

EYE ON
CSI

Donna Gerstle
Debra Evans-Greene
Jennifer Straniere



CSI Women Making History



alumni **EVENTS**

Careers 2010

Internships, Jobs, Graduate
School Fair

April 15, 2010

Sports and Recreation Center

Mohegan Sun Casino Trip

April 24, 2010

Grace Hillery Breast Cancer Awareness Night

Baseball Game featuring
Anthony Hillery, '07

April 27, 2010

7:00pm

CSI Baseball Field
vs. Drew University

Alumni Board Reception for Faculty and Alumni who are on the College Staff

April 28, 2010

Park Café

College Golf Outing

April 30, 2010

South Shore Country Club

Commencement

May 27, 2010

9:30am Alumni Reception

10:00am Alumni Procession

1:00pm Alumni, Faculty, and
Staff Luncheon

CSI Alumni Association Annual Meeting

June 15, 2010

Annual CSI Alumni Night at Richmond County Ballpark

June 18, 2010

Staten Island Yankees vs.
Brooklyn Cyclones

Call the Alumni Relations Office for
more information, 718.982.2290.

www.csialumniatlarge.org

EYE ON CSI

Volume 2, Number 1
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Eye on CSI is a publication of the College of Staten Island Alumni Association, provided to all alumni of the College of Staten Island and its predecessor institutions, Staten Island Community College and Richmond College.

If you have any comments, suggestions, or information for "Keeping Tabs," please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 718.982.2290, alumni@mail.csi.cuny.edu, or 2800 Victory Boulevard, Building 1A, Room 111, Staten Island, NY 10314.

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from the **PRESIDENT**

March 2010

Dear Friends,

One measure of the quality and success of an institution is the quality and success of the graduates it produces. As you read through this issue of *Eye on CSI* you will come to know three alumna of CSI: three women whose fields of endeavor are very different but who have one thing in common—they epitomize the best of the College of Staten Island.

We recognize the successful careers these women have forged and celebrate the contributions each make to CSI and the Staten Island community. Debra Evans-Greene's passion for education drives her efforts to help historically underrepresented students to succeed in school and life; Donna Gerstle demonstrates her expertise and commitment to the Borough's women through breast cancer research, and to the entire Staten Island community through her environmental work; Jennifer Straniere's impact is through the arts, both in her performance-related work and through teaching. Each woman is touching the lives of so many and changing the world in the process; they are making history.

The College is proud of the achievements of Debra Evans-Greene, Donna Gerstle, and Jennifer Straniere, is happy to celebrate them during Women's History Month, and looks to them as role models for future CSI students. Congratulations to all!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "TDM", written over a light gray rectangular background.

Tomás D. Morales, PhD
President



DR. MORALES CELEBRATES CSI's Achievements, Faculty, and Staff at Convocation

Convocation at the College of Staten Island has traditionally been a time to underscore this institution's achievements over the past year, while looking to the further advancement that the future will bring. The year 2009 was no different, but, as CSI President Dr. Tomás Morales noted last October to a near-capacity crowd in the Center for the Arts Williamson Theatre, this Convocation was also a celebration, as the College recognized faculty and staff members who have reached milestones in their service to CSI.

Dr. Morales began his remarks by spotlighting the importance of the faculty and staff. "It is you and your colleagues who have made this Convocation possible, because it is you and your colleagues who have compiled an extraordinary record of accomplishment. That accomplishment is taking CSI to new heights. I am immensely proud of what you have achieved and what it means to the thousands of students who have entrusted their education to us.

"Thanks to you," Dr. Morales continued, "CSI is not merely holding its own during a difficult time in our national economy, we are setting records, turning heads, transforming lives." In fact, CSI boasts an all-time high enrollment for 2009-2010, at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, and world-class academic programs that are constantly expanding.

CSI's accomplishments, according to Dr. Morales, include alumni who are not only moving on to some of "the finest medical schools, and law schools, graduate schools, and jobs," but graduates [who] not only comprise the heart and soul of education and health care on Staten Island, they are now making their mark and setting a standard across the country and around the world."

Dr. Morales also spotlighted the exceptional quality of CSI's faculty, including the 43 new faculty members who just came on board this fall, as well as recent administrative hires for Vice President for

Students Affairs, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness, Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, and Director of Diversity and Compliance.

Throughout his speech, the President pointed to a number of other extraordinary factors that have made CSI the college of choice for so many students, from its participation in the prestigious Macaulay Honors College and The Verrazano School to its successful efforts to expand scholarship availability to new inroads for student and faculty exchanges that the College is making with top institutions of higher education around the world, to name only a few.

Now, as the College embarks on a new *Strategic Plan* to map its future, Dr. Morales said that the process would operate under "a culture of inclusiveness and a culture of shared governance," adding that "the key to our planning and our implementation has been, is, and will continue to be, shared governance. The heart of shared governance is openness and communication. Openness ensures that all that is done can be seen by all who care about this institution. Communication ensures that all who care about this institution can be heard."

In concluding his comments, Dr. Morales stated, "In all aspects CSI is advancing, not with small steps born of indecision and uncertainty, but with bold strides of confidence and confirmation that what we are doing, we are doing right. CSI truly is world class. And most assuredly, it is right here."

Following Dr. Morales's speech, CSI Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. William Fritz recognized the vast contributions of faculty and staff members who have reached milestone anniversaries of service by calling them to the stage to receive gifts of appreciation.



CSI Furthers Ties with Prestigious Vietnamese Institute

The College of Staten Island hosted a delegation of Vietnamese university administrators and faculty last fall, who traveled to New York to meet with CSI counterparts and work together to create new opportunities for students and faculty. The working meeting was intended to further an initiative to stimulate student and faculty exchange by collaborating on a dual degree project in the areas of computer science and computer engineering. The new partnership, with the prestigious Posts and Telecommunications Institute of Technology (PTIT), has developed rapidly over the past half-year due to the frequency of email communication and working meetings, held on both sides of the Pacific Ocean, via the Virtual Classroom and face-to-face site visits.

Ms. Dinh Thi Thu Phong, who heads the PTIT International School, summed it up at the end of the day, "I believe that the collaborative programs between PTIT and CSI will achieve fruitful goals and generate true international understanding."

Participants in the working meetings on the CSI campus concentrated on reviewing the policies and procedures that would facilitate exchange and ensure that the curriculum was fully

integrated, that the objectives and expectations were fully understood, and that plans were in place to move the project to fruition. The first Vietnamese students participating in this dual degree option will begin their studies in this year and should arrive on the CSI campus in 2012.

The groundwork for this new collaboration was laid in January 2009 when CSI President Dr. Tomás Morales and a delegation of CSI administrators and faculty visited PTIT for an initial discussion. In August 2009 Dr. Morales returned to Vietnam to sign a Memorandum of Understanding for the new program that later received approval and funding from the Vietnamese government.

CSI Vice President for Information Technology, Dr. Michael Kress, observes that there is a "terrific fit" between CSI and PTIT, as many courses from PTIT can transfer to CSI for credit. Last spring and fall PTIT and CSI students participated in a Virtual Classroom, via videoconferencing, that focused on global issues of economic geography. This spring the PTIT students and our CSI students will continue to share the Virtual Classroom in preparation for future exchange.



PRESIDENT MORALES Recommended for Another Three-Year Term at AASCU

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) has recently recommended CSI President Dr. Tomás D. Morales to another three-year term on their Board of Directors, effective 2010.

Shirley Theimer, AASCU Executive Secretary to the President, commented, "AASCU is pleased to announce that President Tomás Morales, College of Staten Island, CUNY, was one of four directors elected by the AASCU membership on November 23, 2009, to a three-year term on the AASCU Board of Directors. Election to the Board of Directors is a highly esteemed honor and responsibility, conferred by presidential peers."

Theimer added that "Dr. Morales has previously served AASCU as a member of the Committee on International Education and the New Presidents' Academy Advisory Committee."



An Eye on CSI original article.

CSI Professor Co-Produces **ACADEMY AWARD-NOMINATED SHORT DOCUMENTARY**

Ming Xia, Professor of Political Science at the College of Staten Island, has recently attracted the attention of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, as *China's Natural Disaster: The Tears of Sichuan Province*, a short documentary that Xia co-produced, was nominated for an Academy Award. The documentary, made for HBO Documentary Films, chronicles the aftermath of the May 2008 earthquake that struck China's Sichuan Province, killing approximately 70,000 people, many of them children. Parents of the victims, many from one-child families, demanded explanations from Chinese government officials for the faulty construction of school buildings that collapsed in the quake claiming the lives of school children.



COOPER WINS Peace History Society Lifetime Achievement Award



Dr. Sandi Cooper, Professor of History at the College of Staten Island, has been named the latest recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Peace History Society.

Regarding the award, which was presented at the Society's banquet last fall, Cooper says, "I am deeply touched, honored, and slightly embarrassed by the award voted to me for Lifetime Achievement by the Peace History Society. As a member since its founding, I know there are several other scholars in this country and abroad whose

achievements are impressive and they too ought to be so recognized.

"The scholarly group," Cooper continues, "which creates and sustains our community of people concerned with the historic means by which peace has been won, lost, preserved, created, and changed over the centuries, includes a range of political ideologies whose intellectual work is obviously tied to global realities. I am happy to be included in such company."

Ginger Williams, President of the Peace History Society, comments

that Lifetime Achievement Award winners are "chosen to receive the award based on their scholarly contributions to the field of peace history and based on their commitment and service to the Peace History Society."

"Sandi Cooper has been an active and steadfast member of the Peace History Society for many years," Williams adds. "We are pleased that she will receive the second Lifetime Achievement Award."

The winner of the first Lifetime Achievement Award was Prof. Charles Chatfield.

Academy of Retired Professors **CONNECTS WITH FACULTY EMERITI**



CSI Professor Emerita Irene Deitch has had a longstanding idea to reach out to the College's retired professors in an effort to reconnect them to the College community. With the recent creation of the Academy of Retired Professors (ARP), that dream has become a reality.

Discussing the idea, Deitch explains, "We have the [CSI] Foundation, we have the Friends [of CSI], and I always felt that there was a piece missing from that and that was the retired professors... This is a really high-powered group. We've done great things within the

College—academically, professionally, and certainly with the community—and it's a shame to lose all that potential."

Deitch recalls that the process of putting the group together began during the planning of a memorial service held last May for Dr. Sherry Blackman, a retired Professor who died suddenly last April. With Prof. Sherman Heller and the help of the Department of Mathematics, Deitch received a list of retirees so that she could contact them to inform them of the service. As a result, many former

faculty members attended and President Tomás Morales, who spoke eloquently at the event, without having had the opportunity to meet Prof. Blackman, approached Prof. Deitch afterward to ask her to put the Emeriti group together.

With the gracious luncheon in President Morales's Board Room and the presence of Dr. Ann Lubrano as a College liaison, ARP held its initial meeting. An ARP core group, consisting of Professors Emeriti Bob Chiles, Ann Merlino, James Saunders, and Mimi Tausner (secretary), met to discuss the mission of the group, which is summed up in their motto, "Connecting with Colleagues, College, Community."

A meeting with Vice President for Institutional Advancement and External Relations Barbara Eshoo and Dr. Lubrano was held later with Prof. Deitch, during which plans were proposed ensuring the success of the Academy. Vice President Eshoo was extremely supportive of the new undertaking.

In addition, President Morales held a well-attended reception for retired faculty at his house last September as a way to encourage them to come back and become involved with CSI. Prof. Deitch also invited Faculty Emeriti to last October's Convocation and a Veteran's Day speaking event.

CSI RECEIVES STIMULUS FUNDS to Offer Job Training for In-Demand Addictions Professionals

State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) Commissioner Karen M. Carpenter-Palumbo announced last fall that OASAS-Certified Education and Training Providers will offer free tuition for unemployed New Yorkers to enter the addictions workforce, now one of the nation's top ten growing occupations.

The College of Staten Island was awarded \$16,800. Other awardees include: City College of New York, Alcoholism Council of New York, American Institute for Hypnotherapy and Psychotherapy, Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service, Argus Career

Training Institute, Kingsborough Community College, and Outreach Training Institute. Statewide, OASAS awarded \$500,000 in federal stimulus funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to 14 OASAS training providers. The funding, provided by the NYS Department of Labor, will train nearly 130 unemployed or underemployed individuals in careers in the addictions field.

Governor David A. Paterson said, "At a time when there is only one job available for every six unemployed New Yorkers, the field of addictions, like many others in the health care industry, is not only hiring but

projected to grow in the coming years. New York City is one that is loaded with talented New Yorkers ready, willing, and able to work. This funding will provide New York City residents with an opportunity to learn a new craft and become part of an in-demand field."

"Addictions counseling is one of the top ten fastest growing occupations nationally," said Commissioner Carpenter-Palumbo. "As there is a critical shortage of addictions counselors, there is great demand by employers to hire individuals with this valuable credential. Addictions counselors find this work highly

rewarding and it is gratifying to make a difference in another person's life."

Hugo J. Kijne, PhD, Executive Director, Continuing Education and Professional Development, College of Staten Island said, "The College of Staten Island/CUNY has six students who started in its CASAC program in February with OASAS funding. There is a high need for graduates of the program on Staten Island, so the funding both serves the interests of the individual recipients and caters to the needs of the community."



CSI EXPANDS Students' Horizons to Italy

For over 25 years, the College of Staten Island, together with institutional partners, the American University of Rome (AUR), the Instituto Venezia, and Lorenzo de' Medici (LDM) in Florence and Tuscania, has enabled hundreds of students to discover the delights of Italy and to experience the life-changing effects of studying abroad.

The programs, which are offered to CSI and CUNY students, and nationally, through the College Consortium for International Studies (CCIS), have been growing in popularity throughout the years. As of 2008, 415 students had studied in Italy under the auspices of the College of Staten Island.

Last summer, President Tomás and Mrs. Evy Morales visited LDM and AUR to meet our partners and learn more about the wonderful opportunities our students have to study in Florence, Rome, Venice, and Tuscania—four distinctly different and rich settings in Italy.

Discussing the programs at LDM, Chris Tingué, Coordinator of Education Abroad at CSI, says, "CSI students may study abroad at Lorenzo de' Medici's main campus in Florence or in Tuscania and now Venice. There is also a unique "Three Cities" semester program that would allow students to do a month in Tuscania, followed by a month in Rome and Florence.

All of CSI's Italian partners work together to help make this experience available to all interested students, as financial aid, scholarships, and careful planning are essential to many participating students. This has led to recent developments at LDM, according to Tingué. "In order to build on its long tradition of cooperation with CSI, and in order to attract

more CSI degree-seeking students, Lorenzo de' Medici has now agreed to offer full program cost scholarships to degree-seeking Lorenzo de Medici students. For CSI students at LDM sites for fall or spring, they may benefit from a full program cost scholarship equivalent to over \$7,500 or partial program scholarships for the short-term winter and summer sessions. Through increased efforts to create campus-wide awareness of the LDM grants, we anticipate more CSI students being able to benefit from these scholarships and we anticipate seeing more CSI students able to study abroad in Italy via the LDM programs."

At all participating institutions, CSI students have the opportunity to study Italian language while learning about Italy in a wide range of courses taught in English. Students earn college credit while studying topics that they would be unable to study on their home campus. Whether walking the streets of Florence with a noted art historian, debating issues with students in a political science classroom in Rome, learning Italian language and culture in Venice, studying in one of the new courses in opera and song literature, or enjoying guitar and mandolin studies in Tuscania, students have "the experience of a lifetime" in Italy.

The experience to study in Italy often has such a profound effect on students that they become natural recruiters for the programs upon their return to the U.S. In fact, study abroad alumna Margaret Ricciardi '86, an adult student and artist, so enjoyed her experience in Florence, that she created the Frank and Margaret Ricciardi Scholarship Fund to help others realize their dream of studying in Italy.



EDGAR G. RIOS, ESQ. Named to CSI Foundation Board

Edgar G. Rios is a co-founder and Managing Partner of Wenzel Capital Partners, a Private Equity Firm in McLean, VA.

Prior to Wenzel Capital, Mr. Rios was Executive Vice President and General Counsel of AmeriChoice Corporation, a division of UnitedHealthcare. Mr. Rios co-founded AmeriChoice in 1989; his legal experience and management skills were integral to the growth of that company.

Before co-founding AmeriChoice, he was a staff attorney at the Los Angeles District Counsel's Office of the Internal Revenue Service, where he represented the IRS before the U.S. Tax Court and U.S. District Court, and an interim bankruptcy trustee in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. He was also a founding partner in the law firm of Snyder, Rios, and Quevedo.

He is a member of the Bars of New York, California, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. As part of his commitment to furthering opportunities in Hispanic and other minority communities, Mr. Rios operates a family foundation that provides scholarships to economically challenged Latino youth. He also serves as a Trustee of Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN and The Brookings Institution in Washington (DC), and is a member of the Board of Directors of the An-Bryce Foundation in Vienna, VA.

A native of New York City who was raised in the South Bronx, Mr. Rios holds an AB from Princeton University and a JD from Columbia University. He and his wife, Lillian, live in McLean, VA.

CSI Honored by New York Center for **INTERPERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**



The New York Center for Interpersonal Development (New York Center) honored the College of Staten Island's Office of Continuing Education and Professional Development at their Annual Holiday Gathering last December.

Dr. Hugo Kijne, and the staff of the Office of Continuing Education and Professional Development, has collaborated with the New York Center to strengthen the services and opportunities for out-of-school youth on Staten Island. Through the NY Center's Out-of-School Youth program, youth, aged 17 to 21, have been offered the opportunity to obtain their GEDs through classes on the CSI campus for the past four years. The staff from the Office of Continuing Education and Professional Development has been welcoming and supportive to the program's students and has ensured that they have a home at CSI.

"The partnership between the NY Center and CSI has continued to grow, and without the Office of Continuing Education, under the leadership of Dr. Hugo Kijne, over 300 out-of-school youth would have no hope for their educational future. Our holiday gathering gives us an opportunity to recognize the College's contributions to the Staten Island community and look forward to our continued success partnering with the Office of Continuing Education," said Dominick Brancato, Executive Director of the NY Center.

Students Mobilize to **HELP THE HOMELESS**

Braving the cold weather, 41 CSI students joined a total of 91 volunteers from around the Borough in the early morning hours of January 26 to bring aid to homeless and unsheltered individuals on the Island, while also taking a census to give the New York City Department of Homeless Services an idea of the extent of homelessness in the borough. The Staten Island volunteers teamed with Project Hospitality on the Island, although the initiative, Project Hope, was a City-wide effort.

CSI student Rose Ellicott, who took part in the event, commented that the "Project Hope Homeless Outreach was an experience that I will never forget. Being homeless a couple times myself in the past, I really appreciate [the effort] and want to help the homeless community to get back on their feet."

John Ryan, another student participant and a CSI Emerging Leader said, "I feel as though this was a valuable task in volunteering for the community in which I live and all five boroughs. My particular group, unfortunately, did not find any homeless people in need of help. However, this may be a good thing because it may mean the number of homeless individuals is dwindling, which is the overall goal of the survey. If we get an accurate count of the homeless in the city, we will be able to better assist them. It made me feel great to know I was helping the cause."

"The volunteers were acting as facilitators to see if there's a way that we can meet the needs [of the homeless] and offer them shelter for the evening or longer term if they needed it," said Robert King Kee, Coordinator for Student Leadership Development in the CSI Office of Student Life. "Then, [volunteers worked] to count the number of homeless folks on Staten Island, and subsequently, City-wide..."

Kee noted that the volunteers reported for orientation at 10:30pm on Monday, January 25 and took to the streets in teams of four or

five between the hours of midnight and 4:00am. Each team was instructed to interview everyone they encountered on the street, no matter who they were or what they were doing. Once the team met a person, they would identify themselves as canvassers from the Department of Homeless Services, and with the person's approval, they would ask about five confidential questions, such as whether they had a place to reside that they considered home. After the assessment, if the team concluded that the person was not homeless, they would thank them for their time. If they believed that the person was homeless, they would ask them if they needed assistance and/or shelter for the evening. The volunteers would then contact a representative from Homeless Services, who would dispatch a van to provide assistance to the person. Kee added that volunteers had food and water on hand to provide immediate aid, and in the case of an emergency situation, they would call 911 before calling Homeless Services.

Beyond the immediate and long-term aid that the volunteers provided, Kee explained that the census data will be used by Homeless Services to provide information to the federal government on the extent of homelessness in NYC. "If the homeless and unsheltered population goes up, the City gets additional funds from the Feds for shelters, programs, city services, etc. Ideally, you want to see [the number] go down because then it shows that we do have initiatives that are working."

Regarding the volunteer recruitment effort on campus, Kee said that the Office of Student Life used a number of methods to get the word out, from ads in the *CLUE News* newsletter and student-run radio station WSIA to sending fliers to all campus clubs and organizations, as well as the Student Government and the Emerging Leaders Program.



MOHEGAN SUN TRIP

Alumni and friends once again embarked on a day of fun at Mohegan Sun Casino this past November. In what is becoming one of the most popular trips, another full bus left CSI for the Connecticut casino. This fan favorite allows friends to enjoy time catching up and relaxing on the ride to Connecticut. Once there, the group was able to take advantage of all that Mohegan Sun has to offer. With so many shopping and dining options everyone had a wonderful time.

Kolari Connects with **AZ ALUMNI**

Alumni Association President Vullnet Kolari, Esq. '98 hosted a dinner for alumni in the Scottsdale, AZ area. The November 3 dinner was announced through csialumni@large.org and brought together a small group to meet with Vullnet who is in his first year as president of the CSIAA.



Alumni Learn about Hudson at **NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

In celebration of the 400th Anniversary of Henry Hudson's historic voyage to what is now New York, over 200 alumni and friends gathered for a special evening at the New-York Historical Society. Held this past November, this special tour focused on the Hudson River School of Artists.

Paul Moakley, curator of the Alice Austen House Museum, led this informative tour of the work of the 19th-century painters who captured the dramatic scenery of that time. This collection is one of the oldest and most comprehensive, containing more than 100 paintings. It is also considered the first "self-consciously American landscape vision." Works by Thomas Cole, Jasper F. Cropsey, and John F. Kensett, to name a few, are included in this collection.

CSI Alumni Association Awards **SCHOLARSHIP TO SCHARF**



Alexa, who eventually hopes to become a clinical psychologist, is currently working alongside her psychology professors Patricia Brooks and Bertram Ploog preparing data collection on a research project that she hopes will result in an honors thesis. The project will examine whether low-functioning children with autism respond differently to spoken sentences that are in their native language in comparison to an unfamiliar language.

The CSI Alumni Association has awarded its \$2,000 Endowment Fund Scholarship to junior Psychology major, Alexa Scharf. As a result of the scholarship, Alexa will receive \$1,000 per semester for the 2009-2010 academic year.

"The scholarship was a great opportunity for me," Alexa said, "because it showed how much I worked this year and it gives me more of an opportunity to work harder. It also serves as a reminder of what I'm working for and what I can achieve."

Beyond her academic work at CSI, Alexa is part of the Scholarship Project, promoting, through lectures, the importance of volunteer and internship programs to other students. She also works part-time at the Grace Foundation as part of a social skills program that enables her to support, educate, and enhance the quality of life for children and their families who are affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder, and Eden II, working with low-functioning adults with autism.

Annual Fund **PHONATHON** Connects with Alumni Support



Last fall's College of Staten Island Phonathon raised over \$20,000 for the College's Annual Fund, to assist our students with scholarships and research stipends, to support new library acquisitions, and much more. Volunteers will take to the phones again this spring to garner alumni support for CSI.

DONNA GERSTLE

Research to Conquer Cancer and Improve the Environment



From her office in the Biological and Chemical Sciences Building (6S), Donna Gerstle has been extremely busy. Currently, Gerstle,

who received a Master's degree in Elementary Education in 1981 and a Master's degree in Environmental Science 1984 from CSI, and recently a law degree from New York Law School, is the Director of the College's Center for Environmental Science (CES), Deputy Chair of the Environmental Science Master's program, and Principal Investigator and Director of the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative (SIBCRI).

Recalling how it all began, Gerstle says, "I started as a graduate student in Environmental Science and was awarded my first grant from the New York State Department of Health for a half million dollars to study air pollution and lung cancer on Staten Island. In 1995, we started the Center for Environmental Science (CES) where I served initially as Associate Director, and now Director. Finding high lung cancer death rates led us to examine breast cancer death rates, and the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative evolved.

Battling Breast Cancer

Staten Island has one of the highest breast cancer death rates in the state and the highest death rate in New York City. So, in response, Gerstle and her fellow

researchers (Alfred Levine, Interim Dean of Science and Technology; and Jimmie Fata, Assistant Professor of Biology) at the SIBCRI are working diligently to discover what is causing this epidemic and to educate the community about this disease.

According to Gerstle, the SIBCRI is examining breast cancer on three fronts: "The first is an epidemiological case-control study, which looks at female mortality due to breast cancer on Staten Island from 1980 to 2006. Researchers will examine lifestyle and risk factors. The second is to evaluate how environmental factors actually influence breast tissue development. Mammary tissue will be exposed to a set of known environmental carcinogens that exist in the Staten Island air. Finally, we are doing a community-based outreach breast cancer educational program that will work with health care providers, community-based organizations, elected officials, and schools."

At present, Gerstle reports that she and Dr. Levine are examining obituary information from the *Staten Island Advance*. "The daily obituaries in the *Staten Island Advance* provide accurate life history information for our female subjects. We are able to obtain residence, occupation, and educational histories that are both reliable and publicly accessible."

In addition, Dr. Fata has begun to examine breast cancer tissue samples in his lab, looking at

environmental chemicals found in the Staten Island air and their effect on mammary tissue.

Gerstle notes that "Dr. Michael Kress (Vice President for Technology Systems) is taking care of all of our computer needs, as well as serving as an advisor in the development of our databases."

CSI students are also a part of the SIBCRI, joining the large group of about 20 scientists, attorneys, sociologists, educators, and experts from the New York City and state health departments, and three physicians who are all part of the effort.

Gerstle says that many of the graduate students in the Environmental Science Master's program participate in important aspects of the breast cancer research. Their projects include, but are not limited to, risk factors in relation to breast cancer, such as parity, length of residence on Staten Island, and questionnaire development.

Working for a Cleaner Community

Beyond her breast cancer research, Gerstle is also striving to take on the Borough's environmental problems under the auspices of the Center for Environmental Science. Just as her SIBCRI studies are multifaceted, so are her environmental projects. "Our students, as well as myself, at the Center have been involved in water pollution research. Most recently we have looked at

nitrogen in the waterways of New York. At CES we are committed to active involvement in the environmental justice movement. Last May we sponsored a conference entitled "Environmental Justice: History, Issues, and Outlook."

Gerstle notes, "CES is a place where the Staten Island community can come and ask questions. CES has been a community resource for over 20 years now."

Gerstle has also been a New York State Commissioner with the Interstate Environmental Commission, which is a tri-state governmental agency with regulatory powers in water, for 32 years.

Putting It All into Perspective

As Gerstle juggles a vast number of duties and titles at CSI and beyond, she reflects positively on the education that she received at the College. "My CSI education has led me to be able to do this important work. My professors in Environmental Science, through an interdisciplinary approach, engaged me in taking a systems approach to research. My greatest gift from CSI is my Master's degree in Environmental Science, because it opened up an entire new world."

Her invaluable work has gained a lot of attention. Recent awards and recognitions include honors from the New York City Council as a Woman in History by Council Speaker Christine Quinn (March 2009), recognition from the CSI



Athletic Association for breast cancer work, and she was honored by her law school last year as a woman in Environmental Science.

With so much activity and involvement, obviously, Gerstle's professional life has its ups and downs. On the positive side, she points out that "my job is different every day. So many people ask me what I do and every day there's something different. It can be going to the Health Department to work with data, it can be looking at death certificates, it can be meeting with citizens, it can be meeting with the American Cancer Society, and it can be meeting with elected officials... It's never the same... It's always exciting. I think the most rewarding thing for me is having the honor to actually be able to work in cancer research and hopefully be able to get us a step closer to finding a way to prevent breast cancer."

The most challenging part of her life, according to Gerstle, is "coming up with new and different ways to do things very inexpensively. The science is easy compared to getting the money. That's difficult. . . ."

What does the future hold for Gerstle and her research? "Hopefully, continued funding of SIBCRI will enable us to shine a light on the health challenges that New York City women face and the reassurance that one day we will have a better understanding of the promotion and development of breast tumors."



Debra Evans-Greene

Empowering Students' Lives

Debra Evans-Greene has a long and impressive track record at CSI of working to ensure that students from historically underrepresented groups get their diplomas, both at the college and high school levels. However, beyond her official capacity as a director of student retention programs such as the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP), the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP), and the College Success Initiative/Black Male Initiative (BMI) program on campus, many CSI students throughout the years have come to know her as their special friend and mentor, thanks to the guidance that she has given them throughout the years.

A Long Association with the College

Evans-Greene was focused on pursuing her baccalaureate education at CSI as a Nursing major, but soon gravitated to Sociology, a discipline that gave her a brand new outlook on life at the old Sunnyside Campus, where she worked for the Dean of Students. In the spring of 1999, she received her Associate's degree in Liberal Arts, and Bachelor's degree in Sociology/Anthropology. "I became interested in cultures, interacting with people, and learning about different cultures, particularly African American culture," she recalls. "Basically, I learned about different cultures and how people perform the way they do, why people act the way they do, and it became interesting because oftentimes you don't know why people do what they do. It's because of the environment they come from. It's because of the cultures in which they live."

Evans-Greene began working as a college assistant with the STEP program and interned with the Liberty Partnership program [LPP]; these programs later fell under the direction of the Discovery Institute. "I was working with [now NYC

councilwoman] Debi Rose and I was going into the schools," Evans-Greene says. "I was an older student coming back to college; I began working as an LPP intern to help with the cost of transportation to and from school; as I began working with the students at New Dorp High School, I really developed a passion for working with young people. I began to realize the relationships I was building with students in grades 9 thru 12. The first year, when I started, there were students who would come to me and discuss personal issues. I would give them a little bit of advice; however, I did not realize some of the students were actually taking the advice I was giving them and using it. When students graduate, they would ask me to come to their graduations. Students wanted my home [phone] number, so I started reaching out, giving them my number and they would call. I thought, 'Wow, I am making a difference in someone's life.' I became like a family member to some of the young people I worked with. I got such a good feeling, which developed into a passion for me."

Beyond her interest in sociology and what makes people tick, many of the lives of the students with whom she dealt were extremely difficult, and, although she faced a number of obstacles herself, this struck a deeper chord. "I was a single parent and the challenges of trying to pursue an education while working full-time and rearing a child were very, very difficult. The students I was talking to—I was kind of their mom, sister, counselor, and mentor. I was looking at them and the challenging issues that they were facing. Being a single parent, I had no idea of some of the issues my students were facing—my challenges were nothing compared to these precious young people. Based on my personal life experiences, I felt that I could perhaps help in some way. You see, losing my dad at age 15 and my mom at 16 was extremely difficult. Young girls, 16

years old, need their mom and dad. Family members stepped in, but nonetheless, there is nothing like your parents. "I think that was a pivotal point in my life as I reflect back to my teenage years." I reached out to students...I kind of took on that role and served as a mother figure to them."

Evans-Greene's connection with the Discovery Institute deepened as the years progressed. She was offered the position as STEP program coordinator; learning the intricate workings of the program moved her on to bigger roles. She served as the CSTEP coordinator and then, director of STEP and CSTEP. Because many of the students in the BMI/College Success Initiative program had similar situations to the students who she was already serving, Evans-Greene also assumed the role of BMI project director.

A Director with Many Directions

College Success Initiative Program/ BMI
In its fifth year, funded through the New York City Council, formally known as the Black Male Initiative program, the program was created in response to the decreasing enrollment numbers among Latino and African American males at CUNY colleges. Evans-Greene explains, "There were several African American males leaving CUNY institutions, and the question was why, so the CUNY Chancellor, Matthew Goldstein, established a University task force to find out which issues minority males faced on CUNY campuses that prevented them from staying focused through graduation." In her capacity as director, Evans-Greene collaborates with CSI faculty and staff to challenge these issues, and works with assistant principals at Curtis and Port Richmond high schools, attempting to create a pipeline from high school to college. College Success Initiative/BMI students in good academic standing, known as BMI



Ambassadors and Scholars, “go into the high schools and tutor high schools students who are having difficulty with math. This year we also reached out to the English Department as well as the History Department at Port Richmond, and Curtis high schools,” Evans-Greene notes. The BMI Ambassadors and Scholars receive \$10 per hour for their mentoring and tutoring efforts. These students are also beginning to hone their own academic skills, and the high school students have role models with whom they can relate. CSI students who are below the minimum academic requirements (2.0), shadow the BMI Scholars in the schools until their grades are up to par; they then become tutors and mentors.

There is also a College-end aspect to the Initiative, where CSI professors reach out to CSI students and serve as role models to ensure that the students stay on track academically. This year’s first BMI learning community was a huge success.

Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP)

The Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP) is a state-funded program. “This is geared toward individuals who have been historically underrepresented in the professional fields—it’s leveling the playing fields in science, technology, and engineering and education,” Evans-Greene explains. “Also, this is a program for students

who are interested in becoming math and science teachers as well. Our summer program is for students going into seventh grade the following fall. Students come to campus for 12 days in July and engage with hands-on science activities. Our academic program takes place for 27 weeks when the College is in session on Saturday mornings, when students in grades 7 through 12 engage in scientific experiments. Each student has to produce an oral presentation at the end of the fall program, and everyone has to produce an individual science project at the end of the spring program. College students, who are taking science courses themselves, work with the younger students and they serve as mentors and tutors in the classrooms. We want to expose [the younger students] to the college environment so they develop a true understanding for college.”

Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (CSTEP)

Evans-Greene also oversees this 12-day summer program that recruits 20 to 30 incoming freshmen each year (with an 80 average or above) with an interest in pre-med, scientific research, computer science, engineering, biology, chemistry, and science or math education. Students experience the College environment before actually beginning classes and they meet with College faculty and key staff personnel, and

engage in chemistry, engineering, and biology labs. By the time most students become sophomores, they are interested in research and work with professors in the science labs. Students serve as interns and get hands-on experience in their chosen fields.

Making a Difference, and Attracting Attention

For the past 20 years, Evans-Greene has made a positive impact on so many students’ lives through her diligent efforts at the College of Staten Island, but also because of her humanity and dedication. Thanks to her commitment to the City’s youth, Debra Evans-Greene has received two citations from the New York City Council; the Educational Award from the New York Urban League; a community service award from the 369th Veterans Association; a letter of commendation from CSI President Dr. Tomás Morales for her work with the College Success Initiative; and numerous plaques from her students, thanking her for helping them to believe in themselves, which to Evans-Greene, is the best part of her multifaceted job.

Looking toward the future, Evans-Greene, who now holds a Master’s degree in Urban Affairs from Queens College/CUNY, is hoping to pursue a Doctorate in Urban Education.



ALUMNI CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS

Once again the holiday season began with the Alumni Association's annual celebration. This year's Holiday Party was held on December 7 at Jimmy Max Restaurant. Alumni were treated to an assortment of the restaurant's specialties chosen by owner and Board Member James McBratney '05.

As in the past the Holiday Party gave alumni a chance to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones. The evening was filled with reminiscing and storytelling of fond memories. This year also included many new faces, representing some of our more recent alumni, as the event brought together alumni from different generations.



Jennifer Straniere

Serving the CSI and Staten Island Communities through the Arts

Every semester at the College of Staten Island, the Center for the Arts is abuzz with student performances in music, drama, and dance. None of this would be possible without the tireless efforts of Jennifer Straniere, Director of Facilities for the Department of Performing and Creative Arts.

Straniere, who is used to having a chaotic schedule, explains, "I have the opportunity to work with the faculty and students of the Drama, Music, and Dance programs. I supervise all areas of production for the department; this includes our faculty-directed shows, student-directed projects, student music recitals, faculty music recitals, dance recitals, and even our annual Kwanzaa celebration. My semesters are very busy with costumes, sets, props, makeup, lighting, and taking care of pianos."

Richmond College Days

Straniere received two degrees from CSI's predecessor Richmond College, a BA in History/Political Science with a minor in Secondary Education 1973 and an MS in Secondary Education/Social Studies in 1975. She also worked at Richmond College while pursuing her master's degree. Her initial career path was Education. "I worked in the Education Department at Richmond College beginning June 1973," Straniere recalls. "While working in the department I served as assistant to the Dean of Teacher Education and as liaison to the Registrar's office. I taught as an adjunct in the Education Department and supervised student teachers at PS 18, JHS 2, and IS 61." However, Straniere left Richmond College following the merger of that



institution with Staten Island Community College.

On to the Arts, and Back to CSI

After she left Richmond College, Straniere's career plans took a turn toward the theater world, but still resided comfortably within the realm of education. "After leaving [Richmond College] I started working in professional theater and became a union stage manager. I then moved to the Board of Education and began working in the public schools, both as a teacher and a working artist through Project Arts," she explains.

Eventually, Straniere returned to CSI as a production manager/stage manager in the Williamson Theatre at the Sunnyside Campus and when the Center for the Arts opened on the Willowbrook Campus, she continued to work for the College in that capacity. Then, in the fall 2003 semester, she was hired in her current role.

The Ups and Downs of a Full Professional Life

As one would expect, being in a position of such immense responsibility has its share of benefits and challenges. On the plus side, Straniere notes that "I find that working with the students has been the most rewarding part

of my job. It is very important to me that the students are proud of their productions and recitals. I try to do whatever is necessary to ensure that they make the best presentation possible and do not have to worry about the technical aspects of their projects. It is also my job to promote the activities of the Department of Performing and Creative Arts. It is wonderful to see our productions and recitals covered in the *Staten Island Advance* and a full audience in the theater at every performance. Being a member of the College community," she continues, "also gives me the opportunity to work on other projects on campus such as the Fall Festival and the Celestial Ball." Both events were a success, in part, because of the expert guidance and planning offered by Straniere as a member of the committees that organized those events.

As far as challenges are concerned, her chief enemy is the clock. "I think finding the time to get everything done is the biggest challenge. I juggle three different programs, which involve many faculty members and students, and there are times when projects overlap. It is my job to

make sure everything is done and that it all runs smoothly."

Woman of Achievement

Straniere's hard work has not gone unnoticed. Recently, she received Woman of Achievement honors from the *Staten Island Advance*. "The *Advance* began this award in 1962 and every year since they have recognized a new group of women who are involved in service to the community," Straniere explains. "I was really surprised by the nomination, especially when I learned how many different people submitted my name to the *Advance*. I think I am typical of the women who have received this recognition in that we all are doing things we enjoy doing, which really benefit others. It is not something anyone 'campaigns' for. It is Staten Island's way of saying 'thank you' to women who are helping to make our community a special place in which to live."

As for her opinion regarding her selection, she says, "It was an honor to be selected ... I have had the privilege of working with many Women of Achievement over the years and it is an amazing feeling to be a member of this select group. I have had the opportunity to be involved with many organizations on Staten Island and through them I have been able to touch many lives. I hope I have instilled in the people I have helped the importance of assisting others."

Looking Back and Forward

As she recalls the impact that her Richmond College education had on her professional life, Straniere states, "When I graduated from Richmond College my plan was to become a teacher. I have

Courtesy of the Staten Island Advance

done that and much more. I have had the chance to teach creative drama to elementary school students and technical theater to high school and college students. I share my love of history every time I direct a drama or a musical. My professors gave me a love of learning; they gave me the ability to share this love and teach others.

"The '70s were a very special time at Richmond College—a chance to study history while it was unfolding all around us. The college had many amazing professors but some do stand out. I loved American History with Professor Greenberg and the German History courses taught by Professor Moorhus. Professor Silvernail supervised me as a student teacher and then after I graduated gave me the opportunity to be the supervisor. All of these professors were committed to their students and making sure that we got the most out of their classes. I have tried to continue that tradition."

So, what does the future hold for this CSI alumna whose work enhances so many lives? Straniere hopes "to continue working in the arts and in education. There are many performing organizations on Staten Island and I feel the continuing need to remind people of how important it is to support these groups. I constantly try to promote the Center for the Arts as a venue for local groups to use for their performances. This has the benefit of providing a professional quality space for them and gets Staten Islanders to come to CSI and discover what a great school it is, with many educational opportunities for them or their family members."







SEEK Hosts a Successful Reunion

The SEEK (Search for Education, Elevation, and Knowledge) program and Alumni Association hosted over 80 alumni, faculty, and friends to celebrate 43 years of the program and the many successes of its students.

The event, held in the Atrium of Building 1A, gave guests the opportunity to mingle and catch up with old friends and professors while enjoying refreshments. Attendees were also able to tour SEEK's offices and computer lab and view projects and artwork that were on display. In addition, a video overview of today's SEEK program, entitled *SEEK in Action* was screened.

Currently there are 504 students enrolled in the SEEK program at CSI. SEEK helps students to reach their potential through various programs, counseling, and support.

Dr. Roberta Vogel, Deputy Director of SEEK and the host for the evening, gave remarks and introduced others including Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. William Fritz, Associate Director of Alumni

Relations Jennifer Lynch, and (former) SEEK Career Specialist Christopher Carbone, '93. Vice President for Student Affairs Dr. Jerald Jones-Woolfolk brought greetings on behalf of CSI President Dr. Tomás Morales. Dr. Jones-Woolfolk stressed how important SEEK is, noting how the program "takes everyone, regardless of where you are from, and embraces you," adding that "SEEK takes you from where you are to where you need to be." Before ending Dr. Jones-Woolfolk reminded those present that "the program needs you to be able to do for it what the program had done for you," noting that "you should give back to those who gave to you."

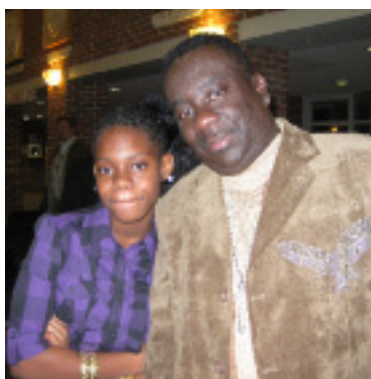
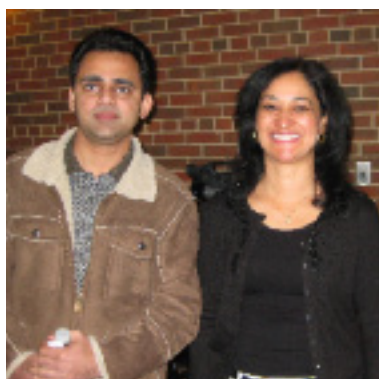
The most moving part of the evening came when some of the SEEK alumni made their comments. Antonio Gallego '95 mentioned that the SEEK program provided a guiding light, remembering how the program showed him how to register and which classes to take, stating that he wouldn't be where he is today without it and that he owes SEEK so much.

Kevin Mamakas '06 also noted that SEEK got him through college and has given him so much assistance that he even felt that help when he was pursuing his master's degree.

Regina Chisolm, who graduated last January, spoke about her SEEK experience. Regina said that she could not imagine a better program and is so proud to be a member of SEEK.

Before Dr. Vogel ended the program, special recognition was given to SEEK Director Gloria Garcia for serving as the Director for 20 years. Dr. Garcia, who had spoken earlier about the program and the students, thanked everyone present, giving special recognition to the office staff for their work that evening. Dr. Garcia also announced the newly created SEEK scholarship fund, to which the CSI Alumni Association donated \$500 in start-up funds.

The evening's catering was provided by James McBratney '05 owner of Jimmy Maxx.



Keeping Tabs

CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

Did you recently?....

- Change careers
- Land a new job
- Get married
- Have a baby
- Adopt a child
- Relocate
- Win an award
- Start a business
- Travel to a faraway destination
- or do you just have some piece of news you'd like to share with our alumni family?

If so – we
want to know!

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

Dr. Charley Eichler, Richmond College graduate '69

I am happily retired and happily single so my life does not change much on a periodic basis. I travel all around the world averaging 12 weeks a year, spending the money I saved over my working years. My two cats and my two parakeets are my only living family that I desire.

I still live in the same house in Bay Ridge that I was born in over 62 years ago. I finally retired from going to school when I hit 60! Have a Happy New Year!

Prof. Charles Rubenstein, PhD, CEng SICC '67, Richmond College '69, and CSI Hall of Fame Honoree '93

Just a quick note to let you know that I am currently an elected member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE) Board of Directors serving as 2010-2011 Region 1 Director. Region 1, IEEE's Center of Technology, oversees the activities of nearly 35,000 members in eight states of the northeastern U.S. (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont). IEEE, the largest professional association dedicated to the advancement of technology, has over 375,000 members worldwide in 160 countries, publishes 30% of the world's literature in electrical and electronics engineering and computer science, and sponsors or co-sponsors hundreds of conferences each year.

Alverna Eriksson, ARNP '71

I received my master's degree and I am now an ARNP and still working. I am now working on my doctoral degree and I am also now 86 years young.

Jerod M. Loeb, PhD Richmond College, BS '71

For the past 15+ years, I have been Executive Vice President for Quality Measurement and Research at The Joint Commission in Chicago (having previously been with the American Medical Association and Northwestern University School of Medicine). At Northwestern, I am still Adjunct Professor of Physiology. I also serve as Fire and Police Commissioner for Buffalo Grove, IL. My wife is a

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Registered Nurse at a local hospital, my older daughter will graduate from the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor this year and enter the University of Illinois College of Medicine in the fall of 2010, and my younger daughter is a sophomore Legal Studies/Criminal Justice major at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. It has been quite a ride since 1971!!

Stewie (Stewart) Perlman, Richmond College '71, '72

I returned to Richmond after graduating in 1971 for the 1972 fall semester to earn a teaching credential, finished a few semesters later, moved to San Francisco, and have been teaching for the past 36 years. Of course, there's considerably more to my life, but I will always have fond memories of the time I traveled by bus, subway, and ferry to get to school. Richmond College saved my academic life in many ways because of its interdisciplinary curriculum, personal touch, and small college setting on Bay Street.

Jo-Ann Merla '72

I recently became a grandmother for the first time. I have a gorgeous grandson named Joey. I taught for ten years after getting my Bachelor's in English at Richmond College and my MA from NYU. I have been a prominent real estate broker in Rockland County for many years. I love living in Nyack with a beautiful view of the Hudson River. I actually sold a home to a Richmond College graduate who actually remembered me. I had a wonderful experience at Richmond College, now College of Staten Island. Happy New Year to all of the alumni.

1971

John Gino '72, '74, '79, My education consists of: College of Staten Island: BA Secondary Education '72, MA in History '74, Sixth-Year Certificate in School Administration '79; Rutgers University: Master's in Library Science '76

I have taught social studies at Port Richmond High School from 1972 to 1990. I was Assistant Principal Guidance and School Security at McKee Career / Technical High School from 1990 to 2006. I retired in 2006.

I am married (Phyllis Pistilli '76) with three children (John Jr., Lori, and Lisa '10). One granddaughter is on the way!

1972

Rose McCarthy [Longo] '73 My residence is in New Jersey close to Atlantic City. My current job is Cardiology Outreach Coordinator for AtlantiCare. My role takes me into the community to teach cardiovascular disease, and also detect undiagnosed diabetics. I also work at a drug and alcohol rehab facility and with a program for obese children. Becoming an RN has given me so many opportunities and versatility. I am very involved with my community. I am the President of the Atlantic City Rotary Club and I am on the executive boards of the American Red Cross and the American Heart Association.

I have worked as an RN since graduation in 1973 and love my career.

My son (27) and daughter (25) are both college graduates and wonderful young adults. I can be reached at bluerose46@aol.com.

Maryanne Cazzetta '74 I was one of the open enrollment students at CSI. I had two school-age children and did all my studying during the night while the family was asleep.

After CSI, as a Psychology major, I became involved in the Staten Island Mental Health Society, where I served for four years as President of the Board of Directors. I also went to work for Oppenheimer, a Wall Street Brokerage firm, took the Series 7 exams, and became a Registered Rep. Assistant.

I retired and moved to Westlake Golf and Country Club in Jackson, NJ six years ago, where my husband and I play golf three to four times a week. I am also Chairperson of the Public Relations Committee at Westlake and recently wrote a radio ad for Golf Outings, which has been aired on WWZY Radio.

In 2010, I have two grown children and four grandchildren. The oldest grandchild is in college. My husband, Vincent, and I will be celebrating our 50th Wedding Anniversary on Nov. 12, 2010.

I loved my time in school. The teachers were very helpful, knowing it was so many years between high school and college for me. There were so few of us "older" students at the time.

1973

Gianfranco Bonanni '77 I have been unemployed for 27 months and am expecting my first grandchild in May.

Janis Dugan-Rey '77 I am enjoying life in Sarasota, FL. Any graduate from the January '77 class of the Nursing Program can contact me at janax03@yahoo.com.

Arlene Guadagno, MS English Ed '75 I just retired this summer, after a 25-year career as an English teacher, chair, and K-12 director in Long Island. I share my time w/my retired husband, Tom, in our pied-a-terre in NYC and our country home in Long Island. I miss working not at all! Retirement is the greatest stage of life!

Michele Rosenberg-Kunz, SICC '78 As a graduate from the SICC Nursing AAS program—it is obvious many years [have passed] since I graduated in 1978. I had worked at Eger Nursing Home, went to SUNY Plattsburgh to get my BSN, and LIU Brooklyn to get my master's and Nurse Practitioner certification. I worked at Long Island College Hospital in Nursing Education and Nursing Informatics for the past 25 years. Now for the past six months I have been employed as the Director of Nursing Education at Mercy Medical Center in Rockville Center on Long Island. I have re-edited and published a Florence Nightingale book—*Notes on Nursing*. I have a medical training business with a focus on teaching ACLS, PALS, and BCLS. I can be reached at www.michelekunz.com.

Sonya M. Mandel '83, '90 I worked for 20 years as a Special Education teacher in the inner city of New York. After resigning from my teaching position I started my own pet sitting business in New Jersey where I resided for ten years. My pet sitting business grew so quickly that I hired two wonderful women to work with me. We worked together for four years taking care of people's wonderful pets. After four years, it was time to move on and move on I did; I gave my business to the two women who worked with me. My partner of 16 years and I packed up two dogs, one rabbit, and a ferret and moved to Oregon. We

1977

have built a dog daycare, boarding, and training facility in back of our new home in Pleasant Hill, OR. It is a state-of-the-art facility that is double-fenced, which allows our daycare and boarding pups to run on part of the property—part of the property means 2.5 acres. We own five acres in total.

If you care to check us out we are Opportunitybarks.com - in Pleasant Hill, OR, a most wonderful place to live.

Concetta (Connie) Lamorte [formerly Chilvers] '84 We were blessed with our first grandchild this past year, Aidan Scott McAllister, born to my daughter Deborah and son-in-law Sean on May 16, 2009. Two years ago, I self-published a book entitled *Enchanted Evil*, which can be purchased online through iUniverse.com

Albert F. Barry '90 I have been assigned to FDNY Engine 65 in Times Square for the past 11 years, which is known as "The Midtown Mob." I am also the office manager and medical biller for Dr. Carol M. Russell OB/GYN in Silver Lake (www.dr.carolrussell.com) who just happens to be my wife of six years. We brought a 6 lb., 8 oz. baby boy by the name of Emmett Albert Barry into the world on January 1, 2010 and are in awe of his life. We have resided in Meiers Corner for the past eight years after 32 years in Great Kills. We are very proud of the volunteers at WSIA who keep the tower humming!

Carmen R. Zuzworsky '90, '96 I am starting my 14th year teaching as Adjunct Lecturer at CSI. The Modern Languages department is where my professional heart is. My students have always added joy to my life. December 19 marked my 45th anniversary with Robert John Zuzworsky. Our life together has been blessed with two daughters and twin grandsons who are now ten years old.

Robert Glass '96 I welcomed a baby girl, Emma Grace Glass, on June 2, 2009.

Christopher Hellstrom '96, '99 My wife Erika, big sister Madeline, and I adopted Violet Eve this past November.

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1996

CPT Mary Turbiak '97 I graduated in 1998 (I think) with a BA in Anthropology/Sociology. My most memorable professors are/were Dr. Sonia Ragir, Dr. Andy Ohan, and Prof. John Farley. I became a Commissioned Officer in the United States Army Nurse Corps. My most recent duty station is Fort Bliss, El Paso, TX. I work 12-hour nights as OIC in the combined intensive care unit at William Beaumont Army Medical Center. I am currently deployed (OIF 09-10) in Iraq. I work as a 66H8A (critical care nurse) with Task Force 28th Combat Support Hospital in Baghdad. I miss my family and friends.

Denise Amore '98 This year I started my tenth year of teaching in Special Education. I am currently at a wonderful school located in East Williamsburg in District 14. We are an "A" school with a wonderful Special Education team!

Bernard A Polnariiev, PhD '98 I recently received my Doctorate in Developmental Psychology from the CUNY Graduate Center in October 2006. I published my dissertation this past November "Dynamics of Preschoolers Self-regulation: As a Function of Conflict Resolution Strategies during Peer Free-play" (which can be found online at http://library.gc.cuny.edu/INF/O/dissertations/diss_2006_2007.htm or <http://berkeley.worldcat.org/olc/77495517?&lang=es>). I have been the Director of ASAP [Accelerated Study in Associates Program] at LaGuardia Community College since Sept. 2008. The program is a huge success and has been addressed by the Mayor and CUNY Chancellor over the past two years. We have just been funded for another cohort and will be part of large MDRC study in fall 2010.

Judy Aspinall '00 I am now married. My new last name is Brown. Right now I live in San Diego working as a pediatric dentist. My husband is also a dentist. We also have a 16-month-old daughter.

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1998

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WINTER SPORTS

Looking for Post-Season Prominence



The winter sports season is coming to a close at CSI, and the turn into March holds the promise for extended postseason play, as all four CSI teams will be in the mix to bring some hardware home to the Sports and Recreation Center.

No other CSI program has had a more recent history of national success than the CSI Men's Swimming and Diving team. While the group hasn't collected a CUNYAC Championship, they have saved their best performances for the national scene, scoring better than their CUNYAC brethren at the ECAC, Metro, and NCAA championships.

CSI's Pavel Buyanov, an ECAC and NCAA record holder in 100- and 200-yard Breaststroke events, has collected a total of three NCAA gold medals at postseason championships over the past two years, the first national championships for CSI in any sport, and the junior is looking for gold again in March at the National Championships in Minneapolis, MN. Buyanov will be competing in both Breaststroke events as well as the 50-yard Freestyle competition.

The biggest improvements last year in the pool, however, belonged to the duo of Nikolay Shevchenko and Vladislav Romanov, whose signature events are the Butterfly and Backstroke, respectively. Both will represent the College at Nationals, and both were on the cusp of medaling a year ago and stand poised to medal in 2010 with times improving across the board.

The trio of CSI swimmers was joined this year at the ECAC Open Championships in Pittsburgh, PA in late February, by CSI women's diver April Bartlett. The freshman standout obliterated the CUNYAC record book for diving at this year's championships and

did more damage at the ECACs. The ECAC Open is a prestigious event that pits student-athletes from all NCAA divisions against each other in the pool. While stiff competition was had at the championships, the CSI swimmers and divers all bolstered their marks in the pool as they set their sights on Minneapolis. The CSI men finished in 11th place at the ECAC Open while the women finished in 22nd place, both respectable marks considering teams from across all NCAA divisions compete in the event.

As a team, both swim teams had a pit stop in Piscataway, NJ, site of the 2010 Metro Championships, prior to ECACs and NCAAs. The highly competitive meet served as great competition and a great end to the team portion of the year with CSI placing higher than any other CUNYAC school on the men's side, coming in eighth place overall, and the women coming second only to Baruch College among the CUNYAC schools competing, placing 15th overall.

Both basketball teams had a spirited run toward a CUNYAC Championship in 2010.

The CSI women held the fourth seed in the eight-team CUNYAC Tournament and, as always, put up an impressive fight. Cut down to only six players due to injury, the team made it into the CUNYAC semifinals before falling to eventual-champion Baruch College. The defending ECAC Champions have advanced to at least the semifinal round in each of the last 14 seasons. The CSI men made their 33rd straight CUNYAC postseason appearance. The team appeared in three CUNY title games since 2000, and their continued rebuilding put them into a quarterfinal match before falling to Baruch College on February 20.



EIGHTH ANNUAL TOURNAMENT OF HEROES Celebrates the Lives of Basketball Alumni

The long-standing tradition for many during the holiday season is to spend time in the warm indoors with family and loved ones.

For the College of Staten Island and Men's Basketball coach Tony Petosa, it isn't much different. However, most recently at CSI, the holidays have served as a chance to reflect on the unfortunate events of September 11, 2001, when three former student-athletes, Terrance Aiken, Scott Davidson, and Tom Hannafin, died in the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center. CSI's annual Tournament of Heroes gives us all a chance to reflect on the heroism and sacrifice of all on that fateful day and this year's installment was another rousing success, as the Dolphins invited three nationally prominent teams to take part in the terrific event.

Piedmont College (GA) took the tournament championship, edging out Lynchburg, Virginia's Randolph College. In the Consolation Leg of the tourney, CSI powered past Colby-Sawyer College (NH), who finished the 2008-2009 season a 20-game winner and an NCAA National Tournament invitee. CSI has never come away with the championship trophy, but it hardly seems to matter, especially when some of the nation's top NCAA intercollegiate programs choose to make it a part of their schedules each year.

Intercollegiate play seems to take a back seat during the tournament, as on clear display throughout the two-day event is a tribute to all of September 11th's victims, most notably Aiken, Davidson, and Hannafin, whose numbers are the first and only to be retired in CSI basketball history.

"What made them special was that who they were as basketball players echoed to who they were away from the court," commented Petosa, who coached both Aiken and Davidson, and played side-by-side with Hannafin. "Tommy, even in the tough games, had that humor, that light disposition. Scott was always intense, on or off the court. Terrance was always happy, always smiling."

Aiken, 30, was a computer consultant working on the 97th floor of WTC Tower 1 at the time of the attacks. Davidson, 33, a member of FDNY Ladder Company 118, was one of the first to arrive on the scene on that fateful day. Hannafin, 36, a member of Ladder Company 8 based in Greenwich Village, also perished heroically at the scene. His unit was among the hardest hit by the attacks.

In January 2002, just over four months after the attacks, the jersey numbers of Aiken, Davidson, and Hannafin became the first ever retired in Men's Basketball history in a stirring ceremony during a

regular season contest against Baruch College. To keep their memories alive even further, the annual tournament was inaugurated the following season. Petosa hatched the idea for both events and has been the biggest driving force behind the tournament since. It's a labor of love that he is all too eager to take on.

"One of the nicest things ever said to me was by former player, Kassim Nesbitt, after we beat Baruch on the day of the initial ceremony," Petosa said. "He said to me, 'Coach, I didn't realize what it was like or how important it was to be a part of the CSI family. It means so much to so many.' I really appreciated that."

Indeed, many have come to learn the true meaning behind the tournament, thanks to the efforts of Petosa and his support staff. This year, as in year's past, the College hosted a post-game reception for families of the three fallen heroes and alumni at the conclusion of the first evening's games.

"We're very pleased that the tournament has gotten so much support from the community as we concluded our eighth year," he said. "Our goal when we started the tournament was to ensure that Terrance, Scott, and Tom, and all of 9/11's fallen heroes, would always be remembered in the way they would have wanted. As always, we look forward to welcoming back friends and family members for what has become a yearly tradition for us."

"Every year, the tournament is another reminder of how great it is to be a part of something special here at CSI," said Associate Athletic Director David Pizzuto, who normally coordinates the tournament ceremony to honor the three heroes each year. "The memories of those three gentlemen are on our minds every single minute of the tournament when we do it each year, and it becomes so much more important than basketball."

Petosa is quick to deflect his efforts on the creation and sustenance of the tournament, yet enjoys the fact that the event has become such an important function at the College each year.

"It's been real nice to see it become so successful," he noted. "My first goal was to make it to five years. My next goal is another five, and to keep making it into a well-received event on Staten Island."

So far, it is mission accomplished, and CSI has already locked in three national powers for next season's installment, which will take place in December 2010.



Basketball Season Sees Many Milestones for Past and Future Alumni

With 18 CUNYAC Championships, a dozen NCAA National Tournament appearances, and individual honors that are far too great to mention, it's hard to believe the 2010 Dolphins can do much to barely chink the armor of what has been an impeccable program run by the Men's and Women's Basketball teams, but this year's installment has seen its share of thrills and high marks for past and future alumni.

CSI Athletics' most notable alumnus in recent memory is Tony Petosa. A three-time CUNYAC Champion during his playing career from 1982 to 1986, Petosa has called the CSI sidelines his home since the 1989 season, guiding the Dolphins to three more championship titles and a mark of what was 14 straight seasons with an above .500 record. While the Dolphins are working their way toward another winning season, Petosa enjoyed CSI's first major milestone, becoming only the 59th coach in NCAA Division III history

to garner 300 career coaching wins.

Petosa's achievement came in thrilling fashion as the Dolphins overcame a late deficit to defeat CUNYAC-rival Lehman College, 66-64, on a shot at the buzzer by junior Michael Ledbetter. At the time, it was CSI's fifth win of the young season, and an emotional Petosa was given the game ball by his players after the game.

"I was a little teary-eyed after the game," he said, "because we have such great kids and this was a really great win for us. They really wanted to go out there and win this one and it was a nice one for us."

Petosa's effect on the program has been striking. As a player, assistant coach, and head coach, the Staten Island native has been involved in nearly 450 CSI wins, or better than 80% of the all-time wins in CSI history.

While Petosa's efforts certainly were the highlight of the season, attention was saved

for a trio of CSI players to join the 1,000-point Dolphins club as well this year, leaving more lasting marks for future CSI alumni.

Senior Kristen Panariello joined the Dolphins as a sophomore transfer from Centenary College (NJ) and actually her 1,000th collegiate point last year. However, CSI's leading scorer saved her 1,000th CSI point for midway through this season, becoming only the 15th player in school history to turn the trick, and only the fifth player to do it in less than four years.

CSI scholar-athlete and senior captain Ryan Hennessey eclipsed the 1,000-point barrier earlier this season. He and backcourt teammate Christian Montervino became only the 26th and 27th players to garner 1,000 points, but only the seventh and eighth to do it since 2000. Hennessey complemented the honor by being named a finalist for the CUNYAC Scholar-Athlete of the Month for February 2010.

Inaugural Faculty/Staff vs. Student Basketball Game



On Thursday, December 10, 2009, the CSI Pride Committee and the Intramural and Recreation program at CSI joined forces to bring the Inaugural Faculty/Staff vs. Student Basketball Game to the Sports and Recreation Center. Aimed at bringing together the student body with their academic and support staff counterparts in the spirit of competitive play, the evening was a terrific success that saw great numbers

and a wonderful fundraising effort for the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative.

"We wanted to really incorporate athletics and intramurals with getting the entire campus together for one big event in our building," said CSI Women's Basketball head coach Marguerite Moran, who also doubles as the campus's Intramurals Director, and is a member of the Pride Committee. "Everyone really came together

and made this a nice event."

Nearly 40 participants collected for the event, which featured five-on-five, full-court basketball, complete with a referee and running clock and scoreboard. Moran coached the student team, while Paul Bobb, Interim Director of Athletics, coached the staff. The entire crew was treated to official event jerseys and complimentary refreshments after the game.

Amid a host of laughter and good cheer, the Faculty/Staff team pulled out a come-from-behind, 56-54 win, although the students did complain of some one-sided officiating after they raced out to a big lead in the first half.

The score hardly seemed to matter, as everyone in attendance had an outstanding time, including CSI President Dr. Tomás Morales, who was courtside to take it all in. "We had an amazing crowd," said CSI Associate Athletic Director

David Pizzuto. "The CSI Pride Committee and the students did a great job of putting this together, and I think we have the makings for what could be an outstanding yearly event."

Moran has hopes for organizing something sooner, as plans are already in the works for a softball game this spring.

While everything associated with the evening was free of charge for all participants, everyone was asked to provide donations to the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative, and the organization took in some great fundraising dollars, providing literature and hand-made gifts for purchase.

"Athletics has been partnering with the SIBCRI for some time," said Moran. "We really want to do whatever we can for their cause. They were excellent at working with us and supporting this event."



Student-Athlete Advisory Committee **GIVING BACK AND TAKING LEAD AT CSI**

The College of Staten Island's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) has had an eventful fall and winter season this year, and although they are not a new entity on the CSI campus, their efforts have been striking and are leaving a lasting mark and a true impression on the campus community and beyond. Made up of two members from each CSI intercollegiate team, the main goals of the SAAC are to foster communication between teams, offer feedback into athletics policies and procedures, build a sense of community, and perhaps above all, enhance a positive image of athletics on campus with community service activity.

The 2009-2010 year has already gone a long way in making the SAAC a dynamic CSI group, one that has gone above and beyond at setting the tone for civic engagement, heightening esteem, and building a community.

In early 2009, the SAAC elected its new President, senior Ednita Lorenzo, a standout on the women's soccer team, who also serves as sports editor of *The Banner*, CSI's student newspaper.

As attention turned to the holiday season, CSI Athletics, through the SAAC, partnered with the Teddy Atlas Foundation to hand out turkeys to the Staten Island homeless and disadvantaged during Thanksgiving, and worked with the Foundation to organize its holiday pantry,

aimed at providing food and clothing for the less fortunate.

During Christmas and Chanukah, the group traveled with CSI Assistant Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Services Katie Arcuri to visit Eger Nursing Home, spending time with the residents, playing games, and designing festive holiday stockings.

The selfless acts surrounding the holidays were featured in the *Staten Island Advance* and humbled Arcuri.

"The committee came up with the idea themselves, and we started the relationship at Eger last year during the holidays," said Arcuri, "They went there with the purpose of spending some quality time with those who might not get to be with their families for the holidays, and they left feeling fulfilled."

The SAAC hasn't stopped there. The group was a driving force behind the College's appearance on the *Good Morning America Early Show* during College Rivalry Week, and more recently, the group began a rigorous donation drive for the American Red Cross's Haitian relief effort.

"They are a major entity within our office," said David Pizzuto, Associate Athletic Director. "It sometimes comes as a surprise to them just how influential they are in organizing change and stimulating action. They are a dynamic group that we expect continued growth from."



Engineering Department Receives **\$25K CON EDISON ENDOWMENT**

An endowed Engineering scholarship in the amount of \$25,000 has been established by Con Edison at CSI, open to CSI students who are pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Engineering.

Commenting on the endowment, Marilyn Caselli, Con Edison's Senior Vice President of Customer Operations, who is also a Staten Island Community College alumna and a member of the CSI Foundation Board, said, "As you know, we are the delivery company for the New York area and engineering is one of the really critical types of fields that play a very big role at Con Edison. So, it was really quite a natural fit for us to be able to support scholarships, especially with a focus on engineering. We look forward to hopefully having some of the future folks who may work for Con Ed and make a difference being graduates of CSI."

Mark Irving, Director of Public Affairs for Con Edison on Staten Island, added, "We're a company that is based in New York, rooted in New York. We can't pick up and leave the city. There are too many wires and pipes in the ground. So this is our future workforce."

In expressing his thanks to Con Edison, CSI President Dr. Tomás Morales pointed to the endowment as one example of the company's vast contributions to the local community. "Con Edison is an extraordinary corporate citizen who provides support to The City University of New York and, of course, the College of Staten Island. This particular endowment is an addition to many philanthropic contributions that Con Edison has provided the College... It will help us attract the very brightest students and certainly will help us connect to the Staten Island community."

In regard to the endowment's impact at the student level, Department of Engineering Chair Dr. Syed Rizvi mentioned that most CSI engineering students also work and have families, "so this is a good thing for them. At least some of them will be supported. We are very thankful to Con Edison for this generous endowment."

On a similar theme, CSI Foundation Board President Robert Cutrona underscored the fact that this endowment will help the Foundation to better meet its goals of bringing students to the College. "Every cent of this gift from Con Edison goes to scholarships. It's going to help people come to the College and that's what we're all about..."

Beyond this endowment, Con Edison has provided support for a number of programs that benefit CSI students and the Staten Island community, including an environmental project at the Eibs Pond Park Preserve in the borough, a program that gave CSI students the chance to teach about environmental issues at some of the Island's public schools, and an environmental curriculum for CSI science education students.



FIRST ANNUAL *Celestial Ball*
 Raises More Than \$500K for Student Scholarships





The CSI Celestial Ball reached for the stars and raised over a half million dollars for student scholarships earlier this month.

More than 330 people braved the season's first winter snow in support of the College of Staten Island's first annual scholarship gala at the Richmond County Country Club.

The event brought together community leaders and CSI faculty, staff, and students to celebrate the significant role that a CSI education plays in the lives of so many of our students, and the transformational experience that scholarships can provide to students and their families.

CSI President Dr. Tomás D. Morales and Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. William Fritz presented the President's Medal to the Ball honorees who included Dr. Gordon and Lorraine Di Paolo, CSI Associate Professor of Business and President, Benchmark Capital Advisors, respectively, who provide crucial funding for scholarships and other programs at the College; Robert Scamardella '72, Partner, Russo, Scamardella, and D'Amato; and Zane Tankel, Chairman and CEO, Apple-Metro, Inc., who pledged a \$10,000 personal gift during his acceptance speech.

Another moment of recognition was

dedicated to the Brooklyn Home for Aged Men, which had just announced new scholarships for Geriatric Nursing students at the College, totaling \$200,000 with a U. S. Department of Education Title III matching grant of \$100,000. In addition, the Home has pledged another \$10,000 to the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative, in consideration of the impact of breast cancer on the elderly.

Among the attendees were ten CSI students who have benefited from CSI scholarships. Although they represented a tiny fraction of students who receive scholarship funds at the College, their presence helped to reinforce the vast importance of CSI scholarships in the lives of our students, many of whom would not be able to attend classes here without these funds. Psychology and Sociology double major Marybeth Melendez not only attended the Ball, but had the opportunity to meet the Di Paolos and thank them for all that they've done for her.

One of the most entertaining and lighthearted aspects of the Ball was an auction, hosted by Brian Laline of the *Staten Island Advance* and Larry Arann, PhD. Participants had the opportunity to bid on the chance to attend exciting events such as a performance of the New York

Philharmonic, a tour of the NY Jets stadium and lunch with a team executive, a performance of the New York City Ballet, a New York Yankees game and a tour of their new stadium, lunch with President Morales at the University Club in Manhattan, a special screening of an upcoming Rosie O'Donnell special at HBO headquarters, and a round of golf and dinner at the Richmond County Country Club. Auction prizes were donated by CSI professor emeritus and former dean, Dr. Michael Shugrue; CSI professor emerita Dr. Joan Hartman; Vice President of HBO Family and Documentary Programming and CSI Foundation Board Member Dolores Morris; Con Edison, through the courtesy of CSI Alumni Board Member Phyllis Minacapilli '91; President, Staten Island Yankees and CSI Foundation Board Director Joseph Ricciutti '94; Mr. Michael Gerstle; and Romeo Limousine, LTD.

The Celestial Ball was chaired by Dr. Christine Cea '88, President of the Friends of CSI and Scientist at the Institute for Basic Research; Donna Fauci '96, '03, Member of the Board of Directors of the CSI Alumni Association, and Admissions Counselor and Program Coordinator with CSI's Office of Recruitment and Admissions; and Joseph Ricciutti.

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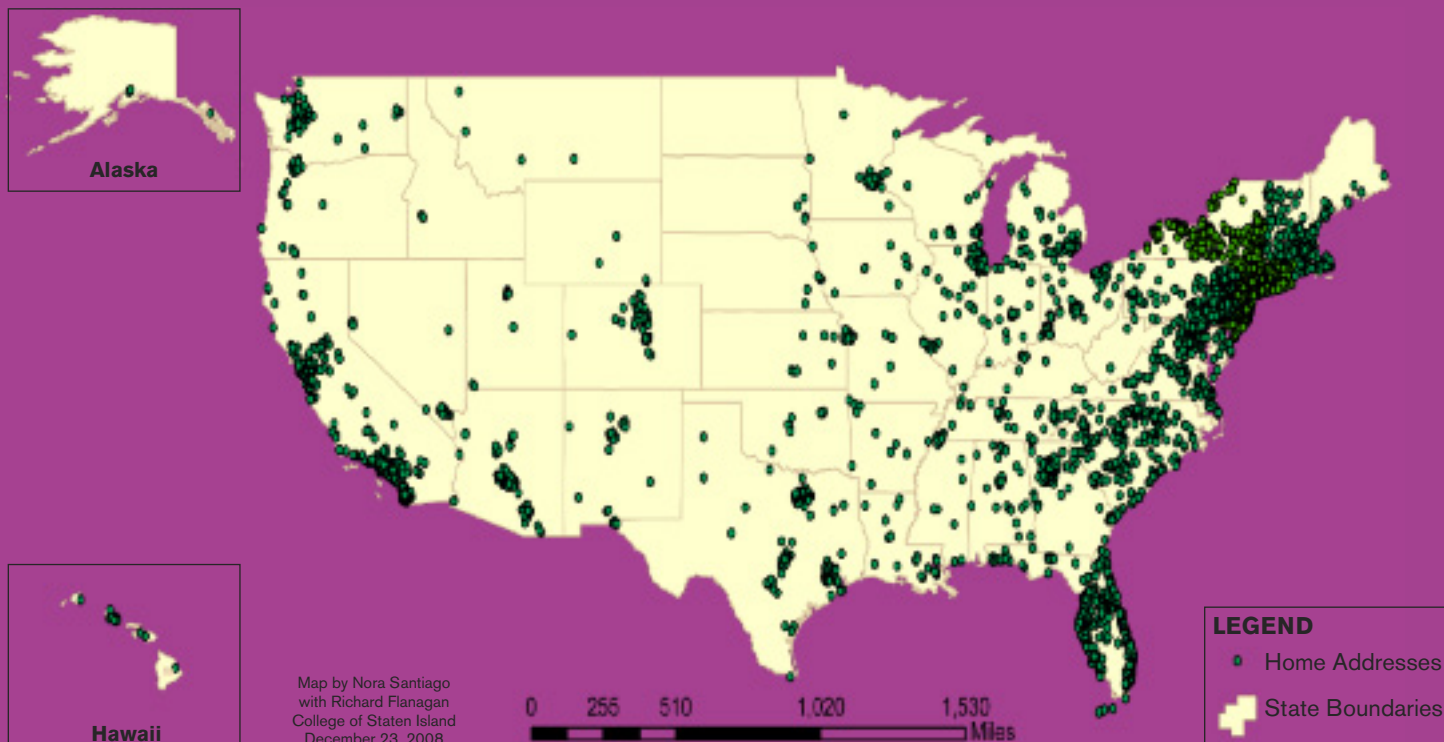
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 Note: Short-term health insurance coverage is not available for residents of NY, NJ, MA, and VT. Major medical insurance is not available in NY, NJ, RI, WA, and AZ.

CSI Celestial Ball

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The December 5, 2009 Celestial Ball netted over one-half million dollars, with 11 new endowed scholarships established for College of Staten Island students.

Please save the date, Saturday, December 4, 2010, for the Second Annual CSI Celestial Ball.

Tomás D. Morales
President, College of Staten Island

Robert S. Cutrona, Sr.
President, CSI Foundation

Christine Cea, Donna Fauci, and Joseph Ricciutti
Celestial Ball Committee Chairs