

EYE ON

CSI

Meet the class of 2010

Magazine for Alumni and all friends of the College of Staten Island | **SUMMER/FALL 2010**

alumni EVENTS

Alumni Baseball Game

September 24, 2010
7:00pm

The Knights Concert

September 24, 2010
7:30pm
Center for the Arts

SIEDC Health &

Wellness Expo

September 28, 2010
8:00am – 5:00pm
Hilton Garden Inn

College Admissions and Financial Aid Information Night

September 29, 2010
7:00pm - 9:00pm

Third Annual Fall Fest

October 2, 2010
11:00am – 4:00pm
The Great Lawn

Celebrating Italian Heritage Launch of the Italian Studies Major

October 16, 2010
4:00pm – 7:00pm
Tuscan Garden at Snug Harbor

Friends of CSI Annual Literary Luncheon

October 24, 2010
11:00am – 2:00pm
Campus Center
Green Dolphin Lounge

Business Alumni Event

November 10, 2010
7:00pm
at the President's residence

CSI Celestial Ball

December 4, 2010
Richmond County Country Club

*For more information on
the events, please contact the
Office of Alumni Relations at
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CSI Alumni Association MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- **Alumni Online Community www.csialumniatlarge.org**
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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.

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[L-R] Justine Pinzone, Ra'Cbaun Rogers, and Grigoriy Gelfand celebrate at the 2010 Commencement Exercises.

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From the **PRESIDENT**

Dear Friends,

I am delighted that this issue of *Eye on CSI* features some of our most academically gifted and talented student leaders in the Macaulay Honors College, The Verrazano School, The Teacher Education Honors Academy, and our Emerging Leaders Program. These outstanding students, mentored by our world-class faculty, go forth to take their place as leaders within our local communities and are well-prepared to compete in today's challenging global society. They are our brightest, our best, and our future. And, now they join the ranks of our most distinguished alumni. Congratulations!

Macaulay Honors College graduates of 2010 are national fellowship and scholarship recipients of prestigious awards such as the Belle Zeller Scholarship, Horace E. Goldsmith Scholars (2010 winner), Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship (2010 winner), Jewish Foundation for Education of Women, Jonas A. Salk Award, Kenan Scholar, Microsoft MVP (2010 winner), and the National Science Foundation STEAM Research Stipends. They are accepted into top graduate and professional schools, which include Brooklyn, Cornell, and Fordham law schools; Columbia Dental School; and the CUNY Graduate School. CSI Macaulay Honors College graduates will shape our future economy as leaders in the prominent business firms of Bloomberg LP and Deloitte and Touche, LLP, and they will represent us on the international scene as they join offices at the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Embassies, and take governmental positions across the globe.

Commencement 2010 marked another milestone for CSI, as we celebrated the inaugural graduating class from The Verrazano School, the College's selective, four-year baccalaureate honors program. Exceptional students are accepted into this highly competitive academic program, both as freshmen and transfer students, based on their strong academic records, extracurricular activities, and community service. As these new graduates go on with their awards and fellowships to their careers and their graduate and professional programs, they are being proudly followed by the 350 Verrazano School students in the Classes of 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014, who represent all of CSI's departments and baccalaureate degree programs.

The Teacher Education Honors Academy began in 2006 with funding from the Petrie Foundation and the goal of graduating excellent students who are majors in mathematics and science, and are well prepared to teach at the high school and middle school levels in the New York City school system. In 2010, this honors program graduated mathematics, biology, and chemistry majors who had all qualified for initial New York state certification at the 7 to 12 grade levels. Principals of Staten Island high schools and middle schools describe these students as meeting the "gold standard." The National Science Foundation recognized the success of this program by awarding a Robert Noyce Scholarship grant to CSI. This generous grant funds \$11,000 scholarships for juniors and seniors in the Teacher Education Honors Academy. Most importantly, the graduates of this program will forge a critical link between CSI and the Staten Island school system for years to come.

Students in the Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) received valuable mentoring and took part in workshops dedicated to help them gain the skills to be leaders, not only on campus, but in their everyday lives. Our Emerging Leaders represent a variety of backgrounds but have one thing in common—the commitment to make the College and society a better place in which to learn and live. Largely due to the ELP students' civic engagement, CSI has won New York City's "Distinguished Award in Service," for contributing more than 11,000 hours of volunteer service, in a wide array of community projects, ranking first among CUNY participants in New York City's first College Challenge in a four-month competition with 18 NYC colleges and universities. CSI has also been nationally recognized for its community service, as it was named to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for two consecutive years—the highest federal recognition for a college's or university's commitment to volunteerism, service-learning, and civic engagement.

I am sure you will enjoy learning more about the extraordinary students profiled in this issue; they represent all the best that a CSI education offers and we are very proud of our new alumni. As an alumnus/na, you serve as a bridge between alumni and your alma mater. Your impressive achievements honor the College of Staten Island and The City University of New York. It is always gratifying to follow the successful careers of CSI alumni, particularly when they are stellar. It is my strong conviction that our new alumni will all affect positive change in an effort to make the world a better place to learn, work, and live.

In addition, this issue contains a special pull-out Honor Roll of Donors. Please take the time to review this list of some of the College's top supporters.

Sincerely,



Tomás D. Morales, PhD
President



Student Research, Scholarship, and Performance

HIGHLIGHTED AT CONFERENCE

Students at the College of Staten Island had an opportunity to show off their research and creative projects recently at the Ninth Annual Undergraduate Conference on Research, Scholarship, and Performance. The event, held in the Center for the Arts, spotlighted the results of the student-faculty collaboration that is a hallmark of a CSI education. In total, more than 200 students and over 40 faculty mentors participated in 70 poster presentations and six performing arts programs that encompassed music, dance, and the visual arts.

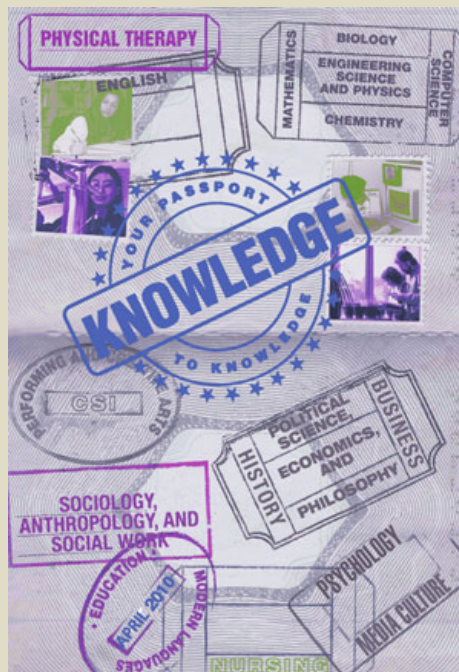
The posters spanned the academic spectrum, including a robotic dog that entertained passersby, a study of gender and displacement in the Republic of Georgia, research on benzene's effects on accelerating breast cancer development, the creation of paperless ePortfolios for students to organize and display their work, and a review of cartooning, among other topics.

Dr. Susan Holak, CSI Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness and Conference coordinator, said that the work on display "represents the culmination of a semester or a year's worth of work on the part of our student-mentor pairs, and we all know how special that relationship is—one of sharing, discovery, and mutual trust."

Underscoring the importance of the Conference for students, Dr. Holak added, "This is a time when students learn about participating and presenting in a discipline, gain exposure to the poster development process, and experience collaborative work. We know that the experiences that culminate at the Conference matter in graduate school applications—and might even change a career path."

Student participants at this year's Conference were enthusiastic about having the chance to display the fruits of their efforts, and also to experience the sense of community that comes with the opportunity to see the work of fellow students.

Michael Young, a senior who was studying with Dr. Catherine Lavender, commented, "I think [the Conference] is fantastic because most of my peers are presenting either projects or research that they've done, and it's



enjoyable to see the product of work that I only hear about."

Elementary Education major and junior Stephanie Helewa, who was mentored by Dr. Peter Kabachnik, seemed to agree. "I feel that [the Conference] was really good. I've never been to one before and to see what everyone else is doing is great."

Sophomore Computer Science major Vitaly Nirenburg, who worked with fellow Computer Science major and junior Justin Allen to develop a robotic dog with mentoring assistance from Dr. Susan Imberman, added, "Overall, this is a research community that you don't really feel unless you're working with other students. This brings us all together."



Beyond the sense of community, other students' comments reflected the sense of accomplishment and growth that they felt.

Freshman Jeanine Ruggiero, who worked with freshmen Joseph Adia and Amanda Couso with the guidance of Louise Levine on the ePortfolio project, noted, "We started from [scratch] and we've come so far. It's nice to see our work developing."

Sajini Gundry, who was researching breast cancer under Dr. Jimmie Fata, said that the conference has helped her to overcome her nervousness when explaining her work to others, giving her "a lot of experience in mingling with people and explaining my research much better."

Although the Conference is in its ninth year, Dr. Holak mentioned that there were two new aspects to the event, as the Library and Alumni Association both played larger roles in 2010. The Library offered the services of a reference librarian to help student researchers increase the number of references in their projects, and the Alumni Association helped Dr. Holak to track where past presenters have gone and what they are doing now. In addition, the Association reached out to participants from earlier conferences for the first time, encouraging them to come back and see how the Conference has grown.

Dr. Holak added that this event would not have been as successful as it was without the help of Dr. David Keberle, who coordinated the event's creative performances; Jennifer Lynch, Associate Director of Alumni Relations, for providing staff t-shirts and conducting Conference alumni outreach; and Director of the Center for the Arts John Jankowski and Debbie Mahoney from the Provost's Office for their diligent efforts to coordinate the Conference.

The Undergraduate Conference on Research, Scholarship, and Performance was sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs with financial support from both the CSI Foundation and the CSI Student Government.

Elementary Education major Stephanie Helewa stands in front of her poster at the Conference.



“Today we are leaving the College of Staten Island, where we have had positive reinforcement, set class schedules, and tight-knit groups of peers. From here on we won’t be running into the same faces every day. But that might be a good thing. We can be self-starters and build new structures to keep us going. We are empowered to take control of our own learning. And the friendships we will hold onto are the ones we will work to keep.”

Michael Young

Student Speaker, Commencement 2010





College Recognizes Student Achievement at 34th Commencement

Although the skies were cloudy, the mood at the College of Staten Island's 34th Commencement was warm and sunny, as President Dr. Tomás Morales told 2,272 students that, thanks to their own achievements and the world-class quality of the College's faculty, they "have a degree that is second to none."

The student speaker was Michael Young, who graduated magna cum laude from the Macaulay Honors College at CSI with a Baccalaureate degree in American Studies with minors in Studio Art and Spanish. He is also a past recipient of the Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship, a program in which he completed internships over three consecutive summers. During his time at CSI, he also brought smiles to the faces of members of the College community as the founder and editor-in-chief of *Operation Three-Legged Dolphin* magazine.

In his humor-laden speech, Young looked to the future. "Today we are leaving the College of Staten Island, where we have had positive reinforcement, set class schedules, and tight-knit groups of peers. From here on we won't be running into the same faces every day. But that might be a good thing. We can be self-starters and build new structures to keep us going. We are empowered to take control of our own learning. And the friendships we will hold onto are the ones we will work to keep."

President Morales, in his comments, championed the vast achievements of the members of the graduating class, noting that many of them are going on to graduate programs at prestigious schools, such as

Cornell, UCLA, SUNY Downstate Medical School, and Tufts. The President also stressed that these student "accomplishments are...a testament to CSI's exceptional faculty," recognizing the 43 new faculty members who came to CSI last fall and highlighting the strengths of the entire faculty. In addition, Dr. Morales underscored the fact that the College continues to move forward with a Macaulay Honors College program that doubled in size last year, our thriving Verrazano School, the awarding of full-tuition scholarships to seven valedictorians and salutatorians last year, and an ever-expanding list of programs with sister institutions around the world.

In addition to the presentation of the degrees to CSI students, Dr. Morales and Dr. William Fritz, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, bestowed the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters on CSI alumna and President of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Dr. Muriel Howard '70, who received her Bachelor's degree in Sociology with a minor in Elementary Education from Richmond College, a predecessor of CSI. President Morales also recognized the winners of the President's Medal: Gordon and Lorraine Di Paolo, Robert Scamardella, and Zane Tankel.

The day's festivities concluded in the afternoon in the CSI Library with the annual Dolphin Awards ceremony that honored outstanding contributions to the College by faculty, staff, and students. This year's honorees included:

- Outstanding Scholarly Achievement by a Member of the Full-Time Faculty: Marianne Jeffreys.

- Outstanding Teaching by a Member of the Full-Time Faculty: David Falk.
- Outstanding Teaching by a Member of the Adjunct Faculty: Thomas Mormino.
- Outstanding Service and Contribution by a Member of the Full-Time Faculty: Stephen Stearns.
- Outstanding Service and Contribution by a Member of the Non-Teaching Instructional Staff in HEO Title: Manuel Gonzalez.
- Outstanding Service and Contribution by a Member of the Non-Teaching Instructional Staff in CLT and OIT Specialist Titles: Valeria Belmonti.
- Outstanding Service and Contribution by a Member of the Non-Instructional Staff in Clerical Function: Florinda Mattia.
- Outstanding Service and Contribution by a Member of the Non-Instructional Staff in Maintenance, Operations, Security, Service, and Support Function: Vincent Bono.
- Outstanding Service and Contribution by a Currently Enrolled Student: Dennis Gaffigan.

After emcee Michael Daniels, then Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, recognized the honorees, as well as the presence of Professor Emeritus Stamos Zades, President Morales thanked the faculty and staff of the College for their hard work and dedication to CSI. The President also called Professor Sandi Cooper up to the lectern to thank her for her commitment to the College and to introduce her as the new President of the University Faculty Senate.

McMahon Announces \$450K NSF GRANT FOR CSI

Rep. Michael E. McMahon announced that the College of Staten Island (CSI) is the recipient of another federal grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). The \$450,000 grant, which is called a CAREER award and began on May 1, 2010, will support research aimed at further developing our understanding of the electronic properties of various materials. "Since the NSF was created by Congress in the early 1950s, the agency has promoted the progress of science, discovery, and learning," said Rep. McMahon. "As a result of federal funding in years passed, many of the technologies developed have truly been revolutionary. Now, graduate and undergraduate students at CSI will have the opportunity to further expand their research capacities on an entirely new level."

"I am pleased that the NSF has recognized CSI for the center for excellence in education that it is," continued Rep. McMahon. "I am certain that these funds will not only enrich the experience of the students partaking in this research project but will also further our understanding of this area of science due to the novel approaches in research that will be undertaken."

"My congratulations go to Dr. Vadim Oganessian on this prestigious accomplishment. His CAREER award will support important research that will increase our understanding of electronic properties of materials, and how energy is lost at the microscopic level. This fundamental research may lead to new technological applications," commented CSI President Dr. Tomás Morales. "Of equal importance, this award supports the core mission of CSI by helping provide enhanced educational opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students. Dr. Oganessian's project plan includes a diverse research group with many students collaborating at different levels, including mentoring and hands-on research experiences. We are very proud and appreciative of his efforts and the support of the NSF. We also appreciate Congressman McMahon's continued support and work to secure essential funding for higher education in our district."

According to the NSF, Dr. Oganessian also plans to teach an exploration-based course in cross-disciplinary computational research as part of this award. Additionally, he aims to focus on exposing non-expert audiences to cutting-edge research in an accessible form with the aim of effectively stimulating lifelong interest in learning by creating colloquium-style public lectures about condensed matter physics and his own research.

One of the key components of the NSF grant awarded to CSI is that it supports educational opportunities. Graduate and undergraduate students will participate in different levels of research groups to expand the educational experience, increase the research creativity, and provide mentoring for students at the lower levels.

CSI Grad Receives Prestigious Horst Schulz Prize in Biochemistry



CSI alumna Kelly Levano is the second CSI student in a row to win the prestigious Horst Schulz Prize.

Kelly Levano, who obtained her Bachelor of Science in Biology in 2003 from the College of Staten Island and her PhD in Biochemistry in August 2009 from the CUNY Graduate Center (home campus CSI), has recently received the Horst Schulz Prize in Biochemistry. Her winning paper was entitled "A Genetic Strategy Involving a Glycosyltransferase Promoter and a Lipid Translocating Enzyme to Eliminate Cancer Cells." Levano received the award at a ceremony at the CUNY Graduate Center. In attendance were CSI Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. William Fritz; her mentor at CSI, Professor of Chemistry Dr. Probal Banerjee; and Levano's mother, among others.

This is the second year in a row that the prize was won by a CSI student, as Leah Cohen received the award last year for her paper "Expression and Biophysical Analysis of Two Double-Transmembrane Domain-Containing Fragments from a Yeast G Protein-Coupled Receptor."

Levano, who is currently working as a Postdoc at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Department of Developmental Molecular Biology under Dr. Parag Kenny with a research specialization of breast cancer, said, "I was very honored to

have received this award. I was especially moved during the award ceremony by [Executive Officer of the Biochemistry program at the CUNY Graduate Center] Dr. Edward J. Kennelly's introductory speech where he read a few lines from my admissions essay. He reminded me of my goals and expectations at the time I entered the Doctoral program and reinforced my goal to help in the fight against cancer."

"The Horst Schulz award was started in 2008 honoring Prof. Emeritus Horst Schulz, who chaired the Biochemistry Doctoral program for a number of years," Dr. Banerjee explained. "Every year, it honors a Biochemistry doctoral student whose research has been published in a peer-reviewed journal in the form of a first-author article. It is highly competitive, because a number of doctoral students from various CUNY campuses compete for this honor. We are proud to acknowledge that Leah Cohen from Dr. Fred Naider's lab received this award for 2008 and now Kelly received it for 2009, thus bringing special honor to CSI."

As for Levano and her achievement, Banerjee added, "...I feel extremely proud of [Kelly's] achievement and hope that she will accomplish much more during her future years as a cancer biologist."

Regarding Levano's honors and the fact that CSI students have won the award two years in a row, Dr. Fritz commented that "this is another indication that our students and academic programs are 'World Class, right here.'"

Looking back on her studies at CSI, Levano noted, "the College of Staten Island has been my home for ten years. It was here that I developed my love for research and where I acquired the tools to achieve my goals as a researcher."

CSI Geologist Analyzes Staten Island's "Rocky" Past and Future on

NATGEO TV'S PRESTIGIOUS "KNOWN UNIVERSE" SERIES

Staten Island's literally "rocky" past-and future-were analyzed last May by veteran CSI geologist Dr. Alan I. Benimoff on the "Cosmic Fury" episode of the prestigious *Known Universe* TV series on the National Geographic Network.

Participation in the internationally broadcast program along with prominent scientists from Caltech, the University of Arizona, the United States Geological Survey, and astronomers and others, symbolized recognition of CSI as "world class" according to Benimoff.

A distinguished scientist in his own right, Dr. Benimoff discovered a new classification of mineral from a talc mine in St. Lawrence County, New York in 2004. Specimens are part of the collections of the New York State Museum and the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC.

For *Known Universe*, Dr. Benimoff had taken the TV crew members to two sites-one in Sunnyside, the other in Graniteville-and he emphasized that, by analyzing the rocks found there, it was possible to determine what type of plate boundaries existed there in the past.

Because "the surface of the Earth is a mosaic of rigid shifting plates, known as plate tectonics," he said, "the rocks are telling us that the Earth we see now may differ in the future and the continental configuration seen now will not be the one of the future."

The Sunnyside site, near route I-278, has Serpentinite rocks "that signify an ancient convergent plate boundary where an island arc volcanic system crashed into the ancient North American continent some 440 million years ago."

The Graniteville quarry, on Forest Avenue between Van Name and Simonson Avenues, has rocks of an ancient divergent plate

boundary. "They formed when the supercontinent of Pangaea broke up some 200 million years ago.

"Until about 22,000 years ago there was no Staten Island, and this area was all over the globe. The ancient North American continent (named Laurentia) was at the equator some 500 million years ago, then drifted north. The drainage of our area was changed about 22,000 years ago when the vast ice sheet covering this area retreated. Its farthest southern advance was where Tottenville is now."

Aired three times last May the one-hour program was "great" for CSI, he said, because it contributes to the College's national and international recognition.

No newcomer to TV, Dr. Benimoff has been co-producing and co-

hosting about 65 episodes of *Geology Forum*, a live monthly program on Staten Island Community Television for the last six years. It is broadcast the first Friday of each month at 8:00pm on Time-Warner Channel 35 and Verizon FIOS Channel 35, and repeated two weeks later on Time Warner Channel 57 and FIOS Channel 37 at 10:00pm.

On June 15, Dr. Benimoff will mark his 43rd year on CSI's full-time instructional staff. He has done extensive research on Staten Island rocks, written numerous scientific papers on the Island's geology and, in 2004, discovered a new mineral.

A member of CSI's Department of Engineering Science and Physics he teaches the Environmental Sciences Master's Program courses: ESC 752 Soils and

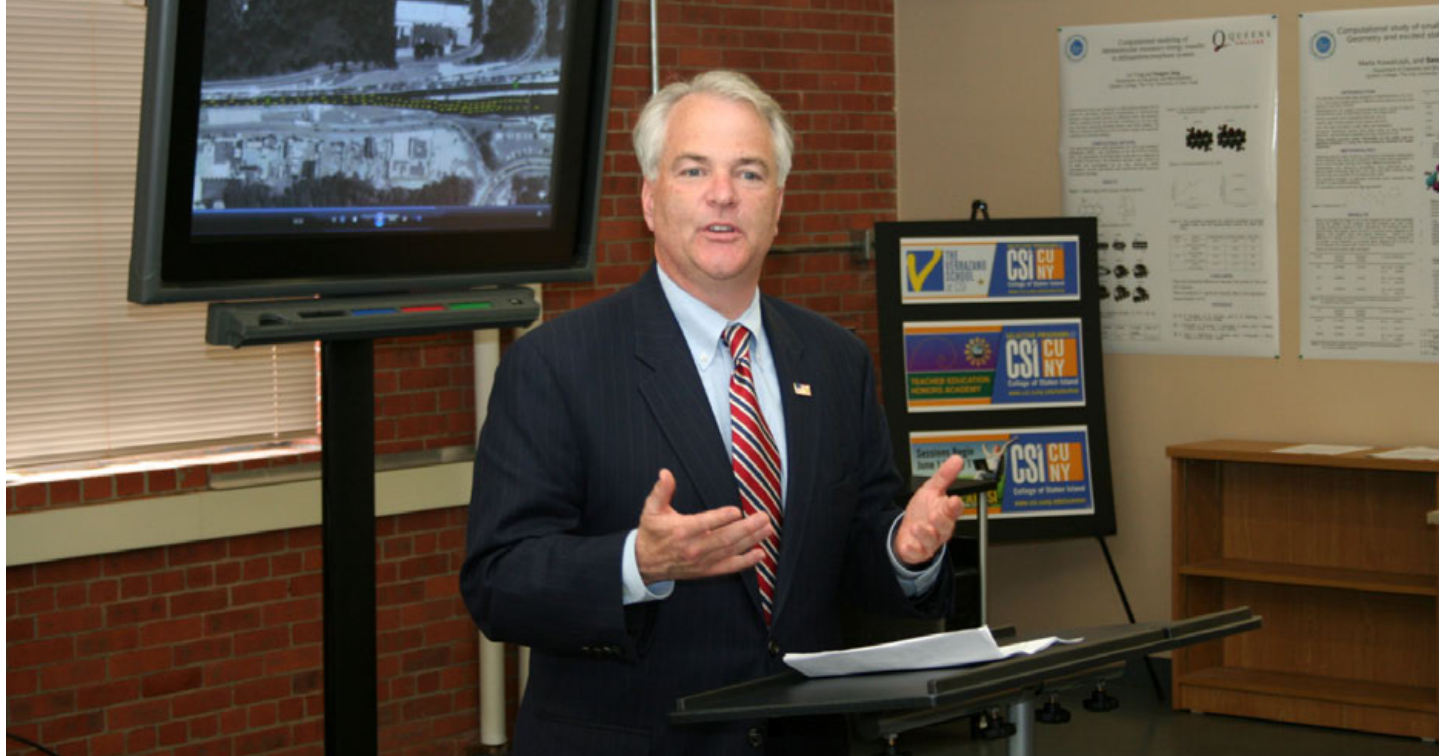
Geohydrology and ESC 703 Earth Science, as well as physical geology in the Verrazano School Program and GEO 105 Environmental Geology and GEO 102/103 Historical Geology.

Dr. Benimoff earned a PhD in Geology from Lehigh University, his MA and BS in Geology from Brooklyn College, and his AS in Engineering Science from CSI.

After finishing his AS degree in spring 1967, he was hired as a full-time technical assistant (now called CLT), working in CSI's Physics Lab. That summer session, he went on a geology field trip and "got hooked on geology." Instead of continuing his Engineering BS degree, he decided to major in Geology and continued his geological education at night at Brooklyn College.



CSI's Alan Benimoff sitting on an outcrop of Serpentinite rock near the Staten Island Expressway.



Congressman Michael McMahon

1.3M OF NSF FUNDING GIVES BOOST TO SUPERCOMPUTING SOLUTIONS AT CSI:

Research Focuses on Easing Traffic, Treating Heart Disease

Congressman Michael McMahon (D-NY) joined College of Staten Island (CSI) President Dr. Tomás Morales in announcing two grants from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to provide new supercomputers that will support faculty research and provide enhanced educational opportunities for students.

The grants, totaling \$1.3 million, will provide the capital infusion to expand the capacity and power of The City University of New York (CUNY)'s High-Performance Computing Center (HPCC) located on CSI's campus, and will serve researchers and students at CSI as well as throughout the University.

"I am thrilled that we have helped partner the federal government with our own CSI to support this important project. The great administration, faculty, and staff at CSI have made Staten Island a first-class center for transportation research both here in New York and around the world," said Congressman McMahon. "I look forward to working closely with CSI to support and enhance these important initiatives in the years ahead."

CSI researchers are currently using the HPCC supercomputers for transportation analyses with the goal of reducing traffic congestion and energy consumption. These studies range from evaluating the impact of alternative transportation systems on

commute times to issues of social equity in transportation routing.

CSI researchers are also using these systems to develop technologies required for more efficient and longer-life batteries.

"With the addition of these systems, the CUNY HPCC at CSI is without question, the largest, most capable academic research computing facility in the City of New York," noted Dr. Michael Kress, Vice President for Technology Systems at CSI, and Executive Director of the HPCC. "It is enabling us to recruit new researchers to CSI and to better prepare our students for their future careers in science, engineering, and mathematics."

Kress added that these grants provide the foundation for the development and future construction of a Interdisciplinary High-Performance Computing Center, a 170,000 square foot research facility to be located at CSI, which is expected to attract computational scientists from around the globe to CSI and CUNY.

"Andy" is already installed and operational at the CUNY HPCC. This system, manufactured by Silicon Graphics International (SGI), is a hybrid system consisting of Intel microprocessors and the floating-point accelerators, also referred to as general-purpose graphics processing units, which are made by NVIDIA. The system was named after Andy Grove, an alumnus of CUNY's City College and a founder of the Intel

Corporation. The National Science Foundation and The City of New York jointly funded "Andy."

Researchers at CUNY's New York City College of Technology (City Tech) in Brooklyn are using the HPCC computers in Staten Island to develop more accurate models of the heart with the goal of developing improved treatments. Disease can degrade the electro-chemical signaling needed for the heart to function properly. By developing computer models that mimic these electro-chemical processes of the heart, City Tech researchers and their collaborators at the College of Physicians and Surgeon's Department of Pharmacology at Columbia University hope to facilitate the design of new drugs to treat heart disease.

Researchers at CUNY's Cooperative Remote Environment Sensor Technology Center (CREST), located at The City College of New York, use the systems to analyze air pollution over New York and along coastal areas.

A third grant in the amount of \$500K came in from the City of New York, through the efforts of Staten Island City Councilman James Oddo, to further enhance the capabilities of the HPCC.

A second system with a different architecture, designed to support complex engineering applications, also funded by the National Science Foundation, is scheduled for installation in the fall of 2010.

Brazile Keynotes Student Leadership Conference

The 2010 Student Leadership Conference, entitled "Inspiring Civility," at the College of Staten Island treated students from CSI and other schools to a day-long program of speakers and workshops to hone both leadership and interpersonal skills in an increasingly fragmented political landscape. One of the event's keynote speakers was Donna Brazile, whose long and impressive résumé includes working on every Democratic presidential campaign from 1976 to 2000, and serving as a political commentator on CNN, ABC, and NPR. Using examples from history and her own life, Brazile underscored the importance of a civil political discourse, encouraging attendees to form their own opinions before engaging others about current affairs.

Commenting on her experience at the conference, Jolanta Smulski, a senior who is majoring in International Business, said, "I feel that the Leadership Conference as an event has come so far because the first time I went, there were about 40 students there...but at this event there were so many participants from so many schools around New York City, so it was a really great

networking opportunity. I met other students who are part of Student Government or other volunteer organizations on their campus and I connected with them. So now I can work with them on leadership initiatives, and I think that that's the whole point of a leadership conference."

Katrina Hannan, a double major in English and Psychology at CSI, added that "it was a fun, informative, well-planned, and successful conference...I thought that there was a really large attendance this year, a lot of students came, and faculty as well...In general the conference kept my attention because it was inspiring..."

The event's other keynote speaker was Joe Urbanski, Executive Director of Seminar Design & Delivery, College EmPowerment, who discussed a plan for inspiring civility one person at a time, called "The Four Agreements." The agreements are "Be Impeccable with Your Word," "Don't Take Anything Personally," "Don't Make Assumptions," and "Always Do Your Best." Urbanski's speech was followed by individual workshops that addressed each agreement.



Donna Brazile was a keynote speaker at the 2010 Student Leadership Conference: "Inspiring Civility."



CSI Student Selected for **JEANNETTE K. WATSON FELLOWSHIP**

For the third consecutive year, a CSI student has been accepted into the Jeannette K. Watson Fellowship.

Irvin Ibarguen is a junior member of The Verrazano School, majoring in Business Marketing. Irvin has participated in three internships, so far—with the publisher Simon & Schuster's marketing department, the marketing department for the SINY non-profit organization, and the executive director's office of Northfield Bank. He is a former member of the LAWbound program, which is designed to prepare Latino students for careers in law. He has also been extensively involved with the CSI community, particularly through his efforts to help develop The Verrazano School program, which is now in its third year. To date, Irvin has served on The Verrazano School Student Initiative and written a marketing plan for the future recruitment of potential students. In addition to these accomplishments, he has managed to maintain a 4.0 GPA. Upon graduation, he plans to attend law school and pursue a career in immigration law and advocacy for immigrant rights.

The Watson Fellowship is a three-year career-building and mentoring program that places students in paid internships for the final three summers of their college careers. Watson Fellows also have the opportunity to attend various cultural events and professional development events around the city. Recent CSI recipients of the Fellowship have included Brian Kateman and Michael Maslankowski (2009), Michael Young (2008), Alexander Perkins (2006), and Sara Butler and Hal Harris (2005).

For this summer's internship, Irvin interned at the Global Scholarship Program at the International Institute of Education (IIE).

In order to apply for the Fellowship, students must be freshmen or sophomores, not older than 25 years old at the time of application, and U.S. citizens or green card holders. Ideal candidates will be able to demonstrate a history of academic success and community/college involvement. If you would like to learn more about this exciting opportunity, please visit the Career and Scholarship Center in Building 1A, Room 105 or call 718.982.2300.

CSI RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION

for Community Service, Named to President's Honor Roll

The College of Staten Island has been named to the 2009 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement. This is the second year in a row that the College has received this honor.

The Corporation for National and Community Service, which administers the annual Honor Roll award, recognized more than 700 colleges and universities for their impact on issues from poverty and homelessness to environmental justice. On campuses across the country, thousands of students joined their faculty to develop innovative programs and projects to meet local needs using the skills gained in their classrooms. Business students served as consultants to budget-strapped nonprofits and businesses, law students volunteered at legal clinics, and dozens of others organized anti-hunger campaigns.

"The College of Staten Island epitomizes leadership by example, and I am proud of its longstanding tradition and increasing commitment to public service. This national recognition showcases the dedication that CSI students, faculty, and staff possess, and highlights their dedication to their community," said Dr. Matthew Goldstein, Chancellor of The City University of New York.

CSI President Dr. Tomás Morales commented, "I am delighted that CSI has been named to the 2009 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the second year in a row. This is a well-deserved recognition for our students, faculty, staff, and administration who empower our community with the breadth and quality of the outreach services they



Student community service has, once again, earned the College a place on the President's Honor Roll.

provide to our off-campus constituents."

At CSI, students in the Emerging Leaders Program [ELP] always take an active role when it comes to community service. Over the past year they have worked to raise funds and awareness for such worthy programs as the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the NYC Department of Homeless Services, Reach out and Read of Greater NY, Project Hospitality, Habitat for Humanity, and the Staten Island Zoo, among others.

In addition, students in the Strategies for Success program spend their volunteer hours mentoring students at IS 49 and PS 57. During the 2008/2009 academic year, 26 CSI students from a variety of disciplines mentored over 250 pupils to provide academic support in math, language arts, science, and social studies.

Students enrolled in the Social Work program at the College of Staten Island engage in fieldwork courses as part of their Professional Foundation

Content Requirement. Under the tutelage of veteran social workers, students are able to put to practical use the theories and skills they learn in the classroom through their placements in education, health, social service agencies, and other community-based organizations on Staten Island and throughout New York City. Two particular organizations that have benefited from the diligent efforts of CSI students are the Seamen's Society for Children and Families and Safe Horizons.

CSI Nursing students also volunteer their time to make New York City a better place to live. Through the Nursing program's Community Health component, undergraduate and graduate students gain valuable experiences with patients—ranging from infants to senior citizens—that have allowed them to help local residents while encouraging the students in their pursuit of a career in health care. Nursing students have also helped with efforts to prevent a national outbreak of the H1N1 virus.

There are also many other opportunities for CSI students to perform community service, as the Office of Student Life facilitates a volunteer event of the month whereby students pair up to support local nonprofit organizations like Project Hospitality and the American Cancer Society.

Nationwide, college students make a significant contribution to the volunteer sector; in 2009, 3.16 million students performed more than 300 million hours of service, according to the Volunteering in America study released by the Corporation. Each year, the Corporation invests more than \$150 million in fostering a culture of service on college campuses through grants awarded by its programs; the education awards that AmeriCorps members receive at the conclusion of their term of service to pay for college; and through support of training, research, recognition, and other initiatives to spur college service.

"Congratulations to CSI and its students for their dedication to service and commitment to improving their local communities," said Patrick Corvington, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service. "Our nation's students are a critical part of the equation and vital to our efforts to tackle the most persistent challenges we face. They have achieved impactful results and demonstrated the value of putting knowledge into practice to help renew America through service."

The Corporation oversees the Honor Roll in collaboration with the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Campus Compact, and the American Council on Education. Visit www.nationservice.gov for more information.



[L-R] Dr. Fred Naider with Leah Cohen.

CSI Grad Student Selected for **NOBEL MEETING IN GERMANY**

Leah Cohen, a former student of distinguished Professor Fred Naider who graduated from CSI/The CUNY Graduate Center last summer with a Doctorate in Biochemistry, was selected to participate in the 60th Interdisciplinary Meeting of Nobel Laureates in Lindau, Germany. She was one of 500 students selected from an initial pool of approximately 20,000 applicants, and the first-ever CUNY student to receive such an honor.

According to The Nobel Laureate Meetings at Lindau Website, "More than 25,000 young scientists from 80 countries have attended the Nobel Laureate Meetings since 1951. They each belong to the budding scientific elite of their respective countries, and have passed a multi-stage international selection procedure...A comprehensive programme awaits the participants at Lindau. Lectures by the Nobel Laureates and intimate rounds of discussions offer science of the very highest standard. Thanks to the open conference concept, questions relating to basic research are equally at home here, as are application-oriented themes. The events of the social programme offer further opportunities for the exchange of experiences and opinions with Laureates and other young scientists. The entire conference concept is designed to not only make possible such encounters between the scientific elite of today and tomorrow, but positively to encourage and to inspire them for the benefit of their own future research. The Lindau Meetings contribute to the establishment of international networks of scientific excellence, irrespective of political, religious or other barriers. These networks extend into the future, sustained by an expanding alumni network."

CSI Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. William Fritz shed some light on Cohen's accomplishments. "Leah S. Cohen has had a remarkable career at the College. She began as a research assistant to Dr. Richard Davis of the Biology Department and after Dr. Davis left joined the Macromolecular Assemblies Institute at CSI where she rotated through laboratories supervised by different faculty members. Finally she settled in Dr. Naider's laboratory where she is finishing her PhD. Her progress has been spectacular; she has already received significant acclaim winning the First Horst Schulz Prize in Biochemistry at CUNY in 2008, was a winner of a Best Poster Award at the 21st American Peptide Symposium in Bloomington, IN in June 2009, and was the recipient of a CUNY Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship for 2009-2010. Ms Cohen has published 14 papers in peer reviewed journals. Her skills span biology, molecular biology, biochemistry, and biophysics, and while at CSI she has collaborated with three different professors in research that led to publications in fields as disparate as cell-cell communication, parasitology, and brain development. She has been a leader among the graduate students and an inspiration to many undergraduates."

Commenting on Cohen's achievement, Dr. Naider notes, "I'm very proud of her," adding "she has won a lot of honors already, so this is just continuing a track record that's getting stronger and stronger."

Now that she has received her PhD, she hopes to continue her research in structural biology.



Grigoriy Gelfand and
Ra'Chaun Rogers
celebrate at
Commencement 2010

Meet the Class of 2010!

As the members of CSI's newest graduating class go out into the world to join the workforce or continue their educations, *Eye on CSI* would like to introduce you to just a few of the best and brightest who were honored at Commencement last May.



Grigoriy Gelfand
Macaulay Honors College

Grigoriy was a Biochemistry major, who hopes to follow in his mother's footsteps and become a dentist. Discussing his mother's example, Grigoriy explains, "As a Doctor of Dental Surgery, my mother serves as a role model for the professional I hope to become. Her work ethic, professionalism, talent, and ability to assuage the pains of patients continue to form the basis of a standard that I've set for myself." In fact, Grigoriy assisted his mother in her practice, learning about the profession first-hand. His experiences at CSI only enhanced his goals.

"When I entered the Macaulay Honors College at the College of

Staten Island, I knew that I would need a solid foundation in the basic sciences in preparation for dental school," Grigoriy says. "Fortunately, the sciences came as naturally to me as walking. From my high school studies, I had developed a strong scientific foundation, which allowed me to gain full comprehension of challenging subjects such as Analytical Chemistry, Biochemistry, and Physiology. Throughout my college career, I worked as a tutor for high school students who were struggling with courses in math and science, including Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Calculus, Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. I found that teaching other students served to reinforce my own knowledge of the basic principles of science, and this was very beneficial to my academic growth and performance." In addition, his work as a College lab assistant and the research that he conducted at the College provided more hands-on experience.

Grigoriy also reports that he has strengthened his communication skills, another crucial aspect of the profession, adding Spanish to his verbal repertoire, which also includes Russian and English. The

opportunity to study abroad in Argentina and Spain helped him in this regard.

As he looks to the future, Grigoriy credits CSI for sharpening the goals for his future profession and his life. "My college career, both in school and outside of the coursework, has prepared me for the next step in my life. My goal is to take all the bits and pieces of knowledge I have accumulated and fuse them together in order to reach my ultimate goal of becoming a Doctor of Dental Surgery. On my first day of his Biochemistry I class, Dr. Fred Naider gave a speech on the goals and topics of the class, which continues to resonate in my mind. He said, 'There is no greater good than helping others, whether you do this in a laboratory or you do it as a doctor'. Since then, I had been working in Dr. Naider's lab in an attempt to help people and further scientific research. As a dentist, I only strive to one day feel the satisfaction of helping people on a one-on-one basis."

Grigoriy's next academic step is a prestigious one, as he will soon begin dental school at the Columbia University College of Dental Medicine.



Christina Idava

Teacher Education Honors Academy

Christina received her Bachelor's degree in Mathematics last June. "Mathematics was always my favorite subject throughout school," she recalls, "so attaining my Bachelor's in Mathematics was inevitable. Before I reached high school, I knew I wanted to become a math teacher as well, so joining the inaugural class of the Teacher Education Honors Academy was just another step toward my dream career."

Noting that her main motivation during her time at CSI was the fact that neither of her parents received a college degree, Christina worked hard, not only fulfilling the requirements for a Mathematics degree, but also taking education courses to earn a concentration in Secondary Education. In addition, she worked at a couple of part-time jobs while attending CSI full-time. This, however, wasn't the extent of her challenges.

"At one point during my sophomore year," Christina reports, "I faced some personal issues and allowed my GPA to drop to where I was almost removed from the Teacher Academy. Never have I worked so hard to raise my GPA, and I was able to escape danger and even earn a spot on the Dean's List. When I began my college path I underestimated how difficult being a Math major was, but because of my love for math I was able to navigate myself around any obstacles and conquer each complex course. I became one of those students who practically lived

in the Library seven days a week in order to study as much as possible.

"Being a member of the Academy really sets you on the right path to becoming an educator. I feel the greatest facet is the opportunity to work in schools throughout your undergraduate career; starting freshman year. I have gained an incredible amount of teaching experience from observing all eight semesters, working as a Teaching Scholar for almost three years, and student teaching for about four months. All these jobs had me spending countless hours in various middle and high schools, including during the summers. I had to balance these hours with completing instructional assignments from the Academy and also the work from my mathematics, education, and general education courses. It became quite exhausting at times, but I am a tough worker and have never been a quitter, so I just pushed on to gain as much experience as possible."

Although she worked diligently to get her degree, Christina also credits her CSI education for her success. "The education I have earned at CSI has been beneficial to my life. When working with students in high school classes and tutoring others, I have discovered the profound understanding I finally have of math, which has helped me to give clearer explanations of math topics. My education knowledge has also opened my eyes to aspects in the classroom I would never have taken notice of before my education courses.

Looking ahead, Christina has already begun "working on attaining my master's degree at CSI while searching for a job in a NYC public school at the same time."

Chris Jones

The Verrazano School and Emerging Leaders Program

Chris majored in Studio Art at CSI, "because art inspires me to inspire others to see our world in interesting and innovative ways. I have skills in drawing and painting, but sculpture is my true medium since it comes more naturally to me. I prefer tin foil as a medium because it's inexpensive, available, and pliable. I've been sculpting it since I was five, re-creating anything that I have seen before and even objects described from others' imaginations. For years I have given my tin foils as gifts to family, friends, and teachers."

Thanks to his time in The Verrazano School, art wasn't Chris's only passion. "In The Verrazano School honor classes," Chris explains, "my teachers encouraged and inspired my writing. With their reference letters, I was hired in March 2007 as a Writing Center tutor. This contemplative environment has placed me in a leadership role where I can challenge and foster creativity in other students. I receive a great deal of satisfaction from helping others improve their literary skills. My first- and second-year English professors referred all of their students to me, which kept me constantly busy. As a tutor, I have begun to attain the personal goal of responsibly earning an income, some of which I contribute to help reduce my family's burdensome financial expenses."

At CSI, Chris tutored for up to 22 hours weekly, while taking 19 class hours and maintaining a stellar 3.90 GPA. In addition, his tutoring led to a minor in English Literature, and his strong work ethic "has helped me to make every Dean's List, to receive the Phi Beta Kappa award,

and to graduate Summa Cum Laude." Chris is also the recipient of a number of scholarships that have eased the financial burden of getting a quality college education.

Although his studies and tutoring work kept him busy, Chris also benefited from his participation in the Emerging Leaders Program, which he says "has helped me to socially network and has challenged me through the various meetings and field trips. I contributed to campus extracurricular activities by having my art exhibited with the Art Club, and my writings published in *Serpentine* magazine."

Looking beyond graduation, Chris hopes to pursue a second bachelor's degree in English, and adds "Although my ultimate goal is to be an artist and an art teacher, an English degree will help me expand my career possibilities in the future. In September 2011, I plan to go to graduate school for an MFA in either Visual Arts or Creative Writing."





Justine Pinzone

Emerging Leaders Program

Justine was a Political Science major, who actually began at CSI with a major in Chemistry. "I chose to major in Chemistry," she explains, "because I thought I would be able to help people by working in a pharmaceutical company and researching cures." Her choice of major changed when she "took a Comparative Politics class as one of the general requirements. Automatically, I was drawn to it...I changed my major that semester and I have loved every political science class I have taken since. The best part of the major is that my mission is still the same as it was when I was a Chemistry major; to help people. Now I find that I can do that more through public service."

Justine also had to overcome adversity before coming to CSI—

problems that lingered as she studied here. The oldest of 11 children, she had to cope with a troubled family life.

"Throughout my college career," Justine recalls, "I've had to constantly overcome challenges with my family...I don't disregard what I've been through because it's made me who I am today and it is the main reason why my goals are what they are. However, if it wasn't for Dr. Winnie Eng in the Counseling Center, [I wouldn't have graduated last May.] I became more stable through my sessions with her and learned how to build boundaries."

During her time at CSI, Justine reports that she had some unique and rewarding experiences. In "the past year I have interned with State Senator Diane Savino. I first got the internship through the Women's Public Service Internship last fall and continued it through one of my political science courses. I have also completed my thesis on Provisional Appointments and Privatization of the Workforce in

America. For both, the internship and the thesis paper, I worked with Professor Richard Flanagan."

As for her opinion of CSI, Justine notes, "I owe a lot to this College. The friends I have made this past year through the Emerging Leaders Program are among the most amazing people I know and without their support, I probably wouldn't have been so focused this past year to complete my senior thesis. The friends that I've made through the Government and Law Society and through my political science classes are people that I would like to know throughout my lifetime. The College has given me the opportunity to meet these amazing people and it has helped change my perspective of people as well as life in general."

"I cannot forget to mention my professors. Professor James Falkin and Professor Gian DiDonna have enhanced my thinking through their passionate style of teaching. Professor Flanagan's optimism has shown me that nothing is

impossible. Although these professors stuck out the most, there are so many professors that have impacted my life. Instructors like Professor Prosper Bernard and Professor Roshen Hendrickson have made huge contributions to who I am today."

Beyond the people who have touched her life at CSI, Justine adds, "my education at the College has broadened my horizons...It has been challenging but it has helped me on my academic path."

So, what does the future hold for Justine? "I recently got accepted to teach English in France, which is what I will be doing for the next year. From there, I am between going straight to grad school and/or law school or going to the Peace Corps to help me experience more in life. In the end, I want to work in the public sector advocating for children..."

Christina Rossi

The Verrazano School

Christina majored in History at CSI, completing the equivalent of four years of study in three, and she discovered a new career interest. Before CSI, Christina recalls, "I actually had always wanted to be an orthodontist and I attended Monmouth University as a Biology major my first semester in college. I hated the entire experience. Even though classes were smaller, I was just a number and my professors did not care much. At CSI, I felt more welcomed."

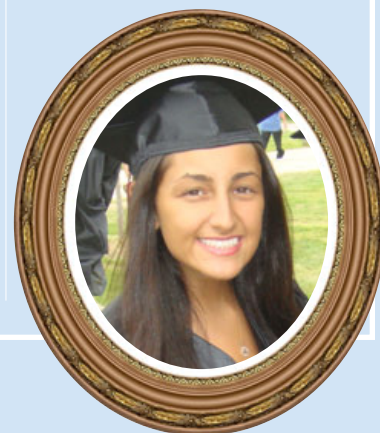
Although she says that classes had more students, she adds that "I always received cordial and helpful

responses from my professors here at CSI. I guess with the whole experience at Monmouth completely turned me off to Biology because when I came to CSI and I had to take CORE 100, Professor Donna Scimeca opened my eyes to history. I never knew how interested I was in it until I had her class." After that CORE 100 class, Christina declared her major in History.

As fate would have it, though, there was a slight twist that worked to her benefit. "I actually wound up registering late at CSI and they told me many classes that I needed were full. When they saw my grades, they advised me to go into

The Verrazano School because many of those classes that I needed were open and offered by them. I then began my journey with The Verrazanno School and whomever I speak too I always recommend that they get into that program. Katie Geschwendt and Dr. Charles Liu really go over and beyond for the students."

This fall, Christina has returned to CSI to begin work on her graduate degree in Special Education, and, after that, perhaps pursue her doctorate.





Ra'Chaun Rogers

Emerging Leaders Program

Ra'Chaun graduated from CSI with a Bachelor's degree in English with a writing focus. A resident of Crown Heights, Brooklyn, Ra'Chaun states that "I became interested in my major as a result of my over-active imagination. Being a storyteller by nature I followed in the footsteps of the African griots weaving stories together for friends in my spare time."

Once he enrolled at CSI, his skills, and his prospects, began to blossom. "The classes that I took in relation to my major are what got me started on my novel entitled *Scrawl of Dreams*. With that, combined with encouragement

from Professor Sarah Schulman, I began to seriously consider a career in writing. Through my work with the ELP I was able to land an editorial internship with Marvel Comics Group as well as a job with the organization Reach out and Read of Greater New York, an early childhood literacy program.

If that weren't enough to keep him busy, Ra'Chaun also served as the editor-in-chief of *Serpentine* literary magazine and founded the CSI African Heritage Studies Club.

Regarding his academic experience at CSI, Ra'Chaun says "I'd have to say that I've been thankful to meet some pretty wonderful people such as the aforementioned Professor Schulman, dance teacher

Niambi Keys, and my friend and mentor Robert King Kee, who've helped me along the way, and who too many praises are due."

As for the present, and future, Ra'Chaun is continuing his work with Reach Out and Read of Greater New York.

Brianne Reardon

Teacher Education Honors Academy

As a Mathematics major in the Teacher Education Honors Academy, Brianne overcame obstacles and achieved many goals.

Explaining how she decided to major in Mathematics, Brianne notes, "Starting off as a Business major, I always knew I enjoyed mathematics. I am a precise person and in mathematics, most of the time, there is a definite answer. I love numbers and want to share my passion for the subject among adolescents in the New York City Public Schools."

Things weren't that easy, initially, for Brianne, who transferred to CSI from Pace University. "My freshman year was spent at Pace University Briarcliff campus and although a Business major, I was not scheduled for any courses in mathematics that year."

Then, she entered the Academy at CSI. "The opportunity to enter a program that would segue into my

chosen field of Education seemed almost too perfect," Brianne says. "My challenge was, however, to make up for the lost time I had spent as a freshman at Pace and graduate with my peers within the four years. With the help of the faculty at CSI, specifically Dr. Jane Coffee and Mrs. Marianne Orla, I overcame this obstacle by taking on extra credits during some semesters and by enrolling in a few summer courses. Determined to graduate in the expected four years, my hard work and dedication paid off and my success could be directed back to the guidance and support from the College."

During her time at CSI, Brianne "completed over 15 courses in Mathematics and I believe this will have a great impact on my teaching, both in terms of content and pedagogy. While sometimes struggling along the way, I have noticed that with the help of the professors and my classmates during club and office hours, I was extremely

fortunate. The faculty and students at the College of Staten Island are eager to help and have shown me support throughout my education at the College.

"I could not be prouder to say that I am a graduate of the College of Staten Island," Brianne adds. "As a transfer student I worried if I was making the right choice. The caliber of the faculty, coupled with the assistance they had to offer, helped to diminish my fears and apprehension. Soon after my transfer to the College I knew I had made the right decision. CSI has challenged me, guided me, and ultimately prepared me for my future."

"Now that she is a CSI grad, Brianne is seeking a teaching job in mathematics, grades 7 to 12. I am also enrolled for my Master's in Special Education at the College of Staten Island. I look forward to my continued success at CSI."



Matt Signorile

Macaulay Honors College

Matt was a double major in Political Science and English, with the hope of pursuing a degree in law. As Matt explains, this was a bit of a change, considering other members of his family. "I have a long family background of civil servants (correction officers, bus drivers, and sanitation workers). When I decided to pursue law as a profession, I realized that I had not a single relative that was a lawyer. I broke new ground in my family with every step I took, and at times I felt I was aiming in the dark. Luckily, though, CSI has a great professor and pre-law advisor, Michael Paris, who really guided me through the whole process."

At the beginning of that process, one of the Macaulay Honors classes in which Matt enrolled helped him find some focus in his career goals. "I took the course, 'Shaping the Future of New York City' with Professor Richard Flanagan...It was focused on PLANYC 2030, which is Mayor Bloomberg's all-encompassing policy vision for New York City. I became really interested in public policy and how it works, and decided to major in Political Science. I then became interested in how laws shape public policy, and decided to go to law school."

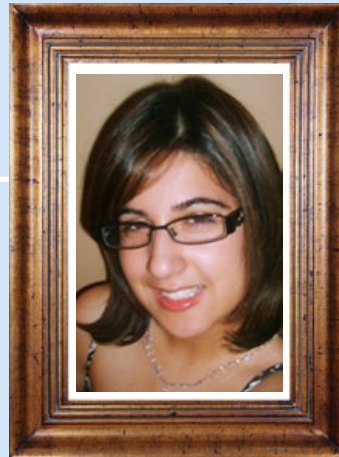
As for his second major, Matt says, "I have always loved to write and

express myself creatively. Writing is necessary to every profession in my view, and practicing writing will never hurt."

Reflecting back on his CSI experience, Matt notes, "My academic experience was excellent, and I really obtained knowledge in a wide array of fields. I went tree coring in Palisades Park to collect data on droughts, rode the 7 train and became familiar with the Borough of Queens and its residents, and delved into South African literature. All these experiences helped me gain knowledge in nearly every facet of academia. Aside from getting better at *Jeopardy!* it also gave me a basic understanding on numerous issues, which is invaluable in politics.

Now that he has graduated from CSI and is looking ahead, Matt states that "My CSI education prepared me for the future. As I graduate, I'm ready to take on the difficulties of the 'real world' using my education as a strong foundation. I received a practical and intellectual education, and I believe that CSI has maintained the perfect balance between the two. It was comprehensive, and I know it will never stop being useful and beneficial."

Next, Matt will be working as Deputy Field Director for Congressman Mike McMahon's re-election campaign. After that, he will be attending Cornell Law School in the fall of 2011, where he intends to focus on public service law.



Christina Sorrentino

Teacher Education Honors Academy

Christina received a BS in Biology and Adolescent Education thanks to her participation in the Teacher Education Honors Academy, "which," she says, "allowed me to gain a deep understanding of how my content knowledge could be applied to the field of education, specifically to a middle school or high school classroom. I loved how one day I could be in a laboratory at the College learning how to use a Scanning Electron Microscope, and then the next day I could be teaching at a high school to a Living Environment class about how such an advanced technological microscope works to view a specimen in such high resolution. I am honored that I had such an opportunity to be a part of such a wonderful program, and I am thankful to the Director of the Teacher Academy, Dr. Jane Coffee, and my advisor, Mrs. Marianne Orla, for giving me such an amazing experience that has truly prepared me for a career as a biology teacher with a lifelong appreciation for the subject of science."

She notes that she "became interested in my major during my four years at Tottenville High School, where I had outstanding science teachers that motivated me to want to learn more about

science, and to want to teach science to others with both passion and enthusiasm." This was also where Christina had her first teaching experience as a part of the Teachers of Tomorrow Program.

Beyond that experience and the classroom time that she accrued in the Academy, Christina also participated in the Discovery Institute Teaching Scholars Program, which gave her the opportunity to work as a teacher assistant in high schools on Staten Island. "The program allowed me to gain even further experience with regard to the field of education and teaching," she recalls.

While at CSI, Christina worked diligently, earning herself a spot on the Dean's List, and she also served as the Vice President of College Republicans at CSI.

Reporting that she is "deeply satisfied with the education that I have received at the College of Staten Island and the numerous opportunities that the College has offered to me," Christina has recently begun work toward a Master's of Education at CSI where she is "working toward gaining additional teacher certification to be able to teach adolescent special education students the subject of biology. Through this program I want to be able to conduct research combining science and disability studies."

She is also "a substitute teacher working toward becoming a high school biology teacher in the New York City public school system. After receiving my Master's degree I hope to work toward gaining additional teacher certification in chemistry and physics, and to be able to teach at the college level as an adjunct professor at CSI."




Catching up with Professor Emeritus Frederick Binder

Professor emeritus Frederick Binder made quite an impact on CSI during his 24-year tenure with the College (from 1974 to 1998). Beyond teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and chairing the History Department, he founded the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies [MALS] program, was instrumental in gaining approval for the MA in History program, helped to establish the General Education program, assisted in bolstering the number of faculty in the History Department, and served on the College Council and University Senate. He also was an associate dean for five years prior to the merger of Staten Island Community College and Richmond College.

Although he is retired, Prof. Binder still stays in touch with CSI, attending retirement and Christmas parties, and maintaining connections with some of his students. This is no surprise as he says that he has “very strong wonderful feelings about this College. The 24 years [that I spent here, out of 43 total]... I loved teaching, I loved the students.”

A self-described “natural-born ham and a bit of an actor,” who loves the classroom, he recalled that he used to tell his students, “I come from Massachusetts. I’m here to convert you to high culture. So it was fun.” Prof. Binder was so effective in the classroom that he received a Dolphin Award for teaching in 1983.



“We attracted people from all backgrounds and it's been extremely successful. It's a rigorous program, but it's a delightful program.”

He also looks back fondly on his time in the History Department. “Being in the History Department, which is one of the strongest in the College, I had great colleagues. To this day, you have a perfect balance of scholarship—people who write books and publish books, but people who are also totally dedicated to teaching. This is what makes this College wonderful.”

Another thing that makes the College wonderful is the MALS program, because it encourages people to go back to college and earn an advanced degree. Prof. Binder blazed the trail for the program at CSI in the early '80s. He notes that back then, MALS “was a new program developing at some of the best colleges in the country, geared toward adults—particularly adults who did not have a liberal arts background, but might have had

a professional background. I knew that there was a large population of adults on Staten Island who would love to come back to school. The majority were women, but not all, I'd say about 60/40, who just had time on their hands and interest in studying things they had never studied before and I thought this would be the ideal program. We attracted people from all backgrounds and it's been extremely successful. It's a rigorous program, but it's a delightful program.”

The program was a success then, as it is now. Prof. Binder notes in the beginning that MALS was received “very well. We had no problems filling the classes at that time and many of the students had graduated from other colleges, lived on Staten Island, but really didn't know the College that well.” Others came from CSI or elsewhere and some

went on to get PhDs.

Prof. Binder also attended and spoke at the November 2008 MALS 25th Anniversary Reunion on campus, stating that the event “was really something because I had students whom I had 25 years ago come back. Even secretaries who had come and gone came back.”

So, now that he has been gone for a while, what does he miss most about CSI? “I miss the students and standing in front of the class,” he says, adding with a chuckle, “I don't miss grading papers, because I gave only essay questions.”

Even though he is no longer in the classroom, Prof. Binder is keeping current in his field. He is co-editor of a two-volume social history called *The Way We Lived: Essays and Documents in American Social History*, now in its sixth edition, a work that joins the five books that he wrote while he taught at CSI.

Prof. Binder continues his contributions to the College, including a planned gift. He is among a group of donors who have made financial or estate gifts of any size through wills, trusts, and other planned gifts. These donors are members of CSI's new Legacy Society. To request information on how you can make a planned gift, please call 718.982.2365 or email foundation@csi.cuny.edu.



Kathleen Pesile

A Consistent Record of Commitment



Kay Pesile '73 sends greetings from the CUNY Board of Trustees at the 2010 Commencement.



(L-R) Kay Pesile, Foundation Board Member Richard Prinzi '93, Mary Regan '72 of the Friends of CSI



(L-R) CSI President Dr. Tomás D. Morales, Kay Pesile

When examining the life and career of alumna Kathleen “Kay” Pesile, the question that comes to mind is “Where to begin?” She spent most of her time in college bucking the odds, taking business and finance classes at a time when it was unheard of for a woman to be anything more than a secretary in that sector of the economy. She graduated with distinction, receiving degrees from CSI and Baruch College, and used her talents to educate others, become a successful senior executive at corporations like JPMorgan and Capital Cities/ABC, found her own financial advisory group (Pesile Financial Group), and become a trustee of The City University of New York. Although Pesile’s myriad accomplishments may appear disparate on the surface, there is a common denominator—a commitment not only to her own potential, but to that of others. Through this commitment, she continues to encourage students to do their best, just as she says her mentors at CSI did for her.

College Days

When asked how her experience at CSI affected her career path, Pesile responds “It’s affected it a lot. As a young girl,” she recalls, “I grew up in West Brighton; I never thought of going off to college. I went to Catholic schools and the career path for young girls going to Catholic schools was basically becoming a nun, a teacher, or a nurse. Then, there were always those girls who took the commercial diploma to become a secretary. So, at some point, I felt that I did want to go to college, but my mother could not afford it. CSI, at that time, was a two-year college and I thought that I would give it a try.”

While at CSI, Pesile notes, she had “some truly wonderful mentors,” such as “Dean Stamos Zades, Dean Grace Petrone, and my beloved Dean Roslyn Atkinson. They had faith in me and, did they push me. Dean Petrone wanted me to be an accountant. Dean Atkinson wanted me to be a Finance major, because she taught at Baruch. Dean Zades said, ‘Okay, you can be whatever you want to be.’ So, I had these three wonderful mentors, and, of course, Dean James Fitzpatrick, who broadened my civic activities. So I would always gravitate to people who I knew would push me and challenge me; I didn’t look for the easy way out.”

She also pushed herself. “There was one semester when I asked to do 24 credits and Rosalind Atkinson said, ‘I can’t approve of that.’ And I said, ‘But I have to go out and earn a living. I can’t waste time here. I need to make money.’ She said, ‘I’ll approve it on one condition: If you don’t get As, I’ll never do it again for you. Because she instilled that in me, I had a responsibility to her and I did...”

After she graduated summa cum laude from CSI, Pesile reports that “Dean Atkinson asked me to go on to Baruch and I did. I was the only female student in my finance classes. So in 1975 to 1976, there were no females with me and it was extremely competitive, but I



(L-R) Kay Pesile, Regina Peruggi (President of Kingsborough Community College), Dr. Jill Biden



(L-R) Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Kay Pesile

was there with [the male students] and I was equally as competitive.” She finished at Baruch earning her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees magna cum laude.

In fact, Pesile mentions that some of her former teachers are still her friends today, because “you keep these people as your friends for life because they keep tweaking you so you can do better.”

Breaking the Gender Barrier and Making a Difference in the Classroom

When Pesile left Baruch, she wanted to teach finance, but there were no avenues open to women. However, her perseverance led her to a teaching job at Jersey City State College in 1977. At this time, she also reconnected with CSI, thanks to the establishment of weekend classes at the College. Because Pesile had urged the administration to offer weekend classes when she served as Student Government president, Dean Atkinson thought that she would be a great fit as one of the founding instructors. Pesile signed on in the fall of 1978 and, barring an eight-year period from 1986 to 1994 when she was traveling around the world on behalf of JPMorgan, she has been teaching weekend courses at the College ever since.

Pesile says that teaching is “one of the most memorable parts of my career path,” thanks to her experience in traveling the globe and her international business expertise that she acquired as a result. She adds that her “students get not only a theoretical

foundation [in business and finance], they get the practical application, as well.”

Like her mentors, Pesile engages her own students, “giving them real-life situations, international and global perspectives, and challenging them to come up with team solutions that prepare them for the real world.” In addition, she brings in “guest speakers who can give them good ideas as to what to anticipate in the ever-changing business world, especially the financial world.” She has also taken students on personal trips to Russia, Australia, and the Pentagon.

Everything that Pesile teaches, however, is not about getting a career. She also provides real-life financial advice that goes beyond the corporate world to take aim at students’ personal finances in an effort to keep them healthy. Pesile schools her students in financial literacy, discussing, among other things, the various types of financial instruments and the benefits and pitfalls of credit cards and the need to save for the future.

Moving to the University Level

In 1998, Pesile had the opportunity to apply her expertise and experience at a much higher level. Then Staten Island Borough President Guy Molinari approached her to join the CUNY Board of Trustees in an effort to tap into her knowledge of CSI and CUNY to improve the University. Although she was initially reluctant because she was busy caring for her mother who had Alzheimer’s disease, Pesile accepted and was approved by the New York State Senate and immediately began to promote positive change at CUNY. She has been quoted in *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Post* on CUNY’s phenomenal resurrection since 1998.

As for her duties as a trustee, Pesile explains that “collectively, the trustees set policy for the University. I serve as chair of the Student Affairs Committee and Special Programs, which involves students’ issues, students’ problems, new programs for students, and working with them very closely. I’m on the Fiscal Affairs Committee and on the Subcommittee on Investments, because of my background. I take that very seriously to make sure that there’s due diligence as a fiduciary. Other than that, I get calls from campuses to come and talk to the students, come to events, and I give presentations at state and national education congresses...it’s a full schedule for a volunteer role.”

That full schedule has also included the organization of and participation in a number of events that help students move beyond their degrees into the workforce, such as Dress for Success seminars that teach students how to conduct themselves properly at job interviews and chairing the Big Apple Job Fair for the last 11 years. She has also informed local lawmakers and their representatives about the increasing quality of CSI grads at the annual Legislative Breakfast, organized College fundraisers (e.g., A Taste of the

Mediterranean), facilitated a student exchange program with Universidad Ricardo Palma in Peru, secured a grant for New Dorp High School students to participate in the Virtual Enterprise Law program, and she attends Commencement ceremonies.

When asked what her favorite aspect of her trustee duties is, Pesile says, “I do four commencements a year and enjoy meeting with students and their families. They are usually first-generation graduates, and it’s just phenomenal.”

She is also proud of her work with the Big Apple Job Fair. “That to me is the best. It’s very rewarding. CUNY brings in about 120 employers. We hold it in the Jacob Javits Center and it’s only open to CUNY graduates. I told students that the most important thing is that they will never have an opportunity like that again. They should bring 100 copies of their resumé and look in the recruiters’ eyes during the interview. By the time they’ve seen their tenth recruiter, they are more confident and at ease. It’s difficult for them but they have to start somewhere.”

Other Interests, Honors, and the Future

Although it may be hard to imagine with her grueling balancing act that involves teaching at CSI, being a CUNY trustee, and running Pesile Financial Group, Pesile also finds the time for public service. She is a founding member of the CSI Alumni Association, who, together with the organization’s first Executive Director, Francine Raggi, started the CSIAA from scratch. She has been a board member for a number of organizations, including the CSI Foundation, the Alzheimer’s Foundation, the Sky Light Center, Staten Island University Hospital, and more. She has also served on the New York Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission (by an appointment from Mayor Rudolph Giuliani) and is a member of the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation/Women’s Leadership Council. Pesile has also received a number of honors, including the CSI President’s Medal, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, the National Leadership in Education Award, and she received a pontifical knighthood as a Dame of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem from Edward Cardinal Egan. Last, but not least, she also helps to organize the Staten Island Kennel Club’s annual show.

As she looks to the future, Pesile continues to think of touching the lives of others, saying that she would like to head up a foundation, once she retires. “I think that would be very appropriate because it would be an extension of what I’ve done in finance and non-profit fundraising, networking with the people I’ve known over the years to consider planned giving.” CUNY students are also a part of this plan, because Pesile feels strongly that they “understand the importance of philanthropy, especially through their alma mater and the Staten Island community at large.”

Top Grads Honored AT THIRD ANNUAL HONORS CONVOCATION



(L-R) CSI Professor Richard Gid Powers, Dr. Catherine Lavender, Michael Young '10, CSI President Dr. Tomás D. Morales, Dr. Charles Liu

CSI honored its best and brightest recently as students, their families, and friends, and College faculty and staff gathered in the Center for the Arts Concert Hall for the Third Annual Honors Convocation. Then Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Jerald Jones-Woolfolk was the event's emcee.

After opening remarks from Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. William Fritz, CSI President Dr. Tomás Morales, in his comments, told the honorees "your accomplishments not only further your dreams, but we can proudly point to you and say, 'these are the best of our students'. Your achievements reaffirm us—faculty and staff—the very reasons we have devoted our lives to public higher education."

At the end of his address, Dr. Morales introduced the student speaker, Melissa DeMartino, who majored in Mathematics with a concentration in Adolescent Education.

DeMartino discussed how her time at CSI helped her to understand and appreciate mathematics in new ways, helping her to transform her entire way of thinking about the subject. "My journey here at

CSI," she explained, "can best be described as follows: imagine you enter a dark room for the first time, as you are looking for the lights you stumble around, and perhaps, bump into a few things. Eventually you learn where each object is, and finally, when the lights turn on, you see exactly where you are." DeMartino concluded her speech by encouraging her fellow grads to keep learning, "keep an open mind, [and] embrace any obstacle that comes your way...."

The evening also included Carol Brower, Director of Student Life, ceremoniously presenting the Student Dolphin Award to Dennis Gaffigan. (He received the actual award at the Dolphin Award ceremony following Commencement.) In addition, Dr. Christine Flynn Saulnier, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Dr. Alfred Levine, Interim Dean of Science and Technology, presented the Academic Honors and Student Leadership Awards.

Michael Daniels, then Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs, chaired the Honors Convocation committee and Dr. Jones-Woolfolk was the presiding officer.

Alumni Association Board HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

The CSI Alumni Association (CSIAA) Board of Directors recently held their annual meeting. The evening was a mix of tradition, with former Board members in attendance, and a glimpse into the future of CSI alumni as 2010 grads were also present.

Vullnet Kolari '98 welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. As in the past, the annual meeting was a celebration of the year's accomplishments. CSI President Dr. Tomás D. Morales shared highlights of the past academic year and thanked the Alumni Board members for their dedication to the College. In addition, reports were given by Board members.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 2010 CSIAA Student Leadership Awardees: Rhagina Chisolm '10, Gerald Gallardo '10, Nicholas Imbornone '10, and Michael Young '10. Also recognized was Alexa Scharf, recipient of the CSI Alumni Association Scholarship for 2009-2010.

Three outgoing Board members, Angela Chuppe '82, '91, Paige Stuhlman Gunther '05, and Frances Barrett '06, were thanked for their dedication and service and presented with gifts.

Phyllis Minacapilli '86, '91 was elected Treasurer and Linda Dianto '69, '71, '74 was elected Assistant Treasurer. Carole Gervasi '02 and Lynne Libert '03, '06 were both re-elected to serve second terms. New Board members include Anna Fiorentino '03, Maria Hoffman '93, Dovile Norkeviciute-Izzo '06, Susan Pace '03, Stephanie Plust '08, and Adam Silberlight '98.

Also serving on the Board are First Vice President Arthur Merola, DPM '85; Second Vice President Theresa Marro '89; Corresponding Secretary James Raggi '70; and Recording Secretary Roy Mackey '03, as well as board members, Pat Carroll '85, Marietta DeLuca '74, '85, Donna J. Fauci '03, Robert Ferone '86, Michelle Karpeles '08, '10, Stephen Kaufer '77, James McBratney '05, Caryl Santore '07, Robert Shullich '76, '85, '88, Sumi Raj '90, and Audrey Tesora '02, '06.

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



(L-R) Rhagina Chisolm '10, CSIAA Scholarship Recipient Alexa Scharf, CSIAA Board President Vullnet Kolari '98, Gerald Gallardo '10, Nicholas Imbornone '10

Keeping Tabs

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

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!

Patricia Iacobazzo '65 was the first woman President of the student body when it was still called Staten Island Community College and was housed right off the Staten Island Ferry. She attended the groundbreaking ceremonies for the new site for College of Staten Island and still has a picture showing her actually shoveling the first bit of earth to begin work on it. Patricia says, "It is wonderful to see how far it has all come! Bravo!"

Peter Paccione '84 is currently working as a librarian at the Princeton University Library, having earned a degree in Library Science from the Library program at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. Peter published a book *Constitutional Revolutions: State, Representative Government and Revolution in England, France, Russia and China*, VDM Verlag Dr. Muller, Saarbrücken, Germany 2009.

Elaine Marchi '90 has published a paper with a number of colleagues at the Institute of Basic Research on "The Neuropathology of Autism: Defects of Neurogenesis and Neuronal Migration and Dysplastic Changes" (Weigel, Nowicki, Imaki, Wegiel, Marchi, Ma, A. Chauhan, V. Chauhan, Bobrowicz, de Leon, Saint Louis, Cohen, London, Brown, and Wisniewski), which appeared in *Acta Neuropathologica* in March 2010.

Mary Turbiak, CCRN 66H8A '97 graduated from CSI with a BA in Anthropology/Sociology. She is an Army Nurse currently deployed to Iraq (OIF 09-11) out of Fort Bragg, NC. She is at the 28th Combat Support Hospital (CSH) in Baghdad, working in the intensive care

unit taking care of wounded service members (both United States and Coalition Forces), Iraqi citizens, and civilian contractors injured or ill. The hospital deals with poly-trauma (IED, bombings, suicide bombers, small weapons fire, burns, motor vehicle collisions, etc.) along with other adult and pediatric medical emergencies.

When she redeployes to the rear (sometime later this year) Mary will return to William Beaumont Army Medical Center as the Officer in Charge of the night shift in the combined intensive care unit, again dealing with both military and civilian multi-trauma patients.

When it is time for her to permanently change stations, she hopes to work in the Burn Intensive Care Unit out of Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, TX.

Adam Fried '99
After college, Adam worked in the financial sector for a while, on Wall Street, selling institutional fixed income products. He was injured during 9/11 and eventually decided to switch careers, going to culinary school, getting married, and becoming a trained chef. Adam went back for restaurant management school and after running a food manufacturing plant for a few years, he recently moved into restaurant equipment sales for a company called Culinary Depot in Monsey, NY. He and his wife, Ginnine (a Baruch College/CUNY alumni, as well), recently celebrated their tenth anniversary and they were just blessed with the birth of twins this past November 2009. Their daughter, Ariella, and their son, Mason, look to be future CUNY attendees when the time comes.



Francisco M. Collado '09, at the observatory deck of the Shanghai World Financial Center, in Shanghai, China on his recent trip to Shanghai, made a quick stop at the 2010 World Expo, and then later visited Hong Kong and Macau. Noting China's vast development, Francisco highly recommends that his peers visit this vibrant nation, if only for the exquisite cuisine.

Kelly Flahive '01 She and her husband, Dr. Paul Gualtieri, had their first daughter, Stephanie Gualtieri, on December 24, 2008. Kelly is currently a Lieutenant, USMS and Northeast Admissions Officer at the United States Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, NY.

Paige Stuhlman '05, former CSI Alumni Board member and deputy press secretary to Staten Island Borough President James P. Molinaro, married Kevin Gunther on May 22, 2010 at St. Andrews Church in Richmond Town, SI.

George Hopkins '74 published the novel *Collateral Consequences*.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Louis Foleno, Professor in the Sociology Department

Nora Kelley, Professor in the English Department

Daniel C. Kramer, Professor Emeritus of Political Science

Keith Rowan, Senior Laboratory Technician of Astronomy and an Adjunct Lecturer

Matty White, former CSI Men's Basketball Assistant Coach (1988-1995) and member of the Staten Island Hall of Fame

CSI Alumni **ROOT FOR SI YANKEES**



photos by Robert Shulich

The Staten Island Yankees opened their season against the Brooklyn Cyclones last June at the Richmond County Bank Ballpark at St. George with 150 CSI Alumni and friends rooting for the home team.

The evening started with the

presentation of the 2009 New York-Penn League championship trophy. SI Yankees president and CSI alumnus Joe Ricciutti, '94 accepted along with general manager Jane Rogers. On hand to throw out the first pitch was Borough President James P.

Molinaro and former Borough President Guy Molinari also threw out a ceremonial pitch.

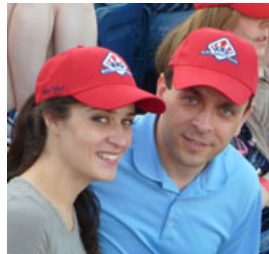
For the fourth year, CSI Alumni have gathered for the opening game, it is also the first event to which our brand new alumni are invited. CSI President Dr. Tomás

and Mrs. Evy Morales, as well as Provost and Senior Vice President Dr. William Fritz and his wife Bonnie, were on hand for the game, mingling with alumni.

After the game, attendees were treated to a fireworks display over the stadium.



CSI President Dr. Tomás D. and Evy Morales



Kaltrina and CSIAA Board President Vullnet Kolari '98



Top Row from left Bonnie and Provost William Fritz. Bottom Row from left Foundation Board Member Richard Prinzi '93 and Family



SI Yankees Mascot, Alumni Affairs Coordinator Donna Garambone, and her son Aidan

CSI Alum's Film Wins SIFF Award



Randal Simon's Big Damn Movie received Best Comedic Feature honors at the SI Film Festival.

Jonathan Liguori, who received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Cinema Studies at the College of Staten Island in 2009, recently won Best Comedic Feature honors at the Staten Island Film Festival for his first feature-length film, *Randal & Simon's Big Damn Movie*. Regarding his award, Liguori, who is a screenwriter, film producer, actor, cinematographer, director, and the founder of the independent film company Rising Star Pictures, says, "I'm very proud to win this award since it justifies all of the hard work my cast, crew, and myself put into the film." The award is Liguori's first, and the Staten Island Film Festival is the first festival where the film was screened. Liguori explains that the film, which is set on Staten Island, is "about two best friends having a wacky adventure on the 4th of July. Randal is searching for a girl in a blue Mustang while Simon is deciding which way to go at an important crossroads in his life, all while they try to get to the greatest party of the summer and help out a few friends along the way." He also notes that Randal and Simon are characters who have appeared in many of the films that he produced for production classes at CSI, and many of the cast members are friends from his days as a student at New Dorp High School. So far, Liguori, along with his friend from CSI, Thomas Maresca, have made two independent films, *Randal & Simon's Big Damn Movie* and *Second Chance at Christmas*. At present, Liguori is working on another film, *Love Unfolded*, while maintaining ties to the College by working on a Master's degree and serving as a Supplemental Instructor for entry-level media courses as well as working in the College's Office of Media Services.

Third Annual **ALUMNI RECEPTION**



Donna Garambone



Donna Garambone

In what has become an anticipated event, Alumni Association Board Directors hosted faculty and staff who are graduates of CSI last April at the Campus Center Park Café.

The program this year highlighted a new group emerging at the College, the Academy of Retired Professors (ARP), and ARP members were on hand for the reception. President Morales also brought greetings, discussing the College's recent achievements and congratulating the Alumni Board members for all their hard work in partnering with both the College and community.

James Sanders, PhD a retired professor and member of ARP was the guest speaker. He spoke about the founding of the Academy of Retired Professors and what the group is looking to accomplish. The Alumni Board is hoping to partner with ARP as another way to strengthen the bonds with faculty and the College community.

Before the evening ended ideas were shared, alumni were reunited with former professors, and new friends were made.



Donna Garambone

Top photo: [Top Row] CSIAA Board Members Patricia Carroll '85 and Linda Dianto '69, '71, '74 [Bottom Row] ARP

2nd photo: CSIAA Board President Vullnet Kolari '98 and ARP Member Robert Chiles

Bottom photo: CSIAA Board Members Dr. Arthur Merola '84, '85 and Phyllis Minacapilli '86, '91

Bill Higgins



(L-R) Associate Director of Alumni Relations Jennifer Lynch, Vice President for Institutional Advancement and External Affairs Barbara Eshoo, Assistant Professor Arlene Farren, Alumni Affairs Coordinator Donna Garambone, and Chairperson of the Nursing Department, Mary O'Donnell

President Morales/CSIAA Host **NURSING RECEPTION**

Nursing alumni and faculty recently attended a special reception at the College President's home. The reception was hosted by CSI President Dr. Tomás D. Morales and Mrs. Evy Morales, and the CSI Alumni Association (CSIAA) Board of Directors.

As a follow-up to their first-ever reunion in May 2009, Nursing alumni and faculty were invited to hear the latest news about CSI. According to Jennifer Lynch, Associate Director of Alumni Relations, "We identified Nursing alumni as our inaugural group, given their major presence in health care on Staten Island."

Special guests included members of the Brooklyn Home For Aged Men, an organization that has generously donated to scholarships, some specifically for Nursing students. On hand for the evening were George C. Schaefer, Vice President and Treasurer; Jean C. Weber, Secretary; and Annette Schaefer, Director.

The program included remarks from Alumni Board President Vullnet Kolari, Esq. '98 who spoke briefly about the CSIAA and the importance of making connections at events like this. President Morales then provided highlights of CSI. He also thanked the Alumni Board and Office for all their hard work and dedication to the College. In addition, he thanked the Brooklyn Home for their generosity to the College and to Nursing program scholarships.

Finally, Department Chair Mary O'Donnell discussed the latest Department news, including the fact that there was a 100% pass rate for CSI students for the NCLEX test. She also thanked everyone for their support of the Nursing program.

Also in attendance were Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. William Fritz; Barbara Eshoo Vice President for Institutional Advancement and External Affairs; Donna Garambone, Alumni Affairs Coordinator; and members of the CSI Alumni Association Board of Directors.



Bill Higgins

Top row: Board Member Dr. Arthur Merola '84, '85, Faculty member Dawn Fairlie, Evalyn MacDonald '77



Bill Higgins

Rewieda Othman '08, Faculty member Barbara Griffiths, Nora Maloney '79, and Eunice Woo '04, '06



Ednita Lorenzo

CSI'S NCAA WOMAN OF THE YEAR

College of Staten Island Women's Soccer senior and Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) President Ednita Lorenzo has been tabbed as the College's NCAA Woman of the Year, a yearly distinction bestowed on her as part of the NCAA's recognition of female student-athletes who have excelled in academics, leadership, and community service.

A four-year stalwart and captain of a Women's Soccer team that collected three championships in her years at CSI, Lorenzo added four goals and an assist over her career, including a trio of scores in 2009, playing in the midfield and at the front. Lorenzo was named Female Student-Athlete of the Year at CSI's Honors Convocation in May 2010 prior to graduating with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Communications with a concentration in Journalism, boasting an outstanding 3.11 GPA.

Shadowing her performance in the field is Lorenzo's passion for her fellow student-athletes. The 2009 senior was a two-year member of the executive committee of the CSI SAAC, where she served as president this past year. She was part of a team that spearheaded multiple fundraising campaigns including Change for Haiti, aimed at collecting nearly \$1,000 in spare change for Haitian Relief efforts. She also organized multiple community service ventures, including the SAAC's annual holiday trip to Eger Nursing Home.

Her pioneering also included the SAAC's introduction of a new award at CSI's annual Awards Banquet. Called the CSI G.L.O.V.E. Award, the award honors a coach and team who exemplify giving, leadership, organizing, volunteering, and encouraging. On top of her multiple endeavors, she also had an internship in the CSI Athletic Department, serving as principal photographer and gameday event assistant at CSI home athletic contests.

Lorenzo's NCAA Woman of the Year honor makes her one of 452 honorees spanning all NCAA Divisions nationwide. Conference Women of the Year honors will be announced in late September of 2010, with a national winner being announced on October 17, 2010 in Indianapolis.



CSI SCORES

with Spring Sports Collection

The College of Staten Island Dolphins made quite the splash when they finalized their sports season, rounding out the 2009-2010 school year with conference championships, a series of all-stars and individual player honors, and a rousing athletics banquet at year's end.

The Dolphins celebrated their most successful year in the sport of Men's Baseball, as they pounded through the year setting multiple record-breaking marks and an unprecedented 14th CUNYAC Championship at year's end. The diamond-goers amassed a CSI record 31 wins under second-year and CUNYAC Coach of the Year Michael Mauro, one that included an 11-1 regular season mark against CUNYAC competition and a 14-8 win over Baruch College in the championship game at MCU Ballpark in Brooklyn, on the CUNYAC's final day of competition.

"Our goal was to bring this team to a national level and winning the CUNYAC Tournament was one of the steps we wanted to take this year," said Mauro, who in his first season in 2009 lost in the CUNYAC Semifinals. "The kids stuck with it. There was a lot of pressure on us coming in, but we battled through it and it's a great feeling."

The CSI Softball team put up some impressive numbers of their own. The defending CUNYAC Champions in 2009 posted a healthy 24-17 mark in 2010, and a CUNYAC Postseason Championship appearance for the seventh time in the last nine years.

CSI entered as the number two seed in the postseason tournament, losing to Baruch College in the final on the season's final day. The Dolphins, however, were good enough to advance to further postseason play, locking down the No. 4 seed in the ECAC Metro NY/NJ Postseason Tournament, their first-ever appearance in ECAC postseason competition and another feather in the cap of head coach Stella Porto, who now sits 24 wins shy of 200 in her eight seasons at the helm.

Fourth-year head coach of Men's Tennis Paul Ricciardi made CSI a winner again in 2009 with a CUNYAC Regular Season Championship for the first time in a decade, and the Dolphins doubled that effort in 2010 with a school record 16 wins and another regular season title.

CSI sported a 7-1 CUNYAC record during the regular season and entered as the tournament's No. 1 seed before being up-ended by No. 2 Hunter College in the championship. Still, the phenomenal advance forward has set the bar high for CSI.

At the end of the spring season among three teams, the Dolphins walked away with a total of 21 selections to the CUNYAC All-Star teams including two Coach of the Year titles, three ABCA all-region honors, three ECAC All-Stars, and an ABCA/Rawlings All-American.

If the spring lineup was any indication of what to expect for the future of CSI Athletics, then it is pretty safe to say that the future looks brighter than ever for the Dolphins.



FALL HOLDS PROMISE FOR CSI ATHLETICS

With six sports taking off, the CSI Athletics' fall lineup promises to bring excitement around every corner, with every program offering promise for continued improvement and advancement. Getting underway Men's and a Women's Soccer, Men's and Women's Cross-country, Women's Tennis and Women's Volleyball, and all six squads have one goal in mind: a return to CUNYAC prominence.

The future always looks bright for Women's Soccer. One of CSI's newest sports is also one of its most accomplished. CSI won five-straight CUNYAC crowns from 2004 to 2009, but last year were forced to taste defeat for the first time in conference play, falling out of contention for a title in their final regular season game, en route to a disappointing 3-11-2 season. With the graduations of seniors who were pillars of the program and with injuries hitting hard, CSI wasn't able to field a winning team for the first time in program history, but it has made the team resolved for greater in the future.

"We had a setback," said head coach John Guagliardo, who boasts a 55-46-4 record in six years at the helm of CSI soccer. "but we are set to turn it all around in 2010. We've got some great recruits coming in and a lot of the young players who were playing their first collegiate soccer last year are now well-prepared for what lies ahead."

The Women's counterparts on the soccer field are also looking for a rise in play. The CSI Men's team stumbled through a 3-16

season a year ago under second-year head coach Armen Simoniants, missing the CUNYAC playoffs. Still, the Dolphins improved in almost every offensive and defensive category, thus proving that the entire conference is moving in a positive direction.

"I thought the team played much more closely and as a unit last year," says Simoniants who took over the reigns of the program in July 2008 with only five returning players. "We are bringing in good quality and exceptional students to CSI who have a desire to play strong soccer for us, and it will make us better."

Under first-year head coach Robert Russo-Vikos in 2009, CSI Men's and Women's Cross-country scraped together enough talent to be competitive, but this year's harriers are expected to make a huge improvement on the terrain, almost tripling squad size for the 2010 season. CUNYAC 2008 Women's Runner of the Year Lisa LaManna will continue to anchor the CSI women, while Dean Kunjvaria and Matt Greger fortify the men's unit. The CSI women came in eighth place in the CUNYAC Championship Meet while the men placed tenth, but that's expected to change in 2010, with Russo-Vikos given a full year's opportunity to scout and recruit.

"It's going to be very different in 2010," said Russo-Vikos. "We have a lot of very good and experienced runners joining us this year and I believe we are going to be a lot stronger and a lot more focused this time around."

For the second year in a row, Women's Tennis graduated no seniors in 2009 and return an entire lineup in 2010 under fourth-year head coach Paul Ricciardi. The coach is expecting that a lighter schedule will keep the small cluster of players fresh and ready to advance in the standings, one that saw CSI place fifth a season ago.

"I'm not worried about our team," said Ricciardi this off-season. "I am very surprised by how much tennis they have played in the off-season and how they are looking forward to getting back out there this fall. The time has come for us to make a run at the top."

After making its first-ever appearance in the ECAC postseason two years ago, CSI Women's Volleyball fell a rung or two last year, in a 12-16 season that saw them bow out in the CUNYAC Playoffs' first round. The Dolphins have also lost senior Alba Basha, a record holder in just about every offensive category for the Dolphins and a first team CUNYAC All-Star.

"We have a large amount of players who are coming out for the team in 2010 and we will be very young but looking to compete," said head coach Rose Ruesing. "I think our early season will be a test, but if we come together and play like I know we are capable of, I'm hoping our team will be playing well by the end and we can turn this into a great year for CSI."

With play extending until November, the fall sports will bring CSI into the winter with basketball and swimming leading the way.



Katie Arcuri (Asst. Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Services), Female Athlete of the Year Kelly Kenny '10, Male Athlete of the Year Pat Gale '10, Former Interim Athletic Director Paul Bobb

Athletic Awards Banquet Highlights **STUDENT-ATHLETE ACHIEVEMENT**

There is nothing quite like the CSI Athletic Awards Banquet, a rousing dinner aimed at honoring the collection of CSI sports programs over the calendar year. This past May, the awards banquet featured a handful of new awards, honors citing 61 scholar-athlete achievements, and over 75 other awards spanning team most valuable players, distinguished service, and model citizenship.

Major awards were presented to Female Athlete of the Year Kelly Kenny, a senior on both the Women's Soccer and Swimming teams. Kenny was a two-time CUNYAC champion in soccer and elevated herself into a competitive diver for the Swimming team. Men's Baseball ace Pat Gale was named Male Athlete of the Year. Gale finished an impeccable junior campaign by posting an 8-2 record on the mound earning CSI single-season records for innings pitched, wins, and strikeouts.

CSI Scholar-Athlete of the Year honors were given to soccer star and senior Adam Birnbaum. Appearing in 58 games for the Dolphins over the past three seasons, Birnbaum sports a 3.895 GPA, majoring in Economics. The CSI Women's Swimming and Diving Team were awarded for CSI Athletics' highest Team GPA, at 3.21, one of CSI's newest awards handed out for the first time this year.

Thomas DeWaters, senior for Men's Baseball, was awarded the fifth Annual Bill Cali/John Scrivani Sportsmanship Award, named after CSI's baseball skippers who earned similar honors from the *Staten Island Advance* in 2005.

A Distinguished Service award was given to *Staten Island Advance* sportswriter Jack Minogue, who has covered CSI sports since the school was a pre-four-year institution in 1976.

The CSI Student-Athlete Advisory Committee presented their Inspiration Award, given this year to Women's Basketball star and senior Mallory Amencios, who battled multiple injuries to aid her team in 2009-2010. The SAAC also awarded its inaugural G.L.O.V.E. Award to Head Coach Michael Mauro and the CSI Baseball Team for their model of Giving, Leading, Organizing, Volunteering, and Encouraging.

"It seems as if our banquet grows each year because the list of laurels gets greater and greater," said David Pizzuto, Associate Athletic Director. "This is a fantastic event and a fitting close to our year. We have so much to be proud of and to give the students and award recipients their due is worth it."

NEW DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS Vernon Mummert

Coming to the College of Staten Island by way of North Central College, Vernon Mummert has been tabbed as the College of Staten Island's new Director of Athletics and Recreation. A veteran for over three decades in upper athletics administration, Mummert has served as an athletic director at the NCAA, NAIA, and NJCAA. He replaced Paul Bobb, whose one-year appointment as Interim Athletic Director came to a close at the end of June. Mummert commenced his position on July 15.

As director, Mummert will oversee operations of CSI's intercollegiate and intramural athletics program, consisting of 13 varsity sports housed within The City University of New York Athletic Conference. He will also oversee operations of the Sports and Recreation Center and its surrounding facilities, including membership services, staffing, and external relations. He holds a Master's of Education Degree in Administration and Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Education, both from McDaniel College.

Mummert's travels have taken him to five different campuses, spanning over 30 years in athletics administration. Beginning at nearby NCAA Division III Drew University in 1977, Mummert spent 17 years with the Rangers program, coaching both soccer and tennis, and later assuming Director of Athletics duties, a position he held until 1994. Mummert then traveled west to Prescott, AZ, as Director of Athletics at Yavapai College, a Division I member of the National Junior College Athletic Association, a position he held for four years.

In 1998, Mummert went back to the NCAA Division III ranks, joining Wabash College in Crawfordsville, IN as Athletic Director, where he served for a decade. While at Wabash, Mummert was honored with the prestigious NCAA DIII Central



Region Athletic Director of the Year Award, given to him by the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics. He then enjoyed one year at the University of Texas at Brownsville (NAIA Division I) before serving at North Central College in Naperville, IL, where, as an Assistant Athletic Director, he oversaw athletics facilities and events this past year.

"I am very excited to have been the College's choice for this prestigious position," noted Mummert. "I am very eager to get on board with President Morales to bring our institution to the next level."

"I'm really looking forward to building those bridges at Staten Island to help us get to where we want to go locally, regionally, and nationally. Getting more teams into the NCAA postseason, getting more recognition for our teams, and working with faculty to create a more harmonious community is very exciting. We want to complement the educational experience for our students at CSI and I'm looking forward to getting started."

Born in Baltimore, Mummert plans to reside in Staten Island, with his wife, Susan. He is the father of two daughters, Lauren and Megan, and a son, Matthew.

CSI Foundation
Board Welcomes
**ROBERT
SCAMARDELLA '72**



The College of Staten Island (CSI) Foundation Board of Directors has elected Robert Scamardella to a three-year term.

Robert Scamardella is a graduate of the College of Staten Island, Class of 1972. He later received his Juris Doctorate from Brooklyn Law School. Scamardella is a partner with the firm Russo, Scamardella and D'Amato, PC on Staten Island. In addition he has served as Adjunct Professor of Business Law at Wagner College, and Assistant District Attorney, Richmond County. Scamardella is also a member of the Richmond County Bar Association, a member and Immediate Past Chairman of the Board of Managers of the Staten Island YMCA, and a member of other non-profits.

Robert Cutrona, CSI Foundation Board President says, "Robert is a welcome addition to the Foundation Board. Along with his high standing in our community, he is a passionate advocate for higher education and CSI in particular. Robert is an inspiring force to those around him, and I look forward to working with him."



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Reach for the Stars!

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Saturday Evening, December 4, 2010



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