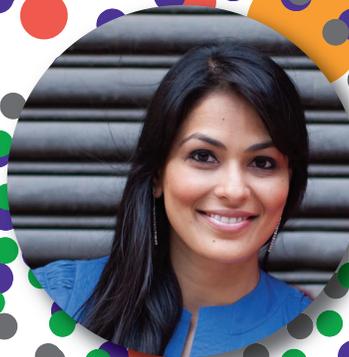
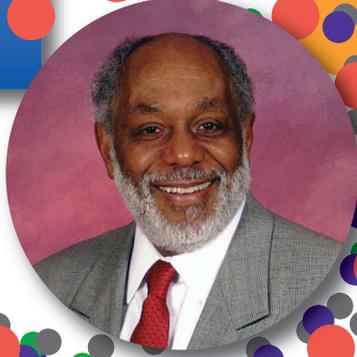


EYE ON

CSI



PAY IT FORWARD

CSI ALUMNI MAKING A DIFFERENCE



alumni **EVENTS**

The Art of the Business Meal

Sponsored by the Career and Scholarship Center & the Alumni Relations Office

Park Café

Noon

April 29, 2011

Education Alumni Networking Event

President's Residence
6:00pm-8:00pm
May 10, 2011

4th Annual Alumni Board Faculty and Alumni Staff Reception

Park Café

5:00pm-7:00pm

May 11, 2011

Commencement

Great Lawn

10:00am

June 2, 2011

Alumni Breakfast and Robing
Center for the Arts West Lounge
9:00am

Alumni, Faculty, and Staff
Luncheon

Sports and Recreation Center
1:00pm

CSI Alumni Association Annual Meeting

President's Conference Room

7:00pm

June 20, 2011

Atlanta Regional Dinner

Antica Posta Restaurant

Atlanta, GA

5:30pm - 7:30pm

June 22, 2011

Reception for Class Years 1958-1976

Honoring Retired Professor and Dean Emeriti Stamos Zades

Sponsored by the CSIAA

Park Café

June 23, 2011

For more information contact the Alumni Relations Office at 718.982.2290.

www.csi.cuny.edu/alumni

Volume 2, Number 3
Winter/Spring 2011

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

It is the policy of The City University of New York and the constituent colleges and units of The University to recruit, employ, retain, promote, and provide benefits to employees and to admit and provide services for students without regard to race, color, creed, national origin, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, legally registered domestic partnership status, disability, predisposing genetic characteristics, alienage, citizenship, military or veteran status, or status as a victim of domestic violence. Sexual harassment, a form of sex discrimination, is prohibited under the University's Policy Against Sexual Harassment.

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



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ON THE COVER:

Pay It Forward: Stories about CSI alumni who give back to their communities.

From the **PRESIDENT**

Dear Friends,

Spring has always been a time for renewal and increased activity as winter wanes and days become longer and warmer. Here at the College of Staten Island, we, too, are involved in a dynamic and determined process to assess our effectiveness, achieve reaccreditation through Middle States, and create a roadmap for where our institution will go in the future. In this issue, we will discuss all of these processes with Susan Holak, the Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness, in an effort to inform our alumni and friends of the significant work that is currently underway to move our College into the 21st Century.

One crucial aspect of the abovementioned activity is the Strategic Planning process, which has already resulted in new Mission, Visions, and Values statements, as CSI moves forward. Our Mission statement underscores our commitment “to the highest standards in teaching, research, and scholarship,” but also stresses that “We embrace the strength of our diversity, foster civic-mindedness, and nurture responsible citizens for our city, country, and the world.”

With this idea in mind, this issue of *Eye on CSI* will feature our distinguished alumni who exemplify the social phenomenon that began in 2000, by Catherine Ryan Hyde’s novel—*Pay It Forward*. Most of us recognize the phrase. Some of us have seen the movie that has inspired so many to unselfishly take actions that have reaffirmed our faith in human nature. This issue will offer profiles of many of our alumni who give back.

As civic-mindedness is firmly rooted in our alumni, our students, faculty, and staff are also committed to a better world. Since achieving New York City’s “Distinguished Award in Service” last year, contributing more than 11,000 hours of volunteer service, our College community has been building on the tradition of service to our communities.

In these challenging fiscal times, I strongly urge you to continue your good deeds. We are 55,000 strong. Imagine the possibilities. Imagine the transformative effect that we can collectively achieve if we all Pay It Forward.



Together, let us celebrate the contributions that have been made and envision the good yet to be achieved. I invite you to stay connected with your fellow alumni, share your experiences, and share your good deed stories at alumni@csi.cuny.edu (please put “Good Deeds” in the subject line). In the words of Sophocles, “To be doing good deeds is man’s most glorious task.”

I look forward to hearing from you.

Let’s Pay It Forward,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TDM', written in a cursive style.

Tomás D. Morales, PhD
President

BERGER WINS FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP

to conduct child development research in Israel

CSI Associate Professor of Psychology Sarah Berger won a coveted Fulbright scholarship to work abroad examining how locomotor development in infancy affects other types of development taking place at the same time.

Professor Berger is working for ten months at Haifa University in Israel, in collaboration with Professor Anat Scher, chair of that university's Department of Counseling and Human Development. They meet at international conferences and share overlapping research interests, so it's a "natural fit," Professor Berger says.

Studying "typically developing" infants and toddlers, Dr. Berger will concentrate on projects to determine the effect of locomotor expertise on the ability of infants to carry out goal-directed plans, the effect of sleep on their motor learning, and the relationship between the onset of motor milestones and sleep quality.

She's interested, too, in the effect of older siblings on younger siblings' motor development, and the impact of the onset of motor milestones on the development of lateralization (footedness) in infancy.

Examining the interaction between different developmental domains, Dr. Berger feels, "will provide a more realistic depiction of how development occurs in infancy than what is usually portrayed in the literature.

"Most research tends to isolate psychological domains for study for the sake of convenience, but in reality infants are experiencing change in many ways (cognitive, motor, language, emotion, etc.) all at once. I hope



Prof. Sarah Berger has won a Fulbright scholarship to conduct child development research in Israel.

to gain a better understanding of the nature and trajectory of typical development."

At CSI since the fall of 2004, Professor Berger teaches Developmental Psychology and other specialty child development courses such as Motor Development, Infancy, and a lab course in experimental psychology that emphasizes developmental methodology.

Her primary research investigates typically developing infants' cognitive development in the context of locomotion. "Specifically, I look at the development of problem-solving skills in the context of infants figuring out how to reach a goal, particularly when there is an obstacle in their way."

She became interested in psychology when she worked in a psychology research lab as an undergraduate at the University of Texas-Austin (where she received BAs in Psychology and Spanish). "I loved the whole research enterprise, so I went to graduate school to continue my education. She earned MA and PhD degrees in Psychology, Cognition and Perception, with a Developmental concentration, at New York University.

She finds conducting research satisfying "because it requires so many different types of skills... the intellectual demands of collecting and analyzing data, figuring out the relationship between my own findings and the field in general, writing about my work for different audiences."

There are other aspects of research as well, she says, aspects with which people may be unfamiliar. "For example, it requires a lot of creativity, such as designing equipment, figuring out effective visual communication of information to tell the story of the data, and writing in a style that is clear and even entertaining."

Her research also requires technical skill: "Most of my data is coded from videotape, so my research assistants and I use a special video coding software that allows frame-by-frame analyses of movements. I also enjoy the collaborative nature of research. Most research cannot be done alone. It requires multiple people for data collection and analysis, brainstorming, and, for me, mentoring of students."

Professor Berger says that she was "thrilled" to win the Fulbright, "honored to receive recognition for my work and support so that I can carry it out and have a productive and exciting sabbatical year." Her students (undergraduate independent study students) were so proud of her, they nominated her for a Dolphin Award for Outstanding Scholarly Achievement.

She didn't win that honor, but last year she won the CSI Provost's Research Fellowship from the College. Previously, she has won an American Association for University Women fellowship to conduct postdoctoral research at New York University and, as a graduate student, won the Martin D. Braine Memorial Award for Excellence in Research from the NYU Psychology Department.

In addition to providing a monthly stipend to conduct research collaboratively in a foreign country, the Fulbright scholarship also facilitates travel by "Fulbrighters" during their fellowship. So, while based in Haifa, Professor Berger planned to present two or three talks about her research in Istanbul, Turkey, and will travel within Israel to other universities for collaboration and presentation of her research.

The mission of the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars (CIES), the program that oversees the Fulbright, is to "increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries." This program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

MARY F. REGAN

1932-2011

President Emeritus
of Alumni Association
and Friends of CSI



Mary F. Regan, President Emerita of the Alumni Board of Directors and a founding member of the Friends of CSI and its President for five years, passed away on January 3, 2011, at the age of 78.

"Mary's passion and commitment to the causes that touched her was evident by her thoughtful dedication, leadership, and commitment to Staten Island," commented Dr. Tomás D. Morales, President of the College of Staten Island, adding that "her great love of CSI was evident in her lifetime association with the College and the Friends of CSI. I extend my deepest condolences to her family."

"CSI and Staten Island both benefited from the civic leadership of Mary Regan" commented Barbara Eshoo, Vice President for Institutional Advancement at CSI. "Mary tirelessly engaged the community with the College, to the mutual benefit of us all, and her dedication helped raise much-needed support for scholarships and programs at CSI. Mary truly was a 'Friend of CSI.'"

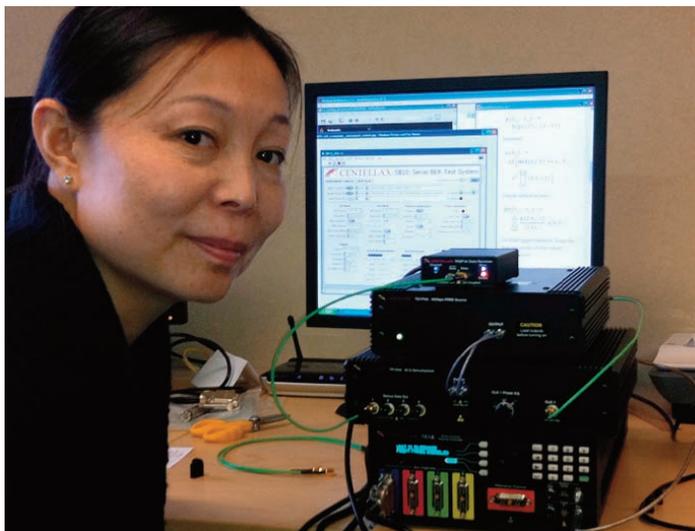
"Mary was passionate about education, culture, and the mission of CSI," commented Jennifer Lynch, Associate Director, Alumni Relations, who shared a suite with her on the College campus from 1998 to 2002, while Mary was the assistant to the Superintendent of Brooklyn and Staten Island High Schools.

CSI is proud to call Mary one of our own, leading by example, she demonstrated a loyal relationship to her alma mater from the early days at the St. George and Sunnyside campuses to present-day CSI - she was present every step of the way, ushering in each new era with vision, style and grace.

Mary's husband James recently passed away, as well. He was a former President of the New York City Board of Education and was also a teacher.

NSF AWARDS FACULTY MEMBER

for Moving at the Speed of
40 Gigabits per Second



The College's Dr. Xin Jiang recently received a \$210K grant from the National Science Foundation.

CSI was awarded a \$210,000 grant from the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Research Instrumentation (MRI) program in order to acquire state-of-the-art signal generation and detection instruments for an automated, versatile, programmable, experimental platform that will enable cutting-edge research and multidisciplinary engineering training on advanced communication technologies. These signal generators and detectors are instruments that generate and test arbitrary wide-band electronic signals. The experimental platform will transfer electronic signals into optical signals for research in optical communication systems and networking.

The principal investigator of the grant was Dr. Xin Jiang, Associate Professor of Engineering Science and Physics at CSI. Dr. Jiang received her PhD in Electronics, Physics, and Opto-Electronics in 1995 from Tsinghua University, Beijing, China where she received two national awards for excellent research on optical amplifiers and multiple-wavelength optical communications. Prior to joining CSI, Dr. Jiang has worked in R & D and engineering organizations of several high-tech companies. Since coming to CSI she has been working on building a first-class modern experimental laboratory for optical communication. "Advanced experimental equipment is the foundation of high-quality experimental research in (the) science and engineering field," she said. The proposal, which was initially rejected (but with good reviews) in the summer of 2009, is Dr. Jiang's first NSF grant. She calls the grant a "boost to my research" and believes that it will "lay the foundation of our first-class optical communication experimental laboratory."

Dr. Jiang hopes that the experimental platform will take advantage of the High-Performance Computing Center (HPCC) to enable research on high-speed communications with improved performance on many applications. One such application that Dr. Jiang is envisioning is to provide experimental, state-of-the-art testing equipment for researchers and engineers in the optical communications field "to meet the insatiable demand for data communication at a faster speed and higher quality," according to Dr. Jiang. The grant will provide funding for major research instruments to build a state-of-the-art experimental test bed that will enable a broad variety of research activities.

A broader impact of the acquisition of the equipment is that it will greatly enhance the current experimental facilities in telecommunications at CSI/CUNY. Seminars, workshops, and graduate and undergraduate classes will be developed to produce young engineers with a wide skill-set, able to do innovative work in all broadband communication fields. Dr. Jiang and her colleagues plan on recruiting "underrepresented minorities or (female) students for lab management, equipment operation, development, and research using the experimental platform, continuing CSI's tradition of being a leader in on- and off-campus research in CUNY and all of New York City.

The National Science Foundation is a Congressional agency created in 1950 "to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare..." With an annual budget of about \$6.9 billion, the NSF is the funding source for approximately 20 percent of all federally supported research conducted by this country's colleges and universities.

SCHULMAN NAMED DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR



The Board of Trustees of The City University of New York has appointed CSI English Professor Sarah Schulman as Distinguished Professor.

The Board of Trustees of The City University of New York has approved the appointment of Professor Sarah Schulman as Distinguished Professor.

Professor Schulman is a tenured Full Professor in the Department of English and has been at CSI and CUNY since 1999. She made significant contributions across disciplines at national and international levels. Her work has made an invaluable impact in creative writing, theater, film, and, not least of all, gay and lesbian culture. Her art and political practices are known for their integrated multi-mediated approaches.

Commenting on her appointment, Schulman said, "This is, of course, a life-changing moment of recognition for me, and I am especially proud as a second-generation product of New York City public schools. My mother grew up in Brownsville/East New York, attended Thomas Jefferson High School, and was in the first class of women at City College in 1949, when women had to have higher GPAs than men to be admitted. I went to Hunter High School and to Hunter College, where I studied with Audre Lorde, an experience that has enriched me all my life. But really what is most meaningful for me about this

promotion is that writing about Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered people and people with AIDS, is finally being recognized as an organic and fundamental part of American Arts and Letters."

Professor Schulman has published prolifically during her career: nine novels, four works of non-fiction, and one play. Her work has been translated into nine languages and has been included in scores of anthologies. She has produced more than a dozen plays in theaters and other performance venues. Her work in the arts has gained her Fulbright and Guggenheim Fellowships. This past year, her co-authored screenplay, *The Owls*, premiered at the prestigious Berlin Film Festival. As a journalist, her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian* (of London), *The Nation*, *The Village Voice*, *Mother Jones*, *Interview*, *The Progressive*, *American Theater*, *Millennium Film Journal*, and others.

Professor Schulman's many contributions dedicated to the cultural and political spheres of LGBTQ arts and ideas were honored with the David R. Kessler Lecture and Award in LGBTQ Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center. This past year Professor Schulman was also appointed to the Advisory Council of the Harvard Kennedy School, Carr Center for Human Rights and Social Movements.

"I have had some extraordinary students here at CSI," Schulman added, "who I believe in and who deserve to advance and become leaders of our community and country. I worry that our most gifted students are not always getting the opportunities that they deserve and I hope that, as a teacher, I can relate to each of my students as an individual, both of us working to form a distinct partnership in learning, so that whatever they bring to the table can be recognized and enhanced by our collaboration."



Funds Available to Help with STUDENT EMERGENCIES

The College of Staten Island Foundation has received a grant of up to \$300,000 from The Carroll and Milton Petrie Foundation in support of the Petrie Student Emergency Fund.

According to Dr. A. Ramona Brown, CSI Vice President for Student Affairs and Chair of the College's Petrie Student Emergency Response Committee (PSERC), "This fund was created for the purpose of providing quick response grants to matriculated CSI students with short-term financial emergencies to enable them to remain in school, rather than being forced to take a leave of absence or drop out."

The maximum student award is \$1,500, but in rare circumstances that are appropriately documented, the amount could be higher.

Fred Kogut, Interim Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice Chair of the Committee, said that examples of emergencies covered under the grant "could be an uninsured dental or medical problem, a sudden loss of childcare, loss of essential academic belongings, or perhaps being homeless due to a fire. It's an emergency situation that, but for the grant, could cause the student to drop out of school."

Dr. Brown noted that all student grant requests are subject to review by the Petrie Student Emergency Response Committee, a body comprised of representatives of a number of student support services offices and programs on campus. Mr. Kogut explained that "the Committee was organized to help formulate policies and procedures, based on the guidelines of the Petrie Foundation, as well as to make recommendations to the Vice President as to the disposition of each application. To advertise this opportunity, an application form, information brochure for students, poster promoting the [Petrie grant], and a Website from which an application can be downloaded have been developed.

Established in 1994 after the death of Milton Petrie, who was known for providing assistance to people in need after reading of their situations in the newspaper, the Petrie Foundation provides support for education programs in the City of New York.

For more information on the program, contact the Office of Student Affairs in Building 1A, Room 301, or call them at 718.982.2335. Specific information on policies and procedures can also be found on the Petrie Student Emergency Fund Website (www.csi.cuny.edu/petriegrant). An application can be downloaded from the site as well.

Applications can also be obtained through the offices of the members of the Petrie Student Emergency Response Committee:

Dr. A. Ramona Brown, Chairperson; Dean Frederick J. Kogut, Vice Chair; Ms. Donna Brogna, Financial Aid, 2A-401C; Ms. Carol Brower, Student Life, 1C-201; Ms. Linda Conte, Health and Wellness Services, 1C-112; Ms. Debra Evans-Green, Access and Success Program, 1A-310; Ms. Stefanie Gardiner, Financial Aid, 2A-401C; Ms. Harriet Giapoutzis, COPE, 1A-109A; Mr. Philippe Marius, Financial Aid, 2A-401C; Ms. Miriam Perez-Lai, SEEK Program, 1A-112G.

CSI BRINGS PROVEN LEARNING STRATEGIES TO MANHATTAN HIGH SCHOOLS with \$531K DOE Grant

The Discovery Institute at the College of Staten Island (CSI) has been awarded a three-year, \$531,000 New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) grant entitled “Medical Laboratory and Assisting Program in Biotechnology for Manhattan Schools.”

This grant is the culmination of a highly successful collaborative educational initiative that began in 1991, as a consortium between the City’s Department of Education and CSI’s Discovery Institute. It brings the skills, information, and proven teaching/learning strategies of the interdisciplinary Discovery Institute to Manhattan high schools that enter into the consortium.

Dr. Michael Pappas, Acting Director of the Discovery Institute said, “The grant has three major goals: (1) to plan a small learning community in Manhattan high schools that focuses on student career pathways related to the medical and allied health professions, and biotechnology, (2) to develop and implement a Medical Laboratory and Assisting Program in Biotechnology, and (3) to establish a Professional Development Center for medical laboratory and biotechnology skills. Through this grant, the Discovery Institute and the College of Staten Island are expanding our highly successful, discovery-based educational formula to other boroughs in New York City.”

“The program offers students entry into multiple health career and related pathways, including biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and related careers, all of

which are high-demand, high-paying, high-skills careers,” said Dr. Peter Takvorian, Project Director at the Discovery Institute. “These careers require education and training in both traditional and emerging technologies that benefit from “hands-on” activities and internships, embedded in our Career and Technology Educational initiatives.”

CSI’s Discovery Institute provides the necessary post-secondary expertise, teacher professional development, and other components to ensure that students are prepared for a seamless entry into health careers and clinical laboratory science degree programs without the need for remediation. High-technology health and science careers have rapidly changing skill sets and educational requirements. The Institute’s Medical Laboratory and Assisting Program (in Biotechnology) Career Pathways Program is now a NYS/NYC CTE-approved program that helps students meet high academic and employability competencies and Dr. Pappas believes that many schools will adapt it to their curriculum offerings.

This grant covers a period beginning July 1, 2010 and ending June 30, 2013 and is based on the Title II–Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006.



**Department of
Education**

PROFESSOR STEPHEN J. STEARNS

1935-2011



Professor Stephen J. Stearns (1935-2011) died last January at the age of 75.

Professor Stearns earned a PhD in History from the University of California, Berkeley. He also held a Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard College and a Master’s Degree from Columbia University. Professor Stearns began his distinguished career at Richmond College in 1967, was tenured in 1970, and was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in 1980.

Professor Stearns was a historian of early modern England, and his teaching included modern European and United States history. He was particularly interested in foreign policy because of its vital importance and relevance in today’s world.

During his time at CSI, Professor Stearns was a member of the PSC Campus Chapter Executive Committee, a delegate of the University Faculty Senate, and Deputy Chair of the History Department. He also served on the Teacher Education Advisory Committee (TEAC), The Verrazano School Advisory Committee, and the Science, Letters, and Society (SLS) Committee.

In 2010, Professor Stearns was awarded the Dolphin Award for Outstanding Service and Contribution by a Member of the Full-time Faculty. He was deeply committed to the College of Staten Island in a profound way and worked long and hard toward its success.

Fill us in on what you’ve been doing lately and we’ll share the news with your fellow alumni in our “Keeping Tabs” section. Send us the details at

www.csi.cuny.edu/alumni

JUNE COMO '76 NAMED CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR by the NACNS

June M. Como '76, Lecturer of Nursing at the College of Staten Island, has received the Clinical Nurse Specialist of the Year award from the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists (NACNS).

The award recognizes NACNS members for their outstanding professional achievements as Clinical Nurse Specialist Educators. Professor Como was officially recognized at the NACNS annual awards luncheon last March in Baltimore.

Professor Como, who began her nursing career at CSI (she was a member of the final class of Staten Island Community College) said that she was “extremely excited and very humbled,” when she was nominated by Dr. Margaret Lunney of CSI’s Nursing Department.

“Teaching is an important component of my life,” commented Como. “Being able to guide my graduate students toward their practice as CNSs in Advanced-Practice Nursing, assisting them in providing the highest level of evidenced-based patient-focused care, and implementing system-level changes in their respective health care settings is wonderfully fulfilling.”

Professor Como’s list of accomplishments is long and impressive, but perhaps none is more impressive than her work during 9/11 setting up a nurses’ health care and first aid center at the Staten Island Homeport. She spent nearly three months organizing health care coverage for personnel at Ground Zero.

Professor Como is also the co-director of the CSI High-Fidelity Simulation Center where her students use mannequins to

simulate real clinical circumstances. The mannequins have heart rates, blood pressure, and working lungs. “It is important that students experience a level of patient care in a safe environment where mistakes are not as costly,” she said.

“Como’s dedication to the Staten Island community and to the development of CNS students through technology and leadership training is what helps set her apart from other members of her field. Como is a true leader in her field and the members of the CSI community are proud to call her their own,” CSI Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. William Fritz commented.

Como began her teaching career as a Critical Care Instructor at Methodist Hospital and has been teaching at CSI since 1992. She is the recipient of a number of awards and grants, earning tens of thousands of dollars as the Principal Investigator (PI) for several projects that use different aspects of technology to assist students in acquiring the critical thinking traits and skills in the nursing diagnosis, care, and evaluation of patients, families, and communities. She has published several articles in health care journals such as the *International Journal of Human Caring* and *Holistic Nursing Practice*. Her doctoral focus is on health literacy, medication adherence, and health outcomes in patients with heart failure.

The NACNS was founded in 1995 to enhance and promote the valuable contributions of clinical nurse specialists to the health care industry. Members are highly influential in the nursing industry. They aid in the development of CNS education standards and support state-specific legislative initiatives.

The Nursing program at CSI is one of the College’s longest-running programs, dating back to the 1960s when CSI was known as Staten Island Community College. Today, the Department has grown into one of CSI’s flagship programs, offering Master’s and Nurse Specialist degrees. CSI nursing graduates are employed in a variety of institutions throughout the city.



CSI’s June M. Como '76 has received the Clinical Nurse Specialist of the Year award from the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists.

GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED TO CSI UNDERGRAD

Mark Barahman, a junior with the Macaulay Honors College at the College of Staten Island (CSI) and a Goldsmith Scholar, was named a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship winner, a first in the history of CSI.

The Goldwater Scholarship was established by the United States Congress in 1986 and is the premiere federally funded undergraduate award of its type. It is designed to foster and encourage outstanding students to pursue careers and PhDs in the sciences, engineering, mathematics, computer science, and related fields. Only 300 students nationwide earn this prestigious distinction.

Dan Feldman, also a junior in the Macaulay Honors College at CSI, is majoring in Physics with a concentration in Astronomy. He has received an Honorable Mention for the Goldwater Scholarship. Only 150 students receive an honorable mention award.

A Biochemistry major at CSI, Mark has worked in two prestigious laboratories—the neuroscience lab of Professor Abdeslem El Idrissi and the chemistry lab of Professor Alan Lyons. He currently works with Dr. Lyons on research related to super-hydrophobic surfaces.

Mark's most notable accomplishment during the summer of 2009 was the construction and programming of a robotic printer that prints in three dimensions (3D) on a microscopic scale.

"Commercial 3D printers are available, but they are often extremely expensive, fragile, and very limited with respect to the building material," notes Barahman. "We needed to build something that would allow us broad applicability and flexibility, while also being inexpensive and scalable to industrial-size processes."



Mark Barahman is the College's first Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship winner.

"He programmed the robot early that summer and quickly developed two printing methods to produce 'super-hydrophobic surfaces,'" commented Dr. Lyons. "One method used highly viscous materials that deposited drops similar to a chocolate kiss, and the other method used a lower viscosity material that printed thinner, pancake-shaped layers."

Both of these methods created super-hydrophobic surfaces, three-dimensional surfaces that hold droplets of water on multiple microscopic "spikes." This surface prevents the water droplet from strongly adhering to the surface, allowing it to roll rather effortlessly, while maintaining the integrity of its spherical shape.

When these surfaces are used, the fluids are able to effortlessly move along the surface with minimal force. These surfaces can be applied to facilitate transportation of fluids in the medical profession.

The next challenge was controlling the direction of the water droplet flow on these super-hydrophobic surfaces.

Looking to nature, Mark became inspired by the water-shedding properties of the butterfly's wing. When a butterfly lowers

its wings, the water rolls off onto the ground. When the wing is raised, the water is pinned and does not roll down the wing onto the body of the butterfly. This adaptation keeps the butterfly's body dryer and lighter.

Mark experimented with multiple concepts, and learned that by programming the robotic printer to deposit the 3D "kisses" and "pancakes" at an angle, the water droplet would flow easily in one direction, and with great difficulty in the other direction.

On the microscale, Mark had developed a synthetic material that emulated the water shedding effects of the butterfly wing. This new biomimetic surface containing angled "spikes" acted as a "one-way" sign or "liquid ratchet" controlling the directional flow of water using only the interactive properties of the fluid with the solid.

Whereas super-hydrophobic devices allow for the easy transportation of fluids within many applications in the medical field, these new directional devices may transport cooling fluid in micro-electronic devices without back flow. This could minimize the size and heat-producing pressure

often needed for the transportation of fluid, and allow for a 360-degree application environment without the chance of backflow.

"I am exceedingly proud of Mark's important research at CSI," said Dr. Lyons. "He is a serious scientist who works very hard and thinks deeply about problems. I expect that when he enters graduate school he will rank amongst the top echelon of all graduate students."

"I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Mark Barahman for his well-deserved distinction," said CSI President Dr. Tomás D. Morales. "He has forged a place for himself in the history of the College by being the first Goldwater Scholar at CSI, and has earned himself great honor and national recognition. I offer my thanks to his faculty mentors for supporting Mr. Barahman's academic goals, and challenging him to succeed. Together we are bolstering CSI's national and world-class reputation."

"Winning the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship would not have been more than a dream without the guidance and teaching of my mentors and professors at CSI," Barahman states. "The scientific training and opportunities at CUNY are first class. I am truly grateful to have the opportunity to work with experienced and distinguished scientists like Dr. Alan Lyons, and to be taught and guided by Dr. Fred Naidar, Dr. Charles Kramer, and Dr. Abdeslem El Idrissi. I am excited about winning this award as it reveals the terrific opportunities CSI offers and the world-class science taking place at the labs."

Mark's professional aspirations include obtaining an MD/PhD in the field of Biomedical Engineering.



Students from the Shanghai area visited CSI as part of the Continuing Education Summer Camp.

SHANGHAI MEETS STATEN ISLAND as Chinese Students Visit the College

Last summer, the CSI campus was abuzz with students from prestigious elementary, middle, and high schools in and around Shanghai, China, who were here to learn English and art as part of the Continuing Education Summer Camp program. Seven groups of students, approximately 200 total, visited the campus for three to ten days, mostly learning English or improving skills that they already had, with some focusing on the study of art.

Commenting on her experience, Shanghai Chuansha High School student Chen Chen said, "I like America very much so this is a chance for me to know more about it. Also, I have learned that the school system here is very different from those in China. I am from a senior high school and I had a chance to see how this College operates."

This program, the first of its kind at CSI, was facilitated by College President Dr. Tomás D. Morales during his visit to China in January 2010. Dr. Morales met with various principals and school officials in the Shanghai area to arrange for the visits. "International educational opportunities are a transformational experience for students, and I am very pleased that our friends from China had a chance to experience the world-class opportunities available at CSI and NYC last summer," Morales commented.

According to Elaine Caputo-Ferrara, the program's manager, the students attended classes in the morning, with the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students receiving instruction from certified instructors, including Education Department adjunct lecturer Janet Grillo and Amber Scordato and Gail Hernandez, who are both ESOL Instructors for the Office of Continuing Education's Adult Learning Center.

Once the morning ended, however, every effort was made to give the students an opportunity to see Staten Island and New York City with shopping trips and visits to cultural landmarks and other points of interest, such as the CSI campus, Snug Harbor Cultural Center, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Central Park, and even a walking tour of southern Manhattan, including Wall Street.

Evenings were spent having dinner and enjoying activities at the Hilton Garden Inn. The students stayed in rooms at the nearby Hampton Inn Staten Island.

One evening activity involved the tying of friendship knots, as one of the art-oriented groups spent time teaching this Chinese craft to students from CSI and other Staten Island schools, as well as three visiting students from France.

Another high point of the program was when some of the members of the first groups to visit were taking the Staten Island Ferry to Manhattan and ran into a popular Hong Kong film star, providing lots of excitement for the students and proving that it is, indeed, a small world.

These events and many other once-in-a-lifetime experiences had a positive impact on the visiting students, as their exit evaluations sang the program's praises. Some of the visitors even blogged to friends and family back home about the wonderful time that they had here.

"I feel that America is very big and beautiful and New York is very international, beautiful, and clean," Qin Jihao, also from Shanghai Chuansha High School, noted. Ni Yingying, from the same school, added, "I think this is a chance to become familiar with New York. In the future if I want to go to America, I will live in New York. It's a very modern and big city."

This program would not have been possible without the help of students from CSI and other Staten Island schools, who served as camp counselors and guides on trips.

The three students who acted as counselors, accompanying the students on trips and assisting with evening activities, shared their thoughts on participating. Joanna Grillo, a Staten Islander who attends Rider University, said, "The kids are really great. [I enjoy] teaching them American games and learning how they put their twist on them, and working on vocabulary. It's really fun."

Ho Lee, a CSI High School for International Studies grad, who entered CSI last fall, added, "It's fun to meet new people and see people explore New York in a different way than we do because we're so used to living here."

Louis Ferrara, who also graduated from the CSI High School for International Studies and is now attending St. John's University, agreed that he also enjoyed seeing the students react to things in New York that he has already seen. In addition, he emphasized the cultural sharing aspect of the program, "It's nice to talk to them and learn about how life is there and I get to tell them about how life is here."

Dan Huang, a CSI Education major who is originally from China, served as translator during the program. She stated that "I think this program is wonderful. I learned a lot of things and I've made a lot of friends in this program." She also reported that this experience has enhanced her communication skills, as she was able to work with students first-hand.

Continuing Education Summer Camp has touched the lives of not only the visiting students, but students from CSI and beyond.



Pamela Columbia, President and owner of Statewide Fire Corporation, was one of 20 women leaders participating in the Working Women event.

WORKING WOMEN MENTOR CSI STUDENTS AT NETWORKING EVENT

In honor of Women's History Month, CSI's Career and Scholarship Center, in conjunction with the Women's Leadership Council and several independent professional women, recently held a networking event for CSI students at the Park Café. The event, entitled "Working Women," included over 20 female professionals living on Staten Island. In all, 48 students attended.

Many of the women were CSI alumnae who offered to mentor current CSI students in their chosen fields. Each professional was matched with one to three students who are hoping to pursue careers in fields such as banking, teaching, business, engineering, and medicine.

The event began with a "day in the life," as each woman explained what one day of working in her respective field would be like. This was then followed by a question-and-answer session.

"We received great insight at our table on how to prepare for an interview, what avenues we could take when choosing a master's degree, and this kept us hopeful about the future," said

Sara Lim, one of the students in attendance.

Some of the students involved were invited to interview for internships while many others received valuable guidance and career advice.

"It is a tough thing to do," said Joanne Hollan, Associate Director of the Career and Scholarship Center, who helped organize the event with the program's co-coordinator and moderator Nina Long. "It is a lot like matchmaking, but, with Nina's hard work and enthusiasm for hosting this kind of event, these women (the professionals) were so interested in helping."

Another student, Mary Ponte, added, "They gave me clarity on my direction and possible steps I could take. I hope one day I will be successful enough to be a mentor to someone else."

The Women's Leadership Council contributed 14 professionals of the 23 in attendance. Pamela Columbia, the Program's Director, was also in attendance. "I really believe that (the event) was a success. I look forward to continuing

our joint efforts to inspire and mentor the lives of these ambitious young ladies."

The proactive women students at the event earned valuable information that is not always learned in a classroom. The event, which will be just one of many networking events available to CSI students, was successful not only because many students were able to procure interviews but because it afforded them an opportunity to meet lifelong mentors in their chosen fields.

The Career and Scholarship Center was established to "support and empower students and alumni in their career decision making." For information about upcoming networking events visit the Career and Scholarship Center Website at www.csi.cuny.edu/career.

The Women's Leadership Council is a group of women who are recognized as leaders in their fields. Its mission is to provide a forum for its members to promote the exchange of ideas, provide networking opportunities, and support its members' professional and personal growth.

Remembering Dr. Michael Shugrue

Dr. Michael Shugrue, who died on December 1, 2010, was born in Chicago on July 28, 1934. He graduated from the University of Nebraska and received his PhD from Duke University with a specialty in British literature of the 18th Century.

When Dr. Edmond Volpe left The City College to become President of Richmond College in 1974 he brought Dr. Shugrue with him to serve as Dean of the Faculty. When Richmond College merged with Staten Island Community College in 1976 he continued as Dean of the College of Staten

Island. In 1978 Dr. Shugrue stepped down as Dean to join the Department of English. He served with distinction as the first director of the department's Master of Arts program in English, advising students, helping them prepare their master's papers, setting examinations, and, above all, mentoring them. Several generations of students benefited from his care and encouragement.

He has been a generous benefactor to the College of Staten Island, establishing the Robert E. Jackson Scholarship and the Shugrue Family Fund in memory of his

brother. He also established the Shugrue Cultural Development Fund, which has brought a series of concerts to CSI, to the delight of the College and the wider Staten Island communities.

Recognizing his vast contributions, the College of Staten Island awarded him an honorary degree, Doctor of Letters, in 2008.

Celestial Ball

Raises over \$600K for Scholarships

The Second Annual CSI Celestial Ball, held at the Richmond County Country Club on December 4, was another huge success, raising over \$600,000 for student scholarships and support.

The event was attended by an enthusiastic group of over 220 people, including community leaders and business people, honorees and their family members and friends, and members of the CSI community, including CSI students. All attendees had the opportunity to celebrate and support the impact that a CSI education can make in the lives of our students, preparing them for success in an increasingly competitive job

market, but also giving them the tools that they need to make the world a better place.

CSI President Dr. Tomás D. Morales presented the President's Medal, with the assistance of Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. William Fritz, to the Ball honorees who included Salvatore Cassano, Fire Commissioner of the City of New York; Dolores N. Morris, former Vice President of HBO Family; and Dr. Fred Naider, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the College of Staten Island and a member of the Doctoral Faculty at The City University of New York.

During the program Joe Ricciutti '94, Celestial Ball co-chair and President of the Staten Island

Yankees, recognized the generosity of some of the major contributors to the College, including The Brooklyn Home For Aged Men, Con Edison, Northfield Bank Foundation, the Staten Island Foundation, National Grid, the Verizon Foundation, JPMorgan Chase, the Institute for Mexicans Abroad Scholarship, the Switzer Foundation, the Petrie Foundation, and Edgar and Lillian Rios.

Ten CSI students who have benefited from CSI scholarships were also in attendance to underscore the importance of these funds for so many who would not be able to get their educations without this crucial assistance.





CSI Alumni Pay It Forward

CSI Alumni Making a Difference

The College of Staten Island touches the lives of its students as they pursue their degrees and, eventually, careers that will make their lives richer and more fulfilling. Beyond that, students at the College are imbued with a sense of giving back to the community, or paying it forward. Although there are countless stories of CSI alumni who have gone out into the world with the knowledge and expertise that they acquired here with the determination to make the world a better place, we offer just a few examples of CSI alumni who are making a difference. If you have a similar story about your own good deeds, please let us know at alumni@csi.cuny.edu (be sure to put “Good Deeds” in the subject line). We hope to share these stories with our readers in future issues.

I decided to become a teacher so that I can be a positive, male role model for children of low-income backgrounds. I will dedicate my life to this cause, as I feel that it is one of the greatest ways in which I could better society.

Besim Mehmedovic '09

After Besim spent four years in the U.S. Air Force, which included a brief tour in Iraq, he came to CSI in 2007 with the intention of earning a degree in Elementary Education. By August 2009, he graduated with certification to teach Grades 1 through 6 in the New York City public schools. Besim made such an impact at the College that he served as the student Commencement speaker at that year's ceremony.

Putting his degree to work, he has spent most of his post-graduate time as a substitute teacher at PS 16. "The good people at PS 16 have been gracious enough to afford me opportunities," Besim explains, "despite the lack of job availability, due to our city's struggling economy." He is also currently halfway through CSI's Special Education Program.

Besim notes that his urge to help others was what took him down his chosen career path. "I decided to become a teacher so that I can be a positive, male role model for children of low-income backgrounds. I will dedicate my life to this cause, as I feel that it is one of the greatest ways in which I could better society. Whether or not it leads to children becoming productive citizens remains to be seen. I'm optimistic, and I pray that it works."

Regarding the impact that his CSI education had on him, Besim says, "As a college, CSI has provided me with a quality education at reasonable cost. That, in itself, is wonderful. More importantly, I've been able to meet many incredible professors and students. It brings me great honor to speak about the former, each of whom has left an indelible mark on myself as a teacher and as a person."

Among the professors who inspired him, Besim lists Robert Fried, Jennifer Durando, Gail Wangel, Edward Hack, and Sandrul Kahn, who he opines, served as positive role models and provided him with the support, challenges, and skills that he needed to succeed.

On a more personal note, Besim also mentions that he and his fiancée Miriam have recently welcomed a baby boy into their lives; Ryan Mehmedovic was born on February 10, 2011, weighing a healthy six pounds and 14 ounces.



Serena Brothers-Mohammed '95

Serena transferred to the College of Staten Island in September 1993 from University of Buffalo/SUNY and received a BS degree in Sociology/Anthropology with a Social Work concentration in June 1995. She currently teaches Wellness, a class that develops the students' emotional, mental, spiritual, and physical health while preparing them for college, at the John W. Lavelle Preparatory Charter School.

After she graduated from CSI, Serena began to serve the community as a Case Manager for a tier II women's homeless shelter and also for the Seaman's Society. Then, in 1999 she became an American Sign Language Teacher at the Edwin Markham Intermediate School on Staten Island.

Serena became more involved in

working with the Island's young people in 2001 when she founded a youth group called Young Talented & Gifted (YTG), which, by 2003, had evolved into a full-service youth organization with a mission of encouraging, educating, empowering, and building self-esteem through the arts. Serena notes that "YTG offers talent mentoring, education support, college planning, scholarship [search]ing and writing, college tour trips, film projects, community service projects, talent showcases, and a parent forum."

In 2007, Serena further expanded YTG and her engagement of Staten Island youth and their parents by launching "The MLK Step Up Speak Out Family Summit," an all-day event that, according to Serena "is a day for people who want to be a part of the situation of making our community better by donating their time by doing free workshops on topics that address the needs of our youth."

The summit has been held on the CSI campus for the last four years. "I chose CSI," she says, "because I wanted to introduce the College to students and parents

who never had an opportunity to visit a college before and for them to learn about the wonderful and affordable education that can get right in their community."

YTG also hosts annual events and partners with other groups during the year to help support various events and projects.

Discussing her CSI days, Serena recalls that "The College of Staten Island has been a wonderful part of my life, with their supportive staff that encouraged and inspired me while providing me with a great education and lasting friendships. It's often hard for me to believe that I didn't start my college education there because I had such a fulfilling experience.

She also lists, among the many inspirational factors at CSI, Mary Mosleh, her ASL professor; Thomas Miller, her creative writing professor; the SEEK program staff, especially Dr. Roberta Vogel and Dr. Allyson Straker-Banks; the Career and Scholarship Center; and CSI President Dr. Tomás Morales "for opening the College doors to the community and for hosting the MLK Step Up Speak Out Family Summit."

Dmitry Volfson '02

Dmitry pursued a career in medicine after he graduated from the Honors College at CSI with a BS in Biochemistry in 2002. After CSI, he graduated from the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2006.

It was during his clinical training that Dmitry decided to specialize in emergency medicine, and he eventually completed his emergency medicine residency at Long Island Jewish Medical Center in 2010. "Currently," Dmitry reports, "I am an attending physician, working in the ER at St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport, CT."

Commenting on his career choice, Dmitry says that "It is an amazing feeling to be able to help someone or to change someone's life for the better. Being an ER physician I am privileged to touch people's lives every time I work and help them through a difficult time."

Reflecting on his time at CSI he comments that his "education at CSI had built my foundation of knowledge, which I used throughout my medical training and continue to use today to care for my patients.

"I was fortunate to have excellent professors during my four years at CSI," Dmitry adds. "However there were three that helped me most in my career path and my life. Dr. Alfred Levine helped me recognize my own abilities during my freshman year and set me on the right track toward a strong science education. Dr. Fred Naider's biochemistry class pushed us all to study and prepare like never before. His preparation for my medical school interviews also proved to be priceless. Dr. Ruth Stark was my chemistry professor. I also worked under her guidance in her research lab studying Nuclear Magnetic Resonance. Besides being a brilliant professor, she is a wonderful person who helped guide my education during my years in CSI and after my graduation. She is the true definition of a mentor."





The Reverend Monsignor Peter Finn '70

Msgr. Peter Finn, the Pastor at Staten Island's Blessed Sacrament Parish, received his Master of Education in Social Science degree from Richmond College in 1970. He also earned a BA in English/Social Studies from Manhattan College in 1960, a Master of Divinity degree in 1965 from St. Joseph's Seminary, and a Master of Education in Supervision and Administration from Columbia University in 1972.

"Vocation to Priesthood is a call to service by God and for His people," Msgr. Finn explains. "Pretty much all of the opportunities and experiences of my life and especially 46 years of Priesthood have enabled me to attempt to meet the calling and those responsibilities to the best of my ability. However inadequately that goal has been met, it has certainly been a life very much centered on service to God's people in a variety of wonderful experiences."

A deep commitment to education is a part of Msgr. Finn's contributions to the people of Staten Island, as he has served as District Superintendent of Catholic Schools on the Island. He also recalls being an integral part of the Staten Island Continuum of Education, which he describes as "a model for unity, creativity, collaboration, purposeful concern, and implementation for cooperative educational efforts on behalf of all the people of Staten Island from 'cradle to grave,'" which was comprised of a variety of people and organizations, including the presidents of Wagner College and St. John's University, Staten Island public and parochial elementary and high schools, the United Federation of Teachers, the Federation of Public and Parochial Parents Associations, elected Staten Island officials, community leaders, and the *Staten Island Advance*.

Msgr. Finn recalls his days at Richmond College as stimulating and enlightening. "Having been born and raised in a parochial environment, the years spent at then Richmond College (CSI) in the late 1960s (1968-1970), turbulent and challenging times in society, were an eye-opener to a larger world even on often-maligned Staten Island. Students from wonderfully diverse backgrounds, racially, ethnically, religiously, intellectually, socially, et al., provided a new impetus and challenge to mind and spirit. It was truly a fascinating and stimulating metamorphosis with lifelong benefits."

Msgr. Finn says, "Among the fascinating professors of that era was Sandi Cooper, a brilliant woman...."

Frances Melendez '80, '94

Fran began her academic pursuits at Staten Island Community College in 1972 as a College Discovery student. "College Discovery was established at the two-year CUNY colleges to provide comprehensive academic support to assist capable students who otherwise might not be able to attend college."

However, as life intervened through marriage and children, in 1980 she eventually received her AA in Liberal Arts. Next, she earned a BA in Psychology in 1994 and went on to receive a PhD in Clinical Psychology from The CUNY Graduate Center in 2004. She now serves as the Deputy Director of CSI's Master's in Mental Health Counseling Program, working alongside its Director, Dr. Judith Kuppersmith and with Dr. Rima Blair; "whose long-term experience as Internship Coordinator for Psychology has been invaluable," Fran says.

"Throughout my experiences I have felt supported by so many at CSI," Fran recalls. "The SEEK program counselors were always available to answer my questions even when I was no longer eligible. Gloria Garcia, Roberta Vogel, and Eugene Dudley (retired) were there to advise. I can honestly say that I owe my career choice to Dr. Judith Kuppersmith."

Looking back on her CSI experience and how she was inspired to help others, Fran explains, "When I returned to CSI in 1992 with the thought of just completing my BA in Psychology, I became involved in a pilot/mentoring collaboration project with the Division for Youth and CSI. At the helm were Drs. Kuppersmith and Blair; introducing

a new course in the Psychology Department, 'Mentoring and Psychological Development'. It was at this time that I realized my passion for wanting to work with adolescent girls. It was clear that a BA would not be enough, thus deciding to aim for a Master's in Clinical Social Work. I recall Dr. Kuppersmith saying 'No, you need to go for your PhD.' As I sat there stunned it was with her support that I got the courage to apply and get accepted to the Clinical Doctoral Program at The Graduate Center/CUNY."

Fran notes that her "journey has been an extraordinary one. I went on to complete my internship at the Bellevue Hospital Center; as well as a two-year neuropsych fellowship in the Traumatic Brain Injury Unit. Upon completion of my fellowship, I was hired as Assistant Director and then the Associate Director of the Rehabilitative Medicine/TBI Unit. After leaving Bellevue I went on to become the Director of Behavioral Health at Iris House, a community-based organization for people living with HIV/AIDS.

Now that she is in her current position, Fran stresses that "pay it forward" is something I strongly believe in, as I have reached out to Gloria Garcia, SEEK, and the CSI community to make myself available to mentor students, as well as through my continued commitment to those living with HIV/AIDS and the mental health issues of those who are also underserved. I am the product and an advocate of the CUNY system."





Alan Benimoff '67

It has literally been a rocky road for Alan, who is one of the College's veteran geologists, a Lecturer in CSI's Department of Engineering Science and Physics, and a member of the CSI Alumni Hall of Fame.

"I was attending CSI, known then as Staten Island Community College," he recalls, "as an Engineering Science major (for the AS degree) during the spring term of 1967 when my Physics 19 professor, Dr. Rueben Benumof (no relation to me), said there was an opening for a physics technical assistant. I applied and was appointed on June 15, 1967. During that Summer Session, I was the technical assistant for a geology course. (I never had taken a geology course.) After an upstate geology field trip I was so excited about geology that I changed my major to Geology and attended Brooklyn College at night to pursue a BS in Geology, then an MA in Geology, and eventually a PhD in Geology, earned at Lehigh University.

Throughout his career, Alan has made two outstanding contributions to the geology field while he pursued his PhD: he discovered a new mineral called parvo-mangano-edenite and he found a very rare sequence of rocks in Staten Island's Graniteville Quarry.

Alan isn't only busy in the field or the classroom, where he teaches a variety of classes, he continues to work tirelessly to promote public knowledge and understanding of

geology through a number of platforms. He serves as a geologist volunteer for the Philmont (Boy) Scout Ranch during the summers, gives talks and leads field trips around Staten Island for local school groups and civic organizations, holds high-ranking positions in the New York State Geological Association and Geological Association of New Jersey, and he even holds an annual open house in his lab for children visiting the CSI campus on Take Your Daughters and Sons to Work Day.

He is also a local celebrity, of sorts, as he serves as Public Access producer and host of *Geology Forum* on Staten Island Community Television. Alan has also made an impact on television on a much larger level, appearing on National Geographic TV in an episode of *Known Universe*, where he discussed the significance of the rocks on Staten Island.

Alan says that his CSI education had a positive impact on him in two ways: "First, it taught me the needed skills for going on in higher education. Second it launched me into the field of geology. If I [hadn't] attended CSI I never would have become a geologist and I never would have been able to contribute to the geologic community."

Rachna Sondhi '03

Rachna's association with CSI began when she was still attending Port Richmond High School when she worked on a project with Professor of Chemistry Probal Banerjee through the Discovery Institute. That project eventually lead her to where she is today, finishing her last year of the combined MD/PhD program at SUNY Downstate Medical Center. Rachna has a PhD in Neuroscience and "ironically," she says, "my thesis was on a similar topic I studied during high school when I worked at CSI. I am waiting to graduate with my MD this May and am an aspiring dermatologist."

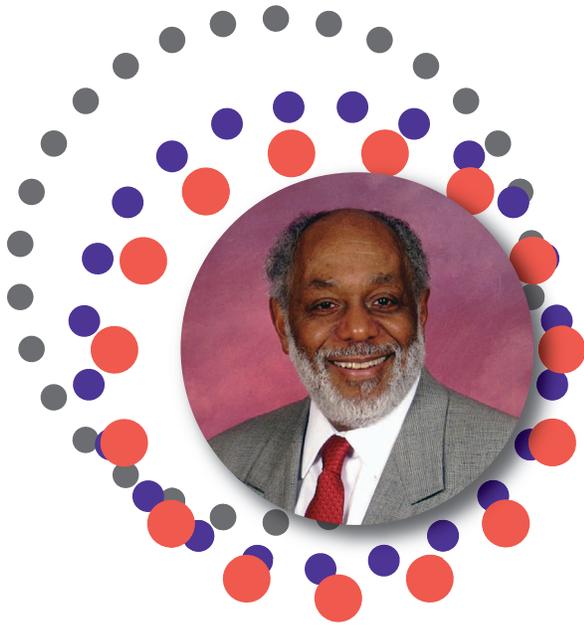
After high school, Rachna followed in the footsteps of her sisters, who both loved attending CSI, to enroll in the Honors College. "Since I was young," she says, "I always knew I wanted to practice medicine, so I majored in both Biochemistry and Chemistry, with every intention to achieve that goal."

When it comes to giving back, her contributions extend beyond her career choice. Rachna reports that "Since I joined SUNY Downstate, I have been involved in a number of clubs and organizations and we try our best to reach out to the community we live in. For instance, I have volunteered at glaucoma screenings that we do for free at some of the churches in Brooklyn. I have helped administer flu vaccines to people in homeless shelters. I have helped screen for diabetes in the South Asian population. In addition, we do yearly food and clothing drives, as well as blood drives in the residence halls I lived in for the past seven years."

As for her time at the College, Rachna explains that "CSI has opened so many doors for me. If I never researched at CSI during high school, I would not have considered becoming a research scientist. I had the opportunity to meet with such wonderful professors who guided me in the right path. Everyone was so supportive and they were always available."

Some of the professors who had an impact on her were Dr. Banerjee, who she describes as "her favorite professor; because I remember how naive I was when I entered his lab and now I have learned and am continuing to learn so much since then"; Dr. Bhanu Chauhan, who encouraged her to pursue an academic career in medicine; as well as Dr. Ellen Goldner and Dr. Irv Robbins.





Edward C. Josey '64

Edward has spent a great portion of his adult life working to make our community a better place.

He received an Associate's in Applied Science in Electrical Engineering from the former Staten Island Community College (SICC) in 1964. "After leaving SICC I gained employment with New York Telephone Company and started taking courses at the New School for Social Research and then City College of New York," he reports. "Between 1964 and the year 2000, my job was affected by deregulation of the communications industry causing me to transfer to AT&T, then Lucent Technology from which I retired in August of 2000."

Looking back, Ed says that he often tells "people I did not really retire, but I made a change in my life that has allowed me to do what I want to do. Since retiring I spend most of my time doing volunteer work in the community."

According to Edward, that work includes serving as "President of the Staten Island Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (SI NAACP) since 1997. As President and under my leadership

the SI NAACP follows the mission of the National organization. That mission is to protect the rights of all people, be it education, employment, criminal justice, and housing and voting rights. There are many people in our community with problems who do not really understand ways to correct them and they depend on the SI NAACP for direction. Most of the issues we deal with are in education and criminal justice."

He also looks back at his time at SICC as somewhat life-changing. "As a high school student, I was a pretty good student, but English and Composition courses were not my most popular subjects. Upon entering SICC, the first thing I did was purchase a typewriter. I soon found myself typing my reports and to my surprise, Professor Robin Spock soon began writing on my reports, 'very good discussion, excellent report!'" These remarks were very encouraging and led me to seek a job as a Technical Writer as I was attending night school. To this day, I enjoy writing and for ten years I have written a monthly newsletter for the SI NAACP. Attending SICC taught me how to think and also get along with people of different backgrounds."

Tony Petosa '86, '92

Tony received two degrees from CSI, a BS in Finance in 1986 and an MS in Special Education in 1992, and he is paying it forward in two ways: as a math teacher at Staten Island's Tottenville High School and Brooklyn's Lafayette High School, a career that he has had for the last 20 years, and as one of the most personable and dynamic Men's Basketball Head Coaches at CSI, a position that he has held since 1989.

Although he has led the CSI Dolphins to numerous CUNY Division and Tournament championships, Tony emphasizes the human aspects of basketball, counting among his proudest achievements the fact that he helped to establish the Annual Tournament of Heroes basketball tournament in memory of three CSI Basketball alumni who lost their lives on 9/11; he also ensured that their numbers were retired. In addition, he spends his time reaching out to young athletes by providing low-cost tutoring and clinics, and speaking at summer basketball camps. As a testimony to the mark that he has left on the game, and, more importantly, on others, Tony was recently honored as Sportsman of the Year by the *Staten Island Advance*.

Thinking back on his days as a student at CSI, Tony recalls, "At the time, [CSI] provided a lot of students who struggled with education a second opportunity to succeed." He also noted that CSI students are of a different stripe. "Most kids who attend schools have one responsibility: school. They are fully funded by their parents. Here we have a different clientele—most work, have responsibilities in their households, and even have their own families. This provides a totally different climate for their learning. In some regards, I am more impressed by these students because [it is difficult] to be successful in the classroom while being pulled in so many directions. Because of this, I tend to be a little more understanding with their academic differences."

As for the professors who inspired him, he mentions that "Professor Phil Sigler and Eugene Garaventa were among my favorites, but Professor Evan Pickman and Ira Sweet where my most influential because of our relationships on the court, which later developed into friendships. All provided education with humor and knowledge. They weren't [academicians] who tried to demonstrate how smart they were; they tried to relate information that would provide a strong educational foundation."





Margaret Ricciardi '86

Margaret Ricciardi is an art student at the College, but her story is unique. Margaret is 97 years old and she has attended classes at the College for 30 years, receiving her BS in Art in 1986 and continuing on with post-graduate painting and sculpture classes.

"I felt that my husband and I were the only ones in our family who didn't have a degree," she recalls, "and we felt that we were going to retire and go and get our degrees..."

Margaret registered first, while she and her husband still owned the Ricciardi Shoe Service in the St. George Ferry Terminal. Unfortunately, her husband passed away before his retirement, but Margaret decided to continue with her plans to get a degree. "Originally in 1981" she says, "I took one course and then I took two, but in 1983, after selling the business, I went full-time; I took 15, 16, 18 credits at a time. It was very difficult. I was older; I had been out of school many, many years, but I was determined to do it and it was a good way to get over my loss. I got my degree in 1986 at the age of 72."

Although she didn't enter the College as an art student, Margaret notes that "I became very interested in art. Ralph Martel was a sculptor and a professor at that time. Professor [Arthur] Levine was the painting professor. I stayed with him for about a year or year and a half and after a couple of years and a couple of other professors, I went with Pat Passlof and I stayed with her all these years until last year when she became ill and did not return to the College and Tracy Jones took over her class."

Throughout the years, Margaret has amassed a sizable collection of her paintings and sculptures and she has had the opportunity to share her beautiful works with art lovers on the Island at exhibits at CSI, Snug Harbor, and the Staten Island Museum. One of her paintings will also be on display at the future Museo delle Emigrante in Naples, Italy. Her current goal is to exhibit her works in Manhattan, but she reports that the arts organizations that she has approached for funding aren't forthcoming because of the sad state of the present economy.

Beyond making the world a better place through her artwork, Margaret helps students through the Margaret and Frank Ricciardi Scholarship, which allows financially disadvantaged students who are taking Italian language classes to study in Italy.

Margaret also serves as a sort of class counselor to younger art students, listening to their problems and sharing her wisdom with them on a variety of matters, from quitting smoking to romantic issues.

Looking back on her own education, Margaret definitely feels that she has made the right decision in getting her degree at CSI. "Every time you want to do something, even trying to get a grant or trying to get some help, people ask, 'what is your education?' I am sure that if I didn't put down that I have a college degree on grant applications, they would get thrown in the wastebasket." She feels so strongly about this that she incorporates this theme into some of her most important advice to younger students. "When they come in and they're complaining, 'I'd rather go to work', I say 'Don't do it. You will end up doing menial jobs, you will be bored, and you will not make money'... That is the way the world operates. I urge all of them, 'Get your college education. It's so important. And go on further because today, a four-year degree is like high school 30 years ago!'"



Dr. Susan Holak:

The Common Denominator of CSI's Assessment and Planning



Like any organization, large or small, the College of Staten Island conducts regular self-evaluations to determine whether its effectiveness as an institution of higher learning is all that it should be. In addition, the College is evaluated by academic accreditation bodies, such as the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, to ensure that students at the College are receiving a quality education.

Currently, CSI faculty, staff, and administration members are engaged in finalizing a new Strategic Plan for the College, which includes the creation of new Mission, Values, and Vision statements (see sidebar) that will serve as a roadmap for the institution's future course. Many members of the College community are also busy preparing for the institution's next decennial Middle States reaccreditation visit, as well as conducting an internal assessment of the College's effectiveness.

On the initiative of CSI President Dr. Tomás D. Morales, on behalf of the College, all of these processes are being carried out. These processes involve an incredible amount of work, but there is one common thread tying them all together, Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness Dr. Susan Holak. *Eye on CSI* sat down with Dr. Holak to determine not only the mechanics of these processes, but also how her exceptional academic credentials led her to the crucial role that she plays in determining the College's future path.

Eye on CSI: How has your academic background prepared you for your involvement with the evaluative and planning processes at the College?

Susan Holak: My background and interests align with the position of Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness in

several ways. First, in terms of academic training, I have an undergraduate degree from The Wharton School at Penn, where the curriculum has strong grounding in the liberal arts in addition to the business disciplines. I went from there to Columbia where I earned a PhD in Business. I think that this background has provided me with tools for approaching problems, exposure to planning and team-building, a set of qualitative and quantitative analytical skills, familiarity with survey methodology, and approaches to communicate and implement results. Second, I have significant experience as a faculty member teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels, advising and mentoring students, developing curriculum, conducting research and publishing, and serving in different administrative or leadership roles (e.g., leading the effort to create the MS in Business Management program and directing the Macaulay Honors College at CSI). While I am currently on administrative leave from my faculty position, I am a long-time member of the Business Department at CSI. In addition to my lengthy faculty experience, which supports my role in Academic Affairs, I have considerable interest in all of the other Divisions (Student Affairs, Advancement, Finance and Administration, and Technology Systems) and how they operate. Finally, I have been at the College for almost two decades. I have institutional memory and have grown over time in my understanding of the complex, dynamic organization that is the College of Staten Island.

Eye: How has your academic research prepared you for this position?

SH: My academic research has focused on issues related to

consumer behavior, product management, and cross-cultural marketing. I have published on consumer response to innovation, the relationship between advertising and sales, and the effect of nostalgia on consumer behavior. I have taken qualitative and quantitative approaches in these research streams. My use of multivariate analysis, surveys, and scale development procedures is relevant to my work as Associate Provost. In addition, my research topics have resulted in my gaining exposure to other areas (e.g., new product development and design, foreign language and culture). The nostalgia topic is very interdisciplinary and has me reading in the humanities, social sciences, and lately in computer science. I have considerable interest in what my colleagues across the disciplines do. I think that these insights have helped in my involvement in specialized accreditation across the disciplines, as many of our departments hold accreditation from disciplinary accreditors—ABET (Computer Science and Engineering), NLNAC (Nursing), CAPTE (Physical Therapy), and NCATE (Education).

Eye: Describe your involvement in the various evaluation processes that are underway at the College.

SH: In my role as Associate Provost, I provide leadership and oversight to efforts that support information-based decision making, leading to better outcomes, processes, and programs across campus. These are ongoing efforts to improve all that we do at the College. The demonstration and improvement of student learning outcomes in our academic departments, co-curricular activities, and campus programs are central to my responsibilities. At the present time, I am immersed in two

definable initiatives that will culminate in the next several months: the Middle States decennial self-study and the Strategic Planning process.

The Middle States Commission on Higher Education is one of six national accrediting agencies in the United States that accredit entire institutions, as opposed to the specialized accrediting agencies that focus on specific disciplines. Institutions holding Middle States accreditation must come up for review by their peers in the organization every ten years; for many reasons involving changes in the national landscape, this process has become more rigorous and difficult compared to a decade ago.

The College is about halfway through a 2½-year self-study process that I am co-chairing with my faculty colleague, Dr. Richard Powers, Professor of History. We are leading approximately 130 people from across the campus—academic departments, support offices, operations—who are part of seven working groups in this endeavor. Group members have been researching and drafting comprehensive reports that demonstrate the College's compliance with the Commission's 14 Standards of Excellence, a requirement for reaccreditation. Information from the resulting team reports will be integrated into a single self-study document that will be shared with the campus community. A team of Middle States external evaluators will be on campus during the spring of 2012, having carefully reviewed our self-study, to experience the College first-hand. They will then make a recommendation to the Commission regarding our reaccreditation status by June 2012. I invite our readers to visit the College's Middle States Website at www.csi.cuny.edu/middlestates.

Eye: Let's turn now to the Strategic Plan.

SH: A strategic plan is a document fundamental to organizations of any size; this is particularly true the larger the entity. A plan usually articulates an organization's purpose or mission, what it does, the people it serves, and where it would like to be in a defined period (often five years). The plan provides for efficient resource allocation and improves people's understanding of how they fit into

a larger structure. All external accrediting agencies expect the College to have a Strategic Plan.

The College's most recently approved Strategic Plan spanned the period from 2001 to 2006; it was retained through the change of administration in 2007 to 2008. The College has since embarked on a comprehensive process to review its Mission, Vision, and Values, under the leadership of the Institutional Planning Committee. There are more than 90 individuals with direct involvement in the strategic planning process and six strategic directions that have emerged from interviews, focus groups, discussion boards, and audience response opportunities. With few exceptions, the faculty, staff, and students currently researching and developing implementation plans for the College's six strategic directions are not the same individuals who are involved in the Middle States effort. Given the two distinct, but related, processes, much of the campus is actively involved in research, collaboration, and dialogue about all facets of the organization and the exciting possibilities for the next five or more years.

Eye: How does it feel to be a part of these processes?

SH: I am very pleased to be the first to serve as Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness at the College, a role that allows me to interact in a 360-degree way with my colleagues across the institution's five divisions and understand how this complex organization within the large CUNY system works. As the position is evolving at the College, it provides me with opportunities to use my organizational, analytical, and communication skills; I enjoy and am fully engaged in processes related to strategic planning. I have witnessed first-hand the benefits of regional and specialized accreditation processes, program review, and the Strategic Planning effort. It seems to me that the College is becoming more outward-looking, adopting and adapting best practices, and increasing its recognition within CUNY and on the national stage. From my perspective, this is a very exciting time to be serving as Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness.

Mission, Vision, and Values

Mission

Grounded in the Liberal Arts tradition, the College of Staten Island is committed to the highest standards in teaching, research, and scholarship. Drawing on the rich heritage of The City University of New York that has provided access to excellence in higher education since 1847, the College of Staten Island offers that same opportunity in New York City's Borough of Staten Island. The College is dedicated to helping its students fulfill their creative, aesthetic, and educational aspirations through competitive and rigorous undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs. We embrace the strength of our diversity, foster civic mindedness, and nurture responsible citizens for our city, country, and the world.

Vision

The College of Staten Island will enhance the quality of its student-centered programs, research, scholarship, and creative works. The College will provide models for initiatives on technology, community, and our environment, as well as effective integration of programs, projects, and methodologies. CSI will develop a richer array of rigorous undergraduate and graduate degree offerings to better meet students' educational and professional aspirations. The College of Staten Island will expand its role in The Graduate Center and other cross-campus activities of The City University of New York. We will become an even more vibrant center of intellectual and cultural exchange. The College will be strengthened by increasing its ability to serve a diverse campus community. Through these accomplishments, the College of Staten Island will achieve greater regional, national and international recognition.

Values and Fundamental Principles

OUR CAMPUS COMMUNITY VALUES:

Each Student

We nurture each student's intellectual growth, curiosity, and excitement in order to prepare students to function in a complex and dynamic world.

Excellence in Research and Teaching

We set and meet high expectations in our academic programs through innovative and effective teaching, scholarship, and research. We strive to promote engagement among students and faculty.

Experiential Learning

We believe it is essential to provide transformational curricular and co-curricular opportunities, such as service learning, study abroad, leadership development, undergraduate research and scholarship, and internships.

Resourcefulness

We take pride in our work ethic, our ability to solve problems, and our stewardship of resources.

Community Engagement

We actively work to instill the value of civic participation and are proud of our leadership role for Staten Island and beyond. We foster partnerships to address public issues and encourage involvement in community affairs.

OUR FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES:

Diversity

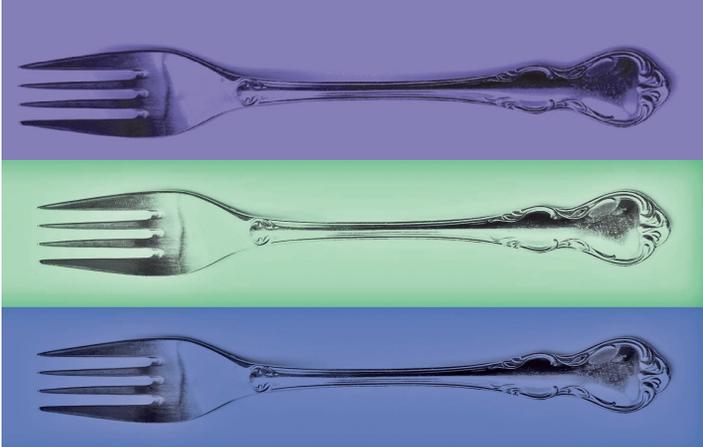
Drawing from the richness of our diverse community, we incorporate multiple approaches to developing and encouraging the inclusion of various world views, cultures, and experiences into the fabric of our institution.

Respect

In our relationships with each other, we insist on mutual respect and thoughtful dialogue. We provide forums for the exchange of ideas informed by the techniques of critical analysis and the traditions of scholarly discourse.

Integrity

We uphold the highest standards of honesty and fairness in our interactions with each other.



SAVOR the flavors

CELEBRATE OUR ISLAND'S DIVERSE CUISINE

Approximately 200 hungry attendees recently enjoyed the signature dishes of some of the finest Island restaurants at the Second Annual "Savor the Flavors" event in the Center for the Arts Atrium on the campus of the College of Staten Island (CSI).

Proceeds from the event, hosted by the CSI Alumni Association with co-sponsors Con Edison, Liberty Mutual, and National Grid, will be used to provide crucial funding for student scholarships at the College.

"Savor the Flavors" not only gave those on hand a chance to taste some amazing cuisine, beverages, and desserts, but guest Celebrity Chefs Rob Burmeister and John Sierp, from the Food Network's *Chopped*, also added to the fun by choosing the winners for Best Dish and Best Dessert.

Winners included Celebrate at Snug Harbor (First Place, Best Dish), The Beer Garden (Second Place, Best Dish), Venezia (Third Place, Best Dish), Cake Chef (First Place, Best Dessert), and Cookie Jar (Second Place, Best Dessert). The attendees awarded People's Choice honors to Da Noi.

In addition to the awards, there were also raffle prizes, including an Italian food basket from Colavita, NuWorld Beauty cosmetics baskets, and a color NOOK eReader from the CSI Alumni Association, and

music, which was donated and provided by Alumni Board Member Robert Ferone '86 of PartyHostDJs.com.

The fundraiser event was chaired by James McBratney '05, CSI Alumni Board Member and President of the Staten Island Restaurant and Tavern Association, and was also made possible through the hard work of about 50 CSI student volunteers.

Participating restaurants and businesses, whose generous donation of food charmed the palates of the guests, included: Afternoones, Alfonso's, Angelina's Ristorante, Arirang, Bayou, The Beer Garden, Bocelli, Bridge Tavern, Pasticceria Bruno, Cake Chef, Cookie Jar, Canlon's Restaurant, Celebrate at Snug Harbor, Da Noi, Dosa Garden, España Restaurant, Jimmy Max (Westerleigh & Great Kills), Joe Mozz Gourmet Shop, Killmeyer's Old Bavaria Inn, La Candela Española, The Lake Club, Manor Restaurant, Mother Mousse, Nucci's (North & South), Paesano's Pizzeria, Oriental Plaza, Park Café, Pepperjack Grill, R. Ippolito Distributing (specialty beers), San Rasa Sri Lankan Cuisine, South Fin Grill, Venezia, The Vanderbilt, and Vino Divino (wines).

After the event, Barbara Eshoo, CSI Vice President for Institutional Advancement and External Affairs, commented, "We are most grateful to everyone who made this event a success again this year—the sponsors, the Alumni Association, the student volunteers, and the restaurants who graciously donated their food. Now that people have had the chance to sample these wonderful dishes, I hope that they return the favor by patronizing these establishments."



AVP BOYDEN REACHES OUT TO FLORIDA ALUMNI

Assistant Vice President for Institutional Advancement and External Affairs Ken Boyden recently went down to Florida to meet with CSI alumni who live in the state, and to discuss the College's dynamic growth and vision for the future.

Dr. Boyden had dinner with alumni in Miami at The Alexander Hotel, an event hosted by CSI Foundation Board member Stanley Friedman, and he also stopped in Naples to meet CSI alumni at the MWaterfront Grille.

According to Dr. Boyden, those in attendance were excited about

his visit to the state, and they are hopeful that regional chapters of the CSI Alumni Association can be established in Florida.

The dinners also allowed the attendees to share memories of the College, in particular, stories of their favorite faculty members.

The Florida gatherings are just the beginning of an expanded outreach to alumni throughout the country, Dr. Boyden said, as events are currently being planned for other cities, and the Miami dinner will be held on an annual basis.



CSI HONORS MATTY WHITE

with Men's Basketball Alumni Game

The College of Staten Island Men's Basketball program welcomed back its alumni for the first time since becoming a four-year college, dedicating the event to the memory of former assistant coach Matty White. A 17-year member of the Dolphins' staff from 1987 to 2004, the game was renamed the Matty White Men's Basketball Game in a pregame ceremony. White lost his battle with kidney cancer in May 2010. He was 74.

Principal organizer Craig Sleep '01 crafted the idea with Head Coach Tony Petosa '86. The event raised funds for the Basketball program in White's name, with plenty of support from the CSI Alumni Association.

After opening remarks by Petosa, the alumni were welcomed onto the court alongside several members of the White family, including his wife Delores, and his sons Matthew and Ken, who also served as honorary coaches. The family was presented with a plaque commemorating the renaming of the event, and Coach White's grandson Patrick, who wore his grandfather's coaching shirt, threw up the ceremonial jump ball.

"Through the years we've gotten a lot of support from our alumni, but seeing them all here collected for this cause was very special," said Petosa, who played alongside and coached a grand majority of the alumni who participated in the game itself. "I think Coach White would have gotten a kick out of it, and it speaks to what these guys think of him."

The rousing event was played on the main gymnasium floor of the Sports and Recreation Center prior to the CSI Men's Basketball game against CUNYAC-rival Hunter College. Time Warner Cable-Staten Island 76 covered the



event and aired portions of the Alumni Game as well as pregame ceremonies during the afternoon's telecast. Alumni were treated to a game jersey, a gift bag courtesy of the Alumni Association, and a full luncheon, post-game. Several area businesses added to the cause as donations were made by A&C Superette, Beyar's Market, and Bagels N Buns. Alumni board member James McBratney '05, whose establishment, Jimmy Max, is a neighborhood staple, was a principal donor as well.

"It was a great event," said Sleep, who organized the luncheon, solicited sponsors, and personally reached out to several alumni to boost attendance. "Seeing everyone again was really overdue and we've already gotten so much great feedback and people who want to help make this event bigger and better each year."

Sleep was also quick to mention the overlying importance of the event.

"Coach White was special to all of us and it went beyond basketball," he said. "He made us laugh and enjoy what we were doing, but he was serious about making us better basketball players and to conduct ourselves the right way off the court. He

had high standards for us."

Alumni participating in the event included former coaches Angelo Aponte (1977-1978) and Evan Pickman (1978-1984), who served as coaches for the winning Blue team, which scored a 93-77 win over the Black team. Teams were set up randomly and featured a host of great Dolphins. George Wonica '73 scored one of the game's first points for the Black team, while Gerard Nicholson '88 buried a pair of three-pointers to give Blue a halftime lead that carried through the second half.

All-time leading scorer Michael Stewart '05 was on hand, along with David Paul, who won a pair of CUNYAC titles between 1998-2002, and is now a member of the Harlem Wizards. Other notable returnees were Kirk Staine '95 and John Cali '99, among CSI's all-time assist and steal leaders. Brian Gasper '00, a former four-year player who coached the Dolphins during the 2002-2003 season, and is now a police officer in Coral Springs, FL, made the trip up to the College to participate, as did Eric Andres '02 from Washington, DC.

A collection of non-participating alumni and former players were

on hand as well, taking in the game from the sidelines and stands, including Jay Chazanoff '65, Gunnar Oberg '87, Steve Phillips '83, Swithin McWilliams, Keith Hudson '74, Bill Felci, and John McCue (former staff). Alumni Board member Michele Karpeles '10 was also on hand, cheering from the stands.

"Every time I see these guys it's a great time," said Gasper, who still keeps many close friends from his playing and coaching days." To see it, along with honoring Coach White, makes it even better. I can't wait to do it again next year."

To top off the day's event, through registration and separate donations, the Alumni Game brought in more than \$1,000 in fundraising dollars for the CSI Men's Basketball program.

"The CSI Alumni Association is proud to have partnered with Athletics and our alumni athletes for this inaugural event," said Jennifer Lynch, Associate Director of the Alumni Association. "The legacy of our athletes and Matty White was evident on the court as our alumni demonstrated great sportsmanship and camaraderie. The White family commented on how touched they were by the dedication, the great turnout, and reminiscences shared by our alumni."

Although a 2011-2012 date has not been set, planning is already in the works for next year's Matty White Alumni Game. Those who are interested in being included in a mailing list as the event unfolds can contact Tony Petosa at 718.982.3166 or Associate Athletic Director David Pizzuto at 718.982.3169.

Keeping Tabs

CALLING ALL ALUMNI!

Did you recently?....

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

If so – we
want to know!

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

Anthony Battista '72

After leaving his position at Merrill Lynch in July 2009 he started his own investment adviser/financial planning business.

Gregory Adamo, PhD '86 has had his book *African Americans in Television: Behind the Scenes* published. For more information go to <http://gregoryadamo.com>

Kathleen Kane-Caneco '89 has a new position as case manager at SIUH. Married to fellow alumnus Joseph Caneco for 30 years, their oldest son Joseph is a lieutenant in the Navy (naval flight officer) and younger son Kevin is a 2nd lieutenant in the Army. Daughter Kate is finishing up pre-recs, hoping to apply for the Nursing program at CSI.

Gregory N. Nanopoulos '91 It's been a great decade. I started off earning my MFA in Drama from Sarah Lawrence College, [then] taught drama at Indiana University...and finished with a second Master's in Teaching (Drama) from Bennington College in Vermont. I'm currently teaching part-time and doing professional acting and standup. Recently, I acted in a public service announcement for domestic violence awareness, and it's airing late night in Upstate NY. I will be moving to Nashville at some point soon--but my work takes me all over the country.

Tuntint Aung Maung – Tommy Tan '96 is currently working as an assistant accounting manager at a corporation located in Long Island, NY.

Jennifer Romano '98 is working at Wells Fargo Private Bank Legal Specialty Group as a private banking associate and has been married for three years.

1972

Gina Caliendo-Ocasio '00, '04 and her husband **Jason** welcomed a baby girl, Angelina Carole, in December 2010. They are also parents to Jason Jr.

1986

Caroline Dworkin '01 is currently living in Dover, DE, working as an Adjunct Professor at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft, NJ

1989

Michael Ziselman '02 finished his MBA from NYU in January of this year and was married in April.

1991

Giuseppe Sanfilippo '04 is currently working at Sourcemedia (a Financial Publishing Company) with the title of Group Meeting Manager.

Jacqueline Englander Guterma n '05 is currently a sixth-year MD/PhD student at SUNY Upstate Medical University and is planning on defending his PhD in Immunology this summer and returning to medical school to finish up the last two years.

1996

Patricia Rollins '05 is working as an Executive Assistant in the maritime industry, which has inspired her to pursue a Master's degree in Environmental Science back at CSI.

1998

Erin Cahill '07 has created a social network for the purpose of people making new friends at all stages of life. It has connected many people already and has only been in existence since September. The Website is <http://newfriendz.net/>

Erica Tortorice Salzillo '07 was married last December and has been working as an English teacher since 2007. She is expected to complete a Master's in English Literature from CSI this coming June.

2000

2001

2002

2004

2005

2007

ALUMNI REUNIONS IN NYC

CSI Alumni Network in Manhattan

The CSI Alumni Association (CSIAA) gave College alumni the opportunity to mix and mingle recently at its annual Manhattan Networking Party at The Ketch restaurant. Attendees enjoyed a buffet and open bar while catching up with old friends

and forging new connections.

Barbara Eshoo, CSI Vice President for Institutional Advancement and External Affairs, welcomed everyone to the event and introduced Event Chair Jim Raggi '68, '70. Raggi recognized CSIAA Board President Vullnet

Kolari, '98, who is nearing the end of his last term as president, thanking him for all his hard work as President.

For his part, Kolari spoke on the importance of staying connected to one's alma matter and how he and fellow board members feel strongly about CSI and the education they received.

College President Dr. Tomás D. Morales was also on hand to offer greetings and share some of the College's many achievements with attendees.

In addition, the assembled alumni had the chance to share some of their fondest memories of CSI. Robert D. Gans '03 reminisced about his time at the College while he pursued his graduate degree, underscoring the importance of how his instructors and small class sizes were key to his success.

The Manhattan event is one of many networking parties and reunions that will be taking place in the near future.



[L-R] Robert Gans '03, his wife Peggy Wurm; CSIAA Corresponding Secretary Jim Raggi '68, '70; Jeff Rosenblatt '78; Reginald Myler '76; CSIAA President Vullnet Kolari, Esq. '98

Alumni Catch Up at Cebu in Brooklyn

Brooklyn-based alumni recently gathered at Cebu Bistro for an Alumni Association-sponsored networking event.

Barbara Eshoo, CSI Vice President for Institutional Advancement and External Affairs, opened the event with greetings and she introduced its two co-chairs, CSIAA Board

Treasurer Phyllis Minacapilli '86, '91 and CSIAA Board Member Marietta DeLuca '74, '85.

CSI President Dr. Tomás D. Morales was also in attendance to thank the attendees for coming and to share some of CSI's recent achievements with them. In addition, President

Morales recognized the CSIAA Board for all of its hard work.

Some of the event's other highlights included some shared memories, like those of Elena Solitario '83 who reminisced about working full-time and attending classes at the same time. She also pointed out that her professors were very knowledgeable, saying that they made a difference in her life.

Michael Rindone '73 entertained the crowd with his stories of first registering for classes and then attending later. He mentioned that he was actually sad the day he graduated because he could no longer attend classes, as his days at college were the best of his life.

Now that this event is over, the Alumni Association is already looking forward to its 2012 networking event in Brooklyn, where many more CSI grads will have the chance to connect with old friends, make new ones, and learn about the latest developments at the College.



[L-R] Theresa Marro, '85, '89, CSIAA 2nd Vice President; Cheryl Mitchell '89; Michael R. Rindone '73

Engagements

Gina Garibaldi '03 '06 and Antonio Mallozzi

Jennifer Parisi '03 and Martin Vicencio

Brandon Trifeletti '04 and Lauren Caruso

Michael Giovinazzo '05 and Kristy Rivera '07

Marissa Favale '06, '07 and Marc Alessandro

Kristen Groia '06, '08 and Robert Mastriano

Erin Liebowitz '06, '07, '10 and Matthew Marlinski '05

Kristal Ayers '08 and Thomas Rivicci

Glen Payne '08 and Erin Johnson

Amanda Konzelman '10 and Anthony Gieri

Weddings

Thomas Sliger and AnnMarie Saporito '02

Michael Selowentchich and Nicole Sichler '07

Adam LeChillgrien '10 and Jennifer Rodberg '09

Obituaries

Edward Balletto '65

William Hodge '70

Angela D'Amato '70, '71, '74

Mary Regan '72

Joseph Polizzi '74 '76

Florence Kahee '75

Louise Farrell '77 '79

Tarina Meaders '90

Megan Vinci '08

Prof. Stephen J. Stearns (History)



Tony Petosa '86, '92 Earns *Staten Island Advance* SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR HONORS

Tony Petosa '86, '92, the dean of all CSI coaches, manning the CSI Men's Basketball sidelines in his 21st season, has been named the *Staten Island Advance's* Sportman of the Year for 2010. The coach was profiled in the January 2 edition of the *Staten Island Advance*, spotlighting his achievements, turning from an accomplished local basketball product into the backbone of the CSI coaching staff. The 47-year-old, notched his 300th a win a year ago, and recently saw his team cap its ninth annual Tournament of Heroes at the Sports and Recreation Center, a tournament he created in 2002.

Petosa began his CSI and CUNYAC career in 1982, as a freshman for head coach Evan Pickman for the Dolphins flourishing program, entering only its sixth season as a four-year college team. Even before that, though, Petosa was a standout four-year basketball player at Monsignor Farrell High School, setting off on a journey that would never lead him too far away from his passion.

Petosa won three CUNYAC Championships at CSI, playing side-by-side with teammate Tom Hannafin, who years later was honored with the Tournament of Heroes as a former CSI basketball pupil and victim of September 11, along with Scott Davidson and Terrance Aiken, whom Petosa coached.

By the time his personal career was over, Petosa became CSI's all-time leading rebounder (982), and his 1,684 points stood as a CSI career scoring record for 16 years.

After graduation, it was no wonder that former coach Thomas Keenan wanted Petosa on his coaching staff, and for Petosa it was a pretty easy decision. "I enjoyed being around the game," he reflects. "I really enjoyed being an assistant coach."

Petosa stayed on as an assistant for three seasons, the last two under Howie Ruppert. CSI posted a 63-26 record those three seasons, and Petosa was not only getting the hang of the coaching system at CSI, but he was also donating more time to his players, becoming increasingly invested in their futures after basketball. Not long after his appointment as assistant coach, Ruppert stepped down from his head coaching position, and Petosa was nominated for the job. The irony lies in the secret that Petosa declined the offer, only to reconsider a few weeks later.

"I didn't think I was ready for the job," he stated in a 2003 interview. "With school (Master's degree) and working full-time, it was a tough decision. Then one day I just realized I wanted the job. To me, there's nothing better than being at a practice for three hours, no matter what else I was doing. I came to realize that I enjoyed the teaching."

Petosa endured three straight losing seasons, pioneering the program on the sidelines with longtime assistant and friend, the late Matty White. "I look back on those years and I realize that I wasn't a very good coach," he laughs. "I needed to learn. I'm still learning, but I think I've gotten better."

Better indeed. The next season, CSI put up its first winning campaign under Petosa. Two years later, the team won 20 games. Systemizing the team according to his personal coaching style was the key to Petosa's success. For once, Petosa was operating under a new formula—his own.

Petosa has learned that stability in players and sticking to his own coaching style were keys to developing quality teams over the long haul. "The operative word for us is not 'team', it's 'program', teaching kids how to play, developing them. Over time, you depend on them. You hope that they depend on you a little too. That's what building a program is all about."

Twenty years later, Petosa was in the Bronx when CSI erased a late deficit to win a 66-64 nailbiter at the buzzer over Lehman College, his 300th career win, the 56th NCAA Division III coach to turn the trick. It remains a career highlight for many current Dolphins on the team who were there.

Fast forward a year later, and Petosa was the solitary body at the Sports and Recreation Center on December 27, as Staten Island was rocked by 16 inches of snow to threaten the ninth annual Tournament of Heroes. There, Petosa spent about eight hours on the phone making sure three teams were arriving safely, organizing staff, and letting in teams to shoot-around. Less than 24 hours later he logged a few hundred miles all over Staten Island picking up catered food, t-shirts, and awards to pull the Tournament off. He also coached the Dolphins to a 23-point win over the University of Dallas.



CSI SAAC Pitches in to Beautify the Campus

"That's Tony," said David Pizzuto, Associate Athletic Director. "He dumps every resource and ounce of energy that he has into his program and what he believes in. You learn a lot watching him work and manage his time."

To achieve the amount of success he has is miraculous, given his part-time status at the College.

"I don't know how he does it," said fourth-year assistant Chris Peterson. "His program never suffers because he never leaves a stone unturned."

Petosa certainly doesn't do it for the paycheck, and a lack of dorms and a high academic index for play may even put him at a competitive disadvantage to his peers, but Petosa notes that there are incredible benefits to doing what he does year after year.

"Sometimes it's frustrating, but when you find that kid who does enjoy playing, you learn to appreciate him a little more," he states. "What keeps me invested is that I sometimes struggle to find those players, but when we do, you can't help to be somewhat impressed by them, and working with them becomes special."

Forging a special bond with them is nothing new to Petosa, who after 20 years at the helm, recognizes how serving at CSI has become a backdrop to nearly his entire adult life.

"A lot of my memories, both personally and in business, revolve around what has happened here," he explains. "This job for me is almost like a marriage; there are stretches of happiness or frustration with everyone involved, even myself, but I've definitely grown here."

Petosa was formally honored by the *Staten Island Advance* on January 20, with a dinner in his honor at the Hilton Garden Inn on Staten Island. He is the fourth CSI coach to earn the honor. Former assistant and friend Matty White was honored just a handful of years ago while former baseball skippers Bill Cali and John Scrivani shared the honor less than a decade ago.

Members of the College of Staten Island Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) are often tied to projects that enlighten and strengthen their neighboring communities. On a crisp late-October weekend last fall, the unit, comprised of members from each of CSI's 13 intercollegiate teams, did something to improve their own backyard, taking part in a massive clean-up project aimed at simple trash removal and beautifying the sprawling 204-acre campus.

Littered with debris, accentuated by the College's windy conditions following the start of the fall semester, the SAAC wanted to do something close to home, and coupled with the College's need for more contributors to such projects, they figured what better way to start than by setting the example for over 13,000 CSI students?

"Being a part of the SAAC is not only being a part of a team, but also part of a family, and this is our home," said Danielle McLaughlin, senior of the CSI Women's Soccer team and President of SAAC. "The Campus Cleanup project we did was one of the biggest accomplishments that we have achieved. I'm so thankful for the entire group for taking the time on a weekend to join us for this important initiative."

Indeed, the SAAC's volunteer effort was a crucial one. The group covered almost the entire north side of campus, focusing on the parking lots and walkways surrounding the athletic fields, where debris often collects the most. Despite the best efforts of Buildings and Grounds staff to curb the problem, it has become hard to stay ahead. That's where the SAAC members were most handy, according to CSI Assistant Vice President for Campus Planning and Facilities James Pepe.

"In my opinion, it is very disappointing to work in a dirty area," said Pepe. "I appreciate the CSI SAAC's efforts over the weekend with cleaning the campus. The sense of pride they exhibited through their effort is one I hope others will choose to follow. On behalf of the Facilities Management Office here at CSI, I want to thank those who took time from their day to come and pick up others' litter."

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

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

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

As a committee, the student leaders will continue to organize and make waves. Last Thanksgiving, the SAAC volunteered at Project Hospitality and various hospital groups. The committee also visited Staten Island's Eger Nursing Home last December for a holiday arts and crafts event. More events will be on tap this spring, including Kids Sports Day and CSI's fifth annual Faculty/Staff Appreciation Night.

DAVID PIZZUTO

Tabs National Administrative Accolade

The National Association of Division III Athletic Administrators (NADIII AA) bestowed its 2011 third annual Emerging Athletic Administrator Award upon David Pizzuto '03, CSI's Associate Athletic Director and Sports Information Director. The award, the only of its kind given nationally each year, is presented to a professional with seven or fewer years of upper athletics administrative experience who is recognized as a trailblazer among young professionals with a promising future in upper athletics administration. The award was presented to Pizzuto at the NADIII AA reception on the final day of the 2011 NCAA Convention in San Antonio, TX last January.

Fielding multiple nominations to close the year, the NADIII AA selects a recipient of this honor in time for the Convention each January. Pizzuto was nominated for the award by former CSI and current Drew University Athletic Director Jason Fein. According to a NADIII AA press release the Emerging Athletic Administrator Award was presented to Pizzuto in recognition of his involvement and leadership roles on campus or in the conference office during his seven years of upper administrative athletic service in both NCAA Divisions II and III.

"I am deeply humbled to have been given this distinction by my peers," said Pizzuto. "I think it's a testament to great people whom I have worked with and nurtured me into the administrator that I am and hope to continue to be."

A Staten Island native, Pizzuto first got involved in collegiate athletics as far back as 1999, when he became CSI's first-ever full-time Assistant Sports Information Director and Intramurals Coordinator as a student, working under then-SID Fein. In 2004, Pizzuto obtained his first position in upper athletics administration, becoming the Assistant Athletic Director for Sports Information and Operations at NCAA Division II Georgian Court University, where Pizzuto also oversaw all aspects of NCAA compliance. The hiring came one year after GCU had made the switch from NAIA to NCAA Division II, and Pizzuto was only the second full-time hire next to Athletic Director Laura Liesman.



In 2006, when Fein was elevated to Athletic Director at CSI, he called on Pizzuto to return to the Dolphins Division III program as Associate Director, a position Pizzuto accepted and has held since then. In 2008, when Fein departed to nearby Drew University, Pizzuto was elevated to Interim Director. Faced with a challenged budget and a concrete slab for a gym floor due to water infiltration of the Sports and Recreation Center, Pizzuto oversaw the purchase and installation of CSI's current temporary gym floor and led the Dolphins program through its biggest fundraising total in history. Pizzuto also retained his position as Associate and Sports Information Director during the transition year, and reverted back to his former role beginning in 2009.

"It was undeniably a challenge, but I was very lucky to have an extended family at CSI that really rallied together during that time," Pizzuto said.

Since returning to CSI, Pizzuto has developed the Sports Information Office specifically. Dolphins' television coverage and fan support has increased exponentially and Pizzuto founded CSI SportsNet, which provides nearly 100 Webcasts annually of most road contests of CSI soccer, basketball, baseball, and softball events each year. Yearly media guides and publications have increased, and Pizzuto has also overseen the development of the CSI Athletics Website, which was first developed in 2006. He is also responsible for filing all statistically relevant material for the CUNYAC and NCAA, and is principal organizer and host of the annual CSI Awards Banquet held at the close of each

athletic year. His sports information staff at CSI has also worked game events at Division I Wagner College and Long Island University.

"I have known David in several capacities, including hard-working student, trusted employee, dependable associate, as well as loyal friend and colleague," says Jason Fein, whose nomination fueled the award. "He not only understands the challenges in athletics, but he embraces the benefits of the environment. Many times though thoroughly exhausted, we were able to look back upon the journey and the enhanced experiences we were able to facilitate for the CSI student-athletes and community, and we were proud to be part of it. I couldn't be happier for him because it's well-deserved."

On top of his duties at CSI, Pizzuto also donates his time working with Time Warner Cable as principal statistician for all on-air broadcasts, and has worked with the New York Yankees, New York City Marathon, and the Maccabi Games during his time at CSI. He is the recipient of the first-ever CSI Athletics Distinguished Service Award in 2002, and is a 2008 recipient of a CSI Athletics Faculty/Staff Appreciation Award. That same year, he became an honorary member of Cambridge's Who's Who among Executives, Professionals and Entrepreneurs. A father to twins, his soon-to-be three-year-old daughters Sabrina and Liliana recently starred in the motion picture *Sex and the City 2*, released in 2010, adding to his busy lifestyle.

"I've been blessed with an understanding family that has put up with the many nights and weekends we put in, and with an extraordinary staff that invigorates and inspires at every turn," he said. "It's an extraordinary challenge and immeasurably rewarding to do what we do, but you can't do it unless you're surrounded with support. The award I won belongs to those people more than me."

The NADIII AA Award is the first ever for the College of Staten Island.

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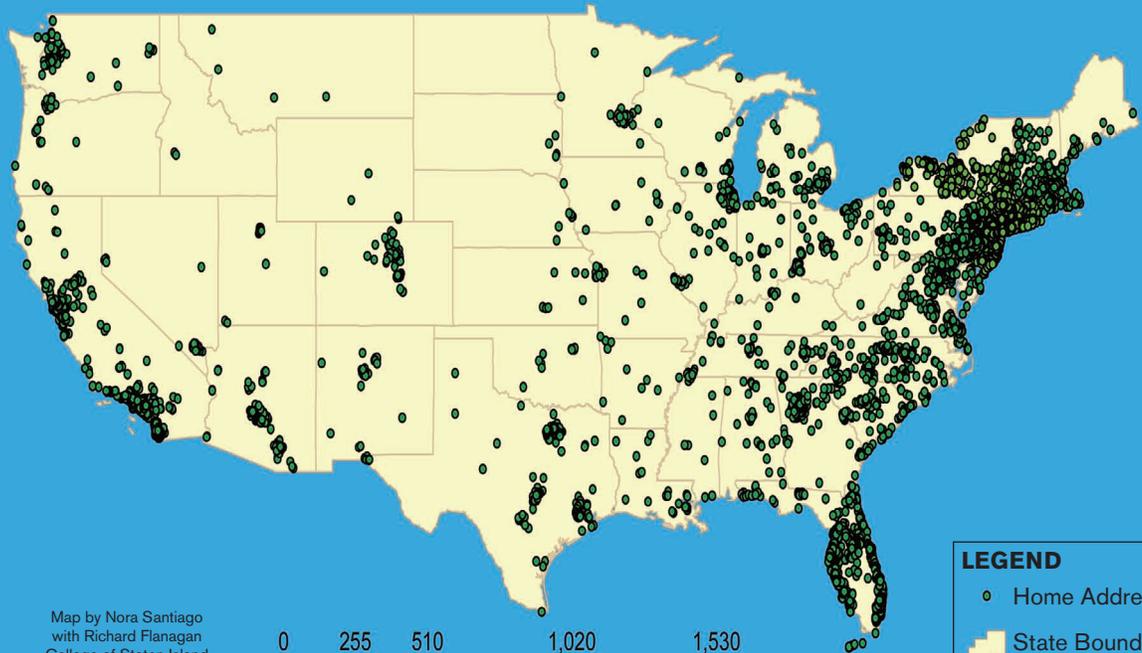
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CSI NATIONAL ALUMNI MAP



Map by Nora Santiago
with Richard Flanagan
College of Staten Island
December 23, 2008

0 255 510 1,020 1,530
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LEGEND

- Home Addresses
- State Boundaries

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