

# CSI in the News

July 2010



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***ADS***

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***Arts***

# Cooling off on a summer night with brass, drums

By MICHAEL J. FRESSOLA  
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

First there was a too-short detour to heaven by way of St. Mark's in Venice. Then it was off to Elizabethan England, Imperial Russia and the Savoy Ballroom, where Duke Ellington was holding court.

The New York Philharmonic's brass-and-percussion ensemble — a kind of marching band when you think about it — was the magic carpet for this adventure. Versatility reigned, a point that the ensemble made in five or six ways the other night at the College of Staten Island (CSI).

The standing-room-only performance was actually the annual free summer concert. Weatherproof, cool and mosquito-free, it took place indoors in the Center for the Arts.

The orchestra launched the indoor tradition (here and in Bronx) last summer. Elsewhere, outdoor performances, will prevail. They're pleasant enough, of course, but far less musically compelling. The evening had music no other borough will hear: A new Ceremonial Prelude for Brass Choir by Joseph Turrin, a composer with extensive ties to the orchestra. It was brief but exuberant, shapely and inventive.

Commissioned by Michael Shugrue, the retired CSI professor (English) who underwrites a classical concert series at the college, the piece honors his aunt, Margaret Shugrue, a person of notable enthusiasm and generosity.

She put Shugrue and his siblings through college and made substantial contributions to Jesuit missions around the world. She was Miss Wisconsin 1913 and

lived to be 93.

## MUCH TO LOVE

Christopher Decker replaced Philip Smith as principal trumpet and provided commentary about the program, which had many things to love: Some luminous Giovanni Gabrieli, played by separated sections, as it might have been originally inside San Marco in Venice, Gabrieli's headquarters.

Later, majesty (which horns and drums do so well) marked the "Earl of Oxford's March" of William Byrd.

Theater/dance composer Richard Peaslee was represented. Also, Victor Young, Rimsky-Korsakov, Leonard Bernstein and Duke Ellington ("Do Nothing Until You Hear From Me" and others). Listeners seemed particularly happy to hear the Ellington played by pros.

Still, as good as it was, there were complaints. Some attendees thought the evening was a letdown after last summer, when incoming Philharmonic music director Alan Gilbert led the full orchestra.

One or two said they preferred the playing during sections when the musicians fended for themselves, without the supervision of the energetic Daniel Boico, assistant conductor of the Philharmonic.

Speaking of conductors, the Metropolitan Opera probably won't send one along with several singers and accompanist Jonathan Kelly tomorrow at 7 p.m. in Tappen Park, Stapleton, when it presents its annual free concert in the park.

The young, 40-member ensemble called the Knights, will launch the first concert in the 2010-11 season at CSI Sept. 24 at 7:30 p.m.





## **RED OVER RED to Play in Brooklyn July 22 - August 7**

by BWW News Desk



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### About Incubator Arts Project

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

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



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

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

## ***Faculty & Staff***

## Former College Prof. Dead After Beating in NJ

**Date Submitted:** Thu Jul 01, 2010

OLD BRIDGE, N.J. — A former **College of Staten Island** professor died on June 28 of injuries he received on the night of June 25 when he and his sons were attacked by several teenagers near their home in Old Bridge, N.J.

Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce Kaplan told the media that Divyendu Sinha, 49, succumbed to his injuries at 4 a.m. in Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick. The prosecutor said the three teenagers arrested and charged with assaulting Sinha have been charged with murder and conspiracy to commit murder. Sinha taught at College of Staten Island from 1990 to 1999 as an Assistant Professor in the Computer Science department.

Kaplan said the investigation into the attack on Sinha is ongoing and that preliminary findings indicate the assault "was not racially motivated" but rather a random attack. He said no weapons were used.

Authorities said they received a 911 call. When officers arrived, they found the victim on the ground outside his house on Fela Drive, a neighborhood of newer homes.

Neighbor Grace Santorelli, who lives next door to Sinha's two-story white house told the Star Ledger Sinha was an amiable neighbor. "He's a very nice person," she said. "He wouldn't be the type of person to get into any problems or give you a problem."

Sinha had earned his Ph.D. from Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken and worked for a time at the **College of Staten Island**. An author of several books on computer imaging, he had been working as a consultant to Siemens. It is not clear why anyone would attack him. His sons were hit as well, but not badly hurt.

One of the suspects, all of whom are 17, was arrested that night and the other two were arrested and charged later the following day, authorities said. The three juveniles, who are not identified due to their age, had a hearing before Superior Court Judge Roger Daley, who remanded them to the Middlesex County Juvenile Detention Center. After the investigation is complete, Kaplan said he will review all reports in the case and decide whether to seek to try the three as adults in Superior Court.

Front Page July 1, 2010

## Old Bridge teens charged in murder

Police say township man was fatally attacked while walking near home

BY LAUREN CIRAULO

Staff Writer

In what authorities described as a random killing, three local teenagers have been charged in the beating death of a 49-year-old township man.

The victim, Divyendu Sinha, was attacked as he walked near his Fela Drive home with members of his family around 11:40 p.m. on June 25, according to a statement from Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce Kaplan and Old Bridge acting Police Chief Robert Bonfante.

Authorities received a 911 call at that time, and officers arrived to find Sinha lying on the ground outside his home. Sinha's two sons, one who is in high school and another who is 10 years old, reportedly sustained minor injuries during the attack, but Sinha's wife was not hurt.

No weapons were used in the attack, officials said.

Sinha was taken to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, where he remained in critical condition until his death at 4 a.m. Monday. An autopsy was expected to be performed by the Middlesex County Medical Examiner's Office on Tuesday.

On Saturday, authorities arrested three 17-year-old Old Bridge residents, whose names were withheld due to their ages. They were initially charged with aggravated assault and conspiracy to commit aggravated assault. Following Sinha's death on Monday, the charges were updated to murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

They are being held at the Middlesex County Juvenile Detention Center in North Brunswick, and though they appeared at a Family Court hearing before Superior Court Judge Roger Daley on Monday, the three suspects were scheduled to return to Family Court to answer the new charges on Thursday.

Kaplan said that although a motivation for the attack may not be determined until a full investigation is completed, preliminary findings suggest that the attack was "not racially

motivated” and that it was a random assault.

Kaplan said he would review all reports in the case once the investigation is completed in order to decide whether the teens would be charged as adults.

Sinha was a computer scientist at Siemens and a professor at the College of Staten Island. He was also the author of several books about computer science, including “Introduction to Computer-Based Imaging Systems,” published in 1997.

Local officials expressed their condolences during a Township Council meeting held Monday night.

“The police department has done a very good job in light of the circumstances,” council President G. Kevin Calogera said. “I wish I had an answer as to why this happened, but I don’t.”

Mayor Jim Phillips had a similar message.

“The Old Bridge police have done outstanding police work,” Phillips said. “This is a tragedy, and I want to extend my deepest sympathy to the victim’s family.”

Calogera noted that some residents had expressed worries about safety in the township, but he assured that the incident is not indicative of mediocre police work or unsafe areas.

“Old Bridge is a good town. As despicable as this was, things happen everywhere,” he said. “I don’t think it should reflect us as a town.”

Fela Drive, off Nathan Drive near Trans- Old Bridge Road, is part of a neighborhood of two-story single-family homes, backing up to a wooded area.



## News & Commentary

An Indian computer scientist, who was brutally attacked by three juveniles three days ago while taking a walk with his family in a New Jersey suburb, succumbed to his injuries on Monday, police said.

The three 17-year-old assailants, whose names have been withheld because of their age, have been arrested and now charged with homicide, they said.

49-year-old Divyendu Sinha, an Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur alumnus and presently working as a consultant with Siemens, sustained injuries after he was attacked by three teenagers on Friday night when he was walking with his family near his home in Old Bridge in New Jersey.

His two sons, who were also accompanying him, were not seriously injured in the attack.

Local prosecutor, Bruce Kaplan, said the preliminary investigation into the attack on Sinha indicate that the assault was "not racially motivated" but rather a random attack.

However, the police said that a final determination on the motive would be determined only after the investigation was complete.

According to Prakash Waghmare, a friend of Sinha for 10 years, his friend was "a very gentle person". After graduating from IIT Kharagpur he earned his PhD from Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken in New Jersey and worked for a time at the **College of Staten Island**.

Sinha, who has also authored several books on computer imaging, and his sons were going for a walk when "a car came by and they pounced on him." The police received 911 call around 11-30 pm, Waghmare quoted as saying by the local Star Ledger.

When the police arrived, Sinha was found on the ground outside his house.



## NJ technocrat killed in brutal attack

02/07/2010 10:05:00 SRIREKHA CHAKRAVARTY



Dr. Divyendu Sinha

**NEW YORK:** An Indian American computer scientist from Old Bridge, New Jersey who was brutally attacked by miscreants, while he was on a night stroll along with his wife and two sons near his home, died in hospital June 28.

Forty-nine year old Dr. Divyendu Sinha, a brilliant technocrat, died at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick having succumbed to severe head trauma.

In what investigators say is a “random attack”, three teenagers – all of them 17 years of age – have been arrested and charged with murder and conspiracy to commit murder, aggravated assault and conspiracy to commit an aggravated assault.

Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce J. Kaplan and Acting Chief Robert Bonfante of the Old Bridge Police Department said the three males, all Old Bridge residents, previously had been charged with conspiring to commit an aggravated assault and aggravated assault upon Divyendu Sinha. The homicide charges were filed after Sinha was pronounced dead at 4 a.m. on June 28 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

An autopsy performed June 29 by the Middlesex County Medical Examiner’s Office determined that Divyendu Sinha died from blunt force trauma to the head and that the manner of death was homicide.

The culprits had also attacked Sinha's sons – Ashish, 16 and Ravi, 12 – who suffered minor injuries for which they were treated in hospital and released.

Jim O'Neill, spokesman for the Middlesex County Prosecutor's office told India Post, that as part of the investigations they would not be disclosing exactly how many persons were involved in the attack. Sinha family supporters, however, believe there were five culprits in all.

O'Neill said it was a group of kids and all were residents of Old Bridge, but could not say if they knew the Sinha family.

O'Neill further said that preliminary findings indicate the assault "was not racially motivated," but rather was a random attack. A final determination would be reached only after the investigation is completed, he said.

The three juveniles, who were not identified due to their age, have been remanded to the Middlesex County Juvenile Detention Center by Superior Court Judge Roger Daley in New Brunswick.

After the investigation is completed, Prosecutor Kaplan will review all reports in the case and will decide whether to seek to try the three in Superior Court as adults.

### ***The two-and-half day ordeal***

Sinha, his wife Alka and sons Ashish and Ravi had stepped out of their home to take a stroll on the night of June 25 in a perfectly safe neighborhood where they have lived for sixteen years.

"This is a neighborhood where people do not lock front doors and cars are left unlocked in driveways," as Gaurang Vaishnav, Executive Vice President of Vishwa Hindu Parishad of America (VHPA), and a friend of the family described it. Sinha was a life member of the VHPA.

According to Vaishnav, as the Sinhas were returning from the stroll and were near their home around midnight, a car with five teenagers (two Caucasians, three African Americans) pulled up; the driver stayed in the car and rest of them came from behind and attacked Sinha and his two sons. Hit on the temple, Sinha fell down and hit his head on the pavement. The attacker(s) continued to kick him on the head and neck. After the attack they escaped in the car.

Sinha was able to get up so his family tried to walk him to their home. However, after walking a few yards, he collapsed. At that point his son ran to a nearby house for help and the neighbor called 911.

Sinha was transported to the nearby Raritan Bay Hospital. At that time (around 12.30 am) he was able to answer questions like his name, birth date, etc. though his speech

had begun to slur. Soon after he became unconscious and by 4 am he was transferred to Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in New Brunswick.

The children had bruises, swollen jaw, neck pain, etc. but they were treated at the hospital and released.

According to the neurosurgeon who briefed the family and friends who accompanied Sinha to the hospital, there was severe cranial bleeding in the brain and brain had swollen so much that it had compressed the brain stem. The brain had also shifted because of the pressure within the enclosed chamber. According to the doctor, the compression of the stem is an irreversible process.

Vaishnav said, "One thing that was disturbing was that this surgeon had not looked at the reports from the first hospital and was not even sure if the reports and scans had accompanied the patient. He was not even aware of the fact that Divyenduji had been beaten up. He said that the bleeding had a pattern of a stroke but when we asked pointed questions, he admitted that the stroke was likely the result of the beating and trauma caused by it."

VHPA volunteers from Staten Island and New Jersey chapters as well Sinha's neighbors and friends were at the hospital by his side throughout the two and a half day ordeal.

Sinha's younger brother, Purnendu and his wife's younger brother, Alok flew in from India and were able to reach the hospital on Saturday afternoon.

Despite fervent prayers of family and friends, Sinha, who was on life support, was declared dead in the early hours of June 28.

According to Vaishnav, Sinha's family decided to donate his kidneys.

### ***A brilliant life snuffed out***

Dr. Divyendu Sinha was a brilliant technocrat who earned his B. Tech. in Computer Science and Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology and a Ph.D. in Computer Science from Stevens Institute of Technology. He was working for Siemens Corporation.

Before joining the College of Staten Island and the doctoral faculty of the City University of New York, he was a faculty member at Stevens Institute of Technology. He has also taught short courses for SPIE and IEEE.

Sinha has over fifty publications in mathematical morphology, fuzzy set theory, and artificial intelligence. He chaired three SPIE conferences on real-time imaging and is an Associate Editor of the Journal of Real-time Imaging and the Journal of Electronic Imaging.

Sinha has consulted for industry in the areas of efficient algorithm development, object-oriented software design, and machine vision. He spent his sabbatical year at Research Devices, Inc. where he was the manager of software development for flip-chip bonders. His last position was consulting for Robotic Vision Systems, Inc., where he was responsible for the specification and design of software and hardware architectures for wafer inspection system.

He has also authored a book along with Edward R. Dougherty, called Introduction to Computer Based Imaging Systems.

Community – shocked, outraged

Community activist and media coordinator for VHPA, Prakash Waghmare, had known Sinha for 10 years and knew to be “a very gentle person”.

“This incidence has galvanized and outraged the entire Indian Community in NY/NJ area reviving their fears for their safety,” Waghmare said. “New Jersey has a very dubious history when it comes to ‘racial’ incidences. As the highly educated, entrepreneurial Indian community started realizing the ‘American Dream’ with economic success, there have been series of racial attacks on them, starting with the ‘dot-busters’ incidences in early’80s.”

In the case of Sinha, Waghmare said, the community is demanding expedited, open investigation and for the culprits to be brought to immediate justice.

Vaishnav said, “It is good to know that all five teenagers are now in police custody. Debate will go on about whether it was a random attack or one with racial overtones but the fact is that we have lost a colleague, a brilliant man; and the family has lost everything.”

Vaishnav has urged the community to put continued pressure on the police, prosecutors and politicians so that the case is not watered down, the guilty are punished to the fullest extent of law and such senseless attacks on innocent, law abiding citizens may be prevented.

He also urged the community to help support Sinha’s wife and children “as they put pieces of their life together”. “This will be a daunting task which will require long time commitment of genuine support – emotional, physical and financial. With the consent of the family, we would like to raise funds to support their legal as well as other needs,” Vaishnav said.

Satyanarayan Dosapati, a community activist from Old Bridge has created a web site: [www.justicefordivyndufamily.wordpress.com](http://www.justicefordivyndufamily.wordpress.com) where well-wishers can leave messages and condolences.

Also, anyone with information is asked to call Detective Greg Morris of the Old Bridge Police Department at (732) 721-5600, or Investigator Paul Miller of the Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office at (732) 745-4466.

## DEADLINE EXTENDED (15 JULY): 13TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMPUTER AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

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ICCIT 2010, co-sponsored by IEEE Bangladesh section, is supposed to be the largest technical event on [Computer Science](#) and Engineering, Information and Communication Technology in Bangladesh in 2010. The focus of the conference is to establish an effective platform for institutions and industries to share ideas and to present the works of scientists, engineers, educators and students from all over the world. Of 473 manuscripts submitted to ICCIT 2009, approximately 30% were accepted and included in the IEEE Xplore [Digital Library](#). The organizing committee of conference is pleased to invite prospective authors to submit their original manuscripts to ICCIT 2010.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

Submission of Full Paper: Thursday, 15 July 2010

Notification of Acceptance: Tuesday, 30 September 2010

Camera-Ready Soft copy due: Monday, 01 November 2010

Registration Deadline: Thursday, 18 November 2010 (Details of the Registration procedure will be published later on.)

Conference Date: 23 - 25 December 2010

### SUBMISSION OF PAPERS:

Full papers written in English and not submitted or published elsewhere, should be submitted in PDF format through the website. A full paper should not exceed 12 double-spaced (11 points) A4 size

pages including figures, tables, references, appendices etc. The paper should contain the followings:

Title of the paper  
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Abstract clearly stating the achievement of the work  
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Paper submission instructions are available at  
[www.iccit-bd2010.net/sample.pdf](http://www.iccit-bd2010.net/sample.pdf)

Authors of accepted papers are expected to provide a camera-ready copy. The guideline for the camera-ready paper will be available in the web at [www.iccit-bd2010.net/cameraready.pdf](http://www.iccit-bd2010.net/cameraready.pdf)

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Author(s) are expected to strictly follow the guideline, otherwise the paper may not be published in the proceedings. Upon acceptance, the author (or in case of a jointly-authored paper, one of the authors) will be required to register and present the paper. Papers will be published in the conference proceedings only if at least one of the authors is registered.

#### PROCEEDINGS:

The proceedings of the conference will be published in two forms: Book (including in IEEE Xplore) and CDROM. Both forms will be available to the delegates at the time of registration. Starting ICCIT 2008, selected enhanced versions of conference papers, upon further exhaustive reviews, have appeared in one of six [journal](#) special issues that are edited by the International Program Committee.

#### AIM AND SCOPE:

ICCIT 2010 will provide a forum for researchers and professionals from both academia and industry to exchange up-to-date knowledge and experience in different field of [Computer Science](#) / Engineering & Information and Communication Technology. The conference will focus not only on theory but also on applications. Major areas of interest include, but not limited to, are:

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July 3, 2010

## Concern over beating death of Asian Indian spread through Old Bridge and beyond

*By JOSHUA BURD*  
*STAFF WRITER*

It started late Monday afternoon with an e-mail to Mayor James Phillips.

A concerned resident was requesting a meeting with him about the recent attack on Dr. Divyendu Sinha, a 49-year-old township man who had died early that morning after being brutally beaten on the street some 52 hours earlier.

By Tuesday, word of the meeting had reached dozens of others, setting up an impromptu town hall-style event that would eventually draw more than 100 people to the Township Council chambers that night.

In barely a week, Sinha's death late last month unleashed a flurry of grief, anger and fear from several different communities, amplified by charges that five teenagers from Old Bridge were responsible.

Friends and relatives were joined by Sinha's colleagues, other Asian Indians and even neighbors who usually just casually said hello on the street in their anguish and outrage over the deadly incident.

Some worried about racial or ethnic overtones in the seemingly unprovoked assault. And details of the circumstances of Sinha's death were even reported by news organizations based in India.

Prosecutors said the attack occurred as Sinha, a computer scientist and published researcher, took a late-summer-night walk with his wife and two sons outside their home on Fela Drive near Route 9.

"Like most people in Old Bridge, I take this very personal," Phillips, the township's mayor, said last week. "This was a horrendous, heinous crime. Dr. Sinha is a victim. It could have been anyone else in Old Bridge."

By week's end, officials and community leaders said, residents had tempered their alarm, reassured by authorities and encouraged by the swift arrests of the suspects. The heartache continued, but the township's acting police chief said community's spirit shifted "from dismay to cooperation."

Authorities charge that the teenage suspects had attacked another man five minutes earlier when they pulled up in a car around 11:40 p.m. June 25, and began to beat Sinha. By Saturday, police had arrested three of the five suspects, all of whom now face murder and murder conspiracy charges as juveniles.

Sinha succumbed to a head injury from the beating at about 4 a.m. Monday, and fear and uncertainty grew among several of his neighbors in the normally tranquil development. The slaying also raised concerns about crimes and harassment against Asian Indians in and around Old Bridge.

But the story spread far beyond the Middlesex County town of nearly 70,000 people.

A headline for a June 30 story on IBNLive.com, an India-based affiliate of CNN, read "IIT Kharagpur alumnus murdered in USA," referring to the Indian Institute of Technology.

Articles also appeared on several other news websites operated by the Press Trust of India, the country's largest news agency, and the Indo-Asian News Service.

While local authorities said the random attack was apparently not motivated by bias, those concerns were highlighted Tuesday night at the special meeting between township officials and the community members who crowded the council chambers.

Some demanded justice, while others shared stories of ethnic harassment, according to officials who attended.

But Kiran Desai, a township resident who helped moderate the meeting, said Thursday that attendees had since let cooler heads prevail and were opting to let authorities do their job.

"That's the overall sentiment we had after the meeting and the overall sentiment when I'm talking to people," said Desai, a township zoning board member and a township resident for more than 30 years. "Everybody feels comfortable (about) where the investigation is going."

But that doesn't mean their focus will shift elsewhere.

Desai said residents in Sinha's development and other parts of town may start to document possible bias incidents. That could lead to future community meetings and a neighborhood watch program, officials said.

"We're doing things such as increasing patrols in the area to bring us back to some sort of normalcy," said acting Police Chief Robert Bonfante, who also mentioned a possible crime-prevention program.

"We need their eyes and ears out there," he said. "We need everybody's eyes and ears."

On a personal level, Sinha's death reverberated in his social and professional circles. Family friends said about 500 people attended a memorial service held Wednesday at Franklin Memorial Park in North Brunswick.

The afternoon vigil drew fellow researchers, township residents and former students who spoke about how influential Sinha was to them, according to Prakash Waghmare, who attended. Sinha was a former professor at Stevens Institute of Technology and the **College of Staten Island**.

"I've never seen so many people breaking down during a eulogy," said Waghmare, who said he knew Sinha for more than 10 years. "There were his superiors, there were his colleagues. They just could not bear the loss."

The friends and former colleagues hope to memorialize Sinha through a website, [www.divyendusinha.com](http://www.divyendusinha.com), which will showcase his research in the field of computer science. They have also set up a scholarship fund for his two sons.

The five suspects, whose names have not been released because of their ages, remain in custody at Middlesex County Juvenile Detention Center in North Brunswick after court appearances last week.

Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce Kaplan said his office will decide whether to file bias charges and whether to seek to have the juveniles tried as adults after the investigation is completed.

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## The Brian Lehrer Show

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# Your Anecdotal Census: Staten Island

Tuesday, July 06, 2010



Staten Island savings bank in Stapleton  
(pro-zak/flickr)

Staten Island Borough President **James P. Molinaro** joins to talk about the policy implications of Staten Island's changing demographics. Later, **Jonathan Peters**, co-director of the [Center for the Study of Staten Island](#) at the [College of Staten Island](#), CUNY, discusses the demographic shifts in Staten Island over the past ten years. Then **Jacob Massaquoi**, director of the [African Refuge](#), a community center for Africans in Staten Island, talks about the West African community in Staten Island over the past ten years, particularly Liberians. **Ruthie Ackerman**, a senior fellow at the [World Policy Institute](#) and founder of the [Ceasefire Liberia](#) and [Ceasefire Staten Island](#), joins us to talk about Liberian youth in Staten Island.

**Need to Orient Yourself? See a Neighborhood Map of Staten Island Here**

**Add Your Stories to the Richmond County Anecdotal Census**

**Find Other Area Counties and Add Your Story!**

**Guests:** James P. Molinaro, Ruthie Ackerman, Jacob Massaquoi and Jonathan Peters

Attacked by 3 teens, Indian scientist dies

-

Tue Jul 06 14:16:58 GMT 2010

Washington: An Indian computer scientist, who was brutally attacked by three juveniles three days ago while taking a walk with his family in a New Jersey suburb has succumbed to his injuries, police said.

The three 17-year-old assailants, whose names have been withheld because of their age, have been arrested and now charged with homicide, they said. 49-year-old Divyendu Sinha, an IIT Kharagpur alumnus and presently working as a consultant with Siemens, sustained injuries after he was attacked by three teenagers on Friday night when he was walking with his family near his home in Old Bridge in New Jersey.

His two sons, who were also accompanying him, were not seriously injured in the attack. Local prosecutor, Bruce Kaplan, said the preliminary investigation into the attack on Sinha indicate that the assault was "not racially motivated" but rather a random attack.

However, the police said that a final determination on the motive would be determined only after the investigation was complete. According to Prakash Waghmare, a friend of Sinha for 10 years, his friend was "a very gentle person". After graduating from IIT Kharagpur he earned his PhD from Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken in New Jersey and worked for a time at the College of Staten Island.

Sinha, who has also authored several books on computer imaging, and his sons were going for a walk when "a car came by and they pounced on him." The police received 911 call around 11-30 pm, Waghmare quoted as saying by the local Star Ledger. When the police arrived, Sinha was found on the ground outside his house. Friends and family have organised a memorial service for Sinha.

## Crime: Indian American dead; three teenagers charged with murder

Three teenagers have been charged with murder to commit murder after an Indian

**American professor died of injuries suffered in an attack near his home in Old Bridge, New Jersey. A dog, an IAS officer and two warring families-they are in the centre of a muddle that would appear to many as an episode of the latest tearjerker on television. Yet it is for real. The Delhi police arrested a notorious criminal nearly a month after it was assumed he had died. In order to avoid arrest, he decided to kill someone and pass off the body as his own, he reportedly told the police. Read on.**

### Indian scientist attacked by teenagers succumbs to injuries

New York: The US authorities have charged three teenagers with murder and conspiracy to commit murder after an Indian American professor died of injuries suffered in an attack near his home in Old Bridge, New Jersey.

Divyendu Sinha, 49, succumbed to his injuries at 4 a.m. in Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick on Monday, according to Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce Kaplan.

The three teenagers were arrested and earlier charged with assaulting Sinha, a former College of Staten Island professor, and his two sons on Friday. Sinha taught at CSI from 1990 to 1999, as an assistant professor in the computer science department.

Kaplan said the investigation into the attack on Sinha is ongoing and that preliminary findings indicate the assault "was not racially motivated" but rather a random attack. He said no weapons were used.

Media reports citing authorities said they received a 911 call around 11:30 p.m. Friday. When officers arrived, they found the victim on the ground outside his house on Fela Drive, a neighbourhood of newer homes.

An alumnus of IIT Kharagpur, Sinha had earned his Ph.D. from Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken and worked for a time at the College of Staten Island. An author of several books on computer imaging, he had been working as a consultant to Siemens.

The three juveniles, who are not identified due to their age, had a hearing on Monday morning before Superior Court Judge Roger Daley, who remanded them to the Middlesex County Juvenile

Detention Centre. They are scheduled to return to Family Court on Thursday for a preliminary hearing on the murder and murder conspiracy charges. After the investigation is complete, Kaplan said he will review all reports in the case and decide whether to seek to try the three as adults in Superior Court.

Source: IANS

# Suburban

Old Bridge • Sayreville

July 8, 2010

## Murder suspects now up to five O.B. teens

Members of community seek answers, justice  
BY LAUREN CIRAULO  
Staff Writer

Authorities have arrested two more teenagers in connection with the fatal beating of Divyendu Sinha, bringing the total number of suspects to five.

Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce Kaplan and acting Old Bridge Police Chief Robert Bonfante charged a 17-year-old and a 16-year-old on July 1 with murder and murder conspiracy. They join three other previously arrested Old Bridge teens.

The five Old Bridge High School students have now also been charged with aggravated assault and conspiracy to commit aggravated assault because, authorities said, the group was involved in a “separate, unrelated altercation” minutes before they allegedly attacked Sinha.

Through the ongoing investigation by Old Bridge Detective Greg Morris and Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office Investigator Paul Miller, authorities said they determined that the five juveniles instigated a motor vehicle chase with a male Caucasian motorist less than five minutes before the assault. The driver of the other motor vehicle was able to escape the chase, which occurred on Prests Mill Road in Old Bridge, police said. However, the teens allegedly threw objects at his car, which was damaged.

All five juveniles remain in custody. The newly charged 17-year-old and 16- year-old appeared the morning of July 2 for a preliminary hearing in Family Court before Superior Court Judge Roger Daley in New Brunswick.

Kaplan said that although it appeared that Sinha was attacked randomly, especially given the alleged assault on the Caucasian motorist, the decision of whether to file bias charges will be made after the investigation is complete.

“The initial focus of the probe has been to determine who was responsible for the murder of Dr. Sinha,” Kaplan said. “Now that five individuals have been arrested and charged, we will be making every effort to assess whether racial bias played a role in the attack, and, if so, we will

bring appropriate charges.”

Kaplan also said authorities would determine whether or not the juveniles would be tried as adults once the investigation is complete. The prosecutor’s office has 30 days to file the motion in Family Court, and officials must show probable cause. Once filed and supported by evidence, it will be up to the Superior Court judge to decide.

Sinha was attacked as he walked near his Fela Drive home with members of his family around 11:40 p.m. on June 25, authorities have said. Police received a 911 call at that time, and officers arrived to find Sinha lying on the ground outside his home. Sinha’s two sons — one is in high school and the other is 10 years old — reportedly sustained minor injuries during the attack, but his wife was not hurt.

No weapons were used in the attack, officials said.

Sinha was taken first to Raritan Bay Medical Center in Old Bridge, and later to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, where he remained in critical condition until his death on June 28. An autopsy revealed that the victim died of a head injury.

On June 26, authorities arrested the first three suspects, all 17-year-old Old Bridge residents. Their charges were updated from aggravated assault to murder and conspiracy to commit murder following Sinha’s death.

The names of the suspects have been withheld due to their ages.

Sinha was a computer scientist at Siemens and a professor at the College of Staten Island. He was also the author of several books about computer science.

### **Concerns about bias incidents**

On June 29, more than 100 people gathered at the Old Bridge municipal building for an impromptu meeting regarding the recent fatality.

“It originally was supposed to be a one-on-one meeting with a resident who wanted to talk about the incident and where the investigation was going. But he told a few of his friends, and they told their friends, and so we ended up filling the council chambers,” said Mayor Jim Phillips. “A lot of good things came from it.”

Phillips said that the meeting, which was run by Kiran Desai, Old Bridge’s Zoning Board of Adjustment chairman, brought out many who had questions about the investigation, and others who reported that they have been victims of racially biased harassment from teenagers.

Desai said that any residents who believe they have been victims of harassment in any way should report the incident to authorities so that appropriate action can be taken.

“It’s easy to say that this was a bias attack — and it could be, but that’s up to the authorities to



decide,” Phillips said. “But it goes beyond that. These were high school kids who [allegedly] went out looking for violence. And this is increasingly becoming a problem in any town.”

In terms of the investigation, Desai said he believes the meeting served to reassure residents concerned about the intensity of the investigation.

“The community itself has understood and appreciated the swiftness of the Old Bridge Police Department,” Desai said. “They’re vigorously investigating the situation.”

Phillips said many residents turned up at the meeting looking for answers. The mayor said the reasons for the attack on Sinha may or may not be revealed, but nothing could be determined for sure until after the investigation.

“As time goes on, hopefully someone will be able to answer why this happened,” Phillips said. “The residents want something very simple: justice. As a multi-ethnic community, this sent a shockwave through the nervous system of Old Bridge.”

Desai, a member of the South Asian-American community, said he will wait until the investigation is complete to pass judgment on the motives involved.

“My initial reaction was that this was racially motivated, but my advice to the community is to wait and not jump to any conclusion,” he said. “Whatever it is, those perpetrators must be prosecuted vigorously, and given the maximum penalty.”

Desai also noted that residents will be forming a group that could sit down with police officials and discuss ways in which Old Bridge could be made safer, such as placing extra patrols in certain areas.

Both Desai and Phillips stressed that the incident is not a reflection of the all-around safety of Old Bridge.

“Old Bridge is not what happened that day. That was a very violent crime and there’s a reason behind it. This kind of crime has not happened in the 30 years I have been here,” Desai said. “This was an isolated incident that should not have happened and should not happen ever again.”



## CSI assistant athletic director earns masters

Published: Thursday, July 08, 2010, 4:56 PM



**Jim Waggoner**

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WILLOWBROOK/WEST BRIGHTON — We never stop learning.

Katie Arcuri knows that full well, balancing her full-time job as assistant athletic director at the **College of Staten Island (CSI)** with her recent master's degree in sports management from the United States Sports Academy.



Katie Arcuri, **CSI** assistant athletic director, has earned her master's degree.

The 1999 graduate of St. Peter's Girls High School has worked primarily in student-athletes services since her arrival at **CSI** in the spring of 2008, helping Dolphins get squared away with their registration, classes and tutoring, if necessary.

In actuality, she has experience in a little bit of everything – from coaching to game management to turning out the lights at the end of another work day.

"We're all involved pretty much with all aspects of athletics," said Ms. Arcuri of the NCAA Division III program.

The West Brighton resident's athletic bloodlines run deep. Her father, Al, is the former girls' basketball coach at Moore Catholic. Her brother, Ben, was inducted into the Ramapo College Hall of Fame in 2006 a decade after a prolific basketball career.

And her aunt and uncle, Mia (Arcuri) and Fred Marinaccio, were **CSI** standout hoopsters – Fred hit the legendary three-pointer at the buzzer as the Dolphins shocked Division I Wagner, 81-78, in 1989.

Katie Arcuri was a solid hoopster herself.

She played one year at St. Francis of Brooklyn before transferring to Ramapo and playing for ex-**CSI** athletic director Gene Marshall for three seasons. Her 100 assists in 2002 still rank seventh on the school's all-time list, and her 38.2 percent accuracy from 3-point range during the same season ranks third overall.

United States Sports Academy is located in Daphne, Alabama. It offers bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees in sports management.

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JULY 10, 2010, 9:36 AM

## Urban Forager | From Sidewalk Cracks, a Side Dish

By [AVA CHIN](#)

Ava Chin for The New York Times Once you recognize it, you'll see purslane growing everywhere. As I was running up the outdoor steps to my doctor's office on Staten Island recently, I saw the succulent trailing tendrils of purslane growing nearby. As far as I could see across the dry, scorched lawn, purslane was the only plant thriving in the brutal summer heat.

Purslane sprawls low to the ground on thick red stems that radiate out from its center, resembling a wee jade plant. When I first started reading about this amazingly tenacious edible, I confused it with all sorts of common ground cover, like sedum. But after discovering patches of it growing in cracks in the sidewalks in Park Slope, Brooklyn, and in friends' backyards, I now find its meandering magenta-colored stems and flat paddle-shaped leaves unmistakable.

Portulaca oleracea, aka little hogweed, duckweed, pusley and wild portulaca, is native to India and Iran, where it is prized in local cuisine. The stems, leaves and flowers are edible, have a lemony kick and are mucilaginous, like okra, making purslane a nice addition to stew or gumbo.

Growing throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico, purslane is rich in vitamins A and C, riboflavin, calcium, iron, magnesium, potassium and manganese, and it has garnered attention for its omega-3s; no wonder Michael Pollan, in "[In Defense of Food](#)," tips his hat to purslane as one of the most nutritious plants in the world, along with lambsquarters. (Avoid the look-alike spurge, in the Euphorbia genus, which has thinner stems and leaves, and emits a milky white sap when plucked; it can give one a stomachache.)

After a discussion of purslane at a wild-edibles tour I led at the [Greene Acres Community Garden](#) in Bedford-Stuyvesant last spring, the gardeners there said they had been having a field day with the esculent green we had talked about. One of them, Noah Budnick, has been handing out purslane by the fistful, and is so enthusiastic about it that he eats it raw.

The patch of purslane outside my doctor's office on Staten Island, which by the look of it had been nipped by a lawn mower but made a full recovery, was lovely raw — a fresh and tangy delight for the palate.

Back home, I read up on Euell Gibbons's recommendations for cooking purslane (from

“[Stalking the Wild Asparagus](#)”), which included sautéing it with bacon or pickling and canning it.

I decided to flash-pickle it, Chinese-style, a technique that my aunt taught me. The recipe uses just a small amount of sugar and salt, allowing the vinegar’s zing to highlight the crisp clarity of the purslane. If you use red Chinese vinegar, you can use even less; it already has sugar and salt in it.

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### Chinese-Style ☐ Pickled Purslane

1/2 cup of white vinegar or apple ☐☐☐☐ cider vinegar

2 Tbsp. sugar

1/2 tsp. salt

1/4 cup water

Handful of purslane

1. Combine vinegar with sugar, salt and water in a nonreactive bowl, stirring vigorously with a wooden spoon.
2. Add the purslane to the brine.
3. Soak for at least two hours, chilled in refrigerator, before serving.

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*Ava Chin, a professor of creative nonfiction and journalism at the [College of Staten Island](#), lives in Park Slope, Brooklyn. The Urban Forager runs every other Saturday.*

## Straight actors/gay roles :: Hollywood's play for pay (and awards)

by Joseph Erbentraut

EDGE Contributor

Monday Jul 12, 2010

There's been no shortage of chatter these days surrounding sexual identity, Hollywood and the believability of certain actors taking on certain roles, thanks particularly to the now-infamous Newsweek article [Straight Jacket](#). In the article, writer Ramin Setoodeh made a confusing and inflammatory argument that openly gay actors, namely Promises Promises costar Sean Hayes and Glee's Jonathan Groff, could not effectively play it straight in romantic roles.

The article launched a national debate reaching across the blogosphere and dozens of cable and network talk shows but the ensuing dialogue has fallen short in addressing several important issues facing actors, gay and straight, looking to make it in the entertainment industry today. While openly gay actors have seen greater acceptance in the worlds of television and theater, the film industry maintains a seemingly foggy stance on granting these actors "A-list," sexually current, traditionally masculine straight roles.

Further, while it would seem a great deal of previously-held stigma has been erased for straight Hollywood actors playing gay in recent years, important factors are at work both in how these gay roles are developed and how straight actors approach them. What are the motivations of a Gyllenhaal or Penn to play gay? What can be said of the gay roles that find mainstream success versus those who do not, like the as-of-yet still unreleased I Love You Phillip Morris, Ewan McGregor-Jim Carrey film?

To address some of these questions, EDGE spoke with a number of industry insiders and queer film buffs who offered insight into the hopes of a homophobia-free Hollywood.



### Famous heteros play gay

In 1993, the same year that brought the gay community the hotly-debated Don't Ask Don't Tell military policy and the launch of gay marriage as the divisive wedge issue it is today, actor Tom Hanks played Andrew Beckett, a lawyer who contracts and eventually dies of AIDS, in the groundbreaking film Philadelphia.

Fresh on the heels of playing a sexily sad widower in Sleepless in Seattle, Hanks' step into such a prominent, emotionally gripping role was a historically significant one, earning the actor his first of two consecutive Academy Awards. And while Hanks' performance was among the most prominent examples of early gay roles played by straight actors, other acclaimed actors dipped their toes into the water even earlier, albeit in less major roles.

Among the pre-Hanks actors who went queer on screen: Robert Redford as a closeted gay movie star in Inside Daisy Clover in 1965, Marlon Brando as the repressed gay husband of Elizabeth Taylor in Reflections



(top) Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger in *Brokeback Mountain*; (bottom) Ewan McGregor and Jim Carrey in the yet-to-be-released *I Love You, Phillip Morris*.

in a Golden Eye in 1967 and Forest Whitaker as a sexually adventurous British soldier in *The Crying Game* in 1992. Al Pacino even received an Oscar nomination for his performance as a bisexual bank robber in 1975's *Dog Day Afternoon*; and a decade later William Hurt took home the award for his performance as an imprisoned window dresser in *Kiss of the Spider Women*.

But those roles were few and far between and early shots at mainstream films with gay plotlines, such as 1980's *Making Love*, were financial flops. It wasn't until Hanks brought mainstream success to a gay-centric film, pulling in more than \$206 million gross revenue, that more straight actors were willing to take on a gay role. From future action heroes like Russell Crowe and Patrick Swayze to heartthrobs like Leonardo DiCaprio and Jonathan Rhys Meyers and revered names including Will Smith, Matt Damon and Philip Seymour Hoffman, the '90s are littered with actors - some already big, some up-and-comers - who proved that playing gay was a rite of passage rather than a stigmatizing career move.



Annette Bening and Julianne Moore in *The Kids Are All Right*.

### **Welcome Brokeback, Milk and the new 'Kids' on the block**

As public acceptance of the LGBT community has soared in recent years, the trend has caught even more traction most notably through the heart-wrenching performances of Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal in *Brokeback Mountain*, Sean Penn and James Franco in *Milk* and Colin Firth in *A Single Man*.

The trend has caught up with women, too, but to a lesser degree: Judi Dench, Meryl Streep, Julianne Moore and Charlize Theron are among the female actors who have recently portrayed lesbian roles and Felicity Huffman and Hilary Swank have both been recognized by the Academy for going transgender on the big screen. Last week, the much buzzed-about *The Kids Are All Right*, costarring Moore and Annette Bening in a long-term lesbian relationship, was

released in several major markets, with a nationwide release expected later this summer.

But the politics of female roles in Hollywood would be an entire graduate thesis of its own. There remains much to be said about the types of gay male roles that have succeeded in Hollywood and why many actors do continue to avoid the roles for the still-present fear of backlash. When examined under this light, the film industry appears to still have a long way to go before being accurately considered "progressive."

While the number of straight actors playing gay has taken off, particularly in the last decade, major barriers still exist to those films' ability to be mainstream, nationwide successes. *I Love You Phillip Morris*, released in Europe and Taiwan this April, has seen its U.S. release date postponed several times, and is now tentatively scheduled for an October release, that is if legal problems between its American and European distributor can be solved. Thus far the film has grossed a little more than \$15 million and has garnered Carrey some of the best reviews of his career. "Jim Carrey is superb in his mercurial, droll, loose-limbed portrayal of Russell," wrote Kate Muir in the *London Times*. "Carrey has played many wild-eyed fantasists in his time, but he surpasses himself as 'the con man who wouldn't go straight.'" Whether American audiences will get a chance to cheer his performance remains to be seen.



Many of the films that succeed tend to have a sexually-restrained, often tragic air, contributing to antiquated stereotypes of gay men as a diseased, immoral, lonely, doomed community. And few of the serious, non-comedic or villainous roles portray more "feminine" aspects of gay male sexuality.

And, of course, the fear of being perceived as gay among A-List actors pursuing action-type leading roles in films is still very much a driving force in Hollywood. Continual gay rumors have even plagued the latest Mr. Bond, Daniel Craig, and, as some Hollywood insiders have conjectured, contributed to the Sam Mendes-directed twenty-third Bond film's delay.



In this doctored image, Michael Douglas appears as Liberace, whom Douglas plans on playing in Steven Soderbergh's upcoming biopic.

### Why do they do it?

Given the inherent risks and the relatively short history of straight actors who are able to pull off gay roles while maintaining an action film-ready public persona, why do some actors dive into the fold?

According to David Gerstner, a cinema studies professor at the City University of New York's **College of Staten Island**, the motivation is based in being a "good liberal" and taking on a non-traditional role from the safe distance of being a "known heterosexual," in almost all cases. Thus, audiences can accept Michael Douglas as Liberace.

Douglas is set to play Liberace opposite Matt Damon [as Scott Thornson] in a biopic directed by Steven Soderbergh. Though the project has been delayed, Damon told the Las Vegas Sun last week: "Yeah, it's going to happen. We're going to do it next summer. Richard LaGravenese has written a really great script and, you know, hopefully it will be a really great movie. I don't see why it wouldn't be."

"With straight actors, there's a distance and the audience can read that as being safe as a performance [of being gay]," Gerstner told EDGE. "I think they want to be tolerant and see

a world that is tolerant of others. There's a good impulse behind it what they want to do."

While accepting straight actors' good-natured intentions in playing gay, often owing to an affinity some feel toward gay men or lesbians they work with and encounter in their lives, other queer film buffs suspect other motives. Matt Bell, an English professor at Bridgewater State College, describes a certain colonizing aspect to these actors' decisions.

"I think it's a kind of standard colonial fantasy that the straight white guy wants to get inside the head of everyone else and own the territory of those identities," Bell added. "The straight white Western mind wants to expand and think about the perspectives of others, the perspectives of the outliers."

### The role of fantasy

That "colonizing" angle - of a straight actor getting inside the head of a gay character - has become increasingly marketable to a world that's become more curious and understanding, if not accepting, of gay men and lesbians. It throws the old Hollywood notion of tying off-screen stardom to on-screen heat on its head but is not all that surprising considering that a successful Hollywood actor is, effectively, a projection of fantasy.

"Hollywood is all about conjuring fantasy and being a screen for the projections of audience fantasies," added Bell, offering the example of Keanu Reeves. "The most appealing Hollywood presences have always





Doug Fahl and Walter Delmar

been the ones who were almost ciphers - who aren't quite there. There's something to be said for the blankness of the Hollywood actor."

Walter Delmar, an openly gay, Hollywood-based actor who admitted to losing a gay role to a straight actor, added he thought many casting agents saw straight actors as more easily applicable to their stereotyped-at-times perceptions of a gay character's life. And the fantasy of forcing a straight actor out of his realm of experience is enticing to some directors.

"When they cast straight male characters, [directors] tend to have a stereotypical breakdown of what the character should be like, so I think that persona is easier to get out of someone who is straight," Delmar said. "Maybe they're a bit more dense and base, the straight guy base."



(left) Reichen Lehmkuhl and (right) Rupert Everett.

### Fewer opportunities for gay actors

But the problem arises when the tables are turned and openly gay actors have not frequently been given the opportunity to take on a romantic, leading straight role in film. The double standard contributes to many actors' decisions to stay in the closet, per the advice of names like Rupert Everett, whose career nose-dived following his coming out. Everett made headlines late last year when he told the British press that his coming out hurt his career in Hollywood and that he recommends younger gay actors to stay in the closet.

"It's not that advisable to be honest. It's not very easy. And, honestly, I would not advise any actor necessarily, if he was really thinking of his career, to come out...The fact is that

you could not be, and still cannot be, a 25-year-old homosexual trying to make it in the British film business or the American film business or even the Italian film business," Everett said.

"The beauty of acting is playing something that's not yourself. That's what's so exciting about it and why straight actors like [playing gay]. It's outside your life and it's a big challenge," confided Reichen Lehmkuhl, the hunky openly gay television star who's made limited inroads in the film industry. "It'd be a big challenge for me to play the macho straight guy hero type, so I want that chance too."

Though most wanted to see more opportunities for gay actors to be considered in straight roles, no sources interviewed for this story felt gay actors should be given priority over straight actors by casting agents. Ultimately, it comes down to acting abilities and the bottom line, where having an A-List straight actor of Penn, Moore or Hanks' caliber is essential to having a queer film financed and made.

### That 'ick' factor

And any actor essentially grabbing a guest pass into the community for a role should approach that role with respect by steering clear of stereotypes and honoring the humanity and depth of queer life, both on and off screen.

While gay media have criticized actors like Mark Wahlberg, who reportedly consulted with his priest before turning down a starring role in *Brokeback*, few acknowledge the way in which many straight actors speak in interviews about their gay experiences on the screen. Many continually reiterate their heterosexuality and verge on "ick factor" territory when grilled to speak of man-on-man action scenes.



James Franco: (top) in the upcoming *Howl*; and (bottom) in *Milk*.

Actors like Franco - who's becoming a regular in gay cinema, having filmed a lead role in the upcoming Allen Ginsberg biopic *Howl* - are the exception to the rule and set a fine example to other straight actors going gay. Others have, all too frequently, feigned disgust when speaking of their more sexually intimate gay scenes on the media circuit - such as Ledger's "That's why we had stunt doubles" *Early Show* comment following *Brokeback's* release. And more than a decade ago, Denzel Washington advised Will Smith not to kiss a man onscreen in *Six Degrees of Separation* because it would hurt his career.

"It's as if they want the acclaim that comes with playing a gay character, but not the stigma," said actor Doug Fahl, who played a gay character in *ZMD: Zombies of Mass Destruction*. "If gay actors are expected to keep hush about their true sexuality in order to convince an audience they are straight, then straight actors should perhaps exercise the same standards when they play gay characters, otherwise I just might not 'buy' them in those roles."

Judging by the plethora of Hollywood actors still embracing gay roles, and actively speaking up for LGBT political issues with media, there is still hope their openness - whatever the motive - may bleed through to the powers-that-be - casting agents, producers, financiers and studios - who still hold the checkbooks for the industry.

"I believe we're at a cultural crossroads in this moment," Bell said. "This controversy suggests something is about to happen and there's a real possibility that there's a new openness emerging among audiences."

And, for the most part, we as connoisseurs of film, have our own power to play in stamping out the lingering inequities facing the gay community in Hollywood. After all, we hold the pink dollar in our hands.

"I do believe the world is rapidly making all of this a non-issue. A new generation of gay performers is already out there and not willing to play the games of the past. And credible gay roles are being created all the time," Fahl added. "The best thing you can do as an audience member is to spend your money on the films that do it right."

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## Staten Island's bias cases rise sharply, fueling fears

Published: Saturday, July 17, 2010, 1:47 PM



**John M. Annese**



Staten Island Advance / Bill Lyons

Rafael Varios of Port Richmond makes a point to the panel during a community meeting at PS 20 in Port Richmond to discuss the increase of hate crimes in area, Thursday. Panel members are Mark Palladino, assistant DA, Office of the DA Richmond County; Michael Osgood, inspector of NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force; Pamela Chen, chief of civil rights, criminal division, United States Attorney's Office Eastern District of New York, and Reinaldo Rivera, Jr., regional director, Northeast Caribbean Region, U.S. Department of Justice Community Relations Service.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- As a wave of crimes against Mexican immigrants in Port Richmond continues to garner near-daily attention on Staten Island, police statistics reveal that the NYPD's bias crime investigators have been twice as busy in the borough this year compared to previous years.

The NYPD has investigated 21 incidents on Staten Island as possible bias crimes so far in 2010, compared to just nine incidents in the same time period last year.

That number has already exceeded the 18 bias investigations conducted in all of 2009, and the 19 conducted

in all of 2008, according to police statistics.

And Staten Island's not the only borough seeing a marked increase: Citywide, investigators have looked into 200 possible bias crimes so far this year, compared to 111 from the same time period. Brooklyn and Manhattan have seen the majority of that increase, with Brooklyn seeing 89 incidents in 2010 compared to 37 year-to-date in 2009, and Manhattan seeing 58 in 2010 compared to 33 in year-to-date 2009.

Jonathan Peters, a professor and research fellow at the [College of Staten Island](#), who tracks the borough's population, suggested the increase on Staten Island might stem from the borough's shifting population base, and the economy.

"There's a lot of social change going on in Staten Island," Peters said. "The population growth is quite strong ... We're probably going to crack 500,000 next year."

And in areas such as Port Richmond, where different minority groups are sharing, and often competing for, "the same urban space," tensions can erupt.

"The recession can motivate some tension. The job base on Staten Island is very weak," he said.

Most of the recent attacks on Staten Island have centered around the Port Richmond neighborhood, which is home to a growing Mexican population. That community has seen five assaults since April by black attackers on Mexican immigrants.

At a community forum in Port Richmond last Thursday, several immigrants spoke of their own experiences. Some told of being victimized, others recounted stories of friends, neighbors and loved ones being pummeled and robbed.

"We Mexicans are seen as garbage," said one woman, her words translated from Spanish by an interpreter. "I know the Americans work, but we work hard. We work with our sweat ... We just want protection."

At the forum, a panel from the NYPD, the U.S. Department of Justice, and District Attorney Daniel Donovan's office laid out the legal definition of a hate crime, and repeated the same assurance, that police would not investigate the immigration status of someone coming forward as the victim of a crime.

One activist at the forum, Al Peters, said he wanted to "extend an apology for members of my (the African American) community" for the recent attacks.

He also called for a deeper dialogue between members of the black and Hispanic communities.

"There is a community that has pre-dated you in Port Richmond ... and that community needs to be respected as well," he said.

"We need to sit down, negotiate at the table of common sense."

Bias crimes typically spike in economic recession, and the borough's unemployment rate, which was at 3.9 percent in 2008, since has climbed to 8.5 percent, said Tom Volscho, an associate professor of sociology at CSI who focuses on racism and class studies.

"The groups that get victimized are usually scapegoats," he said.

Still, attacks against Mexican immigrants haven't been the only incidents investigated as possible bias crimes in recent months.

The U.S. Department of Justice has maintained a presence on Staten Island since 2008 -- after four young men launched a racially-motivated Election Night rampage in response to the election of Barack Obama -- monitoring race relations and meeting with community leaders.

The NYPD's Hate Crimes Task Force was called in to investigate a July 4 brawl in South Beach where two black teens were attacked and slashed by a group of Hispanic attackers, as well as a July 7 attack on two gay men by a large group of black youths.

And last month, a Midland Beach man was charged with aggravated harassment as a hate crime after, police allege, he left threatening, racially offensive voicemail messages with the Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network on April 30.

Not all of the incidents investigated ultimately meet the legal definition of a hate crime, though.

In some instances, an investigation reveals different motives, such as a past confrontation between the victim and the assailant, said District Attorney Donovan.

Donovan often points out that his office pursued the first indictment under the Hate Crimes Act of 2000, and prosecuted hate crimes when the evidence warrants it.

"We're not shy about this, but we'll use it in those proper circumstances."

"Just because the offender and the victim are different, that's not enough to satisfy the statute," explained Inspector Michael Osgood, who heads the NYPD's task force, speaking at last week's forum. "The main reason for the crime must be the identity of the victim. It doesn't have to be the whole reason, but it does have to be a substantial reason."

Osgood wouldn't speculate on the increase in bias investigations.

"We need to do more human things. We need to sit down with each other. We need to get to know each other," he said.

Councilwoman Debi Rose (D-North Shore), the Island's first black elected official, suggested the economic downturn and Staten Island's rapid population growth over the past few decades may account for some of the spike in bias investigations, adding, though, that more people may now be willing to come forward to authorities as victims of hate crimes.

And Staten Island may still be coming to grips with the diversity that follows a surge in population.

"We grew so fast that people didn't get a chance to accept the changes," she said.

"They just weren't ready."

Rev. Terry Troia, the executive director of the not-for-profit Project Hospitality, said political upheavals, such as the recent debate over Arizona's controversial new immigration law, have added to "a rising intolerance on all levels."

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## Hundreds attend N.J. service for former College of Staten Island professor killed in attack

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**Staten Island Advance**

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OLD BRIDGE, N.J. -- About 300 people attended a memorial service yesterday for a former **College of Staten Island** computer science professor who was **beaten to death** in a brutal attack last month.

The tribute to 49-year-old Divyendu Sinha was organized by Indian-American activists and held at Old Bridge High School, where the five teen-aged suspects attended, according to **a report in the Star-Ledger**.

**Click here for Star-Ledger photos from the concert.**

"I took him to his first concert, Roger Waters and Eric Clapton," friend Alan Gallagher told the Star-Ledger. "I thought I'd be kicking back beers with him now talking about all the fun we had. It's just devastating."

Sinha was set upon while walking with two teen sons outside his home in Old Bridge on June 25. Authorities said they received a 911 call and upon arrival, found the victim on the ground outside his house on Fela Drive. He died of his injuries a few days later.

Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce Kaplan said last week he will file a motion to try the suspects -- four 17-year-olds and a 16-year-old -- as adults. If the motion is approved, the teens would face much harsher penalties if convicted of murder.

Sinha worked at **CSI** as an assistant professor in the computer science department from 1990 to 1999.

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# Suburban

Old Bridge • Bayville

## Murder leads to calls for justice, protection

Indian-American groups, Old Bridge community pay tribute to late resident

BY LAUREN CIRAULO Staff Writer

Electronic candles and signs reading “Justice for Dr. Sinha” proliferated the Old Bridge High School auditorium late Sunday morning when over 300 people gathered to pay tribute to the recently murdered township resident.



Hundreds pay their respects to late Old Bridge resident Divyendu Sinha during a candlelight vigil held July 18 at Old Bridge High School. Indian-American community leaders organized the vigil in response to Sinha’s June 25 murder. Five Old Bridge teenagers have been charged in the killing. SCOTT FRIEDMAN The three-hour candlelight vigil and memorial service held for Divyendu Sinha brought out residents, township and school officials, members of the Indian-American community and representatives of several organizations, many of whom expressed concerns regarding the nature of the murder.

Sinha, a computer scientist at Siemens and a professor at the College of Staten Island, was attacked as he walked near his Fela Drive home with members of his family around 11:40 p.m. on June 25. Sinha’s two sons — one is in high school and the other is 10 years old — reportedly sustained minor injuries during the attack, but his wife was not hurt. Sinha died three days later due to injuries sustained in the assault.

Police have arrested five Old Bridge teens, four age 17 and one age 16, charging each with the murder. The names of the suspects have been withheld due to their ages.

Authorities also alleged that the same five juveniles instigated a motor vehicle chase with a male Caucasian motorist less than five minutes before the assault. The driver of the other motor vehicle was able to escape the chase, which occurred on Prests Mill Road in Old Bridge, police said. However, the teens allegedly threw objects at his car, which was damaged.



Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce J. Kaplan said that although it appeared that Sinha was attacked randomly, especially given the alleged assault on the Caucasian motorist, the decision of whether to file bias charges will be made after the investigation is complete.

But many members of the Indian community believe that Sinha's murder was the result of racial bias, and several residents who took to the podium at the July 18 memorial service elaborated on those concerns and spoke of other incidents in Old Bridge that they believe were racially driven.

Nimesh Dave, speaking for the Federation of Indian Associations in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut, said his organization interviewed about 20 Old Bridge residents and neighbors of Sinha who "have repeatedly complained to the police and authorities" about instances of harassment around Old Bridge and bullying in the schools and on online social networks.

"No action unfortunately had been taken by the relevant authorities, and the complaints had largely not been acted upon and maybe in the process emboldened the perpetrators of the crime in question," Dave said.

Peter Kothari, a local businessman who helped organize the service and acted as its emcee, said the intent of the service was not only to commemorate the life of Sinha, but also to raise awareness about the existence of such crimes in the township.

Kothari said the most important objective was to prevent "hate crimes" in the community, and to ensure that what happened to Sinha never happens again.

"We want to send condolences to the family, we want to pray for God to give us strength through this loss, and we also want to send a clear and loud message that this kind of situation should be prevented in the future," he said.

Several local officials also spoke at the service, with many addressing the potential bias nature of the murder.

"This was a horrific crime — I recall few in my lifetime that I find so disturbing," said state Assemblyman Sam Thompson. "But I don't view this as an attack on the Indian community. I view this as an attack on the entire community, because I don't separate the two."

Old Bridge Superintendent of Schools Simon Bosco discussed the presence of bullying in the schools, and addressed recent complaints by residents that not enough has been done to punish students for racially biased bullying.

"There have been issues brought to my attention regarding bullying or bias, and we are investigating these claims thoroughly. In times of fear and grief and anger, many things can be said," Bosco said, noting that several residents have criticized the school for not punishing more prominent students. "But we will continue to do the best we can."

Bosco said he has watched the township grow in population and diversity over the course of his 40 years working in the district, and that Sinha's death and the potential motivation for the

murder are shocking considering the “tightly woven fabric of multicultural and multiethnic residents.”

The memorial service kicked off with a series of live Indian songs, while a large picture of Sinha sat on stage along with Indian and American flags. The audience was somber during the first half of the event, but with each speech thereafter, attendees became more resolute in accomplishing the community’s primary objective: to bring justice.

“Ghandi said, ‘An eye for an eye will make everyone blind,’” said Mangal Gupta, who spoke about the Indian community. “We are not seeking to inflict the same violent punishment on the perpetrators. That doesn’t accomplish anything. But we do demand justice.”

And justice may very well be served — speakers throughout the ceremony called for the suspects to be tried as adults, and at the conclusion of the memorial service, Kothari announced that the prosecutor’s office will be seeking a waiver in court to do just that.

The audience gave an enthusiastic round of applause upon hearing the news, and perhaps exited the service with a little more hope than they arrived with.

### Community Outraged Over Divyendu Sinha Attack

By SUNITA SOHRABJI  
indiawest.com

July 22, 2010 02:25:00 PM

More than 800 people came together at a vigil July 18 at a high school in Old Bridge, New Jersey, to mourn the death of Prof. Divyendu Sinha, who was fatally attacked last month near his home, allegedly by five teenagers.

At the vigil, community leaders expressed outrage that the local school board had ignored earlier signs of bullying by the five accused teens. Several parents said their children knew who the attackers were and had lodged complaints against them in the past, which were ignored because the five are good athletes, and thus valuable to the school, the parents alleged.



The PAN IIT has also taken up Sinha's case by writing a letter to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, asking that the case be investigated as a hate crime and that the juveniles accused of Sinha's death be tried as adults.

On July 15, Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce Kaplan announced that he would attempt to try the five suspects as adults.

Sinha, 49, was attacked late in the evening June 25 near his home in Old Bridge, New Jersey, while on a walk with his wife Alka, and his two teenaged sons, Ravi and Ashish. The boys were also assaulted during the attack while defending their father, but suffered only minor injuries (I-W, July 2).

Sinha was transported to a local hospital, where he died from his injuries June 28. The 49-year-old computer scientist worked as a consultant for the IT company Siemens and as a part-time professor at the **College of Staten Island**.

Kaplan filed a waiver in New Brunswick Family Court, asking that the four 17-year-old males and the one 16-year-old male be tried as adults. A judge will determine if the waiver should be granted.

All have been charged with murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

Police are continuing to investigate whether the attack against Sinha was racially motivated. The prosecutor's office said that the investigation would focus on whether the teens knew of Sinha's race when they exited the car to attack him, and whether the family was targeted because of their race or ethnicity.

Several minutes earlier, the teens had also assaulted a Caucasian motorist, Kaplan noted.

Hoboken city councilman Ravi Bhalla, an attorney in New Jersey, said if the accused were found guilty of "bias motivation," as a hate crime is known by statute in the state, it could add an additional five years to their sentence. The sentence for first-degree "bias motivation" in the course of a murder is 20 years, he said.

"There are underlying circumstances which strongly suggest bias in this case," Bhalla told India-West. "It was a random act of violence, with no relationship between the parties," he said, adding that the races of those involved points to bias.

In 1987, a group calling itself the "Dotbusters" surfaced in New Jersey, telling a local newspaper that it would take any means necessary to drive Indian Americans out of New Jersey.

Later that summer, banker Navroze Mody was fatally attacked by 11 teenagers in Hoboken who shouted "Hindu, Hindu," as they pummeled the young Parsi with bricks. Though the juveniles were charged with bias motivation, they were found not guilty of that crime, and convicted only on aggravated assault, receiving sentences of 10 years.

"Unfortunately, 23 years later, we are still dealing with this problem in municipalities with burgeoning Indian populations," said Bhalla.

"We want the prosecutor's office to treat this as a hate crime until they find evidence that it is not such a crime," Gunjan Bagla, president of PAN IIT USA, told India-West, adding that it was a reasonable assumption to believe the teens were motivated by race.

"Here was a man with his family who had done nothing to invoke the wrath of these teenagers," said Bagla of Sinha, who graduated from IIT Kharagpur in 1982. "We cannot take the low-key approach that this was a random crime," he said.

Satya Dosapati, one of the organizers of the July 18 vigil, told India-West he had never met Sinha, but came to know of the case through mutual friends.

"This man has touched so many people's lives," said Dosapati, noting that many of Sinha's former students attended his funeral and the vigil.

"The loss of one community member is a loss to everyone. It can happen to any one of us," he said.

Hanjin Lee, a former student and close friend of Sinha's, told India-West that Alka Sinha and her sons were attempting to deal with the aftermath of the death.

"There's so much paperwork, financial problems, insurance issues," said Lee, adding that the Indian American community has rallied around the family to provide much-needed support. Lee has set up a scholarship fund and a memorial Web site: [www.divyendusinha.com](http://www.divyendusinha.com).

The two met in 1987 and have been friends since. "He was one of the best professors I have known," said Lee. "He not only tried to teach knowledge to his students, but also taught them the philosophy behind what they were learning. He really cared about his students."

An online petition in support of Sinha has collected more than 10,000 signatures and can be viewed at [http:// www.petitiononline.com/divyendu/petition.html](http://www.petitiononline.com/divyendu/petition.html).



## **Bulls Head gynecologist Dr. Jane M. Ponterio receives 2 honors**

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**Staten Island Advance**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Dr. Jane M. Ponterio, a gynecologist with a practice in Bulls Head, has been recognized with two honors in her medical field.

Dr. Ponterio was selected as a 2010 Top Doctor by Castle Connolly, a New York City research and information company that supplies the list to New York Magazine for its annual Best Doctors issue.

The selection process is competitive. Castle Connolly distributes 12,000 nomination forms to medical professionals in New York City, Westchester, Long Island and parts of New Jersey and Connecticut. The recipients include board-certified doctors selected at random, all doctors listed in the previous edition of Castle Connolly's guidebook, and from every hospital in the area, the president or CEO, vice president of medical affairs and up to eight chiefs of service in departments from obstetrics and gynecology to pediatrics.

The forms ask recipients to nominate doctors who are the best in their field and related fields -- especially those to whom they would refer their own patients and family members.

Castle Connolly asks the nominators to consider professional qualifications, reputation and skills in dealing with patients, which include communicating effectively, demonstrating empathy and instilling trust and confidence.

The pool is tabulated, board certifications are confirmed and disciplinary histories are investigated before the final selections are made.

Dr. Ponterio is listed in the 13th edition of Top Doctors: New York Metro Area. She had been listed previously in Castle Connolly's second and third editions.

A lifelong Staten Islander who lives on Emerson Hill, Dr. Ponterio has also been named a Super Doctor in the New York Times Magazine.

The Times list is compiled by Key Professional Media, which conducts the polling, research and selection for Super Doctors in a process designed to identify medical professionals who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement.

Dr. Ponterio graduated as valedictorian from Notre Dame Academy High School, Grymes Hill. She completed an accelerated six-year medical program, earning a bachelor of science degree from the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education of the City College of New York and a medical degree from New York Medical College, where she is an assistant professor.

She is vice chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC), West Brighton, where she also directs the residency program and is an attending physician.

She is a member of RUMC's Graduate Medical Education Committee, Operating Room Committee and Breastfeeding Committee.

Dr. Ponterio has been honored by the American Congress of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Association of Professors in Gynecology and Obstetrics.

She and Dr. Joanna Pessolano, her partner in the Bulls Head practice, are the only doctors on Staten Island certified by the North American Menopause Society as menopause practitioners.

#### **Island CPA chapter names new president**

Cynthia Scarinci of Prince's Bay has been installed as president of the Staten Island Chapter of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants (NYSSCPA).

Ms. Scarinci is a CPA and an accounting professor at the **College of Staten Island** of the City University of New York.

She joined the NYSSCPA in 1990 and has served as president-elect, vice president and a member of the Executive Board of the Island Chapter. She also was a member of the chapter's One-on-One Program.

She has coordinated the chapter's annual Education Night for the last eight years, an event that draws about 100 senior-level students from **CSI**, Wagner College and St. John's University.

She received both her bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from Pace University.

#### **Provident Bank names Frank Muzio first VP**

Frank S. Muzio of Eltingville has been hired as the first vice president and chief accounting officer for Provident Bank.

Muzio has more than 25 years experience in finance, accounting, strategic planning and corporate governance.

Before joining Provident, he served as senior vice president and controller of the New York Metro Division of Sovereign Bancorp.

Muzio is a certified public accountant, affiliated with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

He earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from Pace University and his master's degree in accounting and taxation from Long Island University.

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# What's The Appeal Of Wikileaks?

by C.W. Anderson



Enlarge Leon Neal/AFP/Getty Images

Wikileaks founder Julian Assange holds up a copy of today's *Guardian* with a front page story about documents on the Afghan War that he helped leak.

July 26, 2010

*C.W. Anderson is an Assistant Professor of Media Culture at the College of Staten Island, and a research fellow at Yale Law School and the New America Foundation.*

A lot of smart people have already written a lot of smart things in a really short amount of time about "the largest leak in U.S. military history" — the release of more than 92,000 documents about the Afghan War by the transparency organization Wikileaks. I think it is worth looking at what the nature of this disclosure says about the politics and the journalism of 2010, particularly the way that politics and the media have changed since the last comparable wartime leak, the Pentagon Papers.

When I heard about the documents, I was immediately struck by the question: why Wikileaks, and why the legacy news media? By that I mean: when Daniel Ellsberg released the Pentagon Papers, he had to go to the biggest newspaper he could find, *The New York Times*. This time, whoever released the documents went straight to Wikileaks, who then turned around and went — you guessed it — straight to *The New York Times*. So why bother with Wikileaks at all? What is it about them that attracts whistleblowers in the first place? Former *Huffington Post* social news editor Josh Young has argued that Wikileaks attracts leakers because of their technical skill, because they have "chosen to focus lower in the journalism stack ... on the logistics of anonymity." I



think that's part of it. I also think they might be popular because they've promised leakers anonymity. But I also think that, to understand the appeal of a place like Wikileaks, we need to understand their cultural positioning vis-a-vis the dissident hacker and geek communities.



Jessica Kaufman  
C.W. Anderson

There's something about their language, their methods, and their networks that resonate in this world, and I think that's a big part of their appeal to people who might be thinking about disclosing data. There's a certain technical language of encryption and surveillance that Wikileaks speakers have used when talking about journalism that I haven't heard inside many traditional media organizations. There's this notion of being "shadowy," being "everywhere," and being there "all at once" that I've noticed coming out of Wikileaks as well. I haven't seen Wikileaks invited to many future of journalism conferences — but they were the keynote speakers at last week's Hackers on Planet Earth conference in New York City. So to understand the power of Wikileaks, you have to understand this particular hacker world. It is worth reading what NYU professor Biella Coleman and UCLA professor Chris Kelty, who have both done research on the relationship between the media, geeks and hackers, have to say.

There are a lot more questions that are worth trying to answer. What does it mean that we can watch a major news story break in real time, and watch the entire online world start to talk about it? Does that make it more powerful, or easier for governments to ignore? How are the *Guardian*, *Der Spiegel*, and the *Times* framing the documents they got from Wikileaks differently, and what does that tell us about world opinion of the Afghanistan War? And perhaps most interesting: what does the Wikileaks story tell us about the new journalism world we're living in now? The amazing thing about Wikileaks is that it gets to play by multiple sets of rules; it can embrace what *The New York Times* columnist David Carr has called "journalistic asymmetry." What we're seeing in the complex dance between Wikileaks and the more traditional media is a dance between two informational cultures, one of hackers and one of reporters. Both cultures appear to need the other — *The New York Times* needs Wikileaks, and Wikileaks, it seems,

needs the *The New York Times*. Wikileaks seems to have figured this out, and that's what makes it so powerful.



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/ANTHONY DePRIMO

A car and a bicyclist dodge one another on Brook Street, next to the Dept. of Sanitation garage.

## Sanitation to relocate trucks, workers from Jersey St. garage

Long-awaited decision is hailed as a 'partial solution to a terrible situation'

By JUDY L. RANDALL  
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

In a bow to decades-old community opposition to the existence of a city Department of Sanitation garage in a residential neighborhood in Tompkinsville, Sanitation yesterday said beginning Oct. 1 it will move some of its trucks, equipment and personnel from there to the site of the former Fresh Kills land fill.

Residents have called its current location an environmental hazard and quality-of-life issue.

Sanitation borough chief Ralph Reed said 20 trucks and other pieces of equipment, along with 40 workers from the garage on the corner of Victory Boulevard and Jersey Street, will be relocated to join the rest of the borough's fleet. However, Reed said it was possible for snow removal equipment to remain at the site.

In all about 85 pieces of equipment are currently housed in the Tompkinsville garage, Reed said, and some 80 workers. The equipment that remains will be stored inside the facility and not on the street.

Community activists who attended the announcement made by Councilwoman Debi Rose (D-North Shore) at the garage said they will continue to hold a planned Sept. 19 rally there to underscore the need to relocate the facility in its entirety. Ms. Rose said she would attend.

Ms. Rose, who brokered what she called a "partial solution to a terrible situation," said budget constraints prevented an immediate complete relocation, which she said would cost \$30 million. She said the money is earmarked for the 2013 budget.

In making the announcement, Ms. Rose was making



North Shore City Councilwoman Debi Rose called the interim solution the result of a "collaborative effort" of Sanitation, Community Board 1, the NAACP, clergy and residents. Looking on are the Rev. Victor Brown and Sanitation Borough Chief Ralph Reed, right.

good on a campaign promise last fall to rid the area of what she had labeled a "social justice issue," and yesterday called an eyesore and an environmental blight that has negatively impacted neighborhood dwellers, churches and businesses for nearly 40 years.

"Relief is here," said Ms. Rose.

Still, she said "the goal is to have the garage resited ... at Fresh Kills," calling it "a highest priority." In the meantime, she said Sanitation needs to spruce up the garage on Jersey Street and help maintain the area around it.

Ms. Rose called the interim solution the result of a "collaborative effort" of Sanitation, Community Board 1, NAACP, clergy and residents.

Rev. Dr. James Seawood of the Brighton Heights Reformed Church said it is "a great first step," while the Rev. Dr. Victor Brown of Mount Sinai United Christian Church, Tompkinsville, called it a "great day."

They and others spoke of the harmful diesel fuel emissions, odor and soot that emanate daily from the trucks.

While in the past some have noted that the garage sits in a largely minority

neighborhood, Ms. Rose sidestepped a related question and Rev. Brown said, "We are not making this a racial thing; this is an environmental thing."

Anti-garage advocates also said residents of Brooke Street, which borders the facility, have been particularly affected by Sanitation workers parking trucks, and in some cases their own cars, on the sidewalk, leaving homeowners unable to traverse the block and facing summonses for failure to repair cracked sidewalks.

Leroy Miller, a Brook Street resident who has struggled with a disability, said the presence of vehicles "has made it difficult" for him to navigate the area.

Shawn Stradford, who runs the nearby Stradford Funeral Home, said his patrons also have been inconvenienced.

During last year's campaign, Ms. Rose, Sanitation and others called for relocating the Jersey Street garage to an industrial area of the Teleport in Bloomfield. But the suggestion was ripped by Teleport owner and hotelier Richard Nicotra, and Ms. Rose yesterday said the option is no longer under consideration.

Judy L. Randall is a news reporter for the Advance. She may be reached at [randall@siadvance.com](mailto:randall@siadvance.com).



## The Dream Act shouldn't be made into a partisan issue

Published: Wednesday, July 28, 2010, 9:21 AM



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

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By RICHARD FLANAGAN,  
BROOKLYN

I was dismayed to read in the Advance that the Dream Act, a bill co-sponsored by Congressman Michael McMahon, is a partisan issue in the race for Congressional District 13.

Both candidates seeking the Republican nomination, Michael Grimm and Michael Allegretti, blasted the measure in the harshest terms.

I hope they reconsider. The Dream Act provides a pathway to citizenship for the children of undocumented workers. Eligible immigrant kids entered the United States with their parents. They often have no connection to the county they left behind. The United States holds their loyalty and affection.

No better measure of the intimate attachment to the U.S. is the requirement that citizenship eligibility only extend to these children if they attend college or serve in the armed forces. They must demonstrate love of country by either fully participating in, or more profoundly, defending, the American Dream.

Should we expel an Army corporal with combat badges from Afghanistan who grew up on Staten Island? A pre-med student who grew up in Bay Ridge? Have some heart.

Candidates Grimm and Allegretti have the opportunity to demonstrate to the district that decency transcends politics.

*[The writer is Associate Professor of Political Science at the College of Staten Island and a delegate to the Professional Staff Congress, CUNY.]*



## WikiLeaks, Shirley Sherrod, and the evolution of news

Broadcast: Midmorning, [07/28/2010, 10:06 a.m.](#)

The release of more than 90,000 classified documents on the war in Afghanistan by the online whistleblower site Wikileaks, and the rapid-fire development of the Shirley Sherrod story, tell us a lot about the state of journalism in 2010. Midmorning looks at the good and the bad.

### Guests

**Brent Cunningham:** Managing editor of the Columbia Journalism Review.

**C.W. Anderson:** Assistant professor of media culture at the [College of Staten Island](#) and a research fellow at Yale Law School and the New America Foundation.

**Mark Jurkowitz:** Associate director of the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism.

## DEADLINE EXTENDED (31 JULY): 13TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMPUTER AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (I

Call for Papers - ICCIT 2010

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13th International Conference on [Computer](#) and [Information Technology](#)

(Co-sponsored by IEEE Bangladesh section)  
23 - 25 December 2010, Dhaka, Bangladesh  
<http://www.iccit-bd2010.net>

=====

ICCIT 2010 will be held at Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology (AUST), Dhaka, Bangladesh to provide a unique opportunity for the [computer](#) and [information technology](#) professionals, scientists, engineers, educators, students and researchers from all over the world to exchange their scientific ideas, views and thoughts with fellow researchers and participants. This conference will address some of the more relevant and state-of-the-art issues and topics involved in [computer science](#) and engineering and [information technology](#).

ICCIT 2010, co-sponsored by IEEE Bangladesh section, is supposed to be the largest technical event on [Computer Science](#) and Engineering, Information and Communication Technology in Bangladesh in 2010. The focus of the conference is to establish an effective platform for institutions and industries to share ideas and to present the works of scientists, engineers, educators and students from all over the world. Of 473 manuscripts submitted to ICCIT 2009, approximately 30% were accepted and included in the IEEE Xplore [Digital Library](#). The organizing committee of conference is pleased to invite prospective authors to submit their original manuscripts to ICCIT 2010.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

Submission of Full Paper: Saturday, 31 July 2010  
Notification of Acceptance: Tuesday, 30 September 2010  
Camera-Ready Soft copy due: Monday, 01 November 2010  
Registration Deadline: Thursday, 18 November 2010 (Details of the Registration procedure will be published later on.)  
Conference Date: 23 - 25 December 2010

### SUBMISSION OF PAPERS:

Full papers written in English and not submitted or published elsewhere, should be submitted in PDF format through the website. A full paper should not exceed 12 double-spaced (11 points) A4 size

pages including figures, tables, references, appendices etc. The paper should contain the followings:

Title of the paper  
Name(s) of author(s), affiliation and full address with telephone number, fax and e-mail address  
Abstract clearly stating the achievement of the work  
5-6 keywords  
Major area of the paper  
Sufficient literature review and objectives of the work  
Outcome and conclusion of the work

Paper submission instructions are available at  
[www.iccit-bd2010.net/sample.pdf](http://www.iccit-bd2010.net/sample.pdf)

Authors of accepted papers are expected to provide a camera-ready copy. The guideline for the camera-ready paper will be available in the web at [www.iccit-bd2010.net/cameraready.pdf](http://www.iccit-bd2010.net/cameraready.pdf)

Detailed submission and formatting instructions are available at  
[http://www.iccit-bd2010.net/paper\\_submission.htm](http://www.iccit-bd2010.net/paper_submission.htm)

Author(s) are expected to strictly follow the guideline, otherwise the paper may not be published in the proceedings. Upon acceptance, the author (or in case of a jointly-authored paper, one of the authors) will be required to register and present the paper. Papers will be published in the conference proceedings only if at least one of the authors is registered.

#### PROCEEDINGS:

The proceedings of the conference will be published in two forms: Book (including in IEEE Xplore) and CDROM. Both forms will be available to the delegates at the time of registration. Starting ICCIT 2008, selected enhanced versions of conference papers, upon further exhaustive reviews, have appeared in one of six [journal](#) special issues that are edited by the International Program Committee.

#### AIM AND SCOPE:

ICCIT 2010 will provide a forum for researchers and professionals from both academia and industry to exchange up-to-date knowledge and experience in different field of [Computer Science](#) / Engineering & Information and Communication Technology. The conference will focus not only on theory but also on applications. Major areas of interest include, but not limited to, are:

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E-commerce and E-governance  
Human Computer Interaction  
Information Systems  
Internet and Web Applications  
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Selected enhanced versions of conference papers, upon further exhaustive reviews, have appeared in one of six [journal](#) special issues that are edited by the International Program Committee.

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The ICCIT IPC is currently producing six international journal special issues that will include up to 56 enhanced manuscripts from ICCIT 2009. These special issues are:

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M. Mahbubur Rahim, [Monash University](#), Australia

***Sports***



## Staten Island sports bulletin board for July 9, 2010

Published: Friday, July 09, 2010, 3:06 PM



### Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

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#### Adult/Child bocce tournament

The Staten Island Bocce Club will hold its ninth annual Adult/Child Tournament on July 25 at 9 a.m. at the South Beach bocce courts. Children, ages 6-15, are free and adults pay \$10. Call John Annibale at 718-668-2247 or Chuck Curiazza at 718-448-4565.

#### Hockey players needed

Ice hockey players are needed for a club team being formed at the **College of Staten Island**, which will play in the American College Hockey Association. If interested, call Gary Rini, who coaches the S.I. Storm in the International Junior League, at 813-781-7278.

#### Pee Wee football registration

The Staten Island Pee Wee Football League will hold 2010 fall registration and summer camp registration tomorrow from 9 a.m. until noon and every Tuesday from 7-8 p.m. at the Staten Island LL, 225 Seaver Ave. Children ages 5-13 can sign up for flag and tackle divisions, as well as the summer training camp (July 19-23) at Monsignor Farrell HS. Check the league web site [www.sipwfl.org](http://www.sipwfl.org) for more details.

#### Flag football registration

The 9/11 Flag Football League will hold registration every Saturday in July for the coed youth league and the new all-girls league from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the turf field at Bloomingdale Park. The league is open to youth in grades K-12. Call 347-992-5755 or visit [www.911FFL.org](http://www.911FFL.org).

#### Baseball academy

Bottom of the Ninth Baseball Academy will conduct a baseball and softball clinic for grades 2-8 at West Shore Little League from Aug. 9-13. The cost for the week is \$150 per camper. Registration will take place tomorrow, July 17, 24 and 31 from 10 a.m. to noon at WSLL. Call 917-885-2703 or visit [www.B9baseballacademy.com](http://www.B9baseballacademy.com).

#### Deadline for Willis tourney

The deadline for the Richard Willis Memorial 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament is Aug. 10. This year's event is Aug. 21-22 at the Bernikow JCC, located at 1466 Manor Rd. in Sea View. The 10-and-under and 14-and-under competition is Aug. 21 and the 12-and-under, 16-and-under and 18-under squads will play on July 22.

Registration form and information can be found at [www.rwillis3on3.org](http://www.rwillis3on3.org) or call 917-692-8570.

### **Tennis tourney**

Entries are being taken for the Jim Ryan Memorial Tennis Tournament which runs from July 16-25. There are openings for men's A, B and 35-and-over singles, women's singles, juniors (12s, 14s, 16s and 18s) and junior novice round robin. Call Ed Perpetua at 718-370-8757.

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## Ex-Curtis High School player teaching kids basketball

Published: Thursday, July 15, 2010, 3:37 PM



**Bill Spurge**



Rocky Ferrante, shown here playing for Curtis against Canarsie in 1999, has always been a gym rat. HUGUENOT, STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — Rocky Ferrante was a fairly accomplished all-around player on Tim Gannon's SIHSL-dominating teams of the late 1990's, but the rangy, 6-foot-4-inch small forward/shooting guard was a gym rat in a constant quest to make himself a better player.

It got to the point that Ferrante, who played on Curtis' 1998 and 1999 SIHSL-championship winning teams, once told Gannon he eventually wanted to master all five positions on the floor.

Ferrante ended up playing four positions at Chowan University, a Division III, North Carolina school ("I played from point guard, to power forward," he says), but it's the desire to master all aspects of the game that ultimately led the 29-year-old Rosebank resident to teach kids basketball.

With his impetus to assist at different camps and an ability to help youngsters improve their games through 1-on-1 tutelage, Ferrante's reputation has grown to the point where he is now running a basketball camp of his own.

The initial Rocky Ferrante Basketball Camp will be held Monday through Friday at Our Lady Star of the Sea School in Huguenot. Along with Ferrante, the camp staff is rich with local hoopsters who starred in high school and played college ball: Current McKee/S.I. Tech junior varsity coach Tim Hyland (Monsignor Farrell, University of Baltimore-Maryland County, Concordia College), Notre Dame Academy varsity assistant coach Doug Elwell (Monsignor Farrell, Wagner College), Brian Antonelli (Moore Catholic, Concordia), Dana Rommel

(St. Joseph by-the-Sea, Concordia) and Kristen Panariello (Sea, [The College of Staten Island](#)).

The camp will run from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. daily, with an 8 a.m. drop-off time. The fee is \$225 per camper. And Ferrante believes each camper will come out a better player.

"I try to teach kids how to train properly, and many kids get better because of the intensity of doing the drills," said Ferrante, who is a para-professional who works with special-education students at Petrides HS. "They come knowing it will be all-pro drills, with intense ball-handling, two-ball dribbling, shooting drills, coming off screens and the like."

Ferrante initially specialized in 1-on-1 training, and before he knew it, "it blew up to where I was helping 40-45 kids," said Ferrante, who noted he already has from 50-60, third-to-ninth graders committed to his camp. "Someone finally said, 'Why don't you run your own camp?' I never thought about it because I was into the 1-on-1's."

Ferrante has ideas, with the future of the campers in mind.

"A lot of (young kids) who play the '5' (center) won't necessarily be a '5' when they get older," he said. "So they don't learn to handle the ball. But you might not be big when you get to high school, so we have to teach them to handle the ball. And some players can't make lefty layups, even in high school. So you try to teach that at an early age. (On the other hand, for example), our guards learn how to post up."

Ferrante grew up in South Beach and played CYO ball at Holy Rosary and St. Teresa's, but attended Bay Ridge Christian Academy in Brooklyn. He was playing pro ball in Germany when an injured foot forced him to the sidelines.

He still pals around with former Curtis stars such as Rob Lewin and Nigel Wyatte, who are expected to put some time in at the camp.

"I learned the fundamentals, and I learned (different styles) from so many different coaches," said Ferrante, who hit a key three-pointer in Curtis' '99 SIHSL title-game win over St. Peter's.

"That's what helped make me who I am as a coach. I love coaching, and someday I'd like (to coach organized ball). I'm focused on this right now. There's nothing better than being cheered, and the closest thing is helping kids, watching them get better and seeing them play and getting cheered."

-- For information on the camp, call Ferrante at 917-887-9114. Ferrante noted that 8 a.m. arrivals to the camp can receive pre-camp 1-on-1 drills.





## **ACBL notebook: The show always goes on**

By: Drew Markol [phillyBurbs.com](http://phillyBurbs.com)

By Drew Markol

There are plenty of things to like about the Atlantic Collegiate Baseball League, such as (in no particular order):

That wood bats are used.

That there is little bunting, the pro scouts want to see the hitters hit.

That the players hustle. After years of covering the league, I'm still waiting to see one player dog it.

That it doesn't cost a fortune to take your kid to an ACBL game. And he/she can also get something to eat for less than 20 bucks.

That the regular season matters. Even more than the playoffs.

Maybe that last one is my favorite. Every game is important. And it's not about which side wins those games, it's that they get played.

The object of the league is to try and develop players, making them better when they return to their respective colleges, and, for some, to get drafted by the pros.

That's why the players need as many at-bats as they can get. And that the pitchers throw as many innings as they can.

It's also why the Blazers will play 15 games over the next 10 days. Sure, that's a ton of games to get in, but it happens every summer. And they get played.

If the playoffs have to get shortened, or even done away with, so be it. Better to have every team playing their full schedule than just a few teams competing for a championship.

"We have a lot of games to play, but that's baseball," said Blazers shortstop Robbie Zinsmeister, a North Penn graduate. "It's like in college, you play a lot of games, but that helps make you better."

Exactly.

Each ACBL team has a 39-game regular season schedule this summer. And each will have to cram in the rest of their games before the end of the month. It's just what they do.

**Elsewhere in the standings**

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John, by the way, won 288 career games and had a 3.34 ERA and is not in the Hall of Fame. That's hard to believe.

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The Titans, who hosted the Canadian Olympic team last week (they lost, 4-3), donate the proceeds from their home games (after expenses) to local nonprofit groups.

For example, at a game last week, the local Boy Scout troop was the beneficiary. And what really helps is that the Titans draw very well. They've had crowds of over 1,000 several times and have tremendous backing from their community.

### **Upcoming Blazers schedule**

Tonight — Lehigh Valley Catz at Blazers, 7 p.m. (at Memorial Park)

Friday — Jersey Pilots at Blazers, 7 p.m. (at Memorial Park)

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(For directions to stadiums and other league info, go to [www.acbl-online.com](http://www.acbl-online.com)).

Drew Markol can be reached at 215-345-3141 or [dmarkol@phillyBurbs.com](mailto:dmarkol@phillyBurbs.com).



## Staten Island sports bulletin board for July 22, 2010

Published: Thursday, July 22, 2010, 2:09 PM



### Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

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#### S.I. Lions football

Registration for the Staten Island Lions Pop Warner football team is tonight from 7-9 p.m. at the Staten Island LL clubhouse (Hylan Boulevard and Seaver Avenue, Dongan Hills, behind Staples). The cost is \$175 for players ages 5-15. Visit [www.statenislandlions.org](http://www.statenislandlions.org).

#### CSI Baseball alumni game

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

#### Willis tourney deadline

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

#### Fastbreak camps

Fastbreak Camps and coach Tom Burns will hold a basketball camp for boys and girls ages 7-14 July 19-23, July 26-30 and Aug. 9-13 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The price is \$200 per week (St. Joseph/St. Thomas parishioners receive a \$25 discount). Shooting, passing, dribbling, defense, strength, speed and agility will be covered. Call 718-948-3710.

#### Tennis tourney

The Staten Island Mixed Doubles Tournament begins July 31 at the Richmond County Country Club. Call Dot Ryan (718-227-3210) or Tom Carlson (718-442-5028) to enter.



## The show always goes on

**By: Drew Markol**  
The Intelligencer  
**ACBL NOTEBOOK**

There are plenty of things to like about the Atlantic Collegiate Baseball League, such as (in no particular order):

That wood bats are used.

That there is little bunting, the pro scouts want to see the hitters hit.

That the players hustle. After years of covering the league, I'm still waiting to see one player dog it.

That it doesn't cost a fortune to take your kid to an ACBL game. And he/she can also get something to eat for less than 20 bucks.

That the regular season matters. Even more than the playoffs.

Maybe that last one is my favorite. Every game is important. And it's not about which side wins those games, it's that they get played.

The object of the league is to try and develop players, making them better when they return to their respective colleges, and, for some, to get drafted by the pros.

That's why the players need as many at-bats as they can get. And that the pitchers throw as many innings as they can.

It's also why the Blazers will play 14 games over the next 10 days. Sure, that's a ton of games to get in, but it happens every summer. And they get played.

If the playoffs have to get shortened, or even done away with, so be it. Better to have every team playing their full schedule than just a few teams competing for a championship.

"We have a lot of games to play, but that's baseball," said Blazers shortstop Robbie Zinsmeister, a North Penn graduate. "It's like in college, you play a lot of games, but that helps make you better."

Exactly.

Each ACBL team has a 39-game regular season schedule this summer. And each will have to cram in the rest of their games before the end of the month. It's just what they do.

Elsewhere in the standings

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Drew Markol can be reached at 215-345-3141 or [dmarkol@phillyBurbs.com](mailto:dmarkol@phillyBurbs.com)

**July 22, 2010 02:22 AM**



## Staten Island sports bulletin board for July 28, 2010

Published: Wednesday, July 28, 2010, 12:22 PM



**Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

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### **CSI alumni game**

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

### **SI Triathlon/Duathlon**

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

### **Baseball combine**

Athelite Player Development is hosting a summer baseball combine at St. Joseph by-the-Sea HS Aug. 11 at 9 a.m. College coaches, major league scouts and pro baseball players will be evaluating talent and giving instruction. The combine is open to high school baseball players. Visit [atheliteplayerdevelopment.com](http://atheliteplayerdevelopment.com) or call Chris Reyes at 917-755-2747.

### **Youth football registration**

Final registration for the Staten Island Lions Pop Warner football team is tomorrow from 7-9 p.m. at the Staten Island LL clubhouse (Hylan Boulevard and Seaver Avenue, Dongan Hills, behind Staples). The cost is \$175 for players ages 5-15. Visit [www.statenislandlions.org](http://www.statenislandlions.org).

### **SI Mixed Doubles**

The Staten Island Mixed Doubles Tournament starts Saturday at Richmond County CC. The draw will take place tomorrow. Entries will be taken by Tom Carlson (718-442-5028) or Dot Ryan (718-227-3210).  
Tourney organizers remind all that white is the dress code.

### **Fall ball registration**

Mid-Island BRL fall ball registration starts tonight from 8-10 p.m. at the clubhouse in Travis and Saturday from 11 a.m.- 2 p.m. Incoming 13s and 14-18s players are welcome as well as full teams and individual players. Call Anthony Collette at 347-286-0506.

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# ***Stories***



## MONTHLY UPDATE

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### **CSI program receives six-year DEP grant**

A College of Staten Island Discovery Institute program aimed at making college a realistic goal for students at I.S. 49 and Curtis and New Dorp high schools, has been awarded a six-year U.S. Department of Education GEAR-UP grant totaling \$3.7 million. GEAR-UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a national educational program for students and teachers in high-need schools.

The program features visits to CSI to experience the college environment, tutoring and mentoring by trained CSI students and summer computer “boot camps” and science experiments held in college laboratories. In addition, GEAR-UP provides after-school services at community organizations. Students also attend education-themed shows on campus related to STEM, an acronym for science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

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

## All-Breed Dog Show a doggone good time for all

Published: Thursday, July 01, 2010, 12:15 PM



**Mark D. Stein**



Risa Rosen, of Long Island, shows off her three American Eskimo dogs, from the left, Nikki, Ashby and Kodiak, during the Staten Island Kennel Club's All-Breed Dog Show at the **College of Staten Island** in Willowbrook. (Staten Island Advance/Mark Stein)

**and MICHELLE ROSSMAN**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY - WILLOWBROOK** - Last weekend, it was all about the dogs - and their owners couldn't have been happier.

More than 500 canines and their owners flocked to the **College of Staten Island**, where the All-Breed Dog Show was hosted for the first time.

Sponsored by the Staten Island Kennel Club, the two-day event drew approximately 2,000 people, from all over the Northeast, to the Willowbrook campus, said **Kay Pesile**, event chairwoman and vice president of the Kennel Club.

"It's good for participants and spectators to see this beautiful campus," said Ms. Pesile, a Huguenot resident and native of Staten Island. "I want to promote Staten Island."

In past years, the show was held in Midland Beach, but this year, **CSI** provided a different setting. Throughout both days, participants and their dogs stayed cool in tents on the lawn of the Sports and Recreation Center.

On Saturday, activities included agility courses, which involved owners and their four-legged friends hurdling through obstacle courses comprised of hoops, fences, and other fun stations, like a seesaw.

A variety of dogs - 175 breeds, with some classes including sporting, working and herding, toys, terriers and hounds - raced to be number one in the trials. It was the job of their owners to lead them with directions, all that exhibited the dogs' athleticism and speed.

Sunday's show focused on showmanship: Each dog was evaluated, down to the very markings on their coat, all to fulfill the written standard of their breed. Overall, the pooches had to be as close to a perfect example of their breed as possible.

Throughout the weekend, volunteers sold food, drinks, dog treats and other fun items on the campus. All of it, added to a spectacular turnout, made for a successful dog show, said Ms. Pesile.

"We (got to) spend the day with our pets and our friends," said **Nancy Milazzo**, who owns two Irish setters, Jodi, 5, Jack, 11 months. "It's nice. It's social. Everybody is friendly."

Ms. Milazzo was joined by her friend, **Ellen Zanfani**, and her two terriers, Teddy, 2, and Toby, 8.

"It's a good hobby. It's good for kids to get involved with. They love it," Ms. Milazzo said.



Ewan Alexander feeds his dog, Nellie, a cavalier King Charles spaniel, after the two-year-old pup completed the agility course. (Staten Island Advance/Mark Stein)

"It's a lot of fun, especially when you do well," said **Anita Alexander**, who traveled from Hockessin, Del., for the event. "It's cool, because we go to places we usually don't go to."

Mrs. Alexander and her husband **Ewan** have toured the East Coast and were visiting Staten Island for the first time. They've been involved in dog competitions for about two years. "We're having a blast," she said. "We followed our kids around for ice hockey and soccer, and now we're doing this for ourselves."



## Public college is just that — open to public

Published: Thursday, July 08, 2010, 10:09 AM



**Mark D. Stein**

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### WILLOWBROOK

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - Anybody can go to college.

Did you know that you don't have to be a student or a staff member to enjoy all that the College of Staten Island (CSI) has to offer? The 204-acre Willowbrook campus is open to the public and provides Staten Island residents and visitors alike access to areas for fitness, entertainment and even a bite to eat. For starters, anyone can enter the site and immediately bike the grounds or exercise on the school's track.

In fact, Anthony Gambardella was spotted on the track on a recent Monday afternoon.

"It's close to the house," said the 56-year-old Willowbrook resident, who admitted he uses it five days a week, usually in the morning. I just go for a walk," he said, "It's fine."

Staten Islanders can take advantage of the school's Sports and Recreation Center by enrolling in either a 3-month, 6-month or full-year membership plan. This gives you access to a variety of amenities, including: A 25-meter, 8-lane swimming pool; 24,000-square-foot main basketball and volleyball arena; a 12,000-square-foot auxiliary gymnasium; two fully equipped fitness centers including over 3,000 pounds of free weights and seven cardiovascular machines, among them treadmills, stationary bikes and stair machines; five indoor racquetball courts; a quarter-mile outdoor track; two soccer fields; outdoor basketball and handball courts; one intercollegiate and three intramural softball fields, and a 2,500-seat baseball stadium.

For information regarding the Sports and Recreation Center plans, visit [www.csidolphins.com](http://www.csidolphins.com).

### CENTER OF THE ARTS

If entertainment is what you're after, tickets for performances at the campus' Center of the Arts may be purchased at [www.cfashows.com](http://www.cfashows.com).

While nothing is scheduled for the summer, CSI offers a wide variety of performances in the fall and spring.

Those interested in finding out about tickets, discounts or other special privileges should visit the Web site

for additional information.

The college's Astrophysical Observatory is open to Islanders who are interested in astronomy. Public viewings at the observatory are scheduled throughout the year, when weather conditions allow.

## **PLENTY TO EAT**

**CSI** also houses three places to eat. The Park Cafe Restaurant in building 1C provides students, staff and others with great lunches, but is usually only open when school is in session during the fall and spring semesters, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"We're basically here to provide a service for the college community," explained Jodi Merendino, director of dining services.

But Building 1C also houses the school's main cafeteria, which is open to the public. And in addition, the Willowbrook campus sports a cafe that sells Starbucks coffee. It also sells mozzarella sticks, wraps, and paninis, as well as brownies and muffins.

The cafe offers computers, but they're only for use by students and staff.

## **WSIA**

You don't have to visit the campus to enjoy another CSI feature: The college radio station, WSIA, is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 88.9 on the FM dial and online at [www.wsia.csi.cuny.edu](http://www.wsia.csi.cuny.edu).

Those who would like to take advantage of on-site activities should know that the school provides a shuttle service from the Staten Island Ferry Terminal in St. George to the **CSI** campus. The shuttle runs three times an hour when classes are in session.

For additional information and details about upcoming events and activities, check the school's Web site, **[www.csi.cuny.edu](http://www.csi.cuny.edu)**.



8 July 2010 year

**WNYC.COM**

## **Your Anecdotal Census: Staten Island**

08.07.2010 02:46

Borough President joins to talk about the policy implications of Staten Island's changing demographics. Later, codirector of the at the **College of Staten Island**, CUNY, discusses the demographic shifts in Staten Island over the past ten years

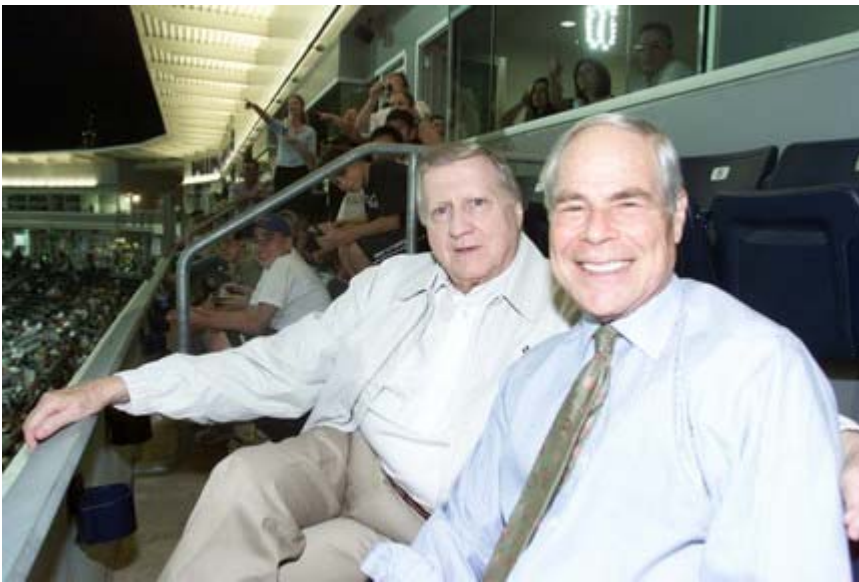


## Former BP reflects on George Steinbrenner, how 'Boss' brought minor league team to Staten Island

Published: Tuesday, July 13, 2010, 4:48 PM



**Stephanie Slepian**



Staten Island Advance/Jin Lee

George Steinbrenner, left, sits with then-Staten Island Yankees owner Stan Getzler at Richmond County Bank Ballpark at St. George on Aug. 8, 2002.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- There was one out in the bottom of the ninth and the Yankees trailed by 3. Two runs scored, but the next batter was called out on strikes.

"That was a ball," George Steinbrenner yelled to nobody in particular. Sitting alongside "The Boss" in his Yankee Stadium box three years ago was former Borough President Guy V. Molinari.

"In my timid Molinari voice, I said 'I think that was a strike, George,'" recalled Molinari. The very same pitch retired the next batter.

Steinbrenner was hoping for a win for his longtime friend. Instead, Molinari turned to him and said, "George, there are 162 games. You can't win them all."

"Well, why the hell not?" Steinbrenner retorted.



It was typical Steinbrenner, according to Molinari — who helped broker the deal to bring the Staten Island Yankees here from Watertown, N.Y., in 1999 — as he reflected today on the death of the longtime Yankees owner at age 80.

"He was concentrating on every ball and strike thrown," Molinari said. "He was the ultimate competitor."

Himself a competitor, Molinari was quick to suggest Staten Island as an alternative when Steinbrenner was threatening to move the Yankees to New Jersey in 1993. Steinbrenner considered the proposal, but a lack of public transportation squashed it, Molinari said.

So Molinari proposed the next best thing: Bringing in a minor league team.

"Steinbrenner quickly said yes and the rest is history," he said.

Before the deal was even sealed, Molinari led the negotiations for the purchase of the waterfront site that is now home to the Richmond County Bank Ballpark at St. George.

An occasional visitor to the ballpark and the **College of Staten Island** — where the Single-A affiliate played until the stadium opened in 2001 — Steinbrenner eagerly signed autographs and sometimes sat in the bleachers, amid the fans, his identity hidden.

"I think this is the finest minor-league ballpark I've ever seen," Steinbrenner told the Advance upon his first visit to St. George in 2002. "It's unbelievable. For any level, this is as good as it gets. Our players should feel honored to be playing here."

Molinari and Steinbrenner also collaborated on a celebration for troops at the end of Operation Desert Storm.

"I can recall when the Persian Gulf War was over and we wanted to have a parade down Broadway and Mayor David Dinkins wouldn't do it, we raised the money ourselves," Molinari said. "The first person I called was Steinbrenner. As tough and gruff as he appeared at times, he was just as soft underneath."



## Traffic signal tangle: New York City DOT is seeing the light

Published: Tuesday, July 20, 2010, 8:01 AM



**Maura Yates**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. --- The light turns green on Hylan Boulevard so you step on the gas. Drive a block, and then hit the brakes, but just for several seconds until the next traffic light catches up. Hit the gas again.

The frustrating timing of traffic signals across Staten Island doesn't only drive motorists crazy, it costs them in time needlessly wasted waiting in backups, at the gas pump, and in the polluted air they breathe.

But the city Department of Transportation is working on improvements the agency says could soon cut down on delays by 5 to 15 percent.



Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel

Drivers on Hylan Boulevard are all too familiar with the "hurry-up-and-wait" syndrome as they watch unsynchronized traffic lights change from green to red as they approach.

The DOT is halfway through a federally funded signal-retiming project along 33 high-traffic arteries throughout Staten Island, Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx. The study, which includes more than 1,500 traffic signals along those streets, will determine whether changes would improve traffic flow, cut down on fuel consumption and reduce pollution.

The study costs about \$1,000 per intersection, for a total Staten Island investment of roughly \$200,000.

Sixty-three intersections on Hylan Boulevard were examined as part of the first wave of streets, and it's expected that adjustments will be implemented by year's end, according to DOT spokeswoman Nicole Garcia. The entire retiming project should be done by 2012, she said.

The reprogramming will create a synchronized progression in both directions along segments of the roadway during off-peak hours, to give drivers smooth sailing through longer stretches of street.

The DOT expects the change will help traffic flow better, by easing potential bottlenecks and reducing backups around notorious choke points like New Dorp Lane. In addition, the rush-hour timing sequence will start earlier in the morning and end later in the evening, the better to match changing commuter patterns.

After the changes are in place, the DOT hopes to realize the 5 to 15 percent improvement in delay reduction in areas that receive the treatment. Other cities that have taken similar measures have seen an improvement of as much as 10 percent.

And to make crossing the street safer, additional time will be added to the flashing orange hand signal, to alert pedestrians that the light is about to change.

The same improvements will be implemented along New Dorp Lane, Richmond Road, Richmond Terrace and Victory Boulevard.

Any savings in efficiency will be welcomed by Richmond County Clerk Stephen Fiala, for one. He said the 15-to-20-minute cushion he leaves himself while traveling to meetings of the City Charter Revision Commission and other duties is typically eroded while waiting in traffic on main streets like Hylan.

"The light turns green, and then the next one turns red. It literally can take you 20 minutes when it should take you two minutes," said Fiala, a Republican who used to represent the South Shore on the City Council.

Fiala said the Island is "stuck with a 19th-century roadway and a 20th-century technology system."

In respect of the roads, "There's only a minimal amount of improvements we could make on the surface itself. But we could do a lot in terms of the technology and the devices we employ to try to move traffic more swiftly. It's a chronic problem on Staten Island and it exacerbates an already very tense situation for a lot of drivers, and that just makes it all the more volatile," Fiala said.

Some new gadgets already are being tested here. At the Victory Boulevard entrance to the **College of Staten Island in Willowbrook**, the DOT is still testing out a Smart Light traffic signal that uses cameras to detect cars waiting to proceed, and changes the light accordingly. Such a system at the **CSI** entrance would mean

drivers won't have to wait at a red light on Victory, say, on a weekend when traffic is far lighter into and out of the college.

The Smart Light is activated periodically, Ms. Garcia said, in order to collect data and evaluate the findings to fine-tune the system. "Doing so, we're getting a better snapshot of how this technology can potentially be rolled out to improve traffic flow."

The study should be wrapped up by the end of the year, and so far, the Smart Light has been having a positive impact, she said.

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## Last chance to sign up for scuba diving course at College of Staten Island

Published: Wednesday, July 21, 2010, 4:36 PM



**Staten Island Advance**

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Breaking the surface in the deep end of the **College of Staten Island** pool are, from left, scuba students John Doyle, Steve LaManna and Anthony Egan; Master Dive Instructor Stephen Lombardo, and scuba student Lisa LaManna.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Calling all aspiring deep-sea divers:

Tomorrow is your final chance to join the summer scuba program at the **College of Staten Island**.

The class -- the latest endeavor of the Staten Island Sport Divers Club -- will run from 6 to 9:30 p.m. each Thursday through Aug. 5. Perspective students are advised to contact Stephen Lombardo, club president, at 718-702-8623.

The cost of the course is \$250 per person. Students will need a textbook and personal gear.

Designed by the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), the program is designed to make the student comfortable with the equipment and procedures necessary to visit the world beneath the sea.

To qualify for the course, you must be able to swim 200 yards nonstop.

Each student who passes all parts of the course will receive a Certificate of Completion of Confined Water Training and a PADI Referral qualifying him or her for an Open-Water Checkout, which can be done in the location of the student's choice.

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## CSI's pace has slowed for summer

Published: Thursday, July 22, 2010, 10:34 AM



**Justin Sarachik**



During the summer months, the campus of the **College of Staten Island** looks a bit like a ghost town. Gone are the vehicles moving at a snail's pace along Victory Boulevard and Richmond Hill Road prior to the start of classes. Also missing is the rush to finish last-minute papers and stressed students fretting. (Staten Island Advance/Mark Stein)

STATEN ISLAND, NY - WILLOWBROOK - Rows of empty classrooms and spans of deserted walkways tell the story: It's summer session at the **College of Staten Island**.

Dotting the sweltering parking lots, solitary vehicles bake in the summer heat. Scurrying to escape the hot, sticky weather and unavoidable sun, a student can clearly hear the hum of a safety officer on a segue.

The Willowbrook campus, which is home to about 13,000 bustling students during the fall and spring semesters, appears to be in hibernation from the heat during the torrid summer months.



The cafeteria at The **College of Staten Island** in Willowbrook is empty, as only a small number of the school's 13,000 students participate in the summer program. (Staten Island Advance/Mark Stein)

Gone are the swarms of vehicles moving at a snail's pace along Victory Boulevard and Richmond Hill Road prior to the start of classes; also missing is the overwhelming urgency of rushing to finish last-minute papers and stressed students fretting in the campus library and study lounge.

The only campus constant is the music airing from the speaker outside of the school's radio station located at building 1C.

But although the campus from the outside seems empty, there is plenty going on inside.

Perhaps the most distinguishing feature of the school at this moment is the number of young children and teenagers around. Summer camp has taken over and it's almost impossible to grab a quick bite on break in the cafeteria around noon, for instance. Wait an hour and the eating area is usually vacant.

In addition to the campers, there is more than a handful of students who elect to go to school during the summer. They're visible only before and after class. Classes generally run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 1 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Some of these students enjoy the less chaotic grounds.

"The campus is much more peaceful. There's actually parking, and I can leave my house five minutes early instead of 40," said Danielle Morella, camp counselor and student.

Another, Alex Gregor, 21, of Eltingville, is taking summer classes at **CSI** to fulfill requirements for Baruch College, where he's a full-time student.

"The campus has a lot of students and things were a lot nicer than expected. At Baruch, everything is so cutthroat. I was relieved to have such a relaxed class with friendlier people than I'm used to," he said.

Anthony Trombetta, 20, Rossville, recommends summer classes. "They're easier and it's only three weeks," he explained.

**CSI's** college Web site boasts of expanded classes ranging from four- to eight-week programs scheduled during weekdays and weekends in June and July. In addition, various dates and times have been added to



accommodate students.

School professor John Szeluga, who is teaching a video production class during the abbreviated semester, had another take on the difference between summer classes and those offered during the regular school year.

"A summer class is much more intensive. Students are more likely to retain information, because they are practicing new skills day after day," he said. "I also think that, in a communal sense, students bond much quicker in a daily class, especially in an environment where group work is encouraged."

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## Stop-and-go woes

Published: Sunday, July 25, 2010, 2:29 AM



**Staten Island Advance Editorial**

Is Staten Island on a one-way road to gridlock? Hurry up and wait is what local drivers too often have to do just to get from one red light to another.

Our borough is choking on cars. This island of about 60 square miles is a bit less than 14 miles long and, at most, a little more than 7 miles wide. It's not going to get any bigger.

What is growing is the number of motorists jamming onto the 2,395 miles of roads on Staten Island. With nearly 500,000 people, Richmond County has over 250,000 registered vehicles — about double the ratio of residents-to-vehicles of any other borough. Statistics indicate the average three-person household in this borough has about one-and-one-half vehicles.

At this point, doing everything possible to keep local traffic moving freely is beyond urgent. Especially since the No. 1 form of mass transit on Staten Island is travel by bus, mostly on busy roadways.

So the city's Department of Transportation is going in the right direction with its high-tech plan to better synchronize traffic signals. It hopes to cut municipal traffic delays by up to 15 percent. Though just a partial solution to our woes, it's the quickest fix available. The sooner the better.

Synchronizing traffic signals creates a progression of green lights to keep traffic flowing. This cuts waiting, fuel consumption, emissions — and driver frustration.

With the help of federal funding, the DOT is halfway through a signal re-timing project. It focuses on 33 high-density arteries in Staten Island, Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx. The study will determine whether changes in more than 1,500 traffic signals — including 200 in this borough — will improve traffic flow.

So far, 63 intersections on Hylan Boulevard have been examined and adjustments are expected to be implemented by the end of this year. Other improvements in the flow of traffic are in the works for Victory Boulevard, Richmond Road, Richmond Terrace and New Dorp Lane.

Meanwhile, at the Victory Boulevard entrance to the **College of Staten Island** in Willowbrook, the DOT has been testing a Smart Light traffic signal. The Smart Light uses cameras to detect cars waiting to proceed,

and changes the light accordingly. This could mean, for instance, that drivers won't have to wait as long at a red light on Victory during the weekend, when traffic is far lighter into and out of **CSI**.

Traffic light improvements deserve a high priority.

The thoroughfares of Richmond County — many of which follow the paths of centuries-old dirt trails — have a limited capacity to handle 21st century traffic. Victory Boulevard was laid out in the first decade of the 1800s. The origins of Amboy and Richmond roads go back even farther.

Today, heavily traveled Forest Avenue, Victory Boulevard, Amboy Road and Richmond Road remain only one lane wide in each direction in spots.

In recent decades, overdevelopment has worsened our traffic woes. Population boomed. Construction waivers blocked expansion of streets mapped for widening. Busy intersections became clogged with vehicles.

Meanwhile, city planners failed to complete an integrated system of highways on Staten Island similar to those that handle traffic in other boroughs.

It can take years to build new roads or rail lines. Optimizing traffic lights would bring faster relief.

As far back as the mid 1990s, some 80 percent of the Island's traffic signals were set automatically to follow sequential timing. The DOT monitors more than half of the city's 12,300 traffic signals — including about 60 percent of those on Staten Island — through the Traffic Management Center in Queens. Problems with automatic lights wired through the center can be detected and corrected remotely.

But the newest technology designed to adapt by itself to real-time traffic flow has been slow to arrive.

Unfortunately, the Staten Island Transportation and Traffic Task Force created by Mayor Bloomberg in 2006 hasn't met in more than a year. Our leaders need to move beyond stop-and-go tactics to improve the flow of traffic in Richmond County.

Until then, we're going nowhere fast.



## Island Health and Wellness Expo set for Sept. 28

Published: Monday, July 26, 2010, 6:29 AM



**Tom Wrobleski**



Diane Senerchia, Laura Liberto, Susan Lamberti, Dr. Tomas Morales are making plans for the second annual Staten Island Health & Wellness Expo, set for Sept. 28 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomfield.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Staten Island's health care system may need fixing, but that doesn't mean that borough residents can't take steps to improve their well-being.

That's the goal behind the second annual Staten Island Health and Wellness Expo, which will be held on Sept. 28 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bloomfield.

"Staten Islanders need to take care of their own health and wellness," said City Councilman James Oddo (R-Mid-Island/Brooklyn), who is a lead sponsor of the free, day-long event along with the Northfield Bank Foundation.

The conference, titled "Plan To Be Healthy" will focus on wellness as the first step toward leading a healthy lifestyle. It will feature classes and seminars on healthy eating, exercise regimens, stress management and other opportunities for healthy living.

Islanders can also get free mammograms and hearing and diabetes tests at the expo.

"We can't control the health care system," said Oddo. "What we can control is our own behaviors."

Oddo and the Northfield Foundation are each allocating \$50,000 to help pay for the expo. Organizers held a press conference last week to announce the event.

"We're happy that everyone is cooperating," said Diane Senerchia, executive director of the bank foundation. "They are offering so many free services. It's important."

Susan Lamberti, chair of the foundation, will serve as a committee member for the expo.

The College of Staten Island (CSI) will serve as a sponsor for the event.

"Health, wellness and access to health care are severe problems and challenges for Staten Island," said Dr. Tomas Morales, president of CSI, who is an ambassador for the expo.

He pointed to the higher rates of smoking, obesity and diabetes found on the Island.

"All are major concerns," Morales said.

CSI will sponsor a presentation called "Finding Balance in Your Life," and will join with Wagner College and St. John's University to present another seminar, "College Health, Health for a Lifetime," aimed at college-age Islanders.

A number of other borough organizations and businesses, including the Staten Island Economic Development Corp., will also have leading roles at the expo.

For more information, go to <http://www.healthysi.com>.

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***Students & Alumni***

## Scholarships awarded to 5 Port Richmond HS students

Published: Thursday, July 01, 2010, 10:14 AM



**Diane Lore**



Port Richmond High School graduates, from the left, Chia Chou Pan, of Willowbrook; Jenna Jankowski, of Port Richmond; Giuliana Spinelli, of Bulls Head; Kinza Bukhari, of Willowbrook, and Matthew Feldman, of Bulls Head, are recipients of college scholarships from the Port Richmond High School Alumni Association. (Photo Courtesy of Port Richmond High School)

**STATEN ISLAND, NY - PORT RICHMOND** - Topping off the school year and their high-school careers on a sweet note, five Port Richmond High School graduates walked away with a total of \$6,000 in scholarships donated by the Port Richmond High School Alumni Association.

The awards of \$1,200 each, went to **Kinza Bukhari, Matthew M. Feldman, Jenna Jankowski, Chia Chou Pan and Giuliana M. Spinelli.**

The scholarships were presented during a ceremony and reception June 9 in the school's Red Raider Cafe. Alumni Association President **John Jankowski**, Class of 1979, called the occasion "one of the best days of the year for me."

Jankowski said the college scholarships have been a tradition since the alumni association was chartered in

1986. Seniors must apply for the gifts by writing an essay and submitting their transcript and SAT scores, as well as three faculty recommendations. This year's winners were selected from among 18 applicants.

The scholarship program is funded through alumni dues, donations and fund-raising activities throughout the year.

"We congratulate our winners, and we're proud to have them represent Port Richmond High School in the community and as they embark on their college careers." Jankowski said.

Miss Bukhari is the daughter of **Nafila Aman** and **Syed Bukhari**. Her cumulative grade point average is 101.19 and she is ranked second in her class. She served as her class salutatorian during Friday's graduation ceremony at Wagner College.

She received a combined score of 1200 on the SAT and has participated in Port Richmond's "Gateway to Higher Education" honors program since her freshman year. She will be attending Brandeis University to study neurology, with the idea of becoming a researcher or a neurosurgeon. Her goal is to help bring quality medical care to impoverished people and improve their quality of life.

Feldman is the son of **Robin and Bruce Feldman**. His cumulative grade-point average is 97.9 and he is ranked seventh in his class. His combined SAT scores totaled 1100, and he also participated in the school's "Gateway to Higher Education" honors program. He will be attending the State University of New York at Buffalo and majoring in architecture, with an emphasis on industrial design. His goal is to create structures that will benefit every-day lives of people.

Miss Jankowski is the daughter of **Diane** and Alumni president **John Jankowski**. Her cumulative average is 97.6 and she ranks 12th in her class. Her combined SAT score is 1190. She's participated in the school's Collegiate Academy honors program since her freshman year, and has been accepted into the Macaulay Honors **College at the College of Staten Island**. She plans to major in political science and has expressed an interest in someday running for political office.

Pan is the son of **Lee Tsun Pan** and **Chen Hwa Pan**. His cumulative average is 102.9 and his combined SAT score is 1230. He is number one in his graduating class, and was his class valedictorian during commencement last week.

He too, was a member of the Collegiate Academy honors program since freshman year. He will attend Babson College in Massachusetts where he will study business with an emphasis on applied statistics and accounting. His goal is to own a business that deals with environmental protection, alternative energy sources, and emissions trading.

Miss Spinelli is the daughter of **Josephine Blumenfeld** and **Antonio Spinelli**. She is ranked 15th in her class and has a cumulative average of 95.9. She also was a member of the Collegiate Academy. Her



combined SAT score is 1120. She has been accepted into the University of Connecticut's Academic Center for Exploratory Students as a pre-teaching major. She plans to become a high-school math teacher.

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## Top of the world, dad: Westerleigh grad gets present like no other

Published: Friday, July 02, 2010, 8:09 AM



**Jillian Taratunio**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Amanda Gaal's father whisked her away from Staten Island and took her to the other side of the world, as a reward for earning her undergraduate degree from the College of New Jersey in three years.

"For graduation, I told my dad I wanted to do something bizarre and crazy that most people don't get to do," she said.

The father-daughter duo, who live in Westerleigh, decided to journey to a base camp at Mount Everest, but those plans were foiled by tensions at the China-Nepal border.

Instead, they agreed on an 11-day trip to Nepal and India. They departed from Newark Liberty International Airport on May 25, and arrived in Delhi, India, the next day.



Jeff and Amanda Gaal of Westerleigh with a new friend at Chitwan National Park in Nepal.

"My favorite part of India was the Taj Mahal. You can't see anything like that anywhere else in the world," said Amanda.

Along with that glorious palace, they visited India's Red Fort and marble factory. Two days later, they flew to Kathmandu, Nepal, where they were greeted with marigold garlands.

"Nepal is the one of the most inexpensive places to go to, and one of the most exotic places to see," said Gaal, adding he wanted his daughter to see Nepal before it becomes "too commercialized."

"Last time I was here, I felt like I was in another world. But this time, we saw a KFC and a Pizza Hut. But it's still exotic enough that you can see things that are unique to the country."

Amanda compared the streets of Kathmandu to Manhattan's Chinatown.

"There are vendors all along the street and you barter with them to lower the price. They sell cashmere and pashmina scarves, papier-mache products, and Buddhist and Hindu statues," she said.

In Pokhara, Amanda was a passenger on an ultra-light flight, and operated the hang glider with the assistance of the pilot.

And in Chitwan National Park, Amanda's Nepalese adventures included riding a camel and taking an elephant bath.

"The elephant knelt down on all fours, then I got on top of it. It went into the river, filled its trunk with water, and squirted me with it. Then I rode the elephant back to the hotel through the town," she said.

Elephants, donkey carts, yaks, cars, and bicycles fill the roads in Nepal. The streets lack stop signs and traffic lights.

"There's no road rage like there is here in the States. Everyone was being calm in their chaos," said Gaal.

He described the inhabitants of Nepal as "extremely helpful and kind."

"They open their homes to you and give you what they don't have, out of the kindness of their hearts," he said.

Gaal said he enjoys learning about different cultures and experiencing the diversity of the world. "You can't understand the value of a leaky faucet until you see people who are deprived of water."

Electricity in Nepal goes on and off throughout the day, depending on when the hydroelectric systems move from one dam to another.

Now Amanda aspires to travel to all the continents to experience different environments and ways of life.

She will attend the **College of Staten Island** in September to pursue a doctorate in physical therapy.

But father and daughter have their next destination lined up: It's Peru's Machu Picchu — after Amanda receives her Ph.D.

"I won't travel with anyone but my dad," she said.

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# Brooklyn Daily Eagle

## Abbate, 24-Year Assemblyman, Faces Two Challengers

by Harold Egelin ([edit@brooklyneagle.net](mailto:edit@brooklyneagle.net)), published online 07-01-2010

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### One Is a 20-Year-Old College Student

By Harold Egelin  
Brooklyn Daily Eagle

BENSONHURST — Two Republicans, one a newcomer and the other a veteran campaigner, are in a two-front campaign to unseat longtime Democrat Assemblyman Peter Abbate, representing the 49th Assembly District in Albany since January 1987.

"This is the right time for a change," said Lucretia Regina-Potter, a longtime Bensonhurst businesswoman in her third campaign for the Assembly. Newcomer Peter Cipriano of Bath Beach said, "We need a fresh, new voice to send to Albany, not another politician."

Both were campaigning outside the St. Finbar Church Center in Bath Beach on Tuesday evening, where a town hall meeting was being held by State Sen. Marty Golden's office. The meeting also attracted two rival GOP candidates, Michael Allegritti and Michael Grimm, who are seeking Democratic Congressman Michael McMahon's post, as well as Brooklyn Republican Chair Craig Eaton.

Assemblyman Abbate is telling voters to look at his record. "Since taking office, I've been fighting for the people of Bensonhurst, Bath Beach, Dyker Heights and Borough Park in Albany," he said at his re-election campaign launch at the Stars and Stripes Democratic Club.

"I've been pushing for tougher penalties for criminals, voting to lower taxes, working to improve education and fix our schools, and protecting the rights of senior citizens and homeowners," said Abbate.

"I'll continue to be your voice in Albany, tackling the tough issues facing us today and in the future," he told the crowd. In the weeks since he has been involved with his colleagues on the state budget, a tough challenge in itself. In his campaign rounds and ads he emphasizes his pledge "to continue to work hard for the children, elderly and working families of our community."

Abbate began his government service career with Assemblyman Stephen Solarz in the mid-1970s and continued with him into the mid-1980s when Solarz entered Congress.

His Republican challengers hope that one of them will be in Albany this coming January, but first one must at least win the Republican primary election on Sept. 14. All candidates are now nearing the end of their petitioning efforts to get on the ballot.

### Re-energized Republicans Take On Abbate

Republicans in Brooklyn, led by Chair Eaton, say they are energized by spreading voter discontent over Democratic Party policies, the reform movement within their own ranks, and the emergence of more candidates than in recent years.

While often at odds with Eaton, Regina-Potter, a member of the party's executive committee, points to endorsements by the Kings County Conservative Club, State Sen. Golden, the Fiorello LaGuardia Republican Club, Brooklyn Young Republican Club, the New York State Right to Life Committee and the National Federation of Republican Women.

Blasting Abbate for his support of "union special interests," she has mapped an agenda that includes support for fair education tax credits for parents with school children, improving access to resources to small businesses, free public transit for seniors, and no pork-barrel spending outside the district.

A Bishop Kearney High School and Fordham University graduate, she is the general manager and designer of Bari Tile and Ceramics and is active in local sport teams and the Girl Scouts.

Cipriano, a 20-year-old political science student at the **College of Staten Island**, grew up in Bath Beach in a small-business family. He has been a political volunteer since age 14, said he is "fighting to take Albany back."

His reform campaign platform includes "restoring sound and responsible fiscal policy and common sense governing in Albany," halting the growing budget deficit and out-of-control spending, and creating new jobs while reversing the state's "growing tax burden."

His web site lists no endorsements so far. He appeared, along with Eaton, recently on the inaugural "Brooklyn GOP Radio" program hosted by Gene Berardelli.

NOTE: Assemblyman Abbate, Cipriano and Regina-Potter will each be profiled separately in upcoming editions of this newspaper.

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Questions? Comments? [Sound off to the Editor](#)

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## Staten Island Jewish Community Center installs new board and officers

Published: Tuesday, July 20, 2010, 7:12 AM



### Staten Island Advance

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STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Board members were elected and awards presented at the recent final board meeting of the Jewish Community Center at the Joan & Alan Bernikow JCC in Sea View.

Guest speaker for the evening was Rachel Jacoby Rosenfield, director of the Jewish Greening Fellowship, Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center.

Tributes were made in memory of three members of the JCC family who died this year: Former presidents of the board Nancy Avis and Sol Rubenstein, and day care teacher Susan Fuchs, who had been with the JCC for 25 years.

**Meirav Lev-Ari** of Egbertville was named president of the board of directors of the Jewish Community Center of Staten Island for a second year.

Three new members were elected to the board for a two-year term: Sergey Guberman of Todt Hill, Ronit Lapid of Grasmere and Doron Roth of New Springville.

An Israeli native, Meirav Lev-Ari, of New Dorp, first joined the JCC in 1997 as part of the Early Childhood Parents Committee and the UJA-Federation's Partnership 2000, a project that linked the JCC and Pisgat Ze'ev, a small city that is part of Jerusalem. She joined the board in 2003 and has served on many committees.

**Sergey Guberman** is an owner of two Edible Arrangements stores, one in Tompkinsville and one in Bulls Head, and a Brooklyn real estate developer.

**Ronit Lapid**, president of aRKay Design Associates, an interior design firm for residential and commercial projects, is the mother of two children who grew up attending JCC programs.

**Doron Roth**, an elementary education major at the **College of Staten Island**, runs Reality Check, a teen-against-tobacco program based out of the Jewish Community Center of Staten Island.

Other officers of the board are Roger Auerbach of Grymes Hill, senior vice president; Murray Berman of Todt Hill, R. Randy Lee of Sunnyside, Alan Poritz of West Brighton and Sue Sappin of Willowbrook, vice presidents; Susan Perel of Todt Hill, treasurer, and Jackie Reiter of Annadale, secretary.

Various awards presented that evening included the UJA-Federation Volunteer Recognition Award to Susan Perel; UJA-Federation Annual Community Breakfast Award to Manny Saks, and the UJA-Federation Esther Lea Ritz New Generation Leadership Award to Jackie Reiter. Four programmatic awards from the JCC Association Biennial also were presented.

Plaques were presented to JCC staff who reached the milestone of 10 years of service at the JCC: Denise Aviles, Community Health Insurance Programs; Nelly Cherepinskaya, Dorothy Delson Kuhn Music Institute; Denise Constanzo, accounting; Ronni Flaherty, administration; Dalia Frisch, senior adult programs; Marco Gutierrez, housekeeping; Steve Kessler, Beacon Afterschool; Linda Kvetkoff, First Foot Forward; Robert Mathies, building temperature control, and Phyllis Minikes, early childhood programs.

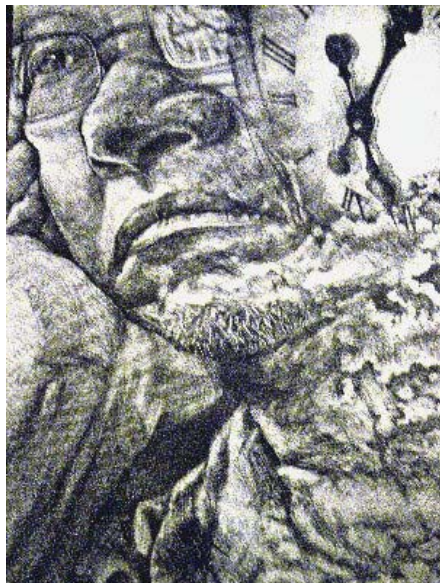
The Jewish Community Center of Staten Island has three locations: 485 Victory Blvd., Tompkinsville; 1297 Arthur Kill Rd., Rossville, and its flagship at 1466 Manor Rd., Sea View. It is a not-for-profit organization offering recreational, educational, cultural and social programs to enhance the quality of life of all Staten Island residents. The JCC is an agency of the UJA-Federation.



## 華裔生袁藹芬 作品獲獎

記者劉偉新澤西州報導

July 21, 2010 06:01 AM | 106 觀看次數 | 2 | 0 | 0



史泰登島科技高中華裔學生袁藹芬作品「老人」，獲「2010年國會選區高中藝術競賽」國會眾議員麥文瀚的13選區第一名。（圖：袁藹芬提供）

2010年國會選區高中藝術競賽(2010 Congressional District High Arts Competition)中，新州國會眾議員派隆(Frank Pallone, Jr.)選區第一名為日裔學生長谷川玲日(Reika Hasegawa)，得獎作品為「瘋狂的兄弟」；紐約國會眾議員麥文瀚(Michael E. McMahon)13選區第一名為華裔學生袁藹芬(Melody Yuan)，得獎作品為「老人」，兩人均為新州莎倫學院的學生。

長谷川玲日是新州北愛迪生高中11年級學生，「瘋狂的兄弟」描繪其弟弟玩電玩的情形，技巧創意大膽熟練。派隆日前在新州孟莫斯大學頒獎給她。

袁藹芬是紐約史泰登島科技高中(Staten Island Technical High School)十年級學生，作品「老人」描繪老人容貌，以此表達時間在人生歷程的流逝。麥文瀚日前在紐約史泰登學院(College of Staten Island)頒獎給她。全國各選區第一名得獎作品將在國會大廈展出一年。



## CSI students willing to lend a helping hand

Published: Thursday, July 22, 2010, 11:07 AM



**Mark D. Stein**

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**STATEN ISLAND, NY - WILLOWBROOK** - Students across the city have proven to residents of the five boroughs that there's more to school than academics and athletics. And it's especially true among students who attend the **College of Staten Island (CSI)**, as well.

**CSI's** student body has logged more than 11,000 hours of volunteer work, earning the Willowbrook school the "Distinguished Award in Service" in recognition of its impressive display in the city's first College Challenge.

For a four-month span, over 500 students unselfishly offered up time and effort by contributing to numerous organizations and initiatives, among them blood drives, pantry fills, fund-raisers for U.S. troops overseas and Haiti relief services with the American Red Cross.

The school was one of three winners overall, and was ranked first among CUNY (City University of New York) participants.

**Diahann Billings-Burford**, appointed by **Mayor Michael Bloomberg** last year as the first municipal chief service officer, said that the Distinguished Award in Service was being given to **CSI** "for strong campus mobilization, an extensive network of community partnerships, and a willingness to make the Challenge a central part of the campus' plan for service."

"Our students were constantly telling us how good they felt giving back to our community, and they're eager to do it again," said **Carol Brower**, **CSI's** director of student life.

The Challenge, covering the period from January 1 though April 30 of this year, was a New York City initiative aimed at promoting service and volunteerism. Its dual purpose was to make the city the easiest place in the world to volunteer and to set a new standard for how college communities can respond to pressing neighborhood challenges.

To qualify, service projects had to be located within the city's five boroughs. **CSI** students chose diverse causes to which they devoted what Ms. Brower termed their "time, passion, skills, and willingness to help address the city's most pressing needs and make a difference."

**CSI** students who volunteered the most hours were **Zaheer Baber** (641), **Marybeth Melendez** (428), **Noor Daoud** (370), and **Karen Klingele** (188).

The top 10 students citywide will be given the chance to intern with the Mayor's Office this summer. Other prizes included an iPod Nano, T-shirts and concert tickets.

Several other schools in New York City participated, including St. John's University and Wagner College, both Grymes Hill.

Ms. Brower said that all **CSI** students "are proud of the school's accomplishment, and are extremely excited about being the number-one CUNY school."

She noted that **CSI** would participate in any future Challenge. "Our students feel it is not only fun to volunteer and give back, but that it's their responsibility to do so."



## College graduates on parade

Published: Sunday, July 25, 2010, 12:06 PM



**Staten Island Advance**

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By LINDSAY MACKLIN and JILLIAN TARATUNIO

### **Jesse W. Allert**

Jesse W. Allert of Randall Manor graduated from New York Medical College with a doctor of medicine degree.

Allert, the son of William and Nancy Allert, earned his bachelor's degree from The College of New Jersey in 2005. He completed his residency in orthopedic surgery at St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center, Paterson, N.J.

He received a citation for humanism and professionalism, and was a member of Gold Humanism Honor Society.

### **Joseph Basile**

Joseph Basile of Oakwood graduated from New York Medical College with a doctor of medicine degree.

Basile, the son of Elizabeth and Allen Basile, graduated from Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in chemistry.

He completed his residency in Emergency Medicine at SUNY Downstate/Kings County Brooklyn.

### **Meredith Julia Campbell**



## Meredith Julia Campbell

Meredith Julia Campbell, daughter of Kathleen Kiener Campbell and the late Patrick Campbell of New Brighton, graduated from Brooklyn Law School with a juris doctor degree in law.

Ms. Campbell was honored for her coaching and participation in the Moot Court Honor Society at Lincoln Center and received the highest level Public Service, Public Interest Award.

In law school, she was a judicial intern for Federal Judge Eric Vitaliano and Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes.

Chosen to participate in the BLS International Exchange Program, she studied in the International Law Honors Program at the University of Essex in the United Kingdom.

She was the recipient of the BLS International Fellowship, which gave her the opportunity to work as a legal intern for Bridges Across Borders Southeast Asia in Chiang Mai, Thailand and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

While completing this internship, Ms. Campbell wrote a community-based legal education manual focusing on children's rights in Malaysia and basic human rights of villagers in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Malaysia. She also helped refugee women and children, especially those escaping from Burma.

Ms. Campbell served as a student advocate in the Brooklyn Family Court, representing victims of domestic abuse. She also worked as a legal assistant to LK Shields Solicitors in Dublin, Ireland.

An alumnus of Curtis High School and Georgetown University, Ms. Campbell attended Brooklyn Law School as a Carswell Scholar. She also received dean's merit and academic achievement awards.

After Ms. Campbell takes the New York and New Jersey bar exams, she will become the coordinator of volunteers for the re-election of Michael McMahon to Congress. She plans to travel to South America in the fall and to become an assistant district attorney in the Brooklyn D.A.'s office this coming January.

## Marisa DeSisto



Marisa DeSisto

Marisa DeSisto of Oakwood graduated magna cum laude from Quinnipiac University, Hamden, Conn., with a bachelor's degree in English and a minor in journalism.

Ms. DeSisto, daughter of Lenny and Donna DeSisto, graduated from St. Joseph by-the-Sea High School in 2006. She attended Quinnipiac University on an academic scholarship and was on the dean's list every semester of her college career.

She was a member of the University Honors Program from 2006-2010, and was invited to join the Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society in 2006.

Ms. DeSisto was inducted into the Zeta Zeta chapter of Phi Sigma Sigma in March 2007, and remained an active member for the past four years. She served on the Zeta Zeta's chapter's executive council for one year as Awards Chairperson, and for one year as Scholarship Chairperson.

She was the head copy editor for The Quad News, Quinnipiac's first independent on-line newspaper, for two years. She also produced and co-hosted a weekly radio show for eight semesters on WQAQ, Quinnipiac's student-run radio station.

Ms. DeSisto was an editorial intern for Parenting magazine last summer, under Bonnier Corporation in Manhattan. She directly assisted the editors with the content to be featured in the magazine, represented the magazine at PR events with major companies, and assisted at photo shoots.

### **Natalie Melnik Gupta**



Natalie Melnik Gupta

Natalie Melnik Gupta of Westerleigh graduated from the University of Delaware with a bachelor's degree in science and a minor in political science.

Ms. Gupta, the daughter of Eileen and Awadhesh Gupta, studied abroad in Australia.

She is currently a sales associate at ING Direct, Wilmington, Del. Ms. Gupta plans to her pursue her master's degree and a career as a music promoter. She will reside in Philadelphia.

### **John Jastremski**



John Jastremski

John Jastremski of Castleton Corners graduated from the Samuel I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University with a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism and a minor in history.

Jastremski, son of Kim and John Jastremski, graduated from the Michael J. Petrides School in 2006.

He was an on-air sports radio personality for WAER and WJPZ radio stations in Syracuse. He hosted call-in shows live from the Carrier Dome, Madison Square Garden and the NCAA Tournament in Buffalo, N.Y.

Jastremski was a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon and was on the dean's list.

He plans to pursue a career in sports radio.

### **Kimberly S. Kolkhorst**

Kimberly Salaycik Kolkhorst of Port Richmond Center graduated from the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine, with a doctor of osteopathic medicine.

Ms. Kolkhorst, daughter of Hatha Salaycik and the late Joseph Salaycik, will be interning at Tampa General Hospital, Tampa, Fla., prior to a residency in internal medicine in pursuit of a fellowship in gastroenterology.

### **Kristen Partch**

Kristen Partch of Willowbrook graduated from the Polytechnic Institute of New York University with a bachelor's degree in business technology management.

Ms. Partch, daughter of Greg and Dawn Partch, won the school's Woman of the Year Achievement Award in 2008.

She is an assistant basketball coach for the women's basketball team and during her playing days, was the first woman to score 1,000 points in her career.

Ms. Partch plan to pursue her master's degree and to continue coaching at the Polytechnic Institute of New York University.

### **Kaitlin A. Perry**



Kaitlin A. Perry

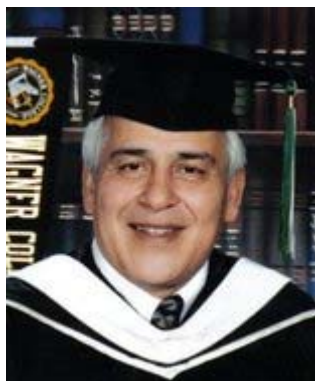
Kaitlin A. Perry, daughter of Lori and William of Westerleigh, graduated from Iona College with a bachelor's degree in elementary education, concentrating in English, and is now certified to teach birth through sixth grade.

While attending Iona, she was a member of the Iona College Education Club's e-board and was a full-time volunteer at the Abraham House in the Bronx.

She also worked with children from 4 to 11 years old in an after-school program at a school in New Rochelle.

This January Ms. Perry will be pursuing her master's degree in special education.

### **Richard O. Williams III**



Richard O. Williams III

Richard O. Williams III of Eltingville graduated summa cum laude from Wagner College with a degree in history and a minor in education.



He graduated from the **College of Staten Island** with an associate of applied science degree in civil engineering. He is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa National Honor Society and the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society.

Williams is a retired sergeant with the New York City Police Department and New York City Housing Authority Police Department, where he worked in Brooklyn and on Staten Island.

He is currently employed by the Wagner College Resident Education Department and the Eger Health Care Center. He plans to pursue a career teaching history.

### **Jennifer C. Williams**



Jennifer C. Williams

Jennifer Camille Williams of Eltingville graduated magna cum laude from Wagner College with a degree in history and a minor in art.

Ms. Williams, the daughter of Maryann and Richard O. Williams III of Eltingville, was on the dean's list. She was a member of Alpha Omicron Pi sorority, where she served as vice president of Chapter Development.

She was elected the 2010 Songfest Queen and was a co-captain of the Seahawks' cheerleaders.

Ms. Williams is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa National Honor Society and the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society. She was the recipient of the Verrazano Memorial Award for history.

Ms. Williams wrote an article about women's suffrage on Staten Island that was published in the Staten Island Historian. She was an intern for the Smithsonian Museum of the Native Americans in Manhattan.

She is going to be spending the summer cataloging artifacts in Peru and will visit Machu Pichu and other sites.



## Fahamisha P. Brown earns literary award

Published: Sunday, July 11, 2010, 8:24 AM



### Staten Island Advance

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STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Fahamisha Patricia Brown of New Brighton received the Distinguished Member Award from the African Literature Association (ALA) during its 36th annual meeting at the University of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

The award is given in recognition of a member's outstanding record of service to the ALA and his or her commitment to teaching and scholarship in African literature.

A former president of the ALA's Women's Caucus, Prof. Brown currently serves as treasurer of both the ALA and the Women's Caucus. She also chairs the committee on Publicity and Media Relations.

Formerly an associate professor of English at the College of Staten Island, Prof. Brown has authored and/or edited several publications, most recently "In the Light: The Poetry of Lucille Clifton" in the Langston Hughes Reader.

She has also performed poetry readings at CSI and in Island churches and she continues to conduct research on African and the African-Diaspora poets and women writers.

The African Literature Association is an independent, non-profit professional society of scholars, writers, teachers and students dedicated to the advancement of African and African-Diaspora literary studies.

### Jayne Cooper named VP, director at Pouch Center

Jayne A. Cooper of New Springville has been named vice president for Developmental Disabilities Services and director of the Elizabeth W. Pouch Center for Special People for the Staten Island Mental Health Society (SIMHS).

Ms. Cooper has more than 25 years experience in health and human services in supervisory, clinical, administrative and executive management roles, serving persons with disabilities, mental illnesses and addictions, as well as the elderly, HIV-positive persons, hospital and nursing home populations.

Ms. Cooper is noted for her unmatched expertise and integrity as well as her warm and empathetic

personality.

Prior to joining the SIMHS, Ms. Cooper served as deputy executive director for Programs and for Clinical Services at Community Health Action of Staten Island. She is also a past director of Social Work for the former St. Vincent's Medical Center of Richmond, for St. Elizabeth Ann's Health and Rehabilitation Center, and for Lutheran Augustana Center for Health Care and Rehabilitation.

Ms. Cooper established and served as director of the Dr. Richard Bayley Center for HIV Services at the former Bayley Seton Hospital and was assistant director of Outpatient Mental Health for North Richmond Community Mental Health Centers at St. Vincent's and Bayley Seton.

Ms. Cooper earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from the **College of Staten Island**, a master's in social work from New York University, and a master of public administration summa cum laude from Long Island University.

### **Margaret Governo named nursing ambassador**

Associate Prof. Margaret Governo of West Brighton has been named the National League for Nursing (NLN) Ambassador for Wagner College's Evelyn L. Spiro School of Nursing.

She will serve as a two-way link between the nursing program and the NLN.

Ms. Governo is a family nurse practitioner and a board-certified clinical specialist psychiatric nurse practitioner. Her specialties include cultural diversity in health care, psychiatric-community mental health, professional role development, issues of family dynamics, complementary integrative healing models, project development for health promotion and conflict resolution.

She is a former member of the board of the Visiting Nurse Association of Staten Island, a Board of Directors gubernatorial appointee to the Board of Visitors for Mental Health, the New York State Nurses Association's Legislative District Coordinator for Staten Island and Brooklyn and past president of Wagner College's Epsilon Mu chapter of the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing.

Ms. Governo earned her bachelor of science degree in nursing from Wagner College, and her master's and doctoral degrees in education from Columbia University Teachers College.

### **Maria E. Rubino wins NIAF scholarship**

Maria Elena Rubino of New Springville has received the Salvatore J. Zizza Scholarship from the National Italian American Foundation (NIAF).

She is one of 13 university students from New York and New Jersey who have received scholarships from the

organization.

Miss Rubino attends Pace University in Manhattan and is majoring in finance and minoring in Italian.

### **Joni Marcinek earns sales award**

Joni Marcinek of New Dorp has been honored by lia sophia for her outstanding sales accomplishments as part of its Excellent Beginnings Program Achievers.

The program recognizes outstanding sales accomplishments and professionalism. Having just joined the fashion jewelry business, Mrs. Marcinek earned this prestigious accomplishment in the first 15 weeks by attaining certain sales levels and by sharing lia sophia with other new advisors.

Advisors provide home showings of jewelry on a flexible schedule. All new lia sophia advisors have the opportunity to increase their earnings and earn free jewelry as part of the Excellent Beginnings Program.

The plan celebrates the success of advisors who stay on track in the first four months in business.

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## On the record- With Broken Records Magazine

Published: Wednesday, July 21, 2010, 3:43 PM



**Justin Sarachik**



Scott Vollweiler with 3 of his self published magazines. Broken Record Magazines can be purchased online at [Brokenrecordsonline.com](http://Brokenrecordsonline.com) or at Rustic Music Center.

Broken Records

Four years ago, Scott Vollweiler decided to dream big.

The 26-year-old, a music teacher at Richmond Town's Rustic Music Center for four years and the St. Mary's School in Rosebank for a year and half, wanted to expand the borders of his music career. Vollweiler graduated from the [College of Staten Island](#) with a BA in music in 2008, but wanted to do more than teach.

After playing in a number of bands since his teens, the Oakwood resident began to make small but steady connections in the music industry. With his growing knowledge of the business and passion for all things musical, Vollweiler started his own company, Broken Records, in June 2006.

Initially it was a traveling recording studio.

"Studios on the Island are all way too over priced. I wanted to start a studio that you could be comfortable recording in and be able to afford it," said Vollweiler.

From there, Vollweiler and a former partner decided they would like to grow from a recording company into an online magazine as well. Soon, he was dealing with some of the biggest publicists in the entire United States — simply because he made a few phone calls and e-mails.

"I used to lie and say I was with a magazine just to get a press pass for photography," Vollweiler said. "I learned who to talk to."

After building up a resume and stacking up stories, [BrokenRecordsOnline.com](http://BrokenRecordsOnline.com) launched in the spring of 2009, with then up and coming band Dragonforce featured on the cover.

"We've interviewed some of the newest bands, and then watched them blow up...like Pop Evil, Saving Abel and Dragonforce," said Vollweiler.

Vollweiler is the mag's jack of all trades: Editor-in-chief, graphic layout designer, photographer, and press release junkie. He also works with his staff of freelance writers and photographers to make the publication come together. The end result is printed in house (literally, in *his* house), and can be purchased at [BrokenRecordsOnline.com](http://BrokenRecordsOnline.com).

"I just want to make the best magazine possible," he says. "While Rolling Stone has big features with a lot of ads, I want a lot of features with fewer ads."



Broken Record magazine

Scott Vollweiler with band, Staind.

Some of the artists featured — to name a few, so far in Broken Records Magazine: Adam Lambert, David Cook, U2, the All American Rejects, Aerosmith, Staind, 3 Doors Down, and the late Les Paul, with the latter being his most memorable.

"He was the father of the modern guitar, and created a new way to record," Vollweiler says. "Just listening to him tell me the story of how he created the electric guitar was the greatest moment of my life."

Paul died a few months after the interview, making it one of his last.

In addition to household names, Broken Records also has a place for Staten Island bands such as Dead Men Dreaming, Riot Control and Process of Fusion.

"I've pretty much accomplished everything I want to do," he said. "Although it would be nice to be popular in my hometown."

— For info on how to get Broken Records Magazine go to [BrokenRecordsOnline.com](http://BrokenRecordsOnline.com) or look them up on Facebook, Myspace, and Twitter.

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## Puppeteer brings her act to St. George

Published: Thursday, July 29, 2010, 9:15 AM



**Tevah Platt**



Janine Schiller graduated this spring from the **College of Staten Island** with a degree in dramatic arts, and she will go on to New York University to pursue a master's degree in drama therapy. She's pictured here with her alter ego, Frankie, a crooner fashioned after Old Blue Eyes. (Staten Island Advance/Tevah Platt)

**STATEN ISLAND, NY - ST. GEORGE - Janine Schiller** was tired of her office job.

So, she made a decision some 15 years ago that was just short of joining the circus - an alternative she'd also seriously considered.

She became a puppeteer.

Ms. Schiller, a 47-year-old resident of New Dorp, now has a cast of characters at her command.

Performing with Ms. Schiller tomorrow at 4 p.m. at Staten Island's Pier 1 outside of the Lighthouse Museum building will be Jack, Petunia the Cow, the Magic Harp, a motley showman named Pierre, the diminutive Puppetino, Captain Doodlehead (an alligator who can blow up balloons), and - Ms. Schiller's alter ego - Frankie, a crooner fashioned after Old Blue Eyes.

Ms. Schiller graduated this spring from the **College of Staten Island** with a degree in dramatic arts, and she

will go on to New York University to pursue a master's degree in drama therapy.

But she got her start with a class in puppet- and mask-making at the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan, and by networking through the Brooklyn-based Puppetry Guild of Greater New York.

"I had an actual passion for it," said Ms. Schiller, "like a stay-up-and-work-all-night kind of thing. My family thought I was crazy, especially at first."



Puppeteer Janine Schiller, of New Dorp, will be performing tomorrow at 4 p.m. at Staten Island's Pier 1 outside of the Lighthouse Museum building, with her entourage of unique puppets. (Staten Island Advance/Tevah Platt)

Volunteering at the Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre in Central Park, Ms. Schiller got what felt like her big break when, one day in the late '90s, the hands behind Hansel got the chicken pox. Ms. Schiller swooped in to join some of the city's best puppeteers.

Working with classical marionettes, cut-out shadow puppets, and foam-headed characters, Ms. Schiller has honed the crafts of both making and operating these figures.

Performing is like dancing, Ms. Schiller said, because it requires moving the entire body.

The trick to sculpting, she said, is in getting the eyes right, so that the puppet doesn't appear stone-faced or aloof.

Petunia is endearingly cock-eyed; Pierre's painted marble eyes are soulful; Frankie's eyes are bright.

Frankie is Ms. Schiller's favorite puppet, for reasons she can't explain. He has a bold character and a deep voice (the opposite of Puppetino) and is ready with quips to squeeze suavely between the lines of jazz standards.

Under the company name Puppet Mask-a-rade, Ms. Schiller performs throughout the city, at local parties and schools, and for residents of the Menorah Home and Hospital in Brooklyn. Performances for kids are often followed by sock-making workshops. Staten Island clients, because they are local, are offered discounted rates.

Friday's performance, "Puppets at the Pier," is sponsored by the Children's Committee of Bay Street Landing with space granted by the Staten Island Downtown Council. The purpose is to provide an event for children to enjoy in and outside of the Bay Street Landing Community, said children's committee member **Lisa Della Vecchia**, and to further Bay Street Landing's goal of becoming more integrated with the larger communities of Tompkinsville and St. George.

The show will likely feature a classic marionette show and a telling of "The Emperor's New Clothes. Ms. Schiller often performs "Jack and the Beanstalk," a fable about the frog and the snake, and Russian folktales featuring the child-eating witch Baba Yaga.

Puppeteering isn't the most lucrative profession, Ms. Schiller says, but it feels like a calling.

"I know I'm doing the right thing because on my way home from a show or a party I feel right," she said, "like I've hit that bell true."

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