

CSI in the News

September 2009



Table of Contents

<i>Arts</i>	3
<i>Faculty & Staff</i>	8
<i>Sports</i>	67
<i>Stories</i>	89
<i>Students & Alumni</i>	110

Arts

Revenues might falter, but these dancers won't

Posted by [jpyates](#) September 06, 2009 09:00AM



AWE Photos/Jan Somma-HammelDancers

Ariel Shepley and Kate Loh rehearse "For My Mother," part of the Staten Island Ballet's "New York International Choreographers Festival" on Saturday at 8 p.m. in the [College of Staten Island's](#) Center for the Arts.

What recession? Staten Island Ballet gets financially savvy to pull off this year's free 'International Choreographers Festival'

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- At the Staten Island Ballet this month, the motto is, "What downturn?"

Of course, no one is saying that this company/school hasn't negotiated financial reverses. All community-based, not-for-profit performing arts entities have.

The stock market might fall, but the dancers won't.

Staten Island Ballet's annual admission-free showcase, "The New York International Choreographers Festival," will go on as it has for the past eight years, no matter the economy.

The show is Saturday at 8 p.m. in the [College of Staten Island's](#) Center for the Arts on the Willowbrook campus.



Javier Ubell and Jacqui Dean rehearse for Saturday's performance.

Founding director Ellen Tharp can offer general principals of savvy belt-tightening: "You cut your excess baggage where it won't make an artistic difference," she said. "You try to make money decisions intelligently."

There's a role for loyalty, too. Foundations and other sources that have helped underwrite the festival in the past stepped up again this year.

Still, the one-night show costs about \$20,000, she estimates. Dancers, stage crew, choreographers and costume staff are paid.

"You pay the artists," said Ms. Tharp, who was a working dancer for many years. "It's automatic."

APOCALYPTICA SCORE

The program has two new ballets, "Just Getting There," choreographed by Ursula Verduzco and danced to the "Inquisition Symphony" of Apocalyptica. Ms. Verduzco is a company member.

The other new piece, "Little Stories," is the work of dancer/choreographer Avi Scher, an American Ballet Theater-trained 24-year-old who was on Dance Magazine's "Top 25 to Watch" in 2005.

Director of his own Avi Scher and Dancers Co., Scher has choreographed new works for such well-regarded regional companies as Miami City Ballet, San Francisco Ballet and Washington Ballet.



"You cut your excess baggage where it won't make an artistic difference," Staten Island Ballet's founding director Ellen Tharp said of the toll the recession has taken on the festival. "You try to make money decisions intelligently."

"Le Demoiselle D'Avignon," choreographer Walter Rutledge's extrapolation on the Picasso masterwork, is back in the repertoire. Island dance audiences should recognize Rutledge's approach. His work was presented regularly on Island stages years ago by the Nanette Bearden Contemporary Dance Theater.

Two other works are reprises: "Zavavy," by Benjamin Briones, and Ms. Tharp's own rousing "For My Mother," a tribute to her Scottish-American mother.

The latter piece, an audience-pleaser, has kilts and tartans, and live bagpipes.

CSI makes grand acquisition

New Steinway piano is judged 'worthy of the first-rate acoustics of the Center for the Arts'

By JAMIE LEE
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

WILLOWBROOK — More than 100 music-loving students, staff and borough residents turned out for a pitch perfect concert offered by an accredited pianist last week.

It wasn't at a hall somewhere in Manhattan, but rather at a venue much closer to home.

On Sept. 16, in Willowbrook, the College of Staten Island unveiled its latest musical acquisition — a brand new Steinway grand piano that will take up permanent residence on the Williamson Theatre stage in the Center for the Arts.

"This beautiful new Steinway is a superior instrument worthy of the first-rate acoustics of the Center for the Arts," said **Ken Bach**, the college's director of communications. "It is a valuable investment that benefits our students and faculty, and underscores the college's continuing commitment to providing world class public performances."

Pianos crafted by Long Island City-based Steinway & Sons are renowned for their craftsmanship, and according to the company's Web site, more than 90 percent of the world's active concert pianists own a Steinway.

That means that over 1,500 artists, none of which are paid to do so, have chosen to play on a Steinway.

"This instrument allows this to be a true concert hall," said **Sylvia Kahan**, a professor of music at the college since 1996.

It was Ms. Kahan who reached out to CSI President **Dr. Tomas Morales** and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost **William Fritz** to notify them of the deteriorating quality of the hall's previous Steinway.

Purchased in the 1980s and used for both education and performance for the past three decades, that piano had outlived its shelf life.

The administrators understood the importance of supporting the music program — it has grown from about a dozen majors in 1996 to 75 majors and minors today — and of supporting the Center for the Arts and its diverse catalogue of events.

The seven-foot Steinway B concert piano, which retails at about \$82,000, was quickly agreed upon and purchased.

Fittingly, it was Ms. Kahan, who has been playing since age 5 and worked all over the city as both an educator and concert pianist, who was selected to give the inaugural performance.

Playing an hour of selections from Hayden, Yehudi Wyner, Felix Mendelssohn, W.C. Debussy and Scott Joplin, she could feel the notes as she stroked the keys.

"The sounds I imagine in my head get realized on this piano," said Ms. Kahan. "We are fortunate as a music program and as a community to have this instrument here to use."

Jamie Lee covers the West and South shores of Staten Island for the Advance. He can be reached at jamililee@siadvance.com.



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/JAMIE LEE

The College of Staten Island recently unveiled a new Steinway & Sons concert grand piano, which will be used for concerts and educational programming in its Center for the Arts' Williamson Theater. Performing here is Sylvia Kahan, a music professor.



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/JAMIE LEE

WILLOWBROOK

GRAND ACQUISITION

The College of Staten Island got a new Steinway piano over the summer. **E 3**

Faculty & Staff

SEPTEMBER 2009 – BUSINESS TRENDS



JANET DUGO/Business Trends

The Chamber of Commerce held a Business After Hours at the Tiki Bar at South Fin Grill. Here, from left, are: South Fin Grill owner Mark Tranchina, Chamber President Linda Baran, Barbara Eshoo of the College of Staten Island, and Laura Mooney of Time Warner Cable.

Users: Playgrounds got a bum rap in NYPIRG study

Posted by [nrizzi](#) September 02, 2009 14:51PM



Advance photo/Jamie Lee In the recently released NYPIRG study, Wolfe's Pond Park received an unsatisfactory grade for what surveyors called unsafe surfacing and toxic risks, the latter of which was due to mold and rot on the playground equipment.

HUGUENOT -- An independent study of more than two dozen city park playgrounds late last month claimed to have found "hazardous" conditions across the board, including some at a popular South Shore play area.

Local residents, however, aren't buying the negative discoveries.

At least not for the jungle gyms and swing sets.

The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) issued a "Playing it Safe" report on Aug. 18 after surveying 29 parks across the five boroughs, including Wolfe's Pond Park in Huguenot.

Wolfe's Pond received negative grades for "unsafe surface" and "toxic risk."

"This situation is not hopeless," said Willowbrook resident and [College of Staten Island](#)'s NYPIRG branch member Liam McCloskey at the release, noting that an estimated 200,000 children are injured each year at playgrounds, according to the Federal Product Safety Commission. "Playgrounds can be built safely."

The city Parks Department, which made more than 30,000 repairs to city-owned playground equipment last year, immediately rebuffed the allegations, asserting that city play spaces comply with guidelines established by the American Society for Testing and Materials and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

"We strongly disagree with this report," agency spokesman Philip Abramson said immediately after the announcement. "In all our parks and playgrounds, children's safety is our highest priority."

Ambramson went on to say that "NYPIRG did not test or analyze any of the play equipment they claim presents a potential lead paint poisoning hazard," which is the potential "toxic" threat at Wolfe's Pond.

A little less than two weeks after the report was issued, it would appear that local residents have sided with the Parks Department.

Dozens of youngsters were shooting down the slides and soaring on the swings at both Wolfe's Pond playgrounds earlier this week.

The allegedly "unsafe" rubber mats underneath the equipment were covered in chalk designs by tikes and toddlers, and the jungle gym was seeing plenty of activity, despite the "mold and rot on the roof" that NYPIRG felt could pose a health threat.

"I think complaining about the roofs is a bit overzealous," said Eltingville resident Lisa Delgado, whose two young children were playing nearby. "And the [rubber mats] are just as safe as anywhere else."

Those thoughts were echoed by other parents and supervisors.

"I bring the children here all of the time," said a South Shore baby-sitter who identified herself as Irena. "Never do they get hurt or have something bad happen. [The playground] is very safe."

In fact, the playground areas at Wolfe's Pond Park are the last areas of the grounds that should be put under scrutiny, according to some.

Despite giving the play areas, jogging paths and dog park solid reviews, Mrs. Delgado admitted that the overall state of the park has deteriorated and that she almost exclusively takes her kids to nearby Bloomingdale Park now.

"When I first moved here from Brooklyn, this place was completely different," she said. "It used to be so clean that I can remember people coming down here, digging a big pit in the picnic area and roasting a pig in it."

The grounds have transformed over time, she pointed out, as apathetic park visitors have left scattered litter across the turf and stuffed "hot coals" pails with regular trash, for example.

"My daughter was walking on the beach and she got hooked twice with fishing stuff," said Mrs. Delgado. "There's garbage all over the place now. It's even in the lake. If they want to [fix up Wolfe's Pond], they should start with that first."

New appointee announced to Community Education Council

Posted by [nrizzi](#) September 02, 2009 17:16PM



Advance file photo/Jan Somma-Hammel Joseph Pancila has been announced as the new appointee to the District 31 Community Education Council.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Borough President James Molinaro announced today that he has appointed Joseph Pancila to the District 31 Community Education Council (CEC).

Pancila, a West Brighton resident, joins Rhonda Whitfield -- who was [appointed in June](#) -- as the two representatives on the CEC.

He is retired from Fort Hamilton High School where he worked as the boys' dean and health and physical education instructor. He taught fitness classes at the **College of Staten Island** after retiring.

He also founded the New Springville Civic Association and served as its president, is vice president of the Mid-Island Political Action Committee, serves as a member of Community Board 1 and ran for state Senate last year.

"I may be new to this Council, but I am no stranger to the field of education and community involvement," Pancila said in a press release. "I am honored to serve on the CEC, and I will listen to the concerns of the community and lend my assistance wherever possible to best represent the interests of the students of Staten Island."

There are 32 Community Education Council's in New York City, each governing a school district that includes elementary and intermediate schools. Molinaro's two appointees will serve a two year term.

[Salvatore Ballarino was forced out of the CEC](#) earlier this year by Molinaro after he forwarded an e-mail depicting a photo strip of a mock debate between then-candidates Barack Obama and John McCain that was rife with racist jokes about black people, including comparisons of African American babies to excrement.

Residents want answers from Council primary picks

Posted by [nrizzi](#) September 02, 2009 14:04PM

Residents preparing to vote in the Sept. 15 primary to decide the Democratic candidate for City Council are comparing the candidates: Debi Rose, Rajiv Gowda, and Kenneth Mitchell.

Some voters say it's a close call.

Mitchell is the incumbent and was chief-of-staff during the tenure of former Councilman Michael McMahon.

Ms. Rose, a longtime member of Community Board 1 and the executive director of the Liberty Partnership program at the **College of Staten Island**, sought the seat for the second time in February, when she lost to Mitchell by only a few hundred votes.

Gowda, a civil engineer, the former president of the borough's Community Education Council, and also a longtime CB1 member, was bounced off of the ballot in the last election after falling short of the required number of signatures.

The Advance asked six Democratic voters what they are looking for in a councilmember, and how they will make their decision in the race at hand.

Jose Luis Cruz, Silver Lake



"The biggest issue (nationally) is unemployment, and the shipping of jobs outside of the country. I believe I'll vote for Mitchell again because he's already in, he has experience in government and did behind the scenes work for McMahon."

Sharon Braccia, Livingston



"I think Staten Island's biggest issue is traffic. We need less congestion on Forest Avenue and more speed bumps on residential streets. I'm going to vote in the primary, and I'll read the candidates' positions to decide who to vote for."

Jacob Massaquoi, Park Hill section of Clifton



"There are many issues affecting the North Shore: Unemployment, security, education. All three candidates are wonderful people and the decision to vote for one of the candidates over another will be difficult. Anyone who supports programs that elevate the standard of living on the North Shore will win the election."

"

"

"

Gina O'Brien, St. George



"I'm voting for Mitchell in the primary because he worked for (former) Councilman (Michael) McMahon. I think McMahon did a good job and Mitchell has made a good effort since taking the seat to reach out to people."

Sam Williams, Stapleton



"I'm with Debi because she's always been there, and I know from personal experience that she's a decent person."

Dagny Rodriquez, Tompkinsville



"I'm voting for Mitchell in the primary because he worked for (former) Councilman (Michael) McMahon. I think McMahon did a good job and Mitchell has made a good effort since taking the seat to reach out to people."

--Interviews and information compiled by Tevah Platt



ANTI-ZIONISM = ANTI-SEMITISM? STUDY CONFIRMS WIDELY HELD BELIEF

By: Elliot Resnick, *Jewish Press Staff Reporter*

Date: Wednesday, September 02 2009

"Anti-Zionism is just anti-Semitism in a different guise," is a sentiment one often hears in the Jewish community. Last month, in a paper published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, researchers Florette Cohen, Lee Jussim, Kent Harber and Gautam Bhasin provided the first scientific evidence that this widely held view is indeed true.

The researchers conducted three studies - all of which led to the same conclusion: greater anti-Semitism is related to greater anti-Israel sentiment and vice versa.

In one study, 181 Rutgers University undergraduate students were shown maps of seven different countries and asked whether that country was most similar in size to Delaware, New Jersey, South Carolina, Florida, California, or the entire West Coast. As the researchers had hypothesized, in the study's controlled conditions, participants over-estimated Israel's size more than any other country (including Lebanon, which is smaller than Israel).

"What that study demonstrates," said Cohen, professor at the **College of Staten Island** and the paper's main author, "is that [the participants] believe Jews to be threatening in some sort of way. When you think of something as a lot bigger than it is, it usually has some sort of threat indication. For example, if you're afraid of bugs or spiders you'll see them as these large, creepy creatures as opposed to the tiny little bugs they actually are which you can probably squash with your shoe."

Asked what inspired her to conduct these studies, Cohen replied, "I'm an Orthodox Jew who always found that the media coverage of Israel was very, very negative and biased, and it just looked like anti-Semitism to me."

Nonetheless, Cohen stressed that as a social scientist she knew that "it's pretty much my job to empirically demonstrate whether a theory is actually a theory or whether it's just a lot of hot air." With the studies now completed and the paper available to the academic community, Cohen confidently declares, "For the first time we have actually scientifically demonstrated what people have been saying for years. It wasn't just some kind of telephone or Internet survey. It was a scientific study."

Copyright 2008 www.JewishPress.com



Brooklyn Daily Eagle

Checking Out the Scene at LIU

by Brooklyn Eagle (edit@brooklyneagle.net), published online 09-03-2009

DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN – “Believe in Yourself ... It Matters!” was the theme of Convocation Day—the celebration of the start of the academic year for freshmen at Long Island University’s Brooklyn Campus. Taking place Thursday, the event’s purpose was to give students a shared foundation of understanding with professors and fellow students that will last through their college years and beyond.

From 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., in the Campus’s Arnold & Marie Schwartz Athletic Center in Metcalfe Hall, students will heard remarks from administrators, faculty, staff, and fellow students, including the president of the Student Government Association (SGA).

The guest speaker was be George Emilio Sanchez, a writer, performer and director, as well as the chair of the department of performing and creative arts at the **College of Staten Island**. Sanchez is known for his teaching of techniques associated with Augusto Boal’s Theater of the Oppressed, and for demonstrating how the arts can be utilized in education across the disciplines

From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., students experienced the 10-acre Brooklyn Campus with its trees, flowers, fountains and expansive lawns.

All 68 campus clubs, including sororities and fraternities, and five student organizations such as Seawanhaka, the campus student newspaper and Sound, the yearbook, had representatives present. The acclaimed Mark Morris Dance Company gave a performance, and Urban Glass will give a glass-blowing demonstration. Music will be furnished by WLIU-Brooklyn radio.

A voter registration drive also encouraged new students to register and have a voice in their communities and country with their vote.

* * *

© **Brooklyn Daily Eagle 2009** All materials posted on BrooklynEagle.com are protected by United States copyright law. Just a reminder, though -- It’s not considered polite to paste **the entire story** on your blog. Most blogs post a summary or the first paragraph,(40 words) then post a link to the rest of the story. That helps increase click-throughs for everyone, and minimizes copyright issues. So please keep posting, but not the entire article. arturc at att.net

Posted by Interactive Desk on Sep 04 2009, 11:58 AM

By Albert Burchsted:

Many insects change their diets drastically when they reach adulthood, and the mud dauber is a prime example. This two-inch wasp feeds on the paralyzed bodies of spiders as a larva and switches to nectar as an adult. My mountain mint (*Pycnanthemum virginianum*) and bergamot (Oswego tea, *Monarda didyma*) are loaded with bumble bees and wasps this year. Among them are two species of mud dauber wasps. One of these, the organ pipe mud dauber (*Trypoxylon politum*), has the typical narrow wasp waist, is iridescent black, and flits from one flower to another.

When my wife told me she was concerned for our grandchildren's safety because the flowers they were attracted to are immediately adjacent to our porch, I lifted a couple from a flower onto my open hand and explained they, being solitary wasps, do not normally sting—even when handled. Although I have never tried it, about the only way to get these impressive wasps to sting is to probe the end of their abdomen with a finger or pinch it while standing on your hand or arm.

A Preoccupation with Mud Daubers

In grade school, I had a strong interest in mud daubers. It was primarily a morbid enchantment with being able to scare others by playing with a dangerous-looking animal without being hurt. I would catch them by hand and search for their nests which I opened to look at what the wasp had put in them. As I grew older, I became involved with other things, lost my fascination with this exquisite insect, but did not forget what I had learned about them.

Solitary Wasps

The word “wasp” brings to mind the social wasps where a female mates with one too many males, then leaves them to construct a nest. She lays eggs, brings food to the young which, after metamorphosis, live at or in the nest to raise their sisters much as bees do. These wasps protect the nest by attacking intruders, often as a group and stinging repeatedly. Solitary wasps have very different lives and methods of protecting their nests.

The solitary wasps construct or take over nest chambers which they fill with insects or spiders as food for their young. Once eggs are laid, there is little. Women Voters Legion baseball LUNCH concert MYRC Mystic Garden Club Mystic River Acupuncture Nico Raineau Nutty Cracker Christmas Sweet Pizzetta Tastings or no parental care, the female ignores the brood chambers as soon as they are capped, and young adults produce their own chambers in which the next generation is raised. Males remain at the nest chamber, protect it against parasites and other females, and mate with the females each time they come to the chamber. There is no group available to attack intruders and nest parasites or predators are just chased away.

Life Cycle of the Mud Dauber

When a female mud dauber prepares to establish her brood, she flies to a moist patch of soil and picks up a ball of mud in her mouth and forelegs. To this, she adds saliva that contains a glue. The mud is carried to a building, hollow tree, crevice in a pile of rocks, or similar location, and she pastes the mud onto the surface in a characteristic pattern for her species. The organ pipe mud dauber makes a tube up to five or six inches long in which five to eight chambers are located. She may produce five to 10 such tubes

adjacent to each other, remove the egg of a rival female and lay her egg in the nest chamber of her rival, or use a tube from a previous year's female.

As the mud is deposited, it forms a chamber into which the female places spiders she has paralyzed by stinging it with venom from her abdominal poison glands. Once an optimum number of spiders are in the chamber, the female lays an egg on one of the last spiders and caps the cell with mud. During construction and provisioning of the chamber, the female must pause in her activities to obtain nectar from flowers.

The male usually stays at the nest site and mates with the female each time she arrives with a spider or mud. He also has to leave the nest from time to time to find food—often at the same plants as the female. During the time the male is absent, parasites or other females enter the chamber and wreak havoc. Parasites lay their eggs on the spiders or even the wasp's egg. Other females may remove the owner's egg or lay her egg on the spiders and cap a fully provisioned cell while the owner is away.

If the egg is not parasitized, it hatches into a larva that eats the provisioned spiders. Molting occurs several times as the larva grows and when the spiders are consumed, the larva pupates. After a week or so, metamorphosis occurs, the adult crawls out of the pupal skin, breaks its way out of the brood cell wall and flies off to complete the cycle.

Mud daubers can vary dramatically in size, with males usually being smaller than females. A mud dauber female controls the sex of the egg she places in each brood chamber and usually places female eggs in chambers containing larger numbers of spiders than those in which she places male eggs. Since the larvae metamorphose when their food supply is depleted, males having less to eat may be up to a third smaller than females. Since females have to expend more energy constructing the brood chambers and hunting, stinging, and carrying spiders to the chambers, larger females can construct and provision the chambers more rapidly than male-sized ones could.

Mud daubers are only one of the solitary wasps. Others construct sometimes extensive nest chambers underground, produce pot-shaped vessels of mud, line hollow twigs or stems, or simply cover cracks in rocks or wood. Their behaviors vary as widely as the nest chambers making them fascinating subjects for study.

*Albert Burchsted is a field biologist recently retired from the **College of Staten Island**, part of the City University of New York. He lives in Niantic and can be reached via e-mail at al.burchsted@gmail.com.*

Economic Indicators: Walking Down Staten Island's Bay Street

Posted by [psilvest](#) September 05, 2009 20:30PM

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. --- Find hidden, potentially valuable waterfront real estate right here on Staten Island. Would this be on Bay Street?



Pamela SilvestriThe entrance to Fort Wadsworth.

Let's talk about business on this strip while we take a walk. It's about 6.75 miles from beginning to end. We'll start at the gates of Fort Wadsworth, go through Rosebank, Clifton and Stapleton. Then we'll end up in Tompkinsville and St. George.



Pamela SilvestriA look down the residential stretch just outside the Fort.

If you're a Staten Islander, you might have been hearing this for years: Buy Bay Street property!

By now, you may be weary of the discourse. Perhaps you've speculated on property yourself.

Had you heard the Navy was coming? Or that the City was going to improve the traffic flow and increase Police presence? At one point, there was talk of a movie studio down here, a bagel factory, a racetrack, maybe legalized gambling.



Pamela SilvestriAt the corner of Cliff Street.

Bay Street is rather amazing actually. It's quite close to Manhattan if you live in the Tompkinsville/St.George area, a very easy commute. You can see the Upper New York Bay from many vantage points along the strip.



tavern, an out-of-business dry cleaners.

Pamela SilvestriNext to Danny Blaine's



purchased and the owner plans to renovate it.

Pamela SilvestriThis building was recently

There are plenty of vacancies here. But there is good news --- there's a kitchen store coming to Rosebank!

We asked Gary W. McDonogh of Bryn Mawr College, professor of an urban studies and architecture program called Growth and Structure of Cities, what his thoughts were on the dynamics of certain parts of Bay Street.

"While I am not so extreme as to say that empty storefronts are automatic problems (the Fixing Broken Windows school), there is something in a gaping hole that questions the future. It can be exciting if that gap is plastered with a "coming Soon" sign that offers promises of new food or exciting shopping. But is there anything sadder that a storefront where dust settles on the leftover displays and signs fade in the sun and rain? As if the street gives up hope..."



permanently on this deli.

Pamela SilvestriThe gates are down



Pamela SilvestriAmelia's, Steven Dominick's and Leone's were a succession of eateries that turned over in this spot in a matter of five years. There is decent parking in a rear lot, an unusual feature for commercial properties in this section of Rosebank.



Pamela SilvestriSite of a former wholesale produce distributor, Gerardi's. (A separate operation from the one on Richmond Terrace.) The two story building has a few walk-in boxes and has been for sale for almost a decade.

For now, we'll note that Rosebank is a sleepy town as far as pedestrian traffic is concerned. That's surprising since there are a few apartment buildings and lots of mixed-use commercial properties. There's a supermarket off the beaten track, a Top Tomato, a CVS, dry cleaners --- perhaps these are just a few reasons why one would never have to leave the neighborhood for shopping.



Pamela SilvestriAh, Aesop's Tables --- it was sad to see this restaurant go under. But the final straw was getting shuttered by the Department of Health in May.



soon? Looks like that plywood's been up for some time.

Pamela SilvestriHouses coming anytime



Pamela SilvestriClosed salon.



Pamela Silvestri One section of residential properties on Bay St. That's the nice thing about the strip --- it has apartments, houses and a mix of businesses which lays the groundwork for healthy mix of destinations in a neighborhood.



Pamela Silvestri No dealings at this gated deli. But no worries since there are two more convenient marts on opposite corners to this one.



Pamela SilvestriRispoli Bakery has a St. George and Brooklyn location. This spot opened about a year ago.

Now here's something that surprised me: A pawnshop, a check cashing place and a thrift store.



Pamela SilvestriCheck cashing store, a thrift store and a pawn broker are businesses within a block of each other. A flea market-type of operation sets up in the parking lot of this place.

"Pawn shops, for the most part, have historically been "bankers" to the poor, and have traditionally located in low income areas, whose residents are on the margin of the economy," said Dr. Eugene Garavente, professor of business at [College of Staten Island](#), Willowbrook.

"Their appearance may be interpreted as a neighborhood declining economically and in need of this non-traditional, and expensive source of short-term financing. The perception of a community in decline may also contribute to an array of unwarranted beliefs as to the social conditions in an area."



Pamela SilvestriA shed-like structure

available through Top Tomato.

"Pawn shops are curious," said Dr. McDonogh. "What do we think they do? If we see them as a kind of bank, how much more obtrusive are they than another Bank of America teller machine, which hardly creates a social center."

Dr. Mc Donogh adds, "We might consider the differences among stores like thrift stores which can be seen as sites of necessity and signs of decay in lower class neighborhoods but are also part of the fabric of the Main Line (upscale section outside of Philadelphia where Bryn Mawr College is located) --- Junior League rather than Salvation Army, perhaps.



Pamela SilvestriNext to Victory and Top Tomato, foundations were laid but the property is for sale.



Pamela SilvestriA deli that closed years ago in Rosebank.



Pamela Silvestri Small amount of office space for rent.



Pamela SilvestriNext to the lovely Zest Restaurant, there is a construction site. But it hasn't appeared active over the week. On our walks a couple of times, we saw the chef/co-owner Axel Schade tending the flowers and sidewalk in front of the restaurant.

We're in Clifton now. After a desolate stretch past Edgewater Plaza --- not a heck of a lot going on there now that E-Z Pass has moved to Bloomfield --- we hit a congested townhouse development tucked off in a cul-de-sac and the Clifton stop of SIRR. There were no pedestrians. It seemed quite desolate.



Pamela Silvestri
 of a Clifton building. Graffiti on the second floor



Pamela Silvestri
 This used to be an Asian

grocery store. It didn't last a year in business. The space turned into a flea market and I think that lasted a few months.

Now this was a very inhospitable strip.



Pamela Silvestri Bayley Seton buildings

deteriorate as the fauna becomes overgrown.



Pamela Silvestri A fence that needs a good painting across from the hospital.



Pamela SilvestriA house for sale at the foot of the Bayley Seton property.

And, finally we reach DoSI's attractive storefront. The restaurant is short for "Downtown Staten Island." This business certainly has some promise in the neighborhood. But then we see this...



bless America.

Pamela SilvestriBuilding for rent. Yes, God

And this...



Pamela SilvestriAt the base of Broad Street and Bay.



Pamela SilvestriAlso, at the base of Broad Street and Bay. There is little parking available for stores along this section of Bay Street.



business.

And this...

Pamela SilvestriA bar that went out of



Pamela Silvestri Building for rent. Any takers

with a first floor looking so disheveled?

Has the Downtown Staten Island Council (DSIC) helped the borough in any way?

"Downtown Council is keeping the dream alive on Bay Street as best we can in these difficult times," said Dan Marotta. Marotta is a St. George resident, officer of DSIC and a local attorney with an office in Castleton Corners and Downtown Manhattan.

"As everywhere, business is slow and store owners are restless. But St. George is still the major transit hub, and the streetscape improvement plan that was announced recently by the BP's office shows that our efforts have inspired positive changes soon to come which will have long lasting effects." The Downtown Council reaches up Bay Street through Clifton.



Pamela Silvestri With so many vacant stores

in Stapleton, other shopkeepers and passers by have to deal with rubbish collecting on the sidewalk.



Pamela Silvestri This is a sorry location for food establishments as there is constant turnover. It was a hot dog place, an Indian restaurant, a Mexican restaurant under a handful of different owners. Each business has left a mark on the building in some way in the last decade.

"The Bay Street corridor needs help from our government partners, and we understand the process is slow," said Marotta. "For example, a new 421a tax abatement program with no restrictions would boost much-needed new construction (as it did for many neighborhoods in the city), once we've made a turn in the economy and banks decide that they are ready to start actively lending again to American families."



Pamela Silvestri The heart of Stapleton.

Marotta is very optimistic.

"In the interim, DSIC continues to host street festivals and our now famous Drive-In movies, and to encourage vacant store front owners to donate space for art showings and music which have always been the lifeblood of the area," he said.

Marotta adds, "The NY Times, Crains Business, and the rest of the city already have their eyes on St. George and Stapleton. Once tourists begin walking off that ferry to stroll down a renovated boulevard with sidewalk cafes, galleries and some more new restaurants (we already have quite a few new fabulous ones), the entire corridor is poised to become a new cultural destination overnight for Staten Islanders and visitors alike."



Pamela SilvestriVacant storefronts in Stapleton.

Marotta continues, "Residents in the area are proud of their neighborhood(s) and will fight to preserve its character and best qualities. With all of the ingredients in the mix, the soup is simmering, and hopefully it will be time to turn up the flame soon."



Pamela SilvestriA rather attractive renovation of an old building in Stapleton.

"A rising number of commercial real estate vacancies in a community creates the phenomenon of a self-fulfilling prophecy," said Dr. Garavente.

"As vacancy rates rises, less consumers are attracted to an area," Dr. Garavente noted. "The shrinking consumer base discourages entrepreneurs from buying or leasing the vacant space, which results in a further decline of consumer traffic, and more commercial vacancies."

And it results in lots of trash on the street as we couldn't help but notice. Where's the Sanitation Department with tickets when you need it?



Pamela SilvestriA Stapleton store for rent.



Pamela SilvestriOut-of-business night club.



Pamela SilvestriUnadorned wall with peeling



Pamela SilvestriWe hope business is coming soon!

The Department of Probation building stretches along here on Bay Street. This is another inhospitable section of the drag --- very few people, not much to look at and no businesses.



Pamela SilvestriA new building just past Western Beef. No construction activity appears to be happening as of the last two weeks.

"I think what is most important is the mix," said Dr. McDonogh.

"Are there a variety of stores/functions keeping and attracting a varied clientele through the day? I know neighborhoods with too many "cute" boutiques and no place to buy food, or those swimming in coffee without a bookstore or newstand in sight. Mixed stores -- a pawnshop, a dollshop, a Starbucks, a White Castle and a gourmet food store -- can bring together people more than any single place will: complexity is a virtue, too."

Hey, we passed a White Castle on Bay Street! No, we didn't stop in but hear they're open 'til 4 a.m.



Pamela SilvestriThis would be a visitor's first stop on Bay Street after leaving the Ferry terminal.

Dan Marotta concludes, "I plan to be at the table with all of my many beautiful neighbors. I grew up in Staten Island. I have lived in every borough in the city, and I know I have found home here in St. George. As with all good things, patience is part of the mix."

College probing charge that North Shore candidate made improper use of e-mails

Posted by [eadanna](#) September 08, 2009 11:32AM



"Ms. Rose would be the first to say that she has not knowingly sought to break any laws or skirt any laws to try and advance herself," a spokesman for Debi Rose, above, said.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The **College of Staten Island** (CSI) is looking into a charge that North Shore City Council candidate Debi Rose improperly used the college's e-mail system to conduct campaign business.

Ms. Rose is the executive director of **CSI's** Liberty Partnership program. The college is part of the City University of New York system, and it is against the rules to use CUNY facilities for political purposes.

"It's a personnel matter under review," said **CSI** communications director Ken Bach, adding that it's CUNY policy to not comment on personnel matters.

CSI president Dr. Tomas Morales received an anonymous letter about the alleged computer usage, Bach confirmed. That letter was copied to the Advance, the city Department of Investigation and the city Conflicts of Interest Board.

It is unclear what sanctions Ms. Rose would face from **CSI**.

Ms. Rose is running against Councilman Ken Mitchell (D-North Shore) and Rajiv Gowda in a Sept. 15 Democratic primary.

Those in the political world who also work for government or public entities are generally scrupulous about not using public e-mail accounts, phones, faxes or copy machines for political purposes.

Some go so far as to carry an extra cellphone or laptop that they use to conduct political business.

The allegations came to light when a former campaign aide, Caroline Cole, charged that Ms. Rose [owed her \\$12,081 in back wages](#) for work she did on Ms. Rose's February special election campaign.

Ms. Cole told the City Hall News publication that Ms. Rose used her CUNY account to e-mail her about campaign issues.

"Mistakes may have occurred in the past," said Rose campaign spokesman Derrick Richardson. "Ms. Rose would be the first to say that she has not knowingly sought to break any laws or skirt any laws to try and advance herself."

Richardson suggested that Ms. Cole may have e-mailed or copied e-mails to Ms. Rose at her CUNY account.

Ms. Rose's campaign is also among those embroiled in the on-going controversy over the relationship between the Working Families Party (WFP), which has endorsed her, and the consulting firm Data and Field Services (DFS).

Critics have said that because the WFP and DFS share staff and the same address there is no difference between the two, and the possibility exists that city campaign spending, contribution and disclosure rules have been circumvented.

There are questions, for example, about whether Ms. Rose and other WFP-backed candidates, including Democratic public advocate hopeful Bill DeBlasio and other Council candidates, received political services -- such as petition-gathering and voter-outreach efforts -- from DFS at below market value.

Mitchell's campaign has filed a complaint with the city Campaign Finance Board (CFB) about the matter.

In a statement regarding all the affected campaigns last week, the CFB said, "The Board makes no determination regarding violations at this time. Every campaign will be afforded the opportunity to be fully heard regarding potential findings of violation."

"We sort of see through this stuff, see it for what it's worth," said Richardson. "It's disconcerting and unwarranted the attacks Ms. Rose has had to bear because she's decided to challenge the status quo on the North Shore."

-- Reported by Tom Wroblewski



Becoming a vegetarian could cut health costs

Posted by [hwsiner](#) September 10, 2009 14:13PM

Kudos on your efforts to present all sides of the health care debate through publishing articles and letters expressing various perspectives. But, there is one approach that is generally overlooked that could make a major difference: Preventing, alleviating and, in some cases, reversing diseases through well-balanced, nutritious plant-based diets.

There are many epidemiological, migration and other scientific studies that clearly show links between animal-based diets and a wide variety of chronic, degenerative diseases. Unfortunately, current legislative proposals are focused on how to pay for treating diseases in generally costly ways, rather than promoting dietary changes and other lifestyle improvements that would reduce disease risks.

A shift toward plant-centered diets would have additional benefits, including reducing global climate change, deforestation, soil erosion and depletion, rapid species extinction, water pollution, the wasteful use of land, water and energy, and the mistreatment and slaughter of billions of farmed animals.

So for a healthier you, a reduction of medical expenditures that are causing major financial problems at all levels of government and a more humane and just world, and to help shift our very imperiled planet to a sustainable path, go vegetarian, and preferably vegan!

[The writer is professor emeritus of the [College of Staten Island](#) and president of Jewish Vegetarians of North America and the Society of Ethical and Religious Vegetarians.]

Primary Culler: Council Rematch in Staten Island -- But What Will Gowda Do?

By Roy Edroso in [Elections](#), [Featured](#), [Politics](#)

Thursday, Sep. 10 2009 @ 5:56PM



The main event in Staten Island's 49th Council District is a rematch between six-month incumbent **Kenneth Mitchell** versus challenger **Debi Rose** (*pictured*). In the February special election to replace new Congressman Michael McMahon, Rose *lost to Mitchell by only 342 votes*. You don't get that close and then duff it in the rematch. In the closing days some dirt's been stirred: Rose has been *accused of improperly using work computers at the College of Staten Island* for campaign purposes (Rose heads the college's Liberty Partnership program), and of *not paying a campaign worker* from the previous election. And Illona Thomas, 63, says she was *bounced from her real*

estate job because she's a Rose supporter and her boss wanted to suck up to Mitchell...

Much of Mitchell's support comes from other Staten Island pols and unions; Rose has a few unions of the more liberal sort, and the Working Families Party, which gives her an extra ballot line.

Mitchell's strategy seems to be to get his name on legislation (sometimes with [Republican Staten Island colleagues](#)) and let people know about it, and [stay Irish](#); Rose's seems to be to stay positive and work her black-progressive-female credentials -- not a sure winner in Staten Island, where no black candidate has ever been elected to anything.

Complicating the race is **Rajiv S. Gowda**, who has his own multi-culti boast: [the first Asian American to run for public office in Staten Island](#). He's also a community board member, a civil engineer -- and a union leader, which has helped win him a few [big labor endorsements](#). He, too, is in a rematch of sorts: In the special election, Mitchell got Gowda thrown off the ballot. Gowda's acolytes assured voters then, "[Mr. Gowda did not want to drag you to the court and waste tax payers money](#) for legal fees and therefore, decided not to challenge. He will run for the North Shore City Council seat in the General Election 2009." And so he has. Some people think he's [more likely to hurt Rose than Mitchell](#) -- splitting the challenge vote, the people-of-color vote, and so forth -- but Gowda's homey, conservative message ("It's time to send an engineer to City Council") might actually resonate with Mitchell's honky voters and peel them off. Pick 'em.



Staten Island Advance

BREAKING NEWS ALL DAY ON SILIVE.COM

PUBLISHED SINCE 1886 | 75 CEN

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2009



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/ANTHONY D'PRIMO

Democratic City Council candidate Debi Rose lets out a scream of delight at her Concord headquarters after learning that she had taken the lead over North Shore Democratic City Council member Kenneth Mitchell.

A step closer to Island history

Rose rolls to victory over Mitchell in Dem contest for North Shore Council seat

By TOM WROBLESKI
and JUDY L. RANDALL
ADVANCE STAFF WRITERS

Community activist Debi Rose moved a step closer to becoming the first black elected official in Staten Island history after a stunning upset of City Councilman

Kenneth Mitchell in the North Shore Democratic primary last night.

With 100 percent of the vote in, Ms. Rose had 4,656 votes, or 55 percent, to Mitchell's 3,344, or 39 percent, according to The Associated Press.

Rajiv Gowda finished with 510 votes, or 6 percent.

"How wonderful this moment is for all of the North Shore!" Ms. Rose told more than 100 ecstatic supporters at her Concord campaign headquarters.

The final tally in Democratic primary

Candidate	Count	Percent
Debi Rose	4,656	55%
Kenneth Mitchell	3,344	39%
Rajiv Gowda	510	6%

Mitchell, who remains in office, is still on the Conservative line in the race and vowed to fight on to November.

"It goes without saying that we are disappointed in tonight's results," Mitchell said at R.H. Tugs, Livingston. "This is not the end. This is the beginning. We have more work to do."

It is Ms. Rose's third try for the heavily Democratic Council seat. She lost a Democratic primary in 2001 and finished second to Mitchell in a February special election.

"I started this journey a

SEE PRIMARY, PAGE A 9

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2009 STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

With his wife Jacquelyn at his side, Councilman Kenneth Mitchell thanks his supporters at R.H. Tugs. Mitchell conceded defeat in the primary but will fight on until November.



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/HILTON FLORES

More on the web

For a photo gallery of last night's Democratic primary, go to silive.com/photos.



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/ANTHONY DePRIMO

Primary winner Debi Rose greets supporters Natazia Letang of Brooklyn and Seth Nicholson of White Plains at her Concord headquarters.

PRIMARY FROM PAGE A1

A step closer to Island history

long time ago, in 2001," Ms. Rose told supporters. "I did not do this alone. This victory is yours. I would not be here without you."

Ms. Rose, of Arlington, said she campaigned right up until the polls closed at 9 p.m.

"We didn't want to leave anything to chance," she said.

Ms. Rose, who was a Barack Obama presidential delegate last year, is also backed in the race by the Working Families Party.

Rose supporters cried out, "Obama in the house, baby!" "Hallelujah!" and "Thank you, Jesus!" as the results came in last night.

When told that Mitchell would fight on, Ms. Rose said, "It means I will have to continue to fight for the issues that are important to all of us."

Ms. Rose said she "never approached this race as an African-American or as a woman, but as a progressive human being."

She said, "It is momentous for the [black] community, but I will be able to represent all communities on Staten Island."

If Ms. Rose wins in November, it would be the first time in Island history that the borough would have three female lawmakers serving it at the same time. State Sen. Diane Savino (D-North Shore/Brooklyn) and Assemblywoman Janele Hyer-Spencer (D-East Shore/Brooklyn) are the others.

Democratic chairman John Gulino and first vice chair John Sollazzo visited Concord to congratulate Ms. Rose personally.

But Gulino stopped short of saying outright that he supported her.



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/MILTON FLORES

Backers of Kenneth Mitchell, who received 3,344 votes to 4,656 votes for Ms. Rose, applaud their candidate at his headquarters at R.H. Tugs restaurant, Livingston.

"As I tell everyone, I am the Democratic chairman and I support Democratic candidates," he told the Advance. "I'll have to talk to my executive committee."

After Gulino spoke to the crowd, Rose supporters chanted, "The North Shore united."

"Turn the page," said Sollazzo.

Mitchell chalked up his loss to complacency among his base voters.

"Lots of folks thought that as I was the incumbent, they didn't need to come out to vote," he said. "Now they know they need to come out and vote."

Mitchell was one of several Council incumbents who lost in the city last night. He is the first sitting lawmaker to lose a primary here since GOP South Shore Assemblyman Robert Straniere in

2004.

Mitchell congratulated Ms. Rose during his formal remarks, and later said he planned to call her today.

Mitchell was backed by the Democratic county committee in the race, and had the support of Rep. Michael McMahon (D-Staten Island/Brooklyn), Conservative Borough President James Molinaro and Democratic elected officials.

McMahon and Molinaro could not be reached for comment last night.

Ms. Savino said she would support Ms. Rose in November.

"I'm a Democrat," she said at Tugs. "I support the winner of the Democratic primary, even when it's somebody I didn't back in the primary."

Assemblyman Matthew Titone (D-North Shore) said

he would speak to Ms. Rose before making a decision.

"I'll take a little time," he said.

"Whatever Kenny decides, I'll stand with him," said Assemblyman Michael Cusick (D-Mid-Island). "He's moving forward to November. I take that into consideration."

In addition to turning out more Democrats, the Mitchell camp is hoping to pick up Republican as well as Conservative votes in the general election. GOP and Conservative votes helped fuel his February win.

But party insiders conceded last night that it would be difficult to convince hardcore Democrats to cast ballots on the Conservative line.

Air Force veteran Timothy Kuhn is the GOP candidate in the general election.



September 16, 2009

Red Bank Regional schools chief to hold meeting

By *LARRY HIGGS*
COASTAL MONMOUTH BUREAU

Parents, students and faculty can meet the new boss of the regional high school tonight.

Red Bank Regional High School will introduce incoming Superintendent of Schools Howard Lucks at 7 p.m., at the high school commons area, near the cafeteria. The school is located on Ridge Road.

The first introduction of Lucks to the school district community will happen in conjunction with a dinner recognizing students entering the International Baccalaureate program, said Superintendent Edward Westervelt, and will precede the regional school board meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Howard Lucks, principal of Franklin High School in Somerset County, will take over as superintendent Nov. 1 and was appointed last month to succeed Edward D. Westervelt, who has been with the district 11 of his 43 years in education.

Lucks, who has 36 years of educational experience, will officially join Red Bank Regional in mid-October. While Westervelt officially retires on Nov. 1, he will mentor Lucks for one year under a new state program for new superintendents.

Lucks served as principal of the 3,000-student New Utrecht High School in Brooklyn from 1997 until he retired from the New York City school system in 2006. He joined the Franklin district as principal of the 2,000-student high school there.

Lucks earned a master's degree in guidance and counseling from Long Island University in 1978 and received an administration and supervisor professional diploma from the City University of New York at the **College of Staten Island** in 1985. He was awarded the competitive Chancellor Doctoral Scholarship to St. John's University and earned his doctorate in 2002.



Staten Island Advance

BREAKING NEWS ALL DAY ON SILIVE.COM

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2009

PUBLISHED SINCE 1886 | 75 CENTS

Candidate Rose looking to get her Dems in a row

She covets backing of McMahon, who hails 'great win' but puts decision on ice

By **TOM WROBLESKI**
and **JUDY L. RANDALL**
ADVANCE STAFF WRITERS

Following her stunning victory over incumbent Kenneth Mitchell in the North Shore City Council party primary, Debi Rose is seeking to consolidate her support among the borough's Democratic establishment.

"She won. She's the candidate," said borough Democ-

atic chairman John Gulino. "The Democratic organization will support Debi Rose in the upcoming election."

Ms. Rose is particularly eager to have the blessing of Rep. Michael McMahon (D-Staten Island/Brooklyn), who had hand-picked Mitchell — whom Ms. Rose outpolled 55 to 39 percent on Tuesday — to replace him in the Council.

"The congressman has always been very gracious," said Ms. Rose, who finished second to Mitchell in a February special Council election. "I absolutely would



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/IRVING SILVERSTEIN

Greeting commuters in the Staten Island Ferry Terminal, Debi Rose thanks voters for her win in the primary as one of her advisers, Allen Cappelli, looks on.

SEE ROSE, PAGE A 14

ROSE FROM PAGE A 1

Candidate Rose looks to get her Dems in a row

like to have his support. I am the Democratic candidate, and I look forward to working with him and the rest of the ticket."

LEFT A MESSAGE

McMahon said he'd left a message with Ms. Rose congratulating her, and promised a decision after speaking with her and Mitchell personally.

McMahon said he hoped that that would occur when he's home from Washington this weekend.

"Certainly for Ken, it's a very emotional situation," McMahon said. "He needs to just let the dust settle a bit. We can give it 72 hours."

He called it a "great win" for Ms. Rose.

The victory leaves Ms. Rose poised to become the first African-American elected official in borough history. Mitchell remains on the Conservative line and said he will fight on through the Nov. 3 general election, an uphill battle in the heavily Democratic district.

"It's up to the voters to decide amongst the candidates," McMahon said. "They chose Debi Rose as the winning candidate."

While he expected a greater turnout for Mitchell, McMahon said that he doesn't see the result as a "referendum" on himself or his campaign team, which ran Mitchell's operation.

"It was a vote on three



Debi Rose thanks Arlene Fried and Garry Ellengold, both of Port Richmond, at the Staten Island Ferry Terminal.

candidates on that day," he said. "Endorsements by elected officials help, but they don't seal the deal. I'm very proud of my team."

Ms. Rose, 58, of Arlington, said she fielded congratulatory calls from state Sen. Diane Savino (D-North Shore/Brooklyn) and Assembly members Matthew Titone (D-North Shore) and Janele Hyer-Spencer (D-East Shore/Brooklyn).

Ms. Savino has said she will support Ms. Rose, while Titone and Assemblyman Michael Cusick (D-Mid-Island) are undecided. Ms. Hyer-Spencer has not said what she'll do in November.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg

had kind words for Mitchell at a press conference at the former Stapleton home port yesterday.

"I've had a chance to work with him for a brief period, and he really has worked very hard, and I'm sorry it didn't work out for him," Bloomberg said.

Perhaps inadvertently, Bloomberg seemed to concede that Mitchell would not triumph in November.

"Hopefully you can find some other ways to serve the people of Staten Island," he told Mitchell after the councilman spoke at the event.

Of Ms. Rose, Bloomberg said, "I don't know the woman who won the seat.

She may be very good, and we'll work with her."

Conservative Borough President James P. Molinaro, who aided the Mitchell effort, vowed to wage a "full-fledged campaign" for Mitchell on the Conservative line.

"It's not impossible," he said. "He's still the incumbent Democrat."

Key to Ms. Rose's victory, observers said, was her ability to again pull out her base voters, the vast majority of whom are Democrats.

While Mitchell benefited from GOP and Conservative votes in the special election, he was unable to replace them with Democratic voters in the primary.

A supporter said that in one district in his West Brighton base, Mitchell got around 110 votes on Tuesday after getting more than 200 votes there in February.

Rose adviser Allen Cappelli said that Ms. Rose focused on "simple" campaign themes like transportation and health care, and sought to undercut Mitchell's claims that he was the more experienced candidate.

"I think we popped through," he said.

An ebullient Ms. Rose thanked commuters in the St. George Ferry Terminal yesterday morning. "I won! I won!" she said as supporters stood in line to hug her and offer congratulations.

— Advance staff writer Peter Spencer contributed to this report.

Project Hospitality bestows honors on its benefactors

400 attend agency's Fall Dinner at Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomfield

By KJAWANA RICH
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

The many Staten Islanders whose dedication and commitment benefit Project Hospitality were feted last night at the agency's Fall Dinner.

"We serve Staten Islanders and we hold them in our embrace because you hold us in your embrace. ... Thank you for being an example of what it means to be a loving family to Staten Islanders who have no idea what it means to be loved by anyone but us," executive director the Rev. Terry Troia told the 400 attendees at the Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomfield.

Their efforts, she said, have allowed the agency to serve more than 1 million meals in the past 12 months, assist more than 25,000 Islanders, provide \$5 million in cash benefits to the needy and furnish 19 communities with meals, food, shelter and other services.

Still, Rev. Troia noted, the need never abates.

Honored last night were:

Richard and Lois Nicotra, with The Richard E. Diamond Memorial Award for Exemplary Commitment to People in Need, established in 2004 to honor the memory of the Advance publisher; Dr. Tomas D. and Evy Morales, with The Les Trautmann Memorial Award for Outstanding Contribution to the People of Staten Island; Rev. Will Nichols and his wife, Janice Hollen, with the Eleanor and Paul Proske Memorial Award for Distinguished Service to the Poor, and The Food Bank for New York City and its president, Lucy Cabrera, with the agency's Distinguished Community Service Award.

And last night there was plenty of warmth and embraces to go around.

Advance Editor and Dinner Co-Chair Brian Laline called the Nicotras "two of Staten Island's very, very best friends and my two best friends."

Reciprocating, Ms. Nicotra said, "To be simply mentioned in the same sentence as the late, great Richard Diamond is more than enough."

And Ms. Cabrera gasped when Rev. Troia called her, "My inspiration. I marvel and I dazzle and I am just so proud to be mentioned in the



Dr. Lucy Cabrera receives the Distinguished Community Service Award.

same breath as you and the Food Bank of New York City."

Honoree and retired teacher Janice Hollen coupled the mission of teaching and of Project Hospitality — "heroic work," she called it.

Evy Morales said she and her husband — transplants from California two years ago — are all about borough life.

"We value and appreciate everything that is Staten Island," she said. "And I am very honored and deeply humbled to receive this award from an organization that does truly God's work on this Island."

Also attending last night were Project Hospitality founder, the Rev. Roland Ratmeyer.



The Rev. Terry Troia, Project Hospitality's executive director, says, "Thank you for being an example of what it means to be a loving family to Staten Islanders who have no idea what it means to be loved by anyone but us."



College of Staten Island President Dr. Tomas Morales and his wife, Evy, get the Les Trautmann Memorial Award.



Janice Holleny and her husband, the Rev. Will Nichols, are the recipients of the Eleanor and Paul Proske Memorial Award.



ABOVE: Norma D'Arrigo, left, who presented the Les Trautmann Memorial Award, with Alice Diamond, wife of the late Advance Publisher Richard E. Diamond and mother of current Advance Publisher Caroline Diamond Harrison.



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE PHOTOS/MILTON FLORES

Advance Editor Brian Laine presents the Richard E. Diamond Award to Lois and Richard Nicotra.

CALL FOR PAPERS: FLAIRS-2010 SPECIAL TRACK ON AI EDUCATION

Special Track on [ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE EDUCATION](#)
The 23rd International FLAIRS Conference (FLAIRS-2010)
Daytona Beach, Florida, USA
The Shores Resort and Spa
May 19-21, 2010
IMPORTANT DATES

- Submission deadline: November 23, 2009
- Acceptance notification: January 22, 2010
- Final versions due: February 22, 2010

Papers are being solicited for a special track on AI [Education](#) at the 23rd International FLAIRS Conference (FLAIRS-2010). The FLAIRS Special Track on AI [Education](#) is intended to provide a setting in which educators and researchers from all areas of AI can come together to share ideas and approaches for teaching AI at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

We are especially interested in submissions that describe innovative curricular materials, teaching methods, pedagogical experiences, or ways to promote student interest in AI and the participation of underrepresented groups. We welcome submissions on all aspects of AI pedagogy, including, but not limited to:

- [Model](#) assignments, course syllabi, [software](#), or other curricular resources
- Implementation of the [Computing Curricula 2001](#) [Intelligent Systems](#) area
- AI classroom techniques or innovations for undergraduate and/or graduate instruction
- Intelligent applications for instruction of AI and assessment of such applications
- The use of robots or other hands-on equipment for teaching AI
- Strategies for incorporating AI research into AI courses
- Strategies for encouraging wider student interest and participation in AI
- Descriptions or [case studies](#) of successful class projects or other pedagogical experiences

Note: There is a separate special track for [Intelligent Tutoring Systems](#).

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Interested authors must submit completed manuscripts for double-blind review by November 23, 2009.

Papers should follow AAAI formatting guidelines

(<http://www.aaai.org/Publications/Templates/AuthorKit.zip>).

Submission guidelines can be obtained by referring to the conference website (<http://www.flairs-23.info/>).

Papers will be refereed and those accepted for presentation will appear in the conference proceedings which will be published by AAAI Press. Authors may be invited to submit a revised copy of their paper to a special issue of the International Journal on [Artificial Intelligence Tools](#) (IJAIT).

Questions regarding the track should be addressed to Todd Neller

(<http://cs.gettysburg.edu/~tneller/>) or [Jim Marshall](#)

(<http://science.slc.edu/~jmarshall/>).

ONLINE RESOURCES

- FLAIRS: <http://www.flairs.com>
- FLAIRS 2010: <http://www.flairs-23.info/>
- AI [Education](#) Track: <http://cs.gettysburg.edu/~tneller/flairs10/>

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Todd Neller, co-chair ([Gettysburg College](#))

[Jim Marshall](#), co-chair ([law/](#)" class="p-link">Sarah [Lawrence College](#))

Bob Aiken ([Temple University](#))
Steven Bogaerts ([Wittenberg University](#))
Eric Chown ([Bowdoin College](#))
Zachary Dodds ([Harvey Mudd College](#))
Susan Fox ([Macalester College](#))
David Furcy ([University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh](#))
Ioannis Hatzilygeroudis ([University of Patras, Greece](#))
Ellen Hildreth ([Wellesley College](#))
Tim Huang ([Middlebury College](#))
Frank Klassner ([Villanova University](#))
Simon Levy ([Washington and Lee University](#))
Chun Wai Liew ([Lafayette College](#))
Shieu-Hong Lin ([Biola University](#))
Derek Long ([University of Strathclyde, UK](#))
Myles McNally ([Alma College](#))
R. Mark Meyer ([Canisius College](#))
Dave Mooney ([Shippensburg University](#))
Dave Musicant ([Carleton College](#))
Jeffrey Pfaffmann ([Lafayette College](#))
John Rager ([Amherst College](#))
Anita Raja ([University of North Carolina, Charlotte](#))
Ingrid Russell ([University of Hartford](#))
Mehran Sahami ([Stanford University](#))
Rebecca Thomas ([Bard College](#))
Ellen Walker ([Hiram College](#))
Richard Wyatt ([West Chester University](#))
Sarah Zelikovitz ([College of Staten Island](#) of CUNY)
We look forward to your participation at next year's FLAIRS!

- Todd Neller and [Jim Marshall](#)

YUNQUELAND

Un espacio para información oportuna, veraz, escrita en completa libertad, ya que los medios mas importantes en tamaño, que no en contenido del país, solo son comparsa del gobierno impuesto por los que se creen dueños del país.

lunes 28 de septiembre de 2009

Académicos presionan al Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU sobre crisis en Honduras

Septiembre 26 2009 Categorized Under: General, Resistencia, Retorno Mel Zelaya one

Querido Presidente Obama,

Le urgimos, en su capacidad como presidente temporal del Consejo de Seguridad de la Naciones Unidas, apoyar una reunión de emergencia del Consejo de Seguridad para tratar la crisis política y derechos humanos en Honduras.

Como usted sabe, la situación en Honduras es muy peligrosa para tanto los hondureños como para las instituciones democráticas hondureñas. La mañana del martes, fuerzas policiales y militares dispersaron violentamente miles de manifestantes que pasaron la noche enfrente de la embajada brasileña para apoyar pacíficamente al expulsado Presidente Manuel Zelaya seguidamente a su retorno a Honduras. Cañones de agua, gases lacrimógenos, balas de goma, golpizas, y de acuerdo a algunos reportes, bala viva fue usada para desalojar la multitud, resultando en números heridos de acuerdo a reportes de prensa independiente. Al menos dos protestantes han sido asesinados de acuerdo a la policía hondureña, y un gran número de protestantes han sido detenidos (el Ministro del Interior de facto reconoció 174 detenciones), algunos de ellos son retenidos en estadios es un recuerdo escalofriante del golpe de estado de Chile de 1973. El Lunes, los ataques violentos del régimen a la multitud siguió con una imposición de toque de queda, originalmente por 16 horas, pero después extendido al Martes y Miércoles.

El régimen golpista ha, repetidamente, cortado energía eléctrica, agua y servicio telefónico a la embajada brasileña, y ha montado un cordón sólido de seis cuadradas alrededor de esta. Ha ubicado francotiradores y está cargando con música a todo volumen al edificio en un claro esfuerzo para forzar al Presidente Zelaya abandonar las premisas de la Embajada.

Además, los pocos despachos independientes de noticias que continúan operando en Honduras están reportando incidentes similares de represión violenta en otras partes del país, particularmente en la segunda ciudad más grande de Honduras, San Pedro Sula donde manifestantes pacíficos han sido atacados y detenidos por la policía. Policía y tropas continúan golpeando brutalmente a los manifestantes en una táctica documentada y condenada por Amnistía Internacional.

El régimen ha suspendido las garantías constitucionales de libertad de reunión y de prensa, y ha, repetidamente, bloqueando la señal de transmisión de despachos de Radio Globo y Canal 36. Mientras tanto, el régimen le apunta a los grupos de derechos humanos, el monitor de derechos humanos Comité de Familiares de Detenidos Desaparecidos en Honduras (COFADEH) reportó que sus oficinas han sido atacadas con gases lacrimógenos.

Estas violaciones de derechos humanos han sido denunciadas por organizaciones de derechos humanos incluida la Comisión Interamericana de Derechos Humanos de la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA), Human Right Watch, y Amnistía Internacional.

El régimen continúa desairando todas las llamadas de la comunidad internacional para una solución a la crisis y al respeto de los derechos humanos. Es altamente probable, entonces, que escalará la represión contra los seguidores de Zelaya, y violaría también los derechos del mismo Zelaya y otros en la embajada brasileña en un despliegue de fuerza. Un funcionario del régimen golpista apareció afirmando que la ley internacional no les impediría allanar la Embajada.

Es importante resaltar que algunos de los peores actos de violencia del régimen contra los simpatizantes de Zelaya durante los últimos tres meses han sido llevados a cabo durante los toques de queda – especialmente cuando el régimen ha desarticulado demostraciones y marchas. Bajo las circunstancias actuales, se espera que el régimen confronte nuevas demostraciones pacíficas con violencia brutal, resultando en nuevas muertes, golpizas, violaciones, y detenciones, tal y como grupos internacionales de derechos humanos han documentado desde que el golpe se llevo a cabo el 28 de junio.

La OEA y la Asamblea General de la ONU han pasado previamente resoluciones el retorno a la democracia y orden constitucional de Honduras, pero estas no eran vinculantes. Ahora que Zelaya ha regresado a Honduras, y el régimen de facto ha respondido a su mera presencia con un asalto a sus seguidores y acoso severo de la misma Embajada, es el momento de actuar del Consejo de Seguridad de la ONU para forzar a la dictadura a respetar libertades y derechos humanos básicos, incluyendo libertad de reunión y de prensa y a aceptar la restauración del gobierno electo.

Le saluda,

Leisy Abrego, University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellow, University of California, Irvine
Jorge Aladro-Font, Professor of Literature, University of California, Santa Cruz
Mark Anderson, Department of Anthropology, University of California, Santa Cruz
Tim Anderson, Senior Lecturer in Political Economy, University of Sydney

William Avilés, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Nebraska at Kearney
Elizabeth Bast, International Program Director, Friends of the Earth U.S.
Marc Becker, Associate Professor of History, Truman State University
Ericka Beckman, Assistant Professor, Department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese and Program in Comparative and World Literatures
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
John Beverley, Distinguished Professor, Hispanic Languages and Literature, University of Pittsburgh
Larry Birns, Director, Council on Hemispheric Affairs
Katherine Borland, Associate Professor Comparative Studies in the Humanities and Assistant Dean, The Ohio State University Newark
Jules Boykoff, Associate Professor of Political Science, Pacific University.
Renate Bridenthal, Professor of History (retired), Brooklyn College, CUNY
David Brookbank, Ex-US Foreign Service Officer Spokane, WA
Pamela Brubaker, California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, CA
Francisco Cabanillas, Associate Professor, Bowling Green State University
Laura Carlsen, Americas Program of the Center for International Policy
Barry Carr ,Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia
Visiting Professor, History Department, University of California Berkeley
Julie A. Charlip, Professor, Department of History, Whitman College
Joaquin Chavez, History Department, New York University
Eric Cheyfitz, Cornell University.
Ronald Chilcote, University of California, Riverside
Erik Ching, Associate Professor of History, Furman University
George Ciccariello-Maher, Political Science, UC Berkeley
Aviva Chomsky, Professor of History and Coordinator, Latin American Studies, Salem State College

Noam Chomsky, Institute Professor (retired), MIT

Christopher I. Clement, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Politics, Pomona College.
Stephen Coats, Executive Director, US Labor Education in the Americas Project
William Collins, MinutemanMedia, Norwalk, CT
Sandi E Cooper, Professor History Department, College of Staten Island – CUNY
Guillermo Delgado-P., Latin American and Latino Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz
Maria Elena Diaz, Associate Professor of History, University of California, Santa Cruz
Elizabeth Dore, Professor of Latin American Studies, University of Southampton, UK
Gerric Dudley, The Dudley Foundation, Bellingham, WA
Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz, Professor Emeritus, California State University|
Emilio Del Valle Escalante, Assistant Professor of Spanish, Romance Languages and Literatures,

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Kent Eaton, Associate Professor of Politics, University of California, Santa Cruz

Sarah England, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Soka University

Laura Enriquez, Assoc. Professor, Dept. of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley, CA

Barbara Epstein, Professor of History of Consciousness, University of California, Santa Cruz

Nicole Fabricant, Department of Anthropology, University of South Florida

Samuel Farber, Profesor Emeritus in Political Science, Brooklyn College of CUNY

Sujatha Fernandes, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Queens College and the Graduate Center, CUNY

Raul Fernandez, Professor, Social Sciences and Chicano Latino Studies, UC Irvine

Bill Fletcher, Jr., Executive Editor, BlackCommentator.com

Dana Frank, Professor of History, University of California, Santa Cruz

Gavin Fridell, Assistant Professor of Politics, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario

Cindy Forster, Professor of History and Latin American Studies, Scripps College.

Jonathan Fox, Professor of Latin American and Latino Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz

Robin Garcia, Cultural Studies Department, Claremont Graduate University

Frances Geteles, PSC/ CUNY

Lesley Gill, Professor and Chair of Anthropology, Vanderbilt University

Shannon Gleeson, Assistant Professor, Latin American and Latino Studies Department, University of California, Santa Cruz

Steve Gliessman, Professor of Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz

Walter Goldfrank, Professor of Sociology, University of California, Santa Cruz

Victoria Gonzalez Pagani, Language Program, University of California, Santa Cruz

Greg Grandin, Department of History, New York University

Joyce A. Green, Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Regina

Raquel Gutiérrez Aguilar, Profesora-Investigadora, Centro de Estudios Andinos y Mesoamericanos, sede México.

Lisbeth Haas, Professor of History, University of California, Santa Cruz

Peter Hallward, Professor of Modern European Philosophy, Middlesex University, UK.

John L. Hammond, Professor, Sociology, CUNY

Gloria Hannas, Peacemaking Mission Team of Chicago Presbytery, PC(USA) La Grange, IL

Susan Harman, Progressive Democrats of America and CodePink, Oakland, CA

Nancy Hatfield, Greater Lowell for Peace and Justice, North Chelmsford, MA

Tom Hayden, Author

Mark Healey, Assistant Professor of Latin American History, University of California, Berkeley.

Dan Hellinger, Professor of Political Science, Webster University

Doug Hertzler, PhD, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Eastern Mennonite University

Gabriel Hetland, Doctoral Candidate, Department of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley

Kathryn Hicks, Department of Anthropology, University of Memphis
 Jasmin Hristov, York University, Canada
 Forrest Hylton, Assistant Professor of Political Science/Int'l. Relations, Universidad de los Andes (Colombia)
 Susanne Jonas, Latin American and Latino Studies
 University of California, Santa Cruz
 Gilbert M. Joseph, Farnam Professor of History and International Studies, Yale University
 Laura Kaplan, Graduate Teaching Fellow, CUNY Graduate Center
 Gabriel Katul, Duke University Durham, NC
 Mehrene Larudee, Visiting Associate Professor of Economics, Earlham College, Cornell University
 Catherine LeGrand, Associate Professor, McGill University
 Andrew H. Lee, Librarian for History & Politics, New York University
 Sidney Lemelle, Department of History, Pomona College
 Bruce Levine, J. G. Randall Distinguished Professor of History, University of Illinois
 Gilberto López y Rivas, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, Centro Regional Morelos Cuernavaca, Morelos, México
 Flora Lu, Department of Latin American and Latino Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz
 Paul M. Lubeck, Professor of Politics, University of California, Santa Cruz
 Dorothy Mack, Patriots for Peace, Depoe Bay, OR
 Dora Magana, Clinica Romero
 Florencia E. Mallon, Julieta Kirkwood Professor of History, University of Wisconsin
 Luis Martin-Cabrera, Assistant professor, Literature, UCSD
 Marie-Josée Massicotte, Assistant Professor, School of Political Studies, University of Ottawa
 Frank McCann, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH
 Jim Miller, Professor of English, SD City College
 Ricardo Moreno, Bread and Roses
 Jenell Morrow, Applied Women's Studies, M.A., Doctoral Student, Cultural, Studies, Claremont Graduate University
 Lena Mortensen, Assistant Professor, Anthropology, University of Toronto Scarborough
 Robert Naiman, Policy Director, Just Foreign Policy
 Mary Nolan, Professor, Department of History, New York University
 Liisa L. North, Professor, Emerita, Political Science York University and Adjunct Professor, FLACSO-Ecuador
 Valerie Novak, Latin American/Caribbean Committee, St. Louis, MO
 Matthew D. O'Hara, Department of History, University of California, Santa Cruz
 Almerindo Ojeda, Professor of Linguistics, UC Davis
 Paul Ortiz, Associate Professor of Community Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz
 Mark Overmyer-Velázquez, Peggy Rockefeller Visiting Scholar in Latin American Studies, Harvard

University, Director, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Associate Professor of History, University of Connecticut

Tanalis Padilla, Department of History, Dartmouth College

Cynthia Papermaster, National Accountability Action Network, Berkeley, CA

Christian Parenti, Fellow, Nation Institute

Diana Paton, Reader in Caribbean History, Newcastle University, UK

Lucinda Pease-Alvarez, Department of Education, University of California, Santa Cruz

Sirena Pellarolo, Professor, California State University, Northridge

Héctor Perla Jr., Assistant Professor, Latin American and Latino Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz

Adrienne Pine, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, American University

Suyapa G. Portillo Villeda, CFD Fellow, History Department, Pomona College

Nancy Postero, Associate Professor, Anthropology, UC San Diego

Margaret Power, Associate Professor, Department of Humanities, Illinois Institute of Technology

Seemin Qayum, Independent Scholar, New York City

Margaret Randall, Author

Peter Ranis, Prof. Emeritus, CUNY Grad. Ctr.

Jennifer F. Reynolds, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of South Carolina

Marcus Rediker, Professor and Chair, Department of History, University of Pittsburgh

Cristina Rojas, Ph.D. Program Chair, Professor, The Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Ottawa

Sarah T. Romano, Ph.D Candidate, Department of Politics, University of California, Santa Cruz

Nancy Romer, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology, Brooklyn College, City University of New York

B. Ruby Rich, Professor of Community Studies and Social Documentation
University of California, Santa Cruz

Karin Alejandra Roseblatt, Associate Professor, Department of History,
Director, Latin American Studies Center, University of Maryland

Rosaura Sanchez, UCSD, California

James Sanders, Associate Professor of History, Utah State University.

T.M. Scruggs, Assistant Professor, School of Music, University of Iowa

Barry G. Shelley, Sustainable International Development, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA

Victor Silverman, Department of History, Pomona College

Julie Skurski, Distinguished Lecturer, Anthropology Program, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY

Dale Sorensen, Director, Marin Interfaith Task Force on the Americas

Kent Spriggs, International human rights lawyer, Spriggs Law Firm, Tallahassee, FL

Susan Spronk, PhD, Assistant Professor, School of International Development and Global Studies,

University of Ottawa

Richard Stahler-Sholk, Professor, Department of Political Science, Eastern Michigan University

Steve Striffler, Doris Zemurray Stone Chair in Latin American Studies, Professor of Anthropology,
University of New Orleans

Millie Thayer, Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Sinclair Thomson, Associate Professor of History, New York University

Jozef Timmers, Centro Comunitario Jose Maria, Midland, MI

Miguel Tinker Salas, Professor of History, Pomona College

Steven Topik, Professor of History, UC Irvine

Gabriela Torres, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Wheaton College

Mayo C. Toruño, Professor of Economics, California State University, San Bernardino

Jeffery R. Webber, Assistant Professor, Political Science, University of Regina, Canada

David Webster, Assistant Professor, International Studies, University of Regina, Canada

Mark Weisbrot, Co-Director, Center for Economic and Policy Research

Sonja Wolf, Institute of Social Research, National Autonomous University of Mexico

John Womack Jr., Harvard University, Professor of History, Emeritus

Paul Yih, Aurora University, Williams Bay, WI

Marilyn B. Young, Professor, History, NYU.

Peter & Judy Yustum, Pax Christi New Orleans

Susy Zepeda, Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology, University of California, Santa Cruz

Traducción por Héctor Estada

Tomado de: <http://quotha.net/node/395>

APAGA LA TELEVISION, NO PERMITAS QUE ASESINEN TU MENTE, MEJOR LEE UN LIBRO E
INFORMATE EN LOS MEDIOS ALTERNATIVOS.

YUNQUELAND ROMPIENDO EL CERCO INFORMATIVO.

<http://www.yunqueland.com/>

<http://yunqueland.blogspot.com/>

Sports



Russo-Vikos to lead College of Staten Island cross country program

Posted by [blaugust](#) September 01, 2009 10:16AM

The College of Staten Island has named Robert Russo-Vikos as its new head coach for men's and women's cross country.

Russo-Vikos, 27, will start immediately with the Dolphin season beginning on Sept. 13. Both teams are in their early stages as the women's team started as a club program before gaining varsity status in 2007 with the men's team following in 2008.

A four-year student-athlete at Wagner College, Russo-Vikos excelled at both cross-country and track and field and was the captain of those teams in each of his final three seasons. While there, Russo-Vikos earned team Most Valuable Player honors in 2001 and 2002.

"I am very excited to get started with the cross-country programs at CSI," said Russo-Vikos. "I'm looking forward to working with a talented class of athletes, helping them achieve their goals of individual and team success. Having the chance to help build on the success of the program and to make our mark in the conference and beyond has us all very excited to get started."



Staten Island sports bulletin board: Clinic for hoops coaches, road race info and more

Posted by [blaugust](#) September 08, 2009 11:42AM

Basketball coach clinic

The New Heights youth association is sponsoring a Coaches Academy for basketball coaches at all levels Saturday at Poly Prep in Brooklyn featuring presentations by some of the top coaches in the college game. Among those scheduled to speak are Buzz Williams, head coach at Marquette, two-time NCAA champ Billy Donovan of Florida, new Arizona coach Sean Miller, Keno Davis of Providence, Norm Roberts of St. John's and Jay Wright, who guided Villanova to the 2009 Final Four. The clinic runs from noon-7 p.m. and costs \$100. Online registration is available at www.newheightsnyc.org. New Heights athletic director Kimani Young may be reached at 212-426-4667 or 718-974-7110.

Basketball officials class

There will be a girls' high school basketball officials class at St. Roch's school on Tuesdays and Thursdays from Sept. 15 through Oct. 29 from 7-9:30 p.m. Contact Pat DeForte at 718-637-1829.

Two upcoming road races

On Saturday at 10 a.m., the annual Celic 4-mile run, honoring Marty and Tom, will be held at Clove Lakes Park. Prizes go to the top three in ten-year age categories, and there are numerous firefighter and team awards. The male and female winners each receive a \$100 cash prize and a \$100 bonus will be presented to the person who sets a course record. Runners may pre-enter at the Cargo Cafe, 120 Bay St., Thursday from 6-10 p.m. Pre-entry fee is \$20, and all pre-entries receive a T-shirt. The first 200 entrants also receive commemorative bandannas. Athletes may also register on race day, with a post-entry fee of \$25. Sunday, the Have a Heart 5K Run and Walk takes place at the South Beach Boardwalk, beginning at 9 a.m. Prizes go to the top three overall, and to the top three in five-year age categories. Pre-entries are closed, but runners may still register on race day for a \$25 fee for the run and \$15 for the walk.

CSI alumni baseball game

The **College of Staten Island** will hold its inaugural alumni baseball game on Sept. 12 on its Willowbrook campus. Registration (cost to play is a \$50 donation) will be held at 10 a.m. along with batting practice; the game, which features odd-year grads against even-year grads, will follow at noon. Players will receive an alumni hat and T-shirt and refreshments will follow the game. Contact head coach Mike Mauro at knubby7@aol.com or associate head coach Neil Barbella at nbarbella@aol.com.

Basketball officials class

There will be a girls' high school basketball officials class at St. Roch's school on Tuesdays and Thursdays from Sept. 15 through Oct. 29 from 7-9:30 p.m. Contact Pat DeForte at 718-637-1829.

Girls' hoops showcase

Coaches Choice USA is holding a girls' basketball fall individual showcase at Kean University Sept. 20. Players in grades 8-12 are eligible. Fee is \$115. Applications available at www.CoachesChoiceUSA.com. Call Joe Coscia 646-334-6259.

Soccer referee certification

The Staten Island Soccer Referees Association will be holding re-certification for the 2010 season Tuesday at Great Kills Moravian Church at 7 p.m. The regular monthly meeting will also be held at that time. The physical part of the re-certification will be Saturday at 8 a.m. at the College of Staten Island. The fee is \$92. Call Eric Solli at 917-453-8880.

Tennis program

Tennis At Silver Lake PTR instructor Bill Noonan is holding a six-week fall program starting Wednesday. There will be group lessons for juniors, adults and seniors and the cost is \$90. Call 347-983-4228.

Two upcoming road races

On Saturday at 10 a.m., the annual Celic 4-mile run, honoring Marty and Tom, will be held at Clove Lakes Park. Prizes go to the top three in ten-year age categories, and there are numerous firefighter and team awards. The male and female winners each receive a \$100 cash prize and a \$100 bonus will be presented to the person who sets a course record. Runners may pre-enter at the Cargo Cafe, 120 Bay St., Thursday from 6-10 p.m. Pre-entry fee is \$20, and all pre-entries receive a T-shirt. The first 200 entrants also receive commemorative bandannas. Athletes may also register on race day, with a post-entry fee of \$25. Next Sunday, the Have a Heart 5K Run and Walk takes place at the South Beach Boardwalk, beginning at 9 a.m. Prizes go to the top three overall, and to the top three in five-year age categories. Pre-entries are closed, but runners may still register on race day for a \$25 fee for the run and \$15 for the walk.

Youth baseball registration

The Staten Island United Fall Ball baseball league is accepting teams in the 14-16 age divisions, including incoming 13s. Call Richie Wells at 917-658-2125.



Staten Island sports bulletin board for September 12, 2009

Posted by [doleary](#) September 13, 2009 16:38PM

NYIHA registration

The New York Ice Hockey Association (NYIHA) is holding registration for the winter league, which begins Oct. 1. All high school players (public or Catholic) as well as eighth-grade students are eligible and full teams are also being accepted. Individuals will be placed on teams. Call Dan Enriquez at 718-966-6050.

SP baseball alumni game

St. Peter's Boys HS will hold its fourth annual alumni baseball game on Sept. 27 at the **College of Staten Island**'s baseball field in Willowbrook. Registration and practice begins at 1:30 p.m. Game time is 3-6 p.m. A barbecue will take place afterwards between 4-8 p.m. at the field. All alumni and families are welcome. The entry fee is \$75. Game only is \$50, barbecue \$25. All Children eat free. Those interested may contact SP director of alumni/development Jack Muraca at 718-447-1676 (Ex. 102). Basketball officials class

There will be a girls' high school basketball officials class at St. Roch's school on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting this Tuesday through Oct. 29 from 7-9:30 p.m. Contact Pat DeForte at 718-637-1829. Pitching, fielding clinic

The Broadway YMCA will hold a fall pitching and fielding clinic starting Saturday until Nov. 1. The pitching clinic is at 3 p.m. while the fielding clinic follows at 4 p.m. Class size is small for individualized attention. The fee for each clinic is \$75 for members and \$107 for non-members. Contact Joyce Strype at jstrype@ymcanyc.org or 718-981-4933. Girls' hoops showcase

Coaches Choice USA is holding a girls' basketball fall individual showcase at Kean University Sept. 20. Players in grades 8-12 are eligible. Fee is \$115. There are limited spots available. Applications available at www.CoachesChoiceUSA.com. Call Joe Coscia 646-334-6259.



College sports: Wagner women win soccer match, CSI booters tie

Posted by [blaugust](#) September 12, 2009 11:52AM

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Temple 2, Wagner 1

AMBLER, Pa. -- The Owls scored the winning goal in the 82nd minute, just two minutes after Seahawks senior Dominique Bonura tied it. Wagner (1-3) plays at Holy Cross Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Worcester, Mass.

CSI 0, CCNY 0

The **College of Staten Island** and CCNY played to a soggy scoreless tie in women's CUNY soccer yesterday in Willowbrook.

The defense led the Dolphins (0-1-1) in the inclement weather. CSI took nine shots, but just five on goal. Mayda Perdomo (four saves) and Lisa Radano (two saves) split time in net for CSI, which visits Mount St. Mary Wednesday.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

CSI postponed

The Dolphins' CUNY opener at Medgar Evers was postponed and will be played Sept. 21 at 4 p.m. in Brooklyn.



COLLEGE SOCCER

9 players score goal

Saturday, September 12, 2009

in NJCU's rout of Jay

Nine different players scored a goal as New Jersey City University outshot John Jay College, 56-4, with a 10-0 non-conference victory on Wednesday afternoon at the Robert L. McNulty Memorial Soccer Field.

NJCU, playing its 2009 home opener, improved to 2-1-1 on the year, while John Jay dropped to 1-3. It was the Gothic Knights' second shutout of the year. The 56 shots were the most for NJCU in a game since attempting 61 against The [College of Staten Island](#) on October 2, 2006.

Sophomore forward Walter Avans was the lone player with multiple goals, and he tallied the only two NJCU would need, notching back-to-back markers in a span of 48 seconds.

Freshman midfielder Gabriel Avans, senior midfielder Awal Ahmed and sophomore midfielder Tom Krychkowski each had a goal and an assist while senior forward Jilmar Perez contributed two assists.

Junior keeper Justin Grant made one save for NJCU in 63:25 of action. Sophomore goalie Manny Lojo completed the shutout without a save in the final 26:35. The duo extended the Bloodhounds scoreless streak to 315:35.

For John Jay, sophomore keeper Chris Adao faced 31 first-half shots and made 11 saves. Sophomore Joseph Rahilly had seven second-half saves.

The only goal NJCU would need was a product of the Avans brothers. Gabriel Avans threaded a thru ball up the middle to his older brother Walter Avans, creating a 1-on-1 breakaway.

©2009 Jersey Journal

© 2009 NJ.com All Rights Reserved.



Men's Soccer Tops CSI to Remain Unbeaten

Montclair, NJ (9/15/09) – Senior midfielder [Michael Cullen](#) (Clementon, NJ / Highland) scored once and assisted on another goal as 17th-ranked Montclair State remained unbeaten with a 3-0 victory over [College of Staten Island](#) at MSU Soccer Park on Tuesday.

Sophomores [Mike Pytlar](#) (Califon, NJ / Voorhees) and [Mike Rudden](#) (Kearny, NJ / Kearny) each tallied a goal as the Red Hawks (5-0-1) extended two long streaks. Montclair captured its 39th consecutive home contest, one shy of Ohio Wesleyan's NCAA Division III mark of 40 set from 1991-1993. MSU has not lost at either of its on-campus fields since a 4-2 loss to Richard Stockton in October 2005.

The Red Hawks also stretched its regular-season unbeaten streak to 24 games going 23-0-1 during that span.

Sophomore goalkeeper Andrew Brown (Staten Island, NY / Monsignor Farrell) made nine saves for CSI, which fell to 0-7 on the season.

Pytlar gave Montclair the only goal it would need 9:29 into the contest as he knocked in a crossing pass from freshman [Sean Tyree](#) (Somerset, NJ / South Brunswick). It was Pytlar's second tally of the season.

Cullen pushed the lead to 2-0 before halftime with his team-leading fourth goal of the season. Junior [John Velasco](#) (Bound Brook, NJ / Bound Brook) earned his first assist of the year as the Red Hawks took the two-goal lead into the intermission.

Rudden capped the scoring in the 67th minute with Cullen and [Bill Baker](#) (Hamilton, NJ / Steinert) getting assists.

MSU outshot the Dolphins, 27-1 and had 14 corner kicks to CSI's one.

The Red Hawks are next in action on Saturday, September 19 as MSU opens defense of its NJAC title. Montclair travels to Rowan for a 7:00 pm matchup in Glassboro with the Profs.

Article Entered Into News System: **Tuesday, September 15 2009**

Article Last Edited: **Tuesday, September 15 2009**



Montclair State blanks **CSI** men, 3-0

Posted by [blaugust](#) September 16, 2009 10:43AM

MONTCLAIR, N.J. -- The Dolphins (0-7 overall) fell to the Red Hawks, who are ranked No. 17 in Division III.

PSAL soccer switch a tight fit

Posted by [dlevy](#) September 16, 2009 09:29AM



MSIT's Jackie Bruno led all Island PSAL players with 19 goals in the spring. - (Staten Island Advance/Derek Alvez)

Maybe, before the New York Civil Liberties Union threatened a lawsuit unless the PSAL girls' soccer season was moved from the spring to the fall, and before the PSAL caved and then ducked into a cone of silence, somebody should have asked Nick Kvasic what he thought.

Who would have a better perspective on the whole thing than Kvasic, who started the girls' program at New Dorp in 1982 and has remained through times both lean and robust.

Along the way Kvasic has coached three PSAL boys' programs - Port Richmond, Petrides and **CSI**/McCown - and refereed countless college games.

He's a teacher first, which is why his last two boys' coaching jobs were start-ups. It's why he's still out on the soccer field on a sunny fall afternoon 13 years after he won the last of six city championships.

"I would just like to ask one question," said Kvasic of the NYCLU's representation of three PSAL girls' soccer players who were claiming Title IX discrimination. "How did they help kids? Whom did they help? Did they help those three girls? It doesn't seem like it. Did they help the other kids? Did they help the city?"

"I don't know who they helped. Or themselves? Was it just a self-promoting thing? And honestly, we know the truth."

One week into its first fall season, PSAL girls' soccer on Staten Island has not screeched to a halt or descended into chaos. All the games have been played. Referee assignments have been fulfilled.

Things have gone less smoothly in the other four boroughs.

Forest Hills coach Bob Sprance, who led opposition to the move throughout the spring and summer, staging a rally and starting a petition, is tracking the numbers, and they aren't good.

According to Sprance, participation in PSAL girls' soccer is down by nearly 40 percent, and the first week of the season has been filled with forfeits.

"The first issue is, last year we had 1,800 girls in the program," said Sprance. "As of yesterday we have a little over 1,100. We lost 700 girls. Number two, there have been 29 girls' forfeits. That's about 30 percent forfeits."

Sprance has seen the difference first-hand.

"I've averaged 40 to 50 girls trying out in the spring every year and I carried 24," said Sprance. "This year we started practice in August and 11 girls showed up."

Numbers have remained solid on Staten Island, with most girls' teams featuring 18 or more players on the roster. But there are exceptions, and a concern for the future. Susan Wagner is the only team with more than four freshmen.

Defending city champion McKee/Staten Island Tech has just 14 players on its roster and only two freshmen. With several players injured, Kvasic had just a dozen on hand for a short practice yesterday afternoon.

"It's tough with tryouts and getting word out to the girls," said first-year MSIT coach Joanna Santarpia, a former Moore Catholic assistant who has taken over for the retired Tony DiMaggio. "I'm indifferent to whether we play in the spring or in the fall. I just think they made the switch very quickly and we weren't prepared."

MSIT sophomore Jackie Bruno was one of five Sea Gull Advance All Stars in the spring, but the only one returning this season.

Bruno plays travel soccer for the Staten Island United Thunderbolts and the conflict between the spring PSAL season and club soccer was cited as a cause for change by the NYCLU.

For elite players such as Bruno, who led the Island with 19 goals in the spring, the change to the fall is beneficial.

"My team does some college showcases at the end of the spring, so it's easier now," said Bruno. "I don't have the conflict between high school games and travel practices. That's definitely a plus."

"It could go either way. It was bad because we lost Kristen (Markoe, who chose to play volleyball) and we're not getting as many girls, and same for other teams. But it's a good thing for travel. For the girls that don't play travel, they're a little upset about it."

Travel ball continues throughout the fall - "not as serious, kind of like preseason," said Bruno - and that could still present some conflicts.

"I know already they've scheduled a game for Monday of Columbus Day," said Santarpia. "It's a huge soccer tournament weekend. So three of my players are going to one of the biggest tournaments. All the college coaches are going to be there. I'm going to have 11 players. Knock on wood nobody gets injured."

The most pressing Island issue is field space, both for practices and for games. Boys' and girls' soccer teams are sharing a single field on weekday afternoons with varsity and junior varsity football programs. It makes quality practices difficult.

MSIT, which abandoned its home field at Staten Island Tech a few years ago due to the field's poor condition, plays its home games at the Midland Beach fields on Father Capodanno Blvd. But yesterday the Gulls were practicing at Miller Field. And the demand for field time had two of MSIT's game sites listed as TBA.

So Santarpia and her father went out on their own and booked the College of Staten Island for two games.

"You're trying to make the best of the situation," said Kvasic. "And that's what we're doing."

September 16th, 2009

Mount Puts Home Seven More

NEWBURGH – For the second time in as many games, the Mount Saint Mary College women's soccer team scored seven goals, this time defeating the **College of Staten Island**, 7-0. The Blue Knights improved to 2-4 on the season.

Senior Danielle Bucco (Washingtonville, N.Y.) kicked off the scoring in the fourth minute with a breakaway goal. Just forty-four seconds later, the senior found the back of the net once again. She stole the ball from a defender and finished to the far post with her left foot. At the thirteen minute mark, Bucco completed the hat trick on a feed from sophomore Erin McKeon (Watertown, Conn.).



McKeon tallied a goal of her own in the 21st minute, finishing off a nice cross from sophomore Alexi Pascale (Monroe, N.Y.) with her head. Senior Lauren Dorsa (Massapequa Park, N.Y.) closed out the first half barrage, taking a feed from sophomore Colleen Cappadora (Brooklyn, N.Y.) to score in the 33rd minute.

In the second half, Bucco tallied her fourth goal of the night off a nice pass by freshman Kelly Candelet (Mystic, Conn.). Senior Samantha Mech (Mahwah, N.J.) finished off the scoring with a goal on a free kick from thirty-five yards away.

Freshman goalkeeper Casey Roland (Bethpage, N.Y.) needed to make just two saves to preserve her first career shutout.

The Blue Knights won't play again until Thursday, September 24 when they'll head to Bard College for their Skyline Conference opener. The game is scheduled for a 7:00 p.m. start.

An alumni game for all ages played at CSI

Former players square off against each other to raise money for today's team

By JAMIE LEE
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

WILLOWBROOK — The College of Staten Island men's baseball program celebrated its past and present on Saturday, hosting an inaugural alumni game at its Willowbrook ballfield.

More than 30 players who'd worn Dolphins jerseys over the course of the last four decades took to the diamond in an intergenerational exhibition game.

The contest pitted those who graduated in even-numbered years, coached by current assistant **John Scrivani**, against those who graduated in odd-numbered years, led by former and longtime head coach **Bill Cali**.

In the end, the odds posted an 8-4 victory over the evens, but the day was about far more than the final score.

There was plenty of laughter and rehashing of old stories from playing days between former teammates as well as alumni that had never before met.

Current CSI ballplayers ran in and out of the dugouts and on and off the bleachers, passing out fresh-off-the-grill hamburgers and hot dogs to players and fans.

Organized by current head coach **Michael Mauro** and associate head coach **Neil Barbella**, the fund-raiser — all proceeds from the game went to support the baseball program — was designed as a way to showcase CSI's rich baseball history.

"I'm thrilled to have this event happen for all of the alumni," said Mauro, who hopes to bring in more alumni in coming years. "The baseball program at CSI is rich with tradition and to bring everyone together was a great experience."

Perhaps the most noteworthy attendees — aside from Cali, who had his number retired just last year — were two members from the inaugural 1965 Staten Island Community College (SICC) baseball team.

Larry Rampulla of Castleton Corners and former captain **Ed Balletto** of Grasmere sat smiling, watching the action from the metal bleachers, holding a copy of the school's first team photo.

The two have remained extremely close since earning roster spots on that team.

"It's all about building lifelong friendships," said Rampulla. "Some guys we see all the time and some we haven't seen in 40 years, but those friendships never go away."

"We had no idea if we were going to get the funding," said Balletto. "And the morning of our first game, we were on the bus and guys were running across the street to the [St. George] post office because the uniforms had just come in. We would have had to play without uniforms."

What the group lacked



PHOTO COURTESY OF LARRY RAMPULLA

A photo of the inaugural 1965 Staten Island Community College baseball team on display at the College of Staten Island's first annual alumni game at the Willowbrook ballfield on Saturday.

in preparation, however, they made up for in talent.

The team opened with a 25-0 drubbing of Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, en route to a 5-3 campaign during the modest eight game schedule.

And without Rampulla, Balletto and the 13 others that comprised that first college squad, hundreds of ballplayers may never have taken the field for the Dolphins.

Playing at the Goodhue Center diamond in New Brighton because SICC's Bay Street location was a concrete campus, the try-outs and practices were held even during snowfall.

It wasn't until the week before the season started that then-coach **Dave O'Brien**, who later spent time coaching the Oneonta Tigers of the New York-

Penn League, informed them that there would be a team.

On the way, they had their ups, like playing close contests against two nationally ranked squads, and downs, like having to drive to an upstate New York field in their own cars for a game because they had run out of bus money.

"It was a very good team," said Balletto, who was named MVP for SICC that year.

"A good team that had a lot of fun," added Rampulla.

And on Saturday, that carefree feeling was again in the air as men became boys, playing catch and trying to hit curve balls.

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.



Jody "Ballgame" Maceda gets on top of a high fastball, rounding out to second base at the game on Saturday.

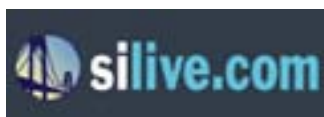


Larry Rampulla, left, and Ed Bulletto, members of the inaugural 1965 Staten Island Community College team, stand on the bleachers at the game. Rampulla is holding the photo of the 1965 team shown below.



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE PHOTOS/JAMIE LEE

The College of Staten Island's baseball program held its first annual alumni game at the Willowbrook ballfield on Saturday, with the odd-numbered graduation years defeating the even-numbered graduation years 8-4.



Staten Island Advance Editorials

Opinions on local news, politics & more

A banner year all around

By [Mark Hanley](#)

September 18, 2009, 12:11PM

Our Baby Bombers have had a banner year.

The Staten Island Yankees set a franchise record at the box office on the way to their fifth New York-Penn League championship.

Hats off to locals for their triumph.

Selling out 26 of the 38 home games at scenic Richmond County Bank Ballpark in St. George, the Single-A minor league team drew over 206,000 fans during the regular season.

They saw a lot of good baseball.

No wonder the Baby Bombers -- who went 47-29 to win the McNamara Division title -- thrived during in the worst economic climate in America since the Great Depression.

Doing so demonstrates that minor-league baseball has found a strong home on Staten Island. Which wasn't so obvious a few years ago.

The Baby Bombers made their debut in the summer of 1999 as the first minor-league ballclub in New York City. But attendance lagged as they played for two seasons at the **College of Staten Island** while a modern 7,171-seat stadium was being constructed next to the ferry terminal in St. George.

Richmond County Bank Ballpark opened in 2001 to rave reviews as an instant landmark on the edge of New York Harbor. But it took new ownership for attendance at Staten Island Yankees games to soar.

So their parent club in the Bronx -- the No. 1 franchise in sports -- reached a deal with Mandalay Baseball Properties, a phenomenally successful operator of minor-league teams, to take control of the Baby Bombers from their original owners.

In 2007, Mandalay's first season here, attendance rose to a total of 165,000 (including five sold-out games) from just 115,000 the year before. Ticket sales climbed again in 2008 to 189,000 (with 17 sellouts).

Attendance peaked once more this season.

Credit the "great value and family entertainment" provided by the Mandalay-run Staten Island Yankees over the past three seasons, says team president Joe Ricciutti.

"Those are the things that, if you do them in any economy, you'll do OK," he notes. "It's a value-driven experience."

No doubt that was helped by the emergence during these hard times of what's known as "stay-cations" -- one of 2009's most popular terms.

Mr. Ricciutti says Mandalay "rebuilt the whole organization" and notably introduced the club's \$15 all-you-can-eat Pinstripe Plan ticket.

The reversal of fortune was matched on the field this season by the newest Baby Bombers.

Their arch-rivals, the Brooklyn Cyclones, jumped off to a 16-2 start and Staten Island languished for a time in last place. Then came winning streaks of 10 and 13 games by our Bombers.

This sparked the Yanks, led by first-year manager Josh Paul, the division crown.

To allow for the signings of high school and college graduates, the New York-Penn League doesn't begin its season until late June. Thus, it more often than not takes a while for the brand new professionals to jell as a team. And for local fans to figure out who's who on the roster.

The big stars for Staten Island this season turned out to be starting pitchers: Sean Black, Adam Warren, and Francisco Rondon had a combined record of 12-4 as the Yanks led the NY-PL in earned run average. Out of the bullpen, Ben Watkins (5-0, 1.80 ERA) also starred. It was five innings of scoreless relief by Watkins that allowed the Bombers to come from behind to their 5-2 win vs. Ohio's Mahoning Valley Scrappers for the NY-PL championship.

The Staten Island Yankees also led the league in hitting at .258. Their big bopper was outfielder Neil Medchill, who hit 14 home runs in just 62 games.

You ought to remember these names. They just might turn up before too long on the roster of the New York Yankees. Just like ex-Baby Bombers such as Robinson Cano, Melky Cabrera and Chien Ming Wang.

September 21st, 2009

Blue Knights Move to 5-0

NEWBURGH – The Mount Saint Mary College women's tennis team swept both home matches over the weekend to improve to 5-0 overall. The Blue Knights knocked off St. Joseph's College in Skyline Conference action (6-3 on Saturday) and then rolled past the **College of Staten Island** (9-0 on Sunday) in a non-conference match.



Against the preseason favorite in the Skyline Conference, Mount Saint Mary took two of the three doubles matches. Freshman Gabriela Murphy-Goldberg (Newburgh, N.Y.) teamed with sophomore Annmarie Llewellyn (Brookhaven, N.Y.) for an 8-3 win at first doubles while freshmen Jennifer Gregory (Albertson, N.Y.) and Emily Gregory (Albertson, N.Y.) held on for an 8-5 victory at third doubles.

Murphy-Goldberg made quick work of her opponent at the top of the lineup, easing to a 6-1, 6-2 win. But the Golden Eagles captured points at second and third singles to tie up the match at three points each. At sixth singles, Emily Gregory dropped the first four games of the match before rallying to win twelve of the next thirteen and post a 6-4, 6-1 win. Llewellyn dropped the opening set at fifth singles, but battled for a 6-4 win in the second set and then rolled to a 6-0 third set to clinch the match. Jennifer Gregory prevailed in a third set super tiebreaker at fourth singles (4-6, 6-0, 10-8) to make the final score 6-3 in favor of the Blue Knights.

On Sunday against the **College of Staten Island**, the Blue Knights dropped just two games in nine matches. They didn't allow a game in the six singles matches. Junior Lindsay Searle (Unionville, Conn.) rebounded to win 6-0, 6-0 at second singles and freshman Linnea Mowat (Cornwall, N.Y.) collected her first collegiate win with a 6-0, 6-0 win at sixth singles.

With a record of 5-0, the Blue Knights will host the College of Mount Saint Vincent on Tuesday evening. The match is scheduled for a 6:30 p.m. start.



Varsity 845 U Sept. 20 Mount Saint Mary roundup: Women's tennis team romps September 21, 2009 2:00 AM
Women's tennis: Mount Saint Mary 9, College of Staten Island 0 Gabriella Murphy-Goldberg improved to 5-0 at first singles and first doubles as the Mount won a non-league match in Newburgh. Freshman Linnea Mowat of Cornwall won her collegiate debut at No. 6 singles.

For Army hoops, a Marshall plan COMMENTARY ACCORDING TO GORDON Former CSI coach and A.D. takes over men's team at West Point while school searches for replacement

by Cormac Gordon , Staten Island Advance

In the midst of the usual turmoil that comes with the firing of a college **basketball** coach so close to the beginning of the season - even at a place like West Point, where winning hoop games is pretty far down the priority list - the Black Knights' front office caught at least one break last week:

Gene **Marshall** is around to step in as the interim head coach, replacing Jim Crews.

Reports are that Crews, a Bobby Knight disciple, was dismissed with three years remaining on his contract after a current player complained to the administration of being physically and verbally "abused."

If true, that's messy stuff. Enough so to keep the bright lights trained on the West Point program for a while. But Gene **Marshall** gets how such dust-ups work.

They come ... and then they go.

And while the goal is to hire a permanent replacement for Crews before the **Army** season begins for real against VMI on Nov. 6, **Marshall** could wind up coaching the entire season.

Which might just turn out to be a good thing.

Islanders will remember **Marshall** as the affable and diligent **College of Staten Island** athletic director back in the mid-'90s, a smart, savvy guy who found his way around the CUNY bureaucracy, a task as difficult as being the last man standing in a Shakespeare tragedy.

GOOD MULTI-TASKER

The current deputy athletic director at West Point managed to keep a lot of balls in the air during his stay at **CSI**, and accomplished plenty without making a lot of noise, or alienating a lot of people.

He made a real difference against strong headwinds at a place where the administration often seems to regard athletics as a necessary evil and nothing more.

What some might not recall about **Marshall**'s time on Staten Island is that, in 1996, he also took over the Dolphin women's basketball team.

On short notice.

A coach left.

A search began.

There was no obvious qualified choice to be had.

So **Marshall** named himself head coach.

What was the result of his intervention?

The Dolphins went 22-6 and won the CUNY Conference title. They went to the NAAs.

The following season?

They were 23-5, setting a school all-time win mark.

In a two-year span, [Marshall](#) went 45-11. That after a three-year run that produced a 25-49 record.

Not bad, right?

"He can coach," declared his [CSI](#) assistant and longtime LIU men's head coach Paul Lizzo. "Basketball is basketball, and Gene knows how to get results."

Following his success at [CSI](#), [Marshall](#) moved on to the athletic director's job at Ramapo College in the New Jersey state system.

Wouldn't you know, he was there two weeks when the women's coach quit!

"I named myself the interim coach ... again," he laughed the other day.

How did that turn out?

BACK TO THE BENCH

Well, for starters, [Marshall](#) kept the job for six seasons just because he couldn't find anyone he wanted to hire.

"I wanted to do it right," he explained.

And what was the rush, anyway?

Ramapo won, and won and won some more.

They advanced to the NCAA Division III Sweet 16 one season. And to the Elite Eight on another occasion.

Now he's stepping in as the coach of a Division I men's program that is at a crossroads. To go along with all the confusion and bad press that comes along with the Crews situation, the Black Knights haven't posted a winning season since 1989.

Some folks wonder, given the academy's entrance requirements and its daily demands on cadets, if [Army](#) can ever win again.

[Marshall](#) is not among those people.

He insists the Black Knights can still be successful at the Patriot League level where they compete against the likes of Navy, Holy Cross and Lehigh.

"The infrastructure is here," he said.

Last year's team was 11-19 and 6-8 in the conference.

Which, for [Army](#), is a pretty good season.

"We have seven seniors returning," [Marshall](#) said. "They're good kids who can play. My goal right now is to have this team ready for the beginning of the season. To get them in shape, and start the preparation.

"I've done this before," [Marshall](#) added.

Which we already knew.

And he didn't have to add that - in the [Army](#) - there's often nothing more permanent than a temporary position.

Copyright 2009 Advance Publications, Inc. All Rights Reserved



[Terms & Conditions](#) [Privacy](#)

[Copyright](#) © 2009 LexisNexis, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Stories

Something missing from the agreement on college shuttle bus service

Posted by [mdominow](#) September 02, 2009 09:58AM

There were smiles all around on Grymes Hill on Monday. Sen. Charles Schumer was on hand along with officials of Wagner College and St. John's University to announce full federal funding for bus service that shuttles students and staff between the two campuses and the St. George Ferry Terminal.

The senator and Rep. Michael McMahon used their combined clout in Washington to secure \$260,000 in federal money to cover the cost of the shuttle for two years. Final approval of the funding, which is part of a larger measure, is expected later this month when Congress reconvenes.

Until now, the schools had been sharing the cost of operating the six-year-old service - a burdensome expense in a tough economy.

The lawmakers touted it as an environmentally sound service which will enable students to travel around the city by mass transit and keep more cars off the road.

It's undoubtedly a coup for the lawmakers to obtain federal money to relieve these colleges of the burden of providing this transportation perk. We commend their efforts. And it's a terrific gift to the 200 students and staff members who use the shuttle each day.

But there's something missing.

The **College of Staten Island** in Willowbrook runs an even more popular shuttle that carries students between the campus and the ferry terminal. But, while **CSI** did obtain federal funding to start up the service and gets some money from Washington now, it has to pay a large share of the significant cost of operating the shuttle.

The problem would be solved if New York City Transit's S62 route, which run right past **CSI** on Victory Boulevard, would make a loop around the campus, but the Metropolitan Transportation Authority has repeatedly refused, citing increased costs and travel time and schedule disruptions.

The **CSI** ferry shuttle carries between 1,400 and 1,600 a day, seven or eight times the number who use the Grymes Hill shuttle. What's more, a high percentage of Wagner students live on campus, and most St. John's students commute to school by car. All of **CSI**'s students commute to and from school and many travel from other boroughs.

There's something wrong with this picture. Shuttles serve all three colleges, yet the two private institutions get Washington to pick up the full tab, while much of the cost of operating the most widely used shuttle service must be paid out of **CSI**'s own funds.

When apprised of this situation at Monday's announcement, Sen. Schumer said **CSI** officials should contact his office.

Why should it wait until then to get the ball rolling, senator? Fair is fair.

Roads reviving as arteries get badly needed infusion of blacktop

Posted by [rmccormi](#) September 03, 2009 22:34PM



Bill Lyons/Staten Island

AdvanceVictory Boulevard between Manor Road and Jewett Avenue gets a fresh new face today, courtesy of city DOT workers.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- First came the springtime pothole blitz, brought on by Advance coverage of the borough's deteriorating roads. Now the city's Department of Transportation is ushering in fall with fresh paving jobs for some of the borough's busiest and most beaten-up streets.

Staten Island's bad road conditions deteriorated in recent months to the point the borough's three city councilmen had to pool \$2 million in capital money to pay for a milling contractor to break even on road repair this year.

Conditions along arteries like Clove Road, Richmond Terrace, Victory Boulevard and Richmond Avenue have left residents fuming, but finally a fix is in sight, with work already under way in some spots, and scheduled for others.

Long stretches of Victory Boulevard in Silver Lake already are being paved, with another section between Manor and Willowbrook roads set to get a new coat of blacktop early next week.

And starting next Friday, the asphalt trucks and steamrollers will smooth out Richmond Terrace between Westervelt Avenue and Broadway, which has been such a mess that the **College of Staten Island's** ferry shuttle bus has had to be rerouted due to the punishing driving surface. Councilman Kenneth Mitchell likened the bad road to "the surface of the moon, and greatly in need of improvement," and pledged to push for improvements to the rest of the Terrace, including strip "wear and tear" paving from Alaska Street to Morningstar Road, "to make the road passable and improve drainage."

Before drivers can enjoy the smooth-as-butter surface, though, come the nights of loud milling and the parking crunch as milling and paving crews appropriate the streets overnight.

Richmond Hill Road, better known as Snake Hill, the notoriously difficult-to-maintain, curvy, pothole-plagued road through LaTourette Park, will be ripped up overnight Wednesday and Thursday.

Councilman James Oddo said the DOT already has done a lot to keep Snake Hill in the best shape possible, considering water runoff down the steep slope tends to wash away asphalt despite the agency's twice-yearly repair efforts. "They've put down a lot of stone, a lot of asphalt, but it still is a very difficult road to traverse," Oddo said.

"Year-to-year, our night-paving operation typically falls during this time frame, and the planning schedule of our targeted roads starts up to 16 months in advance, so these roadways have been on our radar for some time," said Nicole Garcia, a DOT spokeswoman.

"As we always do, we appreciate the continued support and cooperation from the communities as work gets done to renew and restore Staten Island's roads -- a critical piece of the borough's infrastructure. We feel all Staten Islanders will agree that smoother streets for years to come are a good trade-off for the temporary traffic impacts that occur during the resurfacing process."

Oddo said that while the paving efforts are a step in the right direction, he won't be fully satisfied until the DOT begins making improvements to problematic intersections, and making changes to improve flow.

On the South Shore, Councilman Vincent Ignizio is getting the second half of his request to pave Richmond Avenue fulfilled this year, with Richmond set to be milled between Amboy Road and Hylan Boulevard next Friday. Last year, he had requested Richmond to be paved between Arthur Kill Road and Amboy.

"While people will have to live through some noise issues, it's going to be done overnight to mitigate disruptions," Ignizio said. "At the end of the day, it will be pothole-free."

Drivers along Victory by Silver Lake Park got a reprieve from parking tickets during street repairs last week, after Mitchell managed to get them dismissed. Residents were told to move their cars off Victory during the work, and several were summonsed after tow trucks moved them out of the way and into No Parking zones.

Melba Moore to kick off African Heritage parade

Posted by [nrizzi](#) September 09, 2009 15:37PM



Advance file photoMelba Moore, an R&B and Broadway singer, will perform "Lift Every Voice" at the African Heritage Day Parade on Sept. 19.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The third annual African Heritage Day Parade will proceed through St. George, Tompkinsville and Stapleton as part of an all-day festival on Sept. 19.

A celebration of African, African-American and Caribbean culture and history, the event will bring together all Staten Islanders-- who, in the big picture, all are united by the continent where all human life is said to have originated, believes parade founder Bobby Digi.

The R&B and Broadway singer Melba Moore is scheduled to kick off the parade at noon (participants are asked to arrive by 11 a.m.), singing "Lift Every Voice" on the Stuyvesant Avenue side of Borough Hall.

The parade will course down Central Avenue to Bay Street, and up Van Duzer to Beach Street to end at Tappen Park for a music festival running from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Some 20 dance and music groups are scheduled to perform, including headlining hip-hop artist Keith Murray.

North Shore school bands and extracurricular groups from Wagner College and the **College of Staten Island** will participate in the event. Organizers hope for a turnout of 5,000 people. They have reached out to Staten Island's Mexican, Albanian, and other North Shore communities to drum up multi-ethnic support for the parade.

"The North Shore is getting more and more diverse," said Digi, who lauded the recent Polish Festival held at Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden, Livingston, for giving residents a chance to meet people, celebrate culture and "see a community awakening."

"Communities reaching out to form relationships and build: That's how we improve the Island," said Digi.

At a press conference this week, organizers thanked parade supporters, including the Nissan car company, the Council on the Arts and Humanities for Staten Island (COAHSI), Community Board 1 and Staten Island's Democratic and Republican parties.

The roughly \$20,000 budget for the parade comes from the Richmond County Savings Foundation, Councilman Kenneth Mitchell (D-North Shore), Assemblyman Matthew Titone (D-North Shore), and state Sen. Diane Savino (D-North Shore/Brooklyn).

To sponsor or participate in the parade, contact Mina Keyes at 646-377-9161 or e-mail africanheritageparade@gmail.com.

CSI's Henry Hudson parley a Dutch treat

'New Netherlands' conference keyed to 400th anniversary of explorer's discovery

By DEBORAH YOUNG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Isle of Staaten owes much to the Dutch.

It was 400 years ago — in 1609 — that Henry Hudson, an Englishman working for the Dutch, sailed up the river that later would bear his name.

On Friday, in celebration of the 400th anniversary of Henry Hudson's arrival in what is now New York, the College of Staten Island and the Dutch Consulate will present "Myths and Realities Regarding New Netherlands: A Staten Island Perspective."

The free-to-the-public conference will be held in the Center for the Arts' Williamson Theatre on the Willowbrook campus, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The program will feature "Myths and Realities Regarding New Netherlands," a presentation by Dr. David S. Cohen, a former member of the New Jersey Historical Commission. Cohen debunks some of the mythology that has accumulated around Hudson, venturing that Hudson might have set ashore first on Staten Island, and his landing party was attacked by the resident Native Americans, who killed one of his men.

Patricia Salmon, curator of history at the Staten Island Museum and a CSI graduate, will talk about Staten Island during the Dutch colonial era and the rich Dutch heritage still to be found today in the borough.

Annette Marks, adjunct professor of history at CSI, will discuss the treatment of people of African heritage during the Dutch colonial era, and how they were more progressive and humane than the British and (later) Americans.



HUDSON

"The conference will be interesting to historians, CSI students, and the general public," said Dr. Hugo Kijne, executive director of continuing education and professional development at CSI.

Professor Howard Weiner, past chairman of the college's History Department, will chair a brief panel with the three presenters. Dutch Consul General Gajus Scheltema and CSI President Tomás Morales will greet the attendants at the beginning of the conference.

The conference is co-sponsored by the Dutch Consulate in New York City and the Staten Island Leadership Institute.

For more information, call the Office of Continuing Education at 718-982-2188.



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/BILL LYONS

The Half Moon, an 85-foot replica of the ship that Henry Hudson sailed to New York in 1609, docked on Staten Island last month.

CSI opens gate to speed traffic at evening rush

By MAURA YATES
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Drivers entering and leaving the College of Staten Island at crunch time have a new option to circumvent traffic at the Willowbrook campus.

Students and staff are encouraged to use a gate located in the northeast corner of the campus, between the Sports and Recreation Center and Building 5N, which will be open Monday through Thursday from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. when classes are in session.

Public safety officers will help direct traffic through the gate during the high-traffic

evening rush when day students are leaving campus and night students are arriving for classes.

The gate connects to property owned by the Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Services Office, which offers a shortcut to Willowbrook Road near Woolley Avenue.

"This is going to hopefully ease some of the backlogs at the other gates," said CSI spokesman Ken Bach.

"The fewer cars we have sitting in traffic, the better," he said.

Maura Yates covers transportation news for the Advance. She may be reached at myates@siadvance.com.



Concord Times (Freetown)

Sierra Leone: President Koroma Tenders Report Card in USA

Sheka Tarawalie

23 September 2009

Freetown — On the sidelines of attending the UN General Assembly in New York, President Ernest Bai Koroma has, as a priority, performed his first major activity by attending a town-hall meeting organised by Sierra Leoneans in the USA at the **College of Staten Island** in New York to tender a report card of his two-year-old administration followed by a question-and-answer session.

ELECTIONS

Speaking extemporaneously at the evening ceremony attended by hundreds of Sierra Leoneans and non-Sierra Leonean well-wishers yesterday 20th September, the President, recognizing that he was coming to Staten Island for the first time since he assumed office, thanked everybody for participating in the electoral process that brought him to power and thereby "making Sierra Leone a leading democracy in Africa."

"As a candidate for the election and as a political party, we did not underestimate the circumstances of the country. We knew very well that we were at the bottom rung of the human development index, wherein poverty was pervasive....a good number of our people could not afford a decent meal, illiteracy high, maternal and infant mortality rates were terrible, and the economy was not up and about. By the time we took over governance, the entire donor community was not supporting activities of government. But that was what we saw, and that was why we committed ourselves to change. It was on a platform of change we campaigned, and it was on a platform of change we were voted into office. And immediately we took over governance, we had to do something quickly. We had to prepare ourselves to deliver on the promises we had made to the people of Sierra Leone. Therefore, as government, we quickly put in place our priorities - priorities in the areas of energy,

agriculture, infrastructure and the social delivery services. I knew that by laying emphasis on the growth sectors, we will be able to accelerate development in the social services. But where are we in the growth sectors?"

The President then went on to analyse or report on what he inherited and what is now.

ENERGY

On energy, President Koroma said he inherited 'the darkest capital' on earth, but was able to bring electricity to Freetown within his first 100 days through an emergency energy provision. But then he said he knew it was an expensive energy provision, and therefore committed himself to providing affordable and clean energy: "I am very pleased to report today that on the 17th of this month - exactly two years in office - I was able to switch on the lights for the final test phase for the thirty-five year old Bumbuna project," followed by thunderous applause. However, the President was quick to say "we are not there yet," as he has embarked on further electrification projects "to ensure that energy is available to as many Sierra Leoneans as possible" making mention of the soon-to-be-started mini-hydro projects in Port Loko, Charlotte, and Moyamba.

The Head of State encouraged both the private and public sectors to invest in energy, sounding positive that "in the not-too-distant future, Sierra Leone as a country would have access to energy that would lay the basis for sustainable economic growth."

AGRICULTURE

The President said after ensuring the focused direction of the energy sector, he decided to rearrange his priorities by making agriculture the number-one priority in place of energy. He said this was done because "the future of that country lies in agriculture. It can generate wealth, create employment and improve on our foreign exchange earnings." He then reported that his government recently signed the African agricultural development programme (CAADP), explaining that a country could only be qualified to sign for the programme after its government would have demonstrated commitment to the sector. He recalled that when he took over, the budgetary allocation to the sector was at its barest minimum. "To show our demonstration of commitment in beefing up the agricultural sector, I inherited a 1.6 % budgetary allocation to agriculture, and within a year I increased that amount to a 7.7% budgetary allocation.... And in addition to increasing the

budgetary allocation, we have set up a presidential task force that will determine policy, will monitor the execution of that policy, and also be a forum wherein a report of the progress made in the agricultural sector is channeled Therefore, because of the improvements we have made and our commitments to achieving what the African countries set out to achieve in Maputo, we were granted the facility to sign the CAADP document" which would open doors for support. He however stated that a 10% budgetary allocation is required for full support, revealing that his government has now made a firm commitment to a 9.9% budgetary allocation in the next year.

President Koroma said emphasis has been shifted to ensure that agriculture is not merely seen as a production activity but to address the whole agricultural chain from input to agribusiness. He disclosed that his government has now received the "the biggest consignment of agricultural machinery the country has ever seen," stating that he is determined to ensure that "agriculture becomes the engine of economic growth." He said the country has therefore come a long way, "but we are not there yet", remaining hopeful that "with the strides we have taken, the progress that we have made made, the improvements that we have seen, there is a basis for all of us to have some confidence that in the not-too-distant future, Sierra Leone would become self-sufficient in the production of our staple food, which is rice."

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Head of State however said agriculture cannot on its own develop on a sustainable basis without the support of a good road infrastructure. "That is why closely associated with the agricultural sector is our infrastructural development," he maintained, stating that he inherited a system wherein most of the infrastructural projects had been abandoned. But he said his government has been able to revitalize the Freetown-Conakry Highway project and the Lumley-Token Road which had been dragging on due to "terrible contractual arrangements." He said he inherited a mere proposal for the Kenema-Kailahun Road but has now been able to attract donor support and the contract given to a Korean company that would commence work before the end of the year. He also put the commencement of work on the Lungi-Port Loko Road within the same timeframe, as also the completion of the Bo-Freetown Road, while revealing that the construction of the Bo-Bandajuma-Monrovia

Highway will start early next year. He further revealed that government's attention was not only limited to the construction of trunk or major roads, but also are currently doing 4000 kilometers of feeder roads. He said the work so far done by his government, including constructing bridges (one of which connects Pujehun to rest of the country), within two years "is more than what other governments have done in the past....! am not on a campaign trail; I am not seeking to win votes. I am saying what we have done; and it is there for you to verify."

The President said he would not make any detailed pronouncement about the sea and air ports, "But I would assure you that before the end of my first term and unto my second term (interrupted by long applause) we would have got something to write home about for our ports."

SOCIAL SERVICES

President Koroma went on to give a report on the next priority area of his government - social services, admitting that there's a big challenge in education and health.

HEALTH - He said the indicators, especially in health, are not good, but he would still report that some improvements have been made, including on the infant and maternal mortality rates "but we are still at the bottom," intimating that more work needs to be done. He therefore said government is working on creating special conditions of service for health service providers and that government is working on introducing a health insurance policy.

EDUCATION - The President said there has been an improvement on the number of girls going to secondary school, but that progress has not been satisfactory, causing a review for the whole educational system: "The 6-3-3-4 system is under review to determine what is good for us, and not what is popular within the sub region"

GOOD GOVERNANCE

"In all of what we are doing, we believe that progress can only be made if we anchor all of it on good governance," President Koroma declared, maintaining that his government started its good-governance approach through the smooth transition he ensured by keeping defeated SLPP ministers in government until his own ministers were sworn in. "For democracy to thrive, there must be the rule of law, accountability and transparency, and there must be a fight against corruption," he said, before declaring that the Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) has now got its independence through the amendment of the Anti Corruption Act giving it sufficient powers to investigate and prosecute any one. The President reported that the Commission has been retrieving monies from corrupt officials: "The ACC now has more cases in court not because the government is more corrupt, but because they now have a free hand to take anybody to court."

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

The Head of State said his commitment to good governance was marred by political disturbances in March 2009, but was able to put the situation under control through the signing of a joint communiqué by the leadership of the ruling All People's Congress (APC) and the opposition Sierra Leone People's Party (SLPP). He said he demonstrated his commitment to the communiqué by inviting opposition parties and giving them a platform during the APC convention. He also said he has been making provincial/district visits and always giving the opposition an opportunity to speak in public gatherings: "It is an innovation, and I am the first President in that country to allow something like that to happen."

OPEN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

The President said his government also adopted the Open Government Initiative (OGI), through which government functionaries, including himself and his ministers, "are questioned by members of the public in town-hall meetings like this... It is increasing the level of transparency, the level of understanding between the government and the people, and I believe that it has enhanced the performance of ministers."

INTERNATIONAL RATING

The Head of State said "all of this is paying dividend." Because of what the government has done thus far, he said, the nation's rating in the eyes of the international community has increased substantially, with renowned figures, including former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and international businessman George Soros, not only visiting but becoming both advocates and investors. He said international financial institutions are now giving good score marks to the country even as the International Finance Corporation, in collaboration with the World Bank, has ranked Sierra Leone as "the sixth best place to do business in the West Coast and the best within the Mano River Union."

MINERAL RESOURCES

The President acknowledged that the country was not earning what it deserved in her natural resources, which was why his government formed a committee to review all existing mining contracts, even as they have now finalized the review of the Koidu Holdings (diamond-mining company) and would now start with the Rutile mining contract. He said the review of the whole Minerals Act is now completed and would shortly put in place a new one.

President Koroma revealed that a lot of progress has been made in further exploration for mineral resources, disclosing that five billion tonnes of iron ore have been discovered in Tonkolili district, "making it potentially the biggest mine in Africa."

He also revealed that a consortium has made a discovery of oil in the country: "We are not sure of the contents; but the way it has been publicized, we hope and pray that when they go to the next stage to determine the commercial quantity, Sierra Leone will become an oil-exporting country....and we will ensure that this time round, this time round, the oil will not be a curse to the country."

DONOR CONFERENCE

The President said his government and the country have obviously made a lot of progress. He said the government's vision is encapsulated and articulated in the 'Agenda for Change' - a document that will be widely publicized and distributed.

He said with a view to achieving the dreams of the 'Agenda for Change', the government is having a donors conference on 18th and 19th November 2009 in London, seeking to canvass donors for a huge financial support into the country, stating that what could be required for the full realization of the 'Agenda for Change' would be in the region of \$2.5 billion.

CALL TO RETURN HOME

The President concluded by inviting Sierra Leoneans to return home and be part of the country's transformation. He called on them to come home and rebuild the country, "as Sierra Leone needs you more than America does...So my appeal to you is to come home, and let's do it together. Thank you very much"

QUESTION-AND-ANSWER SESSION

The President's speech was followed by a question-and-answer session. He answered all the questions posed to him, including on Yenga, drug trafficking, devolution, tractors, the land tenure system, the depreciation of the Leone, tourism, relationship with Liberia, water and sanitation, all of which were satisfactorily answered as reflected in the responses of the audience.

NATIONAL ANTHEMS

The session was opened by the national anthems of Sierra Leone and USA, followed by prayers, while the welcome address was given by Sierra Leone's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Sheku M. Touray.

STATEMENTS

Statements were made by representatives of the United States Sierra Leone Association (USSLA), the SLPP, and the APC. Minister of Information & Communications I.B. Kargbo introduced the Presidential entourage, which included First Lady Sia Nyama Koroma and Foreign Affairs Minister Zainab Bangura.

The occasion was chaired by Sierra Leone's Ambassador to the United States, Bockarie Stevens, while the vote of thanks was given by Mr. Samuel Koroma, a member of the Organising Committee.

A- Concord Times

B-Freetown

C- 'Human rights emergency' looms

D-23-09-2009

E-By Tanu Jalloh

UK-based global human rights group, Amnesty International, has issued a warning ahead of a potential "human rights emergency" in Sierra Leone, a country with one of the highest maternal and child mortality rates in the world.

In its latest report the group revealed that one in eight women in the country risks dying during pregnancy or childbirth, compared with one in 4,500 in the developed world.

"Women and girls are dying in their thousands because they are routinely denied their right to life and health, in spite of promises from the government to provide free healthcare to all pregnant women."

President Ernest Bai Koroma has owned up to the charges in New York where he is attending the UN general assembly meeting.

"The indicators, especially in health, are not good, but he would still report that some improvements have been made, including on the infant and maternal mortality rates. We are still at the bottom," intimating that more work needs to be done.

Through his press secretary the president said government was working on creating special conditions of service for health service providers and that it was also working on introducing a health insurance policy.

Minister of information and communication Alhaji Ibrahim Ben Kargbo also admitted to poor healthcare but suggested that some aspect of the report might have been 'exaggerated'. He nonetheless told the BBC Network Africa yesterday that his government was trying all it could to put a policy in place to stem the growing social menace.

Al's secretary-general, Irene Khan, who led a high level mission to the country from 18 to 25 September 2009 to launch a campaign to reduce maternal deaths in the country, said pregnant women would have to walk some fifteen miles to seek healthcare services, most of them die before reaching the hospital or bleed to death after complicated delivery.

She referred to the report which found out that many women and girls are too poor to pay for lifesaving treatment.

"Thousands bleed to death after giving birth. Most die in their homes. Some die on the way to hospital - in taxis, on motorbikes or on foot. Less than half of deliveries are attended by a skilled birth attendant and fewer than one in five are carried out in health facilities.

"These grim statistics reveal maternal deaths are a human rights emergency in Sierra Leone," said Irene Khan, Amnesty's secretary general, launching the report in Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown.

Women in poor rural areas are particularly vulnerable, due to a lack of transport and infrastructure. Campaigners say that the issue is partly a legacy of the country's 11-year civil war.

The Guardian in UK quoted Abigail Renner of Women in Peace Building in Sierra Leone as saying: "We are a postwar country. The cost of living is very high, the roads are bad, drugs are very expensive and we don't have enough hospitals." She added: "Before the war, women were not afraid to have children. Now they are."

The Amnesty campaign coincides with today's United Nations general assembly meeting, where Gordon Brown is expected to announce finance packages to provide free healthcare for millions more women and children in the developing world, including Sierra Leone.

Amnesty's research found the difficulties experienced by women in the country were exacerbated by women's low status in society, the fact that many girls marry and become pregnant at a young age, and the ongoing practice of female genital mutilation. Women's health is often treated as a low priority.

Gareth Thomas, Britain's international development minister, who is visiting the country this week, said: "There has got to be a huge change in the way that women are seen in Sierra Leone. The numbers of women raped and killed during the conflict partly reflects a culture where they are far from equal."

Thomas said postwar improvements in governance should now be matched by basic services. Britain will put £16m into a healthcare plan, working with Unicef and other non-government organizations. "In the 21st century it is unacceptable for people to die because they are too poor to see a doctor or nurse," the minister added.

Copyright © 2009 Concord Times. All rights reserved. Distributed by AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com).

AllAfrica - All the Time



Concord Times (Freetown)

Sierra Leone: '5 Billion Tons of Tonkolili Iron Ore, Not a Curse' - Says President Koroma

Elizabeth Foray

23 September 2009

New York — President Ernest Bai Koroma has told Sierra Leoneans in the USA, where he is attending United Nations general assembly meeting, that the African Minerals prospected five billion tons of iron ore deposit in Tonkolili district would not be a curse to the country.

He also said Sierra Leone needs her people more than America does as he made an appeal to prompt them to go back home during a town hall meeting at the College of Staten Island in New York.

He outlined the problems his government inherited citing the Human Development Index, where Sierra Leone is still at the bottom. "Sixty percent of our population still lives under a dollar a day," he said and expressed same sentiments about illiteracy, Infant and maternal mortality rates, a bad economy, deplorable roads, combating corruption, indiscipline and bad behavior, and non-cooperation by donor countries and partners amongst scores of other issues.

"This is why we have committed ourselves to the platform of change; the basis for which we were voted," the President said when highlighting the gains made by his government in the two years in power. He said his government has committed itself to delivering on the election campaign promises by "quickly putting in place our priorities".

President Koroma also spoke on the economy, which he said was getting by with donor confidence rising. Persons who had no or little interest in Sierra Leone are now coming forward to offer services, he said. He named former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and founder of the Soros Foundation, George Soros among the host of Foreign Investors and Partners in the nation's development process.

He said Sierra Leone has shot to sixth place for a business-friendly environment in West Africa.

"We are making some progress," he said and talked about the mining sector's ups and downs and expressed hope that the five billion tons of prospected Iron Ore in the Tonkolili District (said to be potentially the biggest deposit in Africa) will be a blessing this time around and not a curse.

Copyright © 2009 Concord Times. All rights reserved. Distributed by AllAfrica Global Media (allAfrica.com).

AllAfrica - All the Time

NOTICES & DOCUMENTS

His Excellency Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, President Of The Republic Of Sierra Leone, At The 64th Session Of The United Nations General Assembly - New York

By
Sep 28, 2009, 17:00

STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY
DR. ERNEST BAI KOROMA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE,
AT THE 64th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY - NEW YORK
24 September 2009

Mr. President,
Your Majesties, Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I feel highly honoured to address this distinguished Assembly once again. I would like to start by congratulating you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the Presidency of the Sixty-Fourth Session of the United Nations General Assembly and, to assure you of my delegation's support and cooperation as you perform the demanding task of presiding over our deliberations this session.

Through you Mr. President, I would also like to convey my sincere gratitude to His Excellency, Monsignor Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann for the efficient and effective manner in which he conducted the previous session. My appreciation also goes to the Secretary-General for his comprehensive account of the work of the organization and his analysis of the challenges facing the global community.

Mr. President,

The theme for this year's session is apt and timely. It is only through dialogue amongst the different civilizations of the world represented in this deliberative body and the strengthening of the institutions and architecture responsible for promoting this dialogue that we could effectively meet the challenges posed by the current global crises. Dialogue promotes understanding; understanding enhances cooperation; cooperation gives vitality and legitimacy to the institutions and mechanisms that have been structured for meeting our common challenges and goals.

Civilizations began as magnificent blueprints for meeting challenges that were specific to particular regions of the world; but advances in technology and communications have made many problems no longer specific to particular regions. Climate change, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and the swine flu pandemics, the food and fuel crises, including the present global economic meltdown, terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and

drug trafficking are all beyond the reach of any of the world's civilizations to tackle without international cooperation. Whilst the major causes of these challenges may arise from particular regions, their impacts are global and affect the lives and fortunes of peoples of all civilizations. Dialogue amongst civilizations would create the synergies required to tackle the causes and impacts of the global crises.

Mr. President,

My government fully subscribes to and supports the promotion of dialogue as well as the facilitation of the relevant mechanisms that helps to ameliorate the impact of the global crisis. Amongst some population groups, the impact of the crisis may be on the size of their bonuses; on others it may be on whether they acquire a second car or not. But for the vast number of people, particularly in Africa, the impact of the crisis creates life-threatening situations. Years of conflict had increased the number of poor and vulnerable people in my country. However, stable economic growth, remittances, and international financial and security support were increasing prospects for ameliorating the situation; but the present global financial crisis has suddenly decreased those prospects, pushing greater numbers of our people to extreme forms of poverty.

We in Sierra Leone are saddled with the effects of trade imbalances in international commerce. Our economy continues to be vigorously challenged by the falling prices of our exports in the international market. This includes diamonds and cash crops. The effect of this intractable problem is that we are not able to garner enough foreign exchange to import the basic commodities we need for sustenance. We are on the threshold of the tenth year of the implementation of the Millennium Declaration, and yet the prospects for achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 remain dismal for Africa.

Mr. President,

Many countries in Africa, including mine, have in the last few years registered important improvements in **the essential areas of** governance, economic and social indicators. My country, Sierra Leone is putting in place mechanisms to ensure stable democratic regimes. In Sierra Leone, worldwide indicators show that we have made the fastest progress in political stability.

Our economic growth remains strong at 6 to 9%. My government has firmed up the aspirations of our people in an Agenda for Change that sets out four clear priorities: agriculture, energy, infrastructure, and reforms to improve health and education service delivery. We are already delivering results on our priorities. Key roads are under construction, we have completed the hydro-electric project which is supplying clean affordable power to Freetown for the first time, and our reforms have ensured that we are the best performer among neighboring countries according to the Doing Business Index.

Mr. President,

My government will not sustain these results without multi-lateral support. On November 18 and 19 this year, we will be organizing a Consultative Group Meeting on Sierra Leone in London to dialogue with investors, donors and other partners, and mobilize support for our efforts in tackling the many challenges facing our country. We see the Sierra Leone Conference as a problem-solving dialogue; we aspire to a conference that will build an action-oriented multi-lateral framework for meeting the challenges we face. My country believes in multi-lateralism; we believe in dialogue amongst nations as the most effective means for tackling the challenges that we face. We call upon all countries to ensure that the current financial crisis does not prevent the many African nations only recently removed from violent conflict to be denied the security and prospects for prosperity that we have all worked so hard to achieve.

Mr. President,

I would like to address another issue my delegation takes very seriously, one that is interwoven with the financial crisis, poverty and development - the serious threat Climate Change poses to human development and to African nations. Despite scientific consensus that the Earth is warming at an alarming rate, progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and limiting global warming to below 2°C per year has proven elusive. Today, the poorest nations, who contribute the least to the phenomenon, are the most vulnerable. The recent torrential rainfall in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, left scores of people dead, homeless and seriously injured. Drought, hurricanes, floods, the changing patterns of rainfall, rising sea levels and low crop-yields rank high among the key challenges facing the world's poor. Unfortunately those nations with the least resources are the most unprepared for such challenges.

Excellencies and distinguished delegates, it is our obligation to reverse the alarming rate of environmental destruction and depletion of our natural resources. It is in this regard that I wish to reiterate the African common position on climate change, which among other things urges the developed countries to cut down on greenhouse gas emissions by 40%. This is certainly not an ambitious goal. It is the least that we, the most vulnerable, deserve.

We believe that in addition to the necessity of investing in clean development mechanisms, the world's developed countries must take a leadership role by providing adequate and predictable financial and technical support to less developed countries to foster effective adaptation as well as mitigation measures. We share the Secretary-General's vision that the Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen "*represents a unique and powerful opportunity at a critical moment in human history to steer humankind towards a safer, more stable, and more sustainable future.*"

Mr. President,

A final threat critical to future stability of nations around the world is the increasing proliferation of small arms and light weapons which, as former Secretary General Kofi Annan recently emphasized, are tantamount to weapons of mass destruction in slow motion, possessing the capability of destabilizing countries and entire regions. Given

that many African countries routinely face political instability and violent threats, the need for strengthening national, regional and sub-regional conflict-resolution mechanisms throughout Africa is imperative to address a variety of issues including small arms. Peace and development can be achieved in Africa, in part, by exploration of the evolving peace and security architecture within the African Union, ECOWAS, SADC and the Peace Building Commission.

Mr. President,

Against this background, I wish to reiterate that collaborative efforts among members of the international community are crucial for addressing our global problems and that international support remains critical for the consolidation of hard-won gains by nations emerging from war. It is our hope that the United Nations and our development partners will continue to be our steadfast allies in our ongoing struggle for economic progress and development. In this regard, I urge that we continue to forge enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union as well as the sub-regional organizations, beyond rhetoric and in concrete ways, in pursuit of these efforts.

Mr. President,

As I intimated this assembly last session, we have come a long way and thanks to multi-lateral and bi-lateral efforts for our survival as a nation. The on-going peacebuilding efforts spearheaded by the UN Peacebuilding Commission continue to strengthen the peace consolidation process in the country. As a payback and in the spirit of reciprocity, I am pleased to announce that Sierra Leone has fully joined the rank of troop contributing countries in UN peacekeeping operations.

Mr. President,

Multilateralism is vital for international cooperation and response to global crises. In the bid to **promote effective multilateralism**, my **government has continued to engage the international community to effect various reform measures aimed at strengthening our intergovernmental organizations including, the Bretton Woods Institutions with a view to making them more inclusive, transparent and democratic in their decision making. An effective and legitimate United Nations cannot be obtained without a truly reformed Security Council. The on-going intergovernmental negotiations on the question of equitable representation on, and increase in the membership of the Security Council and other matters related to Council have progressed through three rounds in informal plenary of the last Session of the General Assembly. We, in Africa have consistently demanded that the historical injustice that is rooted in our under-representation and non-representation in both the non-permanent and permanent categories of the council respectively be addressed without any further delay. It is in this respect that we have continued to negotiate in good faith and mutual trust. I trust that the outcome of these negotiations will lead to a meaningful reform of this principal decision-making organ of the UN in the maintenance of international peace and security. We, in Africa stand ready, willing and prepared, as always, to resume**

negotiations during this session.

Mr. President,

Let us promote multilateralism and strengthen our collaborative efforts to contain the rising threats to our planet.

I thank you Mr. President.

A PRESIDENTIAL DIARY OF ACTIVITIES IN THE USA: 19TH – 26TH SEPTEMBER 2009

President Ernest Bai Koroma has just completed his second tour at the UN General Assembly in as many years. Here is a summary of the President's activities this year....

SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER

- President Koroma and entourage arrived in the US and checked-in at the Barclay Intercontinental Hotel in downtown New York City

SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER

- The President had a meeting with a delegation from World Hope International/First Step Special Economic Zone Inc., top-notch investors on the final stages of setting up an industrial/exporting Economic Processing Zone in Sierra Leone by the end of the year with a potential to create employment opportunities, increase foreign exchange earnings, and electricity supply in the Waterloo area
- In the evening, the Head of State addressed a town-hall meeting at the **College of Staten Island**, New York, where he told hundreds of Sierra Leoneans about the state of the nation – the implementation of the Agenda for Change thus far, Sierra Leone's economic boom prospects with the recent oil discovery (hoping it becomes a commercial quantity that would be a blessing to the country), and calling on them to return home as "Sierra Leone needs you more than America does..."

MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER

- The President held a bilateral meeting with the Vice Prime Minister of Luxemburg, Mr. Jean Asselborn. They held fruitful discussions on several issues including the preservation of the Gola Forest as a commitment to the fight against Climate Change, the need for substantial foreign investment in Sierra Leone, Charles Taylor's trial, the importance of the Obama presidency

to African leaders and Africans/all minorities, and Luxemburg's candidature for a seat at the UN Security Council

- In the afternoon, the President received at his hotel the African Union's Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Tumusine Rhoda Peace, and held discussions on moving forward Sierra Leone's agricultural agenda
- In the evening, the President had a meeting with international business tycoon and potential Sierra Leonean investor, George Soros. Their deliberations bordered on trade, investment, and tourism. The meeting was held at the President's hotel suite.

TUESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER

- The President attended a high-level meeting on Climate Change hosted by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki Moon, who said 'failure on climate change is not an option' - that to 'seal the deal' on an ambitious new agreement to curb greenhouse gas emissions is the answer. Negotiations are set to conclude in Copenhagen, Denmark, in December on a new climate agreement to go into effect when the Kyoto Protocol's first commitment period ends in 2012.
- In the afternoon, the President had a bilateral meeting at UN Headquarters with the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, Dr. Jan Peter Balkenende, and discussed matters of mutual interest including Sierra Leone's investment potential.
- Thereafter, the President honoured an invitation to a luncheon hosted by President Barack Obama at the Empire Room of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.
- Late afternoon, President Koroma had a tête-à-tête with former British Prime Minister and now goodwill Ambassador for Sierra Leone, Tony Blair, on the upcoming November donors' conference in London.
- Afterwards, the President granted an interview to the BBC's Network Africa programme at their UN building studios on current developments in, including investment potentials for, Sierra Leone
- Later, the President received at his hotel suite a high-powered delegation from the African Union's Political Affairs department with a view to encouraging him continue in his transformational leadership drive and for him to help canvass other West African leaders in strengthening the Union at sub-regional level

WEDNESDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER

- The President attended the UN General Assembly's general debate which

commenced with an opening statement from Brazil, followed by the USA.

- In the afternoon, President Koroma attended a luncheon hosted by the UN Secretary General in honour of all delegations

- Late afternoon, the Head of State attended a high-level event on the sidelines of the UN with the theme, 'Investing In Our Common Future: Healthy Women, Healthy Children – More Money For Health, More Health For The Money,' co-hosted by UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown and World Bank President Robert Zoellick. President Koroma made an intervention on his commitment to the improvement of the welfare of women and children in Sierra Leone

- Thereafter, the President attended the inaugural meeting of the African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA), chaired by Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete (see photo). African leaders renewed the fight against malaria and malaria-related diseases, committing themselves to ending all malaria-connected deaths on the continent by 2015 – a programme that U.N. Special Envoy for Malaria Ray Chambers said would reap tremendous benefits

- In the evening President Koroma and First Lady Sia Nyama Koroma attended a reception hosted by President and Mrs. Barack Obama

THURSDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER (D-DAY)

- President Koroma took the podium and addressed the UN General Assembly to present Sierra Leone's case. He received several intermittent applause during the presentation, as he dilated on his government's Agenda for Change (which encapsulates Sierra Leone's development priorities), Sierra Leone's transformation from war to participation in peace-keeping, and multilateralism. An international-media-loved statement the President made on the global economic meltdown read, "For some people, the impact of the crisis may be on the size of their bonuses; on others it may be on whether they acquire a second car or not. But for the vast number of people, particularly in Africa, the impact of the crisis creates life-threatening situations." And then he went on to urge that "the world's developed countries must take a leadership role by providing adequate and predictable financial and technical support to less developed countries" to promote green technologies to roll back global warming.

- In the afternoon, the President attended a reception hosted by South African President Jacob Zuma

- In the evening, the President held meetings at his hotel with several Sierra Leonean groups in the USA, notable of which was the one with the APC's North America interim executive, where the President urged unity and

decorum before calling for new elections to be conducted.

FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER

- The President had a meeting with Commonwealth Secretary-General Kamallesh Sharma at the Commonwealth office in New York, discussing matters of interest to Sierra Leone, including the exemplary leadership and commitment to progress so far demonstrated by President Koroma and his government, and how the Commonwealth would continue to be a partner in the socio-political development of the country
- Thereafter, President Koroma held a meeting with Sierra Leonean staff of the UN Mission in New York, thanking them for hosting him and delegation, and urging them to continue to project Sierra Leone's new image abroad

SATURDAY 26TH SEPTEMBER

- The President and entourage leave New York for Sierra Leone

© Copyright 2005, Freetown, Sierra Leone.

Your Association's Biweekly e-newsletter

@aascu

GRANTS

GIFTS

PROGRAMS

HONORS

PEOPLE

The Leadership Association of 430 Public Colleges and Universities Delivering America's Promise

aascu

Welcome to the September 30, 2009 edition of @aascu.

This issue of @aascu program highlights include Dalton State College's new regional heritage center, celebrating Edgar Allan Poe at the University of Maine Farmington and the new "green" college at the University of Northern Arizona; more than 45 grants and gifts including those to Adams State College, California State University, Fresno, Lyndon State College, Michigan Technological University and Washburn University; and awards and spotlights on Angelo State University, CUNY College of Staten Island, Westfield State College, Shepherd University and Prairie View A&M University.

It also links you to information about the Annual Meeting Presidential Forum, new American Humanics board member and the enhanced American Democracy Project pages on aascu.org.

To access @aascu, visit aascu.org/ataascu

To subscribe and submit your information [click here](#)

AASCU is now connected.

Follow us on [Twitter](#), become a fan of us on [Facebook](#), and network with your colleagues on [LinkedIn](#).

American Association of State Colleges and Universities
1307 New York Avenue, N.W. 5th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Ph (202) 293-7070
www.aascu.org

Students & Alumni

Explanation needed

Posted by [mhanley](#) September 04, 2009 09:57AM

You can't abruptly fire, without apparent justification, the beloved, widely respected, longtime architect and director of programs that have enriched the lives of tens of thousands of people in a low-income community without expecting a firestorm of outrage from members of that community.

And that's exactly what has happened in the case of Kevin Harris, the former star athlete who was suddenly notified that he was terminated from his position as the head of the multi-faceted Beacon Center at PS 18 in West Brighton -- a job he performed magnificently for 17 years.

Mr. Harris, former **College of Staten Island** basketball star and Advance Sportsman of the Year, received notice of termination on Monday from United Activities Unlimited (UAU), the not-for-profit that operates the Beacon Center.

No public explanation for his firing was provided.

Countless community leaders, organizations and individuals have rallied behind him, insisting that a grave injustice has been done, not just to Mr. Harris, but to the people of West Brighton, especially youngsters, for whom Mr. Harris served as coach, teacher, mentor and father figure.

The firing comes just a year from the time when Mr. Harris, who always received high ratings from his superiors at UAU, was due to retire.

"Everybody is stunned. You've come, taken our best and kicked it to the curb," said Belinda Dixon, an Advance Woman of Achievement.

A spokeswoman for Mr. Harris, who could not himself be reached for comment, said, "At this juncture what we do understand is that he was terminated, [but] the grounds seem to be very vague."

Also puzzled are North Shore Councilman Kenneth Mitchell and Rep. Michael McMahon, who got to know Mr. Harris and his ties to the community from his own days as the North Shore Council member. The lawmakers have written to UAU officials questioning the decision.

Joe Rosenberg, the director of another city youth program operated through UAU, was also let go.

"We are not privy to the details of their employment history with your agency; however, we do know these two gentlemen have many years of experience and commitment to the youth of our community," Mr. Mitchell and Mr. McMahon said in their letter.

Mr. Harris regularly lobbied for help with his program's staffing issues, but that's just what you'd expect a dedicated leader of community programs to do. There's also some talk that he didn't handle paperwork to his superiors' liking. That's possible, but his failure to be a meticulous bureaucrat is outweighed many times over by his positive impact on the people he served. Paperwork is a distantly secondary issue.

What's really going on here?

Louis DeLuca, executive director of UAU, said only, "I'm not at liberty to discuss any personnel matters. If people let go have legal recourse to challenge, that's fine. I've known Mr. Harris since he was a teenager; I don't think discussing this publicly is something to do."

He's going to have to do much better than that. As the passionate West Brighton rally in support of Mr. Harris yesterday showed, that kind of explanation certainly won't quell the anger in the community which

RBR BOE hires new superintendent

LITTLE SILVER — At its Aug. 19 meeting, the Red Bank Regional School District (RBR) named Dr. Howard Lucks as its new superintendent to succeed Dr. Edward Westervelt, who lead the district for the past 11 years and is retiring.

Dr. Lucks, a Jackson resident, is currently principal of Franklin Township High School in Somerset, and will join RBR in mid-October. Dr.

Westervelt will officially retire from the New Jersey Public School system and RBR on Nov. 1.

Board president John Garofalo said, “The board believes that Dr. Lucks’ many attributes, including his vision and passion for education coupled with his collaborative approach, will well compliment our incredibly talented administrative team to continue the trajectory of RBR’s substantial success.”

Dr. Lucks has enjoyed a 36-year-long distinguished career in education and school administration. He retired from the NYC school district in 2006 with a myriad of accolades and accomplishments. Among these, he was five times named Educator of the Year by various reputable associations. He received the Mayoral Proclamation for Distinguished Service and the New York State Citation for Exemplary Community Service. Dr. Lucks was also awarded the competitive Chancellor Doctoral Scholarship to St. John’s University and earned his doctorate in 2002 with an award winning dissertation on Transformational Principal Leadership and Teacher Motivation Across New York City Schools.

Dr. Lucks developed a love for science at a very early age. He nourished that avocation as a science teacher in his native Brooklyn, New York.

He states of his chosen profession, “One of the most satisfying aspects of teaching is seeing the spark in a child’s eye as his or her passion for a subject grows.”

While teaching in the NYC public school system, he was simultaneously employed as an adjunct professor, first at Kingsborough Community College, and later as an associate professor at Mercy College in Brooklyn. He earned a Masters Degree in Guidance and Counseling at Long Island University in 1978 and an Administration and Supervisor Professional Diploma from the City University of New York at the College of Staten Island in 1985.

In 1997, he became the principal of the New Utrecht High School in Brooklyn which serves a population of over 3,000 students. There he was responsible for restructuring the high school into small learning communities, a major endeavor RBR undertakes this September. He also implemented numerous innovative staff development programs which emphasized integrating technology in the classroom, data driven instruction (to plot student progress to plan and execute instructional interventions) and differentiated instruction in order to maximize learning for all students who may learn in different ways.

During his NYC education career, he also served as a borough supervisor for the New York State Biology Regents. Additionally, he served on the New York City Board of Education’s Distinguished Faculty Program where he mentored new and assistant principals. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Globe Institute of Technology, which consults on academic affairs, curriculum and accreditation. A highlight of his career occurred in 2005 when he traveled to China with the New York City Leadership Group and gave four lectures at several Chinese schools and universities as well as the Ministry of Education in Beijing.

Upon retiring from the NYC school system in 2006, he began his second educational career in New Jersey (where he had moved four years prior) as the principal of the diverse Franklin Township High School in Somerset. At Franklin he restructured the 2,000 student high school into small learning communities and implemented and enhanced various other programs in the areas of staff development, safety, security and technology. Under his watch, Franklin High School, similar to RBR, was named a Model for Excellence in Arts Education by the New Jersey Arts Education Partnership. He considers the last two years at Franklin, where he concentrated on learning New Jersey Educational financial and legal matters, a training opportunity to become RBR’s superintendent.

The Week of September 4 - 11, 2009

RBR Board Names New Superintendent Of Schools

LITTLE SILVER - The Red Bank Regional School District (RBR) named Dr. Howard Lucks as its new superintendent to succeed Dr. Edward Westervelt, who led the district for the past 11 years. Lucks, a Jackson resident, is currently principal of Franklin Township High School in Somerset, and will join RBR in mid-October. Dr. Westervelt will officially retire on November 1.

In a written release, Board President John Garofalo stated, "The Board believes that Dr. Lucks's many attributes, including his vision and passion for education coupled with his collaborative approach, will well compliment our incredibly talented administrative team to continue the trajectory of RBR's substantial success."

He retired from the New York City school district in 2006. He was five times named Educator of the Year by various reputable associations. He received the mayoral proclamation for distinguished service and the New York State Citation for exemplary community service. Lucks was also awarded the competitive Chancellor Doctoral Scholarship to St. John's University and earned his doctorate in 2002 with an award-winning dissertation on "Transformational Principal Leadership and Teacher Motivation Across New York City Schools."

While teaching in the NYC public school system, he was simultaneously employed as an Adjunct professor, first at Kingsborough Community College, and later as an associate professor at Mercy College in Brooklyn. He earned a Master's degree in guidance and counseling at Long Island University in 1978 and an Administration and Supervisor Professional Diploma from the City University of New York at the College of Staten Island in 1985.

In 1997, he became the principal of the New Utrecht High School in Brooklyn. Under his leadership, New Utrecht High School received an A rating in NYC's first Public School Progress Reports, a grade only 23 percent of schools earned in the country's largest school district.

A highlight of his career occurred in 2005 when he traveled to China with the New York City Leadership Group and gave four lectures at several Chinese schools and universities as well as the Ministry of Education in Beijing.

Upon retiring from the New York City school system in 2006, he began his second educational career in New Jersey. Under his watch, Franklin High School, similar to RBR, was named a Model for Excellence in Arts Education by the New Jersey Arts Education Partnership.

"RBR is a very good school district on its way to great. RBR was ranked as one of New Jersey's top 75 high schools (#64) according to New Jersey Monthly Magazine, Lucks said. "I am very impressed with this school district. The teachers, administration and staff are top rate - the right ingredients for continued success. I look forward to guiding RBR to great."

Whitehouse Foundation golf outing planned for September 25

Posted by [blaugust](#) September 05, 2009 12:11PM



Demie and Deva Medley, 10-year-old twins from West Brighton, yesterday held signs at a rally with community members and officials to reinstate Beacon Center director Kevin Harris. The group marched from PS 18 to the UAU offices at 855 Forest Ave. (Staten Island Advance file photo by Jan Somma-Hammel)

The kid who lived in a homeless shelter found a mouse in his pants pocket after he got to school.

"When we washed his pants, they fell apart," the school guidance counselor said.

A call to the Christopher Whitehouse Foundation: \$200 for new clothes.

It's exactly the kind of help Chris Whitehouse, guidance counselor, provided many of his students while he was pursuing a doctorate at the University of Florida -- until a heart ailment felled the 29-year-old former track and field star in March 1997.

It's exactly the kind of help more and more students on Staten Island need these days. The federal government didn't have to tell Pat and Pete Whitehouse, Chris' mom and dad, or his brothers, Pete Jr. and Dave, the country is in a recession.

They were flooded with requests for help in the 2008-2009 school year: 14 were answered in the fall and that number doubled to 28 last spring.

Not for big-ticket items. Those are the purview of Teddy Atlas' Dr. Theodore Atlas Foundation and the Siller Family's Let Us Do Good Foundation which will celebrate Firefighter Stephen Siller's heroic run on 9/11 with the Tunnel to Towers Run on Sept. 27.

But for little things.

Little, that is, except to the 400-plus high school students who have received more than \$60,000 in aid in the decade since the family teamed with the Notre Dame Club of Staten Island to form the foundation and to bring Chris Whitehouse's crusade to Staten Island. Little things which are made possible by the foundation's lone fundraiser, a golf outing scheduled for Sept. 25 at Silver Lake.

Little things which, given the state of the economy, are going to grow in number again in the 2009-2010 school year -- if the more fortunate among us take up Chris Whitehouse's cause. Little things like ...

* The oldest of three children, one with a learning disability, in a single-parent family worked part-time to help the mother provide for the younger siblings. The Whitehouse Foundation helped by providing \$65 for the senior's college application fee and another \$135 for senior dues.

* Despite the absence of family financial or emotional support, another senior was about to become the first in the family not only to graduate but also to be accepted to college. The Whitehouse Foundation stepped up with the college application fee and put a little life into a drab senior year with money for the senior trip.

* The financial blows came one after the other. The family lost its business, then its home, and finally, the mother lost her job. The foundation stepped in and not only provided money for a college application, but also brightened a difficult senior year with a tuxedo for the senior prom -- "One of the most enjoyable days of my life," he wrote -- and a shirt for graduation.

One recipient wrote, "Thank you for the opportunity the Foundation gave our family ... We are in a financial crisis and the grant helped us immensely ... It's the kind of thing that gives hope to kids who really need help. I will follow in the same footsteps as this Foundation by helping the less fortunate ones in the near future."

For the rest of us, though, the future is now.

Tee-off time at Silver Lake is 8:30 a.m. The cost for golf and the following reception dinner at the golf course's Veranda Restaurant is \$130, for golf only is \$99 and for the reception only is \$75.

Hole sponsorship is available to individuals or businesses for \$65.

Checks payable to the Christopher Whitehouse Foundation may be mailed to Pete Whitehouse at 201 Todt Hill Rd., Staten Island, 10314. Pete may be contacted at 718-761-0499,

PAPER BEFORE PEOPLE ... AGAIN

It's too early to point fingers at anyone in [the firing of Kevin Harris](#) who, for nearly two decades as director of the United Activities Unlimited program at PS 18, was a less imposing but no less effective version of long-time West Brighton icon Wayne (Chops) Derrick.

Given Kevin's work with the West Brighton community, the likely reason has to be he didn't cross all his T's and dot all his I's with the paperwork required of a Beacon School.

Sound familiar? Does MSIT athletic director/baseball coach Bob Steele or Port Richmond HS track coach Barry Bastian come to mind? They, too, were guilty of putting people first and foremost.

The West Brighton community has already demonstrated it's not about to go away on this issue. Neither is yours truly.

HELPING CSI GO SOUTH

Many former [College of Staten Island](#) baseball players remember only too well when the team's spring southern trip took them to the Jersey Shore.

Head coach Mike Mauro plans on changing that. The team will make a spring trip to South Carolina with help from the money generated by a painless event, one which won't seem like a fundraiser: CSI's first-ever alumni baseball game will take place a week from today at the school's stadium.

Batting practice is scheduled for 10 a.m. after players receive their alumni hats and shirts. A nine-inning game will start at noon, and a barbecue will follow at the ballfield.

The cost per player is \$50, but families and friends can attend the game and the barbecue free of charge.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the reactions of players who haven't seen each other in over 20 years," Mauro said yesterday, then quipped: "Yes, there will be a trainer on hand for the hamstrings and sore arms."

Further information may be obtained by contacting Mauro at 347-288-5609 or by email at KNUBBY7@aol.com or associate head coach Neil Barbella at 917-597-1733 or by email at NBARBELLA@aol.com.

ISLAND BUSINESS UPCLOSE

Web designer making virtual name for himself

CSI student marketing major has created sites for a number of borough businesses

WILLOWBROOK — Darren Timmerman is an undergraduate with uncanny business sense and a natural talent for Web design. Less than two years since launching his own enterprise, **Magicx Studios Inc.**, the 25-year-old student at the College of Staten Island, Willowbrook, has cut a niche for himself as one of Staten Island's more creative Web designers.

"I really started when I was about 14," said Darren, a Spring 2011 candidate for a bachelor's degree in business and marketing, with a minor in computer science.

Although he had no formal Web-design training prior to entering the field, he taught himself the nuances of the profession "over many years of trial and error."

His clients now include some highly visible Staten Island businesses. They "often comment about the originality and creativity I bring to the table," Darren said. "All my designs are original — I don't use templates."

In addition to Web design, **Magicx Studios** provides clients with video-advertising and graphic-design services, and "honest recommendations on how their business might improve," Darren said.

Among his clients are **Angelina's Ristorante**, Tottenville; **The Bake Shoppe**, Richmond Valley; **Cake Chefs Cookie Jar**, West Brighton, and others.

Helping other enter-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MAGICX STUDIOS, INC.

Darren Timmerman, a student at the College of Staten Island in Willowbrook, launched his own enterprise, Magicx Studios Inc., two years ago.



BARTON HOROWITZ

prises while marketing his company, Darren is offering a special incentive for a limited number of businesses in need of online exposure. The Great Kills native and Eltingville resident said he is planning to give away "three free Web sites to local Staten Island businesses who need the advertisement to help promote their business in order to stay afloat or to increase business. I like to think of it as a little economic stimulus package from my company to theirs."

For more information about Magicx Studios, log onto the firm's Web site at www.magicxstudios.com, or call Darren at 718-554-1383.

BIZ BUZZ

Congratulations to **Edward Maloy IV** of **RPM Insurance Agency**, Bloomfield, who was recently recognized by the Society of Certified Insurance Counselors (CIC) for his professional leadership and advanced industry knowledge. CIC is a leading national insurance-professional organization.

Ted was awarded a certificate marking more than 15 years of participation as a designated CIC, which requires annual completion of advanced education and training.

Barton Horowitz is the Advance senior business writer/columnist. He may be reached by e-mail at horowitz@siadvance.com.

RBR Board of Education names new superintendent

Accomplished educator eager to lead district

BY KIMBERLY STEINBERG Staff Writer



Dr. Howard Lucks

LITTLE SILVER — Red Bank Regional (RBR) High School District announced that Dr. Howard Lucks would soon become the district's new superintendent at its Aug. 19 meeting.

Lucks will succeed Dr. Edward Westervelt, who led the district for the past 11 years. Westervelt will officially retire Nov. 1.

Lucks, a Jackson resident, is currently principal of Franklin Township High School in Somerset. He will join the RBR faculty in mid-October.

"RBR is a very good school district on its way to great," Lucks said.

A press release issued by the district states that RBR was ranked No. 64 out of New Jersey's top 75 high schools in New Jersey Monthly Magazine.

"We should not be the 64th best high school in New Jersey, we should be number one," Lucks said.

"I am very impressed with this school district. The teachers, administration and staff are top rate, the right ingredients for continued success. I look forward to guiding RBR to great."

Board of Education President John Garofalo said Lucks is a great leader for the district.

"The board believes that Dr. Lucks' many attributes, including his vision and passion for education, coupled with his collaborative approach, will well complement our incredibly talented administrative team to continue the trajectory of RBR's substantial success," Garofalo said.

Lucks has a 36-year career in education and school administration. He retired from the New York City school district in 2006 with a myriad of accolades and accomplishments.

Among these, he was named Educator of the Year five times and received the mayoral proclamation for distinguished service and the New York State citation for exemplary community service.

According to the district's press release, Lucks was also awarded the competitive Chancellor Doctoral Scholarship to St. John's University and earned his doctorate in 2002 with an awardwinning dissertation.

Lucks developed a love for science at a very early age. He later developed that interest as a science teacher in his hometown of Brooklyn.

"One of the most satisfying aspects of teaching is seeing the spark in a child's eye as his or her passion for a subject grows," Lucks said of his chosen profession.

While teaching in the NYC public school system, he was simultaneously employed as an adjunct professor at two New York colleges.

Lucks earned a master's degree in guidance and counseling at Long Island University in 1978 and an administration and supervisor professional diploma from the City University of New York at the College of Staten Island in 1985.

In 1997, he became the principal of the New Utrecht High School in Brooklyn, which served a population of more than 3,000 students.

There, Lucks said he was responsible for restructuring the high school into small learning communities, a similar major endeavor that RBR has undertaken this month.

According to his background statement, Lucks also implemented numerous innovative staff development programs that emphasized integrating technology in the classroom, data-driven instruction (to plot student progress in order to plan and execute instructional interventions), and differentiated instruction in order to maximize learning for all students who may learn in different ways.

Other staff development programs he instituted centered on student-centered learning strategies, including critical thinking and brain-based and problem-based learning.

The district said that under Lucks' leadership, New Utrecht High School received an A rating in NYC's first public school progress reports, a grade only 23 percent of schools earned in the country's largest school district.

As an independent consultant, Lucks assisted other school administrators and corporations in establishing and supervising small learning communities.

During his NYC education career, he also served as a borough supervisor for the New York State Biology Regents. Additionally, he served on the NYC Board of Education's distinguished faculty program, where he mentored new and assistant principals.

Lucks is currently a member of the board of directors of the Globe Institute of Technology, which consults on academic affairs, curriculum and accreditation.

Lucks said that a highlight of his career occurred in 2005 when he traveled to China with the NYC leadership group to give lectures at several Chinese schools and universities as well as the Ministry of Education in Beijing.

Upon retiring from the NYC school system in 2006, he began his second educational career in New Jersey, where he had moved four years prior, as the principal of Franklin Township High School.

At Franklin he restructured the 2,000-student high school into small learning communities and implemented and enhanced various other programs in the areas of staff development, safety, security and technology.

Lucks said he developed a program to address deficits in the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) program and is proud to say that Franklin Township made average yearly progress under his tenure.

Under Lucks, Franklin High School, similar to RBR, was named a Model for Excellence in Arts Education by the New Jersey Arts Education Partnership.

Lucks said he considers the last two years at Franklin, where he concentrated on learning New Jersey educational financial and legal matters, a training opportunity to become RBR's superintendent.

Lucks brings his considerable expertise in diverse high schools and smaller learning communities to RBR next month, noting that he is eagerly looking forward to implementing the International Baccalaureate program and block scheduling, two initiatives that he has researched extensively.

September 22, 2009

New Leader of City Teachers Is Ready for His Test

By [JENNIFER MEDINA](#)

This is not the kind of man who walks into a room unnoticed. [Michael Mulgrew's](#) stature — six feet tall, 230 pounds, size 48 — demands attention. His voice, trained in years of childhood theater, booms from his chest. He is just what central casting might expect when searching for the part of union president.

But Mr. Mulgrew cuts quite a different figure from those who came before him as president of the [United Federation of Teachers](#), the New York City teachers' union, one of the most powerful labor positions in the country. And the distinctions are not just physical.

His predecessor, [Randi Weingarten](#), was known for her work-around-the-clock ethos and frequent news conferences, and seemed to relish rising to the balls of her feet and shouting to make a point. Ms. Weingarten rose to become leader of the [American Federation of Teachers](#), the U.F.T.'s parent union, just like her forebears, the labor giants [Albert Shanker](#) and [Sandra Feldman](#).

Mr. Mulgrew, 44, projects a sort of easy confidence, routinely described as down to earth and the No. 1 person to hang out with at a party. Even now, years after he stopped working in construction, he is happy to spend a weekend mixing concrete. But what members of his union, the nation's largest local, most want to know is whether his regular-guy manner will serve them in negotiations, and battles, with City Hall and the State Legislature.

He answers with a belly laugh. "I'm not the kind of person you want to ignore," he said.

Mr. Mulgrew was elected interim president by the union's executive board in July, just in time for negotiations with the city over the next teachers' contract and amid steep budget cuts both in the city and state. But he is also taking the reins at a time of intense debate over education, with officials from [President Obama](#) on down calling for changes that have long been anathema for the unions, including more [charter schools](#) and using student test scores to judge teacher effectiveness. The union's influence could wane as education officials across the country move to bring their policies in line with the Obama administration's.

"This is a time of huge, huge challenges," said Leo Casey, the vice president of high schools for the union. "Leaving aside the huge budget gaps, he also has to figure out how to mount a response to the charter school movement that accepts the best of what they should be, but really turns back the attempt to use charter schools to privatize education."

Like Mr. Shanker and Ms. Feldman, Ms. Weingarten appeared to hand-pick her successor. And so far, Mr. Mulgrew has staked out many of the same positions as Ms. Weingarten, offering cautious praise for some of Chancellor [Joel I. Klein](#)'s changes to the system, but criticizing his "relentless focus on data at the expense of everything else."

One education official who spoke only on the condition that he not be identified for fear of angering Mr. Mulgrew — or his predecessor — contrasted the two by saying that Ms. Weingarten often seemed to be calculating several moves ahead when she spoke. Mr. Mulgrew, the official said, says exactly what he is thinking.

Asked to respond to the comparison, Mr. Mulgrew gave another belly laugh:

“I can’t answer that one without getting myself in trouble — maybe it’s a good idea people believe you say what you’re thinking.”

Mr. Mulgrew also differs from his predecessors in one key way: he is the longest-serving classroom teacher ever to head the union, something that could help him earn the respect of veteran members who are often the most active members. (He also happens to be the first non-Jewish leader in the 49-year history of the union.)

Mr. Mulgrew needs to win a unionwide election next spring to secure the presidency. While he is expected to have broad support, the union, which has 228,000 members, also has its share of internal dissent.

“We’re not expecting any major change — it’s still the same machine that is running the U.F.T.,” said James Eterno, who is making a long-shot bid to challenge Mr. Mulgrew. “In some ways, it does not matter who the head is, you know that they are going to toe the line and not fight for many changes for teachers.”

A native of Staten Island, Mr. Mulgrew went to work as a carpenter after graduating from Saint Peter’s High School for Boys, eventually using the income to help pay his tuition at the [College of Staten Island](#), where he graduated with a degree in English literature. He lives on Staten Island.

He attributed much of his ambition to his mother, who raised four children on her own — his parents divorced — while juggling jobs as a waitress and bookkeeper.

Two of Mr. Mulgrew’s siblings also became teachers. Although he has never married, he has a daughter, Meghan, 22, who is studying business at Fordham. While still working in construction after college, he got a job as a substitute teacher at [William E. Grady Vocational High School](#) in Brooklyn. He quickly decided he wanted to teach full time, but he was eager to stay out of woodshop.

“There was no way that after all that work and college I was going to teach shop,” he said over a grilled chicken salad lunch this month. “I just wasn’t interested in that. If I wanted to stay in construction full time, I would have done that.”

At Grady, where he was hired full time in 1993, he taught computers and film, working with students who were at risk of failing or dropping out. He made friends at the school quickly, even offering to help build kitchen cabinets for one colleague.

By the time he became the union chapter leader in 1999, career and technical education was falling out of favor, both locally and nationally. When the principal moved to cut a program focusing on heating and plumbing, Mr. Mulgrew fought back by filing a formal complaint and seeking help from the local plumbers’ union. They responded enthusiastically, explaining that they were desperate for new apprentices with basic skills.

“It was obvious that this is what we had to do,” he said. “Nobody understood what career and technical schools were supposed to do, but when we had entire classes graduating with reading and math skills and the ability to work, nobody could argue with us.”

In 2005, Mr. Mulgrew was recruited to become the vice president of the career and technical education division of the union, working in the union’s headquarters near Wall Street. He quickly impressed teachers and principals at the technical schools, in large part by coming to visit often and worrying about the small obstacles.

It took him several years, but he eventually secured a new train for students to work on at [Transit Tech Career and Technical Educational High School](#) in East New York, Brooklyn. As he prepared for a large protest against budget cuts in front of City Hall last year, he made sure that a school’s step dance troupe would have the sound equipment they needed. And when students at [Automotive High School](#) in Brooklyn were unexpectedly stuck without a graduation site in June, he arranged for them to use the auditorium in the union’s building.

“There’s a real sense of honesty and passion there, and that’s no small thing,” said Melissa Silberman, the principal of Automotive, who sought Mr. Mulgrew’s help in developing an engineering program at the school.