Greetings!

It is my pleasure as the President of the College of Staten Island to introduce the CSI Foundation Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report.

The many great strides the College has made in the past year are made possible through the work of the Foundation, its dedicated Board members, and all of our generous donors.

This past spring marked the largest graduating class in CSI’s history. Our graduates are being hired by prestigious firms and going to some of the finest graduate schools in the country. Our commitment to providing a world-class education with a renowned faculty places CSI as a true leader among the sister schools of The City University of New York.

The growth of the College, the enrichment of the educational experience for our students, and service to the community continue to be some of our priorities. This past year has been full of noteworthy accomplishments, such as our Green Campus Project, which is making the CSI campus more environmentally friendly. The Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative continues to make a positive impact on breast cancer incidence and mortality through education and research. The supercomputer mentioned in my letter to you last year has become a reality, and I am proud to say that CSI now has high-capacity computational stations on campus that are fully operational and available to all faculty and students.

CSI has a long and distinguished history of success and achievement that we continue to build upon and enhance each year. We look forward to making even greater strides this year with your continued assistance. Thank you to our outstanding faculty, our hard-working students and their very supportive families, our caring staff, the tireless Foundation Board, and, of course, our tremendously involved and generous family of alumni and donors! Together, we are helping to write CSI’s story of success.

Sincerely,

Tomás D. Morales, PhD
President
The primary mission of the CSI Foundation is to secure philanthropic support from concerned and motivated friends for the advancement of CSI. With your tremendous assistance, we have done just that. Even in these hard economic times, financial support for CSI has continued, and the importance of each person’s gift has been intensified. Your gift has a crucial impact on our students specifically and on the College’s continuing development in general.

The Board of the CSI Foundation has worked tirelessly to gain the support of our alumni, government officials, and the Staten Island community to anchor CSI as a great center of educational, social, and cultural opportunities. Consider some of CSI’s FY 09 (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009) endeavors:

- Secured the bright future of our stellar nurses with the Brooklyn Home for Aged Men/Nancy K. Munson $200,000 Scholarship Endowment
- Invested in and fostered the development of future engineers through high school workshops with generous help from National Grid, bringing the field of engineering to life for many students who would not normally have access to such programs
- Continued to find support for the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative, in which researchers and educators at CSI are working toward reducing breast cancer incidence and mortality on Staten Island

None of this great work would be possible without you and our amazing family of donors. On behalf of the Board, and the faculty, staff, and students of CSI, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to you for giving so generously from your time, your wallet, and your heart. Our successes are fueled by you!

Sincerely,

Robert S. Cutrona, Sr.
Board President

CSI's Mallory Amenieros drives for a layup against York College.
The Brooklyn Home for Aged Men presented CSI with $100,000 for creation of the Brooklyn Home For Aged Men/Nancy K. Munson Scholarship Endowment. The endowment will support nursing students who are pursuing careers in geriatric care and will provide support in perpetuity. The gift was matched through a U.S. Department Of Education challenge endowment as part of the College’s Title 3 grant, making the total endowment $200,000.

The endowment is named in honor of Nancy K. Munson, Board President of the Brooklyn Home for Aged Men, and was presented to the College in November 2008. Ms. Munson was instrumental in the establishment of the scholarship fund and had stated, “We would like to see that young people go in the direction of taking care of the elderly. Since CSI has a very good Nursing program, we wanted to help finance it.”

Noting that the Brooklyn Home for Aged Men has been serving senior citizens since 1878, CSI President Dr. Tomás Morales said, “Today, we at CSI can continue the mission of serving the elderly by providing future nurses with the tools they need to provide important geriatric care.”

Dr. Mary O’Donnell, Chair of the Department of Nursing, underscored the importance of this endowment for the College’s nursing students and the community. “The endowment is going to educate many nurses in the field of gerontology. There’s a great need for geriatric nurses right now; the geriatric population is growing by leaps and bounds. The students are enthused. They’re working right now in various areas of community health and nursing homes and they can use the assistance that this is going to give them.”

CSI offers many diverse degrees in nursing including a Master of Science (MS) in Gerontological Nursing, an Advanced Certificate in Cultural Competence, and a Doctor of Nursing Science in association with the CUNY Graduate Center. Nurses who successfully complete programs at CSI are well prepared to meet the needs of culturally diverse individuals, families, and communities, and will have a competitive edge in the changing environment of health care.

CSI recently completed the construction of a new on-campus facility, where nursing students will experience simulated hospital scenarios in a controlled environment. Here, students will work with the new Laerdal SimMan Patient Simulator, a life-size mannequin on which students can perform medical procedures. Funds for this facility were generously granted by New York State Senator Andrew J. Lanza.
Nancy Kay Munson was a friend and great supporter of the CSI community. As President of the Brooklyn Home for Aged Men, Ms. Munson was the driving force behind creating an endowment for CSI nursing students pursuing careers in geriatrics. Erika Hellstrom, Associate Executive Director of the CSI Foundation, said, “As a friend, she will truly be missed, but her memory will continue on at CSI with the Nancy K. Munson Scholarship. Nancy was determined to attend law school at a time when not many women were studying law; in fact, she fondly recalled camping outside the dean’s office at Brooklyn Law School in order to get admitted to the program. Her tenacity proved successful; she was the only woman in her law school class, graduating at the top of her class. I truly hope the CSI Nancy K. Munson scholars will carry her legacy, her tenacity, and lead the way in the field of geriatric nursing.”

“CSI houses superb laboratories, studios, and classrooms, and is home to a world-class team of dedicated faculty,” said President Morales. “We are dedicated to the art of teaching and the science of research by promoting discovery, disseminating knowledge, cultivating minds, and nurturing the human spirit. We are very grateful to the Brooklyn Home for Aged Men. This wonderful gift, and the challenge endowment match from the U.S. Department of Education, will help us further fulfill our mission.”
An electrical engineer by training, Professor Antoniades teaches engineering courses at CSI with a focus on mentoring undergraduate students toward graduate work in engineering and careers in science. Just as he has encouraged many CSI students to pursue their interests in science, Professor Antoniades is now paving the way for high school students to consider a college major in engineering or related fields. Through his four, two-hour workshops held on Saturdays throughout the academic year, Professor Antoniades is teaching students that one is able to have a serious career doing “fun stuff.”

Since 1989, the LPP at CSI has worked to ensure that at-risk students are given ample opportunities both in and out of the classroom that will increase their confidence and encourage them to make decisions that will help them to build a brighter future for themselves. LPP is a comprehensive program, providing in-school tutoring, college counseling and mentoring, and enrichment opportunities, such as attending Broadway shows or participating in conferences. Through the support of generous partnerships similar to the one CSI has with National Grid, students are given the opportunity to explore their interests and learn how a college education can help them to achieve their goals. About 75 percent of students who are in the LPP go on to college, with many choosing CSI as the place to build a strong foundation for their future.

National Grid invests in the communities that it serves, forming long-term relationships with organizations dedicated to energy, education, or the environment. CSI’s commitment to educating academically at-risk students is a mission that National Grid is proud to support, forming a partnership that CSI is proud to uphold.

National Grid Funds CSI Program To Inspire Future Engineers

Don’t be fooled by the high school students playing with LEGO®; they are actually doing some serious learning. Thanks to a series of workshops led by College of Staten Island Professor Neo Antoniades through the College’s Department of Engineering Science and Physics, high school students across Staten Island are being introduced to engineering design through hands-on study.

Through the generous support of National Grid, a pilot program of engineering workshops was introduced last year as part of CSI’s Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP), which offers a wide range of instructional, enrichment, and support services to academically disadvantaged students at four of Staten Island’s public secondary schools: Curtis High School, New Dorp High School, Port Richmond High School, and Susan Wagner High School. CSI first received a $5,000 grant from National Grid, but the success of the pilot program has enabled CSI to receive an additional $15,000 for the continuation of the engineering workshops.

Loretta Smith, U.S. Corporate Giving Director for National Grid, said, “National Grid has a long history of supporting the communities we serve and we’re committed to initiatives that focus on energy and education. We are happy to partner with the College of Staten Island to expand the Liberty Partnerships Program to introduce youngster to careers in science, technology, and engineering, all areas that are critical to the core business of our company.”

Engineering is a subject that many students do not consider pursuing simply because they do not know much about it. This is where Professor Antoniades comes in. Through the program he administers, students have the opportunity to not only be introduced to the study of engineering, but also work on engineering projects that involve such elements as robots and engineering microcontrollers in order to learn the basic concepts of engineering design. During the pilot program, a group of 20 students attended workshops, which offered a hands-on opportunity far above and beyond what they receive in their regular science curriculum. To the pleasant surprise of all involved, the students were quite taken with Professor Antoniades’s workshops, to the point where more than a few students mentioned that they would be interested in pursuing a career in engineering.
Breakfast With Bloomberg

“One of our three key goals with NYC Service is to ensure every young person in New York City is taught about civic engagement and has an opportunity to serve. It is wonderful to see the students of the College of Staten Island thinking critically about their city and how they might help improve and support their community. I commend them for their dedication and enthusiasm and encourage them to make civic engagement a part of their lives.”

-Michael R. Bloomberg

On March 19, 2009, CSI President Dr. Tomás Morales and 15 CSI students were invited to City Hall for a private breakfast with Mayor Michael Bloomberg. In attendance were students from a variety of CSI programs including Student Government, New Student Orientation, SEEK, and the Macaulay Honors College. The Mayor was greeted by the enthusiastic group of students, and shortly after a brief photo session, he welcomed them into the Governor’s Room for a quintessential New York breakfast of bagels and smoked salmon.

Mayor Bloomberg was interested in hearing about the students’ experiences within CUNY and more specifically, their experiences at CSI. The students came prepared with a series of questions for Mayor Bloomberg. They asked about the Mayor’s pre-political life and work ethic, as well as the current political and financial climates. The Mayor spoke about his early career in corporate real estate, and gave the students sound advice about maintaining a good work ethic by always being on time and diligent, as well as the importance of “giving credit to those who help you.” The breakfast was followed by a private tour of City Hall. The tour showcased City Hall’s historic architectural significance, New York City Council Chambers, and the building’s many one-of-a-kind paintings and sculptures.

“This was a great honor for our College and especially for our students,” said President Morales. “Through their questions and their answers to the Mayor’s questions, they demonstrated the exceptional high quality of CSI students.”
CSI Foundation Mentoring Our Students

The CSI Foundation Board of Directors, along with CSI President Dr. Tomás Morales and other College officials, met with students from the College’s Emerging Leaders Program at Staten Island’s Hilton Garden Inn. The Program is a selective and competitive program for students who have achieved high academic standards. The students are deeply involved in the Staten Island community and are developing the leadership skills necessary to succeed in the future.

Students from a variety of backgrounds and majors were represented at the mentoring breakfast. The gathering was coordinated by the Foundation’s Associate Executive Director Erika Hellstrom and Foundation Board Member Dolores Morris in order to engage the Board with the student body that they serve. Mrs. Hellstrom stated, “It’s important for us to interact and create a relationship with the students of the College. It allows them a fantastic opportunity to sit down with the Island’s top entrepreneurs, CEOs, and community leaders.” Participating student Linda Gomez, an Early Childhood Education major, spoke of her anticipation to “spark a mentoring relationship with a community leader.”

After a brief introduction from President Morales, the students were paired with a Board member who is involved in a career area that correlated to the student’s major. According to Theodora Rexhepi, a CSI Political Science major, “The Board members were extremely helpful and ready to pass on their knowledge.”

As the breakfast came to an end, CSI Foundation Board member Richard Nicotra, Chairman/CEO of The Nicotra Group, gave a series of closing remarks showcasing his unique pathway to success, providing the students with the motivation to excel.

In his opening remarks, President Morales told the students, “One of the most valuable assets your career can have is a good mentor.” By the end of the breakfast, the students truly understood the value of the day’s exchange.
Breast cancer is an epidemic on Staten Island. In fact, Staten Island not only has the highest breast cancer mortality rate among the five New York City boroughs, but it also has one of the highest death rates due to the disease in the entire state. In an effort to see these dismal statistics improve, the research staff at the Staten Island Breast Cancer Initiative (SIBCRI) at CSI works to find the causes of these high rates of breast cancer, as well as to inform and educate the Staten Island community about early detection and prevention.

Donna Gerstle, Director of CSI’s Center for Environmental Science and Adjunct Professor, is a co-principal researcher for SIBCRI. Professor Gerstle’s dedication to the research team is fueled by her sincere interest in getting to the bottom of the breast cancer epidemic in the town in which she was born and raised. “This is not about me. This is not about you,” Professor Gerstle says, insisting that the work she and the team does goes far above and beyond any of their individual career aspirations; rather, it is about putting an end to a deadly disease that ravages both women and men. In addition to Professor Gerstle, the team at the SIBCRI consists of Dr. Alfred Levine, Engineering Science and Physics Professor; Dr. Jimmie Fata, Assistant Professor of Biology; and Dr. Michael Kress, Vice President for Technology Systems.

The research of the SIBCRI considers breast cancer from three points of view. First, the disease is studied on an epidemiological level, examining the lifestyles and risk factors of a control set of individuals living on Staten Island from 1980 to 2006. Second, the initiative looks at environmental factors that may influence mammary tissue development. Third, an education in early detection and prevention is provided to the community at large, with health care providers, community organizations, elected officials, and schools on board to spread the message about mammograms and breast self-exams. Professor Gerstle mentions that while teen girls might find breast self-exams the subject of much giggling, it is something that needs to be taught early and made a regular part of their lives.

While there are many issues on which politicians do not see eye to eye, breast cancer research is one topic for which they will gladly reach across the aisle to support. In fact, in 2008, a bipartisan effort of the New York City Council garnered SIBCRI $80,000 in funding for research. An additional $50,000 was received from State Senator Andrew Lanza, and Staten Island Borough President James Molinaro also donated generously toward equipment needed for research.

The CSI community is also a great proponent of SIBCRI. On October 11, 2008, CSI held its first annual Fall Festival on the Great Lawn, with proceeds going to the SIBCRI. The event, which was also sponsored in part by the CSI Alumni Association and the Friends of CSI, was a resounding success, with more than 10,000 people attending and raising over $12,000 for the endeavor. The day was filled with activities for the entire family, as well as dozens of vendors offering everything from food and beverages to juggling and face painting.

When Professor Gerstle speaks about her work with the SIBCRI, it is with great emotion, not only because of her dedication to breast cancer research, but also because of her appreciation for the support of the CSI community. “This would not be possible without Dr. Morales,” Professor Gerstle says of the President’s continued support for the research initiative.
CSI Becomes A Greener Campus

The College of Staten Island is focusing on ways to protect the environment and to decrease the College's carbon footprint. These new changes will help CSI become a greener campus to be enjoyed by all.

CUNY’s Sustainability Council, spearheaded by Chancellor Mathew Goldstein, was established in response to Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s PlaNYC. This project included the MillionTreesNYC initiative, in which one million new trees will be planted and cared for throughout the city over the next decade. The College was eager to take part in the city’s goal of a million trees by planting 1,550 new trees on CSI’s 204-acre campus. The beautification project allowed the College to receive the most trees out of the CUNY institutions, given the size and location of the campus.

In March 2008, The University Council met to develop a plan that will make CUNY the greenest university in the United States. One of the first positive strides was the short message placed at the bottom of all campus emails, “Think green before you print this email,” which has become a familiar reminder to students, faculty, and staff when accessing their CSI email. Being both mindful of the amount of paper used on campus and being careful with the disposal of paper and other waste help to create a campus-wide awareness of CSI’s recycling efforts. The College has developed recycling centers in each building, while the Office of Buildings and Grounds is working to ensure that paper recycling is carried out in an efficient manner.

The College is also focusing on a greener curriculum. CSI’s Center for Environmental Science (CES) offers courses in its
Clean Air Education Program for students interested in protecting the environment. The program also provides a greater understanding of the environment among school children by educating their teachers in environmental science, providing them with lesson plans and materials that they can use in the classroom.

Recently, CSI Environmental Science majors had the opportunity to educate two Con Edison executives about how the Clean Air Education Program works and why it is effective. Con Edison’s Senior Vice President of Customer Operations Marilyn Caselli said, “This is a remarkable platform that’s so robust when it comes to saving the environment.” Through the CSI Foundation, Con Edison provided a grant to fund this course built to educate school teachers throughout Staten Island and Brooklyn. Ms. Caselli cited the importance of education in creating a healthier attitude toward the planet.

Not long ago, the College was awarded $410,000 in a Job Access and Reverse Commute Grant from the New York State Department of Transportation for the Staten Island Ferry Shuttle. In addition to providing a stress-free commute for students and staff, the grant promotes the reduction of the greenhouse gas emissions that would otherwise be increased if people drove their cars. For those who prefer to drive, CSI has developed a Rideshare Program to ease congestion on the roads. The Rideshare matches people in carpools in an attempt to reduce auto emissions that pollute the air.

CSI President, Dr. Tomás Morales notes, “The College of Staten Island believes that all of its initiatives will help the CSI campus and the Staten Island community to create more sustainable energy environments, which will eventually make the world a healthier place to live.”
The term “Environmental Justice” refers to the social movement that developed from grass roots, community-based organizations in reaction to environmental hazards that have disparately affected communities of low-income populations. For more than three decades, environmental justice activists have worked to change the global understanding of the environment, which has come to be understood as [the place where we live, where we work, and where we play.] As a result, the environmental movement now includes consideration of [urban disinvestment, homes, jobs, neighborhoods, and communities,] as well as the protection and conservation of the natural world and its resources. Furthermore, environmental justice shapes international, national, and local policies and regulations in an effort to redress and mitigate the negative impacts and harm of environmental decision-making. The morning commenced with a keynote address given by Kit Kennedy, Chief of the Environmental Protection Bureau, and Special Deputy Attorney General for Environmental Protection in the New York Attorney General’s Office. Panelists discussed a variety of topics concerning the environmental justice movement, indicating that the traditional notions of the movement that focused on inequalities of facility sitings have shifted with time. Ross Brady, Senior Attorney and Counsel for the Interstate Environmental Commission, led the first panel with a presentation focusing on access to information and the importance of public awareness of environmental activities, including the citizens’ “right to know.” Panel participants examined risk analysis and assessed impacts involving environmental justice case studies. Dr. Michael Kress, Vice President for Technology Systems, provided a risk analysis and associated hazards of the transportation of liquefied nitrogen gas from the Rossville area of Staten Island to Astoria, Queens. Attorney John M. Scagnelli represented the firm Scarinci & Hollenbeck by presenting an overview of an environmental justice case concerning the impacts of noise pollution involving the FAA Metropolitan Airspace Redesign Project. Dr. Alfred Levine, Engineering Science and Physics Professor, spoke about the role of academic institutions as a community resource. Judith Baron, Vice Chair Representative of the State of New York on the Interstate Environmental Commission, shared her perspective as a citizen activist who became involved in an interstate environmental agency, highlighting the importance of cooperation and an ongoing dialogue between government and citizens. Meagan Devereaux, Chief of Staff for Borough President James P. Molinaro, presented the success story of how political influence on Staten Island helped to close the Fresh Kills Landfill.

The diverse audience was comprised of elected officials, community members, activists, and affiliates of government and nonprofit agencies, along with College of Staten Island faculty, staff, and students. Professor Donna Gerstle of the Center for Environmental Science concluded the conference by articulating to the audience that developments and advancements in technology—along with improvements, accessibility, and dissemination of educational information—allow us to advance the future of the environmental justice movement and embrace a more systematic approach. The conference was a success, accomplishing the goal of providing attendees with both an understanding and appreciation of the dynamics of environmental justice issues. Furthermore, participants acquired a greater awareness of the various informational resources available to them through governmental, educational, and not-for-profit institutions.
On April 25, 2009, the College of Staten Island lost a good friend, Senator John J. Marchi. As a consummate statesman and tireless leader, Senator Marchi’s legacy is unmatched, and no institution benefited more from his dedication than CSI. His unwavering support and advocacy helped build the foundation of CSI, making him a true founding father of the campus and community.

Senator Marchi, a native Staten Islander, made education at every level an important focus in New York. He was a member of many committees that examined a variety of educational issues from school decentralization to public school funding. Perhaps his crowning achievement in education was to secure the property of the former Willowbrook State School and help to transform it into what is now the 204-acre campus of CSI.

In 1999, Senator Marchi donated a collection of his papers to CSI. The Marchi Papers in the CSI Library Archives & Special Collections include correspondence, reports, news clippings, press releases, legislative bills, and subject files from 1965 to 1998. The donation of his collection prompted Former Assemblyman Eric Vitaliano and the late Former Assemblywoman Elizabeth Connelly to do the same. Current sitting elected officials have also committed this type of donation to the Archives & Special Collections at the CSI Library. Senator Marchi’s donation and his subsequent support established the Archives & Special Collections as the most important resource for the study of Staten Island’s political history.

Over the years, Senator Marchi continued to ensure that CSI would receive the necessary funding to improve services, expand course offerings, and conduct vital research. When Senator Marchi retired from the New York State Senate in 2006, CSI honored his service and continued his approach of thoughtful, vigorous analysis of public affairs with the John J. Marchi Visiting Professorship. Much like Senator Marchi himself, holders of the Marchi Visiting Professorship will in the truest sense bridge the gap between academia and the community by analyzing ideas of practical importance, in his words, “on the merits.”

In 2006, Senator Marchi received an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the College of Staten Island for his lifelong endeavors to improve the quality of life for everyone in the borough. The same year, Building 2N on the CSI campus was renamed John J. Marchi Hall. A plaque hangs in the lounge on the first floor acknowledging donors to the Marchi Professorship surrounded by photos of Marchi serving the people and the borough.

CSI has had the privilege of having Senator Marchi as a friend for many decades. His influence and steadfast encouragement infused every milestone and achievement the College has reached. Senator Marchi’s intelligence, integrity, and dedication were of particular inspiration, and his commitment to public service has been of immense value to the people of Staten Island, New York City, New York State, and beyond.

The John J. Marchi Environmental Science Scholarship Fund was established at CSI by family and friends in memory of the Senator. One outstanding CSI student will be awarded the scholarship each academic year based on his or her intent to continue the work started by Senator Marchi to preserve and protect the environment of Staten Island.
The Decade Of Science

The Decade of Science is a CUNY-wide initiative introduced by Chancellor Matthew Goldstein in 2005. CSI is proud to be a part of this groundbreaking program, which works to renovate and upgrade older science facilities, as well as build new laboratories and fund additional resources on CUNY campuses throughout the five boroughs.

Q&A With Professor Alejandra Alonso

Dr. Alejandra Alonso is an Associate Professor of Biology at CSI. She earned a Doctorate in Biochemistry and is currently completing Post-doctoral work in Neuroscience at the Center for Developmental Neuroscience and Developmental Disabilities on campus. Dr. Alonso has been working in the field of neurodegeneration and Alzheimer’s disease for the past 18 years. Here, Dr. Alonso answers some of our questions regarding CSI’s role in the Decade of Science and what she hopes CSI’s science programs will be like in the year 2015.

This is great. I wanted to have the opportunity of doing my research, and the College has given me the chance. The students benefit too; they come and help in my research. It makes me excited because we are trying to unravel the mechanism of neurodegeneration, and we are trying to establish models that will allow us to try drugs and other experiments in order to stop this terrible disease [Alzheimer’s].

Almost everyone has known or been close to someone with Alzheimer’s disease. When you see how the person deteriorates, it’s really devastating. It’s very hard to stop, but we just keep on trying to find a cure; we just keep working on that.

I welcome students at all levels. I have students at the undergraduate level, at the master’s level, and at the doctoral level. We work as a team, and they do whatever they can depending upon their level and ability. I like to think that they are very excited about doing the research. Some of them have never been in a laboratory, working with microscopes. For the doctoral students, it’s more than that; they are trying to develop their own careers. They have the opportunities of getting into research.

CSi Science And Technology Faculty Bookshelf

The College of Staten Island has a plethora of highly credentialed faculty and staff from around the world who are dedicated to providing a rich and integrated learning experience for their students. Our professors engage regularly in research, publications, and creative work to keep up with developments in their disciplines as well as to publish their contributions. Professors have contributed to enhancing CSI’s reputation with the publication of their books and articles in major journals and scientific magazines.

A Molecular Approach to Discerning the Phylogenetic Placement of the Enigmatic Snake Xenophidion Scheferi among the Alethinophidia

By Frank T. Burbrink & J.R Lawson

Frank T. Burbrink, Associate Professor of Biology, focuses on understanding phylogenetic (that is, organisms showing evolutionary relationships) within various snake, lizard, and amphibian groups and species. His article with J. R Lawson, “A Molecular Approach to Discerning the Phylogenetic Placement of the Enigmatic Snake Xenophidion Scheferi among the Alethinophidia” was published in the Journal of Zoology.

Inapproximability and FPTAS for Scheduling with Availability Constraints

By Yumei Huo & Hairong Zhao

Yumei Huo, Assistant Professor in the Computer Science Department, recently published this work with the help of Hairong Zhao. Her article was accepted by the journal Theoretical Computer Science. This journal focuses on a range of topics dealing with computer science. Its focus leans more on the mathematical and abstract aspects of computing.

The Handy Astronomy Answer Book

By Charles Liu

Charles Liu is an Associate Professor of Engineering Science and Physics. His new book, The Handy Astronomy Answer Book, is an easy-to-comprehend guide on how to understand the basics and complexities of the language of Astronomy. The National Science Teachers Association comments that this book is, “A valuable resource that can be used by both teachers and students as a reference or read from cover to cover.”

Thermally Induced Transition between Open and Closed Spherical Pores in Ordered Mesoporous Silicas

By Michal Kurk & Chin Ming Hui

Michal Kurk, Assistant Professor in the Chemistry Department, has many papers that have been featured in peer-reviewed journals. “Thermally Induced Transition between Open and Closed Spherical Pores in Ordered Mesoporous Silicas” is one paper that he co-authored with Chin Ming Hui. Another paper, “Synthesis of Ultra-Large-Pore SBA-15 Silica with Two-Dimensional Hexagonal Structure Using Trisopropylbenzene as Micelle Expander” was produced with Liang Cao and Tiffany Man. It was published in the journal Chemistry of Materials, which is dedicated to the research of chemistry, chemical engineering, and material science.
“The reason that I give to the Foundation is that I feel it is very important to support an institution that has nurtured me through the years. I began as an undergraduate in the mid ’70s in the Associate Degree Nursing program, a program that set me on a wonderful life trajectory within nursing and academia. I also completed my second master’s degree here and have taught as adjunct and now full-time. I have seen both sides of our institution and since I can give back through my support, maybe other students will be able to realize their dreams as I realized mine. Thank you for the opportunity to be able to give.”
“If one has good fortune in life one also has an opportunity to share it with others, an opportunity to give something back. Also, I am fortunate to have a job that I love. I consider it a privilege to be able to do what I do. Hence, my pleasure to give something back.”
Arthur J. Merola, DPM '85

CSU Alumni Association Board

“Education will always give an opportunity or two. The realization of those opportunities comes from a reflection on the time spent during the education process at CSI. If you had the opportunity to share this process with other individuals, you still would be learning. When a donation to the Foundation is made, whether it be to programs such as Nursing, the Arts, or the many other scholarship programs offered at the College, you are continuing the process. Everyday we must learn at least one thing new, so it is why not contribute then to continue it? You will make a difference. Then when someone says ‘Thank You, you’ll know why.”
I believe in higher education and in supporting an institution that has supported me. As a grad student, I have realized the value of what the College offers its students, as well as the entire College family.
...figures to CSI."
The academic excellence that CSI’s students rely on these scholarships and programs to achieve is supported by Foundation donors. Many of the donors listed on these pages who made scholarship awards to the many donors listed on these pages who made contributions between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009. If we have inadvertently omitted or misspelled your name, please call the Office of Institutional Advancement at 718.982.2363 or email foundation@mail.csi.cuny.edu so that we may update our records. Thank you for your support!

“As a recent graduate, I understand the value of scholarships and programs that are supported by Foundation donors. Many of CSI’s students rely on these scholarships and programs to achieve the academic excellence that this institution fosters. Being able to give back is the ultimate reward.”

Evelyn M. Henry ’72
Robert Gritz
John J. Dresser ’93
Mark Quinlan and Lisa Quinlan
Thomas Reasen III and Patricia Reasen
Margaret Reasen
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Select Services Agency Inc
Stephanie Spero
Viviana Sevilla
The Staaten
The Staten Institute
soundsation

The College of Staten Island Foundation is grateful to
the many donors listed on these pages who made contributions between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009. If we have inadvertently omitted or misspelled your name, please call the Office of Institutional Advancement at 718-982-2363 or email foundation@mail.csi.cuny.edu so that we may update our records. Thank you for your support!
What is it that makes CSI alumni want to give back to their school? If you are Vullnet Kolari ’98, the memories of a dedicated faculty and a one-of-a-kind academic experience led him to return to campus as an active alumnus and as the newly elected President of the CSI Alumni Association.

“I always wanted to be a lawyer,” says Kolari, and upon entering CSI, he thought about pursuing political science and possibly philosophy for his undergraduate degree. His faculty advisor was Dr. Michaela Richter, who told him that there just so happened to be a brand-new Bachelor’s degree program in Political Science and Philosophy. He immersed himself in the new program and supplemented his classroom education with an internship with the Parliamentarians for Global Action, as well as an internship in Washington at the Voice of America, for which Kolari was chosen as part of the highly competitive CUNY Internship Program, which selects only a handful of students CUNY-wide for summer positions in the nation’s capital.

After graduating from CSI, Kolari went on to earn his JD and International Law Certificate from Pace University in 2001. His path after law school, however, led him not toward a career at a law firm, but one in insurance. He worked in claims at AIG at the start of his career and more recently as claims counsel at Zurich American Insurance Company. He is currently a Senior Claims Specialist at Freedom Specialty, a Nationwide law firm, but one in insurance claims. He worked in claims at AIG and AIG at the start of his career and more recently as claims counsel at Zurich American Insurance Company. He is currently a Senior Claims Specialist at Freedom Specialty, a Nationwide company. It’s a job that makes excellent use of his legal training, as much of his caseload requires an attorney’s knowledge and advice, but one that he admits he didn’t actually anticipate during his days at CSI. He credits his faculty mentors, including Dr. Richter and Dr. Daniel Kramer, for encouraging him to see his college education not as preparing him for a specific career, but as an opportunity that would encourage him to hone skills that would benefit him in a variety of fields.

“For me, it was definitely a rewarding experience just having professors that absolutely cared about not only teaching, but cared about the students,” he says of the CSI faculty. The “passion” his professors had for teaching “was instrumental in helping me just develop as a human being.”

Whether to remain an active member of the CSI community was never a question for Kolari. He volunteered for five years on the Board of the Alumni Association and now looks forward to serving in his new capacity as President. The organization maintains a full calendar of on- and off-campus events that help celebrate the lives, friendships, and careers that have been cultivated by CSI. One of the most notable events—and one of which Kolari was a great supporter—was the Alumni Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony that honored the 27 alumni who were lost on September 11.

Kolari’s goal as President is one that is shared by other CSI graduates: to enhance the visibility of the Alumni Association in the Staten Island community. By coming together with his fellow alumni, Kolari not only celebrates his own positive experience as a student at CSI, but he also enriches the spirit of the community that welcomes new students to campus each semester.

Anthony DeFazio isn’t a graduate of CSI, but to hear the excitement in his voice when he speaks of the campus community, you would think he did spend time here as a student. Of course he knows the College well because his children are graduates, but chances are he would have become involved with the Friends of CSI even if they hadn’t. Why? A lifelong Staten Islander, DeFazio is interested in helping the borough to become the best it can be. As a member of the Friends of CSI, he is doing just that.

“We have two functions,” says DeFazio of the Friends of CSI organization. “One is to make money for scholarships. The second one is to get the word about the College to the community of Staten Island.” He credits a friend with inviting him to become a part of the organization, and he didn’t have to give the request much thought. “What bigger thing on Staten Island [for which to volunteer one’s time] than the College of Staten Island?” he says.

DeFazio’s philosophy is shared by the other members of the Friends of CSI who, like DeFazio, believe that the College has a wealth of opportunities for both students and the greater community. The organization dedicates itself to upholding the mission of the College, as well as creating opportunities for the greater Staten Island community to become involved with the educational and cultural offerings on campus.

Fundraising is a major component of the Friends of CSI, and the group organizes various on-campus events that invite donors and friends to participate. In March, the Friends of CSI welcomed the famous ’60s pop singer Lesley Gore to campus, where she gave a concert followed by an intimate champagne and wine reception. Another opportunity is the Sunday Literary Brunch, which honors a recently published author and invites the public for a book signing. The Friends of CSI will also play an active part in the newly established annual fundraising gala.
## Financial Statement

**College Of Staten Island/CUNY**

Figures are based on fiscal years beginning July 1st and ending June 30th.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Amount raised</td>
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<td>Total liabilities</td>
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<td>Total scholarship</td>
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<td>(includes federal, state, and, CUNY)</td>
<td>$8.9 Million</td>
<td>$9.8 Million</td>
<td>$11.4 Million</td>
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*Does not include fringe benefit costs, utilities, or capital expenditures.

**Includes scholarships held by CSI Foundation and College of Staten Island Fund, which were raised prior to 1995 and are stewarded by the CSI Business Office.

***Gifts support CSI Programs including Non-profit Internship Stipends, Undergraduate Research Stipends, the CSI Library, and Athletics.

### CSI At A Glance Fall 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Under 20</th>
<th>20 to 24</th>
<th>25 to 29</th>
<th>30 to 39</th>
<th>40 and Above</th>
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<td>34.7%</td>
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<td>9.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3,555,254</td>
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<td>6.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.9 Million</td>
<td>$9.8 Million</td>
<td>$11.4 Million</td>
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*American Indian/ Native Alaskan..........0.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander…………10.5%
Black, non-Hispanic….11.5%
Hispanic ..........14.1%
White, non-Hispanic….63.8%
Part-time…………33.7%