

EYE ON CSI



**SETTING A
POSITIVE
EXAMPLE,
AFFECTING
THE FUTURE**

Linda and Keith Manfredi



alumni EVENTS

Celestial Ball Scholarship Gala

to raise funds for student
scholarships

December 5, 2009
Richmond County Country Club
See p. 21 and the back cover for
more information.

Holiday Party

Start off the Holiday Season at
our annual Holiday Party at
Jimmy Max Restaurant

280 Watchogue Road
Staten Island, NY 10314

December 8, 2009
\$30 per person

Women's Basketball Alumni Game and Women's/Men's Basketball Doubleheader

Sports and Recreation Center (1R)
January 9, 2010 at 11:00am
(Reception to follow game)

CSI Women vs. York College
at 1:00pm

CSI Men vs. York College
at 3:30pm

EYE ON CSI

Volume 1, Number 3
Fall 2009

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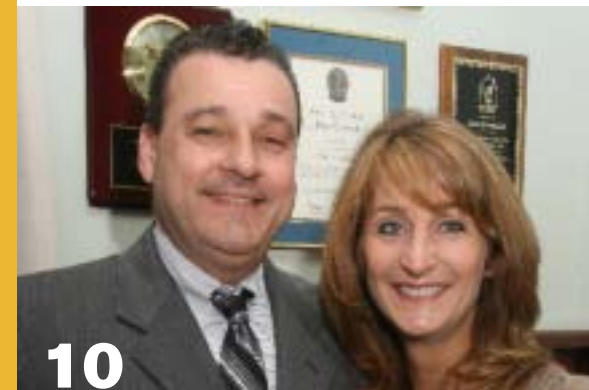
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If you have any comments, suggestions, or information
for "Keeping Tabs," please contact the Office of Alumni
Relations at 718.982.2290, alumni@mail.csi.cuny.edu, or
2800 Victory Boulevard, Building 1A, Room 111, Staten
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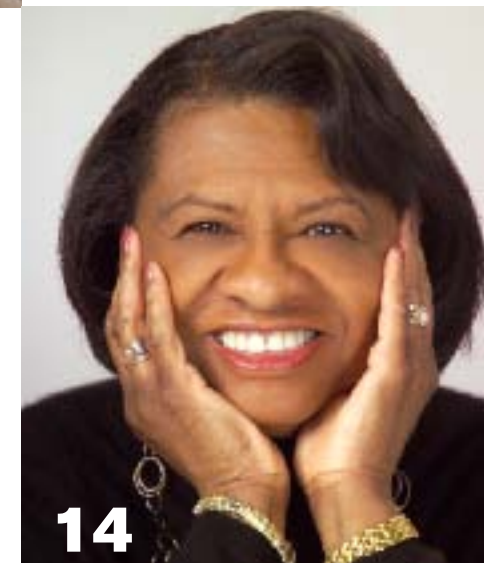
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Setting a Positive Example, Affecting the Future

*Inspired by the loss of her brother, Joseph, on
9/11, as well as their Staten Island roots, Linda
Manfredi '88, '89, '91 and her husband Keith
'95 work to benefit the children of the borough.*

ON THE COVER:

*The Manfredi Family, artist Greg Perillo [far left],
and Linda's father Louis Maffeo [second from left]
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from the **PRESIDENT**

November 2009

Dear Friends:

The *Miriam Webster Online Dictionary* defines the word “educator” as “1: one skilled in teaching: *TEACHER 2a*: a student of the theory and practice of education: *EDUCATIONIST 2b*: an administrator in education.” This appears as a simple definition to describe a profession that is actually quite complex, is critical to the functioning of society, and upon whom, in many ways, the future rests.

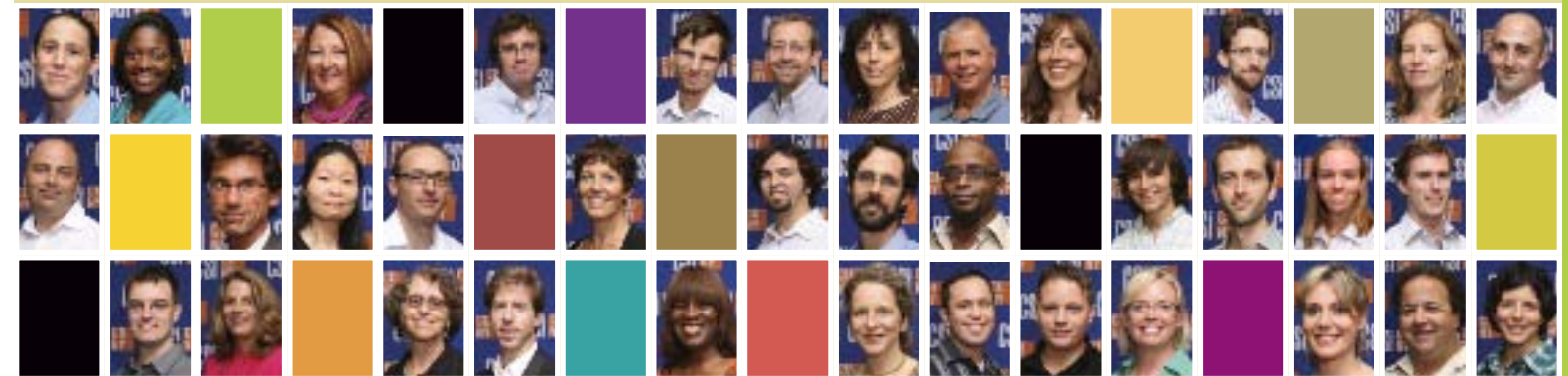
The value of education to an individual can be measured in three important ways. First in economic terms – college graduates earn, on average, over the course of a lifetime, twice as much as high school graduates. Second, by its impact on democracy – better-educated citizens have the ability to make more informed decisions and vote in greater numbers than high school graduates. Third, by the impact of education on society – healthier individuals, and the higher the achievement of school-age children, the less money that gets spent on prison systems.

The value that cannot be so easily measured is the impact of individual educators on the lives of their students. Yet we know the power of the individual to change lives. Some educators have been fortunate enough to reconnect with former students and learn how they helped influence and shape the lives of former students. Sometimes we hear stories from alumni who, when asked what they remember or loved about a certain school, will, more often than not, mention a particular educator.

In this issue of *Eye on CSI* we are celebrating educators – Gordon Di Paolo, Muriel Howard, and Linda Manfredi. We have the special opportunity to learn about their stories and begin to understand the role each has played, and continues to play, in building the future. I am so proud that all of them are members of the CSI family.

Sincerely,

Tomás D. Morales, PhD
President



CSI WELCOMES 43 NEW FACULTY MEMBERS with Comprehensive Orientation

Administrators, current faculty members, and staff treated the College of Staten Island’s newest faculty members to the first two days of a multipart orientation, recently, in an effort to help them get acquainted with the College, its students, and its resources.

Commenting on the new cohort of faculty, one of the largest in the College’s history, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. William Fritz said, “The College of Staten Island is very fortunate and delighted to welcome more than 40 exceptionally qualified researchers and scholars to join its ranks this week. The faculty “Class of 2009” is almost double the number of new full-time hires in any given year within memory. With advanced degrees earned at prestigious universities worldwide, fellowships, national awards and recognition, and industry experience, this diverse group of experts is poised to make significant contributions to the College, CUNY, and their respective academic disciplines. We look forward to the energy and promise that new faculty bring to an institution of higher education. I know that the entire CSI community joins me in congratulating and welcoming our colleagues.”

Describing the significance of the orientation sessions, Dr. Susan Holak,

Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness, commented, “There is much to learn and absorb as a new faculty member. From paperwork in Human Resources and departmental requirements for syllabi, to maneuvering the campus, understanding organizational culture, and achieving a sense of comfort in the midst of it all, it is no wonder that new faculty orientations at many institutions have expanded to semester-long programs. CSI’s orientation format, with two sessions in August, followed by additional sessions focused on faculty and student resources in September and October, exposes new faculty members to these topics and more, while giving them time to interact with colleagues across departments and divisions. Judging from the first day’s events, the faculty “Class of 2009” seems to have developed a strong *esprit de corps*.”

Francesca Degiuli, a new Assistant Professor in the Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work Department, commented, “I would say that there were multiple aspects of the orientation that were helpful. First of all I find it very useful to hear from the President and all the other administrators about the overall goals of the College for the future. It is good to learn what the College is striving for, how they

plan to achieve it, and what part we, as new faculty, can play in it. What I liked the most, however, was meeting and learning about my new colleagues. All of them are doing really exciting work and I’m looking forward to collaborating with them, if possible, on different interdisciplinary projects.

Another participant, Calandra Tate, Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics, added, “I think one of the most helpful aspects of new faculty orientation thus far has been getting to know the other incoming professors across different disciplines and being introduced to their various areas of research. This not only provides an atmosphere of camaraderie for all of us embarking on this new journey but serves as an initial avenue for establishing interdisciplinary collaborations across departments.”

CSI'S NEWEST administrators

The College strengthens its leadership with three new appointments.



Dr. Christine Flynn Saulnier
Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences



Ms. Mary Beth Reilly
Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management



Dr. E.K. (Eun) Park
Dean of Research and Graduate Studies

Dr. Christine Flynn Saulnier New Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences

Dr. Saulnier is an accomplished scholar and administrator. She is the author of *Feminist Theories and Social Work: Approaches and Applications*, as well as several book chapters. Dr. Saulnier's publications also include editorials and numerous peer-reviewed journal articles. She has presented at national and international symposia and conferences, and is the co-editor of *Affilia*, a scholarly journal in social work and women's studies.

Prior to joining CSI, Dr. Saulnier held the position of full professor at Simmons College in the School of Social Work. Previous positions held by Dr. Saulnier include Dean, Graduate School of Social Work, Simmons College; Academic Planner, University of Wisconsin System Administration, Office of Academic Affairs; Director, Advanced Standing Program, Director of the MSW Program, and Assistant Professor, Boston University, School of Social Work; Assistant Professor, University at Buffalo, SUNY, School of Social Work. Dr. Saulnier also worked in human services serving as Director of Social Services, Quigley Memorial Hospital/Soldier's Home; Clinical Social Worker, Perkins School for the Blind; Service Coordinator, South Shore Area Office, Department of Mental Health, Quincy, MA; and Resident Counselor, Moore Living Centers.

Dr. Saulnier received a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley; an MSW from Boston University; a BS from Michigan State University; an AA from Lansing Community College; and a certificate in Alcoholism: Advanced Diagnosis and Treatment. She spent an Academic Year Fellowship as the Special Assistant to the President at Rhode Island College. Dr. Saulnier's professional development activities include participation in the Bryn Mawr and HERS Mid-America Summer Institute for Women in Higher Education Administration, and she was a NIDA Minority Research Center Research Training Institute Fellow.

"I commend the outstanding work of the search committee co-chaired by Gail Simmons, Dean of Science and Technology, and Deborah Popper, Professor, PEP Department and Director of the Macaulay Honors College," said Provost Fritz.

"On behalf of myself, the faculty, administration, and staff, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to Dean Francisco Soto," Provost Fritz added, "for his tireless leadership of the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences. He brought scholarship, wisdom, and distinction to the position of Dean."

Dr. E.K. (Eun) Park

New Dean of Research and Graduate Studies

Dr. Park is an accomplished scholar, teacher, and administrator. He is the author of *Mobile and Wireless Internet: Protocol, Algorithms, and Systems*; has edited volumes for the IEEE, and he has reviewed several books. Dr. Park's publications also include numerous refereed journal articles; conference, workshop, and symposium papers (over 160 research publications in computer communications and networks, optical networks, data mining and bioinformatics, optimizations, information and knowledge management, software architecture, software engineering, distributed systems, and object-oriented methodology, among others); and he has given many invited talks and research presentations. Dr. Park is the founder of the International Conference on Computer Communication (ICCCN) and the International Conference on Information and Knowledge Management (CIKM). His numerous awards include best paper awards, as well as multiple awards for teaching/research, outstanding scholarship, and outstanding leadership. Dr. Park is also the recipient of many federal and industry grants in support of his research. He has served as editor-in-chief and associate editor of journals in his research areas. Dr. Park also has served as general chair and program chair of various IEEE and ACM conferences and workshops.

Prior to joining CSI, Dr. Park held the position of National Science Foundation Program Director in the Division of Computing and Communications Foundation (CCF) and the Division of Computer and Network Systems (CNS). Dr. Park was a Professor in, and Chair of, the Department of Software Architecture (it became the Department of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering) at the University of Missouri. He was also a Research Scientist and Fellow at the Naval Research Lab in Washington, DC. Dr. Park's background includes industrial experience in computer systems and software-related projects.

Dr. Park received a PhD from the EECS Department, Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

"I commend the outstanding work of the search committee co-chaired by Professor Alfred Levine, Interim Dean, Research and Graduate Studies, and former Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, Francisco Soto," Dr. Fritz said.

"On behalf of myself, the faculty, administration, and staff, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to Professor Alfred Levine for his leadership as Interim Dean for Research and Graduate Studies. His efforts this past year have brought direction and focus to these two important areas."

Ms. Mary Beth Reilly

New Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management

Ms. Reilly has been serving as Interim Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management since August 2008, and now oversees ten administrative departments including: Academic Advisement, Academic Support, College Now, College Testing, the CUNY Language Immersion Program, Evening and Weekend Services, Financial Aid, The Hub, Recruitment and Admissions, and Registrar. She began her career at CSI in 2000 as the Director of Recruitment and Admissions and served in that role until August 2008. Reilly brought a wealth of experience to CSI having served as Director of Enrollment Management/Recruitment, Union County College; Project Manager, The University Application Processing Center/CUNY Central where, among other initiatives, she was involved with University Testing, COPE, and CPI; Interim Director of Admissions and Financial Aid, Brooklyn College/CUNY; Director of Recruitment, Office of Enrollment Management; and Admissions Counselor, Lehman College/CUNY.

Reilly has presented at professional conferences; is the author of an article in her field; is the recipient of several honors and awards, including the CSI Dolphin Award; and is a member of many professional associations.

She received a Master's degree in Education, Higher Education Administration from Baruch College/CUNY; a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing with a minor in Computer Information Systems from Manhattan College, and an Associate's degree in Liberal Arts and Sciences from Bergen Community College.

"I commend the outstanding work of the search committee chaired by Chief Librarian Wilma Jones," Dr. Fritz said.



CSI sophomore Marybeth Melendez has been very fortunate, lately. She has recently won the 2009 Michael D. Solomon Scholarship Award, and the 2009 Women's Opportunity Award and \$5,000 North Atlantic Regional Award from the SI Chapter of Soroptimist International. If that weren't enough, she also received a scholarship from the American Association for University Women for outstanding leadership and academic success.

This news is even more remarkable when one considers that Melendez, a single mother of three with a double major in Clinical Psychology and Sociology, is visually impaired. "When I came here to CSI," Melendez recalls, "I had my goals set, but I wasn't entirely sure how I was going to meet the challenges. You have to stop and think, how does a blind person become a student in the classroom with the other students?"

"I remember walking into a classroom," Melendez continues, "and as the professor was writing on the blackboard, it was hieroglyphics to me—all I heard were the sounds and the smell of chalk, [and there was] the business of writing and the textbooks I couldn't read, and for one moment, my heart stopped. Then I realized in this school

there is the Office of Disability Services. That was one of the definitive factors in my success here. That office had all the tools that I needed to become a productive, visually impaired student. They had the technology, the software, the equipment that I could take in and out of the classroom, and that made the difference for me in excelling because now I had everything I needed plus my own hard work. The combination was explosive."

It was explosive, indeed. In her year and a half at CSI, Melendez has flourished as a Verrazano School student, and she has a long list of other accomplishments, including acting as the CSI representative for the CUNY Coalition for Students with Disabilities, and being a CSI Emerging Leader; President of the OUI Club (for students with disabilities); and a member of the SEEK, Psychology, and American Sign Language clubs, and the Institute for Basic Research Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee. She even sang the National Anthem at a Staten Island Yankees game last summer.

As for her awards, Melendez reports that she was nominated for the honors. Regarding the Solomon Award, she says, "The fact that they had nominated me, that this isn't something that I had

Despite Obstacles, SOPHOMORE EXCELS, Nets Awards

solicited, spoke volumes to me. I was touched. It's a recognition that has to do with leadership qualities, academic excellence. Two people were chosen; I was one of the two."

Discussing the Soroptimist honors, Melendez states, "I was told that this particular organization, which has been around for at least 70 years, and in some locations, 80, reaches out to women who may have financial need but display all of the characteristics of someone who will follow through with their academic endeavors and will make a difference in society. They did their search through an essay, and of course you have to have nominations and a letter of recommendation. So, I was able to submit everything in a timely fashion and I was called and told vocally that my essay had won, that they were impressed with my life and my story—what I was doing academically and how I had achieved that—and I was very honored. Then, my essay was submitted into the national division, because, apparently there are three legs to this contest. I was called and I won the North Atlantic Region part also. They shipped me off to Albany where I spent the weekend... and I got to meet some women who were in some strong corporate-sector

roles from all over the country."

In light of her recent shower of recognition, Melendez says, "I'm grateful. I worked hard for this. I have determination and perseverance. I know where I've been, I know where I am now, and I know where I want to go. I am so grateful that every time I needed assistance there was someone there to shed a little light and give me a hand to where I had to go. I have a lot of passion for the College of Staten Island [and feel] that I've found another home here."

She also waxes philosophically on what she has overcome to achieve so much. "I have a disability. It's my calling card; it's who I am. And if I can do this now in my life, can you imagine what [others] can do?"



JEANNETTE K. WATSON FELLOWS

This year at CSI, Brian Kateman and Michael Maslankowski have each earned the prestigious title of being a Watson Fellow, a paid summer internship program offering mentoring and lifelong contacts to talented freshmen and sophomores at CUNY and independent city colleges who demonstrate exceptional academic promise and outstanding leadership skills.

Brian Kateman is a sophomore at CSI where he majors in Biology and Psychology, hoping, eventually, to become a professor, psychologist, or a conservation biologist. He is an ambassador, biology tutor, and Outward Bound orientation group leader for the Macaulay Honors College; he is a Peer Educator for CSI's Health and Wellness Center; and he currently volunteers at the American Museum of Natural History and Project Hospitality. Brian spent his first Watson summer interning at Echoing Green, an organization that works for social change.

Michael Maslankowski is a sophomore majoring in Cinema Studies, Film Production, and English at CSI with strong interests in film and writing. Michael serves as an orientation leader at CSI and a mentor for the CSI Office of New Student Orientation/CLUE/Pluralism and Diversity. In addition, he is an Adult Day Service mentor for the Melissa Riggio Higher Education Program. In his first summer as a Watson Fellow, Michael interned at the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs.

Previous College of Staten Island recipients include 2000 Fellowship recipients Kenyatta Carter, Yekaterina Lushpenko, and Tara Lynch; 2001 recipient Kristine Gansico; 2002 recipient Elie Jarrouge; and 2004 recipients April Boland, Melody Messina, and Khadijah Rentas.

Established by The Thomas J. Watson Foundation in 1999, the fellowship operates on the principle that "talent is broadly distributed but only selectively developed." Watson Fellows have their pick of coveted job placements over three consecutive summers in not-for-profit agencies, business organizations, and in government service that give them a chance to grow and develop interpersonal skills, and gain self-confidence in a variety of professional settings.

A series of weekly seminars further enhances the learning experience by encouraging debate and interaction, and also provides an opportunity for Watson Fellows to share stories about their work experiences. Visits to cultural institutions like Shakespeare in the Park and the Metropolitan Museum of Art enable students to discover New York's free summer offerings. All Watson Fellows receive a generous stipend as well as a laptop computer to complete their assignments.

Twelve colleges in all, including the College of Staten Island, compete annually for 15 Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship openings; each school may nominate up to four candidates.



MACAULAY HONORS COLLEGE WELCOMES CLASS OF 2013

Before they began classes, CSI's Macaulay Honors College incoming class participated in an orientation session last summer that showed them the lay of the land.

Commenting on his impressions of the campus, Nicholas Gonzalez said, "I think the campus is beautiful and bigger than I expected, and, so far, I really like it." Christina Vicidomini stated that she was very pleased with the orientation and that she was "impressed with everything [that the event organizers] have done, everybody they've introduced us to, and getting us acquainted with a very big campus." Meagan Derbyshire, who is a Biomedical Engineering major who has been to campus before, noted, "I definitely like being welcomed by each of the departments and finding out a little bit more about them, where they are, and how they can help us out."

As for the students' feelings on being a part of MHC, Vicidomini said, "I'm excited about it because [MHC] is very prestigious and I'm looking forward to studying abroad." Derbyshire added "I am honored that I am in this prestigious program. Originally, I wanted to go away to school, but I'm getting used to the idea [of staying on Staten Island], and having a nice campus and a welcoming staff and teachers is helpful."

The students began their day in the Honors College Suite in Building 1A, which was the launch pad for their tour of the campus. Stops included the Career and Scholarship Center, the Counseling Center, the Library, and the Center for the Arts. In addition, the students went to Building 2A to visit the Center for International Service (as most MHC students spend some time studying abroad). After a tour of the Campus Center, participants enjoyed a brunch in the Park Café, followed by an information session that covered everything from course requirements to parking passes.

Dr. Deborah Popper, Director of the Macaulay Honors College at CSI, said that this orientation was one of two that the MHC students received. The other, in late August, was a three-day MHC-wide event where students received their free laptop computers (one of the many perks of enrollment in MHC), saw a Broadway musical, and participated, in Outward Bound events in Manhattan.

Dr. Popper pointed out that the entering class is the largest Macaulay class ever at CSI—40, up from 24 for the Class of 2012.

One of the people at CSI who shares some of the responsibility for the size of this group is Mary Beth Reilly, CSI's Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management. Reilly states that she is "very excited by the expansion of the Macaulay Honors program here at CSI. This program enriches our campus in so many ways and its growth is a reflection of the wonderful strides we continue to make as an institution. The Macaulay students bring a tremendous energy and passion to our community and I am thrilled that we had the opportunity to increase enrollment."

President Morales Receives Honorary Degree from AMERICAN COLLEGE OF THESSALONIKI



College of Staten Island President Dr. Tomás D. Morales received the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from the American College of Thessaloniki (ACT) at the school's annual commencement ceremony in Greece. ACT is a longtime study abroad partner with CSI.

ACT President Richard L. Jackson, who bestowed the degree on Dr. Morales, noted Morales's "broad bicoastal and international vision of higher education and the dynamic role that he is playing in it," and mentioned the CSI President's impressive record of having held "senior administrative positions at the three largest public university systems in the United States, and I believe in the world: the California State University System, the State University of New York, and The City University of New York."

"I want to thank the Board of Trustees for conferring

this degree," Morales said in his remarks after receiving the degree. "It's a wonderful honor to be associated with such an outstanding institution."

President Jackson also underscored the relationship between CSI and ACT. "The College of Staten Island is the oldest and most loyal study abroad partner of the American College of Thessaloniki and for over two decades students from the College Consortium for International Studies, which President Morales's college manages, have added diversity to our campus and returned to the United States as ambassadors for Hellenic culture and values. In honoring President Morales today, we take pleasure in equally recognizing and honoring the longstanding vision and leadership of the College of Staten Island in the field of study abroad and international education."

According to its mission statement, the "American College of Thessaloniki, a division of Anatolia [College], offers undergraduate and graduate programs of study characterized by reasoned and open inquiry, acquisition of the breadth and depth of knowledge associated with traditional university curricula, and achievement of the highest possible standards in student-centered teaching and faculty scholarship, with emphasis on individual growth. Through its educational, cultural, professional, and service activities, ACT seeks to contribute actively to the wider communities of Greece and Southeast Europe as well as to enhance understanding and friendship between the peoples of the United States and Greece."

CSI PRESIDENT ELECTED to SI Foundation Board

The Staten Island Foundation has elected College of Staten Island President Dr. Tomás D. Morales to its Board of Directors at its 11th Annual Meeting. The Staten Island Foundation is an independent, private foundation serving the borough of Staten Island, NY, interested in outcomes in the areas of education, health and human services, and the arts. The Foundation funds projects as well as management assistance and professional development (including leadership development) for the staff of not-for-profit organizations serving Staten Island.

"I am delighted to be a part of the Board of The Staten Island Foundation," Morales said. "It is an honor to serve an organization that provides such crucial support for the Staten Island community."

The current board also includes: Alice Diamond, John G. Hall, Denis P. Kelleher, John R. Morris, Lenore Puleo, Kathryn Krause Rooney, Jill O'Donnell Tormey, and Allan Weissglass.

For its next fiscal year, which began July 1, the Foundation Board has approved allocations of up to \$750,000 for grants to local elementary schools for teacher development in literacy and up to \$750,000 in emergency matching core support grants for human service, health, and arts organizations. The latter grants are two-to-one matching grants of up to \$25,000.

In response to the economic downturn the Foundation has sponsored a series of workshops for nonprofits for contingency planning and will continue to provide professional development and technical assistance for the borough's not-for-profit organizations.

Since its founding in 1997, The Staten Island Foundation has granted over \$38 million to local organizations for the benefit of Staten Island residents.

Gov. Paterson Announces \$839K NOYCE GRANT for Teacher Education

The exceptional efforts of the College of Staten Island to train tomorrow's teachers recently received a significant boost by way of an \$839K National Science Foundation (NSF) Robert Noyce grant.

The funding, announced last September by New York State Governor David Paterson, builds upon the success of the College's highly successful Teacher Academy program. Renamed the Teacher Education Honors Academy, the program maintains its mission to produce excellent teachers of math and science who will teach in high-need schools.

"The Robert Noyce grant acknowledges CSI's history of success in producing first-quality teachers for our school system," says Dr. Jane Coffee of CSI's Mathematics Department. Coffee is co-author of the grant proposal with Dr. Susan Sullivan and Dr. Irina Lyublinskaya from the Education Department.

The Teacher Academy at CSI began in 2006 with support from the Petrie Foundation. The success of the program was cited by the NSF in awarding the Noyce grant. The major difference between the two programs is that a student enters the Teacher Education Honors Academy as a freshman or sophomore, and transitions into the Noyce program as a junior.

Coffee explains that Noyce funding is almost entirely for student scholarships, and that students in the program will receive \$11K a year to pay for tuition, fees, work done in schools, laptop, books, and living expenses. She adds that students must also maintain a 3.0 grade point average in the program and for each year they receive support they have to commit to teach two years in a high-need middle or high school in the United States.

Coffee also reports that the Academy is on track to double the number

of majors in math and science who will graduate from CSI with initial teaching certification.

Marianne Orla, an academic adviser with the two-stage program, outlines how students progress through the Academy. "From the very first semester that they're in the program they work one day a week in a Staten Island middle or high school. They start as observers in the classroom, but they progress through the continuum of professional development of math and science educators. Ultimately, they're teaching lessons in the schools. That, I think, is what actually reinforces the idea that they want to be teachers. We've had some talks with some of the Academy students and said to them 'are you sure that you want to be in this program?' because they have to sign a commitment letter. What they say is 'I really love teaching.'"

The students are certainly enthusiastic about the Academy and the unique opportunity that it gives them to teach in actual classrooms to pupils in borough high schools (at present, New Dorp, Curtis, CSI High School for International Studies, Port Richmond, William A. Morris IS 61, Dreyfus IS 49).

CSI Junior Maria Pellegrino says, "It's amazing. When we're in our education classes, students just sit there and observe the teachers. But, because we're in the Academy, we can actually get up and teach, kids are asking us questions."

Raechel Strobel, also a junior, adds, "It's a lot of good, hands-on experience and we get a lot of feedback from the collaborating teachers."

Finally, senior Alvin Hillary says that his students are "really excited" to see him, hoping that he'll be teaching class when he arrives at their school.

Join the Online Community

Get connected to classmates and friends, whether you graduated from Richmond College, SICC, or CSI.

You're a click away from:

News and events

Class notes

Message boards and photo albums

Networking and member benefits

Log on to the

www.csialumniatlarge.org

College Community Participates in GAY PRIDE PARADE

Last summer, 55 members of the College of Staten Island community joined about 250 other marchers in the Fifth Annual Staten Island LGBT [lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender] Pride Parade.

Jeremiah Jurkiewicz, President of the CSI Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) and parade participant, said that he thought that the parade "was a great success because everyone who participated had a great time and we portrayed that this community is there. Especially for CSI, there were many straight people who were involved, not only the gay community, so it brought more people in."

CSI freshman Kaitlyn Smith, another marcher, added that the parade "was very empowering... walking down the street and

seeing fellow lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgenders rooting us on for standing up for what we believe in and wanting to be equal with everybody else."

CSI students and faculty members were joined by College President Dr. Tomás Morales and Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. William Fritz in the parade that stepped off at Central Avenue between Hyatt Street and Victory Boulevard and wrapped up at Cromwell Center, the site of a post-parade festival that attracted about 500 people. The festival hosted over 100 tables that included vendors and community-based organizations, including a CSI recruitment table.

Dr. Katie Cumiskey, Assistant Professor of Psychology and Women's Studies at the College, and the parade's organizer, commented that she "was very excited about CSI's interest in participating in this year's parade. I approached the administration in October of 2008 to request their participation. It was without hesitation that they were on board. I was impressed by the fact that CSI wanted to participate as the whole College in the parade and that it was not just about the GSA marching. CSI t-shirts, in the colors of the rainbow flag, were special ordered for this parade and members of the GSA marched with their banner alongside the banner for CSI. President Morales and Provost Fritz marched with members of the faculty, administration, staff, and students. [I'd like to offer a] special thank you to former Acting VP of Student Affairs, Mike Daniels and former Assistant VP, Carol Brower along with Debbie Kee [Higher Education Assistant Coordinator, Student Clubs and Organizations] for all their support in making the impressive turnout for CSI a reality.

"I think that the participation of CSI in this parade demonstrates the administration's commitment to welcoming LGBT students to the CSI campus," Dr. Cumiskey added.

AROUND campus

8

9



Setting a Positive Example, Affecting the Future

Inspired by the loss of her brother, Joseph, on 9/11, as well as their Staten Island roots, Linda Manfredi '88, '89, '91 and her husband Keith '95 work to benefit the children of the borough.



Prior to the tragic events of September 11, 2001, CSI alumni Linda and Keith Manfredi were dedicating their professional lives to children—Linda as a teacher, and eventually the principal of PS 29 on Staten Island who trains and often hires CSI Education majors, and Keith as the President of Educational Performance Tours, a company that works to integrate students in the performing arts with major players in the New York City cultural world.

Sadly, Linda's brother Joseph, an FDNY firefighter, lost his life on 9/11, and, in Joseph's memory, the Manfredis were to take their commitment to a more personal level with the launch of the Joseph Maffeo Foundation, making an even greater impact on the lives of the borough's children, using the foundation as not only a vehicle to transform the Pediatric Unit of Staten Island University Hospital (SIUH) into an inviting cutting-edge facility, but also using their example to instill an appreciation of philanthropy in the borough's young people.

"We have a unique philosophy," Linda, who graduated from CSI with a BA in Psychology, a Master's in Elementary Education, and a Six-Year Supervisory Certificate, explains. "We agree that if we empower children now, in the future they will make a difference in the world. We encourage them to truly understand that hatred bears severe consequences and that they must embrace

the future in a positive manner whether in business, school, or in our everyday life."

"That's the essence of the message that we send through the foundation," says Keith, who graduated from CSI with an Associate's degree in Business with a concentration in Management. "Obviously it started to memorialize Joseph and keep his legacy alive, but then, as you think more intensely about what happened and what the day was about, it would be naïve of us to think there weren't thousands of other wonderful people who were lost that day. So, we've grown, and because of that day the lesson learned as Linda said, is hatred bearing severe consequences. How can we change the perception of people [and] empower our youth to be proactive with goodness and decency and lead them down the right path?"

An Improved and Wonderful Children's Ward

As Joseph dedicated his life as a firefighter to helping others, Linda and Keith turned the foundation's sights on SIUH, initiating a three-tiered project to expand and brighten the Pediatric Unit. Phase One involved the renovation of the inpatient playroom from a tiny closet-like space into a light-filled happy area, complete with a videogame system. The design of the new playroom incorporates a fire truck theme, in honor of Joseph.

Phase Two involves an update of the nurse's

station not only to make it more aesthetically pleasing to the young visitors but to make it more functional and easily navigated.

Phase Three, which is still in progress, will realize the renovation of each patient room in the ward, once again making them comfortable and inviting, and incorporating a hero for each room, from Abraham Lincoln to Jacques Cousteau, selected by students in Linda's school.

Staten Island's kids provide more for the foundation than just ideas, however. Through their inspirational talks to Island children, Linda, Keith, and their two children, Amanda (11) and Joseph (7), have encouraged young people to fundraise for the foundation, through participation in penny harvests where students put their loose and found change in a collection jar at Linda's school, the Kids Walk for Kids, or even selling 50/50 raffle tickets at Staten Island Yankee games.

The Manfredis have been very successful in imparting a spirit of philanthropy to kids because, as Linda notes, "They get it."

Children aren't the only people who are being affected by the Manfredi's example. The family also reaches out to adults on Staten Island who can make a difference. "What we've become for the community and for the hospital is a conduit. We've run our events [such as the annual "In the Name of Love" dinner and the upcoming Casino



Linda Manfredi (center) with CSI students and alumni who work at her school.

Night] where we generate revenue, but what I'm most proud of is we've become a vehicle for the hospital, helping them to generate revenue because people will come to us and see what we've done and want to be part of what we do on a bigger scale." The idea, according to Keith, is to change people's perceptions of what they can do. "People don't believe that good things can happen...we like to break that stigma and get people to join. I speak at a lot of schools and I tell the kids that Joseph is not a hero for the way he died; Joseph is a hero for the way he lived his life. You don't have to move a mountain. You don't have to save someone's life. You simply have to treat people like human beings. That's the main lesson we want to instill into their hearts."

This approach succeeded in securing a \$500,000 contribution from the Caridi family (of Kozy Shack pudding fame) to renovate the hospital's state-of-the-art Emergency Room.

Giving Back to CSI

Both Keith and Linda credit their CSI educations for helping them to get to where they are today. Keith credits professors like Gordon Di Paolo (see story on page 17) for helping him to hone his skills as a businessman. As for Linda, she recalls, "I had great schooling [at CSI]. I've been very fortunate to have experienced all the opportunities that CSI offered. The professors made a difference by dedicating themselves to guiding me in a positive direction, empowering me with knowledge I eagerly wanted, ultimately having a positive impact on my life. For it is said, learning acquired in youth arrests the evil of old age, and if you understand that old age has wisdom, you will conduct yourself in youth so that old age will not lack in nourishment. So now it is my time to pay it forward and make a difference in a young adult/child's life. Just like the circle of life."

Now that Linda is the principal at PS 29, she has an opportunity to give back to the College and its Education majors by taking as many as ten CSI students per semester and giving them hands-on training to help them become teachers. Linda says, "Through

the Department of Education, we are connected with all of the schools, CSI being near and dear to me. From what I'm told, CSI students request to student teach at PS 29. We're in high demand. I try to hire the students upon them graduating or within a few years after they have completed their studies. The student teacher spends 14 weeks experiencing both upper-grade and lower-grade classes. They're mentored within the classroom and are part of the staff...We are fostering a true experience of being a teacher. They get to experience first-hand being an educator and a true understanding of what the profession entails, the selfless acts and sacrifices it takes to be Number One as well as the joys and rewards that bring them to the point where they want to join our profession."

Linda also mentions that she tries to give these budding teachers the confidence and knowledge that not only her parents, Louis and Jean Maffeo, gave her, but also with which her mentors, former principals, and CSI professors empowered her.

Looking Ahead

As Linda continues to train tomorrow's teachers, Linda and Keith will continue to fundraise for the children of Staten Island through the Joseph Maffeo Foundation, while working to inspire others to step up to the plate and give back, and by rewarding examples of selflessness with the annual Angel Award and the Joseph Maffeo Hero and Scholarship Awards. The Manfredis do hope, eventually, to move the work of the foundation to a more national level.

Keeping those who have touched their lives prominently in mind, Linda sums up the significance of what they will continue to do, both personally and professionally, "I had great role models in my life and it is important that I pay it forward to our children and our children's children, who will ultimately make the world a better place!"

For more information on the Joseph Maffeo Foundation, call Linda and Keith Manfredi at 718.227.0812 or email them at maffeofoundation@aol.com.



9/11 MEMORIAL

Once again the College community gathered to remember those tragically lost on September 11, 2001. While this remembrance ceremony included faculty, staff, and students who read poems, gave personal reflections, and performed musical selections, President Morales's remarks centered on the loss of our 27 alumni whose names were read aloud at the ceremony. While acknowledging that the repercussions of the devastation of 9/11 took on many forms, from the global level to how we as individuals have responded, he also conveyed that those who were lost were our classmates, students, or friends.

"Strange currents of fate had brought each one of these men and women to our classrooms, and then, just as strangely fate scattered them into dozens of new relationships, jobs, and opportunities. Then in a final twist, fate reunited them on one bright September morning eight years ago." President Morales then went on to speak of life's uncertainties but also of the shared beauty of life.

Joseph Agnello	1990
Laura Angilletta	2001
Jane E. Baeszler	1981
Paul V. Barbaro	1988
Greg Buck	1995
Kenneth J. Cubas	1975
Beverly LaVerne Curry	1999
Scott Matthew Davidson	1991
John DiFato	1984
Lisa DiFato Cannava	1993
Donald Joseph DiFranco	1979
Carole Beth Eggert	1990
John Rudolph Fischer	1978
Thomas P. Hannafin	1990
Lee C. Ludwig	1972
Richard Miuccio	1978
Troy E. Nilsen	1994
Brian Nunez	1999
William S. O'Keefe	1976
Mark James Petrocelli	1995
Edward F. Pullis	1992
Michael T. Quilty	1979
John F. Rizzo	1977
Lisa L. Spina - Trerotola	1985
Larry Sumaya	1981
Darryl Anthony Taylor	1981
Jeffrey P. Walz	1986

Keeping Tabs

CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

Did you recently?....

- Change careers
- Land a new job
- Get married
- Have a baby
- Adopt a child
- Relocate
- Win an award
- Start a business
- Travel to a faraway destination
- or do you just have some piece of news you'd like to share with our alumni family?

If so – we want to know!

Send your class notes to alumni@mail.csi.cuny.edu

Donald Loggins '74 has had photographs published in three books that were also included in the recent Greenthumb's Gotham exhibit in Central Park.

Chris Gulbin '81 was awarded the North Shore/Long Island Jewish Health System's Zucherberg Family Award for Nursing Service Excellence in June 2009. He was also the Guest Artist at The Village Gallery in Oriental, NC in August 2009.

Ralph Giordano '93 is currently teaching social studies at Monsignor Farrell High School and is working on his sixth book on Allen Dodworth, an important society dance instructor in New York City.

Vullnet Kolari '98 and his wife Kaltrina welcomed a baby girl, Ava Medina, in July 2009.

Joe Iraci '02 and his wife Christine welcomed a baby boy, Vincent Joseph, in May 2009.

Carole Gevasi '02 and her husband Michael welcomed twin daughters, Giulia Angela and Alyssa Gina, in October 2009.

Jesse Ann Pirraglia, Honors College class of 2004, became a NYC Teaching Fellow in 2008 after leaving *Nick Magazine*. She is currently working toward her Master's in Special Education at Hunter College and is teaching at the High School for Graphic Communication Arts in Manhattan. Jesse Ann was also recently married to David J. Smith III, a mobile journalist for FiOS 1 News, New Jersey, on September 19, 2009.

Erica Tortorice '07 is engaged to Frank Salzillo. They are currently planning a December wedding.

ELECTION of Alumni Board President and Members

Vullnet Kolari '98 was elected CSI Alumni Association President; six alumni were elected to the Board of Directors.



Vullnet Kolari

On June 8, 2009, CSI Alumni Association President Cynthia DiMarco Esq., '74 called to order her final annual meeting. By the end of the evening, a new President and Treasurer were elected, along with several new board members.

The annual meeting is a celebration of the CSIAA's year. The June 8 meeting included reports from board members, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs William Fritz brought greetings on behalf of the College, and finally new board members were elected. Two long-time board members, Cynthia DiMarco and Louise Brinkselle '80, stepped down as President and Treasurer, while Lynn Altobello '89, Sue Gupta Abdallah '85, and Gloria Casetlucci '02 each ended their second terms.

Vullnet Kolari, Esq. '98, was elected President, and Linda Dianto '74, became Treasurer. Patricia Carroll '85 was re-elected to a second term. New board members include Marietta DeLuca '85, Michele Karpeles '08, Stephen Kaufer '77, Robert Shullich '88, Sumathy Sugantharaj '90, and Audrey Tesora '06. The new board members join First Vice President Arthur Merola, DPM '85; Second Vice President Theresa Marro '89; Assistant Treasurer Phyllis Minacapilli '91; Corresponding Secretary James Raggi '70; and Recording Secretary Roy Mackey '03, as well as board members Frances Barrett '06, Angela Chuppe '91, Donna J. Fauci '03, Robert Ferone '86, Carole Gervasi '02, Lynne Libert '06, James McBratney '05, Ashley O'Neil '06, Caryl Santore '07, Francesco Sciortino '06, Paige Stuhlman '05, and Jennifer Venezia, '03.

The Alumni Association congratulates all of the board members and is looking forward to another successful year.

1974

1981

1993

1998

2002

2004

2007

PROMOTING AND PROTECTING PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION

**CSI alumna
Dr. Muriel Howard
is the new
President of the
American Association
of State Colleges
and Universities.**



After her graduation from Richmond College (a predecessor of CSI) in 1970 with a Bachelor's in Sociology and a minor in Elementary Education, Dr. Muriel Howard has dedicated her life to public higher education. After a 23-year tenure at University of Buffalo, and her most recent 13-year service to Buffalo State College, eventually becoming the institution's President, Dr. Howard has been chosen as president of American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). AASCU is an advocacy and support organization representing over 430 public college and university members in the United States, as well as in Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Member institutions pride themselves on access and opportunity, being student-centered, and acting as "stewards of place"—connecting students and faculty with the people in the outer community to advance local education, the economy, and quality of life.

Discussing her selection to lead AASCU, Dr. Howard remarks, "I was especially thrilled and honored to be selected because I was recommended and selected by my peers. In addition it is a privilege to have an opportunity to help advance national policies that will impact the lives of so many students. This opportunity comes at a very exciting time in my career in that I believe that I had accomplished many of the

goals that I had established for Buffalo State College. I was ready to examine new opportunities that would enable me to have a greater impact on higher education and to help a greater number of students...."

Regarding her new role, Dr. Howard says, "We are an association that is focused on student access, affordability, and competitiveness in higher education. My role will involve working on public policy issues such as garnering more Pell support for students. I will work closely with our member institutions to seek greater opportunities for first-generation and non-traditional learners as well those students who are from underserved populations and creating professional development and leadership opportunities for institutional leaders—especially college and university presidents and chancellors.

Richmond College Revisited
When asked if her time at Richmond College had an impact on her success, Dr. Howard's response was "Absolutely. We had a wonderful faculty. They were extremely talented and came from some of the most prestigious universities in the country. Some of them were interested in what we might today call applied research and frequently guided students through academic learning experiences that involved the community. I vividly remember two experiences that I was engaged in and I know that those experiences influenced my life and my work at Buffalo State College. In addition, Professors Francis Botchway and Charles Thomas from the African American Studies Department provided a home away from home for students and spent many out-of-class hours helping myself and other students chart a course of success. So, certainly, my experience at Richmond was extremely meaningful."

Richmond College also provided a spark that kept Dr. Howard focused on her own education,

and eventually, helping others to advance their studies. "Before I completed my degree, I remember Brian Sherman (who was my major adviser in Sociology) saying to me, 'You should go to graduate school.' I thought about it and decided to work for a semester on Staten Island at the Urban League, following through on my major in Sociology. Over the summer, I decided to go back to graduate school [at the University of Buffalo] and discovered that Brian had been right. It was the most important thing he ever said to me. I had a great experience at the University of Buffalo and completed my Master's of Elementary and Remedial Education and a Doctorate in Education, Administration, Organization, and Policy while working full time at the University. Prior to this new position, my entire career in higher education has been in Buffalo.

A Connection to CSI's Future President
While at the University of Buffalo, Dr. Howard found herself working with Dr. Tomás Morales, who is now CSI's President. "When he was working for [City College] CUNY," Dr. Howard recalls, "he was very much involved with the EOP [Educational Opportunity Program] and helping students to gain access to college. Our careers were moving along similarly and we would attend statewide meetings together and try to champion issues that we felt were important to access, retention, and the persistence of students. Tom and I always shared ideas and information about projects or activities that we were involved in at our institutions and we often lobbied together in Albany.

Today, Dr. Howard and Dr. Morales are working together again, advocating for higher education, as they both sit on the AASCU Board.

Making an Impact at Buffalo State

As President of Buffalo State College, Dr. Howard certainly brought positive results. Among her many achievements are the successful overhaul of the institution's general education program. In addition, she helped to amass over \$350 million for new buildings and other capital improvements on campus, including a new arts center, and a new math and science center, residence hall, and technology center, which are currently under construction. Dr. Howard was also instrumental in expanding the school's honors program from about 60 students to 200, and she succeeded in increasing the number of faculty, noting, "last year I was able to hire 50 new faculty members before the economic decline came along and that was just in one year."

The Importance of Public Higher Education
Now that she is heading AASCU, Dr. Howard can continue her lifelong work to help others gain access to a college or university education. "I think that public higher education is a basic right that everyone should be afforded and take advantage of at some point in their life. I found it to be a transformational experience and have been afforded many opportunities and benefits as a result of my collegiate experiences. Like me, most college graduates, tend to volunteer more, help others, and are more engaged in their community and society. College graduates also tend to apply their knowledge to support and advance their careers and offer to support other family members who wish to attend college. I believe that a college education is the greatest and most important opportunity available in society. It is a special gift and I am thankful to my family for the support and many sacrifices that they made to support my siblings and me."





SUPPORTING STUDENTS THROUGH SCHOLARSHIPS

A veteran Business faculty member and his wife support CSI and its students through their generosity.

Gordon and Lorraine Di Paolo have been quite successful in their respective careers—Gordon has been an Associate Professor of Business at the College of Staten Island since 1971 and has had a career in marketing and sales for the Revlon Corporation, and Lorraine is the President of Benchmark Capital Advisors on Wall Street in New York. More importantly, the Di Paolos believe in sharing their success to help others achieve and, as a result, they will be among the honorees at this December's first-ever Celestial Ball, a fundraiser, sponsored by the Alumni Association, CSI Foundation, and Friends of CSI, to support scholarships at the College.

Just as the Ball seeks to raise funds for scholarships, the most visible beneficiaries of the Di Paolos' philanthropy have been students at CSI, as the couple has established three annual scholarships for international study, marketing, and management. "We started with the international travel," Gordon Di Paolo recalls. "My wife and I have done a good deal of traveling in our lives and we seem to think that exposure to other cultures is a most desirable opportunity for the students to grow. In addition, when we started this one, there was a great emphasis on the Office for International Service having study abroad programs. So this was an attempt to have students participate in study abroad and ... be exposed to the



rest of the world... The other two started simply because I teach management and marketing and we wanted to provide a mechanism for recognizing achievement in those particular areas."

The selection criteria for these scholarships, which have been in place for about ten years, is also a bit different, according to Gordon. The chief factor is "not necessarily the highest [grade point average]. Most scholarships will look to the great scholars. I'm looking here more to recognize students who have grown over the last three years or so and who have achieved something. They're the stand-out students, but not necessarily by GPA. [They have] demonstrated leadership capability, communications skills, perhaps some involvement in community, involvement in the College community in their personal lives, things of that sort."

In addition, Di Paolo adds, "these



are students probably to whom we have been exposed. We've seen them in our classes and therefore they stand out in our minds—there's a little committee that determines this—as those who seem to have blossomed or grown or have great promise for success because of interpersonal skills and behavioral characteristics, attitudes, things of that sort."

Scholarships, however, are not the only things that the Di Paolos support on campus. "We support the Office of Disability Services [and] the students who are disabled," Gordon says. "I'm disabled, so it's a reflection of that a little bit and it's an attempt to help them have a more positive college experience."

"Over the years," he continues, "we've given money to the Media Center for installing one of their laboratories. We've given money to the Registrar's Office for some signs that they have outside that help them process

students a little bit more effectively and efficiently. We've given money to the Advisement Office as well. In addition, we've given to various offices around the College as the need arose. The attempt always was to try to find support for a project that somehow fell through the cracks where the budget process was not able to provide for it, so I said, 'Maybe I can provide for that.'"

Why does Gordon Di Paolo think that it's important to give back to an institution like CSI? "It's the source of our revenue. They pay the checks that represent our salaries. But, that's not [the main] reason. I think it serves as a role model for others to do this kind of thing. If we show commitment, then conceivably that commitment will be shared by others who are maybe less inclined to even think about making a financial commitment to the school... I think the College needs as much support as it possibly can get and we try to provide some sort of leadership or symbol that it's a good thing to do."

For more information on the CSI Celestial Ball, see p. 21 and the back page of this magazine, or call the CSI Office of Institutional Advancement at 718.982.2365.

CSI Athletics Hosts BREAST CANCER AWARENESS FUNDRAISERS

With the ongoing fight against breast cancer and the search for a cure, the College of Staten Island athletic teams have gotten involved in many aspects. Since 2005, the CSI Baseball team has honored former CSI player Anthony Hillery's mother, who passed away from the illness, with the annual Grace Hillery Breast Cancer Awareness Night. The event has raised over \$22,000 over the years and now other teams are getting involved. This season, the Women's Volleyball and Soccer teams engaged in fighting for a cure during October, which is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Last season, Women's Volleyball set their hopes on having a game to raise money for breast cancer awareness. Despite not having a home gym, the team took action. With tireless effort from the team and the athletics staff, the game was put together to be played in the CSI Sports and Recreation Center's Auxiliary Gym. The Dolphins invited the United States Merchant Marine Academy to join them in the day's events that they called "Serving for a Cure" and on October 16,

2008 the plan was executed. The teams gave the large crowd, consisting of many parents, staff, and other CSI athletic teams, a competitive game to watch as they helped raise money for breast cancer research. Despite the loss to USMMA, CSI was able to raise money to give to the American Breast Cancer Association.

This season, Women's Volleyball looked to make the event even bigger. On October 20, 2009 against York College the Dolphins had their home court back and put on their pink gear as they took part in the second annual "Serving for a Cure." This year, the proceeds raised at the event were donated to the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative.

Before the Volleyball team tapped off their event, the Women's Soccer team kicked off their first-ever Breast Cancer Awareness Game on Monday, October 12, when the Dolphins took on Mount St. Vincent on the CSI Soccer Complex. Like Volleyball, the Soccer team wore pink uniforms and socks as they helped raise breast cancer awareness and funds for further research for a cure.

New Interim Athletic Director PAUL BOBB



In mid-August the College of Staten Island appointed Paul Bobb as its new interim Director of Athletics, and Bobb took over in his new post on September 1, 2009.

Bobb brings to CSI a wealth of experience in athletics administration and education having served as Director of Athletics and Associate Professor in the Department of Physical and Health Education at The City College of New York (CCNY) for 11 years. He also served for

eight years as the Associate Dean of Student Affairs at CCNY.

Bobb contributed to the development of the CUNY Athletic Conference and demonstrated a strong commitment to the academic success of student-athletes throughout his career. He also held positions at Medgar Evers College where he was an Associate Professor, Director of Athletics, and Director of the Health and Physical Education Program; and at George Washington High School, where he was a teacher of Health and Physical Education.

Bobb received an MS in Education - Health and Physical Education, and a BS in Education - Secondary Health and Physical Education, both from CCNY.

A recipient of numerous awards and honors, Bobb was honored with the CUNY-Con Edison-Ellis Bullock Jr. Award; The Edward Carpenter Education Award presented by The Harlem Network; and the Eastern College Athletic Conference Service Award.

New Head Athletic Trainer HELAINE CIGAL



After an exhaustive search, the College of Staten Island named Helaine Cigal as its new Head Athletic Trainer, effective September 1. She became only the second head athletic trainer in program history, replacing John Nostro, who had spent the last 19 years at CSI before departing the program in March 2009.

As head athletic trainer, Cigal will oversee all facets of the athletic training program at the

College, including prevention, treatment, assessment, and rehabilitation of student-athlete injuries and conditioning programs.

"Our head athletic training office could not be in better hands," said David Pizzuto '03, Associate Athletic Director, who chaired the search for the position. "John's (Nostro) departure left a big void and impeccable shoes for us to fill. To have someone of Helaine's caliber and experience level will be a tremendous asset for us, as we look to keep our student-athlete's well-being and care at the top of our priority list."

Accomplished in her field, Cigal has spent the last 18 years as a certified athletic trainer in the region. She spent five years as an assistant trainer at NCAA Division I St. Francis College beginning in 1991, before landing in The City University of New York Athletic Conference at John Jay College/CUNY, where she spent eight years as the program's head trainer, until 2004. She has since been the head trainer at the New York City College of Technology/CUNY, recently completing her fifth season with the Yellow Jackets' program.



FALL SEASON HOLDS PROMISE FOR DOLPHINS IN 2009

The fall semester has become synonymous with anticipation for CSI student-athletes and coaches and for good reason. A total of six fall sports are getting underway at the College and each one holds the promise for continuous improvement and a quest to bring home championships at the local and regional levels.

No team has been more successful within the CUNYAC in recent years than the Women's Soccer unit. The Dolphins have claimed the CUNYAC Championship in each of the last five years, and Head Coach John Guagliardo's team will be setting its sights on number six. The year 2009 will pose a special challenge, however, as the Dolphins lost some substantial pieces of their puzzle from a year ago. Gone are Fiosa Begai and Tina Bellocchio, who rewrote the CSI record books for scoring and goalkeeping, respectively. Fellow captain Kristin Kvetkoff was a stalwart in the defensive backfield but was also lost to graduation.

To make up for the loss, CSI will be looking to its returning talent, six in all, to lead the team, among them seniors Tina Chechel and Kelly Kenny. Chechel finished in a tie for top goal-scoring honors in 2008 with seven goals, while Kenny's excellent defensive and midfield play was a highlight all year long and led to CUNYAC Championship MVP honors.

The Dolphins also boast 12 new faces, all of whom can add valuable minutes of play all over the field. Will all the new faces mesh cohesively in time for the season? Coach Guagliardo knows the pieces are in place, and thinks the team will be tried and true by season's end.

A championship, meanwhile, has eluded the Men's Soccer unit for a little over a decade. The team made the CUNYAC Final two years ago, but under second-year Head Coach Armen Simonians, the team was in a pure rebuilding phase a year ago when they finished 4-14-1, and they will be in Year Two of rebuilding in 2009. Only five players return for 2009, but the promise for improvement

is right around the corner.

CSI's most notable returner is captain Dimitri Sidiropoulos who will man the back line with promising recruit Ahmed Elghareib. Up front, CSI will look to get on the offensive with the likes of Babtunde Adekanbi and Akwasi Appiah, while freshman netminder Andrew Brown has a tremendous upside between the pipes. Despite the rough schedule and start from a year ago, the Dolphins claimed fourth place in the CUNYAC leaderboard a year ago, and will look to build on that momentum.

Under third-year Head Coach Paul Ricciardi ('04), the CSI Women's Tennis team is another team on the rise. The Dolphins improved in 2008 to the tune of a CUNYAC Semifinal appearance, and the team stands poised to stay on its winning course as it strives for its first CUNYAC Championship since the 1999 season.

The positives will lie in the returning cast for the Dolphins, who will return six players from a year ago. Among them are Gabriella Villarruel, who should claim the top singles spot for a third year in a row. Other notable returners include Qing Li, Fabiana Iannuzzi, Yelena Rasporskaya, Taylor Moran, and Nancy Almazo.

Although the lineup will look very similar, expect the Dolphins to be improved as dedication and continued practice have really gotten the team in shape and ready for the 2009 season.

Improvement from season to season is nothing new for the CSI Volleyball team. After spending nearly all of its 2007 and 2008 seasons away from home due to renovations to the Sports and Recreation Center, the team will be playing a multitude of home games this year and that comes on the heels of one of its most successful seasons in recent memory.

In 2008 the team finished 13-12 against a rugged schedule and only three home matches, and it merited them a first-ever trip to the ECAC Metro NY/NJ Postseason Tournament. The Dolphins hope to parlay that success into more accolades in 2009, and are hoping

that the proper mix of veteran leadership and talented newcomers will be the right recipe.

Although the team lost some offensive firepower, returning for the Dolphins will be top attacker Joanna Tepedino, defensive specialist and back-row attacker Danielle Ponsiglione, and CUNYAC Libero of the Year Alba Basha. Head Coach Rose Ruesing believes that core alone will help the incoming class adjust to the learning curve of college volleyball, getting the predominantly young team fine-tuned as the season progresses. Look for quality campaigns from a few rising stars like Karina Zenkova, Samantha Fink, and four-time CUNYAC Women's Soccer Champion Fiosa Begai.

CSI's newest intercollegiate teams are both Men's and Women's Cross-country, and in such limited time, the squads have accomplished a wealth of successes. In 2008, the CSI women placed runner-up at the CUNYAC Championships in only their second year as a varsity program. The men, meanwhile, making their varsity debut, placed eighth in the CUNYAC field.

The team will continue to bud this season, and will do it with first-year Head Coach Robert Russo-Vikos, a former Division I standout at nearby Wagner College. The new skipper will be looking to bolster roster numbers and help CSI officially turn the corner into becoming one of the elite in the region.

That quest will always be a little easier for the women as long as CUNYAC standout Lisa Lamanna is around. The reigning CUNYAC MVP is a perennial top-flight runner in every meet in which CSI competes, and she'll be expected to lead the group along with returning student-athletes Jennifer Griffin and Elizabeth Grieco.

On the men's side four top runners from a year ago will be back in 2009, including captain Matt Greger, who will help guide the squad to better standings as the program begins its second year.





CSI Baseball **WELCOMES BACK ALUMNI** for Inaugural Game

The College of Staten Island Men's Baseball program held its inaugural Alumni Game at the CSI Baseball Complex on Saturday, September 12. Despite the dark clouds and a rain-soaked overnight, the game was a rousing success, as over 30 former athletes and coaches spanning four decades of CSI Baseball turned out. Although the final score hardly mattered, alumni from odd-numbered years got the better of the even-numbered, by an 8-4 count.

Principally organized by CSI Head Coach Michael Mauro and Associate Head Coach Neil Barbella, the entire CSI squad was on hand, helping to organize the event, handle registration, and staffing an expansive barbeque, enjoyed by all in attendance, free of charge. Current CSI Assistant Coach John Scrivani handled skipper duties for the even-numbered team, while the Dolphins welcomed back former head coach Bill Cali, whose number was retired just last year at the ballpark, to manage the eventual winners.

A total of 32 alumni then split the units. Among the highlighted returnees was Ed Baletto, who was a part of CSI's first-ever baseball team and a Class of 1965 alumus. He joined 18 others on the odd team spanning ten other graduating years.

The other members of the Odd Team were Bob Glennerster '07, Kevin Biesty '05, Joseph Ruiz '05, Chris Hemmes '05, Ted Maceda '03, T.J. Greco '01, Peter Noto '97, Bobby Campbell '97, Tom D'Angelo '97, Bobby Marolla '95, Anthony Formica '93, James Overton '93, Russ Graffeo '91, Tom Tierney '91, Steve Kuhn '83, Jim Davis '83, and Paul Francomo '81. For his efforts in the win, a Most Valuable Player Award was given to the unit's Frank Guglielmo, who wrapped up baseball duties for CSI back in 1985.

Over on the Even Team side, players spanned over three decades of CSI baseball. The team included Matt Thompson '08, Matt Stefanski '06, Andrew Fraschilla '04, Arne Mattson '02, Anthony Avena '00, Michael McCormick '96, Chris Sundback '92, Joe Perotta '92, Kevin Crombie '92, Pat Daddio '86, Dave Vulture '80, and Don Gossett '80. For his overall game efforts, a Most Valuable Player was awarded to the squad's Ray Reilly, Class of 1994.

While the baseball alums played on the field, friends, family, and fans enjoyed the barbeque and a chance to purchase CSI baseball memorabilia and vintage clothing.

The event was a huge success, according to Mauro, who rallied most of the participants and hopes for bigger and better turnouts each year.

"I'm thrilled to have this event happen for all of the alumni," he said. "The Baseball program at CSI is rich with tradition, and to bring everyone together was a great experience."

CSI Associate Athletic Director David Pizzuto '03 agreed, valued the turnout, and looked forward to hosting the next event.

"Thanks to the dedication of our coaching staff, this event went from a fleeting thought to a reality, and I'm very proud to see all of these familiar faces back again on our field," he said. "The rain didn't put a damper on the day and a great time was had by all. It makes us really inspired for the next one."

In almost fitting fashion, the ominous clouds waited until the final out was recorded, before opening up and raining down on the event. Still, families and alumni continued to enjoy the festive atmosphere, including the barbeque and refreshments.

CSI Celestial Ball Raising Scholarships *Reaching for the Stars!*

CELESTIAL BALL TO BENEFIT CSI SCHOLARSHIPS

The College of Staten Island hosts its first annual scholarship gala, the "CSI Celestial Ball: Raising Scholarships, Reaching for the Stars," on Saturday, December 5 at The Richmond County Country Club at 6:30pm.

Committee tri-chairs include Joseph Ricciutti, President of the Staten Island Yankees, CSI alumnus BS in Business Management ('94); Dr. Christine Cea, President of the Friends of CSI, scientist at the Institute for Basic Research, CSI alumna BA in Psychology ('88); and Donna Fauci, member of the Board of Directors of the CSI Alumni Association, Admissions Counselor, Program Coordinator with CSI's Recruitment and Admissions Office, and CSI alumna BA in Sociology and Anthropology ('96) and Masters in Liberal Arts and Sciences ('03).

The Celestial Ball builds upon the legacy of the Starlight Ball, founded by the Friends of CSI in 1978 and co-chaired by Ephraim Bodine and Norma D'Arrigo. The inaugural event soon became a much-anticipated annual event on the Island, and was designed to bring the community to the Sunnyside campus, as well as raise money for scholarships.

"Most students at CSI work in order to support themselves or their families," comments Ricciutti. "I am proud to serve with my distinguished co-chairs on the important endeavor of raising much-needed funds that will hopefully allow them to focus on their academic careers and excel in the future."

"One of the cornerstones of the Friends is our commitment to

public higher education, and I am pleased to continue this longstanding and worthwhile endeavor by working on this exciting new gala," says Cea. "Our Island is greatly enriched by the rich mosaic of students at CSI, representing 80 countries, many of whom are first-generation college students. I am proud to be a part of this exciting initiative to raise much-needed scholarship dollars in support of these students furthering their education."

"CSI is transforming the lives of students, many of whom graduate into highly successful careers and go on to attend the most prestigious graduate, MD, and PhD programs in the country," notes Fauci. "We have 55,000 alumni in a broad spectrum of professions and disciplines across the country, and we are fortunate that over 22,000 alumni call our wonderful borough home."

CSI recently welcomed its largest incoming class of more than 13,600 undergraduate and graduate students. Whereas students come to CSI from all five boroughs of New York City and parts of New Jersey, three-fourths are from Staten Island.

Proceeds from the "CSI Celestial Ball: Raising Scholarships, Reaching for the Stars" will provide direct support to eligible students in need at CSI. Tickets to the black tie-optional event cost \$250 per person or \$450 per couple. Sponsorship support at the \$25,000 and \$50,000 levels will include the option to sponsor a "named endowed scholarship" opportunity at CSI.

Other sponsorship levels

include limited-term scholarship opportunities. There are many journal and sponsorship opportunities available, and the evening will also feature an auction. For tickets and more information, call the CSI Advancement Office at 718 982.2365 or visit www.csi.cuny.edu

HONOREES INCLUDE:

Gordon and Lorraine Di Paolo
Dr. Gordon Di Paolo is Associate Professor of Business at the College of Staten Island/CUNY. Professor Di Paolo began his career in marketing and sales for the Revlon Corporation, under the control of Charles Revson. He completed his academic studies earning his MBA and PhD at New York University's Graduate School of Business.

Mrs. Lorraine Di Paolo is President, Benchmark Capital Advisors on Wall Street in New York. The Di Paolo's are philanthropists in the New York Metropolitan area and are very generous to the College of Staten Island, having established the Lorraine and Gordon Di Paolo Scholarship - Achievement in Management and Marketing Studies, as well as giving to several other initiatives at the College.

Robert Scamardella
Robert J. Scamardella is a life-long Staten Islander who is an alumnus of the College of Staten Island, having graduated from its two predecessor institutions. He received an Associate of Arts degree from the former Staten Island Community College in 1970 and he earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from

the former Richmond College where he graduated, with Highest Honors, in 1972. A practicing attorney, he graduated from Brooklyn Law School in 1975.

Currently, Mr. Scamardella is a partner in the West Brighton Law Firm of Russo, Scamardella, and D'Amato, PC, and is Member and Chairman, Board of Managers of the Staten Island YMCA, and several other nonprofits.

Zane Tankel
Zane Tankel, is the Chairman and CEO of Apple-Metro, Inc. and a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School. Mr. Tankel, along with cofounder Ray Raeburn, started Apple-Metro, Inc. in 1994 with the opening of a single restaurant on Staten Island.

Operating restaurants in all five boroughs, Westchester and Rockland Counties, Apple-Metro employs over 3,000 local residents, holding a regular position in the Top 10 performing Applebee's Franchisees internationally and is one of the premier restaurant operators in the New York area.

A tireless advocate and supporter of many causes, Zane is a founding board member and former Chairman of the Federal Law Enforcement Foundation; a former Chairman of the Metro Chapter of the Young Presidents Organization (YPO), and was a founder of the advisory board for the Boys and Girls Choir of Harlem. He continues his work with Bridging the Rift, an international initiative partnered with Stanford and Cornell Universities and the governments of Israel and Jordan to create peace in the Middle East.

Second Annual

FALL FESTIVAL

Raises over \$20K for Breast Cancer Research

Despite rainy weather, over 5,000 people of all ages flocked to the Second Annual CSI Community Fall Festival on Saturday, October 3 for a day of family fun. The event was sponsored in part by Con Edison, the CSI Alumni Association, the Friends of CSI, the CSI Campus Activities Board, and Free Lighting Corporation of Staten Island.

The Festival, which was held in the Sports and Recreation Center (the rain location), featured magicians, princesses, a pumpkin patch, sweet treats, inflatable rides, free raffle prizes, free child ID kits, face painting and balloons, a live band, costume parades and contests, and free clinics in dance, gymnastics, sports, and karate all day. However, the most important aspect of the day was the fact that the Festival raised over \$20K for CSI's Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative, a multidisciplinary approach toward making a positive impact on breast cancer incidence and mortality.





We are proud to be one of CUNY's senior colleges, working to provide academic excellence and advanced technological capabilities to our student body. It is because of our superior course and extracurricular offerings, paired with our numerous merit scholarships, that CSI stands out among the competition.

This year has been filled with improvements and growth for the College of Staten Island, none of which would have been possible without our donors. For example, this fall we have welcomed our largest entering class in the history of the school.

The success of the CSI Annual Fund is rooted in the generosity of the College's family, friends, and neighbors. Their gifts have enabled thousands of our graduates to shape the future of the Borough of Staten Island and the City of New York. Now, more than ever, we need your support to help our current and incoming students realize their full potential.

We ask that you consider making a gift or pledge to the CSI Foundation's Annual Fund, which can provide needed scholarship funds, sponsor undergraduate research projects, improve technology and communications on campus, and support our NCAA Division III teams. To find out more ways in which to make a gift to CSI, visit our Website at www.csi.cuny.edu/foundation or call 718.982.2365.

Vullnet Kolari

Vullnet Kolari
Board President
CSI Alumni Association

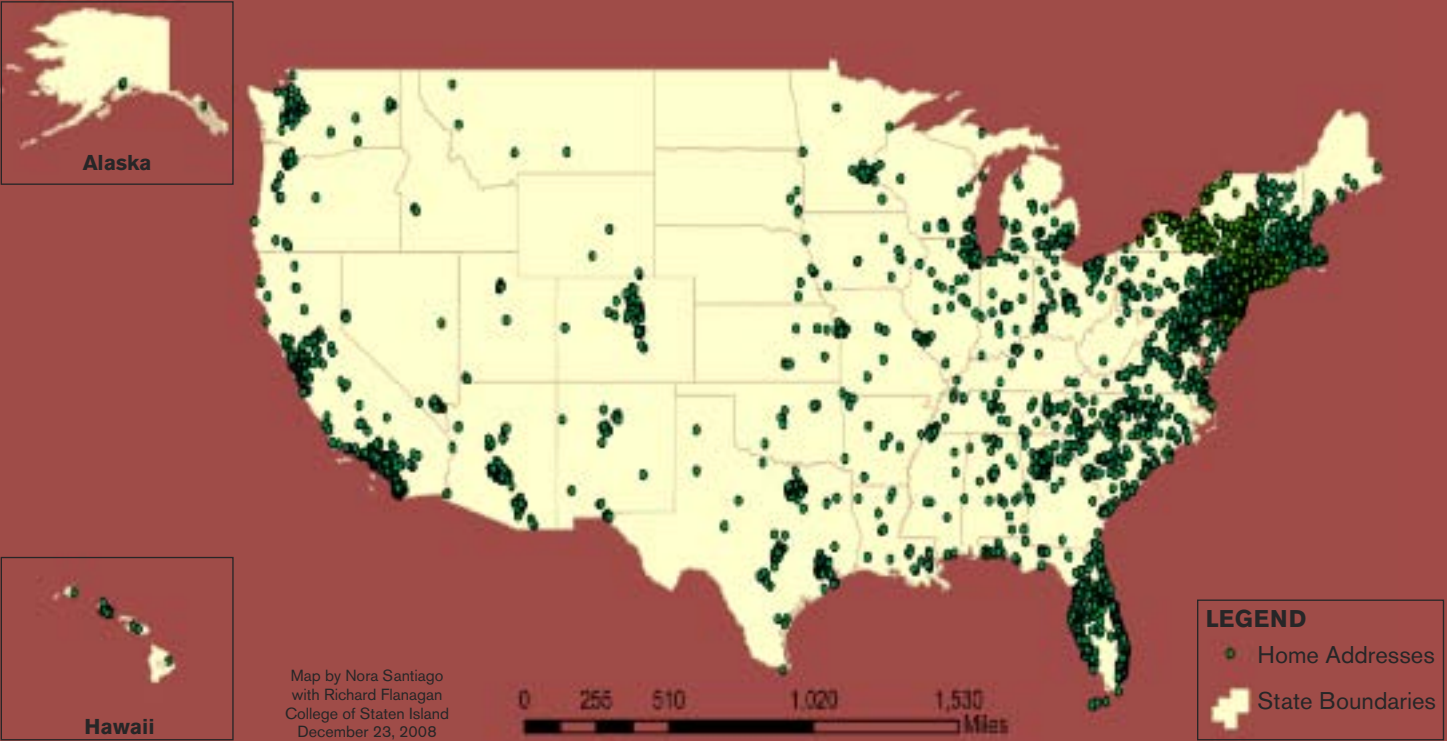
Barbara R. Eshoo

Barbara R. Eshoo
Executive Director
CSI Foundation

PS. In these turbulent economic times, the only sound investment is in education. There is no greater way to achieve than to have the skills and knowledge to get ahead; that is what CSI and your support will provide.



CSI NATIONAL ALUMNI MAP



CSI Alumni Association MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- **Alumni Online Community www.csialumniatlarge.org**
Create your profile, post on the message board, submit a class note, register for events, and learn what's new with fellow alumni and your alma mater! For first-time log-on information, contact the Alumni Relations Office at 718.982.2290 or alumni@mail.csi.cuny.edu.
- **CSI Sports and Recreation Center alumni discount membership** Present your permanent alumni photo ID for discount. For more information, contact the membership desk, 718.982.3161.
- **CSI Center for the Arts ticket discount**
Receive a \$2 alumni discount for CFA performances (limit two per ID per performance). For information about upcoming shows, contact the box office at 718.982.ARTS/2787.
- **Barnes & Noble CSI College Bookstore 10% alumni discount** Present permanent alumni photo ID for applicable items (excludes textbooks).
- **Bank of America MasterCard/Visa**
Call 800.847.7378 and indicate that you are an alumnus/alumna of the College of Staten Island for applicable credit card offer. Telephone Priority Code: FABHR4
- **Auto and homeowner insurance program** through Liberty Mutual Savings Plus/American Insurance Administrators. Call 800.524.9400, follow the prompts, and indicate that you are an alumnus/alumna of the College of Staten Island.
- **Group Term Life Insurance and Health Insurance** through NEATrust/American Insurance Administrators. Call 800.922.1245 and indicate that you are an alumnus/alumna of the College of Staten Island. For a complete listing of programs and availability in your state, visit www.alumniinsuranceprogram.com/csi.
Note: Short-term health insurance coverage is not available for residents of NY, NJ, MA, and VT. Major medical insurance is not available in NY, NJ, RI, WA, and AZ.
- **25% tuition discount for courses offered by the Office of Continuing Education and Professional Development**
For course information and to register, call 718.982.2182.

CSI Celestial Ball
Raising Scholarships
Reaching for the Stars!

Saturday December 5, 2009
at 6:30pm

Richmond County Country Club
135 Flagg Place
Staten Island, New York

Honoring

Gordon & Lorraine Di Paolo

Associate Professor, CSI
President, Benchmark Capital Advisors

Robert Scamardella '72

Partner
Russo, Scamardella and D'Amato

Zane Tankel

Chairman and CEO
Apple-Metro Inc.

For further information, please contact
the Office of College Advancement at 718.982.2365.