

CSI in the News

April 2010




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Arts



Michael Prevosti, 15, center, a sophomore at the College of Staten Island High School for International Studies, facilitates a drum circle group in the New Springville school's auditorium.

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/ANTHONY DEPRIMO

Catch the beat in New Springville

Under direction of new music teacher, students and families are getting together to enjoy drum circles

By JAMIE LEE
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

NEW SPRINGVILLE — Drums have been an integral form of communication since man's earliest civilizations formed.

Last Thursday night, that time-tested tradition continued as the music program of the College of Staten Island High School for International Studies hosted a community drum circle gathering at its New Springville auditorium.

Approximately 20 students and local residents came together to pound the skins in unison, enjoying both the experience and the connections fostered by it.

"Drums are a universal language of communication," said **Melissa Packowski**, a New Jersey resident who took over as the school's music director in Sept. 2008 after 11 years of teaching in Brooklyn.

"When I was first discussing with [Principal **Aimee Horowitz**] about programs in line with the international basis of the school, drumming was one of the first things to come up."

Since taking over the reins of the music department, Ms. Packowski has begun to put together a diverse collection of drums, including both African and Cuban styles.

"Every culture uses its own specific kind of drums," she said. "Currently we're in the process of trying to acquire some Japanese taiko drums to add to our arsenal."

(The community drum circle, which charged a nominal \$5 per person fee for participation, helped raise some money to that end.)

The passion of the school's students has helped drive the drum cir-



Charlie Packowski, 3, has fun banging on his drum.

cle program.

"The students were really wanting for a music program before I was hired," said Ms. Packowski. "And they've been coming to me with an intense desire to take music since I arrived. They're responding unbelievably well, and the parent interest is really there too."

In fact, it's only time constraints that hamstring the educator.

But the infectiousness of music, and the drum circle in particular, has helped develop a core group of student leaders who contribute as much as they can.

"My first drum circle experience was with the school last year," said **Matthew Prevosti**, a 15-year-old sophomore. "I took percussion freshman year and went to the community drum circle. I liked it a lot, and this year, I got to work as a facilitator for the circle."

Prevosti and several other students meet with Ms. Packowski each week to hone their collaborative leadership skills and practice for upcoming drum circle events.

In addition to the community circles, CSI HS is now offering to host drum circles for other interested

schools.

The demand has been solid, and the drum circle group is booked for sessions every Thursday in April and one in May at the school. The team is also hitting the road for drum circles at other institutions.

"A lot of facilitators and students in the drum circle really get joy from inspiring people who maybe aren't as musically-inclined," said Prevosti. "It doesn't take someone who is particularly skilled in drumming to have fun enjoying it."

Prevosti happens to be one of the more advanced drummers and often finds himself taking charge of coordinating rhythmic patterns after other facilitators have gotten the group warmed up with follow-the-leader-style beating.

He attributes much of the program's success to his teacher.

"Ms. Packowski is so energetic," he said. "All the students love her. She finds a way to keep it fresh, even though drumming involves a lot of repetition."

Some of those means are by using "toys," as Prevosti calls them, that were left next to each drum this past Thursday. They included clobbers, cowbells and temple blocks that varied the sound on each instrument.

More on the web



For a video from the event, visit www.silive.com

The best part about it, according to the director? There is no prerequisite for drumming other than a desire to have fun.

"My 3-year-old son was at the event, and he was participating as much as the oldest person there," said Ms. Packowski. "All it takes is a little guts to go to one event and then you'll be hooked."

Jamie Lee is a reporter for the Staten Island Advance. He covers the West and South Shores and may be reached at jamielee@siadvan- ce.com.



AY QUE FUNNY Plays The National Comedy Theater, Begins 5/6

[Back to the Article](#)

by BWW News Desk



The AY QUE FUNNY sketch comedy show, conceptualized, written, directed and produced by Jesenia Bailey and Crystal Roman, will play only five

performances at the National Comedy Theater (347 West 36th Street, between 8 & 9 Avenue). AY QUE FUNNY will play Thursdays at 8pm, for five weeks starting May 6, 2010.

The Spanglish NYC based sketch comedy show, AY QUE FUNNY? encourages the love of comedy thru off-the-wall sketches, portrayed by a culturally diverse cast, both onstage and in film. Each show features guest performances, spotlighting dance, music, stand-up comedy, and anything else that tickles!

Damian Bailey is the filmed skit director, director of photography and sound technician. Dwayne McGleese is the assistant director and light and sound technician. The cast includes Carlos Gonzalez, Nyle Lynn Caisley, Kim MrKulic, Dwayne McGleese, John Sartori, Arielle Rosales, Crystal Roman and Jesenia Bailey.

Ay Que Funny plays the following schedule:

Thursday, May 6 at 8 p.m.
Thursday, May 13 at 8 p.m.
Thursday, May 20 at 8 p.m.
Thursday, May 27 at 8 p.m.
Thursday, June 3 at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 and are now available online at www.brownpapertickets.com or by calling 1-800-838-3006. Tickets may also be purchased in-person at the National Comedy Theater (347 West 36th Street - Between 8th & 9th Ave's.), 1 hour prior to the performance.

Running Time: 62 minutes

Website: www.ayquefunny.com

BIOGRAPHIES

JESANIA BAILEY (creator, director, performer) is a Nuyorican, Bronx native Comedienne/Actress/Writer/Performer/Director/Producer. Bailey has performed stand-up comedy at various clubs throughout New York City, including the Laugh Factory & Caroline's Comedy Club. Since 2000, she has been acting in theater and film, performing both comedic and dramatic roles. In 2006, she was cast in the inspirational feature film *Gang Girl*, in which she played a 16 year-old Bronx gang member trying to find her way out of gang life. In the film, *The Big Wes*, she was able to flex her comedic acting abilities by playing two very different roles.

CRYSTAL ROMAN (creator, director, performer) was born into an artistic family, her great grandfather was a musician in the Duke Ellington band, and her uncle has played with Latin music legends the likes of the late Tito Puente, Santana, and Mark Anthony. After graduating from the **College of Staten Island** with a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing and Management with a minor in Sociology, Roman played the lead role in the film, *A Weapon Most Unusual* (New York International Film Festival award-winning). She recently completed production on the film, *Tangle Eye Blues* with Moonshine Films and is the current spokesperson for Mono Machines. In 2009, Roman wrote the play *Black Latina* about the lives of dark-skinned Latinas and African American Latinas, which she produced by her company, Shaniece Entertainment. She is adapting the play into a feature film.

Art groups on Staten Island: See works of art or create them yourself

By Staten Island Advance

April 21, 2010, 12:30PM



[View full size](#)

COAHSI

A phantasmagoric image by artist Steven Lapcevic. Staten Island has a lively arts community, nourished in part by grants from the Council of Arts and Humanities for Staten Island (COAHSI).

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- See (and make!) art throughout Staten Island, not only within the walls of **art museums and galleries**, but also at art schools, cultural centers, the Staten Island Zoo and a multitude of public and private spaces.

Put your organization on the map and in the public eye **with a free listing**

The Council on the Arts & Humanities for Staten Island (COAHSI) is the borough's arts service organization, providing over \$200,000 in grants for arts projects that serve the community and Staten Island schools. It also publishes a cultural calendar and an e-mail newsletter. COAHSI provides technical assistance to arts groups and artists, as well as professional development workshops for artists and organizations. Visit statenilandarts.org.

The Creative Photographers' Guild Gallery (CPG) at 814 Richmond Terr., New Brighton, is open every Saturday and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. The 1-year-old gallery shows and sells work by members of guild. For more information, call founder George Roos at 718-288-2405.

The **Art Lab**, an independent, not-for-profit art school that's the only one of its kind in the borough, has been active for 33 years. Originally established in Clifton by a group of local artists, it moved to the Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden, Livingston, in 1977. Professional art faculty teach courses —

drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, ceramics and photography are among the perennial offerings — for all ages and at all levels. The group offers a summer program and one- and two-day workshops. It also maintains several galleries that showcase the work of Island artists and art students. For more information, call 718-447-8667 or visit artlab.info.

The **College of Staten Island** Gallery is located in the school's Center for the Arts on the Willowbrook campus, 2800 Victory Blvd. It presents four exhibitions per year, primarily art borrowed from public and private collections. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, noon to 4 p.m.; Saturday, noon to 3 p.m., and by appointment. The art department's studio faculty also runs a separate gallery of student works. For more information, call professor Craig Manister, who manages the exhibitions, at 718-982-2553.

The Jewish Community Center's Murray Berman Gallery is located in the second-floor rotunda of the **Joan and Alan Bernikow JCC**, 1466 Manor Road. It features rotating exhibits of Island artists' works. The gallery is open for viewing during standard JCC hours: Sunday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The building is closed Saturday. The JCC also offers classes in visual arts for kids, teens and adults at the Bernikow JCC. For more information, call Orit Lender, 718-475-5227.

Mauro Graphics, a commercial gallery and frame shop at 1277 Clove Road, Sunnyside, often shows work by Island artists that is available for purchase. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call 718-448-8300.

SHOW Gallery is a commercial gallery at 156 Stuyvesant Pl., St. George, where art is offered for sale. Recent shows were "Lost & Found: An Exploration of Earnestness in Art," and "GLAM!" works by rock photographer Mick Rock. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, noon-7 p.m. Call 718-524-0855.

Second Saturdays, is a free monthly art walk on the North Shore that invites the public into artists' private homes. It is organized by Brendan Coyle and Amanda Curtis of the Assembly Room, a Tompkinsville apartment that periodically doubles as a visual and performance art venue. For more information, email wervil@gmail.com or call 718-285-4759.

SICoLab — short for Staten Island Collaboration — is a network and resource center made by and for artists. SICoLab's mission is to produce collaborative, innovative and multi-disciplinary art projects and public events that promote the identity, growth and appreciation of Staten Island's artistic community. The 2-year-old group has produced several "Homeless Art Galleries," as well as the "Van Duzer Days," a street art fair in Stapleton. For more information, e-mail sicolab.info@gmail.com or join its Facebook page.

The South Shore Artists Group hosts its 44th annual show June 6, rain date June 13, at Conference House Park in Tottenville. The group also mounts small exhibits at Island locales throughout the year. For more information, call Barbara Sekulski at 718-984-6548.

The Staten Island Artists' Association, a group of mostly seniors, displays members' works at venues around the borough. The group meets the last Monday of every month in the **Joan and Alan Bernikow JCC**, Sea View. The group will participate in the June art sale at the Conference House in Tottenville and September's fence show at Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden. For more information, call Annette Marten at 718-948-0605.

The Spotlight Gallery is part of the Hormann Library at **Wagner College**, 1 Campus Road. It presents exhibitions of work in all media by Wagner students and faculty, and, especially in the summer months, of resident and off-Island artists. Many of the exhibitions during the academic year relate to class projects or certain courses. The gallery is open Sunday at 9 a.m. through Friday at 8 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. unless otherwise noted on this telephone line: 718-390-3401. Admission is free.

The **Wagner College** Gallery (the Kade Gallery), in the Union Building on the Grymes Hill campus, 1 Campus Road, presents exhibitions of work by resident and off-Island artists, Wagner students and faculty. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call 718-390-3152.

Also exhibiting art periodically are: Art at Bay, a month-to-month space at 70 Bay St., St. George (718-816-4506); the Staten Island Zoo, 614 Broadway, West Brighton (718-442-3174); Universal Temple of the Arts, 425 Jersey St., New Brighton (718-273-5610), and Staten Island Community Television (CTV), 100 Cable Way, Mariners Harbor (718-727-1414).



Today's Family & Kids Activities in Brooklyn-Apr 25

Brooklyn has many things for families and kids to do, and during the spring and summer New York City has thousands of kid- and family-friendly activities that include arts and crafts, museum exhibitions, concerts, sports, nature walks in local parks, and many other outdoor activities. Here are some of today's activities in Brooklyn, from gardening to sports meets!

[Enviromedia Mobile Earth Day Celebrations - IKEA/Erie Basin Park](#)

April 25, 2010 - Brooklyn

The traveling nature and maritime museum-on-wheels will celebrate Earth Day with mobile museum exhibit tours featuring the Giant Floating Earth Ball, live underwater video exploration, Touch Tank, urban wildlife education, and more.

[Tap Kids - Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts](#)

Through April 24, 2010 - Brooklyn

Eight of the nation's most talented young tap dancers take to the stage in this rousing, joyous celebration of American youth culture. Hip, contemporary, and uplifting, this electrifying performance takes tap to dizzying new heights with its passion and precision.

[Science Power Hour - Prospect Park Audubon Center](#)

Through April 25, 2010 - Brooklyn

Join a naturalist for cool science activities every Saturday and Sunday afternoon, featuring a new experiment every month.

[Nature Crafts - Prospect Park Audubon Center](#)

Through April 25, 2010 - Brooklyn

Teachers/Naturalists lead structured and engaging arts activities for children. Kids create toys, puppets, and more, using all-natural materials.

[Early American Crafts & Games - Prospect Park Lefferts Historic House](#)

Through April 25, 2010 - Brooklyn

Imagine yourself in the past; learn games, pastimes, and tasks that were common 150 years ago. Every Saturday and Sunday afternoon.

[Harry the Dirty Dog - Center for the Arts at the College of Staten Island](#)

April 25, 2010 - Staten Island

Based on the book by Gene Zion and Margaret Bloy Graham, this new musical is a story about Harry, a little dog who hates taking baths. After playing in the dirt all day, Harry returns home to find that his family doesn't recognize him. Can you help Harry uncover

his true identity? Recommended for ages 2-7.

[Nature Crafts - Prospect Park Audubon Center](#)

April 25, 2010 - Brooklyn

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Join a naturalist for cool science activities, featuring a new experiment every month.

[Chase Wonder Why Workshop Series: Get Down and Dirty - Brooklyn Children's Museum](#)

April 25, 2010 - Brooklyn

Discover how soil is created and recycled by worms. Use your senses to explore live worms, and even taste one if you dare.

[Who Wants to be a Reptilianaire? - Brooklyn Children's Museum](#)

April 25, 2010 - Brooklyn

Kids put their brain and skills to the test as they compete against some of Mother Nature's greatest contenders? and get chance to meet some live animals along the way.

[The Jumpin' Juniper Show - Brooklyn Arts Exchange](#)

April 25, 2010 - Brooklyn

Fun sing-a-long that lets the whole family take part using silly hats and favorite songs from Disney classics and Broadway hits. Moms, dads, and kids sing and dance along to familiar favorites, and take on the starring roles.

[The Secret Garden...of MONSTERS! - Brooklyn Lyceum](#)

Through April 25, 2010 - Brooklyn

When bratty orphan Mary Lennox is sent to live with her uncle at Misselthwaite Manor, she has no idea what MONSTROUS adventures lie in store for her! Monster Literature is an action-packed live theater series that celebrates great works of children's literature that kids can read now.

Also featured on NYMetroParents.com

Staten Island film festival: More entries and highest quality of flicks ever

By Jodi Lee Reifer
April 29, 2010, 3:54PM



AWE/Anthony DePrimo

The fifth annual SINY Film Festival returns June 2-6 to the St. George Theatre and the College of Staten Island.

STATEN ISLAND, N. Y. — Despite the sluggish economy, the SINY Film Festival attracted several hundred submissions — more entries than ever — and its highest quality of films yet, organizers announced yesterday.

More than 75 movies unspool June 2 to 6 as part of the fifth annual indie showcase.

"Companies who have to make tough decisions about events to sponsor continue to come back. And I think that's a testament to the event, as well as the opportunity it provides to the filmmakers and the community," said Gina Gutman of Time Warner Cable, one of the festival's underwriters.

Sponsors and filmmakers mingled yesterday as organizers announced the SINY selections and nominees for festival prizes during the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation Conference (SIEDC) in the Hilton Garden Inn. The event is a project of the SIEDC.

Leading the pack of films with six nominations is "**The Crimson Mask**," fantasy thriller by a Brooklyn filmmaker. It follows a businessman and pro wrestler who are deeply in debt and must face off in a ritualistic sword fight to break free of their obligations. The flick has already captured awards at the Honolulu International and Los Angeles Reel film festivals, among others.

"The Crimson Mask" is one of 30 SINY films crafted by New York City residents with 15 of those made by

Staten Islanders. In addition, the fest features flicks from as far afield as Australia, Germany, Texas and Las Vegas.

A complete schedule with show times and synopses is available on www.SIFilmFestival.org. All screenings are in the Center for the Arts at the [College of Staten Island](#) and the St. George Theatre.

The genres range from comedies to dramas to sci-fi features.

Manhattanite Elizabeth Page's "**The Pilgram**" speaks to immigration. She started making it when President Bush authorized the construction of a fence on the U.S.-Mexico border in 2006. "It was either make this film or strangle someone," said Page, noting her passions have been equally stoked by Arizona's new immigration law.

"The Pilgram" is about a little girl who teaches her undocumented babysitter about Thanksgiving.

"I want this to play all over New York," said Page, whose film has been accepted into the Queens International and Big Apple film fests and included in PBS's Reel 13 series. "And Staten Island is part of New York City."

Among the returning faces to the festival is Maria Rusolo of St. George, who starred in "Something About Ryan" in the '09 edition. She's back as the producer and lead in "**Blindsided**," about a blind psychic with a dark side.

Ms. Rusolo just returned from Puerto Rico, where the flick screened in the Rincon International Film Festival. But nothing tops her hometown fest, said the actress.

"They really appreciate the filmmakers here," she said. The SINY film fest screens flicks twice as opposed to other venues which only show films once. "It doesn't give you enough time to network and really promote the film."

Sponsors include: The Richmond County Savings Foundation, presenting and founding sponsor; Northfield Bank; Verizon FIOS; the Staten Island Advance; Time Warner Cable; the Jewish Community Center of Staten Island; Sean Kelleher of Wall Street Access; Brian Farley of Action Elevators; Alfred C. Cerullo of Grand Central Partnership; National Grid; Harrah's Resort; Richmond County Bank; FerryAds; Williams Eye Works; ACS, a Xeroex company; Beso restaurant, SILive.com, the Council on the Arts and Humanities for Staten Island; NRG Energy. Joseph Rende, vice president of National Grid, is the event chairman. Michael Motelson of Dome Property Management, is the event ambassador Wu-Tang Clan's RZA, who is preparing to direct his first feature, is the celebrity chairman of the event

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AWE/Anthony DePrimo

Director Gary Pastore poses with a poster of his SINY film festival selection, "Waiting for...BUDD," a short documentary in the SINY Film Festival.

When: June 2-6

Where: The St. George Theatre and the [College of Staten Island](#)

How much: Passes for all screenings are \$45. All-Day Passes are \$15. Individual tickets are \$10. Tickets will be available in April on www.TicketWeb.com.

Faculty & Staff



PROCLAMATION: At the NYC Council Proclamation Ceremony for Colon Cancer Awareness Month on March 25 at City Hall, City Council members were honored for their continued grants to fund free colonoscopy screenings at 18 hospitals citywide, including Staten Island University Hospital and Richmond University Medical Center. From left, City Councilwoman Debi Rose; Christine Hollie, associate vice president of Community Outreach, SIUH; Melissa Robson, community mission manager, American Cancer Society; Alberta Brescia, regional vice president, ACS, and Councilmen James Oddo and Vincent Ignizio.

Apple's highly anticipated iPad goes on sale

By Peter N. Spencer

April 03, 2010, 10:30AM



Staten Island Advance /
Hilton Flores

Employees of the Apple store at the Staten Island Mall, New Springville, welcome the first few customers from the reserve line there to buy the iPad.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Haithan Falah and his brother-in-law Mohammed Abdelrasoul had a pretty good incentive to get from Brooklyn to the Apple Store in the Staten Island Mall by 4 a.m. today.

About a \$1,000 worth.

That's what a prince from Dubai (no, that's not a typo) gave them to make sure he picked up two coveted iPads, the latest must-have gadget from the company that practically invented techno-hype.

Falah was the first in a line of anxious patrons that grew to about 50 people by the time the store opened its doors at 9 a.m. Like a runner on an Olympic relay, he grabbed his two reserved units and quickly passed them off to a courier waiting in a Mercedes Benz SUV outside the Mall, who was then to bring them to another courier at John F. Kennedy International Airport in Queens, ready to take the first flight to the United Arab Emirates.

The prince in question is a very good customer of Falah's other brother-in-law, a Mercedes salesman in Queens.

"There are two brothers, both of them are princes, and they have a bet about who can get the iPad first," Falah said. "I don't even know what the heck it is. But the money is good."

Falah was clearly in the minority. Most of those assembled at the New Springville shopping center were techno geeks, habitual early adopters and Apple cultists who had been awaiting this day for weeks.

Matthew Weiler of New Dorp arrived about 45 minutes after Falah, after an angst-filled night of tossing and turning.

"I hadn't made up my mind until yesterday. The more I kept seeing it, the more I knew I had to have it," said Weiler, who is the director of the Melissa Riggio Higher Education Program at the **College of Staten Island**.

While he waited in line for over four hours, Weiler even convinced Abdelrasoul to use his half of the prince's ransom to buy one for himself.

Nicholas Vitale of Tottenville reserved his iPad a month ago. The 11-year-old, who already has a collection of Apple gear that includes an iPod Touch and a MacBook, plans to be the envy of PS. 6, Richmond Valley.

Midland Beach resident Desmond Yarborough, who was waiting in line just ahead of Vitale and his father, Peter Vitale, was ready to drop a cool grand on the 64GB iPad, a case, a dock and a camera that attaches to it.

His motivation to wake up at 5 am on a Saturday?

"You get here early so you can get it first," Yarborough said.

Check out more photos of the new iPad

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Staten Island Advance /
Hilton Flores

Haitham Falah of Brooklyn is the first person in line this morning at the Apple Store in the State Island Mall, New Springville. He is being paid \$1,000 to buy two iPads, which are being shipped to a prince in Dubai.



Staten Island Advance

BREAKING NEWS ALL DAY ON SILIVE.COM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2010

PUBLISHED SINCE 1886 | 75 CENTS

Speaker: No reason to rush

Panel tasked with revising City Charter should take the long view, Ms. Quinn tells Island meeting

By TOM WROBLESKI
ADVANCE POLITICAL EDITOR

Talk of local control, secession and rallying Staten Islanders to have their voices heard during the City Charter revision process dominated a meeting of more than 100 political and civic leaders that featured City Council Speaker Christine Quinn last night at the Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomfield.

Ms. Quinn joined borough leaders in calling for the Charter Revision Commission, which held its first public hearing in Manhattan last night, to slow down its proceedings.

Last night's meeting of Islandwide civic association members was sponsored by Councilman James Oddo (R-Mid-Island/Brooklyn).

It also featured Borough President James P. Molinaro and Council Members Debi Rose (D-North Shore) and Vincent Ignizio (R-South Shore), as well as borough business leaders and members of the Staten Island Tea Party.

Given the gravity of the changes that are being contemplated, Ms. Quinn said the commission should place issues before voters this November and in 2011 and 2012, if necessary.

The commission is expected to look at term limits and the role of the borough presidents, among other issues. Members want to complete all their work in time to present proposals to voters during this fall's general election.

"How are you going to get to that level of detail by November?" wondered Ms.

SEE RUSH, PAGE A 12



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/HILTON FLORES

City Council Speaker Christine Quinn purposely did not attend last night's commission hearing in Manhattan, her home borough, saying "I'm not prepared to make that level of presentation."

RUSH FROM PAGE A 1

Speaker wonders: What's the rush?

Quinn, a Democrat. "There's an inability to get to every thing this year."

Ms. Quinn said she purposely did not attend last night's commission hearing in Manhattan, her home borough.

"I'm not prepared to make that level of presentation," she said.

Ms. Quinn urged Islanders and other city residents to send written proposals to the commission if they can't attend a public hearing.

SICK LEAVE

Switching gears, Ms. Quinn said she hasn't taken a position yet on a Council bill mandating that city businesses provide paid sick leave for all employees.

Borough business leaders have said that the requirement will be an added hardship on them during tough fiscal times.

"How does the City Council let legislation like this see the light of day, in this economy?" said Linda Baran, president and CEO of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce.

Ms. Quinn, who has issued a number of initiatives aimed at boosting small business, said she was "sympathetic" to employees who need sick time.

But she also said she worries that the added cost could be a "tipping point" for businesses struggling to stay afloat in the recession.

"There's a strong and compelling argument about how damaging this could be," Ms. Quinn said. "I'm continuing to struggle with this."

Ms. Quinn later told the Advance she would likely take a position on the bill after a hearing on it is held in May.

BLASTING PANEL

Ignizio has lambasted the 15-member Charter panel for having only one borough representative, GOP County Clerk Stephen Fiala, and for holding all its borough hearings within a quarter-mile of Manhattan. He called the panel "payback for a political favor" from Mayor Michael Bloomberg to term-limits advocate and billionaire Ronald Lauder.

He added, "The outcome is determined and we're working our way backward. It is a sham. It is a farce."

Ms. Rose also said that the Commission should take it slow.

"Why are we having meetings when people don't know what the issues are?" she said. "It's an unfair process. There's not enough time."

Michael Beck, president of the High Rock Civic Association, said that with the panel potentially looking at cutting the power of the borough presidents, secession was the only alternative for Islanders.

Bloomberg has said that he does not favor eliminating the borough presidents.

Oddo said strengthening the borough presidency was a way for the Island to get more local control over transportation, land use and other issues.

"We know Staten Island," Oddo said. "Empower us locally."

Advance Editor Brian J. Laline pointed out that the Advance has been at the forefront of trumpeting the local-control issue, and

urged concerned Islanders to plug into the coverage.

Oddo and Ignizio said the presence of the daily paper here gives borough residents and officials a unique platform to have their issues, including local control, heard at City Hall.

Speakers last night said that Islanders should turn out in force at the upcoming borough Charter commission hearing, which will be held at McKee High School in St. George on Tuesday at 6 p.m.

Stu Brenker of the Mid-Island Political Action Committee said Islanders should hold a demonstration ahead of time in order to rally support here — even if the outcome of Charter revision, in his opinion, is a "fait accompli."

Robert Scamardella, an attorney and president of the Molinari Republican Club, said that Islanders "should fight the good fight," regardless.

Tom Wroblewski may be reached at wroblewski@siadvance.com. Read his [politics bureau blog at http://www.silive.com/newslogs/politics/](http://www.silive.com/newslogs/politics/).



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE PHOTOS/HILTON FLORES

City Council members Debi Rose and Vincent Ignizio would both like to see the Charter Revision Commission proceed at a slower pace.



Dee Vandenberg told City Council speaker Christine Quinn how difficult it is to deal with the Buildings Dept.



Councilman James Oddo would like to see the boroughs given more autonomy.

Interim libraries director named at Notre Dame

Posted: Apr 08, 2010 8:17 AM EDT

From: News release

Susan Ohmer, assistant provost and William T. and Helen Kuhn Carey Associate Professor of Modern Communication at the University of Notre Dame, has been appointed interim director of Hesburgh Libraries by University Provost Thomas G. Burish, effective May 19.

The University is conducting a national search for a successor to Jennifer Younger, who is stepping down at the end of the academic year after 13 years as the Edward H. Arnold Director of Hesburgh Libraries.

As assistant provost, Ohmer is responsible for coordinating efforts to recruit and retain women faculty and for oversight of the libraries and Notre Dame Press, and she serves as the provost's liaison to the Early Childhood Development Center. Since 2007, she has led the Committee on Women Faculty and Students, which considers policies, practices and the general environment of the University as they relate to women faculty and students.

A member of the Notre Dame faculty since 1998, Ohmer previously taught at the **College of Staten Island** and the University of Michigan. She teaches courses in film and television in U.S. culture, and her research focuses on the history and use of market research in media organizations. She has received several grants to support her research, including visiting fellowships to the Lilly Library at Indiana University, the Hartman Collection at Duke University and the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas.

Ohmer completed her undergraduate studies at Ohio State University, earning a bachelor of arts degree in English and a bachelor of fine arts degree in art history. She earned her doctorate in cinema studies from New York University.



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Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Use of Psychotherapy: Evidence From U.S. National Survey Data

Jie Chen, Ph.D. and John Rizzo, Ph.D.

Dr. Chen is affiliated with the Department of Political Science, Economics, and Philosophy, College of Staten Island, City University of New York, 2N-229, 2800 Victory Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10314 (e-mail: jie.chen@csi.cuny.edu). Dr. Rizzo is with the Departments of Preventive Medicine and Economics, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, New York.

OBJECTIVE: This study investigated racial and ethnic disparities in psychotherapy use and expenditures in the United States and identified important factors associated with these disparities. **METHODS:** Using the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey from 1996 to 2006, the investigators performed bivariate and multivariable analyses to estimate racial and ethnic disparities in the probability of receiving any psychotherapy, total psychotherapy expenditures, and out-of-pocket-payment share for 7,376 patients with depressive or anxiety disorders. Blinder-Oaxaca decomposition techniques were used to identify the most important factors associated with these disparities. **RESULTS:** Caucasians were more likely to use psychotherapy than Latinos (57% versus 52%, $p<.001$), but there was no significant difference between Caucasians and African Americans in the probability of receiving any psychotherapy. Caucasians self-paid 29% of the total cost for each visit, significantly higher than the shares paid by Latinos (19%) and African Americans (14%). Racial-ethnic differences in the propensity to utilize psychotherapy vanished in multivariable regression, but Caucasians still paid a significantly higher out-of-pocket share than others. English proficiency was the most important factor associated with racial-ethnic disparities in psychotherapy use. The extensive Medicaid coverage among Latinos and African Americans was the main reason for their lower out-of-pocket payment for psychotherapy compared with Caucasians. **CONCLUSIONS:** This study found little evidence of racial and ethnic disparities in access to psychotherapy services. Health care reforms affecting mental health coverage under Medicaid would significantly affect psychotherapy expenditure and use among Latinos and African Americans.



CSI Language Immersion Program instructor Caryn Davis receives recognition

By Staten Island Advance

April 11, 2010, 6:00AM

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The New York Times recently honored Caryn T. Davis, City University of New York (CUNY) Language Immersion Program (CLIP) instructor at the **College of Staten Island (CSI)**, for her outstanding work as an ESOL professional.

Ms. Davis was recognized at the 2010 ESOL Teacher of the Year award ceremony for her many years of creative and innovative curriculums in city classrooms.

However, it wasn't until she met her CLIP students that she realized she wanted to devote the rest of her professional life to assisting the amazing, multi-lingual college-bound immigrants she met in her classroom to gain the confidence and skills they needed to succeed in U.S. academia.

"I am delighted to extend my congratulations to Caryn Davis," commented Dr. Tomas Morales, president of **CSI**. "Her exceptional teaching skills, energy and creativeness ensure our students' successful assimilation into higher education, and empower the many diverse communities we serve."

Ms. Davis will graduate from the New School's Masters in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages this May.

She found a unique way to help her students develop conversational and writing skills by transforming old library books into works of art using their written texts to create personal accounts of their native countries and their transition to their new lives in the U.S.

Ms. Davis has also created a vehicle for students to develop public speaking and leadership skills by using "We are New York" (WANY), a series of movies created by CUNY and the mayor's Office of Adult Education to help immigrants learn English and about essential services.

"My students have become community leaders by facilitating WANY workshops for Mexican day laborers and their families at El Centro del inmigrante on Castleton Avenue. Thanks to all my CLIP students and particularly to those students who come back to my classroom each semester to encourage my new students to not give up," said Ms. Davis.

Bar Association appoints Marotta

Daniel C. Marotta of St. George was appointed to the Executive Committee of the Entertainment, Arts and Sports Law Section New York State Bar Association.

The Executive Committee of Entertainment Arts and Sports Law Section provides resources for attorneys to help them practice law in the area of entertainment, the arts and sports.

It also provides substantive case law and forums for discussion and debate and information-sharing among the legal community.

Marotta is a partner in the law firm of Gabor & Marotta LLC, Meiers Corners, a commercial litigation, real estate, trademark, tax and estate planning firm. The firm maintains a satellite office in downtown Manhattan.

He is an alumnus of Fordham Law School and earned his bachelor's degree in Economics and English from Manhattan College in Riverdale, the Bronx.

His real estate work includes condominium and co-op offerings, franchising and commercial leasing. He also

is vice president of the Downtown Staten Island Council, served as president of Neighborhood Housing Services of Staten Island, Inc., and is still an active member of its board of directors, and is a former member of the board of directors of Neighborhood Housing Services of New York City, Inc.

Marotta teaches Licensing of Trademark and Intellectual Property at the New York University School of Continuing Education and Professional Studies.

He has lectured and done speaking engagements in his specialty areas of law and has also edited books and has had articles published.

U. of Michigan tabs former Islander

Dr. Gregory W. Dalack of Ann Arbor, Mich., formerly of West Brighton and an associate professor of psychiatry, has been appointed the new chairman of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Michigan Medical School.

Dr. Dalack previously served as the interim chair of the Department of Psychiatry since 2007. Prior to that, he served as vice-chair of the department and also as associate chair for education and academic affairs in the department.

He will lead a department with 182 faculty, 54 residents and fellows and 364 administrative, research, nursing and clinical support staff.

Dr. Dalack's interests include schizophrenia and mood disorders; his research interests include the treatment of schizophrenic illness and the co-morbidity of nicotine addiction and schizophrenia.

Dr. Dalack joined the medical school faculty in 1992, serving as chief of the Mental Health Clinic at the V.A. Ann Arbor Healthcare System Unit. In 1999, he began serving as chief of the V.A. Psychiatry Service and the V.A. section director in the U-M Department of Psychiatry.

A graduate of Stuyvesant High School, Dr. Dalack graduated summa cum laude from Yale University with bachelor's degree in chemistry. He received his doctorate from Columbia University.

He completed his psychiatry residency and a clinical research fellowship at the New York State Psychiatric Institute/Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York.

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DISSENT

Israel's Inner City

William Kornblum and Leonard Quart - April 12, 2010

FOR THE last decade Israel has gone through a film renaissance. Israeli films have won awards at international festivals, and the work of directors like Amos Gitai (*Kippur*), Ari Folman (*Waltz with Bashir*), Eran Riklis (*The Lemon Tree*), Samuel Maoz (*Lebanon*), and Joseph Cedar (*Beaufort*) have received critical plaudits. Add *Ajami* and its co-directors and writers Scandar Copti and Yaron Shani to the list of Israeli films and directors garnering and deserving praise.

Ajami was one of the five Oscar nominees for best foreign-language film this year, and differs in subject matter and style from most of the other Israeli films that have received acclaim. It's a first film by directors, Copti, an Israeli Arab, and Shani, an Israeli Jew, and it relies on non-professional actors (who spent ten months preparing for the film) and no scripted dialogue. In fact, this low-budget film contains many scenes where the actors don't know what is about to happen and must react spontaneously. And the actors succeed in every scene in granting their characters an authenticity (if not emotional depth) that avoids the usual tinge of artifice.

The film is shot in a quasi-documentary style on the streets of Ajami, a neighborhood in Jaffa, which is the majority Arab port city that has now become part of Tel Aviv. Modern Jaffa has a heterogeneous population of Jews, Christians, and Muslims, and parts of its Old City have been renovated, turning Jaffa into a tourist attraction. But beyond the Old City and tourist sites, many neighborhoods of Jaffa remain poor and underdeveloped.

Ajami divides the narrative into chapters of interrelated stories. It richly evokes the texture of everyday life in this volatile, violent neighborhood. In Ajami, the noisy, littered night streets are filled with idle young men hanging out. These are streets where the Israeli police are viewed as the enemy and where neighborhood inhabitants protect drug dealers from arrest.

In some ways *Ajami* resembles the inner city of American films like *Boyz 'N The Hood*, *Clockers*, or *Precious*, though with more intact families and less self-destructive behavior on the part of its characters. They inhabit a world where the political environment and ethnic conflict is a much more direct and powerful variable in their lives, and where seemingly intractable ethnic conflict threatens deadly violence at any moment. Discord arises from the problems of daily life in a community where many are in the process of either rapidly moving or failing to move from traditional values to modern ones.

Among the film's major characters are Omar (Shahir Kabaha), a hulking, sweet-natured Muslim, who has become embroiled in a violent familial vendetta with a group of Bedouins and who is involved in a futile love affair with the daughter of his Christian boss. There's also Benji (played by Copti himself): a bearded, lovable, and laid-back young man who has a Jewish girlfriend—a fact that rankles a friend who feels that Benji is deserting his origins. And then there is the Jewish cop Dando (Eran Naim), who is devoted to his family and searching for his younger brother—a soldier who disappeared two years before. These three, along with the film's other characters, collide with each other in combustible ways. While the misunderstandings, honor killings, and vendettas are tragic almost beyond comprehension, the filmmakers help capture that Israel's central conflict, between Arab Palestinians and Jewish Israelis, is by no means the only source of daily heartbreak.

The conflicts between Bedouins and Israeli Arabs, between Arab Muslims and Christians, are featured almost as prominently here as the violence between Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs—and Palestinians and Israelis. Revenge and sheer cultural misunderstanding are as often the immediate cause of bloodshed as is the long-standing loathing due to the historical legacy of expulsion and territorial occupation. The directors have taken pains to show how abrupt linguistic shifts heighten the sense of sheer difficulty people in the streets experience in getting along across the cultural divides. English speaking audiences will follow the dialogue through subtitles that translate the shifting uses of Hebrew and Arabic, but audiences in Israel will far more easily catch the origins of miscommunication in the heat of anger.

Ajami is a bleak film that refuses to offer hope or moments of redemption, and almost all the characters are guilty of actions that are far from admirable. But it's not a nihilistic one. Co-director Yaron Shani, has stated: "People live in bubbles unaware of each other. Each side has its narrative, each side has its dreams and sees the other as threatening those dreams. But if you enter the other's bubble, you see his dreams, his inner world and his values. Our idea was to make the audience experience what it meant to be the other."

Ajami does just that. It makes no judgments and takes no sides. And it also offers no answers to the roiling, seemingly insoluble conflicts between Arabs and Jews and Muslims and Christians. However, the film implicitly conveys, that whatever divisions exists, that all these groups are linked by a common humanity—a deep commitment to family and a yearning for something better in their lives. That fact may resolve nothing, and it's a thin reed on which to build a lasting peace. But if little else, it's a starting point towards a conversation.

William Kornblum, a member of the *Dissent* Editorial Board, is a professor in the Doctoral Sociology Program, The Graduate Center, CUNY. **Leonard Quart** is professor emeritus of Cinema Studies at the **College of Staten Island** and the CUNY Graduate Center, Contributing Editor of *Cineaste*, and co-author *American Film and Society Since 1945*(Praeger).

Freehold Township school board candidates

April 12, 2010

THE STAKES: Three three-year terms. A \$68.2 million budget has been proposed for 2010-11.

Voters will be asked on April 20 to support a tax levy of \$56,230,983 — up 1.3 percent — to help fund the budget. The tax rate for 2010-11 is 89.4 cents per \$100 of assessed value, up 2.6 cents. The owner of an average home in Freehold Township, assessed at \$400,347, would pay \$3,579.10 for the year, an increase of \$104.09.

THE CANDIDATES: Vincent Bruno: 65; Friar Lane; married with three grown children; retired regional vehicle maintenance manager for Roadway Express and former psychology professor at the College of Staten Island; seeking first term.

Stephen Buffett: 58; Heritage Drive; married with two grown children; senior technical director for AT&T; seeking eighth term.

Daniel DiBlasio: 50; Woodstock Place; married with two children in the district and one in high school; accountant; seeking second term.

Stephanie Samuels Eng: 46; Princeton Oval; married with two children in the district; psychotherapist; seeking first term.

Gerry Gorman: 58; Sherwood Drive; married with one grown child; consultant company owner, manufacturer in residence for New York's Industrial and Technology Assistance Corporation, and entrepreneur in residence for the New York State

Energy Research and Development Authority; seeking first term.

Danny Neron: 39; Coachman Drive South; married with two children in the district and a 2-year-old; senior regional manager for The Noerr Programs; seeking first term.

Bonnie Paasch: 38; Ely-Harmony Road; one child in the district and a second in high school; dental hygienist; seeking first term.

Mindy Wille: 55; Wilson Avenue; married with three grown children; homemaker; seeking fifth term.

CINEMA: 'FILM SPRAY' ENTRA IN CARCERE E IN COMUNITA' DI RECUPERO

(AGI) - Firenze, 13 apr. - Il cinema indipendente italiano sbarca in luoghi non deputati al cinema: dalle carceri alle comunita' di recupero, dalle chiese sconsacrate alle scuole, dalle biblioteche alle universita' americane. E' la seconda edizione di Film Spray, la rassegna di cinema italiano indipendente che si svolgera' dal 15 al 17 aprile a Firenze nella chiesa di San Jacopo, nella biblioteca di San Giovannino e negli istituti penitenziari di Sollicciano, Rebibbia e Santa Maria Maggiore, ma anche presso la comunita' di recupero "Il Forteto" a Dicomano in provincia di Firenze. In contemporanea a Montecatini Terme al CineClub Fedic e a Tuscania presso la scuola Lorenzo dei Medici. Negli Stati Uniti, nelle stesse date, la rassegna sara' nelle universita' Marist University, **College of Staten Island**, Texas Christian University e Queen's College. La rassegna Film Spray e' organizzata dall'Istituto Lorenzo de' Medici di Firenze, diretto da Fabrizio Guarducci (gia' ideatore del premio "Segno d'argento" che negli anni '80 porto' a Firenze Robert de Niro), con il patrocinio del Quartiere 1 del Comune di Firenze, della Cassa di risparmio di Firenze, Rai Trade, Banca Ifigest, Cinecitta' Luce, Sintagma e Eduitalia. "Questa iniziativa - ha detto Fabrizio Guarducci, direttore dell'Istituto Lorenzo de' Medici e ideatore della rassegna - si ricollega al movimento pacifista dell'Empowerment, nato per sviluppare vie alternative per un'economia parallela ed auto-organizzata dai settori emarginati della nostra societa' basata sulla responsabilizzazione individuale, sulla capacita' attiva di ciascun individuo e sulla partecipazione dando a ciascuno ampie possibilita' di realizzare il proprio potenziale". La rassegna prevede 6 film in concorso, tutti in lingua originale e sottotitolati in inglese, scelti tra le pellicole escluse dal circuito distributivo tradizionale in base al loro valore artistico-culturale e al loro impegno sociale. I titoli selezionati concorreranno al premio "Rai Trade" che patrocinera' la distribuzione del vincitore decretato dalla somma dei voti del pubblico e dei detenuti in carcere. Ecco i titoli dei film in concorso: Butterfly Zone di Luciano Capponi, L'Uomo Fiammifero di Marco Chiarini, Mar Nero di Federico Bondi, L'Uomo del grano di Giancarlo Baudena, Onde di Francesco Fei e La velocita' della luce di Andrea Papini. Tra le novita' di quest'anno la sezione (fuori concorso) che rende omaggio ai registi "italo americani" con tre film: La Vela Strappata un film di Joseph Greco; Little Kings di Bongiorno Prods e True Love di Nancy Savoca. (AGI) Sep

2 new planets discovered with CSI's robotic telescope

By Diane Lore

April 15, 2010, 10:20AM



[View full size](#)

Astronomy students and faculty at the [College of Staten Island](#) are being credited for discovering two new minor planets in the galaxy. PHOTO COURTESY OF COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND

STATEN ISLAND, NY – WILLOWBROOK — It's all in the stars for astronomy students and faculty at the [College of Staten Island \(CSI\)](#), who are being credited for discovering two new minor planets in the galaxy.

Astronomy **Professor Irving Robbins** was given credit by the International Astronomical Union, the world's governing body in astronomy, for research leading to the discovery.

And the discovery is being hailed as a major coup for [CSI](#), which beat out other major observatories across the country.

Robbins now has the honor of naming the planets. Currently, they bear temporary numeric names, but Professor Robbins has in mind names with a more personal significance. He may decide, for example, to name a planet "Staten Island," or after his children, Isen, Davy, and Zeav.

In the classroom, Robbins and his students have been collecting data and measuring asteroids. Their calculations will be used by astronomers worldwide to identify and track what they call "potentially-hazardous asteroids" that could fall to Earth. Scientists believe there is a possibility of Earth being hit by one of these bodies within the next 100 years, and this threat keeps astronomers looking to the stars for clues.

With the robotic telescope that's located in the [CSI](#) Observatory, students and researchers can compete with astronomers from around the world and make their own discoveries. Students and faculty also have access to materials and data from robotic telescopes located elsewhere.

[CSI's](#) Astrophysical Observatory, on the Willowbrook campus, is open to students, as well as Staten Island residents with an interest in astronomy. Public viewings at the observatory are scheduled throughout the year, when weather conditions allow. Information about the observatory, and its programs and hours, is available on the [CSI](#) Web site, www.csi.cuny.edu.

CULTURA - Literatura. 22/04/2010

Más de un centenar de escritores reunidos en el Congreso Internacional de Literatura
Por Comunicado de prensa

Con la participación de más de un centenar de escritores de diferentes partes del mundo este día se inauguró el Congreso Internacional de Literatura Postrimerías que organiza el Ayuntamiento de Mérida a través de la Dirección de Cultura.

El alcalde César Bojórquez Zapata, la presidenta del DIF Municipal Susana Bustillos de Bojórquez, así como el director de Cultura Roger Metri Duarte y la escritora Sara Poot Herrera –coordinadora del congreso- presidieron la inauguración del encuentro en el Centro Cultural de Mérida “Olimpo”.

En su mensaje, el primer edil dio la bienvenida a los visitantes a quienes refrendó que “Mérida es reflejo cálido de la emérita española y la mestiza Iccanizihó, la cuna de músicos, poetas escritores, intelectuales y políticos, aquí en este centro histórico, por estas calles caminó Andrés Quintana Roo, Manuel Cepeda Peraza, fue en esta ciudad donde se inspiró Alberto Guty Cárdenas y nuestro querido Armando Manzanero”.

El director de Cultura Roger Metri explicó que uno de los objetivos de la reunión es “analizar en un marco histórico literario lo que son las obras literarias determinado momento y determinada historia, esto acompañado de conferencias magistrales a cargo de catedráticos de universidades más importantes de todo el mundo”.

Serán tres días de ponencias con especialistas de Universidades como la de Oklahoma, del Claustro de Sor Juana, de California Santa Bárbara, del **College of Staten Island-City** University of New York, así como la Universidad Autónoma de la Ciudad de México, de la Metropolitana-Iztapalapa, entre las que destacan

Parte importante del programa serán las acciones que este viernes 23 de abril se dedicarán con motivo del Día Internacional del Libro y que incluye la Feria de actividades en “La68 Casa de Cultura Elena Poniatowska” y que concluirán en el Museo de la Ciudad con la Presentación del Dossier de Poesía Mexicana con todos los poetas del país incluyendo los de Estados Unidos. El documento se presenta mañana viernes a las 20:30 horas en el Museo de la Ciudad.

Como parte del congreso también se brindará Homenajes a distintas personalidades en la literatura como Seymour Menton, Margon Glantz, ambos tendrán su momento especial por separado como parte del programa, y se hará la entrega de los reconocimientos correspondientes el próximo sábado 24 en el Centro Cultural Olimpo.

Metri Duarte comentó también que otra actividad del congreso serán las degustaciones de dulces y un andamiaje de escritores de talla internacional que hablarán de temas de su interés y que posteriormente se integrarán a las memorias del encuentro.

En el marco de la reunión se hará la presentación de las Memorias del Congreso del 2009 cuyo tema principal fue la bebida y literatura, el cual se realizó como parte del Festival de la Ciudad 2009.

Las actividades del congreso continúan este viernes en la Casa de Cultura de Elena Poniatowska a partir de las 8:15 horas y hasta las 21:30 horas. Y el sábado en el Olimpo de 8:30 a 14 horas.



Más de un centenar de escritores reunidos en el Congreso Internacional de Literatura Postrimerías

Publicado el 2010-04-23

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Fuente: Comunicación Social / Alicia Triay

CUNY professor braves quake-ravaged China for powerful movie on survival and policy

Clem Richardson

Friday, April 23rd 2010, 4:00 AM



Fevelo for NewsMr. Ming Xia made a documentary called "China's Unnatural Disaster: The Tears of Sichuan Province." He poses at the **College of Staten Island** where he is a professor.

In a lot of ways **Ming Xia** is co-producer of an award-winning home movie. A great movie about a horrific event.

The film, "**China's** Unnatural Disaster: The Tears of **Sichuan Province**" was an **Academy Award**-nominated documentary and **Emmy winner** in 2009.

Xia, a political science professor at the **CUNY College of Staten Island**, grew up in Sichuan Province, a rural area in south central China.

On May 12, 2008, an earthquake registering 8 on the Richter scale - one of the most powerful in recent years - ravaged Sichuan, killing at least 63,000 people.

Among the dead were 10,000 children, many of them killed when the poorly constructed school buildings they were in collapsed around them.

A week later Xia and **Hunter College**Prof. **Peter Kwong** accompanied directors **Jon Alpert** and **Matthew O'Neill**, and co-producer **Michelle Mi** to Sichuan to film the recovery effort.

Xia, 45, had traveled through Western Sichuan a year earlier while on vacation with his daughter, Julia.

Kwong contacted him about the film project

when he saw vacation pictures of the region Xia uploaded onto his Web site (<http://drmingxia.org>) three days after the earthquake.

Xia, who lives on [Staten Island](#) with his wife, Leslie, and daughter, turned out to be the group's secret weapon.

After filming in large urban centers where the government kept them out of rescue locations, Xia urged the filmmakers to travel into the countryside where the government had not been.

"I saw how the Chinese government handled all this," he said.

"On the one hand, they wanted to glorify state power, and the power of the party and the army. On the other hand, they did not want the Chinese people to be able to help themselves. They wanted to use this opportunity to deepen the people's dependence on the government. Something was going on."

Xia had many contacts in the Chinese government and the academic community. He helped [Shanghai](#) government officials get training in the [U.S.](#) and advised the Chinese Olympic committee on how

Chinese organized crime could infiltrate the 2008 Olympic Games in [Beijing](#) and how to thwart it.

But several events in 2008 - including a Chinese government crackdown in [Tibet](#) - changed his political stance.

"They are afraid that anyone who stands up will embolden the quiet majority of Chinese," said Xia, who has since joined a local group working to bring democratic rule to China.

Two things made him invaluable to the film.

One was his command of English, which he mastered in 1986 while teaching in the [Department of International Politics](#) at China's [Fudan University](#) by getting up at 6:30 a.m. to listen to the [Voice of America](#) radio broadcast.

His other strength was his equal command of the local dialect. For people who lost kith and kin in the rubble, having Xia speak to them was like a [New York City](#) native overhearing a [Brooklyn](#) accent in [Georgia](#).

Which is how the filmmakers learned that many of the soldiers touted as rescuers actually bypassed civilians and rushed to

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2 feted at Borough Hall as friends to immigrants

By Doug Auer

April 24, 2010, 7:45AM



Staten Island Advance/Irving Silverstein

Gonzalo Mercado, executive director of El Centro del Immigrante, left, chats with honorees Aimee Mejia, center, instructor for El Centro, and Betsy Dubovsky, executive director of the Staten Island Foundation, during a ceremony to observe Immigrant Heritage Week at Borough Hall.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- In observance of Immigrant Heritage Week, two women were honored yesterday at a Borough Hall ceremony for the work they have done helping Staten Island's immigrant community.

Betsy Dubovsky, executive director of the Staten Island Foundation, received the John W. Lavelle Memorial Award for Immigrant Advocacy.

Following a 2005 meeting with Guillermo Linares, the city's Commissioner of Immigrant Affairs, the foundation helped create an immigrant service provider network, which meets quarterly and exchanges information on the borough's booming immigrant population.

"We want to identify the needs so we can fund programs to expand services, because the need is great," said Mrs. Dubovsky.

Aimee Mejia, director and instructor of English and GED studies at El Centro del Immigrante in Port Richmond, received the Immigrant Services Award.

Mrs. Mejia, 60, of Eltingville, also created the borough's first Latino Folkloric Dance Troupe and is chief GED examiner for the **College of Staten Island**.

"You're singling me out for what I love doing the most," said the educator of 38 years who immigrated to the United States at the age of 10 from Peru. "I am living the American dream and want to give others that opportunity."

Also, a proclamation from Borough President James Molinaro declaring April 18 to 24 "Immigrant Heritage Week" was given to Gonzalo Mercado, executive director of El Centro and coordinator of the Staten Island Immigrants Council.

"This celebrates the contributions of immigrants and friends of immigrants," he said.

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Island grows as exodus slows

By Deborah E. Young

April 25, 2010, 8:15AM



Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel

Motivated by a good deal on a new home, Bernardo Pace and his 17-year-old daughter, Gina, moved to West Brighton from Brooklyn in November.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Staten Island population growth is being fueled by the return of an old trend: The steady exodus to New Jersey and Pennsylvania has slowed significantly and the borough has again become a prime destination for newcomers from Brooklyn and other nearby locales seeking better schools and more space for a bargain price.

With the U.S. Census estimating 491,730 residents in 2009 and a substantial increase expected when the 2010 count is complete, new Staten Islanders did not hail primarily from foreign countries, as has been the case for most of the last decade.

In fact, more people arrived from nearby to settle in, according to data released in the annual population estimate by the agency.

The analysis of IRS residency figures, birth and death records, and other official data showed people settled here in 2009 from other parts of the country in roughly equal numbers as they did from other parts of the world -- even as population growth in other parts of New York City remained fueled almost exclusively by immigration.

So, did the down economy once again turn Staten Island into a destination for residents from other boroughs, who come seeking space without a sky-high price tag? Or did the sagging real estate market convince Islanders to delay plans to sell their homes and uproot?

"This is certainly a reversal from the last few years, when you were looking at more foreign-born coming in and a net-out migration of residents to New Jersey," said Jonathan Peters, a professor and research fellow at the **College of Staten Island**, who tracks the borough's population. "Maybe it's been a lower price area in the city, maybe some of the economic pressures are forcing other people to look; it could be people moving

back with their parents, not willing to sell their house."

He said this year's data resemble the Island of old, when newcomers were primarily former Brooklynites who laid down roots and stayed.

After the 1964 completion of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, new Staten Islanders arrived in droves: The 1960 census put the population at just under 222,000. Twenty years later, the number had increased by nearly 60 percent. By 2009, the number of residents had more than doubled.

Bernardo Pace might be the face of the newest Staten Islanders.

The former resident of Park Slope, Brooklyn, looked for a home to buy in that borough before realizing anything he could afford there "was depressing," and Staten Island presented a much more economically sensible option, especially in light of the recession.

In November, he purchased a two-story home on a tree-lined West Brighton street for less than \$500,000 and lives there with his 17-year-old daughter, Gina. Every day he takes a peaceful, 12-minute bike ride to the ferry, then hops off and pedals a few blocks to the downtown CUNY campus, where he is a professor of English.

"I thought it made more sense to start looking out here, and I could get more for my money -- I went on-line and it was true," said Pace, whose daughter attends Eden II, and used to be one of many students who commute to the school from other boroughs to take advantage of its unique autism program.

Although Pace knew Staten Island as a board member of the school, he said it was only in passing, and he hadn't seriously considered moving here until considering the financial upside.

"It's great; it has been more successful in every way than I hoped for," said Pace, whose older daughter, a college senior, has also grown to love the borough during her visits home from school.

With his warm neighbors and tranquil commute, the easy stroll to Forest Avenue businesses and the blissful lack of parking pressure, Pace said he cannot imagine ever leaving a place which already feels like home.

But many Brooklyn transplants who arrived here in earlier influxes, had begun to view the Island more like a lily pad, living here for a while before jumping off to new locations.

Census figures show a total of 4,500 residents packed up and left Staten Island between 2000 and 2008, before the exodus stopped last year -- many of them, according to Peters, settling in "the 'M' towns in Monmouth County, New Jersey: Middletown, Manalapan, Marlboro and Matawan."

It was immigration that drove 10.8 percent growth here during the same nine-year period: While births accounted for many of the 48,000 new residents during that nine-year period, nearly 13,000 more people arrived here from other countries.

A more detailed picture of residency shifts will emerge after the 2010 Census forms are returned and an official tally is obtained.

Even so, people whose job it is to watch who is moving in and who is moving out have seen evidence that indeed the Island last year held on to its residents, and lured new ones from other parts of the city.

We've always assumed that a good part of our market is from Brooklyn," said Sandy Krueger, the CEO of the Staten Island Board of Realtors. "That push to come into Staten Island from the other communities is strong."

In the two years the organization has tracked such data, there was an increase of home sales to non-Islanders -- going from 23 percent of total sales in 2008 to last year's 29 percent. "I think the recession and the busting of the housing bubble had a bigger impact on people leaving the Island," Krueger said. "The New Jersey market closed over the years with the recession."

Staten Island, long known as the most affordable borough, last year became a bigger draw for people unable to afford the sky-high costs of other areas. And suddenly putting in a little extra commuting time seemed like an acceptable trade-off for a more reasonable cost of living, say real estate agents.

For Jessica Taccetta, an associate broker at Clove Lake Realty, the surprise last year was the rising interest in rentals.

"There was a tremendous call for rentals. ... A lot of people from off Staten Island; they came from everywhere," she said.

Even people with no Staten Island ties decided to give the borough a try when they looked at the costs and did the math, said Norma Sue Wolfe of Gateway Realty, telling the story of a Queens couple who did an Internet search for affordable neighborhoods, then hopped the ferry, explored Clifton and now have an offer to buy a house there.

"Our houses and apartments were less expensive to begin with and are a lot less expensive with the recession," she said.

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April 25, 2010

Outdoor Notes

Sturgeon swim through time - Museum of the Hudson Highlands, 25 Boulevard, 25 Boulevard, Cornwall. Open every Friday through Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. Interactive exhibit explores the changes the Hudson's sturgeon have experienced in the past 400 years. Members free; nonmembers \$3. 845-534-5506, Ext. 204. www.naturemuseum.org

Hudson Valley 40th Anniversary Earth Day Celebration - Dutchess County Fairgrounds, 6550 Spring Brook Ave., Rhinebeck. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 25. Hands-on, interactive, kid and family-friendly activities, educational programs, music, dancing, baby animals, farmers market, food demos and tastings, films, tree planting, green companies, bike clinic, e-waste recycling and more. \$5 for adults; children under 12 and seniors over 65 are free. 845-876-6330. www.dutchessfair.com

Biodiversity public forum - Mohonk Mountain House, 1000 Mountain Rest Road, New Paltz. 3-6 p.m. April 25, "Planning For Biodiversity: What Have We Got to Lose?" a public forum for developers, landowners, planners and conservationists. Sponsored by Mohonk Consultations Inc., New York State Department of Environmental Conservation/Hudson River Estuary Program and Cornell University partnership. Reservations required. Donation \$10; \$5 for seniors and students. 845-256-2726 or e-mail mohonkconsultations@hvi.net

Butterfly program - Stanford Free Library, 14 Creamery Road, Stanfordville. 2:30 p.m. April 25. Program on butterflies and moths with Barry Haydasz. Free. 845-868-1341.

Earth Day celebration - Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center, 79 Farmstead Lane, Fishkill. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 25. Visit the Verplanck Garden Club booth at the Stony Kill Farm Environmental Education Center. Crafts for kids and free tree seedlings.

Learn about Mohonk's historic landscape, people - Mohonk Preserve, 3197 Route 44/55, Gardiner. 10 a.m. to noon April 25. An easy two-mile guided walk to the last remaining cabin of the historic Trapps Mountain hamlet. Children 12 and up are welcome with an adult. Members and children 12 and under are free; nonmembers \$10. Reservations are required; call 845-255-0919 for reservations and meeting location. www.mohonkpreserve.org

Paddle the Great Swamp - Great Swamp, Pawling. April 25. Paddle with the mid-Hudson chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club in a secluded undeveloped area of more than 6,000 acres. Beginning paddlers welcome. Bring binoculars, food and water. Personal flotation devices required. Rentals nearby: Contact Mac Rand of Great Blue Outfitters at 845-319-6172 or info@GreatBlueOutfitters.com. Call leader Russ Faller at 845-297-5126 before 9:30 p.m. or russoutdoors@yahoo.com or visit www.midhudsonadk.org

Presentation on rock climbing - Mohonk Preserve, 3197 Route 44/55, Gardiner. 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. April 25, May 1-2. No reservations required. Meet at Trapps Bridge. Program includes a gentle stroll. Nonmembers \$10. Children 12 and under are free. Children must always be accompanied by an adult. Call 845-255-0919. www.mohonkpreserve.org

Singles and Sociables hike to the top of the Gunks - Mohonk Preserve, 3197 Route 44/55, Gardiner. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 25. A moderate-to-strenuous eight-mile hike for adults. No reservations required. Meet at the Mohonk Preserve Visitor Center. New hikers are strongly encouraged to contact leader John Kenney at 845-436-6046 prior to the hike for information. Nonmembers \$10.

www.mohonkpreserve.org

Sketch and photograph Lake Awosting on hike - Minnewaska State Park Preserve, Route 44/55, New Paltz. April 25. Moderately paced hike from Minnewaska to Lake Awosting with the mid-Hudson chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club. Group will stop at scenic points to learn and practice basic techniques. Bring camera or sketchpad with colored pencils or crayons. For details, contact leader Kathy Skura at 914-779-0936 or Barry Skura bskura@optonline.net or visit www.midhudsonadk.org

Hike Wittenberg and Cornell mountains - Wittenberg and Cornell Mountains, Catskills. April 26. A strenuous 9.6-mile hike with the Rip Van Winkle Hikers of 3,780-foot Wittenberg and 3,860-foot Cornell mountains. Call 845-246-8074. <http://newyorkheritage.com/rvw>

Waterman Bird Club to meet - Freedom Plains Presbyterian Church, Route 55 at Stringham Road, LaGrangeville. 7:30 p.m. April 26. The Waterman Bird Club's monthly program will feature a talk, "Finding and Identifying Shorebirds in New York State," by Shai Mitra. Mitra is an assistant professor of biology at the [College of Staten Island](http://www.collegeofstatenys.edu), with research interests in avian ecology, evolution and conservation. www.watermanbirdclub.org

Peacocks on parade - Forsyth Nature Center, Lucas Avenue, Kingston. 3:30 p.m. April 27. Watch and learn about their behavior and lifestyles. 845-331-1682 ext. 7339.

Trek to seek lichens - Minnewaska State Park Preserve, Route 44/55, New Paltz. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. April 27. Guided hike to seek lichens. Bring hand lens if you have one. Pre-registration required. Parking is \$6 per car; program is free. Call 845-255-0752.

Bob Babb Memorial walk at Shaupeneak Ridge - Shaupeneak Ridge, Poppletown Road, Esopus. 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. April 28. A moderate-to-strenuous, five-mile hike for adults of all ages and levels of ability. No reservations required. Meet at Route 299/9W Park and Ride. Free. Call 845-255-0919. www.mohonkpreserve.org

Seek birds at Thompson's Pond Preserve - Thompson's Pond Preserve, Lake Road off Route 82, Pine Plains. 8:30 a.m. April 28, A Waterman Bird Club field trip. Hot dog roast will follow; bring your own. Contact Barbara at 845-677-9025. www.watermanbirdclub.org

Talk on fracking - Diana's Restaurant & Catering, 1015 Little Britain Road, New Windsor. 7 p.m. April 28. Hudson Valley Science Cafe talk by Stephen Penningroth, executive director, Community Science Institute, Ithaca. Penning-roth will discuss risks to New York water supplies from natural gas fracking. Admission \$3, including coffee or tea. No orders are taken during the presentation (7-7:30 p.m.). www.cafescientifique.org/hudsonvalley.htm or see <http://www.DIANASNY.com> for menus and map.

Climate change lecture - Auditorium, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, 2801 Sharon Turnpike, Millbrook. 7-8:30 p.m. April 29, Thomas E. Lovejoy will explore global management of the carbon cycle and the impact of climate change on the natural world. 845-677-7600, Ext. 121. www.caryinstitute.org.

Kayaking program - East Fishkill Community Library, 348 Route 376, Hopewell Junction. 6:30 p.m. April 29, Presented by the Mid-Hudson Adirondack Mountain Club. Learn how to choose a kayak, how to get started, where to paddle and how to link up with other paddlers. Free. Registration required. Register online at www.eastfishkilllibrary.org or call 845-221-9943, Ext. 224.

Arboretum open house - Bertelsmann Campus Center, Bard College, Route 9G, Annandale. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 30, Learn about Bard's landscape and arboretum program and pick up free tree information and brochures, register for upcoming classes, free tree seeds, and purchase locally made tree T-shirts and bags. Tree planting ceremony on Kline Lawn at 2 p.m. Rain or shine. 845-758-6822, Ext. 7179.

Kingston Arbor Day celebration and training - Academy Green Park, Broadway near Clinton Avenue, Kingston. 1 p.m. April 30. Event will feature variety of techniques used by certified arborists. A tree will also be planted demonstrating proper planting techniques. 845-331-1682, Ext. 7339.
www.forsythnaturecenter.org

Trees for Tribes Arbor Day event - New York State DEC Region III Headquarters, 21 South Putt Corners Road, New Paltz. 9 a.m. April 30, Volunteer bareroot-seedling potting event in celebration of Arbor Day. Volunteers will help pot seedlings for the Trees for Tribes initiative, a program that offers free native plants to landowners who qualify for stream buffer restoration projects. Contact Jess Kindred at jckindre@gw.dec.state.ny.us and 845-256-3827 or Kevin Grieser at 845-256-3145 or kagriese@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Birding at Hudson Highlands Nature Museum - Hudson Highlands Nature Museum, Outdoor Discovery Center, 100 Muser Drive, Cornwall. 8:30 a.m. May 1. Birding enthusiasts Sharon and David Baker will teach the basics. David Baker will share some of his birding photography in a short presentation. Seek birds at the Outdoor Discovery Center in search of some of the more than 50 species. Pre-registration is required for one or all of the series. Bring binoculars. Recommended for adults and children 12 and up. \$5 or \$3 for members. For registration and information, call 845-534-5506, Ext. 204, or visit www.hhnaturemuseum.org

Floodplain and stormwater conference - Overlook Lodge, Belleayre Mountain, Big Indian. 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. May 1. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, a partner of the Ashokan Watershed Management Program, will host a "Floodplain and Stormwater Management for Towns and Landowners." Registration required. \$15. Visit www.ashokanstreams.org

Learn about the science behind forecasting with folklore - Hudson Highlands Nature Museum, Outdoor Discovery Center, 100 Muser Drive, Cornwall. 10 a.m. May 1. Participants will learn the truths and myths behind weather prediction. Long before Doppler radar, weather was predicated by observing patterns in nature and animal habits. \$5 or \$3 for museum members. Recommended for adults and children 5 and older. Call 845-534-5506, Ext 204. www.hhnaturemuseum.org

Moderate hike in Putnam County - Fahnestock's Woods and Meadows, Putnam County. May 1. A moderate seven-mile hike with the mid-Hudson chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club along a stream and past several ponds. Bring water and lunch. Contact leader Georgette Weir at geweir@optonline.net or 845-462-0142. www.midhudsonadk.org

Paddle Wappinger Creek - Wappinger Creek, Pleasant Valley to Green Vale Park, Poughkeepsie. 10 a.m. May 1. An easy seven-mile whitewater paddle trip for experienced paddlers with the mid-Hudson chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club. Bring extra clothes in dry bag or wet/drysuit, lunch, boat, water and gear. Personal flotation devices required. Kayak rentals available from EMS at 845-463-3207. Heavy or persistent rain cancels; call leader Russ Faller with questions at 845-297-5126 before 9:30 p.m. or e-mail russoutdoors@yahoo.com or visit www.midhudsonadk.org

Singles and Sociables hike at Mohonk Loop - Mohonk Preserve, 3197 Route 44/55, Gardiner. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. May 1. A moderate eight-mile hike for adults. No reservations required. Meet at the Mohonk Preserve Visitor Center. New hikers are strongly encouraged to contact leader Tonda Highley at 845-255-9933 before the hike for details. Nonmembers \$10. 845-255-0919.
www.mohonkpreserve.org

Spring bike check and ride at Mohonk - Mohonk Preserve, 3197 Route 44/55, Gardiner. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 1. Have your bike checked by professionals, then explore the preserve on two wheels as volunteers lead you through field and forest. There is a limit of one bike per person. Helmets are required. Bring lunch and water. Children 8 and up are welcome with an adult. Easy to moderate ride options will be available. Nonmembers \$10; members and children 12 and under free. Reservations are required. Call 845-255-0919 for reservations and meeting site. www.mohonkpreserve.org

Volunteers needed for Arbor Day tree planting - Dutchess County Fairgrounds, 6550 Spring Brook

Avenue, Rhinebeck. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. May 1. Help is needed to plant about 30 trees to celebrate Arbor Day and the greening of Rhinebeck. No experience is necessary; bring a shovel if you can and be ready to pitch in. Sponsored by the Rhinebeck Village Tree Commission. Park at the Fairgrounds lot on Mulberry Street. 845-876-7462.

Hike Schaghticoke Mountain - Schaghticoke Mountain, Appalachian Trail, border of N.Y. and Conn. 9:15 a.m. May 2, Moderate 5.5-mile hike including elevation gain at moderate pace along Appalachian Trail at New York-Connecticut border with the mid-Hudson chapter of the Adirondack Mountain Club. Meet at Starr 22 Diner at intersection of NY 22 and DC21 to caravan to end point on East Mountain Road and carpool to trailhead at Schaghtigoke Road. Call leader Ollie Simpson at 7:15 morning of hike with weather questions at 845-298-8379. E-mail olliesimpson2005@yahoo.com or visit www.midhudsonadk.org

Singles and Sociables hike to Black Rock Forest - Black Rock Forest Preserve, Cornwall. May 2, A strenuous 10-mile hike for adults. No reservations are required. New hikers are strongly encouraged to call leader Gary Cursi at 845-534-2886 for meeting place and fee. www.mohonkpreserve.org



Melba Moore will sing to benefit PS 18 students

By Staten Island Advance

April 25, 2010, 6:13AM

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Pamela Medley, PTA president at PS 18, asked Melba Moore to come sing for the benefit of the students at the West Brighton school, and Ms. Moore said, Yes!

The May 7 concert at 7 p.m. will include Elaine Kennerly from the SI Conservatory of Music and choirs from local churches, including Mount Sinai United Christian, Tompkinsville; St. Philips Baptist, Port Richmond; First Central Baptist Church, Stapleton; Fellowship Baptist Church, Mariners Harbor; and Greater Promise from Linden, N.J.

Dinner prepared by Chef Jeff Bullard, the head Chef at **College of Staten Island** and former owner of Catfish Walking Restaurant in Stapleton, will be available for \$10. The fundraiser will help defray the costs of the fifth grade, kindergarten and prekindergarten graduations. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by calling 718-556-5691.

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Population boom clogs Staten Island roads

By Maura Yates

April 26, 2010, 9:00AM



Staten Island Advance/Hilton Flores

In Dongan Hills, near Reid Avenue, traffic backs up on Hylan Boulevard, one of the borough's most heavily traveled roadways.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. --- A snapshot of Staten Island's population growth found one noticeable downside: Many more cars are jamming borough roads.

As new residents arrive from Brooklyn and other boroughs in search of more space and a better price, those two- and three-car families aren't packing up like they have in recent years.

The numbers tell a story of roads already at their breaking point.

UP 10% in 10 YEARS

The past decade has seen over 10 percent more vehicles registered here -- moving in the opposite direction of the city as a whole, which has seen nearly 5 percent fewer vehicle registrations over that same period, according to DMV records.

The 491,730 residents who called the Island home in 2009 registered 263,571 vehicles here last year. That's more vehicles than were registered in Manhattan or the Bronx, and just about doubles residents-to-motor vehicle ratio of any borough.

Looking forward to 2030, imagine a population anywhere between 600,000 and 620,000. That's the guess of

Professor Jonathan Peters, an economist and transportation expert at the **College of Staten Island**. For argument's sake, figure the population grows 25 percent between now and then. Of those new residents, it's likely some 60 percent of them will be getting into cars, Peters said.

"Unless we do something in terms of transit, it's going to load onto the street in a proportional rate, meaning people are going to get up and drive. So the expectation is it's going to add to congestion rather significantly."

Outdated roads, roads to nowhere, and poor pavement conditions already plague the borough's 2,395 miles of roadway. "Certainly, as the vehicle population grows, it would add a burden on roads that seem only marginally able to keep up with traffic volumes as they exist today," said Robert Sinclair of AAA New York.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg created the Staten Island Transportation and Traffic Task Force to address the borough's traffic mess in 2006.

The panel's report spurred a number of improvements, including center lanes and left turn signals at problem intersections, "smart" traffic lights, an HOV and bus lane along the Staten Island Expressway and an expansion of park-and-ride lots.

But most officials here agree the task force has a lot more work to do -- and they'll need to meet more often to do it. The group met about every three months after it was formed, up until February 2008. After more than a year lapse, its last meeting was June 2009.

City Hall could also step in by fixing an area in which the Island has always been given short shrift: Public transportation. Residents in other boroughs with more transit services can always opt to take a train when the road network gets too clogged.

But on the Island, where buses are the only option, aside from the Staten Island Railway, "if the congestion gets worse, the cars slow down, but so do the buses," Peters said.

"Traffic is not good now. Transit is not good now. Are we making the right plans for the future?" he asked.

Peters believes the city's projections for population growth are too low to prepare for the crush of new residents that could call the Island home.

But, he says, if there's a will, and a budget to make it happen, there are opportunities to run limited-stop buses, for example, on Richmond Avenue, where the road is wide enough to give buses room to speed up.

The bottom line is, changes have to be made soon to prepare for the growth, before it's too late. "Use what you have," Peters said of tweaking existing infrastructure to speed travel times. "But we're also going to have to invest in some key improvements, because the capacity isn't going to be there."

Local author to present movies and magic

April 28, 2010

OLD BRIDGE — On Saturday, May 15 at 1:30 p.m., Matthew Solomon, author of “Disappearing Tricks: Silent Film, Houdini, and the New Magic of the Twentieth Century” will present a program on magic and beginnings of movie special effects at the Old Bridge Central Library.

Solomon, an associate professor in the Department of Media Culture at the **College of Staten Island, City University of New York** will show short films and discuss the golden age of both theatrical magic and silent film to reveal how professional magicians shaped the early history of cinema.

For more information, call 732-721-5600, ext. 5033 or visit www.oldbridgelibrary.org.

Published 20:39, April the 29th, 2010



"The Honeymooners" might disagree with linguists, but it wouldn't sound pretty. Photo: GETTY IMAGES

Wanted: Help with your dems, dese and dos

A London-based translation firm posted an ad on Craigslist looking to pay a freelancer \$210 a day to interpret "Brooklynese," raising the question: What exactly is Brooklynese?

Kings County may have its share of residents who walk their "dawgs" while drinking "cawfee." Linguists, however, believe no such regional accent exists: New Yawkers are in all five boroughs.

"We don't think there is a Brooklyn accent. We think there is a New York accent that's used more heavily by certain people," said Kara Becker, a doctoral candidate in New York University's linguistics department. "It's not so much about where you're from. It's your social background."

For instance, an upper-class New Yorker, might drop her r's 5 percent of the time, while a working-class man might drop his 90 percent of the time, Becker explained. (Women tend to have less of an accent than men of the same social background, she noted.)

"The New York accent is doing well in some neighborhoods and not as well in others," said George Jochowitz, emeritus linguistics professor of the [College of Staten Island](#). Manhattan is faring worst, he said, mainly because of large numbers of transplants and higher-income residents.

College of Staten Island astronomy professor who discovered planetoids puts names up for sale

Clem Richardson

Friday, April 30th 2010, 4:00 AM



Fevelo for NewsIrving Robbins, who discovered two 'minor planets' this past fall, is an astronomy professor at the College of Staten Island.

Astronomy **Prof. Irving Robbins** is offering the astronomical bargain of the decade.

A sizable donation to the College of Staten Island's astronomy program could earn you the right to name not only the school's tiny observatory but also - not one but two - planetoids Robbins was recently credited with discovering.

"Could" is the operative word since Robbins is also considering naming the planetoids - 2009 VH24 and 2009 XNO7 - after his sons, Isen, Davy or Zeav, his girlfriend, Dana, or his ex-wife of 37 years, Freda.

"I found these things, so I get to name them," Robbins said. "Somebody wants to give some money toward a new observatory, we can talk."

Robbins, 69, has taught at CSI for 42 years and started the astrophysics program there.

It's a popular course, attracting about 800 students in the academic year despite the fact Robbins "toughened it up a bit lately by including more math."

As director of the college's Astrophysical Observatory, Robbins, his assistants and students have tracked not only the planetoids he will name but also many Potentially Hazardous Asteroids (PHA) and

Near Earth Objects (NEO) whose orbits may eventually cross the Earth's celestial path.

Robbins said the hunt is personal.

"I really believe that there is a good possibility that we're going to get hit" by an errant asteroid, Robbins said. "If an object comes near the Earth, the question is always if it will hit us."

In 1988, Robbins noted, when the [Harvard University](#)-based [Minor Planet Center](#) first began tracking threatening celestial objects, there were 25 known objects that came close to the Earth.

"Now there are over 2,000," he said. "Some of them get very close and are potentially hazardous. This is an important problem."

Great teachers make complicated things simple. Here is how Robbins explained his discoveries.

Using government grants, Robbins buys time at \$200 an hour to remotely control ground-based telescopes located in the [Arizona](#) mountains.

Using advanced software and digital cameras, Robbins positions the telescopes

on the part of space he is interested in and then snaps a series of pictures over a set interval.

"Say we get three pictures," he said. "Then we get the computer to put the pictures together and flash them, or make them blink.

"Stars don't move. Stars move because the Earth turns, but we're moving with the stars. But the asteroid is moving amongst the stars.

"So when we flash the images, or blink them, we see the asteroid [a tiny white dot among hundreds of white dots] jumping along."

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# ***Sports***



## Softball Sweeps Past Ramapo in NJAC Twinbill

**Little Falls, NJ (4/6/10)** - The Montclair State softball team took advantage of several miscues as the Red Hawks moved back over the .500 mark with a New Jersey Athletic Conference twinbill sweep of Ramapo College at the MSU Softball Stadium on Tuesday afternoon.

The Red Hawks improved to 10-8 overall, 2-2 in the conference while the Roadrunners fell to 10-8. Ramapo is now 1-3 in the NJAC.

Montclair State took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning of the opener. [Shannon Mozek](#) (Wayne, NJ / Wayne Valley) reached on an error to lead off the frame and moved around the diamond on a pair of ground outs before scoring on a base hit by [Kelly Nance](#) (Marlboro, NJ / Marlboro).

The Roadrunners would come back to take a 2-1 lead in the fourth. Katie Donnelly (North Haledon, NJ / Eastern Christian) and Amanda Kent (Sparta, NJ / Pope John XXIII) each singled to put runners on first and second. A ground ball out moved both runners up and both came into to score as Ashley Schirripa (Staten Island, NY / Fontbonne Hall Academy) ripped a single back through the middle.

MSU then tied the game in fourth as [Heather Bergman](#) (Berkeley Heights, NJ / Gov. Livingston) singled home [Leslie Gonzalez](#) (North Bergen, NJ / North Bergen) from second base. Gonzalez reached on a base hit with one out.

A second Ramapo miscue would lead to giving Montclair the lead in the fifth. Megan Durkin (West Orange, NJ / West Orange) reached on a one-out error and went to second on a groundout. Gonzalez then singled up the middle scoring Durkin as the Red Hawks led 3-2.

Ramapo would threaten in the top of the sixth as Schirripa's grounder to lead off the inning was mishandled. Deanna Russomanno (Cranford, NJ / Cranford) went in to pinch run however she was picked off. The Roadrunners would get a two-out single by Tiffany Fischer (Woodcliff Lake, NJ / Pascack Hills), however she was stranded.

Senior righthander [Elia Persico](#) (Marlton, NJ / Cherokee) picked up the victory as she evened her record at 5-5. Persico struck out two and walked one as she scattered seven hits. Deanna Giordano (Clifton, NJ / Clifton) took the loss as she fell to 4-4. The righthander gave up eight hits, struck out three and did not walk a batter while also allowing just one earned run.

Gonzalez and [Stephanie Szeliga](#) (So. Plainfield, NJ / So. Plainfield) had two hits apiece for Montclair State while Kent and Fischer were each 2-for-3 for Ramapo.

In the second game, Montclair State again led early scoring three times in the top of the first inning thanks in part to two Ramapo errors. Mozek led off with a single and came around to score as Tori Ferrante's (Edison, NJ / JP Stevens) sacrifice attempt was thrown away. Ferrante scored on the second miscue of the inning and Kelli O'Brien (Edison, NJ / Edison) delivered an RBI single as the Red Hawks led 3-0.

Ramapo would battle back with three runs in the bottom of the fourth. After putting the first two runners on, on a pair of fielder's choices left the Roadrunners with first and second and two outs. Fischer came through with an RBI single and Lisa Orlando (Bloomfield, NJ / Bloomfield) followed with a two-run base hit as the Roadrunners knotted the game at 3-3.

But the third Ramapo error of the game proved most costly for the Roadrunners as MSU pushed across the go-ahead run in the top of the sixth. Gonzalez singled in the infield with one out and an O'Brien base hit put runners at first and second. MSU then pulled off a successful double steal. On the play the throw down to third skipped away allowing Gonzalez to score as Montclair State led 4-3.

Freshman righthander [Jamie Miller](#) (Spotswood, NJ / St. John Vianney) made that hold up as she retired the final six batters in a row to improve to 5-2. Miller scattered six hits. Lyndsay Buehler (Rivervale, NJ / Pascack Valley) took the loss falling to 6-2.

Gonzalez and O'Brien had two hits for Montclair State while Kent was 2-for-3 for the Roadrunners.

Both teams return to action against [College of Staten Island](#). Ramapo takes on the Dolphins tomorrow afternoon with Montclair State hosting [CSI](#) at the MSU Softball Stadium on Thursday, April 8.

Article Entered Into News System: **Tuesday, April 6 2010**

Article Last Edited: **Tuesday, April 6 2010**

# Baseball: Kean snaps CSI win streak, 8-0

## STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

UNION, N.J. — Riding an eight-game winning streak, the College of Staten Island looked forward to yesterday's non-conference game against Kean as a measuring stick.

The host Cougars had been to the last three NCAA Division III College World Series, winning the national title in 2007.

Kean flexed its muscles, riding 6-foot-3 freshman right-hander Greg Baruka's complete-game six-hitter to an 8-0 shutout of CSI, which managed six singles and one walk against the Florham Park, N.J., product.

The Dolphins dropped to 14-6 on the season. The eight-game streak had been the program's longest since a 10-game streak in 1997.

Kean improved to 16-6. The Cougars are 24-8 all-time against CSI, including a 17-3 home mark.

The hosts scored one run in the first inning, two in the third, one more in the fifth and two in the sixth — taking a 6-0 lead against CSI starter Nick Tingos.

The Cougars were led by junior Chris Carrano, who went 3 for 4 with three RBI, while senior Dave Zavistoski went 3 for 4 with three runs scored. Senior third baseman Mike Mocer, a first-team All-American last spring, had

two hits and two RBI.

CSI junior Pat Gale was 2 for 3 and pitched an inning of perfect relief.

## WOMEN'S TENNIS

### Wagner 4, St. Francis (NY) 3

Wagner freshmen Nikki Arnold and Aurora Brennen won at No. 1 doubles 8-3 over Arianna Van Sluytman and Renee Warner as the host Seahawks (1-5 overall, 1-1 NEC) prevailed.

The Terriers took No. 2 doubles, but Wagner frosh Kaeli Havunen and St. Joseph Hill product Catharine Scavelli defeated Ashley Del Orbe and Angel Lawrence 8-3 at No. 3 doubles.

The doubles point was the difference as the teams split the six singles' matches. Junior Joanna Ciavarella dominated Shakaya Slay 6-1, 6-1 at No. 3 singles. Notre Dame Academy product Sabrina DiLeo followed with a 6-1, 6-4 victory over Renee Warner. Havunen capped the win for the Seahawks with a 5-7, 6-2, 6-1 win over Lawrence at No. 5 singles.

## MEN'S TENNIS

### St. Francis (NY) 7, Wagner 0

The host Seahawks fell to 0-8, 0-2 NEC as St. Francis won all six singles matches and three doubles matches in dominating fashion.





## Softball Shuts Down, Shuts Out Staten Island

**Little Falls, NJ (4/8/10)** – Senior righthander [Elia Persico](#) (Marlton, NJ / Cherokee) tossed a five-hitter shutout in the opener while freshman [Jamie Miller](#) (Spotswood, NJ / St. John Vianney) allowed just three hits in the nightcap as Montclair State swept a doubleheader from [College of Staten Island](#), 3-0 and 13-0 at the MSU Softball Stadium on Thursday.

Senior [Kelly Nance](#) (Marlboro, NJ / Marlboro) went 3-for-4 with four RBI as the Red Hawks ran their winning streak to four games improving to 12-8 overall.

Michelle Ferraiuolo (Staten Island, NY / Moore Catholic) and Jennifer Volpe (Staten Island, NY / Moore Catholic) combined for four of the Dolphins eight hits as [CSI](#) dropped to 11-7.

Persico recorded her second shutout of the season as she upped her record to 6-5 on the year. The righty struck out seven and walked two allowing five singles. Danielle Ponsiglione (Staten Island, NY / St. Joseph by the Sea) took the loss falling to 8-2.

Scoreless through the first three innings, Montclair got all of its runs in the fourth inning as the Red Hawks recorded four straight hits after the first two batters were retired. [Kelli O'Brien](#) (Edison, NJ / Edison) singled which was followed by a base hit from [Leslie Gonzalez](#) (North Bergen, NJ / North Bergen). Nance put the Red Hawks on the board with a single and [Heather Bergman](#) (Berkeley Heights, NJ / Gov. Livingston) made it four consecutive hits as she knocked in Gonzalez and Nance as MSU built a four-run lead.

That proved to be more than enough for Persico, who ran into a little bit of trouble in the seventh as Staten Island loaded the bases with two outs. However she got the next hitter to ground out giving Montclair the 3-0 win.

Gonzalez finished with two hits for Montclair State.

In the second game, MSU scored eight unearned runs in the second inning as the Red Hawks took advantage of three [CSI](#) miscues and sent 12 batters to the plate. Bergman drove in the first run with a hit and Stephanie Szeliga (South Plainfield, NJ / South Plainfield) brought in another with a ground out. [Tori Ferrante](#) (Edison, NJ / JP Stevens) and O'Brien each had RBI singles before Nance added a bases-clearing double as the Red Hawks led 8-0.

Montclair tacked on five more runs in the fourth [Jennifer Melker](#) (Hamilton, NJ / Steinert) had a two-run single while [Jamie Paulino](#) (Linden, NJ / Linden), Ferrante and [Melissa La Cour](#) (Sussex, NJ / Vernon Township) had one RBI apiece.

Miller (6-2) struck out two as she registered her second shutout of the year.

Ferrante and Nance had two hits apiece for the Red Hawks, who collected 11 in the game.

Montclair State returns to action on Saturday, April 10 as they host Rowan University at the MSU Softball Stadium beginning at 1:00 pm.

Article Entered Into News System: **Thursday, April 8 2010**

Article Last Edited: **Thursday, April 8 2010**

# CSI hurler back in the pitcher's circle where she belongs

Ponsiglione has sights set on CUNY title after last year's eye injury

By CHARLIE De BIASE JR.  
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

**WILLOWBROOK** — Danielle Ponsiglione has always believed her place is in the pitcher's circle and if it appears she appreciates being there a bit more these days, it may very well be because she does.

Near career-changing injuries will do that to you.

It's been a little less than a year since Ms. Ponsiglione, then a College of Staten Island freshman, suffered a horrific accident after a hard, one-bouncer hit her in the face while throwing batting practice.

"It was my fault," said the former St. Joseph by-the-Sea star, who was throwing to teammate **Jen Volpe** at the time. "We were practicing hitting to right field and I was throwing mostly curves and outside fast balls."

"I should have caught it, but it bounced about four feet in front of me."

Ms. Ponsiglione, who was preparing for the CUNY playoffs, was hit flush in the right eye. The Pleasant Plains resident didn't think much of it when it first happened, but after realizing her eye was closed, she knew it was serious.

"When it first happened, it didn't hurt, it was just numb," said the former Advance All Star. "But everyone started coming over and saying 'Oh my God' and once I realized I couldn't open my eye, I got upset because we were coming up on a big part of our season."

"Her cheek was so swollen, it made her nose turn," said Danielle's father, **Mike**, Sea's first-year varsity softball coach who was participating in a Viking practice (then as an assistant) when the accident occurred. "She wasn't in pain, but when you looked at her, you couldn't help thinking her season was over."

Danielle Ponsiglione's ensuing ambulance ride and visit to the emergency room revealed she broke the bridge of her nose. Luckily, she didn't break her orbital bone (the socket of the skull in which the eye and its appendages are situated), which would have not only ended her season, but required surgery to repair.

At that time, because there wasn't any serious damage, Danielle was holding out hope she'd be ready in time for the CUNY tournament.

"It happened on a Tuesday and the quarterfinal and semifinals were on Friday," said Ms. Ponsiglione, noting she wore an ice pack for nearly every minute leading up to the tourney. "My eye had to be open and I knew if I was going to play, I'd have to wear a mask, but at least there was a chance."

Unfortunately, Ms. Ponsiglione's eye didn't open by Friday and she missed both the quarterfinal and semifinal games. But by Saturday, she started noticing a change.

"The doctor agreed to clear her to play if her eye was open," said Mike Ponsiglione. "She was still sore and her face was 11 different colors, but she was ready to go."

"She's a strong kid and I wasn't surprised at all that she was going to pitch," said CSI coach **Stella Porto**. "And she wound up pitching one of the best games of her life."

In fact, after fellow freshman **Michelle Ferraiuolo** led the Dolphins to a 6-5 victory over Hunter College in the first game of the championship series, Ponsiglione took the ball in Game 2.

"I was nervous and a little hesitant," admitted Ms. Ponsiglione. "But I was ready to go. I wanted to play."

Ms. Ponsiglione, still sporting a swollen cheek, as well as a protective mask, hurled six shutout innings before allowing a pair of runs in the top of the seventh en route to a 4-2 victory that gave the Dolphins their fourth title in six years.

Fast forward to the present season and the 19-year-old, who also pitched in the opening-round game of the NCAA Division III Championship Tournament (a 4-0 loss to Messiah College), is no longer wearing a mask and readying herself for CUNY Tournament repeat next month.

But is she gun shy? Does she suffer flashbacks when she takes the pitcher's circle these days?

The sophomore, who sports a 6-1 record, a 2.05 ERA with 53 strikeouts and only four walks in 44 innings, insists she's fine.

"It was a freak accident. I've been playing softball



CSI pitcher Danielle Ponsiglione has been all smiles thus far this season, including prior to a recent win over John Jay when she was warming up with catcher Amanda D'Amato.



After getting hit with a batted ball during practice, CSI pitcher Danielle Ponsiglione had to wear a protective mask during her final two starts last season.

forever and it's the first time I was ever injured," said Ms. Ponsiglione. "I don't even think about it anymore."

"I can't think about it because I wouldn't be able to pitch if I did."

"She's got a lot of heart," added Ms. Porto. "The way she responded to the accident is a tribute to the good training she received in high school, as well as from our pitching coaches."

"It's that foundation that has her where she is today."

Back in the pitcher's circle, of course.

Charlie De Biase Jr. is a sports reporter for the Staten Island Advance. He may be reached at [debiase@siadv.com](mailto:debiase@siadv.com).



# The Butler Did It

8:40 PM, April 9, 2010 | DYLAN BUTLER

Moore Catholic's Nick Doscher deals with a fluid roster every year, that's the nature of being a high school baseball coach. Some players graduate, some fail off, others transfer.

But the Mavericks are still trying to cope with the death of a popular teammate, which is something no coach can prepare his team for.

[Johnny Ray](#), a two-sport star at the small co-ed Graniteville Catholic high school, died on Oct. 24 when he crashed his parents SUV into a utility pole after veering out of control on a rain-slicked Father Capodanno Boulevard. He hydroplaned after hitting a puddle near Slater Boulevard in Midland Beach. Ray, who didn't have a driver's license, was pronounced dead on the scene. He was just 16.

A vigil was held near the crash scene and students, family and friends still go there every 24th of the month, lighting candles, talking and praying. His wake and funeral was attended by a combined 5,000.

"If you just came and saw us play, he'd be the one with that charisma, that smile, he was the one guy you know he's good," Doscher said. "A lot of these kids play two sports and they lost him two ways, they also lost him in the football season."

The football team cancelled a scheduled road game against Pope Pius X (Pa.) the following weekend before returning to play Beach Channel on Nov. 7. The players wore No. 4 stickers on their helmets and had ribbons on their uniforms in Ray's memory.

As for the baseball team, Doscher said it's been difficult for them to deal with Ray's death.

"We were really affected by it," Doscher said. "A lot of those kids it was the first time they saw a dead body and there was their teammate laying there. It just doesn't seem right."



FAMILY PHOTO

The Moore Catholic baseball team is playing for their former teammate, Johnny Ray.

There was no way of knowing it then, but I covered Ray's final high school baseball game. The Mavericks lost to Monsignor Farrell, 2-0, at the [College of Staten Island](#) on May 19. Moore failed to make the playoffs for the first time in eight years. Farrell hurler Chris Mione gave up just five hits in the complete-game shutout and two were by Ray, who batted leadoff and played shortstop. He led off the game with a single to left and singled again in the third inning.

Farrell hurler Chris Mione gave up just five hits in the complete-game shutout and two were by Ray, who batted leadoff and played shortstop. He led off the game with a single to left and singled again in the third inning.

As was the case last year, Moore is young, but the squad is motivated to put last year behind them and to play every game for their fallen teammate. Ray's No. 19 is on the back of every fitted cap. Ray is gone, but he's very much not forgotten.

"We had a great bond, me and Johnny," senior centerfielder [Chris Ahearn](#) said. "He's always on our mind. Before the game we always mention him and we know who we're playing for this year, which is another big spark for us. We're playing for a teammate this year. He's never left and we'll always remember. Whether we catch the ball or not, after we make a play, he's still there."

[dbutler@nypost.com](mailto:dbutler@nypost.com)



## CHSAA baseball roundup: Pavia paces Sea past Iona Prep

By DYLAN BUTLER

Last Updated: 12:28 AM, April 9, 2010

Posted: 12:27 AM, April 9, 2010

Nick Pavia allowed five hits in five scoreless innings, combining with Frank Stavola, who struck out four and allowed four hits in two innings of relief, to lead St. Joseph by the Sea to a 6-0 win against Iona Prep in both team's CHSAA opener Thursday in Huguenot.

Matt Cangro went 2-for-2 with two RBIs, Nick Galli drove in a pair of runs and Chris Ramanauskas tripled and scored a run to lead Sea, which scored four runs in the third and tacked on two more in the sixth. Brian Sullivan and Jimmy Foley had two hits apiece for the Gaels.

**Monsignor Farrell 2, Cardinal Spellman 0:** Chris Mione allowed just one hit, struck out 12 and walked one to lead Monsignor Farrell to a CHSAA season-opening victory Thursday night at the **College of Staten Island**. Sophomore Mike Viegas, who missed the preseason with an ankle injury, tripled and scored on an error in the third inning and Ryan Curylo scored on a seventh-inning balk.

**Xavier 2, Mount St. Michael 1:** Rob Maguire pitched a complete game, striking out nine. Brian McKenna had an RBI single in the first and Nicky DiLeo added a run-scoring single in the fourth. Marcos Perez allowed two earned runs on three hits, striking out eight and walking just one for Mount.

**Stepinac 12, LaSalle 0:** Sophomore Christian Huertas struck out four in six innings, retiring 17 of the 18 batters he faced and Donato Signore drove in three runs to lead Stepinac in a CHSAA season-opening win Thursday in White Plains.

*dbutler@nypost.com*



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## Baruka, Carrano Lead Kean Past CSI, 8-0

**By:**

**Posted: 4/13/10**

Union, N.J. (4/6/10) - Freshman Greg Baruka (Florham Park, N.J.) tossed a complete-game shutout to lead #12/19 Kean University past the College of Staten Island, 8-0, Tuesday afternoon at Jim Hynes Stadium.

Baruka (3-1) allowed just six singles and one walk all afternoon while fanning eight in his first complete game win. The Cougars improve to 16-6 with the win while the Dolphins fall to 14-6, breaking an eight game win streak in the process.

Kean scored efficiently, with no more than two runs per frame. The Cougars plated an early run in the bottom of the first as junior Ken Gregory (Pittstown, N.J.) delivered a two out, RBI single up the middle. KU would score two more in the third as senior Mike Mocerì (Yardville, N.J.) provided an RBI single and junior Nick Nolan (Linden, N.J.) added an RBI sacrifice fly.

The Cougars were led by junior Chris Carrano (Lincoln Park, N.J.) as he was 3-for-4 with three RBI and a double. Senior Dave Zavistoski (Edison, N.J.) was 3-for-4 with three runs scored and a double while Mocerì was 2-for-4 with a triple and two RBI.

For the Dolphins, junior Pat Gale (Staten Island, N.Y.) was 2-for-3.

Kean returns to NJAC action on Friday when they host The College of New Jersey at 3 p.m.

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## Kean Sweeps NJCU, 8-7 & 14-4

**Issue date:** 4/13/10 **Section:** [Athletics](#)

Union, N.J. (4/3/10) - Junior Nick Nolan (Linden, N.J.) recorded a combined five RBI for the afternoon as #9/18 Kean University defeated New Jersey City University in NJAC doubleheader action, 8-7 & 14-4, Saturday from Jim Hynes Stadium.

With today's sweep, Kean improves to 15-6 and 3-1 in the NJAC while the losses drop NJCU to 8-11 and 0-4 in conference action.

### Game One

In a see-saw affair, the Cougars rallied to score three runs in the bottom of the ninth to claim the win in game one. Trailing 7-5, senior Dave Zavistoski (Edison, N.J.) led off with an infield single. Senior Mike Mocerri (Yardville, N.J.) followed with another infield hit and junior Ken Gregory (Pittstown, N.J.) loaded the bases as he was hit-by-a-pitch. Nolan then tied things up with a two RBI single and was thrown out attempting to stretch the hit into a double. With one out and a runner on third, sophomore Dylan Laguna (Edison, N.J.) was intentionally walked. After a fielder's choice swapped runners and added an out, sophomore Eddie Jennings (Jackson, N.J.) laid down a bunt single for the game's winning run.

Earlier in the game, both teams traded the lead as KU broke a 2-2 tie with three runs in the bottom of the fifth. Laguna provided a two out, two RBI single, while Nolan (pictured right) swiped home.

The Gothic Knights then regained the lead in the sixth with four runs. Senior Eddie Gonzalo (Union City, N.J.) had a one out, two RBI single up the middle and Michael Fiorentino (Point Pleasant Beach, N.J.) added a two out, two RBI single to center.

Reliever Billy Dumchus (Edison, N.J.) earned his first collegiate win. Dumchus (1-1) tossed three and two thirds innings allowing two runs and three hits. Sophomore Nelson Maldonado (Newark, N.J.) suffered the loss for NJCU. He (1-3) tossed a complete game effort allowing eight runs, four earned, with six walks and five strikeouts.

Offensively Mocerri and Zavistoski had three hits apiece.



### Game Two

Freshman Kevin Herget (Park Ridge, N.J.) earned the win to improve to 3-0. Herget threw five innings allowing just one hit with five strikeouts as Kean cruised to the 14-4 win.

The Cougars recorded five runs in the bottom of the first and added another five spot in the bottom of the fourth.

Offensively, freshman Steve Nappe (Edison, N.J.) had two RBI while Laguna was 2-for-3 with two runs scored.

Junior Westley Lopez (West New York, N.J.) suffered the loss for NJCU. Lopez (3-1) allowed eight runs, six earned in three and a third innings of work. For the Gothic Knights, Fiorentino was 2-for-4 with two RBI.

The Cougars return to action on Tuesday when they face **The College of Staten Island** at 3:30 p.m.

## Staten Islanders pacing St. Joseph's College baseball

**By Daniel O'Leary**

April 15, 2010, 2:29PM

Monsignor Farrell product Kevin Diaz belted three home runs -- doubling his season output -- to help St. Joseph's erase a five-run deficit and beat Lehman College 15-12 last week.

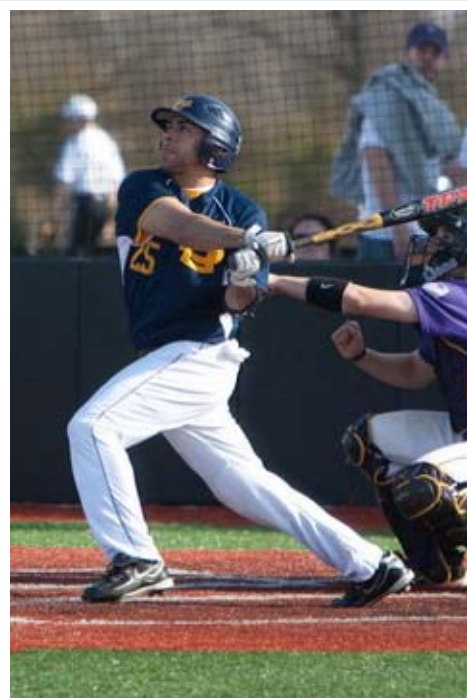
The sophomore outfielder hit a solo, two-run and three-run homer in the game. He matched the Bears' single game record, set by Moore Catholic grad Joe Harten earlier this season. On the day (including an 11-10 loss to Lehman in the second game), Diaz had six hits, six RBI and six runs scored.

In a 15-3, 22-0 weekend sweep of Gallaudet, Diaz had four hits, five runs and three RBI.

In the opener, Moore Catholic's Anthony Langone, a sophomore, hit his first career grand slam. It was his second homer of the season.

St. Joseph's takes on the **College of Staten Island** in a doubleheader today.

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Courtesy St. Joseph's  
Brooklyn athletics

Kevin Diaz is supplying some power for the  
St. Joseph's College Bears this season.



## Cascello, Farrell bounce back to beat Mount, 6-1

By DYLAN BUTLER

Last Updated: 11:16 PM, April 20, 2010

Posted: 10:25 PM, April 20, 2010

The last time Matt Cascello stepped on the mound, he gave up a two-run, game-winning single in the bottom of the seventh as rival St. Joseph by the Sea rallied for a dramatic win Friday afternoon in Huguenot.

As the Vikings poured onto the field to celebrate, the dejected Monsignor Farrell senior couldn't wait to pitch again.

"Especially after that game against Sea I really wanted to get back out there, come back and throw strong," he said.

Cascello did just that Tuesday, allowing one unearned run on four hits, leading the Lions to a 6-1 win against Mount St. Michael in The Bronx. He struck out seven and walked three in six strong innings.

"I thought he deserved the start today," Farrell coach Bob Mulligan said. "He's one of our senior pitchers and nobody works harder than this kid. I'm very happy for him. He got a nice win today."

Cascello's attitude is shared by his teammates. Farrell (4-1) responded to a devastating 6-5 loss to Sea Friday by crushing Salesian in a mercy rule-shortened blowout Sunday and then beating Mount today.

"That's one thing about us: If we're done one game, we're coming back the next," rightfielder Nick Matera said. "It's probably one of the few losses this season we're going to have because that's the mentality we play with."

The Lions didn't hit particularly well, but they did an excellent job manufacturing runs against the Mountaineers. No one does that better than Mike Viegas. The sophomore centerfielder, who is also the school's star running back, was hit by a pitch in the third, stole second and came around to score on a throwing error by leftfielder Nick Ortiz. Matera, who was 2-for-2 with a walk and a sacrifice bunt, scored on the first of Nick Del Prete's two run-scoring sacrifice flies.

"We have pretty good team speed and we try to move runners along with sacrifice bunts, stolen bases and hope the other team makes mistakes," Mulligan said. "Today, they made a few mistakes and we were able to capitalize on them."

Farrell tacked on two more runs in the fourth on an RBI groundout by Ryan Curyco and a throwing error by Mount first baseman Marcos Perez. Del Prete drove home Viegas, who walked, stole second and reached third on a wild pitch, with a sac fly to right, to make it 6-1.

While Farrell manufactured runs, Mount (2-4) did not. The Mountaineers loaded the bases with one out in the fifth, but could only scratch across one run on John Tappen's bases-loaded walk. They had runners on first and second with one out in the sixth inning, but Cascello struck out Jeremy Lewis and Nick Ortiz.

In the seventh, Farrell reliever Gary Boardman hit the first two batters he faced, but struck out Steven Ramirez and induced a game-ending double play out of Jason Pimetel, Mount's No. 3 hitter.

"That's been the story of our season," Mount coach Wally Stampfel said. "The few times we get runners on base, we don't convert. This has to be the third or fourth time we've only scored one run. We got decent pitching, but we just didn't play the defense, they took advantage of the mistakes we made."

With a workmanlike victory against Mount now behind them, the Farrell players are now focused on Friday night's rematch against Sea at the **College of Staten Island**.

"That's some game, I can't wait," Matera said. "We're going to have a big crowd and we're going to go out and get revenge against them."

[dbutler@nypost.com](mailto:dbutler@nypost.com) .

## An interview with **College of Staten Island** baseball manager Mike Mauro

By Stephen Hart

April 22, 2010, 2:18PM



Hilton Flores/ Staten Island Advance

**CSI** baseball manager Mike Mauro, left, learned a lot about the game from his high school coach Bob Steele, now a Dolphin assistant.

WILLOWBROOK -- The **College of Staten Island** baseball team is enjoying one of its finest seasons in recent memory. The deep and talented Dolphins — with a roster full of players from this borough's high schools — are 23-8 and have their sights set on a rare NCAA postseason berth.

At the helm of the Dolphins is second-year coach Mike Mauro. A former two-time Advance All-Star infielder for McKee High School, Mauro took some time to talk about his coaching inspirations, his life as a minor leaguer, and how things are going at **CSI**.

S.I. Advance (SIA): What was it like playing for Bob Steele at McKee?

Mike Mauro (MM): It was great. He's been through it all. He's a coaching icon. That's how I learned baseball, from playing for him (from 1983-87). I also learned about life playing for Mr. Steele — about how to conduct yourself as an adult. Bob prepared me for college, and helped get me into John Jay.

SIA: You stayed three years at John Jay before leaving to sign a free-agent contract to play in the Detroit Tigers farm system. What was that experience like?

MM: I began the year playing in Tennessee for the Bristol Tigers of the Appalachian League, before being promoted to A-ball with the Niagara Falls Rapids of the New York-Penn League. It was one year, 1990, but not a day goes by that I haven't thought about that time. For a baseball player, it was the greatest experience you could have. I remember a bus ride from Bristol, Tennessee, to Oneonta, New York ... it must have been a seven-hour trip with no air conditioning. And it was worse coming home, because all the guys were sweaty and smelled. It was unbelievable ... I thought to myself, 'How am I going to take this?' But looking back on it now, it's something I'll never forget.

SIA: What memories stick out from your year in the minors?

MM: About two or three years ago, I got back in touch with (former Tigers and Yankees first baseman) Tony Clark, who was my roommate on road trips that year. He was one of the greatest players I saw, and just a great guy. Years later, he gave me a lot of autographed balls and bats. The other guys I was close to were two more future pros: Felipe Lira and Jose Lima — yes, that Jose Lima! Tony, Jose and I rented a house in Bristol that season. And I can tell you, Jose Lima was as crazy back then as he was when he got to the majors. All the antics you saw on TV, he did when he was in the minors. But he was also a really good player, too.

SIA: When did you start coaching?

MM: My first coaching job was as an assistant with Billy Rogers Jr. at Moore Catholic from 1993-95. After that, I joined Tom Tierney Jr. at New Utrecht from 1998-99, then followed him to Tottenville after he took over from his father in 2000. I was at Tottenville from 2000-08, and we won three city championships together.

SIA: From all the coaches you've been around, who have you learned from the most?

MM: The bulk of my learning came at Tottenville with Tom Tierney Jr. He just got that mastery of the game from his dad; he knows all the ins and outs, and I tried to pick up a lot of it and bring it over with me to **CSI**. I've copycatted a lot of what he's done, like the different drills.

We were teammates at John Jay for three years — that fourth year, I signed with the Tigers and Tom transferred to **CSI**. And I was best man at his wedding, and he was in my wedding party. But even though we're close in age, Tom taught me a lot about the game. I've picked his brain as much as possible. I got the best of both worlds while I was at Tottenville — while he and his father talked baseball, I was in the background listening.

SIA: In 2007, you're brought on by Bill Cali as a volunteer assistant coach at **CSI**.

MM: I've been spoiled: To go from learning from two of the best high school coaches in the city with Tom Tierney Sr. and Jr., to working with another legendary coach in Bill. Bill was another baseball wizard with a lot of great stories about the game. He took me under his wing and gave me a lot of pointers. We still talk on the phone and he gives me a lot of good advice. If I have a question about something, I'm not embarrassed to ask.



SIA: When you were brought on as an assistant, did you know that you were going to be Bill's successor and take over the next year?

MM: Bill never said anything directly to me, nor did anyone at the school. I had a feeling something like that might happen, but nothing was definite. When Bill stepped down, he was a vital part of me getting the job. If he didn't go to bat for me like he did, telling the school that he thought I could handle this, I don't know if I would have gotten the job.

SIA: So what's it like, returning to college baseball two decades later?

MM: The best part of this is that I'm in the conference I played in 20 years ago, the CUNY. The baseball end of it is still the same. The difference is that now the players are bused to games, they get meal money ... I didn't have that. And we get to play on a minor-league field at **CSI**. I didn't have that. In fact, there are a lot of nice ballparks around, and we even play some games under the lights. I don't think I played one game under the lights in college.

SIA: Describe your coaching style.

MM: I guess I'm a mix of everybody I ever learned from — but I

Advance file photo by  
Hilton Flores

**CSI** Dolphins manager Mike Mauro on this year's team: "We're good, I'm not going to lie."

didn't want to copy anyone specifically. I wanted my own style, I wanted to be my own man. I took a little from every coach I've been involved with.

As for how I am as a coach, I guess you'll have to ask my players. All I can say is that I have a passion for the game. I hate to lose. I want to get to the Division III World Series in the worst way ... or,

at least, get to the NCAA Tournament.

SIA: How's this season looking?

MM: We're good, I'm not going to lie. I'm really excited. We're 23-8 and on a roll. We have great team chemistry. We're going in the absolute right direction to get to the NCAA Regionals. I think the last time **CSI** was in the Regionals was when Fran Hirschy was coach back in 1991. It's been a long time.

But we're trying to run the program the right way, we're doing all the right things. Myself and our coaching staff does a lot of recruiting. And the players we have right now have bought into the concept we've been preaching.

SIA: Have there been any surprises in being a head coach?

MM: It's a thousand times more fun than I thought, and it's a thousand times more heartbreaking. There are a lot of ups and downs with this job. But it's so much more rewarding than I ever thought. The relationships I have with these kids, and with my coaches ... I never thought it would be like this.

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## Rain postpones college athletic slate

**By Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

April 22, 2010, 8:17AM

### College baseball

The **College of Staten Island's** scheduled home baseball game against Mount St. Mary was postponed, with a makeup date forthcoming. The Dolphins host Baruch in a noon Saturday CUNY Conference doubleheader.

### College softball

Wagner's non-conference home doubleheader against Yale was canceled because of a scheduling conflict. The Seahawks host Sacred Heart in a Sunday twinbill beginning at noon.

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## CHSAA baseball roundup: Fesler leads St. Francis Prep to 11-0 win at Christ the King

By DYLAN BUTLER

Last Updated: 2:48 AM, April 24, 2010

Posted: 2:45 AM, April 24, 2010

After struggling in his first two starts, Chris Fesler pitched a complete-game one-hitter, striking out 14 and hitting a two-run home run to lead St. Francis Prep to an 11-0 win against Christ the King at Juniper Valley Park in Middle Village, Queens Friday afternoon.

Fesler, who took a no-hitter into the seventh inning, capped a three-run first inning with his home run. It was the Terriers second first-inning dinger after Jason Perrone led off the game by going yard.

Chris Brudie hit a two-run single in the second to put the Terriers in front, 5-0, and Prep tacked on four more runs in the fourth and two in the seventh. Christ the King falls to 0-7.

**Xavier 9, Regis 1:** Nick DiLeo gave up two hits and walked six in four innings and Rob Maguire allowed just two hits in three innings of scoreless relief to lead Xavier (6-1) at Richmond County Bank Ballpark on Staten Island Friday night. Regis, which continues to struggle with runners in scoring position, fell to 4-4.

**St. Joseph by the Sea 2, Monsignor Farrell 0:** Wagner-bound righthander Nick Pavia pitched a gem, allowing four hits and striking out 10 in a complete-game shutout for St. Joseph by the Sea (5-0) at the **College of Staten Island** Friday night. Joe Fiori only gave up four hits and struck out six, but was on the losing end when the Vikings scratched across a pair of runs on one hit in the first two innings. Farrell fell to 4-2.

**Archbishop Molloy 5, Monsignor McClancy 4:** Sean Towey hit a walk-off double as Molloy (4-2) rallied to score twice in the bottom of the seventh to beat McClancy (4-3) Friday afternoon at Stanner Field. Dean Sadik went the distance and had the game-tying hit in the seventh for the Stanners.

**St. Edmund Prep 2, Holy Cross 1:** John Browning needed just 75 pitches for a second straight complete-game victory for the Eagles (2-4) Friday afternoon at Preller Field. The senior has allowed one run in 14 innings of league play. Holy Cross fell to 2-5.

**St. Raymond 5, Mount St. Michael 2:** Louis Ventura struck out seven in four innings of one-hit ball to get the win and Richie Sanchez went 1-for-2 with a sacrifice fly, a double and three RBIs for St. Ray's (5-3) Friday at Ravens Field in The Bronx. Mount fell to 3-5.

**St. Peter's 10, Moore Catholic 8:** Joe DiMauro and John Eberlein each had three-run hits in the Eagles seven-run fifth inning to beat Moore Catholic Friday afternoon at Clove Lakes Park on Staten Island. Mike Cundari was 3-for-4 and Frank Alberti scored a pair of runs for St. Peter's (1-5), while Rob Ortiz was 1-for-2 with a double and three RBIs and Adam Skjeie was 2-for-4 with two RBIs for Moore (5-2), which rallied to score three runs in the top of the seventh.

**Iona Prep 14, Cardinal Hayes 2:** Justin Palladino and Christian Fiorito had two RBIs apiece and Vinny DeMaria had three hits and an RBI for Iona Prep (5-1) Friday afternoon in New Rochelle. Cardinal Hayes fell to 3-4.

**Archbishop Stepinac 9, All Hallows 1:** Steven Martinez drove in a pair of runs for Stepinac (4-2) Friday afternoon in White Plains. All Hallows fell to 3-5.

**Mount St. Michael 2, Regis 0:** Marcos Perez tossed a complete-game, four-hitter, striking out nine and walking one and Christian Fadul twice drove in Justin Martinez to lead the Mountaineers Wednesday afternoon at the Mount.

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## CHSAA baseball rankings

By DYLAN BUTLER

Last Updated: 5:44 PM, April 25, 2010

Posted: 5:30 PM, April 25, 2010

The CHSAA baseball season is about a month old and the playoff favorites are beginning to emerge. The undefeated teams are down to just two – Xaverian and St. Joseph by the Sea. Xavier is again atop the Bronx/Manhattan division, while Fordham Prep looks like it is taking its title defense seriously.

### 1. Xaverian (7-0) (Last week: 1)

The Clippers continue to roll right along after convincing wins against Archbishop Molloy and Holy Cross followed by a 4-3 victory over Bishop Ford. A deep lineup and unmatched pitching depth has Xaverian running away with the Brooklyn/Queens division crown. Of course, that's a secondary goal for a program perennially in contention for the CHSAA Class A intersectional title.

**Next:** @ No. 9 Monsignor McClancy (April 28, 4 p.m.)

### 2. St. Joseph by the Sea (5-0) (2)

The Vikings finally got that sterling pitching performance from Wagner-bound Nick Pavia in a 2-0 blanking of Monsignor Farrell, its second win against its rival in two weeks. Gordon Rugg knows better than most, though, that now is not the time for his club to rest on their laurels. One bad week on Staten Island completely changes the division's complexion.

**Next:** No. 5 Moore Catholic (April 27, 4 p.m.)

### 3. Fordham Prep (5-1) (6)

Some have doubted the Rams would be among the elite squads this year, let alone have a chance to repeat as CHSAA Class A intersectional champions. Coach Pat Deane isn't talking about that, though. He's just concerned with consistency, and Fordham Prep, which beat St. Raymond and Regis last week, has shown that better than most teams so far.

**Next:** @ Mount St. Michael (April 27, 4 p.m.)

### 4. Xavier (6-1) (7)

The more things change, the more they stay the same in Bronx/Manhattan. Led by ace Rob Maguire, who tossed a complete-game, three-hit shutout against St. Peter's and then came out of the bullpen to beat rival Regis under the lights at Richmond County Bank Ballpark Friday night.

**Next:** All Hallows (April 27, 4 p.m.)

### 5. Moore Catholic (5-2) (3)

The Mavericks were in a first-place battle with undefeated Sea until a disappointing 10-8 loss to rival St. Peter's Friday as the Eagles scored seven runs in the fifth innings. That put a sour note on a week that saw Moore edge All Hallows and have a commanding 5-0 lead on LaSalle before the game was suspended because of rain. This is a big week for Nick Doscher's squad, which meets Sea and Farrell in back-to-back days.

**Next:** @ No. 2 St. Joseph by the Sea (April 27, 4 p.m.)

### 6. Archbishop Molloy (4-2) (5)

After falling behind 10-0 after three innings against No. 1 Xaverian on Monday, Molloy showed some moxie, capitalizing on five Clippers errors to score seven runs in the seventh. The Stanners were leading St. Edmund before the rains came on Wednesday and rallied to beat No. 9 Monsignor McClancy at home Friday. Jack Curran's crew has a big week ahead of them, beginning with a clash against Queens rival St. Francis Prep on Wednesday.

**Next:** @ No. 10 St. Francis Prep (April 28, 4 p.m.)

### 7. Monsignor Farrell (4-2) (8)

The Lions hopes of defending their Staten Island division title took a hit Friday night with a 2-0 loss to St. Joseph by the Sea at the College of Staten Island, insuring the Vikings will win the regular-season, best-of-three series against their rivals. After playing at St. Peter's Monday, Farrell has a second-place clash against Moore under the lights at **CSI** Wednesday night.

**Next:** @ St. Peter's (April 26, 4 p.m.)

### 8. St. Raymond's (5-3) (9)

Perhaps the return of Manny Rivera, the Ravens leader on and off the field, who is back after a suffering a dislocated thumb in preseason, will ignite the Ravens' anemic offense. You've got to feel for Ricky Eusebio, who has pitched brilliantly three times in league play, but is 0-3, receiving no offensive support. After hosting struggling Regis Tuesday, division-leading Xavier comes to Ravens Field Wednesday.

**Next:** Regis (April 27, 4 p.m.)

#### **9. Monsignor McClancy (4-3) (NR)**

The Crusaders make their way into the CHSAA top 10 on the strength of Wednesday's impressive shutout of St. Francis Prep, the highlight of a 2-1 week. The lowlight was blowing a two-run lead in the seventh inning in a loss at Molloy Friday. Alex Miden is leading the way, at the plate and on the mound. McClancy will be even better when Joe Gangi returns to the starting rotation next month.

**Next:** No. 1 Xaverian (April 28, 4 p.m.)

#### **10. St. Francis Prep (4-3) (10)**

The Terriers have received stellar pitching performances from Lebro Burnette and freshman Taso Stathopoulos, but the bats have been ice cold throughout much of the opening month of the regular season, a big reason Prep is in the middle of the pack in Brooklyn/Queens. The Terriers exploded for 11 runs in a blowout of lowly Christ the King on Friday. It remains to be seen if that carries over to this week.

**Next:** No. 6 Archbishop Molloy (April 28, 4 p.m.)

**New:** Monsignor McClancy (4-3)

**Dropped out:** Regis (4-4)

**On the bubble:** Regis (4-4) and Bishop Ford (4-3)

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# Dolphins to host Hillery Night

## STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

The College of Staten Island will host the seventh annual Grace Hillery Breast Cancer Awareness Night tomorrow night at 7, when the Dolphins host Drew University in a non-conference baseball matchup in Willowbrook.

The night has become a long-standing tradition at CSI, started by former Dolphin player Anthony Hillery in honor of his mother, who

lost her battle with breast cancer.

Over the past six years, the event has raised over \$25,000 for breast cancer initiatives. This year's proceeds will benefit the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative.

CSI will be wearing pink uniforms for the game and there will be live entertainment, games, contests and raffles.

Admission is free at Dolphin Stadium.

The pre-game festivities will kick-off at approximately 6:30 p.m. Fierce Dance Company will perform and the first-pitch will be thrown to Anthony Hillery by Julie Gaudioso, CSI head coach Mike Mauro's mother-in-law.

Also, Drew athletic director, Jason Fein, CSI's athletic director from 2007-08 and the Dolphins' sports information director and associate AD from 1999-2006, will be on hand.

## Renewed hope for Dolphins

With CUNY Player of Year Pat Gale leading the charge, CSI optimistic heading into postseason



CORMAC GORDON

It's almost 20 years since the College of Staten Island journeyed to the annual NCAA Division III tournament.

The last such journey was back in 1991 and '92 when ace Kevin Crombie, closer Brian Coakley and sluggers Tom Tierney Jr. and Kevin Rychter were among the leaders on a very solid club that travelled to Ithaca College to play in the tourney regional.

Coach Mike Mauro believes it's time for a return trip. "That's the goal," the second-year Dolphin head man proclaimed yesterday as his team prepared for step one of that process, playing tomorrow's opening round of the CUNYAC tournament where CSI is the No. 1 seed in their 1 p.m. match-up with No. 4 seed Baruch at MCU Park, Brooklyn.

"I think we are deep enough and good enough,

maybe the best team CSI has had since then," said Mauro. "Now the challenge is to play as well against the teams we are supposed to beat as we have this season against the teams that are supposed to be better than we are."

CSI is currently 27-9 and 11-1 in the CUNY. They have one non-conference game remaining on the schedule, the CUNYAC playoffs and, hopefully, an ECAC tournament bid. "It's simple," said Mauro of accomplishing the goal. "We have to keep winning."

One big reason for the current optimism is the season-long performance of Dolphin ace pitcher and top offensive player Pat Gale, who on Monday night was

named the CUNYAC Player of the Year.

How good is the big junior lefty who played his high school ball at Tottenville and will get the ball tomorrow in game one of the conference playoffs?

"Pat's a Division I player who fell onto our doorstep, and decided to stay," says Mauro, who took over the CSI reins last season. "I believe that before he's finished here, Pat will get drafted."

The numbers seem to support Mauro's position. Gale is batting a scorching .421 this season with a league-best 7-1 pitching record and eye-popping 1.66 ERA.

The Tottenville resident is Top 5 all-time at CSI in career wins, ERA, innings pitched, strikeouts, doubles and RBI. And the junior's closing in on a slew of both single-season and career records.

SEE GORDON, PAGE B 3



CUNY Player of the Year Pat Gale and his College of Staten Island teammates wore pink jerseys last night in honor of Grace Hillery Breast Cancer Awareness Night.

"He's old-school," says Mauro of Gale, who is 6-foot-3 and 200 pounds and wears his socks high and his cap pulled low and takes a pass on hitting gloves, unlike just about everyone else these days. "When he showed up as a freshman you saw the raw talent. Pat had good movement and threw a heavy ball. Since then, he's just kept improving."

Gale's current career totals are 15-6 with a 4.01 ERA and 204 strikeouts in 168 innings.

"He has a mid to high 80s fastball, a good curve and a great change-up," says his coach. "Sometimes he'll throw the change two or three times in a row."

Key to the sturdy starter's step forward as a pitcher over the last couple of seasons has been the schooling of CSI pitching coach Greg Belson.

The 32-year-old Dolphin pitching guru spent five seasons as a reliever in the Mets and Arizona Diamondbacks minor league systems, and

was the first person Mauro called when he took the CSI head job.

"Pat's been night-and-day different since working with Greg," said Mauro. "Greg's a master. He really understands the game, and Pat's become a really solid pitcher. And as a hitter he has a great lefty swing."

None of this means the Dolphins are a lock to advance to the NCAA's.

There's a reason CSI hasn't been back since '92 and just one other CUNYAC team has made the journey since: The CUNY conference isn't at the top of the NCAA's must-invite list for starters. In the previous CSI trips, the teams representing the school were dominating 29-7, 29-4 and richly talented.

But the Dolphins do have a chance this year.

Gale's a big reason for that.

The countdown begins tomorrow.

### CUNYAC BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

(All games at MCU Park, Coney Island)

#### Tomorrow

No. 1 CSI (11-1) vs. No. 4 Baruch (5-7), 1 p.m.  
No. 2 John Jay (6-6) vs. No. 3 City College (5-7), 4 p.m.

#### Friday

Games at 1, 4 and 7

#### Saturday

Championship round Games at 1 and 4 (if necessary)

#### QUICK FACTS:

The Dolphins will be shooting for their CUNY record 14th title, but have extra incentive after falling short last season (Baruch won championship trophy) and in two of the past three campaigns... CSI's last title was in 2008... The 27-9 Dolphins are also hoping to be considered for an at-large berth in the NCAA Division III tourney — the CUNY winner doesn't receive an automatic bid.



# Hillery keeps mom's memory alive

Former CSI infielder leads breast cancer fight on Grace Hillery Night

By JIM WAGGONER  
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Anthony Hillery has adjusted to living without his mother, but it's still not an easy path to travel.

"She was my biggest fan and best friend," said Hillery. "I was a 20-year-old kid who needed his mom and now I'm a 26-year-old guy who still needs his mom."

Events like last night's seventh annual Grace Hillery Breast Cancer Awareness Night go right to the heart of the former College of Staten Island infielder, who had a vision while still an undergraduate to honor his mother's memory and raise money for a worthy cause.

The hometown Dolphins routed Drew University, 17-6, running their record to 27-9 and doing nothing to hurt their NCAA Division III tourney aspirations, while a record \$5,736 was raised for the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Institute.

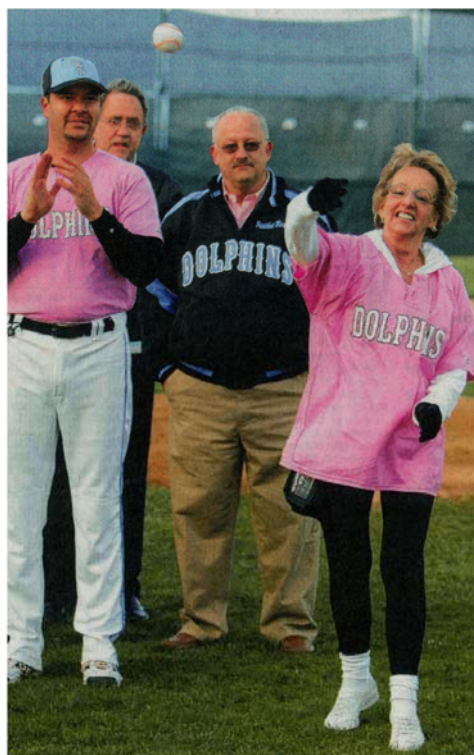
A robust crowd braved the chilly climate to cheer the Dolphins in a fundraiser that helped bring the seven-year total to more than \$30,000 while enhancing its reputation as one of the most significant annual sports happenings at the CUNY Conference school.

"I seem to be surprised every year, but I shouldn't be," said Hillery, whose mother died of breast cancer early in 2004 at the age of 54. "I see a lot of the same faces every year and I'm really appreciative of everyone who comes out."

"It's kind of taken on a life of its own."

Hillery said that he tended to keep his deepest feelings hidden when his mother died, but as the years have passed he has been more willing to talk about his loss.

"She was the one person I would talk about things with ... the one person I always confided to no matter what the subject. Unfortunately, the person I needed the most wasn't there anymore."



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/HILTON FLORES

CSI president Tomas Morales, center, and head baseball coach Mike Mauro watch Mauro's mother-in-law Julie Gaudioso throw out the first pitch.

"I want people to know what a wonderful, strong person she was. I try to take the lessons she taught me and apply them even though she's gone. I have great memories of her, and baseball was a bond between us."

With his father, Frank Hillery, and a group of relatives in the stands, the ex-Dolphin player spent the night greeting the estimated 200 fans who attended the game.

They all got a good show from the Dolphins.

Leadoff man Devon DiCassoli went 4 for 6 while equaling the school's career record for stolen bases. Joe Cassano went 3 for 5 with three RBI, and Henry Roman, Pat Gale, Sal Todaro, Cory Sullivan and Matt Oetting all had two hits.

CSI broke open a 3-1 game with five runs in the fourth

and six runs in the fifth. Another three-spot in the sixth made it 17-1 behind starting pitcher Jeff Pontebbi, who worked 5 $\frac{1}{3}$  innings for the win.

**NOTES:** CSI head coach Mike Mauro's mother-in-law, Julie Gaudioso, threw out the ceremonial first pitch to Hillery ... Drew athletic director Jason Fein, who worked at CSI from 1999-2008, presented a check from the school for \$300 to launch the night's fundraising ... Hillery is a social studies teacher at Petrides and JV baseball coach at New Dorp ... The top-seeded Dolphins begin their quest for the CUNY Tournament title tomorrow at 1 p.m. against Baruch at MCU Park (formerly Key-Span) in Coney Island ... CSI wore pink jerseys in honor of the breast cancer cause ... Drew dropped to 8-30.

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## Bearcats drop first game of playoffs

By Timothy Petropoulos

Published: Thursday, April 29, 2010

Updated: Thursday, April 29, 2010

After losing in a rare tripleheader to the [College of Staten Island](#) last weekend to drop them into fourth place, the Bearcats lost to the Dolphins again in the opening round of the playoffs, 15-5, at MCU park in Coney Island today.

The loss doesn't eliminate the Bearcats because of the tournament's double-elimination format. Their next game will be Friday, April 30, at 1:00 p.m. against the loser of John Jay versus City College.

For more information on the game visit the [Baruch College Athletics website](#) or read Monday's print edition of *The Ticker*.

## No no-no: Fiori leads Farrell over Moore

By DYLAN BUTLER

Last Updated: 2:45 AM, April 29, 2010

Posted: 1:26 AM, April 29, 2010

Monsignor Farrell coach Bob Mulligan doesn't remember the last time he heard about a high school no-hitter, let alone seen one.

Yet that's just what Lions ace Joe Fiori was facing when he walked out to the mound in the seventh inning Wednesday night against Moore Catholic.

However, it appeared few at the **College of Staten Island** knew proper baseball etiquette. Fiori's teammates sat nearby, talked to him in the dugout and even one Farrell fan mentioned the no-no loud enough for Fiori to hear it in the fifth inning.

"I did peak in when I was coaching third in the [sixth] inning and there were too many people around him," Mulligan said. "Usually you want to leave him alone."

Mulligan and his team, though, will have to wait a bit longer to witness history. A gassed Fiori gave up a one-out single to Adam Skjeie in the seventh inning, but still got the final two outs in a complete-game, 8-3 win against the Mavericks in a key CHSAA Staten Island clash.

Getting ahead of batters by utilizing his curveball, Fiori cruised through five innings. But the senior righthander, who went 6 2/3 against St. Joseph by the Sea Friday night, got into trouble late. Making his second consecutive start on four days rest, Fiori walked the bases loaded in the sixth inning and lost his shutout bid when Joe Todaro grounded into a double play, scoring Matt DiOrio.

Fiori struck out eight and walked six, five in the final two innings.

"I ran out of gas there at the end," Fiori said.

Pitching on what Mulligan called "guts and guile," Fiori walked JoJo Coughlin to lead off the seventh before fanning Dom Casella. Reliever Anthony LoBello, who replaced starter John Baggs, also walked before Skjeie hit a high flyball to deep centerfield. Speedy outfielder Michael Viegas backpedaled, but was unable to come up with the ball.

"He was disappointed in himself," Mulligan said of Viegas. "As tough a play as that was, and certainly no one could have expected him to catch that ball, but I think his legs gave out from under him as the ball came down on him."

Fiori got all the run support he needed in the middle innings. Farrell designated hitter Jordan Stark broke a scoreless tie with a two-run single to left in the fourth inning and the Lions broke the game open with six runs in the fifth inning, chasing Baggs, who allowed six runs, five earned, on seven hits. He walked four and struck out one.

Pete Guinta, Mike DePaola and Stark each drove in runs to put Farrell (5-2) in front, 5-0. Three more runs scored when Mavericks right fielder Frank Smith dropped what would have been the third out.

But it was the missed opportunities offensively Mavericks coach Nick Doscher lamented about after the game.

"In the first inning we had a man on second base less than two outs and we don't put the ball in play. We were just overmatched," said Doscher, whose team fell to 5-3. "[Fiori] gets tougher as the game goes on. Once he settled in, we knew how good he is."

*dbutler@nypost.com*





PHOTO COURTESY OF CSI

CSI tennis coach Paul Ricciardi, black shirt, has been at the center of the team's success.

## CSI netters eye playoff title

After capturing regular-season crown, Dolphins want more

By **DANNY COLVIN**  
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

**WILLOWBROOK** — Jupiter hasn't aligned with Mars but don't tell that to the College of Staten Island's **Paul Ricciardi**.

The Dolphins tennis coach has had a nice little run during his brief four-year stint and, starting Saturday, he'll lead his top-seeded squad in quest of the City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) holy grail: The playoff championship.

"We won a close race during the regular season and hopefully we can continue," said the buoyant Ricciardi. "This was our

goal all along — to win the title."

If the (14-6, 7-1) Dolphins — top-ranked losers in last year's semifinals — are ever going to net the coveted crown, which they last won in Ricciardi's '03 senior year, the planets seem to be lined in the proper order.

This is the last hurrah for senior **Konstantin Trofimovich** — Staten Island Men's Open finalist the last three years — who is two automatic points from his No. 1 singles and doubles positions.

Ricciardi, however, is quick to point out that this is not a one-man show.

"This has been a team effort. We go eight deep and everyone has contributed," the CSI coach said. "One match we'll have one guy pick us up and then the next time out someone else is coming through for us."

CSI, which has lost once since coming north following its learning lessons in

Florida, has eked out three 5-4 victories over rivals Baruch, Hunter and John Jay, all of whom expect to be anxiously awaiting in Tuesday's semifinals at the National Tennis Center, Queens.

"The guys, especially juniors **Gary Ambartsimov**, **Joe Taranto** and **Rob Hargraves** who have played the last three years with Konstantin, can feel it," adds Ricciardi. "Going to Florida to start the season really helped solidify us as a team. The camaraderie is there and everyone feels like part of a team."

The Islanders got a schooling in Orlando, a bit-sweet taste of what national competition was like, winning just two of six matches.

"We took our lumps (four closing shutouts) but it made us a better team in the long run. Now we're ready to go out winners."

Danny Colvin is a sports reporter for the Staten Island Advance. He may be reached at [colvin@siadvance.com](mailto:colvin@siadvance.com).

## CSI opens CUNY tourney on right foot

Top-seeded Dolphins belt  
Baruch, 15-5, and face  
John Jay today in winners'  
bracket final

By **KEVIN FLOOD**  
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Right from the first game of the season, College of Staten Island coach Mike Mauro said that his squad, favored to win the CUNY Conference title, would be attacking the schedule one game at a time.

True to his word, Mauro handed the ball to his ace, southpaw Pat Gale, for the conference tournament opener yesterday afternoon at MCU Ballpark in Brooklyn and the top-seeded Dolphins recorded a 15-5 victory over No. 4 Baruch.

CSI will face No. 2 seed John Jay (a 9-8 winner over City College) today at 4 p.m. in the winners' bracket final.

"One at a time," Mauro said. "I don't care about the records because the playoffs are a whole different animal. When this game was tied at three apiece, it could have been Baruch that opened things up instead of us. They made some base-running mistakes that helped us out, and then they started throwing the ball around."

"We won the first one, and now we'll give the ball to (Paul) Ciccazzo tomorrow just like we planned."

Gale improved to 8-1, but the CUNY player of the year award winner didn't seem to have his best stuff right from the start and needed some excellent defense in the top of the third to hold a 2-0 advantage. In the fourth he surrendered five hits and three runs as the Bearcats took a 3-2 lead.

The Dolphins tied the game at three in the home fourth on hits by Steve Hession and Devon DiCasoli, then in the sixth the wheels fell off for Baruch. The Dolphins banged out six hits, the Bearcats made five throwing errors, and when the smoke cleared CSI had a 9-3 lead.

"I never felt comfortable from the first pitch and I don't know why," Gale said of his gutsy eight-inning performance. "The guys behind me bailed me out a few times, and I knew it was only a matter of time before we scored a bunch of runs. We've been

SEE DOLPHINS, PAGE B 2

## DOLPHINS

FROM PAGE B 1

doing it all year. Earlier in the game I think we were pressing at the plate, but once we settled in, we started to hit the ball hard."

**NOTES:** Tom DeWaters and Matt Oetting each had three RBI for the Dolphins. Steve Hession had four hits and Gale was intentionally walked twice.



## CSI takes a pair

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

The College of Staten Island softball squad celebrated Senior Day with 4-3 and 11-3 non-conference home wins over New Jersey City University yesterday.

In Game 1, the Dolphins (22-14 overall) broke a 3-3 tie with a run in the bottom of the sixth as Jillian Graniero's fielder's choice scored Kristy Dillon (leadoff triple).

Danielle Ponsiglione (CG, 8 H, 2 ER, 3 Ks) worked around two errors in the top of the seventh to pick up the win.

The teams were knotted at 3 in the bottom of the sixth in the nightcap when CSI erupted for eight runs.

Three Gothic Knight errors helped. Taylor Falco stroked a RBI single and Kaitlyn Flynn blasted a three-run homer.

Ponsiglione went the distance for the victory allowing two earned runs on eight hits.

# ***Stories***

# CSI offers shelter from the storm

Two from L'Aquila University in Italy will take classes here while their town rebuilds after last year's earthquake

**WILLOWBROOK** — Say "Ciao!" to **Vanessa Basso** and **Margherita DeLuca**, two Italian students at the College of Staten Island (CSI), who are spending the semester on the Willowbrook campus while their hometown of Abruzzo rebuilds and recovers from last year's devastating earthquake.

The two were students at L'Aquila University when the campus sustained severe damage in the April 2009 earthquake that struck Italy.

After the quake, which killed 55 students at L'Aquila, the U.S. Department of State partnered with the National Italian American Federation (NIAF) to assist students who were displaced by the disaster to offer temporary placement in American colleges and universities where they could best continue their studies.

Although it can trace its roots to the Middle Ages, the modern University of L'Aquila (*Università degli Studi dell'Aquila*) was founded in 1964 and is best known for its programs in engineering, medicine, psychology and science.

When the State Department contacted **Rep. Michael McMahon** (D-Statens Island/Brooklyn), he contacted CSI President **Dr. Tomas Morales**. As a result, Miss Basso and Miss DeLuca were placed at CSI to attend classes this spring.

Both are interested in engineering and science. Miss DeLuca is taking graduate-level environmental science courses, while Miss Basso, an undergraduate, is studying engineering science. The two said they are finding the American-style



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND

The College of Staten Island is hosting two Italian university students, **Vanessa Basso**, second from left, and **Margherita DeLuca**, right, who were displaced by last year's earthquake in Abruzzo. Greeting them in his office is CSI President **Dr. Tomas Morales**, and his chief-of-staff **Ann Lubrano**.



**DIANE LORE**

college classes — a give-and-take mix of discussion and lecture — a change from the more formal university system in Italy.

Miss DeLuca said she likes the CSI campus and the opportunity to "improve my knowledge in my field."

Miss Basso said she ap-

preciates what she calls "a different way to educate the students and to approach studies."

"It is very interesting to find out these new ways to approach problems concerning my field," she said.

Morales, who met with and welcomed the young women, said the situation is a good fit for everyone. He said the two should feel at home since the college is located in the heart of the borough with a large Italian-American population, many of whom are CSI students.

"After all, CSI is home to the largest Italian-American community in the country. What a fitting

place to offer shelter so they could continue their education in a welcoming, safe, and supportive environment on campus and within the community," he said.

"We all share in the sorrow of their tragedy and rejoice in helping them move on with their lives," Morales added.

Miss Basso and Miss DeLuca will finish up the semester at CSI and return to school in Italy when classes end this semester.

**Diane Lore** writes about schools and education for the Advance. Contact her at [lore@siadvance.com](mailto:lore@siadvance.com). Look for her Chalk Talk column Thursdays during the school year in the Shore editions and online at [SILive.com](http://SILive.com).



## Journalists and Scholars from Around the World to Discuss Future of Online Journalism, April 23-24

**April 5, 2010**

AUSTIN, Texas — Journalists, news industry executives and academics from the United States, Europe, Africa and Latin America will review the state of online journalism today and debate what the future holds at the 11th International Symposium on Online Journalism April 23-24 at The University of Texas at Austin.

Professor Rosental Calmon Alves, the Knight Chair in Journalism and UNESCO Chair in Communication, has organized the annual symposium since 1999. This year, speakers will discuss mobile news (including the use of the iPad and other tablet computers and smartphones), newspapers' strategies to survive the digital era, participatory journalism, non-profit journalism and innovative international experiences in online journalism.

The symposium bridges the academic and professional worlds by including the presentation of research papers selected in an international, highly competitive, blind review process, and by the participation of editors, producers and news organization executives from around the world.

The keynote speaker this year is **Steven Kydd**, executive vice-president and head of content at **Demand Media**, a company that uses algorithms to find topics that people want to see on the Internet, and then produces them in a massive way. It has reached more than 100 million unique users each month with stories and videos produced by more than 7,000 freelancers in an innovative way that has raised admiration and criticism alike.

Participants from more than 20 countries are expected at the symposium, including speakers from more than a dozen nations, including Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czech Republic, Egypt, Norway, France, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States and Turkey. The symposium also has attracted the participation of many universities, besides The University of Texas at Austin. Among others, there will be participants from Cornell, Harvard, University of Southern California, University of Oslo, University of São Paulo, University of Brussels, University of Barcelona, New York University, **College of Staten Island** (CUNY).

Among the panelists, Tom Bodkin, assistant managing editor and design director, The New York Times; Alberto Ibargüen, president and CEO of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation; Dan Gillmor, professor and director of the Knight Center for Digital Media Entrepreneurship, Arizona State University; Scott Lewis, CEO, Voice of San Diego; James Moroney III, publisher and CEO of The Dallas Morning News and executive vice president of A. H. Belo; Jim O'Shea, co-founder and editor, Chicago News Cooperative; John Paton, CEO, Journal Register Company; Evan Smith, CEO and editor, Texas Tribune; Eivind Thomsen, senior vice president of Norway-based Schibsted Media Group; and Ethan Zuckerman, a fellow at the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University.

The **program and more information about the symposium** can be found online. The Web site also contains videos, transcripts, presentations, papers and other material about the previous 10 symposia. It is a unique repository of the evolution of online journalism in the last decade that has been used by researchers from around the world.

Registration is still open. The fee is \$25 for students and faculty and \$50 for others, and can be paid online at the event's Web site. The symposium is made possible thanks to the Knight Chair endowment, given to the University of Texas at Austin by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. The foundation also funds the Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas, a sponsor and co-organizer of the events. This year, the symposium counts on underwriting by The Dallas Morning News and the support of The University of Texas at Austin's College of Communication and School of Journalism.

The event will take place at the **AT&T Executive Education & Conference Center**, 1900 University Ave., on The University of Texas at Austin campus. Contact the Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas at 512-471-1391 or **[online.journalism@yahoo.com](mailto:online.journalism@yahoo.com)** for more information.

**For more information, contact:** **Erin Geisler**, College of Communication, 512 475 8071; Jennifer Potter-Miller, 512-471-1391.

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## Symposium examines online journalism, April 23-24

05/04/2010 17:45:11

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**For more information, contact:**

[Erin Geisler](#), College of Communication, 512 475-8071; Jennifer Potter-Miller, 512-471-1391.

**Post a comment**

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## Artificial brain 'Andy' at College of Staten Island could guide traffic

By Judy L. Randall

April 06, 2010, 11:21PM



Jan Somma-Hammel/Staten Island Advance

**CSI** Systems Manager Nikos Trikoupis passes supercomputer "Andy" at college digs.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- His name is "Andy." You don't know him yet, but if you drive on Staten Island, someday in the near future he could be your new best friend.

Andy is the nickname of the supercomputer housed at the **College of Staten Island** that could help move motorists on, off and around the borough faster.

Today, CUNY's High-Performance Computing Center announced that it has received an infusion of \$1.3 million in federal money to expand Andy's technological capabilities.

**CSI** officials said practical applications they've already gleaned, like expanding the number of cash toll lanes on holidays at area bridges, and making lane adjustments along traffic corridors at other times, could ease traffic congestion and energy consumption.

But they admitted it would be up to the city and state departments of Transportation, as well as the Port Authority, to make use of pertinent data.

They said alternative transportation systems would be evaluated as well, as would commute times.

Rep. Michael McMahon, who shepherded the National Science Foundation grant, said the monetary infusion would make the borough home to a "first-class center for transportation research in New York and around the world."

The supercomputer's namesake is Andy Grove, an alumnus of CUNY's City College and a founder of the Intel Corporation.

The High-Performance Computing Center is the largest such operation in the city and was one of only 19 such centers nationwide when it opened in 2007. Andy is capable of performing in minutes what would take years for other machines.

Manufactured by Silicon Graphics International (SGI), it's a hybrid comprising Intel microprocessors and floating-point accelerators, also referred to as general-purpose graphics processing units.

Paul Muzio, the director of the HPCC, said that advances over the last decade have permitted the creation of systems that have tens of thousands more microprocessors than those found in personal computers. These types of "parallel high-performance computers" enable researchers to process very large amounts of data across a very large number of processors. Andy is constructed and designed to provide substantially higher computational rates on processors coupled to accelerators, as well as the ability to process, in parallel, very large amounts of data.

The college said that through the use of the supercomputer, it hopes to lead an innovative effort to develop the new advanced methods required for the analysis of large-scale transportation infrastructure systems, impact on the national and local economy and related issues of sustainability and quality of life.

Medical research will also be done at the HPCC, added its executive director, Dr. Michael Kress, CSI's vice president for technology systems. He said the center's expansion would help CUNY recruit researchers and students to CSI in the areas of science, engineering, mathematics, finance and urban studies.

McMahon (D-Staten Island/Brooklyn) said he has asked for an additional \$2.5 million appropriation for fiscal 2011.

HPCC will be relocated from its current site on campus, said CSI President Tomas Morales, to a proposed multipurpose Interdisciplinary High-Performance Computing Center on school grounds.

Morales said he believes that, despite the state's economic straits, Albany will come through with \$100,000 for what is expected to be a five-year project.

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## Firefighters battle brush fire in Willowbrook Park

By Doug Auer

April 06, 2010, 6:30AM



Staten Island Advance/Hilton Flores

Firefighters had to cut a hole in a fence on the **CSI** campus to get to the brush fire in a remote section of Willowbrook Park.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Firefighters battled a brush fire yesterday afternoon in a secluded area of Willowbrook Park.

Smoke was spotted billowing from the park's woods lining the right side of Loop Road by a member of the **College of Staten Island's** grounds crew at around 5:45 p.m., said Ken Bach, a spokesman for **CSI**.

The employee notified the school's public safety office, which in turn called 911, Bach continued.

Firefighters accessed the fire by cutting a hole in the fence that separates the college campus from the woodlands, Bock noted.

The fire was declared all-hands, with about a dozen fire units responding, including Brush Fire Units 3 and 4, which utilized their hose apparatus to douse the isolated acre that was smoldering, said FDNY Deputy Chief Peter Leicht of Division 8. Firefighters also donned yellow plastic backpacks full of water to spray lingering pockets of flame.

The section of Loop Road adjacent to the fire -- just past the women's softball field -- was temporarily closed by public safety officers to traffic, which was minimal since school was not in session due to spring break, Bach said.

The cause of the fire, which was doused after about an hour and a half, is under investigation, said FDNY brass.

## Looking for work, hopefuls flock to **CSI** career fair

By Staten Island Advance

April 15, 2010, 2:12PM



Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel

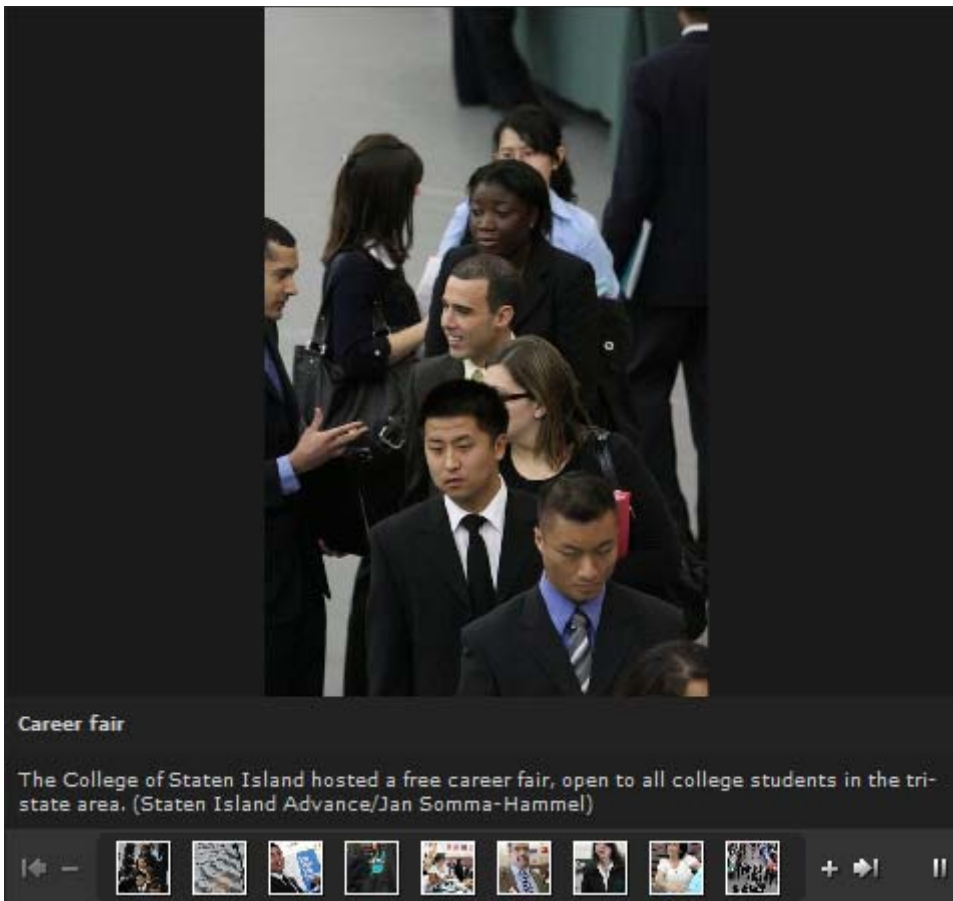
Ahmad Aladhamy, 26, of Annadale, speaks with Chrissy Mazzola of the Women's Leadership Council at the **College of Staten Island** job fair.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The **College of Staten Island** is hosting a free career fair today, open to all college students in the tri-state area.

Sponsored by the Career and Scholarship Center at **CSI**, the fair is focusing on jobs, internships and graduate schools. It runs until 3 p.m.

Summer employment, paid and non-paid internships in all academic areas, as well as full-time and part-time positions are available.

Here are photos from the fair:



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## SILive.com 'Comment of the Day'

By Staten Island Advance

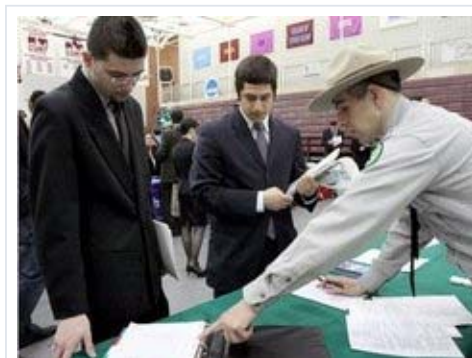
April 16, 2010, 4:48PM

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Today's "Comment of the Day" was posted by SILive.com user thornberg52, to a story about a **career fair at the College of Staten Island.**

Said thornberg52:

*"I speak to a lot of these College Grads each day. Some tell me, 'Why did I bother going to college??' 'Why did I bother going for my MBA??' They tell me.. 'There are no jobs, nobody is hiring.' I feel for them, their parents spent so much money on their education and/or many of these students have student loans to pay and they can't even get a foot into a company. Companies are showing profits, however they are not hiring. This is an endless cycle. Job market is the key to this countries success. You have to keep America working. Kids out of H.S. are going straight into the military just to get some type of job. College isn't going to get them a job these days. This is really sad to see so many bright kids having to go this route."*

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Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel

Sal Basile, left, and Chris Verteramo listen to a park ranger's pitch at **College of Staten Island** career fair.



## Talkin' the scarce-job blues at College of Staten Island fair

By Jeff Harrell

April 16, 2010, 9:26AM



Jan Somma-Hammel/Staten Island Advance

Park it here: Sal Basile, left, and Chris Verteramo listen to park ranger's pitch at College of Staten Island career fair.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- They showed up in power suits, ties and business skirts armed with resumes looking for work.

A scary proposition these days in a job market where the unemployment rate hovers near 10 percent, especially for college students who suddenly find themselves graduating into a world where their parents are putting off retirement and staying on the job longer to make ends meet in desperate times.

The longer people remain in their jobs, the shorter the list of job openings, according to a recent Wall Street Journal report that cited the country's highest unemployment rate for 16-29 year-olds since 1948.

"Of course that scares me," says Annie Breen, 21, a College of Staten Island finance major who hit CSI's Career and Scholarship Center yesterday to chat up recruiters from a handful of Wall Street institutions.

"I've been extremely worried what my future holds and what I'm going to do," Ms. Breen, of Sunnyside, says of her prospects after she graduates next year. "It's very daunting."

The way job seekers lined up 10-12 deep to speak with J.P. Morgan Chase representative Danielle Sirois, you would have thought she was offering six-figure entry-level positions.

But the only job on her table yesterday was an internship.

"We're looking for tax interns for the summer and fall," says Ms. Sirois, a corporate tax specialist for JPMorgan Chase. "We're looking for people who haven't graduated yet."

People, she maintains, JPMorgan can groom.

"We want to keep them here for awhile," Ms. Sirois says before telling one potential recruit, "The job market is opening up."

"We're looking for careers, not jobs," Sal Basile and Chris Verteramo say after speaking with Urban Park Ranger John Moylett about work in the city's Parks and Recreation Department.

"This fair is offering internships, not jobs," Basile says, as Verteramo notes two ideal Island employers -- the Staten Island Yankees and the Staten Island Zoo.

But, "They're only internships," Verteramo says. "I would love to give my time to the Zoo, but it's unpaid."

Maybe the guys should have looked a little harder.

Three reps from CVS handed out fliers advertising full-time salaried jobs at the drugstore chain for assistant manager, shift supervisor, cashiers, stock, pharmacy techs, beauty, photo.

"We're looking for personality and communications skills. We'll teach you the rest," says CVS representative and Bay Terrace resident Olga Sansgaard.

Ahmad Aladhamy is unemployed and itching to learn.

"I could program," says Aladhamy, 26, of Annadale, a 2008 **CSI** graduate with a degree in computer science. "I have classroom experience with [the language program] cplusplus."

It's a Catch-22 for Aladhamy: He needs experience to get hired. But he can't get experience, because nobody's hiring.

"It doesn't scare me," says Aladhamy, whose employment search begins every Sunday.

He scours the classifieds and follows up every promising want-ad with a resume. "I'm trying."

"It's as tough as somebody makes it," says Kaheem Roman of St. George, a 36-year-old Brooklyn College graduate with a degree in Business Management and Finance.

Roman is seeking a teaching job through relentless networking of a resume that includes four years as a math teacher at Brooklyn's Jackie Robinson Center for Physical Culture. Networking is key, he says.

Networking online. Hitting job fairs. Collecting business cards and following up with a phone call and a resume package.

"Stay focused," Roman recommends. "Even if you don't find a job in two weeks, your name is out there. "It is work," Roman adds, "to find work."

# Chamber of Commerce Home Show is next weekend

It will offer consumers a one-stop comparison shopping experience

By **ANDREA BOYARSKY**  
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Whether you're in the market for a new home, considering a major renovation or even a small upgrade, The Staten Island Chamber of Commerce's Home Show next weekend may be the place for you.

The 22nd annual event sponsored by the Home Improvement Contractors Association of Staten Island will be held April 24 and 25 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the College of Staten Island Sports and Recreation Center, Willowbrook. On hand will be about 70 vendors representing different segments of the home industry, including interior design, heating and air conditioning, real estate, landscaping and home improvement contracting.

"For businesses, it's an opportunity to showcase their goods," said Linda Baran, president and chief executive officer of The Staten Island Chamber of Commerce. "We usually get about 5,000 people at the show," she observed, adding, "How often do you get that many people through your shop in two days?"

"For consumers, it's one-stop shopping," Ms. Baran continued, noting that visitors can compare prices among different vendors and book services. Additionally, workshops will be held throughout the weekend, including those led by Our Island Realty, RPM Insurance, Wells Fargo, Golden Key Interiors and Shamrock Paints. Island artists also will be displaying and selling their paintings, photography and jewelry at the Home Show.

## GOING GREEN

Kim Powers, director of marketing and events for the Chamber, noted that there will be a spotlight on going

green this year, with vendors like the Free Lighting Corp and representatives from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), who will speak about energy-efficiency and cost-savings programs.

"This seems to be the way the industry is going," Ms. Powers commented. "People are interested in being more energy-efficient; it's important this year."

Environmentally-friendly installations are big on homeowners' "to-do" list, agreed Chuck Weitzel, project director of Free Lighting Corp, a Con Edison vendor that switches out old incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescents for free.

Weitzel noted that its the fourth year his Stapleton-based business will be participating in the Home Show, the same number of years they've been on Staten Island. At their booth, homeowners can learn about the light bulb program, now in its last year, which Weitzel said can usually save them between 20 and 40 percent on monthly electric bills. Those interested can sign up at the show, learn whether they're qualified and set up an appointment.

"The Home Show brings together companies and entities that deal with helping the homeowner improve their living conditions and we fit in with that very, very well," Weitzel said.

## FIRSTHAND KNOWLEDGE

Also at the event will be Scaran heating and air-conditioning, Richmond Valley, which has been a participant since the show's inception. Co-owner Tom Scarangelo, who is also on the Chamber's Foundation Board, said consumers can stop by and learn about their services, see products first-hand and ask questions without any sales pressure. The company also will be handing out free carbon monoxide detectors at its booth.

Scarangelo said energy-efficiency in his line of work has been picking up steam for two reasons: Utility bills have gone up and the government offers up to \$1,500 in tax incentives for upgrading to more energy-efficient heating and cooling systems.

Commenting on the Home Show, Scarangelo observed: "One advantage the consumer has, they will see my company and some of my competitors and can compare and contrast at the show and decide right there. It's a great time savings."

Andrea Boyarsky is a features reporter for the Advance. She may be reached at [boyarsky@siadvance.com](mailto:boyarsky@siadvance.com).

## Just the facts

The 22nd Annual Chamber of Commerce Home Show, featuring vendors representing various segments of the home industry.

### Where

CSI Sports and Recreation Center, Willowbrook

### When

April 24 and 25

### Time

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days

### Admission

General admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for senior citizens; free for children under 14.

### Vendors

Vendor registration is still open. For information, call 718-727-1900

## Two more losses for Staten Island golf community

By Tom Flannagan

April 18, 2010, 10:10AM



Dennis Buckley's smooth game and keen sense of humor was appreciated by Advance golf columnist Tom Flannagan.

We're off to a sad start for the 2010 golf season with the loss of three fine players — Charlie "Mr. Golf" Kerdock, who left a hole in the LaTourette membership earlier this season, and then last week the crushing news of the loss of John Ferrara and, within days, Dennis Buckley.

Ferrara died in a car crash in Rocky Mount, N.C., while driving home to Staten Island from Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Buckley passed quietly at home after a battle with cancer. The two had played together on many occasions, particularly in tournaments.

Ferrara, of the Silver Lake Men's Club, was vitally important to the local golf community and took part in just about everything that was happening on the links. He was not only a strong player and one of the longest hitters, but a gentleman always willing to improve the game. He also was the first Staten Islander to serve as a Metropolitan Golf Association official. The Ferrara family announced that John's corneas have been donated.

We had the pleasure of playing with Buckley many times over the years and never got tired of watching his silky-smooth swing and shotmaking. But all who knew him will agree that his always present sense of humor made the game so much easier.

Plans are being made to develop a scholarship fund for junior golfers in the name of John Ferrara.

### **NYC AMATEUR**

Silver Lake and Clearview will hold the first qualifying rounds for the 23rd annual NYC Amateur, which began at LaTourette in 1988 and has remained there, attracting the best amateur players from the Met area and beyond. There are three divisions — Men's open, Seniors (50-59) and Super Seniors (60 and over).

An additional qualifying round will be held at Pelham in the Bronx on May 1. All competitors who have made the cut at one of the above locations will advance to the championship proper at LaTourette on Memorial Day weekend where the Open class players will compete over 54 holes and seniors and super senior championships will play 36 holes.

### **SIWGA**

The Staten Island Women's Golf Association begins its season May 16 with a Captain and Crew event at South Shore. Entry forms are available at all courses and on line at SIWGA.COM. Deadline for entry is seven days prior to the event.



The Silvettes look forward to a very special year as they celebrate their 75th anniversary. The Women's Division of the Silver Lake Men's Club will also be celebrating its 20th year.

### **OUTINGS AND EVENTS**

The 10th annual **College of Staten Island** outing will take place at South Shore on April 30 with a shotgun start at 7:30 a.m. Price is \$175. Call 718-982-2365 for reservations.

The South Shore Rotary Golf Outing is at Royce Brook in Hillsborough, N.J. on May 4 with a 9 a.m. shotgun start. There will be dinner and prizes and the proceeds will go to the Haiti Relief Fund. Call Brian Gomez at 718-966-1431 or Fred Limeri at 718-227-0808 for reservations.

Curtis High School Association of Alumni and Friends will stage its inaugural golf outing on May 12 at Silver Lake and the proceeds will go to its scholarship fund. There will be breakfast at 7 a.m. and a shotgun start at 8 a.m. A lunch at the turn will be followed by a steak and chicken BBQ at the concluding awards ceremony.

Richmond University Medical Center will hold the Jack Sipp Golf & Tennis Outing at Richmond County Country Club on May 17. This year's honorees include Pankaj Patel M.D, Joseph Motta M.D. who will receive the Stanley Stilwell Memorial Award. The chairpersons are J.P. Sipp, Esq. and Tom Sipp, Esq. The honorary chair is Advance editor Brian Laline. Reservations must be made by May 3 by e-mail at [specialevents@rumcsi.org](mailto:specialevents@rumcsi.org) or call 718-818-2195.

### **NOTES**

Steven Pedersen continues his good play on the FCWT with a fourth-place finish last weekend at the Ace Club in Lafayette Hills, Pa.

The 15 year-old Silver Lake member shot a pair of 5-over-par 77s that included five birdies for the 36 holes. The winner of the 13-15s division was Will Seger of Jasper, Ind., with a 142.

Veteran golfer Gabby Nasta isn't getting out much and would like some old golf friends to give him a call at 718-273-9147.

Jack Roach, former Tottenville High School golf coach, was very upset when Verizon cut off the crucial part of the Masters on cable TV.

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## College of Staten Island making some restrooms gender neutral

By Amy Padnani

April 18, 2010, 8:51AM



Anthony DePrimo/Staten Island Advance

One of eight new functional gender-neutral bathrooms at the **College of Staten Island** is identified with a sign.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Most people aren't given funny looks when they walk into a restroom. Or yelled at to get out. Or even arrested. But for transgender people or parents with small children of the opposite sex, entering a bathroom can be a daily challenge.

"People really learn how to avoid using restrooms in public whenever possible because they do face a lot of harassment," said Michael Silverman, executive director of the Manhattan-based Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund. "Sometimes that harassment takes extreme forms."

To ensure a welcoming, all-inclusive campus, the College of Staten Island is retrofitting about 20 of its restrooms -- one in each building -- to be gender neutral and family-friendly, making it the first educational institution in the borough to do so. Wagner College and St. John's University do not have plans to create unisex bathrooms, officials said.

"It's common sense, really," said Dr. Syed Rizvi, a professor of engineering, science and physics at **CSI**, who was instrumental in modifying the lavatories. "It provides people with a safe environment to perform basic human functions."

So far, eight men's rooms have been converted, with the simple addition of a lock on the main door. There are still urinals, several sinks and stalls -- including a handicapped one -- in each bathroom. The door is marked with male and female stick figures and a sign lets people know they can lock the door for privacy.

Rizvi said the school's Inclusive Excellence Committee came up with the idea after attending five days of



workshops on diversity and culture at the University of Vermont, where they spotted the gender-neutral bathrooms. He was reminded of a time years ago, when he was frantically looking for a place to change his young daughter. Left with no choice, he diapered her in his car, and wound up with a soiled tie. Though he was fortunate to have a spare, Rizvi recognized not all parents are as prepared; the new bathrooms will be equipped with changing tables, from which at least 120 parents on campus can benefit.

Though CSI isn't the only place in the borough to offer such facilities -- they can be found at the Staten Island Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Center as well as some restaurants and stores -- it joins a short list of about 50 educational institutions across the country, said Darryl Hill, an associate professor of psychology at CSI and co-founder of TransNYC, a support group that advocates for transgender rights.

"The CSI community is becoming increasingly cosmopolitan and diverse as we attract more and more students from across the five boroughs, and faculty from across the world," said Hill, who has been lobbying for the unisex restrooms. "We have to respond to their needs and provide a safe environment."

Transgender students have been known to: Take classes at night when there are fewer people on campus; wait until they get home; or rush to the library, where there is a private, handicapped, unisex bathroom.

According to the city Commission on Human Rights, public restrooms must be available to people based on the gender with which they identify. Still, transgender people are often leered at and eyed suspiciously. In one case, a phone repair worker, who was transitioning from male to female, was arrested three times for using the bathroom at Grand Central Terminal.

"You use the women's bathroom and cops and security come running in, demanding to know who you are and what's your sex," said Silverman of the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund. "That can be quite humiliating. It's really a difficult issue for a lot of people that leaves them fearful and nervous."

Still, not everyone is a fan of the retrofitted restrooms.

With just one person using them at a time, Andrew DiLorenzo, a junior and a DJ at CSI's WSIA radio station, envisioned lines of impatient students forming outside the door with people eager to relieve themselves so they can get back to class.

"It's going to be a time waster and it's going to be a nuisance for many students who will get annoyed," the South Beach resident said.

Others, like Antoinette Peters, a sophomore from Brooklyn, feared the facilities would be misused by couples engaging in hanky panky: "You just have to hope they're going to be adults. That's all."

## Long-Time Simpsons Writer Likes Family Guy - UGO.com

### Longtime Simpsons Writer Likes Family Guy as Much as Beer

“Family Guy is like watching the Simpsons after three beers,” says writer Mike Reiss.

By at 5:32 PM

April 20, 2010 at 5:32 PM EDT

<http://www.ugo.com/tv/long-time-simpsons-writer-likes-family-guy>



Homer Simpson

Mike Reiss, long-time writer for the legendary *Simpson's* and co-creator of *The Critic*, held a lecture at the **College of Staten Island** yesterday to talk about writing for an animated series to English and Journalism majors.

During the Q & A portion of the lecture, Communications major Christopher Verteramo posed the question everyone wanted to ask; what is the camaraderie like between primetime animated shows, namely [Family Guy](#) and [Seth MacFarlane](#)?

Reiss obliged the query, calling it “the inevitable question.” “Many people on the team like *Family Guy*. Some people don’t, but many do,” said Reiss. He continued on, “I think it’s great. It’s like watching [The Simpsons](#) after three beers.”

Reiss claimed that during the time *The Simpsons* was surrounded by a block of Seth MacFarlane shows the show's viewership increased. “*The Simpsons* has done nothing but benefit from Seth’s shows.”

The camaraderie talk also branched off into Reiss’ thoughts on *South Park* and *King of the Hill*. The *South Park* team, which has poked fun at *Family Guy* and *The Simpsons* on separate occasions, actually has a good relationship with Reiss and the rest of the team.

“Everyone finds it hilarious when they’re made fun of on *South Park*. Although, while *Family Guy* is like *The Simpsons* after three beers, *King of the Hill* is like *The Simpsons* after... three strokes.”

Happy words for [South Park](#) and *Family Guy*. Harsh words for ol’ Hank Hill.

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Also Featured on IMDb.com



## Bashing public school teachers won't solve schools' problems

By Letters to the Editor/Staten Island Adva...

April 20, 2010, 8:10AM

By TERESA LADNER,  
ELTINGVILLE

Once again it is open season on teachers and Assemblyman Lou Tobacco has joined in the hunt.

Another call for charter schools. Another scheme for moving money to the rich. If they have the secret to better schools, they hide it well.

If your child gets sick in school, send her to Ms. Moskowitz, the charter school front makes \$400,000 while they are firing school nurses. Every school pays tens of thousands to educational consulting firms fronted by retired administrators; however, they're laying off thousands of teachers.

Bloombucks defends spending \$722 million on a company which has been banned from doing business with the federal government, and since 1998, has produced nothing.

Shocking!

With two teacher's licenses and nothing but excellent observations, my husband was out of work every June until he got tenure. That's seven summers of guessing how we would pay the rent.

Knowing your livelihood ends if the principal's cousin graduates from the **College of Staten Island** doesn't build stable families. To live that way indefinitely, for that salary, is moronic.

Competent teachers aren't morons.

I assume I can now spit on Lou and threaten his family, or is that right available to right-wing trash only?

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## College of Staten Island Builds Unisex Bathrooms



In an effort to make the campus a friendly place for transgender students and people with small children, the **College of Staten Island** is reconstructing one bathroom in each building to be gender neutral. "It's common sense, really," said Professor Dr. Syed Rizvi. "It provides people with a safe environment to perform basic human functions." The conversions don't seem too difficult either. Eight men's rooms were changed to unisex with the simple addition of a lock on the main door.

The school's Inclusive Excellence Committee got the idea from a visit to the University of Vermont, which also has gender neutral restrooms. The college believes the restrooms will help transgender students or faculty with small children feel more comfortable on campus. According to the city Commission on Human Rights, transgender people should

use the restroom of the sex with which they identify, not the sex they were born with. However, this has been known to cause issues. Michael Silverman of the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund said, "You use the women's bathroom and cops and security come running in, demanding to know who you are and what's your sex. That can be quite humiliating. It's really a difficult issue for a lot of people that leaves them fearful and nervous."

Not everyone at school is happy with the changes, mainly because they believe the ability to lock the main door when there are seven stalls inside will cause unnecessary lines. They're also worried this will give a free pass for anyone wanting to get busy between classes. Said one student, "You just have to hope they're going to be adults. That's all."

## "Simpsons" writer dishes on clan for College of Staten Island audience

By Michelle Rossman

April 20, 2010, 12:05AM



Jan Somma-Hammel/Staten Island Advance

Mike Reiss expounds on all things "Simpson" for College of Staten Island audience.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- "Yesterday you never heard of me, and tomorrow you won't remember me."

That "Simpsons"-worthy aphorism was how Mike Reiss, a writer and producer of the longest-running prime-time TV series, opened his presentation yesterday in the Center for the Arts' Recital Hall at the College of Staten Island, Willowbrook.

In a feat that many a professor would envy, Reiss held the attention of 250 students for an hour and a half. Though he claimed, "I'm a comedy writer, not a comedian," Reiss kept the crowd laughing.

His talk touched on "Simpsons" history and trivia, controversies, difficulties and milestones of the program, now in its 21st season.

In his 15 seasons with the show, Reiss has won four Emmy Awards and produced 300-plus episodes. He worked on 166 drafts of "The Simpsons Movie." (He suggested Vin Diesel for Homer, Don King for Marge and Tom Cruise for Mr. Smithers, should anyone want to undertake a live-action remake.)

When asked why he writes comedy, Reiss said, "I can't help myself." He told the audience of his days at "The Tonight Show," where writers had to write 60 jokes a day, and explained that writer's block doesn't apply to someone whose paycheck and job depends on writing.



"If I couldn't write comedy, I would write for Jimmy Fallon," he quipped.

Fallon wasn't the only person Reiss poked fun at. Kathy Griffin, Paris Hilton, Michael Jackson, Oprah, Mel Gibson, Mark Hamill, the Rolling Stones, Sting, SpongeBob Squarepants, Tweetie Bird, "Will & Grace," Los Angeles, the American South, "The Simpsons" staff, Reiss himself, Staten Island and the crowd all came in for gibes.

Celebrity guests have embraced lending their voices to the show since its debut in 1989. To date, about 300 have done so. In fact, Reiss commented that "The Simpsons" is infrequently sued, sent hate mail or complained to.

Foreign countries are typically not as excited to be featured on the show. Venezuela, France, and Japan all canceled the series after "The Simpsons" visited their countries.

For those who say the show is no longer funny, Reiss has a simple answer: "Well, don't watch it!" He likened the 450-episode show to a person. "The Simpsons change the way people change. Think of your grandparents. They either get boring or crazy and weird. I like to think 'The Simpsons' has gotten crazy and weird."

In fact, ratings have increased in the last year, and within the last two weeks, the show jumped two points, according to [tvbythenumbers.com](http://tvbythenumbers.com). "All the people who don't watch are dying [of old age]," Reiss joked.

In fact, his favorite character to write for is Grandpa. Reiss laughed at the fact that college students often choose Disco Stew, "a name on a jacket," as Reiss called him, and Chief Wiggum, "a brain-damaged Buddha," as their favorite characters, though he likes when people don't choose from the main cast. "If Marge died in a car wreck, I wouldn't be crying," he said.

After the smorgasbord of information peppered with jokes, the two being sometimes indivisible, Reiss invited students and attendees to stay and talk with him: "It's Staten Island on a Monday afternoon. What the [expletive] else am I going to do?"

The event was co-sponsored by "Operation Three-Legged Dolphin," "Caesura," and the departments of English and media culture at the college.

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## CSI gets a boost in CIS

### Online Exclusive

By Sabrina Smith

News Editor

Published: Thursday, April 22, 2010

Updated: Thursday, April 22, 2010

Students at the **College of Staten Island** can expect technological improvements on campus due to grants from the National Science Foundation.

The two grants, which total \$1.3 million, will assist the college to provide new supercomputers that will support faculty research and provide enhanced educational opportunities for students, according to a press release from the high productivity computing news site, HPCwire.

"I am thrilled that we have helped partner the federal government with our own **CSI** to support this important project," said Congressman Michael McMahon in the press release.

The funding will allow **CSI** to expand the capacity and power of CUNY's High-Performance Computing Center at the college, while serving the researchers and students within CUNY.

According to Michael Kress, vice president for Technology Systems at **CSI**, the grants will also provide the foundation for the development and future construction of an interdisciplinary high-performance computing center (HPCC), which is in the works to become a research facility at the college.

"With the addition of these systems, the CUNY HPCC at CSI is without question, the largest, most capable academic research computing facility in the City of New York," said Kress in the press release. "It is enabling us to recruit new researchers to **CSI** and to better prepare our students for their future careers in science, engineering, and mathematics."

HPCwire also reported that Congressman McMahon submitted a request for \$2.5 million in next year's budget for **CSI** that would "continue to bring together leading transportation experts, economists, social scientists, mathematicians, and computer scientists, to develop advanced methods for innovative analysis of critical issues in transportation."



## Staten Island event to educate on college opportunities for vets

By Staten Island Advance

April 21, 2010, 1:33PM

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Assemblyman Michael Cusick and the New York State Division of Veteran's Affairs are sponsoring a seminar tomorrow at the College of Staten Island designed to make colleges a more friendly place for veterans looking to further their education.

The event -- which takes place in Building 2N's Room 006 from 1-3 p.m. -- will educate officials from each Island college, as well local veterans, on the options present for those who have served their country and are considering enrolling in or continuing their education at a college.

The purpose of the event is to increase the retention rate of veteran students and to ensure that veterans take full advantage of college benefits included in the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

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Assemblyman Michael Cusick is a sponsor of the "Veteran Friendly Campuses" event.

## **College of Staten Island adds unisex restrooms**

4/21/2010 8:00:27 AM

STATEN ISLAND, NY — To make the campus more friendly for transgender students and those with small children, the **College of Staten Island** is making some restrooms unisex, according to the [Gothamist](#).

The changes will be made to eight mens' rooms by simply adding a door lock to one restroom in each campus building, the story stated.

Some around campus have dissenting views and feel that having the ability to lock the main restroom door when there are seven unused stalls inside will cause unnecessary lines, the story noted.

Professor Syed Rizvi of the **College of Staten Island** said: "It's common sense, really. It provides people with a safe environment to perform basic human functions."

The **College of Staten Island** Inclusive Excellence Committee got the idea for the gender-neutral restrooms after a visit to the University of Vermont, which has unisex restrooms, the story added.

## Beaches and pools help ward off the warmth of summer

By Staten Island Advance

April 21, 2010, 12:30PM



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Staten Island Advance

South Beach, in the Staten Island community of the same name, is popular with swimmers and boardwalk strollers, and offers sweeping views of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge and Lower New York Harbor.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Peaceful, clean, well-guarded public swimming beaches, backed by miles of boardwalk and promenades, are found along Staten Island's eastern shoreline. Public and private swimming club pools offer fun and relief from the summer sun.

### BEACHES

City-owned beaches include **Wolfe's Pond Park** in Prince's Bay; and the beachfront parks at **South Beach** and adjoining **Midland Beach**.

Federal beaches include Gateway National Recreation Area in Great Kills, known locally as **Great Kills Park**, and **Miller Field** in New Dorp.

The federal beaches are open to the public year-round, with lifeguards on duty at Great Kills from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. All three city beaches are open for swimming Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends.

For information about Staten Island beach openings, call the NYC 311 Help Line or visit the **Parks Department Web site**.

For information pertaining to Gateway's two beach areas, call the Staten Island ranger offices in Great



[View full size](#)

Staten Island Advance

A quiet lane at Wolfe's Pond Park leads invitingly to the swimming beach.



Kills at 718-987-6790.

## PUBLIC POOLS



[View full size](#) Staten Island Advance  
Lyons Pool in Tompkinsville is large, very popular and happens to be an official New York City landmark.

### Large public pools on the Island include:

- Lyons Pool at **Pier 6 and Victory Boulevard**, Tompkinsville.
- West Brighton Pool on **Henderson Avenue near Broadway**, West Brighton.
- Tottenville Pool on **Hylan Boulevard and Joline Avenue**, Tottenville.
- Faber Pool on **Richmond Terrace at Faber Street** in Port Richmond.

### Mini-pools include:

- General Douglas Pool on **Jefferson Street and Seaver Avenue**, Dongan Hills.
- Mariners Harbor Playground, **Grandview Avenue and Continental Place**.
- Stapleton Playground at PS 14, **Tompkins Avenue between Hill and Broad streets**.
- Old Town Playground at PS 46, **Parkinson Avenue and Kramer Street** in South Beach.

The Island's public outdoor pools are scheduled to open June 28 and close on Labor Day. They will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and from 4 to 7 p.m. seven days a week.

## SWIM CLUBS

- Berkinow Jewish Community Center (JCC), **1466 Manor Rd.**, Sea View.
- Goodhue Community Center Children's Aid Society, **304 Prospect Ave.**, New Brighton.
- Great Kills Swim Club, **39 Nahant St.**, Great Kills.
- Hillside Swim Club, **151 Signs Road**, Bulls Head.
- **Island Swim Club**, located at **1089 Rockland Ave.**, New Springville. .
- Richmond County Country Club pool, **135 Flagg Pl.**, Dongan Hills.
- South Shore Swimming Club, **6736 Hylan Blvd.**, Tottenville.
- The **College of Staten Island's Sports** and Recreation Center, **2800 Victory Blvd.**, Willowbrook.
- YMCA Broadway Center, **651 Broadway**, West Brighton.
- YMCA South Shore Center, **3939 Richmond Ave.**, Eltingville.

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## History: A timeline of Staten Island's rich heritage

**By Staten Island Advance**

April 21, 2010, 12:30PM



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Staten Island Advance/Staten Island Museum

The Lenape Indians settled in the Northeast as long as 10,000 years ago, and began living on Staten Island at least since the year 1000.

1000 — Hackensack and Raritan Indian tribes — two chieftancies of Lenape, or Delaware Nation — are Staten Island's sole inhabitants.

April 1524 — Italian Giovanni da Verrazano, sailing for France, becomes first European to pass through Narrows.

Sept. 3, 1609 — While seeking Northwest Passage, Henry Hudson sights island, naming it Staaten Eyelandt.

1613 — Dutch establish fur trading posts on Manhattan and Staten islands.

Aug. 20, 1661 — Gov. Peter Stuyvesant permits first permanent European settlement of 19 Dutch and French settlers at Oude Dorp (now South Beach).

Nov. 1, 1683 — Staten Island is named Richmond County after Duke of Richmond, Charles II's illegitimate son.

1695 — Voorlezer's House, now the nation's oldest school building, is built in Coclestown (Richmond).

1747 — First ferry established between Manhattan and North Shore.



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Staten Island  
Advance



[View full size](#) Staten Island Advance

Voorlezer's House, the earliest known schoolhouse in America, was built in 1696 and still stands on the grounds of Staten Island's Historic Richmond Town.

1774 — Daniel D. Tompkins, future governor of New York and U.S. vice president, who developed Tompkinsville, is born in Westchester County.

Explorer Henry Hudson gave Staten Island its name.

July 2-3, 1776 — 9,000 British troops under Gen. Sir William Howe land on Staten Island "to the great joy of a most loyal people."

July 9, 1776 — New York receives word of Declaration of Independence as Islanders sign oath of allegiance to King of England.

March 31, 1816 — Richmond Turnpike Company is formed to hasten travel between New York and Philadelphia; eventually operates road (now Victory Boulevard) from Tompkinsville to

Travis.

1818 — First attempt to tell local history — "Brief History of the Settlement of Staten Island" by Rev. Peter I. Van Pelt, minister of Reformed Dutch Church in Port Richmond — is published.

Feb. 23, 1828 — Capt. John Jackson buys land in Westfield (Sandy Ground), first record of a black man buying land in Richmond County.

1831 — Sailors Snug Harbor (Livingston) is established; begins operation two years later.

1830s — Newly freed blacks from Manhattan and free black Maryland oystermen begin settling at Sandy Ground (parts of Rossville, Woodrow, Pleasant Plains and Charleston).

July 1837 — Richmond Co. Mirror, first newspaper printed on Staten Island, is published.

1839 — Island's first Roman Catholic parish, St. Peter's in New Brighton, is established.

1851 — St. Joseph's in Rossville, the oldest Catholic church building still standing in the borough, is built.

Jan. 21, 1856 — Staten Island Historical Society forms.



Staten Island Advance

General Sir William Howe



[View full size](#) Staten Island Advance

A 19th century magazine illustration shows the burning of the Quarantine Marine Hospital in Clifton.

Sept. 1, 1858 — Mobs from New Brighton and Edgewater, fearing spread of yellow fever, torch Marine Hospital Quarantine in Tompkinsville, where immigrants with infectious diseases are held.

Early 1860s — Six army camps established here during Civil War: Camps Washington and Arthur in Tompkinsville; Camp Scott in Old Town; and Camps Vanderbilt, Yates and Lafayette in New Dorp; shot tower built along East Shore to supply ammunition for war.

July 14, 1863 — Nation's deadliest riots — Civil War draft riots — spread from Manhattan to Staten Island, lasting six days. Houses owned by blacks, who are viewed as responsible for war, are torched in Stapleton. Many blacks are hunted down and beaten; conservative estimates include five local deaths.

1864 — Staten Island Savings Bank is founded in Stapleton by Francis George Shaw and 20 other men (the oldest financial institution headquartered here).

March 17, 1865 — Pioneer photographer Elizabeth Alice Austen is born in Rosebank.

Sept. 29, 1866 — First official Richmond County fair is held.

July 30, 1871 — Staten Island's worst ferry disaster, when boiler explosion aboard Westfield II results in 66 deaths; 60 more of the 200 injured would subsequently die of their injuries.

March 20, 1874 — Tennis introduced to North America by Mary Ewing Outerbridge, who brings sport to her Staten Island home from Bermuda.

Sept. 1-6, 1880 — Nation's first lawn tennis tournament is played in New Brighton.



[View full size](#) Staten Island Advance

Staten Islander Mary Outerbridge introduced the game of tennis to the U.S. It quickly caught on.

1881 — S.S. White Dental Works, dental equipment/supply manufacturer and among Island's largest employers, established at site of small dental factory started in 1865 at Seguine's Point (Prince's Bay).

March 28, 1881 — Staten Island Telephone Exchange Company incorporates; 14 lines in operation by June 25.

September 1881 — Natural Science Association organized; later renamed Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences, county's oldest continuous cultural institution.

1883 — Marine/Public Service Hospital moves to Clifton from Bedloe's Island to make room for Statue of Liberty.

Nov. 29, 1883 — Child-care pioneer Rev. John Drumgoole founds St. Vincent's Home for Homeless Newsboys after arriving at Mount Loretto with boys from Lower Manhattan slums.

1884 — First synagogue, Congregation B'nai Jeshurun in Tompkinsville, opens.

Feb. 23, 1886 — First ferry runs between St. George and Whitehall.

March 27, 1886 — Richmond County Advance, weekly precursor to Staten Island Advance, is first published.

July 4, 1888 — Prohibition Park in Westerleigh, model community for temperance supporters, opens 32 years before Prohibition amendment to Constitution is passed.

Sept. 26, 1888 — First street lights brighten Richmond Terrace.

July 4, 1892 — First trolley line, running between Port Richmond and Meiers Corners, opens.

November 1894 — Staten Islanders overwhelmingly vote to become part of New York City — 5,531 to 1,505.

Jan. 1, 1898 — Staten Island — along with Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens — joins New York City.

November 1898 — George Cromwell elected first borough president.

Feb. 6, 1899 — First library opens in Tottenville, gift of Andrew Carnegie.

Nov. 24, 1903 — St. Vincent's Hospital in West Brighton opens.



[View full size](#) Staten Island Advance

Alice Austen was known to disregard comfort and peril to get the photograph she wanted.



Feb. 9, 1904 — First public high school, G. W. Curtis in St. George, opens.

Oct. 25, 1905 — City assumes control of Staten Island Ferry.

May 2, 1906 — Borough Hall dedicated; St. George becomes new civic center.

October 1907 — Procter & Gamble factory in Port Ivory opens, producing 1 million cases of Ivory and Lenox bar soaps a year.

Feb. 1, 1917 — All local post offices consolidated with Staten Island General Post Office.

May 25, 1917 — First local draft board opens for World War I. Richmond gives more men to war effort per capita than any other U.S. county. Of 5,000 Islanders who served, 141 are killed.

Oct. 25, 1917 — Water from Ashokan reservoir in Catskills reaches newly built Silver Lake reservoir after traveling 119 miles over three days.



**View full size** Staten Island Advance  
The water reservoir at Silver Lake Park also provided work for ice harvesters.

1918 — Wagner College moves to Grymes Hill from Rochester, N.Y. First enrollment: 16 students, one professor and 2,000 books.

June 1918 — Staten Island Advance begins daily publication.

March 3, 1919 — Richmond Town courthouse holds last session before moving to St. George. New courthouse opens Nov. 3.

Jan. 19, 1920 — Legislative proposals introduced to build bridge from Tottenville to Perth Amboy.

1924 — U.S. Gypsum, a Chicago-based wallboard and building materials manufacturer, buys J.B. King's Windsor Plaster Mills in New Brighton, becoming one of Staten Island's largest employers.

1925 — Entrepreneur William Morris founds Staten Island Chapter of NAACP.

June 20, 1928 — Outerbridge Crossing and Goethals Bridge open simultaneously.

1929 — Staten Island Stapes, led by future NFL Hall of Famer Ken Strong, join National Football League.

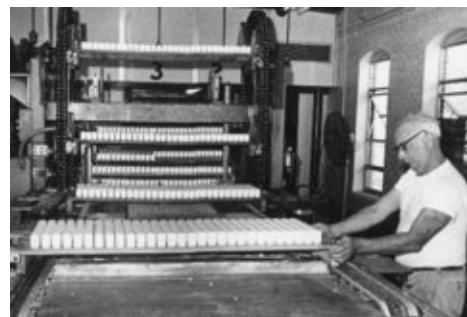
Nov. 15, 1931 — Bayonne Bridge opens.

May 28, 1932 — Lightning strike in Stapleton sparks one of borough's biggest fires.

Jan. 26, 1934 — Last trolley leaves Clove Road for St. George.

Nov. 19, 1935 — Construction of FDR Boardwalk in South Beach begins.

June 10, 1936 — Staten Island Zoo in West Brighton opens.



**View full size** Staten Island Advance  
Bars of Ivory soap are inspected at the Procter & Gamble plant on Staten Island in this 1976 photo.



**View full size** Staten Island Advance



August 1937 — A six-family tenement collapses after heavy rains flood what is now Jersey Street in New Brighton. A police officer attempting to rescue a child was among the 19 killed, so was the child.

Opening day at the Bayonne Bridge draws a flood of cars from New Jersey.

July 4, 1939 — Dedication ceremonies held for FDR Boardwalk in South Beach, including huge parade with bathing beauties and babies. Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia cuts ribbon.

1942 — War cargo ships set sail from Staten Island Terminal at Stapleton for World War II battlefields.

March 1942 — An explosion in the Unexcelled Manufacturing Co., a fireworks plant in Graniteville, kills five employees.



[View full size](#)

Associated Press

British Prime Minister Winston Churchill was one of the now-vanished North Shore Railroad's most famous passengers.

May 11, 1943 — British Prime Minister Winston Churchill lands in Tompkinsville, traveling to Washington by train to meet FDR. He again stops on Island Sept. 10, 1944, on his return to England.

June 25, 1946 — Raging fire consumes St. George Ferry Terminal, killing three, injuring 280 and destroying 17 trains.

Dec. 26-27, 1947 — Blizzard drops some 26 inches of snow in city's second worst blizzard.

April 16, 1948 — Landfill at Fresh Kills opens.

April 22, 1948 — New York City's first drive-in theater opens in New Springville.

1951 — Staten Island granted division of New York Police Department.

1952 — Richmondtown Restoration is established, creating city's only living historic village.

March 1956 — Staten Island Community College in St. George (now **College of Staten Island** in Willowbrook) opens as first two-year institution in CUNY system.

1960 — Bethlehem Steel Corp., among Island's largest employers for years, closes ship-building plant on Richmond Terrace. Propeller plant and foundry continue to operate on Davidson Street, closing in 1971.

Nov. 7, 1960 — Presses roll for first time at current location of Staten Island Advance in Grasmere.

Dec. 16, 1960 — Worst air disaster on Island occurs when United Airlines carrier slams into TWA jet over New Dorp. United plane falls in Park Slope, Brooklyn, killing all 84 on board and six on ground. TWA plane crashes at Miller's Field, killing all 44 on board.

Jan. 3, 1961 — Proclamation by Mayor Robert F. Wagner recognizes 300th anniversary of Staten Island's first permanent settlement by Dutch.

January 1963 — Island's last brewery, Piel Brothers Inc. in Stapleton, closes.

April 20, 1963 — Black Saturday: Three brush fires — one in Rossville, one in Tottenville and another in Mariners Harbor — destroy 100 houses, leave more than 500 homeless and cause more than \$2 million in damage. Many homes in historic Sandy Ground community are destroyed.

Summer 1964 — Livingston Community Association protests



[View full size](#)

Staten Island Advance

The 1960 mid-air collision rained debris from the doomed planes on and near Miller Field in New Dorp. This aircraft engine

missing identification of Staten Island on state map at New York State Pavilion at 1964 World's Fair.

plummeted to earth near the Berry Houses apartment complex.

Aug. 29, 1964 — Mid-Island Little League beats Monterey of Mexico 4-0 to win Little League World Series title.

Nov. 21, 1964 — Verrazano-Narrows Bridge opens.

March 7, 1965 — First Sunday Advance is printed.

Oct. 11, 1966 — President Lyndon B. Johnson attends dedication ceremony of Verrazano-Narrows Bridge.

1971 — Federal quarantine station in Rosebank, which had inspected health of every immigrant entering the United States through New York Harbor since the late 1880s, closes.

1971 — Notre Dame College on Grymes Hill closes; St. John's University assumes control.



**View full size** Staten Island Advance

This prim-and-proper postcard view of the Willowbrook State School gave no hint of the horrors within its walls.

1971 — Advance reporter Jane Kurtin exposes horrendous conditions at Willowbrook State School, leading to national coverage and eventual closing of facility.

May 4, 1971 — Islander Paul Zindel wins Pulitzer Prize for drama for his play "Effect of Gamma Rays on Man in the Moon Marigolds."

1972 — S.S. White Dental Manufacturing Co. in Prince's Bay, the Island's largest employer in the 1890s, closes.

Feb. 10, 1973 — Explosion inside empty 500,000-barrel liquefied natural gas (LNG) tank in Bloomfield kills 40 men.

Aug. 9, 1973 — Staten Island Mall opens.

June 1973 — Sailors Snug Harbor acquired by city to be used as cultural center.

July 1, 1975 — For the first time in ferry history, Islanders are stranded when a city fiscal crisis halts service between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. for one month.

Aug. 3, 1975 — Ferry fare increases from 5 cents to 25 cents.

Feb. 28, 1980 — Sandy Ground Historical Society organized.

Dec. 4, 1980 — Rep. John Murphy is among congressmen convicted of accepting bribes from undercover FBI agents posing as Arab businessmen in ABSCAM investigation.

1985 — South Shore Little League reaches World Series finals.

Dec. 23, 1985 — First mosque, Muslim Majlis Mosque, opens in Concord.

Jan. 1, 1986 — Brooklyn landfill closes, adding 22,000 more tons a day of garbage to Fresh Kills landfill.

Feb. 21, 1986 — Board of Estimate approves Stapleton home port plan in 6-5 vote; land transferred to Navy.

March 20, 1986 — One-way toll on Verrazano-Narrows Bridge begins.

March 27, 1986 — Advance publishes special centennial edition; largest weekday paper ever published in



**View full size** Staten Island Advance

A 1973 explosion during a cleaning operation at a huge, empty liquefied natural gas tank in Bloomfield took the lives of 40 workers.

New York City.

Sept. 27, 1987 — Fort Wadsworth, nation's oldest continuous Army fort, is turned over to Navy.

1989 — Islander Bill Britton wins Centel Classic, his only PGA Tour victory.

February 28, 1989 — Federal Drug Enforcement Agent Everett E. Hatcher is shot to death by mob-connected, Prince's Bay drug dealer Constabile (Gus) Farace during an undercover cocaine buy in Charleston. It is the first murder of an on-duty law enforcement official in Island history.

April 17, 1989 — Island is first to begin boroughwide recycling; 30 percent participation reported.



**View full size** Staten Island Advance  
The Fresh Kills landfill was ordered to close by 1991, but the last barge of garbage didn't arrive until March 22, 2001.

November 1989 — State orders Fresh Kills landfill closed by July 1991; Mayor Ed Koch says it's good for another 40 years.

Aug. 1, 1990 — Ferry fare is doubled to 50 cents.

Nov. 16, 1991 — Procter & Gamble closes Port Ivory factory after 84 years of operation.

June 28, 1993 — Navy pulls out of Stapleton home port.

Oct. 15, 1993 — College of Staten Island opens in Willowbrook.

Nov. 3, 1993 — 65 percent of Islanders vote to secede from city.

Oct. 15, 1995 — E-ZPass begins, offering discounted tolls.

Jan. 8-9, 1996 — 30 inches of snow falls in Staten Island's worst

blizzard on record.

Nov. 15, 1996 — Court of Appeals stymies secession vote.

June 14, 1997 — Last Coast Guard ferry sails from Governor's Island to St. George to set up permanent shop at Fort Wadsworth.

July 4, 1997 — Metropolitan Transportation Authority begins free transfer system; ferry fare abolished.

Oct. 8, 1997 — Staten Island Savings Bank goes public, offering shares to depositors. Richmond County and Independence soon follow.

March 22, 2001 — The last barge of garbage arrives at the Fresh Kills landfill, the final load of an estimated 2 billion tons of New York City garbage deposited there. (The landfill is used again for debris from the World Trade Center disaster.)

Sept. 11, 2001 — Perhaps the blackest day in Staten Island, New York City and the nation's history. Residents are devastated when two hijacked airliners crash into the World Trade Center towers. Thousands perish, among them 250 Islanders and former residents.

Nov. 11, 2002 — After 18 months of construction, installation and design work, the Staten Island Advance launches its redesigned product, printed on a new press. The goal of the \$32 million project was to enable the 116-year-old newspaper to print on a world-class level from its Grasmere headquarters.

Aug. 14, 2003 — All of Staten Island, New York City, and seven other states across the Northeast and Midwest, as well as parts of Canada, go dark late in the afternoon and stay that way for at least 12 hours in the biggest electrical blackout to affect the region in decades.

Oct. 15, 2003 — In one of the bloodiest public transportation accidents in Staten Island history, the ferryboat Andrew J. Barberi plows into a concrete maintenance pier in St. George, killing 11 passengers and

injuring 70. The ship's pilot, Assistant Capt. Richard J. Smith, is sentenced to 18 months in prison.

Dec. 4, 2006 — After more than two years of trying to woo politicians and residents, and the purchase of 675 acres in Bloomfield for \$110 million, International Speedway Corp. decides against building a NASCAR track on the Island. The land, adjacent to the New York Container Terminal at Howland Hook, now stands barren, its future unclear.

Nov. 3, 2009 — Debi Rose becomes Staten Island's first African-American to be elected to public office by winning the North Shore City Council seat.

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[View full size](#)

Associated Press

The world watched in horror as the twin World Trade Center towers were destroyed by terrorists who crashed hijacked airliners into the buildings. Thousands were killed; the fires burned for 100 days and ignited two wars that are still being fought.



## Health happenings

By Diane O'Donnell

April 22, 2010, 10:49AM

### Saturday

**East Shore: Breast Cancer Support Group**, noon-1:30 p.m. For more information call 718-226-8888. **NALITT INSTITUTE FOR CANCER AND BLOOD-RELATED DISEASES**, 475 Seaview Ave., Ocean Breeze, 718-226-8888.

**North Shore: Free mammograms.** Project Renewal will have a mobile mammography van parked at Olivet Presbyterian Church offering free mammograms to women age 40 and over; the event is open to women who have not had a mammogram in the past year and have made a prior appointment by calling 1-800-564-6868; appointments begin at 9:30 a.m. **OLIVET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, 97 Myrtle Ave., West Brighton.

### Sunday

**North Shore: Health fair.** Representatives from Staten Island University Hospital's outreach team will be on hand to answer questions about stroke, blood pressure, BMI, colorectal cancer exams and other programs available at the hospital, 1-5 p.m. **MT. SINAI UNITED CHRISTIAN CHURCH**, Enrichment Center, 382 Jersey St., New Brighton, 718-720-5212.

**Graniteville: Cancer presentation**, 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. The Staten Island region of the American Cancer Society presents "A Day of Coping and Wellness" for patients with cancer, their families and friends; the free event includes talks by Dr. Jack D'Angelo and an oncology nurse; an introduction to complementary therapies, such as yoga, reiki, aromatherapy, and reflexology, and information about the Look Good ... Feel Better program; RSVP by calling Michelle Fusaro or Francine Newman at 718-987-8872. **STATEN ISLAND HOTEL**, 1415 Richmond Ave.

### Monday

**New Springville: Blood drive.** Donors must be healthy, at least 16 years old (with parent's written consent) and must weigh a minimum of 110 pounds; donors should eat prior to donation and bring photo ID. Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 12:30-7:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. **BROOKLYN/STATEN ISLAND BLOOD SERVICES**, 2791 Richmond Ave., 800-933-2566.

**Willowbrook: Willowbrook Memorial Lecture**, 2:30-4 p.m. The College of Staten Island will host its annual Willowbrook Memorial Lecture on the campus where the state school for the developmentally disabled made international headlines more than two decades ago for its poor treatment of patients. The topic of this year's lecture is "Disability and Quality of Life: Is Disability a Reason Not to be Born or to Want to Die?" For more information call Prof. David Goode at 718-982-3757. **COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND**, 2800 Victory Blvd.

### Tuesday

**South Shore: Free peripheral artery disease screenings**, 10:30 a.m.-noon. The most common symptoms of PAD are cramping, pain or tiredness in the leg or hip muscles while walking or climbing stairs, according to the American Heart Association. Risk factors include smoking, diabetes, high blood pressure or high cholesterol. A simple 10-minute screening could indicate if you're at risk for PAD. Sponsored by Richmond University Medical Center; for more information, call 718-818-3274. **AVIS/SOUTH SHORE JCC**, 1297 Arthur Kill Rd., Greenridge, 718-356-8113.



**East Shore: Diabetes club** meets at 7 p.m. and is open to diabetics, their family members and significant others. For more information call 718-226-1547. **STATEN ISLAND UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**, 475 Seaview Ave., 718-226-1887.

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## Annual home show set for this weekend

**By Staten Island Advance**

April 22, 2010, 10:09AM

**STATEN ISLAND, N.Y.** — The Staten Island Chamber of Commerce (SICC) will hold its Annual Home Show on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the College of Staten Island's Sports and Recreation Center, located at 2800 Victory Blvd., Willowbrook.

The Annual Home Show, sponsored by the Home Improvement Contractors Association of Staten Island, will feature windows, doors, real estate, appliances, kitchen counters, interior designers, financial planners, installers, patio and landscaping materials, bathroom contractors, real estate companies and more.

Also this year, local vendors will be selling paintings and jewelry. Booths are still available for companies interested in exhibiting.

General admissions is \$5; \$4 for senior citizens, and free for children under 14. For more information, contact the SICC at (718) 727-1900.

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STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/JAN SOMMA-HAMMEL

College of Staten Island Careers 2010 — a job, internship and graduate school fair — was held last Thursday on campus. It was well-attended.

## ONLINE CHATTER

# CSI job fair draws a crowd

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

CSI hosted a job fair last week. With the economy still trying to recover the turnout was huge. But not everyone thinks the

job fairs are a good idea.

SILive.com users had some things to say:

### NOT WORTH IT

**imovedweight:** job fairs are a joke. the top job there

probably offers about \$12k a year. that wouldnt even pay a car loan

Do you have an opinion on this issue? If so, post to [silive.com/northshore](http://silive.com/northshore).

## Staten Island campuses urged to court veterans

By Judy L. Randall

April 23, 2010, 7:52AM



Staten Island Advance/Irving Silverstein

Discussing how colleges can become 'veterans-friendly' are Gerard A. McEnerney, St. John's University, Urszula Echols, **CSI**, David J. Martin, Wagner College, Jim McDonough, New York State Division of Veterans Affairs and Assemblyman Michael Cusick.

Colleges in New York state, including the three on Staten Island, could do more to attract veterans to their institutions by making campuses "vet-friendly" by offering information on educational benefits, developing courses geared specifically to them and creating perks like early registration, veterans officials said yesterday.

While there are around 100,000 veterans in the state, just 5,928 are registered as either full- or part-time students in two- or four-year colleges, said Col. Jim McDonough of the state Division of Veterans Affairs. He said schools in the South, California and Texas do a better job of marketing what they have to offer than do colleges in the Empire State.

"Our veterans and their families are shopping on where to spend their dollars," said McDonough during a seminar with admissions personnel from the **College of Staten Island**, Wagner College and St. John's University.

The seminar, at **CSI**, was organized by Assemblyman Michael Cusick, a member of the Assembly committees on Veterans and Higher Education.

"What I hear from veterans is that, coming back, there is a maze of opportunities out there but they have a hard time getting at what they are entitled to," said Cusick (D-Mid-Island). "We need to make sure they take advantage of whatever they can. It is the least we can do."



**CSI** student Chris Longo, 24, of New Springville, a disabled veteran who served with the National Guard in Afghanistan in 2008-09, said he was greeted warmly by college officials when he applied and was told about benefits like tuition reimbursement and housing allowance. He currently works in the school's veterans support office assisting other college vets.

**CSI** officials said there are 235 veterans on campus. But representatives of Wagner and St. John's, who were in attendance, were unable to provide an exact number of veterans in their student bodies.

McDonough said identifying veterans on campus and making them feel welcome -- sometimes by means as simple as a letter from the college president on Veteran's Day -- is key to attracting other vets.

He said the post-9/11 G.I. Bill has paid out \$2.2 billion in educational benefits to some 240,000 veterans nationwide who went on to become college students. Veterans, he said, make "good students and good student leaders" and "are driven to succeed."

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Staten Island  
Advance/Irving Silverstein

National Guard veteran Chris Longo of New Springville is a student at **CSI**.



## Say happy birthday to Staten Island

By Claire M. Regan

April 23, 2010, 5:56AM



[View full size](#)

Photo courtesy of Wagner College

Tomas Morales, left, [College of Staten Island](#) president; Carin Guarasci, director of Wagner's New Teacher Academy; John Herron, a senior education major at St. John's University; Borough President James Molinaro, and Richard Guarasci, president of Wagner College, at the gathering for educators.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Staten Island's 350th birthday -- Aug. 22, 2011 -- may still be 16 months away, but plans to celebrate it are picking up speed.

Nearly 100 Staten Island educators and civic leaders gathered last night in the Grymes Hill home of Wagner College President Richard Guarasci and his wife, Carin, to brainstorm ideas for bringing the anniversary -- and Staten Island's rich history -- into the classroom.

"It's a call to arms," said Borough Historian Thomas Matteo.

And educators are already responding.

The education departments of Wagner, St. John's University and the [College of Staten Island](#) are building curriculums that can be used in elementary schools and high schools to mark the 350th anniversary. Administrators and students from the colleges were on hand last night.

John Herron, a St. John's senior who is student-teaching at Tottenville High School, told guests that making local history engaging is every teacher's challenge. For example, when students learn that former Mets center fielder Mookie Wilson once lived on Grymes Hill, it gets their attention and engages them, Herron explained.

Lori Weintrob, chair of Wagner's history department, and Andrew Wilson, a digital producer for the New York Public Library, took guests on a tour of the anniversary Web site, [www.si350.org](http://www.si350.org). The site already features resources for educators including historical maps, history trails and an interactive history game.

The goal for last night's gathering, explained Carin Guarasci, who directs the New Teacher Academy at Wagner, was to generate interest among educators in the burgeoning anniversary project.

"This is just the beginning," she said.

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## **Black-history event set for Friday**

### **By Staten Island Advance**

April 24, 2010, 7:00AM

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- "Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things," a celebration of black history, is scheduled for Friday at the **College of Staten Island**.

City Councilwoman Debi Rose (D-North Shore), the first African-American elected official on Staten Island, will be the keynote speaker at the event, sponsored by state Sen. Diane J. Savino (D-North Shore/Brooklyn).

Serena Mohammed, founder of Young, Gifted and Talented, will receive the Elizabeth Stanton Award, named for the late president of the New York City Housing Authority Tenants Association.

Silas Knight & the Brooklyn Horns band will perform a special set detailing the development of traditional blues into modern music. Sundog Theater will perform a skit about the life of Harriet Tubman.

The event, which was postponed due to a February snowstorm, will run from 5:30 to 9 p.m. in the Williamson Theater of the Performing Arts Building, 1P. Admission is free, and complimentary food and refreshments will be served.

Seating is limited; reserve to savinoevents@gmail.com or call 718-727-9406.

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## Job Service Employer Committee to honor University Hospital

### By Staten Island Advance

April 26, 2010, 6:20AM

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Even as local job-seekers and businesses continue to face challenges during these tough economic times, there are bright spots and successes to celebrate: The Staten Island Job Service Employer Committee's eighth annual breakfast and community award ceremony will do just that.

Staten Island University Hospital -- the borough's largest employer -- will receive the community service award during the May 21 event at the Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomfield.

The hospital joins past award recipients including the Advance, the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce and the **College of Staten Island**.

"Their HR department is very aware of the high unemployment rate in our community," said John Mastellone, coordinator of the SIJSEC and manager of the New York State Department of Labor's Staten Island site in St. George.

"They do their best to hire Staten Islanders wherever possible to alleviate that statistic. They also continue to expand and improve the services provided to the Staten Island community, most recently the newly refurbished emergency room."

State Sens. Andrew Lanza (R-Staten Island) and Diane Savino (D-North Shore/Brooklyn) will give the keynote address, discussing the future of the business community and how the Senate plans to improve living conditions here.

A not-for-profit organization and an extension of the state Department of Labor, the SIJSEC sponsors educational seminars each year geared to the borough's business community, with past seminars addressing topics ranging from green energy to sexual harassment in the workplace.

The SIJSEC has, since 2001, sponsored a major career and job fair each year. Past fairs have attracted from 25 to 60 employers and as many as 3,500 job seekers.

"The SIJSEC is Staten Island's best-kept secret," said Mastellone, noting the 45 members of the group include Staten Island University Hospital, Community Resources, Project Hospitality, Time Warner Cable, Met Life, three banks, three nursing homes and a variety of other organizations.

New members are welcome.

The annual breakfast starts at 8:30 a.m. and is open to the public and local businesses.

Reservations are still available; the cost is \$30.

For more information, call 718-285-8399.

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04/26/2010 05:25 PM

## College Of Staten Island Hosts Borough's Home Show

By: NY1 News



To view our videos, you need to enable JavaScript. [Learn how.](#)

Then come back here and refresh the page.

**NY1 VIDEO:** The borough's Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Home Show at the College of Staten Island over the weekend, to help stimulate work for local small businesses.





#### TOP STORIES

04/28/2010 01:34 PM

## CSI Holds Annual Breast Cancer Fundraiser

By: NY1 News

**NY1 VIDEO:** The College of Staten Island held its seventh-annual breast cancer awareness fundraiser in Willowbrook Tuesday night in memory of Grace Hillery, a mother of a former player on the school's CSI Dolphins baseball team.

# ***Students & Alumni***

## Sale of wristbands aids family of Moore High School star who died in 2009

By Maura Grunlund

April 01, 2010, 5:43AM



Jeffrey Martin of Clifton, whose idea it was to start the wristband fundraiser for his friend, Johnny Ray, is flanked by Ray's aunt and uncle, Pilar and Carmelo Galarza.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Who'd have thought that a simple wristband would prove to be such a potent fundraiser?

The family of Jonathan (Johnny) Ray, who died last fall in a car accident, are grateful to their son's friend, whose brainchild the wristbands were, and the folks whose donations totaled \$560.

Johnny, 16, of Stapleton, played varsity football and baseball at Moore Catholic High School, Graniteville. He had just embarked on his junior year when he died on Oct. 24 of last year.

To help his parents, Lorena (Lori) and Raul Morales, Jeffrey Martin of Clifton had the idea to sell the wristbands for \$2 each.

Jeffrey, 18, lives on the same block in Clifton as Jonathan's grandmother, Pilar (Kitty) Obera, and the boys had met while playing football with the neighborhood kids.

A freshman at the **College of Staten Island**, Jeffrey sold the bracelets around the neighborhood, to friends, at football games at Moore Catholic and on Facebook. Many of the Moore students wear the bracelets.

Students from Moore and other schools continue to gather every 24th of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the accident site, Capodanno Boulevard in Midland Beach.

"We light candles, talk and pray, and everyone does the jerk dance that my son got started with his football teammates -- they used to do the dance outside of the locker room after each win," Mrs. Morales said.

"It's very uplifting to us that so many people show up every month at the memorial."

Jeffrey dropped the check off at Johnny's grandmother's home in late February and it has gone toward the cemetery bill, which the family is paying off month by month.

"We're humbled and so very thankful," said Mrs. Morales in an e-mail to the Advance.

"Jeffrey's parents should be so proud that they've raised such a terrific young man with a huge, giving heart. We appreciate him and wanted the Advance to recognize him for his contribution. Thank you again, Jeffrey, and may God bless you."

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## A boy, a bus driver, and a bond in Castleton Corners

By Jamie Lee

April 08, 2010, 9:00AM



Photo Courtesy of Owen Reiter

Daniel Jakubowski, 19, left, and Owen Reiter at St. Teresa's R.C. Church, Castleton Corners, at the Eagle Scout induction ceremony.

### CASTLETON CORNERS

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — Eagle Scout ceremonies are a time for dedicated Boy Scouts to bask in the successes of their dedication, surrounded by family, close friends — and a bus driver from Charleston.

At least, that's the way it was for one newly-inducted member of Scouting's elite fraternity.

When 18-year-old Meiers Corners resident Daniel Jakubowski was honored recently for reaching the rank of Eagle Scout, he brought with him his father, Dave; mother, Clare; and brothers, Justin, 17, and Robert, 12.

But he also invited the man who drove him to and from the Michael J. Petrides School in Sunnyside from first - through fifth-grade.

For 12 years, Charleston resident Owen Reiter, a retired police officer, drove a bus route for the Pioneer Bus Company, inadvertently making an impact on every student he ferried safely to and from their homes.

"Owen always took the biggest steps towards taking care of the bus and the kids," said Dave Jakubowski, whose middle son, Justin, was also bused by Reiter. "He did the right thing, all the time. He always did what needed to be done."

And those connections cannot be undone, no matter how much time passes.

"We've always kept in touch with him," said Daniel Jakubowski. "He was a big part of my life. At times, he's



come out to dinner with my family, and he was at my high school graduation (from St. Peter's Boys High School in New Brighton). We've never really had a bad conversation, and he's always helped me out in some way."

Reiter says that it started with casual conversation and the exchange of Christmas cards, but it was a civil-service connection that really brought his family and the Jakubowskis close.

Dave Jakubowski is currently a member of the FDNY. His father had been a police officer, and his father-in-law had been a fireman.

"At one point, Daniel's mother told me that I was some sort of role model for him, which really moved me," said Reiter, who has three sons and four grandchildren of his own. "He comes from a family with (a collection of heroes), and that fact that he seemed to think that I was some sort of role model, given the company, felt really good."

So, the Jakubowskis, their favorite bus driver and his wife, LaDonna, watched on March 22 with a great sense of pride as two new Eagle Scouts were added to Troop 37 at St. Teresa's R.C. Church in Castleton Corners — Daniel Jakubowski and Steve DeLillo.

(Troop 37 now boasts more than 70 Eagle Scouts in total, including current state Assemblyman Lou Tobacco (R-South Shore).)

"I walked out of that event, and I was moved," said Reiter. "One of my grandsons is in kindergarten right now, and my first thought was that I have to get him into Scouting."

And while Reiter tries to help his family head down the path that Daniel Jakubowski took, the College of Staten Island freshman is following in the footsteps of both his father and his favorite bus driver.

Currently taking liberal arts classes, the teenager is hoping to steer into civil service himself.

"Hopefully get to be a fireman," said Daniel Jakubowski. "It would fit with the Eagle Scout mentality. And civil service runs in my family. Hopefully, I'll catch on somewhere and work my way into a leadership position where I can really make a difference."

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## Winds of the old days waft through the College of Staten Island's peace fest

By Arianna Imperato

April 16, 2010, 1:57AM



### Peace Festival

Cory Williams and Bryan Karundeng play for the audience. (Staten Island Advance/Irving Silversten)



STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. --- Give peace another chance.

They went barefoot on the grass, strummed guitars and wore flowers in their hair in the gentle spring sunshine yesterday at the College of Staten Island in Willowbrook.

"We're trying to bring back an antiwar atmosphere, and trying to get people to think," said Peace Club President Tara Jeanne, a senior education major.

The student activists called their festival "Rally to Knowledge: A History of Student Activism."

Sophomore Linda Soria set the tone with her soulful rendition of Sam Cooke's "A Change is Gonna Come," which was an anthem of the civil rights movement.

"This is a great way to get people together with music and ideas," she said.

## VIETNAM VET SPEAKS

One of the speakers was Vietnam War veteran and CSI alumnus Bill Johnsen. So "nervous and frightened" was the 20-year-old Johnsen when he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1969 that he refused to step forward for the Oath of Allegiance during his induction ceremony at Fort Hamilton.

"I felt that what we were doing was wrong," he said in respect of the unpopular war.

Despite his defiance, Johnsen was inducted "in less than traditional circumstances" -- he was designated a security risk -- on pain of five years' imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine.

Toward the end of his training in Alabama, Johnsen went AWOL and headed to Washington, D.C., in hopes of speaking to New York Sen. Charles Goodell. Johnsen ended up behind bars for two weeks before spending a year in Vietnam with Alpha Company, 1-8 Cavalry Battalion. He was wounded three times.

### TOO 'COMPLACENT'

"That spirit of coming together is missing," he said of today's generation, whom he deems too "complacent" on issues of war.

By contrast, "The people who are here have the spirit," he said of the CSI turnout, which numbered about 40.

Johnsen convinced junior Ilya Geller, a member of the Peace Club and featured speaker, to wear an American flag shirt. Geller read a poem of his own called "Woodstock Nation," in which he advocates for "peace, love and harmony," culture and community, and even the use of psychedelics.

"This is what it's really all about," Geller said of the event, adding, "We need love and cooperation."

Political science Professor Harry Cason, whose tenure at CSI spans 21-plus years, advises the Peace Club along with Sociology Professor Jay Arena. Cason spoke yesterday about CUNY's history of protest and the importance of equal opportunity for minority-group members. He referenced City College's 1969 protest, when more than 200 African American and Latino students demanded greater enrollment of minority students.

"They had support from their community," Cason said passionately into the microphone. "Because of their energy, they got what they wanted."

The New York Public Interest Research Group was a partner in yesterday's festival.

## CSI Peace Club rally draws its share of supporters

By Jamie Lee

April 22, 2010, 9:59AM



The Peace Club at the **College of Staten Island** in Willowbrook hosted a rally last Thursday at the amphitheater outside of the Center for the Arts' rear entrance. The festival, called "Rally to Knowledge: A History of Student Activism," was built on a strong anti-war theme, and featured a variety of musical and spoken performances. STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/JAMIE LEE

**STATEN ISLAND, NY – WILLOWBROOK** — There's always plenty of activity on the grounds of the **College of Staten Island**, what with the Willowbrook institute having seen its enrollment increase by leaps and bounds in recent years.

Trying to drum up student activism, however, is a different story.

Last Thursday, the Peace Club found a way to drum up some interest and sign up some new members. And they did it by going back to their roots.

Students gathered at the amphitheater outside of the Center for the Arts' rear entrance, holding a peace festival called "Rally to Knowledge: A History of Student Activism."

The event was built on a strong anti-war theme, and featured a variety of musical and spoken performances, much like a tamer version of Vietnam War era demonstrations.

Some students twined hand-woven wreaths of dandelion flowers in their hair; others walked barefoot in long, flowing dresses and bell-bottom jeans.

Peace Club president **Tara Meiners** and project coordinator **Ben DeAngelis** each said a few words to get the ball rolling, but the event, fittingly, began with music.

**Linda Soria**, backed by the guitar stylings of **Brian Karundeng** and **Cory Williams**, belted out a powerful rendition of Sam Cooke's "A Change is Gonna Come," an anthem of the civil rights movement.



Student activists at the College of Staten Island held a Peace Festival, featuring music, speeches and, of course, flower power. STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE PHOTO/JAMIE LEE

**Marcus Romano** recited the speech originally given by **Mario Savio** at the University of California at Berkeley in 1964, and **Ilya Geller** and Williams dove into a discussion about situationalism and the Yippie movement.

Political science professor **Harry Cason** talked about the City University of New York and its involvement in anti-war movements; **CSI** alumni and Vietnam veteran **Bill Johnson** detailed his experience overseas and **Eileen Barden** from Peace Action of Staten Island spoke about nuclear non-proliferation.

The day was a success for the Peace Club, but not only because the rally went off without a hitch.

It was the culmination of years of work by several longtime Peace Club supporters, including Ms. Meiners and **Liz Ortiz**.

Together, the two helped get the organization officially sanctioned by the school two years ago.

Slowly but surely, the co-founders were able to reach out to the student body and push membership from five students, to 10 and then to 20.

"I can't believe it's gotten to this point," said Ms. Meiners with a smile. "We've had Robert Dreyfuss, the author, and Kathy Kelly, (the peace activist), come down to speak at the campus, and just a month ago we held a student-faculty forum."

The rally, however, marked the true arrival of the club on campus.

"This is the only event of this nature that has been done on this campus in recent memory," said Ms. Meiners. "We want to drive up awareness and, more importantly, get people involved in things that are going on right here."

Ms. Ortiz echoed her partner's sentiments.

"I think this is a real success, and I'm so proud of it," she said. "This is part of the vision I have for the Peace Club and its growth."

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## New green grocer in New Dorp

By Diane Lore

April 22, 2010, 12:23PM



Sada and Neimat Ullah pose outside their family owned and operated store, Evergreen Island, in New Dorp. STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/ANTHONY DEPRIMO

**STATEN ISLAND, NY – NEW DORP —** In the middle of New Dorp Lane blooms “Evergreen Island,” a new green-grocer – and the only one of its kind on “The Lane.”

Evergreen Island, on the corner of Clawson Street and New Dorp Lane, officially opened April 1. It features fresh fruits and vegetables, herbs, mixed nuts, fruit juices, healthy snacks and select grocery items. You’ll also find fresh bread and bakery items, milk, cheeses and other dairy, as well as a morning cup of coffee to go.

What you won’t find are Lottery tickets, beer, cigarettes, sandwiches and cold cuts.

No cold cuts simply because there are other stores in the area where you can pick up a sandwich. No beer, Lottery tickets or cigarettes because owner **Neimat Ullah** of Willowbrook, wants to set a good example for young people in the neighborhood, as well as for his own family members who work there.

“This is a family neighborhood, and we are a family-owned business. We want to set a good example. We encourage young people, especially, to make healthy choices. I tell my own children not to drink, smoke or gamble, so to see us selling beer, cigarettes and Lotto would be a little hypocritical,” Ullah explained.

Weekdays, Ullah rises before dawn to travel to the Hunts Point Market in the Bronx where he loads up on fresh vegetables, fruit and herbs.

“We have Mandarin oranges, mangos, plum tomatoes, carrots, cauliflower, broccoli, eggplant, zucchini, Korean pears, pineapples, lemons, limes, garlic, fresh basil and parsley – a lot of items people need for



cooking," Ullah said, as he walked up and down the neatly-stacked aisles.

"If we are missing something, we will try to get it for you. I talk to people in the neighborhood who come in, and they're telling me what they'd like to see here, and thanking me. They tell me they've been waiting for a fruit and vegetable store here. They say 'What took you so long?' to get here," Ullah said.

Each day, he also gets a delivery of fresh breads and baked goods from J&J Bakers in Willowbrook, as well as fresh milk and eggs.

The grocery caters to many tastes, with different types of Italian pasta and sauces alongside packages of Mexican tortillas and beans, a variety of rices and Oriental sauces.

The store is "a work in progress" Ullah said. He plans to add a fresh fruit and salad bar and a juice bar. He also hopes to begin putting together fruit and vegetable platters, as well as fruit gift baskets. He is looking to carry more "green market items" and plans soon to visit the market in Lancaster, Pa., to get ideas and broaden his inventory.

Ullah, 41, owns and runs Evergreen Island with his wife, **Sadia**. The couple moved to Staten Island 11 years ago, from Brooklyn, where Sadia's family owned a fruit and vegetable store.

They settled in Willowbrook because of the schools in the area. Their five children, who also help out in the store, attend the **College of Staten Island**, Susan Wagner High School, and Laurie Intermediate School.

***(Evergreen Island is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Parking is available in the rear of the store.)***

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## Thank you note: CSI students raise funds for Division for Youth's Staten Island Residential Center

By Jamie Lee

April 22, 2010, 10:05AM



Students at the **College of Staten Island** raised more than \$500 for the Staten Island Residential Center, a juvenile detention facility for women located in Willowbrook, by selling lollipops. STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/JAMIE LEE

**STATEN ISLAND, N.Y.** — Thank you, **College of Staten Island** Women's Center interns and Chi Iota Omega sorority members.

More than a dozen female students manned a booth inside the Campus Center at the Willowbrook institution during "club hours" on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons last week.

Led by event coordinator **Brittany Crescenzi** of New Springville, the group was peddling lollipops – mostly chocolate, but some flavored Dum Dums and other suckers mixed in – for a \$1 apiece.

Thanks to some savvy salesmanship and a few sincere requests for additional donations, the team was able to raise more than \$500 in just two hours.

The money will be donated to the state Division for Youth's Staten Island Residential Center, located on Forest Hill Road, just a stone's throw from the rear gate, to help support the juvenile detention center for girls there.

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## 100 urge quick action on North Shore transit plans

By Tevah Platt

April 29, 2010, 9:00AM



Advance File Photo

Close to 100 Staten Islanders attended an open house last week — at Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden in Livingston — for a chance to meet directly with representatives of Transit and SYSTRA Engineering, the consultant chosen to study transportation options for the abandoned North Shore Rail. SYSTRA's goal is to address the North Shore's transportation ills by utilizing the passageway now marked by the eroding tracks of the defunct North Shore Railway, seen above.

LIVINGSTON -- We don't care what transit option you give us, many North Shore residents told New York City Transit last week, just give us something — fast.

Nearly 100 Staten Islanders attended an open house held at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden in Livingston last week, for a chance to meet directly with representatives of Transit and SYSTRA Engineering, the consultant chosen to study transportation options for the abandoned North Shore Rail right-of-way.

"We are trying to tell people what the study is about and we want to hear whether we've defined the problem in the right way," said Lisa DiTaranti, director of planning for SYSTRA, which began the project in November. "We want to make sure we're getting it right from the people who live here."

The goal is to address the North Shore's transportation ills — including its dearth of public transportation options, congested roads, inconvenient transfer options, unreliable bus schedules, and overcrowding on Richmond Terrace — by utilizing the passageway now marked by the eroding tracks of the defunct North Shore Railway.

At a dynamic open house last Thursday, North Shore residents and business owners chatted with planners about the alternatives under consideration, including recreating heavy rail (like the cars used on the Staten Island Railway); light rail, like the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail line in New Jersey, and limited-stop Bus Rapid Transit service, which would run along a devoted, paved path free from traffic.

Obstacles to any of those plans will likely include engineering and planning snags that would arise around Snug Harbor's eroded coastline and on sites where the right-of-way runs through active businesses such as Caddell Dry Dock, Gerardi's farmer's market and Atlantic Salt.

"We like that they're working with us," said Dan Adams, an urban designer with Atlantic Salt who is working on a development proposal that would slightly divert the right-of-way path. "I think we can find a solution."

SYSTRA should conclude its study and offer a recommendation by the end of the year.

Ted Orosz of Transit expects at least five years will pass before riders board any new rail or bus line.

"I don't care whether it's light rail or Bus Rapid Transit or a bus that looks like a trolley; I want whatever's the least expensive and fastest to do," said Linda Eskenas of West Brighton, who heads up Community Board 1's Greenway Heritage Trail and North Shore Waterfront Greenbelt Park Committee. "We can't wait very long. These communities have been waiting so long and some people have actually passed away waiting for this waterfront to happen."

"I wanted to see first-hand what was being planned," said Karen Chin of Mariners Harbor, who drives to her classes at the **College of Staten Island** because the alternative would be riding three buses. "I like the light rail and BRT options because they make sense, and you would have a set arrival and departure time; ding, dong, you're in and out. . . . I don't like the fact that I drive to campus."

The last passenger trains ran along the tracks, which wrap around the North Shore waterfront, in 1953, and freight service ceased in 1989.

Another session open to the public will be held in September.

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## 9 new members join Advance's 25-Year Club

By Diane Lore

April 11, 2010, 6:30AM

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Nine Staten Island Advance employees were inducted into the newspaper's 25-Year Club during a reception Friday night in the Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomfield. Advance publisher Caroline Diamond Harrison presented each new member with a Tiffany gold watch to celebrate the occasion.

This year marks the 38th anniversary of the club, which was started by Mrs. Harrison's father, former publisher Richard E. Diamond, who died in 2004. Each spring the club honors Advance employees from all departments who have completed 25 years of service to the newspaper.

Inducted this year were Dean Balsamini, news; Sally Ann Brittain, accounting; Angela Calabro, payroll; Barbara D'Aquila, payroll; Michael Dominowski, news; Joe Hicks II, mailroom; Robert Palisay, mailroom; Elizabeth (Liz) Ponterio, credit, and Elisa (Lisa) Taff, display advertising.

Members of the Class of 2010 bring the total to 187 current and retired employees who have been inducted into the 25-Year Club since its inception in 1972.

### DEAN BALSAMINI



Staten Island  
Advance/Hilton  
Flores

Dean Balsamini

Dean Balsamini is night city editor of the Advance.

Balsamini, 48, was hired as a news reporter in May 1985. He cut his teeth as a general assignment reporter covering Staten Island's three community boards. Balsamini also wrote for the Friday entertainment section and began a 20-year run as the newspaper's pop music critic.

Balsamini spent the bulk of his Advance reporting career covering the criminal justice system, first as a police reporter and then in the courts.

For the past decade, Balsamini has been a member of the Advance City Desk, the "nerve center" of the newspaper where the day's news, including breaking stories, are assigned to reporters and photographers.

From 2001 to 2004 he was an assistant city editor, and for two years the city editor. For the past three-and-a-half years he has served as the night city editor, directing reporters, writing headlines, editing stories and posting them on SILive.com, the Advance's home on the Web. Balsamini is now in his fourth year co-authoring Pinstripe Prophets, a Yankees' baseball blog, which also can be found on SILive.

"Staten Island is a unique, special place and the Advance is a unique, special newspaper," Balsamini said. "It's been a dream to work for my hometown paper."

Balsamini was raised on Staten Island and is a 1980 graduate of Monsignor Farrell High School. He earned a degree in liberal arts and communications from Villanova University (Pa.) in 1984.

He and his wife, the former Patricia McGinley, were married in 1996. The couple has two children, Stella, 12, and Derek, 8, and live in Montclair, N.J.

### SALLY ANN BRITTAIN

Sally Ann Brittain started working in the Advance accounting department in 1972. She left the newspaper a few years later to raise her two children.





Staten Island  
Advance/Jan  
Somma-Hammel

Sally Ann Brittain

When she returned to the Advance in 1988, she worked for five years in the circulation department, in customer service. She transferred to the accounting department in 1993.

Mrs. Brittain is responsible for the posting of cash for circulation billing for accounts held by newspaper carriers and newstand distributors. She also compiles a monthly report of the number of classified advertising lines sold.

The Staten Island native lives in Westerleigh, with her husband, Philip Brittain Jr., who also works at the Advance, as a circulation district manager. Brittain Jr., who has been with the newspaper 34 years, was inducted into the 25-Year Club in 2001. Her father-in-law, Philip Brittain Sr., was a news and copy editor with the Advance for more than 40 years. Now retired, he was inducted into the Club in 1975.

Mrs. Brittain is a graduate of Port Richmond High School. When she's not working, she enjoys reading and spending time with her family, including her son, Donald, a restaurant manager, and his girlfriend, Kristina. Her daughter, Meredith, works as an X-ray technician, and her son-in-law, Stephen Philbin, is a union carpenter. They are the parents of 4-year-old twin boys, Aidan and

Ryan.



Staten Island  
Advance/Jan  
Somma-Hammel

Angela Calabro

#### **ANGELA CALABRO**

Angela Calabro is a payroll, pensions and benefits administrator in the Advance payroll department, where she has worked since 1999.

She began her career at the Advance in 1984, working part-time in the accounting department. Along with her daily work duties, another responsibility was to learn the job of each person in the department, so she could fill in for them when they were out. "It was a challenge, and a great learning experience," she recalled.

It didn't take her long to be made to feel like a part of the "Advance family."

Originally from Manhattan's Little Italy, she and her parents and brothers, Michael and Louis, settled in South Beach, where she grew up. She is a proud graduate of New Dorp High School. "I have the pleasure of working here at the paper with several others from the same graduating class," she noted.

Mrs. Calabro and her husband, Frank, who have been married since 1973 and live in South Beach, are the parents of two children. Her son, Frank, is an associate chemist and is married to Danielle Durazzo-Calabro, a speech

pathologist. Her daughter, Kristy, also works at the Advance, as an "Ad-visor" in the classified advertising department.

She has also worked alongside her sister-in-law, Elena Pittelli, now retired from the accounting department, and her nephew, Michael Pittelli, who is an information technology specialist in the business department. She currently works alongside Barbara D'Aquila in the payroll department.

#### **BARBARA D'AQUILA**

As payroll administrator for the Advance, Barbara D'Aquila has the responsibility of preparing the weekly payroll for the newspaper's 290 employees.

After working for several years with Chemical Bank in Manhattan and at its Port Richmond branch, she joined the Advance in 1985 as a cashier. She was required to record cash deposits that came into the building. In 1990 she became a circulation billing clerk, which required her to credit the accounts of newspaper carriers, news dealers and stores for copies of the newspapers sold. In September of 1993 she was transferred to her current position in payroll.



Staten Island  
Advance/Jan  
Somma-Hammel

Barbara D'Aquila

Mrs. D'Aquila grew up in Concord. She is a 1980 graduate of New Dorp High School and attended the **College of Staten Island**. While her children were growing up she was active in the Home School Association of St. Sylvester's School in Concord. Currently she is a volunteer for Hospitality Sunday at St. Sylvester's, where she helps meet, greet and serve coffee and cake to parishioners after mass.

She lives in West Brighton with her husband of 24 years, Cosmo, and two daughters, Justine, 17, a senior at St. John Villa Academy, Arrochar, who volunteers as a junior docent at the Staten Island Zoo, and Tiffany, 22, who works in the Advance mailroom and is pursuing studies to become a paralegal.

When she's not working, Mrs. D'Aquila enjoys working out at the YMCA's Broadway Center in West Brighton, traveling, and spending time with her family, which also includes her step-daughter, Melissa Sweet, and her three children, Isabella, 5, and Victoria, 3, and their brother, Sean, 11 months, who live in Howell, N.J.



Staten Island  
Advance/Irving  
Silverstein

Michael Dominowski

## **MICHAEL DOMINOWSKI**

Dominowski, 62, is the Advance's assistant managing editor for electronic media.

He started his career with the newspaper as a copy editor in September 1985. In addition to alternating between the day and night news copy desks, Dominowski designed pages, wrote headlines and, for several years, edited letters to the editor.

Dominowski served twice as the editor of the Sunday editorial section, Perspective and continues in that role today. He has, since his early years at the Advance, contributed editorials and feature stories.

In his first years at the Advance, Dominowski was appointed the newsroom liaison to the Advance's editorial computer department. In that capacity, he wrote computer formats,

created training materials and trained and helped new employees master the computer system.

Dominowski's newsroom role has had a technology component ever since. He has, for the past several years, managed the Advance's telephone system. He played a leading role in implementing the Advance's first electronic archiving system and creating the Advance's computer network; landmark projects that, for the first time, saw different Advance departments sharing expertise and support responsibilities. He was eventually appointed director of newsroom technology.

With the advent of SILive.com and the newspaper's growing, and increasingly successful electronic news operation, he was promoted to assistant managing editor for electronic media, the position he holds today.

A native of Wisconsin, Dominowski holds a bachelor of science degree in communications from the University of Wisconsin. Prior to joining the Advance, Dominowski worked at newspapers in Arizona and Wisconsin, as well as The Associated Press.

Dominowski said he is "grateful to have had the opportunity to be a participant in numerous Advance-sponsored community initiatives over the years" including the Advance Memorial Day Run, for which has coordinated volunteers and water-stop logistics for the past 15 years. He also served seven years as a director of the Staten Island Greenbelt Conservancy, and created and maintained the organization's Web site.

He and his wife, the former Barbara Kudla, were married in 1972 and live in West Brighton. Their daughter,

Mara Anne, 19, is a freshman in the music program at SUNY/Purchase.



Staten Island  
Advance/Jan  
Somma-Hammel

Joe Hicks II

## JOE HICKS II

Joe L. Hicks II describes himself as an "Advance rug-rat," having grown up at the Advance where his dad, also Joe Hicks, was a long-time employee.

His dad drove one of the big yellow Advance delivery trucks, and Hicks recalled riding along on the route with his father, who retired two years ago and was inducted into the 25-Year Club in 1993.

Hicks also spent his teen years as an Advance newspaper carrier, delivering the paper to his neighbors in South Beach. He spent summers and vacations working in the Advance mailroom while he was a student at St. Peter's Boys High School.

He joined the Advance full-time in 1985, at first in the mailroom. In 1989 he, too, was put on as a delivery truck driver, delivering to distributors and carriers in the Huguenot area for seven years. He returned to the mailroom in 2006.

Currently, Hicks is a supervisor in the mailroom and he helps coordinate truck runs. He also assists Robert Palisay in day-to-day operations.

A Staten Island native, Hicks grew up in Sea View and lived in South Beach and Dongan Hills before moving to Howell, N.J., where he lives with his wife, the former Maria Bruno, and two daughters, Cali, 12, and Samantha, 5. In his off-time he enjoys spending time with his girls and taking family trips to the Jersey Shore.



Staten Island  
Advance/Jan  
Somma-Hammel

Robert Palisay

## ROBERT PALISAY

Assistant mailroom manager Robert Palisay wears several hats at the newspaper.

He started his Advance career in 1985 in the circulation department. He worked as a district manager, supervising newspaper carriers on the North Shore. He transferred to the mailroom in 1990.

As the assistant mailroom manager he assists in overseeing a staff of more than 60 employees who insert store circulars and advertising materials into the newspaper, and bundle and route the newspaper onto delivery trucks after they are run off the press. Bob also manages the delivery drivers.

Palisay also has another job with the paper, that of race director for the Advance's Memorial Day Run and Walk. He plans the course route and layout along the boardwalk in South Beach, takes care of the myriad of details for the 1,200 runners and walkers on the day of the event, and directs a corps of Advance employees who volunteer for the run. Planning for the next year's race starts the day after the run is complete.

A lifelong West Brighton resident, Palisay, 62, is a graduate of Port Richmond High School. From 1967 to 1969 he served in the U.S. Marine Corps and was an Infantry Platoon Commander in Vietnam. He was medically retired from the Marine Corps as a 1st Lieutenant in October 1969. He is the recipient of three Purple Hearts.

He remains active in veterans organizations and currently serves as chairman of the Fort Hamilton Retiree Council, an organization representing some 20,000 U.S. military retirees from the five boroughs of New York and Long Island.

Palisay's wife, Rosemary, is principal of St. John's Lutheran School in Castleton Corners. They enjoy visiting their daughter, Ameer, who works as a student affairs advisor at Delaware County Community College, Chester, Pa., and her husband Andrew Wendle, who live in Pennsylvania.



Staten Island  
Advance/Jan  
Somma-Hammel

Elizabeth Ponterio

## ELIZABETH PONTERIO

On weekends you might find her outdoors rollerblading or riding her bicycle, but during the week, Elizabeth Ponterio can be found behind her desk in the Advance credit department, where she is an executive assistant to credit manager William (Bill) Tosonotti.

She started her career in the credit department in 1985, under the late Marcel Crampon, who was then credit manager. The department is responsible for collecting payments from advertisers. Mrs. Ponterio coordinates sales and credit invoices and contracts, paperwork involving accounts payable and accounts receivable, and other duties.

Mrs. Ponterio, the former Elizabeth Paradiso, was born and raised in Sunnyside. She is a 1981 graduate of Susan Wagner High School, and received an associate degree from the College of Staten Island.

While working at the Advance, she met her husband, Ralph Ponterio, who works in the circulation department as a district manager supervising a complement of newspaper carriers who home-deliver the newspaper. She and her husband have been married 17 years. Ralph Ponterio was inducted into

the 25-Year Club in 2009.

Mrs. Ponterio's sister, Rosemarie Gangemi, also works at the newspaper, in the ad services department, and her brother-in-law, Thomas Gangemi, works in the production department. Mr. Gangemi was inducted into the 25-Year-Club in 2004.

The couple, who now live in West Brighton, enjoy traveling; they have made several cruises to the Caribbean and motor trips to Cape Cod. They have also visited National Parks in California and Nevada. Future destinations include exploring European countries and back-packing in South America.

Mrs. Ponterio also enjoys playing piano, and has been taking private lessons since 2005.



Staten Island  
Advance/Jan  
Somma-Hammel

Elisa Taff

## ELISA TAFF

Elisa Taff, who is known as Lisa, says the best part of her job is getting to meet and interact with Staten Island business owners and retailers in the community.

As a sales representative in the display advertising department, she's often on the road, meeting with clients, helping them plan both their advertising budget and ways to focus on their product through words and graphics.

Ms. Taff started her career in June, 1985, as a sales representative assigned to businesses in Brooklyn. She now works with businesses in Dongan Hills, Grasmere and elsewhere on the East and North shores. A few of her more-familiar advertising accounts include Con Edison, Staten Island University Hospital and the Jewish Community Center.

"My job is never boring," she said. "I'm a people-person; you have to be a people-person to do what we do."

"And as sales representatives," she added, "we're only as good as the product we sell. The Advance is well-respected in the community, which makes it

easier to do our job."

Ms. Taff sells print advertising, local business inserts such as restaurant menus and small-business advertising for pizzerias and other mom-and-pop establishments. These days she also sells on-line advertisements that appear on SILive.com, the Advance's Web site, and ads for the weekly local shore editions on Thursdays.

Ms. Taff makes her home in Old Bridge, N.J., with her husband, Michael Zuckerman, and two frisky Shih Tzus, Spunky and Rocky, who are part of the family.

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## Your Soap Box: Lauren D'aversa, Prince's Bay

By Staten Island Advance

April 15, 2010, 10:55AM



Lauren D'Aversa, Prince's Bay

**STATEN ISLAND, NY** - "I've been living on the South Shore all my life. I grew up in Great Kills, then moved to Annadale and finally to Prince's Bay with my mother and younger brother. I just kept moving more south, I guess. Right now, I live right by Wolfe's Pond Park, which is great because on gorgeous days like [there have been recently], it's very accessible. I can walk right over there and just go for a walk along the beach.

"The school system down on the South Shore is very good. I went to PS 5, Totten Intermediate School and Tottenville High School. I really had a great experience in high school. I joined the ROTC, which I really enjoyed. And I also was involved in SING! and the Spring musical every year. That really helped me prepare for what I did in college [at the **College of Staten Island**], where I got my degree in Dramatic Arts. It has always been a passion of mine, and it will always be a part of my life.

"Recently, though, I've decided that in order to live on my own and support myself that it was in my best interest to go back to school to pursue a career in pharmacy. I work at Walgreen's in Eltingville, and I've been in pharmacies for eight years now. I think it's a very interesting field, and I do meet new people every day. It's really interesting to learn about them and become friendly with them.

"As I get out on my own, however, I won't stay in the South Shore. I want to see what else is out there."

***Lauren told us about her life on the South Shore. If you live in a South Shore neighborhood, share your experiences by e-mailing shores@siadvance.com. Please be sure to put 'Soap Box' in the subject line.***

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# Brooklyn Daily Eagle

## Another Democrat Challenges Golden

by Harold Egelin ([edit@brooklyneagle.net](mailto:edit@brooklyneagle.net)), published online 04-20-2010

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### Musician Brannan Mulls Run To Unseat Republican

By Harold Egelin  
Brooklyn Daily Eagle

BAY RIDGE – Tuning up a possible campaign run to be the Democratic Party candidate to unseat long-serving Republican state Sen. Marty Golden in southwest Brooklyn is rock guitarist, voice actor, fundraiser and webmaster Justin Lee Brannan.

He pitched his cause for grassroots leadership change and Albany reform at a recent meeting of the Brooklyn Democrats for Change in Bay Ridge, a candidates' night that included Democrat candidate Mike DiSanto, who had spoken to the progressive Democratic club earlier this year, in the audience.

"We need a new brand of invigorated leadership," said Brannan, 31, a founding member of Indecision and Most Precious Blood, rock bands that have toured the country and world. He noted that he "sees great changes in the community. We need an advocate, not a politician with an insatiable ego. We need new leadership in the face of a dysfunctional state government in Albany."

Golden, a former business leader and police officer, was a City Council member from 1997 until October 2002, when he defeated incumbent state Vincent Gentile. Gentile went on to win the vacated council post in a special election in February 2003 by a narrow margin over the GOP candidate, the late Rosemarie O'Keefe.

Golden has since remained unchallenged in senate elections by Democrats, winning Republican, Democratic, Conservative and independent voters. Last year, president Kevin Carroll of Brooklyn Democrats for Change warned Golden that he will not go unchallenged in 2010 in the 22nd State Senate District, which covers Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights, Bensonhurst, Bath Beach, Marine Park and Gravesend.

"It's refreshing to see candidates stepping forward," said Carroll in introducing Brannan, whom he said is "exploring a run against Golden."

Declared Democratic candidates are NYU graduate student DiSanto of Gravesend and high school coach and gym teacher Claudio DeMeo of Bensonhurst, a 2001 graduate of Brooklyn College. They face a Democratic Party primary election on Sept. 14.

"Albany politicians fought to maintain their power. It's time to reform Albany," Brannan said. "When I look at Marty Golden, I see a legislator resting on laurels. Yes, he has delivered for our community." That was a reference to a stream of state funding for schools, senior centers and civic causes.

"But Marty Golden represents provincial Bay Ridge. I represent progressive Bay Ridge," Brannan told his standing room audience in the packed seating room. "I have a background in business, media and international affairs. I can bring common-sense solutions that New York so desperately needs now."

When asked about his Bay Ridge roots, the potential candidate said he was born there and graduated P.S. 185,

McKinley I.S. and Xaverian High School. He also graduated from the **College of Staten Island** and Fordham University with a journalism degree.

"I am a music professor, a musician, a financier on Wall Street and [I] raise money for a charity," Brannan informed the audience, which also included a few Republicans and independents. He has worked for Bear Stearns, Bankers Trust, the Bank of New York and WNEW-FM (as a commercial announcer).

Brannan is the president of the Council on Government Transparency. He is also the new communications director for the Dyker Heights Civic Association. In addition, he is known as an ardent vegetarian.

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## The cupcake queen of Huguenot

By [Kacey L. Semler](#)

April 22, 2010, 12:06PM



Staten Island Advance/Kacey Semler

**Natalie Nowrocki, of Huguenot, a fourth-grade teacher at PS 58 in New Springville, with some of her homemade cupcakes. Natalie has started up a small cupcake business, called "Frosted."**

**HUGUENOT** — It's no surprise that **Natalie Nowrocki** has an entrepreneurial spirit, as she comes from a line of self-starters.

Her great-grandfather owned a pork store. Her grandfather started his own construction company, and most recently, her mother, **Diane LaFemina**, opened up Camp Bow Wow, a doggy daycare and overnight camp in Charleston in 2008.

Even her husband and high school-sweetheart, **Dominick**, is a private contractor.

"I'm surrounded by people who encourage me to give it a shot," she said, of her almost-year-old venture, Frosted.

So what is Frosted? It's an "urban-chic cupcakery," as Natalie's slogan says; basically, a home-based cupcake shop. What started out as a hobby, has turned into a budding business, and a future dream, for the 28-year-old resident of Huguenot.

A graduate of Notre Dame Academy High School on the North Shore, Natalie received her bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology from the **College of Staten Island**. She also earned a master's degree in education, and currently works as a fourth-grade teacher at PS 58 in New Springville, by the Staten Island Mall.

"I always knew I wanted to be a teacher, ever since high school," she admitted. "(But) this is something I really like."

Upon arriving home from her classroom, Natalie takes off her "Mrs. Nowrocki" hat, and puts on her chef's apron, ready to rock her KitchenAid mixer.

"It's like teaching," she said, noting that many of her ideas come from reading cookbooks and Web sites. "The more you work at it, the more creative you get."

Natalie's love of baking stems from her childhood memories of cooking in her grandmothers' kitchens. Today, she finds comfort in every cupcake she creates.

"It's absolutely therapeutic. You're in the zone; it's you and your craft and that's it."

And, while baking cupcakes proves relaxing for Natalie, it's fulfilling customers' orders that doesn't come with a stress-free label.

"I get anywhere from five to 10 orders a month," she explained. "Depending on the size of the order, each one takes a couple of hours."



Staten Island Advance/Kacey Semler

Popular flavors include chocolate-chip with vanilla buttercream frosting, and red velvet with cream cheese icing.

Most recently, Natalie provided cupcakes for the crew of MSNBC, who filmed a segment at her mom's Camp Bow Wow. Her cupcakes have also been featured at local fund-raisers and holiday functions, and for one particular event, she baked and individually boxed 150 cupcakes.

For big orders, she enlists the help of her husband, and her friend, Renay Pettersen.

"I'm my own worst enemy. They keep me moving," she said, describing the trio's assembly-line routine: Baking, frosting and boxing.

Popular flavors include chocolate-chip with vanilla buttercream frosting, and red velvet with cream cheese icing. Requested themes run the gamut too, from Sesame Street's Elmo to the Bud Light beer logo.

A dozen is the minimum one can order, with all flavors priced the same – \$2 to \$4 per cupcake depending upon the size and necessary ingredients for the design, i.e. fondant and candy.

Customers can inquire about any flavor that piques their interest, as well as Natalie's new dairy-free delights.

"I'm always nervous (about feedback)," said Natalie. "But the response is always good."

Best of all, she has a classroom filled with taste-testers, ready at her beck-and-call to try her newest creation. And, while teaching currently outweighs running a full-time cupcake business on Natalie's practical spectrum, "I would love to just do Frosted for the rest of my life."

For more information, visit [www.thefrostedcupcakery.com](http://www.thefrostedcupcakery.com). You can also become a "Frosted" fan on Facebook



## Mother says Queens teacher Simon Watts, accused of molesting schoolgirls, is 'Mr. Perfect'

BY [Henrick Karoliszyn](#) and [Rich Schapiro](#)  
DAILY NEWS WRITERS

Sunday, April 25th 2010, 4:00 AM



**Chu for News** Although Simon Watts, a school teacher, was accused of molesting his students, his mother Barbara has no fear and will stand by her son.

To prosecutors, he's a perverted predator who molested schoolgirls in his classroom.

To his mother, Queens teacher [Simon Watts](#) is "Mr. Perfect."

[Barbara Watts](#) revealed her son's nickname Saturday as she proclaimed his innocence.

"He is known in the family as 'Mr. Perfect' because he's very strict," Barbara Watts, 73, told the Daily News from her [Brooklyn](#) home. "He thinks you have to dress professional, everything has to always be clean, and he believes everyone should work hard to be perfect."

Barbara Watts rushed to her son's defense three days after he was arrested on sex abuse charges.

A total of 14 schoolgirls have come forward to say Watts molested them.

Barbara Watts said she has no doubt her 38-year-old son, a fourth-grade teacher at PS 15 in [Springfield Gardens](#), is innocent.

She described her middle son as a saintly high achiever. He never drank or smoked,

and held straight A's throughout school, Barbara Watts said.

"He's a churchgoing man. He's very well-liked in the community," Watts added.

"If I was not sure of [his innocence], I would not say anything. I'm positively, absolutely sure everything will be in order."

Watts said that when she heard about her son's arrest on the news, her reaction was disbelief.

"When it came on the news, I said, 'There must be a mistake,'" she said. "I was shocked and surprised. I thought they had the wrong name."

A graduate of the **College of Staten Island**, Simon Watts lives for his wife, Ayanna, and the couple's two young kids, Genesis and Joshua, his mother said.

"They are what he works for," said Barbara Watts. [rschapiro@nydailynews.com](mailto:rschapiro@nydailynews.com)

## PRESIDENT IN WAITING

### Meet Mulgrew, the new power broker you probably don't know

Posted By [Anna Phillips](#)



Mulgrew trying to save a teacher stipend used to purchase school supplies in May of this year. Full NY1 report [here](#) <sup>[1]</sup>.

The man who is on the brink of becoming one of the city's top power brokers nearly got lost in a crowd earlier this week.

Michael Mulgrew is the designated successor to teachers union president Randi Weingarten, who will announce her departure from the union today. If union leaders select him to fill her shoes, as is expected, he will become the president of America's largest union local and one of the most influential labor unions in the state.

On Monday afternoon, at a press conference where Mayor Bloomberg announced the city's rising graduation rates with a pack of advocates, the mayor ticked off every one of their names in gratitude but one.

Schools Chancellor Joel Klein leaned in to Bloomberg's ear. "And Michael Mulgrew," he reminded the mayor.

The tall, bald man with a bouncer's build hardly registered the oversight.

Bloomberg can be forgiven for not remembering Mulgrew's name. Unlike other top brass at the teachers union, Mulgrew is a relative newcomer. Just four years ago he was teaching English and filmmaking to high school students in Staten Island. He was not seen as a possible successor to Weingarten inside the union until she abruptly vaulted him into the limelight last year, making him one of three candidates in a dramatic internal run-off race.

Even now that he's on good terms with deputy mayors and had his photograph pasted across the pages of the union's most recent newspapers, Mulgrew remains obscure. He would be the first non-Jewish president of a union that over the years has been stereotyped as a Jewish haven. A trained electrician and carpenter who ran a contracting business on the side for several years, he would also be the first vocational teacher to become interim president of the UFT. (Vocational teachers represent just a small fraction of the union.)

All this makes him a far cry from the stature of the woman whose shoes he'll fill.

"Anybody who thinks that they can just walk into New York City and become the next Randi Weingarten is smoking something," Weingarten warned last year, amid speculation about her successor.

Mulgrew, 44, also couldn't be more different from Weingarten. Tall and apple-cheeked, he has the physical presence of Mr. Clean (both shave their heads) and a quiet charm. "Women seem to like him," noted one union member.

Still, he's often bullish and he gained renown in the union for being one of a small number of people to stand up to Weingarten. At a City Council hearing on mayoral control in early June, Mulgrew barked his testimony. Weingarten's critics, who sometimes criticize her for favoring the middle ground, like Mulgrew's pugnaciousness.

"He comes across as a non-waffler," said union activist Norm Scott. "For people who despise Weingarten, there's already a sense of, 'Oh, maybe Mulgrew will be better.' But while this change in style will work for him for a while, it is a change in style not substance."

Mulgrew grew up on Staten Island and still lives there, a fact he can hold responsible for his heavy New York accent. He graduated from St. Peters High School, an all-boys Catholic school, and then went to the **College of Staten Island**, the borough's CUNY school.

In 1990, while doing construction work as a member of the carpenter's union, he began working as a substitute teacher at the William E. Grady Career and Technical Education High School in Brooklyn. After several years, he began working full time, teaching English and then an audio-visual class for at-risk students. He taught how to use recording equipment and computers to write, produce, and edit films.

Colleagues from his teaching years describe Mulgrew as a natural leader who has found himself reluctantly thrust into power by virtue of being in the right place at the right time.

Tom Dorso, a social studies teacher and the current UFT chapter leader at Grady High School, shared a classroom with Mulgrew. They became such close friends that Mulgrew built Dorso's kitchen cabinets for him.

According to Dorso, Mulgrew was hesitant to run for chapter leader, a position he won in 1999. "He went in kicking and screaming," Dorso said. "He took the chapter leader's position because no one was really running. We had a principal at the time who was trying to get away with some stuff and Michael said, 'I just won't allow it.'"

From then on, Mulgrew was "relentless," Dorso said. He took a "divide and conquer" approach to the school's new principal and the assistant principals, playing them off each other to his benefit.

"Whenever one of the suits was coming into the building, Michael would always make sure he was well dressed, and would barge into the meeting and introduce himself. He was very proactive," Dorso said.

"When Mr. Mulgrew ran for chapter leader and won, the staff embraced him," said Christopher Manos, a shop teacher at Grady High School who took over as chapter leader when Mulgrew became a vice president in 2005. "Everybody knew that he was very smart, he was articulate, and very personable."

While serving as chapter leader, Mulgrew established himself as one of the more vocal members of the delegate assembly. "He made himself noticed," Dorso said, and he soon attracted the attention of Frank Carucci, then vice president for vocational and technical high schools. Mulgrew began working for Carucci after school, stuffing envelopes, answering phone calls, and running errands. Following the UFT tradition of naming a successor before the members vote, when Carucci decided to retire, he endorsed Mulgrew as interim vice president.

Once again, Mulgrew wasn't certain he wanted the job, but he ran after others egged him on, and he "won big," Dorso said.

As vice president, Mulgrew also quickly crashed meetings with men in suits. When Klein seemed uninterested in his passion for "career and technical education" — next-generation vocational schools that emphasize academic rigor — Mulgrew took his case directly to then-Deputy Mayor Dan Doctoroff. Soon, Mayor Bloomberg was announcing a new initiative to expand career and technical education.

A question Mulgrew and those watching his ascent face is whether he'll be able to hold his own against Weingarten.

Supporters have characterized Mulgrew as having an independent mind and a forceful personality, but critics suggest that he rose through the ranks by being a loyal foot soldier to the party that supports Weingarten, the UNITY caucus. They say he will not stray from party line.

"He's demonstrated his total loyalty to her and that's what you get when you're loyal," said Jeff Kaufman, a member of ICE's steering committee. "He's going to sit there and give a couple of sound bites and the heavy lifting is still going to be done by Randi."

Some of Mulgrew's colleagues from his early days in the union saw him as an obvious choice for the UFT's top job.

"I was calling him Mr. President about a year ago," Dorso said. "I teach social studies, I know how politics works, he's the fair-haired boy even though he shaves his head."

Mulgrew declined to comment for this story.

"I think he's a great person. I think he has a lot of guts," Weingarten said. "He's a great teacher, came up through the ranks. ... He's willing to break a lot of glass."



## Teacher opens home-town school in Pleasant Plains

By Jamie Lee

April 29, 2010, 9:07AM



Gina Schiavo, holding her son, Tomasso, 4, has opened One of a Kind, a child care and pre-school center, in Pleasant Plains. Behind Mrs. Schiavo is youngster Autumn Irizarry, 1, who is also pictured on the cover. STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE PHOTOS/JAMIE LEE

PLEASANT PLAINS -- For 12 years, **Gina Schiavo** traveled 40 miles round trip each day from her South Shore home to the Brooklyn school where she worked.

Her passion for teaching youngsters never wavered, but over time, the mother of two wanted to use her skills to benefit her Pleasant Plains neighborhood.

That has become a reality now that Mrs. Schiavo has opened the doors to the One of a Kind child care and pre-school center just a stone's throw from her front door.

"I just wanted to build a nice, family-oriented day-care center for the community," she said. "Some place where kids could feel like they were at their second home."

As of April 1, that place now exists.

Mrs. Schiavo's formal teaching career began in 1997 when she was working as a paraprofessional for the city's Department of Education.

During that period, she took classes at the **College of Staten Island** toward a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education, which she received in 2003. The next year, she earned a master's degree in Teaching English to Students of Other Languages from Touro College.

For the past six years, Mrs. Schiavo has served as a kindergarten teacher and library cluster teacher at PS 69 in Brooklyn, but she felt compelled to delve into child care and pre-school education.

"I just want to help children build a foundation before getting to school," she said. "There's so much they need to know before they even get to kindergarten."

One of a Kind was born from that idea and launched by Mrs. Schiavo and her mother-in-law, Richmond resident **Angela Savarese**, who manages the administrative side of things.

The school caters to children as young as 3 weeks and as old as 5 years, prepping them for the jump to formalized education.

Currently, One of a Kind, which can accommodate up to 30 infants, toddlers and tikes at any one time, features half-day and full-day care and is preparing for what promises to be busy summer and fall sessions.

The teaching staff, like the ownership, is a collection of family and friends that Mrs. Schiavo, who is certified by the Department of Health for child care, trusts to keep the level of care at a top-notch level.

Fellow teachers and caregivers include her close friend, **Jen Cahill**; brother-in-law, **Charles Simeone**, and his girlfriend, **Marissa Medwed**; and niece, **Nicole Guttadauro**. Her husband, **Joseph**, helps keep the newly-renovated facility clean and fully-operational.



Eight-month-old Laila Aliotta is all smiles; she's just one of the many infants who are left in Mrs. Schiavo's care. STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/JAMIE LEE

"I started interviewing people for positions," said Mrs. Schiavo, whose one son, **Tomasso**, 4, is enrolled and other son, **Joseph**, 10, visits regularly. "But I was hesitant to hire strangers because I wanted to make sure I could create the environment I wanted."

The environment is extremely cozy, featuring a "circle time" rug area used for morning exercises and music lessons and other sections with kitchen-related toys, paint supplies, writing implements and a computer.

Children laugh and play as they learn to sing their ABCs, recite the "Pledge of Allegiance" and learn about each month's theme. (Right now, the focus is "Springtime.")

Much of the learning is done through song, according to Mrs. Schiavo; the "children don't even realize they are learning," she said.

But varying the lessons and finding new ways of relating to each child enrolled at One of a Kind is a key cog in the equation too.

"Every child is different," said Mrs. Schiavo. "It's important to relate to each one uniquely, and in doing that, you can actually help the other children learn as well."

***One of a Kind child care and pre-school, located at 6318 Amboy Rd., Pleasant Plains, can be reached at 718-317-7070. For additional information, visit [www.oneofakindchildcare.com](http://www.oneofakindchildcare.com).***

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