

CSI in the News

Spring 2010



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SUMMER AT CSI

Make Your First Video Game

M–Th, June 28–July 1

Ages 7–10: 9:00am–noon • **Ages 11–14:** 1:00pm–4:00pm

If you love playing video games, this is the camp for you! Make your first video game in this one-of-a-kind class that shows you the crucial keys to designing your first 2-D game.

Video Game Animation

M–Th, July 12–July 15

Ages 7–10: 9:00am–noon • **Ages 11–14:** 1:00pm–4:00pm

Take your game design to the next level by creating and animating your own character sprites. Students do not need any prior experience in game design, animation, or sketching.

Lightz! Camera! Action!

M–Th, July 19–July 22

Ages 7–10: 9:00am–12:00 • **Ages 11–14:** 1:00pm–4:00pm

In this fun, exciting camp, learn the dynamics of storytelling, shooting, editing, graphics, sound, and more. Invite a select group of family and friends to your very own premiere on the big screen.

Rock Star!

M–Th, July 26–July 29

Ages 7–10: 9:00am–noon • **Ages 11–14:** 1:00pm–4:00pm

It used to take years of practice on an instrument to create even simple songs. Using tools like Garage Band and other mass media software, explore the basics of song composition, editing tracks, and create a music video.

LEGO Films

M–Th, August 2–August 5

Ages 7–10: 9:00am–noon

Make your toys come to life! Bring in your favorite action figures or LEGOs and create a short film for your friends. Students will need to bring in LEGOs or action figures from home, but all other equipment will be provided.

Ultimate Claymation

M–Th, August 2–August 5

Ages 11–14: 1:00pm–4:00pm

This camp will allow you to produce a movie out of nothing but an idea and a piece of clay. Clay, most supplies, and equipment will be provided.

Make Your First Video Game

M–Th, August 16–August 19

Ages 7–10: 9:00am–noon • **Ages 11–14:** 1:00pm–4:00pm

If you love playing video games, this is the camp for you! Make your first video game in this one-of-a-kind class that shows you the crucial keys to designing your first 2-D game.

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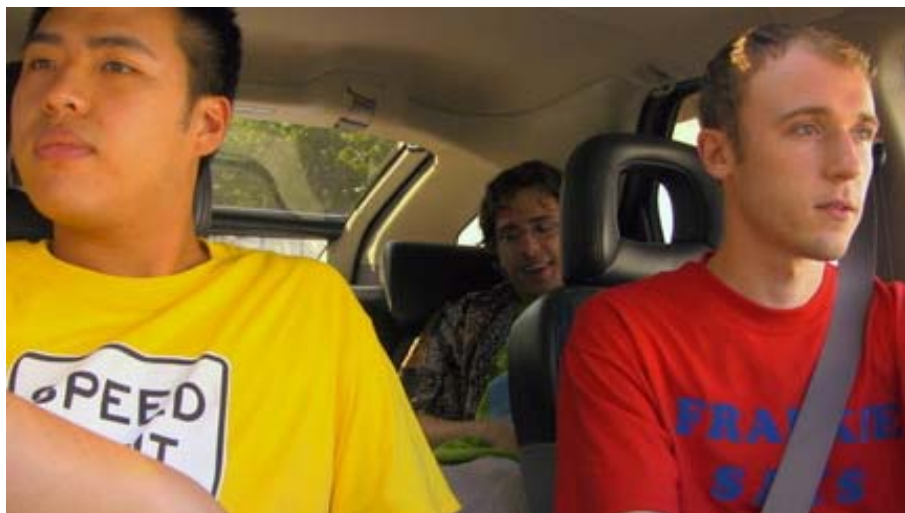
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Arts

Coming soon to SINY Film Festival: 'Randal and Simon's Big Damn Movie'

By Chelsea Kardokus

June 01, 2010, 3:16PM



Rising Star Pictures

"Randal and Simon's Big Damn Movie," an official SINY Film Festival selection, follows two young men in search of a girl in a blue mustang and direction in life. Shows in the [College of Staten Island](#) Recital Hall.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The summer sun, two best friends and a mystery girl – summer after high school has never been such an adventure.

Filmmaker Jonathan Liguori presents "Randal and Simon's Big Damn Movie," a light-hearted bro-mance to hit the screens at the **SINY Film Festival**, June 2-6.

This story follows the dynamic-duo of Randal and Simon through their summer after high school. One is on the prowl for a girl in a blue mustang, while the other is at an important crossroads in his life.

Liguori, a lifelong Grant City resident and [College of Staten Island](#) graduate, chatted with AWE about his film, inspirations and next project.

AWE: What was your inspiration for this film?

Liguori: When I was taking all of my film classes at [CSI](#), I always followed two characters in every short film I made and I thought my first full-length film should be a version of one of the stories I told back then. Randal and Simon were in seven out of nine of my short films. They originally were exaggerations of people, but they have evolved naturally over the course of the films into the characters that they are.

AWE: A lot of what's portrayed in your film is from what you and your friends experienced growing up on the Island. What do you want people to walk away with after viewing your film?

Liguori: A smile on their face and having had a lot of laughs. A lot of people try to put a meaning into their films, but I just want people to laugh and to have a good time, forget your problems. I really feel that's what movies should do.

AWE: With your company, **Rising Star Pictures**, you work as a screenwriter, actor, producer, cinematographer, director. Plus, you are pursuing your master's degree at **CSI** and working there as an instructor. What drives you to be so ambitious at age 23?

Liguori: I am constantly doing everything that I can. I am very much a perfectionist. The reason I do my own cinematography is because I don't want someone else to have the possibility of making a mistake. The more I can do the more it is going to stick to what I wanted. One of the reasons I do everything myself is because of Robert Rodriguez. In his film, *El Mariachi*, he was his only crewmember. He kept a journal that he published and it made me know that I can go make a film and accomplish what I want.

AWE: Have you been working on any new films recently?

Liguori: I just started pre-production for my new film, "Love Unfolded." We are going to start production the week after the SINY Film Festival. It's about a guy, Jeremy, who forgets it's his anniversary with his girlfriend and shows up to see her with his two best friends and little brother.

*"Randal and Simon's Big Damn Movie" screens June 4 at 3 p.m. in the **College of Staten Island's** Concert Hall and June 5 at 8 p.m. in the college's Recital Hall. Tickets are \$10 for each block of screenings and are available at **ticketweb.com**.*

Indie film fans flock to SINY Film Festival

By Jodi Lee Reifer

June 02, 2010, 8:01PM



Photo by Chad Davidson

Filmmakers and former Staten Island residents Barbara Brancaccio, left, and Joshua Zeman, the auteurs of "Cropsey," walk on the grounds of the former Farm Colony site in Sea View where devil worshippers were said to hold ceremonies.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. --- About 700 indie film fans have filled the St. George Theatre to catch "A Little Help," the opening night flick of the SINY Film Festival.

The movie, a dramedy, stars Jenna Fischer ("The Office") as a single mom who tries to reconnect with an old flame who happens to be her sister's husband (Chris O'Donnell of "NCIS: Los Angeles").

"It's a unique experience to have a film festival on Staten Island, showing interesting and diverse films. It only happens once a year," said Ann Kobayashi, 49, a medical assistant from Bay Terrace.

Mrs. Kobayashi is particularly interested in catching "Cropsey," a documentary about serial kidnapper Andre Rand.

Her brother helped in the search of 12-year-old Westerleigh resident Jennifer Schweiger, who Rand abducted in July 1987. A month after her disappearance, the victim's body was discovered in a shallow grave on the grounds of the former Willowbrook State School, now the **College of Staten Island**.

--- With Doug Auer

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June 2, 2010

Spare Times

By ANNE MANCUSO

AROUND TOWN

Museums and Sites

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., “Adventures in the Global Kitchen: Polar Cocktails,” a discussion, with sampling, of the cocktails that were popular a century ago, with David Wondrich, an author and drink connoisseur, and Don Lee, a mixologist at Momofuku Ssäm Bar; \$25. On view through Jan. 2, “Race to the End of the Earth,” an exhibition on the race to the South Pole by the explorers Roald Amundsen and [Robert Falcon Scott](#). Central Park West and 79th Street, (212) 769-5200, [amnh.org](#); Suggested general admission: \$16; \$12 for students and 60+; \$9 for 2 to 12. Supersaver tickets, including museum and Rose Center admission, the [Hayden Planetarium](#) space show (“Journey to the Stars”) and all special exhibitions: \$32; \$24.50 for students and 60+; \$20 for 2 to 12 (adult members, \$16; 2 to 12, \$11.50). Hours: daily, 10 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.

MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK Saturday and Sunday at 3 p.m., “Razzle Dazzle: The Lindsay Years on Broadway,” a performance of music from popular shows of the time, including “Chicago,” “Follies” and “Hair”; \$20, \$15 for students, 62+ and members; reservations required: (917) 492-3395; in conjunction with the exhibition “America’s Mayor: [John V. Lindsay](#) and the Reinvention of New York,” on view through Oct. 3. Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Japan Day, with family activities and a preview of the exhibition “Samurai in New York: The First Japanese Delegation, 1860,” opening on June 25. Hours: Tuesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fifth Avenue, at 103rd Street, (212) 534-1672, [mcny.org](#); \$10 suggested admission; \$6 for students, 62+ and members. Free for children 12 and younger.

RUSSIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL The eighth annual monthlong celebration of Russian culture, at locations around the city. On Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., a free outdoor event with dance, music, crafts and children's activities in Asser Levy Park (Seaside Park), Ocean Parkway and Seabreeze Avenue, Brighton Beach, Brooklyn. Most events featured during the festival, sponsored by the Russian American Foundation, are free. Schedule: russianamericanfoundation.org. (212) 687-6118.

SKATEBOARDING COMPETITION AND EXHIBITION Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., featuring professional and amateur skateboarders competing for awards and cash prizes in the Maloof Money Cup New York in a newly created skate park; the competition is closed to entrants but open to spectators. There will also be food, music and skateboard-themed activities. Presented by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and the Maloof Money Cup. On Friday, from 6:30 to 10 p.m., related events are planned at the [Queens Museum of Art](http://queensmuseum.org) in the park, including ticket giveaways, a talk and the opening of the exhibition "From the Banks to the Globe: The Geography of Skateboarding in New York City," which will run through June 20 Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, Queens, near the former New York State Pavilion, maloofmoneycup.com; queensmuseum.org; Skating tickets are free but have to be picked up (first come first served) on Friday from 6:30 to 10 p.m. at the Queens Museum of Art in the park.

SPRING CRAFTS FESTIVAL Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., the 17th annual festival, on Broadway between 66th and 72nd Streets.

STATEN ISLAND FILM FESTIVAL Friday and Saturday beginning at noon, films by local, national and international filmmakers at the St. George Theater, 35 Hyatt Street, as well as theaters at the College of Staten Island, 2800 Victory Boulevard. (718) 477-1400, sifilmfestival.org; \$10 per screening. Passes are \$15 to \$150. (The \$150 ticket includes special events, including the closing awards ceremony on Sunday at 6:30 p.m.)

Staten Island film festival picks: 'Code Name: Operation Black Thunder'

By Kaitlin Cangro

June 02, 2010, 5:22PM



Courtesy of Edgar Jimz

Lieutenant William Mark (Bill Geary, left) realizes Sergeant Frank Martinez (Edgar Jimz) knows too much inside information in "Code Name: Operation Black Thunder," a selection in the SINY Film Festival.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Generations of movie-goers have looked to "Superman" and "Batman" to save the day. Just when an entire town is about to give up hope, a man in a cape comes flying in.

Cinematic rogue cops have pulled the same duty. Think Inspector Harry Callahan in "Dirty Harry" or Axel Foley in "Beverly Hills Cop."

Now, comes a police officer-turned-superhero: Sergeant Frank Martinez. Indie film fans can meet him in "**Code Name: Operation Black Thunder**," playing at the **SINY Film Festival**, June 2-6.

The story, by writer/director Edgar Jimz of Mariners Harbor, involves four FBI agents whose mission, Operation Black Thunder, is to stop a terrorist group from deploying a biological weapon in New York City.

These terrorists have insiders in U.S. intelligence agencies. Seven other NYPD police officers, who are on suspension for charges of murder and robbery, are assigned to the mission because of their prior military experience.

Martinez gets his hands on an Egyptian figure the same day that he is assigned to this mission. The figure is said to come from outer space. When the figure breaks, Martinez finds a mask. Upon putting on this mask, his brain power is enhanced and he becomes Black Thunder, a violent man who eventually defeats this terrorist group.

Jimz, a Corrections Department captain assigned to the Emergency Services Unit of the Manhattan Detention Complex, chatted with AWE about his film and how he incorporated his work as a corrections officer.

AWE: You star as NYPD sergeant Frank Martinez. Describe him and his life prior to what audiences will see in this 40-minute film.

EJ: Frank Martinez came from a father who was very hard working. When his father became ill, he had to stop working. He lost money because he was not working and Frank could not complete college. His father tries to rob a bank in order to afford Frank's college and is killed during the attempted robbery. Frank is a rebel with problems. He is quiet, but takes whatever he likes. He later is accused of stealing \$100,000 from a drug dealer's house.

AWE: Where did the idea of the Frank Martinez character come from? Why did you incorporate a mask into the film?

EJ: I wanted to develop a corrupt character. It took some time, but this what I came up with. The idea of the mask came about because I wanted something different from other films. I am not really a big fan of comic books, so this is the first time I thought of something along those lines. The mask allows humans to use brain power they don't know how to use.

AWE: How much time did it take to put together and make this film?

EJ: The concept of the film started in September of 2008. In January of 2009, I started writing. In September of 2009, I started filming. It took seven days to shoot between Sept. 12 through Oct. 31.

AWE: You developed "Screen Working Actors Tactical Specialists, LLC" (S.W.A.T.S.). Could you explain what this is? Why did you decide to do this and who assists you with this service?

EJ: Films had cheap props. I had this vision. I wanted to provide better equipment to independent filmmakers. Films would have better quality for a low budget. There are 25 officers who help me to transport the equipment to various locations and show those involved in independent films how to use the equipment.

AWE: This film required you to take martial arts sessions. How many sessions did you and your fellow actors take? Are there any officers, besides yourself, who worked in this film?

EJ: The movie required a fight scene. The choreographer put together this scene. I attended seven sessions in three months. The choreographer and I star in this scene together in the film. Sixty percent of those involved in this film are law enforcement officers.

AWE: Being that this is your first film-making experience, how do you feel about being nominated for Best Staten Island Local and Best New Filmmaker prizes in the SINY Film Fest?

EJ: It's something I cannot explain for a first-timer. I have friends who have put together films and their films have never been in film festivals. I have gotten great feedback from the actors in the film. This is so rewarding. Many people want to work with me now. Next, I will be acting, directing and producing "Collateral Package". Filming for that will start in October. I already have a script written for a third movie called "Dirty Shield".

*"Code Name: Operation Black Thunder" screens June 4 at 4 p.m. in the **College of Staten Island's** Williamson Theater and June 5 at 2 p.m. in the college's Recital Hall, 2800 Victory Blvd., Willowbrook. Tickets are \$10 for a block of films, \$15 for all-day screening passes and \$45 for all-screenings passes and are available at **www.ticketweb.com** or at the venues. For more information, visit **www.sifilmfestival.org** or call 718-477-1400.*

SINY Film Fest: The Top 10 entries we're most excited to see at the annual movie marathon

Published: Thursday, June 03, 2010, 10:00 AM



Jodi Lee Reifer



TAKE FIVE
THE TOP 10 FILMS AWE IS MOST AMPED TO SEE AT SINY'S FIFTH ANNUAL MOVIE MARATHON

BY JODI LEE REIFER — *entertainment critic*

For SINY Film Fest, we've compiled a list of the top 10 films we're most excited to see at the annual movie marathon. The list is based on the input of our readers, who have been voting on the films since they were first announced. The films are: **"MURDER CHAMPION"**, **"THE FILM"**, **"FEMALE NOVELIST"**, **"THE CALLING"**, **"THE COMMON MAN"**, **"THE ART OF GETTING OVER IT"**, **"THE ZOMBIE RIGHTS MOVEMENT"**, **"OPERATION JERSEY SHORE"**, **"THE ZOMBIE RIGHTS MOVEMENT"**, and **"THE ZOMBIE RIGHTS MOVEMENT"**.

View full size

AWE's June 3-9 cover story in print.

STATEN ISLAND, NY -- The **SINY Film Festival** is not Cannes or Sundance. You won't see Quentin Tarantino on the red carpet or Lindsay Lohan playing hooky from court.

But unless you're Perez Hilton, Hollywood A-listers and tabloid targets are not what make a film fest — innovative movies are.

Now in its fifth year, SINY is emerging as a legit platform for established, indie moviemakers to screen their prize-winning flicks in New York City. At the same time, the fest is becoming an unparalleled proving ground for new filmmakers who reside — and make movies — right here on the rock.

Consider Island filmmaker Geoff Celis, producer of the mockumentary, "Rising Up! The Story of the Zombie Rights



AWE June 3-9, 2010

SINY FILM FEST V
Local murder-mystery "Cropsy" is among the annual movie marathon's top entries. 12

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Movement.” It was largely shot on Staten Island and will screen here after having taken a top prize at the Boston International Film Festival.

“I had to think about not only who’s going to laugh at it locally, but how it was going to affect audiences universally,” says the 29-year-old Concord resident.

Granted, you’ve probably never heard of most of this fest’s 85-plus films — other than maybe “Bobby Did It,” a new short by Wu-Tang Clan godfather RZA. Still, AWE — and film fest jurists across the country — believe many of the SINY selections are worth seeking out.

Plus, unlike the Tribeca Film Festival — notorious for surprise sold-out screenings, especially if you’ve been waiting in line for an hour — you don’t have to buy tickets weeks in advance.

Hence, AWE presents, in no particular order, the 10 films we are most excited to see June 3-5 (**Note:** check the accompanying infobox for screening locations and ticket details).

“WARRIOR CHAMPIONS”

The story of severely wounded soldiers as they fight to turn nightmares of war into Olympic dreams. As little as a year after losing limbs, Iraq War veterans Kortney Clemons, Scott Winkler, Melissa Stockwell and Carlos Leon set out to compete in the 2008 Paralympic Games in Beijing. This uplifting testament to perseverance has been making the festival rounds, earning spots in the prestigious Cleveland International and Newport Beach film fests, among others. “People call you a hero because you lost a leg, but I’ve done more in my life with one leg, than I ever would have done with two,” says Stockwell, a competitive swimmer who lost her left leg above the knee in a roadside bomb. (1 hour, 20 minutes, WarriorChampions.com). **“Warrior Champions” screens June 2 at 6 p.m. in the St. George Theatre and June 5 at 1 p.m. in CSI’s Williamson Theatre.**

“RISING UP! THE STORY OF THE ZOMBIE RIGHTS MOVEMENT”

A fictional account of a 1960s civil rights movement. With deadpan comedic style, “Rising Up” chronicles how “voiceless” zombies were exploited as crashtest dummies and abused by cosmetics companies, finding allies in long-haired beatniks. Kevin Allison (MTV’s “The State”) portrays a zombie historian while Phil La-Marr (“Family Guy,” “King of the Hill”) lends his familiar voice, serving as the narrator. Director Laura Moss, of Brooklyn, co-wrote the script with her husband Brendan O’Brien, a producer, after hatching the idea as part of a bar bet. “While some see zombies as terrifying. I see them as relentless, unstoppable kittens,” she says. “They are helpless, and need the support and organizational skills of human facilitators.” (28 min.) **“Rising**

THE 5TH ANNUAL SINY FILM FESTIVAL

Presented by the Richmond County Savings Foundation & the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation.

When: Screenings continue June 3-5.

Where: St. George Theatre, 35 Hyatt St.; and the College of Staten Island, 2800 Victory Blvd., Willowbrook.

How much: Tickets are \$10 for one block of films; \$15 for all-day screening passes; \$45 for all-screenings passe and \$150 for “super passes” which provide access to all film screenings and parties; available on TicketWeb.com. (Free all-screening passes for groups of four may be available in the offices of S.I. elected officials and select businesses. Supplies are limited.)

More information: Visit

SIFilmFestival.org or call 718-477-1400 for details.

Up" screens June 4 at 10 p.m. in **CSI's** Williamson Theatre and June 5 at 6 p.m. in **CSI's** Concert Hall.

"THE PILGRIM"

A short film that tells a large story: It juxtaposes the struggle of modern-day immigrants, aka pilgrims, with the myths and iconography of a traditional American Thanksgiving. A 5-year-old child is teaching her undocumented baby-sitter about the holiday when Immigration Enforcement bursts in the child's home. The flick has screened in WNET's Reel13 series and at the Connecticut Film Festival, where it won a screenwriting award. Filmmaker Elizabeth Page said she was thrilled to be included in the S.I. fest because it is part of NYC. "New York City is the doorway for America," she says. (10 min.) **"The Pilgrim" screens June 4 at 8 p.m. and June 5 at 7 p.m. in CSI's Williamson Theatre.**

"THE CRIMSON MASK"

An official selection at Cannes Independent Film Festival, this ambitious crime-noir has racked up 32 prizes at indie showcases across the country, including the 2009 best feature film award at L.A.'s Reel Film Fest. The story follows a busted up pro-wrestler (Robert Clohessy, soon to be seen in HBO's "Boardwalk Empire") and a fallen businessman (Joshua Burrow of "Law & Order: Criminal Intent") whose fates collide when they stumble into an alternate universe. "What I really wanted to do was tell a story about all these guys living a life beyond their means," says director Elias Plagianos, "all these guys who were willing to pay for it later. I thought by setting it in a fantasy world we could talk about what's going on in the real world." (85 min., TheCrimsonMask.com) **"The Crimson Mask" screens June 4 at 6 p.m. in CSI's Lecture Hall and June 5 at 10 p.m. in CSI's Concert Hall.**

"M.U.R.A.L."

A colorful documentary examining a long-standing question on Staten Island: Is graffiti art or vandalism? The film takes its name from the program by the same name run by the NYC Arts Cypher, a Stapleton nonprofit that tries to channel teens artistic, and sometimes destructive habits into positive outlets. For the film, director Charlie Balducci, head of the Cypher and an outspoken lightning-rod kind of a figure, speaks with Staten Island elected officials and established (i.e. employed) graffiti artists. (50 min.) **"M.U.R.A.L." screens June 4 at 4 p.m. in the St. George Theatre and June 5 at 5 p.m. in CSI's Williamson Theatre.**

"GYMBOY"

This up-close look at wicked six-pack abs suggests it really is possible to muscle up without juice. It's the real-life story of Steve Mattioli, a steroid-free bodybuilder competing in the International Natural Bodybuilding Association Washington State Championship. To win, Steve has to lose about 17 kilos and reduce his fat level to under two percent. The film follows him on his long and painful journey of hard work and extreme training. The short is making rounds at film festivals across the U.S., in Australia and in the U.K. (18 min.) **"Gymboy" screens June 3 at 10 p.m. in the St. George Theatre and June 5 at 8 p.m. in the CSI's Concert Hall.**

"TEENAGE WITNESS: THE FANYA HELLER STORY"

Based on the true story of Holocaust survivor Fanya Gottesfeld Heller, this documentary was crafted by Emmy-winning filmmakers Ed and Orly Wiseman of Richmond, and their partner, Nikki Silver. In the documentary, Mrs. Heller, now 85, explains how she hid from the Nazi death squads in their small Ukrainian village with the help of two Christians, one of whom became her lover. The film is narrated by Golden Globe winner Richard Gere. (68 min.) **"Teenage Witness" screens June 3 at 7 p.m. in the Joan and Alan Bernikow Jewish Community Center of Staten Island. For reservations, e-mail olender@sijcc.com or call 718-475-5227.**

"THE ART OF GETTING OVER IT"

This surreal entry follows an angry man (Trevor St. John of "One Life to Live") who unleashes his rage on those who hurt him while courting an angelic barista in his neighborhood coffee shop. St. John co-directed the project with his former "One Life" co-star Dan Gauthier. It came together after many dressing-room conversations. For his work in this indie, St. John earned a best actor prize in the sixth annual NYC Downtown Short Film Festival. "Art" has also screened in the Maryland, Beverly Hills Hi-Def and NewFilmmakers film fests. (23 min., HankWilsonProductions.com) **"The Art of Getting Over it" screens June 4 at 9 p.m. in CSI's Concert Hall and June 5 at 9 p.m. in CSI's Lecture Hall.**

"CROPSEY"

This creepy, much-buzzed-about documentary by Island natives Joshua Zeman and Barbara Brancaccio asks questions that may never be resolved: Was convicted kidnapper Andre Rand turned into an urban folklore figure, a convenient scapegoat for a community that never stopped grieving its kidnapped children? Or was he really the man he was made out to be, a sick drifter preying on disabled children living in the abandoned tunnels beneath the former Willowbrook State School? This flick premiered last year at the Tribeca Film Fest, where it picked up a grand jury prize, and has since screened in Milan, Chicago, Denver and London. But when it appears at the SINY, it may take on an even more vivid feel: It's screening at the College of Staten Island, the former home of the Willowbrook State School. The film will also be available nationally On Demand starting July 2. (84 min., CropseyLegend.com) **"Cropsey" screens June 5 at 10 p.m. in the Recital Hall of the College of Staten Island.**

"THE CALLING"

Documenting members of a Catholic community who aid the poor in Lima, Peru, leads to an examination of the nature of belief, the bonds of family and the process of self-discovery. David A. Ranghelli, a St. John's University and New York University graduate, directed this feature, which took the best international documentary award at the seventh annual Queens International Film Festival and a special mention for cinematic achievement at the fourth Gasparilla International Film Festival. Two-time Academy Award-winner Barbara Kopple ("Harlan County, USA"), who also produced and directed "Dixie Chicks: Shut Up and Sing," describes "The Calling" as a "poetic spiritual meditation." (77 min.) **"The Calling" screens June 3 at noon in the St. George Theatre, and June 4 at 2 p.m. in CSI's Lecture Hall.**

THE 5TH ANNUAL SINY FILM FESTIVAL

Presented by the Richmond County Savings Foundation & the Staten Island Economic Development

Corporation.

When: Screenings continue June 3-5.

Where: St. George Theatre, 35 Hyatt St.; and the **College of Staten Island**, 2800 Victory Blvd., Willowbrook.

How much: Tickets are \$10 for one block of films; \$15 for all-day screening passes; \$45 for all-screenings passe and \$150 for "super passes" which provide access to all film screenings and parties; available on TicketWeb.com. (Free all-screening passes for groups of four may be available in the offices of S.I. elected officials and select businesses. Supplies are limited.)

More information: Visit SIFilmFestival.org or call 718-477-1400 for details.

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Art: More than ever, a part of North Shore life in June

Published: Thursday, June 03, 2010, 10:45 AM



Tevah Platt



Advance File Photo

NORTH SHORE

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - The month of June looks like peak art season on Staten Island's North Shore.

A confluence of cultural events will draw winter-weary North Shore residents out of their houses and into theaters and galleries and onto sidewalks lined with musicians, spectacle and life.

Coming weekends will be packed with opportunities to see, listen and do. There is, literally, something for everyone — right here, in your own borough, sometimes just feet from your door.

Mark your calendars for:

*The Staten Island Film Festival, today through Sunday.

*Art by the Ferry, this and next weekend.

*Second Saturdays art walk, June 12.

*Summerfest, throughout June.

*Make Music New York, June 21.

*LUMEN video art and projection festival,
June 26.

For complete listings, see:

Staten Island Film Festival

<http://www.sifilmfestival.org/>

*Art by the Ferry

<http://www.statenislandcreativecommunity.org/>

*Second Saturdays

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

*Summerfest (including LUMEN)

<http://www.statenislandarts.org/summerfest.html>

Make Music New York

<http://www.makemusicny.org/>

*The Staten Island Film Festival continues today through the weekend. Local shorts run this afternoon and "Bobby Did It," directed by Ralph McDaniels and Wu Tang's RZA, plays tonight at the St. George Theatre, 35 Hyatt St., St. George. The festival continues at the **College of Staten Island** in Willowbrook. Films with ties to the North Shore include "M.U.R.A.L.," about NYCArtsCypher, and "Blindsided," starring Maria Rusolo of St. George. Look for complete listings online.

*Art by the Ferry visual art galleries, this and next weekend, most run from noon to 8; Lighthouse Plaza Building 11 (Enter at 1 Bay St., St. George) juried art show, "Metamorphosis"; Path to Lighthouse Plaza, hanging art at ART at Bay, 70 Bay St., St. George, salon-style exhibit; Fishs Eddy, 139 Bay St.; St. George, large artwork exhibit; ETG Cafe, 208 Bay St., Tompkinsville, mandalas and quilts, noon to 5 p.m.

*Second Saturdays Art walk, June 12, includes: Paul Moakley photo exhibition, 6 to 9 p.m., 33 Central Ave., Apt. 6G, St. George; Multiple artists, including Miguel Angel, PRIDE Art Exhibit, Martini Red, 372 Van Duzer

St., Stapleton; Artists Scott Kiernan, Arthur Vallario and Demetrius Felder, 5 to 11 p.m., at 62 Van Duzer St., Tompkinsville; Paintings by John Exit and Terry Lee Chandler, with live art, 7 to 10 p.m., Against Da Grill, 60 Van Duzer St., Tompkinsville; Installation by Irina Danilova of Project 59, 6 to 9 p.m., 100 Stuyvesant Pl., 1G, St. George; Grand opening of the Chateau de Dada annex, 5 to 7 p.m., 210 Victory Blvd., #2, Tompkinsville; Robert Civello, open studio, noon to 6 p.m., 20 Bay St. Landing, Loft B3J, St. George; "Italian artists on Armenian Lives," Patrizia Vignola, noon to 7 p.m., SHOW Gallery, 156 Stuyvesant Pl., St. George; Willie Chu, Parish Grill, dinner to 9 p.m., 100 Stuyvesant Pl., St. George; "City Lights" by Joseph Greenberg, noon to 6 p.m., Galerie St. George, 11 Phelps Pl., St. George; Multiple artists, Staten Island Museum, noon to 5 p.m., free admission to Second Saturday attendees, 75 Stuyvesant Pl., St. George; Multiple artists, After-party begins at 9 p.m., with \$5 admission, Cargo Cafe, 120 Bay St., St. George

*DB Lampman, "I am an Exponent of Myself," June 13, 2 to 3 p.m., New York Custom Fabricators, 450 Front St., Stapleton (A multimedia performance art piece in which the artist will suspend herself.)

*LUMEN video festival, June 26, 4 p.m. to midnight (rain date: July 10), Atlantic Salt, 561 Richmond Terr., New Brighton (See lumenfest.org for details.)

*Green Bus promoting green living runs between arts events along Bay Street and Richmond Terrace during Art by the Ferry, noon to 8

*Tattfoo Tan's mobile garden show, Saturday 2-6 p.m., 67 Monroe Ave., New Brighton: MAKE and BRING a mobile, edible garden— anything growing on wheels, and participate in a flower bombing workshop led by Jay Weichun.

Circus skills workshop in the park adjacent to the Postcards Memorial, St. George, Saturday at 3 p.m.

Bellydancing workshop in the park adjacent to the Postcards Memorial, St. George, Saturday at 6:30 p.m.

*Staten Island Creative Hub Magazine Party: Multimedia performances and participatory playtime, Saturday, 8 to 10 p.m. ETG Cafe, 208 Bay St., Tompkinsville

Puppet workshop in the park adjacent to the Postcards Memorial, St. George, Sunday at 1p.m.; June 13 at 2 p.m.

Origami workshop in the park adjacent to the Postcards Memorial, St. George, Sunday 2 to 4 p.m.

*Beer tasting (while supply lasts) with New Brighton home brewer Mark Zappasodi, featuring ginger root saison, June 12, 5 to 11 p.m., 62 Van Duzer St., Tompkinsville

*Sustainability workshop and seed exchange, June 12, 2 to 4 p.m., Tattfoo Tan, "The Laundromat Project,"

66 Victory Blvd., Tompkinsville

*How to make, assemble and bind an artist's book, with Karen Baldner and Nelleke Nix, June 12, 11 a.m. to noon, (RSVP to 718-447-6490), Noble Maritime Collection, 1000 Richmond Terr., Livingston.

*Day de Dada: Performance art and participatory poetics with Mary Campbell, Vivian Vassar and the Assembled Beyond, June 12 6 to 9 p.m., ETG Cafe, 208 Bay St., Tompkinsville.

Calligraphy workshop in the park adjacent to the Postcards Memorial, St. George, June 13, 5 to 7 p.m.

*HOW silk painting workshop with Janice Patrignani, June 12, 2 p.m., SHOW Gallery, 156 Stuyvesant Pl., St. George**

*HOW artists' portfolio workshop with Keren Moscovitch, June 16, 6 to 8 p.m., SHOW Gallery, 156 Stuyvesant Pl., St. George**

*HOW book-making workshop with Esther Smith, June 24, 6 to 8 p.m., SHOW Gallery, 156 Stuyvesant Pl., St. George**

*HOW singing workshop with Frizzi Linck, June 26, noon to 2 p.m., SHOW Gallery, 156 Stuyvesant Pl., St. George**

*Tattfoo Tan, "The Laundromat Project," Q & A on urban chicken farming with Tevah Platt, 66 Victory Blvd., Tompkinsville

*RSVP: florencepoulain@yahoo.com

**RSVP: gshulick@statenilandarts.org

Multiple artists at Lighthouse Plaza (at the Lighthouse Museum/ Pier One site next to the St. George Ferry Terminal), this and next Saturday and Sunday, noon to 8 p.m. Performers include Staten Island Songwriters Circle, Joan Caddell & the Midnight Choir, Hot Monkey Love, Paradox 9, Runaway Train, Queen Topsy, Fisherman's Tiki Party, Squeeze Rock, Malachi Crunch, American Zani Classics, Ben Sher and Brandon Patton; artists booked by Martini Red play June 12 from noon to 6 p.m.

*Multiple artists at the Overlook Stage, next to the Postcards Memorial in St. George, this and next Saturday and Sunday, noon to 8 p.m. Performers include the NYC Tranzformerz Breakdance Crew, Canarsie Suite Vaudeville Clown, Sanga Blessing, Rudi Maccagi the Acromedian with La Bella Ballerina Lea McGowan, Pupa Santiago, Wahoo Skiffle Crazies, contortionist Yogi Laser, Mia Theodoris, Kayka, Paradox Engine.

*The Mighty March Wind marching band, Saturday at noon, along Bay Street, St. George.

*Multiple artists this and next weekend from 2 to 4 p.m. at ART at Bay Gallery, 70 Bay St., St. George, including Harry O. (dulcimer), Louise Lugar, Alchemy, and Luke Goldstein (digiridu)

*Guy Klucevsek accordion performance Sunday 2-3 p.m., SHOW Gallery, 156 Stuyvesant Pl., St. George.

*Literary readings by Marian Fontana, Don Cummings, Lisa Dierbeck, Morna Martell, John Foxell and Ira Goldstein, June 11, 8 to 10:30 p.m., Lighthouse Plaza (enter at 1 Bay St.), St. George

*Brandon Patton, rock/edgy folk, June 12, 5 p.m. Fishs Eddy, 139 Bay St., St. George.

*Artankers Convoy, Aerosols, Ron Wax, June 12, 5 to 11 p.m., 62 Van Duzer St., Tompkinsville

*Falling Apples, Jaclyn Shaw and DJ Gringo Assassin, Second Saturdays after-party at the Cargo Cafe, 9 p.m. to 4 a.m., \$5 cover, 120 Bay St., St. George

*Nanci Richards, Forgotten Art: Comedy and Nonsense from the Forgotten Borough, June 12, 4 to 6 p.m., Karl's Klipper, 40 Bay St., St. George.

*Orchard performance with lead vocalist Nick Fevelo, June 13, 3 to 4 p.m., New York Custom Fabricators, 450 Front St., Stapleton

*Mid-Evenings with Jay Miller Rooftop Party underground comedy show, June 19, 9 to 10 p.m., 386 Van Duzer St., Stapleton

*Make Music New York runs June 21 on sidewalks throughout the five boroughs.

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Film fest: Cooler than the other side of the pillow

Screen gems begin to unspool at fifth annual SINY celebration of cinema

By JODI LEE REIFER
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

More than 800 film fans filed into the St. George Theatre last night to catch the opening flick in the SINY Film Festival — and the cachet of cool that comes with arthouse cinema.

Go-go dancers in sequins and the horn-driven band The Bandulos entertained in the lobby of the St. George, an 80-year-old, gilded movie palace, before the feature film's start.

The dramedy, "A Little Help," stars Jenna Fischer ("The Office") as a single mom, burned by her dead husband and trying to reconnect with her tween-aged son and an old



FISCHER

flame — her sister's husband. Michael J. Weithorn, creator of CBS's "King of Queens" directed "A Little Help" and flew in from the West Coast for the screening, the film's NYC debut.

"The real thrill of this for us, who made the film, is that we are showing the film in New York," said Weithorn, the film's writer and director, noting it has only played one other venue so far — the Seattle International Film Festival.

Daniel Yelsky of Old Bridge, N.J., the seventh-grader who co-stars in the feature, was among the SINY Film Fest attendees, along with his science teacher, Deborah Lagomarsino and her family from Middletown, N.J.

She said she was pleasantly surprised to learn Staten Island has its own film festival now in its fifth year. Her husband, Andrew, who grew up in Stapleton, said he remembered seeing flicks at the St. George as a kid 50 years ago.

"This is fantastic," he said sizing up the room with his 23-year-old daughter, Dana, at his side. He saw a few movies at the Tribeca Film Festival a couple of months ago. Staten Island is only a 40-minute drive from his home, Lagomarsino added, noting he wasn't sure what else he might see in the lineup. "But it looks promising."



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/HILTON FLORES

Many of folks turn out for the VIP reception that kicked off the 5th annual SINY Film Festival at the St. George Theatre.

The 5th annual SINY Film Festival

Presented by the Richmond County Savings Foundation & the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation.

WHEN:

Screenings continue today through Saturday.

WHERE:

St. George Theatre, 35 Hyatt St.; and the College of Staten Island, 2800 Victory Blvd., Willowbrook.

HOW MUCH:

Tickets are \$10 for one block of films; \$15 for all-day screenings passes; \$45 for all-screenings passes and \$150 for "super passes" which provide access to all film screenings and parties except the private "Celebrity Party." Tickets are available on www.TicketWeb.com and at the venues. (Free all-screening passes for groups of four may be available in the offices of S.I. elected officials and select businesses. Supplies are limited.)

MORE INFO:

Visit www.SIFilmFestival.org or call 718-477-1400 for details.

Other opening night film fest attendees, including "Law & Order" alum Robert Clohessy, had already outlined their must-see list, taking picks from the 75-plus films in the showcase, a project of the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation, presented by the Richmond County Savings Foundation.

"Cropsey" was named as a No. 1 choice by several festgoers last night. The buzzed-about documentary by Island natives Joshua Zeman and Barbara Brancaccio asks: Was convicted kidnapper Andre Rand turned into a convenient scapegoat for a community that never stopped grieving its missing children? Or was he really the man he was made out to be, a sick drifter living in the abandoned tunnels beneath the former Willowbrook State School preying on disabled children?

"When I was a kid that was one of the biggest stories. My

parents and everybody's parents said be careful and don't talk to strangers," said 35-year-old Anthony Basile of Dongan Hills, an opening night film-goer. "The story grew larger than life. It really became an urban folk legend."

His friend, Maryann DiPilli, of St. George, said she was just as eager to see "Cropsey," and other selections in the festival. "It's having Manhattan brought to your doorstep," said the registered nurse. "That's what this is all about."

SINY Film Festival 2010: Cinema that celebrates triumph over adversity

Published: Friday, June 04, 2010, 1:45 AM



Doug Auer



Staten Island Advance/Bill Lyons

From left, "Teenage Witness: The Fanya Heller Story" producers Nikki Silver and Orly Wiseman, Fanya Heller and Ed Wiseman, the film's director and writer, share a smile after the movie's successful presentation.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. --- As the SINY Film Festival rolled into its second day, Staten Islanders were presented with a unique double bill that celebrated the indomitable human spirit.

More than 400 people attended the screening of "Teenage Witness: The Fanya Heller Story" and had the opportunity to speak with the 85-year-old subject of the Holocaust documentary.

The movie — based on Mrs. Heller's 1993 memoir, "Love in a World of Sorrow" — tells how Mrs. Heller and her family hid from Nazis in the small Ukrainian village of Skala for two and a half years.

Last night's presentation — and subsequent question and answer session — took place at the Joan and Alan Bernikow Jewish Community Center of Staten Island, Sea View.

The movie is narrated by actor Richard Gere and also features Mrs. Heller speaking to the teens of Pacific High School in Brooklyn during her book tour.

"I stood in the back and you could hear a pin drop," said Ed Wiseman, of Richmond, the Emmy-award winning writer and director of the film. "I hope it reached everyone as much as it reached me when we were making it."

It was produced by his wife, fellow Emmy-winner Orly Wiseman, and their partner, producer Nikki Silver, also an Emmy winner.

Also screening last night at the St. George Theatre was "Transition," the story of a star high school lacrosse player diagnosed with cancer who battles back to regain the top spot on the team, as well as piece together the life he almost lost.

The 23-minute film was written and produced by native Islander Anthony Bradford, who also plays the lead role of Chris Jamison.

"The inspiration for the movie is my younger brother, who had Stage III Hodgkin's lymphoma," said Bradford, 24, of Monmouth County, N.J.

For Bradford, who was raised in Pleasant Plains, the film has served as a homecoming celebration with family and friends still living here.

"For me, it's an honor and privilege to show the film on Staten Island," said Bradford, who based the short on a full-length feature he hopes will be developed into a Hollywood hit.

HEALING POWERS

The film — which has made the festival rounds, including NYC Downtown Short Film Festival, Cannes, Garden State Film Festival and the Hoboken Film Festival — contains pivotal scenes where the medical terminology regarding cancer and its treatments are identical to what Bradford's brother underwent.

"It educates the audience about the world of cancer," said



Staten Island Advance/Bill
Lyons

Anthony Bradford, producer-writer-star of "Transition," takes a seat in the St. George Theatre before the unspooling of his film, which screens again tomorrow at 8 p.m. in the Concert Hall of **CSI**. For more

Bradford. "Native Americans believed lacrosse also has healing powers. And for my brother, lacrosse gave him something to look forward to when he got better."

information, visit www.SIFilmFestival.org or 718-477-1400.

The film also has moments of teen angst and features a romantic storyline.

"I want the audience to take away that you are going to have adversity in life, unfortunately, but you can't just sit down, lie down and do nothing," said Bradford. "You can overcome the biggest problems with determination and hard work."

"Transition" will be shown again tomorrow at 8 p.m. in the Concert Hall of the College of Staten Island, Willowbrook.

As for Fanya Gottesfeld Heller, she faced adversity of immense proportions.

Her survival and that of her family depended upon a Ukrainian soldier, a Nazi collaborator, with whom she embarked on a romantic relationship.

During the question and answer session following the film, Mrs. Heller, of Manhattan, was presented with a black wristband by Detective Donald Catanzaro of the NYPD Intelligence Division.

"It's given out when an officer dies in the line of duty and it says, 'Heroes Live Forever' and I just feel like she is a hero," said Catanzaro, of Great Kills.

Mrs. Heller revealed to the audience that, because of her traumatic years, she is still afraid of police officers, fireworks, knocks on the door, starvation and not hearing from her children.

"I'm afraid of a lot of things," she said.

When asked by Barbara Dease of Westerleigh about her faith, Mrs. Heller replied, "From school, only two of us were alive. So is there a God? Of course there is."

On Monday, Mrs. Heller will reunite with the teenagers featured in the film.

To conclude the event, Mrs. Heller was presented flowers by Orit Lender, the center's program director.

SINY Film Fest's leading lady: Maria Rusolo

Published: Thursday, June 03, 2010, 1:27 PM



Jodi Lee Reifer



COURTESY THE ARTIST

Actress Maria Rusolo appears in four films at the SINY Film Festival.

STATEN ISLAND, NY -- Parker Posey was crowned indie film queen in the late '90s. Oscar nominee Maggie Gyllenhall began eyeing the title in the early 2000s.

Could **Maria Rusolo** actually be next in line?

Without a doubt, if the film world revolved around Staten Island.

Rusolo appears in no less than four **SINY Film Festival** selections, unspooling June 2-5 in the St. George Theatre and the **College of Staten Island**.

The St. George-based actress stars in "**Blindsided**," portraying a blind psychic with a dark side, and "**Withdrawl**," the story of a military woman, suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, whose maternal instincts are questioned.



SINY

Maria Rusolo in a scene from "Blindsided."

She has a cameo in "**Masculinity**," a comedy about two guys confronting the stereotypes that define them. And, she's an extra in "**Love Bug**," a sci-fi love story set in a party where people can't touch.

Rusolo was a producer on "Blindsided," "Masculinity," and "Withdrawl," the latter of which she made with the Panavision's prestigious New Filmmaker Program. The grant program lends filmmakers \$10,000 worth of equipment to shoot a film.

"Film is a dying medium because it's so expensive," says the actress who has appeared in more than a dozen films in the last two years. "But once you use film, you want to use it every time because it just looks so beautiful."

*The following films play at these respective times: "**Blindsided**," June 4, 7 p.m. and June 5, 4 p.m.; "**Masculinity**," June 4, 3 p.m. and June 5, 8 p.m.; "**Withdrawl**," June 4, 10 p.m. and June 5, 1 p.m.; and "**Love Bug**," June 4, 7 p.m. June 5, 3 p.m. All of these screenings are at the college.*

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Staten Island Advance

BREAKING NEWS ALL DAY ON SILIVE.COM

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MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2010



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/BILL LYONS

Elias Plagianos holds the Best Film Editing and Best Picture awards for "The Crimson Mask" at the closing ceremony for the SINY Film Festival at the Vanderbilt in South Beach.

Cinema paradiso with an Island flair

SINY Film Festival draws to a close; a record 5,000-plus fans attend the four-day indie screenings

By JODI LEE REIFER
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Elias Plagianos has traveled around the globe — from Amsterdam to Honolulu — for two years now, scooping up prizes for his crime-noir flick, "The Crimson Mask."

Still, the pair of simple, star-shaped trophies he

grasped last night across the harbor from his home in Brooklyn, mean the world to him, said the filmmaker.

"There's really nothing like winning in New York. They appreciate it more," said Plagianos, 31. "It's so hard to make a film. It's moments like these that kind of give you the strength to make another one."

"The Crimson Mask" — which he financed on credit cards — took awards for Best Picture and Best Film Editing at the SINY Film Festival, as the fifth annual indie show-

case called it a wrap with closing ceremonies in the Vanderbilt at South Beach.

Prize-winning subjects ranged from an undocumented babysitter busted by immigration authorities in "The Pilgrim," to a pair of goofball buddies on the prowl for a girl in a blue Mustang in "Randall and Simon's Big Damn Movie." The former won Elizabeth Page of Manhattan the Best Director nod and the latter flick, by Grant City's Jonathan Liguori, was named the Best Comedic Short.

A record 5,000-plus film fans attended the four-day indie screenings, organized by the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation and presented by Richmond County Savings Foundation. The figure represents several hundred more movie-goers over last year, said programming director Scott Gerber.

"This is one of the great events and treasures that we have here on Staten Island," said Assemblyman Michael Cusick (D-Mid-Island). "People are talking about [it] all over the state, all over this country."

Logging the most miles to attend the fest at the St. George Theatre and the College of Staten Island might have been Adrian Goodman from Melbourne, Australia. His film, "The Happy High Laughter Club," won the prize for Best Dramatic Short.

Goodman, 27, who found the SINY on www.withoutabox.com, a website that publicizes film fests worldwide, said this Big Apple showcase wasn't what he expected. The off-Island crowds weren't big, he noticed. But the home-grown feel was a pleasant surprise and he wasn't disappointed, he said.

"They make you feel great," said Goodman of the

event's organizers. "To be screened alongside quality shorts, I feel quite honored."

For several of the filmmakers, last night was a clear sign that they should keep following their dreams. Gabriella Loutfi of Richmond won the award for Best New Filmmaker for her short, "Apartment 7." The 22-year-old enrolled in the New York Film Academy after graduating from Fordham University.

"I was a little scared to go into film because I knew there's sacrifices. But I went ahead 500 percent and look at me now," she said, beaming. "This is like out of this world for me."

And the complete list of winners is:

Best Picture: "The Crimson Mask";
Audience Choice Feature: "Cropsey";
Audience Choice Short: "Waiting for...Budd";
Best Director: Elizabeth Page for "The Pilgrim";
Best Actress: Maria Rusolo in "Withdrawal";
Best Actor: Trevor St. John in "The Art of Getting Over It";
Best Suspense and Thriller: "Mourning on Charlotte Street";
Best Comedic Short: "Randall and Simon's Big Damn Movie";
Best Documentary Feature: "Warrior Champions";
Best Dramatic Feature: "Friends and Lovers";
Best New Filmmaker: Gabriella Loutfi for "Apartment 7";
Best Documentary Short: "M.U.R.A.L.";
Best Comedic Short: "Me, Myself and Your Husband";
Best Dramatic Short: "The Happy High Laughter Club";
Best Short: "The New True, Charlie Wu";
Best Staten Island Local Film: "17 to Midnight";
Best Short Screenplay: "Chase Thompson, A Film by Chase Thompson";
Best Feature Screenplay: "The Scientist";
Best Cinematography "Chase Thompson, A Film by Chase Thompson" and
Best Film Editing: "The Crimson Mask."

SEE FILM, PAGE A 4



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

[Back to the Article](#)

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.

[Click here](#) for more information.

June 24, 2010

Spare Times

By ANNE MANCUSO

Around Town

Museums and Sites

Governors Island Special and weekly summer programs: “Free Bike Fridays,” 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with free hourlong use of rental bicycles through Oct. 8. Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., “Making Our Presence Known: The Smithsonian [National Museum of the American Indian](#) at Governors Island,” an interactive event with storytelling, dancing and other activities. Saturday, 6 p.m. to midnight, Matinee NYC Pride 2010, a dance party for those 21 and older in celebration of Gay Pride Week; \$54 to \$155; [thebeachconcerts.com](#). Admission is free to Governors Island and the ferries, which leave from the Battery Maritime Building, 10 South Street, in Lower Manhattan and from Pier 6 at the foot of Atlantic Avenue, in Brooklyn Bridge Park, Saturdays and Sundays only. Ferries begin at 10 a.m. in Manhattan and 11 a.m. in Brooklyn; schedule: [www.govisland.com](#).

Mount Vernon Hotel Museum and Garden Tuesday, 6 to 8 p.m., the group Stout in a performance of traditional American songs from colonial days; 421 East 61st Street, Manhattan, (212) 838-6878, [mvhm.org](#); \$15, \$5 for children under 12, free for members (includes refreshments).

Museum of the City of New York Through Oct. 11, “Samurai in New York: The First Japanese Delegation, 1860,” an exhibition of photographs, newspaper engravings and other items; a performance on Friday at 7 p.m., in conjunction with the exhibition, of jazz, blues and spoken word with the drummer and composer [Thelonious Monk](#) Jr. and the guitarist Yuichiro

Oda. Saturday at 1 p.m., a tour of the exhibition with Kathleen Benson, an organizer of the show, as well as Yuko Suzuki of the Japanese consulate and Eric Campbell of the Japan Information Center. Monday at 6:30 p.m., “Designing Women: The Intersection of Art, Culture, and Car Design,” a panel discussion on the role of women in the new design initiatives of [General Motors](#), with designers from that company. Admissions for each of the Friday and Monday programs are \$12, \$6 for members, \$8 for students and 62+, with a \$2 surcharge for walk-ins. Registration is required for each program: (917) 492-3395. Beginning Wednesday from 6 to 9 p.m. and running Wednesdays through Aug. 18, “Summer Speakeasy,” with Prohibition-themed cocktails, music and dancing, as well as exhibition tours; \$15, \$10 for members (includes one drink). Museum hours: Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fifth Avenue, at 103rd Street, (212) 534-1672, [mcny.org](#); \$10 suggested admission; \$6 for students, 62+ and members; free for children 12 and younger.

New York Public Library for the Performing Arts Through Aug. 21, “The Peregrinations and Pettifoggery of W. C. Fields,” an exhibition of items held by members of Fields’s comedian’s family; in conjunction with the exhibition, screenings are planned Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m. through July 6; this Tuesday the feature will be “It’s a Gift” (1934). Fridays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Mondays and Thursdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; 111 Amsterdam Avenue, at 65th Street, [Lincoln Center](#), (212) 930-0653, [nypl.org](#); free.

Events

All-Breed Dog Show Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.; sponsored by the Staten Island Kennel Club. [College of Staten Island](#), Athletic Center, 2800 Victory Boulevard, Willowbrook, (718) 356-7515, Saturday’s events are outdoors and are free for spectators; admission to Sunday’s indoor show is \$5, free for children under 10.

American Crafts Festival Saturday, noon to 9 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. The 34th annual fair, sponsored by the American Concern for Art and Craftsmanship. Damrosch Park, and the north plaza, at Lincoln Center, [craftsatlincoln.org](#).

Bleecker Street Festival Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., between Avenue of the Americas and Broadway. Sponsored by the Bleecker Area Merchants and Residents Association.

Faculty & Staff

Book store owners to march with great pride Saturday

Published: Thursday, June 03, 2010, 10:00 AM



Tevah Platt



Advance File Photo

West Brighton residents Robin Garber, right, and Katie Cumiskey solidified their role as community leaders when they founded the Bent Pages book store in Stapleton in 2008. Flanked by rainbow flags, the couple's store has also become a gathering spot for the LGBT community on the North Shore.

WEST BRIGHTON

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — **Robin Garber and Katie Cumiskey** of West Brighton will be the grand marshals at the sixth annual Staten Island LGBT Pride Parade & Festival that marches along the North Shore on Saturday.

The married couple solidified their role as community leaders when they founded the Bent Pages book store in Stapleton in 2008.

The little purple shop at 391 Van Duzer St. has a small but well selected inventory of about 4,000 used books, straddling genres from children's picture books and adult science fiction to graphic novels and "queer theory."

Flanked by rainbow flags, the store has also become a gathering spot for the LGBT community on the North Shore, with events like Scrabble tournaments, readings and performances by LGBT activists (last month's lineup included **Alix Dobkin and Sarah Schulman**), and meet-ups featuring the house band, Anne.

On the walls are campy movie posters, art for sale by local artists, and images of women reading from Ms. Garber's collection.

"We wanted to create a community space like the old-fashioned bookstores, where people could come and talk about different topics, and also where the LGBT community could be connected to thinking people who are working in the field," Ms. Garber said when the shop opened.

The store keeps odd hours, conforming to the owners' schedules as full-time educators.

Ms. Garber teaches at-risk students in a Brooklyn intermediate school, and Dr. Cumiskey is a professor of women's studies and psychology at the **College of Staten Island (CSI)**.

Ms. Garber and Dr. Cumiskey, who wed in Canada in 2006, were founding members of Staten Island Pride Events, an organization that holds LGBT events throughout the year.

Ms. Garber helped found CSI's LGBT Alliance in the early 1990s, was an educator for the Staten Island AIDS Task Force (now Community Health Action of Staten Island) and coordinator of GMHC's Lesbian AIDS Project, before becoming a special education teacher in 2003.

Dr. Cumiskey was active in establishing Queer CUNY, and she is the faculty adviser to the College's Gay/Straight Alliance at CSI.

Ms. Garber's daughter, Esther, graduated last week from CSI, with highest honors.

The parade will step off at noon from Central Avenue between Slosson Terrace and Hyatt Street, through the streets of St. George. The festival will run from 1 to 5 p.m. in Tompkinsville Park, at the corner of Victory Boulevard and Bay Street. Food, music and entertainment, coupled with community resources, information tables and vendor tables, will be available throughout the day.

Staten Island Pride Events sponsors the parade along with a black-and-white, open-bar dinner dance on June 19.

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Minority College Presidents Share Their Stories

by Arelis Hernandez, June 4, 2010

NATIONAL HARBOR, Md. – Dr. Bob Suzuki was a content assistant professor of engineering at the University of Southern California in the late 1960s who wanted nothing more than tenure. But then all hell broke loose.

Suzuki found himself enveloped in the civil rights struggles of the era, organizing with local community groups and becoming a social activist himself.

It was then that Suzuki understood that the traditional professorial track would not satisfy his ambitions and the thirst for social activism he developed.

“I wasn’t doing research so I reached a point after four years that I needed to make a decision,” Suzuki said during a roundtable discussion of university presidents at the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education (NCORE). “I decided I couldn’t drop the social activism and it changed the course of my career.”

After having left California, Suzuki returned to his beloved state years later to become what he called “the accidental president” of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, where he used his executive position as an instrument for equity and motivating other faculty of color to aspire to administrative ranks. He is now president emeritus of the Pomona, Calif.-based university.

Along with Suzuki, Drs. Sidney Ribeau of Howard University and Tomas Morales of the College of Staten Island, CUNY, shared insights with NCORE attendees about how they positioned themselves to become college presidents.

The road to the college presidency is long and arduous for people of color where underrepresentation is a fact and opportunities remain scarce, the panelists declared at the Thursday event.

In the more than 20 years the American Council of Education has tallied the data, there have been small increases in the number of minorities at the presidential level at U.S. higher education institutions.

While the number of women has doubled, the percentage of racial and ethnic minorities represented in the college presidency ranks increased from just 8 percent in 1986 to 14 percent in 2006.

“Once you get a doctorate it doesn’t qualify you immediately for leadership,” Ribeau said. “We need to be more intentional about how we prepare people.”

Recounting their stories, the panelists said their ascension often depended on being mentored by other people of color in high positions. Without the trustees of color on the California State University Board, Suzuki said, the support for his promotion would have been diminished.

Ribeau added that those who reach the executive level must make deliberate attempts to include talented candidates of color in daily governance. Both Ribeau and Morales were asked to participate on college presidents’ boards and committees as a middle manager that exposed them to the job,

Morales, who came from a nontraditional path to the presidency, said faculty and staff of color need to work twice as hard to accomplish their professional goals. As the executive director of an educational opportunity program early in his career, Morales became a student of educational administration, reading all the literature and participating in higher education associations.

“I knew early on I wanted to become a university president,” Morales said. “Once I completed my doctorate, I did more teaching but I didn’t go the route of the untenured professor. I became involved in accreditation and was provided an entrée to presidents from different institutions.”

Strategic positioning enabled Morales to map out his trajectory to the executive level.

The panelists encouraged conference attendees to gain as much leadership experience managing different groups of people to prepare for their trek to senior-level management.

“I discovered my experience in community organizing was a valuable background for me,” Suzuki said. “University faculty are like volunteer social activists. You can’t order them around. You have to motivate them and inspire them. Don’t shortchange your experience in social activism.”

Increasingly, college and university executives spend the bulk of their time fundraising, regardless of the type of institutions, the panelists said. Experience and understanding of those responsibilities could propel a candidate to the top.

“One definition of a president is someone who lives in a nice house on campus and bets for a living,” Suzuki said jokingly.

Though he hardly spends a quiet evening at home anymore, Ribeau said he maintains his sanity by rationalizing the act of fundraising not as groveling for money but instead as sharing great ideas with other people — hopefully rich people.

Though he maintains he didn’t aspire to administration initially, Suzuki admittedly used his position to identify and promote talented people of color and making a case for diversity to the entire campus community.

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2010 STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/HILTON FLORES

Gathered at last night's New York Center for Interpersonal Development's annual "Celebrating Partnerships" at Snug Harbor Cultural Center's Great Hall are, from left, honorees CSI President Tomas D. Morales, Tottenville Assistant Principal Joann Calabro and Tottenville Principal John T. Tuminaro.



Mental Health Society honors reading volunteers

Published: Friday, June 11, 2010, 6:52 AM



Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The Staten Island Mental Health Society celebrated the 50th anniversary of its School Reading Volunteer Program by recognizing the people whose visits to public elementary schools help children improve their skills. At the School Reading Volunteer Honor luncheon, yesterday in the Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomfield, 265 reading volunteers were the guests of honor.



Nina Long will be honored by the Mental Health Society.

Last year, the SIMHS' corps of reading volunteers tutored 506 children in 35 schools, donating 18,800 hours of service.

Guest speaker Nina Long of West Brighton, a children's literacy specialist and community volunteer, spoke about the importance of volunteering to promote literacy. A counselor in the College of Staten Island's Career and Scholarship Center, she serves as a volunteer in the Staten Island Children's Museum's special programming unit. Ms. Long, president-elect of the Staten Island Reading Association, co-writes (with MaryLee Montalvo) the Advance's literacy column, "Read All About It," in the Parent and Child section. Proceeds are donated to "First Book," a national literacy organization that puts books in the hands of underserved children.

The School Reading Volunteer Program is operated by SIMHS in partnership with Time Warner Cable, with the cooperation of the city Department of Education. The luncheon was partially underwritten with grants from Consolidated Edison and the Mid-Island Rotary Foundation.

The Staten Island School Reading Volunteer Program was founded in 1960 by Elizabeth W. Pouch, a philanthropist and one of the founders of the SIMHS.

Volunteers must have a high school diploma, be in good health and possess patience, understanding, and concern for the welfare of children.

After training, each volunteer selects a school to work at for a minimum of four hours a week with one or more children who have been chosen by their teachers to attend the 45-minute tutoring sessions. The tutors use games, puzzles, books of special interest, storytelling and poetry-reading to help each child improve his or her reading ability.

The next training classes for the reading volunteer program will be held in the fall. For more information, call co-coordinators Frances Hogan or Joan Gerstel at 718-442-2225.

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Staten Island Advance

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CHARTER PANEL MEETS AT STATEN ISLAND TECH

Local control proving elusive

Push to empower borough presidents might not cross the November finish line

By PETER N. SPENCER
ADVANCE CITY HALL BUREAU

Staten Islanders and most of their outer-borough brethren want it.

Good-government gurus like it.

And borough presidents absolutely need it.

So why does it seem increasingly unlikely that a question about local control will be put to voters this November?

It's complicated — and the Charter Revision Commission has only about two more months to figure it out.

That seems to be the only conclusion that came out of the commission's forum on government structure last night at Staten Island Technical High School in New Dorp. The third in a series of five (one per borough), the five-hour meeting was attended by about 50 people and featured testimony by a panel of experts with a diverse range of opinions on a rather convoluted subject.

The panelists included Doug Muzzio, the oft-quoted professor from the Baruch College School of Public Affairs, and Eric Lane, the executive director of the 1989 city Charter Revision Commission.

The Charter is the municipal equivalent of the U.S. Constitution.

On one hand, the experts agreed that the commission needs to examine the roles of the borough presidents and the public advocate, the balance of power between the mayor and the City Council, and ways that decentralizing government could make it more effective and responsive to community needs. Island leaders have been clamoring for more local control of certain city functions ever since Mayor Michael Bloomberg empaneled the commission in March to do a top-to-



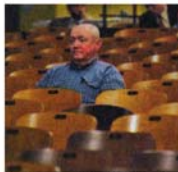
Expert panel member Prof. Douglas Muzzio, right, addresses the Charter Revision Commission during a forum focusing on government structure at Staten Island Technical HS in New Dorp.

Repeating another refrain of his Island colleagues, Oddo urged the commission to extend its discussion through next year, and make local control the focus of a subsequent panel.

But even if the commission members agreed to do that, it's not for them say — only Bloomberg can "re-empanel" them for another year. Otherwise, the commission has until Sept. 2 to get questions to voters in this November election. That leaves them little time to read through reams of reports and cull hundreds of recommendations, let alone give them all careful deliberation.

Many of the recommendations last night focused on ways to give borough presidents more power. Richmond County Clerk and former City Councilman Stephen Fiala, the lone Island representative on the commission, said borough presidents should have a veto over the land-use review process, which would require a two-thirds, or supermajority, vote in the Council to overturn.

"We'll be giving the borough president a meaningful voice. Yet the City Council still has the final land-use authority," Fiala said.



Stapleton resident John Stanley was one of about 50 people at the forum.

More on the web



For more photos from the hearing, go to silive.com/photos.

Staten Island Borough President James Molinaro wants the authority to convene multi-agency meetings with commissioners of key agencies. Molinari Republican Club president Robert Scamardella, a West Brighton attorney, suggested the borough presidents have control over road maintenance.



Staten Island Charter Revision Commission member Stephen J. Fiala, questions the panel. To his right is commission member Betty Chen.



City Council Speaker Christine Quinn addressed the Charter Revision Commission about issues including term limits.



Panel member Gerald Benjamin addresses the commission during the forum focusing on government structure.



Given the importance of the issues discussed, there wasn't much of a crowd at the hearing.

nance. Others wanted the borough presidents to be given independent budgets.

Budgetary power is key to maintaining local, independent voices in city government, Muzzio said. "If there are any movements toward enhancement of the power of the public advocate and the borough presidents, it would be to insulate them from the political retribution of the mayor and the City Council," he said.

Lane's edition of the Charter Revision Commission was forced by the Supreme Court to dissolve the powerful Board of Estimate. That stripped borough presidents of their vote over the city budget, and left them with limited, advisory land-use powers. The move also took away much of their political clout, Lane said.

"I think that was a miscalculation on our part," he added.

Peter N. Spencer covers city government for the Advance. He may be reached at spencer@sladvance.com.

SEE LOCAL, PAGE A 12
bottom review of city government.

Like the borough's own leadership, however, the Charter Revision Commission and the experts who were advising it last night could not seem to find consensus.

"We've come up with this nebulous concept of local control. I think it's frustrating us not to be able to articulate how to get there," said City Councilman James Oddo (R-Mid-Island/Brooklyn), the minority leader.



Borough Councilmembers Debi Rose and Vincent Ignizio flank Councilman James Oddo as he addresses the Charter Revision Commission during an expert forum at Staten Island Technical High School.



Members of the expert panel answer questions from the Charter Revision Commission, seated on stage, during a forum focusing on government structure at Staten Island Technical High School in New Dorp.



College of Staten Island names Vernon Mummert athletic director

Published: Wednesday, June 16, 2010, 4:04 PM



Jim Waggoner



Vernon Mummert

Vernon Mummert began his intercollegiate athletics career as an equipment manager at Drew University.

That the 57-year-old Baltimore native now has a plaque in the school's Athletic Hall of Fame speaks volumes about his ascent through the professional ranks.

Mummert was appointed the College of Staten Island's new athletic director Monday, ending a two-year search that spanned a pair of interim ADs — Dave Pizzuto and Paul Robb. Mummert spent the past year as associate athletic director/facilities and events manager at North Central College in Naperville, Ill.

"It's a great opportunity," Mummert told the Advance last night from his office in the Chicago suburb. "I really want to be a part of (NCAA) Division III athletics. It's the purest form of college sports."

Mummert, who begins his **CSI** job on July 15, has served as athletic director at the NCAA, NAIA and NJCAA levels.

Mummert was athletic director at the University of Texas at Brownsville during the 2008-2009 school year, which followed a 10-year stay as AD at Wabash College in Indiana.

He was AD and chair of the physical education and recreation department at Yavapai College (Ariz.), a junior college, from 1994-98. He began his career during a 17-year stint at Drew, where he held positions ranging from athletic director, intramural director and physical education department chair between the years 1977-

Mummert coached soccer and tennis at Drew, winning more than 275 games and earning induction into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2001.

A former soccer and lacrosse player, Mummert graduated from McDaniel College (Md.) with bachelor's and masters degrees and was inducted into that school's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2001.

He said his desire to return to the metropolitan area, coupled with his wife Susan being a Madison, N.J., native, sparked his interest in the CSI opening.

Mummert said he wants to elevate the school's 13 varsity sports "to the next level" with the goal of reaching national success.

The Dolphins compete in the CUNY Conference.

"I'm really looking forward to building those bridges to help us get to where we want to go locally, regionally and nationally," he was quoted in a CSI press release. "Getting more teams into the NCAA postseason, getting more recognition for our teams, and working with faculty to create a more harmonious community is very exciting.

"We want to complement the educational experience for our students at CSI and I'm looking forward to getting started."

Mummert will oversee operations of the Sports and Recreation Center and other athletic facilities at the sprawling Willowbrook campus, including membership services and staffing.

"He has extensive experience," said CSI baseball coach Mike Mauro, a member of the school's search committee. "He's going to step in and start working right away. He doesn't have to be groomed.

"He had a great phone interview and a great face-to-face interview. He did all his homework and came in completely prepared. Obviously he wants to bring the college to the next level."

Mummert will become the eighth athletic director at CSI since Joe Barresi retired at the end of the 1995 school year. That figure includes Pizzuto, currently the school's associate athletic director and sports information director, and Babb, who completes his one-year interim term at the end of this month.

FINAL CFP HICSS 44 MINI-TRACK: TECHNOLOGY MEDIATED COLLABORATIONS IN HEALTHCARE

Call for Papers HICSS 44 Mini-track: Technology Mediated Collaborations in Healthcare [Crosslisted in Tracks: [Collaboration Systems](#) and Technology; [Information Technology](#) in Healthcare]
Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS) Koloa, Kauai, Hawaii January 4-7, 2011 The Grand Hyatt Kauai Resort & Spa Description: [Collaboration technologies](#) are being used in healthcare research, practice, and management. They have potential for even greater use. Geographically dispersed health professionals can use collaboration technology to communicate with each other, review patient records, manage workflows, and improve the delivery of patient care. Similarly, geographically non-located researchers can collaborate with each other. The problem being addressed by this mini-track is encapsulated in the following [ontology](#): Technology: [for]: Partners: [collaboration using]: Content: [for]: Purpose Architecture: Researcher: [and]: Researcher: Data: Treatment System: Clinician: Clinician: Voice: Research Strategy: Nurse: Nurse: Video: Administration : Patient: Patient: Other: : Administrator: Administrator: : :

The five primary stakeholders in healthcare: researchers, clinicians, nurses, patients, and administrators form the basis of any partnership in [health care](#). They are listed under the two partnership sub-dimensions. A partnership may be between two researchers, a researcher and a clinician, a patient and a nurse, etc. These dyads are summarized by the two columns under partners. There may also be triadic and higher order partnerships among these stakeholders. The partnerships may be based on an exchange of data, voice, video, or other (for example, haptic & tactile) information singly or in combination. These are listed under the content dimension of the [ontology](#). Thus collaboration between two researchers may use data, between a patient and a nurse may use voice and video, and so on.

The purpose of the collaboration may be treatment, research, administration, or a combination of the three. These are listed under the purpose dimension of the [ontology](#). Thus collaboration between two researchers using data may be for research, and between a patient and a clinician using voice and video may be for treatment.

In the above [ontology](#), there are 300 ($5 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3$) basic types of collaborations one can consider in healthcare. The number will change if the dimensions and categories are modified. In a practical [context](#) multiple combinations will likely coexist. A clinician-patient collaboration using data for treatment may be supplemented by a nurse-patient collaboration using voice and video for the same purpose.

Technology's impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of these collaborations will be determined by the architecture of the technology, the systems developed around it, and the strategy for implementing it. The efficacy of the architecture will determine the efficacy of the system, and the efficacy of the system will determine the efficacy of the strategy. Thus the three categories under the technology dimension in the [ontology](#).

The [ontology](#) provides a framework for fitting the pieces of the puzzle, synthesizing what is known, determining the gaps, and directing future research on the topic. We invite papers focusing any one or many of the 900 combinations in the [ontology](#). We welcome papers which address the state-of-the-art, state-of-the-need, and the state-of-the-practice of these combinations.

We strongly encourage authors to submit the original contributions where innovative ideas, implementations, and [empirical studies](#) are described. The technological contributions can highlight applications, systems, and methodological issues on the development and/or implementation of [collaborative systems](#) in healthcare. The social, organizational, and behavioral contributions can report the outcome of [empirical studies](#) on technology mediated collaboration in healthcare. Selected papers from this mini-track will be fast tracked to a special issue of International Journal of Bio-medical Engineering and Technology.

The use of collaborative technology in healthcare is an emerging area of research on [computer supported cooperative work \(CSCW\)](#). A major topic of [CSCW 2008](#) conference was "Computer Supported Cooperative Care/Health." We offered a mini-track on "Collaboration Systems and Technologies in Healthcare Teams" at HICSS-43. We had one session on the mini-track in which the proposed [ontology](#) was discussed. The audience understood the possibility of using the [ontology](#) to study the diverse types of technology mediated collaborations in healthcare. Thus, we have expanded the scope of the mini-track and are soliciting papers from a variety of researchers studying these types of collaborations.

Mini-Track Co-chairs:

[Souren Paul](#) [College of Staten Island City University of New York](#) 2800 Victory Boulevard Staten Island, NY 10314 (718) 982-2938 Fax: (718) 982-2965 Souren.paul@csi.cuny.edu

[Arkalgud Ramaprasad](#) University of Illinois at Chicago 2209 University Hall 601 South Morgan Street, MC 294 Chicago, IL 60607-7124 (312) 996-9260 Fax (312) 413-0385 prasad@uic.edu

Submission Process:

Full paper submissions must be made electronically through the HICSS on-line submission system at http://www.hicss.hawaii.edu/hicss_44/apahome44.htm, by June 15, 2010. Papers should not exceed ten pages and the initial submission will not have author names.

Key Dates:

Full Papers Due: June 15, 2010 (midnight Hawaii Time)

Notification of Acceptance: August 15, 2010

Final Paper Due: September 15, 2010 (11:59 PM Pacific time zone). At least one author of each paper should register by this date. This is the Early Registration fee deadline.

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JUNE 26, 2010, 11:51 AM

Urban Forager | Finding Life in Dead Horse Bay

By [AVA CHIN](#)

Photographs by Ava Chin for The New York Times Spreading a net in Dead Horse Bay, you never know what will turn up.

“They don’t call it Dead Horse Bay for nothing,” said Jarad Astin, walking across the bottle-strewn beach in flip-flops with a seine net over his shoulder.

We were there for BioBlitz, a 24-hour survey of Jamaica Bay on June 11 and 12 by scientists, professors, amateur naturalists and families. The goal of the field study, sponsored by Brooklyn College and the National Park Service, was to collect and identify as many species of animal, plant and marine life as possible. Our group, one of many working throughout the area, was attempting an accurate assessment of marine creatures, but at the beach of Dead Horse Bay, near Gerritsen Inlet, all we saw were discarded wine, juice and syrup bottles, mugs, film reels and other assorted trash.

The three of us — Tumpa Mira and Beni Mfitidi, two Brooklyn College juniors, and me — marveled at the former landfill as we followed Mr. Astin, our leader and the live animal coordinator for the Brooklyn Children’s Museum.

Under Mr. Astin’s direction, Ms. Mira disappeared with a dragnet toward a patch of water-grown grasses, while Ms. Mfitidi helped him unroll the 25-foot-long seine net.

“It’s like standing on a mattress,” Mr. Astin said, making his way thigh-deep into the waters of Dead Horse Bay, holding one end of the net, while Ms. Mfitidi held the other.

“O.K., hold it nice and tight,” Mr. Astin instructed. “Ready? 1, 2, 3 — go, go, go!”

They dragged the net toward the shore, and in a final scooping motion, lifted it out of the water. The first attempts brought up only seaweed, but on the third try, there were bits of comb jelly, a few mud snails and several tiny Atlantic silversides in the net.

Good morning, little green crab.

I fished out a piece of sea lettuce (a k a *Ulva lactuca*) about the size of a square of origami paper, floating in the water like a piece of green cellophane. “Is this edible?” I asked.

“Most kelp and seaweed is edible,” Mr. Astin said. “But you wouldn’t want to consume any from around here.”

Jamaica Bay houses four wastewater treatment sites, and the Department of

Environmental Protection is working to improve the ecology, according to agency officials, by initiating measures to cut nitrogen-discharge levels and increasing the number of water- sampling sites. Still, the combination of pollution, the proximity to Kennedy Airport and the fact that we were on former landfill made the eating prospects unattractive.

I headed down the beach to where Ms. Mira stood with a dragnet in a grassy estuary, knee-deep in water. Earlier, Mr. Astin had shown us how to bring up samples from the bay floor using arm motions like an Olympic curler's, which I tried to mimic with my own net. Ms. Mira caught several slippery Mummichogs (minnows), but I was bringing up only sea lettuce and mud snails.

Suddenly, through the water, I saw the scrambling motion of a small crab near my waders and nabbed it with my net.

I was worried it was an Asian shore crab — the wildly successful invasive, of which we didn't need a living specimen. But to my delight, back on shore, Mr. Astin confirmed it was a female European green crab, or *Carcinus maenas* (also nonnative and invasive), which he did want. She was about the size of a silver dollar and blowing bubbles in his hands.

Half an hour later we regrouped, marveling at a horseshoe crab Mr. Astin had found crawling around the water's edge. "This one's in pretty good condition," he said, holding up *Limulus polyphemus* as it made slow crawling motions in the air. Ms. Mira and Ms. Mfitidi wanted to know if it could bite.

"It can't hurt you," Mr. Astin said, noting the knot of barnacles on its hard shell before turning it over. A handful of slipper limpets (*Crepidula fornicata*) lined the bottom. "These are hitchhikers," he said, prying off the limpets with a knife, revealing their yellow eggs.

Before we started packing up, Mr. Astin made one last survey of the bay's grassy area with his dragnet. "Whoa, look at this," he said, suddenly pulling his net out of the water.

He held out a large blue crab, with a single pincher waving in the air. "He's lucky I'm not crabbing," Mr. Astin said, as we admired it. "He's big enough to be a keeper."

He showed us the crab's dorsal side, and the rather phallic apron- flap, shaped like an upside-down T (a male), before tossing it into the water.

Suddenly, something jerked in the net, and Mr. Astin fished out another, much smaller, crab. Turning it over revealed the triangular-shaped apron of an immature female. "I think we broke up a couple — sorry, guys," Mr. Astin said.

By the end of the morning expedition, we counted silversides, killifish, amphipods (the

roly-polies of the sea), tiny Atlantic herring, fairy shrimp, mud snails, common periwinkles, a hermit crab, pipe fish (related to seahorses, but elongated like inchworms) and my European green crab, among others. Our total was 42 species.

Each BioBlitz helps the Park Service discover species of animals, plants, fungi and marine life, but while we found nothing unusual that day, it seemed enough to contribute an accurate assessment for the survey.

In our small tank filled with living specimens — including feathery barnacles waving come-hither like slow-moving showgirls, and fairy shrimp treading water — I watched my scrappy green crab trying to eat its neighbors. It seemed particularly keen on nabbing one of Ms. Mira's minnows. If it survived the weekend and quarantine, it would become a part of the Children's Museum.

When all the species are tallied, experts at Jamaica Bay expect to have counted nearly 600 from the BioBlitz.

No dead horses, but lots of other stuff.

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.



June 27, 2010

2 more teens charged in beating of Old Bridge man; some fear anti-Indian violence

By *SERGIO BICHAO*
STAFF WRITER

Two more teens have been charged in the <http://www.mycentraljersey.com/article/20100628/NEWS/100628055/Old-Bridge-beating-victim-dead-Three-teens-now-charged-with-murder>>brutal beating of a 49-year-old Old Bridge man near his home Friday evening, authorities said today.

Police had already collared another suspect yesterday and said more suspects may be involved in what the victim's friends fear may have been a racially motivated attack.

The victim, identified by family friends as Divyendu Sinha, remains in critical and "deteriorating" condition at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital and it's likely he could be declared brain dead, friends said Sunday.

All three 17-year-old suspects were not identified to the press because they are minors.

Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office spokesman Jim O'Neil, citing the ongoing investigation, declined to comment on the motive of the attack, which happened before 11:42 p.m., Friday on Fela Drive.

"(Police) arrived to find a man had been beaten. . . A group of young males attacked this man as he was walking on the street," O'Neill said, adding he did not know if any weapons were involved.

It was also unknown if the group knew their victim.

Friends fear the family may have been targeted because they are Indian. Sinha, his wife and two sons were not robbed, they said.

Family friend Parveen Sharma, who's been staying with Sinha at the hospital, said the attackers "might have been looking for trouble. They didn't ask for any money or anything like that. They just started fighting with them."

The suspects have been charged with conspiracy to commit aggravated assault and aggravated assault and they remain in custody, O'Neill said.

One of the two suspects charged yesterday surrendered at Old Bridge Police headquarters with his parents at about 6 p.m., while the other was arrested at his job at about 5 p.m., O'Neill said.

Indian community activist Prakash Wagmare, who's known the victim for more than 10 years, described his friend as "a gentle person and a very brilliant man. He has written books (on computer science) and he was a professor at the **College of Staten Island**."

Wagmare said Sinha's wife wasn't attacked but his sons suffered some minor injuries from trying to help their father.

The Indian-American community in Old Bridge has grown in recent years, said Wagmare, a resident

of West Orange.

Word of the beating spread throughout Indian-American communities in the region, igniting safety fears, he said.

“The mayor has been quite helpful to the community. He’s been to our functions and things like that. That’s why we are surprised. Why should it happen?”

Anyone with information on the incident can reach Old Bridge Detective Greg Morris at 732-721-5600 or Investigator Paul Miller of the Prosecutor's Office at 732-745-4466.

The Register-Herald, Beckley, West Virginia

June 28, 2010

Education leaders gather at resort

By Tina Alvey

Register-Herald Reporter

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS — Gov. Joe Manchin welcomed state and national education leaders on Sunday, along with legislators from 16 states, to the annual meeting of the Southern Regional Education Board being held at The Greenbrier.

“Welcome to wild and wonderful West Virginia,” said Manchin, who is SREB’s chairman. “It’ll be a great two and a half days.”

SREB works with 16 member states to help them meet the organization’s “Challenge to Lead” goals for education, which call for higher student achievement at every level.

One of the major concerns of the SREB, and the topic for a roundtable discussion Sunday, is college degree completion rates.

“This is a shared responsibility,” said roundtable moderator Cheryl Blanco, SREB’s vice president for special projects.

The Sunday panelists helm four of 15 public institutions of higher learning that an SREB analysis indicated achieved a six-year graduation rate of at least 45 percent; while serving students who entered college with academic and/or economic disadvantages.

All of the panelists agreed that the creation of graduation-oriented cultures in their schools was an important component in the degree completion mix.

Tomas D. Morales, president of The College of Staten Island, part of the City University of New York (CUNY) system, said students have a sense of belonging at his school. “We’re not going to allow you to fail,” he said, citing “a lot of structure, a lot of tough love,” in delivering that message to students.

All also agreed that they are now walking a fine line between the demand to increase enrollment and the pressure to maintain or improve graduation rates.

The end result could be the “quality (of degrees) may be compromised,” said Hamid Shirvani, president of California State University, Stanislaus.

Charlie Nelms, chancellor of North Carolina Central University, commented, “The best way to grow the enrollment is to retain the students.”

In response to a question from audience member William E. Kirwan, chancellor of the Maryland University System, about the importance of the residential student experience, Nelms said, “It’s absolutely essential.”

His school is now building another residence hall and is exploring public/private partnerships to provide additional residential opportunities for students, Nelms pointed out.

Randy J. Dunn, president of Murray State University, noted his school requires every student to live on campus for his or her first two years of matriculation, saying residence life is essential to a successful transition into college.

Morales agreed that the more ties that bind a student to the institution, the better chance there is of that student earning a degree. He said statistics indicate students who live and/or work on campus graduate at a significantly higher rate than those who live and work away from the school.

SREB president Dave Spence said in his introductory remarks the organization had “pretty much given up on coming back” to The Greenbrier for a meeting, but was lured by both the governor’s invitation and an attractive rate package offered by the resort.

Asked after the Sunday session what was the deciding factor in bringing the SREB back to The Greenbrier, Manchin said with a laugh, “Me being chairman.”

He elaborated, “I enjoy bringing everyone here to The Greenbrier. They get to see all the wonderful things West Virginia has to offer.”

The governor said he plans to spend a lot of time at the White Sulphur Springs resort over the next month, citing Friday’s gala marking the grand opening of the long-awaited Casino Club, as well as the upcoming Greenbrier Classic PGA Tour event, which will begin July 26.

Based in Atlanta, the SREB was created in 1948 by southern governors and legislatures to help leaders in education and government work cooperatively to advance education and improve the social and economic life of the region. Member states are Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

The organization’s annual meeting continues today and concludes Tuesday.

— *E-mail: talvey@register-herald.com*



3 teens charged in N.J. attack on former College of Staten Island professor, report says

Published: Monday, June 28, 2010, 4:40 PM



Staten Island Advance

OLD BRIDGE, N.J. -- Three teens have been arrested in connection with an attack on a former **College of Staten Island** professor and his two sons on Friday, according to a published report.

The circumstances of the incident remain unclear and the Middlesex County prosecutor's office refused to disclose any details of what happened, which left the 49-year-old father badly beaten, the **Star-Ledger** is reporting. Authorities did not release his name, but friends and neighbors identified him as Divyendu Sinha.

He remained in critical condition Sunday night at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in New Brunswick, N.J., according to the report.

The suspects, all of whom are 17, have been charged with aggravated assault and conspiracy to commit aggravated assault, O'Neill said. Their names were not released because of their ages.

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 neighborhood of newer homes.

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N.J. murder victim taught computer science at College of Staten Island for 9 years

Published: Tuesday, June 29, 2010, 10:54 AM Updated: Tuesday, June 29, 2010, 10:59 AM



Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The former College of Staten Island professor who died yesterday of injuries he suffered in a brutal attack near his home in Old Bridge, N.J., taught at the school from 1990 to 1999.

Divyendu Sinha, 49, who worked at CSI as an assistant professor in the computer science department, succumbed to his injuries at 4 a.m. yesterday morning.

Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce Kaplan told the **Star-Ledger** the three teenagers arrested in the attack have been charged with murder and conspiracy to commit murder.

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 around 11:30 p.m. Friday. When officers arrived, they found the victim on the ground outside his house on Fela Drive, a neighborhood of newer homes.

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3 teens charged with NRI's murder

Jun 30 2010

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 am in Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, New Brunswick 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 pm on 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 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 URL:

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/national/3-teens-charged-nris-murder-163>

Also Featured on: yahoo.com, indiainteracts.in, mangalorean.com, netindia123.com, vebtoday.com, india-server.com, and indiawest.com



New Jersey: Indian scientist attacked by 3 teens, dies

Agencies Posted online: Wed Jun 30 2010, 11:18 hrs

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 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 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 Ph D 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 on Wednesday.

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Sports



College of Staten Island to host Staten Island Tide ACBL team this summer

By Staten Island Advance Sports Desk
June 01, 2010, 9:55AM



Staten Island Advance file photo by Hilton Flores

CSI's Joe Cassano will be playing on his college home field when he competes for the Staten Island Tide of the Atlantic Collegiate Baseball League this summer, starting Wednesday.

The Staten Island Tide, one of the new teams in the Atlantic Collegiate Baseball League, opens its 40-game summer season tomorrow at 5 p.m. against the North Jersey Eagles at Ramapo College in Mahwah, N.J.

The Tide, coached by former Wagner College and St. Francis College assistant Tommy Weber, will play its home opener Thursday night (7 p.m.) against the Long Island Collegians at the **College of Staten Island**.

CSI has been designated the team's home field for the 2010 season.

Staten Island's roster has a distinctly local flavor, with Tottenville High School products John McNeil (Adelphi), Joe Cassano and Pat Gale (both **CSI**) joined by Monsignor Farrell alums Frank Esposito (Seton Hall) and Joe Conforti (Wagner College), Poly Prep product Francis Torres (Dominican), and Xavier's David Rees (Wagner College).

Wagner players Mark Holmes, Eddie Brown and Ian Karlsson are also the roster.

The 13-team league is split into three divisions, with Staten Island competing against the Torrington (Conn.) Titans, North Jersey and Long Island in the Kaiser Division.

The Hampton Division consists of the North Fork Ospreys, Southampton Breakers, Riverhead Tomcats, Sag Harbor Breakers and Westhampton Aviators.

The Wolf Division consists of the Jersey Pilots, Lehigh Valley Catz, Quakertown Blazers and Lackawana Lumberjacks.

The ACBL is one of eight leagues sanctioned by the National Alliance of College Summer Baseball, joining the Cape Cod, Cal Ripken Collegiate, Florida Collegiate, Great Lakes Collegiate, New York Collegiate, Southern Collegiate and Valley League.

The ACBL is beginning its 44th season and some of its famous alumni include Jamie Moyer, Craig Biggio and Frank Viola.

There is no admission fee for Staten Island Tide games this summer. The regular-season ends on July 27.

Schedules for all ACBL games can be found at **www.acbl-online.com**.

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PSAL Class A baseball semifinals preview

By ZACH BRAZILLER

Last Updated: 12:45 AM, June 4, 2010

Posted: 12:38 AM, June 4, 2010

The Post's PSAL baseball beat writer Zach Braziller breaks down this weekend's Class A semifinal best-of-three series at MCU Park in Coney Island and the **College of Staten Island**.

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY @ MCU Park in Coney Island

4 p.m. – No. 2 George Washington vs. No. 3 Tottenville

7 p.m. – No. 4 James Madison vs. No. 8 Lehman

SATURDAY @ College of Staten Island

11 a.m. – No. 2 George Washington vs. No. 3 Tottenville

2 p.m. – No. 4 James Madison vs. No. 8 Lehman

SUNDAY (TBA)

No. 2 George Washington Trojans

Head coach: Steve Mandl

Record: 19-0

Player to watch: SS Mike Antonio

No. 3 Tottenville Pirates

Head coach: Tom Tierney Jr.

Record: 20-1

Player to watch: CF Zach Granite

Outlook: Two of the PSAL's flagship schools meet in a star-studded three-game set. It includes a Big East center fielder (Granite), one of the northeast's top pro prospects (Antonio), and an iconic coach (Mandl). It features two of the last three city champions – Tottenville won it all in 2007 while GW took the crown a year later – and the two most dominant teams this postseason.

"Two great programs, two great teams," said Mandl, who recently picked up his 900th career win. "It should be a good series."

In besting No. 30 Aviation, No. 14 Beacon, and No. 6 Morris, Tottenville has allowed only three runs while producing 22 of its own. The Pirates, who beat GW, 9-1, in non-league play, have arguably the deepest lineup in the city – eight-place hitter George Kantzian would hit cleanup for plenty of teams – and the 3-4 of first baseman Thomas Kain and catcher Kevin Krause in fearsome.

"They put the bat on the ball and they all seem to hit," Mandl said.

The Trojans, however, don't take a backseat to anybody. They were a chic preseason pick at the season's outset, didn't play their best ball during the midway point of the season, but have picked it up considerably as of late. They swept defending champion Norman Thomas the last week of the regular season to retake the Manhattan A East crown and have allowed just four runs in three playoff games. Ace Nestor Bautista has emerged in the absence of dynamic junior Yael Regalado (elbow) and catcher Nelson Rodriguez – one of the best sophomores in the city – has driven in seven runs this postseason.

"We have to stay focused and play hard, like we have been," the LIU-bound Bautista said.

The two aces, left-handers Bautista and John Silva, won't face one another since Silva went the distance in Tuesday's 6-2 victory over Morris. Tottenville is likely to go with No. 2 starter Stephen Mattina, he of a 7-0 record, against Bautista. Probably Game 2 starters are Kevin Torres, a sophomore converted to the mound from shortstop, opposite Silva, a senior with a riding fastball in the mid-to-high 80's.

No. 4 James Madison Knights

Head coach: Vinny Caiazza

Record: 19-0, Brooklyn A West

Player to watch: P Eddie Lenahan

No. 8 Lehman Lions

Head coach: Adam Droz

Record: 16-3, Bronx A West

Player to watch: P/1B/RF Tyler Gurman

Outlook: Moments after Madison's 4-2 victory over No. 5 Norman Thomas, the Knights fielded plenty of questions about top-seeded James Monroe, their likely semifinal opponent. Hours later, when Caiazza was told No. 8 Lehman upset the Eagles, he didn't exactly do cartwheels.

"I'm very wary of them," he said. "We're talking about somebody who just beat the No. 1 seed. They are riding a lot of momentum. We're not looking at them as an eighth seed. They just took the place of the No. 1 seed."

That's not just coach-speak -- he should be concerned.

The Lions went 13-3 in Bronx A East, one of the best division in the city, and two of those losses were heartbreaking one-run setbacks to Clinton and Morris. The lineup, led by Gurman and slugging catcher Andy Ramos (team-high 31 RBIs), is deep and potent. Lehman has won eight in a row and is riding high after snapping a three-game losing streak to rival Monroe, a victory Droz called one of the greatest in his seven seasons at the helm.

"That's over with. We got to treat tomorrow's game and every other game after that like it's a championship game," Droz said. "No matter who we're playing."

Unlike Lehman, which is back in the semifinals after a four-year hiatus, Madison has made this somewhat of a habit. The Knights are in the final four for the third straight time -- staggering consistency considering the program's lack of star power.

Eddie Lenahan is the ace of the staff, but he gets by on guile. The lineup is improved. Centerfielder Joe Calascione, third baseman Matt Maher and left fielder John Yuksekol have developed into middle-of-the-order threats and Canarsie transfer Joe Abadia has brought speed to the top of the lineup.

Still, Madison wins because of its pitching -- sophomores Joe Cali and Mike Fitzpatrick follow Lenahan in the rotation and Matt Ecock is a shutdown reliever -- and defense. For all the winning under Caiazza -- six times the Knights have reached this juncture -- he is still looking for the school's first city title.

"Always a bridesmaid," he said. "Eventually, it's gotta happen."

zbraziller@nypost.com



Live blog recap: PSAL Class A baseball semifinals Game 1

June 4, 2010 | By [ZACH BRAZILLER](#)

Twenty-eight teams have been eliminated. Just four remain. Two will survive the weekend and play for championship glory.

Yes, the PSAL's best-of-three semifinals are here. They begin tomorrow night at MCU Park before the scene moves to the [College of Staten Island](#) on Saturday.

The two matchups promise plenty of excitement. In the opener, No. 2 George Washington and No. 3 Tottenville – two of the last three city champions – meet in a clash of premier programs. Next up is No. 4 James Madison, in the semifinals for the third time in as many years, against No. 8 Lehman, the Cinderella story of these playoffs. The Lions, bear in mind, upset No. 1 Monroe in the quarterfinals.

If you can't make it out to Coney Island Friday afternoon, don't worry. The Post has you covered. We will bring you an all-encompassing live blog with Zach Braziller and Joseph Staszewski coming at you from MCU Park, home of the [Brooklyn Cyclones](#). That's right, double-barrel action.

Here's Friday's schedule:

4 p.m. – No. 2 George Washington vs. No. 3 Tottenville

7 p.m. – No. 4 James Madison vs. No. 8 Lehman

Join us starting at 3:30 p.m. when we'll bring you the starting lineups and plenty of pre-game analysis. To join our interactive live blog, simply click the box below.

Ace in the hole: Gurman pitches Lehman back to 'A' final

By ZACH BRAZILLER

Last Updated: 3:38 AM, June 7, 2010

Posted: 2:34 AM, June 7, 2010

Less than 24 hours after Saturday's punch-in-the-stomach loss sent Lehman to the brink of elimination, the Lions returned to the **College of Staten Island** loose.

They knew the ramifications: win or many of their careers would end in painful fashion, just shy of the PSAL Class A championship game. So why were they so carefree?

Coach Adam Droz summed it up well in his pregame speech.

"Our No. 1 is going out there," Droz said, referring to senior Tyler Gurman. "We have a great shot."

Gurman made it seem routine, going the distance on the mound and homering at the plate in a best-of-three series-deciding 10-6 victory over No. 4 Madison. Gurman's third playoff win and second against a city power – he beat No. 1 Monroe last Tuesday – pushes the eighth-seeded Lions back to the city final for the first time since 2002.

"It's just amazing, it's a crazy feeling," Gurman said. "But it's not over. That's why I'm not crying right now."

Lehman (18-4), indeed, will meet No. 3 Tottenville next Friday at MCU Park in Coney Island to determine the city champion. The Pirates swept No. 2 George Washington this weekend.

He was effective, if not dominant, allowing three earned runs, scattering nine hits, and striking out four. He was typically consistent at the dish, driving in Lehman's third run with a solo homer over the wall in right-center. He also singled, walked, and scored twice.

"He has the heart of a lion," fellow senior Laurence Marsach. "He carries this team with his hitting and his pitching."

After transferring into Lehman from Iona Prep following his sophomore year, Gurman started at first base last season. He had a solid junior season for Lehman, but rarely pitched because of the team's depth on the mound. He was supposed to be the No. 2 starters, but Marsach, the expected ace, had injury and control problems. Gurman was thrust onto the mound.

"I've pitched all my life," he said, explaining his success.

Gurman's star shone brightest on Sunday, but he had plenty of help from the Lehman lineup. It banged out 12 hits, six for extra bases, off four Madison pitchers in breaking double figures for the third straight time.

Third baseman Felix Fernandez and shortstop Jhosse Estrella each had two RBIs, Julio Velazquez added two hits and an RBI, and Marsach, who struggled so much during the regular season, capping a brilliant offensive series for himself with three hits and two RBIs. The ninth-place hitter also had two hits and three RBIs on Saturday.

"First three playoff games, from Environmental Studies to South Bronx to Monroe, I couldn't hit a beach ball," he said. "But working with the coaches in the cage, I made a few adjustments. I feel great at the plate now. I didn't know I could hit this well."

Madison (20-2) coach Vinny Caiazza didn't know his pitching staff could give up so many runs, either. Entering the weekend, the Knights had yielded just 20 runs in 16 regular-season league games and three postseason victories. It gave up 32 in three games – 10 Friday, 12 Saturday, and 10 again on Sunday. Even his ace, Eddie Lenahan, who had compiled a 13-1 record the last two years, couldn't make it out of the fourth inning on Saturday.

"That team does not swing at a bad pitch, they are very, very disciplined," he said. "One through nine, they all hit."

When Gurman retired Chirs Mann on a groundout to Estrella at shortstop, he was mobbed at the mound. The celebration continued for several minutes, the Lions dumping water on all three of its coaches, then dousing one another.

The celebration isn't over yet. Friday will be a rematch of Lehman's 3-1 victory over Tottenville in the Monroe Tournament back in April. Both teams have come a long way since that April afternoon, the Pirates developing into arguably the city's top lineup. Gurman isn't worried; he's looking forward to the challenge. He held Tottenville down before.

"I think that's going to be a preview of what's going to happen," he said.

zbraziller@nypost.com

Lehman defeats Madison in PSAL division A baseball semifinals

BY [Mitch Abramson](#)
DAILY NEWS SPORTS WRITER

Tuesday, June 8th 2010, 10:56 AM



Mecea for NewsThe Lehman Lions reach the PSAL finals for the first time under coach Adam Droz.

The final out was recorded and Lehman's baseball team sprinted out of the dugout and mobbed [Tyler Gorman](#), the lefthanded starter. The players jumped around as a stuffed Lion, the team's mini mascot, was

tossed in the air and fell to the ground, and they doused their coach, [Adam Droz](#), with a bucket of water.

The Lions had plenty to celebrate: They'd reached the PSAL 'A' championship game for the first time in Droz's seven years as their coach.

Gorman held [Madison](#) in check to lead Lehman to a 10-6 win over Madison in Sunday's decisive Game 3 of the PSAL baseball semifinals series at the [College of Staten Island](#).

After the celebration had reached its fitful conclusion, Droz grew serious, telling his players to begin boarding the bus. The festivities were over, and a transition in mindset was taking place.

Asked when he would turn the page on the moment and start focusing on Tottenville, the Lions' opponent in Friday's PSAL 'A' championship game at [MCU Park](#) in [Coney Island](#) (7 p.m.), Droz's eyes narrowed.

"Once they get on the bus, they'll start thinking about the next game," he said. "They'll eat this one and practice tomorrow, and get ready for the next challenge."

And so it is for Lehman: Minutes after the No. 8 Lions knocked No. 4 Madison out of the playoffs, they set their sights on third-seeded [Tottenville](#), a team that totally decimated No. 2 [George Washington](#), 17-5, on Saturday to sweep the other semifinal series.

"They're on a roll right now, that's for sure," GW coach [Steve Mandl](#) said of the Pirates. Mandl's pitching staff was cut down by injury, most significantly to ace [Yael Regalado](#). "They put the bat on the ball, they don't make mistakes," Mandl added. "Their hitting actually seemed a lot better than their pitching."

The difference in tradition at the schools is stark heading into the final: the Pirates (22-1) will be going for their 11th PSAL crown, while Lehman (18-4) will attempt to win its first.

But recent history has been kinder to the Lions.

Lehman and Tottenville met earlier this season at the [Monroe](#) tournament, and Gurman pitched a four-hitter in a 3-1 victory.

"That win gives us confidence," said

Gurman, who threw a complete game and also hit a home run against Madison on Sunday. "But I'm sure they've gotten better since then."

That's an understatement. Entering the final, there is no hotter team in the PSAL than the Pirates, whose batting order contains challenges from top to bottom.

The Pirates, winners of 15 straight games, totaled 14 hits and scored nine runs in the second inning against the Trojans on Saturday.

But pitching could determine the 2010 champion: The Pirates will presumably start ace [Jonathan Silva](#), while Gurman is hoping he gets the start over Dymin Morillo.

"These are two evenly matched teams," Madison coach [Vinny Caiazza](#) said. "Tottenville has the pitching, but Lehman has the speed. Both teams can hit. Lehman has the momentum going. Tottenville is more low-key, more even-keeled. It's going to be a very good game."



Petrone to defend in a tough Men's Open singles field

Published: Thursday, June 10, 2010, 8:18 PM



Danny Colvin

To get an idea of how strong a field tonight's Staten Island Men's Open Singles Tournament is, just go down the list of seeded players to find 12-time champion Ed Perpetua at No. 5.

Now, the 49-year-old Perpetua may have lost a step or so in amassing 55 Island titles dating back to the summer of 1983, but his rather lukewarm ranking goes to show the boys have decided to come out and play.

"It's nice to see new blood, especially good, new blood," said co-tourney director Jim Barton, who played for this singles crown in 1973, '74, and '75. "For awhile the tourney was stuck with the same faces. At least for this year we have quality throughout and a changing of the guard."

The Open got a new, younger look last year when Alex Petrone became the youngest male to win at age 16.

A year later and much stronger, maturer and experienced, Petrone will defend against four guys who could easily win any other year. Maybe even this one.

Playing in his first Island tourney at the S.I. Community Tennis Center indoor courts is second-seeded Greg Vladimirsky. A sophomore who played second singles at James Madison University, the Coral Springs, Fla. resident posted a 20-12 singles mark for the Colonial Athletic Association Dukes this spring.

Three-time finalist Konstantin Trofimovich, who led the **College of Staten Island** to the CUNY final last month, is third-seeded and 2008 champion Arthur Velnick is ranked fourth.

Even the cast of non-seeds such as ex-champion Tom Carlson, finalist Rob Klein and up-and-coming junior Joe Motta Jr. carry exemplary resumes.

You might drop a level in the Men's B but not in intensity.

Don't expect to see all eight seeds — Erik Manske, Arthur Kapetanakis, Joe Taranto, Pete Oh, Paul Ricciardi, Anton Vilinskiy, Gregg Hansson, and Mike Roselli — in the quarterfinals as there is plenty of competition in

the ranks. The B semifinalists and one lucky loser get automatic berths in the Open.

The women's Open belongs to 2007-08 champ Allison Campitiello to lose. The UConn grad has to deal with S.I. Interscholastics champ Gaby Adia, runner-up Victoria Pirrello, and Lauren Gibbons.

Gibbons, a S.I. Academy junior, is favored to win the women's B and has a bevy of crafty veterans — Jeanine Hansson, Helen Keane, and Anna Glynn — nipping at her.

Players' initial times at SICTC:

Tonight

Men's B

7 p.m. — Kevin Ly; Joe Motta Sr.; Marc Pollack; Sal Barbaccia.

8 p.m. — Mike Roselli; Gary Ambartsumov; Keith Jackson; Paul Ricciardi.

8:30 p.m. — Arthur Kapetanakas; Mike Peters; Andrew Petrone; Andrew Manger; Mike DeCorato; Anton Vilinskiy; Shawn Alishahi; Pete Oh; Joe Taranto; Arne Mattsson.

Tomorrow

Men's B

5 p.m. — Paul Sterling; Ryan Amberger; Carmine Diorio; Anthony Ferraro; YaYa Shonubi; Luigi Parisi; Branden Nickel; Mike Abott.

6:30 p.m. — Brian Dedes; Tom Petrone.

Sunday

Men's B

5 p.m. — Erik Manske.

Women's B

1 p.m. — Maria Windhausen; Vicky Rothman; Joan Motta; Sophia Varriano.

2:30 p.m. — Val Toscano; Anna Bertsianov; Jeanine Khoury; Emily Mazzacola.

June 18

Men's Open

6 p.m. — Alex Petrone; Rob Klein; Ed Perpetua; Adam Gleichenhaus.

7:30 p.m. — Frank Italiano; Joe Motta Jr.; Konstantin Trofimovich; Arthur Velnick.

8 p.m. — Tom Carlson; Greg Vladimirsky.

June 19

Women's B

2 p.m. — Jeanine Hansson; Helen Keane; Anna Glynn; Lauren Gibbons.

Women's Open

5 p.m. — Lauren Gibbons; Victoria Pirrello.

June 20

Women's Open

2 p.m. — Gaby Adia; Allison Campitello.

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Very tough field for Staten Island Men's Open Singles Tournament

Published: Friday, June 11, 2010, 4:55 PM



Danny Colvin



Staten Island Advance file photo by Hilton Flores

Ed Perpetua is a 12-time champion of the Staten Island men's singles tournament, but the 2010 field is so tough, he is seeded No. 5.

To get an idea of how strong a field tonight's Staten Island Men's Open Singles Tournament has, just go down the list of seeded players to find 12-time champion Ed Perpetua at No. 5.

Now, the 49-year-old Perpetua may have lost a step or so in amassing 55 Island titles dating back to the summer of 1983, but his rather lukewarm ranking goes to show the boys have decided to come out and play.

"It's nice to see new blood, especially good, new blood," said Jim Barton, who played for this singles crown in 1973, '74, and '75. "For awhile the tourney was stuck with the same faces. At least for this year we have quality throughout and a changing of the guard."

The Open got a new, younger look last year when Alex Petrone became the youngest male to win at age 16.

A year later and much stronger, more mature and more experienced, Petrone will defend against four guys who could easily win any other year. Maybe even this one.

Playing in his first Island tourney is second-seeded Greg Vladimirsky. A sophomore who played second singles at James Madison University, the Coral Springs, Fla. resident posted a 20-12 singles mark for the Colonial Athletic Association Dukes this spring.

Three-time finalist Konstantin Trofimovich, who led the **College of Staten Island** to the CUNY final last month, is third-seeded and 2008 champion Arthur Velnick is ranked fourth.

Even the cast of non-seeds such as ex-champion Tom Carlson, finalist Rob Klein and up-and-coming junior Joe Motta Jr. carry exemplary resumes.

You might drop a level in the Men's B, which begins tonight at the SICTC, but not in intensity.

Don't expect to see all eight seeds — Erik Manske, Arthur Kapetanakis, Joe Taranto, Pete Oh, Paul Ricciardi, Anton Vilinskiy, Gregg Hansson, and Mike Roselli — in the quarterfinals as there is plenty of competition in the ranks. The B semifinalists and one lucky loser get automatic berths in the Open.

The women's Open is 2007-08 champ Allison Campitiello's to lose. The UConn grad has to deal with S.I. Interscholastics champ Gaby Adia, runner-up Victoria Pirrello and Lauren Gibbons.

Gibbons, the S.I. Academy junior, is favored to win the women's B and has a bevy of crafty veterans — Jeanine Hansson, Helen Keane, and Anna Glynn — nipping at her.

FRIDAY

Men's B

7 p.m. — Kevin Ly; Joe Motta Sr.; Marc Pollack; Sal Barbaccia.

8 p.m. — Mike Roselli; Gary Ambartsumov; Keith Jackson; Paul Ricciardi.

8:30 p.m. — Arthur Kapetanakis; Mike Peters; Andrew Petrone; Andrew Manger; Mike DeCorato; Anton Vilinskiy; Shawn Alishahi; Pete Oh; Joe Taranto; Arne Mattsson.

SATURDAY

Men's B

5 p.m. — Paul Sterling; Ryan Amberger; Carmine Diorio; Anthony Ferraro; YaYa Shonubi; Luigi Parisi; Branden Nickel; Mike Abott.

6:30 p.m. — Brian Dedes; Tom Petrone.

SUNDAY

Men's B

5 p.m. — Erik Manske.

Women's B

1 p.m. — Maria Windhausen; Vicky Rothman; Joan Motta; Sophia Varriano.

2:30 p.m. — Val Toscano; Anna Bertsianov; Jeanine Khoury; Emily Mazzacola.

June 18

Men's Open

6 p.m. — Alex Petrone; Rob Klein; Ed Perpetua; Adam Gleichenhaus.

7:30 p.m. — Frank Italiano; Joe Motta Jr.; Konstantin Trofimovich; Arthur Velnick.

8 p.m. — Tom Carlson; Greg Vladimirsky.

June 19

Women's B

2 p.m. — Jeanine Hansson; Helen Keane; Anna Glynn; Lauren Gibbons.

Women's Open

5 p.m. — Lauren Gibbons; Victoria Pirrello.

June 20

Women's Open

2 p.m. — Gaby Adia; Allison Campitello.

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Consolmagno hired to coach Hartford

Published: Saturday, June 19, 2010, 9:45 AM



Daniel O'Leary

Since her days as a high school star, helping out at softball camps and clinics, Diana Consolmagno has wanted to be a head coach.

On July 1, her dream will come true.

Consolmagno, a former star at St. Joseph by-the-Sea and University of Wisconsin, has been named the seventh head softball coach in the 33-year history of the University of Hartford, the school has announced. It is her first college head coaching position.



Advance file photo

Diana Consolmagno, pictured here in 2000 during her time playing ball at St. Joseph by-the-Sea, is taking the head coaching position at the University of Hartford.

"This is something I have wanted for a long time," said Consolmagno. "I am so excited and so thankful to the administration at Hartford for the opportunity."

Over the years, the former Vikings shortstop has been involved with the New York Panthers and Jim Agnello's Baseball Academy, but cut her college coaching teeth as a graduate assistant at the College of

Staten Island under Stella Porto and has spent the last four years as an assistant at Rutgers University.

"I think coaching, much like anything in life, is all about experience. You can read about it, you can hear about it, but until you actually do it, until you are with the kids every day and helping them out with different situations, you will never know what it takes," said Consolmagno. "I've had so many great opportunities to get that experience, being with Stella, or Mike Ponsiglione and coach (Kathy) Kelly at Sea, doing clinics with them. I feel like I was meant to do this."

"She's a born leader and she knows how to talk to kids, she has that capability," said Kelly, who coached Consolmagno for four years and is now athletic director at Sea. "She needs to be the one at the helm, and that's a great quality for a coach. She is going to do great and Hartford is going to be happy they hired her, because she's an even better person than a coach."

Still, Consolmagno said it was difficult to lead an improving Rutgers team, which made its first Big East Tournament in 2010, but having her own program was an offer she could not pass up.

"It is a little bittersweet," she said. "At Rutgers, the staff, the administration, all the girls there were wonderful. But they all understand what this means for me and they are excited for me."

You won't catch any fear or nerves in Consolmagno.

"Everybody keeps asking me if I'm nervous or scared, but I don't feel that way. I keep getting asked, so maybe I should be, but honestly I'm more excited than anything. I can't wait to get going," she said.

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The Post's All-Brooklyn baseball honors

By ZACH BRAZILLER and DYLAN BUTLER

Last Updated: 1:01 AM, June 22, 2010

Posted: 1:00 AM, June 22, 2010

Close, just not close enough.

Brooklyn enjoyed a sterling season on the diamond, from Madison going undefeated in Brooklyn A West and reaching the PSAL Class A semifinals for the third straight year, to Poly Prep winning its fourth straight Ivy League crown, and Xaverian and Bishop Ford both reaching the final eight of the CHSAA Class A intersectional playoffs.

Yet, there were no champions.

Madison fell to Lehman in the semis, ending a memorable ride. Poly Prep lost in the New York State Association of Independent Schools Athletic Association (NYSAISAA) title game to Collegiate. And in the CHSAA, Xaverian picked up where it left off last year despite a new coaching staff, winning the CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens division title and earning the top seed in the Class A intersectional playoffs where they were bounced surprisingly early.

Bishop Ford was the only team to beat the Clippers during the regular season and enjoyed its deepest playoff run since advancing to the title game in 1995.

All-Brooklyn baseball Player of the Year: Richie Carbone, Poly Prep

Five complete games. Four shutouts. Eight victories. Nine earned runs and six walks in 50-1/3 innings pitched. The numbers speak for themselves. The Blue Devils first baseman when he wasn't on the mound and the team's third hitter, Carbone almost singlehandedly pitched Poly Prep to its fourth straight Ivy League crown.

The Johns Hopkins-bound left-hander's finest moment was a complete-game victory over George Washington, a non-league win that showed Poly Prep can play with the city's best. Carbone, who also beat PSAL Class A champion Tottenville, was a major reason for the emergence of the program the last four years: the four league titles, two NYSAISAA crowns, and a 56-game league win streak that was snapped by Fieldston this spring.

All-Brooklyn Coach of the Year: Mike Hanrahan, Bishop Ford

Looking for the moment the Bishop Ford baseball program changed? It's a lot easier than finding parking in Park Slope. It all started when Hanrahan took over. A baseball lifer, he was an all-city player and batting champion at John Jay HS and was a standout at the [College of Staten Island](#). After 17 years of coaching sandlot and travel baseball, the Staten Island native has had measured success at Bishop Ford until this year when the Falcons enjoyed their deepest playoff run in 15 years.

All-Brooklyn first team

P Stephen Bove, Bishop Ford

The Adelphi-bound senior right-hander was dominant for the Falcons, striking out 69 in 81.2 innings with a paltry 0.86 earned run average. He also hit .346 and scored 32 runs, second best on the Falcons. Bove also brings intangibles to the table, including being the school's valedictorian.

OF Joe Calascione, Madison

Versatile, potent and reliable, Calascione was the Knights' backbone the last two years, leading the back-to-back Brooklyn A West champions to the PSAL Class A semifinals both seasons. He played a superb center field, produced in the middle of the order – although the speedy unsigned senior was best served batting near the top of it – and typified Madison's gritty, gamer persona. In five playoff games, he was basically impossible to get out, hitting over .500 with eight RBIs, eight runs scored, and four stolen bases.

P Franciel Campusano, Fort Hamilton

College coaches who make their way to Fort Hamilton usually do so for the school's elite football program, but that will change next spring. Campusano, a hard-throwing junior left-hander, will be the subject of plenty of attention next spring, by coaches and Major League scouts. He deserves it after a memorable season that included three no-hitters – including one against borough dynamo Madison -- five wins, 71 strikeouts, and a 0.95 ERA.

SS J.J. Franco, Poly Prep

Poly Prep's heartbeat, Franco capped a remarkable four-year varsity career with a bang, leading the Blue Devils to their fourth straight Ivy League crown. Franco sparked the offense out of the leadoff spot – as he did repeatedly during his time at the Bay Ridge school – batting .470 with 35 runs scored, 11 extra-base hits, 13 RBIs, and committing just two errors at shortstop. He was also drafted by the Mets – his father John's old team – in the 42nd round of the First-Year Player Draft May 9, but still plans to go to college. While Poly Prep lost in the NYSAISAA title game for the second straight year, Franco leaves behind a memorable legacy as he takes the next step in his baseball career at Brown University.

1B Esteban Gomez, Bishop Ford

He entered the season as one of the most feared hitters in the CHSAA and proved why with a stellar year at the plate. The senior first baseman batted .412 with a team-high 42 hits, 12 doubles and 38 runs scored, while walking 26 times. The

slugger was selected by the Houston Astros in the 35th round of the Major League Draft, but will likely head to San Jacinto College, the same Texas junior college that Roger Clemens and Andy Pettitte once played for.

P Eddie Lenahan, Madison

A college coach attended Madison's 4-2 PSAL Class A quarterfinal victory over 2009 champion Norman Thomas. When Lenahan took the mound, he put his radar gun away and scribbled furiously in his notepad. Lenahan doesn't put up eye-popping numbers like the city's other elite arms, but he is just as successful, going 14-1 in two seasons for coach Vinny Caiazza. There may not be a pitcher that does more with less than the hard-nosed Lenahan, headed for the College of Staten Island in the fall. He wins with guile, control and smarts, not stuff.

C Matt Molbury, Bishop Ford

Gomez drew all the attention, but Molbury quietly was Bishop Ford's most consistent hitter. The Long Island University-bound senior catcher led the Falcons with a .421 batting average and 31 RBIs, a big part of the Falcons Murderers Row. He was also one of the top defensive catchers in the league.

OF Robb Paller, Berkeley Carroll

Even though Berkeley Carroll failed to get back to the NYSAISAA title game, Paller cemented his status as one of the borough's top talents. He excelled in center field, which isn't his usual position, was a reliable arm for his father, coach Wally Paller, and was the Lions' leadoff man and most consistent hitter, batting .425 with 18 stolen bases in 19 attempts, 18 RBIs, and 13 doubles. Fundamentally sound and potent, the uncommitted junior doesn't have a school has already attracted plenty of interest.

C Elvin Soto, Xaverian

Before even playing his first game as a junior, Soto had verbally committed to the University of Arizona, a rarity for New York City players. The junior switch-hitting catcher was one of the Clippers best offensive threats and already possesses a Major League arm. The Bronx native will be one of the top seniors in the city next year.

CF J.T. Torres, Xaverian

Ask any coach and they'll tell you the key to success in baseball is being strong up the middle. The Clippers had that thanks, in large part, to the Iona College-bound center fielder. A natural-born leader, Torres was Xaverian's lynchpin, batting atop the lineup because of his quick bat and even quicker legs.

All-Brooklyn honorable mention

P John Browning, St. Edmund Prep

P Eric Cooper, Sr. P/1B St. Edmund Prep

P Matt Ecock, Madison

P Chris Hodgins, New Utrecht

P Jose Zuniga, Grand Street Campus

3B Matt Maher, Madison

3B Kevin Martir, Xaverian

P Joey Martinez, Berkeley Carroll,

CF Anderson Mateo, Bishop Ford

SS Antonio Nunez, Xaverian

1B Skyler Ortiz, Xaverian

OF Franklyn Perez, Fort Hamilton

C Melvin Rios, FDR

OF Chris Sideli, Midwood

Of Stan Simmons, Telecomm

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Stories



More traffic just means more pollution

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

June 01, 2010, 1:14PM

By AGIM "JIMMY" DEMIROVSKI,
TOMPKINSVILLE

I was born in Staten Island, am age 10 and live here with my family. My biggest worry is the pollution caused by all the cars here. There are things that we can do to try and minimize car use in Staten Island.

First of all, we need to stop building new roads. Borough President James Molinaro wants to build service roads so that it "may improve the quality of life on the South Shore."

Sounds like a good idea, but it won't work — it will cause more traffic.

Secondly, we can have days (or certain hours) where people ride bicycles or walk. We can do this one or two days a week. Maybe even give bicycles to children if they do well in school. This way we will be motivated to do so many things to improve our life.

Finally, increase public transportation. Buses are the best way to travel around the Island. The College of Staten Island has an express bus that goes from the ferry to the college and back. Many students ride these buses and that helps those who come here from other boroughs.

If we really need to drive around the Island, we can carpool. Schools can try and manage a system that will work for parents and students, or parents whose children go to the same school can figure a plan that may work — some schools on the South Shore already do this.

I am confident that we can work together to make Staten Island a better place to live for all residents.

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High-school students get a taste of college

Published: Thursday, June 03, 2010, 10:10 AM



Mark D. Stein



Rich Brown, a lab technician at the **College of Staten Island** in Willowbrook, teaches high school students digital logic using a mechanical switch. STATEN ISLAND
ADVANCE/MARK STEIN

CSI's Liberty Partnership Program pairs with National Grid to introduce teens to wonders of engineering

STATEN ISLAND, NY - NEW DORP - It wasn't just another workshop where nine wide-eyed teenagers learned to plug wires and operate switches to make working mechanical connections.

It was a step in moving ahead to the next level: College.

On May 19, in building 4N of the **College of Staten Island**, the teens – seven from Curtis High School, one from Port Richmond High School, and a pre-freshman student from Morris Intermediate School in New Brighton – practiced engineering for the second time that week.

They are all part of the college's Liberty Partnership Program, a drop-out prevention initiative and collaborative college, school and community-based project that provides instructional enrichment and support services to students and families.

"We help these kids discover their dreams," said **Shawn Landry**, youth organizer and intern coordinator for Liberty. "We develop a plan to actually get them there."

Key to the plan is learning about engineering, typically a subject available at the college level. But staff involved with the **CSI** Liberty Partnership saw an opportunity to engage youngsters earlier and paired with National Grid, which provided a \$15,000 grant to give high school students an opportunity to explore the subject. This is the third year of the collaboration.

Neo Antonides, associate professor of engineering science who instructs the students, said it's important to get them involved with the topic at an early age.

"That's a big thing we want to do. We try to expose them to different parts of engineering," the professor said, referring to the practice of aeronautical engineering – constructing and flying model planes – which occurred two days earlier.

On this particular day, the nine teens were huddled together in the engineering room, tinkering with mechanical switches and using zeroes and ones to form a combination.

Ms. Landry oversees 240 at-risk students from Curtis, Port Richmond, New Dorp and Susan E. Wagner high schools.

She strongly believes that setting a student in a campus atmosphere and professional environment can lead them to greater success.

"They get interested and they discover, 'Hey, I could do this type of stuff,' " she said.

CSI Liberty Partnership boasts a 92-percent graduation rate.

Vincent Panepinto, a Port Richmond High School 16-year-old and Westerleigh resident, said he likes what he's experienced in the engineering field.

"If you pick a trade, this is a good one to do," he said.

Nasir Abdullah, 57, whose daughter, **Inshirah**, was participating in the session, was thrilled with the program.

"I think it's great. It's an opportunity for a light to come on, literally and figuratively," the computer technician said. "As a parent, we always have to take advantage of every opportunity that comes along for our children."

Ms. Landry said spots are open in the **CSI** Liberty Partnership. She can be reached at 718-982-2352.

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ONLINE CHATTER

Congratulations are in order, but world of employment is tough going

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

The College of Staten Island graduated 2,106 students at its 34th annual commencement on campus last week. Dr. Muriel Howard, the speaker, told graduates to never forget the support of those around them, because it is

those people who will help them move forward. SILive.com users had much to say about it.

GOOD LUCK

sitalks.com: Congrats. Good luck finding a real job now.

SOME ADVICE

aschiavo611: If I were all of

you...I would continue my education because the job market out there is awful...especially you education majors. However, congratulations on earning your degree!

Do you have advice for Staten Island's newest college graduates? Feel free to share anything constructive at silive.com/westshore.



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/IRVING SILVERSTEIN

Kim Verteramo, left, of Willowbrook, Kristina Braine, center, of Bulls Head, and Latisha Hatcher of Westerleigh give the thumbs-up sign after receiving their diplomas.



Hear something new at 88.9 FM, College of Staten Island's radio station

Published: Thursday, June 10, 2010, 2:57 PM



Mark D. Stein



WSIA's on-air room houses two turntables, three CD players and two cassette tape decks at the College of Staten Island, home of 88.9 FM. (Staten Island Advance/Mark Stein)

and JUSTIN SARACHIK

STATEN ISLAND, NY - WILLOWBROOK - With nearly 30 years of history, a room full of compact discs, vinyl records and cassette tapes featuring musicians and bands from across the world, Staten Island's only radio station can reach some 2.5 million potential listeners in parts of New York City and New Jersey.

WSIA - Staten Island's Answer, found on the FM dial at 88.9 - operates out of Room 106 in Building 1C on the College of Staten Island's (CSI) Willowbrook campus. Its dee-jays have been making stereo speakers shake since the early 1980s.

The station knows its audience, programming mainly different types of rock; occasionally, it bounces to genres including hip-hop, country, blues, jazz and techno. It features a drive-time (4-7 p.m.) talk show with music, news and sports.

But most of all, WSIA showcases its home turf and prides itself on playing local music.

In the last two and a half years, the station has acquired modern equipment for recording and audio editing. Soon, it will begin converting reel-to-reel audio tapes to digital formats.

It's a labor of love, operated by about 100 CSI students. Each volunteers a minimum of two hours each week in 11 departments, among them programming, engineering, public services, production, personnel, and, of course, music.

The station was started in the former Staten Island Community College in Sunnyside. Next year marks its 30th year of operation. These days, it is run by a full-time general manager and professional engineer, along with student board of directors elected by the station staff.

It all sounds impressive, but who listens?

When a pair of Advance reporters questioned Staten Islanders about the station, 80 percent admitted that they'd "never heard of it."

Once told about WSIA's music selection and what it had to offer, respondents said they would certainly scroll to the frequency.

Phil Masciantonio, WSIA's general manager for the last four years, said high-school teens, college students and local band members make up a majority of the audience. But he acknowledged that the station does not have a method of measuring the station's number of listeners, the way most other radio channels do.

Andrew DiLorenzo, a drive-time dee-jay with a variety of other tasks, and one of WSIA's most experienced volunteers, sees the station as an educational tool. Because operating it requires so many different skill sets, it's a great place for students looking to work in various industries, such as business, to cut their teeth.

"It's not just for communication majors," said DiLorenzo, a South Beach resident who's been at the station since 2007. "You pretty much get a shot at everything (WSIA offers)."

He also speaks highly of CSI's music department, which maintains a great relationship with record companies.

Volunteers arrive and depart each semester as students graduate, so turn-over is constant. But those who put in extra time definitely gain the most, says DiLorenzo, who is present at least 10 hours a week.

"It's been very successful for me," the communications major said. "Somebody gets to listen to me for three hours on the air."

Interested? You can tune in on the radio or listen via the Internet by checking out www.wsia.fm. The Web site also provides information regarding music charts and the station's broadcast schedule.

Students and **CSI** alumni interested in volunteering can contact the station at 718-982-3050. A minimum of a 2.0 grade point average is mandatory.

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40 who teach in classrooms on Staten Island are saluted

Published: Saturday, June 12, 2010, 6:25 AM



Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- State Sen. Andrew Lanza (R-Staten Island) held the third annual Teacher Appreciation Day yesterday in the **College of Staten Island**, Willowbrook.

The event honored 40 teachers throughout the borough who were selected for the honor by a school principal or administrator.

"Teachers truly have a positive and profound impact on the lives of so many. We're blessed on Staten Island to have the greatest teachers on earth. It is so important that we take the time to say thank you, which is what today is all about," said Lanza.

Teachers that were honored: St. John Lutheran School: Jennifer Aber; John W. Lavelle Preparatory: Danielle Arena; PS 69: Linda Balicki; The Francis School: Donna Bello; Michael J. Petrides School: Michael Blyth; PS 29: John Braccia; PS 5: Phyllis Brown; PS 3: Anne Marie Bruck; PS 38: Pauline Campbell; Miraj Islamic School: Nertila Canka; Our Lady Queen of Peace: Noreen Celovsky; St. Sylvester: Judith Cintula; IS 61: Tara DeCaro; Staten Island Technical HS: Diane Federico; PS 6: Jennifer Fioribello; St. Joseph by the Sea HS: Deborah Fitzpatrick; Miraj Islamic School: Anna Ghazaz; St. Peter's HS for Boys: Janet Grassia; IS 7: Charlie Gysel; PS 41: Kathryn Haldeman; New Dorp High School: Michael Hubbs; PS 48: Denise Hughes; St. John Lutheran School: Stephanie Iosue; Miraj Islamic School: Omer Kadri; PS 30: Kerri Kerney; PS 54: Donna Krachenfels; IS 24: William Levay; IS 27: Marilyn Linsky; CSI HS for Intl. Studies: Karolyn Mangiero; IS 75: Jonelle Marena; Marsh Ave. School: Tina Marie Marra; PS 29: Christine Marrinan; PS 55: Gwenn Monopoli; PS 52: Bonnie Morrone; Susan E. Wagner HS: Monica Platzman; PS 53: Barbara Pravato; New Dorp HS: Toni Ann Ruggiero; Gaynor McCown Exp. School: Conrad Sparnroft; PS 37: Brenda Stanton; IS 51: Paul Tripo.

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World peace starts at home -- and in Midland Beach

Published: Friday, June 18, 2010, 2:06 PM



Letters to the Editor/Staten Island Adva...

By MYRA LECKEY, WESTERLEIGH

Maybe it's because I worked among various cultures at The **College of Staten Island** at their International Center. Maybe it's because I have a "mixed" marriage of 40 years bringing a deeper understanding of other religions. Maybe it is because my daughter's fiancé is a Buddhist.

Perhaps it's because two of my children married Muslim people and I have traveled abroad to meet their families and get to know them. Maybe it's because I'm not a native Staten Islander but am a native New Yorker...

I am appalled by the reaction of my fellow Staten Islanders to the opening of a mosque in their part of town. I am also outraged that a Russian family has been bullied. If we have learned anything from the horrors of 9/11, it is that we must keep an open dialogue between people from different backgrounds and cultures.

Perhaps it's because I have seen my in-laws' native Ireland several times and can't understand why the Protestants have a history of fighting against the Catholics.

Can we not take a life lesson from all this hatred and tried to find peace and harmony. My Arabic-speaking Muslim acquaintance worked in Iraq for three years, assisting the Marines in interrogations, risking his life every day, as a translator to protect our country. He was often stopped at the airport upon returning home to New York on leave because of his Arabic last name, pulled aside and interrogated.

I have loved living on Staten Island over 40 years and respect that many of its natives lived in a small-town atmosphere for years, and are afraid of what they do not know.

The Torah, the Bible, the Koran all teach love and understanding. I have attended services where we shake hands and say "peace be with you" and the response is "also with you" or people wishing each other Shalom — peace. We all want worldwide peace but it starts here, in our hearts.

Haunted by a reputation that's eternal on the Web

Published: Sunday, June 13, 2010, 9:14 AM



John M. Annese



AP Photo

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg talks about the social network site's new privacy settings as he stands in front of an image of the first version of the site last month.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- One program can find your phone number if you've ever posted it to a public Facebook group.

Another can mine posts to social networks like Twitter and Foursquare to determine if you're home or out. Another still uses your activity on Twitter to guess what time you go to sleep.

And that's just the tip of the privacy iceberg -- years down the road, that photo on Facebook with two vodka bottles in your mouth, or that comment on someone else's blog making an allegation about your sex life, might end up on the desk of a potential employer, or on the front page of a newspaper.

As users on Facebook.com continue to deal with the site's rapidly-shifting privacy policies, online reputation has become a top concern among Internet users and members of social networking site.

Staten Island has seen a plethora of examples of online over-sharing gone awry over the years -- a criminal court judge transferred to Manhattan, in part, because of his activity on Facebook; a high school student arrested after joking on YouTube about taking a hit out on his math teacher, and countless defendants in criminal cases whose public photos on social networking sites have made their way into the pages of the Advance.

Regarding the high school student, anyone interested enough to search his name on Google is directed to dozens of links to news stories about his 2007 arrest, even though the offending video has long since been deleted from YouTube.

A NEW INDUSTRY

A Google search of the phrase "online reputation" pulls up ads for nearly a dozen companies offering to "protect your online reputation" or "neutralize negative information."

And last week, a study by the Pew Research Center showed more adult Internet users are keeping track of their reputations online than in years past, with young adults aged 18 to 29 more likely than older adults to take steps to protect themselves.

Specifically, 44 percent of users in that age bracket say they limit the amount of information about them publicly, while 71 percent of social networking users from that age brackets are changing their privacy settings to limit information. Almost half of that group , 47 percent, say they delete unwanted comments made by others on their profile, and 41 percent say they've removed their names from photographs.

"Most people don't know that a huge business has developed over the last couple of years called 'social media monitoring,'" said Jeff Chester, the executive director of the Center for Digital Democracy, a Washington, D.C.-based public interest group. "You're more than an open book. Your life lies digitally naked in front of several invisible onlookers."

In one instance, he said, a Boston landlord rejected a potential renter because of raucous photos that appeared on the applicant's Facebook page. And advertisers regularly study social networking activities to market to individual users, he said.

RAISING AWARENESS

On Staten Island, administrators at Wagner College and St. John's University told the Advance this week they offer orientation classes warning students that online over-sharing might damage their future careers, while the College of Staten Island has run awareness campaigns warning students that future employers can check them out online.

Wagner and St. John's administrators both said they don't use social networking sites like Facebook to weed out potential applicants to the school, though.

"We don't Google them. We don't go on Facebook and search them. We have about 3,000 applications a year," said Jake Browne, Wagners director of recruitment. With six people reviewing all of those applicants, Browne said, admissions staff don't have the time to search each prospective students online profile, looking for embarrassing photos or damaging blog posts.

"We really try to take whatever's in the application at face value," Browne said.

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Congress OKs additional funding for Coast Guard oil spill responses

Published: Monday, June 14, 2010, 1:38 PM



Judy L. Randall



Associated Press

Oil cleanup crews work on an oil-stained stretch of sand in Orange Beach, Ala.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- A bill to permit the Coast Guard to receive advances from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund was OK'd by Congress, lifting the annual \$100 million cap that can be awarded to finance its emergency response to oil spills.

Rep. Michael McMahon, who supported the legislation, noted the Coast Guard has been "integral to our reparative and protective measures following the BP/Deepwater Horizon oil spill."

Lifting the cap will allow the Coast Guard to get additional funds for its on-going effort in the Gulf.

The liability trust fund monies come from the oil companies.

"...The Coast Guard has done outstanding work," said McMahon. "This legislation is critical to maintaining continuity in the federal government's response.

McMahon (D-Staten Island/Brooklyn) is vice chair of the Maritime Transportation and Coast Guard Subcommittee of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Elsewhere, McMahon was among the House members who recently met with Italian President Giorgio Napolitano.

He was also asked to serve on the public/private partnership steering committee of the U.S. Department of State and National Italian American Foundation.

After the 2009 Abruzzo earthquake, McMahon successfully petitioned the College of Staten Island to host two English-speaking students from the University of L'Aquila, which was heavily damaged.

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Assembly Speaker Silver Unveils Web Site To Help Preserve 9/11 Artifacts

Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver today announced the launch of a new Web site that will help families of 9/11 victims, as well as survivors and local residents, preserve documents, photos and mementos from the tragedy.

(Media-Newswire.com) - Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver today announced the launch of a new Web site that will help families of 9/11 victims, as well as survivors and local residents, preserve documents, photos and mementos from the tragedy.

"As we approach the nine-year anniversary of the attacks on the World Trade Center, it is important that we understand how to shape the historical record and make sense of the powerful legacy these objects leave behind," Silver said. "This site will also help those who lost loved ones cope with what can be the emotionally overwhelming experience of sifting through voice recordings, videos, and personal possessions."

A project of the New York State Archives and Archives Partnership Trust, in collaboration with the National Archives and Records Administration and the Metropolitan New York Archivists Roundtable, the Web site, "9/11 Memory and History: What to save and how" features text and video on how to determine what to keep, what to donate and how to preserve it.

In addition, it provides useful links to outside resources that have helped people manage artifacts from other disasters and gives instruction on how to find archivists or museums that may be appropriate for specific types of mementos. For those who feel overwhelmed or at a loss for how to sort through objects, the site offers information on counseling services that can help in making these decisions.

"We are very grateful to all of the partners in the development of '9/11: Memory and History,'" said New York State Archivist and CEO of the Archives Partnership Trust Christine W. Ward. "We now have a resource that will enable those without formal training to preserve their most precious memories for now and for future generations."

The project was created through donations from the Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation, The New York Times Company Foundation, Max W. Batzer and John J. Jerome.

Other partners participating in the project included the Psychological Services Center & 9/11 Family Center at Long Island University; the New York State Museum; the College of Staten Island; the National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center; Hofstra University; and the New York State Historical Records Advisory Board.

The Web site can be accessed at www.nyshrab.org/memory



Pollution is Island's biggest worry

Published: Tuesday, June 22, 2010, 1:32 PM



Letters to the Editor/Staten Island Adva...

By AGIM ("JIMMY") DEMIROVSKI,
TOMPKINSVILLE

I was born in Staten Island and live here with my family. I am 14 years old.

My biggest worry is the pollution caused by all the cars here. There are things that we can do to try and minimize car use in Staten Island. First of all, we need to stop building new roads. Borough President James P. Molinaro wants to build service roads so that it "may improve the quality of life on the South Shore." Sounds like a good idea but it won't work — it will cause more traffic.

Secondly, we can have days (or certain hours) where people ride bicycles or walk. We can do this one or two days a week. Maybe even give bicycles to children if they do well in school. This way we will be motivated to do so many things to improve our life.

Finally, increase public transportation. Buses are the best way to travel around the Island. The College of Staten Island has an express bus that goes from the ferry to the college and back. Many students ride these buses and that helps those who come here from other boroughs.

If we really need to drive around the Island, we can carpool. Schools can try and manage a system that will work for parents and students, or parents whose children go to the same school can figure a plan that may work — some schools on the South Shore already do this.

I am confident that we can work together to make Staten Island a better place to live for all residents.

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Hot Buzz

Thursday, June 24, 2010

By [Joy Y. Wang](#)



Bees in a hive

"[The swarm] actually kind of looked like shwarma on a turning spit. You know to have this hanging cluster of 30,000 bees is really interesting because the cluster is moving and it's alive."

— Ava Chin, Urban Forager

Illegal or not, bee and honey enthusiasts have been tending apiaries in the city for years. This March, however, they got their moment in the spotlight when the Department of Mental Health and Hygiene lifted the ban on beekeeping in the city. These newly legal kept-bees spent the short spring months gathering nectar. So now is the time to enjoy the fruits of their labors — spring honey.

Annie Novak, who runs [Eagle Street Rooftop Farm](#) and founded [Growing Chefs](#), is one of the rogue beekeepers who maintained hives even before it became legal. Novak (pictured below) recently told **WNYC's Amy Eddings** that forging ahead despite the ban wasn't a problem, since it was "one of those wonderful laws that didn't make sense."

Honey bees, in particular the Italian variety that are legal to keep in the city, are not aggressive. That's what Ava Chin, [the Urban Forager columnist](#) for *The New York Times'* City Room blog, discovered this spring, when [she came across a swarm of bees on The College of Staten Island's campus](#). "[The swarm] actually kind of looked like shwarma on a turning spit," Chin said. "You know to have this hanging cluster of 30,000 bees is really interesting because the cluster is moving and it's alive."

[Novak's bees also swarmed this spring](#), surprising her Greenpoint neighbors. "It's actually a sign of a healthy hive," explains Novak. "When the bees are doing really well and have enough honey, it's their way of dividing and spreading." Nonetheless, she notes that she's going to take measures to avoid such a dramatic event next spring.



In addition to witnessing a swarm of bees in New York City, Chin and Novak both point out that local honey is useful in alleviating seasonal allergies. "You could liken it to a person who would choose to get a flu shot," explains **Andrew Coté**, the head of the [New York City Beekeepers Association](#). "They're getting a bit of the flu virus getting injected into them. And they're building up an immunity to it. Eating local honey helps people build up an immunity to local pollen allergies."

Those looking to become apiarists need to beware: Bees don't like to be moved, so be prepared to commit several years to living in one place. Hives require time and attention, as well as knowledge about their springtime habit of swarming.

"I understand that in a city of 8.4 million that when there's a swarm of 25,000 potentially swarming bees, that it can be intimidating. But really the bees are at their most docile when they swarm," said Coté. "It's tough because there's not a centralized way to communicate with us at the New York City Beekeepers Association. We have a general email, many people have my number, but what we really need is to tap into something like 311, where people can be referred to us and that we could better handle it."

Dog days at the College of Staten Island

Published: Saturday, June 26, 2010, 1:32 PM



Diane O'Donnell



Hilton Flores/Staten Island Advance

Faith Beiser of Great Kills and her American staffordshire terrier, Clara, run the agility course at the Staten Island Kennel Club's All-Breed Dog Show at the College of Staten Island.

The College of Staten Island is going to the dogs today and tomorrow, as more than 500 canines compete in the Staten Island Kennel Club's All-Breed Show.

Dogs will be running through tunnels and clearing hurdles during the agility trials which run until 6 tonight at the Willowbrook campus. The four-legged competitors strut their stuff again tomorrow from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults. Children under 10 are free. The college is located at 2800 Victory Blvd.

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A one-stop shop for fun in the sun

Published: Saturday, June 26, 2010, 11:09 PM



Michelle Rossman



Hilton Flores

Abdoulaye Diagne 6, of Mariners Harbor, gives the Power Paddler Lagoon a try at the Back to the Beach festival at Midland Beach.

Staten Islanders packed the parking lots near the Midland Beach Sea Turtle Circle yesterday to attend what has become the Island's annual rite of summer -- the Back to the Beach festival, which is celebrating its 15th year of sun and fun on the boardwalk.

If you missed yesterday's activities, don't worry -- Back to the Beach continues today from noon to 9 p.m.

Vendors lined the Midland Beach boardwalk, offering beachwear, crafts, T-shirts, handbags, toys, soy candles, video games -- even bug spray. Other tables included several Staten Island businesses and health care providers.

Attendees heard everything from Western music to pop to Italian classics as they strolled past the many food vendors on the hot, sunny afternoon. A one-stop shop for fun, the free event had five stage performances throughout the day and concluded with a fireworks display last night.

Borough President James P. Molinaro sponsored the event. As he took a walk in boat shoes down the boardwalk, Molinaro called Back to the Beach "a huge success."

"It gives people the opportunity to get down to the beach," he said.

Molinaro also pointed to the boardwalk as a destination for fun in light of the bad economy, when more people are opting to stay closer to home this summer.

Cookie and Chris Bradshaw of New Dorp decided to do just that. They visit Back to the Beach every year for all the shopping, food and music.

"It brings a lot of people here. You don't normally see people at the beach," Mrs. Bradshaw said.

"It's a little more crowded than last year," her husband chimed in.

At least 1,000 people turned up to take in the fun in the sun.

But Back to the Beach wasn't the only game in town yesterday.

Over on the lawn near the Sports and Recreation Center of the **College of Staten Island**, Willowbrook, more than 500 dogs and their handlers competed in the Staten Island Kennel Club's All-Breed Dog Show.

Yesterday was the agility and rally trials in which the dogs traversed a seesaw and jumped high hurdles. A variety of dogs --ranging from sporting, hounds, working, terriers, toys, herding and other classes of about 175 breeds -- raced to be number one in the trials. Each dog must follow directions, demonstrate athleticism and speed throughout the obstacle course.

The entry fee to the show, which continues today from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at CSI, is \$5 for adults; it's free for children 10 and under. Today's portion of the show is confirmation, in which dogs must fulfill the written standard of their breed, down to the very markings on their coat. Overall, they must be an excellent physical example of their breed.

Carlotta Dennie, a West Brighton resident and board member of the Staten Island Kennel Club, spoke to the importance of competing in both categories. Trainers and breeders refer to it as a "title at both ends."

Ms. Dennie, holding her 7-month-old Papillon Jeter, named for New York Yankee shortstop Derek Jeter, said: "As a breeder, you're very proud when your dog fulfills both ends of the spectrum."

Ms. Dennie, who has been breeding and competing since 1986, noted that "the most important thing is that they (the dog) are somebody's pet, that they give love and receive love."

Though it was 90 degrees yesterday, that didn't stop the dogs from enjoying themselves. Abel, a 65-pound German shepherd, bit playfully at water as his owner, Kristin Siarkowicz of Long Island, hosed him down in a kiddie pool.

Staff, including student volunteers from the CUNY Coalition for Students with Disabilities, were on hand to help out. Next year, the show's fee will increase to \$10 to benefit a scholarship fund for those CUNY students.

Also yesterday, the Sandy Ground Historical Society held its annual festival at 1538 Woodrow Rd.

Attendees enjoyed tours of the exhibit, "Faces of the Underground Railroad." There were also musical performances of contemporary and jazz as well as a steel band at the Woodrow museum. For children, there were arts and crafts.

And the Conference House Park hosted its inaugural Raritan Bay Festival. As a nod to the Tottenville establishment's history and continued mission to be ecologically responsible, the festival included many outdoor activities. There was kayaking, music, a puppet show, fishing tutorials, tours and an arts and crafts fair.

Tina Johnstone, founder of Kayak Staten Island, suggested the event. Her organization led a program on paddling a kayak in a roped off area. David Mills, who is a builder of kayaks and wooden paddles, was on hand.

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On Staten Island, a Saturday filled with fun family activities

Published: Saturday, June 26, 2010, 9:05 AM



Staten Island Advance



From left: Rafael Pena of Sunnyside tumbles down a slide at last year's Back to the Beach; a musician performs during the Sandy Ground Festival; and Lincoln, a Brussels griffon, walks around the ring at the Westminster Kennel Club dog show at Madison Square Garden on Feb. 10, 2009.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- If it's family fun you seek on what forecasters promise to be a sun-splashed Saturday, then there's no reason for you to leave Staten Island today.

There's plenty to choose from, including a free fireworks show, one of the borough's most famous barbecues and a dog competition.

The borough president's annual **"Back to the Beach"** free summer celebration returns to Midland Beach's Sea Turtle Circle, from noon to 9 p.m. and will feature vendors, games, music and fireworks.

Here's the schedule breakdown, courtesy of **StatenIslandUSA.com**:

Noon-9 p.m.: Vendors, games & more

2 p.m.: Ollie's Puppets (children's show)

3:30 p.m.: Tuesday at Eight

5 p.m.: Afterglow

6:30 p.m.: Fireflies

8 p.m.: Neil & the Diamonds (tribute to Neil Diamond)

9 p.m.: Fireworks

Festivities continue tomorrow as well. Check **StatenIslandUSA.com** for details.

The **Sandy Ground Festival** will feature music, art, history and, of course, some serious soul food. The free event -- though food and vendor goods are available for purchase -- runs from 1-6 p.m. at the Sandy Ground Historical Society, 1538 Woodrow Rd. in Woodrow.

Click here for **Ben Johnson's AWE preview on the festival**, as well as a tease on the spicy, secret Sandy Ground barbecue sauce.

And while those festivals are going on, Willowbrook will go to the dogs.

Literally.

Canine lovers and their families will be cheering on their favorite breeds at the **Staten Island Kennel Club's All-Breed Dog Show** at the **College of Staten Island** Sports and Recreation Center from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The two-day competition - featuring breeds from sporting, hounds, working, terriers, toys, non-sporting, herding and miscellaneous classes - is one of only two American Kennel Club sanctioned All-Breed Dog Shows held in New York City. The competitors and their handlers will participate in the all-breed agility and rally trial, and the all-breed dog show and obedience trial. The judges will then choose the winner for "Best in Show."

The entry fee is \$5 a person for non-exhibitors -- sorry, it's too late to enter your pooch -- and free for children under 10 years of age.

Click here for more.

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Concord High School graduates 78

Published: Monday, June 28, 2010, 3:55 PM



Staten Island Advance



Staten Island Advance/Vincent Barone

Concord High School students wait for commencement exercises to begin at the **College of Staten Island's** Performing Arts Center.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Concord High School graduates were commended for overcoming adversity and persevering during their graduation ceremony today at the **College of Staten Island**.

Boys wore black gowns while girls wore white as they made their way down the aisles of the Performing Arts Center at **CSI**. Aletha Heggie, the school's music teacher, sang the National Anthem as parents and friends cheered on the graduates.

Assistant Principle David Ashe congratulated the 78 graduates for breaking a record and being the largest graduating class at Concord High School.

"It is a testament to your hard work and dedication that you are here today," Ashe said.

Here is a list of graduates:

Enlarge

Vincent Barone

Concord High School girls prepare for their graduation ceremony in the CSI theater. (Staten Island Advance/Vincent Barone)

Staten Island public school graduations gallery (77 photos)

Dean Afflick, Jose Alvarez Acosta, Kirill Anisimov, Evan Arias, Timothy Avera, Jasmine Been, Devan Bell, Jessica Berrios, Andrea Borsic, Martin Brown, Donasia Bullock, Sheila Cajas, Jennifer Calero, Christopher Chavious, Janay Crichlow, Ryan Cupo, Patrick Falvey, Meghan Fichtenbaum, Richard Flores, Shanaya Foy, Ashley Genaro, Calvin Gordon, Latoya Grant, Nefertiti Gray, Erin Greenwaldt, Taylor Harper, Ahmad Hassan, Yasmin Henry, Harold Hernandez, Laura Hollingsworth, Marie Hurtado, Timothy Johnson, Quacy Jones, Jeremy Lampert, Elias Lebron, Khanshea Lewis, Christopher Lugay, Maria Manning, Anthony Marra, Sharon Martinez, Justin Mastrapasqua, Alex Mazzie, Joshua Meeks, Lanaisha Miles, Melvin Miles Jr., Ebony Mitchell, Michael Morrissey, Veton Muratovic, Simone Odusanya, Luis Ortiz, Alexandra Papachristou, Kareena Perez, Ray Perez, Jamel Phillips, Premtim Pocesta, Jennifer Rivera, Alec Rocco, Jessica Rosado, Steven Rubinfeld, Julio Ruiz, Zachary Ryan, Dianil Santana, Jasmine Shavou, Jonathan Shields, Kemahni Smalls, Felicia Somuyiwa, Armando Taddeo, Kristina Tarassova, Mia Tate, Stephanie Tavaréz, Amanda Vasquez, Tania Vasquez, Maria Vazquez, Anthony Vega, Matthew Viera, Kristofer White, Daron Youmans, Danny Yu.

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Students & Alumni

Hard work pays off for 37 Hungerford graduates

Published: Saturday, June 12, 2010, 6:32 AM



Maura Grunlund



Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel

Hungerford School graduates, from left, Dana Johnson, Julie Espino and Nakeea Coles listen during the commencement exercises.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — The graduation of the class of 2010 for Richard H. Hungerford School truly was a golden milestone.

A total of 37 students wearing gold tone caps and gowns graduated to loud standing ovations, cheers and music performed by the Hungerford School chorus at the school's Jerome Parker Campus, New Springville.

The students were compared favorably to the more than \$250 billion in gold bricks at the Federal Reserve Bank of Manhattan by Nirmal V. Manerikar, a senior vice president who was attending his 13th Hungerford graduation.

"This is the real wealth created through the crucible of hard work and struggle," Manerikar said in a speech commending the students.

Principal Mary McInerney lavished praise upon the graduates, school staff and families. She noted that in addition to educational and work-study programs, the graduates had a chance to experience typical high

school senior activities such as a trip to Medieval Times and a prom.

Valedictorian and class president Joshua Ross received the Community Board 2 Community Service award and a Council of Supervisors and Administrators Leadership certificate. He was cited for participating in Hungerford's work-study programs at Bayley Seton Hospital and CVS. Upon graduation he will be employed at Possibili -Tees at the Mission of the Immaculate Virgin (MIV) program at Mt. Loretto and continue working for CVS.

"The U.S. has President (Barack) Obama, but he could learn a lot from president Ross," said Dr. McInerney.

Salutatorian Dana Johnson was awarded a Staten Island Federation of PTA's scholarship, the Richard Welling certificate, the Blanche Schwartz Award and the Marie Goepel Memorial Award. She will be attending the Melissa Reggio Program at the **College of Staten Island**.

"Hungerford School is our family and a second home for all of the students," Dana said.

"I learned many valuable skills both job-related and social," said Juliann Verges, class representative, prom queen and winner of the Samuel Stern and Lifestyle awards.

She will work at Lifestyles for the Disabled at the Elizabeth Connelly Center, Willowbrook, following graduation.

The prom king, Anthony Cacace, received the New York State Comptroller Award. Graduate Representatives and Triple C Award winners were twins Sherman and Shirantha Fernando.

"We are very lucky as a community to have a great school like this on Staten Island," said Assemblyman Michael Cusik. "We are here as extended family members to bask in the glow and celebrate the graduates."

The graduates are:

Christopher Agoncillo, Vincent Berrios, Steven Bloom, Anthony Cacace, Leonardo Cameron, Elizabeth Caminiti, Yi Na Chi, Nakeea Coles, Lia Delsante, Julie Espino, Sherman Fernando, Shirantha Fernando, Francesco Gioffre, Domonique Jackson, Dana Johnson, Jaquan Jones, Afrim Kolar, Jonathan Latimore, Christopher Lewis, Darnell Loudon, Kimberly Mansingh, Beth Meyers, William Murray, Christopher McCullough, Deirdre McMunn, Anthony Padalino, Anthony Perez, Emily Pettas, Rasean Queely, Joshua Ross, Ryan Scanlon, Kevin Soto, Lori Spiritus, Michele Surrey, Juliann Verges.

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Lions Club honors 3 for community service

Published: Thursday, June 17, 2010, 9:45 AM



Diane Lore



Students honored by the Staten Island Lions Club include, from the left, Ricardo Cervone, of Port Richmond High School; Shannon Moses, of Curtis High School, and Frank Saulle, of New Dorp High School.

DONGAN HILLS

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — Three Staten Island high-school students were honored for community service last week by members of the Staten Island Lions Club, during a reception in Cafe Bella Vita, Dongan Hills.

Recipients of the 2010 annual Staten Island Lions student awards are Shannon Moses, Curtis High School; Ricardo Cervoni, Port Richmond High School, and Frank Saulle of New Dorp High School.

Ms. Moses is a student in the licensed practical nursing (LPN) program at Curtis. It is a rigorous course of study that requires five periods of nursing classes and extensive clinical training at nursing homes and hospitals.

Her college counselor, Lisset Marin, described Ms. Moses as having a "caring nature and consistently demonstrating love and respect for the sick, elderly, handicapped and the less privileged." She also sings at

the No Limit Intervention Church, as well provides religious instruction for church members.

Cervoni volunteers for a program called "Bridging the Gap," an initiative aimed at bringing together senior citizens and teens. At Port Richmond, he is a member of the bowling, volleyball and swimming teams. A black belt karate expert, Cervoni is participating in a karate tournament in Puerto Rico in August. He uses his karate skills to educate youngsters in self defense. He also participated in the annual "Walk to Cure Diabetes."

Saulle volunteers at St. Margaret Mary R.C. Church in Midland Beach as an altar server, a soccer club coach, choir member, usher and lector at Sunday masses. He is a volunteer with the U.S. Parks Department at Miller Field, where he has performed clerical work, maintenance and assisted during special events. He has tutored neighborhood children at St. Clare's R.C. Church in Great Kills, and has worked backstage for the production of "Beauty and the Beast" at St. Joseph by-the-Sea High School, Huguenot.

Each award-winning student has an excellent grade-point average (GPA) and each was recommended by his or her academic teachers. Saulle has been accepted into the Verrazano Program for future teachers of foreign language at the [College of Staten Island](#), Willowbrook. Ms. Moses will attend New York City Tech in downtown Brooklyn, to become a registered nurse (RN). Cervoni will attend the [College of Staten Island](#) and major in architectural engineering.

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A fresh look at promoting Staten Island from borough marketing students

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Vincent Gragnani / Advance Correspondent

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- With visions of a high-rise hotel in St. George and an amusement complex in South Beach, students in Prof. Rosane Gertner's senior marketing class at the **College of Staten Island** presented to a panel of SINY members their ideas for a more positive, marketable borough.

The meeting of students, faculty and SINY's board of directors was the brainchild of attorney Lisa Bova-Hiatt, who pitched the idea to **CSI** President Tomas Morales. Both are part of SINY, a non-profit organization that seeks to promote the Island's cultural institutions and attractions.



Staten Island Advance/Hilton Flores

Members of the winning team -- **College of Staten Island** senior marketing students Kristi Draper, Sagi Alkobi, Marcus Long and Robert Bates, left to right -- go over details of their presentation.

"This is the first time that we have worked extensively with college students," said Ms. Bova-Hiatt, a Dongan Hills resident. "**CSI** is filled with bright and energetic students, and they are really an untapped resource."

After hearing from SINY members early in the semester, members of Ms. Gertner's class broke into six groups, and each was asked to develop a plan to market Staten Island, with no limits on budget or

technology. A panel of faculty members narrowed the six groups down to three. The three groups presented their plans to SINY members, who then selected one group whose plan they felt they could implement.

Each group performed a SWOT -- strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats -- analysis of Staten Island.

Most groups included among their strengths and opportunities the Staten Island Yankees, the Island's proximity to Manhattan, the St. George Theatre and relative affordability.

The Island's weaknesses and threats included negative Italian-American stereotypes, a lingering association with the garbage dump, traffic congestion and lack of any positive image associated with Staten Island.



Jason Tenenbaum, left, watches one of the student marketing presentations as John Wade takes notes

THREE APPROACHES

Using Hoboken, N.J., and Manhattan's meatpacking district as a model, the first group to present focused on building a high-rise luxury hotel in St. George, developing a strip of bars and clubs, and rebranding the area as a "mini-Manhattan."

The second group focused on the 800-unit plans already under way to redevelop the former home-port site in Stapleton. Using that project as a starting point, the group proposed marketing a revitalized St. George and Stapleton area with booths in the ferry terminals, a downtown Staten Island Web site and increased use of the Richmond County Bank Ballpark for concerts and special events.

"We don't feel Staten Island is lacking quality," the group stated. "It's lacking identity. People think of Staten

Island, and they think of the dump. We don't want that."

Targeting the modern family, the third group proposed a massive amusement complex in South Beach, complete with roller-coasters, go-cart courses and rooftop restaurants overlooking the ocean. Just as Bilbao, Spain, escaped the shadow of Madrid with the iconic Guggenheim Museum, a "Staten Island Playland" could give Staten Island a unique identity and revitalized economy, the group said.

THE WINNER IS ...

Recognizing the third group for having the most creative idea and the first group for its brilliant graphics, particularly a logo created by student Aaron Ramirez, the panel of SINY members chose the second group as their winner.

"What really pushed your team over the edge was your use of the home port, which we know is a viable project under way and may be the spark to revitalize St. George," Ms. Bova-Hiatt said after the presentations. "For us, the viability of the project is what we were most interested in."

The winning group included students Sagi Alkobi, Robert Bates, Kristi Draper, Marcus Long and Nelson Ortiz.

"I think this exercise has simply reinforced what we already knew," Ms. Bova-Hiatt added later. "The revitalization of the St. George/Stapleton area is critical to the rebranding and revitalization of Staten Island to both the residents of Staten Island and to tourists who visit our Island."



Kristi Draper talks about Staten Island's negative stereotypes during her group's presentation to the judges.

LESSONS LEARNED

The exercise was not only a way for SINY to tap into the ideas of young people, but also an opportunity for students to apply their marketing concepts to the real world -- in this case, the world in which many of them

were raised.

"I always knew about the historical centers, the cultural centers," said Ms. Draper, a native Staten Islander. "But we took a trip down to Bay Street, and we saw all of this vacant space. We were sitting there saying, 'we can build this into something amazing.'

"We've learned about SWOT analyses from textbooks," she added. "But actually putting this exercise into play showed us how important marketing really is. It showed us how to use these lessons in everyday life."

Prof. Gertner said the exercise helped her students to see beyond traditional product marketing.

"It was a great opportunity to learn about place marketing, that you can market a place, a community, just as you might market a product or service," she said. "It opened their mind about how broad marketing theory is."

SINY Executive Director Larry Ambrosino said he was impressed with the enthusiasm of the students and hopes SINY will continue to tap the ideas of young people in the future.

Joining Ambrosino and Ms. Bova-Hiatt as presentation judges were Staten Island Advance Editor Brian Laline and attorney Robert Scamardella. SINY members will discuss the winning concept at their June board meeting.

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75 get diplomas at the College of Staten Island's High School for Int'l Studies

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Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Home is definitely where the heart is for the 75 graduates of the class of 2010 at the **College of Staten Island's** High School for International Studies.

From start to finish of today's commencement exercises in the **CSI's** Performing Arts Center, it was evident that the students, family, honored guests and faculty members are family.



Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma Hammel

The Class of 2010 at the **College of Staten Island's** High School for International Studies

It was just the second graduation for the fledgling **CSI** High School for International Studies, one of the Department of Education's small, themed high schools. It emphasizes foreign languages and international studies and prepares students for dealings in global business and the world economy.

Although, it is now located in New Springville, it maintains its affiliation with the Asia Society and the **College of Staten Island**, on whose Willowbrook campus the school was first located, in 2005.

Faculty and students strive to inspire each other to "dream big," said Marissa Mule, a member of the graduating class, in her address.

Simit Christian, another graduate, told his fellows that as they move forward from "home sweet high school" to their bright futures, "we must spread our wings, take our knowledge to new heights."

The commencement concluded with a farewell address from the founding principal, Aimee Horowitz. "We had a vision, we had a dream, and together we saw it through," she said. "You are off to great places but never forget you will always have a home at **CSI** High School for International Studies."

Christina Angeli

CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

Adefola Adeosun, Olayiwola Afolabi, Darlene Akanmu, Michael Appelgate, Vincent Arcello, Jonathan Ayoub, Josephine Barone, Alexandra Beals, Rosa Carucci, Wingsum Cheung, Simit Christian, Amanda Cipollone, Alexandra Crimmins, Vanessa Cucuzza, Shawn Cybulska, Brandon Di Matteo, Raisa Dyadkina, Samantha Esposito, Victoria Exume, Louis Ferrara, Jeribeth Fradera, Christopher Gallo, Asha Gibbs, Samantha Grasso, Green Robert, Bethany Greenman, Steve Gunasingh, Laurel Haim, Brianne Hannafey, Derek Hubbard, Angie Issa, Evan Jampel, Ashley Jones, Lianne Julian, Robert Keller, Francisko Kim, Tremika Kirk, Jacqueline King, Briana Kohm, Allison Lee, Ho Lee, Oscar Lee, Brittany Llorca, Brian Lopez, Mario Lucero, Aleksandra Makowska, Angela Matrone, Ryan Mclean, Katherine Mcsherry, Ekaterina Mitilineos, Michael Morawed, Cory Moser, Corinne Mueller, Marissa Mule, Kristine Munoz, Paul Ohara, Luke Opulski, Amanda Palladino, Victoria Palladino, Dana Pistilli, Bryan Rivelli, Jazmin Roman, Monica Saad, Joseph Santangelo, Tirath Singh, Angela Soliman, Ashley Suechee, Aggeliki Tsetsakos, Rebecca Utkin, Stav Vaknin, Ric Viera, Samantha Villa, Jonathan Weiss, Samantha Wong, Racquel Wood, Susan Yacca.

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South Richmond High School graduates 41

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Maura Grunlund



Staten Island Advance/Vincent Barone

South Richmond High School seniors proceed up the aisle in the Mount Loretto gymnasium for their graduation ceremony.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- South Richmond High School's graduates were lauded and encouraged for overcoming adversity during a combined graduation ceremony today with South Richmond Intermediate School in Pleasant Plains.

A total of 41 high school graduates were joined by 29 from the intermediate school. They glowed in their red and blue caps and gowns as they received their diplomas and numerous awards in the gymnasium of the school, located on the grounds of the Mission of the Immaculate Virgin, Mount Loretto.

Sunny skies and rock 'n'roll music played by the school's "Ensemble 25" added to the elation of the event.

Principal James McKeon, who presided over his first graduation, praised the achievements of the students who had diverse backgrounds and challenges.

"If you ever met a person who gets knocked down but keeps getting up ... if you ever met a person who was told they can't achieve but persevered ... if you have ever seen the sparkle in the eyes of a proud person ... if you ever met a person with a world of potential ... then you know our graduates," McKeon said.

The principal encouraged the students to "find something that you are really passionate about" to develop a strong sense of purpose and, ultimately, happiness. The graduates should welcome challenges and surround themselves with smart people and "allies, rather than adorers."

The valedictorian, Simone Washington, received the Welling Award for Student Government Leadership, the Staten Island Continuum of Education Outstanding Graduate Award, New York State Comptroller's award, Chancellor's Honor Roll Citation, a Certificate of Excellence in Attendance and The Hackett Award for Valedictorian.

Ms. Washington was awarded a \$5,000 scholarship from The Children's Defense Fund and plans to pursue a career in genetic engineering with a minor in sociology at the [College of Staten Island](#).

Melissa Katkin, who said she didn't know what a salutatorian was until she earned the honor, was a recipient of the Borough President James P. Molinaro Certificate of Recognition award and the Chancellor's Honor Roll Citation award. Accepted to Hunter College, Manhattan, she is planning to major in psychology.

Here are the high school graduates:

Michelle Abdul, Tyshawn Bank, Amanda Barile, Gleneis Bolden, Thomaso Buckley, Shavaun Burke, Christina Carfora, Joseph Chernok, Thomas Cretella, Ivana DiBenedetto, Daniel Fanning, Edythe Florio, Cheryl Giglio, Alice R. Gregory, Yajaida Hernandez, Johathan Holbert, Darius Howard, Melissa Katkin, Conor Kline, Mark Lacari, Patrick Lewis, Ryan Longobardi, Steven Lyons, Gregory Marcus, Richard Nitt, Oscar Pagan, Dwayne Parham, Jamie Placanica, Danielle Santapaola, David Santos, Chloe Tercovich, Lixander Torres, Leon Vanderhoef, Simone Washington, Jessica Williams.

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Tottenville High School holds graduation; student killed in November remembered

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Amy Padnani



Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel

Graduate Karyn Savage waves to her family at the Tottenville High School commencement ceremony.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- No high school graduation could be complete without exuberant cheers, fervent hat-tossers and even some who were dressed down for the occasion.

The ceremony — the largest in Tottenville's recent history, with 906 graduates — encompassed a range of emotions, from hearty laughter to bittersweet tears, much like the students' memorable four years at the school.

The loss of 17-year-old Eltingville resident, Janine Brawer, permeated the event with a sense of poignancy; many said they would miss Janine's charisma, creativity and passion for life. Janine died outside the school in November after a car accident one Friday as she was heading home from class.

Principal John Tuminaro dedicated yesterday's ceremony to her, with her parents tearfully seated on stage behind him.

"You, your classmates and your friends showed your compassion in so many ways," he said to the class of graduates. "You made sure this school community will always honor her memory." Tuminaro said the graduating class was no stranger to selflessness.

Throughout their high school education, they pitched in to the March of Dimes and the American Cancer Society and many other causes, making community service one of their strongholds.

He also commended them for earning millions of dollars in college scholarships, along with championship awards for the mock trial team, the debate team, the marching band and various athletic groups.

Tuminaro said it wouldn't take much for each student to succeed — they already had all the necessary traits.

"Be true to yourself and make each day a masterpiece," he said.

There were lighter moments in yesterday's ceremony, too, when a male senior, sans cap and gown, paraded across Tottenville High School's athletic field in purple and black-striped briefs, drawing chuckles from his classmates while coloring Tuminaro's face crimson.

People were also amused by valedictorian Matthew O'Shea's quote from the punk group Have Heart. He advised the graduating seniors to always remember their strengths.

"It's the gift inside our heads not to take for granted," he said. "Because an unexamined life is a seed unplanted."

Melissa Fay, 18, of Tottenville, said she was sad to leave Tottenville, where she enjoyed everything from fun classmates to frustrating homework assignments.

"It feels good — really good — to graduate," said Fay, who will study at the Teachers Academy at the College of Staten Island. "I'm going to miss my friends and a lot of the teachers, especially my math teacher, Mr. Foster. He's just a really good teacher who made class fun."

Here's a list of those who graduated:

Nicholas Abbruzzese, Elia Abdalla, Matthew Abel, Matthew Abolt, James Abruzzo, Kristina Abruzzo, Shammie Abul, Casey Accardi, Giavanna Adamo, George Adams, Amber Ahmad, Sameen Ahmed, Markos Akhnoukh, Dana Albano, Alec Aldahondo, Kyle Allen, Patrick Allen, Adam Alonso, Nicole Alonso, Sean Altberger, Tara Altschuler, Hawaa Aly, Nicholas Amendola, Nicholas Ancona, John Andersen, Bryan Anderson, Michael Anderson, Paul Andreolli, Dana Angelone, Vanessa Angiuli, Alexandra Annaloro, Sophia Anselmo, Maria Antico, Elizabeth Aparicio, Briana Appel, James Aquafredda, Leah Arato, George Arcaro, Andrea Arcuri, Salvatore Argano, Daniel Argenziano, Kenneth Arias, Fatima Arika, Majlinda Avdiu, Christian Avila, Marco Ayad, Sherry Maria Aziz, Karim Azzat, Matthew Bacas, Nicholas Balestrieri, Joseph Balistreri, Michael

Balistreri, Sulaeman Balogun, Vitaliy Barasiy, Samantha Barbato, Kaitlin Barone, Kristina Barone, Stephanie Bartolome, Jacklynn Barton, Nikki Basora, Justin Bastawrose, Gabriela Basyuk, Celeste Beckman, Harley Beckwith, Shayan Behnambaksh, Thomas Bekhit, Anna Belfiore, William Bennett, Ilyass Benohod, Mina Beshai, Corey Beyer, Daniella Bianco, Haley Bierman, Matthew Bilbao, Patricia Birch, Samantha Birkin, Nicolette Biscione, Christopher Bivona, Fatime Bllata, Steven Bloom, Maximilian Bochichio, Adriana Bodziuch, Dana Marie Bolusi, Alyssa Bommarito, Gina Bonamo, Brian Bonanno, Marie Bonelli, Brandon Bonnamo, Daniel Booth, Michael Bottaro, Jamie Botti, Amanda Bou, Brittany Bouchez, Yarin Boussani, Antonella Bove, Olivia Braccio, Felicia Bracco, Brianna Brady, William Brady, Joseph Branca, Beatrix Branovits, Keenan Brathwaite, Ashley Braun, Brian Braunstein, Megan Brenneck, Michael Brenneck, Justin Bressler, Kenneth Bryant, Amanda Bryer, Nicholas Buchanan, Daniel Budzowski, Kellie Burgess, Bianca Burrafato, Paula Busnovetsky, Jeffrey Caban, Anthony J. Cacace, Matthew Cacace, Thomas Cacace, Dana Caccio, Sofia Cadavid, Alexandria Cadwell, Matthew Calabrese, Frank Calamia, Victoria Calder, Cristina Camardo, Meghan Cambria, Michael Caminiti, Michael Cammarata, Daniel Campbell, Michael Campbell, Lauren Canecchia, Samantha Cannizzaro, Alissa Caputo, Raquel Caramanno, Anthony Caranante, Christian Cardenas, Alexis Carlo, Matthew Carmelo, Victoria Caronna, Nickolas Carroll, Vincent Carson, Alexa Caruso, Tori Casale, Gabriella Casano, Joseph Cassarino, Vincent Cassella, Emily Castelli, Christopher Catalano, Felicia Catalano, Lauren Catania, Joseph Catapano, Ruggero Cavallino, Yorli Ceballos, Candy Celano, Stephen Centineo, Cristina Centonzo, Joseph Centonzo, Daniel Chen, Jiaxian Chen, Jiayi Chen, Peggy Chen, Yan Yee Cheung, Danae Chevere, Gina Chiaramonte, Woolam Cho, Patrcia Chodkiewicz, Rachel Choi, Emily Chow, Peter Christie, John Chung, Monika Cios, Bianca Cipriano, Enri Citozi, Nicholas Clohessy, Sami Cobovic, Stephanie Coccaro, Jessy Coello, Gabriella Cohen, Cristina Colalillo, Daniella Colello, Stefanie Colello, Ronald Coleman, Hadahsa Colon, Noel Colon, Eric Compton, Steven Conigliaro, Tara Conniff, Andrew Connolly, Ashley Connors, Thomas Conte, Michael Coppola, Ivonne Correy, Jena Corsello, Joseph Cosares, Dana Coscia, Shelby Coss, Patrick Costantino, Rose Couchon, Jonathan Covill, Jennifer Crane, Frank Crea, Michael Cregg, Dominic Crescente, Nicholas Crimaldi, Michael Crispiano, Matthew Cruz, Nicolas Cuozzo, Joseph Curatolo, Joseph Curcio, Lisa Cutrona, Kevin Cyril, Jonathan D'Ambrosio, Steven Dahlstrom, Mateo Daija, Colleen Dailey, Ardita Dajbabic, John Daly, Derek Damico, Angela Dauge, Noel Davila, Christine Davis, Nicole De La Rue, Carmela De Luca, Brittanie De Meno, Daniela Deangelis, Samantha Deangelo, Elizabeth Decandido, Christo Delardas, Charles Delfino, Ivan Delgado, Kristi Delia, James Dellaratta, John Delsorbo, Vincent Demonte, John Denaro, Anthony Denza, Gabrielle Depaulo, Kelly Depietro, Jonathan Derbyshire, Thomas Desantis, Jennifer Desanto, Joey Desiderio, Thomas Devoti, Louis Di Pasquale, Alexandra Di Prima, Brian Diaz, Nicholas Dibari, Anthony Difato, William Difiede, Marina Diforte, Frank Digennaro, Franco Digiacomio, Jennifer Dillon, Nicholas Dimaio, Kimberly Dimarco, Amanda Dimino, John Diomede, Alexa Dipalma, Forrest Ditieri, Vincent Divino, Heather Dixon, Kaitlyn Dixon, Kwaku Domfe, Sabrina Marie Donato, Taylor Donohue, Edward Donzelli, Arielle Dorfman, Bianca Dove, Jenna Doyle, Robert Doyle, Anna Dragun, Meaghan Dunigan, Anthony Dunn, Ginelle Dunn, Jonathan Duran, Andrea Eccardi, Caitlin Edgeworth, William Egan, Dayna Eikeseth, Alayna Elia, Enas Elmohands, Emily Emanuele, Marc Ericksen, Karoline Escobedo, Louis Esposito, Salvatore Etter, Mariya Evsevich, Amer Fahmy, Stephanie Farber, Brendan Farr, Joseph Fattorusso, Joanne Favaloro, Melissa Fay, Michael Feldstein, Kevin Ferger, Vincent Ferraioli, Michael Ferrante, Samantha Ferriere, Vincent Festa, April Fibbio, Ruvin Fidman, Nicole Finke, Robert Fioribello, Sean Fishman, Alexandra Florida, Philip Fomina, Brian Fong, Joseph Fonti, Brian Fourman, Brigitte Franco, Gerard Fraser, Anne

Fredrickson, Antonio Fuentes, Amanda Fusco, Justin Gabel, Andrew Gad, Dmitriy Gagarkin, Gioacchino Gagliano, Tara Gallo, Salvatore Gandolfo, Gerard Gannon, Thomas Gannon, Brianne Gannone, Halie Garber, Thomas Joseph Gargan, Anna Gekker, Christopher Geneva, Salvator George, Matthew Giacalone, Lexie Giallanza, Michael Giammarino, Diana Giampopo, Sara Giberson, Angela Gieri, Christopher Giglio, Christopher Gilberti, Robert Gilmore, Amanda Gioia, Annalisa Giordano, Jessica Giordano, Steven Girshman, Maria Giuffre, Amanda Giuliano, Jenna Giustino, Stanley Gizunterman, Damian Glinojecki, Alina Gluzman, Joseph Goetz, Michael Goetz, Robert Goetz, Gabriel Gonzalez, Timothyb Gonzalez, John Goodridge, Joseph Goonan, Karina Gorodkin, Samantha Gottlieb, Anya Govia, Ronald Graboski, Deanna Grandville, Zachary Granite, Michael Granito, Jennifer Granovsky, Jacqueline Grasso, Trevor Graziano, Alanna Greenberg, Lauren Griffin, Marianne Grigoli, Andrea Grillo, Samantha Grillo, Lareina Grispino, Yelena Grushko, Matthew Gualtieri, Anthony Guaragno, Joseph Guarini, Tiana Guglielmo, Marina Guirguis, Gavin Gyimesi, Matthew Habib, Kelli Halvorsen, Tahani Hamad, Aliya Hamid, Christine Hansen, Drew Hansen, Si Hao, Joseph Harden, John Hart, Reem Hassan, John Heinbockel, Adam Helgerod, Jacqueline Hemmy, Lauren Heraghty, Nicholas Hermann, Rayner Herrera, Marcus Herring, Samantha Herz, Joshua Higgins, Bridgette Hilbert, Eric Holtzman, Deanna Holzwanger, Linda Hong, Robert Hopkins, Lauren Hornek, Alice Hou, Andrew Hoydal, Zhensheng Hu, Colin Hughes, Adil Hussain, Nicholas Ingenito, Lauren Ingrassia, Nicole Iuliucci, Chad Iversen, Christian Jackson, Ashley James, Ardita Jani, Stephanie Jara, Sonia Jimenez, Soojeong Jo, Earl Joaquin, Britzy Joseph, Patricia Jurgeleit, Trime Kaja, Antonio Kamel, Miray Karras, Jaclyn Katz, Jaclyn Kaufman, Jaspreet Kaur, Afrona Kaziu, Ibrahim Kelada, Michael Kelada, Devin Kelly, Shawn Kender, Lauren Kennedy, Lauren Keough, Sylvia Kerolus, Edwin Keselman, Amanda Keshner, Aleksandr Kharzis, Rachel Kilimnik, Dorothy Kilroy, Joan Kim, Young Kim, Yura Kim, Mariam Kirvalidze, Viktoriya Komelyagina, Leon Kotlyar, Kamila Kowalczyk, Cheyenne Krafchek, Edward Krakower, Stacey Kraus, Ryan Kravitz, Mykyta Kravtsov, Bryan Krayko, Margarita Kraynova, Spencer Krichevsky, Rohit Kumar, Amy Kurtzberg, Angela Kusha, Marina Kuzminer, Jill La Vara, Maksim Lagoda, Ivy Lam, Michelle Lam, Alyssa Lamorgese, Brian Lang, Ivan Lansang, Robert Lanzisera, Damian Larocco, Joseph Larosa, Danielle Lastorino, Thomas Lawrie, Kaila Le Schack, Julie Le, Colleen Leahy, John Lee, Anthony Legato, Vicki Lehrer, Ryan Leibowitz, Matheus Leite, Stephanie Lemchuk, Aleksander Lempert, Valerie Leon, Sut Ieng Leong, Katie Leung, Frances Levin, Brooke Levy, Christopher Lewis, Jennifer Li, Liana Licci, Adam Licitra, James Lilley Nappo, Briana Limoncelli, Jin Lin, Rebecca Lippe, Lauren Lipstein, Steffannia Lizarazo, Salina Locasto, Corinne Loiacono, Danielle Lombardi, William Long, Toni Ann Longobardi, Alyssa Lopez, Bryant Lopez, Jesus Lopez, Steven Lopez, Stevenj Lopez, Victoria Lopez, Monique Lowell, Danielle Lucchese, Kyle Lue, Claire Lukasiewicz, Michael Luongo, David Lyev, Rachel Lyngholm, Matthew Maestrallis, Peter Maggio, Mohamed Mahamed, Paulette Maiorana, Matthew Maisonet, Birsen Maksudovska, Angela Malave, Corey Maldonado, Mohammed Malik, Andrew Mandell, Andrew Mandella, Joseph Manfra, Thomas Manfredi, Patrick Mangus, Salvatore Mannino, Steven Mannino, Christina Manno, Alexandria Maratea, Emmanuela Marceca, Michelle Marcou, Ilirjana Marke, Michael Marquez, Alyssa Martinez, Robert Marziliano, Kaitlyn Marzo, Samantha Mascari, Gabriella Masella, Salvatore Massa, Nicholas Masseria, Michael Masula, Stephen Mattina, Walter Matuza, Samantha Mauro, Thomas Mauro, Joseph Mazza, Meghan Mc Avoy, Brandon Mc Neil, Ashaley Mcdaniel, Jonathan Mcdonald, Vincent Mcgovern, Victoria Mcgowan, William Mcmillen, Devon Medina, Nicole Medoro, Jessica Mees, Noelle Mejias, Pakinam Mekki, Aleksandra Melamud, Salma Metwally, Vincent Miele, Annemarie Mierzejewski, Mirna Mikhail, Alexis Milano, John Milea, Olga Milsen, Christina Minardi, Daniella Minardi, Laura Minardi, Steven Minster, Ali Mirani, Jessica

Mitlashkova, Hala Mohamed, Mohamed Mohamed, Dominick Mondella, Jacob Montalvo, Sara Montalvo, Andrea Montani, Michael Moore, Alex Morales, Lauren Morales, Robert Moran, John Morisi, Christopher Morra, Samantha Moses, Joseph Motola, Adam Moy, Jason Moy, Paula Moyseystev, Melissa Mule, David Mulia, Anthony Mulkay, Alexander Muller, Brian Muller, Kimberly Muller, Ludmila Muller, Lauren Mullins, Breanna Mulraney, Cristina Munda, Christina Murgolo, Victor Muro, Lena Musarra, Samantha Musumeci, Theresa Napoli, Michael Nasr, Nicole Nasta, Aleksey Nedzelskiy, Nicole Needham, Taariq Neely, Niko Negron, Jackson Neil, Jason Newman, Justin Ng, Christopher Nicholls, James Nichols, Christina Niedzwiecki, Joseph Niedzwiecki, Marianna Nikolenko, Brett Norris, Thomas Notaro, Veronika Novik, Mary O'Brien, Ashley O'Carroll, Kerri Obremski, Catherine Obrien, Kerianne Obrien, Chelsea Occhiuto, Christopher Oddo, Susan Oh, Nikolas Olivera, Erika Olsson, Temitope Omoladun, Giovanni Oppedisano, Louis Oprisa, Samantha Orlando, Vanessa Orlick, Ronald Orlovsky, Carla Ortiz, Matthew Oshea, Lianna Ovechka, Victoria Pace, Johnna Pacifico, Brittany Padavano, Steven Padula, Jamie Pagan, Peter Pagoulatos, Raj Pahuja, Fernando Palafox, Gabriella Palomba, Danielle Palumbo, Stephen Pappalardo, Dennis Parascondola, Ju Won Park, Monica Park, Megan Parlagreco, Joseph Pascarelli, Valentina Pasquale, Ryan Patterson, Christopher Paul, Jennifer Peduto, John Pellecchia, Gabriella Pellegrini, Nicolette Pena, Christina Penna, Vincent Pepe, Karla Perez, Maria Perez, Michael Perez, Diana Perremuto, Nicole Petrino, Tina Marie Petrosini, Michael Petruzzi, John Petsche, Nicole Pezza, James Philbin, Joseph Piazza, Marina Piazza, Thomas Picciurro, Michelle Pietromonico, Lisa Pignatelli, Christian Pinez, Evelina Pinkhasova, Sara Jane Pinsky, Ramsha Pirzada, Fredrick Pisano, Alyssa Pivarnick, Wojciech Plata, Alexandra Pompeii, Kenneth Pooa, Bradley Popkin, Steven Popper, Aranza Portugal, Danielle Potestio, Vincent Pranio, Morgan Press, Dylan Prudente, Rati Pruidze, Sylvester Prus, Dennis Pustyl'nikov, Jasmine Qoku, Erica Quaranta, Nicole Quiles, Hassan Rada, Alexander Raff, Alyssa Ragozzino, Amanda Ramos, Andrew Ramos, Ajten Ramush, Santina Rappo, Andrew Raso, Huda Rehman, Alex Reich, James Reich, Jesse Reilly, Natalie Renteria, Samantha Reyes, Kyrillos Rezkalla, Marianne Ricetti, Karrison Rimon, Carlos Rios, Laura Rios, Nicole Rivardo, Krystin Rivas, Natasha Rivera, Valentino Rivera, Amanda Rizzo, Nicholas Roberts, Rodney Rocha, Ariana Romero, Tyler Romero, Manar Romhen, Peter Romhen, Marjorie Rosa, Jose Rosario, David Rosen, Jacquelyn Rosito, Julianne Rossi, Michael Rossi, Diana Rotondi, Solomon Rozental, Anthony Ruggiero, Maria Ruggiero, Vincent Rugolo, Alexis Rullan, Andrew Russo, Christine Russo, Joseph Russo, Steven Russo, Julia Rutman, Douglas Ryan, Jonathan Sadagursky, Mark Safronsky, Emria Sainovski, Keith Sak, Christina Salama, Elisa Sangiorgi, Linette Sangiorgio, Stephen Sanicola, Vincent Santangelo, Carol Santora, Christopher Sarnes, David Sarnes, Meaghan Sarnes, Philip Sarnicola, Karyn Savage, Anthony Saviano, Jaclyn Scarabaggio, Christopher Scarano, Gina Schembre, Jeffrey Schnorbus, Jenna Schoen, Christina Schubert, Andrew Schwall, Lisamarie Scollo, Kristen Scotti, Dominick Scotto, Hannah Seeger, Patrick Selaez, Danielle Semenova, Nicholas Semler, Thomas Sengel, Danielle Senko, Vlora Senturk, Nicole Sepe, Tami Ann Serafino, Nesya Serebro, Anthony Serpe, Michael Serpe, Stephen Serrao, Nico Sforza, Gabriella Shapiro, Jonathan Shapiro, Megan Sharland, Brittany Sheeran, Benjamin Sheinberg, Ushna Shirani, Xhejni Shkreta, Eduard Shlegel, Gabriella Shlyakh, Mitchell Shvarts, Victoria Siconolfi, Rebecca Siegel, Russell Siegel, Kenneth Siegler, Jonathan Silva, Kristen Sleight, Kimberly Smit, Andrew Smith, Danielle Smith, Jessica Smith, Jenna Snyder, John Snyder, Kimberly Sohmer, Vanessa Soldano, Sopitu Soth, William Southard, Kyle Spellacy, Paul Spencer, Stefanie Sperling, Anastasiya Spivak, Daniel Spivak, Kaitlyn Squire, Michael Stasi, Marvin Staten, Brandon Steike Garza, Stephanie Strocchia, Robert Stroh, Justin Strumph, Ivan Suarez, Marianna Sullivan, Sami Tadros, Kayla

Tagliamonte, Stephanie Taibi, Drew Tait, Michael Tamborra, John Tancredi, Andrew Tanzi, Naila Tariq, Allan Tarkatchev, Nicole Taverna, Samantha Tavormina, Bunlyhour Te, Daniel Tello, John Tepedino, Kristyn Testa, Jeremiah Tetrault, Michael Thomas, Charles Thompson, Lisa Thompson, Victor Tomei, Rigers Topi, Stephen Torres, Loren Trapanese, Andrew Tresca, Nicholas Trivolis, Domenick Trunzo, Miranda Trunzo, Justin Tsoi, Yevgeniy Tsukanov, Michael Tyrell, Louie Uccio, Samantha Ulahel, Paul Unger, Ileana Valerio, Nicholas Valore, Jacqueline Vasquez, Roman Vavilchenkov, Alyson Velati, Amanda Velazquez, Arijet Veljic, Michael Veloce, Robert Venito, Kelly Ventimiglia, Robert Vermillion, Andrea Villarroel, Bryan Villela, Maria Vlasuic, Natalia Volissova, Francesca Volpe, Joseph Vono, Damien Vuotto, Zlatko Vurmo, Charles Waggelman, Nicole Wallace, Chelsea Warburton, Christopher Warner, Nicole Weintraub, Ryan Weiser, Andrew Wenig, Shawn Wenzel, Kelly Whalen, Kaitlin Whelehan, Gary White, Justin Wichnovitz, Jerrell Williams, Ashley Willis, Kristen Willoughby, Christine Winrock, Jesse Wittlin, Justin Wong, Elizabeth Wright, Weiqiang Wu, Jonathan Yanchuk, Nicholas Yandoli, Eva Yeung, Shek Cheong Yip, Nicole Yodice, Michael Young, Emanwel Youssef, John Zagorski, Rami Zaki, Nicholas Zarccone, Thomas Zareba, Ryan Zatoren, Ryan Zimmer, Alexandria Zummo, John Zwilinske

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McKee High School graduates 125

Published: Thursday, June 24, 2010, 4:44 PM



Diane Lore



Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel

All smiles at the St. George Theatre are McKee graduates, from left, Melissa Ortega, Quatyra Oquendo and Rafael Ortiz.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Have a plan to achieve your dreams, take responsibility for your life, don't run from the hard problems, and be committed to your goals. That was some of the advice dispensed to graduates of the Class of 2010 of Ralph J. McKee Career and Technical High School, during their commencement ceremony in the St. George Theatre.

"Practice the Four Ps: Plan, practice, prepare and present," Principal Sharon Henry told the 125 graduates, clad in green robes with gold satin sashes. "Beware of bad role models who have all the answers," she admonished. "Success," she said, is "more than a Beamer, Benz or Bentley," referencing luxury cars, "you've got to earn it."

Commencement speaker Sterling Roberson, vice-president for career and technical education for the United Federation of Teachers, told the class to give themselves a pat on the back for putting their education first. "You are the best of the best. Congratulate yourselves on your unbelievable achievement," he said.

He spoke about growing up in the South Bronx with six brothers and sisters in a 1½-bedroom apartment near the Bronx Zoo. "But we all knew that our education was the most important thing," he said. Roberson quoted his father. "My dad always told us 'I will do today what others won't, so I can do tomorrow what others can't.'"

Salutatorian Mark Weisner, who received a four-year scholarship to the **College of Staten Island**, said the enthusiasm and dedication of his teachers during his four years at McKee leaves him well-prepared for the future. He aspires to a career in the construction and building trade or as a city firefighter. He also said his career and technical education gave him "respect for the quality of hands-on work."

Weisner, who won the Superintendent's Academic Excellence Award, also paid tribute to his parents, noting his dad is also a McKee graduate.

Graduates Malcolm Daniels and Earl Lindsey were presented with the inaugural Frank DeSantis Memorial Award named in honor of the late educator who taught at McKee for more than 27 years.

Valedictorian Hussein Hamouche reminded his classmates that while they have reached the end of their high school journey, "the end of one journey is the beginning of another."

He said his shop classes at McKee taught him the value of teamwork, the importance of meeting deadlines, and the importance of making accurate computations on the job.

While he said he "values the friendships" made in high school, Hamouche also took a moment to thank his parents for their love and support.

"Let us revel in the freedom to choose the path to our success," he said, and have "the courage and determination to be the person we are meant to be."

Here is a list of graduates:

Jalil Abdul Wahhab, Lanique Allen, Chelsea Andrews, Joseph Andruzzi, Ye Aung, Agustin Baeza, Janel Renee Ball, Jordan Banks, Joseph Bayer, Duwain Boyce, Miles Boyd, Dwight Briggs, Richard Brown, David Canecchio, Blanca Carrillo, Cory Cincotta, Zuleika Cintron, Kaylee Clarke, Toni Collins, Joelle Connors, Marcus Cornick, Julissa Correa, Pedro Cruz, Nathaniel Dalieh, Malcom Daniels, Jordan Davis, Warren Davis, Maleka Diaz, Alexander Durango, Brandon Echevarria, Ahmed Elamrousy, Leonardo Esparragoza, Norrisa Espiritu, Frank Festa, Marjorie Flores, Luis Ford, Jr., Amia Gaskins, Erik Gaudioso, Michael Gibbs, Hiran Gnanapragasam, Ana Godinez, Anthony Gonzalez, Jason Gonzalez, Kyle Gordon, Brandel Gray, Scott Gray, Steven Grell, Omar Guzman, Hussein Hamouche, Andrew Harding, Zachary Hebner, Nick Hernandez, Steven Hernandez, Anthony Hill, Rachel Hines, Mohamed Ibrahim, Joseph Ilardi, Isaiah James, Jonathan James, Nolan Johnson, Timothy Johnson, Musu Kiazolu, Almir Kurtesi, David Laureore, Kevin Lee, August Lewis, Earl Lindsey, Michael Lipari, Timothy Lloyd, Miguel Lugo, Javier Mahmood, Vincent Maldonado, Sharef Manley,

Larry Martinez, Steven Martinez, Tyqueza McManus, Jonathan Mercado, Michael Miller, Atigi Moore, Louise Mulbah, Mandi Nagengast, Darryl Nobles, Lance Okeke, Quatyra Oquendo, Melissa Ortega, Rafael Ortiz, Louis Otero, Parrish Owens, Dwayne Page, Emilio Paoli, Calogero Perinto, Danea Perkins, John Vincent Picozzi, Sabrina Pizarro, Giovanni Pulice, Tracy Pulla, Rafael Santiago, Victoria Sibre, Sukchain SinghXavier Smith, David Sosa, Caitlin Spinelli, Kristin Spinelli, Justin Stapleton, Joshua Sullivan, Andrew Tadras, George Tarr, Eric Thompson, Felipe Vasquez, Xavier Vasquez, Earl Vaughan, Andrea Villantoy, Mathew Vollweiler, James Ward, Elijah Watkins, Troy Welch, Mark Wiesner, Grady Williams, Joseph Williams, Courtney Winslow, Philimena Wratto, Brian Young, Arslan Younis, Titus Zayzay, John Zhang.

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A trio of Staten Island bands get a shot at winning big

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Justin Sarachik

Staten Island, New York

Staten Island is anything but close to a raging music capital in New York City. However, just because you haven't heard of any of the music, doesn't mean it's not there. Here are three local bands trying to take the next step and further themselves as musicians. Each one of these is involved in a different Battle of the Bands, and is trying to put Staten Island on the map as a serious contender for good music.

Not From Concentrate (Ska/Punk) — **GorillaMusic.com** Battle of the Bands online talent search.



Stefanie Candelario

Not From Concentrate is: James Feltcher, Alan Aurelia, Mike James, Joseph Giunto, Margaret Hampton, Jenna Calderon

Local Staten Island band, Not From Concentrate, is serving up a healthy dose of ska to any open ears willing to give a listen. So now that they provide the music, what can we do for them? NFC is asking for our help and support as a Staten Island community. In a steadily changing music industry and with the reign of top 40 stations, Not From Concentrate is asking you to vote for them.

After a booking gig, a promoter prompted NFC to enter a Battle of the Bands competition for Gorillamusic.com. The voting is done in monthly rounds, with the deadline being at the end of the month. "Every 1st and 2nd place Battle of the Bands Finals winner will qualify for our website talent search. Online voting will determine the 10 ten bands, out of 200 1st and 2nd place battle winners. Each month, the top ten voted bands will move on to the online FINALS..." - Gorillamusic.com

Not From Concentrate consists of six **College of Staten Island** music majors:

Margaret Hampton- Lead Vocals/Guitar

Jenna Calderon- Guitar/Vocals

Alan Aurelia- Bass

Joseph Giunto- Drums

Miles James- Trombone

James Fletcher- Saxophone.

Each one of these members has their own personal styles and musical influences to play ranging from punk, country, and soul. It is with this clash of sounds that NFC gets its truly unique music.

When asked, why should Not From Concentrate be voted for, Alan Aurelia, bass, said it best, "One of the main motivating factors for being in this band is that we want to blend what we know as music majors and apply it to rock music. Most of the music heard on the radio consists of just a singer with chords being played underneath them. Not From Concentrate adds counterpoint, chromaticism, as well as other musical techniques. On top of this, each member has different musical backgrounds, but we manage to use these differing interests to produce a truly unique sound, with each song sounding different from the previous song in a set. We ask people to vote for us because we know many people dont like what's on the radio. Many high school and college students listen to Nirvana, Led Zeppelin, The Beatles, The Offspring and other classic rock and 90s bands."

Not From Concentrate would very much like to see this type of music make a comeback. The future of Not From Concentrate is to continue this mission and play for people who love live music. "If we win this contest we move on to a final voting round with the top 10 bands being interviewed for a \$25,000 record deal and a

US tour. Only two bands are chosen so we are working extremely hard to promote the online voting. As we continue as a band, we hope the venues and audiences will continue to get bigger and bigger."- NFC

Not From Concentrate has played at events and venues all over the NYC area such as the JCCs Rockfest, the Cup, **CSIs** Battle of the Bands, to name a few. They have been featured on multiple podcasts and have received airtime on WSIA 88.9. They are currently working on a full length album, but have previously released The Anything Goes EP. You can check out Not From Concentrates music at <http://www.myspace.com/notfromconcentratesskaband>, or follow them on Twitter at [Twitter.com/nfcska](https://twitter.com/nfcska). Be sure to VOTE for NFC at <http://www.gorillamusic.com/25000-record-deal-contest-voting/>.

Junkyard Luxury (Rock/Grunge/Folk) — **JerseyShows.com** Battle of the Bands, Starland Ballroom show and recording contract.



Anthony DePrimo

Junkyard Luxury is: Daniel Santapaga, James Queally, Miguel Commissiong, Rob Pillans

"We are four dudes who like loud guitars, catchy hooks, and somewhat clever lyrics..." – Junkyard Luxury

Next time youre out at your favorite bar, be sure to listen to the live band, because chances are, Junkyard Luxury is playing that night.

This grunge infused blues band, describes their music as a bar fly sound playing to a bar fly crowd. In other words, its music to drink to. Influences include the gritty almost southern rock style of the Clutch, with the softer sides comparing to the mellowness of the Smithereens. Vocally however, you can definitely hear the grunge influence of the Stone Temple Pilots.

Junkyard Luxury doesn't have an elaborate story about where or how the name came to be, but what matters is that it consists of four Staten Islanders with different goals who are striving for the same thing. Starting with the vocals, James Queally, also self proclaimed lyricist and promotions guy, is a Newark cop reporter for the Star Ledger. Guitarist, Miguel Commissiong, works part time at Staples, and attends the College of Staten Island in pursuit of a degree in Music Education. Rob Pillans, the bassist, is a part-time employee of Roadrunner Records and is an aspiring writer. Lastly, Daniel Santapega is behind the drums laying down the beats as a full time musician.

Junkyard Luxury became involved with JerseyShows.com Battle of the Bands after looking for gigs in Jersey. They played a show at the Court Tavern in New Brunswick (N.J.) and joined the battle after urging from a promoter.

"This battle is actually cool because it's not the pay-to-play madness that ruins a lot of the NYC contests [that Ive played before]" singer Queally said. Selling tickets is only about 25% of your score with judges accounting for the rest of it. There were 200 bands at the start of the competition playing at various venues around the tri-state area. The top bands move on from each round, and Junkyard Luxury won both the rounds they were in.

As the competition gets tighter, the 200 bands are widdled down to 39, with 5 of them being from the Island. Along with Junkyard Luxury, fellow rockers in bands: Sanitarius, Beyond All Reason, Unleash the Beast, and Forgetting Midnight have qualified.

The remaining top 4 or 5 bands will play semi-final shows July 23-25 at Starland Ballroom, with one final show also there on August 28. The top 2 bands at the finals will be signed for a 1 year deal at New Jersey based indie label, Danimal Records.

So why should you buy tickets and cheer on Junkyard Luxury? Perhaps singer James Queally says it best, "Umm people should obviously support us because we are the raddest (expletive) dudes alive... no seriously, it shouldnt be about supporting us, it should be about backing Staten Island bands off the Island, us and the four other bands in this contest [from Staten Island]." Queally goes on to explain for a band that has only

been together for about a year, Junkyard Luxury sure has found a way to establish themselves in the Staten Island music scene. Competing against hundreds of bands to get a once in a life time recording gig, and a chance to play at Starland Ballroom is no small task regardless if you're a Staten Island band or not.

Opportunities like this dont usually come knocking more than once, and can really make or break a bands career. He says, "...Everyone's delighted to see their friends play at the Cup or Dockstreet or Killmeyers or wherever, but when a band goes out to Manhattan or New Jersey people get all xenophobic and stay at home."

"The band hasn't really set any goals, but I'd venture to say its the same pipe dream as everyone else- get some momentum, get some touring dates, get some attention, and ride the wave until it crashes." said Queally.

Junkyard Luxury just finished recording "Dead on Revival" a 5 track EP, out of Soundwaves Academy in Union, New Jersey. The album was produced by brothers, Bryan and Tommy Stratton from the band, Socratic.

Be sure to give Junkyard Luxury a listen at Myspace.com/junkyardluxury or look up their fan page on Facebook for details about the show and other upcoming events.

Carnival of Souls (Hard Rock/ Metal) — Guitar Center competition to open for KISS, and win \$10,000.



Danny Sanchez

Carnival of Souls is: Gene Hunter, Lee Cancela, Rob "the Machine" DeForge, Dee (Damien) Hunter

Carnival of Souls is more than just an upcoming Staten Island band. They are one of the premiere bands performing out of New York City, and now they have a chance to strengthen their chokehold of the local metal scene by storm.

Performing throughout various venues and packed bike rallies of up to 10,000 people all over the coasts and throughout the central United States, Carnival of Souls is a band too big for Staten Island.

Carnival of Souls was founded in the early 2000's by bassist, Gene Hunter and vocalist, Dee (Damien) Hunter. They then added guitarist Rob the Machine DeForge who they knew from other bands, and lead vocalist, Lee Cancela. Closing out the circuit on drums was Ron Hunter.

The chemistry from the start was immediate, and the five clicked on many levels. They promoted heavily handing out demos and never failing to mention the band to anyone who would listen. COS went big from the start and began playing packed out shows in local theaters and clubs on the Island and around the tri-state area.

Pretty soon Carnival of Souls found themselves touring and opening up for such well known bands as: Twisted Sister, Queensryche, Motorhead, and Anthrax. Vocalist, Dee recalls her fondest memory being at a special jam show in California. At this event many different members of bands came together just to rock out. Carnival of Souls opened the show, and some of the more famous musicians watched them and complimented on how much they enjoyed the show.

And what's not to like about a Carnival of Souls show? In a band named after a cult classic horror movie, they are no strangers to having a flare for the dramatic. They have custom made and elaborate sets to go along with their songs. You get more than just a concert, you get an experience. "What do you like to see? We want the, wow what a show." said Dee. One look at COS's video for the song We All Fall Down and you can see the gothic and cryptic scenery that's inspired by the music. Now Carnival of Souls gets a chance to take their act up with another group of well known big show musicians, KISS.

Dee Hunter describes the whole experience of finding the KISS battle of the bands online as almost an accident. "I saw it on the Internet... I love KISS, so I entered it." she said half jokingly. From there on out however, all the other band members were on board, and the fan response was adamant.

It works like this. KISS is playing a nationwide tour with a different local band opening in every city. Qualifying bands get the city show based on how many votes they get. As of right now, Carnival of Souls is in first place by over 2000 votes and is set to play in Holmdel New Jersey. In addition to the show, winning bands, get a meet and greet with KISS and get to take pictures. At the end of the tour, KISS then picks one band out of the 22 show winners, and gives them a \$10,000 gift card for Guitar Center.

Carnival of Souls, win or lose, intends to continue to play and make music while doing small tours. They are also trying to have a CD released by September, and hopefully will have garnered enough hype from the KISS press to do well.

COS has a benefit show for SMART Universtiy (which is a support organization for women with HIV) coming up October 9 in a Staten Island theater yet to be named.

Check out Carnival of Souls website for all up to date news at **Carnivalofsoulsband.com** or at **Myspace.com/carnivalofsouls**. Be sure to click DEMAND IT for Carnival of Souls at **<http://eventful.com/competitions/kiss2010/holdel>**.

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Concord High School graduates told to become 'positive role models'

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Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. Concord High School seniors were commended yesterday for overcoming adversity and persevering, during their graduation ceremony at the **College of Staten Island**.

Boys wore black gowns and girls wore white as they made their way down the aisles of the Center for the Performing Arts stage on the Willowbrook campus. Aletha Heggie, the school's music teacher, sang the national anthem, then parents and friends cheered the graduates.

Assistant Principal David Ashe congratulated the 78 graduates for breaking a record and being the largest graduating class at Concord High School.



Staten Island Advance/Vincent Barone

Concord High School girls prepare for their graduation ceremony in the **CSI** theater. (Staten Island Advance/Vincent Barone)

"It is a testament to your hard work and dedication that you are here today," Ashe said. The class of 2010 also broke another record by distributing 32 Regents diplomas.

He urged the students to continue to work hard and keep moving forward. "Your resilience and perseverance is inspiring," he told the class.

Salutatorian Martin Brown, a filmmaker and intern at the district attorney's office, thanked his aunt for helping him become the person he is. He thanked his teachers and principals for being "cool people" and he congratulated his fellows on their graduation. Brown also imparted some advice for the future: "All dreams start somewhere. Be thankful for what you have ... for if you concentrate on what you don't have, you will have nothing."

Valedictorian Kristina Tarassova spoke of her life story, and how she came to be a student at Concord High School. She thanked the students and staff at Concord High School for making her more hopeful about her future. She urged her classmates to “ never miss an opportunity,” and “ follow your heart.”

“We are leaving today and closing a chapter in our lives but this is not the end for us,” she told her fellows.

Curtis Sliwa, founder of the Guardian Angels and a staple on talk radio, who addressed the auditorium as the keynote speaker, told the students that nothing is above their ability. He urged graduates to “develop an insatiable appetite to learn more” and “find out for yourself the direction that you all want to go.” Sliva implored students to become positive role models for others around them.

VIEW MORE GRADUATION PHOTOS

“Focus on what you can do to make a difference in other people’s lives,” he spoke.

Principle Ronald J. Gorsky commended the senior class on their hard work in the classroom and in the community. “We are proud of you. Now show the world what you have become,” Gorsky charged the graduating class.

-Reported by Karisa Cernera

The graduates:

Dean Afflick, Jose Alvarez Acosta, Kirill Anisimov, Evan Arias, Timothy Avera, Jasmine Been, Devan Bell, Jessica Berrios, Andrea Borsic, Martin Brown, Donasia Bullock, Sheila Cajas, Jennifer Calero, Christopher Chavious, Janay Crichlow, Ryan Cupo, Patrick Falvey, Meghan Fichtenbaum, Richard Flores, Shanaya Foy, Ashley Genaro, Calvin Gordon, Latoya Grant, Nefertiti Gray, Erin Greenwaldt, Taylor Harper, Ahmad Hassan, Yasmin Henry, Harold Hernandez, Laura Hollingsworth, Marie Hurtado, Timothy Johnson, Quacy Jones, Jeremy Lampert, Elias Lebron, Khanshea Lewis, Christopher Lugay

Maria Manning, Anthony Marra, Sharon Martinez, Justin Mastrapasqua, Alex Mazzie, Joshua Meeks, Lanaisha Miles, Melvin Miles Jr., Ebony Mitchell, Michael Morrissey, Veton Muratovic, Simone Odusanya, Luis Ortiz, Alexandra Papachristou, Kareena Perez, Ray Perez, Jamel Phillips, Premtim Pocesta, Jennifer Rivera, Alec Rocco, Jessica Rosado, Steven Rubinfeld, Julio Ruiz, Zachary Ryan, Dianil Santana, Jasmine Shavou, Jonathan Shields, Kemahni Smalls, Felicia Somuyiwa, Armando Taddeo, Kristina Tarassova, Mia Tate, Stephanie Tavaréz, Amanda Vasquez, Tania Vasquez, Maria Vazquez, Anthony Vega, Matthew Viera, Kristofer White, Daron Youmans, Danny Yu.

Waqar Nasim Joins Brooks Instrument As Chief Financial Officer

June 9, 2010

Brooks Instrument, a world-leading provider of advanced flow, pressure and level solutions, announced that Waqar Nasim has joined the company as chief financial officer. In his position as CFO, Nasim will be responsible for developing and leading the accounting, financial planning and analysis, tax, treasury, internal control and costing functions of the business.

Nasim is a financial executive with more than 20 years of proven experience driving growth and profitability at mid-size companies. He joins Brooks Instrument from SkyCross Inc., where he was executive vice president and CFO. Nasim will report to Jim Dale, chief executive officer of Brooks Instrument.

"I'm excited that we have attracted a great talent such as Waqar to help fuel our continued growth," said Dale. "His expertise and track record as a successful CFO will make him instrumental in driving rapid, profitable growth for Brooks Instrument."

Nasim holds a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science and finance from the **College of Staten Island** and a Master of Business Administration from Cornell University.

About Brooks Instrument

Brooks Instrument, LLC, based in Pennsylvania, is a company of highly trained specialists whose goal is to provide flow solutions that exceed customer expectations. The Company has a proven history of innovation including the first miniaturized Coriolis mass flow controller (Quantim), the first watertight and explosion proof thermal mass flow controller (Mf Series), the first thermal mass flow controller with Foundation Fieldbus (SLA Series), and the first variable area meter with Foundation Fieldbus (MT3809 & MT3750). Today, Brooks Instrument's portfolio includes glass and metal tube variable area meters (rotameters), thermal mass flow controllers and meters, Coriolis mass flow controllers, meters and transmitters, pressure control products, magnetic level instruments, and a variety of flow accessories. The Company also owns Key Instruments which offers precision machined acrylic flow meters, molded plastic flow meters, glass tube flow meters, electronic flow meters, and flow control valves. Brooks Instrument has manufacturing locations, sales, and service offices in the Americas, Europe, and Asia. For more information, visit www.BrooksInstrument.com.

SOURCE: Brooks Instrument



College graduates on parade

Published: Monday, June 21, 2010, 11:51 AM



Staten Island Advance

By LINDSAY MACKLIN and JILLIAN TARATUNIO

Thomas J. Bellezza



Thomas J. Bellezza, the son of Rose and the late Salvatore Bellezza of Westerleigh, graduated magna cum laude from City College of New York of the City University of New York.

While attending CCNY, Bellezza was inducted into Psi Chi, the International Honor Society of psychology, the Golden Key International Honor Society as well as Phi Beta Kappa, the Academic Honor Society.

He is a member of the Association of Psychological Science and the American Psychological Association.

Bellezza will be attending graduate school in order to pursue a career that involves clinical work and research for neuroscience and related areas.

Katherine Feminella



Katherin Feminella of West Brighton graduated magna cum laude from Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pa., with a bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology and a minor in intercultural studies.

Sarah H. Hauck



Sarah H. Hauck of Tottenville graduated magna cum laude from Kutztown University, Kutztown, Pa., with a bachelors degree in education with certification in elementary and special education.

Ms. Hauck, daughter of Greg and Linda Hauck, was on the dean's list. She is a member of the Council of Exceptional Children (CEC) and the National Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Ms. Hauck plans to pursue a career teaching in an autistic support of life skills support classroom.

John P. Herron



John P. Herron, the son of Kathleen and Fred Herron of Great Kills, graduated cum laude from St. John's University with a bachelor of science degree in education.

As a St. John's student, Herron was a member of the university's honor societies, Phi Eta Sigma, Kappa Delta Pi, Omicron Delta Kappa and Phi Alpha Theta. He was the recipient of the Jack and Marge Sagabiel Scholarship.

He also was the vice president of the school's student government, a student senator for the school's department of education, and vice president of Stagers, the St. John's drama society.

During his undergraduate years, Herron attended the prestigious Atlantic Theatre Studio, founded by David Mamet and William H. Macy.

Last summer, he appeared in the off-Broadway show "Spring Awakening." he has been coaching the Monsignor Farrell High School speech and debate program since 2006 and began coaching the same program at the Notre Dame Academy over the past year.

In the fall, Herron will work as a graduate assistant in St. John's Department of Education.

James Iannizzotto



James S. Iannizzottoe, the son of Suan and James Iannizzotto of Egbertville, graduated from LaSalle University with a bachelor of arts degree in mathematics.

While attending LaSalle, Iannizzotto was the president of the math club and a member of the Math Honor Society, the Kappa Nu Epsilon fraternity and the lacrosse team.

Iannizzotto is a graduate of Moore Catholic High School.

Dr. James F. Kenny

Dr. James F. Kenny of Tottenville graduated from Wagner College with a master's degree in business administration.

Upon graduation, Dr. Kenny received the Executive Leadership Development Award and the Highest Academic Achievement Award.

While attending Wagner College, he was inducted into Delta Mu Delta, the international business honor society.

In 1984, alumnus of New York Medical College, Dr. Kenny completed his post-graduate training at Staten Island University Hospital, Ocean Breeze. He is currently board certified in emergency medicine, international medicine and geriatrics. He was also appointed the assistant professor in medicine at SUNY-Downstate Medical Center.

Dr. Kenny plans to continue working in his current position as associate chairman of emergency medicine at Staten Island University Hospital, Ocean Breeze.

Dorothy Lundgren



Dorothy Lundgren, the daughter of Patricia and Carl Lungdren of Bulls Head, graduated from the college of Staten Island.

She was awarded with a bachelor of arts degree in English Literature.

She hopes to work either as an editor for one of New York City's newspapers or as a librarian in one of New York City's public libraries.

Jillian McGrath

Jillian McGrath of West Brighton graduated from Stonehill College, Easton, Mass., with a bachelor's degree in political science and history.

Ms. McGrath, daughter of Michael and Ann McGrath graduated from Notre Dame Academy in 2006.

She plans to relocate to Boston to start her career. She will be attending law school in the future.

Mary McLaughlin



Mary McLaughlin of West Brighton graduated from the Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center of Touro College in Central Islip, L.I., with a juris doctorate degree in international and criminal law.

While studying at Touro, Ms. McLaughlin was the vice president of the Emerald Law Society and was a member of the Student Bar association election Committee.

She has interned in the office of the District Attorney of Richmond County in the sex crimes and special victims bureau; Brighter Tomorrows Inc., in Suffolk County; the honorable Judge Gaetan Lozito in the Suffolk County district Courthouse, and the Veterans and Service Members Rights clinic in the Touro Law Center.

A 2002 alumnus of St. Joseph Hill Academy, Ms. McLaughlin spent her undergraduate years at American University, where she graduated with a bachelor degree in political science and an interdisciplinary study of communications, law, economics and government.

In 2004, she studied abroad in London and attended Imperial College, where she interned for Sargent cancer Care for Children and coordinated fund-raising events.

During her undergraduate years, she interned for the American Conservative Union Alexandria in Virginia and was a member of both the Campaign Management Institute and Alpha Phi Omega, the national community service fraternity.

She was also the co-founder of Colleges Against Cancer, where she served as both president and vice president and helped organize her school's Relay for Life event.

Ms. McLaughlin is currently a student member of Staten Island's chapter of the Richmond County Bar Association and New York State Woman, Inc. She aspires to pursue a career in public service upon the completion of the New York and New Jersey bar exams.

Michael P. Neely



Michael P. Neely of Ruchmond graduated magna cum laude from Hofstra University, Hempstead, L.I., with a bachelor's degree in public relations and French.

Neely, son of Maria and Michael neely, spent four years as the undergraduate assistant of the Hofstra University mean's basketball team.

In addition to pursuing his master's degree at Hofstra University, he will be working full-time at the school as the director of Ticket Sales and Marketing.

Daniel Perrone III



Daniel Perron III, the son of Dr. Daniel and Donna Perron of Castleton Corners, graduated magna cum laude from St. John's University with a bachelor of arst degree in political science and a minor in philosophy.

Perrone was a dean's list member and the recipient of the Gold Key Award for excellence in government and

politics.

While attending St. John's, Perrone was the president of the government and politics society.

A 2006 alumnus of St. Peter's Boys High School, Perron will attend law school in the fall.

Amanda Richardson



Amanda Richardson of Rosebank graduated cum laude from the **College of Staten Island** with a bachelor's degree in computer science.

Ms. Richardson, daughter of Kathy Richardson, received the Computer Science Department Award for Academic Excellence.

She plans to pursue a master's degree in computer science with a focus in software engineering at the **College of Staten Island**.

Kiersten Schmidt



Kiersten Schmidt, the daughter of Stacie Dakanowsky and John Schmidt of Westerleigh, graduated cum

laude from the University of Miami with a bachelor of science degree in communications, with a double major in visual journalism and political science and a minor in sports administration.

Ms. Schmidt graduated as a member of the dean's list, Provost's Honor Roll, the President's Honor Roll and Gamma Sigma Alpha, the National Greek Academic Honor Society.

She was a sister of the sorority Delta Delta Delta, the sports editor and assistant design director of the Ibis yearbook and the page designer of her school's student newspaper, the Miami Hurricane.

She is currently interning at the Cape Cod Times in Barnstable, Mass., and aspires to pursue a career in news design.

Gail Wodkiewicz

Gail Wodkiewicz of New Springville graduated summa cum laude from the **College of Staten Island** with an associate of arts degree in liberal arts and sciences.

Despite returning to college years later and dealing with a personal disability, Ms. Wodkiewicz was a member of the honors program Who's Who Among Students, and Psi Chi, the international honor society for psychology students.

She is continuing her education at the **Colleg of Staten island** with a standing GPA of 3.9. She hopes to receive her bachelor of arts degree in the spring of 2011 as a psychology major and a sociology minor. She is also currently writing her honors thesis. She plans to go to graduate school to pursue her master's degree.

Mrs. Wodkiewicz has held internships and volunteered at various facilities and outreach programs on the Island dedicated to helping people cope with addictions.

In the fall, Ms. Wodkiewicz will begin an internship at a local high school, where she will utilize both her psychology background and Credentialing of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor certificate to work with a counselor who helps troubled youths.

Stephen W. Whalen



Stephen W. Whalen of New Dorp graduated from Hunter college, City University of New York, with a bachelor's degree in film with honors.

Whalen, son of Stephanie and Thomas Whalen, co-produced many short films and contributed original material to several student publications.

He was vice president of and contributor to the Hunter college literary humor magazine, The Slow Clap, and a contributor to the college's literary journal, Olive Tree Review.

Two Staten Island community boards re-elect executive officers

Published: Tuesday, June 29, 2010, 6:48 AM



Kiawana Rich

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Two community boards have re-elected their slate of executive officers.

Frank Morano was re-elected chairman of Community Board 3 during the full board meeting on June 22 in the CYO/MIV Center, Pleasant Plains. Also, Leticia Remauro was re-elected chairwoman during Community Board's 1 full board meeting earlier this month.



Leticia Remauro

Morano has been a member of Board 3 since 1987. He was elected the first vice chairman in 1991 and chairman in 2008.

A retired New York City school teacher, Morano taught for 32 years at Markham Intermediate School, Graniteville, and also at the **College of Staten Island**, Willowbrook. He holds a degree in aerospace engineering and worked on the F14 fighter plane.

He is president of the Eltingville Civic Association.

Morano also has served as a coach and director of the Great Kills Little League. He is a lector at Holy Child R.C. Church, Eltingville, and has worked with the Marriage Encounter and Engagement Days groups.

Board 3 also re-elected John Donohue, first vice chair; Phyllis Catania, second vice chair; Thomas Barlotta, third vice chair; Maribel Sansone, treasurer, and Frank Contrera, secretary.

Ms. Remauro was re-elected during Board 1's meeting held in All Saints Episcopal Church, Willowbrook.

A 16-year member of Community Board 1, Ms. Remauro is the fourth woman to hold the chair. She has served as a community liaison to former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and former Gov. George Pataki. In 1994, she ran as a candidate for the Mid-Island Assembly seat.

A powerbroker across party lines, Ms. Remauro was a member of former Mayor David Dinkins' "Increase the Peace" volunteer corps, and was chair of the Island GOP from 1999 to 2002. She was also an executive director of Victory 2000, the organization responsible for George W. Bush's campaign in New York.

Ms. Remauro is the vice president of community relations with the Battery Park City Authority.

Also re-elected were Anthony Cosentino, first vice chair; Chris Rooney, second vice chair; Friday Ogbewe, third vice chair; Larry Beslow, treasurer, and Nicholas Siclari, secretary.

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