

# CSI in the News

August 2010



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# ***Arts***



## RED OVER RED Closes in Brooklyn, August 7

by BWW News Desk



Brooklyn-based theater company 31 Down's loud meditation on paranoia and premonition surrounding

plane crashes, **RED OVER RED**, will premiere with a run at New York City's Incubator Arts Project July 22-August 7, 2010. 31 Down returns with their signature sonic destruction, creating a horror theater that is immersive, visceral and contemporary. **Red Over Red** follows four people working in and around the airline industry to explore distrust in one another on a personal level, and distrust in the unknown on a primal level. Featuring recurring crash nightmares, the work graphically dives into our renewed fears of flight post 911. Starring frequent [Richard Foreman](#) and [Hal Hartley](#) actor DJ Mendel, and Caitlin McDonough-Thayer, Ryan Holsopple and Risa Sarachan.

31 DOWN creates darkly themed audio-based performance work with a heavy emphasis on light, imagery and mood. The work is a form of study in audio and visual perception. Like radio, disembodied voices and a remote sense of time and place inform visual tableaux and aural landscapes that set out to put the audience into a dreamlike, heightened state. There is an invested use of new technologies and interactive systems to create and control the performances. Recent performance history includes: *The Assembler Dilator* (Performance Space 122), *The Scream Contest* (P.S. 122: Seattle Edition), *Universal Robots*, *Metronoma* and *That's Not How Mahler Died* (Ontological-Hysteric Incubator), *I Used to be Curious [Loud]* (PRELUDE07), *Rita, Katrina and Stan* (PERFORMA05).

Written by Shannon Sindelar and Ryan Holsopple  
Directed by Shannon Sindelar  
Sound and video by Ryan Holsopple

[D.J. Mendel](#) made his professional acting debut working with avant-garde theater legend [Richard Foreman](#) and has since appeared in New York and Internationally in Mr. Foreman's PERMANENT BRAIN DAMAGE, PANIC (How to be Happy) and THE UNIVERSE. He has also performed with some of New York's most prominent theater artists including Big Dance Theater, [David Neuman](#) and Karen Coonrod. A long time collaborator with [HAI Hartley](#), he has been in Mr. Hartley's films, FAY GRIM, THE BOOK OF LIFE, NO SUCH THING, THE NEW MATHS, THE GIRL FROM MONDAY and in Mr. Hartley's theatrical debut, SOON, which premiered at the Salzburg Festpiel. He has also starred in Richard Sylvarnes' THE CLOUD OF UNKNOWING and H.C.E, both debuting at the Tribeca Film festival and most recently played the title role in Salvatore Interlandi's, CHARLIE.

Ryan Holsopple (founder and artistic director of 31 Down) Ryan writes, designs sound, oversees all technical aspects of production and performs for the theater company. He has also designed sound for Off Broadway and Off Off Broadway productions. He has served as an associate projections designer with designer [William Cusick](#) on The Clean House and The Coast of Utopia at [Lincoln Center Theater](#) and Arjuna's Dilemma, BAM Next Wave 2008. Ryan has taught interactive technology at CUNY's City Tech and Radio production at the [College of Staten Island](#). Masters from the Interactive Telecommunications Program (ITP) of New York University.

Caitlin McDonough-Thayer New York credits include: The Assembler Dilator (31down; PS 122), Trifles (Theater of a Two-Headed Calf; Ontological-Hysteric Incubator), Dutch A/V (Tommy Smith and Reggie Watts), Deep Trance Behavior in Potatoland, Panic: How To Be Happy, Zomboid, Film Project #1, ([Richard Foreman](#); OHT), Antigone, and Kasimir & Karoline (Nature Theater of Oklahoma), Problem Radicals (Object Collection; PS 122), Stars in Her Eyes (Clay McLeod Chapman; Sell Out Festival), The Lacy Project (Ohio Theater's Ice Factory). Coming up: Macbeth, The Interlochen Arts Festival, and The Wife, by Tommy Smith.

Shannon Sindelar is a writer, director and theater producer from Washington state. Recent directing work includes: The Assembler Dilator (31 Down at P.S. 122), the New York premiere of [Tennessee Williams'](#) The Remarkable Rooming House of Mme. LeMonde (Target Margin/The Bushwick Starr), Universal Robots (31 Down/Ontological Incubator), I Used to be Curious [Loud] (31 Down/ Prelude07), and Jason Grote's A Christmas Carol (The Brick Theater). She is the director and co-writer for 31 Down projects, and recently toured to Seattle with the company to present The Scream Contest (P.S. 122 Off-Site at Bumbershoot). She is currently the Managing and Programming Director of the [Ontological-Hysteric Theater](#), and was recently named one of nytheatre.com's People of the Year.

Risa Sarachan New York credits include: BANG/whimper (NY Fringe), Learning to Love Me More (Ontological-Hysteric Incubator), Claire and Daniel (Atlantic Theatre Stage 2 and Network One Act Festival semi-finalist) and The History of My Domestication (TigerMilk Collective). Risa has also been seen in several independent films, such as My Friends Told Me About You, now available in the Wholpin's DVD Collection, and hiTec! which has just begun screening in New York. BFA from NYU Tisch School of the Arts, Experimental Theatre Wing.

#### About Incubator Arts Project

The Incubator Arts Project supports independent, experimental performing artists through a series of programs aimed at offering production opportunities and guidance with long-term growth and artistic sustainability. Its programs primarily support world premieres of original work and also include a concert series, work in progress opportunities and artist salons and roundtables.

The Incubator Arts Project grew out of the Incubator, a project of the [Ontological-Hysteric Theater](#). In 2010, the [Ontological-Hysteric Theater](#) announced that it would leave its permanent

home, [St. Mark's](#) Church, and that the Incubator would take over the space and operate year-round.

Beginning in 1993, the [Ontological-Hysteric Theater](#), in addition to its primary support of the work of [Richard Foreman](#), opened its doors to emerging, independent artists. Since 1993 the emerging artists program at the Ontological took many forms, including the Obie-winning Blueprint Series for emerging directors. In 2005, the OHT reorganized the programs under the name INCUBATOR, creating a series of linked programs to provide young theater artists with resources and support to develop process-oriented, original theatrical productions. By 2010, the program had quadrupled in size, involving a range of artists and increased support. The programs included the centerpiece Residency program for premieres, two annual music festivals, a regular concert series, a serial work-in-progress program called Short Form, and roundtables and salons aimed at keeping Incubator artists involved year-round. In May, 2010, the Incubator received an OBIE grant.



# ***Faculty & Staff***

**KENNETH T. BACH**

College of Staten Island

Kenneth T. Bach was appointed director of communications and marketing at the College of Staten Island, following a national search.

Bach has been serving as the college's acting director of communications and marketing for the past three years, where he led a strategic, integrated multimedia marketing communications



**Bach**

program, developed new Web communications vehicles and annual multimedia advertising campaigns, oversaw video production venues and managed the college's media relations. From 2001 to his current appointment, he served the college as director of public relations.

Bach's previous professional experience includes a stint as executive officer for Liza Minnelli Inc., where he acted as company manager, production manager, stage manager and executive assistant during national and international tours. His experience also includes a role as company manager for Summerset Productions Inc., producing and co-directing stage plays and managing technical, venue and production personnel. From 1989 to 1995, he was box office and front of house manager for the College of Staten Island's Center for the Arts.

## 7 Super Sibling Benefits

Your baby benefits big-time from having an older sister or brother at home. What a sibling can do to show your little one the ropes.

By Melody Warnick



When my second daughter, Ruby, was born, I was worried that her 5-year-old sister, Ella, would manhandle her, make her cry, or, heaven forbid, wake her from a nap. But I should have been arranging for more together time. "Research shows that having an older sibling around -- someone with advanced language, cognition, imagination, and play skills -- can offer a lot of benefits to a baby," says Sarah Berger, Ph.D., associate professor of **psychology** at the **College of Staten Island**, in New York. We'll tell you exactly what brotherly (or sisterly) love can do.

### Your Baby May Move Sooner

In one study, Dr. Berger found that more than 60 percent of second kids walked earlier than their older siblings. The reason? Babies often learn by watching. Plus, older siblings make effective coaches. E. G. Sebastian, a father of three from Beaufort, South Carolina, says his youngest started walking at 8 months because her older sister and brother, then ages 12 and 10, assisted her literally every step of the way.

### Your Baby Gets More Attention

It's the birth-order predicament: A firstborn naturally gets more of his parents' undivided time and focus than other siblings do, so parents worry and often feel guilty about shortchanging the next child. But don't forget: The baby also gets doted on by his big sister or brother. "I realized that my second child was getting lots of attention from this whole other, exciting little person my firstborn didn't have around," says Jennifer Bingham Hull, a mother of two girls and author of *Beyond One: Growing a Family and Getting a Life*.

### Your Baby Learns to Calm Herself

Don't worry if she has to fuss for a few minutes while you grab your older kid's lunch. It's actually a good lesson in patience and she'll be more likely to learn to self-soothe, which will make her more resilient in the long run.

### Your Baby Has a Translator

If your little one needs a fresh diaper, your toddler will often be the first to let you know. "Older siblings are very attuned to the baby's needs, so they'll tell you, 'The baby is tired! The baby wants his blankie,' " says psychologist Eileen Kennedy-Moore, Ph.D., author of *What About Me?: Get Your Parents' Attention (Without Hitting Your Sister)*. That's partly because your eldest genuinely loves and wants to help her little brother, but it's also self-interest: She wants him to stop crying! As long as your older child doesn't keep your little one from speaking up for himself later on, having another little expert around the house can help your baby get what he needs faster.

**Your Baby Has More Chances to Learn**

Even simple games like peekaboo and toss-the-ball can boost brainpower, and with a willing older sibling around, your baby gets more time to practice. Also, babies pay attention to what interests them, and since older siblings tend to be louder, more active, and more unpredictable than parents, they're always fascinating to watch, says Dr. Kennedy-Moore.

**Your Baby Becomes More Imaginative**

All babies learn by imitating other people, but they may particularly love to copycat older kids. A recent study showed that 1-year-olds with older siblings mimic 50 percent of their behaviors. That's especially true with pretend play. According to coauthor Rachel Barr, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology at Georgetown University, little siblings can become sophisticated at make-believe because their older siblings give them plenty of practice.

**Your Baby Has Fun!**

Sure, babies like to play with their parents, but older siblings offer their own special brand of entertainment. "My 8-month-old, Keagan, loves his three older sisters," says Angela Killinger, of Chantilly, Virginia. "They put on shows for him, sing him songs, and feed him his little snacks." All that playtime will keep your baby occupied and give you a breather when you need it.

*Originally published in the September 2010 issue of Parents magazine.*

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## Defending the honor of Staten Island 'girls'

Published: Sunday, August 01, 2010, 7:38 AM



**Michael J. Fressola**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — Some local artists want you to see that Staten Island “girls” aren’t punchlines; nor are they characters in “Saturday Night Live” skits.

In “True Life: I’m a Staten Island Girl” at SHOW Gallery this month, six female artists present elegant counterattacks to the viral stereotypes. The title is from the MTV “reality” show.

Their work doesn’t dignify the send-ups by acknowledging them directly. It presumes that viewers know the difference between comedy, show biz, media hype and day-to-day life.

Instead, “True Life” politely but firmly upends the “Staten Island Girl” prejudices. It’s even subtitled “Foucault’s Heterotopias,” which is fancy semiotic-speak for “other spaces” as described by impenetrable French theorist Michel Foucault (1926-1984).

### IN THE GALLERY

Shawn Bishop Leo’s textured and layered mixed-media works have street-cred and pop-art cred, plus they are decorative and cheeky. They start - maybe - as photographs that get silk-screened onto canvas, along with signage and scenery. Road underlie the layers.

At the surface, there are swirls, fleur-de-lis, scrolls, ornate Baroque appliqués in matte bronze/gold that take the image to another place. Her “Staten Island Girl,” a mysterious presence with downcast eyes, floats over a local map. “Boxed Beef” has patches of deep pink and green: Civilized colors in an uncivil situation.

We seem to be looking at a construction worker who is wolf-whistling a good-looking, defiant female passerby.

Understated parables about our world are related in Jenna Lucente’s handsome paintings.

Her large, 60-inch wide, two-panel oil “The Ducks and the Dodge,” is half idyll, half indictment. Someone has rolled an old wreck into the wetland.

As always, Lucente's line has an appealingly nervous energy and she uses just a couple/three perfectly calibrated shades of yellow and blue.

## **ON THE BEACHCOMBING**

Speaking of cast-offs, glass-artist Ryan McGivern harvests curious flotsam and jetsam on an Island beach -- she won't reveal the location - and places them under glass - mouth-blown, bellshaped covers that she makes herself. underneath that are doll heads, shards, little well-preserved figurines.

The glass has etched, freehand inscriptions like "We are having a lovely time with Aunt Mary." Amanda Curtis, who is one of the facilitators of the Second Saturday art walk on the North Shore, is in similar territory, but her microcosms are well-furnished tiny dioramas under clear domes.

There are odd, tiny ink drawings of people who might be storybook characters. The titles suggest fantastic (but local) narratives, as in "The Orange Troll of Clove Lakes." The menacing silhouette of the "Horned Beast" stands watch in one piece.

The show's only tribute to traditional media and iconography is Denise Murphy's "Salome," a full-length, glittery "portrait" that puts the New Testament bad girl up against the picture plane. She's not so much an object of desire in this presentation. She looks a little clumsy, almost clownish.

Mikhael Antone, who curated "True Life " put some of her own work in the show (she's a adjunct photography professor at the **College of Staten Island**). Four handsome small ( seven by seven inches) gelatin silver prints of local shopping districts look lonely and sterile.

One, "Costco," suggests a numbing pattern of contemporary life: Provisioning at a big-box store and then disposing of the "remains" in the recycling bins across the way.

"True Life" continues through the end of the month at SHOW Gallery, 156 Stuyvesant Pl., St. George. Hours are Wednesday to Saturday, noon to 7 p.m.

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August 2, 2010

# Does Kindergarten Have a Payoff?

To the Editor:

In “[The Case for \\$320,000 Kindergarten Teachers](#)” (Economic Scene column, front page, July 28), David Leonhardt suggests that a study of kindergarten’s impact disproves arguments by Economic Policy Institute researchers that “an education can’t protect workers” in today’s economy.

Mr. Leonhardt uses as an example a 27-year-old who would have an additional \$1,000 a year in income thanks to a good kindergarten teacher. This makes quality kindergarten investments worthwhile, yet doesn’t solve the wage stagnation bedeviling even college-educated workers. The income gap between affluent and both middle- and low-income families has been growing so substantially that an additional \$1,000 won’t help much.

Policies based on exaggerating school reform’s ability to ameliorate inequality leave most working families and their children unprotected. We need educational improvement, including better kindergarten, but also economic reforms — more job creation, greater protection of union organizing rights, higher minimum wages and more generous earned income tax credits — if we want disadvantaged children to have a fighting chance.

Richard Rothstein

Wellfleet, Mass., July 28, 2010

*The writer is a research associate with the Economic Policy Institute and a former education columnist for The Times.*

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To the Editor:

David Leonhardt reports evidence that highly effective teachers of young children make a lifelong difference. But what makes for highly effective teachers?

Another important study may hold the answer. The HighScope Preschool Curriculum Comparison Study followed children randomly assigned to different preschool programs through young adulthood, with striking results. The children who learned mainly through playful activities fared much better at their work and social responsibilities than those in an academic instruction-oriented class.

Social and dramatic play in kindergarten develops patience, self-regulation, empathy and perseverance — the critical “skills that last a lifetime,” as Mr. Leonhardt puts it, but aren’t measured by multiple-choice tests. Yet teachers in thousands of schools are being told not to let children play in the classroom. That’s a recipe for long-term failure.

Edward Miller  
New York, July 28, 2010

*The writer is a senior researcher for Alliance for Childhood and co-author of its 2009 report “Crisis in the Kindergarten: Why Children Need to Play in School.”*

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To the Editor:

A child’s emotional, academic and social development is shaped during the early childhood grades. Your article refers to standardized testing and academic success but does not discuss the most fundamental concern: readiness skills. It does refer to the importance of well-trained teachers and small classes. But teachers must work within required guidelines. Those recent guidelines subordinate readiness skills and the arts to a preoccupation with testing. Thus, our teachers cannot focus on the social, emotional and physical development of their young learners.

Our future adults should be expected to communicate with creativity and humor, as generous, thoughtful, caring learners and human beings. The development of these attributes must take



precedence in early childhood. Test prepping and academic focus in the early stages of learning will never create the kind of citizens we want to embrace our future world.

Gail Rosenberg

Brooklyn, July 28, 2010

*The writer is a retired teacher and administrator in the New York City public schools and an adjunct professor of education at the College of Staten Island, CUNY.*

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To the Editor:

How wonderful to see the benefits an excellent kindergarten education can provide years down the road. How tragic, though, that despite such rigorous research, so many states and districts have chosen to eliminate funding for full-day kindergarten programs for the coming school year. Perhaps some missed their kindergarten lessons in the perils of shortsightedness.

Nicholas Commins

New York, July 28, 2010

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To the Editor:

Many thanks for this article, although I wish it had not played down other contributing factors, like class size. After all, we have more control over class size than the elusive “teacher quality.”

Anne Mackin

Boston, July 29, 2010

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To the Editor:

You grazed over the fact that early interventions for long-term benefits start even earlier than kindergarten — they begin in preschool. Notable longitudinal research has been done (like the

Perry Preschool Project and the Chicago Child-Parent Center Program) on the effects of high-quality preschool programs. They saw similar results to the Project Star research: preschool study participants were less likely to drop out of high school, to be placed in special education and to be held back a grade, and were more likely to own a home and be employed.

Ultimately, these studies do say the same thing: The earliest years matter!

Ashlee Tran

Berkeley, Calif., July 29, 2010

*The writer works for an early childhood advocacy organization.*



## Bill that's a boon for CSI project gains in D.C.

Published: Tuesday, August 03, 2010, 5:28 AM



**Maura Yates**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- A research center at the College of Staten Island that aims to find solutions to the region's traffic problems is in line for a federal funding boost of nearly a half-million dollars.

The Senate's Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee approved the Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriations Bill, which includes \$450,000 for CSI, U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer announced yesterday.

"On behalf of the College of Staten Island and the City University of New York, I want to thank Sen. Charles Schumer for his tremendous assistance and support in securing key subcommittee approval for our 'Innovation in Transportation Infrastructure Systems Planning' project," said CSI President Dr. Tomás D. Morales.

"Funding for this project will allow CSI to conduct important research and development to address traffic congestion in the New York metropolitan region for the benefit of our students, our communities, all of New York City and beyond."

The funding will help CSI researchers expand their work on traffic modeling at the High Performance Computing Center, and computer simulations that show, for example, the impact of changes to the price of bus or train tickets, adjustments to the quality of transit service, or changing the price of tolls. By developing mathematical models, it allows students to experiment with ideas to see if it works in the lab before trying it out on the mean streets of New York.

"We appreciate the fact the senator recognizes the profound nature of these problems," said Dr. Jonathan Peters, an economics professor and research fellow at the University Transportation Research Center at CSI.

The funding will be used to initiate studies into transportation improvements, urban planning and economic development.

"The research done at the College of Staten Island will establish a strong foundation for students, researchers and city officials to build upon," Schumer said. "The funding will bring leading researchers to Staten Island, enable students to engage in hands-on experience and provide officials with new insight into

economic development. I will fight to see this funding through the full appropriations process."

The bill will be sent to President Obama for signature pending approval by the committee, the Senate, and after conference with the House of Representatives.

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# LGBT Center plans to stage several events, including a vigil

**Community responds to beating of couple at White Castle on Bay Street**

**By AMISHA PADNANI**  
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

The beating of a gay couple at the White Castle in Stapleton last month has brought together members and supporters of the LGBT community seeking to combat bigotry and console its victims.

In response to the attack

on Luis and Richard Vieira, the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Center at 25 Victory Blvd. in Tompkinsville will be hosting several events in conjunction with City Councilwoman Debi Rose (D-North Shore) and Assemblyman Matt Titone (D-North Shore) to help foster an atmosphere in which people can feel safe.

The first event will be late Friday night into Saturday morning. Called "Take Back Your Right," the purpose of the gathering, from 2 a.m. to 3 a.m. at the White Castle at

450 Bay St., is to show solidarity by going out to eat free of fear, any time of day.

Later on Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., folks are welcome to help plant a healing garden, also at the White Castle.

That night, at 8:30, there will be a vigil outside Borough Hall as a way to demonstrate an intolerance of violence and bias crimes, and to show that Staten Island is a peaceful place to live.

To make a reservation for any event, or for more information, contact sipridee-vents@gmail.com.



# Staten Island Advance

BREAKING NEWS ALL DAY ON [SILIVE.COM](http://SILIVE.COM)

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## PLAN TO CURB THE VIOLENCE IS ROLLED OUT

Speaker Quinn, Debi Rose outline package of initiatives in Port Richmond appearance

By MAURA YATES  
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Declaring that intensive community involvement is key to turning the tide of hatred in Port Richmond, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, Councilwoman Debi Rose and community leaders announced an "aggressive" plan yesterday to counter the recent spate of bias attacks.

In addition to educational programs and outreach in the religious community, the 10-point plan includes expansion of the "I Am Staten Island" public service announcement campaign and the posting of "Safe Zone" signs in local businesses where people who sense danger can get help.

### IMPROVED LIGHTING

Street lighting will be improved, the safety of parks will be assessed, and new recreational programs will be considered to keep children and teens engaged in sports and other activities.

The Council will spearhead an effort to raise public and private funds to install more security cameras along the Port Richmond Avenue business corridor.

"For reasons we will probably never completely understand, Mexican members of our community are being attacked, sometimes late at

SEE PLAN, PAGE A 4

night, and sometimes in broad daylight. Some have questioned whether these crimes are crimes of opportunity, or if they are crimes of hate. ... I believe these victims of these attacks were targeted because of who they are, and because they were perceived as vulnerable," Ms. Rose said.

But no matter the motives, she said, "we cannot stand on the sidelines and simply wish these problems away."

"The individuals who have perpetrated these crimes are cowards, and they speak for no one," said Ms. Quinn. "We need to isolate them from the community and make sure they know that nobody supports them."



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/ANTHONY DEPRIMO

North Shore City Council woman Debi Rose, center, along with City Council Speaker Christine Quinn, left, and Mexican Consul General Ruben Beltran, announce a 10-point plan to combat the recent hate crimes in Port Richmond.

"The thing that makes cowards that are full of hate back down ... is when people of good will stand up and say no."

Standing with the Council members at the St. Vincent's Manor residence for seniors on Park Avenue in Port Richmond, Borough President James Molinaro said he was speaking "not as your Borough President, but as a resident of Staten Island," and the child of immigrants who spoke no English until he started school.

### BP IS 'FRUSTRATED'

"I'm hurt and I'm frustrated by what's going on, because this is not Staten Island," he said, noting the borough's roots as a place that welcomed immigrants with open arms.

"We are not going to tolerate this. We're not going to accept it," he vowed.

And like the Italian immigrants, and Irish, and Jews who came before, the Island's Mexican population is here to stay, said the consul general of Mexico in New York, Rubén Beltrán.

"We're not going anywhere. This is our community. We are here to work for the well-being of this community, and we're going to stay here."

Beltrán said he's "mad" about the crime wave, not only against his fellow Mexicans, but also the recent at-

tack on a gay couple in Stapleton.

"There's no room in the 21st century for this kind of behavior," he said.

Tamika Mallory, Executive Director of the Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network, said her organization empathizes with the crime victims in Port Richmond because "We know all too well how much it hurts when people are picked out just because of their race, or how they speak, or whom they fall in love with."

### FOCUS ON YOUTH

Violence is happening across the country, she said, and one of the best ways to understand its causes is to reach out to the youth and teens who are commonly perpetrating it.

"We must look at the economic condition of our young people ... because that plays into why our young people are angry, they're going through things at home and they come outside and look at how to take it out on other people," she said, urging the group to look into expanding summer employment options for youth, and throughout the year, along with more opportunities for them to seek outlets at recreation centers.

"Whether these crimes are motivated by racism, homophobia or other hatreds, the bottom line is that there is no

### Safety provisions

Highlights of the anti-violence plan announced by Council Speaker Christine Quinn and Councilwoman Debi Rose

- An extension of the "I Am Staten Island" ad campaign to the ferry.
- A weekend — Sept. 18-19 — on which clergy across the island will preach against hate.
- A \$300,000 expansion of the Respect for All program to high schools, funded by the Council.
- An assessment of street lighting and park conditions with an eye toward increased safety, and establishment of a public-private partnership to fund security cameras in Port Richmond Center.
- Enlistment of merchants to provide safe zones.

place for such division in a community as diverse and welcoming as New York City," said Ron Meier, New York regional director of the Anti-Defamation League.

For more information about the "I Am Staten Island" campaign, or to contribute an idea of your own, visit [iamsi.info](http://iamsi.info).

Maura Yates is a news reporter for the Advance. She may be reached at [myates@siadvance.com](mailto:myates@siadvance.com).



## NEWS AND VIEWS

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## Hillels Play Key Role for Students' Emotional Health

**Posted on:** August 9, 2010

This fall, college students here in New York and around the country will enter a time of new possibilities, new studies, new friends - and also many changes.

"People in this age group are at a time of transition, and a lot of expectations," said Amy Posner, executive director of Hillel at the [College of Staten Island](#), part of Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, a beneficiary agency of UJA-Federation of New York. "One day they're a kid whose parents take care of them, the next they're at college and have to find their own way."

Times of transition can be fragile, she added. "We at Hillel want students to know that people care about them, and that we're here to help."

She joined more than 60 other campus administrators who, together with staff from 10 Hillels at New York-area colleges, attended a mental health training program for campus professionals held at UJA-Federation on August 3rd. The Jed Foundation provided the training, which was funded by UJA-Federation.

"The training was supported by UJA-Federation's Caring Commission, as we believe the mental-health needs of Jewish college-age students are a priority to address," said Roberta Leiner, managing director of the Caring Commission. "We believe that working with Hillels as gatekeepers to Jewish students on college campuses is an all-important vehicle to identify and support students under stress."

### Why Hillels Can Help

Hillel's supportive role is especially important because, according to a recent survey, when students are in emotional distress, they are more likely to seek help from religious leaders than "school counselors, private therapists, crisis hotlines, residential assistants, and faculty." The survey was released by the Jed Foundation, mtvU, and the Associated Press in 2009.

"You're really in a role where you're the most likely person to talk about these issues," said Courtney Knowles, executive director of the Jed Foundation.

Phil Satow, board president of the foundation, which he started with his wife after they lost their son Jed to suicide, said "It's hard to get students themselves, or their friends, or their parents to admit a student is having trouble, or to even know if it's typical behavior."

"You are someone who interacts with students on a regular basis who could potentially influence students one way or another," Satow said. "That's why this training is so important: you'll come away with resources to identify something is trouble or typical, and also what to do about it."

Knowles noted that it's important for campus professionals to be aware of and talk about mental-health issues like depression and anxiety because college years coincide with the age when symptoms often begin to show up.

Many of the warning signs indicating an emotional-health problem are changes in behavior, especially affecting sleep and appetite, he said.

For Matthew Vogel, executive director of Hillel at Baruch, also a part of Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, the training offered additional skills he can draw on in his work with students.

"I often have meaningful conversations with students about Jewish identity, but this training helps me think about students in a more holistic way," he explained.

### Suicide Prevention

The event also provided training in suicide prevention to help Hillel professionals learn how to assess if a student is at risk, and how to make referrals to a mental-health counselor.

"The number-one myth about suicide is that asking someone about it will cause it. All research shows that it will not cause it," said Chaim Nissel, director of the counseling center and suicide prevention coordinator at Yeshiva University and a member of the training panel.

"In fact, talking about suicide can help prevent it," he said. "Asking about it shows it's O.K. to talk about it - and there are ways to ask: Are you having thoughts about ending your life? Are you having any thoughts of doing anything to harm or kill yourself?"

Nissel, who is also a trainer for the American Association of Suicidology, added, "Someone who is thinking about suicide is

generally ambivalent. Offering to get someone the help they need can be lifesaving."

### **More Outreach Planned**

"The training is just the beginning, as we hope to continue to marry the mental-health resources of our beneficiary agencies," Leiner noted.

The Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, a UJA-Federation beneficiary agency that runs 14 mental-health clinics throughout New York City, together with the Jed Foundation will run a focus group with the training participants later this fall. The goal is to understand how Hillels have put into practice what they learned about the training when they started seeing students, and how to further support their efforts.



## Staten Island Academy elects new officers

Published: Monday, August 09, 2010, 7:33 AM



**Maureen Donnelly**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Staten Island Academy has elected a new slate of officers and three new members to its board of trustees. The new officers are Caroline Diamond Harrison as president, Daniel L. Master Jr. as vice president, Vincent J. Dugan as treasurer and Dina Marie Filippini as secretary, all of Todt Hill. The three new trustees elected to the board are: Marinella Ahmadi and Joseph D'Arco, both of Dongan Hills, and **Tomás Morales** of Todt Hill.

In taking over as board president, Mrs. Harrison is reprising a role that her father, Richard E. Diamond, filled for many years. Mrs. Harrison, publisher of the Staten Island Advance, is an alumna of Staten Island Academy and a longtime board member. She and her husband, Tim, are the parents of two current Staten Island Academy students.

"I'm delighted that Caroline has agreed to take on the presidency of the board of trustees" said Dongan Hills resident Steven W. Pasko, retiring board president. "It lends such a wonderful sense of continuity to see her assume a post into which her father poured such heartfelt dedication for so many years."

Mr. Pasko, the recently appointed CEO of SuttonPark Capital, a company that he founded, will remain as a trustee as long as his new responsibilities allow.

The new Staten Island Academy trustees are: Marinella Ahmadi, a registered dietitian and parent, along with her husband, Ramin, of three current Academy students; Joseph D'Arco, the president of one of the Island's largest fuel oil companies, S.J. Fuel Inc., and parent, with his wife, Lori, of three children who attend the school; and Dr. Tomás Morales, president of the College of Staten Island.

The members of the Staten Island Academy board of trustees for 2010-2011 are: Marinella Ahmadi; Suzanne Stirn Ainslie; Dr. Victor P. Avis; Alan Bernstein; Elissa Carpenter; Robert S. Cutrona Sr; Joseph D'Arco; Joseph A. Dezio; Deborah Falcone; Sergey Guberman; Diane J. Hulse; Devorah Lieberman, Ph. D.; Lance P. Meaney; **Tomás Morales, Ph. D.**; David Ng; Steven W. Pasko; Colleen Kelleher Sorrentino; Allan Weissglass, and Ed Wiseman.

## Studies from City University of New York, College of Staten Island update current data on medicare and medicaid



Investigators publish new data in the report 'Drug prices, out-of-pocket payments, and insurer costs: how do payers vary.' In this recently published article, scientists in the United States conducted a study "To examine how drug prices for specific diseases vary across payers in the United States and how insurer and patient out-of-pocket (OOP) costs vary by payer type. This study uses data from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey (MEPS) from 1996 to 2006."

"We estimate multivariate price regressions for four major drug product classes (antihypertensive, antidepressant, antiasthma drugs, and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)). Separate models are estimated for brand and generic drugs within each of these drug product classes. In addition to estimating overall transaction price equations for brands and generics, the study estimates patient OOP payments and insurer payments for drugs. We find relatively modest differences among payers in terms of total prices (e.g., insurer plus OOP). The main difference is in terms of how prices were shared between insurers and patients. Medicaid paid significantly more than other payers for each drug class, while Medicaid beneficiaries paid significantly less. RESEARCH IMPLICATIONS: Our results shed light on how drug prices vary by different payers and how drug prices are shared by third party payers and patients. The relatively modest differences in total drug prices across payer type suggest that these payers do not differ greatly in terms of their ability to negotiate price concessions from their suppliers. Instead, larger differences emerge in terms of how total costs are shared among the payer and their patients," wrote J. Chen and colleagues, City University of New York, **College of Staten Island** (see also Medicare and Medicaid).

The researchers concluded: "Understanding the reasons for these variations, and their implications for health outcomes, are important directions for further research."

Chen and colleagues published their study in *Advances In Health Economics and Health Services Research* (Drug prices, out-of-pocket payments, and insurer costs: how do payers vary? *Advances In Health Economics and Health Services Research*, 2010;22():221-31).

For additional information, contact J. Chen, **College of Staten Island** City University of New York, New York City, NY USA.

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# About.com Working Moms

## Tracey Porpora

Journalist and Author

By [Katherine Lewis](#), About.com Guide

Tracey Porpora is a journalist, [freelance writer](#)<sup>1</sup> and copy editor, who lives with her 6-year-old daughter in New York City. Tracey is a regular contributor to the Star-Ledger's special feature sections, a contributing editor for Complete Woman Magazine, and a local editor for Industry Magazine. Other publications for which Tracey has written articles include: Ladies' Home Journal Online, Time Out NY Kids, All Woman, Bridal Guide, Grit, the Christian Science Monitor, Queens Parent, MetroKids, NY Metro Parents and MAMM.

Tracey's book [The Complete Guide to Baby Sign Language](#)<sup>2</sup>: 101 Tips and Tricks Every Parent Needs to Know (Atlantic Publishing, 2010) teaches parents the basics of communicating with their children before they can actually speak and provides classroom tools for teachers who want to integrate sign language into their curriculums.



When Tracey isn't writing, she's teaching others how to do so. She is an adjunct journalism professor at St. John's University, and an adjunct English writing professor at the [College of Staten Island](#), City University of New York. She also has taught business writing to graduate students in a corporate communications program at Seton Hall University.

### Education and Experience:

Tracey formerly worked for seven years as a daily newspaper reporter, bureau chief and columnist for the Staten Island Advance, a Newhouse publication.

Tracey received a bachelor of science degree in communications, magna cum laude, from St. John's University, and a master of arts degree in media communications from Hunter College, The City University of New York.

*This About.com page has been optimized for print. To view this page in its original form, please visit:*

<http://workingmoms.about.com/od/workingmomprofiles/a/Tracey-Porpora-Bio.htm>

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## Film Notes

The Advocate

Posted: 08/11/2010 01:50:02 PM EDT

Wednesday August 11, 2010

'Israeli Cinema'

GREAT BARRINGTON -- The Berkshire International Film Festival's "Reel Friends" film society will present a screening of "A History of Israeli Cinema" on Aug. 15 and Sept. 19 at The Triplex.

The first half spans the years 1932 to 1978, starting with the earliest films made by European Jews in Palestine leading up to and following the creation of the modern State of Israel. It will be shown at 11 a. m. Sunday, Aug. 15.

The second part covers the years 1978 to 2007 and examines the wave of films dealing with political issues and the trend towards a more personal approach to cinema. It will be shown at 11 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 19.

Through interviews with film professionals, critics and intellectuals -- including Amos Gitai, Joseph Ceder, Avi Mograbi, Yehuda Ne'eman, Menachem Golan, Moshe Ivgy and Zeev Revach -- and extensive use of film clips, the documentary invites its audience to share in the process of discovery.

Berkshire Eagle columnist Leonard Quart, who is professor emeritus of cinema studies at the College of Staten Island and at the CUNY Graduate Center, as well as a contributing editor at Cineaste, will introduce the film and lead a question-and-answer

session after.

Regular film prices apply. Info: [biffma.com](http://biffma.com).  
'Breakfast Club'

GREAT BARRINGTON -- Local youth organization

Greenagers is hosting a screening of the 1980s classic film "The Breakfast Club" at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center on Saturday, Aug. 21, at 7 p. m.

"The Breakfast Club," written and directed by John Hughes, was released in 1985 and has become a cult classic. Five high school students -- the "criminal," the "princess," the "jock," the "basketcase" and the "brain" -- gather for Saturday detention and find their ideas regarding self, other and the benefits of detention turned upside down over the course of the day. The film stars Emilio Estevez, Molly Ringwald, Anthony Michael Hall, Judd Nelson and Ally Sheedy.

Tickets are \$8 and all proceeds will go toward Greenagers 2010-11 programming and initiatives. The movie is rated R; people under the age of 17 must be accompanied by an adult. Info: 413-644-9090 or [greenagers.org](http://greenagers.org).



## Caryn T. Davis of New Brighton wins Literacy Award

Published: Sunday, August 15, 2010, 6:27 AM



### Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Caryn T. Davis of New Brighton was awarded one of the 2010 Outstanding Literacy Practitioners Awards by the Literacy Assistance Center in New York City.

Ms. Davis is an instructor for the CUNY Language Immersion Program at the **College of Staten Island (CSI).**

The award, now in its 25th year, focuses attention on the accomplishments of individual practitioners and of the field as a whole. The Bookbinders' Guild of New York provides a library development grant to each award winner's program.

Ms. Davis has worked within the adult education field for more than 15 years, and with adult English language learners for 10 years. Recently she has successfully experimented with two projects at CSI: The Altered Book Project and the Building Bridges Project.

Ms. Davis graduated this spring with a master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from the New School.

Ms. Davis received the New York Times 2010 ESOL Teacher of the Year Award.

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## No stopping this Harvard-bound Mariners Harbor success story

Published: Monday, August 16, 2010, 2:04 AM



**Lindsay Macklin**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. --- "I think that it is time for us to break up. Our relationship has become toxic and you are spiteful and abusive."

The harsh words are not from a gut-wrenching conversation between a couple on the verge of parting ways, but from a letter written by 18-year-old Imani Radney, a Harvard University-bound graduate of Petrides High School, for her college application essay.



NY Daily News photo

Imani Radney, 18, of Mariners Harbor, says having to deal with MS "has squashed any self-doubt of my ability to accomplish something."

The subject: Conquering multiple sclerosis.

Ms. Radney, of Mariners Harbor, was diagnosed with MS when she was 12 years old. Since then, she has braved the effects of the disease, which include loss of vision, loss of muscle usage, difficulty balancing, tremors, and fatigue.

But Ms. Radney does not allow the disease to rule her life. "I'm just way too competitive to quit," she said.

And she isn't exaggerating.

While attending Petrides High School, she danced, played soccer and ran cross-country. She was the treasurer of the Key Club, the president of the National Honors Society and interned at Staten Island University Hospital, Ocean Breeze.

Ms. Radney was the first Petrides student to receive the Michael J. Petrides Award for both mathematics and science.

The award, established by former Borough President Guy V. Molinari, honors the educator, who died in 1994. Petrides was a dean and professor of engineering at the **College of Staten Island**, former chairman of Community School Board 31, and a member of the city's former Board of Education. He was dedicated to promoting excellence in math and science. The award is given annually to a graduating student who excels in these disciplines.

As for Ms. Radney, her hard work, grit and determination have paid off.

The next chapter in her inspirational story takes place this fall at Harvard, where she plans to study medicine and pursue her dream of becoming a surgeon.

"I cannot wait to go to Harvard, meet new people and be far away from parents!" she joked while looking at her proud father, Laras Radney.

Her perseverance and ability to conquer the obstacles imposed by her disease has made her into a resilient and determined young woman.

"I am not the little girl I was when we met and let me tell you something baby, this shrew will never be tamed," she wrote in her letter to multiple sclerosis.

As Ms. Radney prepares to venture off to Harvard, she remains confident and excited about her future.

Said Ms. Radney: "Having to put up with this disease has squashed any self-doubt of my ability to accomplish something."

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## Undervaluing Your Worth

By Vicki Salemi, [Forbes.com](http://Forbes.com)

August, 2010

Despite an M.A., J.D. and Ph.D. in communications, when Lisa Perry applies for a job, she frequently omits her second doctorate from her resume.

"The perception of Ph.D.s is ivory-towered, egghead intellectuals who can't hold a 'real' job and get their hands dirty," says the attorney, who works on a contract basis with a San Francisco, Calif., law firm and as an adjunct professor. Her concern on the job hunt is getting labeled as prima donna who expects a higher salary, and de facto being automatically eliminated from the candidate pool. "I have been asked if I would be able to take direction from someone without a graduate degree."

Increasingly, workers are playing down their education and work experience in order to land a job. And given the national average unemployment rate has held steady for the past two months at 9.5%, any job will do--even for the most talented individuals and whether or not it offers a pay package, benefits, title and responsibilities commensurate with their employment history.

**In Pictures: 10 Ways You're Dumbing Down Your Work Experience**

**In Pictures: 10 Steps To Happiness At Work**

**In Pictures: The Best Do-Good Jobs After College**

**In Pictures: 10 Resume Don'ts**

**In Pictures: Seven Ways Job-Hunters Can Boost Their Resumes**

This is particularly important for many women, who tend to underemphasize their accomplishments. As Kelly Watson writes in "The Four Myths of Self-Promotion": "This hesitance to self-promote hurts women's careers. In today's competitive world the people most vocal about their accomplishments are the ones most likely to get ahead. And by downplaying their accomplishments and deflecting praise onto others, women act like their own worst enemies."

When To Speak Up

As a result of the sluggish economy, skin care entrepreneur Melanie Knight, of Grace and Pepper Organics in San Diego, Calif., has tried to explore 9-5 opportunities--with less-than-stellar results. "I have had several recruiters and potential employers tell me that being an entrepreneur is hindering my success at finding a job."

What's particularly troublesome about an entrepreneur as a job candidate? She will leave the company as soon as her sales pick up.

As a pre-emptive strike, Knight now tries to emphasize her skill set--her orientation to detail, her ability to multitask and wear different hats--rather than her business specialty. "I try to emphasize how my skills can help the company and how they match the position they are hiring for," she says.

Suzanne Grossman, a career coach, lecturer at the [College of Staten Island](http://College of Staten Island) and



founder of the blog Love Your Job recommends highlighting the value of your work experiences and its direct relevance to a potential job by telling your unique story. "The exact details of your past positions are less important than your own story, which includes your many accomplishments," she says.

There is no substitute for knowledge gained from accomplishment. As résumé specialist Wendy Enelow explains, rather than particular work experiences, emphasize what she calls "skills summaries"--projects, achievements and the experiences related to them.

#### When to Shut Up

According to Katy Piotrowski, M.Ed., author of *The Career Coward's Guide to Resumes*, it's prudent to keep degrees and work experiences under cover when they aren't a specific job requirement. "Selectively choose key pieces to share--elements that showcase you best for the position," says Piotrowski. "That may mean leaving out a degree that isn't relevant or that shows you as overqualified for the job. Too much data, like too many accessories, can make you look less attractive."

She adds you can always include a statement such as, "Additional educational details and work history available on request."

But think twice about selective omission, warns Katy Keogh, principal at Massachusetts-headquartered staffing firm Winter, Wyman Financial Contracting. What if, for example, your employer is not aware you've earned a particular degree when you're in line for a promotion that requires that degree? "An omission can come back to haunt a job candidate," says Keogh. "Full disclosure from the start is always better--and probably more lucrative--in the long run."

Lorneth Fahie of Clarksville, Tenn., an academic counselor, originally omitted her master's degree in corporate communications during the hiring process for a transcript clerk position at a nearby college; the only educational requirement was an associate's degree or high school diploma. But during the background check the college discovered she had earned a master's. "The committee asked why I applied for the job that did not require a higher degree. I was honest and told them that I was in need of a job." Fair enough. Two years later she was promoted to an academic counselor role, one that required a master's degree that her employer already knew about.

#### Where to draw the line

When it comes to the bachelor's degree however, that is considered an untouchable. When Katie Danziger applied for a promotions job at a national daily sports newspaper (since folded), her interviewer viewed her Ivy League credential as a detriment. "When she saw that I went to Yale University, she was intimidated and didn't want to hire me," says Danziger. "She said I consider taking it off my resume."

Danziger stood firm, kept her degree intact on her resume and landed the job. "I would never dumb myself down."

Grossman says Danziger made the right move: "Any employer who has a problem with an Ivy League education, that's their problem, not yours." The same holds true for other credentials you've worked hard for and have every right to feel proud of.

As for Perry, the contract attorney, Piotrowski says to keep her Ph.D. on her resume, too. Rather than glossing over it, confront the "Ph.D. stigma" head-on by saying, "I like the challenge of proving my worth. I'm not expecting a piece of paper to do that for me. If you give me the chance, you can decide for yourself the value of what I bring to the organization."



# Print Culture 101: A Cheat Sheet and Syllabus

By C. W. Anderson



*Editor's Note: So, people no longer just read ink printed on paper. Now that the electronic word has become embedded in our lives, we have a new perspective on what might have been special and specific about the last few hundred years of information dissemination. Think of this annotated syllabus from C.W. Anderson (@chanders) as your cheat sheet for the print/digital culture debates. (Oh, and I put a special visual treat the end, so make sure you read to the end.)*

When I said that I was busy putting a syllabus together for a course on "Print Culture" at CUNY's **College of Staten Island** this fall, [Alexis Madrigal](#) asked me if I'd be willing to share the syllabus development process with the larger online community. I was more than happy to oblige -- and also a little bit scared. It's one thing to put your course outline up at your own website which you're pretty sure no one will read it but your captive students; it's quite another to put yourself out there publicly when you're teaching a class for the first time. But I'm hoping that one of this things this post might do is to serve as a larger space for discussion and feedback about how, exactly, we should teach this history of print media in a digital age. I know there are experts out there -- and I'd love for them to

weigh in. As Dan Gilmor wrote in another context, [my audience knows more than I do](#). So help me out in the comments section.

(By the way-- if you're interested to get actual page numbers of the readings and occasional pdf's to download, check out my course [website](#), which be be online sometime early next week).

The specific title of the class is "COM 230: History of Print Media." I'm calling the class "a history of print culture." The primary goal of this class is to teach students about the culture of "print media" in an era when that culture is being joined (and in some cases, overtaken) by a culture that we might variously call digital culture, online culture, or the culture of the web. What does "print" mean in our digital age? And what does "culture," mean, for that matter? By culture I mean something that is *not* reducible to "economics," "technology," "politics," or "organizations" -- although culture emerges out of the nexus of these different factors, and others. In other words, I want to disabuse my students of the notion that new technologies or new economic arrangements can create digital or print culture in the same way that a cue ball hits a billiard ball on a pool table.

The second theme of the class is an "[anti-eschatological](#)" one. I want to convince my students that different media cultures don't replace each other in any sort of straight line. Rather, a culture of orality joins up with, and mixes with a culture of printing, which itself mixes with (but is not vanquished by) digital culture, and so on. Different technological aspects may predominate in different times and under different circumstances, but they never dominate completely, and old media forms often pop back up in unexpected ways. I think this point was nicely made by [Matthew Battles](#) in his series of reviews of Nicholas Carr and Clay Shirky last month. (And in a different context, [by Alexis Madrigal](#), [too](#).)

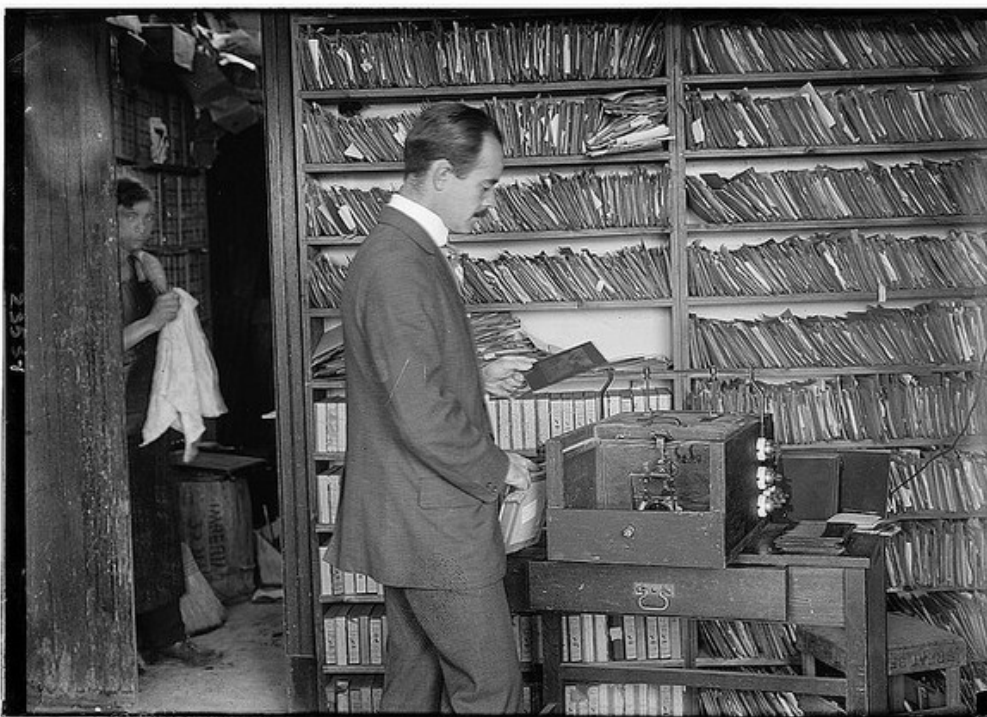
I also mentioned I wanted to share a caveat, which is this: this is a class for undergraduates, which makes it tough to know how to include certain important readings. For example, take Elizabeth Eisenstein's [The Printing Press as an Agent of Change](#). It's a-- perhaps *the*-- classic book on the arrival of the printing press in Europe in the late 15th century. But unless I want to make my students read all of it, it's hard to know for sure what to excerpt, since so much of the book is concerned with (a) scholarly debates and (b) presumes a certain prior knowledge.

## **The Books**

I'm drawing on four books in this class, and am supplementing them with a number of other readings. The first book, recommended to me by the aforementioned Matt Battles, is [A History of the Book in America: Volume III: The Industrial Book, 1840-1880](#). It's a collection of essays written by prominent historians that deal with various aspects of book culture in the United States in the 19th century. It covers some great subject areas. The second book is [A Short History of the Printed Word](#), by Warren Chappell and Robert Bringhurst. The great thing about this book is that it tackles printing from a technological perspective, talking about the evolution of print from the 1400's to the present. It does a good job of showing that printing has *changed* over the centuries; it isn't a single, static thing that's now getting replaced by computers. The third book is [The Late Age of Print: Everyday Book Culture From Consumerism to Control](#), by Ted Striphas. Striphas does a nice job of countering some of the

techno-determinism present in many proclamations about the digital age, discussing how books and the book industry actually operate in the early 21st century. He's also got a great [blog](#), which I'm thinking will be just as valuable for the class as the book is (which, by the way, you can actually download in Creative Commons format [here](#)).

The final book is [Nicholas Carr's The Shallows: What the Internet is Doing to Our Brains](#). Now -- I disagree with a lot of what Carr argues in *The Shallows* (particularly his general tone, as well as his over-emphasis on neuroscience and psychology). So why would I assign the book in class? Well, to be honest, precisely because I instinctively react against it: I want it to challenge me and my students over the course of the fall. I want to argue with it-- and who knows, maybe I'll come to agree with it if I feel like I'm losing the argument. And also: it's topical and well written, and will serve as a nice, current entry into some of the larger themes of the class.



So what would each week of "A History of Print Culture" look like? Here's a tentative outline.

### **Week One: What is Print? What is Culture?**

This is where we're going to first encounter Elizabeth Eisenstein's work on [the printing press as an agent of change](#). I thought it would be good to start the class off with the classic overview. We'll also be trying to understand what I mean by "culture"-- and how it isn't *just* technology or economics-- through a reading of Clifford Geertz's "[Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight](#)."

### **Week Two: Technological Determinism vs Social Construction; or, What Does a Medium Do?**

Next off, we've got to problematize students' natural notions that technologies "do" things to other things. I want to push back against their idea that the printing press "caused" a revolution on its own,

or that the internet "causes" books or newspapers to die. There's no better overview of the various tensions between technological construction and determinism than the first 20 pages of Claude Fisher's [America Calling: A Social History of the Telephone to 1940](#). We're also going to read some Nicholas Carr this week, as he also discusses various deterministic tensions surrounding technology.

### **Weeks Three and Four: From Orality to Literacy to Print**

More Nicholas Carr these two weeks, but the highlight (at least for me) is going to be reading of the first chapter of [Eric Havelock's Preface to Plato](#). In this book, Havelock argues that Plato's bizarre attack on Homeric poetry in *The Republic* is symptomatic of a larger Greek movement away from a culture of orality and towards a culture of literacy. *Preface to Plato* is also an example of an old book that many (particularly classical) scholars have taken issue with for a whole host of reasons, but still serves as a great introduction to important issues in the field. In week four, we're going to be diving into [A Short History of the Printed Word](#), as we tackle some of the issues involved in the emergence of what scholars call the [Incunabula](#).

### **Week Five: The Invention of Newspapers**

I teach a lot about journalism, and I'm actually excited to be discussing other things in this particular class, so I'm *not* spending a whole lot of time on "the news" per se. This week, though, we're going to be discussing the relationship of newspapers to the "[public sphere](#)," primarily via an essay by [John Nerone](#). But I also want to modernize the discussion a little bit, and I'm going to try to do that by having students read Jay Rosen's blog post, "[The Afghanistan War Logs Released by Wikileaks, the World's First Stateless News Organization](#)." If newspapers helped facilitate the emergence of a national public sphere, is the internet creating a post-national public sphere?

### **Week Five: The Invention of The Author**

What's the relationship between printing, books, and authorship? Did the "author" get invented when the printing press did? Some classic "post-modernism" here. There's an essay by Williams, "Authors and Literary Authorship," in [A History of the Book in America: Volume III: The Industrial Book, 1840-1880](#). And under these circumstances, who can ignore Roland Barthes' "[The Death of the Author](#)"? For me, though, the most fun is going to be showing and discussing this [clip](#) about William S. Burroughs and his infamous "cut up" technique of writing. In this clip, Burroughs tells Alan Ginsberg that "that if the whole universe consists of pre-recordings, then the only things that aren't pre-recordings are the pre-recordings themselves. Thus, if one tampers with those pre-recordings; one is tampering with the very fabric of the universe." Heavy, man. Heavy. But hey, that's what college is for.

### **Week Seven and Eight: Copyright**

Ideas about the invention of the author take us to copyright. While there are some newer books about the history of copyright out there, I couldn't think of any better text for my class than a few chapters from Siva Vaidhyanathan's [Copyright and Copywrongs](#). Vaidhyanathan does a great job of making the raging debates about history current, and he's also a terrific writer. In week eight, we'll be doing a bit more on copyright, this time from the perspective of the copyright pirates! I'm in the middle of Adrian Johns' [Piracy: A History of Copyright Wars From Gutenberg to Gates](#), and can't wait to teach it.

### **Week Nine: The Print Network Booksellers, Libraries, Google**

Print has a place; it exists in space as well as in time. From Striphas' [The Late Age of Print: Everyday](#)



[Book Culture From Consumerism to Control](#) we're going to read a chapter on the "Big Boxstore Blues," about how books get sold and marketed in 2010. But what about libraries? And is Google better than a library? Here, I'm going to give my students a great, recent essay by Robert Darnton, "[The Library in the New Age](#)." (Incidentally, Darnton is one of the founders of the scholarly area known as "Book Studies," with his 1982 article, "[What is the History of Books?](#)")

### **Week Ten: What Does it Mean to Read a Book?**

We've talked about where reading occurs, but how does it feel to engage with print culture? In Week Ten, we'll be talking about Janice Radway's famous [Reading the Romance](#), which I've also taught in my class on media audiences. Bringing Radway a little more up to date, I also want my students to check out the chapter on Oprah's Book Club from Striplas' [Late Age of Print](#).

### **Week Eleven: Print and the Public Sphere(s)?**

Back to the public sphere again. This time, we'll be coming at it from the angle of [Benedict Anderson's Imagined Communities](#), which is a reflection on how printing (along with other things) helped bind people together as nations in the 18th and 19th centuries. Here's where we'll have to get back to issues of technological determinism, again, as well as questions about digitization and a "post-national" public sphere from week five. We're also going to be reading an essay by DeLombard, "African American Cultures of Print" from [A History of the Book](#), which will hopefully prompt a good discussion about what it means to say we've got a single "public sphere."

### **Week Twelve and Thirteen: The End of Print?**

We bring the class current during the last two weeks. We go back to Carr, and give Clay Shirky a chance to weigh in with his "[Why Abundance is Good: A Reply to Nick Carr](#)." More Striplas and Binghurst as well, as we revisit some of our old authors and ponder what it means to say we live in a "digital age."

So that's it! Again, feel free to weigh in with your thoughts and suggestions. I'm sure the good students of New York will appreciate it ... and if they don't, I will.



*Images:*

- 1. The L letter page of my old Spanish dictionary, close-up / Alexis Madrigal.*
- 2. Printing the Bain News Service / Library of Congress*
- 3. Dusting books at the New York Public Library, obviously / NYPL*

This article available online at:

<http://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2010/08/print-culture-101-a-cheat-sheet-and-syllabus/61707/>

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## Proud Liberal Jew

Wednesday, August 25, 2010  
Richard H. Schwartz, Ph.D.

As a proud liberal Jew, I was very offended by David Freund's letter (July 9), "Support Fellow Jews." Contrary to his assertions, I and most liberal Jews do not "equate [Israel] with Nazi Germany," "support an enemy that is bent on Israel's destruction," "criticize Israel for defending itself" or "prefer that Jews allow their enemy to kill them without a fight."

Evidently, Freund thinks that Jews must automatically back every Israeli policy, even in cases where many Israelis disagree and where the policy seems counterproductive to Israel's goals. Most liberal Jews support Israel as much as he does, but feel that a sustainable, comprehensive, just, mutually agreed-upon resolution of the conflicts, as difficult as it may be to obtain, is essential if Israel is to be able to solve her many economic, environmental and other domestic problems and remain a Jewish and a democratic state.

Freund seems unaware of or is ignoring the many times that the biblical prophets lovingly criticized Israel, the many Jewish teachings on peace, justice, kindness to strangers compassion to the poor and much more, and the long Jewish history of dissent.

Professor Emeritus, College of Staten Island

## Summer school gives city students second chance, but critics have questions

Tiffany Lankes • Staff writer • August 26, 2010

There were many times when Freddie Thomas High School student Linda Martin doubted she would make it to graduation.

She struggled with schoolwork, and keeping up in classes became even harder when she had a child. By the end of her senior year, she was five credits short of finishing, a once-impossible shortfall for students to make up during the summer.

But then Freddie Thomas administrators made her an offer too good to pass up: Go to summer school, retake the Regents tests and earn a diploma in August. The Rochester [School District](#) expanded its summer school offerings this year to give students like Martin more chances to catch up. So Martin filled her schedule with three classes during the day, one at night and an intensive two-week program designed to help her pass the Regents.

On Wednesday, she was one of 198 students to cross the stage at Hochstein Music Hall during the district's summer graduation. The number of graduates — 36 percent larger than last year — was the biggest since the district started the summer ceremony.

"There were a lot of times I didn't think I could do it, but I wanted to graduate," said Martin, 19. "I wanted to be a good mom, and show her that I finished. She can finish, too."

Rochester's effort to help more kids finish high school underscores a growing push in city school districts all over the country. As schools face heightened state and federal pressure to increase the number of students earning a diploma, administrators hope things like online courses, evening summer school and short-term remedial

programs will help their most struggling students through the system.

But as programs to make up credits have become more common, they have been criticized by skeptics who say they are merely a way of inflating graduation rates by pushing students through the system without teaching them anything. Similar programs in [New York City](#) came under fire last year, prompting state education leaders to set new rules for credit recovery classes.

"It doesn't matter whether you're ready for college or a career, you graduated," said David Bloomfield, chairman of the [education department](#) at the [College of Staten Island](#). "Obviously there are kids who aren't really mastering the material but are getting helped over the bar."

Local administrators defend their programs, saying that they give options to students who might not otherwise make it to graduation. They also say the programs can be a better fit for students who struggle in a typical school setting. Summer classes are smaller, and students can [focus](#) on one subject rather than a full schedule of courses.

Along with expanding the summer school day to three periods, the district added an evening class. They also started an intensive two-week remedial course for students who passed their classes but failed the Regents and needed to retake the test to earn [credit](#). The program allowed teachers to target specific areas where students needed the most help,

rather than force them to sit through a whole year re-learning material. That program alone attracted more than 700 students.

"As a district, we're responding to the fact that some of our kids have special circumstances," said Caterina Leone-Mannino, who oversees the district's summer programs. "We're making sure they have multiple opportunities to meet requirements, not giving up on them."

Schools spokesman Tom Petronio points out that Rochester's programs have never been questioned for their rigor. And at the end of the programs, students still have to pass Regents tests to earn credit.

Attention on graduation rates has become more acute as the state and federal governments have laid down new accountability rules for school districts. The issue has been especially pressing in Rochester, where just 42 percent of students — the lowest rate among New York's largest districts — finish high school in the typical four years. The rate goes up to 46 percent when students who graduate during the summer are included.

Administrators hope that the large turnout in this year's summer programs will help increase those numbers.

Still, some school leaders said they can not be content with early successes. They need to find ways to get more students to graduation.

"We need more of our young people here," school board President Malik Evans told the standing room only crowd at Wednesday's ceremony. "Let's stick to it."

[TLANKES@DemocratandChronicle.com](mailto:TLANKES@DemocratandChronicle.com)



Thomas Jefferson's Marquis Brooks of Rochester, left, is embraced by principal Mary Andrecolich-Diaz after receiving his diploma during the Rochester City School District's summer graduation ceremony at Hochstein School of Music in Rochester on Wednesday, Aug. 25, 2010. (KRIS J. MURANTE staff photographer)

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#### Road to graduation

More City School District students are graduating from summer programs:

**2007:** 125 **2009:** 146

**2008:** 140 **2010:** 198

Summer graduates boost the overall graduation rate:

**2007:** June 45% August 48%

**2008:** June 48% August 52%

**2009:** June 42% August 46%

SOURCE: City School District

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[RCSD summer graduation ceremony](#)

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[Girl taken to Strong after being hit by car](#)



# 'Magna Carta of Values' Presented at U.N. Event

By JULIANN DosSANTOS

They came from Africa and Europe, North and South America, and Asia. In total, young adults from 20 countries gathered for a World Youth Parliament at the United Nations, where they presented a "Magna Carta of Values for a New Civilization"—a document they hope can bring change to the world.

"You have every right to be proud," Cardinal Egan told the group Aug. 13, addressing the group's session at U.N. headquarters in Manhattan.

He said the document "touched upon all the great questions of our time," and noted that in naming it after the Magna Carta—the 13th century document that's the framework for Britain's democracy—the young adults had chosen "an excellent ideal."

The eight-page document, which was two years in the making, covers 10 areas of interest, including family, education, economic relations, work, the environment and politics. It will be distributed to the delegates of the U.N. member countries. The document contains theoretical principles with promises or "commitments" on how people can live out those principles.

Signers of the document committed themselves to developing spiritual experiences in themselves and in society; promoting dialogue and defending the dignity of life; maintaining family relationships of trust and love; and promoting a culture of forgiveness.

They also gave priority to human relations over material goods; promoted volunteerism; and said that "every person has a right to health care."

More than 200 young adults ages 17-30 participated in the event, which was held at St. John's University in Queens and at the U.N., Aug. 9-16. It was organized by Idente Youth International, the Fernando Rielo Foundation, the Center for Global Development at St. John's University, the Universidad Tecnica Particular de Loja in Ecuador, Unicaritas of Rome in Italy, and the Idente Foundation for Study and Research.

Gathered in a U.N. conference room Aug. 13, many of the participants wore headphones so they could listen in English or in Spanish while the document was read. Many more watched a broadcast of the event streamed live on the Internet in their home countries.

Cardinal Egan, who presided at the session at the United Nations, had previously attended a World Youth Parliament in Rome in 2009, where ideas that had been discussed at the local level were put together in anticipation of the new document.

The cardinal praised the young adults as "an inspiration of what is good and strong and noble." Before going through each of the ten areas covered in the newly created "Magna Carta on Values" the cardinal explained that the document contains a "vital spirituality."

He commended the young adults and said, "What is coming forth" in the document is "basically written into the soul of every human being."

In his remarks, Cardinal Egan also praised the work of the Idente Missionaries, whose founder, Fernando Rielo, founded the World Youth Parliament in 1991.

The cardinal said the presence of the Idente Missionaries, an institute of consecrated men and women, is greatly appreciated. They serve in the archdiocese at Santa Maria and Our Lady of Solace-St. Dominic's parishes, both in the Bronx, and as chaplains at the College of Staten Island and Wagner College.

Kassandra Haz from Queens, one of the participants, said she thinks the Youth Parliament is important because it gives the perspective of young people. Another participant, Melynn Parcon, a 29 year old from the Philippines, said the issues covered "are important not only for my country, but the whole world."

She said that the youth "defined what the human person is, giving him or her dignity, and that is the basis for the way we treat all other people." She said she hopes many people read their "Magna Carta" because "they can learn a great deal from it."

Diego Robalino, 23, from Ecuador who also read part of the document regarding work at the United Nations, told CNY that it was valuable to "share ideas with teenagers and young people around the world" and come to an agreement on what is important. His fellow Ecuadorian, Julian Verdezoto, 29, said, "to be here is to share, and to live" the ideas in the Magna Carta in order to "go back to our countries and have a new vision of the world."

He said that when each member returns their "actions and behaviors will be different" with people they encounter, including family and co-workers. Verdezoto excitedly told CNY that this was his first time to the United States, and said, "It's really great to be here in the United Nations. This represents the peace of the world, and we want a world together."

Albaro Villegas, a 29 year old from Staten Island, said that Fernando Rielo's idea in creating the organization was that he envisioned "a parliament of nations for the youth."

"Throughout history, many different nations and cultures have tried to effect change in the world. What is unique about this effort is the change has to come from ourselves," Villegas said.

He said that even though there were more than 200 young adults present, many more have been working on the document back in their home countries as well. He said the purpose of the meeting at the United Nations was for the young adults to "internalize" and "begin the diffusion" of ideas laid out in the Magna Carta.

He told CNY, "There's always the idea that this is wishful thinking and idealistic," and quickly added that there is a great need to "go above what we think is possible."

He said, "This is what the world needs."

## Chamber of Commerce looks to aid its members

Published: Thursday, August 26, 2010, 9:47 AM



**Mark D. Stein**



Kimberly Losack, left, of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce, speaks to approximately 70 people inside the auditorium at the Joan and Alan Bernikow Jewish Community Center in Sea View. (Staten Island Advance/Mark Stein)

STATEN ISLAND, NY - SEA VIEW - The Staten Island Chamber of Commerce is an organization that works to satisfy members of Staten Island's business community. As part of this mission, it recently held a gathering to inform its membership about all kinds of profitability concerns - from cash flow and capital access, to the management of human resources.

Held at the Joan and Alan Bernikow Jewish Community Center in Sea View last Thursday morning, about 70 people heard a presentation about concerns facing business owners today, before breaking down into smaller units for round-table discussions on each topic.

"We're trying to be more sensitive to members' needs," said Linda Baran, president and CEO of the Chamber. "It's all about the future of the organization, and we're really just trying to be there for them."

The Chamber also announced new Web site features for members, which will include a business tool kit,



Chamber help desk, and other resourceful links.

"There's a lot of good things in the future for this organization," said Ms. Baran, referring to the Chamber, which has existed since 1895.

"Our members need us now more than ever. We want to draw attention to the businesses here on Staten Island," she said. "That's really key (to having success)."

She said, having recently visited New Dorp stores, that shop owners remain troubled by real money issues, which leads to skepticism.

Marcus Marino, president of the borough chapter of the American Institute of Architects, was impressed with what he saw at the meeting.

"The Chamber has been very helpful in planning for the future," said Marino, a member of the group for the last 25 years. "Whenever we have a gathering of people in the community, you're apt to get ideas."

He said new methods in technology, such as Facebook, are shaping the way business is conducted.

"It's like what the telephone was 100 years ago," Marino added.

Dean Balsamini Sr., director of the Small Business Development Center at the [College of Staten Island](#), said the meeting was an excellent opportunity for people to express their concerns on how to improve businesses.



Chamber of Commerce members also engaged in round-table discussions about human resources and cash flow. (Staten Island Advance/Mark Stein)

Round-table meetings were centered on business owners' biggest issues - remaining open and exchanging information about cash flow, access to capital and tax laws - said Balsamini.

"All of these issues affect small businesses and our personal lives. This gives us an opportunity to have dialogue in a small environment," he said.

Human resources, cash flow and tax information were always important, but have become intensely so in the last few years, he added.



Businesses are still adjusting, and need to target new markets and develop new product offerings. Balsamini explained that businesses need to emphasize training and development of employees.

"You can't miss a heartbeat here. You have to stay on your game," he said.

Dovid Winiarz, of Fidelity Merchant Services, praised the Chamber.

"They're making a difference and we're making a difference," he said. "The round-tables are critical to the financial health of your business. You need knowledge, you need tools."

Winiarz was surprised more people didn't attend, but was glad he and others did.

"A new tactic, a new trick. It's survival of the fittest," the man said. "If you don't adapt, you won't survive."

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## Westerleigh comic goes to the head of the class

Published: Thursday, August 26, 2010, 11:34 AM



**Justin Sarachik**



John Szeluga, 30, of Westerleigh, an adjunct lecturer in the Department of Media Culture at the College of Staten Island, and a freelance videographer, was recently part of a mini tour called "The Best Friends of Comedy Tour." (Staten Island Advance File Photo)

STATEN ISLAND, NY - WILLOWBROOK - John Szeluga, 30, of Westerleigh is going where few College of Staten Island professors have gone before.

An adjunct lecturer in the Department of Media Culture and a freelance videographer, Szeluga is hitting the stand-up comedy circuit. In fact, Szeluga was part of a mini tour called "The Best Friends of Comedy Tour" from Aug. 20-24 with fellow comedians Anthony DeVito, Greg Stone, and James Harris.

The tour started in Toronto on the 20th, hit Chicago on the 23rd, and St. Louis on the 24th.

For Szeluga, this is virgin territory. "These guys are hilarious, and I can't wait to hit the road with them," he said.

Comedian Harris really put this whole tour together. James produces "Grab A\*\*" at Cargo Cafe, along with co-producing "Not Friday," a weekly comedy show at Aces and Eights every Monday at 8 p.m. with Szeluga and Adam Pateman.

Szeluga got his start in comedy when he was just a kid. His grandfather would make funny videos with Szeluga and his brother.

"That's really what got me into videography and comedy," said Szeluga. While in college, he started a comedy troupe called "A Dan Amongst Dans." After the group split up, he turned his attention to stand-up.

When asked why he does stand-up, Szeluga replied, "I ask myself that same question every day. There must be something wrong with me. No normal person would do stand-up comedy."

Szeluga has had his fair share of success. "A Dan Amongst Dans" was featured on the CW Network. Comix Comedy Club held a comic competition through Opie and Anthony where Szeluga was one of the finalists. He also wrote and produced videos for "Mid-Evenings with Jay Miller."

He's been in the Staten Island Comedy Festival, and even pitched an idea for the movie, "Toxic Avenger 4," where he's credited on the second disc of the collectors addition.

However, with every great success also comes failure. Szeluga describes one of his worst moments as a comedian as also the grandest stage he has been on.

A show at the Stone Pony in Asbury Park, N.J., became a little chaotic after he was asked to do comedy for a "Battle of the Bands" competition. Nobody wanted to hear jokes; they wanted music.

"One guy kept yelling, 'Be more funny,' while another guy dressed as a pirate covered in fake blood came up to the stage and stared at me throughout the whole entire set," recalled Szeluga.

Ironically, this was the biggest show he ever performed.

Szeluga also wants you to know one thing before you read on. October 17 is the 2010 NYC Kidney Walk.

"I'll be joined by a team of comedians, friends, and family," he said. Last year, the team raised \$3,000 dollars.

Whether it's sweating for cancer, or making people laugh, Szeluga is learning how to make a difference.

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## A matter of solidity

A material that oozes through itself presents a super physics puzzle

By Alexandra Witze

[September 11th, 2010; Vol.178 #6 \(p. 22\)](#)



In the phenomenon known as supersolidity, solid helium flows through itself. Shane L. Johnson

Solids are supposed to be the reliable state of matter.

Gases are flighty and flitting and expand to fill any available space. Liquids will also mold themselves to whatever shape they occupy, from soda bottle to swimming pool. Solids, though, are steadfast and unyielding, stable and dependable, like the rise and fall of tides, the guidance of the North Star or the love of a dog.

But that truism may turn out not to be so true. In the past few years, physicists have learned of a solid that doesn't adhere to fixed rules. Within this solid — helium at very low temperatures — some atoms appear to leave their rigidly defined positions and begin moving through the rest of the material without friction. In essence, the atoms are simultaneously solid and fluid, and the material slides through itself.

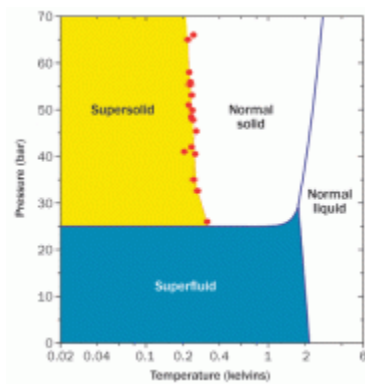
*Star Trek* captains might be familiar with such shape-shifting, but researchers on Earth aren't. Ever since the phenomenon, dubbed "supersolidity," was described, physicists have struggled to explain what might be going on within the mutable material.

"Most people probably thought this would be crystal clear in 18 months," says John Beamish, a physicist at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada. "It's a surprise that five years later we're still not sure — which is telling you it's more complicated than we'd thought."

Some studies suggest that observations once attributed to supersolidity might instead result from materials behaving bizarrely for other reasons. Recent work, however, seems to strengthen the case for supersolidity. While theorists move forward with explanations for how flaws within crystals could give rise to supersolid behavior, experimentalists are building new laboratory devices to try to pin down what is really going on with this superpuzzle.

Excitement in the field runs high because of what's at stake. Not only is supersolidity an entirely new form of material behavior, but it's also Nobel Prize territory. The study of superfluidity, supersolidity's older cousin, has netted a series of Nobels.

### From one super state to another



Super helium Under normal conditions, helium-4 is a gas, but at temperatures close to absolute zero it can exist in other phases. A superfluid phase has long been studied; scientists are now exploring its probable supersolid phase. E. Kim and M.H.W. Chan/Science 2004

Superfluidity was discovered in 1937, when researchers in England and the Soviet Union independently found that, below temperatures of 2 degrees above absolute zero, liquid helium could flow without any friction. Intrigued, theorists suggested that the atoms had morphed into a new type of quantum state — a “Bose-Einstein condensate,” in which atoms lose their individual identities and begin to flow as a collective mass.

Superfluidity has an analog in electricity. A superconducting material is one in which electrons carry electricity without any resistance. Superconductivity also occurs at low temperatures, and also because the electrons stop behaving normally and instead pair up in a Bose-Einstein condensate of their own.

By the middle of the last century, then, scientists knew that both fluids and electrons could flow without resistance thanks to quantum effects. Why not solids, too?

On the face of it, supersolidity seems counterintuitive, since atoms in a solid are arranged in a rigid crystal lattice. But almost all solids have empty spaces — called vacancies — where atoms are missing, like an apartment complex in which some rooms don't have tenants. In 1969, Russian theorists proposed that quantum effects at low temperatures could cause some of these vacancies to hop from one place to another, so that different apartments become empty at different times. The moving vacancies could start to display Bose-Einstein-like behavior, and part of the solid could begin to move without friction.

If supersolidity exists, scientists thought, they should look for it in solid helium. With just two protons in its nucleus, a helium atom is relatively light. It is also not strongly attracted to other helium atoms. So if vacancies could shift around within a crystal lattice, they would do so most easily in helium.

Yet it took more than three decades for experimentalists to discover supersolidity in helium-4, which has two neutrons along with the two protons in its nucleus. The breakthrough came after John Goodkind of the University of California, San Diego reported that sound waves traveled in an unexpected manner through solid helium. Intrigued, Moses Chan of Pennsylvania State University in University Park decided to launch a new study of solid helium using a device called a torsional oscillator. This machine oscillates a sample back and forth around a central axis, like a merry-go-round spinning first one way and then the other at 1,000 times a second.

Such oscillators had been used to hunt for superfluidity because quantum materials, when placed in a spinning container, don't spin along. Imagine rotating a bucket of water. If the water were a superfluid, it wouldn't slosh around with the rotation but would instead sit unmoving, decoupled from the bucket's moving sides. Supersolids, if they exist, would do the same thing. Thus, as a solid transitions to a supersolid state at low temperatures, the period of time it takes for the oscillator to rotate back and forth would drop — because less mass would be sloshing around.

Chan and his colleague Eun-Seong Kim didn't think they had much chance of finding supersolidity. "I remember telling Eun-Seong that our chances of seeing something were close to zero — like buying a lottery ticket," Chan says.



Crystal purity Researchers in Paris have grown solid helium crystals in a transparent torsional oscillator. In the top series, a single pure crystal grows slowly at a temperature of about 25 millikelvins. Below, a highly disordered polycrystal grows quickly, at 600 millikelvins. By watching

these crystals develop, scientists hope to tease out whether supersolidity occurs in pure helium or whether defects must be present for the solid to start flowing. X. Rojas, A. Haziot, J. West, M. Chan, S. Balibar/ENS Paris

Yet when they filled their torsional oscillator with solid helium and spun the machine, they saw its period get shorter — presumably because some of the solid helium was becoming decoupled from the system instead of rotating with it. And when they put solid helium in a spinning device the shape of a doughnut, then blocked a portion of the doughnut before oscillating it, the effect mostly went away — suggesting that flow was indeed occurring within the helium and could be cut off at will.

That discovery, reported in 2004, touched off a rush of excitement among physicists, who thought they had finally seen the long-predicted supersolidity ([SN: 1/17/04, p. 35](#)). But the observations that followed made it far from crystal clear.

### **Super or not so super**

For one thing, researchers struggled with understanding what role defects played in supersolidity. In 2007, a team led by physicist John Reppy of Cornell University reported heating helium crystals long enough to heal many of the defects within. These cleaner crystals, when put into a torsional oscillator, changed the rotational period of the device far less than would be expected if supersolidity were happening. Scientists were puzzled.

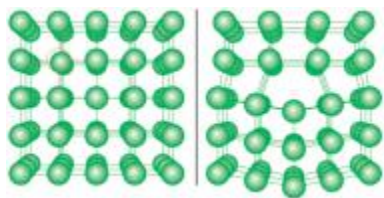
That same year, doing work that didn't use a torsional oscillator, Beamish's group at Alberta found that at temperatures where supersolidity ought to be starting, the material stiffened up — the opposite of what might be expected for a material that could supposedly flow through itself. And helium stiffening could also explain the periodicity drop in the torsional oscillators.

"The first thing people thought of was, is all the stuff you see in the torsional oscillator just an experimental artifact?" says Beamish. If so, solid helium's odd behavior at low temperatures could be explained by properties less exciting than supersolidity.

Yet other measurements soon showed that supersolidity and helium stiffening could both contribute to the drop in the oscillator's period. "It seems reasonable to say there are two effects going on," says Chan. And the contribution from supersolidity appeared to be much larger than that from stiffening.

Once again, supersolidity appeared to be on a solid footing. And once again, another challenge arose. This June, Reppy published a paper in *Physical Review Letters* arguing that the changes in rotational periods seen in torsional oscillator experiments are not supersolidity per se, but something else.





The role of defects Many researchers think that supersolid behavior may arise because of the motion of atomic defects through a solid's crystal lattice. In one common type of defect, called a vacancy, an atom is simply missing in the lattice (left). In another, called a dislocation, an entire atomic row is truncated, causing the rest of the structure to warp accordingly. Source: (Left) A.R. Barron and C.

Smith/Connexions 2010; (Right) NDT Education Resource Center

In this work, Reppy has for the first time squished solid helium plastically — that is, squeezed it at high pressure so that its crystal lattice begins to deform permanently, like a piece of taffy. Again, the period of the oscillator gets shorter as expected, but only at relatively high temperatures — above 100 millikelvins, or thousandths of a degree above absolute zero. At the lower temperatures at which supersolidity should be occurring, he sees little to no change in the oscillator period.

Instead of displaying supersolidity at low temperatures, Reppy writes, the helium crystals might instead be undergoing some kind of permanent deformation at higher temperatures. Such an explanation would be less sexy than supersolidity, though it would mean scientists had identified a previously unknown way that solid helium can behave.

Many in the field say Reppy's work is provocative but does not disprove supersolidity. "The rumor of the demise of the subject of supersolidity is highly exaggerated," Chan says. In most experiments, he says, the effect of helium decoupling from the oscillator's sides accounts for 80 to 95 percent of the drop in period observed. In Reppy's experiment, though, the permanent-deformation effect seems to dominate, for reasons that remain unclear.

### **Spotting hopping dislocations**

Even as researchers work to explain Reppy's findings in the context of supersolidity, other results are pouring in that may firm up its existence once and for all.

At the University of Massachusetts Amherst, for instance, physicist Robert Hallock has set up one of the few experimental devices that does not rely on torsional oscillators. He injects superfluid helium into a rod made of a porous glasslike substance called Vycor, which enters a cell filled with solid helium that has another Vycor rod on its far end. Hallock then watches to see if the second rod gains mass, possibly because atoms are flowing from one rod to the other. If superfluid helium enters one side and comes out the other, it could indicate that the solid helium in between is behaving as a supersolid.

In a paper under review, Hallock and graduate student Michael Ray report seeing atoms flowing between the rods at temperatures where supersolidity could be happening — 80 millikelvins. “You could interpret our experiments as that we are seeing flow associated with what might be expected for supersolid behavior,” Hallock says.

Still, he adds, “I’m much more cautious than that.” In part that’s because of what happens when the researchers lower the temperature below 80 millikelvins: The rate of flow drops dramatically, the opposite of what might be naïvely expected if supersolidity were occurring. And the flow occurs at much higher temperatures as well, up to 600 millikelvins. “Something is necessary to explain the ability of our experiment to pass atoms through the cell,” says Hallock. “Is it a supersolid? Could be. Is it for certain? I don’t know.”

Some theorists think that Hallock’s work is the closest to demonstrating true supersolidity. Anatoly Kuklov, a theoretical physicist at the City University of New York’s **College of Staten Island**, says the experiment shows that supersolidity exists, but probably not the kind originally envisioned in 1969. Instead of a simple shifting around of vacancies within a crystal, he says, supersolidity could occur because of atoms moving along a different kind of crystal defect, called a dislocation. Such defects, known for decades, could offer a new explanation for supersolidity’s bizarre behavior.

To picture a dislocation, imagine a book in which one page has been ripped in half horizontally. Look at the closed book from the bottom, and all pages might appear to be intact. But look at it from the top, and one page will appear to be missing. The line of that missing page is analogous to a crystal dislocation.

Numerical simulations of a helium crystal with no such dislocations showed no signs of supersolidity, Kuklov says. And experimental results from different laboratories vary widely depending on how the crystals are prepared — again suggesting that the purity of the crystals could be important. “So the effect is most likely produced,” Kuklov says, “by a network of defects which can conduct flow,” in which atoms move along the defects and allow the solid to flow like a fluid.

To test this idea, experiments are underway to see what happens to a single perfect crystal of helium, free of defects, in a torsional oscillator. Chan and Sébastien Balibar, of the École Normale Supérieure in Paris, have built a contraption where the oscillator’s sides are made of transparent sapphire, providing a window to see what’s going on inside. (Other torsional oscillators use metallic containers that obscure the view within.) Inside the researchers put the purest crystal they can make. As it oscillates, new dislocations pop into existence.

At a supersolidity workshop in Paris in late July, Balibar and Chan reported seeing single dislocations move “like violin strings” through the solid helium at rates of up to several meters per second. Such

speed is impossible with everyday materials and could occur only if quantum phenomena like supersolidity were in play, Balibar says.

In a paper to appear in *Physical Review Letters*, Balibar and colleagues also report that these vibrating dislocations can cause ultrapure crystals of solid helium to soften. Oddly, supersolidity appears only when impurities in the crystal prevent the dislocations from moving.

Additional new evidence supporting supersolidity was reported at the Paris meeting by Kim — now at the South Korean university KAIST — and his colleague Kimitoshi Kono of the RIKEN research institute in Tokyo. They took a torsional oscillator and, as it swung back and forth, also rotated it around its axis like a spinning Earth. “For almost any classical metallurgical explanation, one that doesn’t involve superfluidity, it’s hard to imagine how rotating it would make any difference,” says Beamish. “It’s a fundamental property of superfluids that rotation makes a huge difference.” And that’s exactly what Kim reported at the conference — that mass was flowing through itself not only from the back and forth of the oscillator but also because of the added rotation.

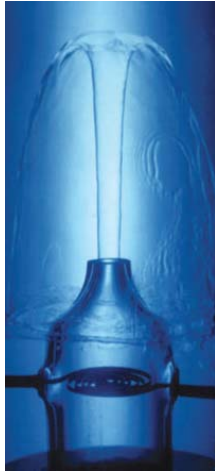
Many say that though supersolidity hasn’t been proved beyond a shadow of a doubt, it is looking more and more likely. Clearly, solid helium at low temperatures behaves in a funky way that needs explaining — whether through supersolidity or some other phenomenon. “I think over the next year we’re going to see considerable progress,” Hallock says.

Whatever transpires in the next round of experiments, it seems certain that the unsolid nature of some solids will continue to confound. “Everyone in the field just wants to know what’s going on,” says Beamish. “There sure is something interesting, and it will be more exciting if it really is supersomething.”

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## Helium’s many phases

Aside from a few popular party tricks — making balloons float and voices high-pitched — helium appears to be a rather ordinary gas. But cool the element to just a few degrees above absolute zero, where it changes from a gas into a liquid, and its atoms leave the world of classical physics behind and begin to exhibit quantum behavior. These bizarre properties have led to a number of Nobel prizes for the study of liquid helium.



1. Because it has the lowest boiling point of any element, after its discovery on Earth in the late 1800s helium took center stage in the drive to reach temperatures closer and closer to absolute zero. Liquefying the element would mean hitting 4.2 kelvins, or degrees above absolute zero, in the lab. Dutch physicist Heike Kamerlingh Onnes achieved the feat in 1908, and in 1913 received the Nobel Prize in physics for his efforts. But strange discoveries were still in store.

2. As liquid helium was cooled below 4 kelvins, it boiled like crazy. But below 2.17 kelvins, the boiling suddenly stopped. This meant that helium-4, the most abundant form of the element, had two distinct liquid states, with a transition between them at 2.17 kelvins. Below that temperature, Russian physicist Pyotr Kapitsa found in 1937, liquid helium flowed without friction. This form of liquid, dubbed a superfluid, could flow through tiny holes, creep over the edge of a cup and pull itself up and out of a tube, like a fountain (pictured). Kapitsa received a Nobel Prize in 1978 for his studies into low-temperature physics.

3. Superfluidity arises when the atoms in superfluid helium join up in a quantum state called a Bose-Einstein condensate, allowing them to exhibit collective behavior. Russian condensed-matter theorist Lev Landau developed a mathematical explanation for the behavior of helium at low temperatures and was awarded a Nobel in 1962.

4. In the 1970s scientists discovered that helium-3, a rare isotope of the element, also has a superfluid state at temperatures lower than 2 millikelvins. David Lee, Douglas Osheroff and Robert Richardson shared the physics Nobel in 1996 for that find. The behavior of helium-3 appears to be even more complex than that of helium-4, and some scientists have tried to use the vortices that form in superfluid helium-3 to model the development of spacetime defects, called cosmic strings, in the early universe.

5. Helium-3 is much harder to get in a superfluid state than helium-4 because it is made of fermions, particles that cannot occupy the same quantum state. So explaining how helium-3 atoms could begin to move collectively was a theoretical puzzle. British-born physicist Anthony Leggett cracked this problem by proposing that the atoms pair up, analogous to the way electrons pair up in superconductors. Leggett won a 2003 Nobel for his contributions to the understanding of how atoms behave in superfluids.

Today, scientists are finding that the frictionless flow observed in liquid helium may also occur in the solid phase. But the jury is still out on whether supersolidity exists — and whether its discovery will lead to any Nobels. — *Elizabeth Quill*

Image credit: S. Balibar/*Nature* 2010



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**EDUCATION**

08/30/2010 10:56 PM

## **Parents, DOE Go Head-To-Head Over Test Scores**

By: Lindsey Christ

*Communication broke down Monday during a meeting that was supposed to allow parents and school officials to share opinions on state test scores. NY1's Lindsey Christ filed the following report.*

On Monday night, the Department of Education was prepared to hear from angry parents --- and there were plenty.

The meeting, held on Manhattan's Upper West Side, started quietly, as DOE officials explained that the state raised the bar for proficiency this year, which is why so many fewer city students passed. But when the public comment period began, the auditorium got louder. Forty people signed up for two minutes at the microphone, and they were angry.

"Real harm has been caused. Testing-Gate has caused harm to students, parents and tax payers," said David Bloomfield of the **College of Staten Island**.

"Pretty much we feel that we've been lied to in terms of the score of the test. They were saying that we had a higher score and then we find out that isn't true and a lot of schools have been closed because of that," said parent Elbibio Molina.

This was the second time the DOE had tried to address this issue. The first time, two weeks ago, angry parents shut down the meeting when the panel refused to even consider a motion to hear public comment.

Only half the panel members showed up for the rescheduled meeting Monday and parents said that was another indication of how little their voices are heard. By the time Schools Chancellor Joel Klein and his deputies spoke, parents shouted over them, walked out en masse, and turned their backs to the stage. In the end, both officials and audience members claimed the other side just wouldn't listen.

DOE officials say students have still made progress even though according to the new standards, many fewer students are proficient. But parents who attended the meeting say they want a better explanation for the lower scores.

# ***Sports***



## Staten Island sports roundup for July 31, 2010

Published: Sunday, August 01, 2010, 6:30 PM



**Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

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### **SANDLOT BASEBALL**

*Cadets split*

The Beer Garden Cadets split two games yesterday to advance to the NYC Federation Junior Division championship.

Beer Garden lost 3-1 to the Brooklyn Grays despite solid pitching from J.T. Aponte and two hits and an RBI from Chris Hally. Later, Hally (three hits, four RBI) got the win in an 11-5 decision over the Brooklyn Cadets. David Carreon (three hits) and Rob Ortiz (two hits) also starred.

Beer Garden meets Brooklyn Grays for the title today at 12:30 at the **College of Staten Island**.

### **ROAD RACING**

*Fun Run*

Scott LaMorte and Patricia Mulligan won the weekly SIAC Run for Fun three-miler at Clove Lakes Park. LaMorte finished in 17:01, with Ryan Hepworth (17:42) and Chris Ferreira (18:39) next among the men. Mulligan won the women's race in 22:00, with Lisa Galasso (22:12) and Cynthia Barrett (23:38) next.

SIAC Run for Fun

Scott LaMorte 17:01; Ryan Hepworth 17:42; Chris Ferreira 18:39; Julius Pontecorvo 19:26; Jeff Benjamin 19:26; Billy Werner 20:43; Carmine Gagnaniello 20:58; Eddie Lydon 21:25; Jeffrey Hession 21:48; Patricia Mulligan 22:00; Lisa Galasso 22:12; Gene Galasso 22:18; Charlie Marchese 23:11; Jason Hart 23:12; Brian Rowan 23:21; John Tiernan 23:32; Cynthia Barrett 23:38; Jamie O'Hare 23:46; Raymond Rivera 23:50; Victoria Valle 24:02; Jim Hepworth 24:06; Wayne Kalish 24:23; Brigid McGinley 24:25; Katherine Kallan 24:26; Yolande Rose 24:39; Amanda Benjamin 25:00; Bethany Claps 25:31; Pete Ballentine 25:40; Ray Butler 26:00; Diane Scrimenti-Greco 26:00; Anthony Catania 26:01; Tiffany Saw 26:20; Raoul Edwards 26:48; Lisa Rigolini 26:53; Willie Abell 27:01; Ingrid Yovo 27:02; Brian Thomson 27:10; Larry Araneo 27:20; Steven Yoo 27:41; Joe Feldstein 28:23; Gina Noce 29:05; Anita Weisenfeld 30:02; Michael Garone 30:12; Jimmy McNamara 33:20; Cesare Lucido 33:27; Stephanie Ferretti 34:24; Katelyn Ferretti 37:41; Corey Ferretti 37:42; Diana Claps 40:40; Nancy Claps 41:30



## **SOFTBALL**

### *Depreme Team gains finals*

Depreme Team took 2 of 3 from Vurckio in the Alumni Coed semifinals. Depreme won the opener 14-4, lost game two 7-4 and won the rubber match 5-1.

Corey Epstein was 3 for 4 with a home run and five RBI in the first game and Dan Melious had three RBI and a homer. In game three, Jay Todaro's two-run homer made the difference. Jay Podlubny got both wins.

## **TENNIS**

### *Aziz wins*

PLAINFIELD, N.J. — Nine-year-old New Springville resident Kemal Aziz defeated Kausik Das 6-2, 6-0 in the Round of 16 and topped Alexander Chen 6-3, 6-0 in the quarterfinals at the United States Tennis Association L20 G-Force Tennis Junior Baller Classic Championships.

Aziz will play today in the 10-and-under semifinals.

In girls' 10-and-under play, Miriam Aziz, 7, fell to Nicole Gasser 6-2, 6-2.

## **BASKETBALL**

### *Settles/Gayle league*

Caleb Bethea scored 11 points to offset the eight points of Isaiah Kelson as the Sky Blue All Stars defeated the Purple All Stars 30-28 in 15s action in the Settles/Gayle Unified 5-on-5 Summer League at Levy Playground, Port Richmond.

In 18s play, Jamal Francis scored 10 points and John Reynolds added eight as the Red All Stars defeated the Green 31-27, despite 13 points from Earl Lindsay.

In the Unified game, where community leaders combine with Special Olympians, the Blue All Stars bested the Gray 39-28. Wayne Evans was the top community scorer for the Blue with 10, while Special Olympian teammate Chris Holoman added seven. Rahmel Witherspoon's 10 points led community scorers for the Gray, with Special Olympian Nuri Morris adding two.

## **STICKBALL**

### *Summer Classic*

Game MVP Billy O'Neil hit two grand slams to lead the Entrepreneurs to a 15-11 win over the Nine to Fivers in the fourth annual Joltin' Joe Summer Classic at PS 13 in Rosebank.

Winning hurler Charles Reilly captured the Cy Young and Relief Pitcher awards; Les Norisky (four HRs), who won the pregame home run derby, received the Hitting Award; and Joe Kasper (two HRs) earned the Frozen Rope Award.

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## Staten Island sports bulletin board for August 1, 2010

Published: Sunday, August 01, 2010, 6:10 PM



### Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

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#### Softball registration

The Alumni Softball Co-ed League is accepting team registrations for its fall 2010 Saturday league, which will begin on Sept. 11. For further information, contact Stuart Pfeffer at 732-513-4836 or by e-mail at AlumniSoftball@aol.com.

#### Basketball camp

There are still spots open for the Coast to Coast Basketball Camp, which begins tomorrow. The camp is for boys entering grades 3-10 in September and will run through Friday. Registration will be 8-9 a.m. on Monday. There are also spots open in the girls' camp, which is Aug. 16-20 for players in grades 3-10. Former WNBA player and St. Peter's HS star Jen Derevjanik will be an instructor. Contact Scott Welle, St. Joseph by-the-Sea HS boys' varsity basketball coach, at 917-699-7768 or 718-966-6135.

#### Men's basketball league

A men's league at Fastbreak is looking for two B division teams for a Sunday night league and one B division team for a Monday league. Call Mike Ahearn at 917-902-6808.

#### Youth baseball tryouts

The Richmond County Baseball Club will be conducting tryouts for its 13u Fall and Spring 2011 teams. The tryouts will be August 16, 17, 23 and 24 at 3 p.m. at the league's complex at 1400 Travis Ave. This tryout is open to all graduating little leaguers. Proper baseball attire is necessary. For additional info contact 917-299-9211 or 917-379-6475.

#### Softball league

The James and Joanne TabEEK Memorial Softball League is registering teams for its fall league for all divisions and also for coed divisions starting in September. Call Al TabEEK at 718-987-2818 or e-mail tabEEKmemorial@aol.com.

#### SI Triathlon/Duathlon

The second annual Staten Island Triathlon/Duathlon is Aug. 29 at 8 a.m. The duathlon and triathlon will begin simultaneously. Triathletes will start with a 1/3-mile swim off Midland Beach, while duathletes will do a 1-mile run. The groups will merge for the 12-mile bike ride (a 4-mile loop done three times) on Fr.

Capodanno Blvd., and a 4-mile run that finishes on the FDR Boardwalk in South Beach. Entry fee for the race is \$70 for the duathlon and \$80 for the triathlon. To register for the race, visit the New York Triathlon Club's Web site at [www.nytri.org](http://www.nytri.org).

#### **S.I. Lions practice**

The Staten Island Lions Pop Warner football team will hold its first practice tomorrow at Monsignor Farrell HS at 5:30 p.m. All players must attend or notify coaches if they won't attend. No equipment is needed tomorrow. Visit [www.statenislandlions.org](http://www.statenislandlions.org).

#### **NY Panthers tryouts**

New York Panthers fast-pitch softball will be holding tryouts at the West Shore LL rear field on Wed., Aug. 4 and Wed., Aug. 11 at 5 p.m., and on Sat., Aug. 14 at 10 a.m. for their 10s, 12s, 14s, 16s and 18s teams. Call 917-763-5322.

#### **Soccer tryouts**

Silver Lake Horizon, a boys' U-10 travel team will hold tryouts Wednesdays and Thursdays starting next week at Miller Field No. 34 at 6 p.m. Call 718-689-4590.

#### **CSI alumni game**

The **College of Staten Island** baseball alumni game is Sept. 18 at **CSI** with 11 a.m. registration and batting practice and a noon first pitch. A \$50 donation is requested, payable the day of the game. Lunch will follow the game and all players get an alumni game T-shirt. E-mail Neil Barbella at [NBarbella@aol.com](mailto:NBarbella@aol.com) or Mike Mauro at [Knubby7@aol.com](mailto:Knubby7@aol.com).

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## Staten Island sports bulletin board for August 5, 2010

Published: Thursday, August 05, 2010, 8:44 AM



### Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

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#### **CSI alumni game**

The **College of Staten Island** baseball alumni game is Sept. 18 at **CSI** with 11 a.m. registration and batting practice and a noon first pitch. A \$50 donation is requested, payable the day of the game. Lunch will follow the game and all players get an alumni game T-shirt. E-mail Neil Barbella at NBarbella@aol.com or Mike Mauro at Knubby7@aol.com.

#### **Baseball tryouts**

The Richmond County Baseball Club will be conducting tryouts for its 13s fall and spring 2011 teams. The tryouts will be Aug. 16, 17, 23, 24 and 25 all at 3 p.m. at the league complex, located at 1400 Travis Ave. This tryout is open to all graduating Little Leaguers. Proper baseball attire is necessary. For additional information, call 917-299-9211 or 917-379-6475.

#### **Softball registration**

The Varsity ASA Fall Softball League will hold a general registration meeting Sunday from 9 a.m.-noon at the Richmond County Youth Complex on Travis Avenue. League games are played on Saturdays and Sundays. New registrants should call John Gino at 718-979-7801.

#### **SI Triathlon/Duathlon**

The second Staten Island Triathlon/Duathlon is Aug. 29 at 8 a.m. The duathlon and triathlon will begin simultaneously. Triathletes will start with a 1/3-mile swim off Midland Beach, while duathletes will do a 1-mile run. The groups will merge for the 12-mile bike ride (a 4-mile loop done three times) on Fr. Capodanno Blvd., and a 4-mile run that finishes on the FDR Boardwalk in South Beach. Entry fee for the race is \$70 for the duathlon and \$80 for the triathlon. To register for the race, visit the New York Triathlon Club's Web site at [www.nytri.org](http://www.nytri.org).

#### **Willis tourney deadline**

The deadline for the Richard Willis Memorial 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament is Aug. 10. This year's event is Aug. 21-22 at the Bernikow JCC, 1466 Manor Rd., Sea View. The 10-U and 14-U divisions are Aug. 21. The 12-U, 16-U and 18-U divisions play on Aug. 22. Registration form and information can be found at [www.rwillis3on3.org](http://www.rwillis3on3.org) or call 917-692-8570.

**Soccer tryouts**

Silver Lake Horizon, a boys' U-10 travel team for those born after Aug. 1, 2000, will hold tryouts Tuesdays and Thursdays starting next week at Miller Field No. 34 at 6 p.m. Call 718-689-4590.

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## Staten Island sports bulletin board for August 7, 2010

Published: Saturday, August 07, 2010, 10:55 AM



### Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

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#### Softball registration

The Just for Kicks Men's Softball League is accepting registration for its Fall Saturday and Sunday dirt doubleheader loops, which begin play Sept. 11-12. Call Michael Peraino, 718-494-2244; or e-mail JustForKicksSoftball@verizon.net.

#### Babe Ruth registration

The South Shore BRL is holding Summer and Fall Interleague baseball registration for incoming 13s through 18s on Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Individuals and full teams accepted. Call 718-948-0016, or visit [www.SSBRL.com](http://www.SSBRL.com).

#### Softball teams accepted

The Richmond County Softball League is now accepting teams for its fall league. Teams are needed for the Saturday and Sunday men's and coed divisions. Call Steve Benis at 718-229-0333.

#### CSI alumni game

The College of Staten Island baseball alumni game is Sept. 18 at CSI with 11 a.m. registration and batting practice and a noon first pitch. A \$50 donation is requested, payable the day of the game. Lunch will follow the game and all players get an alumni game T-shirt. E-mail Neil Barbella at [NBarbella@aol.com](mailto:NBarbella@aol.com) or Mike Mauro at [Knubby7@aol.com](mailto:Knubby7@aol.com).

#### SI Triathlon/Duathlon

The second Staten Island Triathlon/Duathlon is Aug. 29 at 8 a.m. The duathlon and triathlon will begin simultaneously. Triathletes will start with a 1/3-mile swim off Midland Beach, while duathletes will do a 1-mile run. The groups will merge for the 12-mile bike ride (a 4-mile loop done three times) on Fr. Capodanno Blvd., and a 4-mile run that finishes on the FDR Boardwalk in South Beach. Entry fee for the race is \$70 for the duathlon and \$80 for the triathlon. To register for the race, visit the New York Triathlon Club's Web site

at [www.nytri.org](http://www.nytri.org).

### **Soccer tryouts**

Silver Lake Horizon, a boys' U-10 travel team for those born after Aug. 1, 2000, will hold tryouts Tuesdays and Thursdays starting next week at Miller Field No. 34 at 6 p.m. Call 718-689-4590.

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## College of Staten Island alumni baseball game moved to September 24

Published: Monday, August 16, 2010, 3:39 PM



**Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

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The **College of Staten Island** baseball alumni baseball game has been changed:

The game will now take place on Friday, September 24 at **CSI's** Willowbrook campus.

Registration and batting practice for the game will be at 6 p.m. First pitch will be at 7 p.m.

A \$50 donation is requested, payable the day of the game. Dinner will follow the game and all players get an alumni game T-shirt.

E-mail Neil Barbella at [NBarbella@aol.com](mailto:NBarbella@aol.com) or Mike Mauro at [Knubby7@aol.com](mailto:Knubby7@aol.com).

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## Staten Island sports bulletin board for August 16, 2010

Published: Tuesday, August 17, 2010, 9:27 AM



### Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

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#### CSI alumni game date changed

The College of Staten Island baseball alumni baseball game has been changed: The game will now take place Sept. 24 at CSI's Willowbrook campus. Registration and batting practice for the game will be at 6 p.m. First pitch will be at 7 p.m. A \$50 donation is requested, payable the day of the game. Dinner will follow the game and all players get an alumni game T-shirt. E-mail Neil Barbella at NBarbella@aol.com or Mike Mauro at Knubby7@aol.com.

#### Tennis registration

Tomorrow is the deadline to register for the men's and women's Junior Vets (35 and older) Tennis Tournament on Saturday and Sunday at the Westerleigh TC. Call 718-982-3355 for entries.

#### Baseball registration

Bottom of the 9th Baseball Academy Bulldogs will be conducting tryouts for its 12 and 13-year-old teams at St Joseph by-the-Sea High School on Aug. 25 at 5 p.m., Aug. 28 at 9 a.m. and Aug. 29 at 1 p.m. These will be strictly tournament teams. Call Sal Trancucci (12s) at 718-801-6442 and Mike Ponsiglione (13s) for the at 347-249-4977 or e-mail B9Academy@aol.com.

#### S.I. Fun Leagues

The Staten Island Fun Leagues is now holding registration for coed softball, volleyball, beer pong and the party bowling league as well as darts. Call Rob Renaud at 718-477-6787 or visit [www.funleagues.com](http://www.funleagues.com).

#### Youth basketball

St. Teresa's Intramural Basketball program will be holding registration tomorrow from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the school's gymnasium (Slosson Avenue and Victory Boulevard). The league is for boys and girls in grades kindergarten through eighth grade. Games are played on Friday nights and Saturdays. The cost is \$130 for one child, \$180 for two and \$230 for three. All players interested in trying out for CYO must register at the time. Call Greg Percoco at 917-572-9424.

#### Softball loop meeting

The James and Joanne Tabeek Memorial League has two openings for its men's doubleheader Sunday dirt division and one opening for its Sunday dirt coed 9-inning loops. Contact Al or Krystal Tabeek at 718-987-

2818 or e-mail [TabEEKMemorial@aol.com](mailto:TabEEKMemorial@aol.com).

**RCBC tryouts**

The Richmond County Baseball Club is conducting tryouts for its 2010 fall and 2011 spring 14s American team tomorrow and Thursday and Aug. 25 and 26 at the complex in Travis. Call 347-245-5290. There is also tryouts for the 10s fall and 11s spring/summer teams Thursday at 4 p.m. and on Sunday. Proper baseball attire is required.

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## Ex-CSI player Glennerster creates a baseball 'Dynasty'

Published: Thursday, August 19, 2010, 4:20 PM



**Jim Waggoner**

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### **Bobby Glennerster Jr.**

remembers brain-storming with his father and uncle three years ago as he began to plant the seeds for a new elite travel baseball organization.

Fresh from the campus of the **College of Staten Island**, where he blossomed as a four-year starter on the diamond and was the school's Male Athlete of the Year in 2006, the Great Kills resident suddenly stopped in his tracks during the informal family meeting.



Staten Island Advance/Derek Alvez

New York Dynasty founder Bobby Glennerster Jr. talks to his players before a recent game.

"I said, 'I want to start a dynasty,' " recalled Glennerster. "I wanted to start something that was going to be around for a long while and would impact young baseball players and their futures."

So began the New York Dynasty, which has grown to facilitate two teams — age groups 15-16 and 17-18 — with plans to add a third squad of younger players as early as next summer. From a humble beginning of 12 players, the Dynasty now boasts 40 with eyes on expansion.

Their mission statement spells out clear-cut goals:

- \* Make a positive difference in the lives of players so that they will reach their highest potential in the classroom, on the field, and in life.
- \* Provide committed players with opportunities to showcase themselves to the collegiate and professional scouting communities as not only baseball players, but as respectful young men.
- \* Try and find the right fit academically and athletically for each individual player for college.
- \* Surround the organization with individuals who are confident, competent, caring, respectful, and strive to meet the standards of excellence.

"We take it very seriously," said Glennerster. "We want to play the game the right way, and really guide these kids to college and beyond."

The teams are comprised entirely of Staten Island players, with six graduating seniors on the 17-18 team committed to play collegiately — **Matt Abramowitz** (McKee/S.I. Tech) at Adelphi; **Chris Ahern** (Moore Catholic) and **Neil Connelly** (Moore Catholic) at Briarcliffe; **Nick Abbruzzese** (Tottenville) at Lehigh; **John Duffy** (McKee/S.I. Tech) at SUNY-Purchase; and **Joe Mendez** (Monsignor Farrell) at St. Joseph's, Brooklyn.

"We help with whatever we can," said Glennerster, "from setting up college admission, to financial aid papers, to the NCAA Clearinghouse process. And I keep track of how they're doing in school."

New York Dynasty conducts "college-style" practices and uses New Dorp High School as its home-field. The older squad travels to a handful of regional competitions, including tournaments at Temple University and the University of Maryland, as well as at Diamond Nation in Flemington, N.J. The season concludes this weekend during a travel event at Baseball Heaven in Long Island.

"From the start, I've wanted to do it right," said Glennerster, who enlists local coaches to fill the Dynasty staff. "These are young kids who find out that there are decisions to be made when they're in high school. It all happens very quickly and the whole process can be confusing and intimidating at the same time."

"Hey, I consider myself a 25-year-old kid. I know what they like and what they're thinking. I still play baseball in a men's league. I think I can be someone who reaches out to these guys and points them in the right direction."

*(For further information on New York Dynasty, call 646-423-1550 or visit NYDynasty.net)*

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## Staten Island sports bulletin board for August 22, 2010: Warrior Camp set for week-long run

Published: Sunday, August 22, 2010, 9:00 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

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### **Warrior Camp**

Curtis HS boys' basketball coach Rich Buckheit and his staff will conduct the third annual Warrior Basketball Camp Monday through Friday at the Fastbreak Basketball Center in Richmond Valley. The emphasis will be on individual fundamental improvement and important points of team play. The camp is for boys and girls in grades 3-9 and costs \$200 per camper. Campers may sign up tomorrow at Fastbreak beginning at 8:30 a.m. Contact Buckheit at 1-917-364-9358 or go to Fastbreak's Web site, [fastbreakhoops.com](http://fastbreakhoops.com), to download an application.

### **CSI alumni game**

The College of Staten Island baseball alumni game is Sept. 24 at CSI with 6 p.m. registration and batting practice and a 7 p.m. first pitch. A \$50 donation is requested, payable the day of the game. Dinner will follow the game and all players get an alumni game T-shirt. E-mail Neil Barbella at [NBarbella@aol.com](mailto:NBarbella@aol.com) or Mike Mauro at [Knubby7@aol.com](mailto:Knubby7@aol.com).

### **S.I. Fun Leagues**

The Staten Island Fun Leagues is now holding registration for coed softball, volleyball, beer pong and the party bowling league as well as darts. Call Rob Renaud at 718-477-6787 or visit [www.funleagues.com](http://www.funleagues.com).

### **SSBRL registration**

Final Registration for South Shore BRL summer/fall Interleague baseball will be held today morning from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. Individuals and full teams for incoming 13-year-olds and 14-19-year-olds will be accepted. Call 718-948-0016 or visit [www.ssbri.com](http://www.ssbri.com).

### **Soccer tryouts**

Silver Lake Horizon, a boys' U-10 travel team for those born after Aug. 1, 2000, will hold tryouts Tuesdays and Thursdays at Miller Field (field No. 34) at 6 p.m. Call 718-689-4590.



## Staten Island sports bulletin board for August 26, 2010

Published: Friday, August 27, 2010, 8:48 AM



**Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

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### **CSI alumni game**

The **College of Staten Island** baseball alumni game is Sept. 24 at CSI with a 6 p.m. registration and batting practice and a 7 p.m. first pitch. A \$50 donation is requested, payable the day of the game. Dinner will follow the game and all players get an alumni game T-shirt. E-mail Neil Barbella at NBarbella@aol.com or Mike Mauro at Knubby7@aol.com.

### **Referee classes**

There will be girls' high school basketball officiating classes every Monday and Saturday from Sept. 13 to Oct. 30 at I.S. 2. Call Pat DeForte at 718-637-1829.

### **Road racing registration**

The Island Express Track Club will hold registration for the upcoming cross country and indoor track and field season at the Clove Lakes Park boathouse Sunday and on Sept. 5 from 10:30 a.m. to noon; and at Sedutto's Ice Cream Parlor (314 New Dorp Lane) on Wednesday from 7 to 9 p.m. All registrants will receive a buy 1, get 1 free single-scoop cone offer. Call Robert Freeman at 917-519-3065 or Al Garcia at 718-715-6600.

### **Softball openings**

The James and Joanne Tabeek Memorial League has two openings for its men's doubleheader Sunday dirt division and one opening for its Sunday dirt coed 9-inning loop. Contact Al or Krystal Tabeek at 718-987-2818 or e-mail TabeekMemorial@aol.com.

### **Softball registration**

VASA will hold its final registration Sunday at the Richmond County Youth Complex from 10 a.m. to noon. There is one opening in the Saturday and the Sunday divisions. Call John Gino at 718-979-7801.

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# ***Stories***

## **'GEAR UP' for high schools**

A College of Staten Island Discovery Institute program aimed at making college a realistic goal for students at I.S. 49 and Curtis and New Dorp high schools, has been awarded a six-year U.S. Department of Education GEAR-UP grant totaling \$3.7 million.

GEAR-UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a national educational program for students and teachers in high-need schools.

The program features visits to CSI to experience the college environment, tutoring and mentoring by trained CSI students, and summer computer "boot camps" and science experiments held in college laboratories.

GEAR-UP currently serves 891 students at I.S. 49 and the high schools it feeds.

# Bill that's a boon for CSI project gains in D.C.

House subcommittee OKs legislation including 450Gs for college's transportation R&D initiative

By MAURA YATES  
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

A research center at the College of Staten Island that aims to find solutions to the region's traffic problems is in line for a federal funding boost of nearly a half-million dollars.

The Senate's Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee approved the Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriations Bill, which includes \$450,000 for CSI, U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer announced yesterday.

"On behalf of the College of Staten Island and the City University of New York, I want to thank Sen. Charles Schumer for his tremendous assistance and support in securing key subcommittee approval for our 'Innovation in Transportation Infrastructure Systems Planning' project," said CSI President Dr. Tomás D. Morales.

"Funding for this project will allow CSI to conduct important research and development to address traffic congestion in the New York metropolitan region for the benefit of our students, our communities, all of New York City and beyond."

The funding will help CSI researchers expand their work on traffic modeling at the High Performance Com-

puting Center, and computer simulations that show, for example, the impact of changes to the price of bus or train tickets, adjustments to the quality of transit service, or changing the price of tolls. By developing mathematical models, it allows students to experiment with ideas to see if it works in the lab before trying it out on the mean streets of New York.

"We appreciate the fact the senator recognizes the profound nature of these problems," said Dr. Jonathan Peters, an economics professor and research fellow at the University Transportation Research Center at CSI.

The funding will be used to initiate studies into transportation improvements, urban planning and economic development.

"The research done at the College of Staten Island will establish a strong foundation for students, researchers and city officials to build upon," Schumer said. "The funding will bring leading researchers to Staten Island, enable students to engage in hands-on experience and provide officials with new insight into economic development. I will fight to see this funding through the full appropriations process."

The bill will be sent to President Obama for signature pending approval by the committee, the Senate, and after conference with the House of Representatives.

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Maura Yates covers transportation news for the Advance. She may be reached at [myates@siadvance.com](mailto:myates@siadvance.com).



## The Heat Returns



*Astrophysical Observatory at the [College of Staten Island](#) by Alan Cordova on Flickr*

Our summer friend—hazy, hot and humid weather—is back thanks to a high pressure system that has moved out to sea. The southerly breeze means that a heat advisory is in effect for all five boroughs through tomorrow evening. We've surpassed 90 degrees for the 23rd time this year. Number 24 is almost certainly happening tomorrow.

Showers and thunderstorms are always a possibility when it gets this muggy. There's a slight chance of rain this afternoon and tonight. Showers will be more likely tomorrow as the next cold front approaches. Tomorrow's high will be in the low 90s and the heat index will approach 100.

Although a cold front should rumble through town late Thursday night cooler air won't arrive until Saturday. Look for Friday to again top out around 90 degrees. The weekend should be marvelous with clear skies and highs in the mid 80s.

By [Joe Schumacher](#) in [News](#) on August 4, 2010 2:32 PM



## Scuba-diving lessons this summer at College of Staten Island

Published: Thursday, August 05, 2010, 10:39 AM



**Mark D. Stein**



Breaking the surface in the deep end of pool at the **College of Staten Island**, are, from the left, John Doyle, Steve LaManna and Anthony Egan, scuba students; Stephen Lombardo, instructor, and Lisa LaManna, student. (Photo Courtesy of Stephen Lombardo)

STATEN ISLAND, NY - WILLOWBROOK - Beneath the water lies a whole new world.

On Thursday evenings at the **College of Staten Island**, seven students have discovered this this summer as they learned the basics of scuba diving, in the classroom, and in the pool at the campus Sports and Recreation Center.

For starters, like the handful of scuba pupils **Stephen Lombardo** teaches, safety is key.

"There are some procedures that people have to over-learn so that they become a reflex," he said, citing a method of what to do when a person runs out of oxygen.

"Then they develop a comfort zone and are less likely to panic if the situation happens," said Lombardo, a scuba teacher for 20 years and president of the Staten Island Sport Divers.

He said **CSI's** pool is clean and deep, making it perfect for training.

The first session, held earlier this summer, centered around breathing underwater using scuba gear. As the weeks progressed, so did the students' skills, such as what procedures to take when the air cord is entangled, or if there's minimal visibility in the water.

Lombardo teaches other courses, including a rescue course and a divemaster class - "the black belt of scuba diving," he said.

His interest in the sport began years ago. Lombardo was always familiar with the water, and often boats.

"But seeing the top side of the water wasn't enough. I decided, 'Let me see what's on the bottom of the water,' " said Lombardo, also a co-owner of Liberty Tax Service, Port Richmond.

Over the years, Lombardo has found various objects while scuba diving - things like bullet shells from a World War I shipwreck and a starboard running light from a Navy submarine chaser, he said.

**Steve LaManna**, an employee at Liberty Tax Service, decided to join after his 20-year-old daughter told him how much she liked it.

LaManna caught on quickly.

Though nervous at first, he's taken five lessons and plans to take advanced classes in more natural conditions.

"I discovered I liked it, and I'm more interested in it. I don't want to go in a pool - I want to go in an ocean," he said.

To enroll, you must be over 10 years old, and to qualify for a course, a person must be able to swim 200 yards without stopping. The cost to join is \$250 per person.

Those interested in the upcoming class this month at the Bayonne (N.J.) YMCA, or the October course at the **College of Staten Island** can call Lombardo at 718-702-8623. Folks can also visit **CSI Scuba.com** for additional information.

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## Shanghai students study at CSI

Published: Thursday, August 05, 2010, 10:48 AM



**Diane Lore**



Visiting middle-school and high school students from Shanghai, China pose for a photo on the Great Lawn at the **College of Staten Island**, Willowbrook, where they were hosted this summer. (Photo Courtesy of The **College of Staten Island**)

STATEN ISLAND, NY - WILLOWBROOK - These past few weeks, the usual quiet of campus life come summer at the **College of Staten Island (CSI)** has been undermined by visiting students from elementary, middle, and high schools in and around Shanghai, China. They are here to learn English and art as part of the college's Continuing Education Summer Camp program - and they are making their presence known.

About 200 students, broken up into seven different groups, have been visiting the campus for three to 10 days. Most are working to improve their English language skills and some have also focused on the study of art.

Shanghai Chuansha High School student Chen Chen said she has enjoyed the experience.

"I like America very much, so this is a chance for me to know more about it. Also, I have learned that the school system here is very different from those in China. I am from a senior high school and I had a chance to see how this College operates," she said.

This program, the first of its kind at **CSI**, was facilitated by **CSI** President **Dr. Tomás Morales** during his visit to China last January. Dr. Morales met with various principals and school officials in the Shanghai area to arrange for the visits.

"International educational opportunities are a transformational experience for students, and I am very pleased that our friends from China have a chance to experience the world-class opportunities available at **CSI** and New York City this summer," Morales said.

According to **Elaine Caputo-Ferrara**, the program's manager, students attend classes in the morning, with the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students receiving instruction from certified instructors **Janet Grillo, Amber Scordato** and **Gail Hernandez**. The classes are part of the Office of Continuing Education's Adult Learning Center.

Once their morning on campus ends, however, students have the opportunity to see Staten Island and New York City. They take shopping trips and visit cultural landmarks and other points of interest, such as the Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden in Livingston; the Metropolitan Museum of Art in Manhattan; Central Park, and even a walking tour of lower Manhattan that takes in Wall Street.

Evenings are spent having dinner, courtesy of the Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomfield, and owners **Richard and Lois Nicotra**. The students are staying at the Nicotra's adjacent Hampton Inn Suites.

Some of the Chinese visitors are blogging to friends and family back home about their state-side experience.

"I feel that America is very big and beautiful and New York is very international, beautiful, and clean," said **Qin Jihao**, also from Shanghai Chuansha High School.

His classmate, **Ni Yingying**, said he was grateful for the opportunity. "I think this is a chance to become familiar with New York. In the future, if I want to go to America, I will live in New York. It's a very modern and big city."

Three Staten Island college students are serving as camp counselors and guides for the program. They accompany the students on trips and assist them with activities and other needs.

"The kids are really great. I enjoy teaching them American games and learning how they put their twist on them, and working on vocabulary. It's really fun," said counselor **Joanna Grillo**, a student at Rider University in South Jersey.

**Ho Lee**, a June graduate of **CSI** High School for International Studies who is entering **CSI** this fall, said he found the students' views refreshing. "It's fun to meet new people and see people explore New York in a different way than we do because we're so used to living here," he said.



His classmate, **Louis Ferrara**, who will be attending St. John's University this fall, agreed that he also enjoyed seeing the students react to things in New York that he has already seen. In addition, he emphasized the cultural sharing aspect of the program, "It's nice to talk to them and learn about how life is there and I get to tell them about how life is here."

**Dan Huang**, a **CSI** education major who is originally from China, is serving as the program's translator. The initiative is coming to a close for this summer, with one group here this week and the final group expected next week.

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## All day rallies protest Staten Island hate crimes

Published: Saturday, August 07, 2010, 12:20 PM



**Frank Donnelly**



Staten Islanders rally against hate crimes early this morning at White Castle in Stapleton, where a gay couple was attacked a month ago.

Fighting bias is an around-the-clock job.

So today, members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community and others are rallying morning, noon and night against the recent spate of alleged hate crimes to plague the borough.

The focal point of "Take Back Your Right" was the White Castle restaurant on Bay Street, Stapleton, where a gay couple was attacked on July 7 at 2:30 a.m. by a large group of black youths after one of the assailants uttered a homophobic slur, authorities said.

"Staten Island is a close-knit community and we're not going to let a bunch of thugs get away with it," said state Sen. Diane Savino (D-North Shore) during a late morning rally in which a healing garden of lavender and purple chrysanthemums was planted in a corner of the parking lot.

"We are going to take back the streets of Staten Island," Ms. Savino said. "We will determine how people are treated on Staten Island, not violent felons."

About two-dozen people attended the rally, including representatives of City Councilwoman Debi Rose (D-North Shore) and the U.S. Department of Justice.

A similar number showed up for an earlier gathering at 2 a.m., close to the time when Luis Vieira, 47, and his partner, Richard Vieira, 39, were attacked a month ago.

Tonight at 8:30, there will be a candlelight vigil at Borough Hall, followed by a march to White Castle. About 200 people are expected to attend, including Assemblyman Matthew Titone (D-North Shore).

Since April, the NYPD's Hate Crimes Task Force has been investigating 11 attacks on the North Shore, including the one on the Vieiras, as possible bias assaults. Most of the incidents occurred in Port Richmond and involved assailants robbing or beating Mexican immigrants. In the majority of cases, the attackers were identified as black men.

Rally organizers Gerard Mawn, Rose Ellicott and Robin Garber of the Staten Island LGBT Center said the 2 a.m. gathering was especially poignant because the Vieiras took part.

"Everybody here is diverse. We need to accept it and embrace it," said Ms. Ellicott, 21, an Eltingville resident and College of Staten Island (CSI) student.

"We are looking forward to a new day," said Mawn, of Castleton Corners.

Moreover, ralliers saw first-hand how the attack on the Vieiras likely unfolded.

As many as 50 teens and younger kids, in large groups, streamed by on Bay Street, walking toward St. George, despite the early morning hour, said Katie Cumiskey. Some shouted homophobic taunts, while others applauded the ralliers.

"It felt a little threatening," said Dr. Cumiskey, a West Brighton resident and professor of women's studies and psychology at CSI. "There needs to be more outreach to teens, especially in poorer communities, to stick up for what's right and stand up for their peers."

On Tuesday, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn (D-Manhattan), Ms. Rose and community leaders announced an "aggressive" 10-point plan to counter bias here.

The agenda features educational programs, religious outreach, improved street lighting, establishing "Safe Zones" and expanding the "I Am Staten Island" public-service announcement campaign.

In recent weeks, police have beefed up their presence in Port Richmond, deploying dozens of uniformed and plainclothes officers, along with two collapsible watchtowers and a central command.



## Coverage befitted an historic presidential visit

Published: Sunday, August 08, 2010, 6:50 AM



### Letters to the Editor/Staten Island Adva...

By AHMED DEEN KARGBO  
GRANITEVILLE

On behalf of the United States-Sierra Leonean Association Inc. and the Sierra Leonean community, that helped organize the last meeting with the President of Sierra Leone, His Excellency Dr. Ernest Bai Koroma, I am sincerely extending our collective gratitude to your staff for the news coverage during the historic event.

Hosting the first sitting African Head of State at the College of Staten Island will remain a part of the history of this community, the college and Staten Island, because of your professionalism.

I must therefore personally express my appreciation to Ms. Debra Young, Mr. Derek Alvez and the News Desk staff, who all made this happen within the short notice of the event.

Because of the Advance, our community was and is still recognized by many who read the paper. I do hope we will strengthen the professional relationship between the paper and our organization and make it grow even stronger.

We have always tried to keep you informed of any newsworthy event we are undertaking, and we promise to continue.

Thank you so much and we look forward to a continued partnership.

*[The writer is president of the United States-Sierra Leonean Association Inc.]*

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## New strategies to curb Staten Island bias violence unveiled

Published: Wednesday, August 11, 2010, 5:16 PM



**Judy L. Randall**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- A series of initiatives to address the recent spate of bias attacks on the North Shore were outlined by City Council Speaker Christine Quinn today, including establishing neighborhood safe zones, enhancing security in parks and business hubs and holding a citywide interfaith "speak out" against hate Sept. 24-26.

Ms. Quinn also said public service announcements and posters geared to promote tolerance and diversity will be on display at the ferry terminal in St. George and on trains in the borough, provided by the city Department of Transportation and Metropolitan Transportation Authority.



Staten Island Advance/Michael McWeeney

Nearly 30 police cars to line Park Place in Port Richmond after a rash of bias attacks. (Staten Island Advance/Michael McWeeney)

She said "the effect this has will go far beyond this borough."

Ms. Quinn made her remarks at the Unitarian Church, New Brighton, during a meeting with two dozen members of the Staten Island Clergy Leadership Council and representatives of the state Human Rights Commission, who addressed attacks on Mexican immigrants in Port Richmond.

Next month's weekend event is being held in conjunction with the **I Am S.I. "preach out" initiative** being coordinated by Councilwoman Debi Rose (D-North Shore), who was in attendance.

Ms. Rose told the ministers they have the "bully pulpit" to preach tolerance and said the "eye of the world" has been on the Staten Island in the wake of the crimes.

"We are not willing to tolerate hate crimes and violence against Mexicans, African Americans, whites, Russians, members of the LGBT community," said Ms. Rose. "The message that needs to resonate from your sanctuaries is one of tolerance and peace."

"We have the opportunity to change the social climate," added state Human Rights Commissioner Galen Kirkland, "but the uncertainty and volatility leave us no grace period."

Rev. Andre Hawkins, youth pastor at Christian Pentecostal Church, Concord, said, "young African American men lack mentorship and positive role models," while Rev. James Seawood of Brighton Heights Reform Church, St. George, said job training and employment are key.

Rev. Richard Michael, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Stapleton, and chaplain of Wagner College, Grymes Hill, noted Wagner has a "partnership" with Port Richmond and said community service-minded students could lend assistance.

Among the initiatives Ms. Quinn highlighted is funding to provide security cameras along Port Richmond Avenue in response to concerns of business leaders. She also said DOT is addressing lighting in the area.

Ms. Quinn also said "safe zones" are being established in area businesses, libraries and churches as a refuge for those who feel threatened, and said the city Department of Parks will conduct security assessments of Island parks, beginning in Port Richmond, in response to what she said were safety concerns of young people.

In addition, Ms. Quinn said **College of Staten Island** educators are being tapped for their expertise in tolerance and diversity training. In line with that, she noted a \$300,000 City Council appropriation for anti-bias curriculum in public high schools.

Assemblyman Matthew Titone (D-North Shore), who also was on hand, said Staten Island's "reputation has been sullied," adding, "We don't want to become a poster child for hate crimes."

Ms. Rose's office also announced she will co-host a town hall meeting on bias crimes tonight at 7 p.m. in First Central Baptist Church, 117 Wright St., Stapleton. Representatives from the mayor's office are on tap to attend.

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## Clergy enlist in campaign vs. hate crimes on Staten Island

Published: Thursday, August 12, 2010, 12:17 AM



**Judy L. Randall**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- A series of initiatives to address the spate of bias attacks on the North Shore was outlined yesterday by City Council Speaker Christine Quinn. They include establishing neighborhood safe zones, enhancing security in parks and business hubs and holding a citywide interfaith "speak out" against hate on Sept. 24-26.

Ms. Quinn also said public service announcements and posters geared to promote tolerance and diversity will be prominent at the ferry terminal in St. George and on trains in the borough, provided by the city Department of Transportation and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

"The effect this has will go far beyond this borough," she said.

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The Rev. Richard Michael

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## Parking at CSI deserves an 'F'

Published: Thursday, August 12, 2010, 12:23 AM



**Maura Yates**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Parking rates are going up for College of Staten Island students, leaving some scratching their heads and wondering how the price could rise for spots that aren't nearly sufficient for the number of folks driving to class.

The cost for a yearlong student decal is \$92 starting this school year, up from \$82 last year.

Among colleges in the area, CSI's parking fees are comparatively low. Fees collected from the sale of decals go toward capital improvements, such as repaving, supplies, snow removal, personnel in the Office of Parking Services, and printing expenses.

But more than the cost, students complain bitterly about the lack of parking spaces on the Willowbrook campus, where more than half of students arrive by car. There are reports of fights breaking out over the coveted parking spots.



Photo courtesy of Facebook.com

The parking lots at the College of Staten Island are often filled to capacity, leading students to arrive an hour early in hopes of snagging a spot.

Parking at CSI deserves an 'F'

During the last school year, CSI issued 7,488 decals — more than half of the student enrollment of about 14,000.

There are currently 2,970 spots available, and 14,151 students enrolled for the upcoming semester.

Students say they have to factor in how long it will take to find a parking spot and make sure they get to class on time. That means leaving an extra hour before class, especially during the peak hours between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., and 5:30-8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, when the campus is most crowded.

Some relief is in sight. The college is nearing completion of 80 new parking spots in and near Lot 4, said CSI spokesman Ken Bach. All the existing lots are scheduled for resurfacing next summer.

The school also offers a limited number of reduced-price decals for \$73 that allow students to park only in Lot 6, which tends to have the most free spaces but is farthest from where many of the academic buildings are, and is therefore not as desirable.

A Facebook group, "CSI Parking is Horrible," has more than 1,300 fans, and comments like, "\$80 dollars a year to circle the campus 8 times before having to park at the end of the gravel lot, run to class, only to get there late."

Another fan wrote about finding spots by following fellow students around in her car while they walk to theirs. "An hour early is still not enough sometimes. ... Unless you have become a stalker like most of us have by now I'm sure."

Shannon, a graduate student, has been dealing with the dearth of parking spots for five years.

"Most of us don't even look for spots," she said. "We go right to the gravel."

The gravel, laid on the ground along the perimeter of the campus fence, is a last-ditch place to park when the paved lots are full.

But the gravel parking area is on the exact opposite side of the campus from the buildings where her classes are, necessitating a walk of five to 10 minutes.



## CSI policies make campus parking shortage worse

Published: Saturday, August 21, 2010, 1:21 AM



Letters to the Editor/Staten Island Adva...

By BRENDAN EVANS

PRINCE'S BAY

In your Aug. 12 article addressing the campus parking at the College of Staten Island, you said there was a problem with a lack of spots.

However, the lack of parking spaces is only half of the problem.

As a current junior, I can tell you from experience that the school is out to make money. Therefore, they rent out their concert halls, theaters, sports fields and swimming pool.

Now, this wouldn't be a problem if they conducted these events outside of class hours, but they don't.

For example, last semester, there were several concerts, including The Lovin' Spoonful and The New York Philharmonic Orchestra, which was scheduled for a Monday evening, when night classes are at full capacity.

And as an additional slap in the face, the concert-goers are allowed to park anywhere on campus for free, while we, the students who paid \$90 for a parking pass, are left to fend for a few gravel parking spots, which are completely inaccessible in the winter snow unless you have a four-wheel drive SUV.

While a lack of spots is a major problem at CSI, the bigger problem is the lack of coordination and over-rental of the school's facilities.

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## Complaints about CSI parking based in selfishness

Published: Tuesday, August 24, 2010, 1:50 AM



Letters to the Editor/Staten Island Adva...

By SARA PAUL  
WESTERLEIGH

Replacing green lawns, old trees and magnificent fountains with more parking at the College of Staten Island is as stupid as a college student blaming tardiness on an alleged lack of spots.

CSI has plenty of parking in designated "easy parking lots" and free, air-conditioned, bathroom-equipped shuttle buses to all buildings. (The Advance scares readers that there are 14,151 enrolled and only 2,970 spots; however, it doesn't mention that 14,151 students are not on campus at the same time.)

How about carpooling or public transportation to aid in environmental efforts, rather than suggest destroying nature to add more concrete? Immaturity, laziness and lack of thinking outside of one's self are what young people come to college with. Hopefully, they leave with maturity, motivation and pride in a university that gave them so much more than a parking spot to call home.

Students, as well as the Advance, should keep in mind that CSI is a well-respected City University, and it deserves more praise and positive media coverage for its community and academic efforts.

Lazy brats speeding around parking lots, stereos blasting and cigarettes lit, looking for a fight because they arrive to college four minutes before class hardly warrant a front-page insult.

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## Health happenings

Published: Thursday, August 26, 2010, 10:03 AM



**Diane O'Donnell**

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### Tomorrow

**Mariners Harbor: Blood drive.** Donors must be healthy, at least 16 years old (with parent's written consent) and must weigh a minimum of 110 pounds, 3:30-9:30 p.m. Donors should eat prior to donation and bring photo ID and Social Security number. The drive is sponsored by Brooklyn/Staten Island Blood Services. **UNITED ARTISTS STADIUM 16**, 2474 Forest Ave. Call 718-777-3456.

### Saturday

**West Brighton: Alzheimer's support group** for caregivers, spouses and adult children of Alzheimer's disease patients, 10 a.m. **ALZHEIMER'S FOUNDATION**, 789 Post Ave. Call 718-667-7110.

**Sunnyside: Walk NYC.** Exercise is a walk in the park with the Parks Department free walking program; just bring comfortable walking shoes and prepare to get fit and have fun. Trained walking instructors lead you every step of the way. Class meets every Saturday at 10 a.m. through October in **CLOVE LAKES PARK**, 1150 Clove Rd. For information, visit [www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org), or call 718-390-8000.

**West Brighton: Family Day Health Fair.** A family day of outdoor fun, games and health presentations, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Representatives from HealthPlus will be on hand with information about free and low-cost healthcare. **SOLOMON'S PORCH**, 1388 Richmond Terr., 718-273-0189.

### Monday

**Alcoholics Anonymous.** AA meetings are held seven days a week at various times and locations throughout the borough. Go online or call for more information. **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS STATEN ISLAND**, P.O. Box 140591, 212-647-1680, or [www.statenislandaa.org](http://www.statenislandaa.org).

**Willowbrook: Wii Fit study** on vision and balance. The **College of Staten Island**'s Physical Therapy doctoral program is looking for volunteers age 18 to 55 for a study to determine whether Wii balance training makes the user more dependent on vision for standing balance than their other senses. Participants will perform a 30-minute pre-test followed by 12 Wii training sessions (3 times a week for 4 weeks). For more information,

call Dr. Maureen Becker at 718-982-3153. **COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND**, 2800 Victory Blvd.

**Gamblers Anonymous.** GA meetings are held most days of the week at various times and locations throughout the borough. Visit [www.gamblersanonymous.org](http://www.gamblersanonymous.org) or call for more information at 877-664-2469. **GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS**, New York Intergroup, P.O. Box 7, New York, NY.

**West Brighton: Blood drive.** Donors must be healthy, at least 16 years old (with parent's written consent) and must weigh a minimum of 110 pounds, Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donors should eat prior to donation and bring photo ID and know their Social Security number. **RICHMOND UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER**, Blood Bank, 355 Bard Ave. Call 718-818-3065.

**West Brighton: Free colonoscopy.** Richmond University Medical Center, Staten Island University Hospital and the American Cancer Society are teaming up to offer free colon cancer screenings to individuals age 50 and older who do not have health insurance or have a high insurance deductible. People age 45 and older may also be eligible for this program, which is funded by the City Council, if they are at an increased risk for colon cancer. Appointments available Monday through Friday; call 718-818-5891 or 718-818-3290 to register. **RICHMOND UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER**, 355 Bard Ave.

## **Tuesday**

**Graniteville: Health outreach.** Representatives from Staten Island University Hospital's outreach team will answer questions about stroke, colorectal cancer exams and other hospital programs, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Call 718-226-1832 or 718-226-1911 for more information. **SHOPRITE**, 985 Richmond Ave.

## **September 2**

**West Brighton: Early diagnosis Alzheimer's support group**, with separate groups for Alzheimer's disease patients and their caregivers, 2 p.m. Pre-registration required. **ALZHEIMER'S FOUNDATION**, 789 Post Ave. Call 718-667-7110.

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# ***Students & Alumni***



## Camp counselors at Pouch Camp make a great teaching team

Published: Thursday, August 05, 2010, 10:54 AM



**Mark D. Stein**



Counselors from the William H. Scout Pouch Camp include, in green from the left, Rob Moumblow, Angie Masullo, Alex MacLeod, in back, Stephanie Kaplan, Timothy Macdonald (on the ground), Caitlyn Borilla, and Matt Brown. With them, at left, is Jonathan Miller, a camp volunteer. (Staten Island Advance/Mark Stein)

STATEN ISLAND, NY - SEA VIEW - As the sun beamed down on William H. Scout Pouch Camp's 143-acre property, a handful of the 60 youngsters gathered 'round their designated camp counselor.

The counselors, dressed appropriately for the location in green shirts, chatted with the youngsters as they took a break from a busy day of firing arrows, playing kickball and swimming. It was lunch time at Pouch Day Camp.

For most Staten Island high-school teens or college students on break, summer jobs tend to concentrate on ringing up groceries, delivering pizzas or mowing lawns.

But for these 14 counselors, it's about reconnecting with each other, experiencing nature in its finest, and returning to their second home. The money is just a bonus.

A majority of the counselors have multiple summers at the camp on their resumes, making it easy for them to resume the assignment when summer rolls around. The counselors, ages 16 to 20, work approximately 40 hours a week, and serve as guides for the young campers.

Their main duties consist of keeping the children safe while directing them to activity stations throughout the site. At each station is a director, who shows the campers how to properly perform outdoor tasks.

Before the program begins, counselors experience a tough first week together. They must learn to work with one another while, at the same time, caring properly for campers once the season kicks off.

"It's unlike any other camp on the Island. We've all known each other for so long," said **Stephanie Kaplan**, a Woodrow resident and student at the **College of Staten Island**. "We do so many things different that no other camps do. We love it so much, why bother going anywhere else (for work)?"

She said being a counselor is a perfect step in achieving her career goal: Teaching.

**Caitlyn Borilla**, an 18-year-old Westerleigh camp counselor in her fourth summer, is glad to be back.

"It's a break from school and work, and the activities are great," she said, referring to boating, fishing and archery.

In his first year as a member of the staff, camp counselor **Alex MacLeod** quickly fit in.

"They welcomed me right in; I feel like I'm part of the family," said MacLeod, whose sister **Denise** is also part of the crew. "We're all friends outside of camp, which makes it easier to work together."

As an Eagle Scout, MacLeod is familiar with Pouch Camp, which is a plus, as counselors must know their way around the immense site.

**Amanda Buerkle**, 18, of West Brighton, attends SUNY New Paltz, and is a director at the summer camp. Her job duties include carrying out activities with the campers.

"I've been here forever," she said, referring to the place as her second home. "It's great for college students, and it's really nice and peaceful."

The counselors recently teamed up to raise money for the camp at a Staten Island Yankees game at the Richmond County Bank Ballpark at St. George, and earned \$1,000 from a 50/50 raffle fund-raiser.

Program director **Roseann Gioia** said their jobs aren't easy, and in fact, can sometimes be draining. That's one of the reasons she said that counselors and campers are switched up each week.

"They (the campers) know the weaknesses and strengths and how to push their (the counselors') buttons," said Ms. Gioia, noting that the counselors must have leadership, teamwork and conflict-resolution skills to handle the position.

"Those little guys can wear on you quick," said **Gil Schweiger**, head ranger. "I trust them. They're all still employed so they must be OK."

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## Museum internship proves enlightening for teen

Published: Thursday, August 05, 2010, 10:43 AM



**Diane Lore**



Clarisse Concepcion, of Rosebank, a student at the **College of Staten Island** High School for International Studies in New Springville, takes visitors through the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Lower Manhattan, where she is working as a summer intern.

STATEN ISLAND, NY - NEW SPRINGVILLE - A student at the **College of Staten Island** High School for International Studies is spending her summer learning about the Holocaust and, in the process, fostering tolerance.

**Clarisse Concepcion**, a Rosebank resident and daughter of **Miralyn** and **Ruddy Concepcion**, was one of just 15 public school students in the city chosen to participate in the High School Apprenticeship Program. Since the beginning of July she has been interning at the Museum of Jewish Heritage: A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, located on Battery Place in Lower Manhattan.

As an apprentice, Miss Concepcion, who is entering her senior year at the New Springville school, assists museum staff in its mission to educate people of all ages and backgrounds about Jewish life over the past century, before, during, and after the Holocaust.

Miss Concepcion began the program in February by learning about Jewish heritage and the Holocaust through a series of bi-weekly after-school seminars that ran through May. Through the middle of this month,

she will be giving tours to young people visiting the museum, as well as working in a variety of museum departments, including its collections and exhibitions, administration, operations, and education offices. By working in a close mentoring relationship with museum staff, Miss Concepcion said she is getting a hands-on, behind-the-scenes look at a New York City museum and gaining insight into career options.

She said the role of the museum is to create connections between people.

"Since I started working at the museum, I now have a new perspective when talking with my neighbors," said the energetic teen.

"A neighborhood doesn't have to be divided because of differences. We can all connect on some level."

*The museum welcomes students from all backgrounds to apply for its various internships during the school year and over the summer. For more information or to download an application, visit [www.mjhnyc.org](http://www.mjhnyc.org).*

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# Brooklyn Daily Eagle

## **Bay Ridge Eagle**

### **Assembly Candidate Cipriano Holds Fundraiser in Bay Ridge**

by Harold Egelin ([edit@brooklyneagle.net](mailto:edit@brooklyneagle.net)), published online 08-05-2010

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By Harold Egelin  
Brooklyn Eagle

Young Republican Peter Cipriano seeks to end the 24-year-long winning streak of incumbent Democrat Assemblyman Peter Abbate and sweep into Albany on a reform platform for change powered by a wave of voter dissatisfaction.

"People are frustrated that the government is not doing the right thing for them and yet they pay these high taxes. What bothers me most is Abbate's policies. He's a cog in the Albany machine that produces policies that are counterproductive to the people's interests," said Cipriano, a lifelong Bath Beach resident.

The 20-year-old **College of Staten Island** political science student faces a Republican primary election against three-time candidate Lucretia Regina-Potter in September. His campaign held a fundraising dinner and rally at the Bay Ridge Manor. A conservative Republican, he has the Brooklyn Conservative Party endorsement.

Cipriano calls himself "a public servant, not a politician, a game-changer, not a game-player" and runs on a platform of issues such as the state's growing tax burden, mounting budget deficit, runaway deficit spending, new jobs creation, ethics reform, and common sense government.

Among his goals, if elected, is to "revolutionize" the tax structure with reforms at the state level and, on the local level, creating a small business council in the 49th Assembly District to directly solicit ideas from businesses and consumers.

Pushing for education tax credits will be another priority based partly on his experience in the local movement to save St. Finbar's Catholic School, which closed.

While the GOP primary decides who will be the Republican candidate to run against Abbate, he noted that ten district leaders from five assembly districts (the 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th and 60th) endorsed his campaign at an Edmund Seergy Club meeting. And he declared, "I really want to debate Regina-Potter before the primary."

\* \* \*

## Former Guardian reporter picked for Australian UN conference

Cherisse Moe

Published: 11 Aug 2010



Former T&T Guardian political reporter, Kyle Jeremiah, is making great strides and doing T&T proud.

Cherisse Moe

In this life, there are two types of people: Procrastinators who sit on their 'laurels' and allow life to idly pass them by, and go getters who seize every opportunity that comes their way. Kyle Jeremiah falls squarely in the latter category. A former T&T Guardian political reporter, Jeremiah, who migrated to the US two years ago to pursue a Bachelor of Arts Degree in International Studies with a minor in Communications, has been hand picked by the United Nations (UN) to cover the 63rd annual UN Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organisation Conference, (BBPI) in Melbourne, Australia from August 30 to September 1. At just 22 years of age, he's one of only two students from his university—The College of Staten Island—and the only person from T&T, to be selected for the prestigious event. Students from campuses world-wide, including Singapore, Africa, Europe and Latin America have also been chosen. Entitled Advance Global Health: Achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the conference will entail, among other things, round tables and workshops to discuss subjects of interest to civil society, as well as important questions of equity, rights and progress towards attaining the MDGs and advancing global health. Describing the occasion as a "once in a lifetime opportunity" Jeremiah asserts, "The secretary general of the UN and other

high UN officials and representatives will be present, so I'm very happy and excited to be selected to be part of such an elite student journalism programme."

### **Credentials**

Hailing from Chaguanas, the St Mary's College alumnus has several titles under his belt and has taken the term multi-talented to new heights.

The Vice President of the newly formed Coalition of International Students, a body which fights for the rights of students within 23 colleges and institutions within the system, Jeremiah is also the elected news director of his school's radio station—WSIA 88.9 FM, where he's responsible for producing, editing and reading the news. "The feedback has been really good. We were able to generate more interest in the station because they weren't many students who knew there was a radio station on campus," he shares.

"We're also in discussions with the associated press for a joint venture where they provide us with regional and international stories, so I'm hoping we could have major news updates every hour throughout the day." His credentials do not stop there. The youngest and only boy of three siblings, he has, believe it or not, made time to embark on yet another venture—that of the editor in chief of Solstice—a student magazine "with a youthful perspective" launched on campus earlier this year. Highlighting pertinent world issues, the magazine has two publications per semester and is growing in popularity among students and professors alike. A Web site for the magazine, he says, will soon be launched.

### **Hone my craft**

Crediting his background in the media for his impetus to break boundaries, he says, "I wasn't satisfied just being on campus limited to academia. Coming out of the media, I wanted to be in a position where I could really hone my craft...A lot of my professors and classmates are amazed that someone from the Caribbean could be so involved on campus and also excel in academics. Most of them have never even heard of T&T before." Well on his way to completing his degree one year before time, Jeremiah is looking ahead.

"Based on my experiences over the last couple years at the (T&T) Guardian and now being in so many different strains of activity, my journey towards achieving my ultimate goal has taken many twists and turns...My main focus is to seize all of life's opportunities, while promoting my country and contributing an international perspective on issues that pertain to my immediate surroundings." Already seeing tangible evidence that his life will be anything but ordinary, Jeremiah is working his way to the top and enjoying every minute of it.



## U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand looks to continue tax cuts

Published: Thursday, August 12, 2010, 5:21 AM



**Staten Island Advance**



Staten Island Advance/Michael McWeeney

U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, center, announces a new push to make tax cuts permanent for businesses that hire veterans during a press conference in the Labetti Post, Rosebank. She is flanked by Assemblyman Michael Cusick; Joseph Benedetto, Labetti Post commander; Linda Baran, president & CEO of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce; John DeVito, third junior vice commander of the Disabled American Veterans, Halloran Memorial Chapter 34; veteran Robert Miller, Carmen Cognetta; veteran Malik Abbas; Assemblywoman Janele Hyer-Spencer, and Councilwoman Debi Rose, from left.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - Touting statistics that show one in five young Staten Island veterans is unemployed, U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand pressed her case yesterday for an extension of a tax cut for businesses that hire the returned soldiers.

"The least we can do is make sure that when the veterans come home, they can provide for their families," said Ms. Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), speaking at the Labetti Post, in Rosebank.

The senator helped establish the Work Opportunity Tax Credit last year as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, allowing for businesses that hire new veterans to receive a 40 percent credit on the first \$6,000 paid to each veteran. The law is due to expire at year's end and Ms. Gillibrand is pushing to extend it indefinitely.

The extension of the bill includes some changes.

The requirement of at least four weeks' unemployment benefits in the previous year has been eliminated.

Also, the Defense Department is required to advertise the credit, as well as document veterans' eligibility: The requirement remains a minimum 180 days in active duty (the time need not be consecutive) or discharge with a service-related disability.

And veterans must have been discharged from the service within the last five years.

Businesses like United Parcel Service, JCPenney and Barnes & Noble have availed themselves of the tax credit over the last couple of years.

"UPS has hired over 1,000 veterans ... and has been able to collect \$500,000 in tax credit because of this program," said UPS district security manager Pat Moran.

Veterans were in attendance yesterday to show their support for the bill. Robert Miller, who did two tours in Iraq as a paratrooper, is pursuing a degree from the **College of Staten Island**.

"It is nice to know that with this bill, there is extra incentive to hire me," he said.

City Councilwoman Debi Rose (D-North Shore), said, "Our veterans have sacrificed so much for us; this effort shows reciprocal support.

"We need to show our veterans that we appreciate all of their service."

Ms. Gillibrand stressed that the program pays for itself: "The immediate cost is around \$100 million a year but is paid back when the veterans pay their income taxes."

Also in attendance were Assemblywoman Janele Hyer- Spencer (D-East Shore/Brooklyn), Assemblyman Matthew Titone (D-North Shore), Councilman Mathieu Eugene (D-Brooklyn) and Linda Baran, president and CEO of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce.

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## New soccer club offers alternative to high-price trainers

Published: Thursday, August 12, 2010, 11:45 AM



**Marjorie Hack**



Staten Island Advance/ Jan Somma-Hammel

The Silver Lake Academy is a family soccer affair for travel program director Frank Cannizzaro, right, his wife, RoseAnn, left, daughter Patricia and son Michael.

NEW DORP -- Sherrif Hussein, a young 20-something and a former Curtis High School soccer player, knows a lot about the world's most popular sport. As a center midfielder, he was a key cog in the school's lineup for awhile.

This summer, he learned something different about the sport, however: How to use it to give back to the community.

Hussein — along with his older brother, Adam, his father, Mohammed, a longtime referee and aficionado of the game, and 14 other Staten Islanders — almost all of them volunteers — stepped out onto the browning grass of Miller Field twice a week for eight weeks to teach the finer points of the game to some 200 up-and-coming players — some as young as 3 years old.

It's becoming increasingly rare among sporting communities on Staten Island for so many to volunteer so much to teach the next generation, say some observers.

The commitment was prized by parents and players alike, but perhaps no one was more delighted than Sunnyside resident Dr. Gabriel Nigrin, the driving force behind the new youth soccer organization on Staten Island that sponsored the clinic — Silver Lake Academy.

In fact, the uptick in clinic participants from the summer of 2009 when just 50 youngsters participated signaled the return of Dr. Nigrin and his stand-up wife, Dolly, to prominence among the soccer community on Staten Island.

It's not the first time this former pediatric endocrinologist has grown a soccer club out of nothing. Back in 1970, he founded the Silver Lake Soccer Club; in 1971, the club joined the Cosmopolitan Soccer League, which includes clubs citywide and continues to offer age-group, travel-level competition.

Other youth soccer organizations were formed on Staten Island — the Staten Island Soccer League and Staten Island United, among them. These days, thousands of Staten Island youngsters are involved.

## **BACK TO BASICS**

But as the decades wore on, Dr. Nigrin grew increasingly distressed by a developing trend on Staten Island and elsewhere: Coaches were no longer volunteering to train youngsters; more and more, they were demanding to be paid. Dr. Nigrin objected on several levels, but mostly because it meant that learning the game was becoming prohibitively expensive for many youngsters whose families could not afford to underwrite expensive training fees.

Getting back to basics was one of the reasons Dr. Nigrin split from his offspring, the Silver Lake Soccer Club, and formed Silver Lake Academy, a group where, in his opinion, youngsters' needs come first. The eight-week, evening clinic cost players just \$75 each, for instance.

"The time of day is great, there are many sessions and the price is reasonable," said Joanna Bavoso of Midland Beach, whose 10-year-old son, Matthew, took part in the clinic this year.

"The price — you couldn't beat it," agreed Patricia Caruso of Annadale, whose 10-year-old daughter, Victoria, was also enrolled.

And it's not just the cost that's attractive to families.

"She's learned more techniques," noted Mrs. Caruso of her daughter's progress.

"The biggest improvement? Better control," said Mrs. Bavoso of Matthew, who's been on the pitch since he was 3.

Seasoned soccer veteran Mohammed Hussein was assigned to coach kids 15 and under during the clinic. He had an appreciative bunch of boys and girls with him on closing day, Aug. 2.

"I learned how to control the ball," admitted Babor Malik of Castleton Corners.

Matthew Bessler of Great Kills said his chipping had improved considerably.

Most were hoping that soccer would eventually be their ticket to college.

"Getting a scholarship," said Milena Russo of Richmond, when asked why she pursued soccer.

But others were playing because they see the game as a way to be part of the global community.

"It's a world sport. All countries play," said Cristina Arjona, who is visiting Mariners Harbor from Virginia this summer.

## **BEHIND THE SCENE**

The primary mover of this new group is a retired tax preparer turned certified financial planner, Frank Cannizzaro of Huguenot, who brought his 13-year-old son, Michael, to Silver Lake Academy as a player. He serves as the group's director of travel soccer. His wife, RoseAnn, has also been "swept in," according to Mrs. Nigrin, and his daughter, Patricia, 19, is a volunteer coach.

The Academy's approach seems to be working. This coming season, which starts at the end of September, the group will field seven, possibly eight, travel teams in Cosmopolitan League play — up from just two last year, according to Dr. Nigrin.

Dr. Nigrin said happy parents have spread the word about Silver Lake Academy, but he also credits Cannizzaro with growing the organization. He is "a good coach, good organizer and a very good person. He gets along very, very well with everyone. He's modest," said Dr. Nigrin, who could give Cannizzaro a run for his money in the modesty category.

Soon, Sherrif Hussein will return to Kingsborough Community College for another semester; Brian DiPaolo, a former Silver Lake Soccer Club player also in his 20s, will go back to school, though he also coaches during the season for Silver Lake Academy. And Patricia Cannizzaro, who wants to be an elementary school teacher, like her mom, will return to the **College of Staten Island's** Macaulay Honors program full-time, like DiPaolo, moving her soccer mentoring to the side.

With Silver Lake Academy, these young men and women are realizing something so many of their peers have yet to do: The personal reward of giving back to a community that gave so much to them out of the goodness of their hearts over the past 20 years.

They are teaching kids like 8-year-old Samantha Reiff of Huguenot a lifelong sporting skill, plus the value of teamwork and persistence.

"She's learning a lot of new things we don't normally do in the season," said her mother Nicole Cino.

Things like "pull backs," noted Samantha.

What's the pay-off for a teaching someone a pull-back free of charge? Knowing that you moved a little girl one step further along in her journey through life. It's hard to put a price tag on that.

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## Staten Island woman sues Wall Street executive for \$20M, claiming sexual assault

Published: Tuesday, August 17, 2010, 6:34 AM



**Jeff Harrell**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- A Wall Street tango turned into a \$20 million lawsuit when a Midland Beach woman charged a chief executive with sexually assaulting her on a trading floor in front of several brokers.

In the suit filed Aug. 4 in Manhattan Supreme Court, Jessica Franqui, 27, alleges that her boss Marcus Bolton, 45, CEO of Tullet Prebon Americas Corp., drunkenly manhandled her when he grabbed her and broke into a tango.

Bolton left her "violated" and "humiliated" by putting his foot on her breast as she lay on the ground of Tullet Prebon's trading floor while other brokers looked on.

"My client is completely devastated. She can't get her life together," said Ms. Franqui's attorney Barry Weiss, of the Manhattan firm Weiss & Rosenbloom, who claims Ms. Franqui suffered physical pain, humiliation, emotional distress, anxiety, severe depression, loss of earnings and future earning capacity.



Midland Beach secretary Jessica Franqui, 27, alleges her boss drunkenly manhandled her when he grabbed her and broke into a tango.

Ms. Franqui, of Sanilac Street, worked as a clerk for the British-based trading firm at the time.

She was at her desk closing for the day shortly before 5 p.m. on Jan. 6 when Bolton walked over and said he was "taking the boys out for drinks, come join us," Weiss said.

Ms. Franqui, "the only female on the trading floor at the time," declined, but Bolton "grabbed" her "without warning and began to dance with her," the suit alleges.

Bolton twirled Ms. Franqui around and "dipped" her backwards into a vulnerable position and held her close to his face and body against her will," the suit charges.

"She felt uncomfortable," Weiss said. "He stunk from alcohol."

Ms. Franqui told Bolton, "Get off of me," then broke free before she dropped to the floor on her back.

Bolton allegedly used his foot and stepped on Ms. Franqui's right breast "with force enough to cause significant pain and shortness of breath."

"He has a size 14 foot," Weiss said. "He steps down on her breast hard, and then he pumped his fists in the air as if to say, 'Look, I'm the man.'"

Ms. Franqui was able to push Bolton's foot away and get back on her feet.

When she said, "I can't believe you were standing on my chest," Bolton replied, "Oh, come on now, it's alright. They are big and you probably didn't even feel it," the suit alleges.

The next day, Ms. Franqui reported the incident to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Tullett Prebon suspended Bolton without pay for three months and sent him back to London. Weiss said the CEO recently returned to his job in Lower Manhattan.

A call to Tullett Prebon's Manhattan office seeking comment on the suit was referred to the company's London headquarters. Nigel Szembel, Tullett Prebon's director of communications in London, was unavailable for comment yesterday afternoon.

"This was an actual sexual battery under the definition of law," Weiss said. "[The company] found inappropriate conduct and suspended [Bolton], but they never acknowledged he was drunk in the workplace. He was never sent to sensitivity training. He certainly wasn't fired.

"Mr. Bolton got a slap on the wrist and it's business as usual on Wall Street," Weiss said.



Ms. Franqui remains employed by Tullet Prebon, but has not worked at the company since the incident. She is a student at the **College of Staten Island**, but Weiss said the alleged attack had a negative effect on her studies.

"One of her issues is, she can't pull things together," Weiss said. "She's in a deep depression."

According to the suit, Bolton has previously been accused of being intoxicated at work and sexually harassing female employees on the job.

Weiss said another Tullett Prebon CEO also has pending sexual harassment charges brought on by two female brokers from the company.

"There are other allegations out there," Weiss said, "and we're gonna get to the bottom of it."

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## Visiting Nurse will award contributors to quality of life

Published: Sunday, August 22, 2010, 6:20 AM



**Maureen Donnelly**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Visiting Nurse Association of Staten Island (VNA) will sponsor its 27th annual awards luncheon on Wednesday, Sept. 15, at 11:45 a.m. at LiGreci's Staaten, West Brighton. Tickets are \$65. For reservations, call 718-816-3510. The luncheon will be the setting for the presentation of the Smith/Stanley Awards to: **Ernest J. Collazo** of Collazo Florentino & Keil, Manhattan; VNA's outside labor counsel for 30 years; **Doris L. Cutter** of Silver Lake, member of VNA's board of directors since 1982; **Jonathan Greenstein**, owner/operator of Mercy Home Care and Medical Supplies, Brooklyn; **Karen Lefkovic**, vice president of quality and risk management at Staten Island University Hospital, Ocean Breeze; **Vienna Profeta**, founder and president of Staten Island Friends for Hospice Care; **Rosemarie A. Stazzone**, chief nurse executive at Richmond University Medical Center, West Brighton; and **Philip C. Ward** of Eltingville, member of VNA's board of directors since 1988.

The awards are given in "grateful recognition of the special contributions" each of the honorees has made to promote community health and improve the quality of life for the people of Staten Island.

The VNASI scholarships, given in memory of **Lyman B. Frieze and Belle O'Bryan Frieze**, who were benefactors and advocates of the Staten Island agency, will be presented to: **Natalie Amoroso** from St. Paul's School of Nursing; **Ashley Benvenuto** from the Evelyn L. Spiro School of Nursing at Wagner College; and **Gillian Cipriano** from **College of Staten Island**.

**Connie Mauro**, owner of Mauro Graphics, Sunnyside, and **Terry Ventura**, retired underwriting manager for Aetna Life and Casualty Company, are co-chairing the event.

Observing its 93rd year of service to Staten Islanders, Visiting Nurse Association Health Care Services is a not-for-profit, certified home health-care agency and long term home health-care provider. Proceeds from the luncheon will help to offset the cost of providing home health care to uninsured and underinsured Staten Islanders.

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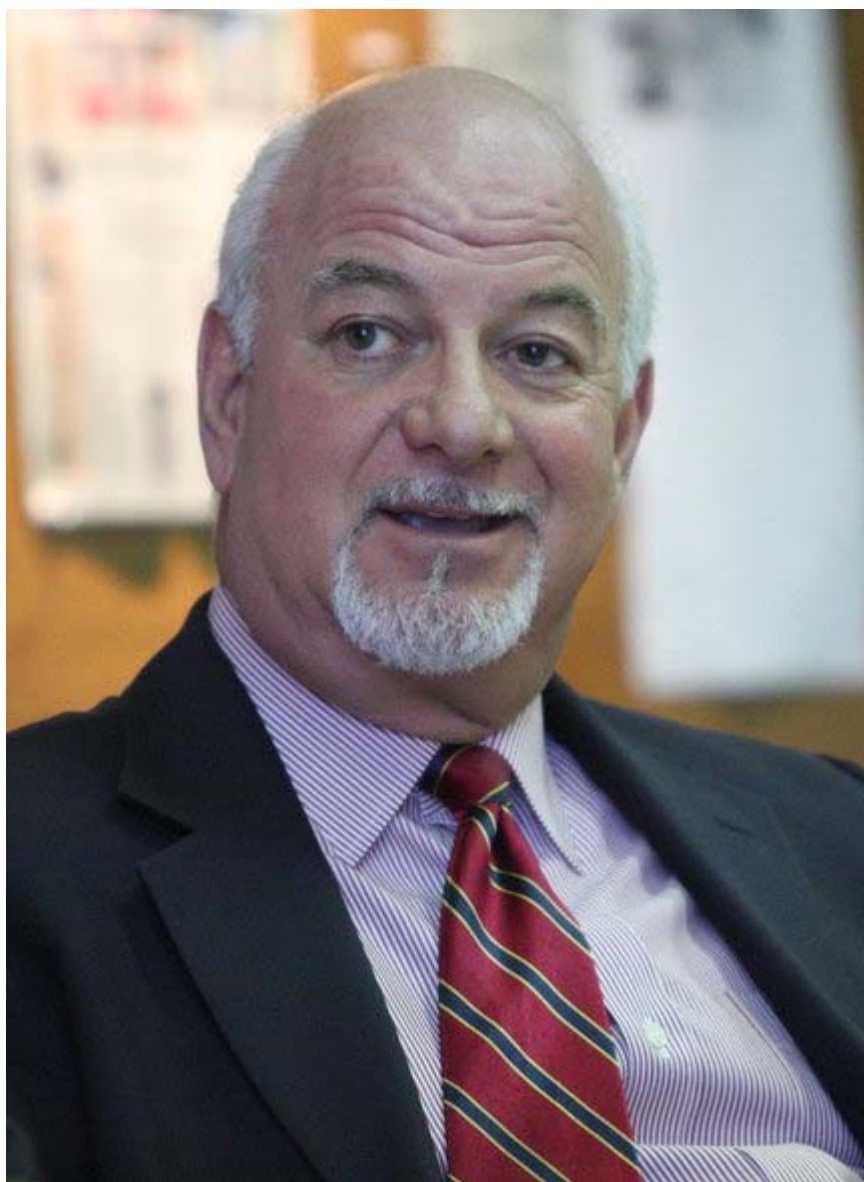


## Robert Scamardella is the Louis R. Miller Business Leadership Award winner

Published: Sunday, August 22, 2010, 5:15 AM



**Maureen Donnelly**



Robert Scamardella

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- You can't help but be impressed by Robert Scamardella.

Not only is he a prominent Staten Island attorney and politically well-connected, but he's a published author, a college professor, a Staten Island Rotary Giant ... the list goes on and on.

Despite his many accomplishments and accolades, as both a lawyer and a human being, Scamardella always puts the Staten Island community first.

Scamardella is a partner in the law firm of Russo, Scamardella and D'Amato. Located at 1010 Forest Ave., West Brighton, the firm opened in 1954 and is one of the oldest on the Island.

Additionally, many of its partners have gone on to become elected officials or judges.

Scamardella said he is very proud of his broad-based clientele and the firm's reputation.

#### **COMMITTED TO SERVE**

"We've been on Staten Island for close to 60 years. We know the Island and we know its people," he said while praising the firm's staff "of exceptional, hard-working attorneys who are committed to servicing clients."

Scamardella said the practice is generational, having started out representing mom and dad, and "now we represent the children and even the grandchildren."

And firm's attorneys have consistently made it their business to fight for the greater good of their clients and the Island community.

"It is very satisfying to be in a position to help people who come to you with great anxiety and a heavy heart," said Scamardella, adding that as a lawyer "knowing the rules makes living a little easier."

The firm is behind some of the Island's most notable and high profile cases. That includes the settlement for the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund; the settlement against the pharmaceutical giant Merck & Co. regarding the prescription anti-inflammatory drug Vioxx -- one of the largest drug company settlements ever; and the landmark 2007 \$75 million settlement with the maker of the painkiller OxyContin.

For his part, Scamardella handles commercial real estate and estate law. But before becoming a lawyer, Scamardella had other plans. At the former **Richmond College**, he was a political science major.

However, one of his favorite subjects was constitutional law. After graduation, that interest inspired him to study law.

## **MADE THE RULES**

What was intriguing, he said, was "how lawyers were involved in analyzing and establishing the rules of society, looking at life as a game and as a lawyer being the one to make up the rules to the game."

That idealism, he said, eventually gave way to pragmatism, something he admits he didn't understand then.

"But frankly, I've had a very fulfilling career as an attorney. I couldn't see myself doing anything else and I have no regrets about the profession."

His love of law led him to work as an assistant district attorney for six years with the Richmond County District Attorney's Office, where he handled everything from petit larceny to homicide cases.

Eventually he decided to open his own practice, Scamardella and Frederick, West Brighton, and chose to work as a criminal defense attorney.

But the work soured on him. "I didn't like representing people I didn't like," he said. "I liked wearing the white hat as a prosecutor and felt I had to make a switch.

That change brought about the 1984 merger with the former Russo, Fusco and Scano firm, which eventually evolved into the firm as it now exists.

Scamardella did have other options. His two brothers, Matthew and John, run the successful Matthew Funeral Home, Willowbrook, started by their father, the late Matteo, in 1967.

## **WASN'T INTERESTED**

Even as a boy, Scamardella said the funeral business offered little fascination.

"I remember my dad in the backyard barbecuing and getting called and having to stop everything and run inside and put on a black suit because someone died and he had a personal obligation to be there. I didn't want that kind of life," he said.

But loss comes no matter where you work, including the firm's loss in 2007 of partner, Island titan and native son John D'Amato.

"There will always be a gap that will never be filled," said Scamardella of his long-time friend and partner. He called D'Amato's work, especially with 9/11 families "incredible and inspirational. I greatly miss him "

He added that lawyering, especially in highly emotional cases, such as 9/11 litigation, is not always easy.

"When you deal with people as a lawyer -- people in crisis -- you can't help but sometimes be emotionally affected, but you keep it in perspective."

Despite his busy schedule, Scamardella makes time for other work and causes. He is a partner in the Molinari Group LLP, a consulting and lobbying firm, with former Borough President Guy Molinari, who is "of-counsel" for the law firm.

And Scamardella hasn't let an interest in politics pass him by, either. He is president of the Molinari Republican Group (founded by Molinari).

Disgruntled after the loss of the Island's congressional seat to Democrat Michael McMahon, Scamardella has been working diligently to re-energize the Island's GOP party.

"I felt that a lot of people out there felt like me. And I wanted to see if I could put together an organization and bring in some new blood and make a difference," he said.

And Scamardella's continued care for his community, which includes his pro-bono work for several local groups and his involvement with numerous Island organizations, also offers a feeling of self-satisfaction: "I have met such wonderful people," he said.

Scamardella is also an adjunct business law professor at Wagner College.

A writer, he contributes articles to the Perspective section of the Advance. He also authored the book "The History of the Sunnyside Indians," about two of his passions -- the community of Sunnyside and softball. He called the work, which he admits likely sold only 350 copies, "A labor of love."

A Sunnyside native, Scamardella fondly remembers his youth there. "It was a wonder world of amazement for young boys. I trapped muskrats and chased pheasants."

For all his loyalty to Sunnyside, when it came time to find love, Scamardella didn't even pick a Sunnyside native. The former Gail Schukin was born elsewhere and later moved to the area.

"We were friends first," Scamardella admitted. Then the couple started dating. But Gail moved away.

"I ran into her years later and it was love at second sight. She really grew up and 'Little Gaily' was not little anymore and I was smitten big time. We went from being 13- and 14-year-old pals and then within 18 months we were engaged and 18 months later we were married."

Now married 34 years and living in Sunnyside, the couple have two children: Robert Jr., who works with city Department of Education, and daughter Leslie Kasegrande, who works side-by-side with her father at the firm.



## STATEN ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### **Louis R. Miller Business Leadership Award**

Robert Scamardella, partner, law firm of Russo, Scamardella and D'Amato

#### **Category:**

Established

#### **Life philosophy**

"At the end of the day, it's simply treat others the way you want to be treated and happiness will be yours."

#### **Goals**

"My goal is to stay healthy and keep serving my family, my clients and the greater Staten Island community."

#### **Education**

Graduate, St. Peter's Boys High School; bachelor's degree (graduated with highest honors), College of Staten Island; juris doctorate, Brooklyn Law School. Adjunct professor at Wagner College (Business Department) 1993 to present.

#### **Community activities**

Member, American Bar Association; member, New York State Bar Association; member, Elder Law & Real Estate Sections; member, Richmond County Bar Association, formerly served on the association's Board of Directors; former chairman of Public Relations Committee, and former chairman of Fee Arbitration Committee; member, Appellate Division, Second Department, Indigent Defense Oversight Committee; member, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys; chairman, Board of Directors, Staten Island YMCA; Member, Board of Trustees, Eger Health Care Center of Staten Island; member, Board of Directors, Staten Island Sports Hall of Fame; Pro-bono Legal Counsel Executive Committee Advisor, SINY, Inc. and St. George Theatre; Pro-bono Legal Counsel, Staten Island Children's Campaign; president, Molinari Republican Club; former member, Board of Trustees, Staten Island Rotary Club.

#### **Marital status**

Married, 34 years, to the former Gail Schukin.

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**Family**

Son, Robert; daughter, Leslie Kasegrande; mother, Anne; brothers, Mark, Matthew and John; granddaughter, Caroline Kasegrande, 20 months.

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## A roundup of Island students who made the grade

Published: Sunday, August 22, 2010, 5:22 AM



**Staten Island Advance**

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### **Dr. Rocco DiAntonio**

Dr. Rocco DiAntonio of Meiers Corners graduated from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey with a doctor of dental medicine degree.

Dr. DiAntonio, son of Lawrence and Rosemarie DiAntonio, graduated from Monsignor Farrell High School. He earned a bachelor's degree from Villanova University, where he was the founding vice president of the university chapter of Sigma Chi Fraternity.

He was on the dean's list for four years, and was a member of Omicron Kappa Upsilon Honor Society.

Mr. DiAntonio is currently a dental resident for the Department of Veterans Affairs East Orange, N.J.

### **Mariela Reyes**

Mariela Reyes of New Brighton graduated from the College of Staten Island with a bachelor's degree in studio art and a minor in philosophy.

Ms. Reyes, granddaughter of Maria and Ralph Santiago, created many paintings and drawings and a few sculptures and prints during her years at CSI. She worked in the art galleries at CSI and was treasurer of the Art Club.

She hopes to work for an animation studio like the Walt Disney Co.

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## Mental Health Society names new assistant director

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### Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- JoAnne McKernan of New Springville has been named an assistant director of the Staten Island Mental Health Society (SIMHS).

Ms. McKernan will head the society's Project for Academic Student Success (PASS) and Teen Center, a teen alcohol/substance abuse prevention and treatment program. She also will be in charge of the agency's after-school GED Preparation Studies Program and also will act as assistant director of the Family Support Mental Health Center, St. George.

PASS serves at-risk adolescents who may be experimenting with alcohol or drugs by offering free after-school tutoring, recreational activities and substance abuse prevention education. The Teen Center assists adolescents and young adults who are challenged with alcohol/drug dependencies, or are the children or relatives of substance abusers. Both programs have offices in St. George and Great Kills.

Ms. McKernan most recently held the position of clinical supervisor and social worker at Silver Lake Support Services, Inc. She was also previously employed by University Behavioral Medicine Services, New Hope Guild and United Cerebral Palsy. She received her bachelor's degree in psychology from the College of Staten Island, Willowbrook, and her master's degree in social work from New York University.

### Vincent Acierno earns recognition at MetLife

Vincent Acierno of Annadale has earned the MetLife president's recognition level.

Additionally, five other individuals have also earned the MetLife President's recognition level: Sean Kasai, Chander Sharma, Shlomo Adoff, Howard Sternheim, and Moses Lipschitz. All associates are members of the Bridge Financial Group.

Bridge Financial Group offers a broad array of financial products and services, including life insurance, disability income, long-term care insurance and annuities, mutual funds and investment products. The company is located at 101 Tyrellan Ave., Richmond Valley.

The recognition is a high honor bestowed to a select set of MetLife top producers, specifically those who exemplify the highest standards of personal integrity, professionalism and customer service across the company.

Deanna Bisogna earns scholarship to RIT

Deanna Bisogna of Willowbrook, an incoming freshman at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), Rochester, N.Y., is a recipient of the RIT Presidential and Honors Program Scholarship.

A Curtis High School graduate, Miss Bisogna will major in film and animation at RIT's School of Film and Animation.

Rochester Institute of Technology is internationally recognized for academic leadership in computing, engineering, imaging technology, and fine and applied arts, in addition to unparalleled support services for students with hearing loss.

Nearly 17,000 full- and part-time students are enrolled in more than 200 career-orientated and professional programs at RIT, and its cooperative education program is one of the oldest and largest in the nation.

For two decades, U.S. News and World Report has ranked RIT among the nation's leading comprehensive universities.

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# Gene Simmons Biography

## ( 1949 – )

Musician, entertainer. Born Chaim Witz on August 25, 1949 in Haifa, Israel. His mother, Flora, was a Hungarian Jew and Holocaust survivor, who watched her family die in the concentration camps when she was only 14 years old. After the end of World War II, Flora headed to Israel. It was there that she met carpenter Yeichel Witz, the man who would eventually become Chaim's father.

Yeichel and Flora's marriage began to dissolve shortly after Chaim's birth, mainly over arguments about money. Eventually, Chaim's parents agreed to separate, with Yeichel leaving for Tel Aviv to look for work. The family would never reunite, and Chaim would not see his father again.

Chaim's mother began raising him alone, and the family continued struggling in poverty. Flora found work in a coffee shop, and often left Chaim in the care of babysitters. As a result, he quickly became fluent in Turkish, Hungarian, Hebrew and Spanish, in order to communicate with caregivers.

In 1958, when Chaim was eight years old, he and his mother immigrated to New York to live with relatives in Flushing, Queens. After entering the country, Chaim changed his name to Gene, because it was easier to pronounce, and took his mother's surname of Klein. Gene quickly learned English through comic books and television, and entered the Hasidic theological seminary, called yeshiva, at the age of nine. He studied rigorously while his mother worked at a button factory in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

After a year in the yeshiva, he transferred to public school in Jackson Heights. It was during this time that he began to develop an interest in music. In his autobiography, *Kiss and Make-up*, Simmons admits his musical interests came while watching the Beatles on television one night. He thought "If I go start a band, maybe the girls will scream at me." So, while attending Joseph Pulitzer Middle School, Simmons and a couple of friends created a band called The Missing Links in order to get the attention of their female classmates. The group, fronted by Simmons, won a school talent show, and gave Simmons a modicum of fame.

This led to a series of bands for Simmons, including Long Island Sounds and Rising Sun. Simmons maintained dreams of stardom, but he also didn't want to disappoint his mother,

who urged him to get his college degree. So, after high school, Simmons headed to Sullivan County Community College to get his associate's degree in education. After spending two years there, he returned to New York City to attend **Richmond College** and finish up his bachelor's degree.

Shortly after graduation in 1970, Simmons' bandmate and childhood friend Steve Coronel introduced Simmons to guitarist Stanley Eisen (later known as Paul Stanley). Stanley decided to join Simmons and Coronel's band, Wicked Lester, and the group began experiencing some success on the nightclub circuit. But the band wasn't pulling in enough money and, to support his musical aspirations, Simmons held a brief stint as a sixth grade teacher in Spanish Harlem, followed by a job as an assistant at the Puerto Rican Interagency Council. Other odd jobs including time at the Kelly Agency as a temp, work as a deli cashier, a role as an assistant at *Glamour* and, a job at *Vogue* as an assistant to editor Kate Lloyd.

Wicked Lester landed a lucky break after Stanley got the number of a studio engineer at Jimi Hendrix's studio, Electric Lady Land. Instead of calling the engineer, however, Simmons called the head of the studio, Ron Johnson. Stanley managed to convince Johnson to see the band perform and, after recognizing the group's promise, Johnson agreed to record and shop Wicked Lester's demo tape. Meanwhile, Simmons and Stanley did session work on the side, singing background vocals for artists such as Lynn Christopher, and learned how to use recording equipment.

With the help of Johnson, the group was picked up by Epic Records, who agreed to fund the recording of a full album. One of the conditions, however, was to replace Stephen Coronel with session musician Ron Leejack. Simmons and Stanley agreed to the arrangement, spending nearly a year to complete the new album. Once it was completed, however, Epic's A&R director said he hated the album and refused to release it. The next day, the group was dropped from Epic.

Determined not to let the failure affect them, Simmons and Stanley restructured the group. The first new member was drummer Peter Criss, who had placed an ad in *Rolling Stone*. Their second new member, guitarist Paul "Ace" Frehley, was chosen after he answered an ad in *The Village Voice*. By December of 1972, the group had instituted a rigorous practice regimen and renamed themselves KISS.

Inspired by his childhood obsession with comic book superheroes, Simmons suggested the group undergo a physical transformation as well, donning wild make-up and all-black clothing. Simmons later revealed that Marvel comic character Black Bolt inspired his bat-wing-patterned facial make-up, a look he nicknamed "The Demon."

With the help of a trainer, Simmons also learned how breathe fire for his performances. The new group played their first concert on January 30, 1973, at the Popcorn Club in Queens, New York. There were only three members in the audience.

In October of 1973, TV producer Bill Aucoin, who had seen the group perform, offered to become the band's manager. Simmons and his bandmates agreed, under the stipulation that Aucoin would get the group a recording contract within two weeks. Armed with demo

tape produced by legendary engineer Eddie Kramer, who had worked with Simmons and Stanley during their time at Electric Lady Land, Aucoin landed KISS a contract with Emerald City Records.

Throughout the 1970s, the band toured virtually nonstop, and became hugely popular for their over-the-top stage antics. KISS developed a large cult following during this time, with fans—called the "KISS Army"—often imitating the group's dress and make-up. But although KISS hit the road consistently, they wouldn't gain popular appeal until their live album *Alive!* (1975), hit the stores. The album spawned the group's first hit single, "Rock and Roll All Nite," which jumped onto the Billboard Top 40 charts.

Their next album, an ambitious recording called *Destroyer* (1976), became the second album to hit gold. With the release of the single "Beth," which hit No. 7 on the charts, the album went platinum. Later that year, the group released another successful album, *Rock and Roll Over*, followed by 1977's *Love Gun* and *Alive II*. All three albums hit platinum, and by the end of that year, KISS had been named the most popular band in America. KISS was also making a splash internationally. They topped the charts in Japan, Canada, Sweden and Germany, and performed five sold-out shows at Budokan Hall in Japan, breaking the The Beatles' previously held record of four.

But as the band rolled successfully into the 80s, tensions began mount among the group's members. Criss had grown increasingly obstinate, refusing to practice and even stopping in the middle of songs during concerts. In December of 1979, Criss officially left the group. After numerous auditions, he was replaced by musician Paul Caravello—later know by the stage name, Eric Carr. In 1982, Frehley, frustrated with the group's new musical direction, also left KISS. Frehley's replacement, guitarist Vinne Vincent, didn't mesh well with the group, and went through a series of firings and re-hirings before leaving for good in 1984. He was succeeded by guitarists Mark St. John and, eventually, Bruce Kulick.

Stanley, Simmons, Carr, and Kulick turned out to be a good fit creatively, and the group began releasing platinum albums such as 1985's *Asylum*, 1987's *Crazy Nights* and the 1988 greatest hits compilation *Smashes, Thrashes & Hits*. The group had also started appearing without make-up in 1983, relying less on flashy showmanship, and more on substance.

Simmons struggled to maintain enthusiasm for the new incarnation of his band, however, instead focusing on a film career. His films, however, including B-movies such as *Runaway* (1984) and *Trick of Treat* (1986), never quite took off at the box office. Simmons and his bandmates suffered another setback when Carr discovered he had developed cancer. After battling the disease for several years, Carr eventually died of cerebral hemorrhaging in 1991.

KISS rallied in the midst of their grieving, taking on new drummer Eric Singer, and released the album, *Revenge* in 1992. The album made gold status, and landed in the Billboard Top 10. While the most recent incarnation of KISS continued recording and touring, Simmons and Stanley also assembled a reunion tour of the original members in 1996. Performances with the original group continued in full make-up and costume, and grossed more than \$43.6 million, making Kiss the top concert act of 1996.



By this time, however, Simmons was busy pursuing other interests, including publishing, fashion and acting. The original group released the album *Psycho Circus* in 1998, the first album in almost 20 years by the original foursome. The original group once again dissolved, however, with Tommy Thayer replacing Ace Frehley on lead guitar and Eric Singer replacing Peter Criss on drums. The reformed group continued to tour throughout the last decade. Then, in 2009, Stanley and Simmons announced that the original KISS would tour yet again, and release another album. *Sonic Boom* hit stores in October of 2009. The group is currently on tour.

Simmons has been romantically linked to Liza Minnelli, Cher and Diana Ross, but has been living with actress and former *Playboy* playmate Shannon Tweed since the mid-1980s. The couple has two children: a son, Nick, and a daughter, Sophie. The family made the leap to reality television in 2006 on the A&E television network with the show *Gene Simmons Family Jewels*. Each episode featured a different family adventure, from both Tweed and Simmons getting cosmetic surgery together, to Gene managing Nick's band. The show is now in its fourth season.

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## Details emerge in grisly Staten Island crash that killed 2

Published: Sunday, August 29, 2010, 12:47 PM



**Ben Johnson**



Hilton Flores/Advance Photo

The roof of the Nissan Altima had to be cut off to get to the victims of the car crashing into the pole on Arthur Kill Rd., off Annadale Rd.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Police have identified the two young men killed in an early-morning accident in Greenridge.

Daniel Peluso, 19, of Great Kills Road, and Jeff Capretta, 20, of Crown Avenue, were killed when a Nissan Altima carrying six passengers slammed into a wooden telephone pole on Arthur Kill Rd. near Annadale Rd. just before 1 a.m.

Four other male passengers were taken to Staten Island University Hospital, Ocean Breeze. Cops said they were in stable condition this morning.

A friend of Capretta -- who spoke to the Advance on condition of anonymity -- said he believed Peluso was behind the wheel and Capretta was in the passenger seat. The friend said he got his information from an EMT who he knew at the scene.

He believed the group had been hanging out in a nearby bar prior to the crash. Some members of the group, he said, had gotten into a nearby bar using fake IDs.

A vigil for Capretta is being planned for tonight at 9 p.m., in the schoolyard of Paulo Intermediate School (IS 75).

"We were hanging out last night at a friend's house, he watched the first half of the Giants game with us," said the friend, who mentioned that Capretta was part of a tight-knit group of buddies who grew up together in Huguenot. "He left at 8:30 to go take a shower and meet up with us again around 10. But we never heard from him, until we got the call at 1:30 in the morning telling us Jeff's dead."

The friend said Capretta, who got the nickname "the chef" because he enjoyed working the grill at cookouts, was sitting in the passenger seat of the Altima when it slammed into a wooden light pole.

"He lived next to my sister for 14 years," said the friend. "He worked at Regional Radiology -- he went to Iona College but he transferred to [College of Staten Island]."

**Witnesses said** the car was traveling at a high speed, according to a published report.

Charges have yet to be filed and a police investigation is ongoing at this time.

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