CSI in the News

November 2009
# Table of Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ads</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty &amp; Staff</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stories</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students &amp; Alumni</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ads
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Arts
Today's Family & Kids Activites in Bronx-Nov 8

There are many choices for families and children in New York City, and during the spring and summer NYC has many kids and family activities that include concerts, museum exhibitions, arts and crafts, nature walks in local parks, and many other outdoor activities. Here are some of today's kids and family activities in The Bronx, from nature hikes to kid-friendly performances!

5K Turkey Trot Benefit Run - Herb Reisman Sports Complex
November 08, 2009 - Spring Valley

Families are welcome at this 8th annual event. Postrace activities include refreshments, raffles, a bounce castle and DJ for non-runners. Rain date November 15.

Make a Thanksgiving Centerpiece - Katonah Art Center
November 08, 2009 - Katonah

Make a unique Thanksgiving centerpiece to display at the holiday table. Materials are included.

Fiddler On The Roof - Plaza Productions at the Bellmore Movies
November 08, 2009 - Bellmore

Celebrate tradition as Tevye struggles to raise five daughters according to the ways of the Good Book. The award-winning score includes "If I Were a Rich Man," "To Life," "Sunrise,Sunset," and "Matchmaker."

The Flying Karamazov Brothers - The Ridgefield Playhouse
November 08, 2009 - Ridgefield

See this juggling and comedy troupe who blend nouveau cirque, visual music, dance, and theatre into their new show, 4Play. Children and senior tickets are only available through the Box Office.

Ballet Hispanico - Queens Theatre in the Park
November 08, 2009 - Flushing

The dancers of Ballet Hispanico perform versatile programs demonstrating Latino rhythms and contemporary choreographic perspectives.

Nature in November: Changing Leaves on Deciduous Trees - Suffolk County Farm and Education Center
November 08, 2009 - Yaphank

Learn why leaves change color in the Fall and identify common species of deciduous trees with a Cornell Cooperative Extension educator. Then, create a decorative and scientific leaf print to take home. Pre-registration suggested.

The Big Apple - Brooklyn Children’s Museum
November 08, 2009 - Brooklyn

Enjoy the harvest season and explore the big apple...the fruit, that is! Come learn
limited.

**All-School Open House - Green Meadow Waldorf School**
November 08, 2009 - Spring Valley

Meet teachers and parents, experience sample lessons, and receive an overview of the curriculum. Registration is requested.

**TeenLINK ? How to Respond to Challenging Questions About the Israeli-Arab Conflict - Rosenthal JCC**
November 08, 2009 - Pleasantville

Learn the historical facts, analytical skills and key values that empower you to understand and articulate the complexities of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Pre-registration is required.

**Cole Kettle Hike - Westmoreland Sanctuary**
November 08, 2009 - Bedord Corners

Go on a 3-mile hike to Cole Kettle and find out what makes this area so special.

**Nanny McPhee - Jacob Burns Film Center**
November 08, 2009 - Pleasantville

Emma Thompson portrays a dour governess with an alarming appearance and magical powers who's hired to tame a widower's bratty brood.

**The Shangri-La Chinese Acrobats - Center for the Arts, College of Staten Island**
November 08, 2009 - Staten Island

This multifaceted and multicultural production features dazzling acrobatic displays, formidable feats of daring and balance, explosive kung fu, brilliant costumes, and hilarious Chinese comedy.

**The Golden Bird - Warner Library**
November 08, 2009 - Tarrytown

Singing Harp presents this wondrous Grimm's tale of trust, treachery, hope, and despair, in which goodness prevails. Masks, movement, storytelling, and live harp music.

**Center Stage: Spuyten Duyvil - Hudson River Museum**
November 08, 2009 - Yonkers

Celebrate the alternative folk, roots, traditional, and acoustic music that conjures the American experience.

**Greenwich Village History & Dessert Tour - NYC Discovery Walking Tours**
Through November 08, 2009 -

Emphasizes the history of the Village -? from wealthy Victorian neighborhood to 20th century bohemian center-- and its personalities, from Washington to Bob Dylan.
The Lovin' Spoonful to play Center for the Arts

By Ben Johnson
November 12, 2009, 10:00AM

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- By the time founder John Sebastian played Woodstock, he had left rock band The Lovin’ Spoonful. But bandmate and current lead singer Joe Butler was not far away.

"I was at Woodstock but certainly not on the stage," says Butler, 68. "I was in the mud and the guts and the gore with the civilians."

Butler’s populism isn’t surprising, and you’ll likely see and hear some of it at 8 p.m. Nov. 13 when The Lovin’ Spoonful plays the College of Staten Island’s Center for the Arts, 2800 Victory Blvd., Willowbrook.

After all, the drummer and vocalist has been making his home in the city long enough to remember enjoying a Greenwich Village full of folkies and bohemians. He’s got a sense of humor about his generation though: One of his early bands before Spoonful was called The Sellouts — a joke on the folk movement’s accusations of betrayal leveled at anyone playing rock ‘n’ roll.

The good-humored drummer and vocalist sure joined up with the right musical outfit. The Lovin’ Spoonful — named after a Mississippi John Hurt lyric — had some serious subsequent rock ‘n’ roll hits, like "Summer in The City" and "Do You Believe in Magic."

Sebastian left the band near the end of the 1960s to pursue other musical projects, and Butler eventually moved from behind the drum kit to front the band. Still playing with original bassist Steve Boone and multi-instrumentalist Jerry Yester, Butler says The Lovin’ Spoonful of today sticks with a live format that has always worked.
"Sometimes I'll peek at somebody else's set list and they're doing six songs in 40 minutes," says Butler. "We do the three-minute format. Leave people wanting more. It's exactly how it used to be. Everybody gets to strut their stuff and give it over to the next guy — like basketball."

Still a resident of Manhattan's West Village, Butler’s seen his part of the city change drastically.

"The West Village? We're a destination now," Butler says with a chuckle. "Little streets and cute little spots, nothing over five stories — those days are gone forever. And at the risk of being an old fart, it's way too noisy. Crazy noisy. And everybody's a model or a millionaire."

Tickets for the band’s Staten Island show are $35 and $40. For more information, call 718-982-2787 or visit CFAshows.com.

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Mozart acting his age at CSI concert

By MICHAEL J. FRESSOLA
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Some listeners took the informal idea of divertimentos a little too literally the other night at the College of Staten Island’s Center for the Arts. But good news first.

The occasion was another visit by musicians of the New York Philharmonic, underwritten by Michael Shuegrue, the CSI English professor who has apparently devoted his retirement to ensuring that metro-class concerts occur regularly on campus.

The latest was an all-Mozart program of divertimentos, items of music written as the unapologetic soundtrack of fancy 18th-century social occasions. Mood music? Sort of. Lightweight? Not at all.

Not that you could see the effort. The NY Phil ensemble — violins Sheryl Staples and Michelle King, viola Robert Rinehart, cello Eric Bartlett, bass Satoshi Okamoto and horns Erik Ralske and Howard Wall — familiar to many in the nearly SRO audience from previous visits, played both divertimentos as if they were nothing.

Mozart wrote the first one, B flat Major (K 287), at age 21 in 1777 when he was already a prematurely seasoned composer.

It’s lively and intricate. It sounds young and hyper. Themes move all over the instrumentation, as if the arrangement were intended to trick the musicians even as it diverts the listener. There’s a lot of humor — like the repeated dumb four-note horn phrase in one movement — not all of it sweet or innocent.

The lead violin, Ms. Staples, had so much to do, the piece might be more accurately billed as a work for violin, with accompaniment.

The composer was two years older when he wrote the other divertimento on the program, D Major (K 34), but who can really say why it’s a little darker and deeper and a little less of a show-off. It’s more generous. The bass has more to do; horns too.

Everyone played well and moved well. It was easy to get absorbed in watching the musicians, as they signaled each other, appropriating each other’s rhythms, body language and excitement.

Unfortunately, some guests — tickets are free — seemingly took the idea of divertimentos to mean that anything goes. One character actually opened a noisy bag of potato chips during the second half. Where did he imagine he was? The movies? The fights?

Pianist Benjamin Hochman will give the next concert in the series March 11 at 7:30 p.m.
Top-notch entertainment that’s close to home

Don’t overlook College of Staten Island when it comes to entertainment options, many events free

By JAMIE LEE
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

WILLOWBROOK — Most don’t believe it, but local residents with an appreciation for the fine arts don’t have to head to Manhattan for the bright lights of Broadway or exhibitions at big-city museums.

A much shorter, less costly trip to Willowbrook is all that is required.

The College of Staten Island’s Department of Performing and Creative Arts has a full calendar of events throughout the next month, right up until the student portion of the campus closes for the holiday recess.

With “One Flea Spare” — a dramatic adaptation of Naomi Wallace’s play directed by Maurya Wickstrom — having wrapped up this past weekend, the remainder of the schedule is centered mainly on music.

Pick something, then go see it:

**Nov. 23-Dec. 14** — In the Student Art Gallery (Rm. 118B), there will be a sculpture and drawing exhibition. Included are stone and metal works made in the introductory, intermediate and advanced sculpture classes taught by Ralph Martel and Marianne Weil. There will also be black and white graphite and pastel drawings from Martel’s painting classes. For Student Gallery hours, call Tracey Jones at 718-982-3118. Admission is free.

**Dec. 1** — At 7:30 p.m. in the Recital Hall (Rm. 120), violinist Gerry Gallardo will perform solo. Admission is free.

**Dec. 8** — At 7:30 p.m. in the Recital Hall (Rm. 120), senior flutist Amanda Siuzdak will play at no charge.

**Dec. 9** — At 7:30 p.m. in the Recital Hall (Rm. 120), the Young Artists of the CSI Music Program will present a fall recital. Admission is $5.

**Dec. 9** — At 2:30 p.m. in the Recital Hall (Rm. 120), the CSI Chorus, directed by Marina Alexander, will perform a group recital. Coinciding with the annual visit of the Three Kings, attendees are welcome to greet the Magi and receive a gift from them. Admission is $5.

**Dec. 9** — At 7:30 p.m. in the Williamson Theatre, the College will hold its Fall Dance Recital, directed by Charles Thomas and Niambi Keyes. Admission is $7 for non-students and $5 for students and seniors.

**Dec. 11** — At 7:30 p.m. in the Concert Hall, the annual Kwanzaa Celebration, coordinated by Thomas, will be held. Admission is free.

The College of Staten Island’s Department of Performing and Creative Arts recently put on the performance of “One Flea Spare,” an adaptation of Naomi Wallace’s play which was directed by Maurya Wickstrom. Above, Mr. William Snellgrage, played by Ernest Causi, has a philosophical discussion with Morse, played by

— Department of Performing and Creative Arts productions are performed inside the Center for the Arts, located in Building 12, on the grounds of the College of Staten Island, 2800 Victory Blvd., Willowbrook. All performance events, the times and schedules of which are subject to change, are CLUE-certified for CSI students. For additional information about productions, call 718-982-2520 or 718-982-ARTS (2787).}

Jamie Lee is a reporter for the Staten Island Advance. He covers the West and South Shores and may be reached at jamielee@siadvance.com.
Faculty & Staff
Project Hospitality held its Fall Dinner where awards were presented to community activists who assist the not-for-profit in its mission. Here, from left, College of Staten Island President Dr. Tomas Morales and his wife, Evy, receive the Les Trautmann Memorial Award from Norma D'Arrigo and Beverly Garcia-Anderson.
CUNY Honors New Presidents

A Celebration of CUNY Month
At Twenty-Three Campuses

Recently, the entire staff of CUNY, under the leadership of Chancellor Matthew Goldstein and President Russell K. Rutstein, gathered at the historic CUNY City of New York, to celebrate the addition of three new college presidents: Dr. Karen Gould, Brooklyn College; Dr. Felix Matos Rodriguez, Hunter Community College; and Dr. William Pollard, Medgar Evers College. “CUNY Month is a celebration of the people and programs that enrich every part of the University,” said Chancellor Matthew Goldstein.

And what a stunning array of offerings, careers, doctoral programs, and brilliant opportunities to shape and enrich our future! There are constituent campuses throughout New York City offering a variety of coursework and careers ranging from law to journalism, from business to social work, from medicine to teaching.

It’s a great time to visit the CUNY campus of your choice this November during CUNY Month.

Vice Chair Philip J. Alston, CUNY Board of Trustees and President Russell K. Rutstein, NYC College of Technology

Dr. Christine Cuj, NYU, New York University, President Tomás Morales, College of Staten Island, Trustee Rita Simarino, CUNY B-51

Dr. Peter Zimbardo, CUNY and President Gregory Williams, City College of New York

President Jennifer J. Rea, Hunter College and Chair Donna Schmidt, CUNY Board of Trustees

The City University of New York

New Presidents: Karen L. Gould, Brooklyn College; William L. Pollard, Medgar Evers College; and Felix Matos Rodriguez, Hunter CC

President Ricardo R. Fernández, Lehman College

President Regina E. Peruggi, Kingsborough CC

President Eduardo J. Martí, Queensborough CC

President Jeremy Travis, John Jay College of Criminal Justice
West Coast ‘vagrant’ welcomed here

By Kathryn Carse
November 04, 2009, 3:37PM

STAPLETON -- A vagrant landed in Howie Fischer's back yard one recent Saturday afternoon. This is not normally a welcome occasion. But Fischer was thrilled and immediately put the word out; soon after, folks began arriving at his Stapleton home as if royalty had landed.

The unexpected visitor is a selasphorus — Rufous and Allen — hummingbird. A common inhabitant of the West Coast, it was far off its migratory trail between Alaska and Mexico. In birding circles, that qualified it as a vagrant. The Rufous and Allen hummingbirds, nearly indistinguishable, both turn up frequently in the East; however this was a first sighting on Staten Island.

If you have seen a hummingbird on Staten Island, it’s likely a Ruby-throated one. This year, local birders have commented on the unusual numbers seen at feeders and flowers.

So small is the hummingbird, that it can easily be mistaken momentarily for a big insect. If its movement doesn’t attract attention, its whirring — or humming — wings will.

With its characteristically long thin beak, used to probe tubular flowers for nectar, the hummingbird can fly forward and back with its quickly beating wings.

Most hummers have some iridescent feathers and like a jewel, the bird’s colors seem to change with the light. Many of the males also sport a gorget, that in spring appears to be a brilliantly colored little chain
maille scarf at the neck.

Fischer called a few key people to spread news of the bird’s sighting, including resident expert Dr. Richard Veit, ornithologist at the College of Staten Island, and Seth Wollney, public program associate at the Staten Island Museum, both of whom came by. Wollney, in turn, started the electronic drumbeat — texting local bird chasers and posting a notice on the SI Naturalist home page.

The rufous and Allen hummingbirds are nearly indistinguishable except for the amount of color in a few tail feathers, but the consensus is that this is a rufous hummingbird.

By this time of year, the ruby-throated hummingbirds are on their way to Central America where they winter. Fischer said he always keeps his feeders out after they are gone in the hopes that a West Coast hummer gone astray will find it.

“Late in the season is when rare hummingbirds show up,” said Fischer.

The arrival of Teddy, so nicknamed for Fischer’s Aunt Theodore with whom he was talking on the phone when he spotted the bird, was a long awaited reward. In the shadow of Wagner College’s Grymes Hill campus, his terraced yard is still full of flowers. Fuschia, Texas Dwarf salvia, and bouvardia from Mexico where the little guy was supposed to be wintering, are closest to sugar-water feeders.

Although it can zip off in a flash, the elegant hummer did not mind being observed from just a few yards away.

Fischer had visitors all day on a recent Saturday and Sunday afternoon: Cliff Hagen and his two daughters, Erin and Kate; Ed Johnson, director of science at the Staten Island Museum and his son Zach; Anne Purcell, Catherine Barron, Matt Savoca, Dave Eib also stopped by.

The bird seemed to favor a butterfly bush and tomato cages as perches, but it also swooped up to lofty tree branches.

On a recent visit it wasn’t long before we spotted it flitting in an evergreen. Soon enough, though, it was at the feeder to sip some sugar-water elixir, hovering in full view between sips. A tiny bit of the iridescent red-orange at its neck that flames out in spring was visible.

“It’s not usual for something totally new to show up,” said Johnson. The last bird new to the Island — an ash throated flycatcher — flew in between five and 10 years ago. A tufted duck, a great white heron and a roseate spoonbill have also shown up in the last 20 years, said Johnson. And Gloria Deppe spotted a black-headed grosbeak at her feeder about 10 years ago.

Although not a first-sighting, the appearance of the unique scissor-tailed flycatcher caused quite a stir this summer when it was spotted by Cliff Hagen in Fresh Kills, but it didn’t stick around long enough for many others to see.

Fischer is hoping Teddy sticks around. After a 12-day string of sightings, including the weekend of the nor’easters, he disappeared, and Fischer realized with a jolt how attached he had become.

He had a surprise on Sunday. Teddy reappeared, apparently having hung out at a neighbor’s. Perhaps he needed a break in the celebrity status which has included a string of visitors, including photographers, and a father and son from Connecticut. The son, who is being treated for cancer, is a birding enthusiast and his father treated him to the trip to see the hummer and a cackling goose on the grounds of Mount Loretto
Staten Island Elects Its First Black Council Member

By A. G. SULZBERGER

Staten Island has long been unique in this racially diverse city: a borough where whites constitute the vast majority. But over the last few decades and particularly in recent years, people of other races have been increasingly calling the island home.

From 1990 to 2000, the percentage of residents who identified themselves as black increased to 8.9 percent from 7.4 percent, according to census data [pdf], and in the most recent survey from 2008, the figure increased to 10.1 percent.

Now, for the first time, Staten Island will have a black City Council member. Deborah L. Rose, a Democrat who also ran with the backing of the Working Families Party, easily won the race on Tuesday with 57.3 percent of the vote, with the rest split by candidates on the Republican and Conservative lines.

A lifelong Staten Island resident who was a longtime member of Community Board 1 and runs a program at the College of Staten Island that discourages local students from dropping out of high school, Ms. Rose was making her third bid for City Council.

“This has been a very long journey to get here,” Ms. Rose said, adding that her victory should dispel stereotypes about Staten Island. “People went to the polls, and it wasn’t important that I was black, it wasn’t important that I was a woman, it was important that I was a vocal advocate and tenacious.”

(Video of the victory party — she dances at the end — was posted on the Web site of The Staten Island Advance.)

Ms. Rose, 57, will replace Kenneth C. Mitchell, whose tenure was most noteworthy for its brevity. In February, Mr. Mitchell narrowly defeated Ms. Rose in a special election to replace Michael E. McMahon, who was elected to Congress. (Mr. Mitchell had served as Mr. McMahon’s chief of staff and general counsel.)

The September primary offered a rematch between the two candidates, but this time Ms. Rose took 55 percent to Mr. Mitchell’s 39 percent. Mr. Mitchell remained on the ballot as the Conservative candidate in Tuesday’s general election, but won just 26.3 percent. Ms. Rose first ran for the seat in 2001.
The North Shore district that Ms. Rose will represent is where much of Staten Island’s increasing racial diversity has been concentrated. The district was 47.9 percent white, 22.6 percent black, 5.7 percent Asian and 20.4 percent Hispanic in the 2000 census. The other two districts, by comparison, were 2.1 percent black and 0.9 percent black, according to that census. (Some residents call the expressway that divides the diverse urban area from the mostly white and suburban end of the borough “the Mason-Dixon line.”)

Ms. Rose said the North Shore community was the most neglected in the borough, jumping into a well-rehearsed list of complaints and proposals from her campaign. Part of the problem, she said, is that for a long time people of color have not felt represented. “They were pretty much marginalized, and they were tired of it,” she said.
DEBI ROSE MAKES STATEN ISLAND HISTORY

Council member-elect is first African American ever to win an election here. Story, Page A 7.

Staten Island Advance
HER PLACE IN ISLAND HISTORY

Borough finally turns page with election of African American to Council post

By JUDY L. RANDALL
STATION ISLAND ADVANCE

Democrat Debi Rose scored a decisive victory in the race for the North Shore City Council seat last night, and in the process became the first African American elected from the borough.

"Tonight, we made history on Staten Island," Ms. Rose told a raucous crowd of Democrats who gathered for a victory celebration in the Vanderbilt, South Beach. "We broke all the old stereotypes. The old things people said about Staten Island, that would not happen, could not happen, we did. I stand here tonight so proud to be the first African American elected from Staten Island."

Ms. Rose, 57, a college administrator from Arlington making her third run at the seat she first sought in 2001, captured 67 percent, or 13,784 votes, in the heavily Democratic district that encompasses the most racially and ethnically diverse neighborhoods in the borough.

She beat incumbent Kenneth Mitchell, a Democrat who retained the Conservative line after losing the Democratic primary to her; he got 26 percent, or 6,232 votes. First-time Republican candidate Timothy Kuhn of Stapleton took 17 percent, or 3,063 votes.

Ms. Rose’s win also means it is the first time in Staten Island’s history the borough will be represented by three women, all Democrats. She joins state Sen. Diane Savino and Assemblywoman Janiele Hyer-Spencer.

While it was a jubilant Ms. Rose, in a stylish black suit and suede pumps, who entered the Vanderbilt to chants of “Debi! Debi!” she first stopped at her campaign headquarters in Concord in a bow to a throng of supporters who had been with her from the beginning. Wanting to dance, she asked a campaign worker to crank up the music. She swayed and clapped her hands, stopping to bestow her trademark hugs.

The councilwoman-elect told the party faithful that her win should be seen as a signal that North Shore residents craved a “progressive Democrat.” And in a nod to her once-outsider status in the party, Ms. Rose said: “Now we are mainstream; we used to be grassroots. … We had bridges to cross and we crossed them; we didn’t burn them.”

Afterwards, Ms. Rose told the Advance, “I have a lot of expectations to live up to. Everybody put their trust in me.” She put transportation, education and health care at the top of her agenda for the four-year term ahead.

Ms. Rose’s victory represented the only real bright spot on the local political landscape for Democrats, who saw their other two other Council candidates and their candidate for borough president go down to defeat.

But Democrats chose to look beyond those losses and concentrate on Ms. Rose’s success.

“Her win is fantastic and a real plus for the party,” said Chairman John Gulino. “It speaks volumes about Staten Island. It says we are part of the city, that we are an inclusive borough.”

“She did this on her own; she wasn’t anybody’s daughter, anybody’s wife,” said Rose supporter Cindy Lowney of West Brighton.

“For women, for African Americans, this is a great, great victory.”

Said Shirley Gumbs of Silver Lake: “I held her in my arms when she was a baby, I have seen a dream come true.”

Meanwhile, Mitchell and Kuhn, who gathered with Republicans and Conservatives in the Excelsior Grand, New Dorp, wouldn’t rule out another run. Still, said Mitchell, “I look forward to serving Staten Island and the North Shore in another capacity.”

During her remarks, Ms. Rose was flanked by her father, Louis Carrrington, and her companion, Manny Braxton, whose birthday she confessed she had forgotten in the waning days of the campaign. To make it up to him, she had a cake brought out and led a chorus of “Happy Birthday.”

Earlier in the evening, before the results were in, a supporter approached Ms. Rose, saying, “I’m going to kiss you now because I know after you win I’m not going to be able to get close to you.”

“Oh, you will,” replied Ms. Rose. “I promise you, you will.”

Judy L. Randall is a news reporter for the Advance. She may be reached at randall@sidadvance.com.
Debi Rose is the first African American to win an election on Staten Island. What are your thoughts on this historic occasion?

“I'm very proud of her. For minorities, this represents freedom, and also a powerful front for us to be able to do anything because of what she achieved.”
— Sharmalee Perera, 40, St. George

“I think her election will greatly change politics on Staten Island. ... Not only is she African American, but the best candidate won.”
— Alex Baltovski, 23, New Dorp

“Debi has worked hard to make advancements in literacy, education, advocacy of services, not just for blacks, but seniors, students, everyone. ... This is an extraordinary victory.”
— Brandon Stradford, 40, St. George

“I was surprised that we had a black man in the White House and a black governor in Albany before we had a black City Council member from Staten Island, so her election says Staten Island has caught up to the rest of America.”
— Dow Kevin Buford, 53, Clifton

“Staten Island has a very closed mentality, but she will bring new blood. ... Her election means we are moving in the right direction.”
— Ellen Hayes, 55, Graniteville

“It made me proud to vote for her and see her win because she is African American and I am Hispanic. Her win means we are all getting equal.”
— Nancy Moran, 23, Willowbrook

— Compiled by Kiawana Rich and Doug Auer
THIS ISSUE’S CONTRIBUTORS

Bao Pu, a political commentator and veteran human rights activist, is one of the translators and editors of *Prisoner of the State: The Secret Journal of Premier Zhao Ziyang*. He is also a publisher and editor with New Century Press, which published the Chinese version of *Prisoner of the State* in Hong Kong. He holds a master’s degree in international relations and public administration from Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School.

Chen Ziming is an economist and journalist who was sentenced to 13 years’ imprisonment for counterrevolutionary activities in February 1991. He was awarded the International Press Freedom award by the Committee to Protect Journalists later that year. In 2004, he helped set up a website called Reform and Construction, but the site was shut down by authorities in August 2005.

Ngawang Choephel Drakmargyapon is the President of Tibetan UN Advocacy, which was established in 2007 to ensure effective participation by the Tibetan people at the United Nations and its various branches. Tibetan UN Advocacy is based in Geneva, Switzerland, where Mr. Drakmargyapon also resides.

Gao Wenqian is the Senior Policy Advisor and Editor-in-Chief of Chinese Publications at Human Rights in China. A former researcher at the CPC Central Research Office for Documentation, he immigrated to the United States in 1993. He is the author of *Zhou Enlai: The Last Perfect Revolutionary*.

Regina Hackett is an art critic based in Seattle. She writes the blog Another Bouncing Ball on ArtsJournal.

Temtsel Hao, a London-based journalist who produces radio, online news, and current affairs content, and writes political comment and analysis. He travels frequently to China covering a variety of topics. His research concerns Chinese nationalism and media freedom.

He Qinglian, an economist and author of *China’s Pitfall* and *Media Control in China*, is a Senior Researcher in Residence with Human Rights in China. A graduate of Hunan Normal University, with a master’s degree in economics from Shanghai’s Fudan University, He Qinglian worked in the propaganda department of the municipal Communist Party Committee in Shenzhen before becoming a writer and editor for the Shenzhen Legal Daily. She has also previously worked at Jinan University. He Qinglian moved to the United States in 2001.
Hu Ping is the New York-based editor of the Chinese-language monthly *Beijing Spring*, and is a member of the board of directors of Human Rights in China.

Christine Loh, co-chair of the board of directors of Human Rights in China, is the CEO of the non-profit think tank *Civic Exchange*, based in Hong Kong. Loh is a lawyer by training, a commodities trader by profession, and was a member of the Hong Kong Legislative Council; 1992–1997 and 1998–2000. She was responsible for a number of historic legislative reforms, including giving the right to inherit land to indigenous women in rural areas, and passing legislation to protect Victoria Harbor from reclamation. Loh is well-known for her work in environmental protection and climate change, and is an adviser to numerous international bodies. She was named one of the *Heroes of the Environment by Time magazine* in 2007.

Andrew Nathan is Class of 1919 Professor of Political Science at Columbia University. He is the co-editor of *The Tiananmen Papers* and *How East Asians View Democracy*, and is co-chair of the board of directors of Human Rights in China.

Wang Lixiong is an independent Chinese scholar, and is well-known for his research on ethnic issues in China. In 2009 he was one of 100 signatories to a petition that called on Chinese authorities to release Ilham Tohti, an ethnic Uyghur professor of economics.

Xia Ming is a Professor of Political Science at the College of Staten Island and the Graduate Center, the City University of New York. He is the author of several books, including *The Dual Developmental State: Development Strategy and Institutional Arrangements for China’s Transition* and *Toward a Network Mode of Governance: The Provincial People’s Congresses in China*. He is also a co-producer of the HBO documentary, *China’s Unnatural Disaster: The Tears of Sichuan Province* (2009). He is currently working on a book about organized crime and the criminal underworld in China.

Yan Li is a Chinese avant-garde poet, novelist, and painter. He was born in Beijing in 1954. In the late 1970s, he became associated with the Stars Group of artists and writers, and the Misty Poets, both of whom are noted for their subversion of social realism through reliance on emotion and personal imagery. In the mid-1980s, he moved to New York, where he founded the magazine *First Line* (Yi Hang), which collected the writings of many contemporary Chinese poets and translated American poetry. His work has been translated into French, English, Italian, Swedish, Korean, and German. Yan’s paintings have been displayed in the Fukuoka Art Museum in Japan and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai.

Zan Aizong has been a reporter, editor, and columnist for a number of newspapers, including *China Ocean News* and *China Communication News*. He was put in criminal detention in 2006 on charges of “spreading rumors harmful to society” for his reporting on the demolition of a Christian church in Zhejiang. He received the Lin Chao Memorial Award from the Independent Chinese PEN Center in 2007. In 2008,
he made a formal application to start his own privately-owned newspaper, *China Truth Report*.

**Zhang Hongtu** was born in Gansu Province. He immigrated to the United States in 1982, and has lived and worked as an artist in New York since that time. Many of his earlier works made use of the iconic image of Chairman Mao. In recent years, the theme of crossing national boundaries dominates Zhang’s works, such as a rendering of a traditional Chinese painting in the unmistakable Van Gogh style and a Ming vase in the shape of a Coke bottle. Zhang’s works have been exhibited worldwide.

**Zhao Yan** was the chief correspondent of the online journal, *China Reform*.

**This Issue’s Translators**

**J. Latourelle** is a California-based translator and writer who can be reached at j.latourelle@sbcglobal.net.

**Wen Huang** is a Chicago-based writer and freelance journalist whose articles and translations have been published in *The Wall Street Journal Asia*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Paris Review*, the *South China Morning Post*, and the *Christian Science Monitor*. His translations include Chinese writer Liao Yiwu’s *The Corpse Walker: True Life Stories, China from the Bottom Up*, published by Pantheon in 2008 (now available in paperback), and Yang Xianhui’s *Woman from Shanghai*, released by Pantheon in August 2009. Wen is a recipient of the 2007 PEN Translation Fund Grant.
Wednesday, November 11, 2009

CNN fretting: 'Right-wing' backlash against Muslims
Claims 'some already reaching conclusions' on motivation behind Fort Hood massacre

By Aaron Klein

TEL AVIV – A column on a "right wing" website suggesting an Islamic motivation for last week's Fort Hood shooting massacre may help generate a backlash against American Muslim soldiers, according to CNN.

On CNN's American Morning show yesterday, reporter Carol Costello quoted the mother of a Muslim U.S. soldier as fearing "a backlash against Muslim American soldiers."

"She knows some are already reaching conclusions as to why Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan allegedly opened fire on his fellow soldiers," Costello stated.

Continued Costello: "The right-wing website, Pajamas Media, is an example. Phyllis Chesler writing, 'I knew in my bones that the shooter or shooters were Muslim. We must connect the dots before it's too late.'"

(Story continues below)

Costello was referring to a Pajamas Media column entitled "The Jihadist is always the victim," in which Chesler quoted from widespread reports of Hasan's ties to militant Islam.

Chesler wrote, "The only answer most people want to hear is that a lone, psychiatrically deranged shooter did it. All by himself, on his own."

"They may be right. Sometimes. And yet … the same Instant Personal Jihad Syndrome once led another Palestinian, Sirhan Sirhan, to shoot Robert Kennedy in cold blood."

Get "Muslim Mafia: Inside the Secret Underworld That's Conspiring to Islamize America," autographed, from WND's Superstore.

Newsbusters notes Chesler herself does not exactly fit with CNN's grouping of "right wing."

Chesler, professor emerita of psychology and women's studies at the College of Staten Island, has been a noted feminist activist who co-founded the National Women's Health Network and the Association for Women in Psychology. She is the author of thirteen books, including "Women and Madness," "Woman's
Inhumanity to Woman" and "The Death of Feminism."

In a 1998 interview with Time magazine about feminism, Chesler stated that "a woman’s body is her own, and she should not be invaded against her will by a rapist, nor should she be prevented from having an abortion."

"Clearly, Chesler is no huge 'right-winger,' as Costello would have one believe," noted Newsbusters.

Chesler is a prominent critic of Islamic extremism and is a supporter of Israel.

In her 2003 book, "The New Anti-Semitism," Chesler argues that anti-Zionism and attacks against Israel are nearly indistinguishable from anti-Semitism.

A website run by Revolution Muslim honored Hasan, the man accused of killing 13 people at Fort Hood in Texas, as an "officer and a gentleman," saying his actions should not be denounced.

The massacre, which also left more than two dozen injured, was called a "pre-emptive attack" by supporters of the group.

Hasan, a Muslim psychiatrist who reportedly had been disciplined for pushing Islam on his patients at one point in his career, had given away his furniture and handed out Qurans before allegedly going to the military post and firing on soldiers at a processing center where soldiers prepared to deploy.

"Get Well Soon Major Nidal We Love You," said the website run by radicals who follow an imam once jailed in Britain. "Major Nidal Hasan M.D. An officer and a gentleman was injured while partaking in a pre-emptive attack."

Also posted on: JewishIndy - Newsbusters.org
Is Fur a Jewish Issue?
Richard H. Schwartz

Jewish worshipers chant every Sabbath morning, “The soul of every living being shall praise God’s name.” Yet, some come to synagogue during the winter months wearing coats that require the cruel treatment of animals.

Judaism has beautiful and powerful teachings with regard to showing compassion to animals. Moses and King David were considered worthy to be leaders of the Jewish people because of their compassionate treatment of animals when they were shepherds. Rebecca was judged suitable to be a wife of the patriarch Isaac because of her kindness in watering the ten camels of Eliezer, Abraham’s servant. Rabbi Yehuda the Prince, the redactor of the Mishna, was punished for many years at the hand of Heaven for speaking callously to a calf being led to slaughter who sought refuge beside him.

Many Torah laws mandate proper treatment of animals. One may not muzzle an ox while it is working in the field nor yoke a strong and a weak animal together. Animals, as well as their masters, are meant to rest on the Sabbath day. The importance of this concept is indicated by the fact that it is mentioned in the Ten Commandments and on every Sabbath morning as part of the kiddush ceremony.

The Pain of Fur-Bearing Animals

Fur is obtained from animals who are either trapped or raised on ranches. Both involve treatment of animals that is far from Jewish teachings of compassion.

Animals caught in steel-jaw leg hold traps suffer slow, agonizing deaths. Some are attacked by predators, freeze to death, or chew off their own legs to escape. It has been said that one can get a “feel for fur” by slamming your fingers in a car door.

Over 100 million wild animals are killed for their pelts every year. Many species of animals killed for their furs have become endangered or have disappeared completely from some regions. Millions of animals not wanted by trappers, including dogs, cats, and birds, die in traps annually and are discarded as “trash animals.” Many trapped animals leave behind dependent offspring who are doomed to starvation.

Treatment of animals raised on “fur ranches” is extremely cruel. Confined to lifelong confinement, millions of foxes, beavers, minks, ocelots, rabbits, chinchillas, and other animals await extinction with nothing to do, little room to move, and all their natural instincts thwarted. The animals are simply a means to the maximizing of production and profit, and there is no regard for their physical, mental, or emotional well-being. Because of the enforced confinement and lack of privacy, naturally wild animals often exhibit neurotic behaviors such as compulsive movements and self mutilation. The animals finally suffer hideous deaths by electrocution, by
suffocation, by poisoning, which causes painful muscle cramping, or by having their necks broken. According to the International Society for Animal Rights, Inc., to make one fur garment requires 400 squirrels; 240 ermine; 200 chinchillas; 120 muskrats; 80 sables; 50 martens; 30 raccoons; 22 bobcats; 12 lynx; or five wolves.

Is Fur Necessary?

Judaism puts human beings on a higher level than animals and indicates that animals may be harmed and even killed if an essential human need is met. However, is the wearing of fur truly necessary for people to stay warm during wintry weather? There are many non-fur coats and hats, available in a variety of styles, that provide much warmth. Imitation fur is produced at such a high level of quality that even among Chasidim there is a small but growing trend to wear synthetic “shtreimlach” (fur-trimmed hats).

In his book, “The Jewish Encyclopedia of Moral and Ethical Issues,” Rabbi Nachum Amsel, a modern Israeli educator, states: “If the only reason a person wears the fur coat is to ‘show off’ one’s wealth or to be a mere fashion statement, that would be considered to be a frivolous and not a “legitimate need.” Rabbi Amsel also points out that hunting for sport is prohibited because it is not considered a legitimate need.

What kind of lesson in Jewish values are young people getting when they see worshippers coming to synagogue in fur coats on the Sabbath day?

Not only do animals benefit from our compassion and concern — we, too, benefit by becoming more sensitive and more humane, as Jews and civilized human beings.

Richard H. Schwartz is professor emeritus of the College of Staten Island and the author of books and articles on Judaism and vegetarianism.
Aeschylus' AGAMENNON to Run Nov. 12 - 29 at La MaMa E.T.C.

by BWW News Desk

Historically, English adaptations of Aeschylus' "Agamemnon" have rendered its ancient Greek poetry into proven English poetic forms. The results have been often good and occasionally brilliant. Yet the original Greek meters provide clues as to how a section of a play was performed (sung, spoken or spoken to musical accompaniment). This has prompted Alexander Harrington, a director known for his mastery of oratorical theater, to attempt something radical: approximating Aeschylus' actual, original poetic meters in a new translation. This intrepid idea has resulted in a script of surprisingly clear stage speech and unusual poetic quality. It will debut November 12 to 29, 2009 in La MaMa's large Annex Theater, performed by The Eleventh Hour Theatre Company.

The production will also feature an original score by Michael Sirotta, a principal composer of La MaMa's Great Jones Repertory, who is setting the sung and chanted sections to music.

Greek tragedy combined song, speech and musically accompanied speech (whether it was chant, recitative or underscored speech is unknown). The plays were written in verse, but of a different nature from ours. Greek meters are based on vowel length, while English meters are based on syllable stress. Some Greek meters ( iambs, trochees, anapests, and dactyls) are easy to replicate in English; others cannot be exactly reproduced. Generally, the chorus' spoken dialogue was iambic; this is close to our every day speech. The principal characters for the most part also spoke in iambics. But in more lyrical sections, the chorus used a variety of meters. It makes the translation trickier, but it also presented Harrington and Sirotta their greatest opportunities for creativity, since it is the most evocative in a musical sense. Approximately half
of the play belongs to the chorus.

An example of how the original meters affect the delivery of the text is below. Like most of the surviving tragedies, the first choral song of "Agamemnon" begins with a march written in anapests (in Greek verse "short-short-LONG," in English verse "weak-weak-STRONG"). This rhythm is well-suited to marching:

It's been TEN long, drawn YEARS
From when PRIam's great FOE
Lord MENalaos
With my KING AgaMEMnone;
The firm LEAGUEof the SONS
Of great ATreus' HOUSE,
Sharing THRONE and joint SCEPTER
From great ZEUS of the GODS,
Did emBARK from this LAND
Thousand SHIPS to comMAND;

The choral portions are divided into sections called strophes and antistrophes, whose meters must match exactly. This adds a structural rigor to the translator's job. In Harrington's adaptation, the metrical mirroring is strictly maintained. Thus the choral songs are made up of melodic twins in which every two verses have the same tune.

The "authenticity" idea in the poetry will be extended into the play's visuals. Scholars have deduced that the heroes of Greek satyr plays were costumed similarly to those of tragedies. The costume design by Rebecca Bernstein derives from an Athenian vase painting of a satyr play, showing actors in robes with elaborate graphic designs that are quite different from the plain white chitons and draping that are commonly associated with Greek tragedy.

The actors' faces will be painted to achieve the sculptural severity of masks while allowing for facial expression. This technique was used in Harrington's 2007 production at La MaMa, "The Burial at Thebes," Seamus Heaney's adaptation of "Antigone." The severe makeup enables The Eleventh Hour to adhere to the three-actor rule. Athenian tragedies were performed by an all-male chorus and three male actors who played all the principal roles, including women. In this production, some of these male roles will be played by women.

Alexander Harrington (director, translator) is the founder and artistic director The Eleventh Hour Theatre Company, for which he has directed "The Burial at Thebes," "Henry IV, Parts 1 & 2," "Henry V" and his own adaptation of Dostoevsky's "The Brothers Karamazov (Part 2)," all at La MaMa. His Eleventh Hour Theatre productions outside La MaMa have been "Richard II" at HERE and "The Brothers Karamazov, Part 1" at The Culture Project. His first production at La MaMa was the Richmond Lattimore translation of "Agamemnon" in 1997, before he founded Eleventh Hour Theatre. His other directing credits include "Billy Budd," "Twelfth Night," "Much Ado about Nothing" and the premiere of Edward Einhorn's "Linguish." His adaptation of "The Brothers Karamazov" was published in the New York Theatre Experience's anthology "Playing with Canons." As a scholar and critic, Mr. Harrington's work has been published in "Dissent" magazine, "First of the Month," "Upstart Crow," "Shakespeare Criticism, Vol. 89" and "Literary Themes for Students: War and Peace." Along with David Mamet, he is contributing an essay on political theatre to the upcoming anthology "New Threats to Freedom." Harrington teaches acting Shakespeare at HB studio and has taught at Clemson University and the Gallatin School at NYU. He was an original member of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab and a participant in The Actors Studio Playwrights/Directors Unit.
His productions have been widely praised for their simplicity, resourcefulness, expert acting and clarity of vision. The New Yorker (Liesl Schillinger) deemed his "Brothers Karamazov, Part I" a "gem of a production," adding, "the cast is remarkable." The New York Times (Margo Jefferson) wrote that part II of the adaptation was "resourcefully staged and intelligently dramatized." The New York Post (Donald Lyons) described his "Henry V" as "superb," deeming it "a riveting meditation on the heart of the matter - the simultaneous cruelty and glamour of power."

Michael Sirotta (Composer) has collaborated frequently with Elizabeth Swados; their productions together include "The Beautiful Laey" and "Missionaries." He has a long-standing association with La MaMa's Great Jones Repertory, having been a composer, musical director and performing musician in "Danton's Death," "Mythos Oedipus," "Jerusalem," "The Monk And The Hangman's Daughter," " Fragments of a Greek Trilogy," "Seven Against Thebes," "Dionysos Filius Dei," "Carmilla," "Seven," "Perseus," "Herakles," "Romeo and Juliet" and "The Raven." He is a composer in Residence at La MaMa and has been a frequent international traveler with the company, composing, directing and performing music at theater festivals in Italy, Greece, Croatia, Austria, Serbia, and Japan. Since 1985, he has directed the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation's Kids on Stage program on Staten Island, for which he received the 2000 Achievement in the Arts and Humanities Award, presented by the Council of the Arts & Humanities of Staten Island. He is on the faculty of The College of Staten Island (CUNY), where he lectures on World Music. He received nominations for outstanding musical score at the New York Innovative Theater Awards ceremonies in 2005 and 2007.

Harrington has long admired the ritual nature and visceral power of La MaMa's Great Jones Repertory. For "Agamemnon," he sought out Great Jones veterans Michael Sirotta, Renouard Gee, Valois Mickens, and Shigeko Sara Suga, who are used to working on sung-through pieces with demanding movement and no spoken text. In the production, Harrington and the Great Jones Rep veterans aim to meld textual precision with physical rigor and visceral power. The play's principal actors are Valois Mickens (as Klutaimestra), Robert Jerardi (as Watchman, Agamemnone and Aigisthos) and Jessica Crandall (as Herald and Kassandra). The actors of the chorus are Jason Reiff, Patrick James Lynch, Michael Peterson, Peter Tedeschi, Chris Caron, Shigeko Sara Suga, Sarah Vasilas, Alyssa Wilmoth, Georgia Southern, Gillian Wiggin, Margaret O'Connell and Marcie Henderson. Choreographer is Renouard Gee. Scenic/Lighting Designer is Solomon Weisbard. Costume Designer is Rebecca Bernstein. Attic Greek consultant are Scott Emmons and Susan P. Johnson. Stage manager is A.J. Dobbs.

WHERE AND WHEN:
November 12 to 29, 2009
La MaMa E.T.C. (Annex Theater), 74A East Fourth Street
Presented by La MaMa E.T.C. and Eleventh Hour Theatre Company
Th-Sat at 7:30 pm, Sun at 2:30 pm; no performance Thanksgiving Day.
$18 general admission, $13 students and seniors. Box office (212) 475-710, www.lamama.org
Running time: two hours
COMING EVENTS

Sunday, November 15, 2009

Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The American Red Cross will be holding its annual Staten Island Chrysanthemum Ball Friday, Nov. 20, at 7 p.m. in The Excelsior Grand, New Dorp. Tickets are $200. Call Denise Bloise at 718-983-1600 or e-mail her at bloised@nyredcross.org.

The dinner-dance with music provided by the Ann Marie Nacchio Quintet will also feature a brief video about how the American Red Cross assists those who have been affected by disaster.

Six local community and business leaders will be recognized for their humanitarian work and support of the Red Cross.

The are: Atlantic Salt Inc., a family-owned business with a marine terminal on the North Shore; James J. Devine, president and CEO of New York Container Terminal; Rev. Patrick J. Griffin, executive vice president for mission and branch campuses, St. John's University; Dr. Richard Guarasci, president of Wagner College; Dr. Tomas D. Morales, president of College of Staten Island/CUNY, and the 101-year-old Richmond County Bar Association which provides professional development for attorneys and facilitates access to legal services for the community.

Major sponsors of the event are Richmond Savings Foundation, New York Container Terminal, Atlantic Salt, St. Johns University, Richmond County Savings Bank and Wagner College.

The American Red Cross in Greater New York helps the nine million people in the greater New York area to prepare for and respond to emergencies. The Chapter also offers hundreds of lifesaving courses and emergency preparedness training programs and resources.

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CMG'09 conference

Several Sessions Given by Industry Luminaries Confirmed for Next Month's Conference TURNERSVILLE, N.J., Nov. 16 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ --

The Computer Measurement Group (CMG), the IT professionals responsible for planning, measuring and managing the world's largest IT infrastructures, announced today that it has finalized its agenda for the 35th International Computer Measurement Group annual conference (CMG'09) taking place December 6-11 in Dallas, Texas at the Gaylord Texan.

There will be several sessions devoted to cloud computing from key industry luminaries.

The keynote address will be presented by Amy Wohl, President of Wohl Associates. Amy is a world-renowned computer industry analyst and author.

Her presentation is titled, "The Impact of Software as a Service (SaaS) on the Enterprise Data Center." The Plenary Session will be presented by Jeffrey Nick, Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, EMC Corp. titled, "The Next Revolution in Computing: The Virtualized Data Center Meets the Cloud." Ten more presentations are scheduled throughout the conference program.

These include the following:

--- Business Service Governance - Managing from Above the Clouds - Dr. Michael Salsburg, Unisys Chief Architect for Cloud Computing
--- Introduction to Cloud Computing: Infrastructure on Demand - Odysseas Pentakalos, Chief Technology Officer at SYSNET International, Inc
--- It's Cloud's Illusions I Recall - I Really Don't Know Clouds At All - Dr. Bernie Domanski, Professor at The City University of New York/College of Staten Island
--- Understanding Cloud Computing: Experimentation and Capacity Planning - Daniel Menasce, Professor of Computer Sciences at George Mason University
--- Leveraging the Cloud for Green IT: Predicting the Energy, Cost and Performance of Cloud Computing - Amy Spellmann, President of Optimal Innovations
--- Performance and Scalability Prescriptions for Cloud Computing - Henry Liu, Program Developer at BMC Software
--- Cloud Computing for Capacity Managers - Chris Molloy, Distinguished Engineer at IBM
--- Using the Cloud to Crunch Your Data - Adrian Cockcroft, Director, Web Engineering at Netflix
-- Into the Cloud - David Martin, Principal Software Engineer at CA.

-- Implementing the Poughkeepsie Green Data Center -- Showcasing a Dynamic Infrastructure - Elisabeth Stahl, Chief Technical Strategist/Executive IT Specialist, IBM Systems and Technology Group "There is no denying that Cloud Computing is this year's important topic.

As the industry embraces Cloud Computing, the importance of capacity planning and performance management becomes even more critical. CMG is the "go to" conference for learning about and understanding the key performance issues that can make or break an initiative that leverages the value of Cloud Computing," said David Thorn, General Chair of the CMG'09 conference. "No matter what platform you are using for your infrastructure -- mainframes or blades -- this knowledge is critical for success. CMG is where you can learn how to advise and plan as the datacenter starts to leverage "cloudy" implementations. There is a wealth of content in this year's program, concentrated in a single conference where you can talk directly to true experts on all matters of performance and capacity management.

For general information on the CMG '09 conference taking place December 6 though 11 in Dallas, Texas at the Gaylord Texan; go to http://www.cmg.org/PRNewswire28-Conference.

The Computer Measurement Group (http://www.cmg.org) is a not-for-profit, worldwide organization of IT professionals committed to sharing information and practices focused on ensuring the efficiency and scalability of IT service delivery to the enterprise through measurement, quantitative analysis, and forecasting.

SOURCE Computer Measurement Group -0- (c) 2009 U.S. Newswire Corp.
Debi Rose gets ready to serve community in a new role

By Tevah Platt
November 18, 2009, 3:30PM
NORTH SHORES -- A new pair of low-heeled business shoes sits at home in her closet, ready for the day she takes office.

A leather-bound notebook for constituent complaints and a supply of her preferred Uni-ball Vision Elite pens, however, have already been put to use.

Debi Rose will leave her job at the College of Staten Island to become the North Shore’s representative in the City Council, a transition that will be finalized on Jan. 1 but that is already under way.

Ms. Rose was elected in November to become the North Shore’s next councilwoman and the borough’s first African-American voted into public office.

For 20 years, she has served as director of CSI’s Liberty Partnership Program, seeing some 250 at-risk high school students per year through counseling, job training, and test preparations.

“That’s the part of this that is bittersweet,” said Ms. Rose at CSI on Monday, calling Liberty Partnerships her “first love.” “I’m going to miss my kids.”

‘SO MUCH TO BE DONE’

The job in front of her, says Ms. Rose, is awesome in the old and new sense of the term.

“There’s so much that needs to be done,” she said. “I’m the person who now has the responsibility to see [the programs I campaigned on] come to fruition.”

Among her priorities are the reactivating the North Shore Railroad, finding tenants for the Staten Island Ferry Terminal, and building an education complex for grades K-to-14 at the former Stapleton home port, where high school seats and opportunities for vocational training are in high demand.

Ms. Rose already has informed City Council Speaker Christine Quinn that she will serve any and all of the land use, education, transportation, health, and general welfare committees — an ambitious undertaking she said would help her be a “vigilant watchdog” and put Staten Island’s needs on the city agenda.

The official-to-be has also made preliminary phone calls to her future colleagues, bonding with other freshmen electeds and forging partnerships with Staten Island’s other councilmembers, Vincent Ignizio (R-South Shore) and James Oddo (R-Mid-Island).

PROJECTS IN PIPELINE

Once sworn in, Ms. Rose plans to sit down early on with agency heads and commissioners, mapping out the status of all North Shore projects in the pipeline.

“My job is to find ways to get these projects moved through,” said Ms. Rose. “What’s been missing is oversight. I want to use some of my ‘mommy skills’ to nudge and nag until things get done.”
Once elected, Ms. Rose will commute to City Hall by car, plans to set up office hours in the council office at 130 Stuyvesant Pl., St. George, and will establish advisory committees to hear directly each quarter from her district’s interest groups.

And before she is sworn in, she must hire a staff, learn all she can, and attend a freshmen training on Dec. 1 and 2.

Her notebook already is swelling with resumes, committee meeting agendas from 2008, and notes on constituent concerns, including, on page one, those of the Waterview Court residents locked out of their Rosebank homes since 2007, when a nor’easter broke their retaining wall.

Ms. Rose will leave CSI by the end of the year, she said, because both roles require a full-time commitment.

A week off to rest would be nice to squeeze in, if she can:

"I’ve run three campaigns in one year," she said. "That’s borderline Superwoman stuff. ...I’m going to have to talk to myself and make sure I don't overdo it."

Ms. Rose said the most life-changing reality of her new role has been being recognized wherever she goes. "It’s amazing, because I’m a ‘people person.’ Sometimes, they greet me like a rock star,” she said. "And then the gravity of it is very sobering when I think about how people are really depending on me to find solutions to whatever their problems are. ... And getting ready is like preparing for school. It’s very exciting."

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Actress Lorraine Bracco joined 750 guests at the Hilton Garden Inn yesterday to salute six Women of Achievement who go above and beyond the call of duty with service to community. Standing from the left are Bracha Cabot, Kathryn Krause Rooney, Sister Margarita Castaneda and Jennifer Straniere. Seated are Beth Gorrie and Laura Besignano.
THE POWER OF GIVING, OBSERVED AND CELEBRATED

A grateful audience applauds 6 women whose work in the cultural, religious and political arenas has enriched Staten Island

By TEYAH PLATT / STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

S

taten Island's Women of Achievement have helped nurture the people of the borough in body and spirit.

From the nun who collects clothing for the poor to the political adviser at the helm of a hospital, this year's honorees have cared for Staten Island's citizens, shaped its institutions and made it a richer place to live through a single means: Giving.

The power of philanthropy was observed and celebrated yesterday at the 4th annual Women of Achievement luncheon, held in the Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomfield.

Keynote speaker Lorraine Bracco, best known for her TV role as Tony Soprano's psychiatrist, and Mayor Michael Bloomberg were among those to congratulate the six women accorded what has been called the Island's most prestigious title.

THE HONOREES

The honorees included three women who dedicate their lives to the borough's cultural offerings: Laura Benigno, a Staten Island Zoo volunteer, storyteller Beth Gorris, founder of Staten Island OnLOUD, and Jennifer Straniere, a Temple Israel volunteer who devotes her time to community theater.

Each according to the charitable ethos of her religion, Bracha Cabot and Sister Margarita Castaneda have served the needy in their communities through the Council of Jewish Organizations of Staten Island and St. Mary of the Assumption parish in Port Richmond, respectively.

While cheering the honorees, guests enjoyed a three-course meal around pistachio-and-orange centerpieces by Flowers by Bernard.

"This event truly brings the community together," observed one guest, the Rev. Jack Ryan. "There are few events on Staten Island that bring people together from all parts of the island, from all races, religions and economic groups. It's just a spectacular event."

Advance Editor Brian Line presented the awards with a speech addressed to each honoree, acknowledging Ms. Cabot for teaching him the meaning of the word mutiny (a word he never understood) and chuckling over Ms. Straniere's readiness to offer up items from her household, including her husband's bathrobe, as theater props.

GROUNDOUGH REVENGE

In his speech, Bloomberg promised to get engaged in February with the pugilistic protagonist, Staten Island Borough President James Molinaro, repeated the refrain that the honorees work for recognition but for the betterment of their communities.

And where many volunteers are good enough to schedule charity work into their lives, these schedule theirs around their volunteerism.

"Not one of these women sought out to win this award," said Advance Publisher Caroline Diamond Harris, who presented the awards with a silver bowl from Tiffany.

"No one sought recognition, yet each has made a unique contribution to the quality of our lives."

About 750 guests attended the luncheon.

Women wore wide-brimmed hats, heirloom brooches and Chanel perfumes.

EMPOWERMENT

Kerry Gallagher of Pleasant Plains approached Ms. Braccio during the luncheon and asked her to sign a copy of the actress' book, "On the Couch."

"I admire her for writing candidly about clinical depression and for admitting that not everyone is perfect," said Ms. Gallagher.

"And that's what Women of Achievement is about: Women helping each other and making themselves stronger."

Exemplifying that ethos: much, perhaps, as the honorees themselves was a group of women seated together at one of the tables near the back.

They were Women of Achievement of the Class of 1995, who have made a tradition out of dining together at the luncheon for the past 14 years.

They made it their project, as a group, to support the recovery group Amethyst House, providing gifts for women and children, said Edie Doctor, adding, "Our motto has become 'women helping women.'"

Yesterday's ceremony brought to 276 the number of Staten Islanders to be named Women of Achievement.

The luncheon was begun in 1995 by the late Advance Publisher Richard E. Diamond.

Tejah Platt is a reporter for the Advance. She may be reached at platt@advance.com.

JENNIFER STRANIERE

Thank you. Two small words that mean so much. I am honored to be selected as one of the Staten Island 2009 Women of Achievement and join this group of Staten Island women who have dedicated their lives to making Staten Island a very special community.

I thank the Staten Island Advance for creating a system for recognizing women who have accomplished great deeds in making our borough a better place to live in.

I would like to thank my husband, Phil, for his continued support of all my endeavors. It was my initial love of theater that got me involved in the Temple Israel Drama Group in 1973 and led to my lifetime commitment to the performing arts on Staten Island and in Temple Israel.

It also led my family to opening up our home opening nights only to find our dining room table on stage or Phil's balcony or not an event.

I would like to thank my children, Gregory, Amanda and Nicholas, for always being a helping hand. Gregory, who does anyone who meets him the importance of appreciating every person as an individual. Amanda, who has begun to follow in my cultural footsteps and through her job has met one of the board of Torah High and Nicholas, who through scouting has participated in numerous service projects to provide a better life for others.

It is a wonderful feeling to watch as our children have grown from adults who understand the importance of helping others and to see them back to our community.

Finally, this is my favorite family. The family started with the Staten Island Civic Theatre and went on to include almost every other theatre in town. They have been Mayor, Music, High School and even the South Shore Theatre home of these people have become "Cooking Grandma" for our children.

40 of 104
McMahon mulls backing marriage equality bill

By Judy L. Randall
November 30, 2009, 11:59PM

Rep. Michael McMahon on Monday said he's thinking of signing on to a bill that would rescind the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which declares marriage must be between a man and a woman. He said he'll make up his mind by year's end.

The repeal, called the Respect for Marriage Act (RMA), would grant the same rights and benefits under federal law to all married couples, including same-sex couples.

Under DOMA, which passed in 1996, legally married same-sex couples cannot file joint tax returns; take unpaid leave to care for a sick or injured spouse; receive spousal benefits under Social Security or health and pension benefits if they are federal civilian employees.

McMahon said he thought it likely DOMA would be repealed by the House, but couldn't predict what might happen in the Senate.

McMahon (D-Staten Island/Brooklyn) said he is disposed to support RMA, introduced by Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-Manhattan), and said he had discussed it with Nadler two weeks ago.

McMahon made his comments during a meeting with members of Staten Island's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community in his New Dorp office. He told them he was also positively disposed to three other pieces of legislation they favor, but wants to review the fine print before signing on.

IRS REGULATIONS

to permit same-spouses and domestic partners to take a leave from work to care for an ill spouse or partner. And the other would not limit federal court jurisdictions over current DOMA provisions that might be challenged.

Members of the LGBT group who met with McMahon hailed from Staten Island Stonewall, Staten Island Pride Parade and Rainbow Families. They were: Jim Smith of St. George; Katie Cumiskey of West Brighton; Wayne Steinman of Midland Beach; Jeremiah Jurkiewicz of Stapleton and Rosemary Palladino and Marianne Brennick, both of Grasmere.

Ms. Cumiskey, a psychology professor at the College of Staten Island and a small business owner, told McMahon that while the issues of the day -- health care, the economy and the war on terror -- make the headlines, inequities faced by same-sex couples on bread-and-butter issues involving health and finances are just as crucial.

The group also thanked the congressman for his legislative support of the Matthew Sheppard Act amending hate crimes legislation; the Employment Non-Discrimination Act and efforts to repeal "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," as well as increasing funding to localities to prosecute hate crimes; increasing benefits to domestic partners of federal employees and ending discrimination in immigration laws as they pertain to domestic partners.

"It always helps to put my neighbors' and friends' faces with issues," McMahon said of the meeting.

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Meet the First LAPID Class
November 30, 2009

Meet some of Hillel’s brightest professionals, participating in the inaugural year of LAPID - the Leadership and Professional International Development Initiative for Early Career Hillel Professionals - that commenced in November. LAPID, which means “torch” in Hebrew, is comprised of 15 Hillel professionals at Hillels in the United States, Canada, Israel, Uruguay, Argentina, Odessa (Ukraine) and Tblisi (Georgia), who will be working with students to ignite leadership and social justice initiatives on their respective campuses.

Leah Newman - Program Director, Hillel of San Diego UCSD

“After many years as a student leader, and now in my third year as a Hillel professional, it is readily apparent to me that student leadership development is one of my greatest passions.”

Gady Tenezer - Program Director, Hillel of Sapir College, Sderot, Israel
“Many young Israelis have negative feelings towards the Jewish sources, which has presented the biggest challenge for me. Every week, we strive to offer a new take on the ancient text that will speak to young adults.”

Corey Smith - Co-Associate Director, Programming and Engagement, Hillel of New Orleans

“Personally, I feel the strongest connection to Judaism through social action... I think that for a lot of young people social action provides a meaningful segue into the greater Jewish community.”

Veronica Albert – Assistant Program Director, Hillel Uruguay

“I believe my greatest achievement in Hillel so far has been the creation of a project called ‘Vaada Nefesh.’ Its objective is to find young Jewish people who have been completely isolated from the Jewish community and Jewish life and help them find the way back to their people.”

Marcus.
**Eric Marcus - Program Director, Hillel of Cleveland**

"Through my work with other Campus Ministries, I have discovered that maybe the one thing that all of our cultures and religion has in common is to make the world a better place. Doing acts of loving-kindness is a theme that is prevalent throughout our cultures’ history and it may be the one thing that brings us all together."

![Image](image1.png)

**Jaime Reich - Emerging Campuses Associate, Hillel of Toronto, Canada**

"Learning from each other is essential because everyone comes with a unique background and can bring something to the table that can enrich the experience."

![Image](image2.png)

**Neil A. Cantor - Director of Jewish Student Life, Hillel of Metro Detroit**

"One of my top goals for the coming year is to increase the growth of HMD and provide educational and outreach opportunities in order to help Jewish students on their Jewish journeys. I believe as a professional, I should challenge students to learn more about themselves and more about their Jewish community."

![Image](image3.png)
Zolbina (Sasha) Aleksandra – Assistant director, Hillel of Odessa (Ukraine)

“One of the most crucial components in the development of young leaders is a belief in the potential. It is very important to believe and to motivate people towards their common goal, to develop our community and to strengthen our common bonds.”

Gennady Gerovich - Program Director, Hillel at the College of Staten Island

“I believe the most important factors in developing student leaders are the building of personal relationships and the creation of a community... People need a sense of community and knowing that they are with a group who shares common morals and beliefs. It is through this method more and more people will become active in their communities and will develop a pride in contributing to it because it becomes part of their identity.”

Gonzalo Valenci – Programs coordinator, Hillel Cordoba (Argentina)

“I think that the development of a strong Jewish identity is a very important component in developing student leaders. Being a leader implies to pass on that identity to others and spread it to everyone around you. Try to make others feel the spirit and the strength of the Jewish identity, showing them how important and how rewarding is to work for that identity.”

Jason Leivenberg - Engagement Associate, Santa Barbara Hillel

“Developing student leaders on campus is first and foremost about getting them enthused about their projects at hand. As a Hillel Professional my goal is to help students find facets of their life that they are most enthusiastic about and run with it. Once they examine and reflect upon their own passions, they are then able to dig deeper into the community around them and build more personal relationships with students who may share that same pocket of interest.”

Natalia Namgaladze – Program Coordinator, Hillel Tbilisi (Georgia)

“I believe that the most important components when developing student leaders are that the students must know and recognize themselves as Jews. There is a big difference between a leader and a Jewish leader.”
Erica Frankel – Program Coordinator, Arts on the Move, NYU Hillel

“My greatest feelings of success always come when I can empower a student to challenge their assumptions, dream in a big way, and create something of which they are proud and connect to Jewishly.”

Natalia Etkin – Program Coordinator, Hillel Buenos Aires (Argentina)

“What keeps me going every day and actually turns my ideas into new projects is realizing that my example is the way to motivate other people to go beyond.”

Alana Kayfetz - Executive Director, Hillel Ottawa (Canada)

“The most important components when developing student leaders on campus is allowing students to see the potential difference they can make in their community, in their own lives and the lives of others. Developing student leaders means leading by example.”
Early career Hillel professionals from around the world will have the opportunity to develop their leadership skills with the launch of Hillel’s new global initiative, LAPID -- the Leadership and Professional International Development Initiative for Early Career Hillel Professionals.

LAPID, which means “torch” in Hebrew, was conceived to nurture professionals at Hillels throughout the world while advancing Hillel’s entrepreneurial engagement efforts. Fifteen talented individuals were selected to participate in this initiative, designed for professionals who are excited about the opportunity to evolve personally and professionally within the “Hillel family” and are passionate about social justice and leadership issues. (Meet members of the first LAPID class.)

Led by Nati Sperber, Hillel’s director of program professional development, this year-long initiative will help LAPID participants to refine and develop their work with students. Providing its professionals with practical tools, mentorship, a unique cohort of international colleagues, and seed funding for a leadership initiative, LAPID aims to significantly develop student leadership and social justice on their respective campuses. LAPID participants will help students create their own tzedek (social justice) initiatives on or off campus and in their local communities. And, to ensure personal growth opportunities, these professionals will also explore their own identity, values and leadership potential in a Jewish context.

“Programs such as LAPID are the result of the incredible relationships developed between our professionals and lay leaders who share a commitment to inspiring Jewish students at Hillels throughout the world, said Hillel Executive Vice President Scott Brown. “Thanks to the generosity and
passion of International Board of Governors member Dr. Lynne B Harrison, we are able to create this new initiative.”

Throughout the year, the LAPID cohort members will participate in two mandatory seminars (December 2009 and spring 2010), site visits, monthly personal mentoring by a lay leader, bi-monthly conversations with Hillel’s Director of Program Professional Development Nati Sperber, monthly Web-based training, and “one-on-one” training when needed. This high level support is not only an investment in furthering leadership, tzedek and engagement efforts on their respective campuses, but also an opportunity to help strengthen professionals’ Jewish identity and self-confidence.

“One of my top goals for the coming year is to provide educational and outreach opportunities in order to help Jewish students on their Jewish journeys,” said LAPID participant and Hillel of Metro Detroit’s Director of Jewish Student Life Neil Cantor. “I believe as a professional, I should challenge students to learn more about themselves and more about their Jewish community.”

Meet LAPID participants. They are: Veronica Albert, assistant program director, Hillel Uruguay; Neil A. Cantor, director of Jewish student life, Hillel of Metro Detroit; Natalia Etkin, program coordinator, Hillel Buenos Aires (Argentina); Erica Frankel, program coordinator, Arts on the Move, NYU Hillel; Gennady Gerovich, program director, Hillel at the College of Staten Island; Alana Kayfetz, executive director, Hillel Ottawa (Canada); Jason Leivenberg, engagement associate, Santa Barbara Hillel; Eric Marcus, program director, Hillel of Cleveland; Natalia Namgaladze, program coordinator, Hillel Tbilisi (Georgia); Leah Newman, program director, Hillel of San Diego UCSD; Jaime Reich, emerging campuses associate, Hillel of Toronto, Canada; Corey Smith, co-associate director, programming and engagement, Hillel of New Orleans; Gady Tenezer, program director, Hillel of Sapir College, Sderot (Israel); Gonzalo Valenci, programs coordinator, Hillel Cordoba (Argentina); Aleksandra (Sasha) Zolbina, assistant director, Hillel of Odessa (Ukraine).
Sports
Girls soccer round up: Smith sends Hill to CHSAA Archdiocesan final

By KATIE BECKMANN and JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Spectacular goals by Gianna Smith have become the norm. The St. Joseph Hill forward got loose on a breakaway, beat a group of defenders and drew the Notre Dame Academy keeper off her line. Smith then eluded the goalie and tapped the ball into the goal early in the second half. It was her first of two scores in the Hilltoppers’ 4-0 win over NDA in the CHSAA Archdiocesan girls soccer semifinals Tuesday at the College of Staten Island.

“We have come to expect some spectacular goals from Gianna, especially taking on players one versus one,” Hill coach Tom Siller said. “It seems like the defense always has to watch to her, sometimes double team her, sometimes triple team her.”

St. Joseph Hill (9-0-2) opened the game up in the final seven minutes, scoring three times. Meghan Siller, Tom’s granddaughter, and Victoria Chirico each scored. Smith capped the scoring with another goal on a breakaway. Tom Siller credited her first goal with opening up a tight Gators (6-3-3) defense.

“Notre Dame played a lot of players back on defense and one we scored it forced them to come out and play,” Siller said.

St. Joseph Hill advances to play St. Joseph by the Sea in the final at a time to be determined Sunday at Monsignor Farrell. After a 2-2 tie to start the season, Hill beat the Vikings, 1-0, late in the year.

“We know each other so well,” Sea coach Arturo Rando said. “It’s going to be hard.”

St. Joseph by the Sea 2, Maria Regina 1:

Kelly Oehm scored the winner off an assist from Madeline Barbarino with less than 10 minutes to play in the final half for St. Joseph by the Sea (7-1-3). The Vikings trailed, 1-0, early in the first half before Maria DeSantis’ scored low from 18 yards to tie the score at 1. Maria Regina had a shot from 16 yards that went just wide of the goal with five minutes left.

Bishop Kearney 4, Stella Maris 1:

Emily Mason had a hat trick and Christina Abbate added assists for Kearney (11-2-1) in the CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens quarterfinals. The game is the last ever for Stella Maris (7-5-1) because of the school closing. The Tigers play Notre Dame at 3:30 p.m. Thursday at the Parade Grounds in the semifinals.

“The difference between the two teams was that we played hard in the second half. It was tight in the first half, we were only winning 2-1. Stella Maris has come a long way,” Kearney coach Charlie Candela said.

Christ the King 7, St. Saviour 0:

Luna Siracusa and freshman Guadalupe Qiroz each scored two goals for Christ the King (9-5). Christina Viaggio and Fabiana Rebecca each added a goal and assist. The Royals face Fontbonne Hall at 3:30 p.m. Thursday at Kaiser Park in the semifinals. St. Saviour is 3-9-2.

“In the past we have beat this team by a lot, so I knew what formation to use against them,” said Christ the King coach John Fayad. “My team has been playing very well.”

PSAL CLASS B

FDR 7, A. P. Randolph 0:

Aycin Yalcin scored four goals and Natalie Calixto added three assists for No. 2 FDR (14-0) in the PSAL Class B quarterfinals. Evelyn Mejia and Abije Kaloshi added a goal and an assist. FDR plays No. 3 Richmond Hill in the semifinals at 2:30 Thursday at Flushing Meadow Park. No. 7 A.P. Randolph finishes 10-1-2.

OTHER SCORES

Flushing 5, Beach Channel 1

MLK 2, New Utrecht 1

Richmond Hill 1, HS for Math and Science 0

jstaszewski@nypost.com
Three international swimmers have earned the College of Staten Island’s men’s swim team some national attention heading into this CUNY season, which begins with a meet against John Jay tomorrow.

The Dolphins have three swimmers from Russia recruited by coach Oleg Soloviev — juniors Pavel Buyanov and Nikolay Shevchenko and sophomore Vladislav Romanov, all of whom made their presence felt at the NCAA Division III Nationals last season.

Buyanov, who brought home the first national title for CSI in any sport in 2008, defended his NCAA D-III title in the 100-meter breaststroke in March. Shevchenko was fourth in the 200 individual medley and Romanov was 14th overall in the 200 backstroke.

As a team, the CSI men took 14th overall — with just the three swimmers from half a world away.

Soloviev, born in the former Soviet Union where he was a long-time coach, still has connections in the Russian swim community. He said that he often travels home to see his parents, who still live in Russia and speaks with high school and youth coaches who help him find swimmers interested in studying in America. Buyanov, Shevchenko and Romanov all hail from Siberia.

“They have all seen an improvement of their results while they are here,” said Soloviev. “And the fact that they can come here and improve and compete at an intense national level, that is a good advertisement for our program. That will get more students to come.”

The student visa policy is not a simple one either. CSI’s associate athletic director Dave Pizzuto said that he and former AD Jason Fein have often been on the phone in the middle of the night (Russia is eight hours ahead) to answer questions about the applications.

But the three swimmers have certainly made the most of their time here. This season, they will be looking for even more.

On Dec. 4, they will be at the prestigious ECAC/USA Nationals in Seattle. On Jan. 21, they are headed to Pittsburgh for the ECAC Opens. And in between, it will be a competitive CUNY Conference. But Soloviev does not seem fazed by the challenges.

“My vision is for this team to be even better this year,” said Soloviev. “We have additional guys come in and make the team even stronger. I think we will have a good fight with Lehman for leadership of the conference.”

As for his dynamic trio?

“They can all make the finals at Nationals again,” he said.
Collegiate Swimming

CSI Men Win

Freshman Joe Lee came from behind to win the 200-yard individual medley in 2 minutes, 43.32 seconds to help the College of Staten Island men’s swimmers open the CUNY Conference dual-meet season with a 127-106 win over visiting Baruch yesterday.

All race distances in yards

1,000 Freestyle: 1. Vladislav Romanov, 10:08.13.
200 Freestyle: 1. Nikolay Storchenko, 1:46.83.
50 Freestyle: 1. Pavel Boyarkevitch, 27.78.
Diving: 1. CSI, 16 points.

Women’s Swimming

Baruch 128, CSI 89

The Dolphins (0-2, 0-3 overall) remained winless with the CUNYAC loss at home.

All race distances in yards

1,000 Freestyle: 1. Tara Meehan.
3m Diving: 1. Patricia Crea.
100 Breaststroke: 1. Crea.
Athletes are getting, giving a helping hand

By Charlie R DeBiase
November 18, 2009, 1:49PM

There was a time not so long ago where Patti Jezycki wouldn’t even consider running, let alone running a marathon.

"Absolutely not," said Jezycki matter-of-factly. "I’ve played other sports, but I was never a runner. The most I previously did was run 60 feet, base to base (playing softball), but that was the only thing.

"I used to look at people running and think 'How?'

But as fate would have it, Jezycki has a completely different outlook on the sport these days. As a member of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team in Training (TNT), the Rosebank resident not only trains with the guidance of experienced coaches, but helps raise funds in the process.

"One of the best things I ever did in my life," said the 43-year-old Jezycki, who joined TNT in January. "The support is overwhelming."

TNT is considered the largest endurance sports training program, helping runners, walkers, triathletes and cyclists get the necessary coaching in a four-to-five-month personalized training program, as well as arranging travel and accommodations to major races.

In turn, each participant trains in tribute of a blood cancer survivor (also known as an honored patient) and
raises funds to fight leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma and help local patients and their families.

TNT was founded by volunteer Bruce Cleland in 1988 after his daughter, Georgia, was diagnosed with leukemia. Behind the efforts of Cleland, the first team ran the New York City Marathon, raising $320,000 for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

**HELP IS THE KEY WORD**

Incredibly, since TNT's inception, 390,000 individuals have raised over $950 million.

"It's one big family where everyone helps each other out," said TNT Staten Island borough expansion coordinator Tony Navarino, who's in charge of making alumni committees, corporate teams and retention. "What I truly love is the money goes right back into research."

Jezycki decided to get involved after her husband, Michael, was diagnosed with leukemia.

"He was in Cornell Medical Center and his nurse, Sandi Allen-Bard, suggested (TNT) to me," said Patti Jezycki.

And directed by Staten Island head coach Tom Joyce and coordinator Dari Passarello, Jezycki not only successfully completed the Lake Placid Half-marathon on June 14, but also raised $6,105 in the process.

"I finished in just over 2 1/2 hours, smiling the whole way through," said Jezycki, noting how donations to her cause were sent to her personal fundraising account on TNT's Web site. "I can't say enough about Tom Joyce and Dari Passarello."

Jezycki is currently training for the PF Chang Rock and Roll Marathon in Phoenix on Jan. 17. She's raised $7,000 for that event, so far.

**MANY BENEFITS**

Jezycki said her husband's medication, Gleevec, is funded through TNT.

"When you hear that kind of story, it's really unbelievable," said Joyce, a West Brighton resident who has been a coach since 2008. "Eighty-five percent of the competitors have never done distance running before, so when someone like Patti crosses the finish line, they're so thrilled.

"I don't care if they're first or last, just getting them over the line is our goal and, to me, it's very rewarding."

"Team In Training is just a better way to get involved," said Todt Hill resident Joanne Purpora, who is currently training for the Miami Half-marathon on Jan. 31. Purpora recently staged a fund-raiser through Play Date For a Cure at Kidzrock in Tottenville. "I've always been athletic, but not as a runner.

"But (running is) one of the best things you can do (for yourself) not only physically, but mentally. And as for the fundraising part, you just feel better about yourself as a person."

Navarino, who said there are 64 TNT chapters nationwide, is currently looking to add new members to Staten Island's squad. He said the borough will host meetings for the spring session on Dec. 2 (at Dolphin Fitness in Oakwood) and Dec. 8 (at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bloomfield). Both meetings begin at 7 p.m.

The Island team will be training for the New Jersey and Vancouver full and half marathons on May 2, as well as the Paris Marathon on April 11.

In addition, the Island squad is preparing members for triathlons including the St. Anthony's Olympic Triathlon (St. Petersburg, Fla., April 25), the Windflower Triathlon (Monterey County, Calif., May 1) and the Devilman New Jersey Sprint Triathlon (May 8).

Among the benefits are being able to train in Clove Lakes Park; access to fundraising support and clinics, as well as a team jersey, gear and information on injury prevention and nutrition clinics.

Navarino said training for the run portion of the triathlon events has already started and competitors will
have access to the College of Staten Island's pool beginning in January.

"The whole selling point is to get in shape for a cause," said Navarino, the former Catholic Youth Organization county director. "It's motivated me so much, I'm going to run for the cause myself soon."

To contact Navarino, call 212-376-6747 or 917-607-7408; e-mail him at anthony.navarino@lls.org or visit www.teamintraining.org/nyc.

This story was last edited on Nov. 18, 2009 at 10:40 a.m.

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CSI WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Dolphins fall to FDU-Florham

AMHERST, Mass. — FDU-Florham's Courtney Young's three-point shot with five seconds remaining in the second overtime handed the College of Staten Island a 90-89 loss yesterday in the consolation round of the Amherst College Tip-Off Tournament.

The Dolphins (1-2) forced a second overtime when junior Allie Shanahan sank a three-pointer for a 79-79 tie with one second remaining in the first overtime.

Kristin Panariello paced CSI with 28 points and eight assists, playing all 50 minutes. Shanahan added 21 points, including five 3-pointers, and Denise Zajone tallied 15 points and Katelyn Hepworth 10 points and eight rebounds.

The Dolphins held a 68-60 lead with 1:12 remaining in regulation, but the Devils (2-3) rallied for eight straight points to force overtime.

FDU-Florham held a commanding 71-33 rebounding edge over the smaller visitors, who forced 43 turnovers and posted 21 steals.

CSI MEN'S BASKETBALL

Lycoming rips Dolphins

WILLIAMSPORT, Pa. — The College of Staten Island shot only 32 percent from the floor in dropping the championship game of the Lycoming College Tip-Off Tournament to the host team yesterday, 79-50.

Lycoming (4-0) built a 30-17 halftime lead and cruised past the Dolphins (1-3).

Senior guard Christian Montervino paced CSI with 18 points, hitting 3-of-4 shots from 3-point range. Ryan Hennessey, who was named to the all-tournament team, added 12 points.

Eric Anthony paced Lycoming's balanced attack with 12 points and Will Kelly added 10.

CSI sophomore Jordan Young, the CUNY Conference's rookie-of-the-year last season, was held to five points and six rebounds.

The Dolphins were out-rebounded 49-33 and had 23 turnovers.

CSI returns to action tomorrow at New Jersey City at 8 p.m.

CSI (1-3)
Montervino 7-12 3-10, Tarango 1-4-0-0, Hennes- sey 3-11 6-14, Rehlique 0-0-0, Led- better 1-4-6-2, Bonsall 1-2 2-4-5, Mckee 4-4-0, Zajonc 1-1 0-2, Montervino 5-6-5-8, Plaisant 0-0-0-0, Pasca- no 2-2, Socolov 4-4-0-0, Roberts 0-0-0-0. 
Totals: 39 10 11 19 90
LYCOMING (4-0)
Jr. Williams 3-7 4-4-8, Anthony 4-12 4-12, Kelly 8-3 5-14 18, Obert 1-1 1-2 3, Bradley 3-3 2-3, Volpe 3-3 3-3 9-6, Socolov 1-0 0-0 1, Montervino 5-6-5-8, Capobianco 3-4 4-4, Zajonc 1-1 0-2, Mckee 4-4-0-0. 
Totals: 25-9 25-37 79
HalfTime: 16-12, Lycoming.
Three-point goals: CSI 7-17 (Montervino 3-4, Eno- ries 2-2, Montervino 1-1, Zajonc 1-1), Anthony 4-4, Kelly 2-2. 

CSI (1-3)
Montervino 7-12 3-10, Tarango 1-4-0-0, Hennessey 3-11 6-14, Rehlique 0-0-0, Ledbetter 1-4-6-2, Bonsall 1-2 2-4-5, Mckee 4-4-0, Zajonc 1-1 0-2, Montervino 5-6-5-8, Plaisant 0-0-0-0, Pascano 2-2, Socolov 4-4-0-0, Roberts 0-0-0-0. 
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COLLEGE SPORTS

Gothic Knights drop opener

Friday, November 20, 2009

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

STATEN ISLAND 75, NJCU 58

Sophomore forward Ebony Cunningham scored 13 points, with seven rebounds, while rookie point guard Latifah Johnson contributed 11 points, five steals and four assists, but The College of Staten Island never trailed and defeated NJCU, 75-58, in a non-conference contest as the Gothic Knights kicked off a new season on Coach Charlie Brown Court at the John J. Moore Athletics and Fitness Center on Wednesday.

CSI (1-0) received a game-high 22 points on 9-of-13 shooting from junior forward Allie Shanahan.

Also for NJCU, junior transfer guard Miesha Cooke made her debut with nine rebounds and seven points while freshman point guard Ashley Freeman came off the bench to notch eight points, seven steals and three assists on 4-of-10 shooting.

WRESTLING

The Stevens Institute of Technology wrestling team fell to NCAA Division I foe Sacred Heart University, 28-15, on Wednesday night in Walker Gymnasium.

Sophomore Joe Favia, junior Bobby Bishop, junior Vincent Termini and senior James Roarty all were victorious on the evening.

Stevens will return to action when it heads to the Doug Parker Invitational on Saturday. After a break for the Thanksgiving holiday, the Ducks will head to the Messiah College Invitational in Grantham, Pa., before looking for their first dual-match win when they host Elizabethtown College on Dec. 11.

MEN'S SOCCER

The Stevens Institute of Technology men's soccer team will take on Christopher Newport University tomorrow afternoon at 1:30 p.m. in a sectional semifinal of the 2009 NCAA Division III Men's Soccer Championship at York College (Pa.). Stevens, in the round of 16 for the second-straight season and sixth time in seven years, advanced to the sectionals with dominating wins over York College (N.Y.) and Montclair State University in the first two rounds of the tournament. Christopher Newport, ranked fourth by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA), earned a 4-0 win over Cabrini College in the first round and advanced past Lynchburg College in penalty kicks in the second round.

Stevens, not ranked in the NSCAA poll despite making seven-straight trips to the tournament, comes into Saturday's contest playing excellent soccer. Following an uncharacteristic 2-0 loss at Elmira College on October 17, the Ducks (17-3-1) have won their last seven contests by a combined score of 22-1.
Local Sports

Lycoming men win their own tournament
From Staff Reports

The Lycoming men’s basketball team got 12 points from Eric Anthony, 10 from Will Kelly, and had four others score at least eight to beat the College of Staten Island, 79-50 on Sunday and win the Lycoming College Tip-Off Tournament.

The Warriors’ Mike Bradley was named the tournament’s MVP after scoring eight points yesterday and grabbing seven rebounds.

The Warriors held a 30-17 halftime lead and only pushed the lead in the second half. Lycoming outrebounded the College of Staten Island, 48-33.

The Bucknell men’s soccer team finished a record-setting season on Sunday as No. 2 Virginia scored four times in the first half in a 5-0 victory over the Bison in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Bucknell had a 9-1 advantage in corner kicks, but were outshot, 15-10.

The Penn State men’s basketball team led by as many as 19 points in the first half before having to hold on to beat Davidson, 59-57, on Sunday at the Charleston Classic. The Nittany Lions got 12 points from Jeff Brooks, 11 from Talor Battle, and 10 more from David Jackson.

Penn State’s wrestling team swept a trio of matches at the Sprawl and Brawl duals on Sunday, beating #15 Edinboro (22-9), Rutgers (18-17) and Harvard (36-6).

The Penn College women’s basketball team struggled early and fell to Misericordia on Sunday, 86-56. Jessica Strasser scored 15 points to lead the Wildcats, and Kelsey Mack added 11.

Lycoming failed to have a player score in double figures as the Warriors dropped a 72-54 decision to Juniata College yesterday. Rachel Scheller and Jessica Zerbee led the Warriors with nine points.

The Bucknell men’s water polo team finished third at the Eastern Championships on Sunday, its best showing since a runner-up finish in 1993, with a 10-9 win over No. 20 Johns Hopkins. Richie Hyden, Howie Kalter and Johnny Stupp each scored a pair of goals for the Bison.

MEN’S BASKETBALL

Lycoming 79, College of Staten Island 50

College of Staten Island 50

Christian Montervino 7-12 1-1 18; Ryan Hennessey 2-11 6-6 12; Jordan Young 2-6 1-2 5; Everard Bissauith 1-2 0-0 2; Emmanuel Frank 1-3 0-0 3; Elliot Bii 2-4 5-1 12; Dale Taranto 1-8 0-3 2; Michael Ledbetter 1-2 0-0 2; Jonathan Person 0-1 0-0 0; Adrian Pinnoch 0-0 0-1 0; Dwayne Robinson 0-0 0-0 0; Dan Comperato 0-0 0-0 0; Sean Mondello 0-0 0-0 0; Liwei Pan 0-0 0-0 0; Chris Maccarone 0-1 0-0 0; Herschel Jenkins 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 16-50 11-19 50.

Lycoming 79

Eric Anthony 4-12 4-4 12; Will Kelly 3-8 3-4 10; Sebastian Sabella 2-4 4-4 8; Mike Bradley 3-6 2-4 8; Taylor Volpe 3-3 0-0 8; Jerald Williams 2-7 4-6 8; Ishaan Davis 2-6 2-4 6; John Caggiano 3-4 0-0 6; Austin Smith 0-1 5-7 5; Johnathan Williams 1-3 1-4 3; James Oberlies 1-2 0-0 2; Brandon McFarland 1-1 0-0 2; Dalonte Mason 0-1 0-0 0; Ethan Lee 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 25-59 25-37 79.

Halftime score: Lycoming 30-17.

Three-point goals: College of Staten Is 7-17 (Christian Montervino 3-4; Ryan Hennessey 2-7; Everard Bissauith 1-2; Emmanuel Frank 1-2; Dale Taranto 0-2), Lycoming College 4-17 (Taylor Volpe 2-2; James Oberlies 1-1; Will Kelly 1-5; Jerald Williams 0-1; Ishaan Davis 0-1; Johnathan Williams 0-1; Sebastian Sabella 0-1; Eric Anthony 0-5). Rebounds: College of Staten Is 33 (Dale Taranto 6; Jordan Young 6), Lycoming College 48 (John Caggiano 7; Mike Bradley 7; James Oberlies 7). Assists: College of Staten Is 8 (Christian Montervino 3), Lycoming College 10 (Jerald Williams 2).

Penn State 59, Davidson 57

Penn State 59

David Jackson 3-6 4-4 12; Andrew Jones 4-6 1-1 9; Jeff Brooks 5-11 1-1 12, Talor Battle 4-14 0-0 11, Tim Frazier 3-5 1-2 7, Chris Babb 0-2 2-2 2, Bill Edwards 2-8 3-4 8, Sasa Borovnjak 0-0 0-0 0, Andrew Ott 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 21-53 12-15 59.

Davidson 57

Will Archambault 4-10 2-2 12, Steve Rossiter 3-5 0-0 6, Ben Allison 1-3 0-0 2, Brendan McKillop 2-6 0-0 6, Bryant Bari 0-5 0-0 0, J.P. Kuhlnan 4-10 2-2 11, Nik Cochran 1-2 0-0 3, Jake Cohen 0-11 0-0 13, Frank Ben-Eze 1-1 0-0 2, Dan Nelms 1-2 0-1 2. Totals 23-55 4-5 35.
Halftime score: Penn State 31-22.
Three-point goals: Penn State 5-19 (Battle 3-9, Edwards 1-4, Jackson 0-3, Babb 0-1); Davidson 2-4 (McKillop 2-4, Archambault 2-7, Cochran 1-2, Cohen 1-4, Kuhlman 1-4, Barr 0-5).
Rebounds: Penn State 33, Davidson 35.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Misericordia 86, Penn College 50

Misericordia 86
Jesse Robinson 4-7 7-7 15, Courtney Sykes 4-13 0-0 10, Vanessa Wrihts 3-6 3-4 9, Tyann McDaniel 0-6 2-2 2, Christine Marks 3-8 3-3 9, Alivia Richter 1-3 0-0 3, Katie Drayton 4-5 1-2 10, Bernadette Guy 0-2 2-2, Caitlin Sweeney 6-7 0-0 14, Kayla Sileo 5-9 1-1 12. Totals 30-66 19-21 86.

Penn College 50
Kelsey Mack 4-10 2-2 11, Kiersten Steer 2-4 2-2 5, Jessica Strasser 2-4 2-2 5, Abigayle MacDonald 0-2 0-0 0, Lindsay Layton 2-4 0-0 4, Ashlee Mull 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 20-47 6-8 50.

Halftime score: Misericordia 46-21.
Three-point goals: Misericordia 7-20 (Sweeney 2-3, Sykes 2-4, Drayton 1-1, Sileo 1-2, Richter 1-3, Marks 0-1, Guy 0-1, McDaniel 0-5); Penn College 4-14 (Mull 1-1, Mack 1-3, Strasser 1-5, Wiegand 1-5).
Rebounds: Misericordia 31, Penn College 35.

Juniata College 72, Lycoming 54

Lycoming 54
Rachel Scheller 3-4 1-4 9; Jessica Zerbee 3-9 2-4 9; Kaitlyn Ober 4-6 1-1 9; Alicia Engler 3-7 1-7 9; Leann Randall 1-5 4-6 1; Rebecca Leid 1-5 3-4 5; Renee Freeden 1-4 1-2 3; Allison Mock 1-5 0-0 3; Chelsea Shearer 1-3 0-0 2; Erin Connaughton 0-2 1-2 1; Rebecca Spencer 0-0 0-0 0; Amanda Hart 0-0 0-1 0. Totals 18-50 14-23 72.

Juniata College 72
Natalie Glinsky 6-15 1-2 14; Jen Hnatuck 5-11 3-3 13; Alyssia Gordon 4-4 0-0 11; Meagan Raville 3-6 0-0 0; Paige Robertson 2-8 1-2 6; Erin McGinley 2-5 1-2 5; Jordan Speck 2-5 0-1 4; Kelly Rotan 2-7 0-0 4; Ashton Bankos 1-7 0-1 3; Brittany Danel 1-3 0-0 3; Natalie Glinsky 4-6. Totals 28-73 6-11 72.

Halftime score: Juniata College 31-20.
Three-point goals: Lycoming College 4-10 (Rachel Scheller 2-2; Jessica Zerbee 1-3; Allison Mock 1-2; Leann Randall 0-1; Alicia Engler 0-2), Juniata College 10-31 (Alyssia Gordon 3-3; Meagan Raville 2-4; Jordan Speck 1-3; Paige Robertson 1-7; Brittany Danel 1-3; Ashton Bankos 1-5; Natalie Glinsky 1-6).
Rebounds: Lycoming College 38 (Alicia Engler 6), Juniata College 48 (Jen Hnatuck 11).

COLLEGE WRESTLING

#19 Penn State 22, #15 Edinboro 9
125: #6 Brad Pataky, PSU, dec. #8 Eric Morrill, 4-0; 133: Tyler Saltsman, PSU, dec. Ashton Osterberg, 7-3; 141: Joel Webster, EUP, dec. Colby Pisani, 2-0; 149: #8 Frank Molinaro, PSU, dec. Torsten Gillespie, 8-4; 157: #4 Cyler Sanderson, PSU, maj. dec. Matt Laird, 16-5; 165: #2 Jarrod King, EUP, dec. #9 Dan Vallimont, 4-3; 174: Joe Loffredo, EUP, dec. Michael Lorenzo, 6-1; 184: David Erwin, PSU, dec. Pat Bradshaw, 6-4; 197: Clay Steadman, PSU, dec. Tim Murphy, 2-0; 285: #19 Cam Wade, PSU, dec. #11 Chris Bircher, 9-2.

#19 Penn State 18, Rutgers 17

#19 Penn State 36, Harvard 6
125: #6 Brad Pataky, PSU, pinned Steven Keith, 1:13; 133: Tyler Saltsman, PSU, tech. fall Fermín Mendez, 22-6; 141: Colby Pisani, PSU, maj. dec. Paul Ligouri, 12-4; 149: #8 Frank Molinaro, PSU, dec. Walter Peppelman, 6-2; 157: #5 J.P. O’Connor, HU, dec. #4 Cyler Sanderson, 8-2; 165: #9 Dan Vallimont, PSU, pinned Adam Hogue, 3:25; 174: Bryan Ponzano, HU, dec. Michael Lorenzo, 1:0; 184: Justin Ortega, PSU, dec. David Lalo, 5-0; 197: Clay Steadman, PSU, dec. Sean Murphy, 4-0; 285: #19 Cam Wade, PSU, pinned Spencer DeSana, 2:38.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

CSI belts N.J. City in opener, 75-58

JERSEY CITY — Junior forward Allie Shanahan scored 22 points last night to lead the College of Staten Island to a season-opening 75-58 victory over New Jersey City University.

Shanahan, a St. John Villa product, made 9 of 13 shots, including 2 of 4 3-pointers, and had six rebounds, four assists and four steals.

The Dolphins led 28-20 before pulling away from the Gorthic Knights, who sank just 2 of 20 three-point shots.

CSI's two freshman starters, Katelyn Hepworth and Caitlin Johnson, had solid debuts. Hepworth tallied nine points and 14 rebounds, while Johnson added six points and 11 rebounds.

"They give us an inside presence that we haven't always had," said CSI coach Marguerite Moran. "And we came out and played really tough defense."

Senior Danielle McLaughlin responded to a starting assignment with 11 points and six rebounds.

The Dolphins did receive a scare when senior guard Mallory Ameneiros left the game with an apparent left knee injury. She missed the 2008 season following knee surgery.

"I'm hopeful that it's not serious," said Moran. "We're not sure what the injury is ... we really don't know tonight. She came out for good in the middle of the second half."

CSI returns to action Saturday night at 8 against Western Connecticut State in the opening round of the Amherst (Mass.) College Tournament.

CSI (75)
Hepworth 4-7 1-2 9, Shanahan 9-13 3-3 22, Ameneiros 2-11 3-5 7, Zajac 1-4 3-9 9, McLaughlin 4-12 3-4 11, Quattrinchi 3-4 0-0 9, Torres 9-9 0-0 0, Marley 1-2 0-0 2, Antoine 2-4 4-4 8, Johnson 3-5 0-0 6.
Totals: 28-47 14-20 75.

NEW JERSEY CITY (54)
Cunningham 5-6 3-7 11, Fischer 2-4 0-0 6, Denson 2-2 2-2 6, Johnson 4-11 1-5 11, Cooke 2-2 3-3 7, Chremos 1-3 2-0 8, Freeman 4-10 3-5 8, Kammieski 0-0 0-0 0, Dehands 2-1 1-2 5, Alexander 1-1 0-0 2.
Totals: 22-47 12-24 56.
Halftime: 26-28, CSI.

Three-point goals: CSI 3 (Shanahan 2, Ameneiros 0-1, McLaughlin 0-4), Marley 0-1, Johnson 0-1.
NIU 4-11 (Cunningham 0-4, Johnson 2-7, Cooke 0-0 0-0 0, Freeman 0-10 3-5 8, Kammieski 0-0 0-0 0, Dehands 2-1 1-2 5, Alexander 1-1 0-0 2).

 CSI (56) Hepworth 14, Johnson 11, NIU 7, Johnson 11 (Johnson 5), Turnovers: CSI 27, NIU 20.
Ramapo edges **College of Staten Island** women, 61-60

**By Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

November 24, 2009, 9:28PM

MAHWAH, N.J. -- The **College of Staten Island** suffered its second consecutive one-point loss with Tuesday night's 61-60 setback against Ramapo in a non-conference women's basketball game at the Bradley Center.

Freshman Meghan Reilly's jump shot with 22 seconds remaining lifted the Roadrunners (2-1) past the Dolphins (1-3), who were coming off a 90-89 double-overtime loss Sunday to FDU-Florham.

**CSI** senior Danielle McLaughlin was fouled with two seconds remaining but missed two free throws.

Allie Shanahan, who hit a basket to give CSI a 60-59 lead with 27 seconds remaining, had 13 points and seven rebounds for the visitors, while McLaughlin also tallied 13 points. Kristin Panariello had eight points and eight assists.

Danielle Beam paced Ramapo with 10 points and 11 rebounds in a reserve role.

The Dolphins return to action next Tuesday in a CUNY Conference opener at City Tech.

**CSI** (60)

Hepworth 2-3 3-6 7, Panariello 3-10 1-2 8, Shanahan 5-12 1-4 13, Tierno 2-10 4-5 9, McLaughlin 5-13 0-2 13, Zajonc 2-3 2-3 6, Johnson 2-3 0-0 4.

Totals: 21-54 11-22 60.

**RAMAPO** (61)

Cornett 4-11 1-2 9, Hoffman 2-4 0-0 6, Reilly 3-10 1-7, Flannery 2-6 1-2 5, Gripenburg 5-13 0-0 11, Avella 0-2 0-0 0, Cannizzaro 5-8 1-2 11, Rivera 1-2 0-0 2, Beam 5-7 0-0 10.

Totals: 27-63 4-7 61.

Halftime: 34-29, Ramapo

Three-point goals: CSI 7-21 (Panariello 1-5, Shanahan 2-6, Tierno 1-2, McLaughlin 3-8); Ramapo 3-5 (Hoffman 2-2, Flannery 0-1, Gripenburg 1-1, Cannizzaro 0-1). Rebounds: CSI 38 (Hepworth 11, Shanahan 7); Ramapo 39 (Beam 11). Assists: CSI 15 (Panariello 8, Tierno 5); Ramapo 15 (Hoffman 4, Flannery 4). Turnovers: CSI 25, Ramapo 19. Total fouls: CSI 12, Ramapo 20. Fouled out: none.

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**CSI WOMEN**

**Ramapo edges CSI, 61-60**

**STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE**

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**CSI MEN**

**N.J. City dumps CSI**

**STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE**

JERSEY CITY — College of Staten Island senior guard Ryan Hennessey poured in 26 points but the Dolphins dropped a 79-56 non-conference game last night to host New Jersey City.

Hennessey sank 7 of 14 shots from 3-point range as the Dolphins (1-2) remained competitive throughout the game following a 79-50 loss at Lycoming (Pa.) on Sunday.

Mike Ledbetter came off the bench to add 15 points and Jordan Young contributed 14.

CSI led 38-35 in a game that didn't start until 9 p.m. because of a delay in the preceding women's game.

Jersey City (2-1) enjoyed a large advantage at the free-throw line, sinking 33 of 46 while the Dolphins made 21 of 29.
New Jersey City University's home opener of the season was a successful one as senior point guard Josh Lopez notched 21 points in a 79-69 victory over the College of Staten Island in a non-conference game at the John J. Moore Athletics and Fitness Center.

NJCU's bench outscored the CSI bench, 36-18 as junior small forwards Josh Caver and Antoine Rogers combined for 25 points. Rogers added six rebounds.

Also for NJCU (2-1), sophomore center Taquan Abdullah tallied eight points and three assists and rookie power forward Isaiah Johnson added seven points. Freshman small forward Walik Albright had four assists.

Senior point guard Ryan Hennessey led Staten Island with 26 points.

NJCU converted 33-of-46 foul shots—a 71.7 percent success rate—to overcome CSI's 21-of-29 free throw evening (.724).

NJCU is back in action on Monday at 7 p.m. in a non-conference home game against St. Joseph's College (Brooklyn).
Port Richmond tops CSI/McCown 61-36

Bill Spurge, November 28, 2009 6:14 p.m.

Port Richmond came up with a couple of good stretches in an otherwise ugly game to defeat CSI/McCown 61-36 in a PSAL encounter Saturday.

PR was 1 for 12 from the field over the first six minutes of the second quarter, but led 19-18 thanks to shoddy ball handling and poor foul shooting by CSIM. PR reserve Shamel Mitchell got things going with a 3-pointer, Abimbola Oderinde scored on a fast break, Tom Curry hit a layup after good ball movement and Presnell Wright tallied off a turnover to extend PR's lead to 28-18.

The Red Raiders held a 41-30 lead early in the fourth quarter when they went on a 12-0 run, keyed by Wright (five of his 14 points in the stretch) and Curry, who scored six of his 14 points in the final stanza.

"We did some good things, but we have work to do in terms of knowing our responsibilities," said PR coach Frank Guglielmo. "We need to do a better job recognizing what we have to do in certain sets, and we gave too many second-chance rebounds. We did better on defense, and that's a big step for us."

CSIM committed 31 turnovers, 13 in the first quarter. The Dragons were as bad from the free-throw line, connecting on only 12 of 30. The marksmanship by PR (25 for 69 from the field) was not much better.

PR was shorthanded from the start, with Adam Oyefeso missing in action in the first half and Brett Kramer out with a hip pointer.

"I thought Lennox Prince was outstanding in picking up the slack covering for our point guard (Oyefeso), who was late (and played only in the second half)," Guglielmo said. "I need to find out why (he was late). And Curry helped stabilize us when we had difficulty in our offensive sets. He's active."
Staten Island hoops enjoying a higher profile

By Cormac Gordon
November 29, 2009, 9:33AM

It was down to the final minutes of McKee/S.I. Tech’s PSAL quarterfinal loss to John F. Kennedy last winter, when St. John’s coach Norm Roberts stepped out of his Alumni Hall office to take in the action.

Roberts stood in the corner of the gym watching the Gulls’ jet-propelled backcourt of Pucky Manley and Josh Good take Kennedy to the end of an overtime period with big shots and tons of court savvy before falling to the team that would eventually advance to the city title game.

“They have some real players,” the Red Storm coach said, pointing in the direction of the Tech bench. “I mean, real players.”

Villanova coach Jay Wright walking was through a door at the back of The Garden during Big East tournament week last March, when he bumped into an Island hoop guy.

“Hey,” the Final Four coach stopped the Islander. "There are a couple of kids I’ve been hearing about from up your way. Are they as good as everyone is telling me?"

The answer to Wright’s question, more and more, is yes.

NEVER A WASTELAND

Yes, there are good players on Staten Island. More and more of them. And the number is only going to increase.

Not that Staten Island has ever been the hoop wasteland some used to suggest. From the beginning of the college basketball boom in the ’40s, on up through the turn of the century, there were always players to be found on Staten Island.

Good ones who would move on to the national-level college game.

Matty White comes to mind.

The long-time LaSalle Academy coach and College of Staten Island assistant came out of Tottenville in the early 50s to star at Georgetown.

St. Peter’s product Bill Murtha was recruited to then national champion Loyola of Chicago following his senior high school season.

And John Engles’ St. Peter’s team of a decade later sent several very good players on to star at solid Division I programs at the same time that McKee’s Ken Page and Curtis’ Larry Cubas were carving out names for themselves in the college game.

A decade ago, Curtis HS had a run of good players like Pac-10 rebounding machine Jeff McMillan. And his teammates, Angel Branch and Rob Lewin, who both played in the NCAA Tournament as collegians.
So there have always been players on Staten Island, contrary to what some non-Islanders like to think.

But maybe there have never been more making an impact in Division I ball than now.

Missouri’s Zaire Taylor, and Ryan (Siena) and Steve (Davidson) Rossiter all went to the tournament last year, and it’s probable none of their teams would have advanced that far without them.

Freshman St. Peter’s product OD Anosike is the first big man off the bench at Siena, and Halil Kanacevic (Curtis) may just be the best big man on the Hofstra roster despite being only six games into his college career.

Isaiah Wilkerson (Curtis) is the glue of the NJIT team in Newark, and Doug Elwell (Monsignor Farrell) the best passer in the Wagner College program.

Farrell point guard James Hett has started from the day he showed up at Monmouth University.

CATCHING UP

That group playing together could be the core of a very good college team at a very competitive level. And I’m probably missing someone at least as deserving as those mentioned.

The point is, the quantity of good players has increased on the Island. And the season that is just beginning looks as if it will continue to show more of the same.

MSIT point guard Pucky Manley and Curtis point man Jonathan Annan, both seniors, are just two kids playing on the Island today who won’t be finished with basketball any time soon.

Tony Rafaniello, who has been coaching the high school game here for 35 years, says things have never been better.

“The quality of Island basketball is catching up with the rest of the city,” the Moore Catholic coach insists. “There may not be a single team yet that can compete with the very best in the city. But there are plenty of individual players who could play for anyone.”

Rafaniello also has an idea of why that is.

“More kids playing, and better coaching,” he said. “When you look around the high school programs on the Island you see a real stability in the coaching staffs. There are a lot of people who know a lot about the game.”

There’s also more diversity, Rafaniello points out.

There are kids playing for Island schools now who began their lives in Nigeria, Albania, Congo.

“The trend’s going to continue,” he says.

St. Peter’s coach Charlie Driscoll has been at the coaching game for 21 seasons. He agrees with Rafaniello.

“There’s no doubt the basketball is better,” he says.

But his reasons for the improvement are more general.

“I think part of it is that kids concentrate far more now on a single sport,” said Driscoll, whose Eagles are the reigning Island champs.

“And I think the different non-school programs during the summer gives them exposure to playing against some very good competition.”
One thing is for certain: Better players make for improved competition.

Improved competition means more college coaches like Norm Roberts and Jay Wright will start noticing Staten Island.

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Dolphin men, women set for CUNY openers

CSI visits City Tech tomorrow; hosts Brooklyn College on Thursday

The College of Staten Island men's and women's basketball teams launch their CUNY Conference basketball seasons tomorrow night against City Tech in downtown Brooklyn.

The Dolphin women take a 1-3 record into their 5 p.m. opener against the 0-3 Yellow Jackets. The CSI men bring a 1-2 mark into the 7 p.m. contest against the 0-4 Yellow Jackets.

CSI will host its CUNY home openers — both men and women — Thursday night against Brooklyn College with the women at 5:30 and the men at 7:30.

The Dolphin women were dealt a major blow when senior point guard Mallory Ameneiros was ruled out for the season with a knee injury suffered in the season opener.

Ameneiros sat out last season with a similar injury.

Defending conference champions Brooklyn (men) and Baruch (women) were tabbed as favorites in the CUNY preseason coaches' poll.

Brooklyn (2-2) was ranked No. 10 nationally in a preseason NCAA Division III poll by The Sporting News.

But the most impressive victory so far goes to Baruch's men, who used sophomore guard Chris Beaufump's three-pointer at the buzzer to upset nationally-ranked Richard Stockton, 68-67, on the road.

The Bearcats (3-1) nailed 11 3-point baskets in winning their season opener against the No. 5 team in the country.


CSI freshman center Katelyn Hepworth (Notre Dame Academy) claimed CUNY rookie of the week honors after scoring 19 points and grabbing 22 rebounds at the season-opening Amherst College Tip-Off Tournament.
College of Staten Island men and women ready for start of CUNY season

By Staten Island Advance Sports Desk
November 30, 2009, 9:46AM

The College of Staten Island men's and women's basketball teams launch their CUNY Conference basketball seasons tomorrow night against City Tech in downtown Brooklyn.

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Stories
College of Staten Island
Celestial Ball

The College of Staten Island hosts its first annual scholarship gala, the CSI Celestial Ball: Reaching for the Stars at 7 p.m. on Saturday Dec. 5 at The Richmond County Country Club.

The night will honor Gordon and Lorraine DiPaolo, Robert Scamardella, and Zane Tankel for their service to the community.

Proceeds from the event will provide direct support to eligible students in need.

Tickets to the black tie optional event cost $250 per person or $450 per couple. Sponsorship support at the $25,000 and $50,000 level will include the option to sponsor a "named endowed scholarship" opportunity at CSI. Other sponsorship levels include limited term scholarship opportunities. There are many journal and sponsorship opportunities available, and the evening will also feature an auction.

For tickets and more information, call the CSI Advancement Office at (718) 982-2365 or visit www.csi.cuny.edu.
CUNY, the City University of New York, enrolls over a quarter of a million students in its six community colleges, eleven senior colleges and seven graduate schools. CUNY has a remarkably diverse student body in terms of both age and ethnicity. The eleven senior CUNY colleges listed below are located across New York City’s five boroughs, and the focus and personalities of the schools vary widely. All are public universities with relatively low tuition for both in-state and out-of-state students. Click on a school’s name for more information. Also check out this CUNY SAT score comparison chart.

1. **Baruch College**
   - Located near Wall Street in Midtown, Manhattan, Baruch College has a winning location for its well-regarded Zicklin School of Business. 80% of Baruch undergraduate students are enrolled in the Zicklin School, making it the largest college business school in the country.
   - Location: Midtown Manhattan
   - Enrollment: 16,321 (12,731 undergraduates)
   - For data on costs, financial aid, SAT scores, acceptance rates and more, read the [Baruch College profile](#).

2. **Brooklyn College**
   - Located on a 26-acre tree-lined campus, Brooklyn College frequently ranks among the best educational values in the country. The college has strong programs in the liberal arts and sciences that have earned it a chapter of the prestigious [Phi Beta Kappa](#) Honor Society.
   - Location: Brooklyn
   - Enrollment: 16,689 (13,011 undergraduates)
   - For data on costs, financial aid, SAT scores, acceptance rates and more, read the [Brooklyn College profile](#).

3. **CCNY (City College of New York)**
   - The CCNY campus features some stunning examples of neo-Gothic architecture. CCNY’s Grove School of Engineering was the first public institution of its kind, and the Bernard and Anne Spitzer School of Architecture is the only public school of architecture in New York City. For its strong liberal arts and sciences, CCNY was awarded a chapter of the [Phi Beta Kappa](#) Honor Society.
   - Location: Manhattan (Harlem’s Hamilton Heights)
   - Enrollment: 11,306 (11,977 undergraduates)
   - For data on costs, financial aid, SAT scores, acceptance rates and more, read the [CCNY profile](#).
4. **City Tech (New York City College of Technology)**

The New York City College of Technology (City Tech) focuses entirely on undergraduate education and offers 29 associate and 17 bachelor degree programs as well as certificate programs and continuing education courses. The college has been expanding its 4-year degree offerings in recent years. Areas of study are mostly pre-professional in nature such as business, computer systems, engineering, health, hospitality, education, and many other fields.

- Location: Brooklyn
- Enrollment: 14,268 (all undergraduate)
- For data on costs, financial aid, SAT scores, acceptance rates and more, read the [City Tech profile](#).

5. **College of Staten Island**

The College of Staten Island was founded in 1976 when Staten Island Community College and Richmond College merged. The current 204-acre campus was completed in 1996. The campus is located in the center of the island and features neo-Georgian buildings, woodlands and open lawns. It is the only public university on Staten Island.

- Location: Central Staten Island
- Enrollment: 13,092 (12,183 undergraduates)
- For data on costs, financial aid, SAT scores, acceptance rates and more, read the [College of Staten Island profile](#).

6. **Hunter College**

The strength of Hunter's academic programs and the relatively low cost of attendance has earned the school a place on national rankings of best value colleges. High achieving students should check out the Honors College which offers tuition waivers, special classes, and many other perks. Hunter College has a 15 to 1 student / faculty ratio and, like many of the CUNY schools, an impressively diverse study body.

- Location: Manhattan’s Upper East Side
- Enrollment: 15,698 (21,258 undergraduates)
- For data on costs, financial aid, SAT scores, acceptance rates and more, read the [Hunter College profile](#).

7. **John Jay College of Criminal Justice**

The specialized public service mission of John Jay College has made it a leader in preparing students for careers in criminal justice and law enforcement. John Jay is one of the few schools in the country to offer an undergraduate program in forensics. The curriculum takes advantage of the school’s mid-Manhattan location to provide students with many community service opportunities.

- Location: Midtown Manhattan
- Enrollment: 14,844 (12,943 undergraduates)
- For data on costs, financial aid, SAT scores, acceptance rates and more, read the [John Jay College profile](#).
8. **Lehman College**

Originally founded in 1931 as the Bronx campus of Hunter College, Lehman is now one of the 11 senior colleges of CUNY. The college is located along the Jerome Park Reservoir in the Kingsbridge Heights neighborhood of the Bronx. The college has a student-centered curriculum and can boast of a 16 to 1 student / faculty ratio and an average class size of 18. Students at Lehman come from over 90 countries.

- Location: The Bronx
- Enrollment: 11,860 (9,569 undergraduates)
- For data on costs, financial aid, SAT scores, acceptance rates and more, read the [Lehman College profile](#).

9. **Medgar Evers College**

Medgar Evers College offers 29 associate and baccalaureate degree programs through its four schools. The college is named after Medgar Wiley Evers, a black civil rights activist who was assassinated in 1963. The spirit of Evers' work is kept alive at Medgar Evers through the college's curriculum and academic centers.

- Location: Central Brooklyn
- Enrollment: 6,036 (all undergraduate)
- For data on costs, financial aid, SAT scores, acceptance rates and more, read the [Medgar Evers College profile](#).

10. **Queens College**

Queens College's 77-acre campus is open and grassy with beautiful views of the Manhattan skyline. The college offers bachelor's and master's degrees in more than 100 areas with psychology, sociology and business being most popular among undergraduates. The college's strengths in the liberal arts and sciences earned it a chapter of the prestigious [Phi Beta Kappa](#) Honor Society.

- Location: Flushing, Queens
- Enrollment: 15,262 (19,572 undergraduates)
- For data on costs, financial aid, SAT scores, acceptance rates and more, read the [Queens College profile](#).

11. **York College**

York College's student population mirrors the rich ethnic diversity of the surrounding community. Students come from over 50 countries and speak over 37 languages. York College offers over 40 majors with programs in health, business and psychology being the most popular. In 2003, the CUNY Aviation Institute was established on the York College campus.

- Location: Queens
- Enrollment: 7,157 (7,111 undergraduates)
- For data on costs, financial aid, SAT scores, acceptance rates and more, read the [York College profile](#).
12-year case finally resolved with $9 award
Students sued CSI claiming a violation of first amendment rights, win nominal settlement

Monday, November 02, 2009

By FRANK DONNELLY
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Nine dollars.

That's what it took to end a free-speech lawsuit dating back a dozen years, in which a federal court had previously determined that former College of Staten Island President Dr. Marlene Springer violated the First Amendment by nullifying a 1997 student election.

The president believed a school-funded student newspaper had compromised the outcome by endorsing a slate of candidates.

A Brooklyn federal court judge has accepted Dr. Springer's motion to pay $1 in nominal damages to each of nine plaintiffs, all former CSI students. The payout, which amounts to 75 cents for each year of the lawsuit, effectively ends the legal battle that has been waged in Brooklyn federal court since 1997.

In short-circuiting a potential damages trial, Dr. Springer made no admission of liability or wrongdoing. She retired in August 2007 after 13 years at the Willowbrook school.

Ronald B. McGuire, the plaintiffs' Jersey City-based lawyer, said they are considering an appeal.

"We're certainly gratified to have won the case [on the First Amendment issue], but I'm concerned the decision may give future defendants a way to avoid judgments on constitutional issues by simply paying nominal damages," he said.

McGuire said his clients, who have gone on to become teachers, computer scientists and an author, had sought symbolic monetary awards -- $500 in compensatory damages, $2 in punitive damages and $9 in nominal damages. The claims for compensatory and punitive damages were previously dropped, court papers said.

In sanctioning Dr. Springer's motion to enter the $9 judgment against herself, District Judge Nina Gershon said it satisfied the plaintiffs' remaining claim and didn't require an accompanying opinion from her on the issue. She also said the decision leaves intact the First Amendment ruling against Dr. Springer.

CSI did not immediately comment on the case.

In May 1997, CSI's Student Elections Review Committee (SERC) voided the student government elections eventually won by a slate of candidates from the "Student Union" party.

Days earlier, the College Voice, one of the school's student newspapers, had endorsed the Student Union party, while criticizing candidates on the opposing Students for Students (SFS) slate.
The paper featured the Student Union party's 12-point platform but did not run statements from the SFS party. Another student newspaper, The Banner, published candidate statements from both parties.

Dr. Springer upheld SERC's ruling invalidating the election and called for a new vote. She said the College Voice, funded by student activity-fees, had violated election bylaws and compromised the electoral process with its "thinly veiled ... campaign literature."

As it turned out, the Student Union candidates won all 37 slots sought in both the original election and the rerun.

Nonetheless, several candidates, along with College Voice members, later brought the free-speech suit against Dr. Springer and other administrators.

In August 2004, Judge Gershon ruled Dr. Springer had violated the plaintiffs' First Amendment rights. However, she dismissed the suit against CSI's president and the other defendants, reasoning Dr. Springer was entitled to qualified immunity because she may not have understood her actions were unlawful.

The plaintiffs appealed, and in July 2007, a majority panel of the Second Circuit vacated Judge Gershon's findings on the latter issue and sent it back to her for trial.

In a partially dissenting opinion, Chief Judge Dennis Jacobs derided the lawsuit as a "case about nothing," adding it amounted to a "slow-motion tantrum by children."

Frank Donnelly is a news reporter for the Advance. He may be reached at fdonnelly@siadvance.com.
Veterans events at CSI

Monday, November 09, 2009
Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The College of Staten Island will host a public forum on Thursday featuring an intimate exchange of wartime experiences between student veterans from Iraq and veterans of past wars.

It will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Springer Concert Hall at the Center for the Public Arts.

Students on the panel include Michael Abramovich, Erica Cano, Kevin Deighan and Robert Miller, who all served in Iraq. They will be joined by Vietnam veteran Robert Palisay and Korean War veteran Frank Dito.

Among the topics to be discussed will be the differences and similarities of combat and equipment, the enemy, the public view of war and the support they received from the homefront. Donations of holiday care package items for overseas troops will be collected for Staten Island Project Homefront.

Also, the Student Art Gallery is displaying "Battlespace: Unrealities of War," photographs from Iraq and Afghanistan. The exhibit runs through Saturday.
Smoothing the road from soldier to student
By Stephanie Slepian
November 09, 2009, 6:47AM

JAN SOMMA-HAMMEL Adam Gramegna, who served as an infantryman in Iraq, is one of many veterans attending classes at the College of Staten Island.

STATEN ISLAND -- Not that long ago, Adam Gramegna was a U.S. infantryman trying to stay alive in Baghdad.

But the transition from soldier to civilian was even harder.

Nobody back home on Staten Island understood where he'd been, the things he saw.

In August, he found people who did in the most unlikeliest of places: A classroom at the College of Staten Island, its peaceful campus far removed from the battles of war.

"They really take care of us here," said Gramegna, 29, a Charleston resident, psychology major, philosophy minor and one of 179 student veterans on the Willowbrook campus.

This semester, there are 47 more veterans studying at CSI than last, many fresh out of Iraq and Afghanistan, and most taking advantage of the fattened GI Bill -- officially the Post-9/11 GI Bill -- that took effect Aug. 1.

Nationwide, more than 400,000 veterans either started school or continued their studies this fall under the bill, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Dramatically overhauled by Congress last year, the new measure covers tuition and fees for any in-state public school, a monthly housing allowance and an annual book and supply stipend of up to $1,000 for veterans -- and also for the children of fallen soldiers who died while on active duty.
"It was a big incentive to go back to school," said Kevin Deighan, 31, a Dongan Hills resident and Marine studying information systems, who said the one problem is the lag in payments.

Like many colleges and universities, CSI administrators looked for ways to ease the transition from bullets to books, from soldier to student as the ranks of veterans increased on campus.

At CSI, much of the framework was already in place: The Veteran Center has been streamlining the application and financial aid process, aiding with VA benefits and providing counseling. The New York State Small Business Development Center was offering a Veterans’ Business Outreach Program. And an Armed Forces Club was serving as a support group.

New this semester is a special section of CORE 100 -- one of the required general education courses all freshman must take -- created for veterans only, and with their input. Thirty-five are enrolled.

Urszula Echols, a licensed social worker and coordinator of the Veteran Center, said combat-weary troops often experience drastic changes when leaving the structure of the military behind for the freedom of civilian life.

"They're in a different environment, with different people and different exceptions," she said. "It's an entirely different lifestyle. My goal is to give them a place where they can feel somewhat safe."

At 26, Umair Zaman feels old among his fellow freshman.

"One of the main challenges is relating to people who just got out of high school last year," said Zaman, a Marine with two tours in Iraq under his belt. "I have had such a different experience for the last eight years, interacting with military people. They don't relate to the same things I do."

Richard Acevedo -- a New York Army National Guardsman simply known as "Top" to his classmates because he bears the rank of a first sergeant -- is most bothered by the questions from the non-veterans, both on campus and off.

"Did you kill anybody?"

"How many dead bodies did you see?"

"If they do ask my experiences and I try to give them the details, there's an uneasiness in the room, like they almost regretted they asked," said Acevedo, 43, who for months after he retired in 2006 would dream about the Iraqi soldier who died as he held his hand.

The first time Lee Siegfried -- a freshman at 40 -- publicly discussed his wartime experiences was in his CSI CORE course, which is as much a classroom as it is group therapy.

"It's like our own fraternity or sorority," said Siegfried, a Huguenot resident who was exposed to chemical weapons when an ammunitions depot was blown up while he was with the 82nd Airborne Division during the first Gulf War. "What CSI has done for us is great."

Maria Durham served stateside in the Marine Corps from 2000 to 2005. She left her job with the Department of Defense in Virginia and moved back in with her family in Tottenville when her Marine husband, Brian, deployed to Afghanistan.

"We're from a different world, we're older, we should have done this 10, 15 or 20 years ago," said the 28-year-old computer technology major about the veterans. "I go to my other classes, hand in my assignments and leave. In our class, we sometimes stay for two hours, just talking."
Proponents of same-sex marriage hold candlelight vigil at Borough Hall

By Judy L. Randall
November 10, 2009, 1:24AM

Capping a day on which the governor bade the state Senate move forward with a vote on same-sex marriage, about 80 supporters of marriage equality staged a candlelight vigil on the steps of Borough Hall. Holding banners that read "Senator Lanza: Stand Up for Equal Rights" and "Marriage Equality Now," the group received support from folks who honked as they drove past and passerbys who yelled encouragement.

Despite some state lawmakers saying the Legislature should be focused, laserlike, on the huge, daunting budget cuts that must be made today, Gov. David Paterson wants a Senate vote on same-sex marriage -- even though many proponents say the votes aren't there and a defeat may hurt its chances of passage in the near future.

The state Assembly already has voted in support of same-sex marriage.

State Sen. Diane Savino (D-North Shore/ Brooklyn), a supporter of the legislation, said a vote shouldn't be taken because victory isn't assured, while state Sen. Andrew Lanza (R-Staten Island) in the past has expressed opposition to same-sex marriage.

But in an address to a joint session of the Legislature yesterday, Paterson reiterated his call to action on the matter, saying gay New Yorkers are "members of the family of New York" and should be given the same opportunity to wed as those who are straight.

Gay-rights activists on Staten Island and elsewhere have asked for a public discussion and vote.

Last night in St. George, Gerard Mawn of Staten Island Pride said he was heartened by the relatively large turnout. Mawn, currently in a 12 year-relationship with his partner, Angel Love Figueroa, said a bill creating equal marriage rights under the law would take their relationship to the next level.
"We are in a domestic partnership, but a domestic partnership isn't equal to a marriage," said Mawn. "We are being separated [as a group], it's a form of segregation and it shouldn't be that way."

Jim Smith with Staten Island Stonewall produced his pocket version of the U.S. Constitution and read the 14th Amendment, which guarantees all people equal protection under the law.

"They are denying us, they are going against the Constitution," said Smith, a long-time gay Island activist.

And if homosexuals were able to have the same rights as married couples, then Wayne Shapiro's heartbreaking loss of his partner of 11 months, Eric Aversa, might have been a little more bearable, since he would have had full rights to follow his partner's wishes without question. When Aversa, 44, died in June, Shapiro said, for starters, he was shunned by the family during the service.

"I had his belongings and he [Aversa] made it clear to me whom he wanted to have what, and I followed his instructions, and his family, his mother and his uncle, were very angry with me, because they felt the belongings belonged to his mother."

But Assemblyman Lou Tobacco (R-South Shore), who opposes same-sex marriage, said for the governor to anger senators by asking them to take action now, even as he needs their support on budget matters, doesn't make political sense.

"This has to be a moral issue for the governor," reasoned Tobacco, "I think he is at a point in his career where he has been thrown under the bus by members of his own party. It is the action of a man who has nothing to lose."

Assemblyman Matthew Titone (D-North Shore), an openly gay member of the Legislature who supports the bill, called a vote in the state Senate "premature" because the votes aren't there yet.

Assemblywoman Janele Hyer-Spencer (D-East Shore/Brooklyn) and Assemblyman Michael Cusick (D-Mid-Island) support same-sex marriage.

Among the groups participating in the vigil were: Staten Island LGBT Center, the Unitarian Church of Staten Island, College of Staten Island's Gay/Straight Alliance and Staten Island Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, as well as Titone's Chief of Staff Chris Bauer
Azure Dynamics Announces Third Quarter 2009 Results

Revenue Up as Sales Trend Improves

OAK PARK, MI, Nov. 12 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ - November 12, 2009 - Azure Dynamics Corporation (TSX: AZD) - ("Azure" or the "Company"), an industry leader in the development of hybrid electric and electric technologies for commercial vehicles, today reported its third quarter financial results for the period ending September 30, 2009. The Company also provided an update on product development activities.

"While the automotive and commercial vehicle industries struggled along with the rest of the economy to recover during the quarter, we saw definite signs of improvement and opportunity," said Scott Harrison, Azure Chief Executive Officer. "Interest from our current and prospective customers picked up significantly and several new orders that had been on hold were released late in the quarter and into the fourth quarter. We see that trend continuing to improve as we move closer to the end of the year."

Harrison said that interest in fuel efficient green products continues to mushroom in the commercial vehicle industry and that as federal stimulus funds are released he expects more companies and municipalities to take advantage of them to order vehicles equipped with Azure technology.

"It's clear that we have the right products for today's market and as we continue to amass on-the-road experience and customer understanding of our unique product benefits, the market is responding," said Harrison. "Our more than two decades of development work in alternative vehicle transportation systems is finally starting to pay off."

Subsequent to the quarter end, Azure announced significant advancements for each of its core technologies. On October 14th, the Company announced its largest LEEP(TM) Freeze order to date with 248 units for Schwan Food Company. On October 30th, Azure and Ford Motor Company jointly announced that Azure's Force(TM) Drive technology would power the Transit Connect battery electric vehicle, the first of four electric vehicles coming from Ford in the next three years. Then, on November 9th, Azure announced 51 additional Balance(TM) Hybrid Electric sales to FedEx Express, most of which will be deployed at an all-hybrid facility in Bronx, New York.

"We're delighted at the amount of financial support that is being made available to the Company to assist us in our development efforts for the Transit Connect battery electric vehicle. For the first time in the Company's history, we will share the development costs of a major product program with several project collaborators. Additionally, we're evaluating several commitment letters received from government for a significant economic package to further reduce our overall development costs," said Harrison. "With the added financial benefits of sharing development costs, and support from government, we are now more confident than ever in our ability to continue delivering our innovative products to meet the growing customer demand."

Third Quarter 2009 Highlights

- On July 9, Azure was awarded a 16 vehicle contract from the Hybrid Truck Users Forum's (HTUF) Small Hybrid Bus Working Group. HTUF's Small Hybrid Bus Working group is a joint program between CALSTART and the U.S. Army TARDEC's National Automotive Center (NAC) and is supported by the Federal Transit Administration. Azure won the competitive bid process because its technology provided the flexibility to service the needs of a broad range of HTUF constituents.

- On August 5, the Company announced a successful bid for up to 50 Balance(TM) Hybrid Electric shuttle buses for the State of Kentucky. Ten buses were ordered immediately by three separate Kentucky municipalities with an option for up to 40 additional buses.

- On August 13, Azure Dynamics closed a private placement offering for
The offering was conducted through a syndicate of agents co-led by Raymond James Ltd. and TD Securities Inc. and including Paradigm Capital Inc. and Stonegate Securities, Incorporated as co-managers.

- On August 18, the NAPA Valley Unified School District (NAPA) in California purchased the nation's first NEXBUS, the only hybrid electric Type A school bus available in North America. NEXBUS is produced by Collins Bus Corporation and features Azure Dynamics' Balance(TM) Hybrid Electric drive train. Collins is the largest builder of Type A (short) school buses and Azure's exclusive partner in producing certified hybrid school buses.

- On August 25, Azure announced the sale of five Balance(TM) Hybrid Electric buses to Votran, the transit entity for Volusia County, Florida. Votran, which used FTA stimulus funds to cover 100 percent of the cost of the vehicles, will integrate the buses into its county-wide paratransit service.

- On August 26, Azure announced that the United States Postal Service (USPS) had added a Balance(TM) Hybrid Electric vehicle to its fleet. The Azure product, a Balance(TM) Hybrid Electric two-ton walk-in van, will actively participate in the USPS fleet in Long Island, New York, for a twelve month pilot program. Azure has an additional 30 vehicles already in service with USPS.

- On September 24, Azure's Balance(TM) Hybrid Electric technology was approved by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for use by state transportation agencies. The MDOT contract creates a fixed price for up to 50 buses and will remain in effect for up to three years with a total maximum value of $5.6 million.

- On September 30, Azure's dealer, Colonial Equipment Co., was awarded a bid with Howard County, Maryland, for up to 25 of the Azure CitiBus(TM) units with 17 units immediately ordered.

- As the fourth quarter began in October, Azure received two separate orders from Kidron Body Company for a total of 257 Low Emission Electric Power (LEEP(TM) Freeze) systems.

Financial Results

Revenue for the third quarter of 2009 totaled $3.2 million compared to $1.3 million in the third quarter of 2008. For the nine months ended September 30, 2009, revenue totaled $5.0 million compared to $5.1 million in the same period a year ago. Net loss for the third quarter of 2009 was $5.7 million, or $(0.01) cents per share, compared to a loss of $5.3 million or $(0.03) cents per share in the third quarter of 2008. Net loss for the nine months ended September 30, 2009 was $19.8 million, or $(0.05) per share, compared to a loss of $24.3 million or $(0.08) per share in the same period a year ago.

Before contributions, the Company's engineering, operations and product development expenses for the quarter totaled $3.3 million (including $1.2 million in product development costs), compared to $4.9 million for the same period in 2008 (including $2.7 million in product development costs). For the first nine months of 2009, the Company's engineering and R&D expenses totaled $10.4 million (including $3.2 million in product development costs), compared to $15.5 million in the same period of 2008 (including $8.5 million in product development expenses).

As of September 30, 2009, the Company's net cash and cash equivalents totaled $5.3 million, and working capital totaled $11.1 million, compared to cash and cash equivalents of $21.2 million, and working capital of $33.6 million, as of September 30, 2008. Revenue for the third quarter increased significantly and the company is in the process of completing delivery of several previously announced orders for which it expects to receive payment during the fourth quarter of 2009 and the first quarter of 2010.

The Company is progressing in its discussions with Technology Partnerships Canada (“TPC”) with respect to
extending the length and modifying the scope of its existing grant program from TPC to include additional costs related to the development of the Balance(TM) Hybrid Electric P1 parallel hybrid program. Azure’s application for an amendment totaling approximately $2.8 million has been submitted and is currently under review. Management believes that this request will be approved sometime during the fourth quarter of 2009.

Third Quarter Product Development Updates

CitiBus(TM) (G1) Series (7,500 to 16,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight, "GVW")

- The 49 G1 Purolator fleet crossed over 1.2 million miles in service
- 28 G1 CitiBuses have been delivered and are in service

Balance(TM) Hybrid Electric (P1) Parallel (10,000 - 19,000 lbs. GVW)

- In addition to notification from the IRS that the 2009 model Balance(TM) Hybrid Electric qualifies for a $3,000 U.S. Federal tax credit to eligible buyers, Azure received notification of certification from California Air Resources Board (CARB) for the 2009 Azure Balance Hybrid E-450
- The EPA and CARB certifications are requirements for the Balance(TM) Hybrid Electric to qualify for the California Hybrid Truck and Bus Voucher Incentive Project (HVIP). The HVIP will provide vouchers of $10,000 to $45,000 on a first-come, first-served basis for purchase of each eligible new hybrid truck or bus. The program is anticipated to be in effect January 2010
- Second generation prototype Lithium battery packs were received from Johnson Controls-Saft and are running in the Azure development fleet

LEEP(TM) Freeze & LEEP(TM) Lift (Low Emission Electric Power)

- The field trial of LEEP(TM) Lift by AT&T in Kansas continued in the quarter
- Customer demonstration trial of LEEP(TM) Freeze with Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream, Inc. in Florida was completed within the quarter
- Engineering and production prepared for increased manufacturing rates for LEEP(TM) Freeze in Q4 as a result of recent orders announced

Sales and Marketing Highlights:

- On July 17, Azure announced two new patents for innovations to its proprietary hybrid electric drive trains. Azure Dynamics broad patent portfolio includes 21 total patents issued or pending. The newest additions address key value-adding components applicable to electric, hybrid and PHEV vehicle drive trains.
- On July 22, Azure announced a partnership with Turtle Top, a leading body manufacturer specializing in small to mid-sized buses and specialty vehicles. The agreement provides Turtle Top customers and dealers the opportunity to select Azure's Balance(TM) Hybrid Electric drivetrain system on the Ford E-450 chassis.
- On August 20, Azure Dynamics announced that its shuttle buses will service student and faculty needs at both the College of Staten Island and the University of Fairfield. The College of Staten Island is working to set a green example for its community. J & R Tours will manage the second bus on behalf of the University of Fairfield in
Fairfield, Connecticut.

- On September 22, Azure announced the sale of two hybrid electric NEXBUS school buses to Durham School Services, a subsidiary of National Express Corporation (NEC). NEC manages more than 16,000 school buses in North America. NEXBUS utilizes Azure's Balance(TM) Hybrid Electric drivetrain with a Collins school bus body.

The Company's fiscal 2009 third quarter financial statements and MD&A are available at www.sedar.com or on the Company's website at www.azuredynamics.com.

About Azure Dynamics

Azure Dynamics Corporation (TSX: AZD) is a world leader in the development and production of hybrid electric and electric components and powertrain systems for commercial vehicles. Azure is strategically targeting the commercial delivery vehicle and shuttle bus markets and is currently working internationally with various partners and customers. The Company is committed to providing customers and partners with innovative, cost-efficient, and environmentally friendly energy management solutions.

For more information, please visit www.azuredynamics.com.

The TSX Exchange does not accept responsibility for the adequacy or accuracy of this release.

Forward-looking Statements

This press release contains forward-looking statements. More particularly, this press release contains statements concerning Azure's business development strategy, projected commercial revenues and product deliveries.

The forward-looking statements are based on certain key expectations and assumptions made by Azure, including expectations and assumptions concerning achievement of current timetables for development programs, target market acceptance of Azure's products, current and new product performance, availability and cost of labour and expertise, and evolving markets for power for transportation vehicles. Although Azure believes that the expectations and assumptions on which the forward-looking statements are based are reasonable, undue reliance should not be placed on the forward-looking statements because Azure can give no assurance that they will prove to be correct. Since forward-looking statements address future events and conditions, by their very nature they involve inherent risks and uncertainties. Actual results could differ materially from those currently anticipated due to a number of factors and risks. These include, but are not limited to, the risks associated with Azure's early stage of development, lack of product revenues and history of losses, requirements for additional financing, uncertainty as to commercial viability, uncertainty as to product development and commercialization milestones being met, uncertainty as to the market for Azure's products and unproven acceptance of Azure's technology, competition for capital, product market and personnel, uncertainty as to target markets, dependence upon third parties, changes in environmental laws or policies, uncertainty as to patent and proprietary rights, availability of management and key personnel, and acquisition integration risk. These risks are set out in more detail in Azure's annual information form which can be accessed at www.sedar.com.

The forward-looking statements contained in this press release are made as of the date hereof and Azure undertakes no obligation to update publicly or revise any forward-looking statements or information, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise, unless so required by applicable securities laws.

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<td>Consolidated Balance Sheet</td>
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<td>(Stated in Thousands)</td>
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<td>September 30  December 31</td>
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87 of 104
## ASSETS

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<td>Inventory (Note 4)</td>
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<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
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<td>Property and equipment</td>
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<td>Goodwill</td>
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## LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY

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<td>Customer deposits &amp; deferred revenue (Note 5)</td>
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<td>Current portion of notes payable (Note 3)</td>
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<td>Current portion of obligations under capital lease (Note 6)</td>
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<td>Obligations under capital lease (Note 6)</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>263</td>
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<tr>
<td>Customer deposits &amp; deferred revenue (Note 5)</td>
<td>659</td>
<td>839</td>
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<tr>
<td>Notes payable (Note 3)</td>
<td>2,111</td>
<td>2,459</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,908</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,561</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share capital (Note 7)</td>
<td>174,407</td>
<td>165,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributed surplus (Note 7)</td>
<td>7,014</td>
<td>6,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>181,421</strong></td>
<td><strong>171,507</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>181,421</strong></td>
<td><strong>171,507</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Azure Dynamics Corporation

Consolidated Statements of Operations, Comprehensive Loss, and Deficit
(Stated in Thousands)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>September 30 (unaudited)</th>
<th>September 30 (unaudited)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues</strong></td>
<td>$3,168</td>
<td>$1,325</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost of sales</td>
<td>3,594</td>
<td>2,132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Margin</td>
<td>(426)</td>
<td>(807)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering, research, development and related costs, net</td>
<td>3,330</td>
<td>4,832</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selling and marketing</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>679</td>
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<tr>
<td>General and administrative</td>
<td>1,859</td>
<td>1,937</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>5,708</td>
<td>7,448</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loss from operations</td>
<td>(6,134)</td>
<td>(8,255)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest and other income, net</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest expense</td>
<td>(26)</td>
<td>(3)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other expense</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign currency gains/(losses)</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>(91)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net loss and comprehensive loss for the period</td>
<td>(5,692)</td>
<td>(8,309)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deficit, beginning of period</td>
<td>(150,814)</td>
<td>(113,890)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deficit, end of period</td>
<td>(156,506)</td>
<td>(122,199)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loss per share - basic and diluted</td>
<td>(0.01)</td>
<td>(0.03)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weighted average number of shares - basic and diluted*</td>
<td>410,241,505</td>
<td>316,332,699</td>
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* No diluted earnings per share have been disclosed, as these would be anti dilutive.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cash flows from operating activities</th>
<th>$</th>
<th>$</th>
<th>$</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net loss for the period</td>
<td>(5,692)</td>
<td>(8,309)</td>
<td>(19,775)</td>
<td>(24,335)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adjustments for:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Amortization of property and equipment</td>
<td>254</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>789</td>
<td>699</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amortization of intangible assets</td>
<td>354</td>
<td>347</td>
<td>1,056</td>
<td>1,063</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unrealized foreign currency (gains)/losses</td>
<td>(279)</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>(362)</td>
<td>180</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stock option compensation expense</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>332</td>
<td>633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred share units compensation expense</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(5,230)</td>
<td>(7,307)</td>
<td>(17,774)</td>
<td>(21,614)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Changes in non-cash working capital items</td>
<td>(1,193)</td>
<td>(680)</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>(4,563)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cash flows from operating activities</td>
<td>(6,423)</td>
<td>(7,987)</td>
<td>(17,526)</td>
<td>(26,177)</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cash flows from financing activities</th>
<th>$</th>
<th>$</th>
<th>$</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Issuance of common shares (net of costs)</td>
<td>9,395</td>
<td>24,394</td>
<td>9,395</td>
<td>24,392</td>
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<tr>
<td>Principal payments on notes payable</td>
<td>(17)</td>
<td>(9)</td>
<td>(53)</td>
<td>(27)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repayment of obligations under capital lease</td>
<td>(36)</td>
<td>(10)</td>
<td>(131)</td>
<td>(20)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total cash flows from financing activities</td>
<td>9,342</td>
<td>24,375</td>
<td>9,211</td>
<td>24,345</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cash flows from investing activities</th>
<th>$</th>
<th>$</th>
<th>$</th>
<th>$</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acquisition of property and equipment</td>
<td>(67)</td>
<td>(577)</td>
<td>(103)</td>
<td>(961)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisition of intangible assets</td>
<td>(35)</td>
<td>(17)</td>
<td>(160)</td>
<td>(125)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sale of property and equipment</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Changes in restricted cash</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total cash flows from investing activities</td>
<td>(67)</td>
<td>(594)</td>
<td>(131)</td>
<td>(1,086)</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Increase (decrease) in cash and cash
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2004</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>equivalents</td>
<td>2,852</td>
<td>15,794</td>
<td>(8,446)</td>
<td>(2,918)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exchange impact on cash held in foreign currency</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>(15)</td>
<td>(60)</td>
<td>(8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of period</td>
<td>2,443</td>
<td>5,428</td>
<td>13,803</td>
<td>24,133</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents, end of period</td>
<td>5,297</td>
<td>21,207</td>
<td>5,297</td>
<td>21,207</td>
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Supplemental cash flow information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cash paid for interest</th>
<th>26</th>
<th>21</th>
<th>85</th>
<th>57</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash paid for taxes</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non cash investing and financing activities:

| Vehicles and equipment acquired under capital lease | - | 151 | - | 336 |

SOURCE Azure Dynamics Corporation

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Debt's in the saddle and rides young people with diminished prospects

Steve Nerl, 26, of New Dorp, holds a model airplane he made as a child. He's a regional airline pilot saddled with sizable student loans.

College loan defaults are exploding

By KAREN O'SHEA
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

The recession has re-shaped how Americans think of debt, and many college graduates are now re-thinking the loans they took with the aim of improving their education and their lives.

Like homeowners who took subprime loans they could not pay when the housing market crashed, the number of college graduates defaulting on loans is rising nationally in one of the worst job markets in 25 years.

"It’s not the same kind of financial implosion, but there are definitely parallels," said Andrew Gillen, research director for the non-profit Center for College Affordability and Productivity in Washington.

"If you've maxed out your loans through the government and you've taken out some private loans, you are looking at a significant chunk of your salary or wages that will be eaten up"

Advice on college loans

Plan ahead
Consider future career and salary when deciding how much in loans to take out for school.

Do your homework
Exhaust all scholarships, grants and government loans before considering taking out private loans, which often carry higher interest rates.

Look thoroughly
Broaden your search to include less expensive public college options.

IBR option
Consider the new Income-Based Repayment (IBR) option, which allows students with federal loans to cap loan payments based on their income and family size.

Different sites
For more information about college expenses and financial aid, visit Web sites such as www.collegeboard.com, www.finaid.org and www.ed.gov.
LOANS FROM PAGE A1

College loan defaults are exploding

by this," he said.

New Dorp residents Steve Neri and Michael Schneider, friends from childhood who once shared a dream of flying planes, are finding that out the hard way.

While Neri, 26, did become a pilot with a regional airline, Schneider, also 26, got his bachelor’s degree in English, briefly taught English in Spain and eventually landed a job as a flight attendant.

The two men remain good friends and have something else in common: Both took out big student loans to further their education and training. And they borrowed that money when the market was flying high and the first signs of recession barely on the horizon.

OWES NEARLY 100Gs

Today, Neri owes nearly $100,000 for his flight school training, while Schneider owes $60,000 in government and private student loans for financing school and two years studying abroad in Spain. Neri lives at home and drives a 14-year-old car; Schneider works a second job as a waiter to help pay the bills.

"It's not that I regret it or that I would change anything," Schneider recalled of his college experience. "It's that I had no real awareness of the amount of money I borrowed — what it actually meant to me. It was just an abstract figure. I just figured I was sure I'd have a job and I'm sure I'll be able to pay them back."

The U.S. Department of Education found the number of students defaulting on loans rose to 6.7 percent in 2007, up from 5.2 percent in 2006, the most recent years for which data is available. That means more than 255,000 of the 3.3 million borrowers whose first loan repayments were due between Oct. 1, 2006, and Sept. 30, 2007, went into default.

The data covers 5,776 participating colleges, technical and trade schools.

On Staten Island, the jump in the default rate is not as high, and college administrators note that the real number of students in default is relatively low.

At Wagner College, for example, the student default rate in fiscal year 2007 was 2.7 percent — up from 1.6 percent in 2006. That meant 11 of 497 students who entered repayment in 2007 could not pay.

The private college expects that number to rise above 3 percent for 2008 and 2009, with fewer job opportunities and fewer lenders offering consolidation loans to students.

At St. John's University, 3,368 students entered repayment during 2007 and a total of 368 — or 5 percent — defaulted.

Jorge Rodriguez, associate vice president for student financial service, said that 5 percent held steady for several years and is often attributed to students who drop out of school. He does, however, expect the rate to increase slightly this year because of the economy.

At the College of Staten Island, the student loan default rate for 2007 was 4 percent, or roughly 46 of 1,164 students, up from 3.6 percent in 2006.

SOUND INVESTMENT

For most students, a college education is still a very sound investment, said James Monks, an associate professor of economics at the Robbins School of Business at the University of Richmond.

Monks said the majority of people take out about $20,000 in loans for school, but he cautions those who take on more debt to consider their future career paths.

"If you are thinking about taking on $40,000 or $50,000 in debt and you want to be a social worker — it's going to be very difficult to pay back," he said.

Problems occur most frequently when students take private loans for school. Government loans have lower interest rates, but rates for private loans can range from 9 to 18 percent. Student loan debt is also rarely discharged through bankruptcy, making it one of the most difficult debts to ignore.

Neri, the young pilot from New Dorp, went to a four-year college and was working as an airplane mechanic when he decided to finance his dream of becoming a pilot by taking out $90,000 in private student loans to go to flight school.

Now, he worries about how he will pay back nearly $160,000 over 25 years, and he is living with his parents and deferring loan payments for a year. He is working as a pilot for a regional airline and he hopes he can tackle the debt as he moves up in his career.

"It's like a mortgage," said Neri. "I just wished I had educated myself better about the loans. If you are going to get involved, know the consequences."

Karen O'Shea is a reporter for the Advance. She can be reached at koshea@siadvance.com.
High marks pay off for HS principals
As part of a program launched in 2007, 2 Island officials receive $7,000 bonus for a job well done

Friday, November 20, 2009
By AMISHA PADNANI
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Days after earning the first "A" for the College of Staten Island High School for International Studies, Principal Aimee Horowitz will have another reason to celebrate: A $7,000 cash bonus.

As part of a program launched in 2007, officials are doling out $5.1 million in performance bonuses to more than 1,600 high school principals and school staff members across the city for the high marks they scored on the latest round of progress report card grades.

On Staten Island, Horowitz and Staten Island Technical High School Principal Vincent Maniscalco are getting $7,000 each for scoring in the top 11 to 20 percent compared to high school principals across the city. This was the first year CSI High School was graded and it received the "A." Staten Island Tech also earned top marks.

Earlier this week, Horowitz credited the school's "A" grade to the teachers, who she said go out of their way to ensure students are excelling in their coursework.

In September, the Department of Education gave $4.4 million in bonuses to 198 elementary and middle school principals, including Donna Luisi, the principal of PS 18, West Brighton, who earned $12,000; Mary Petrone, the principal of PS 19, West Brighton, who got $12,000, and Marie Munoz, the principal of PS 20, Port Richmond, who received $7,000. In addition, more than 9,200 educators received schoolwide performance bonuses totaling $27 million.

Amisha Padnani may be reached at padnani@siadvance.com.
State budget cuts will be 'deep and painful'
Making matters worse, programs that receive state dollars will also lose matching federal funds

Monday, November 23, 2009
JUDY L. RANDALL
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Staten Island state lawmakers say proposed cuts in health care and funding for not-for-profits will have a "ripple effect" in the borough, reducing services to families in need through staff reductions while at the same time increasing the unemployment rate here.

And while most Democrats say "painful" decisions will have to be made in Albany to plug the $3.2 billion budget gap, Republicans, who are in the minority in both houses, say there's plenty of waste that could be eliminated first.

Meanwhile, despite Gov. Paterson's pleas for action in the latest special session he called, lawmakers hit the road after four days of failing to reach a consensus on where cuts should be made. However, they could return to Albany for new rounds of talks.

But that hasn't stopped GOP members in the Assembly from pointing to $1.5 million in what they say are wasteful budgeted expenses. Assemblyman Lou Tobacco (R-South Shore) said making agency consolidations alone could save some $925 million.

"By cutting funding to health care and education, you disproportionately affect those who government should be helping first and foremost," said Tobacco.

Island lawmakers have been lobbied hard by borough families who are served by the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD), who have visited the offices of local lawmakers here and in Albany. They say they've also been on the receiving end of a slew of phone calls from members of Health and Hospital Workers Union Local 1199 urging against any cuts. Other calls have come from the United Federation of Teachers union.

Said Assemblyman Matthew Titone (D-North Shore): "The cry from these groups and others is, 'We don't want cuts.' But there has to be an understanding that there is a serious problem that we cannot ignore. There will be cuts."

Others point out that there is "no good place" to cut.

Assemblyman Michael Cusick (D-Mid-Island), for one, said students at the College of Staten Island will be hurt by increases in tuition and cuts to programming.

"In the past, we were always able to hold aside education and health care from cuts," said Cusick.

Assemblywoman Janene Hyer-Spencer (D-Mid-Island/Brooklyn) said she is so concerned about the impact of possible cuts that she's been making the rounds of civic associations in her district to tell residents "the cuts will be deep and painful" and will be felt throughout the borough.
She has told them that not only will cuts negatively impact OMRDD clients and families, but that staff cuts will have a "devastating affect" on the unemployment rate here.

In addition, she and other members of the Island delegation note that cuts to programs that receive federal dollars -- Medicaid hospital reimbursements and Title 1 resources to schools -- will be doubly troubling because for each state dollar cut, the federal dollar match will be cut as well.

State Sen. Diane Savino (D-North Shore/Brooklyn) said nursing homes will take a similar hit, and noted that mid-year education cuts are particularly difficult for schools to manage.

Still, state Sen. Andrew Lanza (R-Staten Island) said broad-brushed cuts to hospitals, nursing homes and education "have not been prioritized properly" by the governor or Democratic lawmakers. He, like Tobacco, said waste should be eliminated first and pointed to new member-item programs, pushed through earlier this year, that he said should be nixed.

"The world was fine without them before," said Lanza.

Judy L. Randall is a news reporter for the Advance. She may be reached at randall@siadvance.com.
Scientists at IBR help discover new gene mutations
Discovery is published in Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences

Monday, November 30, 2009
By STEPHANIE SLEPIAN
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Scientists at the Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities in Willowbrook were part of a research team that has discovered new gene mutations linked to mental retardation.


The two mutations they found can slow or completely halt an enzyme that processes many types of steroids. That slowed or halted activity can lead to an accumulation of steroids in the brain, causing neurological problems.

“This discovery opens up a new approach to preventing and treating developmental disabilities,” said Dr. Mazhar N. Malik, co-chairman of the Department of Neurochemistry at IBR.

The study was led by Dr. Song-Yu Yang, head of IBR’s Medical Biochemistry Laboratory. Other members of the research team include Dr. Xue-Ying He of the Medical Biochemistry Lab, Dr. Robert B. Denman, head of the Biochemical and Molecular Biology Laboratory, and Dr. Malik.

IBR, the research arm of the state Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities, has been making scientific headlines since it was founded in 1967, as the first facility to study mental retardation.

Work done there has led to the first pre-natal screenings for Fragile X syndrome -- the most common known cause of inherited developmental disabilities and the most common known single-gene cause for autism -- and the discovery of PKU, the only form of mental retardation that can be treated at birth.

Over the years, they've made breakthroughs in Down syndrome, Alzheimer's disease, Batten disease and fetal alcohol syndrome.

An outpatient clinic offers sophisticated diagnostic tests to catch things routinely missed on a pediatrician's exam.

Among IBR's educational programs is the Center for Developmental Neuroscience and Developmental Disabilities, run jointly with the College of Staten Island.

Stephanie Slepian is a news reporter for the Advance. She may be reached at slepian@siadvance.com.
Students & Alumni
The winners are:

Jim Miller, Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, AK
Deborah Ghim, Buffalo Grove HS, Chicago, IL

Each winning essay will be published in a special youth issue of The Nation in early November. All of the finalists will be published at TheNation.com on Thursday, November 5.

The finalists are:

College:
Ophelia Hu, Amherst College
Jeanette Blalock-Davis, University of Minnesota
Michael Cohen, College of Staten Island
Jacob Stokes, University of Missouri

High School:
Christine Chang, Monta Vista HS, Cupertino, CA
Eric Siguenza, San Fernando HS, Sun Valley, CA
Aleena Durrani, Winston Churchill HS, Potomac, MD
Christopher Criswell, Austin HS, Austin, TX

Thanks to the BIL Charitable Trust for generously making this contest possible.
STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- More than 400 Staten Islanders gathered last night at the Excelsior Grand, New Dorp, to celebrate a good cause, at the 10th annual fundraiser to benefit the New York University Children's Cancer Fund.

In 1999, moms Laura Pisano and Stephanie Crocetto bonded at NYU Medical Center, where their sons were being treated for pediatric cancer.

Mrs. Crocetto's son, Robert, now a junior at St. Joseph by-the-Sea High School, was diagnosed with leukemia in 1997. Mrs. Pisano's son, Nicholas, now a student at the College of Staten Island, was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, also in 1997.

Both boys' cancers are in remission and the mothers credit the care they received from Dr. Aaron Rausen and the staff of NYU Medical Center, along with research done by the NYU Children's Cancer Fund.

The mothers want to give back to the lifesaving organization, which is why they started the fundraiser, which has raised over $500,000 since its founding.

Mrs. Crocetto and Mrs. Pisano, along with fundraiser Gina Sindone, who offered her assistance after hearing about the project, are in charge of putting everything together.

"It takes months of preparation. They work on it every day," said husband and father Robert Crocetto.

Attendees enjoyed a cocktail hour with open bar, a sit-down dinner, entertainment by the Village People and radio personality Joe Causi, who was the master of ceremonies for the evening, and a meet-and-greet with Jason Marquis, the Tottenville High School alumnus who is an All-Star pitcher for the Colorado Rockies.

The main entrance of the Excelsior Grand was the site for raffles, with prizes including vacations and sports memorabilia.

The Levinson family, of the sports agent company Aces Inc., played a pivotal role in the event, donating for raffle bats signed by Jorge Posada and David Wright. They also helped arrange for Marquis' presence.
Rail link would help travelers on North Shore

By Letters to the Editor/Staten Island Advance...
November 17, 2009, 5:05PM
By TAMIRA FLASH, BULLS HEAD

Why does the Staten Island train run only on one side of the Island?

To begin, there is currently one train on Staten Island. It only travels between St. George and Tottenville, passing through residential towns along its way. The people who reside in those areas most definitely find it very convenient.

In 1953, it was decided that the train that runs from Arlington to St. George be eliminated, but “why” is the question. What was the reason to make it an inconvenience to the Islanders on the far end of the North Shore? Wouldn’t they want an easier way to reach certain places other than taking the city bus or using their car?

I personally find it very inconvenient when I know I have to take a bus to reach where I would like to go.

I hope that one day the Staten Island Railway will circle around the whole Island, making life easier for everyone who could really benefit from it.

[The writer is a College of Staten Island student, one of more than a dozen who wrote to the Advance as part of an assignment in a class on American government and politics.]

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Thousands of pounds of food ... and it's not nearly enough

Sunday, November 22, 2009
By PETER N. SPENCER and MARK STEIN
Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The amount of food stacked on crates at the Dr. Theodore Atlas Foundation in West Brighton yesterday morning would have been enough to create a feast of epic proportions.

It included 9,000 pounds of turkey, 3,500 pounds of potatoes, 21,000 pounds of yams, 715 cans of gravy, 800 cans of corn, 6,336 rolls, 266,000 ounces of cranberry sauce and 470,400 ounces of juice.

But it wasn't nearly enough.

Not during a year when the city's jobless rate is the highest it has been in decades, and an economic slump continues to hurt Staten Islanders and the organizations that try to help them.

For its annual Thanksgiving food drive this year, the Atlas Foundation received more than 2,000 requests for turkey meals from churches, schools, senior centers, community organizations and individual families -- more than twice as many as they received last year, according to Kathy Zito, the foundation's executive director. They had about 750 meals to give away.

"It's just tough. People are hungry. They've lost their jobs, their food stamps have been reduced," Ms. Zito said.

The Atlas Foundation, with its recognized and respected name and long list of famous and repeat donors, has done better than most charitable organizations this year. This year's Teddy Dinner, held in the Nicotra Ballroom at the Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomfield, is on target to raise the most money in its 13-year history, according to foundation officials.

But even their significant resources are stretched in these tough times.

"People are having trouble paying their rents, their electric bills, their phone bills. There is so much need for everything we do," Ms. Zito added.

However, the Atlas Foundation had no shortage of volunteers yesterday. Students from PS 13 in Rosebank and the members of College of Staten Island's baseball team were among dozens who helped bring food from the organization's Cary Avenue headquarters to sites across the borough.

Later yesterday afternoon, folks flocked to Heath ExpressTax in Stapleton to gobble up one of the 500 turkeys business owner Ronnie Heath Jr. and his family were giving away for Thanksgiving.

Councilwoman-elect Debi Rose joined the Heaths as they gave turkeys to people who waited on line outside the Osgood Avenue business.

"With the economy doing so poorly, the price of turkey went up. It's really great the Heaths can make it
possible for everyone to get a turkey," said Ms. Rose. "That's the way we're going to get through hard
times, by helping each other."

Unable to work since July due to back surgery, 65-year-old Maurice Graham of West Brighton trekked to
the site to snag a bite for the upcoming holiday.

"It's a nice gesture that you have a way to get a turkey for people who can't afford it," said Graham, a
kitchen service worker at Sea View Hospital Rehabilitation Center and Home.

"They do quite a bit for the community."

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Jimmy Mak  
Thursday, November 12, 2009  
South Bergenite  

RUTHERFORD-Jimmy Mak of Rutherford passed away Sunday, Nov. 7. He was 44 years old. Mr. Mak was born in Hong Kong and lived in Brooklyn.  

He was a graduate of Fort Hamilton High School and received his Associate’s Degree from the College of Staten Island. He worked in the field of Information Technology for such New York firms as Deutsche Bank and Oppenheimer throughout his career.  

Mr. Mak is predeceased by parents Janny Mak and Karl Chang. He is survived by wife Iman Mak and children Jasmine, Lena and Ryan. He is also survived by brothers Steve Mak of Leonardo, John Mak of Aberdeen, sister Nancy Mak-O’Leary of Ossining, NY and pet Ella, the Maltese.  

To honor his life, a private family ceremony will be held in Brooklyn, NY preceding cremation. Friends will be received locally in Rutherford for a memorial service on Monday, Nov. 16, from 7-9 p.m., at the Rutherford Women’s Club, located at 201 Fairview Ave., Rutherford, NJ 07070.  

In lieu of flowers, contributions in memory of Jimmy Mak may be made to community organizations for which he supported: Rutherford Elks Club, Junior Women’s Club of Rutherford and Union School PTA. Condolences may be mailed to: Mak Family, 299 Union Ave., Rutherford, NJ 07070. For more information, please send an email to jimmymakmemorial@gmail.com.  

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