liwei Pan, Gianluca Panarelli, Janet Papraniku, George M. Paragham, Min G. Park, Laura Parnizari, Evelyn C. Patricio, Kristina Chea Pavia, Margarita Pavlova, William David Payne, Maria Pellegrino, Xian Feng Peng, Samire Perasevic, Joseph Perciballi, Almedina Pelinka Petovic, Michael Thomas Piccirillo, Filip M. Pieluszynski, Pawel Pieluszynski, Vincent Patrick Pietrafesa, Diana Pinkhasova, Mykhaylo Pirumov, Alexandra Nicole Plude, Sarandra Pocesta, Antonio Policarpo, Mary N. Ponte, John Prestigiaco, Jr., Steven Prestigiaco, Leo Vincent Priola, Bardhyl Qarru, Michael P. Quinto, Ahra Ra, Woongkyu Ra, Yuliya Rabkina, Steven N. Radchenko, Jennifer Ramrup, Surendar Ravindran, Alicia Rebelo, Thomas James Reggi, Attyah Rehan, Samantha Rello, Erica Lee Riccardella, Marci Diana-Ivy Richmond, Olga Iris Rius, Gaetano J. Rizzo, Anthony M. Rodriguez, Karen Rodriguez, Nicholas James Rollizo, Sarah Marie Ross, Julian Ruan, Jesus Ruiz, Ada Sage, Kristine Ann Salgado, Jose Alejandro Saltos, Omid Samanian, Matthew Santasiero, Justin Michael Sarachik, Abdus S. Sarker, Zeeshan Sattar, Vadim Savenkov, Christina Scannapieco, Nicholas Schiraldi, Vanessa Schulman, Jetmir Sela, Shenay Senturk, Danielle Nicole Serpica, Nikhil Shah, Feroze Andre Shamshudeen, Alexandra Shanahan, Nikolay Shevchenko, Vladimir Shikhman, Tovyk A. Shohatee, Michael Sikoryak, Cristina Silecchio, Kristina Espiritu Sixon, Denisa Skovranova, Jolanta Smulski, Susan Sommers, Hyuk Ho Song, Matthew Spano, Bartlomiej H. Stadnicki, Nicole M. Stern, Walter Strick III, Raechel Strobel, Gayathri Sudarsanan, Michael Sugarman, Susana Sukharenko, Shekinah Tabitha Suresh, Vonetta F. Sutton, Abdurahman Tabbara, Tiffany Tam, Sandy Tang, Adriane Tanjutco, Daniel Scott Tarkenton, Kirsten Teichfuhs, Emmanuel Theodorakis, Anna Theodoropoulos, Jestin Thomas, Laura Michelle Thomas, Whitney P. Thompson, Michael Donald Thornton, Jessica Laura Tisi, Lorraine Tobin, Jeremy Toro, Kristina Toropova, Christopher Alvarez Towns, Joseph Michael Trovato, Robert Truzzolino, Sabina Tser, Eelan Tung, Cynthia Lizeth Turcios, Jacek Urbanik, Justin M. Valentin, Christine N. Van Cott, Anthony S. Vignola, Gabriella Villarruel, Olga Vishneva, Teresa R. Vitale, Hassan Wafa, Jacklyn Kangqui Wang, Charles Watson, Daniel M. Watson, Sara Wei, Albert Weston, Jr., Brianne Whytock, Beverly Abiola Williams, Matthew W. Worrell, Li Ai Wu, Shun Ai Wu, Naureen Wysocki, Wing Xu, Christie Lee Yates, Ye Ye, Ivan Yermolayev, Jae Yeum, Boris Yevseyev, Kyle Andrew Yocum, Wai Wa Yu, Edgar Yuen, Kathryn F. Zahakos, Christine Zaroura, David Zeltser, Yi Mei Zhang, Xiao Ying Zhao, Lizhang Zhou, Jenna Zichittella, Steve Zorbas, Henry Zou, Kaitlin A. Zulch.

Master of Arts in Cinema and Media Studies

Stamatios Dimitropoulos, Kristie Lynn Falco, Maria Froliak, Paul K. Gierman, Ellen Grasso, Halil Gundogdu, Jonathan F. Liquorii, Thomas A. Maresca, Frances Mitilieri, Moshe Shushan.

Master of Arts in English

Warrick James Bell, Rosemarie Civitano, Mary Lisa D'Orio, Jennifer B. Hermus, Laura Elisa Loiacono, Sarah Elizabeth Nicoll, Melissa Christine Orlando, Lori Ann Petrarca.

Master of Arts in History

Joseph Charles Borelli, Louise A. DeMeo, Stephanie A. Fazio, Eileen Melnik Gupta, Debbie-Ann Erica English-Paige, Giovanni Herran, Brian James Profilio.

Master of Arts in Liberal Studies

Linda Barbato, Erica Lynn Buell, Eddie Deleon, Kara Therese Denora, Stanley Junior Drouillard, Dominic N. Fiduccia, Mallory Furia, Andrew J. Gellerman, Gennady Gerovich, Lorraine J. Hildebrand, Dorey Frances Houle, Susan Lynn Marinelli, Ariel Castillo Moncada, Brianna Paige Olivetti, Christine Quinton, Kimberly Ann Strickler.

Master of Science in Adolescence Education

Dana Albanese, Rachael D. Albanese, Nilsa Sophronia Alston, Lefkothea Athanasatos, Elaine Yu Yan Cheung, Chris-Ann Corsini, Jarda Louise Crane, Matthew Devlin, Julia Dimant, Michael D'Onofrio, Olympia Grace Filosa, Isana Gitsis, Paul A. Guercio, Dana Frances Haitkin, Francesca Heller, Michael Hemsworth, Shija James, Naomi Ruth Kabalkin, Emily Elizabeth Krause, Annelise Lieurance, Hidajet E. Ljubanovic, Antonia Maniatakos, Falyn Denver Morales, Felice Muller, Laura Anne Pagano, Jennifer Pakulniewic, Allmira Perovic, Joanna Pettet, Lisa Marie Quagliariello, Donald J. Ritter, Thomas John Six, Jr., Christine M. Sloan, Tenaya K. Perry-Tomblin, Frank J. Wessels.

Master of Science in Adult Health CNS/NP

Cherrisse Catherine Bunch, Joy T. Mullen.

Master of Science in Adult Health Nursing

Victoria Feldman, Cheryl Andrea Hart, Ancy C. Palakunnel, Doris Bourdon-Rivera.

Master of Science in Biology

Alicia Marie Leo.

Master of Science in Business Management

Jessica Lynn Amoia, Adam Birnbaum, Anthony Joseph DeMartino, Amany Ahmed Helal, Patrick T. Santangelo, Maya A. Shekdar.

Master of Science in Childhood Education

Jessica Ashton, Jillian Michael Auer, Adam C. Babits, Maria Evelyn Balestrieri, Stephanie Ann Bartlett, Justine

Rose Bello, Karen M. Bellochi, Christine Michelle Bonner, Gina Brown, Cynthia Brown-Sweeney, Nicholas J. Buttaro, Victoria Lynn Carollo, Tanya M. Caroselli, Lisa J. Carp, Kristine Caruso, Marisa Ann Celovsky, Siwon Choi, Laura Ann Cincotta, Danielle Cipriano, Jessica D. Ciulla, Tonianna Cusumano, Lourdes Quial D'Alessio, Karen E. DeMartini Doherty, Kimberly Diaz, Lisa Marie DiMassa, Mary Fabrizio, Danielle Fappiano, Lauren N. Feuer, Karla G. Flynn, Kim Emily Goins, Gina Marie Guarneri, Stephanie Hayes, Brandice Heller, Kathleen E. Helm, Huda A. Jawad, Abdul Majid Kamara, Deanna King, Amanda M. La CavaVanessa Catherine Laudando, Majlinda Ljivic, Debra Lynn Mackey, Sasha Ann Maluk, Nadine Leigh Matteo, Andrea Michele Meise, Nicole Miraglia, Kelly Monahan, Christine Mooney, Natasha Nakia Moore, Mandy Suk Man Ng, Thomas M. Norris, Jaclyn Melissa Osorio, Anna Marie Pesce, Elizabeth Petitto, Danise Marie Pimpinella, Brianne E. Previti, Stephanie N. Prucha, Megan Marie Rehberg, Justine Renelle, Christina Nicole Ricci, Courtney Sage, Kimberly Dawn Salfarlie, Lana Slavutsky, Ryan A. Stander, Melissa Renea Steele, Caitlin Ryan Strype, Patricia A. Tardy, Nora L. Teasley, Cazrleen A. Thompson, Gina Marie Valerio, Kayla M. Walsh, Kristen Watters, Clorice I. Williams, Jane Elizabeth Zagami.

Master of Science in Computer Science

Darshit Harendrabhai Desai, Mohamed Mahmoud, Roberto Ocasio, Jr., Khushbu Rajendra Rupani, Shaindra Singh Sooknauth.

Master of Science in Environmental Science

James Alexander Bunkiewicz, Stephen John Cherepany, Illekuttige Manji N. Fernando, Meghan Heuser, Bate Ning, Michael K. Ochieng, Sadou Ongoiba, Amanda Michelle Rollizo, Daniel George Spadaro.

Master of Science in Neuroscience

Sheby Abraham, Robert Assini, Sarah Michelle Baggett, Christen Jade Carute, Alexandra Emma Marsillo, Anna Matthews, Francoise F. Sidime, Meghan C. Sharp, Zu Qi Su, Kate Lyn Weidner.

Master of Science in Special Education

Anna Amber, Talika Andrews, Gihan Ateia, Stephanie Barchitta, Ann Marie Caccese, Maria Nicole Cambria, Ishita Chowdhury, Allison R. Ciccolella, Lori L. Commer, Stephanie Marie Cordova, Melody A. DePierro, Jessica M. D'Esposito, Andria DeVito, Susan Jocelyn Emanuele, Marie Christine Fago, Melissa Farro, Diana Fozailow, Heather L. Geissler, Maggie K. Grady, Katherine Jane Hunter, Brittany Mara Jarvis, Saude Kovacevic, Jaclyn Kutza, Anna Elena Leggio, Christina M. Licitra, Natasha L. Marrapodi, Shana Maya, Catherine Messina, Faye Michalakos, Stephanie Mininni, Allison M. Orbes, Stephanie Perratore, Sahar Rimawi, Anthony Rodriguez, Tania Rae Sanchez, John Anthony Scarso, Diane Silvestri, Martyna Anna Sobczynsyn, Keri Ann Thompson, Kristi Viera, Jessica Lauren Vigliotti.

Sixth-Year Professional Certificate

Carmen Mercado, Ancy C. Palakunnel, Shyla Roshin, Barbara Ann Schiano.

August 2011**The Verrazano School**

Mohammad Baddad, Anthony Irizarry, Jr., Paskualine Rrotani.

Associate in Applied Science

Peter J. Belloli, Matthew P. Surizon, Dominick A. Yarczower.

Associate in Arts

Jacquelyn Ann Desiderio, Antoinette DiStefano, Yashanti Holman, Marwa Janini, Marilyn Kasparian, Edward Kim, George Limbrick-Zanleone, Eliana Andrea Lopez, Francesca R. Maisano, Cristina Clavijo Marquez, Karen A. Minor, Emily Rachel Nicholson, Caitlin Lauren O'Toole, Marisol Pabon, Melissa Pascual, Frank Anthony Saulle, Zhi Hong Shu, Sheena Margaret Rose Stewart, Shariann Faith Sticker, Dana Ashley Vecchiarelli.

Associate in Science

Sydne Melissa Burey.

Bachelor of Arts

Nicole F. Aiello, Joseph G. Amato, Christina Astuto, Clare Jamie Baran, Melissa R. Benitez, David Carter Casagrande, Lindsey Michelle Corletto, Michael J. Cusimano, Jennifer Mary DeGirolamo, Jennilee Dehoyos, Amanda Blair Delaney, Michael P. Delgado, Alison R. DiPierri, Christina DiStefano, Judith Carline Dolce, Ardiana Draga, William Fallon, Pamela Fanizzi, Angelica Marie Farin, Daniel Robert Fawcett, Jennifer M. Fitzgerald, Alyssa Gale, Deidra Gallagher, Stephanie Anne Giano, Andrea E. Greene, Milka Milena Guariglia, John J. Gulizia, Anna Gutkaiss, Kristin Marie Hornedo, Diana Huseinovic, Christina Incontro, Anthony Irizarry, Jr., James J. Johnson, Jr., Natasha Kendall, Yi Jin Kim, Danielle Sarah Lewit, John Lotito III, Yevgeniy Lyutin, Mindy Lee Mallis, Lilya Masevych, Kym McCarthy, Kristin N. McLeer, Alan Mei, Marybeth Melendez, Amanda E. Mercado, Shalena M. Mines, Hira Mir, Jeannine Murphy, William M. O'Hagan, Janice Ojeda, Michele Olinsky, Olayinka Ajoke Olutosin, Elizabeth Marie Ortiz, Randi Ortiz, Krystle Marie Pizarro, Albulena Prelvukaj, Denise Reich-Xyloportas, Shane Paul Reilly, Danielle Resciniti, Christopher Ribaud, Jasmine Rodriguez, Mark Anthony Ruiz, Shon Samuel, Alessia Maria Rosa Savoia, Erica M. Sclafani, Melissa Ann Spear, Jeanette Taurozzi, Titiana T. Taylor, Alexandra Tesoriero, Valentina Tsvayner, Trevor Pierre Wilson, Renee' P. Wood, Paula Yee, Si Qiao Zhong.

Bachelor of Science

Salem Abdallah, Wujie Abraham, Yaa Fosuhemaah Afan, DanaMarie Alessio, Nadine Amir, Mohammad Baddad, Ronald Bettis, Rexhep Borova, Yousaf Butt, Mario Jose Caballero, Megan Victoria Caldwell, Raymond Angelo Cardenas, Anam Chaudhry, Joseph Alexander Chin, Yen L. Chong, Zain Chughtai, Jennifer Ann Dacey, Michael Christopher DeVaynes, Carina A. Episcopio, Ronny Frank Ferrara, Candice Marie Ficalora, Osama Saed Gheith, Timur Grapp, Natalia Hartwig, Shaimaa Hegazy, Rong Kun Huang, Rokel Jefferson, Diana Kaba, Sana Khawar, Kyriaki Kosmidou, Nicole Marie LaPolla, Irene Lopez, Sara A. Mansour, David Jason Merchant, Kimberly Meter, Stefanie Lynn Mondido, Mohamad E. Mosameh, Michelle Ng, Jihad Azzam Obeid, Don Geethanjali Maheshika Padmaperuma, Daniel William Pagan, John M. Paolino, Jr., Nitya Pareenja, Princy Mary Kallethiri Paulose, Michael Politis, Thomas E. Reilly, Syed Zafar Basit Rizvi, Yan Rozman, Paskualine Rrotani, Monica Salazar, Ahmed R. Salem, Michael Rocco Schirripa, Svetlana Skobeleva, Sophia Sunny, Gabriella Totino, Vanessa Tsang, Jenny Vergaro, Jason Wise, Joseph Michael Zagami, Yi Qi Zhong.

Master of Arts in Liberal Studies

James Andre Boylan, Obafemi Lateef Salau.

Master of Science in Adolescence Education

Robert Donald Cain, Joseph DiTrento, Margaret Sarah Monte-Leon.

Master of Science in Neuroscience

Franc Camps-Febrer, Allison G. Santora.

Master of Science in Childhood Education

Jessica L. Morabito, Jennifer Rose Zahtila.

Master of Science in Special Education

Chantal Ashley Ferrara, Monica Noemi Lachman.

Sixth-Year Professional Certificate

Danielle Albanese, Jennifer Epstein, Olga Gandlin, Kathleen Claire Kenny, Dennis Lee, Monica Anne Lonchick, Mark Louis Nigido, Ego Angela Onaga, Diana Venezia.

CSI Recipients of CUNY Doctoral Degrees

Carla Almonte, Corinne Atlak, Robert Barberesi, Peter Bonadonna, Chi-Sing Chum, Leah Cohen, Sukanta Dolai, Nausheen Haroon, Maksim Iolin, Yuanxi Liao, Ardiana Marisenovic, Marie Martin, Amit Mogha, Vadim Plaxine, Stefanie Sgarlato, Leo Song, Alesia Tanios, Jarek Wegiel, Tim White, Chenming Xue.

January 2011 CSI Graduates

CUNY Macaulay Honors College University Scholars Program

Reham Elsayed Hassan.

The Verrazano School

Matthew Joseph Beshai, Brian Shane Brice, Robert Anthony Crimmins, Charles Andrew Kosa, Laura L. Medina, Jessica I. Rothman, Katie A. Ryan, Alexa Nicole Scharf.

Associate in Applied Science

Germeen Abdelmessih, Francine Marie Amico, Nicholas Andreala, Fortino Aparicio-Rodela, Joan A. Artesi, Vitaliy Ayzenberg, Marielle Rose Baker, Tina Bellino, Caterina Bonomo, Claudiu Cristian Bradeanu, Tatsiana Caches, Anne Marie Caminiti, Joseph A. Caracciolo, Christine Carrieri, Tara Castro, Seraldi Chauhan, Shuai Chen, Lee Cheung, Jaclyn M. Chiaccheri, Stella Chiu, Christina Cianci, Gillian Ariel-Marie Cipriano, Michael Citera, Tara A. Colon, Cindy Cosidente, Christopher Costantino, Michelle Cruz, Kayla Rose Davis, Sara R. De La Cruz, Jasmine De Stefano, Beverly Jean Devonish, Joseph E. Dipaolo, Raymund Dominguez, Alexandr Dreyzin, Matthew Eisenberg, Ivelisse Estevez, Sandrine C. Fami-Ntetmen, Mariya Feldman, Josefina Feliciano, Nick James Feliciano, Harrison G. Ferber, Sandra J. Ferrara, John Charles Fiore, Alissa Forlenza, Ari Fozailow, Jonathon W. George, Shady Ghadban, Joshalina M. Gilmore, Brittany Rose Imbasciani, Marykutty Keeyathu Itty, Janeth Jimenez, Tiara Nicole Johnson, Zarak Khan, Steven Klein, Monika Klimek, Wan Io Kuong, Yong Li Kwong, Weida Lam, Paul A. Lantieri, Lisa Moran Magliente, Stephanie M. Martinez, Gabriele Capri McGhee, Rachel Mica-Nicholson, Laila Nadim Mohamed, Deanna Mojica, Javier J. Monsalve, Catherine A. Montalvo, Carmine Mucciarone, Jr., Aleena Nieves, Zarina Orozalieva, Anastasiya Outkina, Henryka Paczkowski, Michelle M. Paterno, Samire Perasevic, Carissa Pigntelli, Erica Plaza-Hernandez, Sharanya Polissetti, Etleva Qosja, Ahmed Radwan, Aaron Andrew Ramirez, Yelena Rasporskaya, Yuliya Repita, Stephanie T. Rice, Nikolai Rodney, Kimberly Sage, Laedi Marie San Luis, Daniel P. Savage, Jihad Shahin, Amanda Renee Shelton, Larisa Shumilova, Marie Sia, Pethwahandi L. Silva, Steven B. Silverstein, Adam Spencer, Elena C. Steiman, Barnabas C. Sudre, Shannon Talvy, Tatyana Tsvik, Ryan T. Van Pelt, Jessica Rachelle Vazquez, Nicole Vinciguerra, Danielle B. Ward-Torres, Regina Askia Williams, Michael J. Winn, Stacy Winter, Anna Yakir, Christina Youssef, Ching Tung Yu, Judy Zeng.

Associate in Arts

Samson Tolu Abodunrin, Edward Abrams, Victoria F. Aceste, Kelly Ahearn, Saima Akram, Maria Alarcon,

Abelardo Aleman, Maryana Andreyko, Michael Anselmi, Amanda Janine Antomattei, Rima M. Attar, Karissa Bayer, Melissa R. Berman, Daniel Bilotti, Amelia Ann Bolognese, Laura Brody, Paige L. Buono, Brendan Vincent Byrnes, Deborah Silva Cannon, Kaitlyn Cantoni, Jena Caputo, Carmela Cataldi, Amanda E. Chapman, Diana Cianciotta, John P. Clinton, Taise Noel Couto, Jazmen Sade Cramer, Jonathan Lewis Cruz, Paul John Culotta, Matthew N. DeFendis, Jennifer M. Degirolamo, Edith P. Del Vecchio, Dana A. Depaola, Siham H. Doleh, Melissa A. Drake, Alyssa Marie Drew, Dannis Anthony Dublin, Anthony J. Egan, Michael A. Enahoro, Alexandra A. Espinal, Jacqueline M. Estrema, Angelica Farin, Renee Lynette Ferrara, Stephanie Ann Figueroa, Jennifer Francois, Brooke Lauren Frankel, Jaclyn Ann French, Erin K. Fu, Fany Galamb, Alyssa L. Gale, Amanda L. Gallo, Carolyn Giardina, Jessica J. Gomez, Matthew Goodhartz, Migena Gora, James Edward Gray, Jr., George D. Hennig, Christina A. Iacampo, Wannie Estherline Johnson, Elyse Nicole Johnstone, Jeffrey L. Khamis, Patricia Kosa, Ashley Kovoov Kuruvilla, Rose B. Laguerre, Melissa G. Lalla, Noelle M. La Piedra, Alyssa Marie LaRocca, Andrew J. Lassen, Jeffrey Lewkowitz, Ze Y. Li, Dabeyva Yamina Lobo, Virgil J. Long, Stephanie Magett, Liliana Maldonado, Valerie Manzello, Joy Rose Marchica, E. Daniel Martinez, Samantha Matos, Peter A. Mauro, LoriAnn Mazzola, Annalisa Meade, Stephanie Amanda Medina, Alyssa Marie Merola, Shantel S. Modeste, Evalis Maria Molina, Casey A. Molloy, Edward W. Mone, Donna L. Moran, Taulanta Murati, Frank Patrick Napolitano, Ngozi Florence Nnaji, Michael Patrick Olivo, Caitlin A. O'Neill, Danielle Niccole Oszustowicz, Lameeha Othman, Nicholas J. Paccione, Elizabeth Palafox, Paloma M. Palomba, Andrew Panayiotou, Helen Pao, Fred P. Parasandolo, Joseph Robert Parisi, Sharon Parshad, Candice R. Pawloski, Adan Paz, Delilah Pedroza, Michael Picone, Jillian M. Popper, Marquis E. Powell, Imani Randall, Jaimie Nicole Reitano, Joseph A. Riccobono, Christopher Lee Rodriguez, Henry Roman, Kirk J. Roses, Pamela Jane Salerno, Genesis Uriel Santiago, Jovan J. Santopietro, Anthony Sarni, Jr., Anna M. Savona, Rachel Ann Scalici, Jenna M. Schulman, Laura Schwartz, Briana Shuki, Tatiana Maribel Silva, Keith R. Siragusa, Jorge N. Soto, Christina Terracino, Kelly Timari, Jennifer Lynn Torres, Samantha J. Tortorello, Shatae Frances Trotman-Williams, Amanda Marie Turner, Vito Urli, Jr., Luz Maria Valdez, Janine Vecchio, Daniel Enrique Villalba, Alexandra L. Violetta, Kayla Virga, Indira Vukic Jasaraj, Kimberly Ann Wojcik, Niroshini Yoga, Mark Ruvium Zaslavsky, Nestor Javier Zelarayan.

Associate in Science

Lauren C. Cybulska, John DeVito, Lisa Marie LaManna, Yanique Jodieann Lingo, Hina Naveed, Monana Shimova.

Bachelor of Arts

Jacqueline Marie Abrams, Adebisi Opeyemi Adediran, Maryanne Agro, Rohma Ahmed, Mallory Katherine Ameneiros, David W. Anderson, Christine Arce, Rachel C. Ashur, Rafael Asusta, Ashley Elizabeth Ayoub, Samantha Baker, Igor Balanovski, Maria Balsamo, Osman Sahid Bangura, Lisa M. Banks, Kenneth M. Barry, Sarah E. Bashinelli, Kevin Bastawrose, Damaris Bianchi, Lucille Bilali, Robert Louis Biondo, Sean Sebastian Bogil, Amanda M. Bolognese, Radica Boodram, Jose Borrero, Philip Brennan, Brian Shane Brice, Noreen Kelly Brigante, Eileen M. Brown, Matthew M. Burns, Caterina Candela, Jaime Cannatelli, Linda Ann Cappiello, Julie Diana Carro, Courtney Cartagena, Thiago Completo Carvalho, Daniel Vincent Castellano, Erika Leigh Cella,

Shirma Charles-Fortune, Shuang Chen, Dana Lee Christensen, Tatiana Ciccarelli, Jessica Ciccotto, Mary Elizabeth Conroy, Nicole Ashley Cooper, Judith A. Couto, Amy Cynthia Crespo, Suzanne Reale Criscione, Stephanie Crowe, Christine Marie Crowley, Daniel T. Cruz, Nicole M. Cruz, Karen Cullen, Mary Fabyan Cummings, Diana Di Noto, Martin Anthony Diaz, Heather S. Dmiszewicki, Tanya Leigh Dolcimascolo, Robert James Drennan, Dannis Anthony Dublin, Majlinda Duka, Nicole Marie Dzedovich, Meryem Elghazi, Jean Elizabeth Farinella, Tiffany April Farriella, Giovanna Figueroa, Stephanie Ann Figueroa, Kristen Fitzpatrick, Shannon Lee Foreshee, Edwin Joseph Geandomenico, Jr., Antonina Geca, Fiona Germain, Gregory Angelo Gibilaro, Jessica J. Gomez, Kristen Granata, Aferdita Halili, Shawn Michael Hamm, Heather Hamrah, Michael F. Hanna, Janine M. Harouni, Seth Harris, Reham Elsayed Hassan, William Heines, Christopher Hermus, Erika Lynn Hershey, Andrea Jane Hoffman, Cahshiria Donette Hoilette, Melissa Ippolito, Justine Jacobs, Jessica Jorge-Duran, Rebecca Joseph, Danielle Jurkiewicz, Spiridoula Karagiannis, Kristina Katsaros, Devorah Rebecca Katz, Michael W. Keenan, Jeffrey L. Khamis, Charles Andrew Kosa, Monica Lalwani, Ashley Lauren Leithauser, Gregory Scott Lewis, Ji Yi Liang, Mia Gabrielle Lindauer, Alfred Peter Lobaito, Carissa Ann LoBianco, Dabeyva Yamina Lobo, Dorothy Ray Lundgren, Jolene Natalia Maggio, Janine Maniscalco, Lisa Michele March, Michael Marchia, Jamie Leigh Marrariello, Michelle Marie Martinesi, Agnieszka Mazurek, Simone Sue McDonald, John McKenna, Josephine Mellone, Brian Melnick, Robert Miller, George F. Mina, Diana Molic, Evalis Maria Molina, Taylor Ann Moran, Edin Mujalovic, Ronald Muwonge Mulindwa, Cynthia Munoz, Elliot David Neiman, Katherine Nicole Norton, Devon Nicole O'Leary, Adedolapo Oyefeso, Daniel Patrick Palmieri, Jessica Parco, Eneida M. Patricolo, Samantha Marie Paugh, Laura Pellecchia, Michelle Renee Perlongo, Jennifer Lynn Petrizzi, Kimberly Jennifer Philip, Christina Rose Pietrunti, Blerina Prela, Kimberly Quezada, Danielle R. Randazzo, Giovanni Michael Ravalli, Sadia Razi, Tricia Marie Rega, Gabriel Harris Reiter, Esther M. Reme, Julia Anna Ricci, Danielle Marie Riggio, Rena Roberson, Meyling Rojas, Jessica I. Rothman, Paige D. Rubino, Pamela Jane Salerno, Victoria Vita Salvo, Daniela Josephine Santillo, Gina Marie Saraceno, Keith William Schacht, Alexa Nicole Scharf, Mark James Scherel, Jessica Schiazza, Taylor Helene Schnorbus, Kara Louise Schodowski, Fatima Shirazi, Jaclyn Leah Silverstein, Ashley Sinclair, Jacqueline A. Smith, Victoria Smushko, Jorge N. Soto, Erika Ann Stensland, Dina Kelly Stergioulas, Danielle Joy Stern, Daniel Stewart, Christine M. Strommen, Robert J. Susinno, Naqi Azhar Syed, Salvatore Tarantola, Vincent Robert Tartaglia, Anthony John Treglia, Tia Marie Udofia, Kaitlin Mary Vautrinot, Jessica Lauren Viscuso, Alyssa Nicole Weiss, Carlos Oniel Wilson, Wui Chi Wong, Michelle Marie Wright-Zancocchio, Urszula Wrutniak, Burcin Yalcin, Sahar Zafar, Jennifer L. Zuccaro.

Bachelor of Science

Aravinda Abeysekera, Joanne Accardi, Borford Gnagne Affi, Alicia D. Alleyne, Lovie Marie D. Amolo, Desiree M. Arroyo, Paakwesi Ashon, Fadil Avdiu, John Gamal Badee, Megan Barclay, Anthony Bartolotta, Brian Bekkerman, Angelo Bencivenga, Margarita Beresnev, Matthew Joseph Beshai, Jonathan A. Birriel, Jason Emanuel Borrero, Charles M. Brown, Fantasia Brown, Raquel M. Brown, Derek Jon Bruzzese, Ilda Budo, Jonathan Hugh Burns, Omair Shahid Butt, Elvis Cabej, Peter A. Calefato, Kristopher Michael Carbonaro, Maria Carollo, Evangelia M. Carrera, Danielle Marie Cascio, Annette Cassella, Frank A. Castellano, Melissa Xiomara Castellanos, Cassandra Castor, Catherine Ceasar, Azra Cekic, Tania Centola, Felicia C. Cerasani, Carol Chan, Andrew Chang, Daisy Chang, Di Meng Chen, Luigi George Chery, Mohit Choudhary, Stephanie

Xiaomin Chow, Payal Christian, Gabrielle Cofone, John Coltrinari, Marian E. Concepcion, Melissa Diane Cordero, Anthony M. Corsini, Robert Anthony Crimmins, Amanda Marie Cunningham, Philip D'Angelo, Tawana Daniels, Mini Eleanta Davidson, Michael R. DeSimone, Nick DiFalco, Sabrina M. Di Maggio, Thomas Philip DiPietro, Vita Dreyzin, Yuriy Dubrovin, Anastasia Creswella Duesbury, Volodymyr Dukhnych, Anna-Kaye Patrice Dunn, Belinda Dzemovski, Jovita K. Edwards, Pongpitaya Eiamkrasindh, Mayar Elbarawi, Stephen Ennis, Edgar Espinosa, Kate Devon Farley, Harrison G. Ferber, Nayanjala Sohani Fernando, Theone Flessas, Richard Fok, Kourtney Lee Franzese, Romany Gaied, Michael V. Gall, Michael Anthony Galletta, Luz Mary Gamboa-Fernando, Joshalina M. Gilmore, David Glorioso, Jason Adam Gonzalez, Mario Lee Gonzalez, David Graf, Momolu Morris Gray, Vladimir Gulkin, Nikita Gupta, Meriem Hadjahmed, Nassir Hajjawi, Jang Heo, Jieun Heo, Emma Roxanne Hernandez, Mohamed Hikal, Johcalyn Hollis, Chunnu Huang, Lindita Ismaili, Dianna Rajaa Jaber, Nicole Marie Jaccarino, Tatjana Jacobs, Shay S. James, Mahdi Jawad, Michelle Jiang, Bojana Jovanovic, Ramize Kamber, Hany Kamel, Rajendran Kanagaratnam, Alice Kang, Anum Karamat, John Kesaris, Tetyana Khomyn, Inessa Kovaleva, Tillie Kwok, Yong Li Kwong, Kevin Le, Hajung Lee, Karen Shuci Lei, Rina A. Lema, Xiao Yun Li, Wei Lin, Yanique Jodieann Lingo, Nicholas M. Liotta, Antoinette Little, Anthony Louis LoGatto, Lynda Louis-Charles, Magalie Marie Louis-Laurent, Lorraine S. MacLeod, Philip Maniscalco, Gregory Edmund Mannino, Franco Joseph Marchetta, Mohamed Abdulrahaman Massaquoi, Kristina Mastroianni, Peter Matheos, Grzegorz Mazurek, Dorian R. McGhee, Isuru Pahala Medagama, Laura L. Medina, Ian N. Meshel, Elizabeth Mikhail, Anthony Milea, Michael R. Modica, Toniann Modica, Zuhail Senuz Modica, Elisa Mohamed, Nicole Mormando, John Michael Mullen, Madiha Badar Munir, Michelle Munro, Anthony Steven Muscat, Concetta Muscat, Hyung Kyung Na, Sade Nasan, Annas M. Nassar, Shashawta Bandhu Nath, Eugenia Nez, QingYun Yuki Ni, Okon S. Okon, Kolade A. Omoladun, Kennedy Onyenwe, David Orshansky, Nelson Luis Ortiz, Eunice Olufunmike Oyewole, Neil Henry Pacifico, Hye Yoon Hannah Park, John Sala Pena, Karen E. Peterson, Lauren Ashley Pfluger, Matthew Pinkston, Erica Plaza-Hernandez, Christine Noel Plude, Cynthia P. Power, Kristen N. Proscia, Lucy Quach, Akram Rajabbacha, Alexandra Ramirez, Jacqueline M. Reno, Yuliya Repita, Lynette Reyes, Eric M. Ricciardi, Syed Zafar Basit Rizvi, Anthony G. Romano, Santo Rosabianca, Konstantin Roudakov, John C. Ryan, Jr., Katie A. Ryan, Melissa Marie Santoro, Richard J. Satriano, Ronald Savarese, Shannon Marie Schneider, Maria Scolaro, Hassan Shah, Max Shteyman, Boris Shulman, Zachary Snyder, Christina M. Somma, Nicholas Song, Vera Spektor, Jennifer L. Sta-Maria, Xiomara V. Stewart, Michelle Aneita Stoddard, Suada Taipovic, Sabera Talukdar, James Tam, Victoria Teslova, Arthur Tkachenko, Natasha Marie Toal, Mark Elgene Ventura Toralballa, Paul Tran, Georges Bouobda Tsemo, Gregory Alexander Valentin, Teresa M. Valerio, Ryan T. Van Pelt, Dimitry Vavilov, Elena Venessa Vazquez, Vincent John Ventrone, Gianbattista Verna, Ganna Volkova, Rostislav Volotskiy, Julianna Wagner, Sameh Maher Wahba, Janice Waldmann, Manoja A. Wanniarachchi, Toby C. Weiss, Danielle Wilde, Simon Wong, Li Qing Wu, Judith Jin Xiao, Mi Xu, Li Li Yi, Shek Hang Yip, Marianne Youssef, Danhua Yu.

Master of Arts in English

Denise Aviles-Vernieri, Melissa Elliott.

Master of Arts in History

Jennifer Kathleen Mazzella.

Master of Arts in Liberal Studies

Shahid Iqbal, Daniel S. Kane, Ameen Shamsid-Deen, Rose A. Sieniawski.

Master of Science in Adolescence Education

Christina Bilotti, Jonathan Hamill, Violetta Aleksandra Surowiec.

Master of Science in Adult Health CNS/NP

Danielle Barry, Vivien Li, Jennifer G. Scafuri, Gina A. Steiman.

Master of Science in Business Management

Vait Bajramovski, Joseph Edward Brancale, Jeffrey Hession, Michael T. Kusack, James G. Lyons.

Master of Science in Childhood Education

Lindsey M. Clark, Junior Antonio Iglesia, Laura Marino, Karen Vento.

Master of Science in Computer Science

Maqsood Ahmad, Joseph Caputo, Snehal Natwar Mehta, Alexander Pilyavsky.

Master of Science in Gerontological Nursing

Georgann Gilbert.

Master of Science in Special Education

Karen Corcoran, Sari Fuchs, Jenna Marie Howard, Urszula Bozena Kuban-Bajek, Jennifer Nicole Marrero, Xhenete Osmani, Ellen Park, Jenna Ann Pillarella, Tonya Sharisse Poole, Renee Rizzo, Jennifer Grace Scala, Danielle M. Scianna, Amanda Elizabeth Stocker, Kerry Thomson, Yuliana Vorotilo, Kim Walker.

Sixth-Year Professional Certificate

Anthony Joseph Antinoro, Matthew Breslauer, Karen Heidi Brusca, Philip J. Carollo, Christopher V. Cipollo, Donna Colgan-Arena, Renee Anne Cortese, David Anthony Cugini, Rosemarie Danisi, Tara Lynn De Paolis,

Robert Adam Fendrick, Jan Feuerstein, Mary E. Jimmerson, Jessica L. Jones, Toniann McKay, Noreen Mills, Carolyn E. Reilly, Tabatha Anne Romano, Peri Tanen, Artemida Tesho.

****Valerie DeAngelo and Michelle Nastacio graduated Thursday from the CUNY Macaulay Honors College University Scholars Program at the College of Staten Island. This information was incorrect in the list of graduates provided by CSI and published yesterday in the Advance.***

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Staten Island Athletic Player Development program helping athletes grow as people

Published: Thursday, June 09, 2011, 1:00 PM



By **Gary Fiore**

BLOOMFIELD -- Behind every great play, every great shot, every great catch, comes preparation, dedication and hard work that separates the average person from an athlete.

Over the years, sports have grown to become much more complex and competitive, thus the conditioning and athletic training has also become much more rigorous and sophisticated. For those athletes looking to improve their game, look no further than Bloomfield's own Athelite Player Development (A.P.D.) program.

A.P.D is a skill-building program for athletes looking to enhance their performance on the field, and obtaining that certain "edge" over their opponents. The program, created by Chris Reyes, 27, was developed on the basis of "making people get better," with the mindset of not allowing the words 'I can't' into their vocabulary. In general terms, A.P.D.'s main focus is to prepare and train their athletes to perform at high levels of play.

Reyes, founder of A.P.D., is a New Springville native who now resides in Woodrow. Reyes, growing up in a family with a strong religious background, used his faith to guide him through a career in baseball. That path guided him through Tottenville High School and the College of Staten Island (CSI) where he was a catcher who earned All-Conference honors.



Staten Island Advance/Irving Silverstein

Chris Reyes developed his program to help athletes after finishing his baseball career at the College of Staten Island.

When his playing days at **CSI** ended in 2006, Reyes was motivated by both his love for the game and his faith, to coach and mentor young athletes to work hard to become better players on the field, but exceptional individuals in their community, as well.

"Baseball is more than a profession for me, it is a calling from God to help kids grow into respectable young men so that one day they can do the same for other kids, and theirs as well," said Reyes.

Unlike most athletic training programs, A.P.D. prides itself on its place in the community. A.P.D. is an active contributor to programs like Project Hospitality, St. Francis Xavier Soup Kitchen in Manhattan, and Children of the City. Once a month A.P.D. takes time out of its schedule to feed less fortunate people, and try and motivate them to get back on their feet.

While A.P.D. is widely recognized as a major contributor in the community, the program is obviously known for the amount of success its players have had since 2008.

Despite being founded as a baseball-oriented program, A.P.D. has expanded its mission to improving the overall athlete. For baseball players, A.P.D. offers programs that provide pitching and catching instruction, including arm maintenance and correct mechanics, and also hitting instructions, including timing and technicalities.

Besides baseball, A.P.D. touches on speed, agility and power training for all sports, as well as sports performance evaluations. A.P.D. offers team, group, and one-on-one sessions.

Most recently, A.P.D. has issued a clothing line named 'Athelite Wear,' which incorporates the ideals of the program with motivational quotes to keep clients focused on their goals. Athelite Wear is worn by the entire staff during all clinics and events, and is now available in stores throughout Staten Island and New York City.

For more information on A.P.D. and its program options, contact Reyes directly at 917-755-2747 or by e-mail, Athelitepd@yahoo.com. You can also visit the main office located at 1110 South Ave., Bloomfield.

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College graduates on parade

Published: Sunday, June 19, 2011, 7:37 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**

Courtney D. Stradford

Courtney Danielle Stradford of Meiers Corners graduated from the State University of New York at Binghamton with a bachelor of science degree in integrative neuroscience, molecular track.

Ms. Stradford, the daughter of Det. Wendell Stradford and the Rev. Tammy Stradford, was a member of the Phi Delta Epsilon pre-medical fraternity. She was a research assistant in the Environmental Neuropsychology Lab and was a member of the Binghamton chapter of the National Pan Hellenic Council, where she served as the group's historian.

She was vice president of both the Charles Drew Minority Pre-Health Society and the Phi Eta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Ms. Stradford is preparing to take her MCATs and hopes to attend medical school.

Robert Dimperio Jr.

Robert Dimperio Jr. of Huguenot graduated with a baccalaureate degree in business management from Ramapo College of New Jersey, Mahwah, N.J.

Dimperio's plans include securing a job in the field of business.

Tara Pisano

Tara Pisano of Castleton Corners has graduated from Manhattanville College, Purchase, N.Y.

Ms. Pisano, daughter of Patricia and Anthony Pisano, received a bachelor of arts degree in biology.

She was a member of the Tri-beta Biological Honor Society, student government as well as the basketball and lacrosse teams.

Ms. Pisano made the dean's list and was a finalist for the Sports Medicine Award. She also was on the Middle Atlantic Conference athletic honor roll.

Ms. Pisano, a 2007 graduate of St. Joseph Hill Academy, will be attending Wagner College in the fall to pursue a bachelor's degree in nursing.

Courtney Pisano

Courtney Pisano of Castleton Corners received a master of science degree in biomedical science with a research concentration from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

She is the daughter of Anthony and Patricia Pisano and is a 2005 graduate of Staten Island Technical High School.

She earned a bachelor of science degree in biology from Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., in 2007.

She will be attending Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Blacksburg, Va., for her doctor of osteopathic medicine degree.

Nahesha Chin

Nahesha Chin of Mariners Harbor graduated from the College of Staten Island with a degree in psychology.

Ms. Chin plans to work in the field of psychology, possibly in counseling.

She hopes to open a center for children and teenagers on Staten Island.

Giselle Olivares

Giselle Olivares of West Brighton graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from the College of Staten Island.

Ms. Olivares plans to work for the Department of Corrections in its probation division.

Jena Meaney

Jena Meaney of Oakwood earned her bachelor of science degree in nursing from DeSales University, Center Valley, Pa.

Ms. Meaney was a member of the Honor Society in nursing and was named captain of her soccer team two out of the four years she played.

Ms. Meaney plans to take her NCLEX exam in hopes of securing a nursing job.

Frank Prospero

Frank Prospero of Richmond graduated summa cum laude from St. John's University with a degree in legal studies and a minor in criminal justice.

Prospero was a brother in the Iota Sigma Indian Society and was a new student orientation leader. Prospero was named to the College of Professional Studies Dean's List all four years.

He was inducted into several honors societies, including Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, Phi Eta Sigma Freshman Honor Society, the Order of Omega Greek Honor Society, Gamma Sigma Alpha Greek Honor Society, Lambda Epsilon Chi National Legal Studies Honor Society and the St. John's College of Professional Studies Honor Society.

Prospero earned the Iota Sigma Indian Society Alumni Scholarship, the St. John's Alumni/Mary Kenny Scholarship, the Legacy of Leadership New Student Orientation Leader Award, the Delmar Publishing Legal Studies Award 2011, the Silver Certificate of Achievement in Legal Studies and the Bronze Medal for the College of Professional Studies.

Prospero plans to attend law school in the fall.

Carissa Ann Pignatelli

Carissa Pignatelli of Annadale received an associate's degree in applied science with a major in nursing from the College of Staten Island.

She plans to pursue her bachelor's degree at CSI.

Ms. Pignatelli passed her board examinations and is a registered professional nurse.

Andrew Blaich

Andrew Blaich of West Brighton received a doctor of computer science and engineering degree from the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Ind.

Blaich received a full scholarship with stipend to attend Notre Dame in 2006. In November of 2010, Blaich's dissertation, "Enhancing End-Hosts to Improve Computer Security and Wireless Performance for Networked Environments," was successfully defended.

Blaich, son of Charles and Mary Blaich, earned a bachelor of science degree in computer engineering in 2005

and a master of science degree in computer engineering in 2006 from Villanova University's College of Engineering, Villanova, Pa., where he was a four-year member of the cross-country and track teams.

A 2001 graduate of Monsignor Farrell High School's Scholars Program, Blaich was a multiple Advance All Star in cross-country and track.

Blaich accepted a position as a senior engineer in the Advanced Technology Laboratory in San Jose, Calif., for Samsung Information Systems of America, Inc.

Barbara Griffiths

Barbara Griffiths graduated from Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio, with a doctor of nursing practice degree.

Ms. Griffiths is an adjunct associate professor at the College of Staten Island in the Nursing Department.

She also is employed by Staten Island University Hospital North.

Peter Thomas Griffiths

Peter Griffiths graduated from Long Island University College, Brooklyn campus.

Griffiths received a doctor of physical therapy degree.

He hopes to pursue a position in the field of physical therapy.

Jessica Comello

Jessica Comello of Great Kills has graduated from Seton Hall University, South Orange, N.J., with a bachelor's degree in biology.

She made Dean's List and finished her first year in the physicians' assistant program.

Ms. Comello hopes to graduate with her physicians' assistant degree in 2013.

Joanna Grillo

Joanna Grillo graduated magna cum laude from Rider University, Lawrenceville, N.J., with a bachelor of arts degree.

Ms. Grillo majored in graphic design and minored in event planning. Ms. Grillo maintained Dean's List status

throughout her college career and earned special honors from Lambda Pi Eta.

Ms. Grillo worked in the office of admissions as a student tour guide and was a student event planner for the office of campus life.

Ms. Grillo held a seat on the board of the Catholic Campus Ministry. She completed internships with the Trenton Devils of the East Coast Hockey League, the Staten Island Zoo and the Westminster Choir College.

Ms. Grillo will be working with America for the Arts in the conference program department.

Mary E. Blackman

Mary E. Blackman graduated from Ashford University, Clinton, Iowa, with a bachelor of arts degree in psychology.

Ms. Blackman, mother of Robyn, Christine, Thomas, Andrew and stepmother to Ashley and Craig, is a full-time assistant residence supervisor for the Independent Living Association.

Ms. Blackman plans to work toward earning her master's degree.

Evan Cucciniello

Evan Cucciniello of Silver Lake graduated from the Catholic University of America's Benjamin Rome School of Music in Washington, D.C.

Cucciniello earned his bachelor of music degree in musical theater. During his four years, Cucciniello was in several shows and was named to the Dean's List during his senior year.

Cucciniello traveled to eight countries while studying at the London Dramatic Academy during his junior year.

Cucciniello, the son of Caryn Hemsworth and John Cucciniello, completed an internship with The Signature Theater Company, Arlington, Va.

He arranged, choreographed and performed a 60-minute one-man show as part of his senior thesis.

A 2007 graduate of Staten Island Academy, Cucciniello plans to pursue a master's degree in vocal performance and hopes to work in musical theater.

Lori Commer

Lori Commer has graduated with a master's degree in special education from the [College of Staten Island](#).

Ms. Commer, a New York City Department of Education speech teacher and the toddler teacher at the Jewish Foundation School, plans to continue her career in special education.

Ms. Commer has been pursuing her degree since 2002 while raising her three children.

Keith J. Levendosky

Keith J. Levendosky of Westerleigh graduated with a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering from the University of Delaware, Newark.

Levendosky was a 2010 Summer Scholar at the Delaware Biotech Institute, where he participated in research on platelet precursors.

He was a founding member of Phi Gamma Delta at the University of Delaware. Levendosky plans to work in research development in the biotechnology field.

Megan Thompson

Megan Thompson of Travis graduated cum laude from Wagner College with a bachelor of arts degree.

Ms. Thompson majored in psychology and minored in sociology. She was named to the dean's list for three terms and graduated with a 3.5 GPA.

Ms. Thompson plans to work in the psychiatry fields while pursuing her master's degree.

Andrea Hoffman

Andrea Hoffman of Dongan Hills graduated from the [College of Staten Island](#).

The daughter of Jerry and Pat Hoffman received a science letters and society degree, with a concentration in early childhood education.

Ms. Hoffman was president of the Early Childhood Club. She also volunteered on the board of the St. Christopher's Alumni Association, raising money and planning events for the school.

Ms. Hoffman's goal is to pursue her master's degree.

Tim Holder

Tim Holder of West Brighton graduated from the State University of New York at Cortland. The 2007 Curtis High School graduate received a degree in sports management.

Holder was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2009 semester and was named to the President's List for the fall 2010.

Holder also hosted a sports radio talk show for two football seasons while at Cortland as part of his degree requirements. Holder has been both captain and starting shortstop for four years on the SUNY-Cortland club baseball team.

Holder will be completing an internship with the New York Mets this summer.

Davon Briggs

Davon Briggs earned a master's degree in fine arts from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts in its dramatic writing program.

Briggs was born and raised in the West Brighton. He graduated from Port Richmond High School and received an associate's degree from Valencia Community College in 2005.

Briggs then attended the University of Central Florida, where he earned his bachelor's degree. Briggs and four friends founded their own film company, Ampersand Productions.

Briggs' passion for writing earned him a fellowship to NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

Nicholas J. Brosnan

Nicholas Joseph Brosnan has graduated cum laude from the University of Binghamton.

Brosnan, son of Robert and Kathleen Friscia, received a bachelor of arts degree in economics.

Brosnan earned The Distinguished Achievement in Economics Award at graduation. He was a teacher's assistant during his junior year.

While attending SUNY Binghamton, Brosnan participated in several clubs, including the Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Club, the Chess Club and the Ballroom Dancing Club.

Brosnan will start his career in July working for The Milwaukee Tool Company as a sales representative.

Valerie Hardt

Valerie Hardt of Annadale received a master of science degree in college student development and counseling from Northeastern University, Boston, Mass.

Ms. Hardt completed her graduate student development work in conjunction with Babson College in the areas of student conduct and residence life.

Ms. Hardt completed her undergraduate degree in psychology in 2009 at Loyola College, Baltimore, Md.

Ms. Hardt plans to continue working in university residence life.

Rhema Stradford

Rhema Stradford, daughter of Rudolph T. and the Rev. Yvonne Stradford, graduated with a master of science degree in early childhood education from Bank Street College in New York.

Ms. Stradford was a member of Kappa Delta Pi International Education Honor Society at Columbia University Teachers College, where she serves on the executive board as a public relations officer. Ms. Stradford was a tutor and a mentor and was a member of Alpha Nu Omega Sorority.

Ms. Stradford did her undergraduate degree study at Hofstra University, earning a bachelor of arts degree in political science.

Ms. Stradford was a member of Golden Key National Honor Society, Phi Alpha Delta Pre-Law Society, Hofstra Gospel Ensemble and Hofstra Christian Fellowship. Ms. Stradford also served as a tutor.

Ms. Stradford interned for former Vice President Al Gore and for the United Nations Security Council.

Ms. Stradford has been teaching for more than four years and will continue to teach as she pursues her doctorate in education next year.

Stephen G. Massimillo

Stephen Massimillo of Pleasant Plains graduated magna cum laude from Marist College, Poughkeepsie, N.Y., with a bachelor of science degree in accounting.

Massimillo is a 2007 graduate of St. Joseph by-the-Sea High School. He is the son of Regina and Greg Massimillo.

He was a member of Beta Gamma Sigma, Beta Alpha Si and the Marist College ice hockey team.

Massimillo will intern with PricewaterhouseCoopers in Manhattan this summer and plans to pursue his master's degree in taxation at Baruch College.

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Family is wind beneath the wings of 65-year-old Staten Island graduate

Published: Monday, June 20, 2011, 8:54 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**

By **DANIELLE LUCCHESI**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- A 65-year-old borough resident is dancing on air after the completion of her years-long journey to a bachelor's degree at the **College of Staten Island**.

Fittingly, Bonnie Olsen will celebrate later this summer by going aloft with Richard, her husband of 48 years, in the basket of a hot-air balloon.

"Graduation was a fabulous experience," said Mrs. Olsen, noting that the lyrics "I'm so excited and I just can't hide it" reverberated in her head throughout the June 2 ceremony.

The Westerleigh resident, who works as a paraprofessional at PS 30 in her home community, majored in art history and photography; her grade point average of 3.87 was good enough for magna cum laude. Mrs. Olsen is the first in her family to get a college diploma.

The night-school student interrupted her education to care for her mother, who died in 2006. "I know it was a privilege to have been with her in her final days and I will cherish it forever," said Mrs. Olsen. "She was proud of me when I achieved my associate's degree [in 2002] and I know she was kicking her heels in heaven when I achieved my bachelor's degree."

Richard urged her to return to school after she mentioned in passing one day that the classmates she'd started with had graduated. She resumed her schooling in fall 2009.



Staten Island Advance/Bill Lyons

Bonnie Olsen devoted more than a decade to dogged pursuit of diploma from the **College of Staten Island**.

"Education is a journey and I haven't gotten to my destination yet," said Mrs. Olsen. "I think it's a lifelong experience."

A mother, she said she enjoyed interacting with the younger students, including working in pairs and groups. They accepted her as an equal, she said.

When they'd ask why she sat in the front of the classroom, she'd reply, "I don't want to see how young you are in front of me!"

The hardest part of college, she said, was having to forgo family celebrations; a final exam caused her to miss her grandson's 10th birthday.

"My husband would attend and represent me, and family and friends would always make him feel welcome — and that helped me not to feel so guilty," said Mrs. Olsen.

An alumna of Port Richmond High School, Mrs. Olsen had her first exposure to college when, age 51, she was required to take six credits for her job. She took two classes in early childhood education, Exceptional Child 1 and Exceptional Child 2.

She noted that her work as a paraprofessional is challenging and varied. Some days she works one-on-one, sometimes she assists a group of students or helps them to use computers. Other times, her job is simply to instill confidence.

"Whatever the day brings, a paraprofessional is always there to make a difference in a child's life, one day at a time," said Mrs. Olsen. "My goal at the present is to be the best paraprofessional I can be and to help a child in whatever way I can."

Building on that initial college course work, Mrs. Olsen persevered and got her associate's degree. "I was hooked. I loved every minute of it," she said.

And while support and encouragement of family and friends helped keep her focused on her studies, there was one family member who stood out in that regard.

"My grandson, William, was my biggest inspiration," Mrs. Olsen said. "I started college when he was 4 and always shared with him how important education is — more importantly, the pursuit of knowledge."

William had always asked her if she would graduate from college before he started — he will be a freshman at Queens University of Charlotte, N.C., in the fall.

By no means is Mrs. Olsen done with higher education: She wants to get her master's degree, possibly in English, with an eye to writing children's books.

June 23, 2011

Weekend Miser

By STEVEN McELROY

While Weekend Miser is off to Los Angeles, and probably not behaving in a very miserly fashion, we are left to our own devices to find cheap entertainment. She left behind a sheaf of papers (O.K., a bunch of e-mails) that is a bit overwhelming, but June is Gay Pride Month, so it's easy to find plenty of inexpensive things to do around the festivities.

The 42nd annual **Pride March** starts at noon on Sunday, when crowds are expected to line the streets from the starting point, at 36th Street and Fifth Avenue, to the end, at the intersection of Christopher and Greenwich Streets in the West Village. The rule of thumb is the higher the street number, the smaller the crowd, so pick your location based on your crowd tolerance. The march is the epitome of free entertainment in New York: It's eclectic and celebratory, it takes place outside, and you can wear whatever you want. The underpinnings are serious, though: this annual event commemorates the anniversary of the 1969 **Stonewall uprising** at the start of the gay rights movement. **Pridefest**, the **annual street fair** featuring vendors and performers, will happen simultaneously along Hudson Street, between Abingdon Square and 14th Street, in the West Village (nycpride.org).

The march is probably the biggest Gay Pride event, but there are others, like the **Harlem Pride** celebration on Saturday in Marcus Garvey Park, offering artists, street vendors and guest speakers from noon till 6 p.m. (harlempride.org).

For indoor entertainment, there is the **Hot! Festival** at Dixon Place, with a wide-ranging assortment of events — some free, many cheap — through Aug. 6. (161A Chrystie Street, between Rivington and Delancey Streets, Lower East Side; hotfestival.org).

A couple of continuing shows will offer special Pride-theme performances this weekend: **"Celebrity Autobiography"** (Saturday, 7:30 p.m., Gramercy Theater, 127 East 23rd Street, Manhattan; tickets start at \$25; celebrityautobiography.com) and the hyperactive **"Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind,"** (Friday and Saturday, 10:30 p.m., Kraine Theater, 85 East Fourth Street, East Village; \$20, nyneofuturists.org).

DON'T YOU FORGET ABOUT US

In the mailbag this week was a note (O.K., it was an e-mail) from a reader in Staten Island, reminding those who may have missed “Jersey Shore” and the Staten Islanders in its cast that his borough does exist, thank you very much. Chris Toscano, a student at the [College of Staten Island](#), pointed us toward an event called **Lumen** and, guess what? It looks very cool. Lumen is a video, performance art and sound festival to be held on the Staten Island waterfront on Saturday night. Starting at 6, the work of about 100 artists will be projected onto the walls of the National Lighthouse Museum and other surfaces — even trees. The location is just a short walk from the terminal of the [Staten Island ferry](#), which runs all night, and admission is free. (6 p.m. to midnight; lumenfest.org).



College graduates on parade

Published: Sunday, June 26, 2011, 8:00 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**

Emily Seder

Emily Seder of Eltingville graduated summa cum laude from St. John's University with a bachelor's degree in speech language pathology and audiology.

Ms. Seder was the recipient of a Presidential Scholarship.

Ms. Seder, the daughter of Noreen Gabbani, the late Gary Seder and stepdaughter of Ronald Gabbani, was the secretary of the Delta Epsilon Beta sorority.

Ms. Seder was an orientation leader, philanthropic and academic chair of the Greek Council. She joined the student government, where she held the positions of vice president and senator of St. John's College.

Ms. Seder worked as a tutor in the university's Learning Resource Center in addition to working as a community habitation worker for Eden II and On Your Mark.

Ms. Seder traveled to New Orleans during her junior year in an effort to rebuild homes devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Also during her junior year, she spent spring break serving children with life-threatening illnesses at Give Kids the World Village in Florida.

Ms. Seder participated in a summer internship at NYU's Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine in the Department of Speech Pathology.

Ms. Seder was a member of the honors program, Phi Eta Sigma, Order of Omega, Gamma Sigma Alpha, Omicron Kappa Delta, Sigma Alpha Eta and Phi Alpha Theta.

Ms. Seder was also granted membership into the President's Society, for which she served as a member of the university president's official staff for special events.

Ms. Seder received the school's Woman of Achievement Award, the Student Life Award and the Silver and

Gold Key for having the highest GPA in speech pathology. She also received the medal for Outstanding Student Achievement.

In the fall, Ms. Seder will pursue her master's degree in speech language pathology and audiology at St. John's University, while working as a graduate assistant in the Office of Student Life.

Matthew F. Carpieniello

Matthew Frank Carpieniello of Todt Hill graduated magna cum laude from Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., with a bachelor of science degree in biochemistry.

Carpieniello, son of Dr. Frank Carpieniello and Dr. Mary Spinelli, completed an original research thesis titled "Hydroformylation of Aziridines: Part of a Four-Step Synthesis of Beta-Amino Acids."

He was president of the Chemistry Club and was a member of Phi Alpha Theta National Honor Society.

Carpieniello plans to attend Georgetown University School of Medicine in August.

Reina F. Onorato

Reina Francis Onorato of New Brighton graduated from the State University of New York (SUNY) at New Paltz.

Ms. Onorato earned a bachelor of arts degree in sociology with a concentration in human services and a minor in black studies.

Ms. Onorato, daughter of Gloria Taylor and Frank Onorato, was a member of the Alpha Kappa Phi sorority and the Agonian Sorority, Inc.

Ms. Onorato has accepted a position with the Americorps City Year Program.

Allison W. Cohen

Allison Weissglass Cohen of Dongan Hills received a bachelor of arts degree in English from Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

A Staten Island Academy alumna, Ms. Cohen was the treasurer and then president of the charity knitting club at Vassar.

She also was a writer for the college newspaper, The Miscellany News and a Staten Island Advance summer intern.

Ms. Cohen will be working in the production department at NY1 News.

Sam Salvatore

Sam Salvatore of Silver Lake graduated from Manhattan College with a bachelor of science degree in elementary education.

Ms. Salvatore graduated magna cum laude and earned a cumulative 3.6 GPA overall.

Ms. Salvatore was a member of the international honor society in education, Kappa Delta Pi, where she served on the Executive Council as the Foundation Representative. She also was a member of Manhattan College's highest scholastic honor society, Epsilon Sigma Pi.

Ms. Salvatore played on several intramural sports teams and volunteered in the Lasallian Outreach Volunteer Experience, where she devoted her time to disabled children in Meridian, Texas.

Ms. Salvatore plans to pursue her master's degree in special education this summer.

Michael H. Scamardella

Michael Scamardella of Prince's Bay graduated from Wagner College, Grymes Hill.

Scamardella is the son of John and Vivian Scamardella.

Scamardella earned a master's degree in accounting.

Marissa Conroy

Marissa Conroy of Huguenot graduated magna cum laude from Marist College, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Ms. Conroy earned a bachelor of arts degree in psychology with a concentration in child development.

Ms. Conroy was named to the dean's list four years and worked for two years at the Carriage House Speech Pathology Preschool. She was also an intern for the St. Francis Hospital Preschool during her senior year.

Ms. Conroy plans to pursue her master's degree in speech pathology.

Kenneth A. Scudero

Kenneth Scudero of Huguenot graduated cum laude from St. John's University's College of Professional Studies.

Scudero earned a bachelor of science degree in sports management with a minor in business.

While at St. John's, Scudero was the sports editor for the St. John's Storm Front, the college newspaper.

Laura A. Fallon

Laura A. Fallon of Great Kills graduated from St. John's University, Grymes Hill, receiving a master of science degree in education.

Ms. Fallon was a member of the International Honor Society in Education, Kappa Delta Pi.

Ms. Fallon plans to continue teaching at St. Teresa's School, Castleton Corners, where she has been a teacher for over eight years.

Megan M. Moriarty

Megan Marie Moriarty of West Brighton has graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Va.

Ms. Moriarty earned a master's degree in creative writing with a specialization in poetry.

Ms. Moriarty was employed as a teaching assistant in the English department at Virginia Tech.

She plans to work in a community outreach program with Americorps.

Alessandra M. Boardman

Alessandra M. Boardman of Meiers Corners graduate cum laude from Liberty University, Lynchburg, Va.

Ms. Boardman majored in aeronautics with a minor in business. She earned a private pilot's certificate with instrument ratings.

Ms. Boardman was a member of Women in Aviation, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association and the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society.

Currently, Ms. Boardman holds a position as an aircraft dispatcher at Lynchburg Regional Airport and hopes to become a commercial airline pilot.

Steven Gardella

Steven Gardella graduated summa cum laude from the Peter J. Tobin College of Business at St. John's

University.

Gardella received a bachelor of science degree in finance with an overall cumulative 3.99 GPA.

Gardella was the 2011 valedictorian and was an Academic Gold Medal recipient.

Gardella was an academic scholarship recipient as well as being named to the dean's list from 2007-2011.

He was a member of the Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Fraternity, the Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society, the Beta Gamma Sigma International Business Society, the Omicron Delta Epsilon Theta Chapter International Honor Society in Economics and Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities.

Gardella participated in Midnight Runs for the Homeless, was selected to participate in a \$1.5 million student -managed investment fund class and captained the school's intramural basketball team.

Gardella has been hired as a financial analyst for Societe Generale Corporate and Investment Bank, working in the Network Management Department with client interaction and contact negotiations.

John Baldofsky

John Baldofsky of Oakwood graduated cum laude from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Oneonta.

Baldofsky received a bachelor of arts degree in music industry with a minor in sound production.

Baldofsky was named to the dean's list throughout most of his college career.

He also was a member of the music industry club and the St. Jude Giants. Baldofsky plans to pursue a career in audio production.

Christina M. Sgambati

Christina Marie Sgambati, daughter of Anthony and Marie Sgambati of Rossville, graduated from St. John's University.

Ms. Sgambati graduated magna cum laude with bachelor of science degree in education and was awarded a Certificate of Academic Excellence.

Ms. Sgambati is now pursuing a master's degree in education at Touro College. Upon completion of her master's, she intends to pursue a career in the field of education.

Robert Hesterhagen

Robert Hesterhagen of Bay Terrace graduated summa cum laude from the College of Professional Studies at St. John's University.

Hesterhagen received a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice. He was awarded the Looseleaf Law Publications Award and made dean's list all three years.

He was a member of the College of Professional Studies Honor Society as well as the Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society.

Hesterhagen was a New York City Police Department cadet and will be pursuing a career in law enforcement.

Denis E. Grandinetti

Denis E. Grandinetti, son of Emily and John Grandinetti of Tottenville, received a bachelor of science degree in accounting from the University of Scranton, Scranton, Pa.

Grandinetti attended Scranton on a Loyola Merit Scholarship. Grandinetti is a 2007 graduate of Tottenville High School, where he played on the junior varsity basketball team and was co-captain of the varsity golf team which won the PSAL city championship in 2006.

At Scranton, Grandinetti was a member and officer of the crew team and worked with Habitat for Humanity in Miami during spring break.

He spent a semester break studying Spanish in Guadalajara, Mexico. Grandinetti spent his summer between his sophomore and junior years as a finance intern for American International Group in New Jersey. Grandinetti also interned in finance for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C.

After an internship with Deloitte & Touche LLP in Manhattan, Grandinetti will return to Scranton to work toward a master of business administration degree in finance and accounting.

Mary M. McConnell

Mary Megan McConnell of Westerleigh graduated from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Ms. McConnell received a bachelor's degree in music, specializing in musical theater. During her time at school, Ms. McConnell was involved in performances at The Catholic University, St. Matthew's Cathedral, The National Shrine of The Immaculate Conception, The Kennedy Center and The Atlas Theater.

Ms. McConnell served an internship at Imagination Stage in Bethesda, Md. She also served as an Inclusion Facilitator, shadowing children with disabilities. Ms. McConnell was later hired as a part-time employee with the same organization.

A dean's list student, Ms. McConnell was a member of The Catholic University of American Chorus.

With the chorus, Ms. McConnell performed in the Czech Republic in the town of Terezin to a group of Holocaust survivors.

Ms. McConnell is currently working at On Your Mark's Day-Habilitation Program. Ms. McConnell hopes to work as a teaching artist for children of all abilities while performing with various theater companies in New York.

Daniel Caruso

Daniel Caruso of Willowbrook graduated from the State University of New York at New Paltz. Caruso received a bachelor of arts degree in communication with a concentration in radio and television production.

While a student at New Paltz, Caruso was on the dean's list for four semesters. Caruso was a member of the SUNYAC All -Academic team.

Caruso also was a four-year member of the varsity cross-country team. Caruso was president of the SUNY-New Paltz Track Club for the past two years. Caruso is a 2007 graduate of the Michael J. Petrides School, Sunnyside. He will be pursuing a career in the field of mass communications.

Taylor Miller

Taylor Miller of Great Kills has graduated the College of Saint Rose, Albany, N.Y.

Daughter of Ed and Tracey Birmingham and sister of Paige Miller, Ms. Miller received a bachelor of arts degree in English with a minor in history.

Ms. Miller attended the College of Saint Rose on the Carondelet Scholarship and was named to both the dean's list and the English Honors Society.

Ms. Miller studied abroad in her junior year at Edge Hill University, Ormskirk, England.

Ms. Miller sang soprano in the St. Rose Women's Chorale and has volunteered for many charities, including St. Ann's Home for Girls, where she was a mentor to young women facing many difficulties.

During her senior year, Ms. Miller had an article published on-line and won first prize in a British Travel magazine.

Ms. Miller, an alumnus of the Susan Wagner High School Scholars Academy, plans to pursue her master of fine arts degree in creative writing.

Adrienne Falconer

Adrienne Falconer graduated from Dominican College, Orangeburg, N.Y., receiving a bachelor's degree in social science.

Ms. Falconer was a peer tutor and became freshman Board of Ambassadors' vice president in 2008. During the years 2007-2009, she conducted research experiments and reported the results to her peers.

In 2008, Ms. Falconer participated in the talent show, and in 2009, she was a Student Leadership inductee. Ms. Falconer coordinated fund-raisers and continued with ambassadorial duties, which included the orientation of freshmen and their paperwork.

In 2009-2010 Ms. Falconer planned food drives and distributed food to senior housing facilities, participated in the career fair and helped organize walks for cancer.

Ms. Falconer plans to work toward her master's degree. Her dream is to become a guidance counselor.

Michael M. Libert

Michael M. Libert of Bulls Head graduated cum laude from the College of Staten Island, where he earned a bachelor's degree in history with a minor in Italian.

Libert, son of Lynne and Gary Libert, was a member of several honor societies, receiving an Emerald Key for Proclamation of Honors in the Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society.

Libert was granted Outstanding Academic Achievement for two years in a row. Libert was also inducted into the National Historical Society with a lifetime membership for Phi Alpha Theta, in recognition of conspicuous attainments and a scholarship in the field of history, and was named to the Dean's List.

Libert will pursue his master's degree in history, with hopes of one day receiving his Ph.D. in history.

In his spare time, Libert sings and plays guitar with his band and writes music.

Jillian Angelone

Jillian Angelone graduated from Boston University with a degree in economics and theater design production.

Ms. Angelone was a member of the Boston University Choral Society, Boston University on Broadway and the Boston University Stage Troup.

Ms. Angelone was co-director of the Boston University theatrical production of "Sweeney Todd." Ms. Angelone plans to pursue a career in art administration.

Ms. Angelone attended PS 56 and IS 34 and then was accepted into the Institute Program at Tottenville High School. She graduated from Tottenville, with honors, in 2007.

Samantha Furnell

Samantha Furnell graduated from the State University of New York at New Paltz with a bachelor of science degree in elementary education.

Ms. Furnell, daughter of Allen and Lynn Furnell, was on the Dean's List for the past three years. Ms. Furnell was a member of the New Paltz cheerleading squad for the past four years.

As the social chair, Ms. Furnell and the team were active participants in raising money for the American Cancer Society.

Ms. Furnell also volunteered to teach local school cheerleading.

Ms. Furnell plans to pursue her master's degree in literacy education at SUNY New Paltz this fall, while working as a substitute teacher in a nearby school district.

Jayde Wiener

Jayde Wiener of Tottenville earned her juris doctorate, magna cum laude, in both criminal justice and foreign language from the Seton Hall University School of Law. At Seton Hall, Ms. Wiener received the Chancellor Scholarship.

Ms. Wiener, daughter Erik and Rachel Wiener, received many honors throughout her college career and was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi.

Ms. Wiener received an Alpha Kappa Delta, a Criminal Justice Honor Society award. She also received a Dobro Slovo citation from the Russian Honor Society as a Senior Thesis Scholar.

Ms. Wiener was the Eugenia Slavov Language Award Recipient and was on the Dean's List.

Ms. Wiener was vice president of the D.A. Performing Dance Co. Ms. Wiener was also part of the Pre-Law Student Association, the Student Slavic Club and was a Russian language tutor.

Ms. Wiener took part in the study abroad program and visited St. Petersburg, Russia, in 2007.

Timothy Ryan

Timothy Ryan, son of Richard and Kathleen Ryan of Great Kills, earned a bachelor's degree in, magna cum laude from the University of Connecticut School of Business.

Ryan, who majored in management with a concentration in international business, was a Dean's List student. Ryan participated in the school's study abroad program, traveling to London as well as throughout Europe. Ryan managed the men's basketball team from 2007 through 2009.

Ryan was a member of both the UConn Student Entrepreneurial Organization and the UConn International Business Society.

Ryan plans to become an equities trader on Wall Street.

Megan Kimmins

Megan Kimmins, daughter of John and Laura Kimmins of Randall Manor, graduated from Fairfield University, Conn., with bachelor of arts degrees in marketing and art history. Ms. Kimmins' degrees were awarded with magna cum laude distinction.

Ms. Kimmins was on the Dean's List during the four years she attended Fairfield and also completed the rigorous Honors Program. During her junior year, Ms. Kimmins attended the Rouen Business School in Rouen, France.

Ms. Kimmins was inducted into the Alpha Sigma Nu National Jesuit Honor Society, and accepted honors to the Beta Gamma Sigma National Business Honor Society and the Alpha Mu Gamma National Language Honor Society.

Ms. Kimmins received the Mary Louise Larrabee Award for Outstanding Achievement in Art History.

Ms. Kimmins was a marketing intern at the Rubin Museum of Art in New York City. She also interned at the Bellarmine Museum of Art in Fairfield, Conn.

Ms. Kimmins plans to pursue a career where she can use her marketing skills and her passion for art history.

Alexander Zaderiko

Alexander Zaderiko, son of Carole and Stephen Zaderiko of Richmond, graduated from Quinnipiac University with a bachelor of science degree in financial management and a minor in economics.

During his college career, Zaderiko was on the Dean's List and was an intern for Merrill Lynch.

Zaderiko plans to work through the summer for Solution Point International.

Zaderiko will continue his education in the graduate program at Quinnipiac University, working to obtain a master's degree and pursuing a career in financial management.

Francis W. Schiano

Francis William Schiano, son of Barbara and Frank Schiano of Westerleigh, graduated from Kean University's School of Business and Public Management.

A 2007 graduate of St. Peter's Boys' High School, Schiano received a bachelor of science degree in marketing. Schiano worked as an assistant in the Kean computer lab.

At Kean, Schiano was a member of Nu Sigma Pi Fraternity and was admitted to the National Marketing Honor Society, Mu Kappa Tau.

Last summer, Schiano interned with the Healthcare Institute of New Jersey, and this spring, Schiano was a marketing intern for the Red Bull New York Soccer Club.

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Alumni

Pro Bono Barrister

Famulari Succeeds Landicino as Columbian Leader

by Chuck Otey (), published online 06-17-2011

The Kings County Columbians' 43rd Annual Dinner Dance last Friday at the El Caribe was hailed as their best ever as the highly respected bar group welcomed new president Dominic Famulari succeeding Carl Landicino.

The packed house and the very thoughtful program were also a tribute to the organizational skills of Justice Anthony Cutrona, a past president. He and his staff clearly worked hard to ensure that every person of note, in the Columbians and the court system as well, had his or her share of recognition. No easy task. But they did it!

The band was great, the food superb and, according to Justice Gerard Rosenberg, there with ebullient wife Harriet, "The Venetian Table was to die for!!!" (As outgoing president of the Kings County Inns of Court, Justice Rosenberg was the Inn honoree four days later, Tuesday night, so the Inn story, along with photos by Mario Belluono, will be appearing shortly in the BDE!)

As we've said here of earlier Columbian events, the exacting attention to detail — and an agenda ensuring appropriate respect for the honorees and their families — truly reminds this writer of the days when the late, legendary James V. Mangano would host the annual gatherings of his United Mazzini Club, headquartered in Cobble Hill-Carroll Gardens.

That was an era when the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel St. George was the social center of Brooklyn politics and where this writer once shared a table with then law partners Danny Lodato and Guy Mangano — who later became Justice Lodato and Appellate Division Presiding Justice Mangano! (Whose son, Justice Guy Mangano Jr., was also in attendance at the El Caribe.)

Jurists led by Kings Administrative Judges Sylvia Hinds-Radix (civil matters) and Barry Kamins (who still graciously offers to share a bow-tie with this envious writer) were much in evidence Friday, and a very touching moment featured the elegant singing voice of retired Justice John Milano, who delivered a very appropriate "patriotic medley."

Among the members of the bench we said hello to were table mates retired Justice Jules Spodek with wife Horthy, Justice Betsy Barros, Justice Deborah Dowling, City Emergency Management Commissioner Joseph Bruno (a former Kings justice), and others including Justice Donald Scott Kurtz (with Nina), Justice Lawrence Knipel (with Lori Citron), Justice John Ingram (with Maureen), Justice Joseph Maltese, Justice Matthew D'Emic, Justice Arthur Schack (with Dilia), Justice David Vaughan, Justice Ellen Spodek, Justice Wayne Saitta, Justice Karen Rothenberg; Appellate Division Judges Robert Miller, Cheryl Chambers and Reinaldo Rivera; and Justice Patricia DiMango.

Dr. Blash & Civility At Adelphi Academy

Few schools enjoy the lasting reputation of Adelphi Academy, a revered Brooklyn educational institution since 1863 that came to Bay Ridge in 1965.

That's why I was pleased and honored to speak at commencement ceremonies there recently by President and Headmaster Dr. Roy Blash.

The very delightful experience again made it clear to this writer that the graduates and staff have a special appreciation for Dr. Blash, who's presided there since 2008. In his second term as trustee and headmaster, the renowned educator has brought a very well-thought-out and inspirational message to his students.

Dr. Blash recently launched a "civility agenda," which will help a lot of students understand the importance of

appropriate behavior in an age when our mass media seems to breed a coarsening social discourse.

It was a pleasure to share the dais with and hear valedictorian Brian Baglioni and second valedictorian Joo Hyun (Jenny) Lee offer their thoughtful views on Adelphi and outline their own personal goals.

Worth a major mention is a partial list of the higher institutions (24 in total) which have gladly accepted members of the Adelphi Class of 2011, among them Pennsylvania State University, Pace University, Adelphi University, Baruch College, Fordham University, NYU Polytechnic and St. John's University. Honored graduates received special awards from Albert Corhan, the school's respected director of operations; Ms. Iphigenia Romanos, assistant head of school; Jon Barry, assistant director of operations; and Russell Kain, dean of students. Michael J. Lu, (Adelphi, '87) a television advertising executive, signed and distributed the diplomas.

Boris Zivitov Honored by Bay Ridge Lawyers Association

In its almost six decades of service to the profession and the community, the Bay Ridge Lawyers Association has been the initial home base for some of our top barristers, to name just a few:

Lawrence DiGiovanna, Ray Ferrier, Andrea Bonina, Anthony Lamberti, Rose Ann C. Branda, Stephen Chiaino, Justice Chris Mega(ret), Rosa Pannitto, Vincent Caccese and John Bonina, Jr. Each of the above has a "success" story. but none may be as unique as that of the guest of honor at the BRLA's Annual Dinner Dance held Thursday at the Dyker Golf Catering Hall.

We refer to Boris Zivitov, a big guy with a big heart who is a heck of a lawyer to boot! Because Immediate Past President Steve Chiano is a gifted writer, we're pleased to borrow the following tribute to Boris verbatim that was used to introduce Boris Thursday (yesterday) evening:

– From Steven Chiaino, Esq. Immediate Past President:

Boris Zivitov is a modern-day American success story. His mother brought him to this country at age 12 in 1980 as a refugee from the (then) Soviet Union. As a condition for permitting them to leave, the Soviet Union stripped them of citizenship and possessions. So the small family arrived in New York with literally the proverbial \$100.00 and a suitcase.

Not having much means, Boris put himself through college and law school while working the entire time. While in Stuyvesant High School and Brooklyn College, he successfully competed in local, state, and national team chess championships, attaining the prestigious title of national master in 1989. Boris graduated valedictorian from the College of Staten Island in 1991 with a B.A. in psychology and from Brooklyn Law School in 1994. He was admitted to the New York State Bar in 1995.

Boris used his ability to quickly grasp the English language to help the underprivileged Russian-speaking immigrant community, first as a volunteer through the Jewish Community House of Bensonhurst and then through his work as a liaison in Assemblyman Frank Barbaro's office. It was hard work reaching out to Soviet immigrants conditioned through life back home to be distrustful of government. Through education and voter registration drives, Boris helped his unrepresented community build a political voice. He used his love of helping the less fortunate to build a successful litigation practice representing accident victims for the past 15 years. In the wake of September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Boris participated in the Trial Lawyers Care project in providing pro bono representation to a distraught Russian-speaking family whose daughter perished in the World Trade Center.

As the Russian immigrant community became more established, the Zivitov practice expanded to include real estate services for nervous first-time homebuyers and the formation of many fledgling business ventures.

But his first love remains fighting for justice. Boris honed his passion while an associate with the well-respected Court Street firm Weinstein, Chayt & Chase, P.C., working closely with his lifelong mentor and friend, Maurice Chayt, Esq. The Zivitov firm has prosecuted many significant personal injury cases, and several of its appeals have resulted in decisions that are still cited as precedent.

In addition to his many professional responsibilities, Boris is an active member of several state and local bar associations, including the New York State Bar Association, New York State Trial Lawyers Association, the Brooklyn

Bar Association,, the Catholic Lawyers Guild of Brooklyn, the United States Supreme Court Bar Association, and, most notably, the Bay Ridge Lawyers Association, where as a member since 1996, he has chaired numerous committees, served as a director and held the offices of corresponding secretary, treasurer, recording secretary, vice president and president.

But Boris's most important and enjoyable responsibility is to parent his awesome boys David and Joey Zivitov.

Well put, Steve!

Weiner Harms Himself As Well as Democrats

"What kind of a Democrat are you?" One PBB reader wanted to know after this column last week called for troubled Congressman Anthony Weiner to "Fall on His Sword" and quit.

In reply, I simply note that any Democrat who doesn't want to go around apologizing for Weiner's phallic foibles until the 2012 election has to realize that this guy would have made President Obama a laughing stock. If Weiner had stayed, President Obama at town halls would have been faced with questions: "Will you permit your name to appear on the same ballot with Congressman Weiner in his Brooklyn-Queens district in the November (2012) election?"

Right-wing ideologues have been fabricating fictions about this president since the 2008 campaign. Imagine what they will do if they can come up with any photos showing the president with the sad soul whose reputation is being shredded on 24/7 cable television?

An upstate Republican congressman, Christopher Lee, resigned within 24 hours of his upper torso appearing in a photo sent to a young woman. Maybe there were a lot of other reasons for Lee's abrupt departure, but he got out quick and clean — sort of.

Weiner did the right thing by going on leave and seeking help for his clearly challenged mind. It's become S.O.P. (standard operating procedure) for erring public figures to go into rehab after major gaffes and/or peccadilloes. Apparently the Weiner camp hoped that a few months of him standing up amidst a circle of supportive addicts and saying "Hi, I'm Anthony W. and I'm a _____?" might enable his 'recovery' and return.

It's hard to be angry with this guy anymore. And there's no longer any humor in his pathetic plight.



Staten Island tennis: Vladimirsky, Carlson win S.I. Singles titles

Published: Wednesday, June 22, 2011, 11:36 AM



By Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

Greg Vladimirsky atoned for last year's three-set final loss, and Lia Carlson was a commanding force in winning Staten Island Open Singles Tournament championships last night at the S.I. Community Tennis Courts in Willowbrook.

Vladimirsky, who lost to two-time champ Alex Petrone last year, grabbed his first Open title by defeating second-seeded Konstantin Trofimovich, 7-6 (7-1), 6-2.

Carlson, a 2009 titlist, was in complete command of her shots and the match in dethroning Allison Campitiello, 6-0, 6-3.

The top-ranked Vladimirsky, a sophomore at James Madison University in Virginia, took the initiative early, breaking Trofimovich in the third game of the match to take a 2-1 advantage.

But at 4-3 Vladimirsky, Trofimovich made his move. After a hard-fought 34-point, 14-deuce game, the former College of Staten Island star broke to level the set at four. Both had several opportunities to wrap up the game, but in the end, Trofimovich was able to force two errors from his opponent for the breakthrough.

The marathon game felt like a turning point. Vladimirsky did not see it that way.

"I didn't think anything of it because we were still on serve," he said. "He broke me back, and I just kept going."

At 4-5 and 5-6 down, Vladimirsky twice had to serve to stay in the match. Both times, he did so with ease, dropping only one point in the two games combined.

A tiebreak followed at 6-6, and Vladimirsky used his strong serve to propel him to an early lead. He would power to a 7-1 win, clinching the 120-point first set. "Once I got going in the tiebreak, I didn't stop," Vladimirsky said. "I played fast so that he couldn't get a rhythm against me."

He would carry that momentum into the second set, again breaking early as he raced to a 4-1 advantage. He would go onto clinch the 49-point second set and the title by a score of 6-2, breaking Trofimovich in the final game as a forehand sailed long.

Vladimirsky, who considers his serve and backhand his best weapons, was quick to praise his opponent after the match. "He was probably the most talented player in the draw," he said, crediting his sharpness and superior match fitness for the victory.

CARLSON REGAINS TITLE

Campitiello, who won the Open title three of the last four years — losing in 2009 to Carlson, could not handle her opponent's dominating game.

"I didn't play poorly," Campitiello admitted. "Lia took opportunity of every advantage; she played the big points well."

"The first three games were really close (three deuces) and I thought winning those gave me some confidence," said Carlson, who controlled the 41-point opening set with deep and sideline-to-sideline forehand and backhand winners. At one stretch, she won 12 straight points and finished the 30-minute set by winning 14 of the last 15 points.

The top-seeded Campitiello, despite a double break in the first game, was able to break Carlson in the fourth for a 3-1 lead before the latter staged her winning five-game tear.

"I was mad I let up mentally," Carlson added of her slow second-set start. "I knew Allison wasn't going to give up, so I took it to her."

The two seed ripped a forehand passer to break back to serve in the fifth. Campitiello played a sloppy seventh in giving up the lead (4-3), and Carlson used two more of those lethal backhands in the breaking ninth to regain the title.

NOTES: Carlson won 29 of those 41 first-set points, including three of eight break chances. Campitiello did not get a game point until she won the first game of the second set. Her first break opportunity came in the fourth game of the second set ... Carlson, over the final five games, won 20 of 28 points. "My legs were getting a bit tired (in the second set); I knew I couldn't continue to play at the level of the first set" ... Campitiello, a year out of UConn, felt good but admitted she lacked a "killer instinct" ... Carlson, who just completed her first year at Swarthmore College, felt a bit "relaxed without the academic pressure" ... Judy Braisted's eight consecutive titles from 1972-79 are tops on the Mary Outerbridge Cup which dates back to 1915 ... Leona Lane won the S.I. Women's B title with a 6-1, 6-0 decision over Gina LaForte ... The S.I. Men's B final (Mike DeCorato vs. Georgio Dano) will be staged tomorrow night at 7... Tonight (Wednesday) is the deadline to enter the S.I. Men's/Women's Open/B Doubles tourneys, which will be played at S.I. Academy starting Saturday. Call Ed Perpetua at 718-370-8757.