

CSI in the News

November 2010



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ADS

NOVEMBER IS CUNY MONTH

Open houses, admissions and financial aid work-shops, lectures, museum exhibits, sports tournaments, book talks, and panel discussions with distinguished professors, achieving students and honored guests. See what CUNY offers in November!

NOV.10

 BOROUGH OF
MANHATTAN
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

 "Focus on
Family
Health &
Fitness"
2 P.M. to
4 P.M.

NOV.11

 MACAULAY HONORS
COLLEGE

 Macaulay
Perspectives:
Reimagining
Funny

 PATTY MARX,
HUMORIST
(SATURDAY NIGHT
LIVE) AND AUTHOR
6 P.M. to 8 P.M.

NOV.14

LEHMAN COLLEGE

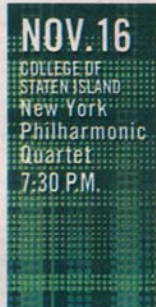
New Orleans' Night

 WITH PIANIST
ALLEN TOUSSAINT
TRUMPETER
NICHOLAS PAYTON
AND JOE
KROWN TRIO

 TICKETS
\$25-\$35
20% CUNY
DISCOUNT
6 P.M.


FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF OPEN HOUSES AT ALL CUNY COLLEGES AND DETAILS ON HUNDREDS OF OTHER EVENTS DURING CUNY MONTH, VISIT WWW.CUNY.EDU/CUNYMONTH

NOV.16

 COLLEGE OF
STATEN ISLAND
New York
Philharmonic
Quartet
7:30 P.M.

NOV.17

 HUNTER COLLEGE
Irish Voices
Series
LIZ SMITH, NEWS-
PAPER COLUMNIST
7 P.M.

NOV.18

 THE CITY COLLEGE
2010 Nobel
Laureate Mario
Vargas Llosa
'RETURN OF
THE MONSTERS'
PRESIDENT'S
LECTURE
5:30 P.M.

NOV. 30

 BOROUGH
OF MANHATTAN
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE
2010 CUNY
College Fair
for Veterans
3 P.M. to 7 P.M.


(Call in advance of attending events to confirm date/time details and whether registration is necessary.)

BREAKING BOUNDARIES:
Educational Opportunities and New Careers

CUNY campuses
are celebrating in November!
Visit cuny.edu/cunymonth

CUNY The City
University
of
New York



Child Development Research

www.csi.cuny.edu

The College of Staten Island is committed to our community, and we welcome you to take part in our research programs that help us understand how children learn and grow. We invite you to our child-friendly spaces on the CSI campus where children interact one-on-one with members of the research team, led by experts in their fields.



The Child Development Lab works with children five months to four years old, studying cognitive and motor development by examining how they navigate their environment on specially designed playground equipment. Studies provide insight into sibling relationships and early language development, and range from 15 minutes to one hour. Participants will receive a thank you gift and a summary report of their child's study.

For more information, contact Dr. Sarah Berger at 718.982.3770 or childlab@csi.cuny.edu.

The Language Development Lab works with children five to ten years old. The Lab specializes in working with typically developing children, children within the autism spectrum, and children with language impairments. The program offers free speech and hearing screenings. Studies typically involve multiple sessions and extend over several weeks or months, based upon your child's and your unique needs and circumstances. Children are generously compensated for their time.

For more information, contact Dr. Patricia Brooks at 718.982.3793 or patricia.brooks@csi.cuny.edu.



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U.S. Small Business Administration

SBA
Your Small Business Resource

for start-up or existing businesses

Arts

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2010 STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

PREPARING FOR KWANZAA



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/HILTON FLORES

CSI dance students in Professor Charles Thomas' class rehearse for the school's annual Kwanzaa performance celebration, which is scheduled for Dec. 10 in the Center for the Arts on the Willowbrook campus.

Faculty & Staff



Teens charged in fatal attack on ex-College of Staten Island professor allegedly bragged about incident, report says

Published: Monday, November 01, 2010, 5:20 PM



Staten Island Advance

OLD BRIDGE, N.J. -- Prosecutors claim the five teens accused of beating a former College of Staten Island professor to death during a family stroll outside his New Jersey home attacked him unprovoked and then sent text messages to each other celebrating the violence, according to a published report.

Middlesex County Assistant Prosecutor Christopher Kuberiet described the June 25 attack on Divyendu Sinha as a "wilding spree for no apparent purpose" during a hearing in September that led to the five teens being charged as adults, according to a report in the Star-Ledger. The Star-Ledger obtained **audio recordings of four of five closed family court hearings. Click here to listen.**

Julian Daley, 16, Christian Tinli, who turned 18 in September, Cash Johnson, 17, Christopher Conway, 17, and Steven Contreras, 17, are accused of the attack on Sinha as he walked with his family in his Old Bridge neighborhood.

Sinha, 49, worked at CSI as an assistant professor in the computer science department from 1990 to 1999.

Kuberiet said authorities obtained time-stamped messages between the alleged assailants sent within an hour of the fatal attack, saying how much they enjoyed the assault, and discussing another similar attack the next day, the Star-Ledger reported.

"Mr. Conway and Mr. Daley are talking back and forth regarding the nature of this horrendous incident, and talking about how this was a great incident and this was a good incident," Kuberiet said, according to the report. "They're joking that they hurt the victim to the point that they may have hurt or broke their own hand."

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They beat ex-CSI prof for kicks, prosecutor says

Published: Tuesday, November 02, 2010, 7:53 AM



Staten Island Advance

By SUE EPSTEIN

THE STAR LEDGER

OLD BRIDGE, N.J. -- The five Old Bridge teenagers charged in the beating death of a former College of Staten Island professor in June attacked the man unprovoked and later sent text messages to each other celebrating the assault, according to new information released yesterday by authorities.

Middlesex County Assistant Prosecutor Christopher Kuberiet described the attack on Divyendu Sinha as a "wilding spree for no apparent purpose" during a hearing in September that led to the five teens being charged as adults with Sinha's murder. The Star-Ledger obtained audio recordings of four of the five closed family court hearings yesterday.

Julian Daley, 16, Christian Tinli, who turned 18 in September, Cash Johnson, 17, Christopher Conway, 17, and Steven Contreras, 17, are accused of the attack on Sinha on June 25 as the Old Bridge resident walked with his family in his neighborhood.

Kuberiet said prosecutors have obtained time-stamped messages among the teenagers sent within an hour of the fatal assault saying how much they enjoyed the assault, and discussing another similar attack the next day.

"Mr. Conway and Mr. Daley are talking back and forth regarding the nature of this horrendous incident, and talking about how this was a great incident and this was a good incident," Kuberiet said, describing the text messages. "They're joking that they hurt the victim to the point that they may have hurt or broke their own hand."

The five teenagers had been drinking in the hours before they piled into a car being driven by Contreras, Kuberiet said during the September hearing before Superior Court Judge Jane Cantor. They twice tried to attack a motorist in Old Bridge but he "got away," and they continued on until they saw the Sinha family out for a walk on Fela Drive.

Sinha, 49, worked at **CSI** as an assistant professor in the computer science department from 1990 to 1999.

Cantor offered the teenagers the opportunity to speak during the hearing, though three of the four teenagers declined, according to the audio recording obtained yesterday. Johnson addressed the court and apologized to the Sinha family.

"I really apologize to the victim's family and the victim," Johnson said. "I hope one day they can forgive me and see that I'm not a monster like everybody in the media says we are. I hope they can find it in the bottom of their heart to forgive me seriously."

In the four audio recordings released yesterday, Kubriet detailed various evidence collected in the investigation of Sinha's death as he urged the judge to set high bail amounts for each defendant. An audio recording of the family court hearing for the fifth teenager, Contreras, was not available.

Kuberiet said the state's evidence indicates Tinli delivered the blow to the right side of Sinha's head that caused his death. Sinha died at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick four days after the attack.

The charges are pending action by a Middlesex County grand jury.

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STATEN ISLAND MENTAL HEALTH SOCIETY KICK-OFF BREAKFAST



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/JAN SOMMA-HAMMEL

The Staten Island Mental Health Society holds its 50th anniversary kick-off breakfast for its schools' reading volunteers. Enjoying themselves at the affair at the Staaten are Lori Karelak, vice chairwoman of the society's board of directors; Joan McKeever, who volunteers at PS 45; Councilwoman Debi Rose; Marie Javois, who volunteers at PS 44 and Jeanette Matia, who donates her time at PS 13.

November 8, 2010

FUTURE EVENTS

The West Virginia Landlords Association will meet Wednesday at Little Creek Park Club House. Social hour is at 6 p.m. and the dinner/meeting begins at 7 p.m. All landlords are welcome. For information, call 304-550-4214.

The Kanawha Valley Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution will participate in the Charleston Veterans Day Parade on Thursday. Members wishing to walk in the parade should notify Chapter Regent Carol Linger. A luncheon is planned for noon Nov. 13 at the Fifth Quarter Restaurant. First Lt. Matt Izzo, West Virginia National Guard, will speak. Hostesses are Patty Young, Nancy Wolfe and Carolyn Monk. Luncheon reservations are appreciated by Thursday. Bring items for Christmas packages being prepared for the veterans at the West Virginia Veterans Home in Barboursville. For more information about veterans' donations, e-mail Carol Linger at olin...@suddenlink.net or Carolyn Rabalais at RabalaisCaro...@aol.com).

West Virginia State University will feature Lee Papa at 1:30 p.m. Thursday in Room 104, Davis Fine Arts Building, WVSU campus. Writer, professor and performer Lee Papa, known as the "Rude Pundit," will deliver a lecture, discussion and demonstration. Dr. Papa is currently a professor of drama and playwriting in the Department of English at the [College of Staten Island](#)/CUNY.

Temple Israel will have a public conversation titled "The Promise of Recovery and Challenges to Mental Wellness," at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at its location, 2312 Kanawha Blvd. E. Issues to be explored include types of assistance in maintaining mental wellness; clinical forces that determine the nature and availability of care as well as drive reform efforts; and stigma and discrimination as challenges to recovery. Special speakers will be present during the first part of the program. Refreshments will be served. The forum is free and open to the public. For more information, call 304-342-5852.

The West Virginia State University Board of Governors will hold a regular meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday in the Grand Hall of the WVSU Erickson Alumni Center. Committee meetings will be held prior to the full Board meeting.

Items for Bulletin Board may be submitted by mail to The Charleston Gazette, 1001 Virginia St. E., Charleston, WV 25301, or faxed to 304-348-1233. Notices will be run one time free. Please include a contact person's name and a daytime telephone number.

NOVEMBER 8, 2010

David Bloomfield

*Professor of Educational Leadership, Law,
and Policy*

Dunk'em and Skunk 'Em

Full Court Pres shoveled the ball to Dunk'em, who missed the easy layup.

"Shi-cago!" shouted Pres. "I thought you said this school stuff was easy."

"It got me here, didn't it?" said Dunk'em with a smile. "It's all about ball control. The media eat it up."

"But what about the score? The real deal? Don't you have to make points?"

"Sure," replied Dunk, walking to a complex control panel on the sidelines. He pushed a button and the basket lowered to the height of an eight year old. Eyes closed, Dunk'em tossed the ball toward the net. Swish!

"Plenty of ways to score," he explained. "Lower the basket or make it wider. The ball can be smaller or lighter. Whatever combination helps! We keep drilling until the players can barely pass, then take a picture before they forget. Sometimes we just reset the scoreboard. No one seems to care as long as they look good. We're putting these control panels into every district in the country."

Full Court looked worried. "But hold on. We're playing the Republicans. Aren't they going to know?"

"You don't get it. We're playing *with* them, not against them. We're crushing the players' union, throwing out rules, creating hedge fund owner/managers. If any player fails, they just take the player off the roster so their record doesn't go down. Mostly, though, the low performers just leave anyway. They and the handicapped and the non-English speakers. But there's so much razzle dazzle, the public doesn't notice. Republicans had Shock and Awe. We've got Race to the Top!"

"But won't we be exposed, Dunk'em? You have all that technology but they still can't read the play book or count up to a double dribble."

"No problem, Pres. That happened in my last job. By the time people realized that scores hadn't really gone up and my new teams were as bad as the old ones, I was gone. That's what all the greats do. Paige in Houston. Vallas in Chicago, then Philly. By the time you and I are found out we'll be into your second term or writing our memoirs."

"What's your title?" asked Pres.

"I wanted to call it, *Waiting for 'Superman'*."

"Still a good idea. I hear fiction sells."

Follow David Bloomfield on Twitter: www.twitter.com/BloomfieldDavid



Israel Criticism

Tuesday, November 9, 2010

Richard H. Schwartz

Aryeh Rubin is certainly correct in stating “Liberalism Is Not Our Religion” (Opinion, Oct. 29). However, Jews should be actively involved in working for a better, more just, Israel and world, not because of liberalism, but because of Judaism. It is Judaism that stresses “justice, justice shalt thou pursue” and “Seek peace and pursue it,” that states 36 times that we should be kind to the stranger, and urges “you shall eradicate evil from your midst.” It was the Hebrew prophets, the greatest champions of social justice in the world’s history who lovingly criticized Israel when she acted incorrectly.

I believe that the highest form of patriotism and loyalty is to challenge one’s nation, people or religion to live up to its highest ideals. Of course, we should increase awareness of Israel’s many positive features and protest when Israel is unjustifiably criticized or attacked by terrorists.

But we should not blindly support her when we believe she is acting in an incorrect or counterproductive way. If we do, we are not acting according to Israel’s highest ideals and we risk losing the support of many Jews who will fail to recognize Judaism’s powerful messages that can help heal our imperiled planet.

Pushed to the brink by disaster and war

November 9, 2010

Saadia Toor, an assistant professor of Anthropology and Social Work at the **College of Staten Island** and part of **Action for a Progressive Pakistan** [1], spoke with **Ashley Smith** about the situation in Pakistan in the wake of the flood disaster and the increased U.S. drone war in the country's border areas.

IT'S NOW been several weeks since the floods struck Pakistan. What are the conditions like today?

THE SCALE of the catastrophe is almost unimaginable. The UN declared the Pakistani floods have been the single biggest humanitarian disaster in recent history. Its impact was more severe than the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, 2005 Kashmir earthquake and the recent earthquake in Haiti combined.

Now, a couple of months since the flooding first began, conditions are still atrocious. Relief efforts are still going on, even though they aren't in the limelight any more. The floodwaters have receded in the northern areas where they first began, and people have started moving back in these areas, but by and large, the situation in Sindh and Baluchistan remains very severe.

Some people have started moving back to Swat, but there is not much to return to, because the floods were so devastating. They have been trying just to survive, as well as scrambling to find the resources to rebuild. Large numbers of survivors remain displaced, many in relief camps, unable to return to their homes.

Significantly, we're seeing that many of them do not want to return, because while they have lost everything, they have also left behind some of the worst forms of exploitative social relationships as landless tenants or forced labor for large landowners. All in all, untold numbers of people remain displaced, refugees of an environmental and social crisis which is still unfolding and whose impact will continue to be felt within Pakistan for a long time to come.

WHAT HAVE relief efforts looked like in the midst of this crisis?

FROM THE very beginning, there has been an immense shortage of relief funds. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon sent out numerous appeals to the international community for relief aid, and only recently was it able to get the \$460 million that it had asked for internationally. The U.S. pledged \$261 million, but some of that was actually targeted to security measures, and much of it was to be drawn from already existing aid packages.

What's important to note is the connection between the low level of international and U.S. humanitarian aid to Pakistan and the hostility toward Pakistan and Pakistanis that has become part of mainstream discourse in the West, specifically in the U.S. This is, of course, connected to the palpable increase in Islamophobia, but it is also specific to Pakistan and Pakistanis, and it is also not limited to the mainstream media.

For example, a few weeks ago, I happened to be listening to NPR's *All Things Considered*, and the guest was the director of USAID for Afghanistan and Pakistan. The host of the show demanded an explanation as to why the U.S. gave Pakistan the aid that it did, given that it was such a reluctant ally, and given the high degree of anti-Americanism in Pakistan.

She didn't even mention the floods--it was actually the USAID director who brought that up. Her concern--rather, her outrage--was over what she understood to be Pakistan's ingratitude. She actually used the words "generosity" with reference to U.S. aid--and remember, she wasn't even talking about humanitarian aid!

It's pretty outrageous for humanitarian aid to be politicized in this manner on what we think of as "liberal" media outlets, but this kind of hostility toward Pakistan--and ordinary Pakistanis--is very much par for the course in the American mainstream, and even among the liberal-left end of the spectrum.

To get back to the question of actual U.S. aid--although the U.S. had pledged more than any other country, it is unclear how much has actually been disbursed. Even if it is being disbursed, it pales in comparison with the need on the ground. The best estimate of cost for relief and reconstruction is about \$30 billion; even the overall UN goal comes nowhere near meeting the need, because it was a call for emergency funds.

If you want to understand the U.S.'s priorities with regard to Pakistan and Pakistanis, all you have to do is compare the amount it has pledged as aid for the floods to what it gives as aid to the Pakistani military and what it is spending on the war in Afghanistan and Pakistan more generally.

This year alone, the U.S. has allocated \$1.3 billion for the Pakistani military, and at the end of October, another \$2 billion has been announced as "military and security aid" to Pakistan. In just one month this February, the U.S. spent \$6.7 billion on the war in Afghanistan; the total cost of war up to this point is over \$1.7 trillion.

Against this backdrop, when you are spending billions on the war and giving billions to the Pakistani military, giving \$261 million for flood relief and acting as

if that is inordinately generous (especially given the scale of the disaster) is absurd. The other thing to note is the way in which aid--even this humanitarian aid--to Pakistan is constantly linked to security concerns--for example, as a way to "win hearts and minds."

The fact that security concerns trump humanitarian ones when it comes to Pakistan is clear from the fact that even these devastating floods were covered by the U.S. media from within a security framework. The main issue of concern for the media appeared to be whether and to what degree the militants were using the floods as an opportunity to recruit. What is clear then is that the U.S.'s priorities in Pakistan are not humanitarian, but military.

WHAT HAS the left in Pakistan been able to do organize relief? And what has your group, Action for a Progressive Pakistan, been advocating here in the U.S.?

PAKISTAN'S SMALL left has done its best to organize relief. Labor Party Pakistan has taken a leading role in this effort; they have brought together trade unions and other left forces into the Labor Relief Campaign to gather and disburse funds for a people's reconstruction.

The Labor Relief Campaign came together in the wake of the 2005 earthquake, and it recently formed the Sindh Labor Relief Committee (SLRC) to work in Sindh, the province that was probably the most effected by the floods. The activists of the SLRC have been doing some amazing work.

Here in the U.S., Action for a Progressive Pakistan has joined with other forces to forge a new organization in New York City called the Pakistan Solidarity Network. We are hoping that similar groups will pop up all over the country. We recently organized a teach-in in New York City to raise funds for flood relief.

We have been encouraging people to give to the **Sindh Labor Relief Committee** [2]. People can also give to **Edhi Foundation** [3], Pakistan's largest and most trusted private philanthropic organization, which has been doing important work as well. Of course, people can and should give to other international aid relief agencies--in particular, UNICEF, which has working hard to prevent the spread of water-born diseases like malaria and cholera, which are already starting to show up in camps.

The fact of the matter is that the floodwaters may have receded to some degree and the rains may be at an end, but the humanitarian crisis is far from over--and all these organizations need money to fund continuing efforts at relief and reconstruction.

DURING THE crisis, the Pakistani military publicly denounced the civilian government for failing to respond to the crisis. Given that the military has not exactly shown itself to be a friend of the people, what agenda is it pursuing in the crisis?

THE STANDOFF between the military and government has been all over the news. There is no doubt about the fact that the civilian government led by

President Asif Zardari has not responded adequately to the disaster. But it is a little difficult to stomach the military's charge of corruption against the civilian government when it is, in fact, the main center of corruption in the country.

Not only does the military control the massive defense budget--most of which is not made public--but it also dominates the Pakistani economy. Ayesha Siddiqi's wonderful book, *Military Inc.*, reveals just how much of Pakistan is owned and controlled by the military--from services, to insurance agencies, agribusinesses, banks and real estate. It is also the largest landowner in the country.

Military corruption is everywhere. Military officers regularly retire and take over civilian agencies, become CEOs of financial corporations and gain control of huge tracts of land. This is not to say that the civilian government--and Zardari himself--aren't corrupt, or to let them off the hook. However, it is absolutely important to understand the purpose of making these charges at this time and who's making them.

While it's true that the civilian government fell seriously short in terms of providing flood relief, it is also true that the army didn't rush to do so, and certainly not out of any concern for the Pakistani people. What the military has done is use the crisis to whitewash its image, and to attempt to further destabilize the civilian government.

But let's step back from this line of thought, which can pathologize Pakistan. In reality, the crisis is so enormous that no state would have been able to rise to the challenge. And the Pakistani state, for various reasons, was even less prepared to respond to the crisis.

The Pakistani state today is a state hollowed out by neoliberal reforms as a result of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank conditionalities. These conditionalities came as a part of aid agreements brokered by successive military governments. The result is that Pakistan has become a cash cow for imperialist and domestic vested interests.

The IMF has sucked billions out of the country in the form of loan repayments. The aid has gone directly into the pockets of the ruling elite, especially the military establishment. As a result, the state as a result lacked the basic infrastructure to respond to this crisis in the appropriate fashion.

IN THE wake of all the military's criticisms of the civilian government, many commentators have raised the possibility that a coup might be in the works. Is there any merit to this?

LIKE ANY other military, I think it prefers not to be directly in charge, although it also doesn't hesitate to take over when it decides that this is in its interest. In Pakistan, the military has effectively been in charge from almost the very beginning, regardless of whether you have a civilian or military government.

It is no different today--there might be a clash between the interests of the civilian government and those of the military at any given point, but the military

continues to call the shots in the last instance. For example, the current civilian government re-appointed Gen. Ashfaq Parvez Kayani without a fuss.

But what the military needed to do in Pakistan was rehabilitate its image. It has been trying to do that ever since the last months of Pervez Musharraf's regime, when the public sentiment against him intensified. At that time, they cut him loose because they didn't want his dirt to wash back on them. They tried to make him seem like one bad apple so that the military as a whole could escape criticism.

The military has won back some ground through this strategy. It gained further ground, especially among the liberal intelligentsia, by playing to their fears of the Taliban and terrorism more generally. It was this fear that allowed the military to conduct their brutal operation in Swat last year, which displaced over a million people.

The military's criticism of the civilian government today over the issue of flood relief is part of this same campaign to make over the army's image. There is an international dimension to the military's public relations strategy as well. It wants to make it clear to the U.S. that it, the Pakistani military, is really the one in charge.

And to be honest, if the military decided to move against the civilian government, the U.S. would support it. The history of U.S.-Pakistan relations bears this out-- the U.S. is always happier dealing with the Pakistani military.

ON THE heels of this crisis, the U.S. and NATO have escalated their drone war against militants inside Pakistan. In response, Pakistan shut down a strategic border crossing to deliver supplies to the U.S./NATO occupation of Afghanistan. What's your analysis of this conflict between Pakistan and the U.S. over the drone war?

THE RELATIONSHIP between the U.S. and Pakistan has always been fraught. The U.S. has attempted to use Pakistan as its pawn for decades. At the same time, the Pakistani military has its own regional ambitions, especially its struggle against India, which it sees as its mortal enemy, and this at times leads to conflict. But the Pakistani military is utterly dependent on the money given to it by the U.S.

After the end of Soviet occupation of Afghanistan, Pakistan's special relationship with the U.S. (which was actually the Pakistani military's special relationship with the U.S.) fell apart once the U.S. no longer needed it as a conduit to fund the resistance to the Soviets.

The U.S. also imposed sanctions on Pakistan following its explosion of a nuclear device in the 1990s, and then following Musharraf's 1999 coup. However, after 9/11, the situation completely changed; the U.S. once again needed Pakistan as a frontline state in a war in Afghanistan, this time against al-Qaeda and/or the Taliban.

When it comes to its role in this current war, the Pakistani military establishment is thinking long term. It doesn't want to let go of what it sees as its strategic asset in the region--the Afghan Taliban. It hope to use the Taliban as it did in the 1990s as an ally in its struggle against India.

Thus, the Pakistani military has both agreed to collaborate with the U.S. and yet preserve its cozy relationship with the Afghan Taliban. All the while, the Pakistani military has been trying to milk every opportunity to keep the U.S. on its toes. And so it periodically whips up crises to demonstrate to the Americans how essential it is, saying in essence, "If you do not have us, you have nothing."

This background is key for understanding the issues around the drone war that the U.S. has been waging against Taliban militants in the Pakistani border regions and that has been massively escalated in recent months. This year alone, there have been 76 drone attacks, 22 of them in September alone (In 2009, there were a total of 53 drone attacks).

September was the heaviest month to date in terms of drone attacks in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The annual total of civilian casualties from drones has increased from five in 2004 to 700 in 2010. The total number of civilian casualties from drone attacks during the war is inching toward 2,000. For all the hype about the accuracy of the drones, they kill far more civilians than militants.

During the worst of the flooding in August, the U.S. suspended drone attacks but not out of any humanitarian concern. In the word of the U.S. high command, it was because the "conditions were not optimal for flying."

As soon as these conditions improved, the U.S. resumed drone strikes, even as the humanitarian crisis unfolded in other parts of the country. They were, in fact, eager to do so because they wished to make the point that there will be no recess in the drone war.

The Pakistani military has had no issues with these drone strikes or the civilian casualties they've resulted in. The recent clash between the Pakistani military and the U.S./NATO happened not over drone attacks or the killing of civilians, but because NATO helicopters in "hot pursuit" killed two Pakistani border guards.

This is what caused the military to retaliate by shutting down the supply routes into Afghanistan for nearly two weeks. That act forced the U.S. to issue an apology. Whatever the schisms between them, the U.S. and Pakistan's military are locked in a deadly embrace.

WHERE IS the U.S. war in Afghanistan and Pakistan headed?

THE U.S. will continue to pressure the Pakistani military to crack down on the militants on the border regions, particularly on their ability to cross back and forth. But this is an absurd demand. Everyone knows you cannot police that border.

If that border could have been policed, the Pakistani military would have done so a long time ago. Think about it--the U.S. is the biggest military force in the world

and it hasn't figured out how to police that border and win the war in Afghanistan. The Pakistani military has no better chance. This is quite aside from the reality that the Pakistani military establishment's interest doesn't lie in moving against all the militants and all of the Taliban.

Nothing really has changed on the ground with what is going to happen with the war in Afghanistan. We keep hearing stories about the possibility of a negotiated settlement. A few months ago, Ahmed Rashid reported that talks had started. Rashid is the voice of the Pakistani establishment, so clearly something was in the works, but little came out of that because there was such a backlash in the U.S. against it.

The past couple weeks, we've been hearing once more about talks between the government of Hamid Karzai and members of the Taliban, which by all accounts the U.S. and NATO are at the very least facilitating if not encouraging.

The fact is that the U.S. is thus caught between a rock and a hard place in Afghanistan right now, and there is also a clear clash between the U.S. civilian government and the interests of the U.S. military. The Obama administration wants to get out without too much of a loss of face, but it is just as clear that the U.S. military does not want admit defeat, and in any case, perpetual war is the order of the day for the U.S. war machine.

But the U.S. military is incapable of sustaining massive deployments of soldiers indefinitely. Which is why the issue of the drones is so crucial--the U.S. would in all likelihood prefer to shift away from troop deployments to what Tom Engelhardt calls drone wars. The drones are thus a dream come true for both the civilian and military command in the U.S.

They are talked about as efficient killing machines, even though it's clear that they are anything but--various independent investigative reports which have come out recently testify to that, and to the psychological devastation they leave in their wake, along with the loss of civilian life.

From the point of view of the U.S., they are incredibly convenient. You don't have to get your hands dirty, you can sit in your base, play with your joystick, and kill people half a world away.

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KANAWHA COUNTY

Tuesday November 9, 2010

'Rude Pundit' to talk at W.Va. State

by From staff reports

"Rude Pundit" blogger Lee Papa will speak at West Virginia State University on Thursday.

Papa is a professor of drama and playwriting in the Department of English at the College of Staten Island's English department. His one-man performance "The Rude Pundit in the Year of Living Rudely" sold out at the New York International Fringe Festival.

The free event will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the university's Davis Fine Arts Building, room 104.

Councilwoman to be honored for service to children

Mental Health Society will
present Debi Rose with the
Dr. Richard M. Silberstein
Memorial Award

By MICHELLE ROSSMAN
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

The Staten Island Mental Health Society will honor City Councilwoman Debi Rose for her service to children on Dec. 3 with the Dr. Richard M. Silberstein Memorial Award at the society's West Brighton headquarters.

Dr. Silberstein was the founding director of SIMHS and worked as director for 21 years.

"During his tenure, Dr. Silberstein built bridges of help and home in the form of a network of clinical mental health services for children in our borough," said Dr. Kenneth Popler, the current president and CEO of SIMHS.

"Councilwoman Rose has devoted almost three dec-

ades to the betterment of the North Shore community and especially its youth, in a wide range of job-related, elected and volunteer positions," Dr. Popler said.

"She is a problem-solver and community advocate with extensive knowledge of issues facing Staten Island children and families, particularly those with special needs."

The award presentation to Ms. Rose (D-North Shore) will follow the 22nd annual Dr. Richard M. Silberstein Memorial Lecture, "Cultural Idioms of Distress in Caribbean Latino Families," to be delivered by Dr. Roberto Lewis-Fernandez, an associate professor of psychology at Columbia University and director of the New York State Center of Excellence for Cultural Competence and the Hispanic Treatment Program of the New York State Psychiatric Institute.

Since its inception in 1988, the annual award and lecture has honored Staten Islanders from varying professional backgrounds. Ten years ago, the society honored Jerome X. O'Donovan who held Ms. Rose's Council seat from 1992 to 2001.



ROSE

November 11, 2010

Big School Problems Await New Chancellor

By SHARON OTTERMAN

In introducing herself this week to a surprised city as the next New York City schools chancellor, [Cathleen P. Black](#) asked for the one thing that may prove to be impossible.

“I have no illusion about this being an easy next three years — quite the opposite,” said Ms. Black, a publishing executive without political or education leadership experience. “But what I ask for is your patience, as I get up to speed on the issues facing K-12 education.”

But there will be no cushy learning period for Ms. Black. She will be entering a treacherous political and educational landscape, far darker than it was just one year ago, when elementary and middle school test scores told a story of continual growth and achievements. Now, more than 100,000 additional students who failed toughened state tests this year need tutoring and help. Up to 47 schools face closing. The teachers’ union, which has been without a contract for more than a year, has been more adversarial toward the city than supportive, a relationship that promises to sour further if the Department of Education continues to back the public release of teacher rankings based on student test scores.

A higher bar for high school graduation — the state will soon require better scores on Regents exams — looms ahead. And after a period of flush budgets, electives, after-school programs and teaching jobs are being cut, with the coming years promising to get only tougher.

Making things harder, a top official who was the Department of Education’s budget expert announced her resignation on Wednesday.

While she will be cheered by many, Ms. Black will also face thousands of demoralized teachers, hundreds of frustrated principals, and outspoken local politicians who feel sidelined, as well as high-ranking education officials who are chafing at how her appointment was handled, experts and insiders said.

“She’s got a minefield ahead of her, and more mines just keep cropping up,” said Pedro Noguera, a professor of education at New York University. “She is going to be tested.”

Ms. Black, the chairwoman of Hearst Magazines, is no ordinary candidate for the chancellorship, and that will be her first hurdle. While [Joel I. Klein](#), the current chancellor, is a lawyer, not an educator, he often talked about how he grew up in a New York housing project, attended public schools and even taught briefly. Ms. Black attended private schools, as did her children.

“She enters a political landscape in a worse position, if possible, than Joel Klein, who was a known quantity after eight years and at least had a reputation for street smarts,” said [David Bloomfield](#), a professor of education at the City University of New York. Ms. Black, he said, is being cast popularly “as a Park Avenue socialite, and she first has to live down a newly minted reputation and then she can build another reputation up.”

She will face a complex tempest of political forces, from City Council officials who regularly rail against school closings and other controversial policies, antagonistic lawmakers in Albany, and grass-roots parents groups that align around a variety of agendas. For this reason, her lack of public experience is as much a concern as her lack of educational experience, said Joseph P. Viteritti, a public policy professor at [Hunter College](#) who ran a year of public hearings on mayoral control of the schools.

“With all due respect to Joel, who probably implemented more change in New York than any other chancellor, he did not work effectively with people in Albany,” Professor Viteritti said. In New York City, he said, “there was concern, from parents and union leaders — everyone from the chancellor of the Board of Regents on down — that they had a deaf ear.”

At the school level, Ms. Black will find a vibrant landscape of school choice and many excellent schools. But there are also parents and teachers worn down by directives that have focused on basic skill instruction in reading and math to the exclusion of a wider curriculum.

“You need to move away from a test-prep culture, to where kids are getting more exciting offerings from their school,” said Kim Nauer, the education project director at the Center for New York City Affairs. “If there’s one thing a publishing executive can do, it should be find new ways to make reading and writing more exciting.”

Some parents, like Michael Kassin at Public School 187 in Manhattan, heard of Mr. Klein’s departure on the same day as the year’s first parent-teacher conference, just as they learned of their school’s falling performance under tougher state standards. Citywide, the proficiency rate in English fell to 42 percent, from 69 percent last year; 54 percent reached grade level in

math, down from 82 percent. “I was shocked,” he said of his school’s B grade, from an A last year.

Diane Ravitch, an education historian and an outspoken critic of Mr. Klein, said: “Many parents are very discouraged because they found out their kids were very low-scoring who they believed were doing fine. Remediation is a very important thing to address.”

Mending the administration’s relationship with teachers is perhaps the most important task for the new chancellor, said Michael J. Petrilli, an education analyst at the Thomas B. Fordham Institute in Washington. “For all the great work that Joel Klein did, his biggest failure was in getting excellent educators on board with his reform efforts,” he said. “Anecdotal reports indicate that fantastic veteran teachers — the very people that Klein wanted the rest of the system to emulate — were just as frustrated and beaten down by the changes as everyone else.”

Instead of supporting the release of teacher rankings, which could come next month, Ms. Black could stand against it, to align herself with their concerns, he said. Many experts argue their release will unfairly malign teachers, because they are flawed indicators of overall teacher performance. The teachers’ union has gone to court to block the release, while several media organizations, including The New York Times, are arguing for access to the data.

Photeine Anagnostopoulos, the deputy chancellor for finance and technology, resigned on Wednesday, becoming the first top education official to leave in the wake of Mr. Klein’s announcement. “Given the transition we are about to undertake, she felt it was the right time to move on,” said Natalie Ravitz, a Department of Education spokeswoman. The city has already begun a search for a replacement.

As federal stimulus funds end, deeper cuts and potential layoffs lie ahead. One of the main areas for savings could be a new teachers’ contract, but wringing concessions — like a way to lay off teachers more easily — will be difficult. Again, communication, cited by several experts as a core weakness of Mr. Klein’s administration, will be crucial.

Harold O. Levy, the chancellor who served before Mr. Klein, said Ms. Black “has to work with the union to bring out its more progressive instincts.”

Send greetings of the season to a soldier

Published: Thursday, November 11, 2010, 2:04 PM



Virginia N. Sherry



Pamela Carlton of Brighton Heights is spearheading the drive to send holiday greeting cards to U.S. troops serving overseas. (Staten Island Advance/Virginia N. Sherry)

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - BRIGHTON HEIGHTS - Reading the messages that North Shore residents have written inside cards that are destined for U.S. troops serving overseas can sometimes choke up Pamela Carlton, co-chair of the Social Action Committee of the Temple Israel Reform Congregation in Randall Manor. The group is coordinating another "Holiday Cards for Heroes" project this season.

"Look, read these," Ms. Carlton said, handing over beautiful messages already inscribed in neat penmanship by members of Temple Israel and the Senior Committee of YMCA Broadway Center in West Brighton .

"I am very appreciative of your services. When I was a young woman, I sang and toured in Vietnam, so I got a little glimpse into wartime. Thank you and God bless – wishing you a quick return home," one read.

Written inside another was this: "Thank you so much for the service you perform

on behalf of our country and the cause of peace. Your service enables the rest of us to live in security, and we cherish your contribution to our country. May God watch over you and return you safely home."

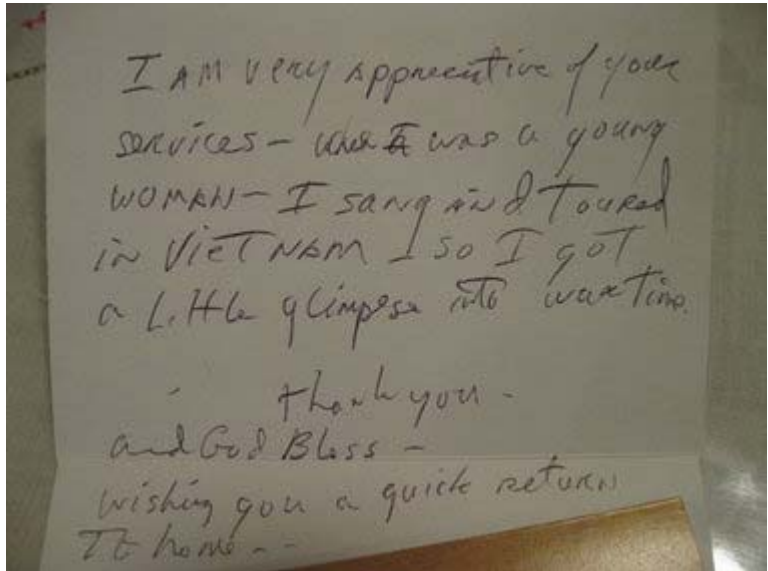
Another message read in part: "There is no freedom without those brave enough to defend it. We thank you

from the bottom of our hearts."

CARDS NEEDED

The effort works because people donate unused holiday cards – especially ones that are sent, unsolicited in the mail – and others volunteer to write messages inside the cards.

"Last year, we sent out several hundred cards, and this year we are already way past that number because of the cards that people have contributed. It would be great if groups donated cards, or agreed to write to the troops for the project," she said.



Groups or individuals are needed to donate cards and write messages for the troops. (Staten Island Advance/Virginia N. Sherry)

"We are especially reaching out to non-Christians to donate cards," she added.

TIME IS NOW

The time to act is now, Ms. Carlton said. In early December, the collected cards – and any donated holiday packages – will be given to Staten Island Project Home Front, for shipment to servicewomen and men overseas.

For security reasons, the envelopes on cards with written messages must be unsealed.

Anyone interested in participating in this season's project can drop off holiday cards any time in the mailbox at 495 Castleton Ave., Brighton Heights, or between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. at Temple Israel, 315 Forest Ave., Randall Manor.

Ms. Carlton, an adjunct professor of anatomy and physiology in the biology department at the College of Staten Island, has lived on Staten Island since 1966. She is a certified paramedic, a volunteer at Bravo Volunteer Ambulance in Bay Ridge, and serves on the Anti-Bias Task Force that Rev. Terry Troia of Project Hospitality has organized.

If you can volunteer to write messages on donated cards, or for additional information, call 917-903-3444.

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5 things: What should Cathie Black do when she becomes NYC's schools chancellor?

BY [Rachel Monahan](#)
Daily News Staff Writer

Thursday, November 11th 2010, 8:11 AM

The Daily News asked five prominent voices on city education to name the first thing new schools Chancellor Cathie Black needs to do when she takes the reins. Here's their advice:

Clara Hemphill, editor, Insideschools.org at The New School:

"De-emphasize test scores. An intense focus on improving test scores in reading and math has had the perverse effect of rewarding schools that ignore science, history, geography, music and art."

Ernie Logan, president, Council of School Supervisors & Administrators:

"Visit schools by walking through them, not just for photo ops but to understand what's really going on, what the school teachers and leaders are really dealing with."

Eva Moskowitz, founder and CEO, Success Charter Network:

"Give great principals and talented teachers the freedom to run great schools. The union contracts prevent that. Principals need the freedom to hire and

fire."

David Bloomfield, head of the education department, [College of Staten Island](#), CUNY:

"Concentrate on the achievement of black and Latino males. It hasn't been done enough. If this person could figure that out, everything else would follow. Graduation rates overall would be higher."

Jim Devor, president of Community Education Council 15 in Brooklyn:

"Trust parents. By and large, parents are in the best position to understand and know what's best for their children and are sincere in their demands. Their agenda is their children, and they have the intelligence and capacity to give good advice."



November 11, 2010

What should be on Cathie Black's chancellor-prep reading list?

by Anna Phillips

Cathleen Black has almost six weeks to get up-to-speed on public education in New York City before she becomes the new schools chancellor.

She appears to have gotten started on her prep work: Black, the chairwoman of Hearst Magazines, was spotted on Monday with a "thick stack of materials concerning public education," according to The New York Times. She's also made phone calls to the presidents of the teachers and principals unions, as well as Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and City Council Speaker Christine Quinn.

When Chancellor Joel Klein was tapped for the job more than eight years ago, he told reporters that he planned to meet with 5,000 people — consultants, educators, parents, and community groups — in his first two months.

We don't know what's in Black's stack of reading material, but we put this question to education experts: what should she be reading?

Jeffrey Henig, professor of political science and education at Columbia's Teachers College:

I really don't feel comfortable saying read my stuff, but it makes some sense of course to say those papers presented at the conference yesterday. One of those was mine. The piece I did was on parent engagement — she may or may not be open to that story. I would say she should read that.

Now I am going to name my stuff, I'm sorry. Hank Levin and I and Katy Bulkley have a new volume on portfolio management models and it contains a chapter on New York City. My general point would be that politics is not just the thing she has to hold at bay, she's got to understand how to build a political constituency, especially if she's concerned with the sustainability of the reforms past the next election...

...And I'd tell her to read [Diane] Ravitch so she understands the arguments she's up against. And I'd tell her to go read Leonie Haimson's blog and to go read GothamSchools. I'll say that so you don't have to.

Diane Ravitch, New York University education historian

I would recommend *The Great School Wars*, it's history, so it ends in 1973, and then to read my latest book, *The Death and Life of the Great American School System*, which I would strongly recommend that she read...

...She should read the latest Vanderbilt study on merit pay and a wonderful book she might want to read one chapter of is by Andrea Gabor, a professor at Baruch College, and her book is called *The Man Who Discovered Quality*, and tell her to read Chapter 9.

Chapter 9 is about performance incentives — what the problems with performance incentives are. And it's not coming from some educator, it's coming from a business consultant.

Andrew Rotherham, co-founder of Bellwether Education Partners, author of Eduwonk.com

Paul Tough: "What It Takes to Make a Student" from NYT mag

Diane Ravitch: *Left Back: A Century of Failed School Reforms*

E.D. Hirsch: The Knowledge Deficit

Paul Hill: *Learning as We Go* 2010 book about school choice, and his March 2000 book, *It Takes A City*

Aristotle: If she thinks this debate isn't about politics and power, she should stop thinking that now.

Daniel Koretz, Harvard University testing expert

It's hard to answer this without seeming self-serving, but I would suggest *Measuring Up*, because in a system like this one, she needs to have some understanding of testing, and I am not aware of an easier way to get it.

James Merriman, CEO of the Center for Charter School Excellence

Paul Tough's *Whatever it Takes* — because she needs to understand both just how hard this work is for teachers and leaders but also that we need to be unrelenting in expecting excellence and results

Chester Finn, Terry Ryan, and Mike Lafferty's *Ohio's Education Reform Challenges: Lessons from the Frontlines*, — because it provides a heart-breaking account of how traditional district schools have sometimes failed their students, but also a bracing look at how important it is to have strong and transparent accountability structures.

David Bloomfield, Chair of the Education Department, College of Staten Island, CUNY

What she should be reading, since I was just reading it, is a report by the Metropolitan Center for Urban Education at NYU. It's called "A Close Look at the Dropout Crisis: Examining Black and Latino Males in New York City."

Sy Fliegel, president of the Center for Educational Innovation - Public Education Association

She can read *Miracle in East Harlem*. She might learn something from that. I know he [Klein] read it.

JAMES CANCER FUND FASHION SHOW



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/HILTON FLORES

Michael Pinto, who emceed the event, stands with Patricia Lane, director of the James Cancer Fund, Robert Santimauro, co-chair, and Diane Petuggia, co-chair and board member, at the fashion show and dinner in the Great Hall at Snug Harbor to benefit the James Cancer Fund in memory of James W. Lane III, who died of brain cancer at the age of 8.

NOVEMBER 13, 2010, 5:11 PM

Urban Forager | One Tasty City Mushroom

By [AVA CHIN](#)

Photographs by Ava Chin for The New York Times Wild enoki have a pretty deep-tan cap and flourish well into the cold months.

Each fall brings up new unexpected surprises in the city for the amateur mycologist: hen-of-the-woods mushrooms growing under giant oak trees; a patch of honey mushrooms sprouting within throwing distance of unsuspecting joggers; giant puffballs sitting on Brooklyn hillsides. A few weeks ago I started discovering enoki mushrooms — first on tree stumps in upper Manhattan, then again on Staten Island.

Enoki (*Flammulina velutipes*), a.k.a. winter mushroom, enokitake, velvet stem, or velvet foot, is a dark-orangey-brown gilled mushroom with an elongated velvety stem, and a cap that can grow to two inches wide. Like oyster mushrooms, enokis grow on dead wood and have a long season, even showing up throughout the winter.

In its wild form, enoki looks nothing like the ghostly white supermarket version, those long, thin crunchy fungi that are cultivated in the dark so they resemble something that aliens ejected from a spaceship.

From above, *Flammulinae velutipes* are deep-amber-brown to tawny-colored, and slimy-tacky to the touch. But underneath, their caps are light, whitish-gold, and clustered so close together that the first time I saw them growing on a stump in Inwood, they reminded me of the orientalized dancing mushrooms in “Fantasia” (though those animated fungi more closely resemble amanitas — if only Disney knew of *Flammulina velutipes*!) With careful inspection of the stem base, one can see immature enokis forming in perfect miniature like a collection of Russian nesting dolls.

Prized in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean cuisine, where it is used in soups and stir fries, enokis have been cultivated for hundreds of years. I add cultivated enokis to noodle soup for their lovely shape and crunchy texture, but I prefer the wild version, which tastes more mushroomy. Keep in mind, wild enokitake’s subtle flavor can be lost in anything cooked for more than five minutes (i.e., goat cheese and mushroom frittatas).

Draped over an arboreal shoulder like a rakish sweater.

Be forewarned: Foraging for gilled mushrooms can be dangerous and is not advised for beginners. I was lucky because my first enoki discovery was on a fungus tour led by experts from the [New York Mycological Society](#), of which I am a member. (In fact, [Gary Lincoff](#), author of the “[National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American](#)

Mushrooms” and “The Complete Mushroom Hunter,” proclaimed my giant enoki the best-looking cluster he’d seen in the city, before snapping a picture.)

Wild enoki can easily be mistaken for poisonous mushrooms like the [deadly galerina](#) (*Galerina autumnalis* or Autumn galerina), a very common little brown mushroom that grows throughout North America, which also has tacky, brown caps and grows on wood. Unlike enoki, which has a white spore print, *Galerina autumnalis* has a ringed stalk and a telltale brown spore print. Deadly galerina’s no-joke side-effects include vomiting, diarrhea, kidney or liver failure, coma and death.

Back at home, I made a spore print of my sample, cutting the cap off its stem and placing it flat on a dark surface (in this case a black notepad), then turning a glass jar over the mushroom and leaving it undisturbed for 24 hours. The next day, upon removing the jar and mushroom, I was happy to discover a ghostly white spore print. Enokitake! That weekend, I made enoki-pancetta orecchiette in cream sauce, enoki frittata, and enokis with noodles and broth.

[Note: When it comes to fresh wild mushrooms, one must always do the following: consult experts to look them over, preferably in person (don’t just rely on pictures and e-mail); make spore prints; and double-check with reliable mushroom guides.]

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

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Assignments for the New Chancellor

Nov 2010

Since Mayor Michael Bloomberg shocked most of the city last week by appointing publishing executive Cathleen Black schools chancellor, there has been no shortage of reaction.

Critics have assailed Bloomberg's secretive anointing of a woman with no education experience or firsthand knowledge of the city's public schools but who travels in the same social circles as him and his companion, Diana Taylor. In response Bloomberg has defended his choice -- calling Black a world class manager -- and the way he made it.

As the week wore on critics, of Black's appointment stepped up their efforts to convince State Education Commissioner David Steiner to deny Black the waiver she needs -- because she lack education experience -- to head up the nation's largest schools system.

Regardless of who the next chancellor is, she or he will come to Tweed courthouse at a critical time for city schools. Budgets have been cut back -- and almost certainly will need to be chopped further. The contract between the city and the teacher's union has expired -- as an increasingly restive union leadership challenges some of the city's education policies in court. Up to 47 schools face closing, a move sure to produce rancor and controversy. Tougher high school graduation requirements threaten to create a huge obstacle for many city students. And all this happens at a time when the city's vaunted surge in test scores has been increasingly under attack for being more indicative of dumber tests and lenient scoring than of better educated students.

As the new chancellor confronts all that Bloomberg will undoubtedly continue to be the real educational power in the city. And in light of that few expect policies to change very much. "I doubt that she will take any initiative that will really revolutionize or change. She doesn't have the freedom to do that," said the Manhattan Institute's Sol Stern. "Bloomberg didn't put her in there to conclude that something that happened on his watch was wrong."

But despite that, the departure of Joel Klein after eight years -- the most ever served by a New York City schools chancellor -- seemed a good opportunity to ask some of New York's top education experts and advocates to propose what they would like Cathleen Black to do in her first days on the job.

What would you like the new chancellor to do in her first days on the job? Please send us your ideas to grobinson@gothamgazette.com or use the comment space below.

The "assignments" follow.

Diane Ravitch, New York University
Kim Sweet, Advocates for Children
David Bloomfield, Department of Education, College of Staten Island
Billie Easton, Alliance for Quality Education
Sol Stern, The Manhattan Institute
James Merriman, New York City Charter School Center
Leonie Haimson, Class Size Matters
Mona Davids, New York Charter Parents Association
Helen Doran, Campaign for Fiscal Equity
Javier H. Valdes, Make the Road New York
Jane Hirschmann, Time Out from Testing

Richard Kessler and Doug Israel, Center for Arts Education
Members of the Urban Youth Collaborative

Show Some Respect

I would love to see Cathie Black take on four assignments, all within the realm of the possible:

First, to reach out to parent groups and really listen to them, acknowledging that every parent or guardian cares more about their own child than any public official, and show them the respect they deserve.

Second, to give teachers the recognition they richly deserve for their daily work in our city's classrooms.

Third, to lead a campaign to expand the arts into every grade in every school in the city, so that every child has full opportunity to participate in music, arts, visual arts, and other art forms.

Fourth, to stop the school closings and to apply her best efforts to helping and supporting the schools that need help so as to better serve their students.

--Diane Ravitch, research professor of education, New York University and author of The Death and Life of the Great American School System

Getting Up to Standards

I would like the new chancellor to explain to all the parents whose children are not yet meeting state standards what she will do to ensure that every child gets the extra help he or she needs.

--Kim Sweet, executive director, Advocates for Children

Closing the Achievement Chasm

Educational attainment of black and Latino males should be a priority for the new administration. The 2010 Schott Foundation 50 State Report on Public Education and Black Males found that New York City is among the 10 worst large districts for black males when measured by graduation rates.

Some 28 percent of black males in New York graduate on time with Regents diplomas, compared to 50 percent for white males, resulting in a 22 percent achievement gap. The graduation rates are probably inflated since they are based on students starting ninth grade, when an untold number have already dropped out. The state Education Department reports that the Latino male graduation rate -- including students who receive either a Regents or less demanding Local diploma -- in New York City is 50 percent (including August grads). Even if not inflated, this is a devastating picture of educational inequity and systemic failure. It implicates not only graduation rates but over-referrals to special education, empty efforts at credit accumulation and other perversions of real educational attainment.

My fear is that the new chancellor will fit the problem into the former administration's formula of school closures, small schools, charters and extra points in progress reports. But eight years of such "solutions" have resulted in the data above. I am not against such strategies when rationally targeted but they are clearly not enough.

An unfulfilled promise of mayoral control of schools, hardly mentioned anymore, was that we could undertake a concerted citywide effort to deal with educational problems beyond the scope of the Department of Education. Early intervention; provision of a range of social services including housing, health and employment assistance; diversions from punitive criminal justice strategies; after-school, GED and adult education programs; and other inter-agency contributions to student and family well-being are necessary ingredients to combating this scourge. If the new chancellor is serious about eliminating the achievement gap, she will undertake creative, constructive, comprehensive efforts to address this issue rather than revert to current nostrums.

--David Bloomfield, chair, Education Department, **College of Staten Island**, CUNY

Reaching Out in a Crisis

1. In order to build public trust, explain to the public how it is that you are prepared to lead the nation's largest school district despite having no professional background in education.
2. Conduct meetings across the city with parents, and youth and community organizations. As a result of these meetings identify four priorities to make the Department of Education more responsive to parents, students and communities.
3. Acknowledge that the racial achievement gap in New York City schools remains a chasm.
4. Declare a state of emergency due to the fact that new state standards revealed that in one out of every four schools two thirds of students are reading below grade level. Form an Emergency Task Force chaired by yourself and comprised of parents, teachers, school leaders, academics and business leaders to come up with a comprehensive plan to address this educational crisis.

--Billy Easton, executive director, Alliance for Quality Education

Talking to Teachers

If there is a suspicion she was brought in because she will present a more human face [than Joel Klein did] ... she should go out and talk with rank and file teachers to ask them, "what are your complaints?" She could go and sit in classrooms -- talk to the veteran teachers, those 25-year teachers, some of who are great teachers. She would have to find teachers who are really independent and in a position to speak honestly." Ask them, "What do you need? What do you think?"

--Sol Stern, senior fellow, The Manhattan Institute

Making Accountability Make Sense

If there is one thing thicker than the September issue, it is the portfolio of advice that Cathie Black will get. Here's my addition to the pile.

In terms of charter schools, Chancellor Joel Klein recognized their potential and championed charters both inside and outside the system. I expect that Black will advocate just as vigorously for high-quality charter schools. That means giving the great ones space to open and grow and showing a willingness to fight locally and in Albany for equitable funding. You can't support charters on the one hand and starve them on the other. At the same time, she has to adopt a zero tolerance policy for those charters that are under performing. If charters are to be a model for accountability-based results, then Tweed has to be tougher about closing charters that aren't raising achievement. These aren't easy decisions, but they are necessary.

On a larger scale, I'd like to see a continued commitment to results-based accountability across the system. But Black should explore refining the measures. For instance, instead of issuing single letter grades to schools, she should look at the Colorado model, which separately measures absolute performance and progress (without trying to meld them together). This system, while not perfect, is one that parents understand and that corresponds to the day-to-day reality of the schools their children attend. At the same time it preserves an important aspect of the present system, namely demonstrating to all that even good schools can get much better.

By making accountability more intuitive, more parents will embrace it as a valuable tool. This in turn will strengthen the ability of the Department of Education to make high-stakes decisions around school closure and turnaround -- and draw support for those decisions.

Finally, Black should work hard to articulate where the reforms are taking us and why -- and listen carefully to those who are affected by those reforms. For parents, some account of history must be taken; the simple fact is that parents in poor parts of this city have seen reforms come and go along with the people who instituted them. They have good reason to be profoundly suspicious. The department owes it to them to spend time quietly talking with (and listening to) them to win their trust and faith -- and equally, to be brutally candid with parents when things the department tries don't work. And of course she should spend time speaking and listening to teachers and leaders who must excel if we are to see improved results for students.

Being chancellor of the school system, former Chancellor Frank Macchiarola once said, was like listening to Frank Sinatra: incredibly enjoyable, the best. The catch was, however, you had to listen to him 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The fact is that the job is an excruciatingly tough one. I wish her the very best.

--James Merriman, chief executive officer, New York City Charter School Center

Take 16 Steps, then Relax

What the next chancellor should do:

1. Obey the law, follow the research, listen to parents, and start reducing class size immediately. It is a scandal and a crime that city students are still suffering with the largest classes in the state, and with class sizes still increasing, despite the state law passed in 2007 and a written agreement of the chancellor to reduce them in exchange for more than \$2 billion in additional state funds.

Start by assigning the thousand or more teachers on Absent Teacher Reserve to regular classes, especially in the highest-need schools. For example, start with the schools that the education department says it wants to close. At Jamaica High School, whose budget has been slashed to the bone, there were over 80 classes this fall that exceeded the contractual limits of 34 students per class, and yet the department "quality reviewers" had the nerve to blame this on the school!

As a second step, start redeploying some of the 10,000 out-of-classroom positions that have been created since 2002 -- while the system has lost more than 1,600 classroom teachers.

2. Call an immediate moratorium to any more school closings or co-locations, which merely make the overcrowding problem worse, lead to higher class sizes and concentrate high needs students elsewhere. Put together a taskforce of parents, teachers, administrators and educational experts to come with a real plan to improve the schools that are currently threatened with closure. Enough of the top-down and useless education department proposals of more "merit pay," more testing, more "coaches" and more "data analysis."

3. Assemble another taskforce of stakeholders to redesign the school utilization formula and the "instructional footprint," which seems to see space in schools where there is none, forces students into rooms that violate the building code, and leads to special education students receiving their services in hallways and closets.

4. Put a halt to the creation of more new, small schools, which have multiplied throughout the system like rabbits, with little or no quality control, and which are very space-intensive and expensive to fund. Instead invest maximum resources and energy in improving the 1,500 schools that we already have.

5. Restore the district structure, offices and supervisory functions, which allow parents to have a place to go with their concerns by eliminating the sprawling "Children First" networks that have mushroomed to almost a thousand people, without any geographical base or reason, and whose members waste much of their time traveling from one end of the city to another.

6. Put a stop to all no-bid contracts and expensive consultants; and cancel the hugely expensive contract for "interim assessments," which most teachers find useless and a waste of time.

7. Revamp the school progress reports, which are unreliable and confusing to parents; and instead, in consultation with parents and other stakeholders, devise a new system that provides several grades for every school based on various attributes and more holistic factors. Put more attention into the results of the parent, student and teacher surveys, so that any school that receives poor survey results for more than one year would receive immediate intervention from the district to see if the principal needs to be removed or given more training or help.
8. Deep-six the unreliable and unfair teacher data reports, and convene a working group composed of parents and other stakeholders, which will design a more accurate evaluation system, in which peer, student and parent views are taken into account with test scores only one factor.
9. Tell charter schools in Department of Education buildings that are run by the scions of billionaires or who have deep-pocketed hedge-fund supporters to find leased space elsewhere -- as soon as possible -- because district students should not be squeezed out of their own school buildings.
10. Ask for the city comptroller to perform a top to bottom performance audit of every discretionary expense, consultant, contract and spending item, and release the results to the public.
11. Inform high schools that they must end the scandalous practice of substandard, online credit recovery programs immediately, and put in place strong oversight mechanisms to make sure that these abuses end.
12. Restore Project Arts, which existed for years before Joel Klein canceled it, and provided dedicated funding for arts programs in our schools, to better ensure that our children receive a well-rounded education.
13. Commission an independent assessment of Collaborative Team Teaching classes (special education inclusion classes) and online learning programs, which have expanded rapidly over the last few years, to see if they are working and whether they need to be rethought or reformed, before expanding these programs any more.
14. Re-establish a true Chancellor's Parent Advisory Council, in which parent leaders from throughout the city actually advise the chancellor, without just having to listen to the chancellor or one of his minions tell them what they intend to do. Involve the members of Community Education Councils as well, and embark on a new era of mutual respect and collaboration with parents, sadly missing over the last nine years of this administration.
15. Release transparent enrollment projections based on numerous sources of data, including birth rates, census data regarding family in-migration and out-migration rates, day care and pre-k enrollments, building starts, and analyze and report on this data on the school zone, district, and citywide levels. In short, start being honest with parents and other New Yorkers about the real need for more seats throughout the city to relieve the overcrowding crisis, before it gets even worse.
16. Build more schools, and take advantage of the many parochial schools that are closing throughout the city by leasing them. Re-allocate nearly \$1 billion toward this critical goal, by canceling the expansion and construction of new jails in Brooklyn and the Bronx that community members don't want and the city doesn't need. While our jail population has been falling, our student population is rapidly expanding; and if these funds were invested in schools, they would yield \$2 billion, because the state puts up matching funds for school construction.

And then, take a day off!

--Leonie Haimson, executive director, Class Size Matters

Tough Support for Charters

The new chancellor needs to show some tough love to charter school authorized by the Department of Education. When they receive complaints from parents, they need to step in. They should not wait five years for a charter school to fail [before revoking the authorization] I think they know that after two year. The charter school office needs to be more receptive to the concerns of parents and to communicate with parents. She needs to do a complete overhaul of the charter school office. I hope she won't wait like she did with shutting down Talk magazine.

--Mona Davids, president, New York Charter Parents Association

Figuring Out What Works

Campaign for Fiscal Equity recently published a study on Regents diplomas. In grouping schools together, we tried to find out whether there schools who have students who are highly challenged and are helping them to get Regents diplomas. It should be a priority to find out why this list of schools is succeeding -- why this list of schools is getting it done.

This is going to be one of the most wretched budget years for schools in 20 years. We always care about the students who are not receiving their constitutionally required sound basic education, and we would want to make sure that those students are a priority.

For schools, there's no accountability other than the letter grade to help them get better. Schools need to have strong support and accountability -- not just a letter grade but someone who has resources to help them change.

We lure good teachers with higher salaries, but we continue to lose them. Why are we not retaining these people so we can get the kind of quality schools we want?

--Helaine Doran, deputy director, Campaign for Fiscal Equity

Working Together to Help Students

Chancellor Joel Klein had some accomplishments running our schools but he is also leaving behind 239,000 students who are not reading or doing math on grade level. After the recent test score debacle, 27 percent more of the city's students were not reading on grade level than they were in 2008, and 28 percent more of our students weren't doing math on grade level. For immigrant students, the trauma of the department's failure is devastating: 14 percent of English Language Learners are on grade level for English language arts, compared to 35 percent in 2008.

Cathie Black is stepping into an incredibly hard role. Parents and students with our organization and others throughout the city have been working for years to secure the resources and support that our schools need. We look forward to building a strong relationship with the new chancellor, but one that is based on mutual respect. It is essential that Black immediately begin meeting with organizations like ours in order to establish a respectful and productive working relationship. She will not be able to do a good job without parents and students at her side.

For those students who did not fare well on their recent tests, Black needs to provide Academic Intervention Services. We need all of our students reading on grade levels.

She needs to work with communities to ensure that any reforms that the department puts into place, such as restructuring or closing schools, will be likely to work. Our communities are tired of seeing schools closed and re-opened, our students shuffled around, or shoved out of school into the streets, with no clear accountability for making sure these reforms really work. We need schools that provide all of our students a path to college and careers. We also need to make sure that students with limited proficiency in English are not forgotten off but real support is provided to them and their families for them to strive.

-- Javier H. Valdes, deputy director, Make the Road New York

What Your Children Learned

I would like to see the new chancellor put an end to excessive and high stakes tests. In other words, I think that she should think about enriching the curriculum with the kinds of subjects her children had in private boarding school. Replacing test prep with real learning and allowing teachers to teach would be a welcome beginning, as would putting the word *public* back into public education. This means giving parents a major voice in their child's education and investing in the existing public schools rather than putting our much-needed resources into charter schools.

--Jane Hirschmann, Time Out From Testing

Preparing Students for Life

For school districts across the nation, including New York City's, there is a watershed moment rapidly emerging as federal funding that has kept education jobs afloat will be coming to an end next year. This is further compounded by cuts in state funding for education, and a growing appetite to cut government spending.

Cathie Black will be at the helm of a system that will face this profound financial reality. Should this reset moment combine with what has been an over-reliance on test scores in English language arts and math, we will witness a reshaping of public K-12 education in the narrowest form imaginable, one that establishes a meager education devoid of the rich and well-rounded instruction and experiences our students ultimately need to be college and career ready, and perhaps most important, to be prepared to be active members of our democratic society.

Black can choose the road of more of the same, one that narrows the curriculum even further, or another path, that will seek a balance even during severe financial constraints. We hope that she will seek real solutions for how a well-rounded education can be ensured, so that all of our students will be prepared to be successful in life and work.

--Richard Kessler, executive director, and Doug Israel, director of research and policy, Center for Arts Education

Listen to Students

As chancellors and mayors come and go, it is students and parents -- the communities of people who live in New York City and attend its public schools -- who remain. That is why *all* stakeholders -- students especially -- need to be consulted on education policy and involved in decisions about how to improve schools.

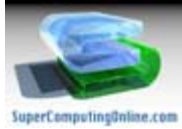
The Urban Youth Collaborative, a coalition of high school students of color from some of New York's poorest neighborhoods, has a broad vision for fixing our city's schools: engaging, rigorous and well-rounded curriculum; a respectful and supportive school culture that treats us like the students we are, instead of criminals; counseling and academic support that puts us on the path to college; real student and parent voice and role in decision-making; and equitable funding.

The collaborative hopes to work with the new chancellor on implementing some of our ideas to fix schools, like offering more AP classes at low-income schools; giving more high school students the opportunity to take college classes while in high school; and implementing creative and positive approaches to school safety instead of continuing the de facto zero tolerance safety policies that exist now.

We hope that instead of closing schools without first trying to fix them, or without a clear plan about how what comes next will offer students a different and better education, Chancellor Cathleen Black will take the important step of meeting with students and parents to listen to our experiences, the challenges we face and our ideas for improving -- not abandoning -- public schools.

Chancellor Black, will you meet with the Urban Youth Collaborative?

--Members of the Urban Youth Collaborative



Cray Launches Midrange Version of the Cray XE6 Supercomputer

Written by Saqib Kazmi

Tuesday, 16 November 2010 05:09

At the 2010 Supercomputing Conference in New Orleans, LA, global supercomputer leader Cray has announced the latest addition to its line of Cray XE supercomputers with the launch of the Cray XE6m system. With the new Cray XE6m supercomputer, researchers, scientists and engineers with midrange high performance computing (HPC) computational needs can now purchase a cost-effective system that is scalable, reliable and built on Cray's proven petascale technologies.

Available now, the Cray XE6m supercomputer includes the same features found in the high-end Cray XE6 systems, such as Cray's Gemini interconnect, the latest version of the Cray Linux Environment and powerful AMD Opteron processors. The scaled-down configuration of the Cray XE6m is designed to maintain an attractive cost of ownership, and extend Cray's presence in market segments that have needs for midrange supercomputing systems, such as the university, manufacturing, weather and life sciences communities.

"The Cray XE6m supercomputer is an exciting system for us because we can now take all of the innovative features and technologies of our Gemini-based supercomputers and offer that same functionality to both new and existing customers at a lower entry point," said Barry Bolding, vice president of Cray's products division. "While some companies approach scalability from the bottom up, we strongly believe in scaling from the top down. Under this approach, Cray benefits from an expanded base of customers, but more importantly, the HPC user community benefits from cost-effective access to industry-leading supercomputing technology."

Fully upgradeable from current Cray XT5m and Cray XT6m systems, the Cray XE6m supercomputer is also designed to give customers the ability to upgrade to future Cray systems and technologies. In September 2010, Cray announced that the Company is developing blades based on the NVIDIA Tesla 20-Series GPUs for the Cray XE6 supercomputer. The Cray XE6m supercomputer will also be available with blades featuring the same NVIDIA GPUs when they become available. Additionally, features currently available in the Cray XE6 system, such as the Cluster Compatibility Mode built into Cray Linux Environment, can also be found in the Cray XE6m system allowing users to run applications from independent software vendors without modification.

Another innovative feature of the Cray XE6m system is the hardware and software support for modern parallel languages such as Unified Parallel C and Co-Array Fortran. The City University in New York (CUNY), purchased a Cray XE6m supercomputer to exploit the advantages provided by these Partitioned Global Address Space (PGAS) programming languages. CUNY's users are working on a project to jump-start academic research in the development of PGAS-based applications.

Paul Muzio, Director of the CUNY HPC Center, stated, "Our staff and researchers at CUNY have extensive experience in the development of applications using Co-Array Fortran and Unified Parallel C. We will be applying that expertise and using the Cray XE6m system to address problems in engineering, bio-medical science and data intensive computing that require low latency inter-processor communications to support fine grain parallelism. Our experience has shown that the PGAS one-sided

programming model is often a more natural and efficient approach to application development than the traditional two-sided, library-supported parallel programming model."

Dr. Michael Kress, vice president, Technology Systems, College of Staten Island, CUNY, said, "CUNY is the largest urban university in the United States with a total enrollment of over 450,000 students and 10,000 faculty members. It is the country's most diverse university with over 125 different languages spoken and where 42 percent of the students are first generation college attendees. The addition of the Cray XE6m, with PGAS programming model support, also adds diversity to our HPC infrastructure, now the largest in academia in the City of New York."

The system will be designated "Salk" after Dr. Jonas Salk, an alumnus of CUNY's City College of New York. CUNY's acquisition of the Cray XE6m system was made possible by grant CNS-0958379 from the National Science Foundation.

The Cray XE6m, along with the Cray XT5m and Cray XT6m, is the Company's third generation of its midrange supercomputer designed to effectively scale down Cray's high-end systems while providing the same benefits to an expanded base of users. The compute blades feature four compute nodes designed for high scalability in a small footprint and can be configured with up to 96 dual-socket nodes per cabinet. Each compute node is composed of two AMD Opteron 6100 Series processors (the eight and 12-core "Maranello" platform), each coupled with its own memory and dedicated Cray Gemini interconnect. The compute nodes in the Cray XE6m systems can also be configured with 32 GB or 64 GB DDR3 memory.

The Cray XE6m supercomputer, with prices starting at under \$500,000, features the option of using the Company's industry-leading ECOphlex liquid cooling technology, designed to reduce the customer's energy usage and lower the total cost of ownership.

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Prosecutor says suspects ‘had beer muscles on’

Five teenagers indicted in beating death of O.B. man; no bias charges will be filed

BY LAUREN CIRAULO

Staff Writer

OLD BRIDGE — The five Old Bridge teenagers charged in the fatal assault of a township man were indicted by a state grand jury on Nov. 3.

The defendants, Cash Johnson, Steven Contreras and Christopher Conway, all 17, Christian Tinli, 18, and Julian Daley, 16, are facing murder charges as adults in the fatal beating of township resident Divyendu Sinha, 49, on June 25. They were also indicted on two counts of aggravated assault for allegedly attacking Sinha’s sons, ages 16 and 12, who were walking with Sinha and his wife at the time of the assault. The children reportedly sustained minor injuries; the wife was not injured.

In addition, the grand jury charged the defendants in the unrelated aggravated assault of an 18-year-old Old Bridge man who was allegedly attacked minutes before the assault on Sinha. Authorities alleged that the five suspects instigated a motor vehicle chase with the man on Prests Mill Road, but that he was able to escape. However, the teens allegedly threw objects at his car, which was damaged.

The grand jury also charged Daley and Conway with conspiring to commit another assault following the attack on Sinha. Police said they were arrested before the alleged planned assault.

According to the Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office, Sinha, a computer scientist at Siemens and a professor at the College of Staten Island, and his family were out walking near their home on Fela Drive around 11:40 p.m. June 25 when they were attacked. Sinha died three days later at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick from injuries he received in the assault.

Police arrested the five teens, all students at Old Bridge High School, in the days following the assault.

The five teens, four of whom have been free on bail, with amounts ranging from \$300,000 to \$450,000, have all pleaded not guilty to the murder charges.

The grand jury also accused the defendants of riot and a related count of conspiracy, contending that they acted as a group to commit the crimes. The teens were additionally charged with two counts of hindering for allegedly concealing evidence or misrepresenting facts.

A criminal mischief charge was also included for damaging the car in the alleged chase on Prests Mill Road.

However, the teens were not charged with committing a bias crime. Middlesex County Prosecutor Bruce J. Kaplan said “an exhaustive investigation” revealed no evidence that the teens were motivated by their alleged victims’ race, color, religion or ethnicity.

Sinha’s family released a statement shortly following the indictment through family friend Nick Muzumdar, indicating that they were pleased with the grand jury’s decision.

“It was a difficult time to listen to comments by the defense attorneys regarding the innocence of their clients,” the statement said in reference to Family Court hearings from September. “But the Sinha family is happy that the grand jury has seen through that and returned the indictment. The family is confident that justice will be served and all five defendants will be convicted of the murder of Dr. Sinha.”

During the September hearings, Middlesex County Assistant Prosecutor Christopher Kuberiet said the teens had been drinking malt liquor behind Grissom School on June 25 before they went on “a wilding spree for no apparent purpose.”

“This isn’t about a girl, this isn’t about money, this isn’t about a business deal gone bad,” Kuberiet said in audio recordings of the Sept. 17 hearing that were released to the Star-Ledger. “This is about a couple of guys with their beer muscles on ... and what did they do but pound somebody for nothing.”

At the hearing, Kuberiet read several text messages that Daley and Conway allegedly exchanged after the attack. They bragged about the assault, noting that they enjoyed it so much they would like to do it again the next night, Kuberiet said.

“My hand’s definitely broken, no lie,” Conway texted to Daley at 11:46 p.m. on June 25, according to transcripts read by Kuberiet. “I never hit an n-word so hard.”

“Yo, tomorrow night, you down again?” Daley reportedly texted back.

Conway allegedly wrote back commenting on the state of his right hand, then followed up with a second text message five minutes later: “I’m just saying, son, I can’t believe that [expletive] was so great.”

Then, about a half-hour later, Conway texted Daley: “LMAO [laughing my a** off] highlight of my life,” the transcript states.

Kuberiet said Conway pointed out the Sinha family as the teens drove along Fela Drive. He said four of the five teenagers exited the vehicle, which was driven by Contreras, to attack the Sinha family.

Kuberiet said that Tinli was “one of the prime movers and shakers” of the attacks, and told the judge that it was Tinli who delivered the fatal punch to the right side of Sinha’s head.

“He is indicated in all the evidence as being one of the primary movers if not the individual who actually threw the blow to the right side of Dr. Sinha’s skull that caused the bleed that resulted in his death,” Kuberiet said. “He was one of the primary movers all the way back to Grissom School, where he was sitting there and pumping everyone up and talking to them about beating somebody up... .”

Tinli’s attorney, John Koufos, denies these allegations.

“My firm intends to vigorously challenge the state’s allegations, and will use every available resource to ensure the state makes well-reasoned prosecutorial decisions that are grounded in fact, and are not a knee-jerk response to appease the public,” he said.

He noted that many portions of the affidavits and statements provided by the state directly contradict Kuberiet’s assertions.

The teens were awarded the opportunity to speak during the September hearing, and while four of the five declined, Johnson addressed the court and apologized to the Sinha family.

“I really apologize [to] the victim’s family and the victim, and I hope one day they can forgive me and see that I’m not a monster, like everyone in the media says we are,” he said. “[I hope] that they can find it from the bottom of their hearts to forgive me.”

Johnson’s attorney, William Fetky, has held that Johnson did not participate in the attack, and was merely an accomplice.

“It’s my position that this was a case of being in the wrong place at the wrong time with the wrong people,” he has said. “If there’s a pecking order, then he’s last in the ranks. As you know, he also had the lowest bail.”

Lennart Carlson, the attorney for Contreras, released a statement shortly following the indictment.

“Steven and his entire family are deeply sorry for the pain caused to Mr. Sinha and his loved ones,” the statement said.

Carlson goes on to state Contreras’ innocence in the incident.

“Steven had no prior knowledge of the Sinhas or any intention to allow an innocent family man to be brutalized. Steven did not join in on either attack or alleged offensive remarks thereafter. He was helpful to authorities from day one,” the statement said.

Carlson acknowledged that Contreras showed a lack of judgment in driving around four of his friends on the night of June 25, but emphasized that it was not his intent to allow the co-defendants to cause serious harm to anyone.

“Steven is a responsible, good-natured child who now finds himself in a nightmare world due to actions beyond his ability to control,” the statement concluded.

Daley’s attorney, Mitchell Ansell, and Conway’s attorney, Charles Uliano, could not be reached at the time of publication.

The defendants have yet to have a date set for their arraignment.



Contract Dispute

John Liu takes aim at Bloomberg through DOE contracts

By Andrew J. Hawkins



Much like his predecessor, Comptroller John Liu has focused on contracts with the city's school system as a way to check Mayor Michael Bloomberg's wide-ranging power.

The war began in early October, with news reports that the Department of Education was blaming the comptroller for delaying contract approval that would allow over \$500,000 in profits from new health food vending machines from being transferred to schools. Liu's office said it was probing possible "collusion" between the vending machine companies.

The dispute soon escalated over insurance contracts between the comptroller's office and DOE, which still has the potential to leave hundreds of school buses without insurance coverage after December.

Under the revised mayoral control law, DOE must register contracts with the comptroller's office before finalizing them. But a contract between insurance broker Willis Group and DOE to insure city school buses expired June 30 and has yet to be registered by Liu's office. Liu's office is refusing to approve the contract, arguing that, as it is currently written, it "usurped" the comptroller's responsibility under the City Charter to adjudicate insurance claims.

Cathie Black's replacement of Schools Chancellor Joel Klein is unlikely to ease the tension between DOE and the comptroller's office. If anything, some experts predict that Black's ascendancy to the top position could heighten the perception of DOE as an agency unchecked.

"Generally, executives like to keep the power they think they inherited," said Pedro Noguera, a professor of education at New York University. "She would see this as a power loss of some of her authority, especially because she's coming from the corporate world. With only the mayor for her to report to, it really leaves no room for checks and balances."

Bloomberg has always pushed back against the idea of increased oversight by the city comptroller, arguing that DOE is more a state agency than a city one, answerable to the State Education Department. This stance led to friction between the mayor and then-Comptroller Bill Thompson, compounded by Thompson's political ambitions to run for mayor himself. Though this was exacerbated after the term limits extension, which set the two up to run against each other, Bloomberg aides felt even before the fall of 2008 that Thompson occasionally hit the education record to help lay the foundation for his own mayoral run.

Barring some massive change of heart in the referendum electorate and another recalibration of the political world from the mayor, Liu will not be running against Bloomberg at any point. But he is seen as a likely candidate for the 2013 race, when having some burnished credentials and additional exposure would be important for sticking out of a crowded field.

"There's always been tension, political and administrative, between the comptroller's office and the mayor's office," said David Bloomfield, an education professor at the City University of New York. "So it's not unusual for the comptroller, in his role as auditor and oversight manager, to hold things up, doing his due diligence, and take advantage in that situation perhaps to bring the mayor up short, to not steamroll his program through the contracting process."

After the Legislature reauthorized mayoral control in the summer of 2009, the city comptroller was given new powers to regulate and manage DOE's contracting process. Problems with the new protocol were evident almost right out of the gate.

In July, Liu's office got word that the Panel on Education Policy would seek to approve a resolution that would allow DOE to make contract purchases without the panel's approval. Liu fired off a letter arguing that the resolution would not only be in violation of state law, but was also not put up for public review, as required. The panel eventually pulled the resolution from its agenda.

But a few months later, DOE and the comptroller were back at it. With the vending machines, Liu's office refrained from approving the contracts, holding up hundreds of thousands of dollars in healthy snack profits until concluding that there was nothing improper in how the contracts were awarded. But DOE installed the vending machines anyways, before the contracts were registered by Liu's office.

The flap over school bus insurance appears to be more severe. Willis, the insurance broker, threatened to terminate the contract by Nov. 5 if it still had not been approved by Liu's office. The deadlock would have left thousands of children without rides to school had the deadline not been extended at the last moment to Dec. 31 to allow added time to work out a claims protocol with DOE and, more importantly, avoid a potential public relations nightmare.

Alan Van Capelle, deputy comptroller for public affairs, said that this is a systemic problem with DOE that needs to be addressed.

"We hope that the Department of Education uses this increased time to work with us and find a resolution to all the outstanding issues," Van Capelle said. "But I think DOE needs a study hall on procurement. And they need to understand that mayoral control of schools does not mean they control everything. There still is a procurement policy and they're required to follow it."

A DOE spokesperson declined to answer questions about the status of the insurance contract, preferring instead to highlight the procedural issue between the agency and Liu's office.

"Yellow bus service will continue to serve our children," said DOE spokesperson Margie Feinberg. "The comptroller has 30 days to register the contract and the time period is not yet over. As we do with many of our contracts, we have had discussions with the comptroller during the registration period, and we expect all issues will be addressed and that the contract will be registered."

Testing-Gate: The Case for Reparations

by David Bloomfield

November 18, 2010



Consequences are an essential component of accountability. Recent revelations of inflated state test scores require consequences, not just for those public officials responsible for false claims of math and reading proficiency but to make whole the students who for years were denied legally required help.

This case for reparations depends not only on elemental fairness and the oft-cited need for improved student outcomes but on mandated Supplemental Educational Services under Section 1116(e) of the No Child Left Behind Act and Academic Intervention Services required by New York State Education Commissioner's Regulation §§ 100.1(g) and 100.2(ee). If children's test scores had been properly determined, hundreds of thousands more students would have received extra help. It is insufficient to now say, in effect, "too bad."

Students were denied their legal right to instructional services because of State policies that were known or should have been known to be deficient. Unfortunately, at least under No Child Left Behind, individuals do not generally have a right to sue the federal government, states, or school districts for noncompliance. But the federal government itself can sue the state, and the state's attorney general can sue the State Education Department and districts to repair the harm. The state can also address the problem legislatively.


The recent movie "Waiting for 'Superman'" argues that state governments and school districts constitute a "Blob" that cares more about adults' concerns than children's. In October, the State Board of Regents compounded its strategy of denial by voting to suspend its own requirement that districts provide remediation to students lacking academic proficiency. Once again, the State Education Blob undercut its own rhetoric about high standards leading to improved student performance by acting in a manner that subverts progress of our most vulnerable youth. When push comes to shove, the new education elite abandons its civil rights sound bites to reduce its tax bite.

There can be no clearer example of the Blob at work than denying instruction to needy students. The government is directly withholding instructional assistance needed to compensate students for past wrongs. Our children, our future, and our law demand that our leaders make good on their unfulfilled responsibilities to supplement the instruction of those students unfairly denied this entitlement.

NYC Mayor Seeks Waiver for His Chancellor Choice

By **Christina A. Samuel**

New York Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg has formally requested a state waiver to make publishing executive Cathleen P. Black the city's schools chief, even as opposition to her selection has become more vocal this week.

Ms. Black is a person of "extraordinary skills and accomplishments" with firsthand knowledge of the demands and challenges of today's workplace, the mayor wrote in a six-page appeal to state Commissioner of Education David M. Steiner. The [letter](#) , dated Nov. 17, was posted on the website of *The New York Times*.

Under state law, district leaders in New York are required to have at least three years of teaching experience, a master's degree or higher, and successful completion of a professional certificate in educational leadership. The commissioner is allowed to grant a waiver, however, for "exceptionally qualified" people.

Some local groups are citing the state requirement in seeking to block the appointment of Ms. Black who has little experience in education, to succeed Joel I. Klein as the chancellor of the 1.1 million-student school district. Mayor Bloomberg announced the surprise pick Nov. 9. ("**Media Leader Tapped to Head N.Y.C. Schools,**" Nov. 17, 2010.)

In his letter, though, Mr. Bloomberg argued that his choice fits the description of "exceptionally qualified." Ms. Black is the chairman of the board of Hearst Magazines, a division of the Hearst Corp that publishes titles such as *Cosmopolitan*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Esquire*, and *O, The Oprah Magazine*. Until earlier this year, she served as the division's president, leading a team of 2,000 employees.

Track Record Examined

At Hearst, the mayor wrote, Ms. Black "was responsible for putting the company at the forefront of digital expansion by starting a digital media unit dedicated to creating and implementing online and mobile strategies." During her time there, he said, she "spearheaded innovative strategies" that produced record-breaking years for the company. And her educational experience includes time spent on the boards of the University of Notre Dame and her alma mater, Trinity Washington University. She also serves as a trustee of the Kent School, a 500-student boarding school in Connecticut, and recently joined the leadership board of the Harlem Village Academies, a charter school group in New York City.

These varied experiences have made Ms. Black "an innovative leader with a proven track record of success, who can immediately step in, consolidate our gains, and aggressively continue our reform

efforts by effectively working together with students, teachers, administrators, parents, and community groups,” Mr. Bloomberg concluded.

Groups mobilizing to lobby the state education commissioner for denial of a waiver for Ms. Black say that the mayor’s choice was made without any community input.

“The selection of a new chancellor for any public school district, especially the largest in the nation, should follow a baseline public process beyond going through one’s personal address book,” Scott M Stringer, the Manhattan borough president, was quoted as telling *The New York Times*. Ms. Black has been described as a social acquaintance of the mayor’s.

However, city leaders and others have offered their support of Ms. Black. Former mayors Edward I. Koch, David N. Dinkins, and Rudolph W. Giuliani have written a letter supporting her, as has the Partnership for New York City, a network of high-profile business leaders. Talk show host Oprah Winfrey has also spoken in favor of the pick.

Ms. Black herself has been relatively silent, speaking briefly to the television station NY1 and to the *New York Post*. After visiting district headquarters on Wednesday, she released a statement saying that she had had a “great” first visit to the city department of education.

“Joel took me on a tour and introduced me to many of the wonderful staff before I sat down for a meeting with the full cabinet,” she said in the statement, referring to Mr. Klein, the outgoing chancellor. “We had a great exchange of ideas during that meeting and they could not have been more welcoming. In the coming days and weeks, we’ll be spending more time together discussing the pressing issues facing our schools and the best way to build on the reforms of the last eight years.”

Mr. Bloomberg selected Mr. Klein, another nontraditional choice, in 2002 after a state law gave the mayor control of the city’s school system.

History of Waivers

New York state’s requirements for education leaders are not unusual nationwide, said Michael Casserly, the executive director of the **Council of the Great City Schools**, a Washington-based group. “It’s typical in most states, and it’s been a long-standing provision in New York,” he said.

In New York City, waivers were granted for Mr. Klein, who was an assistant U.S. attorney general and a chairman and chief executive officer of the media company Bertelsmann, Inc. before heading the school system, and for the chancellor before him, lawyer Harold O. Levy.

However, the state has also blocked appointments. In 1983, Robert F. Wagner Jr., a former deputy mayor and president of the city board of education, was selected to be chancellor by then-mayor Koch. He was denied by the state commissioner at the time, Gordon M. Ambach, because he did not have education credentials.

The Tenure of Joel Klein



Seth Wenig/AP

[View a news timeline](#) of stories, photos, and video from key events during the tenure of New York City Schools Chancellor Joel I. Klein.

[View timeline >>>](#)

David C. Bloomfield, a professor of educational leadership at the City University of New York, said in an interview that he believes Ms. Black will be granted a waiver. "But it's much more wobbly than it was last week at this time, when her name was announced," he said.

"If Cathie Black is qualified, who isn't?" Mr. Bloomfield said. "The challenge for the commissioner is, how could he grant the waiver and maintain any integrity to the requirements?"

Mr. Bloomberg has not apologized for how he selected Ms. Black, saying that a public search is inappropriate for certain high-level positions.

"Nobody does a search out in the open like that. At a certain level, that's just not the way anyone would do it," the mayor said during a regular radio show. "It's too embarrassing to them if they don't get selected."

Mr. Bloomberg reiterated his belief that Ms. Black has the management expertise to run the district, which has a budget of \$23 billion and 135,000 employees.

"She'll have plenty of educational experts to lean on, to help her in formulating policy," he said. "The real issue is, does she have the character and the smarts and the courage to do what's right, and I think this is a woman that does."

But management experience, while essential, is not the only skill that urban superintendents must bring to their jobs, said Becca Bracy Knight, the executive director of the **Broad Center for the Management of School Systems**, a Los Angeles-based organization that runs the Broad Superintendents Academy, a 10-month program that trains leaders from education and non-education backgrounds to be leaders in urban districts.

In 2009, 43 percent of the 28 vacancies in large districts were filled by graduates of the center's superintendents academy; the graduates came from both traditional and nontraditional backgrounds.

"The leadership skills are transferable, but you have to gain deep knowledge as quickly as possible about teaching and learning," Ms. Knight said.

Joseph P. Viteritti, a professor of public policy at the City University of New York, said that any New York school leader will be coming into a position fraught with challenges. Both the federal and the state pictures are unclear when it comes to education policy, he said, and the city is also facing budget cuts.

While still important, the educational agenda "is probably going to be the least significant part of her work" because she will be expected to implement Mr. Klein's vision, he said in an interview. But she will still have to work in the complicated political system of New York. "There are subtleties to this that are very difficult. She cannot be a caretaker."



Garibaldi-Meucci Museum Presents 'Italians of Staten Island' Exhibit, 11/21

by BWW News Desk



On Sunday, November 21 at 1 p.m. the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum Terza Domenica Heritage Series will host a presentation of "The Italians of Staten Island," by Patricia Salmon.

Staten Island has the largest percentage of Italian-Americans of

any county in America, with 38% of Islanders claiming Italian heritage. Ms. Salmon will provide an in-depth look at this, Staten Island's largest ethnic group. She will talk about noted Italians throughout the borough's history who have influenced and developed Staten Island in the areas of business, politics, culture, religion, science, medicine and cuisine, and will explore the lifestyle and recreational activities enjoyed by the Italian population of Staten Island.

Ms. Salmon is Curator of History at the Staten Island Museum, where she oversees the collections and activities of the History Archives and Library. A Staten Island resident since 1962, she holds both a BS and an MA from the **College of Staten Island (CSI)**. She also holds a degree in Natural Resources Conservation and was a Naturalist/Historian at Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve for eight years. A contributor to *The Staten Island Historian*, she has written the booklets, *Stapleton: A Community of Contrast & Change*, *Stapleton: A Walking Tour*, and *All Aboard: 19th Century Staten Island Railroads*. She is the editor of *Proceedings*, the scholarly publication of the Staten Island Museum. She has authored the books *Realms of History: The Cemeteries of Staten Island* and *The Staten Island Ferry: A History*. She is also an adjunct lecturer at both Wagner College and the **College of Staten Island**, and teaches an adult

education course "The History of Staten Island."

Seating is limited. Admission of \$10 for non-members and \$5 for members includes a light reception.

The Garibaldi-Meucci Museum is owned and operated by the Order Sons of Italy in America.



Updated 11/23/2010 11:28 PM

Majority Of Advisory Panel Recommends Denying Waiver For Schools Chancellor Pick

By: Lindsey Christ



At least half of an advisory panel recommended Tuesday the state education department deny a waiver to Cathie Black, Mayor Michael Bloomberg's pick for schools chancellor.

After meeting behind closed doors, two members voted in favor of granting the waiver, four voted against, and two voted "not at this time."

Those who voted "not at this time" indicated they would likely reconsider recommending the waiver if the application were to be resubmitted with new conditions -- for instance, if Black were to be joined a co-chancellor with educational experience.

The ultimate decision lies with State Education Commissioner David Steiner, who confirms to NY1 that he had told the panel before it deliberated that his first choice was to make the city reapply for Black's waiver with a different structure, like the inclusion of a chief academic officer.

Some experts are already saying two school chiefs would be problematic.

"The co-Chancellor proposition has no support in law. It's a contortion," said [College of Staten Island](#) Department of Education Chair David Bloomfield.

It is not clear when Steiner will make his final decision.

In a statement, he said, "I want to thank all of the members for the advisory panel for the seriousness of purpose which they brought to their evaluation of Ms. Black's qualifications for a school district leader's certificate. I will weigh their advice and insight as I consider the decision before me."

The waiver is required by law for Black to become chancellor, since the publishing executive does not have the traditional education certification.

There had been some concerns expressed about whether those on the panel were too close to the Bloomberg administration.

On Monday, a group of parents [hand-delivered a petition](#) with more than 12,000 signatures to Steiner, urging him not to grant Black the waiver.

"Clearly the panelists heard the voices of parents, educators and community members around the city and agreed with us that she wasn't qualified to become the head of the nation's largest school system," said Leonie Haimson of Class Size Matters.

Earlier in the day, Mayor Bloomberg argued it doesn't matter that Black has no education experience, since she's a strong leader.

"It's not so simple to say there is one test and you should come from only one background. And if you remember, Joel [Klein] didn't come from a background where people thought he'd be a great educator," said the mayor.

Meanwhile, Black's college transcript from Trinity College has been released, and it shows that while she majored in English and took courses in Italian and theology, she did not take any courses in education.

In the transcript released publicly, the grades and grade point average have been blacked out. The state cited privacy reasons for doing so.

Also, a new poll released Tuesday finds a majority of New Yorkers do not believe Black has the right experience to be schools chancellor.

The Quinnipiac University poll found 64 percent of those surveyed think a schools chancellor needs education experience more than management experience. Only 26 percent said that managerial experience carries more weight.

The poll also found [Bloomberg's approval rating has hit a five-year low](#), with just 55 percent of those polled approve of the job he is doing.

About 1,300 registered voters were surveyed for the poll from November 16-21, and the survey has a margin of error of +/- 2.7 percentage points.

Here are a few suggestions in case Mayor Bloomberg wants to tap a co-chancellor for Cathie Black

BY [Rachel Monahan](#) and [Meredith Kolodner](#)
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITERS

Thursday, November 25th 2010, 4:00 AM



Appleton/News Former deputy chancellor Marcia Lyles, who left last year to run a Delaware school district, may be good choice to serve as city's co-chancellor.

Even though it's unclear if [Mayor Bloomberg](#) will tap a co-chancellor for [Cathie Black](#), the speculation has already started.

Bloomberg could look to his own Education headquarters for the chief academic officer recommended by State Commissioner [David Steiner](#) or cast his search farther afield.

"Whoever the chief academic officer is needs to have a strong record of building curriculum and education programs that include students with special needs and English Language Learners," said [Kim Sweet](#), executive director of Advocates for Children. Education experts are zeroing in on [Eric Nadelstern](#), deputy chancellor for school support and instruction.

"Nadelstern is the obvious choice and has bought into the policies, and essentially he's in that role already," said [David Bloomfield](#), education professor at the [College of Staten Island](#).

The position is unlikely to draw someone with the star power of former [Washington, D.C.](#), schools chancellor [Michelle Rhee](#) - but experts note that no one expected the mayor to tap Black, either.

If the mayor doesn't make an outside-the-box selection, experts say he could choose from a list of longtime city education leaders including:

Former deputy chancellor [Marcia Lyles](#), who left last year to run a [Delaware](#) school district. Carmen Fariña, a former teacher who rose to No. 2 in the department and retired in 2006. Other current deputy chancellor - [John White](#), who is in charge of teachers; [Shael Polakow-Suransky](#), who oversees testing; [Santiago Taveras](#), in charge of community outreach, and [Marc Sternberg](#), deputy chancellor for planning.

mkolodner@nydailynews.com

Sports

College of Staten Island women's soccer team advances to CUNY Championship with 1-0 overtime win

Published: Monday, November 01, 2010, 11:09 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk



Lauren Neglia (22) scored the goal that put the **CSI** women's soccer team into the CUNY Championship.

The **College of Staten Island** needed two overtimes, but was able to advance to the CUNY Conference women's soccer championship with a 1-0 victory over City College on senior Lauren Neglia's goal yesterday in Willowbrook.

The Dolphins will challenge Medgar Evers, which defeated John Jay 2-1 in the other semifinal, for the title Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Metropolitan Oval in Queens.

CSI had 10 shots on goal compared to the Beavers' two after regulation, but the teams were locked in a scoreless tie. The Dolphins then caught a break 1:13 into the second OT when a CCNY player was whistled for a foul in the box to set up a penalty kick.

Lauren Neglia had the chance to end the game and the senior delivered when her shot went past the right side of goalie Rebecca Arce for the win.

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Staten Island sports bulletin board for November 2, 2010

Published: Wednesday, November 03, 2010, 8:10 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

Stingrays tryouts

The Staten Island Stingrays U-12 girls' basketball team will hold tryouts for the 2011 season on Nov. 14 and Nov. 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 11a.m. at the CYO Center in Port Richmond (120 Anderson Ave.). Participants are expected to attend both tryouts.

Baseball performance seminar

One on One Sports Rehabilitation co-owners Stephen Barth and Joseph Saraceno and their staff will hold a baseball athletic performance seminar for ages 10 and up, on Sunday from 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the **College of Staten Island** gymnasium. The seminar will be led by the group's physical therapists, certified strength and conditioning specialists and certified athletic trainers. Among the topics covered are common injuries and how to prevent them, training methods that help, and and some that hurt athletes, and why performance may be hindered on the field. For information and reservations, call 718-982-6340.

SITTL tourneys

The Staten Island Touch Tackle League's postseason John DeSio Memorial, Lt. Chuck Margiotta Memorial, Russ Robinson Memorial and DeSio Pain Center tournaments begin after the regular slate's conclusion in early December. To register a team, call Charlie Margiotta at 718-761-8321.

SITTL winter loop

Limited slots are available for teams looking to play in the Lt. Chuck Margiotta Winter Touch Tackle League. To learn about rule changes and new guidelines or to register, call Charlie Margiotta at 718-761-8321.

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College of Staten Island athletes clean up, literally

Published: Thursday, November 04, 2010, 1:26 PM



Staten Island Advance

By **DAVID PIZZUTO**

WILLOWBROOK — The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) at the College of Staten Island (CSI) is often tied to projects that enlighten and strengthen neighboring communities.

Two weekends ago, the unit, comprised of members from each of CSI's 13 intercollegiate teams, did something to improve conditions in its own back yard, taking part in a massive clean-up project on the school's sprawling 204-acre campus.

The start of the semester and the accompanying windy fall conditions, had created debris all over the campus. The combination of SAAC wanting to do something close to home, coupled with the college's need for more manpower for such projects, made it a perfect marriage. And besides, what better example could the athletes set for CSI's over 13,000 students?

"Being a part of the SAAC is not only being a part of a team, but also part of a family, and this is our home," said Danielle McLaughlin, senior member of the women's soccer team and president of SAAC. "The campus cleanup project was one of our biggest accomplishments. I'm so thankful for the entire group for taking the time on a weekend to join us for this important initiative."

The group covered almost the entire north side of campus, focusing on the parking lots and walkways surrounding the athletic fields, where debris often collects. Despite the school's best efforts to curb the problem, it has become hard to stay ahead. That's where SAAC came in, according to CSI Assistant Vice President for Campus Planning & Facilities James Pepe.



Courtesy CSI Athletics

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee at the College of Staten Island filled a lot of trash bags at its recent clean-up project.

"In my opinion, it is very disappointing to work in a dirty area," said Pepe. "I appreciate SAAC's efforts with cleaning the campus. The sense of pride they exhibited through their effort is one I hope others will choose to follow."

First proposed by new **CSI** Athletic Director Vernon Mummert, SAAC gave the initiative legs, following up by collecting trash bags and work gloves prior to the event. The committee itself was joined by several coaches, Mummert, and Assistant Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Services Katie Arcuri, who mentors SAAC year-round.

"I couldn't be more thankful and impressed," said Ms. Arcuri post-event. "The student-athletes understand the importance of what the appearance and presentation of the campus means to visitors, other students, and themselves. They are the busiest students on this campus, and to take the time out toward this type of initiative is awe-inspiring."

Ms. McLaughlin hopes to make this a year-round initiative, targeting the turn of the spring semester as a likely time to reorganize the effort. In the meantime, individual teams have already promised to follow up on the campus cleanup event by working in smaller groups to keep the campus clean.

As a committee, the student leaders will continue to organize and make waves. This Thanksgiving, the SAAC intends to volunteer at Project Hospitality and various hospital groups. The committee will also visit Staten Island's Eger Healthcare and Rehab Center in December for a holiday arts and crafts event. More events will be on tap this spring, including Kids Sports Day and **CSI's** Fifth Annual Faculty/Staff Appreciation Night.

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College basketball: Ursinus men picked 3rd in preseason rankings

Friday, November 5, 2010

By Mercury Staff sports@pottsmmerc.com

The Ursinus College men's basketball team was voted to finish third in the Centennial Conference preseason poll, which was released by the conference office Thursday.

The Bears received 135 points and two first-place votes cast by the coaches and sports information directors in the conference who were not allowed to vote for their own team.

Franklin & Marshall was the favorite with 159 points and 15 first-place votes, followed by Gettysburg with 142 points and three first-place votes. After Ursinus, Muhlenberg was fourth with 106 points, followed by Washington College (83), Haverford (77), Johns Hopkins (73), McDaniel (55), Dickinson (41) and Swarthmore at 29 points.

Ursinus opens up the 2010-11 season Friday, Nov. 19, by taking on the **College of Staten Island** in the opening round of the Wesleyan University Tip-Off tournament.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Centennial Conference: Ursinus College was picked eighth in the Centennial Conference preseason poll released by the conference office Thursday.

The poll, voted upon by coaches and sports information directors who were not allowed to vote for their own team, saw the Bears get 89 points. Following Ursinus, Washington was ninth at 66, Franklin & Marshall was 10th at 62 and Bryn Mawr was 11th at 21 points.

Gettysburg was the favorite with 192 points and 13 first-place votes, with Muhlenberg taking second at 188 points and nine first-place votes. Johns Hopkins was third at 144 points, followed by Dickinson (141), McDaniel (111), Swarthmore (104), and Haverford (92).

Ursinus travels to Elizabethtown to open the season Wednesday, Nov. 17.

URL: <http://www.pottsmmerc.com/articles/2010/11/05/sports/srv0000009868763.prt>

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College of Staten Island women's soccer falls in CUNY Conference title game

Published: Sunday, November 07, 2010, 1:33 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

Medgar Evers prevented the College of Staten Island from winning its sixth CUNY women's soccer title in seven years yesterday by downing the Dolphins 3-1 at Metropolitan Oval in Queens.

The first-time champion Cougars (12-7-1) scored in the first four minutes and the Dolphins had a golden opportunity to tie the game a minute later with a penalty shot, but Demi-Jean Martorano's attempt was grazed by goalie Kerissa Harris into the post.

Medgar Evers made it 2-0 at the 19-minute mark and added another goal just before halftime.

The Dolphins (11-5) finally tallied when Cassandra Black put home a rebound of a Lauren Neglia shot in the 84th minute.

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College of Staten Island soccer players earn CUNY honors

Published: Thursday, November 11, 2010, 6:50 PM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk



Courtesy CSI Athletics

CSI's Paige Buono was named to the CUNY Women's Soccer First Team.

WILLOWBROOK — The College of Staten Island's women's soccer team may have dropped a 3-1 decision to Medgar Evers in the City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) championship Saturday but a number of their players earned conference honors this week.

Demi-Jean Martorano was selected the Rookie of the Year while Paige Buono, Lauren Neglia, Amanda Percaccio and Natalie Tombasco were selected to the first-team, all conference.

Martorano (New Dorp HS) led the Dolphins with 16 goals, including a pair of hat tricks. She was selected the CUNYAC Player of the Week twice and had a league-best, five game-winning goals.

Buono (Tottenville HS) was chosen despite missing the final five games due to an injury. The midfielder, however, had made such an impact earlier that she could not be overlooked.

The junior started the season strong in the opening game against NYU-Polytech with two goals and an assist and had a hat trick in a league contest against John Jay. Buono finished with seven goals and three assists.

Neglia, another midfielder, led the team in shots with 53, 34 of them on-goal, and finished with nine goals and five assists. The junior from St. John Villa had three game-winning goals, including a penalty kick against CCNY in the semifinals that lifted CSI into the title tilt.

Percaccio (St. Joseph Hill) had a goal and two assists in her freshman season, during which she started all 16 games. The defender's worth can't be measured in statistics as her speed and vigor kept opponents from the net.

Tombasco (Susan Wagner) is another speedy freshman. She was second on the team in scoring with 10 goals and she added four assists. Five of those goals came in two of the Dolphins' wins over Medgar Evers.

The Dolphins finished 5-1 and first in the conference and posted an 11-5 overall record but had its quest for a sixth straight CUNYAC title in seven years thwarted by the Medgar Cougars, which won its first championship, 3-1.

Medgar jumped on top four minutes into the game on a disputed breakaway on which the CSI staff felt there was offsides.

The Dolphins barely missed tying the game when Ms. Martorano's penalty shot was barely grazed by the Medgar goalie and hit the post.



Given that reprieve, Medgar took control, scoring at the 19-minute mark and then right before the halftime break for an insurmountable 3-0 lead.

The Dolphins spent much of the second half trying to generate offense but were pushed away or forced into low-percentage shots.

With 10 minutes to play, CSI seemed to grasp control, getting better opportunities. Lauren Neglia laced a shot from the left side above the goal box that passed a diving Malachi, only to hit the pipe yet again. Moments later, a Natalie Tombasco drive from the left hit the side of the net.

Finally, with a little under seven minutes to play, Ms. Neglia got off a hard liner from the right side that the Medgar goalie blocked, but couldn't control. Cassandra Black hammered home the rebound to avoid the shutout.

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CSI soccer players earn CUNY honors

Dolphins' Martorano Rookie of Year while Buono, Neglia, Percaccio and Tombasco net 1st-team nods

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

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Men's Basketball Ready for 2010-11; Ducks Open Season Monday Against Baruch

11/14/2010

Rob Kulish

Links associated with this release:

2010-11 Schedule

HOBOKEN, N.J. (November 14, 2010) – Coming off an 18-win season and a return to the Empire 8 Men's Basketball Championship, the Stevens Institute of Technology men's basketball team will open its 2010-11 season on Monday night against Baruch College at the Canavan Arena in Hoboken, N.J. Head Coach Bobby Hurley and the rest of the Ducks hope to improve upon a trip to the conference tournament semifinals and an appearance in the quarterfinals of the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Metro Tournament one year ago.

Senior center/forward Bryan Franklin is the captain of the team and will be asked to lead a relatively young group throughout 2010-11. Franklin has been a solid contributor off the bench for Stevens over the last two seasons and will see an increased role as one of just two seniors on the team. The coaching staff will look for him to anchor the defense and provide a consistent presence on both ends of the floor. A strong communicator, Franklin will need to make quality decisions with the ball. He saw action in 26-of-27 contests last year, averaging 4.4 points and 3.8 rebounds per game, and shooting over 50 percent from the floor. He pulled down a total of 100 rebounds.

"Bryan is one of the most vocal players on the floor all the time – in practice and during games," said Hurley. "He has improved greatly over the course of his three seasons and will be the leader our team needs."

Fellow senior Christopher McNay is another player that has improved immensely in his time at Stevens and will be an important piece down low if the Ducks are to have a successful season. A hard worker, McNay will see consistent and valuable minutes, and the coaching staff hopes he, like Franklin, will be a consistent presence underneath on both offense and defense.

Junior forward Simon Smith led Stevens in scoring and rebounding as a sophomore and was named second-team All-Empire 8. Smith started 27-of-27 games for the Ducks and averaged 12.4 points and 8.8 rebounds per contest. Smith had 11 double-doubles and came to camp with increased strength and quickness. The Cranford, N.J. native will be looked upon to provide more leadership and with continued development, should see increased numbers across the board.

Junior guard Mike Cutri is coming off a season in which he was named honorable mention all-conference. Cutri was second in the Empire 8 in three-point field-goal percentage, connecting on 47.4 percent of his attempts from long range. He averaged 11.9 points and almost three rebounds per game, starting all 27 contests for the Ducks. The junior will have to work harder for shots after playing well in 2009-10, and in addition to being more consistent on the defensive end of the floor, Cutri will have to be one of the team's most consistent scorers.

Guard Russ Thompson leads a talented sophomore class. The West Orange, N.J. native got better and better as the 2009-10 season progressed and ended up leading the conference in three-point shooting. Thompson was big down the stretch for the Ducks and with improved defense and ball handling will see a much larger role for the team this year. He played in all 27 games as a rookie, averaging 6.5 points and shot 48.8 percent from long range.

Sophomore guard Sheldon Jones put a lot of work in during the off season and has impressed during preseason with better decision making and improved shooting. One of the most athletic players on the team, Jones averaged 4.2 points and 1.6 rebounds in 26 games as a freshman.

Sophomore forward Max Schwartz was the most improved player last season and has continued to develop in the early stages of this year. Schwartz will be asked to be constant contributor of the bench and with his size, should have an effect on all aspects of the game. He saw action in 21 contests, totaling 49 points and 20 rebounds.

“All three of our returning sophomores have the chance to be important players for us,” said Coach Hurley. “If they continue to work hard, improve on the defensive end, and develop their all-around games, we will be that much closer to getting to where we need to be.”

Sophomore Kevin McManamy joins the squad for his first season and will immediately provide the coaching staff with increased depth up front. A smart player, McManamy will help the Ducks with excellent skills and a strong passing ability.

Freshman Patrick Sabatino leads a talented freshman class as the forward will see minutes for the Ducks right away. Athletic with a strong inside and outside game, Sabatino will fit well into the Stevens rotation.

Freshman Matt Skrelja has also impressed early on with a strong basketball IQ, good court vision, and passing ability. Freshman Andrew Meszaros will provide depth in the Stevens backcourt and has also displayed strong passing and a quality mid-range game during training camp.

Sophomore guard Mike Nattis, freshman guard Philip DeSeignora, and freshman guard Mahdi Masri will all be vying for minutes off the bench.

Stevens was one of the better teams in the Empire 8 in field-goal percentage defense last year, holding the opposition to 40.9 percent shooting and 65.6 points per game.

“If we are going to be successful this year and get to where we want to go, it starts with our defense,” Coach Hurley said. “We need a commitment to the defensive end for 40 minutes during every game we play.”

The Ducks were 6-2 in conference road games and 4-4 in Empire 8 home games in 2009-10 and made it to the Empire 8 Championship semifinals before falling to NCAA Tournament participant St. John Fisher College. Stevens missed the conference tournament in 2008-09.

Stevens was second in the Empire 8 in scoring margin at plus-7.2, overall defense, allowing 65.6 points per game, field-goal percentage (47.2 percent), field-goal percentage defense (40.9 percent), and assists. The Ducks were tops in the conference in three-point field-goal percentage (40.9 percent).

After opening the season against Baruch on Monday, Stevens will host its annual tip-off tournament on Friday and Saturday. The Ducks will take on Hunter College on Friday and will then face either William Paterson University or Emory & Henry College on Saturday.

Stevens will hit the road for a pair of non-conference games before returning home to host Rutgers University-Camden in the final tune-up for Empire 8 play.

The Ducks open up their conference slate at Utica College on December 10. After Winter Break, Stevens will visit Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute before returning to Empire 8 play on January 7 and 8 at Rochester Institute of Technology and Nazareth College.

Stevens will host the United States Merchant Marine Academy in a non-conference game prior to a pair of conference home games against Fisher and Alfred University on January 14 and 15. A three-game conference road

trip against Ithaca College, Elmira College, and Hartwick College is next, before the Ducks return to the Canavan Arena to host Utica on January 28.

The final non-conference game of the season is on February 1 against the College of Staten Island and after visits to Alfred and Fisher, Stevens will close out its regular-season schedule with five-straight conference home games from February 11-19. The Empire 8 Championship will take place on February 25 and 26.

Monday's season-opener at 8 p.m. will be webcast live at www.PennAtlantic.com.

College of Staten Island men's basketball gets another coach, in the form of a point guard

Published: Thursday, November 18, 2010, 10:56 AM



Jim Waggoner



Courtesy CSI Athletics

The presence of new point guard Thomas Tibbs, left, has already improved the mood of College of Staten Island head coach Tony Petosa.

Thomas Tibbs is another coach on the floor.

Literally.

The 22-year-old former St. Peter's High School standout has taken up residence as the College of Staten Island's new point guard, a feel-good occurrence that ranks among the best news the recently struggling Dolphins have received in the last decade.

Tibbs also is in his third season coaching the freshman squad at Curtis High School. A normal Tibbs day consists of CSI classes, an afternoon practice at the Sports and Recreation Center, followed by an evening workout with his young charges in St. George.

"I feel coaching is my future and I really love it," said Tibbs, a 5-foot-9 junior who

spent one season as a walk-on at Monmouth, gave up the game and enrolled at Wagner College, then transferred to CSI. "Being around kids showed me how much I missed playing the game of basketball. Sometimes it's tough squeezing everything in, but it's do-able."

The former Advance All Star brings instant credibility to a CSI program that has fallen on hard times under veteran head coach Tony Petosa, a former Dolphin star who surpassed the 300-win milestone last season.

The Dolphins are a combined 18-34 the past two winters and have never fully recovered from losing the 2007 CUNY Conference Tournament championship game to York on Teron Simpson's historic halfcourt heave at the buzzer.

"They're tired of losing," said Tibbs of his teammates. "I can tell you there's no losing attitude in our gym."

Tibbs developed a tough-as-nails reputation as Charlie Driscoll's point guard during his St. Peter's days, leading Island CHSAA scorers with 15.3 points per game his senior campaign (2005-06) while combining a playmaker's mindset with defensive tenacity.

"I don't want to come off as cocky, but my goal this season is I want to lead the nation in assists," said Tibbs. "Not just Division III, but all divisions. I definitely want to make everyone around me better and I hope sharing the ball gets contagious and we have a good year."

That's music to Petosa's ears as he takes the Dolphins to the Wesleyan (Conn.) Tip-Off Tournament for tomorrow night's season opener against Ursinus College.

"(Tibbs) adds a mature voice, a positive voice, to the team," said Petosa. "He's a vocal leader and the kids really like him. He's an exceptional kid. He gives us something that we really need.

"He brings athleticism and quickness at the point. I think he's going to make other players better."

Tibbs headlines a squad that features newcomers in five of the projected seven top spots in the rotation, including three starters. **CSI** was picked to finish fourth in the CUNY's five-team South Division in the preseason coaches' poll released Monday, but the Dolphins could start the season as the darkhorse of the winter.

Junior forward Jordan Young, a former CUNY rookie of the year, is joined by junior guard Dale Taranto as returning starters. A pair of freshmen – power forward Matt VanManen (St. Peter's) and 6-4 small forward David Hughes of Mt. Kisco, N.Y. – move right into the starting lineup along with Tibbs.

Two more freshmen – swingman Bloochy Magliore (Susan Wagner) and athletic 6-3 forward Louis Valdes of Mt. Olive, N.Y. – have shown tremendous potential, while 6-6 freshman Frank Husslein of East Brunswick, N.J., could find minutes.

Returnees from last year's 12-14 team vying for playing time include 6-5 senior center Liwei Pan and sophomores Everard Bisnauth, Jonathan Person and Herschel Jenkins.

The new-look Dolphins will set sail without their two 1,000-point scorers – Ryan Hennessey and Christian Montervino – for the first time in four seasons. Their big man, 6-7 David Ledbetter, also won't be back after averaging 12.2 points and 5.7 rebounds in his lone season.

"We don't have the shooters we had last year but we have guys who can get to the basket and to the foul line," said Petosa. "My two questions: Can we stop people on a consistent basis and can we score offensively? I don't think we can afford to settle for taking jump shots on the perimeter."

All eyes will be on Tibbs, the new floor leader.

"We're certainly young," said Tibbs, "but we're hungry and we have some great leaders back – (tri-captains) Jordan Young, Dale Taranto and Pan. We'll have our ups and downs but I definitely have high expectations, especially in the conference."

NOTES: York senior center Marcel Esonwune has been named a preseason first-team Division III All-American by several outlets, including D3hoops.com. He's the CUNY's preseason player of the year and averaged 18.6 points, 14.8 rebounds and 4.2 blocks per game last year ... The CUNY poll: North Division; 1) Baruch; 2) Hunter; 3) Lehman; 4) City College; 5) John Jay. South Division; 1) York; 2. Brooklyn; 3) Medgar Evers; 4) CSI; 5 City Tech ... Ex-Baruch 1,000-point scorer John Alesi of Grymes Hill has taken over as head coach at Hunter. The former Manhattan College assistant is the son of long-time Xavierian head coach Jack Alesi ... Young led the Dolphins in scoring (17.5 ppg), rebounding (7.9 rpg) and assists (3.6 apg) last season ... The Wesleyan Tip-Tournament in Middletown, Conn., opens with host Wesleyan facing Anna Maria at 6, followed by CSI-Ursinus at 8. The consolation/championship games are Saturday at 1 and 3 ... The Dolphins face Rochester Institute of Technology in their home opener next Tuesday at 7.

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College of Staten Island opens men's basketball season with 71-64 tourney win over Ursinus

Published: Friday, November 19, 2010, 10:55 PM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk



Staten Island Advance file photo

CSI junior guard Dale Taranto, right, opened the season with 16 points and four rebounds in the Dolphins' 71-64 victory over Ursinus.

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. - College of Staten Island junior point guard Thomas Tibbs led the way with 23 points and the Dolphins opened the basketball season in style with Friday night's 71-64 victory over Ursinus in the opening round of the Wesleyan Tip-Off Tournament at Silloway Gym.

Another newcomer, freshman guard Bloochy Magliore, scored all 14 of his points in the second half as CSI rallied from a 30-28 halftime deficit.

The triumph was one of the Dolphins' biggest in recent memory, considering the

opposition. Ursinus was picked to finish third in the 10-team Centennial Conference in a preseason coaches' poll and 6-foot-10 sophomore center Jon Ward tallied 18 points on 9-for-14 shooting.

CSI moved into Saturday afternoon's championship game at 3 against host Wesleyan, which topped Anna Maria College 74-69 in Friday night's opener.

"We played very tough and composed," said CSI head coach Tony Petosa. "I hope it's the beginning of good things to come. They went 6-10 with two 6-8 kids on the wings. Our kids did a good job disrupting their big guys inside."

The 5-9 Tibbs excelled in his CSI debut, connecting on 8-of-14 shots from the floor, including three 3-pointers, to go along with four assists and four rebounds.

Junior guard Dale Taranto also reached double figures, scoring 16 points while grabbing four rebounds.

The Dolphins, who led 18-9 early before falling behind 28-22 late in the first half, never trailed after Tibbs sank a jumper to make it 36-35 early in the second half. Taranto followed with two free throws, Matt VanManen converted a Taranto steal into a layup, and Tibbs capped a 12-3 run with a 3-point shot.

CSI led 46-38 with 14 minutes remaining and held off a late Ursinus rally after the Bears trimmed the deficit to 59-56 on Ward's layup at the 3:20 mark.

Tibbs hit a three-pointer, and Magliore followed with a tip-in and a layup to make it 66-58 with 59 seconds remaining.

The Dolphins had a decided edge at the free throw line, sinking 16 of 21, while Ursinus made 4 of 8. The CUNY Conference team also hounded the Bears into 21 turnovers to offset a 32-28 rebounding deficit.

Freshman forward David Hughes, one of five **CSI** players making his collegiate debut, had nine points and a team-high six rebounds.

CSI (71)

Hughes 4-7 1-2 9, VanManen 1-2 0-0 2, Young 3-6 1-2 7, Taranto 5-11 5-5 16, Tibbs 8-14 4-6 23, Magliore 4-8 5-6 14, Valdes 0-3 0-0 0, Jenkins 0-0 0-0 0, Pan 0-0 0-0 0.

Totals: 25-51 16-21 71.

URSINUS (64)

Ward 9-14 0-0 18, Janowski 2-5 0-0 5, Donahue 2-7 0-0 5, Krasna 2-7 1-4 6, Hilton 4-13 3-3 13, Rapczynski 2-4 0-0 5, Adams 1-1 0-0 3, Jones 2-3 0-0 5, Niewiadomski 2-2 0-1 4.

Totals: 26-56 4-8 64.

Halftime: 30-28, Ursinus. Three-point goals: CSI 5-15 (Tibbs 3-7, Magliore 1-3, Taranto 1-2, Young 0-1, Hughes 0-1, Valdes 0-1); Ursinus 8-21 (Janowski 1-3, Donahue 1-4, Krasna 1-2, Hilton 2-8, Rapczynski 1-2, Adams 1-1, Jones 1-1). Rebounds: **CSI** 28 (Hughes 6, VanManen 5); Ursinus 32 (Janowski 9). Turnovers: **CSI** 16, Ursinus 21. Total fouls: **CSI** 13, Ursinus 18. Fouled out: none.

College of Staten Island women's basketball preview: Staying healthy is Dolphins' top priority

Published: Friday, November 19, 2010, 1:30 PM



Jim Waggoner



Staten Island Advance file photo by Hilton Flores

CSI coach Marguerite Moran's team ran into all kinds of injury problems last season.

Marguerite Moran has spent more time studying injury reports than scouting reports with the College of Staten Island preparing to launch a new women's basketball season.

Moran need only take one glance around the Sports and Recreation Center to find reminders of last year's painful conclusion, when the Dolphins hobbled into the CUNY Conference tourney with five healthy players and courageous senior point guard Mallory Ameneiros, who competed in the final weeks of the season on a painful surgically-repaired knee.

"We're still healing up from our injuries last year," said Moran, whose squad opens the season tomorrow afternoon against the host team in the Emanuel College Invitational in Boston. "The beginning of the season could be a little tough."

Senior guard-forward Ally Shanahan (broken ankle) and sophomore guard

Olivia Tierno (torn ACL) have returned after missing last season's stretch run. Junior forward Caitlin Johnson (torn ACL) isn't expected back for at least another month.

Freshman guard Nicole Reyes didn't even make it to the starting gate. The New Dorp HS product tore an ACL prior to the start of last campaign.

"When you come off a season like we had with so many injuries, it's always in the back of your mind," said Moran. "You wonder if you'll be healthy. We sure hope so."

The Dolphins finished 13-12 overall and matched Brooklyn College's 9-4 record atop the South Division standings. They've been picked to finish No. 1 in the preseason coaches' poll.

Moran believes her latest team could develop the same "grit and determination" as it begins its chase of defending champion Baruch, which has won three consecutive CUNY titles.

Shanahan, the team captain and St. John Villa product, is a focal point as an inside-outside threat. The 5-foot-11 guard-forward averaged 13.6 points and 6.1 rebounds before the injury.

"I think she's really stepped up as a leader," said Moran. "This is it, her final year. We're expecting big things from Allie."

The same goes for 5-10 sophomore forward Katelyn Hepworth, a Notre Dame Academy product who earned CUNY co-rookie of the year honors after averaging 9.6 points and a team-high 8.4 rebounds.

And while half of the 12 players on the roster are freshmen, there is enough experience to give opponents reason for concern. Senior guard Nicole Quattrocchi developed with the playing time she got when the injuries struck, and Reyes is back on the court.

Moore Catholic product Jaclyn Tocco and Tottenville product Rachel Rosado are 5-4 freshman guards pushing for starting positions, while 5-8 freshman forward Victoria Donegan (St. Joseph by-the-Sea) recovers from a soccer injury. First-year guards Nakia Taylor (Curtis), Diana Stout (Tottenville) and Christina Sgarlato (St. Joseph by-the-Sea) round out the roster.

Moran's teams have long employed an uptempo style and the smallish squad again can be expected to press defensively and push the ball in the open court.

"We don't have any big post presence," said Moran, who has a glossy 236-103 record as she begins her 13th season. "The kids like playing uptempo. We'll run the floor and we'll use our quickness to our advantage."

She's also hoping for fewer trips to the emergency room.

NOTES: The Dolphins lost their top two scorers — two-time All-CUNY guard Kristen Panariello and guard Danielle McLaughlin ... Former Dolphins Jacclyn Rock and Ameneiros have joined the coaching staff as volunteer assistants ... The Dolphins could have their hands full in tomorrow's 2:30 tip-off against host Emanuel. The Saints are coming off a 22-6 season under 34th-year head coach Andy Yosinoff.



CSI women fall hard in season basketball debut, 85-40

Published: Saturday, November 20, 2010, 8:59 PM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

BOSTON, Mass. — The host team steamrolled the **College of Staten Island** 85-40 Saturday afternoon in the opening round of the 27th annual Emmanuel College Invitational Tournament.

It was **CSI's** season opener while the Saints improved to 2-0.

Emmanuel raced to a 10-0 lead and coasted to a 48-19 halftime edge.

Liz Daley came off the bench to scored 14 points with nine rebounds and seven steals as the Saints enjoyed a 48-36 rebounding advantage, including 20 offensive boards.

Sophomore guard Olivia Tierno paced the Dolphins with 12 rebounds, five rebounds and seven steals. Katelyn Hepworth added eight points and seven rebounds.

CSI plays William Smith in Sunday's consolation game at 1 p.m., followed by the title game between Emmanuel and Williams (a 72-55 winner over William Smith).

CSI (40)

Hepworth 2-4 4-7 8, Quattrocchi 0-0 0-0 0, Rosado 2-7 2-3 7, Shanahan 2-15 2-6 6, Tierno 3-7 5-8 12, Sgarlato 0-0 0-0 0, Taylor 1-3 0-0 2, Reyes 1-4 1-2 3, Donegan 0-0 0-0 0, Tocco 0-2 2-5 2, Stout 0-0 0-0 0.

Totals: 11-42 16-31 40.

EMMANUEL (85)

LeBel 4-8 2-4 13, Burwell 4-5 1-1 9, Shevlin 1-1 0-0 2, Benvenuto 1-3 0-0 2, O'Dwyer 6-11 1-2 13, Schlehuber 1-4 1-2 3, Andre 0-10 0-0 0, Sullivan 3-7 0-0 7, Ockimey 2-5 3-7 8, Santos 0-0 2-2 2, Johnson 4-4 0-1 8, Daley 6-12 2-2 14, Earle 2-4 0-0 4.

Totals: 34-74 12-21 85.

Halftime: 48-19, Emmanuel.

Three-point goals: 2-9 (Rosado 1-1, Shanahan 0-6, Tierno 1-1, Reyes 0-1); Emmanuel 5-14 (LeBel 3-3, Schlehuber 0-1, Andre 0-3, Sullivan 1-4, Ockimey 1-3). Rebounds: CSI 36 (Hepworth 7, Shanahan 6); Emmanuel 48 (O'Dwyer 11, Daley 9). Turnovers: CSI 41, Emmanuel 23. Steals: CSI 10 (Tierno 7); Emmanuel 30 (Daley 7). Total fouls: CSI 17, Emmanuel 23. Fouled out: Johnson.

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Also Featured on: FingerLakesTimes



College of Staten Island swimming tandem earn weekly conference honors

Published: Saturday, November 20, 2010, 8:56 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

College of Staten Island swimmers Pavel Buyanov and Danila Novikov earned CUNY conference weekly honors for their efforts in the Dolphins' season-opening 118-118 tie with Pace and conference-opening 108-97 win over Baruch.

Buyanov, a senior, was named Player of the Week after three race wins against Pace (50 free , 100 breaststroke, 400 medley relay) and two vs. Baruch (100 butterfly, 100 breast).

Novikov, named rookie of the week, won the 200 IM and 100 free against Pace and the 50 and 100 free and 200 free relay against Baruch.

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College of Staten Island men capture Wesleyan tourney title with 85-78 victory

Published: Saturday, November 20, 2010, 8:44 PM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk



Staten Island Advance file photo by Derek Alvez

CSI junior Jordan Young had 16 points and three steals in the Dolphins' 85-78 victory over Wesleyan on Saturday.

MIDDLETOWN, Conn. — The men's basketball team at the **College of Staten Island** is off to a rousing start to the new season.

The Dolphins used a balanced scoring attack with five players in double figures to defeat host Wesleyan 85-78 Saturday afternoon in the championship game of the Wesleyan Tip-Off Tournament at Silloway Gym.

"I might be a little surprised, but I'm not surprised at how hard we're playing," said **CSI** head coach Tony Petosa. "I like our competitiveness and our toughness this year."

Freshman swingman Bloochy Magliore came off the bench to lead the 2-0

Dolphins with 18 points. Junior point guard Thomas Tibbs had 17 points and was named tourney MVP, followed by Jordan Young with 16, Dale Taranto 13 and freshman forward Matt VanManen 12 points.

Taranto also made the all-tournament team.

VanManen, a St. Peter's HS product, also had seven rebounds, five steals and a blocked shot while sinking 6-of-7 shots in his second strong game in the post.

"We were smaller than them (Wesleyan)," said Petosa, "but we were maybe a little bit quicker. We shot the ball well (58 percent) and got to the free-throw line (20 of 31)."

For the second time in two days, Susan Wagner HS product Magliore dominated during a stretch of the season half. He tallied 16 second-half points, all in the final nine minutes.

"Anytime you win two games you're not expected to win, it has to be a good thing," said Petosa. "We did a lot of little things really well."

CSI trailed by nine points late in the first half before cutting the deficit to 44-41 at the break. The visitors grabbed the lead for good at 67-66 on Young's steal and layup with seven minutes remaining, and sealed the deal with a pair of Magliore baskets. His dunk made it 79-72 at the 1:37 mark and he scored on a short jumper 45 seconds later.

Wesleyan guard Derek Beresford topped the 1-1 Cardinals with 19 points while Shasha added 18 for a team that won the rebounding battle, 39-27, and shot a solid 48.5 percent from the floor.

"In the big picture, we have a long ways to go," said Petosa. "I know it's a long season.

"But we're off to a good start."

NOTES: **CSI** opens its home season Tuesday night against Rochester Institute of Technology ... Anna Maria College won the consolation game over Ursinus, 91-76.

CSI (85)

Hughes 3-8 0-0 6, VanManen 6-7 0-2 12, Young 6-8 4-9 16, Taranto 3-9 4-6 13, Tibbs 4-7 8-10 17, Magliore 6-9 4-4 18, Valdes 1-2 0-0 3, Pan 0-0 0-0 0.

Totals: 29-50 20-31 85.

WESLEYAN (78)

Maltz 3-5 0-0 6, Mendell 1-7 0-1 2, Callaghan 3-7 0-1 6, Beresford 8-16 0-0 19, Brown 7-16 4-9 18, Hogan 2-3 0-0 4, Poisson 3-4 0-0 9, Thomas 2-5 1-6 6, Callori 3-3 0-0 8. ¶

Totals: 32-66 6-17 78.

Halftime: 44-41, Wesleyan.

Three-point goals: **CSI** 7-15 (Young 0-1, Taranto 3-4, Tibbs 1-3, Magliore 2-5, Valdes 1-2); Wesleyan 8-21 (Mendell 0-4, Callaghan 0-1, Beresford 3-7, Brown 0-3, Poisson 3-4, Callori 2-2). Rebounds: **CSI** 27 (VanManen 7, Magliore 6); Wesleyan 39 (Thomas 11). Turnovers: **CSI** 15, Wesleyan 17. Steals: **CSI** 9 (VanManen 5, Young 3); Wesleyan 6. Total fouls: **CSI** 17, Wesleyan 24. Fouled out: none.

Also Featured on: The Mercury

College of Staten Island women's basketball squad falls to William Smith

Published: Monday, November 22, 2010, 10:52 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

BOSTON – William Smith junior Kristen Kush scored a game-high 27 points to lead William Smith to a 90-57 victory over the College of Staten Island yesterday in the consolation game of the 27th annual Emmanuel College Invitational Tournament at the Jean Yawkey Center.



Advance file photo

CSI guard Allie Shanahan scored 19 points and grabbed eight rebounds, but the Dolphins fell to William Smith 90-57 in Boston.

CSI dropped to 0-2 on the season heading into tomorrow's 5 p.m. home opener against Ramapo.

Senior forward Allie Shanahan topped the Dolphins with 19 points, eight rebounds and two blocked shots, sinking 4-of-7 shots from beyond the 3-point line.

Rachel Rosado added 10 points and Olivia Tierno had six points, nine rebounds and four assists.

William Smith led 42-29 at halftime after Shanahan's 3-point shot at the buzzer.

The Herons outscored the Dolphins 40-18 in the paint and tallied 36 points off turnovers.

CSI (57)

Hepworth 2-6 0-0 4, Quattrocchi 0-1 0-0 0, Rosado 5-17 0-0 10, Shanahan 7-20 1-2 19, Tierno 2-5 0-1 6, Sgarlato 0-0 0-0 0, Taylor 1-3 0-0 2, Reyes 2-4 3-5 7,

Donegan 0-0 1-1 1, Tocco 2-3 2-3 6, Stout 1-1 0-2 2.Totals: 22-60 7-14 57.

WILLIAM SMITH (90)

Danahy 6-9 0-0 14, Murphy 2-5 0-0 4, Douglass 3-9 0-0 6, Lukas 0-4 0-0 0, Kush 13-17 1-1 27, Rubin 3-5 0-0 7, S. O'Brien 3-5 3-3 9, E. O'Brien 2-4 2-2 7, Salvatore 5-11 1-1 11, Borenstein 1-6 0-0 2, Barber 0-2 3-4 3.Totals: 38-77 10-12 90.

Halftime: 42-29, William Smith.Three-point goals: CSI 6-13 (Hepworth 0-1, Rosado 0-2, Shanahan 4-7, Tierno 2-2, Reyes 0-1); WS 4-17 (Danahy 2-5, Lukas 0-2, Rubin 1-1, E. O'Brien 1-2, Salvatore 0-4, Borenstein 0-3). Rebounds: CSI 35 (Tierno 9, Shanahan 8); WS 47 (Murphy 12). Assists: CSI 15 (Tierno 4); WS 24 (Douglass 8). Turnovers: CSI 27, WS 15. Total fouls: CSI 14, WS 19. Fouled out: none.

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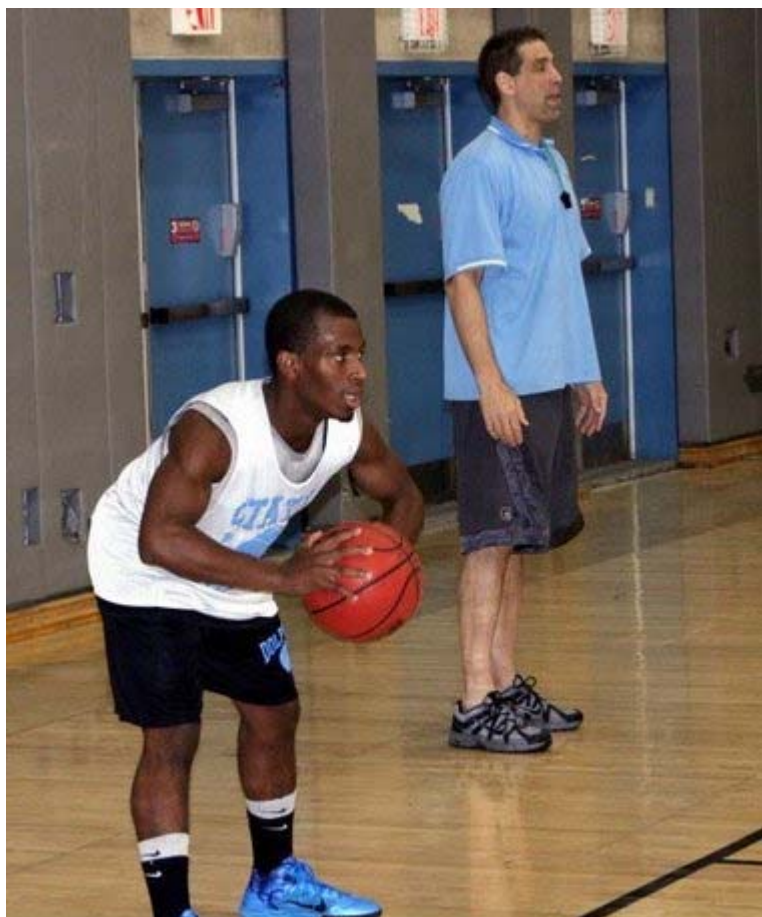
Also Featured on: Finger Lakes Times

College of Staten Island basketball teams ready for home openers tonight

Published: Tuesday, November 23, 2010, 1:39 PM



Jim Waggoner



Courtesy CSI Athletics

New point guard Thomas Tibbs (with ball) and CSI head coach Tony Petosa at a recent practice. Both the Dolphins men's and women's teams will open their home seasons tonight.

The College of Staten Island tips off its home basketball season tonight with a double-header at the Sports and Recreation Center.

The Dolphin women (0-2) host Ramapo at 5 followed by the Dolphin men (2-0) against Rochester Institute of Technology at 7:30.

TIBBS NAMED MVP AT WESLEYAN TOURNEY

It didn't take new point guard Thomas Tibbs (St. Peter's) long to make an impact at CSI.

The junior scored 40 points in two CSI victories and was named MVP after the Dolphins claimed the Wesleyan (Conn.) Tip-Off Tournament championship.

Tibbs led the season-opening charge in a 71-64 win over Ursinus (Pa.) in the opener and followed up with 17 points in a 85-78 win over the host school in the finals.

Ursinus, in particular, is expected to challenge for the Centennial Conference crown and contend for a NCAA Division III tourney bid.

Tonight's opponent, RIT, returns 13 players from last year's squad that finished with a 10-1 run. The Tigers have five senior co-captains and are taking aim at the Empire 8 title and a second NCAA bid in three seasons.

HUNTER FROSH MARKOE EARNS CUNY HONORS

Hunter College freshman forward Kristen Markoe (McKee/Staten Island Tech) was named the CUNY Conference women's rookie of the week after averaging 16.3 points, 12 rebounds and 4.3 assists in the Hawks first three games.

Markoe had 25 points and 12 rebounds in a loss to Bridgewater State and grabbed 17 rebounds in a win over New Jersey City.

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CSI's flying start continues

Dolphins improve to 3-0 as Magliore's late bucket sinks RIT, 71-68

By JIM WAGGONER
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Even in the best of times, College of Staten Island basketball coach Tony Petosa tends to lean toward the cautious side when contemplating his team's fortunes.

The last two seasons and the combined 18-34 record had Petosa singing the blues even more than normal as he painstakingly tried to revive the once-proud NCAA Division III program.

Early results from the current season have the undefeated Dolphins well on their way to a full-fledged revival.

"You can't be any better than 3-0," said Petosa after



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/HILTON FLORES

CSI's Bloochoy Magliore defends against RIT's Nate Korinchak.

last night's 71-68 thriller over Rochester Institute of Technology in the home opener. "I feel very confident that my kids are going to play hard every night and I thought they played hard tonight."

Freshman guard Bloochoy Magliore banked in a short jumper from the right side with 13 seconds remaining for the final margin, and RIT senior guard Anthony Terry's 3-point shot at the buzzer skipped off the back rim and into the hands of CSI point guard Thomas Tibbs.

It was CSI's third straight win over a quality opponent in five days, coming on the heels of wins over Ursinus and host Wesleyan in a season-opening tournament at Middletown, Conn. RIT had been picked to finish third behind St. John Fisher and Ithaca in the tough Empire 8 Conference in a preseason coaches' poll.

"I'm excited every day to go to practice," said 6-foot-5 junior Jordan Young, a former CUNY Conference rookie of the year. "All five players we put on the court can put the ball in the basket. We're undersized but we're so much more athletic and quicker than last year."

The 310th triumph of Petosa's 21-year coaching career was a nail-biter to the final buzzer despite the Dolphins' taking a 63-53 lead with 6:25 remaining. Terry's 3-point bomb from the right wing would have erased CSI's razor-thin 69-68 lead, but the shot came a fraction after the shot clock had expired with 1:13 left.



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/HILTON FLORES

CSI's Jordan Young goes up for two.

Tibbs rebounded his own missed jumper and Magliore, a Susan Wagner HS product, pulled up for his short banker.

"Bloochoy can score on his own," said Petosa of the team's sixth man, who tallied a team-high 16 points. "We

haven't had a player like him in awhile."

Young pitched in with 15 points and six rebounds, followed by freshman David Hughes (14 points, eight rebounds) and Dale Taranto (12 points, three steals).

Another freshman, Louis Valdes, came off the bench to score nine points on 4-of-5 shooting.

"I feel a lot more comfortable passing the ball this year," said Young. "I know it's going into the hands of someone who can score."

RIT built an early 7-1 lead before the Dolphins went on a 9-2 run for a 10-9 advantage. The lead changed hands eight times in the first half and CSI never trailed after Hughes' floater in the lane made it 42-40 five minutes into the second half.

Five of the top seven CSI players are newcomers, leaving only Young and Taranto as holdovers from a 12-14 campaign.

Three games into a new season, even Petosa has reason to smile.

NOTES: RIT's 28-year coach Bob McVean has won 415 games and guided his team to six NCAA Division III tourney appearances ... Terry, a returning first-team Empire 8 selection, topped the Tigers with 17 points in their season opener. Justin Heisig added 15 points and nine rebounds ... The Dolphins host FDU-Florham on Saturday at 1 p.m. ... Last night's game was the first meeting between the schools.

RIT (66)
Korinchak 3-5 2-2 8, Anderson 0-2 0-0 0, Heisig 5-7 4-4 15, Terry 7-20 1-2 17, Harder 4-8 3-5 11, Lowe 3-6 0-0 7, Roe 1-7 0-0 2, Canestro 1-2 0-0 3, Gray 0-0 0-0 0, Kalb 2-10 0-4.
Totals: 26-60 10-13 66.

CSI (71)
Taranto 5-10 2-2 12, Tibbs 0-5 0-0 0, Hughes 6-10 2-3 14, VanMannen 2-5 1-2 5, Young 6-12 3-5 15, Magliore 6-11 2-4 16, Valdes 4-5 0-0 9.
Totals: 29-58 10-20 71.

HalfTime: 14-32, RIT. Rebounds: RIT 36 (Kalb 9, Harder 8); CSI 36 (Hughes 8, Young 6). Assists: RIT 17 (Korinchak 5, Lowe 4); CSI 13 (Tibbs 4). Turnovers: RIT 16, CSI 15. Total fouls: RIT 19, CSI 14. Fouled out: Korinchak.

Ramapo spurt sinks CSI, 64-55

By JIM WAGGONER
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Too little, too late. Digging a hole that proved too steep of a climb, the College of Staten Island dropped a 64-55 decision to visiting Ramapo last night.

The 4-0 Roadrunners closed out the first half on a 21-5 run and the 0-3 Dolphins spent the rest of the night fighting that 32-14 halftime deficit.

Freshman guard Jaclyn Tocco's 3-pointer from the right wing brought the Dolphins to within 51-41 with 3:40 remaining. Sophomore forward Katelyn Hepworth's three-pointer made it 62-55 in the closing seconds.

Allie Shanahan, one of two seniors on CSI's roster, finished with a game-high 22 points and added eight rebounds, three assists, three steals and two blocked shots.

Olivia Tierno had 14 points and seven rebounds, but the Dolphins shot 28.1 percent from the floor and had 27 turnovers.

Lindsey Gripenburg paced Ramapo with 20 points, and the Roadrunners offset a 20-of-39 showing from the free-throw line with a 55-45 rebounding edge.

NOTES: The Dolphins are off until their CUNY opener Dec. 2 at York.

RAMAPO (64)

Hoffman 2-5 5-8 10, Flannery 3-7 3-8 9, Ryan 4-17 4-7 12, Beam 0-5 2-6 2, Gripenburg 7-17 4-5 20, Donadio 0-2 1-2 1, Moore 1-1 0-0 2, Maggio 2-4 0-1 5, Hill 0-1 0-0 0, Osorio 1-2 1-2 3.

Totals: 20-61 20-39 64.

CSI (55)

Hepworth 2-9 3-5 8, Quattrocchi 1-4 0-1 3, Rosado 1-5 2-2 4, Shanahan 7-18 5-6 22, Tierno 6-17 2-2 14, Taylor 0-2 1-2 1, Reyes 0-2 0-0 0, Donegan 0-1 0-0 0, Tocco 1-6 0-0 3.

Totals: 18-64 13-18 55.

Halftime: 32-14, Ramapo.

Three-point goals: Ramapo 4-12 (Hoffman 1-3, Ryan 0-2, Gripenburg 2-5, Donadio 0-1, Maggio 1-1); CSI 6-16 (Hepworth 1-1, Quattrocchi 1-3, Shanahan 3-9, Taylor 0-1, Tocco 1-2. Rebounds: Ramapo 55 (Osorio 7); CSI 45 (Hepworth 8, Shanahan 8, Tierno 7). Assists: Ramapo 14 (Hoffman 10); CSI 12 (Rosado 5). Turnovers: Ramapo 22, CSI 27. Total fouls: Ramapo 17, CSI 31. Fouled out: Quattrocchi, Tierno, Donegan.

College of Staten Island rallies past FDU-Florham to stay perfect, 69-64

Published: Saturday, November 27, 2010, 7:14 PM



Jim Waggoner



Staten Island Advance file photo by Hilton Flores

College of Staten Island point guard Thomas Tibbs scored a game-high 24 points in Saturday's 69-64 home victory over FDU-Florham.

They started the game as if they had eaten too much Thanksgiving turkey. They finished as if they were late for a New Year's Eve party.

The College of Staten Island Dolphins fell into a 17-point first-half hole, then used a scorching 20-0 second-half run to defeat visiting FDU-Florham, 69-64, Saturday afternoon and remain unbeaten.

The 4-0 Dolphins are off to their best start in nearly three decades, when the 1981-82 squad won its first 11 games on the way to a 25-4 season under Evan Pickman.

"We were upset with ourselves at halftime," said junior point guard Thomas Tibbs (game-high 24 points). "We came out and made some hustle plays and had the mentality that we just needed to chip away."

CSI slapped on a full-court man-to-man press late in the first half, scoring six

unanswered points in the final minute to turn a 37-20 deficit to 37-26 at the break.

Then, trailing 41-31 early in the second half, the Dolphins followed the lead of guards Dale Taranto and Tibbs with a defensive frenzy that led to a series of FDU turnovers.

"We picked up the tempo and we fed off each other," said Tibbs.

The Dolphins turned that 41-31 deficit into a 51-41 lead with 11 minutes remaining, then had to hold on after FDU-Florham found a second wind and rallied to within 61-59 with three minutes left.

"We got back into the game pretty quickly," said CSI coach Tony Petosa. "We started in a funk today, but this is a very tough group of kids. We have a lot of leaders this year."

David Hughes and Jordan Young scored 12 points apiece and freshman Bloochy Magliore added 11 points and six assists. Young grabbed 11 rebounds and blocked four shots, while Taranto's line included eight points, eight rebounds and six steals.

The Dolphins shot just 42 percent from the floor but held the Devils to a 43.1 percent clip. They were outrebounded 45-32 but hounded the visitors into 26 turnovers.

"You can't press if you don't score," said Petosa of the early hole. "We had to pick up the tempo and once we got them going a little bit, the game changed."

Petosa was a redshirt freshman during the 1981-82 season, when the Dolphins were in the early stages of a long run that included seven NCAA bids in nine seasons. Petosa finished his career as the school's career scoring and rebounding leader. Now in his 21st season on the bench as head coach, Petosa hopes his current team can make some history of its own.

NOTES: CSI opens its CUNY Conference season Thursday night at preseason favorite York ... FDU-Florham (1-4) was led by Derek Hall's 18 points, while Adam Katz added 11 and Rickey Fetske 10 points and nine rebounds. St. Peter's HS product Trevor Sykes, a freshman guard, had eight points and four rebounds in 31 minutes.

FDU-FLORHAM (64)

Katz 4-10 3-5 11, Fetske 5-11 0-0 10, Rosario 2-6 0-1 4, Hall 8-13 2-2 18, Sykes 2-7 4-4 8, Williamson 1-3 0-0 3, Missale 0-1 0-0 0, Twill 0-0 2-2 2, Karajelian 0-0 0-0 0, Ciprut 0-0 0-0 0, Green 3-7 2-2 8.

Totals: 25-58 13-16 64.

CSI (69)

Taranto 3-11 1-2 8, Tibbs 9-18 4-5 24, Hughes 6-11 0-0 12, VanManen 0-1 0-0 0, Young 6-12 0-1 12, Magliore 4-13 3-4 11, Valdes 1-2 0-0 2, Jenkins 0-1 0-0 0.

Totals: 29-69 8-12 69.

Halftime: 37-26, FDU-Florham.

Three-point goals: FDU-Florham 1-10 (Katz 0-4, Sykes 0-2, Williamson 1-3, Missale 0-1); CSI 3-13 Taranto 1-5, Tibbs 2-5, Magliore 0-2, Jenkins 0-1). Rebounds: FDU-Florham 45 (Fetske 9); CSI 32 (Young 11, Taranto 8). Assists: FDU-Florham 16, CSI 15 (Magliore 6). Turnovers: FDU-Florham 26, CSI 13. Total fouls: FDU-Florham 19, CSI 19. Fouled out: Sykes, Taranto.

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College of Staten Island men's basketball notebook: CSI hosting FDU-Florham

Published: Saturday, November 27, 2010, 9:01 AM



Jim Waggoner

There will be a strong St. Peter's HS flavor in the Sports and Recreation Center this afternoon at 1 when the College of Staten Island hosts FDU-Florham in a non-conference men's game in Willowbrook.

The Dolphins (3-0) are expected to start three former Eagles: junior point guard Thomas Tibbs, junior shooting guard Dale Taranto and freshman power forward Matt VanManen.

All three players have figured heavily in CSI's best start since launching the 2001-02 season with three wins.

That year marked the Dolphins' last appearance in the NCAA Division III tourney. They finished with a 22-7 record.

FDU-Florham will likely have a former Eagle in its starting lineup, too. Freshman guard Trevor Sykes is averaging 8.5 points and 3 rebounds per game for the 1-3 Devils, starting all four contests.

COMING UP

York senior center Marcel Esonwune has started the season in a manner worthy of his first-team All-American recognition.

The 6-foot-6 native of Nigeria has averaged 17.5 points, 14.3 rebounds and four blocked shots in four games.

The Cardinals host CSI on Thursday at 8 p.m. They make the return trip to CSI on Feb. 7.

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HNT College Corner: Montclair State men's team riding local stars

By JERRY CARINO • STAFF WRITER • November
29, 2010

The New Jersey Athletic Conference has long been the college [basketball](#) destination of many local high school standouts. This year, no team in that league sports more of a local flavor than the Montclair State men.

Senior guard Rodney Freeney (Piscataway) leads the Red Hawks' backcourt, and junior forward Charles Miller (Linden), junior guard Brian Godfrey (Rahway) and junior guard Sean Oguinnoike (Edison) are contributing off the bench. Montclair State went 2-1 before [Thanksgiving](#).

Freeney was a mainstay on last year's Montclair State [team](#), averaging 8.1 points after transferring from Middlesex County College.

"Rodney has been a terrific Mr. Outside for us," head coach Ted Fiore said. "He can fill it up on the perimeter and he's gotten so much better as a defender."

The 5-foot-11 Freeney opened with a 21-point, four-assist performance in a one-point loss to Salisbury. He played all 40 minutes. Through three [games](#) Freeney averaged 12.3 points.

"He could always score, and he's done that for us. Right now he's got a better concept of [the game](#)," Fiore said. "He was the kind of kid who would look to score on his own, to create for himself. Now he lets the game come to him and plays in the flow, which makes him even more dangerous."

The 6-foot-5 Miller appeared in two games and averaged 3.0 points and 1.5 boards. He was an NJAC All-Rookie selection before sitting out last year for personal reasons.

"He gives us depth up front," Fiore said. "He's a wide body who can score and rebound. He's still rounding into shape."

Godfrey transferred in from Union County [College](#) and missed the Red Hawks' first two games while recovering from a shoulder bruise. He played 15

minutes in their 65-49 win over Berkeley.

"He can shoot," Fiore said. "He was shooting the lights out before he got hurt."

Oguinnoike has seen action in two games, averaging 2.0 points and 1.5 boards.

"He's working his way in," Fiore said. "Right now he's our fourth or fifth guard, but he's right on the verge. I wouldn't be surprised if in just a few games he's playing a lot more."

Here are some other local products excelling on the hardwood for New Jersey colleges:

Richard Stockton sophomore forward Nnamdi Usuwa (Colonia) averaged 13.3 points and 10.3 rebounds over the first three games of the season and was named to the All-Tournament Team at the Rinso Marquette Tournament at Lebanon Valley last week.

Felician junior guard Devon Young (South Brunswick) averaged 17.4 points, 4.8 rebounds and 3.1 assists last year and recently became the program's all-time leading scorer.

Kean junior forward Jonathan Jones (Linden) averaged 14.4 points and 12.5 rebounds last year.

Felician junior forward Kashiff Foster (Rutgers Prep) averaged 5.1 points and 3.1 rebounds last year.

Bloomfield junior guard Ahmad Harris

Williamson (Bishop Ahr) averaged 5.4 points and 2.3 rebounds last year.

Centenary junior wing Larry Lenahan (South Amboy) averaged 4.4 points and 3.2 rebounds last year.

Rowan senior guard Laud Anderson (North Brunswick) averaged 3.8 points last year. Other local alums to watch are William Paterson junior Nick Allan (Colonia), Kean freshmen Mike Burton (South Plainfield), Kenny Pace (Monroe) and Xavier Fuller (Carteret), Rutgers-Camden freshman Anthony Solano (Woodbridge) and Centenary freshman Tim Brix (Monroe). Just over the other side of the Outerbridge Crossing, The College of Staten Island is getting contributions from

Park).

Toto honored South River High School football legend Tony Toto was inducted into the University of Delaware Hall of Fame Nov. 20. A native of Old Bridge, a resident of East Brunswick and a longtime coach at South Brunswick (both a head coach and an assistant), Toto helped the Blue Hens post a three-year mark of 17-7-1 as a fullback in the 1950s. He earned All-American honors by both the Associated Press (second team) and the United Press International (honorable mention) as a senior in 1957 when he ran 84 times for a then-school record 715 yards. His average of 143.0 yards per game that season still stands as a school record, with his 8.5 yards per carry the third-best mark in school history. He finished his career with 1,195 yards and 11 touchdowns on the ground. After earning his degree in plant pathology and entomology from Delaware in 1958, Toto rose to the rank of second lieutenant in the U. S. Army and went on to gain his master's degree in education and guidance from Seton Hall University.



Post University Swimming Prepares for ECAC Championship Dec 3-5

11/30/2010 3:50:51 PM

Post University Swimming Prepares for ECAC Championship Dec 3-5

WATERBURY, Conn (November 30, 2010) Post University's men's and women's swim team will be one of 17 ECAC institutions competing in 40 swimming and diving events over three days.

Competition will begin Friday, December 3, with the first session starting at 6:00 p.m. Session two will take place on Saturday, December 4, beginning at 10:00 a.m., followed by session three beginning at 6:00 p.m. The fourth and final session will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 5.

Participating Schools:

Adelphi University

Baruch College

College of Mount Saint Vincent

College of Staten Island

Hunter College

Keene State College

Manhattan College

Mount Saint Mary College

Post University

Stevens Institute of Technology

Stony Brook University

SUNY College at Old Westbury

SUNY Geneseo

SUNY New Paltz

SUNY Oneonta

UMass Dartmouth

United States Merchant Marine Academy

Stories

St. John's University sees new era with big cut in its tuition

Published: Monday, November 01, 2010, 9:29 AM



Frank Donnelly

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. --- St. John's University is emphasizing its core mission of community service and also rolling out a new program next year that could help parents' staggered by super-sized tuition bills.

In September, the school will unveil an accelerated program at its Grymes Hill campus in which students can earn an undergraduate degree in a year's less time, at a projected savings of \$29,000.

It's part of an ongoing effort to help the Island school compete in a difficult economic environment and to combat declining enrollment.

About 300 freshmen are enrolled in the current class, a drop from about 600 a decade ago. Overall enrollment for the 2009-2010 school year, the most recent for which figures are available, was 1,558 students (1,349 undergraduates and 209 graduate candidates), said a university spokeswoman.

"The three-year program is designed for young people who want to devote a lot of their time to study and work and service," said Dr. Jerrold Ross, academic vice president for the Grymes Hill campus, in a recent interview at his office.

"This is to give another opportunity to that student who possesses the qualities of budding leadership and intensity of serving large communities. We're looking for a Peace Corps mentality."

The accelerated program will cost about \$38,500 per year, for a total of \$115,500, said Dr. Christopher Cuccia, academic assistant vice president. Projected savings are based on the accelerated program's fixed



Staten Island Advance/Hilton Flores

In September, St. John's University will unveil an accelerated program at its Grymes Hill campus in which students can earn an undergraduate degree in a year's less time, at a projected savings of \$29,000.

tuition rate versus anticipated annual tuition increases in the standard four-year program, said Dr. Cuccia. Students now pay about \$32,000 a year, plus room and board, he said.

Under the new program, undergraduate students must take two semesters of summer courses besides three semesters each of fall and spring classes. Summer courses are included in the cost; room and board is not.

To broaden their horizons, students likely will study at least one summer overseas at a St. John's campus in Rome or Paris. They'll also perform some type of community service work there or an internship.

The three-year undergraduate program will be open to nearly all academic disciplines with the exception of accounting, which requires four years, said Dr. Ross.

An added benefit is graduates can enter the work force a year earlier, he said.

Dr. Ross acknowledged the new program isn't for everyone and incoming students can still opt for the standard four-year degree track. The accelerated studies take effect in September 2011.

"This is not a program for the faint of heart," he said. "You'd be doing your child a disservice if you were putting them into this program just to save \$29,000 and they weren't ready for it. It's a great option, but I wouldn't want to strong-arm anyone into it."

STRESSING INNOVATION

Dr. Ross said St. John's seeks to establish itself as a "crucible of innovation" and set itself apart from the borough's two other colleges — the College of Staten Island in Willowbrook and Wagner College in Grymes Hill — which, he said, both offer students a quality education.

Spokesmen for Wagner College and CSI said neither school has a three-year degree program nor do they plan to introduce one in the future.

"We are always mindful of efficiencies that control price while enhancing the value of the education we provide," Wagner College president Richard Guarasci said in a statement. "We want to make sure that our students continue to have access to strong first-year experiences, interdisciplinary learning communities, practical internships, service-learning opportunities, undergraduate research support [and] comprehensive senior capstone programs."

Kenneth Bach, a CSI spokesman, said the college has expanded its winter- and summer-intercession course offerings, in part, to help students who want to graduate earlier. Annual tuition for full-time students is \$4,600, plus fees, he added.

Two other schools — Hartwick College in upstate Oneonta and the University of Massachusetts — have

accelerated three-year degree programs, said education professionals.

"It's a positive choice schools can offer students," said Laura L. Anglin, president of the Albany-based Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities. "It's what [some] private colleges are doing to increase degree-completion rates and control costs."

She said Hartwick College officials "seem pleased so far" with that school's accelerated-degree program, which was recently rolled out.

The head of the Washington D.C.-based Association of American Colleges and Universities was more circumspect.

While accelerated programs offer flexibility to a "small number" of highly motivated students, Carol Geary Schneider cautioned they aren't a "universal panacea" to the issues of reducing tuition costs and getting more students to graduate.

"For the overwhelming majority of American college students, a mere three years of college study might leave them with a piece of paper, but not with a degree that has real value; it would foreclose their opportunity for a truly empowering education," Ms. Schneider said in a statement. "The competitive global economy itself is raising the bar for what college graduates need to know and be able to do to succeed."

Dr. Ross said the accelerated program is being offered only at St. John's Grymes Hill campus. The school's main campus is in Queens.

"The university is going to be looking at what we're doing," he said.

FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

Regardless of which program students choose — three-year or four-year — he said the school wants to emphasize its core mission: Helping mold leaders whose focus is on giving back to the community.

In that regard, freshmen currently in the school of education are required to intern at a not-for-profit agency in the borough that works with children. All students are encouraged to study and take internships at the school's foreign campuses.

"We're looking for those who are imbued with the spirit of service ... kids who have some track record of leadership, be it in school, church or community," said Dr. Ross. "We're looking for them to lead not only in this community, but to become global leaders, as well."

Dr. Cuccia, the academic assistant vice president, said parents will pay for the accelerated program, per semester, as they currently do for the standard four-year program. There's no extra cost for summer study,

he said, adding parents should realize an overall savings “in excess of” \$29,000 for the accelerated-degree program.

He said the school won’t need to add faculty to staff the program, rather, faculty will be asked to extend their teaching year.

St. John’s is presently developing marketing materials for the program, which administrators expect to discuss during the school’s open house on Nov. 21, said Dr. Cuccia.

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MORE THAN JUST RED STRINGS - INTRODUCTION TO KABBALAH/JEWISH MYSTICISM

By:

Date: Thursday, November 04 2010

On Thursday, November 11, 2010, the Jewish Awareness Movement (JAM) on the **College of Staten Island**, encouraged by the Staten Island Jewish Alliance and Survival Through Education, Inc. will be hosting Rabbi Yitz Greenfield. Rabbi Greenfield is the Founder and Director of the Staten Island Jewish Alliance (SIJA). SIJA has been at the forefront of Jewish outreach in the Island through its Hebrew School, Adult Education programs, Holiday Events and Campus outreach activities. As part of the **CSI** Multifaith Center, Rabbi Greenfield coordinated with the students to initiate JAM (Jewish Awareness Movement). Rabbi Greenfield is a noted lecturer and a respected professional in the area of relationships.

Rabbi Greenfield will be speaking on the topic "More Than Just Red Strings - Introduction to Kabbalah/Jewish Mysticism"

The program will be starting at 1:30 p.m. in building 2N, room 104. Free kosher lunch will be served to all who attend. This event offers Personal Growth Clue Credit to **CSI** students. Jews of all affiliations from the Staten Island community, as well as all CSI students are welcome and are asked to RSVP by calling 718-801-1923, or via the JAM at **CSI** Facebook group.

JAM, short for Jewish Awareness Movement, is an on-campus club on numerous college campuses across the USA, whose goal is to provide a framework for young Jews to meet each other, be inspired about their Judaism, and explore their heritage. For additional information see the club website: www.csijam.org

Staten Island Jewish Alliance and Survival Through Education, Inc. cooperate on a wide range of programs to promote a healthy sense of Jewish pride and identity through exposure to Jewish heritage, history and culture. Other programs include Hebrew school programming, Adult Education, Educational retreats and Jewish lifecycle support. Additional information can be obtained at 718-983-9272 x11.

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Special Tees: A growing place that knows no limits

Published: Thursday, November 11, 2010, 5:18 PM



Mark D. Stein



Vincent Bonomi, left, director of Special Tees, runs a non-profit T-shirt business that has more than 60 employees that have mental health and developmental disabilities. (Staten Island Advance/Mark Stein)

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - TRAVIS - For Staten Islanders unfamiliar with this business, there's no need to look further than its name to know that T-shirts are its specialty.

Special Tees celebrated its 15th anniversary last month. But it has grown since its inception, and as of six years ago, primarily prints out of Community Resources in Travis.

The local silk screen T-shirt-maker has evolved into a solid, not-for-profit small business that caters to various clients, including colleges, Little Leagues, and anyone interested in having a shirt made

to spec, said director Vincent Bonomi.

In the last four years, the company has seen its biggest growth, said Bonomi, who added that the business nets \$1 million in profits from sales of its extensive product line of T-shirts, sweatshirts, shorts, jackets, towels, aprons, hats, bags and sportswear.

However, the most rewarding side of the business doesn't lie in satisfying its clientele or making money, but in aiding the growth and development of its employees.

Special Tees employs over 60 people with mental health disabilities or developmental disabilities, most of whom are assigned to the production department. The workers put in 20 hours a week.

"The gratifying part of it is that we are giving them a chance," said Bonomi, of Rossville. "You see them grow as they work and gain more self-confidence, self-worth and self-respect, and see them change to be a

participating member of society."

Bonomi said this opportunity is great because it allows its workers to pay taxes, hold a job and earn a salary.

The company opened in 1995 at a shop on Father Capodanno Boulevard in Midland Beach. In 2004, it was acquired by Community Resources. Special Tees now sells from a Buel Avenue location in Dongan Hills ,while processing hundreds of customized shirts on a daily basis in Travis at its Victory Boulevard site.

The company can produce 3,000 shirts a day, and it primarily deals with "50 to 60 percent" of schools on the Island. But there are larger clients too, including the set of "Saturday Night Live," East Shore Little League, the **College of Staten Island** and St. John's University.

Bonomi says Special Tees works with most organizations on Staten Island – places like On Your Mark, the Hungerford School and Lifestyles for the Disabled, as well nursing homes.

"Every dime we make goes back to our business to employ more people," Bonomi said.

The Travis location is open at 9 a.m. on weekdays and closes at 5 p.m. each day except Wednesday, when it shuts down at 7 p.m.

In Dongan Hills, operating hours are the same, but the shop closes at 7 p.m. on Thursdays.

For information about placing an order, or seeking employment (a candidate must be over 18 with mental health or developmental disabilities), visit **www.specialtees-si.com** or call 718-980-0987.

Special Tees is located at 3450 Victory Blvd. and 250 Buel Ave.

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Bay Ridge Is 'Green Ridge' on Environmental Issues

by Harold Egelin (edit@brooklyneagle.net), published online 11-12-2010

Leaders Speak Out on Global Warming, Gas Drilling

By Harold Egelin
Brooklyn Daily Eagle

BAY RIDGE — Call this community "Bay Green Ridge" for its leaders' focus on city, state and world environmental issues. A civic leader warned of climate change dangers, and a recent rally held here protested upstate natural gas drilling that opponents say could threaten the city's drinking water reservoirs.

"Global climate change is one of the newer challenges to face New York City," said Chair Joanne Seminara of Community Board 10, which serves Bay Ridge and Dyker Heights, at its recent meeting. "We are a coastal community, part of New York City's more than 500 miles of coastland at sea level, and we already suffer from extended heat waves."

Noting glacial melting, rising sea levels and wild weather patterns, she said, "The scientific consensus is now incontrovertible: The Earth is changing as a result of human emissions of greenhouse gases. As a city that creates one percent of the entire planet's greenhouse emissions, it's imperative that we play a leading role to reduce carbon emissions." She praised Mayor Bloomberg's PlaNYC to reduce emissions 30 percent by 2030.

A civic rally was later held here to protest gas-company plans to drill around the city's upstate watershed for extensive natural gas reserves under a mile-deep bedrock shale stretching across mid-state into Pennsylvania and Ohio.

"Board 10 two years ago passed a resolution against it," said Seminara at the rally held outside the Walgreens parking lot where the Bay Ridge Greenmarket was held. "The use of dangerous chemicals to blast up natural gas is exempt from the federal Clean Water Act. It's the worst way to go. It's all about profits for oil producers."

Fellow board member Kevin Peter Carroll then said, "Oh, they say 'We need the jobs.' But the few billion dollars gained from natural gas drilling is nothing compared to the cost of a \$10 billion filtration system that is not needed now."

Several state government leaders look to drilling on rural farms and forests in the Catskills to pump much-needed revenue into the state's sagging economy and help distressed upstate counties hit even harder than the city in the deep recession.

Southwest Brooklyn state Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge) is one of those leaders, charged Gravesend civic activist Mike DiSanto, who was running on the Democratic ticket against the conservative Republican at the time of the rally.

"This is one issue that transcends party lines. Senator Golden is so enthusiastic about this and claimed that it will create jobs," DiSanto said. "We need jobs created from clean green technology, not from natural gas hydro-fracking."

The last term refers to the controversial high-power hydraulic process that uses a chemical "cocktail mix" with water to blast natural gas to the surface. Studies in other states have uncovered evidence and documented proof of health and pollution hazards. The state is currently in a six-month hold on new drilling leases pending results of such

studies.

Environmental activist Susan Chew warned of drilling dangers and asked people to attend a showing of the new Gasland documentary on Nov. 18 at the College of Staten Island led by state Sen. Diane Savino (D-Brooklyn/S.I.), and hoped for a Brooklyn screening soon.

"I would like to challenge all of you on how we, as a board, can do our part to reduce emissions, green our little coastal corner of the city, and reduce, reuse and recycle," said Seminara.

That was the theme of the recent "Cannonball Art Project" of the Merchants of Third Avenue, with artwork created out of recycled material and its "green avenue" festival theme. Borough President Markowitz has honored Bay Ridge eco-practicing businesses as "Brooklyn pioneers."

"I want to learn about composting and talked to some of you about a community-wide electronics recycling project. Let's do it!" Seminara concluded in her Board 10 report.

* * *

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

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Help CSI students 'Reach for the Stars'

Published: Sunday, November 14, 2010, 5:53 AM



Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The College of Staten Island will host its second annual scholarship gala, the "CSI Celestial Ball: Reaching for the Stars," on Saturday, Dec. 4, at the Richmond County Country Club, Dongan Hills. The event begins with a reception at 6:30 p.m., and a four-course dinner and program at 7:30 p.m. Tickets to the black tie-preferred event cost \$250 per person or \$450 per couple, and are tax deductible as allowed by law. Sponsorships, including named endowed scholarships, are available. For tickets, call the CSI Advancement Office at 718.982.2365.

CSI's \$4,600 annual tuition compares favorably with the national average for public higher education; however, 75 percent of the college's student body works and raises a family while attending CSI. The sponsorship dollars raised by the ball will allow students to focus on their academic careers.

The honorees are:

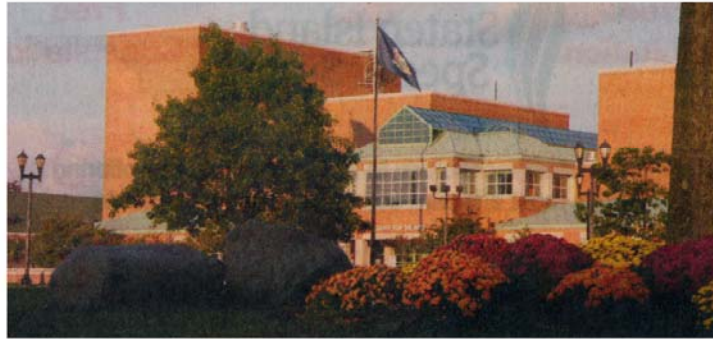
Huguenot resident Salvatore J. Cassano is the Fire Commissioner of the City of New York. In addition to heading the world's largest fire department, Commissioner Cassano has received a number of community awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Award from The DaVinci Society at Wagner College.

Dolores N. Morris of St. George is the retired Vice President, HBO Family Channel: Development, Production, and Acquisition. A lay speaker in the Methodist Church, Ms. Morris serves on a number of local boards, including the CSI Foundation.

Dr. Fred Naider is a Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the College of Staten Island and a member of the doctoral faculty at The City University of New York. Dr. Naider is a widely respected teacher and researcher. His research on peptides, biopolymers, and biochemistry has been funded by the National Institutes of Health for more than 30 years.

Committee chairpeople are: Joseph Ricciutti, president of the Staten Island Yankees and 1994 CSI alumnus; Dr. Christine Cea, president of the Friends of CSI, scientist at the Institute for Basic Research, and 1988 CSI undergraduate alumna and Donna Fauci, program coordinator with CSI's Office of Recruitment and Admissions and a 1996 and 2003 CSI alumna.

The College of Staten Island Helps Students Hit Home Run in Game of Life.



By Joe Ricciutti
President
Staten Island Yankees

Baseball can be a metaphor for life in many ways. Sometimes you strike out, while other times you are able to knock the ball out of the park. One of the first steps toward hitting a home run in the game of life is a great education that puts you in a position to succeed. The College of Staten Island has been helping its students knock the ball out of the park for years. CSI recently welcomed its largest incoming class of more than 14,000 undergraduate and graduate students. On December 4, CSI will be hosting a different kind of "ball," their second annual "CSI Celestial Ball: Reaching for the Stars" at the Richmond County Country Club.

Last year's event was an overwhelming success, raising more than \$500,000 and creating ten new permanent

endowments. More than \$75,000 in scholarship support was awarded this academic year to students looking to take the first step in their professional careers. Proceeds from the "CSI Celestial Ball: Reaching for the Stars" will again provide direct support to eligible students in need at CSI. As one of 30,000 CSI alumni who reside on Staten Island, it is great to see CSI continue to support its students in their development, year after year. Just like the Staten Island Yankees at Richmond County Bank Ballpark, hit one out of the park for CSI and assist in our mission of providing a world-class and transformational education to our students.

For tickets and more information, call the CSI Advancement Office at 718. 982.2365 or visit www.csi.cuny.edu/foundation.



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NY Philharmonic: No. 11 has rewards and challenges

Published: Sunday, November 21, 2010, 4:51 AM



Michael J. Fressola

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — A speaker the other night was joking when she suggested that the New York Philharmonic has been playing the Center for the Arts at the **College of Staten Island** so often that we've lost count.

Of course we haven't. Last week's Musicians from the New York Philharmonic concert was the 11th appearance of the organization in some configuration or other since the spring of 2004.

(There's a sharp little irony here: No sooner had the old Staten Island Symphony folded — a sad day — than the NYPhil stepped in).

As most Island concert-goers are well aware, the performances are underwritten (and possibly semi-curated) by a friend of the college, Michael Shugrue. He retired some time ago after many years in the English department.

A Philharmonic insider and patron, the professor purchases not only the Philharmonic's time, but that of other professional musicians, often promising young performers, like the Knights (a small orchestra) and violinist Linus Roth.

His rationale: A good school should transform the whole student in all four directions — intellectually, culturally, physically, spiritually. The concert series directly addresses three of the four. This past week's program eventually put an NY Phil sextet on the gleaming blond-wood stage of the Springer Concert Hall for the Sextet in C Major of Erno Dohnanyi (1877-1960), a Hungarian-born composer. the conductor Christoph Dohnanyi is a nephew.

The piece was rousing, a lovely treat for listeners and an inventive challenge for the performers (Sheryl Staples Violin; Rebecca Young, viola; Kudro Sumire, cello; Pascual Martina Forteza, clarinet; Philip Myers, horn; and Shai Wosner, piano) who made it look easy, as is their habit.

It's fast-moving for the most part with distinct melodic lines that chart a near-collision course. Folk songs were part of the text, of course, and fortunately, personable horn player Philip Myers had advised us earlier to listen for the influence of Brahms.

The exuberant sextet was written in 1935. Some years later, it's difficult to imagine Dohnanyi writing such music. He lost two sons. One perished in combat; the other was executed by the Third Reich, having been caught in an attempt to assassinate the Fuhrer.

The first half of the program— Trio for Clarinet, Horn and Piano of Carl Reinecke (1856-1910), Duo for Clarinet and Horn of William Jay Sydeman (b. 1928) and Three Inventions for Clarinet and Horn of Friedrich Wildgans (1913-1965) wasn't so easy to love as the Dohnanyi.

And yet, there were lots of ideas and tensions, smooth sections and rough patches. Philip Meyers is an established master with a miraculous tone. Pascual Martina Forteza's clarinet was fluid and honeyed. They went mano-a-mano in the Sydeman (wmjaysydeman.com) in an exciting section that sounded more competitive than it probably was.

The program was the least familiar of the Shugrue era. Unfortunately, the forecast kept people away from the concert. It was dry going in, but storming later in the evening when the concert ended.

Twenty-three-year-old Russian violinist Yevgeny Kutik will give the next concert in the series, Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m.

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CSI offers crash course in eating and interviewing

Nearly 60 students learned the proper way to eat soup, break bread and hold a professional conversation

By MARK STEIN
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

WILLOWBROOK — Students at the College of Staten Island (CSI) took a recent lesson that didn't require pens, pencils or iPads. The necessary tools? Forks, knives and soup.

A business etiquette luncheon was staged last Friday in the Park Cafe of building 1C on the CSI campus, and nearly 60 students filled the six dining hall tables. They wore their best business attire in an effort to learn how to conduct themselves during a job or internship interview over a meal. Table manners and proper eating behavior were included in the instruction.

The lunch, which lasted from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m., was hosted by **Joanne Hollan** and **Nina Long**, both of the Career and Scholarship Center at the Willowbrook school.

Four alumni were also in attendance, providing pointers to the students.

The event was open to

all but pre-registration was required. The course earned each participant a CLUE credit, plus a meal of bread, soup, iced tea, an entree choice of either chicken parmesan or salmon. Coffee and cake were served for dessert.

According to Ms. Hollan, many of the larger companies hold interview luncheons to screen and evaluate potential workers.

"It's one of the many skill sets that we help students with. Job search skills are like any other skills: The more you practice, the better you get," she said.

Ms. Long, a career development specialist, directed students during the afternoon. She showed them how to sip soup properly (from the side of the soup spoon); when to eat (after all on the table have been served), and where to pass the salt and pepper (to the right) after it's used.

"It's something that doesn't come easily to a lot of people," said Ms. Long.

She also advised students on what not to do, such as leave their cell

phones on.

"You never order alcohol. Never. Never. Never," Ms. Long said.

In addition, you never dip bread into soups or sauces; you do not initiate conversation regarding a job or internship until the host does, and, said Ms. Long, you never touch food items that have fallen to the floor.

After an hour, **Paul Olivier**, a Brooklyn sophomore, said some of this was beginning to sink in.

"It's pretty interesting," he said, adding that he now knows not to break apart the bread before eating it. Ms. Long said the proper method is to cut it up, first. "To have this on campus to support you is really great," said Olivier.

Krystian Gargasz, a Grymes Hill resident who graduated from the school in 2006, was invited to participate with current students.

"It's a fantastic experience for the students. Instead of being thrown into the deep end for an interview, you have experi-

ence," he said, emphasizing that respect and manners go a long way.

Rosemarie Marro-naro, a senior at the school who majors in psychology, said instruction like this can help the interview process be more comfortable to go through.

"I feel good about it, but I wouldn't order spaghetti," she said, noting that it's also a little more difficult to eat soup if it's done properly.

When the luncheon finished, students were allowed to take packets of information recapping what to do and not do, as well as internship details.

Joe Ricciutti, president of the Staten Island Yankees and a CSI alum, said he was glad to attend.

"The job market is so complicated and rigorous, you want to make sure you don't inadvertently cost yourself a job," he said, adding that students provided great questions and conversation during the meal.

"It just shows you how great the school is," he said.

Students & Alumni

Bad Girls Club's Christina Talks Her 4.0 GPA and Jersey Shore Neighbors

By Stacey Russell

Thu., Nov. 4 2010 @ 9:00AM



All season long, we've watched the ladies of the *Bad Girls Club Miami* drop like flies. First, it was Morgan who bit the dust. And slowly but surely, four other original castmates have followed a similar fate. The house received three other ladies to fill their places, and only two have been able to see it through. Our newest interview, Christina, is one of them.

She has orange skin, a terrific accent, and an attitude. She's kind of like a much larger Snooki (who's one serious nugget). And when we sat down to chat with Christina, there were some shockers -- she's earning a 4.0 in college and not surprisingly, she isn't a fan of any of the other ladies in the house.

New Times: *We saw on Oxygen.com that you're graduating with a 4.0 this year from the College of Staten Island.*

Yes, I am. My major is psychology with a minor in Spanish.

You come from Staten Island, which is also the home of Angelina and Vinny of the Jersey Shore. What are your thoughts on them?

I definitely know of them, but I have never met them or run into them. We have similar friends.

Do you think they represent Staten Island well?

I don't think they do. I think they do show how fun it is to go out and party, because that is what a lot of people our age do. But Angelina really didn't represent Staten Island girls. I think they are a lot more strong, like I am.

Were you bummed to be a replacement and not an original castmate?

I was really excited just to be on the show. I enjoyed being a replacement. I was glad not to be an original girl. Being a replacement gave me a time to shine and I definitely stood out from the other girls. I wanted to be an individual.

In our [interview with Kristen](#), she said she didn't love Miami too much. What about you?

I'm pretty easy. I can have fun wherever I go out. I really liked the club Love Hate and their gay night.

How did you feel about the nickname Agent Orange that was given to you by Oxygen?

Agent Orange was funny. I know I go tanning a lot. I work at a tanning salon. I knew going on the show that I was going to get slammed for being so tan and being a *Jersey Shore* type girl, so I knew it was coming. But that's who I am, so I can't say too much about it. I knew I would get that stereotype.

On your first episode, the girls left you behind when going out, including fellow newbie Ashley. Were you surprised how fast she jumped ship?

I wasn't that surprised. I know a lot of girls aren't that strong and they are afraid to get outcast. So it's something I did expect, especially living in an environment with all girls. I knew none of the girls were going to be as strong as I am, so I wasn't shocked to see her switch sides.

Were you more mad or upset?

I knew they were going to be bitches to me. But, I was definitely pissed. I was more mad about the other girls that just followed them, that were fake and followers, and were afraid to go against the grain. At the end of the day, I didn't want to hang out with them anyways. So I just did my own thing.

I thought you and Brandi were going to hit it off, especially both being Team Lesbian. Were you pissed when she went out without you as well?

I wasn't surprised. They will listen to anyone who they think is in charge. But with Brandi, I was surprised. Brandi just snuck out, but you have to expect that with girls.

Speaking of lesbian, do you think [Lea](#) is one?

She might be! I have seen a lot of girl action that she got in the house, more than guy action.

You're a pretty tough cookie. Where does that come from?

I think it's the Staten Island thing--we're tough mentally. My mom is a really strong woman--she raised me to be a strong and independent woman. She taught me to never let anyone get the best of me.

We saw you and your girlfriend on last week's episode. Are you guys still together?

Right now we are working on things. Not really. Going through a situation like this is a really hard thing; it's a huge wear and tear on a relationship. It's one day at a time.

I am an open person, but for her it was something way different to have her whole life out there.

You ladies do a lot of drinking on the show. Was it hard to watch yourself that drunk? Like your infamous trying to take a sip of OJ incident?

It definitely was--my friends kept watching it over and over. You don't realize when your drinking and partying, and then the cameras are you on--you kinda forget. When I watched it, it's like seeing myself for the first time. I'm like, "Oh God, that is what I really look like?" It just something that happened--to me, its funny. I'm 22, I'm just having fun.

The You v. Kristen and Lea fight was pretty intense. What were you thinking through the whole thing?

I was just confused. During most of it, I was laughing. It was a joke to me. I thought they were pathetic bullies. At the end of the day, I knew I was going to win the battle.

Any regret for throwing the bleach?

I don't regret throwing the bleach. It was definitely worth it because it stopped.

A lot of Lea's fans think she has changed throughout the season. Do you?

I didn't know her in the beginning, but from what the other girls have told me, maybe. Her included, just follow each other--what one does, everybody does. But I can see how the viewer sees that point of view.

We follow you on [Twitter](#). It's pretty obvious you and Erica don't get along.

She started tweeting all of this stuff about me. I wake up, and read my tweets and I see Erica saying, "Everyone needs to know the truth about Christina." You know what? It's nonsense. The show is over. It's a lot of jealousy. I think they wish they could go back and be stronger. I think they look at me and wish they could maybe stand their ground as much as I did.

Have you stayed in touch with any of the girls?

No one really. It's hard to be friends with anyone after you see them on TV doing things. People and friends are bonded, broken, bonded, and broken over and over again. I think the dynamic in the house was shady consistently. I didn't want to be a part of it, so I tried to stay by myself. You want to be my friend? Be a true friend, don't be fake.



Staten Island Advance

BREAKING NEWS ALL DAY ON [SILIVE.COM](#)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2010

PUBLISHED SINCE 1886 | 75 CENTS

Samaritans lift van off biker

Motorcyclist clings to life after collision with SUV in Woodrow sends him flying

By JOHN ANNESE
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Four Good Samaritans sprang into action yesterday afternoon at the scene of a horrendous accident in Woodrow, lifting a parked minivan to free a gravely injured motorcyclist.

"It was adrenaline," said Jason Newman, 18, who stopped his car and ran to the rescue.

The motorcyclist, Oscar Toloza, 27, of Charleston, was rushed to Staten Island University Hospital, Ocean Breeze, in critical condition, police said. His injuries are described as life-threatening. The crash happened about 2 p.m. at a notoriously trouble-prone intersection.

Newman said he was traveling on Woodrow Road and



NEWMAN: CSI student helped lift a van off the injured biker

watched the accident unfold. Toloza, he said, was bound toward Bloomingdale Road on Woodrow — not far from his Darnell Lane home — aboard his Suzuki Hayabusa when he collided with an SUV whose driver was turning from Dexter Avenue.

Toloza bounced off the right side of the Santa

SEE BIKER, PAGE A 10



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE PHOTOS/ANTHONY DePRIMO

A police officer keeps watch over a badly damaged motorcycle on Woodrow Road. Oscar Toloza, 27, of Charleston, was injured and is in critical condition after his machine collided with an SUV.



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/ANTHONY DePRIMO

Oscar Toloza, 27, was injured yesterday after a collision with an SUV on Woodrow Road.

Fe and was launched from the bike; he landed underneath a parked minivan.

"He just flew off," said Newman, a College of Staten Island student who lives in Rossville. "He was completely unconscious."

Newman turned his car around, went to Toloza and checked his pulse.

"I got under the [van], started speaking to him," he said. "He didn't respond."

An NYPD spokesman confirmed Newman's account and said the driver of the SUV was a 63-year-old man; the driver, who was not identified by police, declined to speak to an Advance reporter at the scene. He did not appear to be seriously injured.

Neighbor Lisa Pace noted Toloza was wearing a helmet.

She described the intersection of Woodrow and Dexter as a constant scene for accidents day and night.

The crash came the same day on which health and transportation officials released a report focusing on the number of traffic fatalities in the city over the past

More on the web



For footage and witness accounts from the scene, go to [silive.com/video](#).

five years.

The report found that motorcyclists are killed in disproportionate numbers: They constituted 11 percent of crash fatalities from 2005 to 2009 even though motorcycles account for just 2 percent of the city's motor vehicle registrations.

The city Department of Health described traffic crashes as "a leading cause of injury-related death and hospitalization for many New Yorkers, including child and older-adult pedestrians and young adult drivers."

Still, the report states, the city's traffic-fatality rate is just a quarter of the national average, and has actually declined at twice the national rate in recent decades.

John Annesse is a news reporter for the Advance. He may be reached at [annesse@siadvance.com](#).

City's traffic fatalities

Yesterday's crash occurred just hours after the city Department of Health and Department of Transportation issued a report on traffic fatalities across all five boroughs from 2005 to 2009.

Among the report's findings:

Between 2005 and 2009, 11% of all traffic-related fatalities were among motorcyclists even though they represent only about 2% of all NYC motor vehicle registrations.

Motorcycle registrations in NYC increased by 31% between 2005 and 2009.

More than three-quarters of New Yorkers who died in motorcycle crashes were younger than 40 years: 46% were 18- to 29-year-olds and 32% were 30- to 39-year-olds.

Nearly half (46%) of all fatal motorcycle crashes are related to speed. Driver inexperience (i.e., young drivers) was a factor in 21% of fatal motorcycle crashes. Overall, the report found:

1,467 died in city traffic accidents during the five-year period.

Pedestrians account for 52 percent of those fatalities, compared to just 14 percent nationally.

Major streets make up 15 percent of the city's roadways, but 57 percent of traffic-related fatalities occur on these streets.

Five percent of the city's pedestrian fatalities occurred on Staten Island.

Sixty-six percent of pedestrian fatalities occurred at intersections. Two-thirds of those were at intersections with traffic signals.

Among pedestrians killed in traffic crashes at intersections with signals, 45 percent were crossing with the signal, 38 percent were crossing against, 15 percent were crossing outside the crosswalk and 2 percent were not in the road.

26 percent of traffic fatalities in the city involve unsafe speed; other contributing factors include driver inattention (17 percent); failure to yield (10 percent); and alcohol/drug use (9 percent).



- **What are you Thankful for this year?**

- Nov 25, 2010 at 10:37 AM

- By

- [Marissa823](#)

- I'd like to start by saying Happy Thanksgiving to all the Mamas out there.
- Although I truly believe that it is important to count your blessings as often as possible i tend to be one of those people who gets caught up in all the day to day things that cause frustration and discontent instead of remaining positive and focusing on the good things in my life. And I know that I am not alone in that regard. Thanksgiving is the perfect time to reflect on the blessings and try to establish a better outlook for the coming year. So here goes nothing....
- This year I am incredibly thankful for my family, which includes my Hubby, my son, my mom, my MIL, FIL, BIL, SIL, nieces and nephew. Although they can all cause me frustration and even anger at times I love them dearly and don't know where I would be without each & everyone of them. We may not agree on things & we my get on each other's nerves but when push comes to shove they are there for me in whatever ways they are capable of. I want to focus on the positives in each one of them instead of getting bogged down in the things that annoy me.
- I am thankful for my husband's job & the steady income that it provides. Although we have not be good stewards of our money and currently carry a lot of debt without even owning a new car or a house. We do have what we need & then some. The debt and lack of much to show for it is our fault. If we were careful we could have made it without accruing debt, we are now working towards that goal. But all things considered it has been a huge blessing for us. It is stable with very little chance of losing it. It has allowed me to stay home for 2 1/2 years w/ my son and then go back to school and that alone makes it incredible to me even if my DH doesn't agree.
- I am thankful for the [College of Staten Island](#) and the Nursing Dept. It hasn't been easy... As a matter of fact it has been very difficult but it certianly has changed me for the better. I has provided an incredible oppurtunity for me to attend school, to hopefully get a degree in May & then hopefully a job. It is relatively inexpensive and they offered pretty inexpesve child care in a warm loving environment for my son that worked around my schedule.
- I am thankful that we have found a church where we feel comfortable and welcomed. Crossroads has welcomed us with open arms and made us feel at home. They have provided us with a spiritual home that I believe will help us grow. Thank you Pastor Ray & Jen & everyone in the Crossroads family of believers.
- Last but definitely not least I am thankful to God, for all the love and grace and forgiveness I have been shown. And for leading me to the people in my life. I never though I would feel this way but the Lord can change anyone's heart who is open to it.
- So there it is ladies. It is my goal to try to always remember what I have written here, so I can focus on what I have and not what I don't. Thank you to anyone who reads this. I hope you have a fantastic Thanksgiving filled with blessings. Feel free to share yours.

- Marissa
- Also I am thankful for Cafemom for allowing mom's a safe and inviting forum to share our thoughts and experiences and connect with other women. I like having a place just for us especially since I don't do facebook or myspace or twitter. Cafemom is the ONLY social network for me.

Injured biker from Charleston remains in critical condition

Published: Friday, November 26, 2010, 9:58 AM



Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- A 27-year-old motorcyclist remains in stable condition after suffering life-threatening injuries in a horrific accident on Monday in which four Good Samaritans freed him by lifting a parked minivan.

The motorcyclist, Oscar Toloza, 27, of Charleston, was rushed to Staten Island University Hospital, Ocean Breeze, in critical condition, said police.

The crash happened about 2 p.m. at the intersection of Woodrow Road and Dexter Avenue.



Police stand near the scene of an accident where a motorcyclist and an SUV collided at the intersection of Woodrow Road and Dexter Avenue, Woodrow, on Monday.

According to witness, Jason Newman, 18, Toloza was bound toward Bloomingdale Road on Woodrow aboard his Suzuki Hayabusa when he collided with an SUV whose driver was turning from Dexter Avenue.

Toloza bounced off the right side of the Santa Fe and was launched from the bike; he landed underneath a parked minivan.

"He just flew off," said Newman, 18, a **College of Staten Island** student who lives in Rossville and was one of the four people who came to the rescue "He was completely unconscious."

Newman checked Toloza's pulse. "I got under the (van), started speaking to him," he said. "He didn't respond."

An NYPD spokesman confirmed Newman's account and said the driver of the SUV was a 63-year-old-man.

The driver, who was not identified by police, did not appear to be seriously injured.

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Barbara Hollingsworth: Outsourcing jobs inside U.S. lets terrorists hide in plain sight

By: [Barbara Hollingsworth](#)

Local Opinion Editor

November 2, 2010

Looking at photos of the Madrid passenger train peeled open like a sardine can by terrorist bombs in 2003, it's not hard to imagine a Metro train meeting the same fate. Last week's arrest of Pakistani-born Farooque Ahmed, who is accused of plotting to bomb four Metro stations in Virginia, renewed concerns that terrorists are using the nation's legal immigration system as a conduit into the U.S.

The easiest way to get into the U.S. without attracting undue attention is to apply for a student visa, as Ahmed, 34, apparently did at the City University of New York. After graduation, you can extend your stay for up to 29 months with Optional Professional Training (such as graduate school) without Department of Labor approval.

Ahmed's Oct. 27, 2010, LinkedIn profile said that he enrolled in a master's computer engineering program at CUNY's **College of Staten Island**, but did not complete a degree due to a "political issue between computer science and eng[ineering] department."

After that, an employer-sponsored H-1B visa -- which requires virtually no vetting of applicants -- will keep you in the U.S. for six years or more, with automatic extensions while you wait for a green card making you a permanent resident. With a green card, you can legally stay in the U.S. even if you lose your job. It also opens the last doorway to naturalization.

U.S. employers are required to make a "good faith" effort to find qualified American citizens for any job openings, but few do, since most foreigners are willing to work longer hours for less money to get a foot in the door. Even the Labor Department's 2006-2011 Strategic Plan notes: "H-1B workers may be hired even when a qualified U.S. worker wants the job, and a U.S. worker can be displaced from the job in favor of the foreign worker."

It's sort of like outsourcing jobs right inside the country.

According to the Labor Department, 129,464 H-1Bs were issued in 2008. Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, has been trying to restrict H-1Bs ever since a U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services review that same year discovered that more than 20 percent of the applications included fraudulent documents and

forged signatures.

Ahmed, who resides in Ashburn, Va., lists July 2006 as the date he began working for Sprint on a project to deploy wide-area wireless technology in Baltimore, Washington and Chicago. There's a six-month gap in his resume between July 2008 and January 2009, when he says he was hired by Glotel to provide network engineering support to Verizon. There's another six-month gap between that job and his start at Ericsson in Reston last October.

Data downloaded from the U.S. Department of Labor's Foreign Labor Certification Web site indicates that Sprint filed for an H-1B visa to fill a \$75,000-per-year position as Network Planner II on July 10, 2006 -- the same month Ahmed's profile said he started with the company. But Sprint would neither confirm nor deny that Ahmed was a former employee or that he was working for a Sprint contractor at the time of his arrest.

What we do know is that Ahmed comes from a country with a significant terrorist population. Neighbors say his wife wears a full hijab, possibly indicating Islamic fundamentalism. Yet he was allowed to work in the national security-sensitive telecommunications industry as a network engineer, and only became the object of an undercover FBI sting operation when he presumably tried to purchase explosives to further an alleged terrorist attack.

One of these days, a terrorist now hiding in plain sight will get lucky.

Barbara F. Hollingsworth is The Examiner's local opinion editor.

VOTER GUIDE 2010: THE CANDIDATES

Here is a final run-down of the candidates that matter to you when you hit the polls Tuesday.

By [Patch Staff](#) | [Email the author](#) | November 2, 2010



Here is a final summary of the major party candidates for 2010 Election Day on Nov. 2.

New York State Governor:

D – Andrew Cuomo— As New York Attorney General, Cuomo investigated the state pension fund, the student loan industry and Wall Street corruption. As governor, Cuomo says he will consolidate state government and focus on revitalizing New York by bringing in new jobs. Republican opponent Carl Paladino and others blame Cuomo's expansion of mortgage loans when he was secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development under President Clinton for fueling the housing crisis.

R – Carl Paladino— Paladino defeated Rick Lazio and pushed out Suffolk County's own Steve Levy for the Republican nomination. The focus of Paladino's campaign is overhaul in Albany. He says he plans to declare a fiscal state of emergency and will cut the state budget by 10 to 20 percent by freezing compensation of state employees, among other budget trimming measures. Paladino, a lawyer and businessman from Buffalo, has faced controversy during the campaign, accused of sending explicit e-mails and making offensive statements towards the homosexual community.

U.S. Senate:

D - Sen. Charles Schumer— Schumer, New York's senior senator, was elected in 1998. Prior to being elected Senator, Schumer spent nearly 20 years in the House of Representatives. His voting record includes support for measures that discourage offshoring of American jobs, the creation of the Small Business Lending Fund Program, and the health care public option (which he drafted).

R - Jay Townsend— Townsend is a businessman who formed The Townsend Group, an advertising agency based in Orange County, in 1993. He has lashed out against

what he has called "the Obama spending spree" and has been an outspoken critic of the recent health care plan supported by Schumer. If elected, Townsend has said he plans to vote to repeal it.

U.S. Senate:

D - Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand— Gillibrand says job creation and economic development are her highest priorities. She voted in February to support the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and supported measures that provide tax cuts for middle class families. She also believes in increased access to healthcare, controlling medical costs, and she supported the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the so-called public healthcare option.

R - Joseph DioGuardi— DioGuardi believes government spending is out of control and is running on a platform of fiscal responsibility and budget reform. He also supports increased access to healthcare and controlling medical costs, but does not believe it should be legislated. Instead he believes that it should be accomplished within the private sector.

Attorney General:

D - Eric T. Schneiderman, Democrat, Working Families party lines— Schneiderman received his Bachelor's degree from Amherst College, where he majored in English and Asian studies. His law degree is from Harvard Law School. He served as Deputy Sheriff in Berkshire County, Massachusetts and from there went on to serve as an anti-crime, anti-drug advocate as an attorney and in the New York State Senate, getting elected in 1998.

R - Dan Donovan, Republican, Conservative party lines— A Staten Island District Attorney, Donovan received his Bachelor's degree from St. John's University, where he majored in Criminal Justice. He received his law degree from Fordham University Law School. He was a prosecutor for eight years in Manhattan and served as a Staten Island Borough President in 2002.

State Comptroller:

D - Thomas DiNapoli, Democrat, Working Families party lines— A Nassau County resident, DiNapoli became state comptroller in 2007. In 1972, when he was elected to the Mineola Board of Education, he was only 18 years old. He then served in the New York State Assembly for 20 years. He has also been an adjunct professor and a manager in the telecommunications industry. DiNapoli earned his Bachelor's degree from Hofstra University with a major in History. He received his Master's degree Management and Urban Policy from The New School University.

R- Harry Wilson, Republican, Independence, Conservative party lines— Harry Wilson, a native of Johnstown, New York, has been comptroller for Goldman Sachs,

Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, The Blackstone Group, and Silver Point Capital. Wilson was the only Republican to serve on the President's Auto Task Force, where he advised both Presidents Bush and Obama on how to proceed with the overhaul of General Motors. He was opposed the corporate bailout of car company Chrysler. Wilson is married with four children and lives in Westchester.

U.S. Representative (5th Congressional District):

D – Gary Ackerman will also appear on the Independence and Working Families party line. He has served in Congress since 1983. Ackerman is running on a platform of ending discrimination, improving public education while lowering costs to students, and advocating for consumer protection in the financial market. He believes in affordable and quality health-care coverage for all Americans and increased funding for all Americans. He is a graduate of Queens college. A former teacher, Ackerman is also the founder of a Queens newspaper. He resides in Roslyn Heights with his wife, and they have three grown children and four grandchildren.

R – James Milano is the Republican and Conservative candidate. He is running on a platform of repealing and replacing the current health care law and decreasing taxes. He believes that legal immigration has enhanced the nation, but illegal immigration strains its economy and social fabric. He attended Stony Brook University, and received his medical degree from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. A resident of Oyster Bay, Milano is the father of four, and a practicing physician at St. Francis Hospital in Roslyn.

T - Elizabeth Berney is running on a platform of tax relief, cutting wasteful spending, strengthening national security and fighting terrorism. She also aims to achieve energy independence and supports consumer and children's safety. She is a graduate of Cornell University and the University of Chicago Law School. She has served as an attorney for more than 30 years. A Great Neck resident, she is the mother of three adult children, and grandmother of two.

New York State Senate (7th District):

R – Jack Martins – Martins is the current Mayor and lifetime resident of the village of Mineola. First elected as Mayor of the village in 2003, he has touted his fiscal plan to bring the village of Mineola out of a \$33 million debt, reducing it to about \$20 million. In 2008 Martins unsuccessfully ran against Democratic Rep. Carolyn McCarthy for New York's Fourth Congressional District. Martins is currently listed as a vice president of J & A Contracting, a family-owned business based in Bohemia. He currently lives in Mineola with his wife and four daughters.

D – Craig Johnson – Johnson was first elected to the Senate in a special election in 2007. Currently serving his second term, Johnson chairs the Senate Committee on Investigation and Government Operations, a committee charged with the oversight of the workings of state government, and holds a seat on the MTA Capital Program

Review Board. Prior to his election, Craig Johnson served for seven years as a member of the Nassau County Legislature and the youngest-ever chairman of the Finance Committee. Johnson is of Counsel with the law firm of Jaspan Schlesinger Hoffman LLP in Garden City and a resident of Port Washington along with his wife and three children.

New York State Assembly (16th District):

D - Michelle Schimel will also appear on the Independence and Working Families party line. She is serving her second term in the New York State Assembly. She is running on a platform of finance and ethics reform in the state legislature, environmental protection, anti-crime, government efficiency and transparency and healthcare reform to reduce costs and improve care. She is an advocate for public education and the health and well-being of veterans. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Schimel has served as town clerk for North Hempstead, a physical therapist and certified wound care specialist at North Shore-LIJ and was a small business owner of a fashion accessories firm. She lives in Great Neck with her husband, and has two sons.

R - Scott Diamond is also the Conservative candidate. He currently serves as a paralegal for a private contracting company with the Department of Justice, Antitrust Division. He believes that the legislature is out of touch with the needs of its constituents, and wants to bring new leadership to Albany. He does not support the idea of career politics, and sees his role as an advocate for the community he represents. He is a graduate of the **College of Staten Island** with a BA in Political Science. Married since 2003, he resides in Mineola. He has no children but plans to adopt.

Receiver of Taxes:

D - Charles Berman is also running on the Independence and Working Families party lines. He is currently serving as receiver of taxes, a position he was appointed to in January. He was also appointed to this position in 2003, and in 2004 was appointed to serve as assistant to the chairman of the Nassau County Board of Assessors. Prior to public service, Berman was executive vice president of Berman Agency, a family-owned insurance brokerage firm. A resident of Roslyn Heights, Berman and his wife are the parents of three children.

R - Jeff Bass is also running on the Conservative party line. Bass is a strategic business advisor who also serves as chairman of Long Island Capital Alliance. He also serves on the board of trustees for the Village of Great Neck. Bass is a resident of Great Neck, is married and has two children and one grandchild.

*Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 2. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Visit vote411.org/pollfinder.php to find your local polling location.*



News & Commentary

Thursday, November 4, 2010

Grassley seeks information about immigration channels used by suspected terrorist as a matter of public accountability

Senator challenges immigration agency's withholding of information in order to protect would-be terrorist's privacy

WASHINGTON - Senator Chuck Grassley has asked the Department of Homeland Security for an accounting of the immigration and naturalization channels used by the suspected would-be bomber of the Washington, D.C., Metro system.

Grassley said he's making a formal written request of the Secretary today because officials for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services refused to provide the information when asked last week, saying a privacy release was needed from the suspected terrorist. In a letter sent today to the Secretary of Homeland Security, Grassley noted that is in clear conflict with the plain language of the Privacy Act exemption for members of Congress and "is unacceptable as a matter of accountability" to the public.

In his letter, Grassley recounted detailed information about the suspected terrorist from media reports, including accounts that the would-be bomber hoped to harm as many Americans as possible on the Metro system. In addition to seeking the suspected terrorist's immigration history, Grassley also asked for the legal background for the excuse cited by executive branch officials to disregard a provision of law designed to ensure checks and balances by giving Congress access to this kind of information.

November 3, 2010

The Honorable Janet Napolitano

Secretary

Department of Homeland Security

Nebraska Avenue Complex

245 Murray Lane, Mailstop 0150

Washington, DC 20528-0150

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

Pursuant to my authority under the Constitution and the Rules of the United States Senate, I am conducting a preliminary review of the immigration history and basis for naturalization of Farooque Ahmed, the suspected bomber of the Washington, D.C. metro.

According to news reports, the Federal Bureau of Investigation ([FBI](#)) conducted an undercover sting operation, and exposed Mr. Ahmed of plotting terrorist attacks against Americans. Some reports indicate that earlier this year, Mr. Ahmed "conducted surveillance and reconnaissance and suggested ways to generate the most casualties" on the DC metro. He reportedly wanted to battle U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Pakistan and trained himself in martial arts, use of firearms, and knife and gun tactics. Mr. Ahmed informed those whom he believed to be his co-conspirators that he also planned to wage jihad overseas.

Mr. Ahmed has been charged by the U.S. government of attempting to provide material support to a designated terrorist organization, collecting information to assist in planning a terrorist attack on a transit facility, and attempting to provide material support to help carry out multiple bombings to cause mass casualties at DC area Metrorail stations.

Media reports indicate that Mr. Ahmed obtained a degree in Computer Science from the [College of Staten Island](#), part of the City University of New York. He later went to work for a telecommunications company in Northern Virginia. He was pursuing an online graduate degree from Aspen University in risk management and data security.

As a senior member of the Senate Judiciary Committee and a member of the Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees, and Border Security, I would like to know how Mr. Ahmed entered the United States and through which immigration channels he was able to remain here. I therefore request that you provide me with copies of all documents and reports relating to the issuance of student visa(s), any adjustment of status and subsequent visas, and naturalization for Mr. Ahmed including, but not limited to the following:

- a. All immigrant and non-immigrant visa applications filed by Mr. Ahmed;
- b. All certificates of eligibility for immigrant and non-immigrant visas provided by Mr. Ahmed in support of his application(s) for legal status in the United States;
- c. All law enforcement reports that contained information on Mr. Ahmed's associations with al-Qaeda and which were available to homeland security official(s) who approved his visa application(s) and naturalization application.
- e. Any records on Mr. Ahmed included in the student tracking system, SEVIS, including but not limited to his degree program and classes taken at City University of New York and Aspen University.
- f. All documents related to the naturalization process for Mr. Ahmed.

I also want to bring to your attention the fact that my staff informally asked the Office of Legislative Affairs at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ([USCIS](#)) for this information on November 1, 2010. My staff was informed that the Department of Homeland Security would not provide this information to a member of Congress without first obtaining a privacy release from the suspected terrorist in custody first. This response is unacceptable as a matter of accountability and is in clear conflict with the plain language of the Privacy Act exemption for members of Congress. As you are aware, section 552a(b)(9) of the Privacy Act states that disclosures are exempt from the Privacy Act if they are made, "to either House of Congress, or, to the extent of matter within its jurisdiction, any committee or subcommittee thereof, any joint committee of Congress or subcommittee of any such joint committee." Further, a request from any member of a congressional committee and/or subcommittee requesting the information in his or her official capacity falls "squarely within the ambit of S.552a(b)(9)" See *Devine v. United States*, 202 F.3d 547, 551 (2nd Cir. 2000). I understand that the Office of Legislative Affairs at USCIS views the policy of obtaining a privacy waiver from a suspected terrorist in custody before disclosing information to Congress as consistent with this exemption based upon "longstanding Executive Branch policy that information protected under the Privacy Act may not be disclosed to ranking members of committees or individual members of

Congress, absent a signed waiver from the individual in question." Accordingly, I request a copy of all legal opinions and a complete analysis of the "longstanding Executive Branch policy" that the Department utilizes to withhold information from members of Congress notwithstanding the Congressional exemption in section 552a(b)(9).

Should there be any questions about this matter, please have your staff contact Kathy Nuebel Kovarik or Nick Podsiadly at (202) 224-3744. I appreciate your attention to this issue, and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Grassley

United States Senator

cc: Lamar Smith, Ranking Member, House Committee on the Judiciary

Darrell Issa, Ranking Member, House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

Also Featured on: TMCnet.com HS Today GSN BigNews.biz

Volume XXV, Number 5283

Thursday, Nov 04, 2010

"The Everglades: Vanishing Splendor" On View At Arsenal Gallery This Month



"Great Blue Heron Rising," by Anthony Almeida, is on display in the Arsenal Gallery this month.

Last night, the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation opened its new exhibit, *The Everglades: Vanishing Splendor*. The show presents a striking collection of photographs from Anthony Almeida's seven-year photo essay on the threatened state of the Florida Everglades. The exhibition will be on view from now through November 30, 2010 at the Arsenal Gallery, located at 5th Avenue and 64th Street in Central Park.

"*The Everglades: Vanishing Splendor*, by Anthony Almeida, highlights the lush landscapes and diverse species of the Florida Everglades," said Parks & Recreation Commissioner Adrian Benepe. "All of us who help to secure and maintain publicly owned wetlands share a common goal, and it is our hope that the Everglades' recent designation in the UNESCO list of endangered sites will inspire new conservation efforts. I applaud Almeida for using his artistry to bring attention to this issue."

Almeida increases our environmental consciousness with images of the watershed's landscapes and species. In over forty black and white and color images, he offers a contemporary view of one of few remaining primordial environments. The photographs are sharp with a keen sense of texture and space. Snowy egrets, spoonbills, and blue herons in mid-flight will enliven the walls of the Arsenal Gallery. Almeida also creates vibrant mosaics of saw grass marshes, mangroves, and crawling currents.

For thousands of years, the Everglades have served as a sanctuary to countless species of plants and animals, many now endangered. As the nation's third largest park, the glades are home to over a thousand species of plants and 350 species of water fowl—yet only half of the original habitat remains and the avian

population has plummeted in recent years. The magnificent creatures recorded by Almeida's lens are now falling victim to increasing pollution, hyper-salinated coastal areas, and drought from modified waterways.

Jennifer Lantzas, Parks' public art coordinator and curator of the Arsenal Gallery, said that she expects the show will really resonate with visitors—including those who do not immediately see its connection to New York City parkland.

"The Everglades seem so far away that visitors might not understand how directly connected they are to our city's parks," Lantzas said. "Almeida sees the Everglades as a kind of canary in the coalmine—he believes that what has happened there should serve as a warning for what could well happen to our coastal areas here in New York and elsewhere."

The city is well aware of the threat to shorelines. Historically, New York City boasted nearly 100 square miles of wetlands, but over the years and with consistent urbanization, that amount has decreased to just 14 square miles.

Wetlands are an ecological boon to any ecosystem—they offer sediment control, an uptake of excess nutrients, pollution filtration, riverbank stabilization, storm water retention, and storm surge protection. They are also home to an incredibly diverse array of both plants and wildlife. In light of all this, Mayor Bloomberg started a wetlands transfer taskforce in 2005 to identify city-owned wetlands and transfer them to Parks for maintenance and protection. With such initiatives underway, the City hopes to preserve our existing wetlands and prevent further damage.

Almeida's photography grants visitors to the Arsenal Gallery a peek into the world of wetlands. His work has been published in *New York Times Magazine*, the *International Herald Tribune*, *Black and White Magazine* and *Focus Fine Art Photography Magazine*. He has exhibited at Salmagundi Club, Gallery 364, McKay Imaging, Soho Photo, and Henry Gregg Gallery and is in the Brooklyn Museum's permanent collection. He has taught English, photography, and media studies at Prospect Heights High School in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. Almeida holds a M.S. in Education from **Richmond College** and a B.A. in English from Pace College and continued his education with Austrian-American photographer Lisette Modell.

The Arsenal Gallery is dedicated to examining themes of nature, urban space, wildlife, New York City parks, and park history. It is located on the third floor of the Arsenal, the Parks Department's headquarters, in Central Park, on Fifth Avenue at 64th Street. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except for holidays. Admission is free. For further information, please call (212) 360-8163.

QUOTATION FOR THE DAY

"It was on my fifth birthday that Papa put his hand on my shoulder and said, 'Remember, my son, if you ever need a helping hand, you'll find one at the end of your arm.'"

Sam Levenson
(1911-1980)

Bob Shryock: State vocalist honored by Rutgers for volunteer service

Published: Thursday, November 25, 2010, 3:00 AM



Bob Shryock/Gloucester County Times

William F. Mead, a West Deptford resident who serves as State Vocalist for the New Jersey Veterans of Foreign Wars, has received the Rutgers University Block R Award for exemplary volunteer service. The Block R acknowledges service to the alumni through volunteer activity in charter organizations, work with university partners, and support of the university's community initiatives.

Mead sang the Star Spangled Banner at all three Rutgers-Camden commencement ceremonies in 2010.

A licensed professional planner retired from the Gloucester County Department of Public Works, Mead now serves as an adjunct faculty member in the History/Political Science/Philosophy department at Camden County College.

Mead helped form the Veteran Alumni of Rutgers University, which aids the school's student veterans in gaining a top educational experience. He has devoted considerable time to Rutgers' Veteran Mentoring Program and fund-raising efforts.

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Pitman piano tuner and composer Louis H. Kramer Jr. will direct the new Counamber Orchestra when it presents a free concert at the West Deptford Library, 420 Crown Point Road, 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28. Kramer will direct the orchestra, formed by local musicians, in two of his own compositions, "In the Garden of Happiness" and "Jollity Waltz." The orchestra will perform light classical music plus music from operettas, waltzes, and Christmas carols. Margie MacWilliams is featured at the piano, Ed Tambasia on violin solos.

Kramer encourages anyone who plays an instrument and has orchestral experience to join the orchestra. Call **856-582-1305**.

Two Gloucester County residents have received a Camden County College Adjunct Faculty Teaching Excellence Award.

Irving Horowitz, of Sewell, was honored by the Division of Mathematics, Science and Health Careers for outstanding instruction in math courses.

He has a B.A. from Long Island University and an M.A. from **Richmond College of the City University of New York.**

Williamstown resident James DeShields was honored by the Division of Businessputer and Technical Studies for exemplary instruction in automotive technology courses.

The Spring Garden Institute of Technology grad has logged over 50 years in the automotive industry.

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Training begins next month for local residents willing to serve as an American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) volunteer tax preparer.

The program offers free tax assistance to low-to-moderate income families who can't prepare their own returns.

Volunteers take part in a comprehensive training program and must pass an IRS-certified competency test.

Training sessions are scheduled Dec. 7 and 14 and Jan. 13, 18, 20, 21, 24 and 28 at the county office building on Delsea Drive in Clayton.

To register, call Donna Fanticola at the United Way of Gloucester County, **856-845-4303, extension 13.**

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Called by former teacher Dr. Ted Kiefer one of the most outstanding organists he has taught, Vicki Nichols will present an organ recital at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 28, at the Church of the Nativity, Delsea Drive, Franklinville is free.

A Franklinville resident, Nichols is music director of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Clayton and Franklinville. She earned a degree in scared music at Westminster Choir College in Princeton, where she studied organ with Ken Cowan.

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The Chapter Two Auxiliary of Underwood-Memorial Hospital has canceled its Dec. 8 bus trip to the Brandywine River Museum and Longwood Gardens' Christmas display because too few registered.

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