

CSI in the News

December 2010



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ADS

CU
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CSI

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.

Your child can provide answers to important questions about human development.

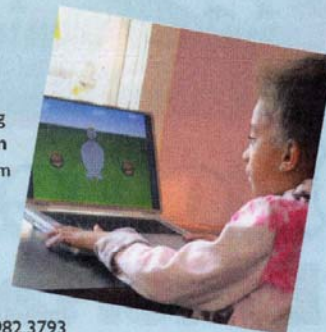


The Child Development Lab works with children five months to four years old, studying cognitive and motor development by examining how they navigate their environment on specially designed playground equipment. Studies provide insight into sibling relationships and early language development, and range 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
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for start-up or existing businesses

Faculty & Staff

CSI professor receives research grants

Alejandra Alonso, associate professor in the Department of Biology at the College of Staten Island, was recently awarded grants from the National Institutes of Health and the Alzheimer's Association for the study of the causes of Alzheimer's disease. The grants total approximately \$330,000. With 5.3 million people afflicted with Alzheimer's, Alonso will lead a team of researchers to develop novel model systems and therapeutics to cure or delay the onset of this devastating disease.

Her laboratory on the CSI campus bustles with student activity. From PhD students and post-doctoral researchers studying slides of brain tissue through a microscope to Master's students jotting down notes at their lab stations, there is a sense of purpose in Alonso's lab that can only be accomplished when everyone involved believes they are doing something truly important.

Alonso received her PhD at the University of Cordoba, Argentina. She began her work in the U.S. at the Institute for Basic Research, where she focused on biochemical characterization neuronal dysfunction in the brain.

She began her work at CSI in 2007, and now has more than 40 publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Summit aims to further tolerance

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

After a rash of bias attacks brought national attention to Port Richmond this summer, organizers hope an annual solution-making conference will help preach tolerance in the borough.

The "Staten Island Solution-Making Summit: From Bias to Tolerance and Trust" will be Dec. 9 at 6 p.m. in Port Richmond High School.

The theme of the event this year is "Staten Island: Who Are We?"

Workshops will be held by various local organizations, including Wagner College, the NAACP, the Staten Island Immigrants Council, the Port Richmond Improvement Association, the Gras-

mere Improvement Association, Peace Action of Staten Island, Eye Openers: Youth Against Violence and Temple Israel. Special workshops will be offered for youth, religious leaders and civic leaders.

North Shore City Councilwoman Debi Rose will be the keynote speaker.

The summit is co-sponsored by the Staten Island Advance and Communities United for Respect and Trust, an eight-year-old coalition of organizations and individuals committed to ending bias and affirming diversity on Staten Island. To register for the event, which is free and open to the public, call 718-442-3137. A \$5 donation is requested for dinner.

Quest for Alzheimer's Cure Gains Momentum for Researcher at College of Staten Island

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SOURCE [College of Staten Island](#)

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y., Dec. 7, 2010 /PRNewswire/ -- A Staten Island, N.Y.-based scientist has attracted supporters in her quest to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease.

"It is important to look at problems from a researcher's perspective," said Dr. Alejandra Alonso, an associate professor with the [College of Staten Island](#) (City University of New York) Department of Biology.

Two grants totaling \$330,000, from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Alzheimer's Association, were recently awarded to Dr. Alonso, whose own family has been impacted by the disease.

It's hoped her innovative research will contribute to a cure, or a delay in the onset, of Alzheimer's disease, which today plagues more than 5 million U.S. residents.

Without new discoveries in the battle against the disease, that figure likely will soar to 16 million Americans by the year 2050, according to the Alzheimer's Association.

In one New York City borough alone, the Staten Island Alzheimer's Foundation in 2010 has assisted over 19,000 Alzheimer's patients and their families.

Supported by a team of [CSI](#) doctoral candidates and post-doctoral researchers, Dr. Alonso is seeking to define the cause of the disease through enhanced study of tau proteins, which in Alzheimer's patients contribute to the death of brain cells.

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Also Featured on: WVCBtv.com

Debi Rose sees passage of her first bill

City Human Rights Commission enjoined to make its reports more comprehensive

By PETER N. SPENCER
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

North Shore City Councilwoman Debi Rose notched her first piece of legislation yesterday, when her colleagues unanimously passed a bill she authored to strengthen reporting by the city Human Rights Commission.

Ms. Rose's legislation requires that, in its annual report, the commission include the number of inquiries it receives, number and nature of complaints filed, resolution and time it took to process those complaints and its education and outreach efforts.

The Human Rights Commission is responsible for receiving and investigating a wide range of discrimination complaints — including housing, employment and harassment — and sometimes mediating a resolution or prosecuting the offenders. It is also required to provide an annual report of its activities to the mayor and Council — but there are currently no guidelines as to what to include in that report and when it is to be submitted.

The freshman legislator, who heads the Council's Civil Rights Committee, made that discovery during a hearing in June.

"The commission wasn't able to tell us how many complaints they received regarding source of income and how those complaints were finally resolved," Ms. Rose said. "For me, that meant they were not able to track any patterns or to see if there were any repeat offenders."

Discrimination is a particularly tough issue in the councilwoman's district, which has the fastest-growing immigrant population in the city and has seen a spike in bias attacks over the last year. Ms. Rose said that she hopes the new reporting requirements could help identify landlords, organizations or employers who are discriminating against Staten Island residents.

"The fundamental purpose of government is to guarantee and protect the people's civil rights and this bill will provide us the tools to fulfill that mandate much more effectively," she said.

The first annual report meeting the new requirements is due in March 2012, and will include data from 2009 through 2011.

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

Weekend Edition
December 10 - 12, 2010

The Largest Welfare Check Ever Written

The Rise of the Wall Street Ruling Class

By THOMAS VOLSCHO

Who rules America? Sociologists and political scientists have debated this question since C. Wright Mills published his 1956 book *The Power Elite*. Writing in the 1950s, Mills argued that the United States was ruled by a triangle of power between the federal government, large corporations, and the military industrial complex (with many people moving between these sectors). Robert McNamara went from CEO of Ford Motor Company to Secretary of Defense under the Kennedy-Johnson administrations (modern examples include Dick Cheney, Henry Paulson, Robert Rubin, Larry Summers, etc). Since the late 1960s, sociologist G. William Domhoff has revised, updated, and increased the sophistication of power elite theory. If we look at the composition of cabinet-level and other White House appoints since the Reagan administration, it is clear that there is a significant movement between Wall Street and the Federal Reserve Bank and Treasury Department. But why? The answers are found in the social and economic crises of the 1960s and 1970s.

The rate of profit in the non-financial sector fell after peaking in 1966 and continued its fall into the mid 1970s. At the same time, the Civil Rights, anti-war, feminist, brown power, black power, American Indian Movement, student revolts, prison riots, and other rebellions against the establishment were taking place. Regulatory victories by Ralph Nader and other challenges to the power of the capitalist establishment were increasingly seen as a threat in the 1970s. Lewis F. Powell (a corporate lawyer, board member, and future Supreme Court Justice) wrote a memo to the Chamber of Commerce in 1971 and opened the document by stating, "No thoughtful person can question that the American economic system is under broad attack." But what was most alarming was that "Although New Leftist spokesmen are succeeding in radicalizing thousands of the young, the greater cause for concern is the hostility of respectable liberals and social reformers." The great fear was that mainstream liberals were becoming more radical. A further fear was that Yale's graduating classes (composed of old and new money and elites-to-be) in the late 1960s and 1970s included those who were versed in the "politics of despair."

In response capitalists mobilized politically and ideologically. By 1976, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's membership started increasing rapidly and doubled by 1980. In 1975, there were just under 200 Corporate Political Action Committees (PACs) but about 1400 by 1981. The ideological factions of the right in the late 1970s included Supply-Siders, Monetarists, and Neoconservatives. Each of these factions were in power at the Treasury Department, White House, and Federal Reserve Bank beginning in 1979. While they didn't necessarily

always get along, they put policies into place that led to the rise of the Wall Street Ruling Class.

Supply-siders argued that radical tax cuts would increase economic growth so much that it would actually increase government tax revenues. This theory (known as the "Laffer Curve") was drawn on a napkin at a bar and then presented in editorials in the *Wall Street Journal*. One of Reagan's *wunderkind*, Office of Management and Budget David Stockman, confided to a Washington Post reporter (William Greider) that Reagan's tax cut was really a "trojan horse" for cutting taxes on the rich.

At the same time, monetarists believed that the only cause of inflation was the money supply. Beginning in October 1979, one of the first applications of the "shock doctrine" came in the form of very high interest rates. The vague proclamations of the Federal Reserve Banker, Paul Volcker, that the Fed was only focusing on M1 (a measure of money supply) and that the Fed's hands were tied such that it was "the market" that determined interest rates was sold to the public. What this really was, was "bitter medicine" and Volcker was quoted in the New York Times as saying that Americans must get used to declining living standards. In essence, the Federal Reserve Bank was implementing the "shock and awe" phase of the first-strike of a thirty year class war.

In 1981 Reagan signed the "Kemp-Roth" tax bill about a week after he had taken the radical step of firing 11,000 striking federal air traffic controllers. This was accomplished within the context of the highest interest rates and subsequent unemployment rates of the postwar era (in 1981-1982). This strategy, as explained by Naomi Klein in her book *The Shock Doctrine*, requires that radical policy shifts must occur when the public is disoriented and confused. High interest rates, business failures, foreclosures, plant closures, downsizing, and rising unemployment can have this effect. The interest-rate shocks enabled elites to pursue radical anti-union policies and radically reduce taxes on the rich. At the same time, neoconservatives argued that "missile gaps" and "acoustic submarines" (the inability to detect them being given as evidence for their existence) developed by the Soviet Union were posing a major threat to the United States. This justified unprecedented defense spending increases. One of the failed moments of the Reagan revolution, of course, was the decision not to pursue "Social Security reform" while only having limited success at cutting other social programs. This left a problem. Tax cuts for the rich reduced the tax revenue of the Federal government while a defense-spending spree threatened to create the largest federal deficit in history.

In a widely ignored 2000 book, *Wall Street Capitalism: A Theory of the Bondholding Class*, economist E. Ray Canterbury explains what happened. The tax cuts drastically increased the incomes of the rich and they used their newfound money from the tax cuts to buy the Treasury bonds, notes, and bills that the Treasury Department had to issue in order to finance Reagan's deficits. The combination of monetarism (high interest rates), supply-side tax cuts, and the phantom Soviet threat created the bondholding class. In essence, a Wall Street Welfare institution known as the bond market came to dominate politics in the United States. Instead of using taxes to fund the federal government (and increasingly state and municipal governments), taxes on the rich were cut and they were handed an "investment opportunity" so that working and middle-class taxpayers now pay a "bondholder's tax" to firms like Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan Chase (as well as Japan and China). The domination had become quite apparent in early 1993 when President-elect Bill Clinton remarked "You mean to tell me that the success of the economic program and my re-election hinges on the Federal Reserve and a bunch of fucking bond traders?" Clinton

ditched his 1992 campaign promises to the whims of the Wall Street Ruling Class and the Federal Reserve Bank.

Treasury securities come in maturities of 1 month, 3 months, 3 years, 7 years, 10 years, and 30 years. But rarely does the bondholding class hold their securities to maturity. Instead, they are circulated through high-volume secondary markets. In October of 2010, for instance, the average daily trading volume of Treasury bonds was \$558 billion. Treasury, State, and Municipal bonds are highly concentrated among the rich. In the 2007 Survey of Consumer Finances, the Top 5 percent (ranked by net worth) held about 93.6 per cent of all bonds (this does not include the savings bonds that the working and middle classes are familiar with). Likewise, the Top 5 percent owned 82.4 per cent of all stocks. The bondholding class oscillates between bonds and stocks as market conditions dictate. The Wall Street Ruling Class manipulates the supply of bonds, bills, and notes of differing maturities through its "Treasury Borrowing Advisory Committee" to maximize the economic gains of the bondholding class. The current Chairman and Vice Chairman are from JP Morgan Chase and Goldman Sachs, respectively.

By implementing what Canterbury calls a "bondholding class strategy," the Federal Reserve Bank managed interest rates so as to optimize returns for the bond and stock market. Studies indicate that bond prices and the stock market generally react negatively to what is good news for most Americans: strong employment growth, a decline in jobless claims, an increase in wages, or an uptick of inflation sends bond and stock prices falling. When news reports of slower housing starts, slower than expected employment growth, an increase in unemployment or jobless claims are released, the bond and stock markets rally. This is a major difference in the class interests between the vast majority of Americans whose primary income is from wages and salaries and the minority of rich asset holders. When the economy grows too fast, the ideology of the bondholding class dictates that the Federal Reserve Bank should raise interest rates (which increases the unemployment rate and reduces wages). Keep wage and commodity inflation in check by all means necessary while allowing for stock market and home mortgage inflation.

The last thirty years of the class war waged by the Wall Street Ruling Class and the Federal Reserve Bank has been about reducing wages and goods inflation while sustaining financial asset inflation to increase the enrichment of the bond and stock holders. Net interest payments on Treasury securities are welfare payments to the Wall Street Ruling Class. One of the propaganda functions of the highly concentrated (by ownership) mass media is to keep the masses confused about this great source of power. From the perspective of the elite, it is better to inflame and encourage hatred for Mexican immigrants, welfare recipients, and Muslims. But Mexican immigrants and Muslims, generally speaking do not run the country. Instead, the simple answer is: follow the money. By following the money you will be led to a street with a river at one end and a graveyard at the other. In fact, it is for whom the firms located on this street received *the largest welfare check ever written*. As the chorus of Ron Paul supporters, Tea Party activists and white supremacists continues rising and violence escalates, the question arises: Is there socialism in the United States? The answer is a resounding Yes! Socialism for the rich.

Thomas Volscho is Assistant Professor of Sociology, CUNY / College of Staten Island. He can be reached at Thomas.Volscho@csi.cuny.edu



Fire in My Heart Exhibited At The Museum Of Jewish Heritage 2/6-13, 2011

by BWW News Desk



Fire in My Heart:
The Story of
Hannah Senesh,

the compelling exhibition at the Museum of Jewish Heritage-A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, examines the life and legacy of the Budapest-born World War II hero and poet. To complement the first-ever major exhibition about Hannah Senesh, the Museum will host The Jewish Experience in Hungarian Cinema. The series of award winning films will begin on Sunday, January 30, beginning at 1 p.m. with a screening of Confidence (Bizalom) followed by Mephisto at 3:30 p.m. Sunshine will be shown on Sunday, February 6 at 1 p.m. and the series will conclude on Sunday, February 13 with The Revolt of Job at 1 p.m. followed by Fateless at 3:30 p.m.

The Jewish Experience in Hungarian Cinema examines how the Nazi occupation of Hungary influenced Hungarian cinema long after the war had ended, and how filmmakers such as István Szabó, Imre Gyongyossy, Barna Kabay, and Lajos Koltai took on the task of exploring complex topics about this period of history. The films represent the best of Hungarian cinema from the 1980s to present day.

Film professor Jerry Carlson, who will be discussing several of the films, said, "Schindler's List opened a door for many movie goers to explore the terrible history of the Holocaust and more generally anti-Semitism. Hungarian filmmakers, before and after Spielberg's film, have been leaders in portraying central European Jewish experiences. Their films look inside the rooms of Hungarian history. From rustic farms to elegant Budapest homes to the horrors of transport and the camps, their stories bear witness through powerful artistic expression."

Tickets are \$10 adults, \$7 students/seniors, and \$5 members; separate admission required for each film. Tickets are available online at www.mjhnyc.org or by calling the Museum box office at 646.437.4202.

This film series is made possible by the Hungarian Cultural Institute in New York. Tours of Fire in My Heart: The Story of Hannah Senesh will be offered at 12 p.m. each Sunday that the film series is taking place. Space is limited. Pre-registration for the tour is required. Call 646.437.4202.

About the Films

Sunday, January 30

1 P.M. Confidence (Bizalom)

(1980, BETA, SP, 107 min. Hungarian with English subtitles)

1980 Academy Award nominee for Best Foreign Film

Directed by István Szabó

Post-screening discussion with film critic Leonard Quart

After Kata's husband goes into hiding during World War II, she poses as the wife of a man she has never met in order to conceal her Jewish identity. Their volatile arrangement, which if exposed would mean imprisonment or death, eases when they become lovers. This film explores the lack of trust that threatens to consume their relationship.

Leonard Quart is professor emeritus of Cinema Studies at the [College of Staten Island](#), CUNY. His essays and articles have appeared in Film Quarterly, Dissent, The Forward, and London Magazine, among others. For over 20 years, he has been an editor and contributing editor of Cineaste. He is the co-author of books including The Films of [Mike Leigh](#) and How the War was Remembered.

3:30 P.M.

Mephisto

(1981, BETA AP, 144 min., German with English subtitles)

Directed by István Szabó

1981 Academy Award winner for Best Foreign Language Film

Post-screening discussion with film critic Leonard Quart

A Faustian tale set in the early 1930s, apolitical, ambitious actor Hendrik Hofgen sells his soul to the Nazis for the opportunity to perform propaganda plays for the Reich. Portrayed by the charismatic Klaus M[Ari Brand](#)auser, he soon becomes Germany's most popular actor. Adapted from a 1936 novel by [Klaus Mann](#) based on the real actor Gustav Grundgens, the New York Times has called Mephisto an "extremely handsome film, often quite stylish and very well played."

Friday, December 17, 2010

Smooth transition - how HK's migrants came home

Robyn Schorn
Dec 12, 2010

Return Migration and Identity: A Global Phenomenon, A Hong Kong Case

by **Nan M. Sussman**

Hong Kong University Press, HK\$225 ★★ ★ 1/2...

Solving the mystery of Alzheimer's

Published: Monday, December 20, 2010, 6:45 AM



By Diane O'Donnell

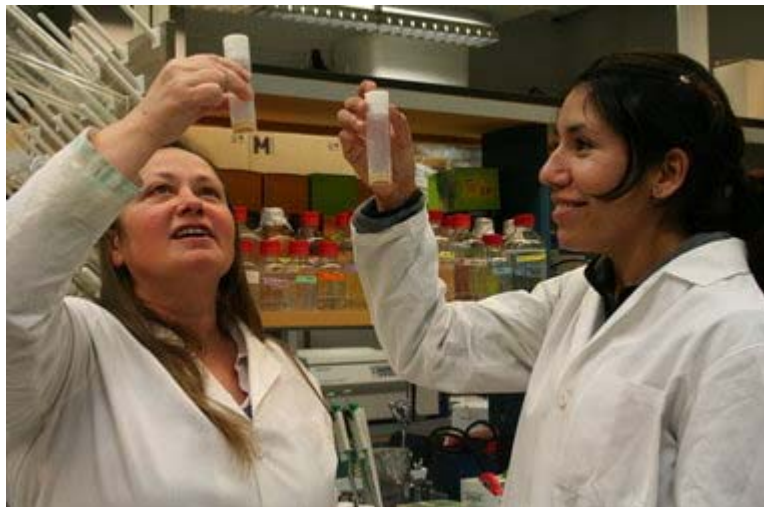


Photo Courtesy of Ken Bach/CSI

Drs. Alejandra Alonso, left, and Eugenia Alaniz observe test tubes containing fruit flies with normal brains and Alzheimer's.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — A Grasmere scientist's quest for a cure for Alzheimer's disease received a boost recently from nearly \$400,000 in research grants.

Dr. Alejandra Alonso, 47, an associate biology professor at the [College of Staten Island](#), is trying to untangle the mysteries of tau — a protein that leads to the death of brain cells in Alzheimer's patients.

Tau, along with beta amyloid, is one of two proteins that are the prime suspects in the progression of Alzheimer's. According to the Alzheimer's Association, more than 5 million Americans are estimated to be

living with the mind-robbing disease, including about 320,000 New Yorkers.

Much of the current research has been devoted to beta amyloid, which forms plaques around nerve cells and interferes with normal brain function.

But, tau's role as a culprit in Alzheimer's is gaining more attention, in part because of the recent failure of a promising drug made by Eli Lilly that aimed to reduce the level of beta amyloid in the brain.

"Beta amyloid was considered the more important player in Alzheimer's," said Dr. Alonso. "Now, since the trials with removing the plaques have been failing, people are looking more into different targets."

A native of Argentina, she received a doctorate degree in biochemistry from the University of Cordoba. Dr. Alonso began studying the effects of tau more than a decade ago while working at the Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities in Willowbrook.

At [CSI](#), the grant money will help fund a team of five researchers and 10 undergraduate students. The team

will try to replicate how tau forms inside nerve cells by examining cells in culture, fruit flies and mice.

"I've been trying to use models to mimic the disease because if we can get a model that mimics the process of neurodegeneration, then we can start trying therapeutical approaches to unravel the mechanism," explained Dr. Alonso.

She has experience first-hand with Alzheimer's — having helped care for her mother-in-law who had the disease and died in 2008 — and the devastating effect it has on patients and their family and friends.

"My mother-in-law was slowly robbed of who she was," said Dr. Alonso. "At the end of her days, there was a body with her features, but I do not know where she was."

Dr. Alonso's research will be funded by a \$200,000 grant from the Alzheimer's Association, \$148,000 from the National Institutes of Health and a \$50,000 grant from the Brooklyn Home for Aged Men.

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Debi Rose sees human rights bill signed into law

North Shore Dem calls legislation 'an important step' in helping the city stamp out discrimination

By **PETER N. SPENCER**
ADVANCE CITY HALL BUREAU

One year after she was elected, Debi Rose made her first contribution to the city charter.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg signed into law yesterday a bill authored by the North Shore Democrat to strengthen reporting by the city Human Rights Commission.

Ms. Rose's legislation requires that, in its annual report, the commission include the number of inquiries it receives, number and nature of complaints filed, resolution and time it took to process those complaints and its education and outreach efforts.

The Human Rights Commission is responsible for receiving and investigating a wide range of discrimination

complaints — including housing, employment and harassment — and sometimes mediating a resolution or prosecuting the offenders. It is also required to provide an annual report of its activities to the mayor and Council — but there are currently no guidelines as to what to include in that report and when it is to be submitted.

Ms. Rose, the first African American elected to office in Staten Island, called the bill "an important step" in helping the city stamp out discrimination.

"Thanks to the new reporting in this bill, we will now have a far better understanding of the amount and nature of discrimination experienced by individuals in New York City. This information will help us take a more focused approach to investigating and addressing civil rights abuses and hopefully lead to fewer offenses in the future," she said, prior to the mayor signing the bill at a ceremony in City Hall yesterday. Ms. Rose's bill was passed unanimously by the City Council on Dec. 8.



ROSE

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

Christmas is for the birds

Published: Thursday, December 23, 2010, 12:08 PM



By **Kathryn Carse**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - ALL SHORES -

While thousands scurried about, searching for the perfect gift on the last Saturday before Christmas, there were 40 hardy souls who hustled from woodland and bay, to salt marsh and landfill to hunt for birds.

They were participants in the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) – named for the season, not the day – which was initiated in 1900 by the National Audubon Society. A local event since 1908, the CBC requires volunteer participants to comb Staten Island, then meet in the evening for a tally. This year, 10 teams were formed.

Marie King of Grant City and I joined Catherine Barron and Anne Purcell, both of West Brighton, to survey the northwest section of the borough. Ms. Barron and Ms. Purcell have been surveying the section for a good 10 years, which showed not only in their expertise, but in the well-paced tour with sufficient bathroom, coffee and food stops.

As Ms. Barron recorded and navigated from the back seat, Ms. Purcell drove and birded through the windshield, counting off starlings and pigeons. It was quite a unique experience for an uninitiated passenger.

Our first real stop came on Richmond Terrace at the bottom of Van Name Avenue where a number of waterfowl had taken shelter in a cove protected by old docks, piers and rusting boats. Three American wigeon and five canvas back ducks were exciting finds there.

With the weak light of a winter morning, and the pale pink and blue of water and sky, the scene resembled a watercolor painting. It was indicative of much of what would be found all over the northwest section – an



As smoke from a Con Ed plant billows in the distance, Anne Purcell keeps a lookout on Saw Mill Creek Marsh while Catherine Barron and Marie King compare their tally of birds spotted during the Christmas Bird Count. The count - named for the season, not the day - was initiated in 1900 by the National Audubon Society. The marsh was part of the territory covered by their team, one of 10 participating in the local event. (Staten Island Advance/Kathryn Carse)

unsettling mix of abandoned industries and natural beauty with pockets of residential, business and industrial activity.

"Birding makes you look at it much differently. It really changes your perspective. People have no idea what's going on over their heads," said Ms. Purcell.

Trash was a depressing common denominator at nearly every stop.

The din of planes taking off from Newark's Liberty Airport and the white noise of Staten Island Expressway traffic was rarely far off.

The birds didn't seem to mind, however, and species like cardinals, mockingbirds, starlings and rock doves, which turned up at most sites, were counted just as carefully as the less common birds.

Along Western Avenue, our group checked Bridge and Old Place creeks, meandering tidal streams that empty into the Arthur Kill. We all hopped out at Bridge Creek at an entrance to the New York Container Terminal when first one, then another, juvenile black crowned night heron was spotted. We left abruptly when a security guard who did not seem like he was going to share our enthusiasm approached wagging his finger at us.

Old Place Creek yielded a good number of ducks – green wing teal and hooded mergansers

Home Depot in Mariners Harbor provided a welcome surprise – fabulous bathrooms and a coffee wagon. Next to the store is a lookout over Goethals Bridge Pond. All was quiet here, as were most places where the ponds were frozen.

We traveled River Road which is near the site originally proposed for Nascar, but on our pass-through, the property, which sits in limbo, looked like the Red-Tailed Cafe, with four hawks hunting for lunch.

The wetlands and toxic brownfields, have created a unique wide-open landscape where the flight of a red-tailed hawk can be observed unimpeded. One treated us to quite a display, showing off the blurry band across his belly, his broad wings, ending in "fingers," and the top of his tail, deep cinnamon against the light blue sky.

We continued on middle-of-nowhere roads to the Saw Mill Creek Marsh, which benefited from a restoration by the city Parks Department in the late 1990s after an Exxon oil tanker spill.

At Saw Mill Creek, a greater yellowlegs was spotted as it beat a hasty retreat.

Then we went on to the salt marsh.

"I feel like I am walking on Cousin Itt," said Marie. The swirling pattern of the flat laying spartina did look like brushed hair, not unlike the blond tresses that covered the "Addams Family" character. In the distance, smoke spilled out of the Con Edison plant and the VanBro sand piles were silhouetted in the back light. It is unusual to feel this far away from anything in New York City.

As if to confirm the "wild" West feel, we saw small flocks of black ducks, red-winged black birds and house finches. The birds seem to react more quickly to our presence than those in parks and backyards who are habituated to humans.

From the wilds of the salt marsh, we went to West Shore Plaza for lunch, bathrooms and of course, gulls and pigeons.

At a quick stop where the end of Victory Boulevard is fenced off, Ms. Purcell hung back and spotted a "Gray Ghost," as the male northern harrier is known.

"If you wait around long enough, you're going to see something," she said.

We ended somewhat the way we began, in Baron Hirsch Cemetery in Graniteville, the sky again a watercolor and the rows of granite monuments, many inscribed in Hebrew, lending a stillness to the atmosphere.

Inertia and distance kept us in the car, windows down to listen and see more clearly. Sure enough, Ms. Barron spotted a Cooper's hawk, hunting from a tree, and a sharp-shinned hawk passed by. We heard a Carolina wren in the dying light before we retraced our route to scan for owls, "like a cat in a tree" as Ms. Purcell described them. For the record, none were seen.



Ed Johnson, who is the director of science at the Staten Island Museum, conducted the round-up meeting. As teams registered the tally for each bird, he noted whether the total number was high, low,

Ed Johnson, director of science, conducted the round-up meeting in the Staten Island Museum at 7:30 p.m. As teams registered their tally for each bird, he noted whether the total number was high, low, average or "a relief" (that the bird was still here).

Our black crowned night herons and greater yellowlegs were the only ones seen for the day.

Everything came to a halt when Tom Brown, adjunct field biology instructor at the [College of Staten Island \(CSI\)](#), announced that he and Dick Veit, ornithologist at [CSI](#), found a white-rumped

average or "a relief" (that the bird was still here). (Staten Island Advance/Kathryn Carse)

sandpiper in "the dump," (Freshkills Park), a first for the local count.

The number of species spotted was 104, including wild turkey, and 26,991 individuals.

Bird count wrap-up

"There was no new highs for any species," said Ed Johnson, director of science at the Staten Island Museum. In fact, he thought the numbers overall were a bit lower than last year.

Frozen ponds held down the number of waterfowl. Another factor, mentioned by participant Ray Matarazzo, was the presence of hunting raptors, which are driving the small birds undercover.

Eagles are absent from this year's count – a disappointment, Johnson said, because they have been seen at the Conference House, Greenbelt and Goethals Bridge all through November and December.

Bluebirds (3), last seen in the 2004 count, were spotted. The crow count of 27 was "real low." Only two pheasant is distressing and an indication of their disappearing habitat. In 1966, their banner year, there were 118 pheasants.

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Between Christmas, New Year's, comes Kwanzaa

The pan-African holiday lasts for a week and is focused on building a stronger sense of community

ALL SHORES — For many on Staten Island, the holiday season is all about bright lights, pine trees and jolly fat men dressed up as Santa. For those of the Jewish faith, the holiday season is focused on the eight nights of Hanukkah and gift-giving among family and friends.

But in more recent years, there's been a move to celebrate Kwanzaa, a pan-African holiday that starts on Dec. 26, after Christmas and Hanukkah are in the rear-view mirror.

Kwanzaa, a week-long celebration, will close out on Jan. 1. "Each night has a different meaning and purpose," said **Janet Robinson**, 69, who's also known in this borough as the "Kwanzaa Lady."

"I've been celebrating Kwanzaa in schools, churches and community centers around Staten Island for over 30 years," Mrs. Robinson said passionately. She's been happy to show off this holiday that encourages everyone, regardless of religious beliefs, to participate in an effort to educate and create a larger sense of community within Staten Island.

"We serve all sorts of foods every night, from every different culture, because there are so many religions and cultures in Africa," she said. "We just don't serve pork because we don't want to have anything that might offend a religion and Muslim people don't eat pork."

Each of the seven nights of Kwanzaa emphasizes a different lesson for families to incorporate into their New Year. According to Mrs. Robinson, if you want to keep the holiday feeling going strong through the end of the year, start a Kwanzaa tradition in your home.

"For each night of Kwanzaa you need to set up your table," she explained. Start with either a red, black or green tablecloth. To be even more traditional, visit the African Home Land Store at 70 Victory Blvd., Tompkinsville, on the North Shore, where you purchase a traditional Kwanzaa table-



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/IRVING SILVERSTEIN

North Shore City Councilwoman Debi Rose joins James Anderson, 4, and Grace Garvey, 3, in making Kwanzaa cookies at the Staten Island Children's Museum.



SHERRINA NAVANI

cloth, called a Kunti Cloth. Then, display a wicker basket full of different fruits — everything from pineapples and bananas, to peaches and pears.

"The basket can be eaten from but must be replenished every day and never be empty throughout the seven nights," said Mrs. Robinson. "If your basket stays full through January 1, that means you have had a bountiful harvest, a sign of prosperity."

Next to the basket, place an ear of harvest corn, similar to those you see around Thanksgiving. An ear should be placed for each child that is in the house. This signifies a show of unity amongst family members.

Finally, invest in a Kinara, a special candle holder

designed to hold seven candles for each night of Kwanzaa. If you are looking at the Kinara, the black candle should be placed in the center, with three red candles to the left and three green candles to the right. The colors represent the Banderia, or the African flag.

The black candle is lit before dinner on Dec. 26. It represents the Nguzo, or principle of that day. Day One celebrates unity within the family and the community. On Day Two, the farthest left red candle is lit to symbolize self-determination. On Day Three, light the farthest candle on the right; this encourages collective work and responsibility.

On Day Four, light the next red candle to symbolize cooperative economics and the support of businesses that care about the community. On Day Five, light the next green candle to show a sense of purpose, to set goals that benefit your family and your community.

On Day Six, light the remaining red candle to sym-

bolize creativity. Think about what you and your family can do to make your community more beautiful. On Day Seven, light the last candle to signify the start of a new year. This is a day to express faith and a belief that a better world can be created for communities — now and in the future. Light the candles every night just before dinner to express the Nguzo, but said Mrs. Robinson, be sure to blow out the candles once the entire family acknowledges they understand the principle of the day. "The Kinaras are usually made out of wood and you don't want to start a fire," she cautioned.

To learn more about Kwanzaa contact Mrs. Robinson at 718-448-8157. To experience a Kwanzaa celebration first hand, Mrs. Robinson will host her next presentation at St. Philips Baptist Church, 77 Bennett St., Port Richmond, on Dec. 26 at 11 a.m.

Shore Family Fun appears weekly in the Shore sections of the Advance. Sherrina Navani is a freelance reporter. She can be reached through the newspaper at shores@siadv.com.



Staten Island Memories Program Launches at Cabaret Night with Mike Azzara

by BWW News Desk



Every neighborhood has a history. Every civic association and family has a history and memories worth capturing before it's too late. While he was at the Staten Island Advance, Mike Azzara brought to readers for over a decade

letters and photos that brought this history alive. On January 9th, from 1-4 PM at a cabaret at the Hilton Garden Inn Lobby Lounge, Azzara will help launch a project that over the next 12 months invites all Staten Islanders to share their memories. The cabaret will also celebrate the beginning of Staten Island's 350th Anniversary year (2011). Monthly calendars with historic and contemporary images of significant sites on the Island will be distributed to all guests.

Highlighting the cabaret is vocalist AJ Tyndale, a Staten Island native best known on the New Jersey cabaret circuit. She studied voice at [Carnegie Hall](#), sang for servicemen through the USO, and has appeared in many nightclubs and cabarets, including Odette's (alongside cabaret legend [Margaret Whiting](#)), the Stockton Inn, and the Cosmopolitan Club. AJ released her new CD, *Live at the Stockton Inn*, in January 2010. She will be accompanied by pianist Bob Egan and vocalist Jack McDade. Tickets are \$40 per person. For reservations, please call 718-351-1611, ext. 236. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

Funds raised at the cabaret will help to support the "SI Memories" series, a 12-part program at each of the branches of the New York Public Library on Staten Island. These will be held

Saturdays in 2011, from Great Kills (Feb. 5) and Port Richmond (March 12) to Todt Hill-Westerleigh (March 26), New Dorp (April 16), Dongan Hills (April 23) and Huguenot Park (June 4) in the winter and spring. Summer and fall programs will be held at the Richmondtown branch (June 25), Tottenville (July 30), South Beach (August 27), and West New Brighton (Sept. 10). All NYPL programs are free of charge. Each program will have a moderator. If you would like to volunteer to moderate a program, please contact info@si350.org. The programs will be recorded and archived at the Staten Island Museum as part of the SI350 collection.

In addition to Mike Azzara, the event will honor three others who have contributed to building memories on Staten Island. Bea Victor, Staten Island Advance columnist, will be honored for her service to the seniors on Staten Island who will be sharing their memories. Aurelia Curtis, principal of Curtis High School, and Msgr. Whalen of Monsignor Farrell High School will be honored to recognize their work as well as the contributions of the alumni of those schools. Alumni groups throughout the Island are encouraged to participate in the Staten Island Memories project or to contact SI350, Inc. to schedule a session for their group. Mike Azzara will be sharing his favorite columns of all time and other honorees will each share a favorite memory of Staten Island. If you are unable to attend but would like to contribute an ad to the journal showcasing Mike Azzara's best Memories columns, please contact info@si350.org.

The Staten Island Memories project is the brainchild of Dorothy Myhre-Donahue, a native Staten Islander and member of the Sons of Norway, the Richmond County Yacht Club, and the Port Richmond Alumni Association, who participated in the 300th anniversary of Staten Island in 1961. "Recently, at many family and school reunions, it has been great fun to reminisce about life in our old neighborhoods. I can't wait to revisit those special times at gatherings at our local libraries," Dotty said. Ann Merlino, former Chair of the Biology Department at the [College of Staten Island](#) and active in many local civic groups, whose father established Merlino Photography Studios in Port Richmond, will co-chair the event.



24 lives that resonated throughout our Island

Published: Friday, December 31, 2010, 12:49 AM



By **Stephanie Slepian**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- In 2010, the Advance chronicled the lives of more than 3,000 people with ties to Staten Island on our obituary pages.

Each one of them had a story to tell and each one of them touched somebody. Nearly two dozen, however, stand out for their contributions to education, medicine, politics, sports or commitment to their hometown.

Among them are a beloved district attorney, a baseball legend and eight Advance Women of Achievement. As the year draws to a close, we remember 24 of them.

JANUARY

JAN. 6: JOHN O'BRIEN -- As a 19-year-old private with the Second Marine Division in World War II, John O'Brien was severely wounded in his left arm on Thanksgiving Day 1943 in the Battle of Tarawa in the Pacific's Betio Island. He received the Purple Heart for his injuries. He later became one of the founding members of the Staten Island Detachment of the Marine Corps League. In 2007, the group named its Sunnyside pavilion in his honor. Mr. O'Brien was 85.

JAN. 25: DR. MARIA ROSATI CHECCHI -- One of only two women in her class when she graduated from medical school, Dr. Rosati was a pioneering cardiologist



known for her compassion, composure and serene, soft-spoken manner. She brought

Bobby Thomson: August 16

the first coronary care ambulance to the borough and was the first to use a defibrillator to save a patient's life at the former Staten Island Hospital. The 1972 Advance Woman of Achievement was 82.

FEBRUARY

FEB. 3: JAMES SAMPEL -- Remembered for his gentlemanly style and easygoing manner, Mr. Sampel was an attorney, retired NYPD detective and Democratic Party Board of Elections commissioner. He was named to the BOE in 2005 by the late North Shore Assemblyman John Lavelle, a longtime friend. Mr. Sampel was 70.

MARCH

MARCH 22: DOROTHY KRUSE -- A retired Wagner College secretary, Dorothy Kruse worked diligently to raise the image of secretaries in the workplace and stressed the importance of their ability to be one step ahead of their employer. She taught secretarial classes for high school girls with the Explorer Scouts at Wagner and during holiday breaks, she would open her home to students who had no place to go when the dormitories closed. She was also the first woman to serve as warden of St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Eltingville. Named an Advance Woman of Achievement in 1980, Mrs. Kruse was 92.

MARCH 30: EVA MAE ACKER LAKE -- Guided by her faith in God and humanity, Eva Mae Acker Lake believed in lending a hand, whether it meant baking a cake for one of her many advocacy organizations, taking a senior citizen to a doctor's visit or volunteering to teach Sunday school at Bethel Community Church, Tompkinsville. Named an Advance Woman of Achievement in 1992, she was a volunteer for numerous organizations, including the NAACP, the National Council of Negro Women and the New Brighton Citizens Committee. Mrs. Lake was 91.

APRIL

APRIL 3: NANCY AVIS -- Nancy Avis, a 1986 Advance Woman of Achievement, channeled her passion for family and community into volunteering for the Staten Island Jewish Community Center and dozens of other causes. In 1988, after she and her husband had worked to raise funds for the \$1 million, 17,000-square-foot fitness wing at the JCC's Greenridge site, the entire facility was named in their honor. She was also a familiar face at Staten Island Academy, United Cerebral Palsy and Staten Island Community Chest's residential telephone campaign. Mrs. Avis was 79.

MAY

MAY 1: ELLEN T. ADKINS -- Whether it was her service, or something as simple as singing with the choir at St. Mary of the Assumption R.C. Church, Ellen Adkins displayed a love for interacting with those around

her. A 1999 Advance Woman of Achievement, Mrs. Adkins volunteered with the March of Dimes, Carmel Richmond Nursing Home and the New York Transcription for the Blind. Deeply involved with her local chapter of the Columbiettes, she was the first Staten Island woman to be named the supreme director of the Columbiettes Supreme Council, which oversees all of the chapters on the East Coast. Mrs. Adkins was 89.

MAY 11: ROBERT ZINK -- Robert Zink's passion for preserving the Island's wildlife came when he was in his 60s -- only after raising his family and retiring in 1981 from a 30-year career as a controller for the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Navy. He founded the United for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center in New Springville in 1999, where he nursed injured animals back to health and sheltered illegal animals until the state Department of Environmental Conservation could find appropriate placement. He closed the center three years before his death. Mr. Zink was 73.

MAY 24: DONALD SUTHERLAND -- In 1978, Donald Sutherland penned a cover story and took photos for New York magazine about his Stapleton neighborhood. The piece is credited by borough preservationists for bringing wide attention to Stapleton's 19th-century Victorian houses. Over the past 10 years, Mr. Sutherland documented the tugboat industry throughout the United States and detailed the role the maritime industry played during the September 11 and Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. His photographs were recently part of an exhibit called "Tugs!" at Mystic Seaport in Connecticut. Mr. Sutherland was 66.

JUNE

JUNE 2: NICHOLAS LIGRECI -- The beloved patriarch of the Staaten in West Brighton helped Staten Islanders celebrate their weddings, anniversaries, birthdays and other occasions since he purchased the catering hall on Forest Avenue in 1971 with his brother, Jack. A World War II veteran and city police officer, Mr. LiGreci was also distinguished by his service to his community and his church, his generous nature and his winning smile. Mr. LiGreci was 87.

JUNE 4: WILLIAM MURPHY -- A revered West Brighton Democrat, William L. Murphy was the longest-serving district attorney in Staten Island history. He came to the borough district attorneys office in 1976 to serve as chief assistant under District Attorney Thomas Sullivan. Democratic Gov. Mario Cuomo appointed Mr. Murphy district attorney in 1983 after Sullivan was elected to state Supreme Court. He won election in his own right that November. Mr. Murphy was a mentor to generations of prosecutors and was known as a staunch seeker of justice. He was remembered as a pursuer of truth and fair play who wore his Irish heritage with unabashed pride. Mr. Murphy was 65.

JULY

JULY 6: DR. ANTHONY J. POLOMENE -- A career educator, Dr. Anthony Polomene was promoted to principal of PS 8 in Great



[Enlarge](#)

[Staten Island Advance](#)

Helen Cusack: July 23

[Notable 2010 Staten Island Deaths gallery \(24 photos\)](#)

Kills in 1970 and was asked to lead the newly created Totten Intermediate School two years later. Dr. Polomene remained the principal there until 1980, when he was appointed supervising principal of Staten Island schools. In 1992, he was named deputy superintendent of schools for District 31. At the request of the chancellor of schools, Dr. Polomene established the Michael J. Petrides Educational Complex in Sunnyside, the city's first "seamless educational experience," serving students in kindergarten through grade 12. He also served many leadership roles in the community such as president of the Staten Island Musicians' Society, the Association for Brain Injured Children, the Dongan Hills Civic Association and United Activities Unlimited. Dr. Polomene was 77.

JULY 23: HELEN CUSACK -- A retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve who served in North Africa and Europe during World War II, Helen Cusack maintained the "can-do" attitude of her military training throughout her career as a nurse and in her retirement as a volunteer. She was named an Advance Woman of Achievement in 1988 in recognition of her work with the South

Shore YMCA, the Staten Island Chapter of the American Cancer Society, the Lighthouse Association for the Blind, the Staten Island Symphony, St. Vincent dePaul Society and RSVP/S.E.R.V.E. Mrs. Cusack was 93.

AUGUST

AUG. 16: BOBBY THOMSON -- From sandlot teams and the diamond at Curtis High School, Bobby Thomson burst into the majors when he was signed by the New York Giants as an amateur free agent in 1942. He played 15 Major League seasons and made three National League All-Star teams, but it was one long ball that earned Mr. Thomson his place in baseball history. On Oct. 3, 1951, he homered over the left-field fence in the bottom of the ninth at the Polo Grounds. The blast took place in the deciding game of a tie-

breaking National League playoff series against the Brooklyn Dodgers, and launched his team into the World Series. The hit is remembered simply as "The Shot Heard 'Round the World." Mr. Thomson, known as the Staten Island Scot in a nod to his birthplace, was 86.

AUG. 19: DR. DAVID KPORMAKPOR -- Affectionately known as "The Professor" because of his great store of knowledge and wisdom, Dr. Kpormakpor was a member of the Gola tribe in Liberia, born to parents who could not read or write. He was given the opportunity to study after a missionary recognized his promise and secured a place for him at the prestigious College of West Africa in Monrovia. He went on to become the interim president and associate supreme court justice in his homeland, where he earned a reputation as the nation's only honest politician. He made his home in Concord in 1997, becoming a key member of the borough's Liberian population. Dr. Kpormakpor was 74.

AUG. 28: HOWARD GEORGE MEYERS JR. -- A practicing attorney for 44 years, George Meyers Jr. was general counsel for a Smith Barney predecessor before forming the law firm of Marchi, Straniere and Meyers with the late Sen. John J. Marchi. Mr. Meyers is best remembered for his efforts outside the courtroom. He was chairman of the board of Eger Lutheran Homes and Services and served on the board of trustees of Wagner College. In 2008, he was named "Man of the Year" at the Staten Island Friends for Hospice Care's 21st Annual Celebrate Life Gala. Mr. Meyers was 68.

SEPTEMBER

SEPT. 9: CECILIA ANN POSLUSZNY -- Cecilia Posluszny was fiercely proud of her Polish heritage -- so much so that the lifelong West Brighton resident made it her mission to keep its traditions alive among the borough's growing population of Poles. Among her biggest contributions was the founding of the Staten Island Pulaski Day Committee with her husband, Louis. In 2004, they were the co-marshals of the Pulaski Parade in Manhattan. She was also active in veterans' causes. In 1969, the 5-foot-1 "bundle of energy" was named an Advance Woman of Achievement for her lifetime commitment to volunteerism and community service. Mrs. Posluszny was 87.

SEPT. 25: LAWRENCE MOHR SR. -- Lawrence Mohr's nickname said it all: Mr. American Legion. With his wife, the late Estelle Mohr, a World War II veteran like himself, he instilled in youth an understanding of government, good citizenship and love of country. The Curtis High School graduate served in the U.S. Army Air Corps from 1941 to 1945, stationed in England with the 384th Bomb Group, one of the first operational units in the Eighth Air Force. He was the commander of the Richmond County American Legion from 1971 to 1972 and left his imprint on countless veterans groups. For more than 40 years, he was a key figure in the annual Flag Day flag-burning ceremony at Fort Wadsworth to dispose of old and tattered flags with dignity. The Boy Scouts have since taken over the honor. Mr. Mohr was 92.

OCTOBER

OCT. 4: DR. WILLIAM BIRENBAUM -- A distinguished educator and administrator, Dr. William Birenbaum

was the president of the former Staten Island Community College -- today's **College of Staten Island** -- and helped design and implement the City University of New York's open-enrollment process to ensure access to higher education to all who wished to pursue it. A World War II Army veteran, he also served as an education adviser to New York Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. He was appointed to SICC shortly after Kennedy's assassination. There he expanded programs in continuing and professional education, and created evening classes and weekend programs, making it easier for women and working students to enroll and earn an associate's degree. Dr. Birenbaum was 87.

OCT. 18: JOHN DABBENE -- John Dabbene left his mark on most aspects of the borough's -- and the city's -- Italian-American culture. He was a board member of the New York City Italian-American Advisory Committee, the Italian-American Legal Defense and Higher Education Fund, the Coalition of Italian-American Associations, the John D. Calandra Italian-American Institute and the New York City Italian Heritage and Cultural Committee. Among his biggest accomplishments was restructuring the mission of the Garibaldi-Meucci Museum in Rosebank -- which he chaired from 2001 to 2009 -- to encompass more programming, including language classes, exhibitions and speakers. Mr. Dabbene was 72.

OCT. 19: SEYMOUR RICHMAN -- The "dean of deans," Seymour Richman, a World War II veteran who participated in the Battle of the Bulge, was a beloved educator held in high esteem by his colleagues. He began his 52-year-career in the city public school system as a teacher at PS 16 in Tompkinsville. He also taught at PS 39, Arrochar, and PS 30, Westerleigh, before becoming a principal at PS 1 in Tottenville. He became the first principal of PS 55 in 1965, when the Eltingville school opened its doors. Throughout his career, Mr. Richman became known for acting as a mentor to others. A familiar phrase among principals and administrators was, "If you have a question, call Seymour." Mr. Richman was 90.

NOVEMBER

NOV. 4: EDWARD BALLETO -- Edward Balletto was well known as one of the best hitters ever to grace Staten Island ballfields. He was a force in the borough's sandlot leagues from the time he entered the Twyford-Muche Major League in 1959 at age 14 until he hung up his booming bat in 2005 at age 60. He earned a reputation as the borough's premier power hitter with Caru Shop and Smitty's Sports, by blasting shots in the 1960s and 1970s that rattled windows and cleared fences, the railroad tracks and trees. Mr. Balletto was 65.

DECEMBER

DEC. 13: MARGARET ROBINSON -- Born in her family home on Aultman Avenue in Richmond, Margaret Robinson was a graduate of the former PS 28, the building that became the archive of Historic Richmond Town -- a place that was the focus of a lifetime of volunteer efforts. Miss Robinson became interested in restoration work with a group of grade-school friends who volunteered to spend a summer helping repair the walls of the then-recently acquired Voorlezer House, the Historical Society's first restoration project. A champion of local history, she remained closely tied to the period village through her life and helped

transform it from a volunteer organization to a professional museum. A 1972 Advance Woman of Achievement, Miss Robinson was 86.

DEC. 23: DONNA DIXON -- Donna Dixon worked as an emergency medical technician for the city before becoming involved with the Staten Island chapter of the American Heart Association. After the office closed in 2003, she helped form the Staten Island Heart Society and served as the executive director of operations until the time of her death. Through her work, Mrs. Dixon became well-known in both the nonprofit and emergency-services communities, and continued to serve as an EMT, motor vehicle operator and crew officer with the North Shore Rescue Squad, a volunteer ambulance company. Mrs. Dixon was 51.

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Sports

Dolphin men, women at York tonight

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

The College of Staten Island launches the CUNY Conference basketball season tonight with a doubleheader at York College in Queens.

CSI's women (0-3) meet the Lady Cardinals (3-3) at 6 p.m. The Dolphins own a 50-6 all-time series lead, including a 21-4 road record, but squeezed out 76-73 and 69-68 victories a year ago before outlasting York 68-54 in the opening round of the conference tourney.

CSI has a 21-game winning streak against York, last losing on Dec. 4, 2000 in the CUNY opener, a 83-80 road setback.

The men's game (8 p.m.) figures to be a good barometer for the 4-0 Dolphins, who are off to the school's best start in nearly three decades. The 1981-82 team won its first 11 games.

CUNY preseason favorite York has posted a 2-5 record with a tough schedule and boasts senior

center **Marcel Esonwune**, a 6-foot-6 Nigeria native who was named to several NCAA Division III pre-season All-American first teams.

Esonwune has landed the first two CUNY player of the week awards, averaging 23.3 points, 13.2 rebounds and 5.2 blocked shots per game.

Needless to say, the smallish Dolphins have a big issue to address in the middle. They have strung together consecutive wins over Ursinus, Wesleyan, Rochester Institute of Technology and FDU-Florham with balanced scoring featuring five players in double figures, and man-to-man defense limiting opponents to 45.4 percent accuracy.

CSI's men also boast a healthy 51-21 all-time series lead against York, but the Cardinals have won the past five meetings, including 75-52 and 102-61 routs last season.

— *Jim Waggoner*

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STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

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B

FRIDAY
DECEMBER 3, 2010

CSI blows cover with rout of York

Dolphins improve to 5-0 with 76-51 pounding in CUNY opener

By JIM WAGGONER
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

The secret's out on the College of Staten Island Dolphins.

"We won't be sneaking up on anybody anymore," admitted junior point guard Thomas Tibbs.

CSI not only snuck up on CUNY Conference preseason favorite York and NCAA Division III first-team All-American center Marcel Esonwune, the Dolphins produced a stunning 76-51 victory last night in Queens.

CSI improved to 5-0 on the season — the program's best start in nearly three decades — by rolling in its conference opener. York dropped to 2-6 and 1-1.

"I feel very good about what we've done so far," said Dolphin coach Tony Petosa, whose squad built a 38-23 halftime lead and never was threatened after intermission. "These kids are tough, coachable and respectful."

"And best of all, they're young."

How dominating was the performance?

CSI's pressure man-to-man defense hounded York into 34 turnovers. The Dolphins had nine.

CSI had 22 steals, led by David Hughes with six, Tibbs five and Dale Taranto four. The Cardinals had three.

"Our success came from our defense," said Petosa, who snapped a five-game losing streak to York, including 75-52 and 102-61 routs last season. "We were able to

DOLPHINS PAGE B 1

pressure the ball very effectively. The difference between this team and some very good teams we've had in the past is that we're a little more uptempo."

In other words, the Dolphins turned many of York's miscues into layups.

And figure this into the winning mix: CSI freshman center Matt VanManen, playing his fifth collegiate game, matched up very effectively against the 6-foot-6 leaper Esonwune.

York's big man finished with 15 points, 11 rebounds and five blocked shots before fouling out in 27 minutes, but fell far short of his earlier performances.

"(VanManen) plays with a lot of toughness and poise," said Petosa of the 6-4 St. Peter's HS product who scored seven points with three rebounds.

The Dolphins spread the wealth behind Jordan Young's 21-point night. Taranto had 13 points and four assists; Louis Valdes came off the bench for 12 points and three steals; and freshman Hughes added 10 points.

CSI took 70 shots. York took 41. The Dolphins made 13 trips to the free-throw line. The Cardinals made just seven trips.

All in all, it was a CUNY eye-opener.

"We wanted to play a full game and for the first time we did," said Tibbs. "It's no secret we're trying to win the league ... we're playing to win."

"But at the same time, it's early."

Petosa agreed.

"It's just one game," said the veteran coach.

For the Dolphins, what a game it was.

NOTES: Esonwune picked up his third and fourth fouls in the first three minutes of the second half. He sat for six minutes while the Dolphins stretched a 40-27 lead to 57-36 with 11 minutes remaining ... CSI hosts Montclair State Wednesday night.

CSI (76)

Taranto 5-11 1-2 13, Tibbs 3-9 0-0 7, Hughes 4-13 2-2 10, VanManen 3-9 1-2 7, Young 9-14 3-5 21, Magliore 2-8 0-0 6, Valdes 4-6 2-2 12, Frank 0-0 0-0 0, Persson 0-0 0-0 0, Maccarene 0-0 0-0 0, Jenkins 0-0 0-0 0, Pan 0-0 0-0 0.

Totals: 30-70 9-13 76.

YORK (51)

Zorilla 0-2 0-0 0, Simon 3-9 1-2 9, Lausell 4-7 0-0 8, Wilkinson 5-8 0-0 10, Esonwune 7-10 1-1 15, Abraham 0-0 0-0 0, Fernandez 0-1 2-2 2, Gregoire 1-2 0-0 2, Moujeka 0-0 0-0 0, Norville 2-2 1-2 5.

Totals: 22-41 5-7 51.

Halftime: 38-23, CSI.

Three-point goals: CSI 7-19 (Taranto 2-3, Tibbs 1-4, Hughes 0-1, Young 0-1, Magliore 2-7, Valdes 2-3); York 2-10 (Zorilla 0-2, Simon 2-6, Wilkinson 0-1, Fernandez 0-1). Rebounds: CSI 27 (Tibbs 5); York 36 (Esonwune 11). Assists: CSI 23 (Tibbs 9); York 12 (Zorilla 5). Turnovers: CSI 9, York 34. Total fouls: CSI 12, York 13. Fouled out: Esonwune.

York ends Dolphins' hex with 64-59 win

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

They say all good things must come to an end and the College of Staten Island women's basketball team has to agree.

York College snapped a 21-game losing streak to CSI with last night's 64-59 victory in Queens.

The Lady Cardinals (2-0 CUNY, 4-3 overall) used a 10-0 run in the final two minutes. The Dolphins dropped to 0-1 CUNY, 0-4 overall.

York's Kadisha Wickham, a 6-foot-1 junior center, had

26 points, 17 rebounds, seven steals and two blocked shots. Niya Jarvis (14 points, 18 rebounds, eight steals) and Shadae Rice (12 points) made major contributions.

Nicole Quattrocchi's 3-point basket gave CSI a 57-54 lead with 1:50 remaining. Rice countered with a 3-pointer for a tie, and York took charge after Wickham's fastbreak layup made it 59-57.

The Lady Cardinals enjoyed a 54-38 rebounding edge.

Olivia Tierno topped the Dolphins with 19 points and

eight rebounds, while Kate-lyn Hepworth had 15 points, 14 rebounds, four steals and three assists.

CSI hosts Stevens Tech Tuesday at 5 p.m.

CSI (59)

Hepworth 6-10 3-4 15, Quattrocchi 1-6 3-3 6, Tocco 0-1 2-4 2, Shanahan 4-12 1-2 10, Tierno 9-20 1-2 19, Reyes 1-2 0-0 2, Donegan 0-2 1-2 1, Rosado 1-4 2-2 4.

Totals: 22-57 13-19 59.

YORK (64)

Jarvis 5-8 4-9 14, Rice 3-10 5-8 12, Wickham 13-24 0-2 26, Padilla 1-13 0-0 2, Dabo 3-13 0-2 6, Josama 1-1 1-2 4, Smith 0-3 0-0 0.

Totals: 26-72 10-23 64.

Halftime: 23-23.

Three-point goals: CSI 2-11 (Quattrocchi 1-4, Shanahan 1-5); York 2-15 (Rice 1-5, Josama 1-1); Rebounds: 38 (Hepworth 14, Tierno 8); York 54 (Jarvis 18, Wickham 17). Assists: CSI 15 (Tierno 4); York 13 (Dabo 6). Turnovers: CSI 29, York 27. Total fouls: CSI 19, York 18. Fouled out: Shanahan. Technical foul: Jarvis.



Four Ducks Scored In Double-Figures As Women's Basketball Powers Past CCNY

12/5/2010

HOBOKEN, N.J. (December 5, 2010) – Led by freshman [Avis Benjamin](#)'s 15 points, the Stevens Institute of Technology women's basketball team cruised to a 90-31 victory over visiting City College of New York at Canavan Arena in Hoboken, N.J. With the win, the Ducks moved to 4-1 on the season, while the Beavers fell to 1-6 on the year.

Benjamin, who finished 7-for-11 from the field, added three rebounds and two steals, while junior [Jillian Barrett](#) went 6-for-10 on the day with 14 points and nine boards. Junior [Isaura Guzman](#) and senior center [Paige Armstrong](#) each had 11 points, with the duo combining for 15 rebounds.

Junior [Dawn Garcia](#) had eight points and four steals in the win, while senior [Victoria Webber](#) and freshman [Lisa Tessitore](#) finished with six points apiece.

Sophomore forward **Taryn VanEsselstyn (Chatham, Mass.)** led the Beavers with 10 points on 4-for-8 shooting, while sophomore guard **Sajidah Pressley (Bronx, N.Y.)** had eight points in the loss.

Stevens opened the game on a 10-2 run over the first five minutes of action, taking an eight point lead on a Barrett layup at 16:01. A pair of Webber free-throws upped the margin to 10 before a Benjamin jumper gave Stevens a 14-2 edge at 11:49.

Junior guard **Donika Rexhepi (White Plains, N.Y.)** buried a jumper to trim the Beavers' deficit to 10 – ending a nearly seven minute scoring drought – but the Ducks responded with a 10-0 run over the next 4:30 to go up 24-4. Benjamin got things started, scoring four of the game's next five points before a Barrett three-point play coupled with an Armstrong basket put Stevens up 20.

Still up 20 at 6:52, the Ducks closed out the half strong, mounting a 15-5 run to take a 30-point cushion heading into the break. Six different Ducks scored during Stevens' stretch run, with a stingy defense forcing 15 Beavers turnovers, while holding CCNY to just five field-goals on 22.7 percent shooting in the first half.

Stevens would continue to go on the offensive to start the second, putting together a 22-8 run over the first 10 minutes to take a commanding 63-19 lead. Webber kicked off the run with a jumper on the Ducks first possession, before five straight [Molly Spadaro](#) points followed by a Barrett three, an Armstrong layup, and Guzman triple made it a 39-point contest. Garcia then netted four-consecutive points before a pair of Benjamin free-throws gave Stevens a 63-19 edge.

Guzman kept things rolling by tallying seven of the game's next nine points as the Ducks outscored their Beaver counterparts 24-7 over the next eight and a half minutes, taking a 61-point advantage on a [Catherine Keough](#) layup.

The Ducks shot 53.8 percent (35-for-65) for the game, including a 58.6 percent clip (17-for-29) in the second half, while holding CCNY to just 11-of-43 shooting (25.6 percent) for the contest. Stevens, which held a decisive 46-22 rebounding edge, outscored the Beavers, 18-4 in the paint, while notching 15 points off of 27 CCNY turnovers.

Stevens will hit the road for the first time this season on Tuesday, December 7 when it faces the [College of Staten Island](#).



Dolphins' Men's Foursome Shine at the ECAC DIII Championships



In a heavily competitive field, **College of Staten Island** men's swimming performers Vladislav Romanov, Nikolay Shevchenko, and Danila Novikov all landed within the Top 20 performers at this year's ECAC Division III Championships this weekend in Long Island, while Joe Lee also shined when the team swam its relay events. The four individuals who represented the Dolphins helped **CSI** to an 8th place overall finish and tops among CUNYAC schools at 352 points.

Competing in nine events overall, **CSI** impressed in each and every category, taking hardware home in five events. Junior Romanov finished 11th overall in the field with 88 solo points, the most of any CUNYAC swimmer and only 40 points behind overall winner John Hu of Stevens Institute of Technology. Romanov was followed by freshman Danila Novikov, who debuted at the ECAC's to the tune of a 15th place finish with 82 points, while senior Nikolay Shevchenko rounded out in 20th place with 78 points.

The relay team featuring all four swimmers started the meet with the 200-yard Medley Relay, and the foursome was awesome, coming less than two seconds off the top mark, coming in third overall with a mark of 1:35.33. Later in the meet, the foursome regrouped for another solid effort in the 200-yard Freestyle Relay, coming in at 1:28.15, good for a 5th place finish.

Individually, **CSI** collected its initial first-place finish via Romanov's sensational run in the 200-yard Backstroke. In a virtual dead-heat with Stevens' Daniel Pecorano, Romanov claimed a 1:50.09 split, just beating Pecorano's 1:50.88 to collect ECAC gold. Romanov wasn't done there. Later, in the 100-yard Backstroke, he claimed his second gold medal when when raced to a 51:26 finish, coming in almost two full seconds ahead of the field.

When the race continued into the weekend, **CSI** made more strides. In the 200-yard Freestyle, Novikov's rookie effort merited him a 5th place finish with a time of 1:45.36 in a field of 69 total swimmers, and after Joe Lee swam to a 40th-place finish in the 100-yard Breaststroke, Shevchenko took over with a 3rd place finish in the 100-yard Butterfly competition in a field of 62. Novikov followed that up with a 21.88 finish in the 50-yard Freestyle competition, coming in 14th among 109 swimmers.

In a nice culmination to the weekend's festivities, Romanov, Schevchenko and Novikov all got to swim in the 200-yard Individual Medley, making it a little competitive between CSI's finest swimmers. In the field of 60 swimmers overall, CSI shined. Novikov won the race among the CSI competitors, finishing 1:53.73 for 2nd place overall. Shevchenko finished 5th overall just a short pace behind at 1:56.65, while Romanov was right behind him for 6th place at 1:56.79.

Overall, it was a quality faring for CSI, and an opportunity to build for a series of competitive races ahead, including the CUNYAC Championship, Metropolitan Championship, and of course, the NCAA Division III Championship in early-March.



Stevens Tech defeats **College of Staten Island** women, 64-49

Published: Tuesday, December 07, 2010, 11:07 PM



By **Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

Stevens Tech raced to a 26-point halftime lead and coasted to a 64-49 non-conference women's basketball victory over host **College of Staten Island** Tuesday night at the Sports and Recreation Center.

The Ducks (5-1) rode junior Victoria Webber's 21 points and 10 rebounds to the triumph. The visitors closed the first half with a 20-2 run that made it 40-14.

CSI (0-5) made a second-half run after falling behind by 32 points. The Dolphins managed a 19-6 run to finish strong as Olivia Tierno's seven unanswered points cut the deficit to 16 with two minutes remaining.

Tierno, a sophomore guard, topped **CSI** with 20 points, while Allie Shanahan had 12 and freshman Jaclyn Tocco 10.

Stevens Tech enjoyed a 49-21 rebounding edge, including a whopping 34-7 edge in the first half.

The Dolphins return to action Saturday, travelling to Lehman College to face SUNY-Buffalo at noon in the CUNYAC Coaches vs. Cancer event.

STEVENS TECH (64)

Spadaro 4-8 0-2 11, Garcia 3-6 0-0 8, Barrett 5-11 0-0 10, Webber 9-17 0-0 21, Armstrong 2-4 0-0 4, Keough 0-0 0-0 0, Tessitore 0-1 0-0 0, Thompson 1-3 0-0 3, Guzman 0-2 2-2 2, Benjamin 1-1 0-0 2, O'Connor 1-2 1-2 3.

Totals: 26-55 3-6 64.

CSI (49)

Hepworth 0-6 0-0 0, Quattrocchi 1-5 0-0 3, Tocco 3-8 3-7 10, Shanahan 4-17 2-2 12, Tierno 8-14 2-2 20, Donegan 0-0 0-1 0, Rosado 2-6 0-0 4, Stout 0-0 0-0 0.

Totals: 18-56 7-12 49.

Halftime: 40-14, Stevens Tech.

Three-point goals: Stevens Tech 9-20 (Spadaro 3-4, Garcia 2-4, Barrett 0-2, Webber 3-6, Thompson 1-3, Guzman 0-1); **CSI** 6-26 (Hepworth 0-1, Quattrocchi 1-5, Tocco 1-4, Shanahan 2-13, Tierno 2-3). Rebounds: Stevens Tech 49 (Webber 10, Barrett 8); **CSI** 21 (Hepworth 5). ASsists: Stevens Tech 20 (Thompson 6); **CSI** 14 (Rosado 5). Turnovers: Stevens Tech 28, **CSI** 19. Total fouls: Stevens Tech 12, **CSI** 8. Fouled out: none.

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Also Featured on: Stevens Ducks



Staten Island's Romanov, Novikov Receive CUNYAC/OAI Men's Swimming and Diving Weekly Praise



FLUSHING, N.Y. - The City University of New York Athletic Conference and OAI Graphics announced its weekly men's swimming and diving award winners Tuesday, and a pair of standouts from the College of Staten Island have been recognized for their performances at the recent ECAC Championships. Sophomore **Vladislav Romanov** is this week's recipient of the Athlete of the Week award after winning both the 100- and 200-yard backstroke events, while freshman **Danilo Novikov** takes home a Rookie of the Week citation after a second-place showing in the 200-yard individual medley.

CUNYAC/OAI Men's Swimming and Diving Athlete of the Week

Vladislav Romanov, Staten Island
Back/Individual Medley, Sophomore
Moscow, Russia

Romanov took home a pair of individual championships at last weekend's ECAC Championships (Dec. 3-5). He touched the wall first in the 100-yard backstroke, capturing the event in a time of 51.26. Romanov also placed first in the 200-yard backstroke (1:50.09) -- an event which featured over 50 student-athletes. He was one of three CSI finishers in the top-six in the 200-yard individual medley event, placing sixth in a time of 1:56.79. Romanov also teamed with Danilo Novikov, Nikolay Shevchenko and Joe Lee to place third in the 200-yard medley relay (1:35.33).

CUNYAC/OAI Men's Swimming and Diving Rookie of the Week

Danilo Novikov, Staten Island
Individual Medley/Freestyle, Freshman
Staten Island, NY

Novikov led a trio of top-six Staten Island finishers in the 200-yard individual medley event at the ECAC Championships (Dec. 3-5), as he touched the wall in a second-place time of 1:53.73. He teamed with Romanov, Shevchenko and Lee to place third in the 200-yard medley relay event (1:35.33), while Novikov also swam to individual finishes in the 50- (21.88 / 14th) and 200-yard (1:45.36 / fifth) freestyle events.



Lehman's Batista Named CUNYAC/Con Edison Men's Basketball Player of the Week; CSI's Tibbs Selected as Top Rookie



T.J. Tibbs (left) dished out nine assists against one turnover versus York; Samuel Batista (right) leads the CUNYAC in 3-point field goal percentage.

[Complete release \(PDF\)](#)

FLUSHING, N.Y. - The City University of New York Athletic Conference and Con Edison announced its weekly men's basketball award winners Monday afternoon, and Lehman junior sharpshooter, **Samuel Batista** has been selected as Player of the Week for his efforts in the Lightning's 2-0 CUNYAC start. Also, **College of Staten Island** junior, **T.J. Tibbs** has helped his team to a 5-0 start and garners CUNYAC/Con Edison Rookie of the Week kudos.

CUNYAC/Con Edison Men's Basketball Player of the Week

Samuel Batista, Lehman
Guard/Forward, 6-foot-2, Junior
San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic

Batista lifted the Lightning to a 2-0 week in CUNYAC action, pouring in 21 points in both victories. Against CCNY (Nov. 30), he netted 8-of-13 field goals, including a 3-for-5 effort beyond the 3-point arc, while adding four rebounds and five blocked shots. Against Hunter (Dec. 3), Batista was 3-for-6 from downtown and 8-for-17 overall, while swiping four steals on the defensive end of the floor. He currently leads the CUNYAC with a .543 3-point field goal percentage, while his 20.2 points per game mark ranks third.

CUNYAC/Con Edison Men's Basketball Rookie of the Week

T.J. Tibbs, Staten Island
Guard, 5-foot-10, Junior
Staten Island, NY

Tibbs, in his first year of college basketball, was instrumental in the Dolphins' 76-51 victory at York (Dec. 2), helping coach Tony Petosa's team to its first 5-0 start in recent memory. The point guard scored seven points, swiped five steals and posted an astounding 9-to-1 assist-to-turnover ratio in the contest. On the season, Tibbs's 14.2 points per game average is tied for the team lead, while he leads Staten Island with 19 assists (3.8 apg average).

Dolphins in action

Basketball returns to the Sports and Recreation tonight and tomorrow night as the College of Staten Island cranks up the heat with a pair of tough non-conference opponents on tap.

CSI's women (0-4) look for their first victory of the season tonight against Stevens Tech, which improved to 5-1 Saturday with a 90-31 rout of City College.

The Ducks have made it known they hope to return to the NCAA Division III tourney for the second time in three years. Junior guard **Dawn Garcia** and veteran forwards **Jillian Barrett** and **Paige Armstrong** are returning starters from an 18-11 squad that advanced to the ECAC finals a year ago.

CSI, meanwhile, is struggling to score and rebound. Opponents are outscoring the Dolphins 75.8-52.8 and outrebounding them 51-38.5 per game.

Game time is 5 p.m.

CSI's men take a perfect 5-0 record into tomorrow night's contest against 5-1 Montclair State, which has won five straight after a season-opening 57-56 loss against Salisbury State.

The visiting Hawks are 2-0 in the New Jersey Athletic Conference, including an eye-opening 58-54 win at William Paterson.

CSI is 3-11 all-time against Montclair State, including 19- and 20-point setbacks the past two seasons. The Dolphins have played them tough at home, however, winning two of the past three meetings.

CSI's 5-0 start is the program's best since the 1980-81 squad opened with an 11-0 record.

Game time tomorrow is 7:30 p.m.

— Jim Waggoner

College of Staten Island's Tibbs named CUNY Rookie of the Week

Published: Wednesday, December 08, 2010, 5:13 PM



By **Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

College of Staten Island junior point guard Thomas Tibbs was named CUNY Conference Rookie of the Week after a strong performance in a 76-51 win over preseason favorite York in Queens.



Advance file photo

College of Staten Island junior transfer Thomas Tibbs has been named CUNY Rookie of the Week. The point guard has averaged 14.2 points and 3.6 rebounds and leads the unbeaten Dolphins with 19 assists.

Tibbs had seven points with nine assists and five steals against the Cardinals.

The St. Peter's HS product has averaged 14.2 points and 3.6 rebounds while leading the 5-0 Dolphins with 19 assists.

The Dolphins take their perfect record into tonight's home game against Montclair State at 7:30 at the Sports and Recreation Center.

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Larkin's Last-Second Layup in OT Lifts Men's Basketball Past Staten Island, 81-80

Staten Island, NY (12/8/10) – Sophomore guard **A.J. Larkin (Passaic, NJ / St. Mary's (Rutherford))** scored on a layup with two seconds remaining in overtime as Montclair State scored the final four points to knock off previously unbeaten College of Staten Island, 81-80 on Wednesday evening.

Junior forward [Andrew August \(Bridgewater, NJ / Bridgewater-Raritan\)](#) posted a double-double with 22 points and 12 rebounds as the Red Hawks won their sixth straight game and are now 6-1 on the season - their best start since winning their first 12 games during the 2002-03 campaign.

Montclair State led 38-26 at the half thanks in part to a 21-6 run over the final 9:17 of the opening period. [Tom Bonard \(Westfield, NJ / Westfield\)](#) had nine points while [Sean Young \(Scotch Plains, NJ / SP-Fanwood\)](#) added eight and seven rebounds as MSU shot 50 percent (15-of-30) from the field, including 4-of-8 from behind the arc.

But the Dolphins (5-1) stormed back in the second half tying the game at 47-47 when Bloochy Magliore drained a three-pointer with 11:41 left in the second half. From that point the game stayed in the 1-3 point differential until three minutes to go when Magliore hit two free throws for a 67-62 Staten Island lead.

CSI held a 70-66 advantage with 15 seconds remaining when August sank two free throws pulling Montclair within two points. The Dolphins then missed an opportunity to put the game away missing two free throws. Off the second miss, [Tyrone Prewitt \(Trenton, NJ / Trenton Central\)](#) grabbed the rebound and then hit the tying shot with five seconds left as the game headed into overtime deadlocked at 70-70.

In the extra period, Staten Island would get up by four points, 78-74 with 2:20 to go as Dale Taranto finished off a fast break with a layup. Montclair would get the deficit back to a point over the next minute as August hit a free throw and [Rodney Freeney \(Piscataway, NJ / Piscataway\)](#) added a layup making the score 78-77.

Magliore connected twice from the line for an 80-77 lead with 51 seconds on the clock. Freeney cut that lead in half on a layup with 34 seconds left. The Dolphins then turned the ball over with 19 seconds remaining giving Montclair State an opportunity. After a Red Hawk timeout with five seconds, Larkin, who finished the game with nine points, drove the lane for the winning bucket.

Prewitt registered a double-double of his own with 10 points and 11 rebounds off the bench. Bonard and Freeney each had 11 points while Young collected 10 and nine rebounds. Freshman [Michael Price](#) (Plainfield, NJ / Plainfield) added seven points, 11 rebounds and five assists off the bench.

The Red Hawks return to action on Saturday, December 11 as they host City College of New York at the Panzer Athletic Center beginning at 4:00 pm.

Article Entered Into News System: **Wednesday, December 8 2010**



Stevens men, women win

Thursday, December 09, 2010

Junior forward Simon Smith paced three Ducks in double figures with 18 points as the Stevens Institute of Technology men's basketball team won its fifth straight game, defeating Rutgers University-Camden, 85-61 at the Canavan Arena.

Sophomore guard Sheldon Jones and junior guard Mike Cutri scored 17 and 15 points, respectively, as the Ducks shot 62.7 percent from the field.

Women

Stevens 64, Staten Island 49

Junior Victoria Webber went 9-for-17 from the floor, tallying 21 points, while grabbing 10 rebounds, as the Stevens Institute of Technology women's basketball team defeated College of Staten Island, 64-49.

With the win, the Ducks moved to 5-1 on the year, while the Dolphins fell to 0-5 on the season.

Freshman Molly Spadaro finished 3-of-4 from behind the arc with 11 points, five boards, and three assists.

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Montclair State hands **College of Staten Island** first loss, 81-80, in overtime

Published: Thursday, December 09, 2010, 12:14 AM



By **Jim Waggoner**



Staten Island Advance file photo by Hilton Flores

In a game with playoff intensity, the **College of Staten Island** experienced defeat for the first time this season in an excruciating 81-80 overtime loss to visiting Montclair State last night.

The 5-1 Dolphins rallied from a 14-point deficit late in the first half to take a 67-62 lead with three minutes remaining, but couldn't close the door on the Red Hawks.

Sophomore guard A.J. Larkin's driving layup with 2.8 seconds left in OT was the winner, denying **CSI** its first 6-0 start since the 1981-82 season. Montclair State scored on an inbounds play under its own basket when Andrew August passed to Larkin and the Passaic, N.J., product created a shot in the lane.

"That was a game we had control of and we didn't take it," said **CSI** coach Tony Petosa. "The kids played great, though, in terms of their effort."

A quick glance at the stat sheet makes one wonder how the Dolphins hung around against the 6-1 Red Hawks, who are 2-0 in the New Jersey Athletic Conference.

CSI forward Jordan Young had 12 points and eight assists before fouling out in overtime of Wednesday night's 81-80 loss to Montclair State.

Montclair State owned a sizeable 56-26 rebounding edge and went to the free-throw line 32 times to CSI's 19 trips. The

visitors used a 16-0 first-half run to take control.

Yet the scrappy Dolphins erased a 38-26 halftime deficit with a 16-5 run to start the second half. Jordan Young's 3-point play cut the Red Hawk lead to 43-42 and the lead changed hands a dozen times in the final 10 minutes of regulation.

Dale Taranto (19 points), Bloochy Magliore (15), David Hughes (14), Young (12) and Thomas Tibbs (11) helped trigger CSI's 44-32 second-half run.

Magliore's two free throws had the Dolphins sitting pretty with their biggest lead of the night, 67-62. But warning signs were present, with point guard Tibbs twice forced to the bench with leg cramps and the 6-foot-5 Young saddled with four fouls.

CSI led 70-66 with 25.1 seconds remaining after Tibbs made one of two free throws, but his two misses at the 15.5 mark and the Dolphins clinging to a 70-68 edge led to Tyrone Prewitt's layup that forced overtime.

Tibbs buried a long 3-pointer to give CSI a 73-70 OT lead, but the leg cramps forced another substitution and Young fouled out with the Dolphins up 78-75 with 1:46 remaining.

Taranto drove the baseline with 21 seconds left and CSI ahead 80-79, but he was called for stepping out of bounds and the ball went back to the Red Hawks for the final possession.

Montclair State's first attack at the basket was slapped out of bounds by Taranto. The second play resulted in Larkin's game-winning drive.

"I think they (Red Hawks) were motivated because we were undefeated," said Petosa, "and we were motivated because of who they are. The play in the best conference in the area and one of the best in the country."

August, 6-6 junior, powered Montclair State with 22 points and 12 rebounds.

"They killed us on the backboards," said Petosa, noting the opponent's 22 offensive rebounds against the smallish Dolphins.

NOTES: Magliore knocked down four 3-pointers and Taranto made three as CSI sank 10 of 23 attempts ... Young added eight assists and three steals, while the 5-9 Tibbs had a team-leading six rebounds with five assists. Both Matt VanManen and Young had three steals ... CSI travels to Drew for a 4 p.m. game Saturday before taking a 17-day holiday break prior to the ninth annual Tournament of Heroes on Dec. 28-29.

MONTCLAIR STATE (81)

Bonard 4-9 0-0 11, Freeney 3-9 5-6 11, Larkin 3-6 2-2 9, August 7-14 8-13 22, S. Young 4-10 2-4 10, Vitulano 0-0 0-0 0, Price 3-9 1-2 7, Prewitt 5-7 1-5 11.

Totals: 29-64 19-32 81.

CSI(80)

Taranto 6-15 4-4 19, Tibbs 4-9 1-4 11, Hughes 6-13 1-2 14, VanManen 3-7 0-0 6, J. Young 5-6 2-5 12, Magliore 4-9 4-4 15, Valdes 1-4 0-0 3, Jenkins 0-1 0-0 0, Pan 0-1 0-0 0.

Totals: 29-65 12-19 80.

Halftime: 38-26, MSU.

Regulation: 70-70.

Three-point goals: MSU 4-10 (Bonard 3-7, Larkin 1-3); CSI 10-23 (Taranto 3-7, Tibbs 2-5, Hughes 1-2, Magliore 3-5, Valdes 1-3, Jenkins 0-1). Rebounds: MSU 56 (August 12, Price 11, Prewitt 10); CSI 26 (Tibbs 6). Assists: MSU 16 (S. Young 5, Price 5); CSI 19 (Young 8, Tibbs 5). Turnovers: MSU 20, CSI 12. Total fouls: MSU 18, CSI 21. Fouled out: Price, J. Young.

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Also Featured on: The Alternative Press.com



Third Annual CUNY Coaches vs. Cancer Classic Continues on Sunday



Tip-off is here for the third annual CUNY Coaches vs. Cancer Basketball Classic and fans, you don't want to miss out.

Being held on the campus of Lehman College on Saturday, December 11, 2010 thru Sunday, December 12, 2010, the classic will feature four women's basketball games on Saturday and three men's games on Sunday. All ticket proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society as it searches for a cure for cancer.

CUNY Coaches vs. Cancer is a collaborative effort between the American Cancer Society and CUNYAC that empowers basketball coaches, their teams and local communities to make a difference in the fight against cancer. The third year charity event was spawned by Lehman College Head Coach Eric Harrison, who with inspiration from Coaches vs. Cancer on the Division I level, looked to help the fight against cancer from within the Division III ranks. Coach Harrison believes the event will be successful.

"This will be the third year that we have hosted this event at Lehman," said Coach Harrison. "With the teams participating it promises to be a tremendous weekend for all of those involved. In addition to the great basketball that we're going to see on the court, all of the money raised that day will benefit the American Cancer Society. To know that we'll be helping those with greater needs is very gratifying for me and for this institution. All are invited to come out and be a part of it."

Those attending the event will have a chance to see seven tremendous basketball games while also getting a first hand look at some of the top teams in the CUNY Athletic Conference.

On Saturday, the women's action will tip-off with the College of Staten Island taking on Buffalo State University at noon. That contest will be followed by a 2:00 p.m. game between Brooklyn College and Manhattanville College. The 4:00 p.m. contest will feature three-time defending CUNY champions, Baruch College, taking on Skyline Conference power Mount Saint Mary. The final contest of the day will feature the host Lightning taking on the nation's No. 1 ranked Division III team, Amherst College, at 6:00 p.m. Please note: The Baruch-Mount Saint Mary and Lehman-Amherst contests will be shown live on BronxNet (Verizon: Ch. 33; Cablevision: Ch. 67), with Seth Cantor and Sean Couch providing the call.

The Sunday afternoon men's slate is just as action packed, as the 12:00 p.m. game will feature the Bearcats of Baruch College taking on Yeshiva University. The 2:15 p.m. slot will see the host Lightning taking on SUNYIT. The nightcap will be a 4:00 p.m. start which will feature York College taking on SUNY Old Westbury at 4:00 pm.

The day of basketball at the APEX Center promises to be both exciting and beneficial. Admission is five dollars with all ticket proceeds going to the American Cancer Society. Come out and support terrific basketball for a terrific cause. For ticket information, and for information on how you can be a part of this spectacular event, contact the Lehman College women's basketball office at 1-718-960-7175.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2010 STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

CSI men, women win

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Vladislav Romanov, Pavel Buyanov and Joe Lee each had two individual wins and were part of a winning relay team as the College of Staten Island men coasted to a 126-73 CUNY win over host Brooklyn College yesterday.

At Brooklyn College

All distances in yards

200 MEDLEY RELAY: 1. CSI (Vladislav Romanov, Pavel Buyanov, Joe Lee, Mohamed Hikail), 1:47.00.

1,000 FREESTYLE: 1. Romanov (CSI), 10:24.18; 2. Dmitriy Lyubarskiy (CSI), 16:13.28.

200 FREESTYLE: 1. Nikolay Shevchenko (CSI), 1:44.55.

50 FREESTYLE: 1. Buyanov, 23.46; 2. Hikail, 25.59.

200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: 1. Lee, 2:05.60; 3. Zhihao Zhang (CSI), 2:50.80.

100 BUTTERFLY: 1. Lee, 59.80; 3. Lyubarskiy, 1:28.98.

100 FREESTYLE: 1. Hikail, 57.45.

100 BACKSTROKE: 1. Romanov, 53.40.

500 FREESTYLE: 1. George Zaslav (CSI), 4:49.28; 3. Shevchenko, 7:13.00.

100 BREASTSTROKE: 1. Buyanov, 56.05.

200 FREESTYLE RELAY: 2. CSI (Shevchenko, Zaslav, Zhang, Lyubarskiy), 1:51.49.

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

CSI 103, Brooklyn 82

Gabriella Villarruel won the 1,000-yard freestyle and the 100 butterfly to power the Dolphins to the CUNY victory.

At Brooklyn College

All distances in yards

200 MEDLEY RELAY: 2. CSI (Jessica Pifalo, Elaina Lei, Gabriella Villarruel, Priscilla Alvarez), 2:13.46.

1,000 FREESTYLE: 1. Villarruel, 13:39.77; 2. Natasha Caicedo (CSI), 19:47.01.

200 FREESTYLE: 2. Alvarez, 2:46.35.

50 FREESTYLE: 2. April Bartlett (CSI), 30.44; 3. Vasiliki Stergiola (CSI), 34.02.

200 INDIVIDUAL MEDLEY: 2. Pifalo, 2:36.42.

100 BUTTERFLY: 1. Villarruel, 1:10.03; 3. Josetta Adams (CSI), 2:12.59.

100 FREESTYLE: 2. Stergiola, 1:11.93.

100 BACKSTROKE: 1. Pifalo, 1:13.72; 3. Jeanne Leung (CSI), 1:42.76.

500 FREESTYLE: 2. Alvarez, 7:41.02; 3. Lauren Overseem (CSI), 7:45.09.

100 BREASTSTROKE: 1. Lei, 1:29.98; 2. Bartlett, 1:37.30; 3. Leung, 1:42.69.

200 FREESTYLE RELAY: 1. CSI (Adams, Stergiola, Overseem, Caicedo), 2:27.07.



CUNYAC and Lehman Jump It Up For Charity During CUNY Coaches vs. Cancer Classic



For basketball junkies, having the ability to watch seven games in one location over the course of two days is close to nirvana.

That was certainly the case this weekend, as Lehman College in conjunction with the City University of New York Athletic Conference, hosted the Third Annual CUNY Coaches vs. Cancer Basketball Classic to benefit the American Cancer Society.

All told, the two-day event raised nearly \$2,000 which will go directly to helping find a cure for the dreaded disease.

Fans of the CUNYAC were able to see how their favorite teams stacked up against some tough non-conference opponents. During Saturday's women's action, the College of Staten Island received 14 points and 11 rebounds from Allie Shanahan but could not overcome the Buffalo State College Bengals, losing 69-53. Brooklyn College was upended in its game, 77-62, by Manhattanville College despite 25 points from Ariel Smith. The day's third game saw Baruch College stave off a late rally by Manhattanville College, to pull out a 67-65 victory behind 15 points and 17 rebounds from Megan Bouwens. In the nightcap, Lehman College proved no match for Amherst College, the No. 1 ranked team in Division III, as the Lord Jeffs dominated in a 101-60 win.

Sunday's slate featured a better showing as far as the win column was concerned for the CUNYAC with all three men's teams – Baruch, Lehman and York – emerging victorious. Baruch kicked the day off by capturing its game against Yeshiva University, 72-50, as Sean Loftus paced the Bearcats with 19 points. Lehman played the role of unkind hosts to the visiting SUNYIT Wildcats, battling back from a second half deficit to take the game 75-67 behind 21 points from Samuel Batista. And rounding out the weekend's action, the York Cardinals played a thriller against SUNY Old Westbury, pulling out the 66-64 win on William Holley's layup with less than 10 seconds remaining.

In addition to the action on the court, four individuals were recognized by the American Cancer Society for their connections to cancer and the very personal battles they each have fought, or are still fighting, with the disease.

The Classic now complete, preparation is already underway for the fourth annual installment.

"We couldn't be happier with how both days went," said Lehman head coach Eric Harrison, who is also the founder of the event. "Those who came out saw some great basketball and the fact that we were able to raise the most money we've ever raised in the brief history of this event for the American Cancer Society makes it that much better. In years to come, both Lehman and CUNY are committed to pushing the bar even higher."

'Buzz saw' Frank Cagnina giving Lehigh a leg up

Tuesday, December 14, 2010

BY JOHN ROWE

THE RECORD

STAFF WRITER

Frank Cagnina is Lehigh wrestling's little big man.

The former Queen of Peace standout from [Hillsdale](#) has a 7-2 record in his freshman season for the Mountain Hawks' high-profile program, highlighted by his upset win Sunday over Scotti Sentes of Central Michigan, the country's ninth-ranked 133-pounder.

A second-period reversal put Sentes ahead, but not before Cagnina had gone over a minute of riding time. In the third period, Cagnina chose neutral, and after several attempts at a takedown, finally gained control of Sentes for a takedown in the final seconds of the match. A 1:02 riding time advantage gave Cagnina the 3-2 upset win.

"That was huge for us," Lehigh coach Pat Santoro said after the 23-9 victory over 14th-ranked Central Michigan. "Any time you beat an All-American it's huge. Frank has been a little buzz saw. He scored in the final seconds and it sparked the team."

Lehigh is ranked 11th nationally, with a 7-2 record that includes losses to No. 6 Penn State and No. 16 Missouri. Cagnina is 31-6 in dual match points and has four major decisions. In high school, he was a three-time State champion and had a career record of 162-4.

When asked why he chose to attend Lehigh, Cagnina answered: "The combination of academics and athletics. I thought it was a great fit for me."

So far, it is.

Koziol contributes

Adam Koziol, a senior from [Paramus](#), has helped the College of New Jersey's wrestling team get off to a 4-0 start.

Koziol, competing at 197 pounds, is 4-0 in dual matches and 4-1 in tournaments, with one pin. He has a 52-33 career record.

Zach Zotollo, a freshman from [Paramus](#), has a 5-4 record and one pin in tournament action for CNJ, including winning three matches at the East Stroudsburg Open. He's competing at 149 pounds.

Ellerbe at MSG

One of the reasons Martina Ellerbe, the former St. Mary star from [Teaneck](#), chose to attend Ohio State was because she wanted to play in big basketball games. She might get to play in the ultimate big game Sunday at Madison Square Garden.

That's when No. 11 Ohio State challenges reigning national champion Connecticut in the Maggie Dixon Classic as the Lady Huskies attempt to win their 88th consecutive game, which would tie the UCLA men for the longest streak in college basketball history.

Ellerbe, a 6-foot-2 freshman, has appeared in all eight games for the 7-1 Buckeyes, averaging 7.6 minutes, 1.4 points and 1.6 rebounds.

ShaQuanna Marshall of Rutgers-Newark, who played at [Paterson](#) Catholic, was the New Jersey Athletic Conference rookie of the week. In a pair of wins over NJAC opponents, the freshman guard averaged 14 points, 4.5 rebounds, 3.5 steals and three assists.

A.J. Larkin of [Passaic](#), a sophomore guard who played at St. Mary, has been a major contributor as [Montclair](#) State (7-1) has run off seven consecutive victories. Larkin averages 8.8 points per game, and his layup with two seconds remaining enabled MSU to beat previously undefeated [College of Staten Island](#), 81-80.

Liscio all-region

[Montclair](#) State punter Joe Liscio, a junior from [Little Falls](#), was selected to the All-East Region first team by D3Football.com.

The former [Passaic](#) Valley standout averaged 35.3 yards per kick, with four over 50 yards. He particularly was skilled in situation punting, with 25 kicks inside the opponent's 20-yard line and 16 kicks were fair caught.

E-mail: rowe@northjersey.com

Dolphins in action tonight

There's a first time for everything, and the women's basketball team at the College of Staten Island hopes tonight's home game against New Jersey City finds the Dolphins cracking into the win column.

CSI takes an 0-6 record into the 6 p.m. non-conference game at the Sports and Recreation Center. It is the worst start since CSI started a four-year program in the 1981-82 season.

New Jersey might be the perfect opponent in CSI's final game in two weeks: The Gothic Knights are 2-7 and have lost to CUNY Conference opponents Hunter (54-49) and Lehman (75-59) while defeating Medgar Evers (70-51) and John Jay (74-73).

CSI's men, meanwhile, are on a two-week break before hosting the ninth annual Tournament of Heroes on Dec. 28-29.

The Dolphins (5-2) will host the University of Dallas (2-6) in a first-round game while Anderson (Ind.) University faces Richard Stockton.

CSI dropped its last game 69-67 at Drew, letting a 21-point lead slip away in the final 15 minutes.

Hunter College freshman forward **Kristen Markoe** (McKee/S.I. Tech) earned her second CUNY rookie of the week award, averaging 11.3 points and 8.3 rebounds in three games.

— *Jim Waggoner*

Dolphins win first game

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Senior forward Allie Shanahan scored a game-high 19 points, including two key free throws with 11 seconds remaining, to lift the College of Staten Island past visiting New Jersey City last night for its first victory of the season, 64-60.

Shanahan's two free throws gave the Dolphins a 63-60 lead and Jaclyn Tocco's single free throw with five seconds left shut the door on the Gothic Knights.

NJ CITY UNIVERSITY (60)

Chernez 1-7 0-0 2, Garcia 6-16 3-4 16, Hernaiz 3-14 2-3 8, Kaminski 0-6 2-4 2, Suarez 6-12 2-2 14, Carmona 3-6 4-7 10, Edwards 1-4 2-2 4, Clark 1-1 0-0 2, Obanye 1-1 0-0 2.

Totals: 22-67 15-22 60.

CSI (64)

Hepworth 3-9 2-3 8, Quattrocchi 1-2 0-0 3, Tocco 0-4 4-8 4, Shanahan 7-21 2-2 19, Tierno 6-15 3-4 15, Reyes 1-2 0-0 2, Donegan 0-0 0-1 0, Rosado 5-8 2-3 13.

Totals: 23-61 13-21 64.

Halftime: 35-28.

Three-point goals: NJCU 1-7 (Garcia 1-4, Kaminski 0-1, Suarez 0-1, Carmona 0-1); CSI 5-15 (Hepworth 0-2, Quattrocchi 1-1, Tocco 0-2, Shanahan 3-8, Tierno 0-1, Rosado 1-1). Rebounds: NJCU 44 (Hernaiz 12); CSI 45 (Tocco 9, Shanahan 9, Hepworth 7). Assists: NJCU 12 (Suarez 4); CSI 13 (Tocco 5). Turnovers: NJCU 21, CSI 23. Total fouls: NJCU 19, CSI 23. Fouled out: Suarez, Hernaiz, Hepworth. Technical foul: Tierno.



COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Rally by NJCU falls short

Thursday, December 16, 2010

vs. College of Staten Island

New Jersey City University trimmed an eight-point College of Staten Island lead with 2:07 to play down to one with 21 seconds left before being called for an intentional foul as it lost, 64-60, in a non-conference game on Tuesday night at the CSI Sports Center.

CSI won its first game of the season (1-6) while NJCU fell to 2-8.

For NJCU, senior guard Carolina Garcia led the way with 16 points and five steals while freshman forward Maria Suarez added 14 points, four assists and two steals and freshman forward Alnisa Hernaiz collected a game-best 12 rebounds and added eight points and two steals.

The Dolphins received a game-best 19 points from senior forward Allie Shanahan, who added nine rebounds and three steals.

Honors for Hernaiz

New Jersey City University freshman forward Alnisa Hernaiz has been selected as the New Jersey Athletic Conference Rookie of the Week after notching two double-doubles in a 1-2 week for the Gothic Knight women's basketball team.

Hernaiz is the second NJCU player to receive the award this season; freshman guard/forward Maria Suarez earned the distinction earlier in the season.

For the week, Hernaiz averaged 10.0 points and 12.7 rebounds, while contributing 1.7 steals and 1.0 assists per contest. She shot 90.9 percent from the foul line (10-11).

Hernaiz is averaging 7.43 rebounds, 4.9 points, 1.8 steals, 0.5 blocks and 0.5 assists per game as NJCU's starting power forward in all eight games. She has tallied 58 rebounds - 27 offensive and 31 defensive - and three double-digit rebounding efforts.

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Staten Island sports bulletin board for Dec. 20, 2010

Published: Monday, December 20, 2010, 11:03 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**

Soccer tryouts

Silver Lake Horizon, a boys' U-10 travel team for those born after Aug. 1, 2000, will hold tryouts Mondays at Holy Trinity Gym (1641 Richmond Avenue) at 6:30 p.m. Visit **www.silverlakesoccer.org** or call 718-689-4590.

Winter baseball workouts

The Richmond County Baseball Club is holding a five-week winter workout program for ages 9-17 at the **College of Staten Island**. The workouts will cover defense, offense and pitching drill work.

Players in age group 9-12 will meet the following dates: Saturday, Jan. 8, Saturday, Jan. 15, Saturday, Jan. 22 and Sunday, Feb. 6. A specialty clinic is slated for Saturday, Feb. 19.

Players in age group 13-17 will meet Sunday, Jan. 9, Sunday, Jan. 16, Sunday, Jan. 23 and Sunday, Jan. 30. A specialty clinic will be held Sunday, Feb. 20.

All workouts are from 1:30-4:30 p.m. The cost is \$299. For information, visit the RCBC web site at **www.rcbclub.com** or call 917-299-9211.

Free baseball clinic

The Lou DeMartino Memorial Christmas Baseball Clinic will be held on Dec. 29 at John Jay College (899 Tenth St. in Manhattan) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Registration is from 8-9 a.m. The event is hosted by the John Jay College and the Bloodhounds baseball team and the Greater New York Sandlot Athletic Alliance. The event is free to sandlot players ages 10-19. Clinic stations will cover hitting, pitching mechanics, bunting, corner play, rundowns and more. Register at **gnysaa@yahoo.com** or visit **gnysaa.org**.

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Staten Island sports bulletin board for Dec. 23, 2010

Published: Thursday, December 23, 2010, 11:42 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**

Soccer tryouts

Silver Lake SC Adriatic under-12 boys' soccer team has openings. Tryouts will be held today, Tuesday and Dec. 30 at Barnes Intermediate School (225 Cleveland Ave.). Call 917-299-6122.

Horizon soccer tryouts

Silver Lake Horizon, a boys' U-10 travel team, will hold tryouts for players born after Aug. 1, 2000 Mondays at the Holy Trinity Gym (1641 Richmond Ave.) at 6:30 p.m. Visit www.silverlakesoccer.org or call 718-689-4590.

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CSI hosts ninth annual Tournament of Heroes this week

Published: Monday, December 27, 2010, 3:56 PM



By **Jim Waggoner**



Advance file photo

College of Staten Island men's basketball coach Tony Petosa has been a driving force behind the Tournament of Heroes.

That the College of Staten Island has never won its own Tournament of Heroes is a detail that can get lost in the big picture of the local event's original purpose.

But that doesn't mean the Dolphins aren't trying.

"Hey, we'd like to win the thing," said CSI head coach Tony Petosa. "Don't get me wrong. Getting that (championship) trophy would mean a lot to us."

Petosa is in his 21st season at the helm of his alma mater, bringing a promising 5-2 team into the ninth annual event Tuesday

night against the University of Dallas. Petosa, still the school's all-time leading rebounder, continues to be the driving force behind the tourney that pays tribute to three former Dolphin players — Tom Hannafin, Scott Davidson and Terrance Aiken — who perished in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

The Tournament of Heroes has evolved into a homecoming of sorts for former Dolphins, and associate athletic director Dave Pizzuto indicated that a larger number of alums than usual is expected to stop by the Willowbrook gymnasium during the two-day event.

"I consider them extended family," said Petosa of his many former players and teammates. "And I've always considered it a time to celebrate three heroes from our CSI family. These three guys were personal friends of mine and I want to keep their memories alive in the community."

This year's participants include Anderson University, a small Church of God-affiliated school in central Indiana, about a half-hour drive from Indianapolis; and the University of Dallas, a 3,000-student Catholic school located in Irving, Texas.

Richard Stockton, of the New Jersey Athletic Conference, is making its second appearance in four years.

In the past, opponents from as far away as Spokane, Wash., and Wheaton, Ill., have entered the Tournament of Heroes.

"We try to make it as competitive as possible and there's always a good response," said Petosa. "For some of these schools, it's the only chance they'll ever get to come to New York and see the sights."

Petosa said he's eager to see all those former Dolphins and definitely not averse to picking up some hardware.

"We'll try to represent our school as best we can," he said. "We'd love to come out on top this time."

NOTES: The Dolphins began the season with five wins before dropping a 81-80 overtime thriller to Montclair State and then letting a 20-point second-half lead slip away in a loss at Drew ... A brief ceremony to commemorate the lives of Hannafin, Davidson and Aiken will take place between Tuesday night's two games ... **CSI** has a 5-11 tourney record, dropping a pair of championship games (80-78 OT loss to Kean in 2003, and 92-60 loss to N.J. City in 2004).

CSI TOURNAMENT OF HEROES

The **College of Staten Island** men's basketball program hosts the ninth annual Tournament of Heroes Tuesday and Wednesday at the Sports and Recreation Center. The tourney is played in memory of three former **CSI** players who perished in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

THE SCHEDULE

TUESDAY

Anderson U. (5-4) vs. Richard Stockton (5-3), 5:30 p.m.

U. of Dallas (2-7) vs. CSI (5-2), 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Consolation, 5:30 p.m., Championship, 7:30 p.m.

TOURNEY VITALS

Tickets: \$5 adults, \$2 students/children over 10, children under 10 free

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS

2002 – Bethany

2003 – Kean

2004 – NJ City University

2005 – NYU

2006 – Wheaton, Ill.

2007 – Bridgewater State

2008 – Trine University

2009 – Piedmont

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

Other schools to have played in the tournament include: Nazareth, St. Joseph (Brooklyn), Whitworth, Rivier, Westfield State, Emmanuel, Clark, McDaniel, Rhode Island, St. Joseph (L.I.), Elmira, Kings Point, Randolph and Colby-Sawyer.

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Blizzard messes up Staten Island sports schedule for second day

Published: Tuesday, December 28, 2010, 8:04 AM



By **Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**



AP

The weather might be more conducive for downhill skiing, but Staten Island basketball teams plan to jump back into action Tuesday, including the ninth annual Tournament of Heroes at the **College of Staten Island**.

With travel in the area still very difficult after Sunday's blizzard, most of Monday's Island sports schedule was postponed.

In boys' basketball, Curtis' first-round game at the Aviator Sports Complex Tournament in Brooklyn was shifted to Tuesday at 5:30. Monsignor Farrell will now play host Immaculata (Somerville, N.J.) at 7:30. Port Richmond's game at the Dayton (N.J.) tourney against Metuchen was moved to Tuesday at 3.

In girls' hoops, Port Richmond's game at the Dayton (N.J.) tourney against Pope John XXIII was moved to Tuesday at 1 p.m.

New Dorp's game in the Nazareth Showcase vs. Grand Street was canceled. New Dorp will play Fort Hamilton at Nazareth Tuesday at 2.

Postponed from Sunday to Tuesday are the first-round games at the Marist Tournament in Bayonne. St. Peter's plays Teaneck at 3. Staten Island Academy opposes St. Rose at 4:30.

Already postponed for Tuesday is McKee/S.I. Tech's girls' home game against Baruch. The Sea Gulls are scheduled to play Wednesday morning at 11 at the Murry Bergtraum tourney against East Sachem (L.I.).

Still scheduled for Tuesday night is the **College of Staten Island's** Tournament of Heroes men's basketball event. Richard Stockton plays Anderson (Ind.) at 5:30 p.m. and the University of Dallas opposes **CSI** at 7:30. The consolation and championship games are Wednesday at 5:30 and 7:30.

In youth basketball, all Catholic Youth Organization Christmas Tournament games scheduled for Monday at the CYO-MIV Center were postponed.

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College of Staten Island opens Tournament of Heroes with 80-57 rout of Dallas

Published: Tuesday, December 28, 2010, 11:51 PM



By **Jim Waggoner**



Staten Island Advance photo by Hilton Flores

CSI guard Dale Taranto drives between a pair of University of Dallas defenders at Tuesday night's Tournament of Heroes.

The **College of Staten Island** heated up in a hurry Tuesday night in the opening round of the ninth annual Tournament of Heroes at the Sports and Recreation Center.

The Dolphins didn't show any rust from a two-week layoff by rolling to a 15-0 lead en route to a 80-57 pasting of road-weary University of Dallas.

Freshman guard Bloochy Magliore paced the winners with 21 points as a dozen Dolphins cracked the scoring column on a night when **CSI** won the rebounding battle 47-28 and shot 52.3 percent from the floor.

Anderson (Ind.) University edged Richard Stockton in the opener, 73-70, and advanced to Wednesday's 7:30 p.m. championship game against a host team that still seeks its first tourney crown.

"It's going to happen sometime," said **CSI** coach Tony Petosa of the pursuit of the

elusive championship trophy. "We always try to bring in national caliber teams and it hasn't been easy."

Magliore has helped the Dolphins shoot out to a 6-2 record. The 6-foot-3 guard from Susan Wagner HS sat out last season while attending classes in Willowbrook and deciding on a nursing major. He came off the bench and nailed 5-of-8 shots from 3-point range.

"He's the only guy who can create his own shot," said Petosa. "I really feel he's a kid who can develop into a very special player, if he wants to be."

The Dolphins, who snapped a two-game losing streak, spread the wealth. Jordan Young had 15 points, five rebounds, seven assists and three steals. Thomas Tibbs had seven points, seven rebounds and nine assists from the point guard position.

"We should be 8-0," said the 6-5 Young, a former CUNY Conference Rookie of the Year. "We lost two games (to Montclair State and Drew by a combined three points) that we never should have lost.

"We couldn't wait to get back on the court."

Young scored seven points as **CSI** dominated the first six minutes, taking the 15-0 lead. They extended it to 28-9 midway through the first half and never looked back.

"When we play together and share the ball, we can be the team we know we can be," said Magliore. "We have all the weapons."

Dallas was led by Braeton Hightower's 22 points, but the Crusaders trailed 43-21 at halftime and showed the affects of an itenerary that included a Monday flight delay in Atlanta and late-night arrival into snow-filled LaGuardia.

"They looked tired," admitted Petosa.

NOTES: Dallas dropped to 2-8 ... Anderson improved to 6-3 after freshman guard Jarin Forte snapped a 64-64 tie with a three-point shot from the top and a three-point play off a steal and driving layup ... Richard Stockton fell to 5-4 and will play Dallas on Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in the consolation game ... A ceremony was held between games honoring the memory of three former **CSI** players whoe died in the World Trade Center terrorist attacks: Scott Davidson, Tom Hannafin and Terrance Aiken ... Ex-Monsignor Farrell and University of Vermont point guard Kenny White went the extra mile to attend the game. The Providence College strength and conditioning coach drove from Rhode Island yesterday afternoon and headed back to campus following the **CSI** game ... The Dolphins are planning to host an alumni game on Saturday, Jan. 29 in memory of White's father, long-time assistant coach Matty White, who died of cancer last spring. The 11 a.m. game will proceed the Hunter-**CSI** game at 1 p.m.

DALLAS (57)

Hightower 7-15 7-7 22, Spray 1-1 0-0 3, Assinesi 2-5 0-0 4, Brown 0-8 1-2 1, Davidson 1-6 3-4 5, Bland 1-2 0-0 3, Edison 0-0 0-0 0, Goodwin 1-4 1-2 4, McElvain 3-6 0-0 7, Gibbs 0-0 0-0 0, Kewell 2-4 0-1 4, Matthews 2-4 0-0 4, Obuch 0-1 0-0 0, O'Toole 0-1 0-0 0.

Totals: 20-57 12-16 57.

CSI (80)

Taranto 2-8 3-3 7, Tibbs 3-6 0-0 7, Hughes 3-6 1-2 7, VanManen 2-4 0-0 4, Young 7-9 1-3 15, Bloomfield 1-1 0-0 2, Magliore 8-14 0-0 21, Comperato 0-1 0-0 0, Valdes 4-5 0-0 8, Frank 1-1 0-0 2, Manesy 0-0 0-0 0, Maccarone 0-3 1-2 1, Jenkins 0-0 0-0 0, Husslein 2-6 0-0 4, Pan 1-1 0-0 2.

Totals: 34-65 6-10 80.

Halftime: 43-21, CSI.

Three-point goals: Dallas 5-21 (Hightower 1-4, Spray 1-1, Brown 0-4, Davidson 0-1, Bland 1-2, Goodwin 1-3, McElvain 1-3, Matthews 0-2, O'Toole 0-1); CSI 6-13 (Taranto 0-1, Tibbs 1-2, Young 0-1, Magliore 5-8, Valdes 0-1). Rebounds: Dallas 28 (Davidson 9); CSI 47 (Tibbs 7, Taranto 6). Assists: Dallas 9; CSI 28 (Tibbs 9, Young 7, Taranto 5). Turnovers: Dallas 17, CSI 19. Total fouls: Dallas 10, CSI 19. Fouled out: none.

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Indiana school rallies past the **College of Staten Island** for Tournament of Heroes title, 70-67

Published: Wednesday, December 29, 2010, 11:41 PM



By **Jim Waggoner**



Staten Island Advance photo by Hilton Flores

CSI's David Hughes, left, battles for rebounding position with Anderson University's Brock Morrison.

The kids from the Hoosier State came out on top at the end.

Not unlike the conclusion to the classic 1986 sports movie "Hoosiers" about a small-town Indiana basketball team, Anderson University rallied past the **College of Staten Island**, 70-67, to win the ninth annual Tournament of Heroes Wednesday night in Willowbrook.

"The state of Indiana is big-time into basketball," said Anderson coach Tom Slyder. "All our guys love it, breath it and live it."

The Ravens are a small Church of God-affiliated private school about a half-hour drive from Indianapolis. They returned four starters from a 23-6 that qualified for the NCAA Division III Tournament and

began the current season ranked 14th by d3hoops.com.

Every player from Anderson's roster hailed from Indiana the previous four seasons. This year freshman guard Zach Wadley managed to sneak in from Bourbonnais, Ill.

The 7-3 Ravens found themselves in a real dogfight, however, staring at a 57-46 deficit after freshman guard Bloochy Magliore buried back-to-back 3-point shots and Thomas Tibbs nailed another with 11:20 remaining.

"We had them on the ropes," said **CSI** coach Tony Petosa.

The visitors, mixing a 2-3 zone defense with man-to-man, went on a 12-4 run triggered by tourney MVP Andrew Jones, a 6-foot-6 senior. They caught the Dolphins at 60-60 and the final five minutes were a blur as Dale Taranto and Tibbs sank long 3-pointers to give **CSI** a 64-63 lead and then pull even at 67-67 in the final minute.

Jarrin Forte, a freshman guard out of legendary Indianapolis Warren Central, put the Ravens up for good at 69-67 with a driving layup, and Gabe Miller made one free throw with 6.8 seconds remaining.

In between, the Dolphins had three turnovers in the final 10 seconds.

CSI was tremendously prepared and Tibbs and Magliore were better players than we thought they were," said Slyder. "We didn't panic when we fell behind. We had to find out what we had inside ourselves."

The Dolphins also showed considerable fortitude.

"We didn't give them the game," said Petosa, whose squad took a 40-33 halftime lead on Tibb's backcourt steal and 3-pointer at the buzzer. "They took it from us.

"At the end, they did what they had to do. They stopped settling for jump shots and started pushing the ball to the basket."

Jones lead all scorers with 24 points, hitting 11 of 15 shots. Brock Morrison, a muscular 6-4 junior from tiny Winchester, Ind., and Miller added 13 apiece.

Tibbs was steady for **CSI** with 22 points, eight assists, four rebounds and two steals. Magliore added 18 points and junior Jordan Young 12 points and eight rebounds.

But it wasn't quite enough for the 6-3 Dolphins, whose three losses have been by a combined six points as they head into the CUNY Conference wars.

CSI is still seeking its first Tournament of Heroes championship.

NOTES: Richard Stockton routed the University of Dallas, 70-39, in the third-place game ... Anderson planned to spend Thursday touring Manhattan before leaving for the 12-hour bus ride home Friday morning ... **CSI**'s Tibbs and Anderson's Jones and Forte were joined on the all-tourney team by Richard Stockton's Kai Massaquoi and Dallas' Braeton Hightower.

ANDERSON (70)

Hogan 0-2 0-0 0, Miller 5-10 1-4 13, Bowman 4-9 0-0 8, Jones 11-15 2-2 24, Morrison 5-10 0-0 13, Syphers 0-0 0-0 0, Harter 0-1 0-0 0, Forte 4-9 1-1 10, Browne 1-1 0-0 2.

Totals: 30-57 4-7 70.

CSI (67)

Taranto 2-7 1-2 5, Tibbs 8-16 2-2 22, Hughes 3-6 0-0 6, VanManen 1-2 2-2 4, Young 5-5 2-2 12, Magliore 7-10 0-0 18, Valdes 0-3 0-0 0, Husslein 0-0 0-0 0.

Totals: 26-49 7-8 67.

Halftime: CSI 40-33.

Three-point goals: Anderson 6-17 (Miller 2-6, Jones 0-1, Morrison 3-5, Forte 1-5); CSI 8-17 (Taranto 0-1, Tibbs 4-9, Magliore 4-5, Valdez 0-2). Rebounds: Anderson 27 (Browne 7); CSI 26 (Young 8). Assists: Anderson 17 (Miller 5); CSI 16 (Tibbs 8). Turnovers: Anderson 13, CSI 18. Total fouls: Anderson 13, CSI 13. Fouled out: none.

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Dolphins Dunk Dallas to Advance to Tournament of Heroes Final



For the first time since 2004, the [College of Staten Island](#) men's basketball team advanced to the championship leg of its own holiday tournament, striking down the University of Dallas, 80-57, at the Sports and Recreation Center in the opening day's competition of the 9th Annual Tournament of Heroes earlier this evening. The win broke up a two-game losing skid, sending the Dolphins to 6-2 overall while the Crusaders fell to 2-8. The Dolphins will face off against Anderson University (IN), a 73-70 winner over Richard Stockton College, in tomorrow night's championship game at 7:30pm. The consolation game will start at 5:30pm.

[CSI](#) led from start to finish, racing out to a 15-0 start over the game's first five and a half minutes. The run was powered by a couple of baskets each by Matt Van Manen and David Hughes, while junior Jordan Young capped the run with a pair of fast-break lay-ins. From there, Dallas scratched away at the lead as both teams traded baskets, but another 11-2 [CSI](#) run at 6:16, gave the Dolphins a commanding, 32-11, edge. In an emphatic end to the stanza, freshman Bloochy Magliore converted a transition three-pointer at 1:38 and then finalized the first half scoring with an uncontested dunk to give [CSI](#) a 43-21 edge heading into the lockers.

[CSI](#) led by as many as 29 in the second frame as back-to-back treys by Magliore followed by a Young lay-up made it 73-44 at the 5:45 mark. From there, Dallas could only narrow the lead down to as few as 23 on a pair of occasions, as [CSI](#) got 25 points off of their bench to guide the team to a win.

The Dolphins were paced by Magliore's 21 markers on 8-of-14 shooting as [CSI](#) as a team shot a crisp 52.3% from the field. Jordan Young added 15 points and seven assists. T.J. Tibbs pitched in to dish a game-high 9 assists. Dallas' Braeton Hightower led all scorers with 22 pointers, while Ross Davidson led the way with 9 rebounds.

Prior to the game, [CSI](#) paid homage to Terrence Aiken, Scott Davidson, and Tom Hannafin, basketball alums who perished on 9/11, to which the tournament serves to honor.

For [CSI](#), it was the first time they have won an opening round game in the tournament since 2004, when they defeated McDaniel College in the opener before losing to New Jersey City University in the final. In the eight-year history of the tournament, [CSI](#) has never come away with a title and are 0-2 in championship games of this tourney.



Anderson (IN) Takes 9th Annual CSI Tournament of Heroes Title With Comeback Win over Dolphins



Freshman Guard Bloochy Magliore scored 18 points in the final

The **College of Staten Island** men's basketball squad led for a majority of the way, but couldn't seal the deal, falling to visiting Anderson University (IN), 70-67, in the Championship Final of the 9th Annual Tournament of Heroes at the Sports & Recreation Center this evening. The win lifted the Ravens to an overall record of 7-3, while the Dolphins fell to 6-3. It was the third time **CSI** advanced to the Final, but again the Dolphins were denied the crown.

CSI took a modest 11-7 lead in the opening minutes powered by back-to-back three-pointers by Bloochy Magliore, but the Ravens powered back with a 9-0 run at 12:41 capped by a Gabe Miller three to take their biggest first half lead, 16-11. That sparked a 10-minutes stretch where the lead was exchanged hands five times and no team led by as many as three points.

Things turned in **CSI**'s favor in the closing minutes. A pair of Jordan Young freebies gave **CSI** a 31-30 lead and after a Tibbs lay-up, Young converted another off of an Anderson miss. After Anderson's Brock Morrison answered with a three to make it 35-33, Tibbs fed Matt Van Manen underneath with six ticks left, Tibbs then promptly forced a Miller turnover and put up a three as time expired which sank through the net, giving **CSI** a 40-33 lead heading into the lockers.

CSI used the first 3+ minutes of the second stanza to open up its biggest lead at 46-35 on a David Hughes jumper. Four straight points by AU's Andrew Jones and another Morrison three cut the lead but **CSI** went back up by 11, 57-46, with 11:21 to go capped by another three-ball by Tibbs.

From there, however, momentum was seized by Anderson. The Ravens opened a 14-1 run with five-straight Miller points, and an Jones lay-up gave the Ravens a 60-58 lead with 6:18 to go. The teams traded shots from there, matching field goals and misses until Tibbs notched yet another three to knot the score at 67-67, with :48 to go.

Anderson drove down the clock, and after a timeout, Jarrin Forte took a pass and raced left to right, penetrating the paint and putting home a lay-up off the glass for a 69-67 advantage with 20 ticks to go. In a bizarre twist, **CSI** then ran rampant with errors. Bracing for a final shot, Jordan Young was called for steps with just seven seconds left. Then, even with Dale Taranto making an extraordinary defensive play to break up a pass off of an Anderson player out of bounds, giving the Dolphins the ball again with six seconds left.

CSi asked for time but on their inbound, Tibbs tried to find Magliore but the pass was stolen by Miller. Csi fouled and Miller made one of two free-throws to make the score 70-67 with five seconds to go. Down to one final shot, Dale Taranto lost the handle on an inbound pass at center court, giving CSI three turnovers in five seconds of game play and never affording them an opportunity to tie in the frustrating final.

Despite the loss, CSI shot a blistering 53.1% from the field, arguable matched by Anderson's 52.6%. Tibbs led CSI with 22 markers, adding eight assists. Magliore added 18 with four rebounds while Young closed with 12 points, shooting 5-5 from the field, notching a team-high eight rebounds. Anderson was led by Jones' 24 points in 31 minutes of action, Miller and Morrison notched 13 apiece, while Forte finished with 10 points and three assists. For his performance, Jones was named the game's Most Valuable Player.

Forte (AU) and Tibbs (CSI) joined Richard Stockton College's Kai Massaquoi and University of Dallas' Breaton Hightower as Tournament All-Stars. Stockton defeated Dallas earlier in the evening, 70-39, in the Consolation leg.

CSI will pick up action again in the new year. The team will travel to Brooklyn, NY, to take on Medgar Evers College on January 5, at 8pm.

Stories

A measurable success story

College of Staten Island students, mentoring youngsters at Dreyfus Intermediate, PS 57 see marked results

WILLOWBROOK — Since September, sixth-graders at Dreyfus Intermediate School in Stapleton, along with second- and third-graders at PS 57 in Clifton, have gotten a boost in academic esteem from students at the other end of the education spectrum — the College of Staten Island (CSI) in Willowbrook.

You can liken these older mentors to Grade A good Samaritans. They show up on the North Shore after the regular school day ends and set to work, providing one-on-one tutoring and skill-building.

Sixth-graders at Dreyfus have thrived, along with their younger counterparts at PS 57. So have the older students, who take college-level classes on tutoring techniques and spend four hours a week at the elementary and intermediate schools, where they've forged relationships with nearly two dozen youngsters since school began in September.

Known as Strategies for Success, the initiative is part of CSI's S.E.E.K. program, which stands for Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge. It serves about 300 school children per year. Approximately 40 college students have participated as mentors in the program each year since its inception 10 years ago.

S.E.E.K. director **Gloria Garcia** said Strategies for Success "reinforces to the college students the importance of their commitment to the children and the community."

"This has been really a win-win for everybody involved," said Strategies for Success coordinator **Georgia Landrum**.

The program operates in partnership with the Jewish Community Center (JCC) and the YMCA. The JCC sponsors the Beacon after-school program at Dreyfus, as well as the Cornerstone Community Center in the Stapleton Houses, while the YMCA operates the after-school program at PS 57.

Amanda Garcia, site coordinator for the YMCA's after-school program at PS 57, said the tutors have become almost like a second family for the children, whose academic achievements are growing thanks to the special attention.

"It's one-on-one. Like sitting down with a friend."



PHOTO COURTESY OF COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND

College of Staten Island student Paul Olivier helps a third-grader with reading during an after-school program at PS 57, Clifton.



DIANE LORE

The students really look forward to it," she said. Students spend half the time with their mentors, working on homework and study skills. Afterward, they play games such as chess and checkers, which adds to the feeling of community.

Students at Dreyfus and PS 57 all gave positive feedback. One noted: "It has helped me in all my homework and still does. The tutors in the program are very helpful. No matter who you are, they help you to understand all your work."

Another said: "The tutors are friendly and smart. They have helped me in math, reading and English."

The initiative is funded by grants from a number of organizations, notably Verizon and the Staten Island Foundation. **John Butler**, executive director of gov-

ernment and external affairs for Verizon, recently presented the college with a \$5,000 grant for the program, while the Staten Island Foundation chipped in \$50,000. Foundation director **Betsy Dubovsky** said the CSI grant is in keeping with the foundation's mission to promote literacy. Over the years, the Foundation has contributed more than \$350,000 to the program.

"They've been our mentor," said Ms. Landrum.

Other benefactors have included JP Morgan Chase, Time Warner Cable, state Sen. **Andrew Lanza** (R-Staten Island) and the office of District Attorney **Daniel Donovan**, as well as the South Shore Rotary Club.

CSI students, who earn \$10 an hour as tutors, have to apply to be mentors and attend a series of workshops taught by education professor **Dr. Jed Luchow**. He teaches the college students strategies for homework help for youngsters, but the mentors said they can apply what they learn about studying to their own lives.

Jessica Imperatrice, a fourth-year education major at CSI, has worked

with students at both PS 57 and Dreyfus Intermediate during her three years with Strategies for Success.

"I have learned so much from these children in these past three years," she said. "I learned a lot about myself as well. I've gained a better understanding of how children think, and what it takes to get through to them."

Just knowing she's helping the children has been a rewarding experience for **Rhagina Chisolm**, the site coordinator of the Strategies for Success program at Dreyfus, who recently received her bachelor's degree in English from CSI, and hopes to become a high school English teacher.

"Just seeing the smiles on the children's faces when we enter the classroom is a feeling of appreciation, and seeing them the following school year, in the next grade, and knowing you've helped them improve their skills is a feeling of success," Miss Chisolm said.

Diane Lore writes about schools and education for the Advance. Contact her at lore@siadvance.com. Look for her Chalk Talk column Thursdays during the school year in the Shore editions and online at SILive.com.



Not-for-profit networking seminar slated at College of Staten Island Jan. 27

Published: Tuesday, December 07, 2010, 6:59 AM



Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- In these tough economic times, not-for-profits need to network more than ever.

A Jan. 27 seminar sponsored by the Neighborhood Technical Assistance Clinic (NATC) at the College of Staten Island will give local organizations a chance to meet with funders, glean expertise from peers, and learn how to make the most of their boards of directors and streamline the day-to-day operations of their organizations.

Such Staten Island not-for-profits as the Staten Island Zoo, the American Cancer Society and the Port Richmond CERT have taken part in the forum in years past.

"Because funding is so tight for non profits and funders are making their awards on a more competitive basis, NTAC is working diligently to help strengthen Staten Island nonprofit organizations' abilities to plan better outcomes for their programs and projects," said Valerie Oliver Durrah, president and CEO of NTAC. "Today's economic recession is causing everyone to step up their game."

The program is sponsored by the College of Staten Island, JP Morgan Chase, Macy's, Northfield Bank Foundation, Richmond County Savings Foundation, United Way of New York City and Verizon.

It goes from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., with a workshop presentation from 9:45 a.m. to noon about maximizing activities and outcomes and learning how to communicate project ideas with donors.

To register, go to www.neighborhoodclinic.org, or call (718) 455-3784.

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\$50,000 Grant From NASA For LaGCC

Three LaGuardia Community College professors have received a \$50,000 grant from NASA to embed into their physics, engineering and computer science courses a research component that will have their students involved in serious scientific work on global warming.

Through this project, the students will be learning about and researching a topic that has stymied NASA scientists: the effect that aerosols, those suspended pollutants generated by man-made activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels and natural causes such as volcanic eruptions, have on the temperature of the earth.

“NASA information on aerosols is spotty,” Dr. James Frost, one of the grant developers and a physics professor said. “The agency is interested in determining by theoretical calculations how aerosols, much like greenhouse gases, can affect the general temperature of the earth. LaGuardia students will play an integral role in helping them to come up with a conclusion.”

The grant is part of NASA’s effort to encourage minority students to pursue a degree, and, ultimately, a career in science, technology, engineering or mathematics. A recent report by the National Academies, the country’s leading advisory group on science and technology, warned that if the United States does not improve the quality of math and science education, at all levels, it would continue to lose economic ground to foreign competitors.

“The program will serve as a training ground for the country’s future scientists, mathematicians and engineers,” LaGuardia’s Interim President Dr. Peter Katopes said. “Students will enhance their scientific research skills, while deepening our knowledge about global warming. Receiving this NASA grant is the result of the cutting-edge work of our inspired faculty and the unlimited potential of our students.”

More than 200 students, the majority of whom are foreign born, will be enrolled in the science-related courses. Built into each of the introductory courses are NASA-related topics that focus on aerosols and how they affect how much of the sun’s radiation reaches the earth and how this influences climate change and global warming.

Out of that group, 15 students will be selected to participate in the actual research that is connected to one of NASA’s latest projects, The Glory.

The Glory, which is scheduled to be launched on February 23, is interested in understanding the effects of aerosols and solar variability on the earth’s climate.

“I do not know of any community college where its students are involved in such research,” said Frost, who pointed out that his students will be involved in every phase of the research project from constructing and maintaining the instruments to collecting the data and processing it for

data analysis. “The students’ job is to check the satellite’s measurements to see if the numbers are accurate.”

Each of the groups will take on a different task. Frost’s general computer-based physics classes will take their student built, hand-held polarimeters to a point on Long Island where The Glory passes over every 24 hours. There, they will take measurements that they will compare to the data collected by the satellite’s polarimeter.

Dr. Yasser Hassebo will have his engineering students, in his engineering classes, understand and simulate the process of probing the atmosphere remotely with Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR), a remote sensing system that can give intensity profile of the aerosol patterns in the atmosphere. As the light hits the aerosol particles, which partially scatter back toward earth, the students will know how to collect and analyze the LIDAR back scattering data.

Dr. Lawrence Muller and his computer science students will adapt the complex computer aerosol data analysis program to be run on the City University of New York’s high performance computer system located in the College of Staten Island. This will shorten the computation time needed to analyze the data.

With the support of the experiments, Hassebo said that the data the students are simulating and collecting will also deepen their understanding of the techniques of determining the types, thickness and the altitude of pollutants that affect New York City’s air quality and where they originated.

“This will have a big impact on New York City,” he said. “If you can predict the weather conditions you can provide early warnings on the air quality for New Yorkers.”

College of Staten Island baseball team pitches in to help Atlas Foundation

Published: Thursday, December 09, 2010, 4:11 PM



By Jerry Lee

WILLOWBROOK - Michael Mauro has always been a coach who totally immerses himself in the job at hand.

The College of Staten Island (CSI) baseball mentor is not one of those guys who is nowhere to be found once practice or the games are over – or during the off-season.



Photo courtesy CSI Athletics

CSI baseball coach Michael Mauro, left, poses with Teddy Atlas, center, and Nichole Bates, the Director of the Atlas Foundation, along with Dolphin players, from left, Casey Mulligan, Danny Lynch, Anthony Colucci, Jeff Pontebbi and Pat Gale at the foundation's annual turkey giveaway.

That's why it wasn't too surprising to hear that Mauro and his entire team (all 27 of them) as well as assistant coach Greg Belson were among the volunteers lending a hand to the Atlas Foundation the weekend before Thanksgiving Day.

Mauro and his team met up with Teddy Atlas and his staff at the group's facility in West Brighton the Saturday before the holiday and helped unload trucks and distribute turkeys that would eventually help feed some 600 needy Island families.

"Two 18-wheel trucks came filled with turkeys and all the trimmings," said Mauro. "Groups and schools from around the Island then arrived, and we helped fill their cars or trucks so they could bring the

food back to their communities.

"Then whatever was left it was distributed to the people in the community who just walked up to the trucks."

The benefits for those involved were easy to assess.

"It was great to give back," Mauro said "Plus it made our guys aware there are a lot of people in our own back yard who cannot afford a necessity like food – or enjoy what they take for granted on a holiday like Thanksgiving ."

For Mauro and CSI it was just another day at the office.

"Being a part of CSI baseball doesn't just mean baseball games," said Mauro. "It's doing things for the community.

"And to see the smiles on the faces of the people getting the food, is a just reward."

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New York Today: Free and Cheap Events

[New York Today](#)

Monday, December 13th 2010, 2:36 PM

Singing in the big apple. Join the [Big Apple Chorus](#) for an a cappella performance led by [Justin Miller](#), director of the Westminster Chorus. 12:30 p.m. Free. [Norman Thomas High School](#), 111 E. 33rd St. (212) 545-9648.

The talent show. [MoMA PS1](#)'s latest exhibition explores the relationship between reality TV talent competitions and expanded government surveillance around the world. 12 p.m. \$5-\$10 suggested donation. 22-25 Jackson Ave., Long Island City, Queens. (718) 784-2084.

Brooklyn nights. Head to [Franklin Park](#) for the weekly author series. Featuring readings by [Justin Taylor](#), [Peter Hyman](#) and others. Free. 8 p.m. 618 St. John's Place, Brooklyn. (718) 975-0196.

Holiday songbook. Listen to holiday songs presented and sung by Broadway composers, lyricists and vocalists. 6 p.m. Free. [Bruno Walter Auditorium](#), [New York Public Library for the Performing Arts](#), 40 [Lincoln Center Plaza](#). (917) 275-6975.

Movie night. Watch Adam Wade and guest [Leslie Goshko](#) tell stories using videos and home movies. 7 p.m. \$5. [Theater under St. Marks](#), 94 St. Marks Place. (212) 777-6088.

Highline bells. Take a stroll along the High Line, where you can hear [Steve Vitiello](#)'s "A Bell for Every Minute." Vitiello has combined the sounds of various NYC bells to create a unique auditory experience. 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Free. High Line, 14th St. Passage, between Washington St. and 10th Ave. (212) 500-6035.

Toy story. Explore German toymaker [Renate Muller](#)'s collection of vintage playthings. The whimsical animals are still hot items among design enthusiasts. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Free. [R 20th Century](#), 82 Franklin St. (212) 343-7979.

Fire safety. Youngsters learn the dangers of fire and how to deal with them in an interactive presentation led by a firefighter. Every half hour starting at 9:30 a.m. \$6. [FDNY Fire Zone](#), 50 [Rockefeller Plaza](#). (212) 698-4541.

Latin sounds. Kick off the workweek with a dance party featuring the music of Brazilian ensemble Brazooka. 9 p.m. \$10. [Cafe Wha?](#), 115 MacDougal St. (212) 254-3706.

Rhyme time. Bring your babies for a morning of songs, rhymes and stories with a librarian. 10:30 a.m. For kids 6 to 17 months. [Queens Central Library](#), 89-11 Merrick Blvd. (718) 990-0700.

Starry night. Come see the stars and planets in the observatory at the [College of Staten Island](#). Budding astronomers will be able to see Jupiter, the moon and an array of star clusters. 8 p.m. Free. [Astrophysical Observatory](#), 2800 Victory Blvd., Staten Island. (718) 982-3260.

North Shore to anchor Film Festival

Published: Wednesday, December 15, 2010, 7:35 AM



By Jodi Lee Reifer



Staten Island Advance/Irving Silverstein

At the St. George Theatre, Jules Nasso, film industry chairman, and Jeannine Marotta, director of development and events at the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation, announce details of the sixth annual Staten Island Film Festival.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — The North Shore has landed its biggest role yet in the Staten Island Film Festival.

To accommodate the bulk of its audience — and to lure movie buffs from around the city — the June 8-12 showcase will screen nearly all of its picks on the North Shore at Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden, the St. George Theatre and the Staten Island Zoo.

An additional screening will take place at the Joan and Alan Bernikow Jewish Community Center in Sea View.

Previously, the films had been shown at the College of Staten Island in

Willowbrook.

Transportation concerns played a big role in the venue change, said Cesar Claro, president and CEO of the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation, which organizes the film festival.

"Twenty-five percent of our constituents are seniors. The walk from the parking lot to the Center for the Arts was a little much," he said. "Plus, we realized we really had high numbers for two reasons: 50 percent of our constituents come from the North Shore. Plus, there are a lot of people that take the boat over from Manhattan, making this the ideal location for the festival."

Submissions are now being accepted at www.withoutabox.com.

In a break from the past, festival attendees will not need to purchase screening passes. Rather, admission will be free for everyone. In previous years, free admission passes were available, but they had to be secured in advance at specific locations.

"This festival has never really been about making money," said Kim Seggio of the Richmond County Savings Foundation, founding sponsor of the festival, "but about offering a low-cost, family-friendly option for our community."

Now entering its sixth year, the event, formerly dubbed the SINY Film Festival, has showcased more than 400 independent films with submissions coming from as far as Japan, the United Kingdom, Japan, Iowa and Texas and as near as Stapleton, New Springville and Huguenot.

Melanie Franklin Cohn, executive director of the Council on the Arts and Humanities for Staten Island (COASHI), said the festival is, in part, responsible for the cultivation of filmmakers in the borough. When she started with the arts organization three years ago, there were no grant applications from filmmakers or videographers. This year, there were a huge number of applicants working on movie projects, she said.

"I think there's a direct line from the film festival that encourages our local young artists to take part in something where they get international exposure," said Ms. Cohn.

The early submission deadline is Jan. 14 and the final submission deadline is Feb. 14.

In addition to screenings, the festival will include a celebrity party at the South Shore restaurant, Angelina's in Tottenville, a closing night celebration at the Vanderbilt at South Beach, and an industry party hosted by Eltingville film producer Jules Nasso, film and industry chairman of the event, and an '80s tribute concert at Snug Harbor in Livingston.

Among the additional sponsors are Northfield Bank; COASHI; ACS, a Xerox Company; Williams Eye Works Optician; FerryAds; The ECHO Foundation; Dana Motors; King's Building Material, Gateway Rotary, Assemblyman Michael Cusick (D-Mid-Island), and the Staten Island Advance.

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College try piggybacks on Oddo plan

Published: Friday, December 17, 2010, 1:33 AM



By **Peter N. Spencer**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- For more than a decade, City Councilman James Oddo has said a Sea View site that has housed, variously, a settlement for the poor, a tuberculosis hospital and a morgue would make the perfect setting for a college campus.

Apparently, the city now agrees — only they forgot to tell him.

Perhaps it was a minor oversight that the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) didn't give the Mid-Island/Brooklyn Republican a heads-up before announcing yesterday it was seeking a college to build an engineering and applied sciences campus at one of four sites, including the former Farm Colony.



Advance file photo

"You want an urban, vertical campus? This is not the site," Councilman James Oddo said of the Sea View site. "But if you want a magnificent suburban campus, this is the place."

The city — which owns the 98-acre site along Brielle Avenue touching the eastern edge of the **College of Staten Island's** sprawling campus at Forest Hill Road — says it would even throw in some of its own money and other incentives.

That change of tune was news to Oddo, who has been pushing for redevelopment of the site since he took office in 1999. He has sought to bring a recreation center and senior housing to the Farm Colony, and came within a hair of getting another college to build a campus there before the proposal fell through three years ago.

"This is precisely what we've envisioned, although I am deeply disappointed in this process," Oddo said, after learning of the new plan. "I just hope they are committed this time."

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said the city must take advantage of growth opportunities in applied sciences. The EDC sent out a Request for Expressions of Interest to academic institutions yesterday, suggesting four development sites — including Governors Island, the Navy Hospital Campus at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and the Goldwater Hospital Campus on Roosevelt Island in Manhattan. The institution would focus on academic study and research in fields such as environmental science, mathematics, chemistry, physics and computer science.

That is exactly what Manhattan's Globe Institute of Technology had in mind when it proposed expanding its campus to the Farm Colony in 2007. Globe Institute, which offers two- and four-year degrees in information technology, would have transformed some of the site's 11 dilapidated buildings into classrooms. But the deal fell through before it was ever consummated when the school lost some of its federal funding.

Purchased by the city in 1829, the Farm Colony's original 50 buildings were built to house the Island's indigent population. Famed Rosebank photographer Elizabeth Alice Austen was infamously forced to live there after the 1929 stock market crash plunged her into poverty. The site later housed a ward for tuberculosis patients, along with its own morgue and a cemetery.

After it was abandoned in 1975, its Dutch Revival buildings slowly began to deteriorate and were frequently targeted by vandals. Some buildings were landmarked in 1985 and the wooded site was included in the Staten Island Greenbelt Plan in the 1990s.

Efforts to revitalize the site in the past decade have mostly fallen short, Island officials would argue, because the EDC has failed to put any significant resources behind it. They point to other EDC projects in the borough — including the glacial progress of bringing shops to the St. George Ferry Terminal — as proof of the agency's lack of commitment to the borough.

And many Islanders are still smarting from the city snubbing the Teleport in Bloomfield as the site of a backup data center, choosing instead a site in New Jersey.

Responses to the city's RFEI are due on March 16, 2011. The city plans to release an Applied Sciences Research Request for Proposals — a more specific request that leads to a contract — shortly afterward.

Oddo said he would be happy to personally give a tour of the Farm Colony, which he called a "perfect setting for an academic institution." The site's lack of public transportation and limited access may be a problem for some developers, he admits, but its natural beauty will win over others.

"You want an urban, vertical campus? This is not the site," Oddo said. "But if you want a magnificent suburban campus, this is the place."



Issue Date: HH-Dec 17, 2010, Posted On: 12/16/2010

NYC School Construction Authority and CUNY look to the future

Investments in public education infrastructure have helped buoy the building industry by partially offsetting decreases in private sector construction spending. While the private sector continues to struggle, both the City University of New York (CUNY) and the New York City School Construction Authority (SCA) are in the midst of significant five year capital campaigns designed to build on the large capital programs of the 2000s.

A recent New York Building Congress Construction Outlook Update noted that in the twelve month period ending April 31, the education sector accounted for a full 56 percent of all New York City construction starts — or more than \$4.5 billion dollars. The SCA and CUNY alone accounted for \$3.8 billion of this work. However, there are warning signs that these types of forward-looking investment may be on the decline in coming years.

SCA

At the opening of the current school year, the SCA announced that it had created 17,000 new school seats in 26 new facilities. Both figures, which are records for the SCA, were funded primarily through its historic \$13.1 billion 2005-2009 capital campaign.

In June, the City Council approved the SCA's amendment to the Fiscal Year 2010-2014 Capital Plan, valued at almost \$11.7 billion, increasing investment by \$400 million over the original Plan. Work will be divided among several key categories, including:

- New construction and replacement of existing facilities: Valued at more than \$5 billion, this money will fund the design and construction of more than 50 new school facilities and create more than 30,000 seats;
- Major capital improvements: Worth \$2.1 billion, projects focus on major building systems, including exterior renovations to existing buildings, electrical upgrades and boiler replacements;
- Advanced technology: Throughout the school system, technology upgrades valued at \$800 million are part of a major initiative to expand and diversify instruction using the internet and other advanced communication tools;
- Facility Enhancements: More than \$800 million is dedicated to restructuring spaces and improving accessibility of buildings, as well as creating and upgrading science labs, physical fitness spaces, libraries and auditoriums.

Although New York Construction reported this month that other school districts in the region were cutting back on capital spending after completing major capital campaigns, funding for the SCA's 2010-2014 campaign continues at the robust pace of the mid-2000s. While changes in city and state finances may affect future capital planning, the city has expressed confidence that the State's contribution is firm through 2014.

A key reason for the size of the two most recent Capital Plans is the Campaign for Fiscal Equity lawsuit against the State of New York which, in 2004, resulted in a court ordered mandate that the state provide more than \$9 billion in capital funding to New York City schools. This mandate will have been met at the end of the current capital program. However, the need for strong State support will continue after that mandate expires, so

it is important for the building industry to continue making the case for educational investment with the incoming Governor and State legislators.

CUNY

The City University of New York continues unprecedented levels of investment in its program of new facility construction and rigorous maintenance. Over the preceding five years, CUNY spent more than \$1.7 billion in city and state bond proceeds. Last year, CUNY requested \$5.3 billion from the state and city for Fiscal Years 2010-11 through 2014-15. This represents the balance of CUNY's request from a capital campaign that began in Fiscal Year 2008-09.

In response, the state provided \$284 million in additional senior college critical maintenance appropriations and \$35 million in State appropriations to match city appropriations allocated to community colleges, mostly for critical maintenance work. The City's FY 2011 budget provided \$57 million in new appropriations, of which \$34 million went to community colleges.

Among the major ongoing construction projects funded under the Capital Plan are Phase I of the Advanced Science Research Center at City College, John Jay College's Building Expansion project, the new Science Building at Lehman College and the new Academic Building at Medgar Evers College.

CUNY has also successfully used alternative models to fund capital projects, particularly through public private partnerships. This has allowed CUNY to reduce its reliance on traditional funding sources. For example, the \$131 million Hunter College School of Social Work now under construction in East Harlem is partly financed through a creative arrangement that leveraged the sale of the school's current site on the Upper East Side to build a state of the art facility in a new neighborhood that will benefit from a new academic center.

In addition, CUNY has initiated a program to provide residence halls for students on senior college campuses or at other accessible locations using the public private partnership model. Each facility is self-supporting and no tuition or tax levy sources are used.

CUNY successfully added dormitory space at its Queens College campus and housing is being constructed adjacent to the new Hunter School of Social Work. CUNY is also pursuing student housing on the College of Staten Island campus, and recently issued an RFP to solicit developers to provide a turnkey residence facility for students at Baruch, Hunter and John Jay Colleges.

However, the fiscal downturn which has hit local and State government appears finally to be affecting CUNY's longer term budgeting — slowing down the start of some new projects. Unlike other government entities, CUNY did not receive any stimulus funds for its capital program and therefore relies on traditional State and City funding sources.

Major projects in the capital plan that are wholly or nearly construction ready but need additional funding include the new Academic Building One at New York City College of Technology, the replacement of the 100-year-old façade at LaGuardia Community College, future phases of campus wide utility upgrades at Bronx Community College and renovations to Baruch College's field building.

The funding picture for CUNY becomes increasingly cloudy as the State is forecasting another multi-billion dollar budget hole next year, while the City's approved 2011 Capital Plan forecasts no additional capital commitments for CUNY in 2012. The building industry must be prepared to lobby state and city elected officials aggressively to ensure CUNY benefits from the capital funding it needs.

Farm Colony could become a college

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

For more than a decade, City Councilman James Oddo has lobbied for a Sea View site that once housed, variously, a settlement for the poor, a tuberculosis hospital and a morgue, to be renovated and used as a college campus.

Apparently, the city now agrees — only they forgot to tell him.

SILive.com users had some things to say about it.



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/HILTON FLORES

MUST PLAN FOR TRAFFIC

hayeduin: I sincerely hope that any plan to develop the Farm Colony area first implements MAJOR traffic capacity improvements. Willowbrook residents should vigorously oppose any plan that does not, as a first step, make the necessary improvements to Bradley Avenue and Forest Hill Road to handle the increased traffic that such a project will cause.

Forest Hill Road must be widened to four lanes. The years since CSI moved to Willowbrook have seen choking increases in traffic on Forest Hill Road. The new light on Walcott Ave. and the posting of a traffic agent have had negligible impact on the traffic. The drive from Willowbrook to the Mall remains a "Day Trip." This situation can only be remedied by capacity increases.

Off the beaten track and surrounded by woods, one of the many abandoned buildings at the Farm Colony can be seen from Brielle Avenue.

To even think about building up the Sea View site without considering the already overloaded Bradley Avenue is foolish. At rush hour, it can take 20 minutes to traverse Bradley Avenue from Brielle to the Expressway. Bradley will be the primary access to the proposed Seaview site. How will this increased traffic be accommodated when the street cannot support current neighborhood traffic levels?

Again, I urge Willowbrook residents to actively oppose this plan unless traffic capacity improvements are implemented FIRST. And please, no more clichés about mass transit. Motorists are the most overtaxed and underserved citizens of this borough and city and it is

about time our plight gets more than lip service and a few right-turn lanes.

WE NEED A HOSPITAL

bb51: Staten Island already has 3 colleges, including a CUNY branch. What we really need is a city hospital! I know people who have spent days in the ER, or sent home because there are no beds. The space they are talking about would be excellent for such a facility. Let's get our priorities in order! Build a hospital first.

What do you think about the city setting its sights on the Farm Colony as a possible college campus? Visit silive.com/westshore and post your opinion.

Students & Alumni

Celebrating Chrismukkah

Published: Tuesday, December 07, 2010, 10:34 AM



Elise G. McIntosh

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- It's a December dilemma for Jewish-Christian couples: How, and to what degree, will they embrace each other's holiday traditions?

For some, it can be a real struggle. Rituals rooted in childhood and performed year after year that reinforce their religious identity make it difficult to adopt customs foreign to them, conflict-free emotionally. Others, not as tied to their faith, may do so effortlessly.

Annemarie Dooling, raised Catholic, and Craig Gellerman, a Conservative Jew, have done well balancing each other's traditions.

Tonight, for the seventh night of Hanukkah, the couple will light their electric menorah. Nearby in their Rossville home stands a Christmas tree and Nativity scene.

The 27-year-olds, who have been together for five years and plan to wed in February 2012, went to one of Gellerman's sisters' home for a traditional Hanukkah dinner with potato latkes. Christmas will be spent at his other sister's, who is married to a Catholic.



It's time for Chrismukkah

And on Saturday, they will celebrate "Jewmas" at another interfaith couple's home, where they will have dinner, trim the Christmas tree and light the menorah.

Ms. Dooling, whose parents are deceased, credits her mother, a Catholic who enjoyed learning about other faiths, for her religious openness.

"Because my mom was so open to everything, I just kind of learned to be more accepting of other people and understand that that is their belief and that it doesn't necessarily negate my belief," said Ms. Dooling, who after her mom passed away, decided to take a religion course at the College of Staten Island. That's where she met Gellerman.

According to Rabbi Shimon Berris of Interfaith Clergy based in Cherry Hill, N.J., who has officiated at a number of interfaith weddings on the Island, most couples he marries simply don't care about their differences at the time of the wedding; it's not until children enter the picture when they run into the issue of how they will raise them.

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

One issue mixed couples face is where to attend religious services: at a church or synagogue.



To celebrate both of their religious holiday traditions, Annemarie Dooling and Craig Gellerman set up a Christmas tree and menorah in their Rossville home.

The Rev. Mary Hansen said a number of Jewish-Christian couples who haven't attended either for years end up coming to Amazing Grace Interfaith Ministry, often because they don't want their not-so-tiny-anymore children to grow up without any sort of religious presence in their lives.

The Huguenot resident believes Amazing Grace, which celebrates Christian and Jewish holidays, is a nice compromise in which neither spouse has to give up his/her religious identity.

The church, which meets in St. Simon's Church, Concord, also offers interfaith religious instruction for children, led by the Rev. Francine Hillpot.

Rev. Hansen recommends Jewish-Christian couples celebrating both holidays focus on their similarities. For example, she said, a candle-lighting ritual is both a part of Christmas (lighting the advent wreath) and Hanukkah.

CHRISTMAS VS. HANUKKAH

However, Sheila Gordon, president of Interfaith Community of New York in Manhattan, said Christmas and Hanukkah are very different holidays and advises “not to let them compete with each other.

“Hanukkah is not a gift-giving marathon,” she said. “It is a small holiday that teaches you about Jewish history and [the Jews’] survival against all odds.”

The holiday, which started last Wednesday and ends Thursday, celebrates the reclamation of the Temple in Jerusalem over 2,000 years ago. The bit of oil available to light the temple’s menorah unexpectedly lasted eight days, inspiring the candle-lighting ritual and eating of oil-fried foods such as potato latkes and sufganiyahs (jelly donuts).

Meanwhile, “Christmas is a major holiday in the Christian calendar. It is a key part of the Christian story,” Ms. Gordon said.

Ms. Gordon, a Jew married to a Christian, founded Interfaith Community in 1987. The organization hosts services for both Jewish/Christian holidays and workshops for couples to help them explore each other’s faiths.

Ms. Gordon said the organization also offers couples clashing over their beliefs counseling services to help them “understand what they are trying to preserve and carry on with their [current or any future] children.”

“There is a lot of fear and anxiety,” she explained of an interfaith couple’s experience. “There is a sense of, ‘This is mine and I don’t have to give it up.’ ”

The Christmas tree, she said, particularly can be a touchy subject. Many Christian parents want their children to experience the magic of Santa Claus and all that it entails, but their Jewish spouses may object to the idea of putting one up, seeing it as a symbol of Christ and a violation of their tenets.

Ms. Gordon, however, doesn’t view it this way.

“The Christmas tree is quite a modern ritual drawn from pagan culture,” she said, adding, “It doesn’t mean you’re Christian if you have a Christmas tree.”

She also pointed out the biggest difference separating the two faiths — whether Jesus is the Messiah or not — really doesn’t come up during Christmas.

“Christmas is about the birth of a child. One can appreciate the story without seeing Jesus as the only divine one,” she explained, adding interfaith parents can tell their kids the story without focusing on ideology.

In fact, it’s not until springtime when the explanations become hard.

"Easter is when rubber really hits the road," Ms. Gordon said, noting that's when "faith claims about why Jesus died" arise.

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Your Soap Box Laedi Marie San Luis, Grasmere

Published: Thursday, December 16, 2010, 3:02 PM



By **Virginia N. Sherry**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - We talked to Laedi on Forest Avenue in West Brighton, and nursing was on the mind of this student at the College of Staten Island, who expects to graduate with her nursing degree next month.

Why was nursing her choice of major?

"Because when you're with patients, you just have a good feeling about yourself when you're helping them," she said.

She hopes to specialize in maternity or psychiatric nursing, and "focus on the legal aspects," such as consent forms and malpractice. "I'd be a nurse-advocate in the hospital."

Who was the first nurse she ever met?

"My mom, Ideal," who also lives in Grasmere.



Laedi Marie San Luis,
Grasmere

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Group of **CSI** students participated recently in a national initiative that seeks to record the experiences of Latinos

Published: Thursday, December 23, 2010, 2:48 PM



By **Diane Lore**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - WILLOWBROOK - **College of Staten Island (CSI)** students of Hispanic descent got an opportunity to participate in an oral history project designed to record and preserve the experience of Latinos in the United States.

Nine **CSI** students interviewed their relatives and fellow classmates for the project, part of the national StoryCorps Historias initiative.

Érika Valdez, a junior who is double-majoring in Spanish and English, interviewed Rodolfo Rivera, a senior who is also a double-major in Spanish and English. Among other details, he recalled how he walked over the U.S. border some 20 years ago with a ninth-grade education and no clear plans for the future. Since then, he has worked to get his documents, go back to school, and become a pastor on Staten Island. He hopes to become a teacher "to give back whatever I can."

Ms. Valdez said she believes the project is important because "there are many others standing in (Rodolfo's) shoes who don't have the ability to succeed, and he has mastered it. He serves as an example that although you are an immigrant and many might discriminate against you, you are no different than anybody else."

Kelyn Potes, a sophomore Spanish major, interviewed her father, Ramiro, who came to the United States from Colombia. She said she appreciated participating in the project because "we get to speak about our experiences and let other people know about them."

Constance Vélez, a junior who is majoring in Spanish, stressed the social significance of the project for the Hispanic community and beyond. "It's a great way to show others the way we view each other and how,



College of Staten Island students Rodolfo Rivera and Erika Valdez participated in the StoryCorps Historias project. (Photo Courtesy of College of Staten Island)

sometimes, we criticize each other instead of actually being able to understand one another, where we come from, what we do with our lives, and how we grew up, based on what we learned," she said.

The StoryCorps Historias project at [CSI](#) was coordinated by Dr. Sarah Pollack, an assistant professor of Spanish.

Dr. Pollack said students in her class "are all of Hispanic background, either the children of immigrants or immigrants themselves. They come from Colombia, Mexico, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic."

"The opportunity to record their own stories or to interview someone seemed to complement perfectly the material we were studying. I asked students from the class if either they would be interested in being interviewed or knew someone they would like to interview, whose story otherwise might not get told."

She said she will be working with StoryCorps to see if [CSI](#) can become a community partner in the national project.

"The opportunity to tell one's story for posterity is empowering. Having a public record of the experiences and lives of Staten Island's Hispanic population is a way for a more inclusive story of New York City to be told. This is a project that speaks to our diverse backgrounds, struggles and accomplishments – all things that should be celebrated."

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Residents of South Shore will ring in 2011 in variety of ways, many hoping for much better year to come

Published: Thursday, December 30, 2010, 10:23 AM



By **Mark D. Stein**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - SOUTH SHORE - Grab the noisemakers, put on the pointy party hats and get ready to count down to 2011 with family members and friends tomorrow on New Year's Eve.

Some residents of the South Shore were happy to talk about where they'll be celebrating the end of this year and the beginning of 2011, as well as some new habits and philosophies they would like to focus on starting Saturday.

Raul Fuentes of Huguenot won't be going wild tomorrow night; instead, he'll be with those closest to him.

"We're staying home," said the father of four, who plans to spend time with his wife and young children. "Taking it nice and easy."

He's looking forward to prospect – and to the new year.

According to Fuentes, 2010 has been a long year, especially since he's been out of work for the last 18 months.

Next year's resolution is simple for him – a former corporate researcher: "Get employed again."

Lifelong Staten Islander and Annadale resident Patricia Passantino is hosting 20 people at a house party.

Her children are also partying, but out of state.

"It should be a good time," said Ms. Passantino, who's hosted friends for the last three decades.

Her wish for 2011? She's hoping the borough's roads are fixed next year.

Joe Goonan of Eltingville is going to be with his extended family over the next couple days.

"Just hanging out with family," he said, noting that relatives from California will be coming to New York for the holidays.

Annadale's Ron Saks is attending an annual party at a friend's home.

"It's basically the same people (each year). Good food, close to home," he said. When the party first began, most of the group gathered were just casual acquaintances; but over the last 10 years, they've gotten to be close friends.

"It's become a nice tradition," Saks said, adding that he'll attend with his wife and daughter, who attends college in Upstate New York.

In terms of self-improvement, Saks wants to get more organized, starting Saturday.

"I waste more time work-related and home-related looking for things. Instead of writing things on 17 pieces of paper, I'll write it once and put it in a smart phone," Saks said.

Tomorrow night, Todd Bivona will be celebrating with about 30 friends and his girl friend at a hotel in Woodbridge, N.J.

It's the first time he and his pals have planned something so elaborate.

"It's usually more low-key, not like this. This is a first with a lot of friends," Bivona explained. "It should be fun."

For the New Year, Bivona wants to better organize his finances and "plan things better."

Italo Bizzarro will be playing the role of disc jockey for an annual party that he'll be working for the third straight New Year's Eve.

"It's the same party I do every year," said the Pleasant Plains resident who not only plays music, but sings, for the attendees.

Alexis Carlo of Great Kills is resolving "to get into college in September 2011." He's aiming for the College of Staten Island (CSI) or Empire State College.

"I just want a good year," said Suliman Masoud of Arden Heights, an accounting major at CSI who hopes to graduate in 2011. "I just want health and stability – that's the most important."

Annadale resident Alexandra Valenti's resolution is to "be happy and less stressful."

Magda R., a Tottenville resident, is new to Staten Island, having moved here just a year ago.

She plans on dining with seven of her family members, which is a New Year's Eve given, the woman said. "We always stay together."

She's taken a new philosophy to heart, following the recent death of her 42-year-old cousin, and plans to use it well in 2011.

"You'd be surprised what a death does to you," said the Tottenville resident. "Make each day count."

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For East Shore residents, New Year's resolutions span the gamut

Published: Thursday, December 30, 2010, 9:59 AM



By **Virginia N. Sherry**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - EAST SHORE -

With the countdown to 2011 in full swing, it's time for the ritual of New Year's resolution-making. Some shun it; others jump on the annual bandwagon with self-improvement pledges, and a few think in terms of hopes, rather than tangible goals, for the coming year.

Maurice DiMaggio of Dongan Hills no longer makes resolutions because "I never follow them," he said. "Three years ago, I said that I was going to join a gym. I went for one or two months, and then quit."

"I made a New Year's resolution once, and kept it," said Grasmere resident Octavio

Fugetta. "That was 15 years ago, when my son was born and I decided to stop smoking." He has never made another resolution since.

"I don't have a resolution this year. I'm doing everything right," Dongan Hills resident Patricia Lambo said.

Expressing a similar viewpoint was Catherine Smith of New Dorp: "I don't make resolutions because I try to live the best I can, and live the Gospel every day."

Grasmere resident Richard Ryan does not have a personal resolution but a wish of "peace and tranquillity for everyone. I think that says it all," he said.

MIX BAG OF GOALS



Friends Morgan Kapassakis, left, and her friend, Jacklyn Procci have already made their New Year's resolutions. (Staten Island Advance/Virginia N. Sherry)

From students to seniors, resolutions varied widely.

"I'm not going to say or text 'Oh My God' – I use this expression hundreds of times, and I don't like it any more," said Morgan Kapassakis of New Dorp. Her friend, Jacklyn Procci of Fort Wadsworth, a sophomore at the College of Staten Island who hopes to major in forensic analysis, is determined "to do better in school."

"My resolutions are to go to the glove level of kick-boxing," and "prepare for my senior year at Staten Island Tech, and then college," said Daniella Mizhericher of Grasmere.

Joan Marquiz of South Beach said she is determined "to keep a very close eye on my so-called friends," in 2011, "and not just automatically trust them."

Joseph "Batman" Kubat of Grasmere said that he is resolving "to live on the Island forever," and continue his passion for fishing in Great Kills from April through November.

Arlene Bonamo has set a goal of "getting rid of the stress, now that my husband and I are retired." The Grasmere resident says that she wants them to "try to live a healthy and happy life."

DIET & WEIGHT

Irvin Duran, general manager of the Dunkin' Donuts that opened last week on Richmond Road in Dongan Hills, is resolving "to stop eating so many sweets, which is easy to do because of where I work."

Asked about New Year's resolutions, Hilda Bachmeier of New Dorp Beach erupted in a hearty laugh. "We try to make it, but we break it all the time!" she said.

"We say that we'll cut out the ice cream with Bailey's Irish Cream and cinnamon on top," added her boyfriend, Paul Moscoso.

"Right. We go strong for a week, but then fall right back into the same habits," Ms. Bachmeier said.

Dee Impeduglia of Dongan Hills says that she is committed to "starting a serious diet" and losing 15 pounds, while admitting that she has made similar resolutions "about 10 times" in past years, with uneven results.

She wasn't alone. South Beach resident Steven Budai's goal is to shed 25 pounds in the coming year.

"I actually am going to start going to the gym," Concord resident Kim Hite said with confidence. "I'm embracing that I might not go as much as possible, and I hope this makes my resolution more doable."

BIZ OWNERS

Evan Glickman, owner of John's Restaurant and Catering on Lincoln Avenue in Grant City, said that he has a wish "for the economy to improve so my business will get better," explaining that the last two years "were the worst we've had" in the 22 years that he has been in business. On a personal note, he hopes for health and happiness in 2011 for his family, and members of "The Wrinkle Club," a group of seniors, ages 70 to 96, who have gathered every Tuesday night at his restaurant for the past four years.

"I always have a New Year's resolution," said Olga Grappel, co-owner of European Wax Center, which opened on Hylan Boulevard in New Dorp last month. "My goal is to be healthier overall, and stop worrying about my weight. I want to work out more, but because I just started a business I need to make more time to do that."

Peter Ingravallo, owner of Bari Pork Store on Richmond Road in Dongan Hills, used only a few words: "My resolution is to work less and make more money."

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