



COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND
The City University of New York

CONVOCATION

A Celebration of Accomplishments

October 27, 2011

Tomás D. Morales, PhD
President

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A CELEBRATION OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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This year marks the milestone achievement of the completion of the College of Staten Island's new Strategic Plan, "Many Voices, One Vision," a living document that provides a road map for the College, setting forth our ambitious but readily attainable goals and objectives for many years to come. The Mission, Vision, Values, and Strategic Directions of "Many Voices, One Vision" are derived from three cornerstones—elevating student success, increasing professional development for faculty and staff, and strengthening the bonds between College and community. Convocation is an important opportunity to recognize and celebrate some of the many significant accomplishments that we have already made, arising from each cornerstone. Our achievements are so many that the following list is by no means exhaustive. As we move ahead together toward a new and exciting era of innovation, creativity, and collaboration, the College expresses its appreciation to all.

INSTITUTIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RECOGNITION

The College completed its new Strategic Plan, "Many Voices, One Vision," setting forth comprehensive goals and recommendations that will advance our institution in the cornerstones of student success, professional development for faculty and staff, and the relationship between College and community through 2016.

The College completed its initial draft of the Self-Study to assess its fulfillment of the 14 standards of institutional excellence prescribed by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education. The Self-Study will be the primary document utilized by the Middle States Visiting Team that will be coming to CSI in the spring to evaluate our institution for reaccreditation.

The High-Performance Computing Center (HPCC) continues to grow in usage and prestige. The number of users of the HPCC has more than doubled to more than 400 in the last year and it has conducted training for more than 100 users of the systems. The HPCC installed a 1280 processor Cray XE6, the newest supercomputer available, which doubles its computational capacity. The Center received two grants to augment its resources—one for \$1.3 million from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and a \$1.2 million New York State Regional Economic Development Grant. Various professionals associated with the HPCC have been awarded grants totaling well over \$3.9 million.

The HPCC partnered with the Division of Academic Affairs for two events that brought national recognition to CSI. The first event was the NSF/CUNY RF-sponsored workshop on *Data-Intensive Computing, Graphs, and Combinatorics in Bio-Informatics, Finance, Linguistics, and National Security*. The two-day workshop focused on new techniques and ways of implementing large-scale data analysis on high-performance computing systems. CSI faculty made outstanding presentations at the conference, in the company of participants from the National Science Foundation, Georgia Institute of Technology, Northwestern University, Courant Institute of NYU, Purdue University, University of Pennsylvania, The CUNY Graduate Center, IBM's T.J. Watson Laboratory, Microsoft, Cambridge Semantics, and SunGard Global Services. A second workshop on *Advanced Computational Methods in Engineering and Environmental Science* included distinguished presenters from CSI and CUNY faculty, the NSF, the Geophysical Fluids Dynamics Laboratory-Princeton University, and NASA-Goddard Institute for Space Studies, as well as other distinguished faculty from national and international institutions.

A new mandatory two-day orientation program was introduced in summer 2011, in conjunction with the Division of Student Affairs/Office of New Student Orientation and the Division of Academic Affairs, and in collaboration with campus partners, for 2,400 incoming new students. Preliminary analysis of the evaluation data collected after each session indicates that more students are declaring a major during the orientation process, which assists in more targeted freshman advisement. Data also show that students feel more connected to CSI by the end of the second day, and feel more prepared for starting at the College. The orientation program has significantly increased faculty involvement prior to student registration for classes.

Pursuant to the CUNY Revised Tobacco Policy, a CSI Tobacco-Free Environmental Task Force was created, comprised of faculty, staff, and student members. The Task Force developed a comprehensive “Change Is in the Air” campaign that led to the implementation of temporary Designated Smoking Areas this summer as we move to a complete prohibition on smoking and use of tobacco products in July 2012. As a central component of the campaign, nicotine cessation products were provided at no cost, resulting in more than 100 students opting to stop smoking.

For the third year in a row, CSI was named one of the top “Military Friendly Schools” in the nation by *GI Jobs* magazine, which recognized the College for its commitment to meeting the needs of our student veterans through a wide array of specialized services.

INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RECOGNITION

OUR FACULTY AND STAFF

Professor Michal Kruk, Chemistry, was selected by Thomson Reuters as one of the world’s top-100 chemists over the past ten years, as ranked by the impact of their published research. Since approximately one million chemists were recorded in the journal publications indexed by Thomson Reuters during the last decade, these 100 represent the top hundredth of one percent. Professor Kruk ranked at position 72 with 54 papers, 3,315 citations, and a citation impact score of 61.39. Citation impact (citations per paper) is a weighted measure of influence that seeks to reveal consistently superior performance.

Professor Sarah Schulman, English, has been named a CUNY Distinguished Professor. She has made significant contributions across disciplines at national and international levels. Her work has made an invaluable impact in creative writing, theater, film, and gay and lesbian culture. Her art and political practices are known for their integrated multi-mediated approaches. Professor Schulman has published prolifically during her career: nine novels, four works of nonfiction, 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 Zaghoul Ahmed, Physical Therapy, is one of only five research scientists to receive the very prestigious 2011 NYC BioAccelerate Award for research regarding a treatment using electrical stimulation that could help the wheelchair-bound to walk. The list of awardees is impressive, representing Columbia University, Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, NYU School of Medicine, and Weill Cornell Medical College.

OUR STUDENTS

Student Mark Barahman '12, a senior Biochemistry major in the Macaulay Honors College and a Goldsmith Scholar, became the first CSI student to win the prestigious Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, the pre-eminent national award for undergraduates in the sciences.

Student Dan Feldman '12, a senior in the Macaulay Honors College at CSI, who is majoring in Physics with a concentration in Astronomy, earned the College's first honorable mention by the Goldwater committee.

FACULTY AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF HIRING, DEVELOPMENT, AND CAREERS

The College of Staten Island welcomed eight new full-time faculty members to its ranks in 2011.

The Faculty Center for Professional Development, located in 1L-202, was officially opened on September 14, 2011 with an inaugural celebration. The Center offers a dedicated space for professional development workshops and enhanced opportunities for interactions and collaborations among all faculty through a broad spectrum of leadership, pedagogical innovation, and scholarship support activities.

The Travel Scholarship Award Program, to support faculty travel to national and international conferences, has been inaugurated with an allocation of \$60,000. The grants will be made to facilitate faculty presentations at important conferences. The program will be administered through the new Faculty Center for Professional Development and proposals will be reviewed by faculty serving on the Advisory

Board of the Center. A total of \$30,000 was also allocated for HEOs and other professional staff for travel to conferences and other professional activities.

ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT AND STUDENT PROFILE

The College achieved major advances in the area of enrollment: CSI yielded a record headcount and FTE enrollment for the fifth consecutive year and the entering freshman baccalaureate class recorded increases in the College Admissions Average (CAA) and SAT scores.

This year, the number of entering baccalaureate students increased by six percent and the number of first-choice entering baccalaureate students increased by nine percent. Since 2007, CSI has also increased first-time baccalaureate freshmen by 67 percent, doubled its first-time freshman baccalaureate-to-associates ratio, increased the total number of baccalaureate degree-seeking students by 85 percent, nearly tripled the baccalaureate-to-associates ratio, and increased the number of baccalaureate degrees by 23 percent.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, SCHOLARSHIP, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Department of World Languages and Literatures began offering a BA degree in Italian Studies. There are two tracks within the major, one of which leads to certification as an Italian teacher.

The Certificate in Latin American, Caribbean, and Latina/o Studies has been approved. The interdisciplinary certificate program is committed to providing academic excellence through a variety of exciting interdisciplinary courses, academic exchanges, cultural events, lectures, and internships. The program develops a specialization of knowledge that broadens students' experiences with multiculturalism and bilingualism. Students who complete the certificate will be especially qualified for jobs in teaching, government, social services, and international business.

Collectively, 15 CSI faculty published 17 books, 31 faculty published 45 book chapters, 95 faculty published 210 articles in refereed journals, seven faculty secured 17 patents, two faculty were curators of six exhibits, and one faculty member wrote and performed a creative work.

Excellence was recognized through the establishment of two new honors societies on campus: Phi Alpha Theta in the History Department and Phi Beta Delta for our international efforts.

The Teacher Education Honors Academy (TEHA) students are ranked first on the list to hire for local area schools, and of 20 TEHA graduates, 14 have been hired as full-time math or science teachers despite a NYC DOE freeze on hiring. This year there are 12 Noyce Scholars in the TEHA, a sizable increase from the three Noyce Scholars from the previous year.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

A Smart Classroom training facility was established in Media Services to address the needs of faculty who want to incorporate instructional technology in their curricula.

The Counseling Center is serving as a clinical training site for the CUNY PhD program in Clinical Psychology and the CSI Master of Arts program in Mental Health Counseling. Additionally, the Center for Student Accessibility serves as an internship site for Psychology undergraduates and graduate students in the Mental Health Counseling program, while the Children's Center serves as a field placement and observation site for undergraduates in Education and Psychology.

GRANTS, RESEARCH, AND SPONSORED PROGRAMS

Seventeen faculty secured more than \$3.3 million in external grants and contracts, in addition to funding for the HPCC.

During the past ten years, the SEEK Strategies for Success program has been awarded more than \$787,000 by foundations and other organizations (including \$199,075 for the 2011-2012 school year).

STUDENT LIFE, RESOURCES, AND SUPPORT

More than \$240,000 was awarded in CSI scholarships to approximately 100 high-achieving students.

Since the fall of 2010, The Carroll and Milton Petrie Emergency Grant Program has been administered through the Division of Student Affairs. The program is funded by a three-year grant of \$300,000 to assist students experiencing short-term

hardship with staying in school. To date, more than 30 students have received an emergency grant, totaling approximately \$40,000.

SEEK provided leadership, in collaboration with the Mexican Consulate and Institute for Mexicans Abroad, in developing a new scholarship for Mexican students studying at CSI (\$20,000 for eight students).

The Center for Student Accessibility was selected to present its assistive technology mentoring program at the National Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD) Conference in Seattle, WA. AHEAD is the premiere national organization guiding disability service providers in higher education. In addition, as part of Disability Awareness Month, the Center received prominent recognition for its efforts promoting understanding of students with Asperger's Syndrome.

CSI won conference championships in Women's Softball and Men's Baseball. Both Women's Softball and Men's Swimming advanced to the NCAA National Championships.

CSI instituted its first-ever National Student-Athlete Day, honoring the more than 75 student "scholar-athletes" on the Athletic Director/Student Athletic Advisory Committee Honor Roll.

The College celebrated the 30th anniversary of CSI's radio station, WSIA, during Homecoming weekend.

CAMPUS RESOURCES, FACILITIES, AND ENVIRONMENT

The Campus Housing project is moving ahead as the CUNY Board of Trustees recently passed an important resolution to provide a "CUNY guarantee" to assist CSI in securing the financing to construct student resident facilities on its campus.

Beginning with the Fall 2011 semester, the Office of the Bursar implemented a new e-billing system that allows students to receive electronic copies of their tuition bills. This new process has a projected cost savings in postage and paper of \$30,000 to \$50,000 for the College.

CSI's Office of Environmental Health and Safety led the College through a highly successful EPA laboratory audit and the College was commended on its safety efforts.

To ease congestion on campus, maintain better traffic control, and provide additional pedestrian safety measures, a four-way Stop sign was installed on the east side of the Loop Road and a new traffic plan was put in place to facilitate vehicle movement on the Administrative Loop.

The offices of Buildings and Grounds and Campus Planning coordinated a number of improvements and renovations on campus. Some of the initiatives are the roof projects for Buildings 1R, 2R, and 6S; Faculty Center for Professional Development; installation of down lighting on several buildings; build out of the High-Performance Computing Center and expansion of the electrical equipment room; Building 6S HVAC renovation to reduce air exchanges, resulting in more than \$1 million in energy savings for the State; installation of the Batter's Eye on the baseball field; Help Desk renovation in Building 2A; selection of locations, design of signs, and development of maps for Designated Smoking Areas; and complete resurfacing and restriping of Parking Lot 3 with the assistance of Auxiliary Services.

The Office of Buildings and Grounds led the College's effort in its participation in the Recyclemania contest, a nationwide college competition. CSI ranked sixth out of 288 schools in the Per Capita Classic and Waste Minimization Division.

TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTATION

WAN (Wide Area Network) capacity was increased by a factor of 20, from 100 megabits to two gigabits. LAN backbone (Local Area Network) capacity was increased by a factor of ten, from one gigabit to ten gigabits, for heavily used portions of the network. These upgrades will provide CSI with the network capacity essential for today's Web-based multimedia pedagogy.

A virtual computing environment was developed, which has reduced 16 physical servers to four. This reduction of hardware has resulted in increased space and significant savings in electricity through consolidation of applications and hardware. The virtual environment is ever expanding as more production servers are virtualized.

Seventeen teaching spaces have been upgraded as Smart Classrooms with fully immersive state-of-the-art technology. Fourteen additional Smart Classrooms have been installed and configured throughout the campus. This is a 25 percent increase in the number of teaching spaces equipped with this technology.

Informational Centers, student computer stations with general computer laboratory software, have been set up in the lobbies of 11 academic buildings. Silvers, sleek steel enclosed kiosks, were installed in the Building 2A atrium to assist students in obtaining financial aid resources. An additional 62 computers for student use were installed on the second and third floors of the Library. The newly installed computers have the same software as those in computer laboratories throughout the campus.

Approximately 700 faculty, staff, and student computers were upgraded throughout the campus.

COLLEGE ADVANCEMENT, DEVELOPMENT, AND ALUMNI

The Division of Institutional Advancement and External Affairs held the first-ever Homecoming, in collaboration with the Division of Student Affairs, on October 1, 2011. As part of Homecoming, the first Walkathon to support the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative (SIBCRD) was held, and raised more than \$14,000 for breast cancer research at the College; the Walkathon was held in collaboration with the SIBCRI, part of the College's Center for Environmental Science. More than 400 people attended the first Homecoming, complete with athletic events, networking, a historical view of Italian culture developed by professors of the Italian Studies program, and a variety of other specifically designed events.

The College's second Celestial Ball was held on December 4, 2010 and honored CUNY Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the College of Staten Island, Dr. Fred Naider; FDNY Commissioner Salvatore Cassano; and Dolores N. Morris, retired Vice President, HBO Family Channel, and a five-time Emmy Award winner. This event netted more than \$630,000, representing a 20 percent increase from the previous year, and received a special award from The City University of New York for outstanding gala success across the University.

CSI was the recipient of the CUNY "Goal Buster Award" for surpassing the College's fundraising goal as part of the 2010 CUNY Campaign for Charitable Giving. Faculty and staff contributed more than \$18,000 to charities and organizations, including the CSI Foundation, which provide student scholarships and desperately needed assistance to the homeless, homebound senior citizens, teens struggling to complete high school, and others facing severe economic and social challenges.

A strategic initiative was developed by the Division, with the use of results of an alumni survey, to hold several targeted “affinity” and regional/national reunions, resulting in Business, Education, and Nursing alumni reunions, in collaboration with the respective departments. Reunions were also held in Manhattan; Brooklyn; Miami, FL; Boca Raton, FL; and Atlanta, GA.

LOCAL, REGIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

The Office of Student Life, in conjunction with student clubs, the Emerging Leaders Program, WSIA, and Student Government, provided 22,000 volunteered hours in the community and raised more than \$25,000 for the American Cancer Society and other charitable organizations.

Health and Wellness Services hosted the New York Blood Center for three two-day blood drives this year with 415 faculty, students, and staff participating, resulting in a 15 percent increase in donations from the previous year.

In 2010-2011, 135 CSI students studied abroad, which represents a 64 percent increase over the previous year. Additionally, 139 visiting international students were enrolled at CSI from 12 countries. Also, 108 international students were enrolled in our English Language Institute.

The Children’s Center, in conjunction with the New York City Association for the Education of Young Children, hosted a borough-wide informational meeting on the National Association for the Education of Young Children’s accreditation process.

This past fiscal year, there were nearly 87,000 visits from nine countries, representing four continents, to the *CSI Today* electronic magazine on the College’s Webpage, and more than 218,000 page views of this electronic magazine.

