

CSI in the News



August 2011



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Arts & Events



Celebrate a great nation

Wednesday, August 03, 2011, 8:55 AM



Diane Lore
By

WILLOWBROOK

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — Bring your patriotic hearts and minds to hear marches, the armed forces medley, and some of the greatest classical and wind band tunes of all time.

The oldest premier band in the U.S. Army, the West Point Band, will perform a free concert at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday at the [College of Staten Island's \(CSI\)](#) Springer Concert Hall.

The West Point Band's deputy commander, Captain Dae Kim, will conduct.

The West Point Band performs concerts and ceremonies, and plays at athletic events for the U.S. Corps of Cadets. It performs public concerts around the country. Over its 194-year history, it has performed for numerous U.S. presidents, heads of state, and foreign dignitaries.

Band members have performed in Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Saratoga Performing Arts Center, and at Tanglewood. The band collaborated several times with the New York Philharmonic, at Musical Fireworks events in July 2008 and 2010 and on holiday concerts in December 2009 and 2010 at Lincoln Center's Avery Fisher Hall.

Each year the West Point Band's popular concert series attracts thousands to the United States Military Academy's scenic campus overlooking the Hudson River for displays of world-class musical talent. Recent soloists to perform with the West Point Band include Joseph Alessi, principal trombone of the New York Philharmonic; Jay Ungar and Molly Mason, the Grammy-winning folk duo who performed music on Ken Burns' The Civil War documentary; Larry Combs, principal clarinet of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and a West Point Band alumnus; Broadway stars Caissie Levy and Lea Salonga, and John McDermott of "The Irish Tenors"

Tickets for the concert and more information are available by calling 718-982-2787 or by checking the [CSI](#) or West Point websites, www.csi.cuny.edu and www.westpoint.edu/band. Excerpts from the band's performances can be heard by clicking "Listening Room" on the band's West Point website.

Faculty & Staff

Exercise healthy choices to avoid the dreaded 'freshman 15'

Published: Sunday, August 07, 2011, 9:00 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**



Advance File Photo

Look for healthy options on campus and ask for nutritional information before making food choices.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — College is supposed to be a time filled with new adventures, friends and learning experiences. For many, it also equals new pounds.

You've heard about it before, the dreaded "freshman 15," and if you're not careful, it can happen to you. But by making conscious decisions about what you put into your mouth, you can avoid packing on the pounds.

According to Terrianne Darragh, nurse manager at the [College of Staten Island's](#) Health Center, sugary drinks, including soda, fruit drinks and sports drinks, are one of the biggest culprits behind weight gain.

Instead, she recommends, opt for water, which will keep you hydrated and has zero calories. If you're looking for a tastier option, use low-calorie drink mixers like Crystal Light, which have as little as five calories per serving.

Ms. Darragh, a registered nurse, also warns students to stay away from energy-boosting products, which tend to be high in caffeine and can have some side effects like insomnia, dehydration and increased heart rate and blood pressure.

LATE-NIGHT SNACK

Many students gain weight eating a lot of junk to stay fueled during late-night cramming sessions. If you're hungry while studying through the night, Ms. Darragh suggests eating protein-rich foods instead, which will

help you feel satiated and to focus on your studies — rather than your next meal.

Foods high in protein include beans, nuts, seeds and poultry. A slice of whole wheat bread with peanut butter makes for a tasty and satisfying late-night snack, the nurse added.

College students also should add color to their plate in the form of fruits and veggies, she said. Vegetables are rich in vitamins and nutrients such as vitamin C, riboflavin, thiamin and folate, which help boost your immune system and keep you slim.

According to the American Dietetic Association (ADA), raw veggies are more nutritious than their cooked counterparts. Baby carrots, sliced cucumbers and green beans easily can be stored in a small fridge in your dorm and are a much better alternative to chips and cookies.

DINING HALL DILEMMA

The dining hall can be a daunting place with a slew of options that look healthy, but aren't. Ms. Darragh advises reading nutritional signs, if available.

Before choosing your meal, survey all options, she said. Hit up the salad bar, which most schools offer, and choose grilled meat opposed to fried, along with wheat or whole grain bread and yogurt.

The ADA states it's important to eat slowly, giving your body time to feel full, which can help combat overeating.

Jessica Braadt, a nutrition consultant and owner of Changes Nutrition in New Dorp, says the change of lifestyle can be one of the reasons freshmen pack on pounds. "There's a lot more stress, worrying about papers and classes," Ms. Braadt said, adding that when people get nervous or stressed they tend to eat.

Keep air popped chips and other pre-portioned packages of health food handy so that it's the first thing you'll turn to when hungry. Ms. Braadt recommends Pirate's Booty chips, a favorite of hers, light popcorn and nuts.

Though, "Be careful with the nuts," she warned. "They can get addicting."

THIRST OR HUNGER?

She also suggests storing ice water by the snacks, noting, "We sometimes mistake thirst for hunger."

You may even add a drop of apple juice to ice water, she suggested, noting this will help to fill your stomach and add a fruity taste.

While college life can get hectic and busy, don't forget to make time for exercise. The ADA recommends at least 30 minutes of physical activity daily and Ms. Darragh said there are easy ways to sneak exercise into your daily routine.

For instance, if your college offers a shuttle bus to class, get off a stop or two earlier and walk, or just walk the entire way. You also can speed-walk to class, take the stairs instead of elevators or escalators, and park your car far from your destination.

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Brooklyn Daily Eagle

Citizen Kane's Bay Ridge Beat

August 11, 2011

by Brooklyn Eagle (), published online [08-11-2011](#)

By Friends of Tom Kane

Local boy makes good ... It's been quite a baseball season for loyal son of Bay Ridge Neil Barbella. Back in May, his charges at the College of Staten Island, where Neil is the associate head coach, copped the CUNY conference crown with a thrilling, 1-0, extra-inning victory over Baruch College at MCU Park. Then, apparently not content to take the summer off to rest on his laurels, Neil took up his spot as an assistant coach for the Staten Island Tide of the Atlantic Collegiate Baseball League.

The loop, which features many local players currently starring at their colleges and universities, is the metropolitan area's answer to the famous Cape Cod league. Featuring intercollegiate athletes looking to spend their summer honing their craft, the Tide worked its way through the ACBL season with a 24-14 record, good enough for first place in the league's Kaiser Division. Last Sunday, the Tide knocked off the Weshampton Aviators to win the crown, making it quite the successful summer for our good friend Neil.

"It's been a long baseball season," Neil said. "We started at CSI back in late January and just wrapped up the ACBL today. But, all of the time and effort was worth it as both seasons were immensely successful." Barbella has been at this for quite some time, holding a coaching position on some level for most of his life. Funny, then, to hear where this highly accomplished baseball lifer got his start.

"When I was 16, I was an assistant coach for Tommy Kane and his famous Navajos in St. Pat's Little League," he recalled. "I remember how much fun it was because we not only had a winning team, but Kane was the most popular guy in the neighborhood. It made me cool by association. I learned so much from him about handling kids, not sweating the small stuff and just letting the kids play. Even now, I use that little league experience as a resource on the college level. It's made me a much better coach."

Congrats again, Neil. And enjoy the time off. You've certainly earned it.

* * *

Food Network star to Bay Ridge ... If you've been following the show, you know that the winner of The Next Food Network Star contest will be crowned next week. Jeff Mauro, Vic "Vegas" Moea (our favorite) and Susie Jimenez will battle for the title in the season finale on Sunday at 9 p.m. Bay Ridge will then have a chance to meet the winner at TK's favorite book store, The Bookmark Shoppe. Owners Christine Freglette and Bina Valenzano welcome the winner to their store on Tuesday, Aug. 16 at 7 p.m. The Bookmark Shoppe is located at 8415 Third Ave.

* * *

brooklynONE Youth Ensemble ... Don't miss these super talented kids as they take their act to Jamie Lynn's Kitchen at 1504 86th St. next Thursday at 7 p.m. The new group, started by Anthony Marino, who

co-founded brooklynONE with Mr. Kane, was a smash at the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life in June.

Marino was very excited about the evening when we caught up with him.

"Rehearsals for our Night at the Kitchen event are going extremely well, and it's going to be a really entertaining night filled with lots of laughs and surprises ... like only brooklynONE can do. We hope you can join us."

* * *

Reunion ... If you're anywhere near Shore Road this Saturday, you might see a number of familiar faces on the ballfields at 97th Street. That's where a large group of Bay Ridge natives, formerly known as Ruthie's Raiders, will be staging a long overdue reunion.

Organized by Mickey Lynch, now of Boston, the soiree will welcome back friends from as far as Arizona, California and Ohio.

"It'll be a day of fun with the old gang," Lynch said. "We grew up down there."

Lynch is rumored to be arranging some entertainment from within the group, hoping to coax musicians George Connelly, Rich Johnson, Chris Stottman and Johnny Simms out of retirement.

Neil O'Donnell, who is helping Mickey plan the event, was thankful to those that donated all of the food and refreshments.

"I want to thank Pete Westad, Ruth McPheate, Dave Ischiboles, Al Baire and Joann Thewaile for their generosity. We could have never pulled this together without them."

Have a great time, everybody. Hoist a cold one and belt out a rendition of "Mack the Knife" in Kane's memory.

* * *

Happy 18th birthday ... Birthday wishes go out to Jillian Oliver, beautiful daughter of Stephen and Laurie Oliver. Jillian, an esteemed Fontbonne grad, is off to Iona College in a few weeks to begin her college career. Good luck, Jill.

* * *

Picks of the week ... In honor of Neil Barbella, the movie of the week is The Prince of Tides with Barbra Streisand and Nick Nolte, who, in his prime, was not nearly as sexy as Neil. The song of the week, to honor the Ruthie's Reunion, is "Saturday in the Park" by Chicago. The book of the week is Call Me Jillian by Vicky Rudy.



Staten Island Port Authority toll hike meeting raises tensions, tempers flare

Published: Tuesday, August 16, 2011, 10:55 AM



Staten Island Advance

By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- It's been a tense morning for those in attendance at the Port Authority's first public hearing on the agency's proposed toll hikes on its bridges and tunnels -- ahead of tonight's second meeting, agency officials may have to bring in additional security to calm frayed nerves.

A large contingent of union workers, there to defend the price increases, showed up first and got seated front and center as the meeting started shortly after 8 a.m.

While several spoke out in favor of bringing in more toll money to help fund projects that would create jobs, many others had a different feeling.

"What the hell do you think we are, growing money on trees," asked community activist Joe Valentin, who engaged in a shouting match with union members.

A mixed crowd are voicing their opinions for and against the **Port Authority's proposed toll hikes**, which would raise the toll by 50 percent during peak driving hours.

A second hearing will be held at 6 p.m. at the Michael J. Petrides Educational Complex in Sunnyside.

When union members were accused of trying to intimidate Islanders, a man wearing an orange union shirt -- one of many in the audience -- told him to be quiet.

Additional shouting matches ensued before one union member sought to calm the tension, saying he feels for Staten Islanders but added "I just want to work."



Advance file photo

The proposal would raise peak-hour E-ZPass tolls on those the three Staten Island-New Jersey crossings -- including the Outerbridge Crossing, above -- to \$12 a ride.



Staten Island Advance/Jillian Jorgensen

Union members are dominating the meeting at Howland Hook.

The 3-hour meeting drew dozens of comments with many going over the allotted three minutes.

College of Staten Island professor Jonathan Peters said many cannot afford the toll hikes and that Staten Islanders have few public transit options to get to New Jersey.

"It is making life impossible on Staten Island, and I just hope that you will

reconsider the hikes and leave Staten Island alone," said Assemblyman Matthew Titone (D-North Shore), pointing out the hikes and other economic hits are making it impossible to seek happiness here.

Drivers who use E-ZPass and who cross onto the borough during peak hours would see the toll rise from \$8 to \$12. The tariff at other times would be \$10, but the daily off-peak windows would narrow.

The cash toll would be \$15 and tolls would go up again in 2014 under the Port Authority proposal, to \$14 for E-ZPass users and \$17 cash.

***VIEW THE WHOLE PLAN**

The cash-strapped PA has said the steep hikes are needed to pay for various capital projects, like the rebuilding of the World Trade Center site and new suspension cables for the George Washington Bridge.

Union members are speaking out in favor of the massive toll hikes, saying they will ensure that jobs will be created. A number of members of the Laborers International Union of North America are in attendance, sporting bright orange shirts proclaiming 'Port Authority = Jobs'.

"If the project is going to create jobs, we support it," said Ruben Colon, a union carpenter from Brooklyn.

But others said it wasn't a matter of jobs versus tolls.

City Councilwoman Debi Rose called pitting labor against residents a "travesty."

"We're pitting people who need jobs against people who need to get to their jobs, and that's not fair," she said.

The Port Authority is holding a series of public meetings across the city and in New Jersey today. A second hearing will be held in the auditorium of the Petrides Educational Complex in Sunnyside at 6 p.m.

*-Reported by Jillian Jorgensen. Follow her on Twitter **@jill_jorgensen** for live updates.*

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Staten Island pols say writing is on the wall for Port Authority toll increase

Published: Thursday, August 18, 2011, 8:39 AM



By **Michael Sedon**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- No one knows exactly how the Port Authority's board will vote when it meets tomorrow on planned toll hikes, but some kind of an increase appears to be inevitable.

Borough President James Molinaro is bracing for a toll hike: "But nowhere near what they're proposing."

The proposal calls for a 50 percent increase for E-ZPass users from \$8 to \$12, peak time and even higher tolls -- \$15 -- for cash customers of the agency's bridges and tunnels. Then in 2014 the PA will tack on an additional \$2 across the board.

*HEATED STATEN ISLAND HEARINGS

Jonathan Peters, a professor of finance at the College of Staten Island agreed with

Molinaro's scenario that tolls will increase, but at a smaller percentage than what is currently proposed.

"That's what happened in the past," Peters said. "It really does smack of a disingenuous process." In 2001 when the PA proposed to raise tolls from \$4, its initial plan called for an outrageous increase to \$7 for peak-time travelers, but the agency settled with \$6, according to Advance reports.



Staten Island Advance/Hilton Flores

Members of Labor International Union North America turned out en masse at Tuesday's hearing to support the Port Authority's planned toll hikes.

Then again in 2007 there were unconfirmed reports that a \$3 hike was on the way, but when the official announcement came out, the increase sought was today's current \$8 toll to cross the bridges and tunnels for peak-time travelers, according to Advance archives.

"Tolls have gone up radically faster than inflation," Peters said of the last 15 years. Peters and Molinaro disagreed with the PA's venture into real estate where the agency often loses money, such as with the near tripling of the original estimate to rebuild the World Trade Center the PA cited in its original press release officially announcing the toll hike.



Advance file photo

Dr. Jonathan Peters, an Assistant Professor of Finance, at the College of Staten Island.

Staten Island hearing on proposed Port Authority toll hikes

Dozens of speakers, including Staten Island resident Joe Valentin, spoke at a hearing about proposed Port Authority toll hikes. People at the 8 a.m. meeting were both both in favor of and in opposition to the increases.

Staten Islanders attend second toll hike hearing

The evening meeting, held at the Michael J. Petrides School, Sunnyside, could accommodate more than 900 people in the building's auditorium, and it was held after Borough President James Molinaro and other elected officials protested to the time and location of the morning meeting.

"They may lead with this outrageous scenario as they have done today," Peters explained. "Then the governors will make a half outrageous proposal, and somehow that's acceptable."

Molinaro supports the resident discount for Staten Islanders and feels that Island businesses reliant on trucks for shipping

should be exempt from an increase to minimize the impact on local employers."This would give us an opportunity to level the playing field," Molinaro said. "There's got to be some consideration for the New York side. They're (PA) destroying us."

City Councilmembers Vincent Ignizio (R-South Shore) and James Oddo (R-Mid-Island/ Brooklyn) agree with the consensus that an increase will happen but the size and some other details will probably be different from what was



Enlarge

Jan Somma-Hammel

originally proposed.

"I'll go with the conventional wisdom that the two governors will approve an increase," Oddo said. "The \$4 may go to \$2."

The meeting room was packed with residents, elected officials and union-members wearing orange T-shirts. (Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel)

Staten Island hearings on proposed Port Authority toll hikes
gallery (17 photos)

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and New York Governor Andrew Cuomo will have final say. A veto on the toll hike from either governor effectively kills the increase.

"I think the governors will be engaged, and they will seek to lower or eliminate the increase," Ignizio said. "They have to work together because a veto stops this in its tracks."

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Plus - People and events

Renowned speakers at symposium on decorative arts of Sri Lanka

The 2011 Symposium on the Decorative Arts of Sri Lanka, on the theme "The Interconnected World of Eurasia" will be held on August 24, 25 and 26 in Colombo.

The Symposium will be held on the 24th at Galle Face Hotel and on the 25th and 26th at the American Center auditorium and will have a wide spectrum of distinguished speakers touching on topics from "Buddhist Art of Tang China, to the Ancient Commercial Ties of Northern Sri Lanka. Day 2 will discuss the Sri Lankan impact on early modern Japanese decorative arts, to Ceylonese ivory carvings in Dutch collections.

Speakers and presenters from USA, UK, Netherlands, India and Sri Lanka will share their valuable research and expertise in areas of the decorative arts. The list of distinguished speakers includes Dr. Anning Jing, Dr. Senerath Bandara Dissanayake, Dr. Shanti Jayewardene-Pillai, Ashley de Vos, Prof. Nimal de Silva, Prof. P. Pushparatnum, Dr. Sinharaja Tammita Delgoda, Dr. Sanjay Garg, Dr. R. Mahalakshmi, Prof. K.D. Paranavitana, Dr. Martha Chaikin, Ebelte Hartkamp- Jonxis, Ayesha Abdur-Rahman, Prof. B.D. Nandadeva, Dr. Robin Jones, Cresside Collette, Ismeth Raheem, Shevanthie Gunasekera, Deshika Van Haght, Moahdi Hussain, Alexandra Mohr and Luzia Hardy.

In 2008, AISLS (American Institute for Sri Lankan Studies) sponsored the first workshop, covering topics from the ancient, medieval and Kandyan periods, including the European colonial periods of Dutch VOC and British East India Company. The Lanka Decorative Arts (LDA) a non-profit association was launched in 2010, for the study and appreciation of the arts.

Those interested in decorative arts may register by e-mailing LDAconference @gmail.com or by calling 0771614023. Seating is limited so reserve early. Details of sessions, registration fees etc will be sent by email.

Memorial lecture on Dr. K. Balasubramaniam

The Peoples' Movement for the Rights of Patients (PMRP) will conduct the first in the series of the Dr. K. Balasubramaniam memorial lectures on Saturday, August 27 from 10.00 am to noon at the Hall of the Centre for Society and Religion (CSR) at the Fatima Church premises, 281 Deans Road, Colombo 10. The topic will be, "A model doctor and the challenges facing a health activist." The speaker will be Prof. Carlo Fonseka, former dean of the Medical Faculty of the University of Kelaniya.

All are welcome for this lecture in memory of the PMRP's founder, patron and father-figure Dr. Balasubramaniam who worked for half a century to restore a health service where the well-being of the patients is given top priority and provide quality drugs to all the people at affordable prices. The purpose of the lecture is to honour Dr. Balasubramaniam by continuing the work towards his goal and vision.

Sri Lankan wins award for outstanding teaching in New York

Shahfie Jayman, a member of the teaching faculty at the **College of Staten Island** in New York, has won the College President's award for "Outstanding Teaching by a Faculty Member for 2011." The award is given annually for outstanding performances in different fields of teaching.

A Chartered Mechanical Engineer and a product of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers in England, Jayman is the first SriLankan/American to receive this award. A professional engineer and full member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, he is also a member of several engineering bodies in England and Sri Lanka.

Jayman received his engineering training in England (1971-75), served as a Senior Mechanical Engineer for the Kaduna State Government in Nigeria and also as a Rural Infrastructure Engineer for the UNDP's Integrated Rural Development Project in Nigeria.

He migrated to USA in 1988 and joined the **College of Staten Island** in 1990 and retired as full-time faculty member in 2010. Currently, he is serving as a part-time professor, teaching applied statistics for second & third year undergraduates.

Elected chair for Southern Asia



Senior consultant and former Chairman of Sri Lanka Group S.T. Perera (Sam or ST) was elected Chairman of the Southern Asia region for a 3 year term at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE), UK, International, Council and Trustee Board elections recently.

He will represent the region in Council and the International Strategy Board. This is the first time that a Sri Lankan Engineer is elected as chair for the Southern Asia region. Sam has held senior positions in Ceylon Petroleum Corporation, in mining overseas and construction industries in Sri Lanka.

Sam Perera

He is a Chartered Engineer and a Fellow of the IMechE and an honorary life Fellow and past Council Member of the Institution of Engineers, Sri Lanka. He has also served some years as a Vice President of the Organisation of Professional Associations, Sri Lanka.

He has represented the Sri Lankan Group of IMechE and made presentations at International conferences held in Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and India.

Lecture on the historic city of Jaffna

"Gateway to Mutual Heritage of Jaffna with special reference to the Grid City" - a lecture by architects Jayatissa Herath, Deepal Wijethilaka and Suganya Vinasithamby will be the 32nd monthly lecture of the National Trust of Sri Lanka.

The lecture will be held on Thursday, August 25 at 6.30 p.m. at the Institute of Construction Training & Development (ICTAD) "Savsi ripaya", No.123 Wijerama Mawatha ,Colombo 7. The lecture is open to the public with parking available in the vicinity.

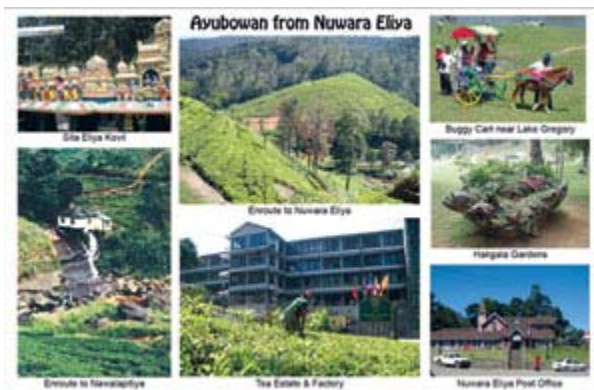
Music and song to re-build North-East

A concert titled 'Concert for Commitment to Caring and Sharing' organized by the Boards of Social Responsibility of the Colombo South Circuit of the Methodist Church will be held on Saturday, September 3 at the British School auditorium at 6 p.m. Well-known performers - the prize-winning Methodist College Choir, the Revelations, pianists Ramya de Livera Perera and Soundarie David, flautist Tilanka Jayamanne, Paraguayan Harpist Anslem de Silva and a host of other singers performing in Sinhala, Tamil and English are billed to perform.

The singers include John and Delrine Wijeyabahu, Ananda Goonesekera, Vipulananda Moorthy, Duke Vinokumar, Errol and Nishadi Fernando, Savitri Thambapillai and Viraj Fernando, Ravi and Gayan Perera, Naomi Hettithanthri, Hazel Rajiah, Manavi Perera and Asiri Fernando. The church youth choir backed by Ravi, Gayan, Christo Prins and Combo will also perform.

The concert is being held to raise funds for the war-torn areas of the North and East. Tickets are available at the Methodist Churches, Kollupitiya, Wellawatte and Nugegoda and at the British School auditorium priced at Rs. 1,000, 750, 500, 300 and 150.

Vijitha Yapa 2012 pictorial postcard diary now out



Vijitha Yapa Publications have now released their new pictorial desk calendar for the Year 2012. Photographed by Vijitha and Lalana Yapa, it contains colourful scenes from well known tourist attractions in Sri Lanka. The cover has a dramatic picture of the Pinnawela elephants climbing up the embankment after their bath.

Priced at Rs. 450, it is an ideal gift for loved ones, friends and also clients. The diary has been released early to facilitate those who want to send it to friends abroad, by seamount or through friends

travelling overseas.

A unique feature of the calendar is that each picture is detachable and can be used as an individual picture post card. The diary is enclosed in an attractive box, so that no separate packing is necessary.

Admiral Samarasinghe at the Govt. House of Australia

Admiral Thisara Samarasinghe, the newly appointed High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Australia presented his letter of credence to Quentin Bryce, AC, Governor - General of Australia at the Government House recently. He is also seen inspecting a guard of honour on the occasion.



Tamara, Sri Lanka's new ambassador to UN, Geneva

Tamara Kunanayakam presented her credentials to Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geneva Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, on August 9, accrediting her as Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations in Switzerland.

Welcoming the new ambassador to the credential ceremony, the Director General commended the role played by Sri Lanka in the United Nations system, including the country's contribution to the UN peace keeping force.

Ms. Kunanayakam earlier served as Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Republic of Cuba and also served as Minister Counsellor at the Sri Lankan Embassy in Brasília. Prior to that she served as the Secretary to the Working Group on the Right to Development, the Working Group on structural adjustment programmes and economic, social and cultural rights, and also that on enforced and involuntary disappearances, at the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). She was also attached to the ILO and UNDP.

National Day celebrations



The 65th Independence Day of India was celebrated on August 14. Here High Commissioner Ashok K. Kantha is seen inspecting the guard of honour at India House.



A special flag hoisting ceremony was held on the occasion of the Independence Day of Pakistan on August 14 at the Pakistani High Commission.

‘Redeemers’ translates ethereal haze of the Latin American soul



Peter Kelton

, Contemporary Literature Examiner
August 30, 2011 - Like this?

(Current fiction and quality fiction of the past.)

“Redeemers: Ideas and Power in Latin America” ([Harper](#)) by Enrique Krauze, the author of “Mexico: Biography of Power,” among other books, delves into the ethereal haze where literature merges with politics.

Krauze, in his mid-sixties, was described by Paul Berman (“The Flight of the Intellectuals”; “Power and the Idealists”) in a piece for *The New York Times* as “a canny operator within the upper murks of Mexican politics.” True, he’s the editor of a slick magazine called *Letas Libres* (a current issue asks, “¿Dónde está Gaddafi?”) but it’s the qualities of “Redeemers” translators that attracted Examiner.

They are Hank Heifetz and Natasha Wimmer. Although Krauze has written for *The New York Times*, *The New Republic*, *Dissent*, *The Washington Post*, and *The New York Review of Books*, Examiner can safely state that the skilled touches of Heifetz and Wimmer elevate “Redeemers” to the realm interpretive loveliness. Anyway, Krauze lives in Mexico City, where he is the director of Clío TV Productions as well as the editor in chief of *Letras Libres* (think of *Vanity Fair* and *Fortune* merged, sort of).

According to the publisher, “Redeemers” tells how writers José Enrique Rodó, Mario Vargas Llosa, Octavio Paz, and Gabriel García Márquez reinforce the importance of imagination to inspire social change. The book is a collage of the distinct but interconnected experiences and views of 12 fascinating cultural and political figures. It’s well worth reading if you’d like a better understanding of how literature merges with politics in Latin America..

Natasha Wimmer is the translator of Roberto Bolaño's “The Savage Detectives,” “2666” and, most recently, “Between Parentheses: Essays, Articles, and Speeches (1998–2003).” Examiner wrote: “Having read both the Spanish and English versions of ‘2666,’ it’s impossible for the Examiner not to praise the translation by Natasha Wimmer as absolutely superb” ([Examiner- Bolaño](#)).

Hank Heifetz, a poet and novelist as well as a Sanskrit scholar, is Adjunct Assistant Professor of Performing and Creative Arts at [CUNY, Staten Island](#) and Visiting Lecturer at Yale University. His excellent translations are responsible for a majority of the book.



CORRECTION - 2011 Online Journalism Awards Finalists Announced

August 31, 2011 --

WASHINGTON, DC -- (Marketwire) -- 08/31/11 -- In the news release, "2011 Online Journalism Awards Finalists Announced," issued earlier today by Online News Association, we are advised by the company that OpenSecrets.org should be added as a finalist to the Online Topical Reporting/Blogging, Small Site category. Complete corrected text follows.

2011 Online Journalism Awards Finalists Announced

WASHINGTON, DC -- August 31, 2011 -- Finalists for the 2011 Online Journalism Awards, many pushing the envelope of innovation and excellence in digital storytelling and distribution, were announced today by the Online News Association and its academic partner, the School of Communication at the University of Miami.

A group of 34 industry-leading journalists and new media professionals teamed up to review entrants and select finalists. Twelve of those judges, representing a diverse cross-section of the industry, met at the university's Coral Gables, Fla., campus and eight more conferred internationally to determine winners from independent, community, nonprofit, major media and international news sites.

Launched in 2000, the OJAs are the only comprehensive set of journalism prizes honoring excellence in digital journalism. This year's award results will be announced at the 2011 ONA Conference and Online Journalism Awards Banquet on Saturday, Sept. 24, at the Marriott Copley Place in Boston.

This year, ONA introduced changes to acknowledge the explosion of journalistic innovation on new digital platforms. Entries for all awards were open to news produced for any digital device. Eight awards come with a total of \$33,000 in prize money, courtesy of the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and the Gannett Foundation, which also is supporting innovative investigative work with two \$2,500 awards.

"We found that excellence in digital journalism today requires not only traditional shoe-leather reporting and engaging storytelling, but also sophisticated use of social tools and multimedia techniques," said Anthony Moor, Managing Editor, Local at Yahoo!, who, along with the Associated Press' Director of Global Product Operations Ruth Gersh, co-chairs the Online Journalism Awards Committee.

The finalists, listed in alphabetical order, are:

Knight Award for Public Service

Assault on Learning - The Philadelphia Inquirer

Barneget Bay Under Stress - Asbury Park Press

Breach of Faith - Los Angeles Times

Deadly Neglect - Chicago Tribune

On Shaky Ground - California Watch and Center for Investigative Reporting

Gannett Foundation Award for Technical Innovation in the Service of Digital Journalism

Flipboard

Power to the People: Voter Education for All - e-thePeople

ScraperWiki

ScribbleLive

General Excellence in Online Journalism, Micro Site

NJ Spotlight

OnEarth

The Tiziano Project

Yale Environment 360

General Excellence in Online Journalism, Small Site

California Watch and the Center for Investigative Reporting

FRONTLINE

ProPublica

The Texas Tribune

voiceofsandiego.org - Voice of San Diego

General Excellence in Online Journalism, Medium Site

CBC News

Las Vegas Sun

NewsOK / The Oklahoman

The Globe and Mail

General Excellence in Online Journalism, Large Site

Al Jazeera

BBC News

The New York Times

The Wall Street Journal

General Excellence in Online Journalism, Non-English, Small Site

El Nuevo Herald.com

Il Tirreno

OWNI

General Excellence in Online Journalism, Non-English, Large Site

20minutos

G1 - Portal de Notícias da Globo

LA NACION

Breaking News, Small Site

Aggregation Breaking News - Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami 2011 - ProducerMatthew.com

A Snow Storm Hits New York and WNYC Listeners Map the Cleanup - WNYC Radio

Slave Lake Wildfires in Northern Alberta - Global News

Stanley Cup Hockey Riots in Vancouver - The Vancouver Sun

Breaking News, Large Site

Congresswoman Shot - The Associated Press
Coverage of the Uprisings in Egypt - Al Jazeera
Japan Earthquake - Wall Street Journal
The Earthquake, Tsunami and Nuclear Crisis in Japan - The New York Times

Specialty Site Journalism, Affiliated

NPR Music - NPR
Pipeline - Pittsburgh Post-Gazette/post-gazette.com
The Civil Rights Cold Case Project - Center for Investigative Reporting, Paperny Films
USA TODAY Travel - USA TODAY

Specialty Site Journalism, Independent

edweek.org - Education Week, Editorial Projects in Education
IEEE Spectrum - Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers

Gannett Foundation Award for Innovative Investigative Journalism, Small Site

Dialysis - ProPublica
Dollars for Doctors - ProPublica
Lifesaving Drugs, Deadly Consequences -- InvestigateWest
On Shaky Ground - California Watch and the Center for Investigative Reporting
The Truth Left Behind: Inside the Kidnapping and Murder of Daniel Pearl: Pearl Project, sponsored by Georgetown University and the Center for Public Integrity's International Consortium of Investigative Journalists
Breakdown: Traveling Dangerously in America - National News 21 and The Center for Public Integrity

Gannett Foundation Award for Innovative Investigative Journalism, Large Site

Breach of Faith - Los Angeles Times
OTL: Painkiller Misuse Numbs NFL Pain - ESPN
Top Secret America - The Washington Post
What Really Happened to Phoebe Prince? - Slate

Multimedia Feature Presentation, Small Site

Apart from War - News21 Team at Syracuse University
Crisis Guide: Pakistan - Council on Foreign Relations/MediaStorm
The Poppy File - OpenFile, ninth+crux

Multimedia Feature Presentation, Medium Site

Exile Without End: Palestinians in Lebanon - CBC News, Radio-Canada, ALT Digital Design Studio
The '60 Bucs (Parts 4-7) - Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Multimedia Feature Presentation, Large Site

A Year at War - The New York Times
Quieting Dylan's Brain - Los Angeles Times
Traumatic Brain Injury: Coming Home a Different Person - The Washington Post

Multimedia Feature Presentation, Student

Global Warning - Medill School of Journalism, Northwestern University

Haiti's Lost Children - University of Miami

Now What Argentina - University of North Carolina & Universidad Pontifica de Argentina

Vwa Fanm: Stories on Statelessness and Migration - Knight Center for International Media

Online Topical Reporting/Blogging, Small Site

Doctors Behaving Badly: Shedding Light on Poor Doctor Oversight by Medical Boards - William Heisel, ReportingonHealth.org

Ecotrope: Fresh Ideas on Nature and Community - Oregon Public Broadcasting and NPR

MindShift: How We Will Learn - KQED and NPR

OpenSecrets.org

Persian Letters - Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

Online Topical Reporting/Blogging, Medium Site

Casey Anthony Extended Coverage - WESH

Nancy Leson's All You Can Eat blog - The Seattle Times

The Closing of the Sahara - Las Vegas Sun

Ward Room - NBCChicago.com

Online Topical Reporting/Blogging, Large Site

CNN Belief Blog - CNN Digital

How Are Local Municipalities Impacted by The Great Recession - Will Alden, The Huffington Post

SciGuy - Eric Berger, Houston Chronicle

Social Media Coverage - Helen Popkin, msnbc.com

Online Commentary/Blogging, Small Site

Online Commentary/Blogging, Medium Site

No finalists selected in either category

Online Commentary/Blogging, Large Site

Arianna Huffington - The Huffington Post

LZ Granderson - CNN Digital

Providing A Voice of Authority for the Everyman - Peter S. Goodman, The Huffington Post

Simon Says - Roger Simon, Politico

Outstanding Informational Graphic or Data Visualization, Professional

California Budget Balancer - Los Angeles Times

Crime L.A. - Los Angeles Times

Tell-All Telephone - Zeit Online

Outstanding Informational Graphic or Data Visualization, Student

No finalists selected

Online Video Journalism, Small Site

Cheap Shrimp, Hidden Costs - The University of British Columbia Graduate School of Journalism

Powering a Nation: Spilling Over - UNC News21

The Price of Gas - Center for Investigative Reporting, California Watch
When the Water Ends - Yale Environment 360

Online Video Journalism, Medium Site

Exile Without End: Palestinians in Lebanon - CBC News, Radio-Canada, ALT Digital Design Studio
Life on the Line - The Toronto Star

Online Video Journalism, Large Site

Caught in the Crossfire: Victims of Gang Violence - Los Angeles Times
Chasing the Swell - Los Angeles Times
Torn Apart - San Jose Mercury News
Video Portraiture - New York Times Magazine

Online Video Journalism, Student

Florida Cowboys - University of Miami
Giants of the Seas: Jamaica Meets the Mega-Ships - University of Miami
Haiti's Lost Children - University of Miami
Now What Argentina - University of North Carolina and Universidad Pontifica de Argentina
The World Journalism Project - S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, Syracuse University

Community Collaboration

Hurricane Katrina, Then and Now - CNN Digital
Overtown: Inside/Out - University of Miami School of Communication, University of Illinois School of Media, Stretch Photography, LLC
Social Media's Arab Spring - Andy Carvin, NPR
The Tiziano Project | 360 Kurdistan - The Tiziano Project

The judges of this year's awards were:

- Rosental C. Alves, Director, Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas, University of Texas
- Chris Anderson, Assistant Professor of Media Culture, College of Staten Island
- Rich Beckman, Professor John S. and James L. Knight Chair in Visual Journalism, University of Miami School of Communication
- Paul Brannan, Senior Program Editor, Independent Television News (ITN)
- Paul Bucci, Deputy Managing Editor Digital, The Vancouver Sun/VancouverSun.com
- Jeanne Carstensen, Managing Editor, Bay Citizen
- Ron Coddington, AME Visuals, Chronicle of Higher Education
- Joshua Hatch, Online Content Manager, Sunlight Live
- Vera H-C Chan, Senior Editor Special Projects, Yahoo!
- Burt Herman, Founder, Hacks/Hackers, and CEO and Co-Founder, Storify
- Johanna Hoadley, Senior Project Manager and Social Media Product Manager, SFGate.com
- Elise Hu, Editorial Coordinator Digital, NPR
- Rich Jaroslovsky, Editor-at-Large, Bloomberg News/Businessweek
- Mark Katches, Editorial Director, Center for Investigative Reporting and California Watch
- Gary Kebbel, Dean, College of Journalism and Mass Communications University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Katie King, Senior Product Manager, Portal and Partnerships, MSN UK

- Vadim Lavrusik, Journalist Program Manager, Facebook, and Adjunct Professor in Social Media, Columbia University
- Tetyana Lokot, Head of New Media Sequence, Mohyla School of Journalism, National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy
- Jacqui Maher, Senior Developer, The New York Times
- Julie Moos, Director, Poynter Online and Poynter Publications
- Shazna Nessa, Director Interactive, Associated Press
- Michelle Nicolosi, Executive Producer, www.seattlepi.com
- Angela Pimenta, Exame
- Ju-Don Roberts, Vice President and Editor in Chief, Revolution Health
- Eric Scherer, Director of Future Media, France Televisions
- Dan Sinker, Project Lead, Knight-Mozilla News Technology Partnership
- Brian Storm, Founder and Executive Producer, MediaStorm
- Mario Tedeschini-Lalli, Content Editor, Kataweb.it, Gruppo Editoriale L'Espresso
- Matt Thompson, Editorial Product Manager, Project Argo / National Public Radio
- Ryan Thornburg, Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina
- Wendy Warren, Vice President and Editor, Philly.com
- Lisa Williams, CEO and Founder, Placeblogger.com
- Nick Wrenn, Vice President of Digital Services, CNN International
- Chrys Wu, User Engagement Strategist, Matchstrike LLC

Judges were recused from discussing categories in which their own organizations were entered.

OJA judging is accomplished in partnership with the University of Miami's School of Communication, which utilized its state-of-the-art resources to facilitate the judging process. Under Rich Beckman's direction, the school will highlight the work of winners during the awards presentation and continue to share best practices throughout the industry.

About ONA

The Online News Association is the world's largest association of online journalists. ONA's mission is to inspire innovation and excellence among journalists to better serve the public. The membership includes news writers, producers, designers, editors, bloggers, technologists, photographers, academics, students and others who produce and distribute news for digital delivery systems. ONA also hosts the annual Online News Association annual conference and administers the Online Journalism Awards.

About the University of Miami School of Communication

The University of Miami School of Communication prepares analytical and responsible communication professionals for success in a global society. The School offers undergraduate and graduate degrees in journalism, broadcasting, advertising, public relations, visual journalism, communication studies and motion pictures. The School's state of the art, all-digital facilities and resources are among the most advanced in the country. Approximately 1,500 students are enrolled.

About the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation promotes journalism excellence worldwide and invests in the vitality of the U.S. communities where the Knight brothers owned newspapers. Since 1950 the foundation has granted more than \$400 million to advance journalism quality and freedom of expression. Knight Foundation focuses on ideas and projects that create transformational change.

About the Gannett Foundation

The Gannett Foundation is a corporate foundation sponsored by Gannett Co., Inc. whose mission is to invest in the future of the communities in which Gannett does business, and in the future of our industry. It supports projects that take a creative approach to fundamental issues such as education and neighborhood improvement, economic development, youth development, community problem-solving, assistance to disadvantaged people, environmental conservation and cultural enrichment.

For more information, contact:

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Email Contact

Also Featured on: live-pr.com

Sports



CSI's Joey Falcone Named ECAC Metro Baseball Rookie of the Year

Courtesy of Staten Island Sports Information



Photo by: Denis Gostev

Joey Falcone, ECAC Metro Rookie of the Year

College of Staten Island freshman slugger Joey Falcone was named to the ECAC Metro NY/NJ All-Star lineup, bringing home the major Rookie of the Year honor in the process to cap a great season for the southpaw outfielder. He was the only CUNYAC player to earn ECAC honors in 2011.

Coming off the heels of a 23-19 campaign which saw the Dolphins win their 15th CUNYAC Championship and earn a semifinal berth into the ECAC Metro NY/NJ Postseason Tournament, Falcone was instrumental to the success, making 36 starts in 39 appearances. Falcone started slowly, only to blaze a trail to a .336 batting average, good for second on the squad, while leading the team in triples (7), and slugging percentage (.504).

Sporting a .978 fielding percentage manning the outfield grounds, Falcone enjoyed a 10-game hitting streak during the season that stretched through the CUNYAC Postseason Tournament, which saw him bat a crisp .500 (7-14) with five RBI. Falcone finished second on the squad in RBI with 29, and was third on the Dolphins with six stolen bags in seven attempts.

The CUNYAC Rookie of the Year was also heralded for his off-the-field exploits. Falcone was featured in the Staten Island Advance and later the New York Daily News for his unconventional route to college baseball. After high school, Falcone enlisted in the United States Marine Corp, and served three tours

overseas in Iraq and Afghansitan. For his courage and impeccable service, Falcone was awarded the CSI Student-Athlete Advisory Committee Inspiration Award at this year's CSI Awards Banquet on May 21.



MCU and CUNYAC Extend Partnership Through 2011-12



Wednesday, August 17, 2011

FLUSHING, N.Y. – The City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC), the largest urban university system in the nation, is pleased to announce that Municipal Credit Union (MCU) will once again be a full Corporate Partner of the Conference for the 2011-12 year. MCU originally signed on with CUNYAC in the spring of 2010 to be the title sponsor for CUNYAC Baseball. While maintaining their title sponsorship of CUNYAC Baseball, MCU will continue to have a presence at all 24 CUNYAC Championships and Special Events.

“We are very pleased with the expansion of MCU’s involvement with CUNYAC, as we continue to improve the experiences for our student-athletes,” said CUNYAC Executive Director Zak Ivkovic. “Our new agreement indicates a further commitment to the quality programs we already have in place. We are eager to collaborate even more with MCU.”

MCU will again be the title sponsor for the 2011 CUNYAC Senior College Baseball Championship (April 26-28) and Community College Baseball Championship (May 1), to be played at MCU Park in Coney Island (Brooklyn, NY), the 7,500 seat home of the Brooklyn Cyclones, the New York Mets Minor League affiliate.

“Municipal Credit Union is proud to be a supporter of CUNYAC and its commitment to the communities of New York City,” said Ken Currey, Vice President of Business Development. “We believe deeply in sponsoring programs that have a positive influence on the areas in which we serve. Our continued partnership with CUNYAC truly embodies the spirit of our mission to support our local neighborhoods.”

The CUNYAC family of corporate partners for 2011-12 includes Municipal Credit Union, Con Edison, Hospital for Special Surgery, EmblemHealth, Applebee's, Pepsi-Cola and Modell's Sporting Goods for an unmatched level of support.

The City University of New York Athletic Conference is comprised of nine institutions in its senior college division competing in the NCAA's Division III, and five institutions in its community college division competing in the NJCAA's Region XV. All fourteen schools are a part of the City University of New York, and are spread across the City's five boroughs. The conference runs championship events in 24 sports, for both men and women. Member institutions include Baruch College, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Bronx Community College, Brooklyn College, the City College of New York (CCNY), the College of Staten Island, Hostos Community College, Hunter College, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Kingsborough Community College, Lehman College, Medgar Evers College, Queensborough Community College and York College.

About Municipal Credit Union

Municipal Credit Union (MCU) is the oldest credit union in New York State and one of the oldest and largest in the country. Established in 1916 and headquartered in New York City, today MCU has assets of over \$1.6 billion and offers a full range of financial services to over 320,000 members. With branches in New York City, Westchester and Long Island, members also have access to the credit union's large and growing ATM network. Eligibility to open accounts at MCU is available to New York City and Yonkers municipal employees; state and federal employees who work in the five boroughs; health care professionals who work in New York State; members of select industry groups; employees of private colleges in New York City and private and public colleges in Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester; certain family members, and qualifying retirees. MCU is an equal opportunity lender and deposits are federally insured to at least \$250,000 by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), a U.S. government agency. For more information about Municipal Credit Union, visit www.nymcu.org.



APPLEBEE'S Extends Partnership For 2011-12 Receive 10% off your dining with CUNY ID Card



FLUSHING, N.Y. – The City University of New York Athletic Conference is proud to partner with Applebee's once again for the 2011-12 academic year. The partnership and the CUNY-wide 10 percent discount on dining at Applebee's 2010-2011 proved to be an extremely successful venture for the students, faculty and staff of CUNY and a great resource for the Athletic Conference and its' teams.

"We are extremely excited to continue to partner with Applebee's, who much like CUNY, have tremendously strong roots in serving the NYC community," said CUNYAC Executive Director Zak Ivkovic. "It is yet another joint venture built on quality and the desire to do more for our student-athletes."

CUNYAC presented a compelling integration package elevating Applebee's visibility during inter-conference competition across all sports within the CUNYAC system. The impressions delivered by this package are only part of the story. A comprehensive campus-wide communication of a student / staff / faculty discount at Applebee's across all schools in the system has yielded significant incremental sales boosts at all participating Applebee's locations. This combination of partnership, sponsorship visibility and all-important traffic driving component is a win-win for all involved.

"A proud and active member in all of our neighborhoods, Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar is thrilled to announce the extension of our marketing partnership with CUNY Athletic Conference for the 2011-2012 Season," said Zane Tankel, Chairman of Apple-Metro, Inc. "We were honored to have been chosen for partnership by an organization with such pride and dedication to student athletes and the CUNY universe at-large."

Apple-Metro, Inc is the NY Metro Area Franchisee for Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar operating 34 restaurants in the Five Boroughs, Westchester and Rockland Counties including several of the highest performing units in the world-wide system. The company was founded over 17 years ago with a focus on creating the ultimate casual dining experience through extraordinary service, exceptional food and drink in a fun filled friendly atmosphere.

Besides a financial contribution to CUNYAC, the highlight of the sponsorship entitles individuals to a 10% in house dining or takeout discount with a student, faculty or staff CUNY ID card, effective immediately. This discount will be promoted in all CUNYAC event programs, posters and promotional materials to be displayed on all CUNYAC campuses throughout the city, as well as the aforementioned locations.

Applebee's (www.applebees.com) is the world's largest casual dining chain, with approximately 2,000 locations in 49 states, 15 countries and one U.S. territory. Based in Lenexa, Kan., Applebee's takes pride in providing a welcoming, neighborhood environment where everyone can enjoy the dining experience. Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar® is a DineEquity, Inc. (NYSE: DIN) brand, and is franchised and operated by Applebee's Services, Inc. and its affiliates.

The City University of New York Athletic Conference is comprised of nine institutions in its senior college division competing in the NCAA's Division III, and five institutions in its community college division competing in the NJCAA's Region XV. All fourteen schools are a part of the City University of New York, and are spread across the City's five boroughs. The conference runs championship events in 24 sports, for both men and women. Member institutions include Baruch College, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Bronx Community College, Brooklyn College, the City College of New York (CCNY), the College of Staten Island, Hostos Community College, Hunter College, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Kingsborough Community College, Lehman College, Medgar Evers College, Queensborough Community College and York College.

Stories

ON THE JOB

NEW OFFICERS

The Friends of CSI

The Friends of CSI at a recent annual meeting nominated its slate of officers for 2011-2013. They are: Beverly Garcia-Anderson, president; Laura Kennedy, first vice president; Anne Mondello, second vice president; Anthony DeFazio, treasurer; Wilma Jones, recording secretary; and Nancy Myers-Benbow, corresponding secretary.

For nearly 40 years The Friends of CSI have assisted the College of Staten Island to realize its goals and educational mission.

The Friends is a volunteer organization comprised of members of the community who are dedicated to the mission and strategic plan of the college as outlined by the president of the college.

HUFFPOST COLLEGE

To Survive, Fraternities Need to Stand for Something, *Anything*

8/1/11 04:09 PM ET

In my [last post](#), I talked about how Delta Kappa Epsilon's decision not to fight its suspension at Yale University could have serious ramifications for the free speech rights of college students across the country. In this post, I plan to take a step back and explain to fraternities why standing up for free speech--or at least standing up for something--is not only a good thing as a matter of principle, but may also be crucial to their survival as a matter of law. While the legal analysis here applies equally well to sororities, I'm continuing to focus on fraternities because, frankly, fraternities, in my experience, are far more likely to be the ones getting in serious trouble than sororities.

A lot of fraternities seem to know that their freedom of association is protected by the First Amendment. (While the freedom to join and form groups is not technically listed in the text of the First Amendment, it is understood to arise from the protections of freedom of speech and the right to assembly.) What fraternities often do not know, however, is that there are several different kinds of freedom of association protected by the First Amendment, and they are *not* all made equal.

The strongest kind of freedom of association protected by the First Amendment is the right to "intimate" association, best represented by the family. Our government recognizes that the bonds of family are particularly important and that it should do its best to avoid actions that interfere with this bond. The second strongest kind of freedom of association is called "expressive" association. Sensibly, courts understand that the right to freedom of expression would not mean a great deal if we are forbidden from joining together with like-minded individuals to amplify the power of our voices and take collective action. This understanding forms the basis of our right to form groups around commonly held beliefs whether they are religious, secular, or ideological. Everything from Mothers Against Drunk Driving to NORML is a kind of expressive association. (This includes my nonprofit, the [Foundation for Individual Rights in Education](#), as well.)

Far, far below these two strongly protected forms of association is the weakling of the group: "social" association. Social associations are those groups that are built around activities like hanging out, drinking beer, having fun, or generally just excluding people you think are not quite as cool. While social associations do enjoy some protection under the First Amendment, it's a very weak protection because, frankly, courts simply do not believe that social associations are that important. Therefore, the government can assume greater powers over the regulation of purely social associations than they could ever assume for expressive or intimate associations.

So what does this all mean for fraternities? It means that if all you do is party and hang out on your campus, it's possible that even public universities bound by the First Amendment can kick you off campus. The case law is a bit mixed, but in a [2007 case at the College of Staten Island](#), for example, the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit allowed the college to eliminate a fraternity altogether, holding that the frat enjoyed very limited associational rights because it was merely a social institution.

Fraternities faced with such challenges to their existence in the past have tried to argue that they are "intimate" associations. Sorry, guys, but courts haven't fallen for that because you're not *literally* brothers.

The next best hope for fraternities is to claim that they operate as expressive associations, but in order to enjoy the strong protection of expressive associations you have to, well, stand for something. In a 2000 case, the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit threw out a fraternity's expressive association claim because the frat failed to demonstrate that it had ever stood up for a larger cause or principle in any sustained way, observing:

While the international organization of Pi Lambda Phi has an admirable history that includes being the country's first non-sectarian fraternity, there is no substantial evidence in the record that the University chapter of Pi Lambda has done anything to actively pursue the ideals underlying this stance. Although members of the Chapter claimed in their deposition testimony that the Chapter still promotes these ideals, they did not give any specific examples of how it does so. Furthermore, while Pi Lambda Phi's international organization runs various programs aimed at individual development, there is no evidence in the record that even a single member of the University chapter participated in any of these programs.

The Chapter also points to a couple of relatively minor acts of charity performed in 1996 as proof of its expressive aspects, but these are underwhelming. The Chapter represents that it once helped run a Halloween haunted house for the Pittsburgh School for the Blind, raised \$350 through selling raffle tickets for a charity called the Genesis House, and ran a "Breakfast with Santa" to raise money for Genesis House. The Chapter's counsel admitted at oral argument that this was the extent of the Chapter's charitable activities. A few minor charitable acts do not alone make a group's association expressive, and community service must have more than a merely incidental relationship to the group's character for such service to implicate the constitutional protection of expressive association. The Chapter has not shown in the record that its sporadic acts of community service are related to its basic nature or goals.

A few minor charitable acts do not alone make a group's association expressive, and community service must have more than a merely incidental relationship to the group's character for such service to implicate the constitutional protection of expressive association. The Chapter has not shown in the record that its sporadic acts of community service are related to its basic nature or goals. *Pi Lambda Phi Fraternity Inc. v. University of Pittsburgh*, 229 F.3d 435, 444 (3rd Cir. 2000) (internal citations omitted).

Given the court's analysis, however, it does seem clear that a fraternity that had made a sincere and concentrated effort to stand for something more than social events might enjoy the strong protections of expressive association. As the court noted, "We add that we are not holding that fraternities per se do not engage in constitutionally protected expressive association. It is entirely possible that a fraternity (or sorority, or similar group) could make out a successful expressive association claim..."

So, long before your fraternity ever gets itself in trouble, choose a cause to stand up for and commit to defending and advocating for it. Given that fraternities often run afoul of controversies involving free speech, choosing to host activities and seminars advocating freedom of speech, academic freedom, and expressive rights is a natural, but really any commitment to a larger cause would do. Standing up for a cause is not only a good way to show that fraternities can make a positive contribution to society, but it also helps ensure the future survival of the fraternity.

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2011

WARMING UP, IN WILLOWBROOK



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/IRVING SILVERSTEIN

Stretching before a run on the track at the College of Staten Island is John Anko.



MassCEC Selects Orgs To Conduct Marine Wildlife Surveys To Inform Offshore Wind Leasing



The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC), in partnership with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), has announced that it is awarding contracts to the New England Aquarium and the College of Staten Island to collect migratory and habitat usage data on marine wildlife to help the Commonwealth and federal agencies evaluate sites for future wind energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf off the coast of Massachusetts.

“This research advances our parallel goals of developing Massachusetts’ tremendous offshore clean energy potential while protecting our environmental resources,” said EEA Secretary Richard K. Sullivan Jr., who chairs the MassCEC Board of Directors.

“These studies will assure the Commonwealth and the federal government that offshore wind sites that move forward in these waters are in the best locations and configurations with respect to marine wildlife species,” said MassCEC Executive Director Patrick Cloney.

MassCEC issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to conduct the field survey work for a full year. Data will be collected for birds, North Atlantic right whales and other large whales, and sea turtles in federal waters off the coasts of Nantucket and Martha’s Vineyard. MassCEC has awarded \$570,000 to The New England Aquarium Corporation for field survey of large whales and sea turtles, and \$330,000 to the College of Staten Island for field survey of birds.

“The Aquarium’s research staff is excited to do marine wildlife surveys of the waters south of Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket for large whales and sea turtles,” said New England Aquarium President and CEO Bud Ris. “This will be an important step in providing systematic scientific data that can be used to minimize conflicts between marine life and offshore energy development.”

“As a senior college of The City University of New York, the College of Staten Island is deeply committed to supporting the advancement of faculty research with partner organizations dedicated to our mutual goals of preserving and protecting the environment while advancing the pursuit of renewable energy,” said College of Staten Island President Dr. Tomás D. Morales. “Dr. Richard Veit is uniquely qualified to conduct these surveys based upon his proven track record of developing detailed and temporally intensive datasets on marine bird abundance, and his long-term experience in the area.”

This RFP follows the recent announcement of a federal leasing process for development of offshore wind energy in federal waters off the Massachusetts coast. In December 2010 the US Department of Interior’s Bureau of Offshore Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) issued a

Request for Interest (RFI) to measure the offshore wind industry's interest in developing projects within a 3,000 (2,224 nautical) square mile expanse of federal waters off the Massachusetts coast, beginning approximately 13.8 (12 nautical) miles south of Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket.

The Massachusetts Renewable Energy Task Force – an interagency group of federal, state, tribal, and local elected officials – partnered with BOEMRE to draw the boundaries of the RFI area, which has excellent wind resources and water depths able to accommodate current and near-term wind power technologies. Based upon consultations with commercial fishermen, fisheries scientists, and other maritime users and interests, the Patrick-Murray Administration recommended removing the eastern portion of the RFI because of its importance to the Commonwealth's fishing industry and to marine fauna. BOEMRE subsequently accepted the state's recommendation. MassCEC and EEA will continue to collaborate with the Task Force, as well as federal and state fisheries and wildlife agencies, as the field survey work is developed and conducted,

WILTING, IN WILLOWBROOK



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/IRVING SILVERSTEIN

College of Staten Island (CSI) students Stephanie Varges, left, and Stephanie Placencia walk near the track on campus, a field of parched grass behind them. Do you have pictures taken recently on the campus of CSI? If so, you can share them at <http://www.silive.com/yourphotos>. Don't forget to tag them 'West Shore.'

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2011 STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

College coaches baseball clinic set for CSI

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

WILLOWBROOK — One on One Physical Therapy, Sports Rehabilitation and Performance Training (2025 Richmond Ave.) and DeMarini Top 96 will hold a college coaches baseball clinic on Aug. 20-21.

The clinic on Aug. 20 will be at the College of Staten Island from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will include showcase-style workouts and college coach evaluations.

The clinic on Aug. 21 will be at the Richmond County Bank Ballpark at St. George starting at 8 a.m. and will feature competitive games evaluated by college coaches.

Division I, II, III and junior college coaches are expected to be on hand. Registration forms can be found at www.top96.com or by calling 877-311-9696. There is a 20 percent discount for Staten Island and Brooklyn residents.



Health Happenings

Published: Wednesday, August 10, 2011, 3:44 PM



By **Staten Island Advance**

Tomorrow

Willowbrook: Zumba. Get fit and have fun every Tuesday and Thursday morning, 9:30 to 10:30; instructor Dee Kanevsky, \$13. **ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**, 2329 Victory Blvd. Call 718-698-1338.

North Shore: Weigh Less, Live More. A workshop on how to overcome obstacles to achieving a healthy weight. Learn why diets don't work and discover a safe way to drop pounds and feel fully satisfied with holistic health counselor Mary Hernandez, 10:30 a.m. to noon, \$15. **LIBERTE ACUPUNCTURE**, 1163 Forest Ave., Port Richmond. Call 347-695-1215.

East Shore: Smoking cessation support group. Quit smoking with the Center for Complimentary Medicine at Staten Island University Hospital, 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 718-226-6125. **STATEN ISLAND UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**, Center for Complimentary Medicine, 475 Seaview Ave., Ocean Breeze.

South Shore: Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous is a 12-step, fellowship-based program for people suffering from food addiction, food obsession, obesity, bulimia or under-eating. There are no dues or weigh-ins, 5:30-7 p.m. **STATEN ISLAND UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL SOUTH**, meeting room in lobby, 375 Seguin Ave., Prince's Bay. Call 917-658-8846.

Saturday

Willowbrook: Tai Chi, suitable for all fitness levels. Families encouraged; instructor Carol Perri. Beginners practice from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. and an intermediate class runs from 9 to 10 a.m., \$5 a class. **ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**, 2329 Victory Blvd. Call 718-698-1338.

East Shore: Kayak Staten Island. Learn to kayak with paddle pros, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Group paddles start at the northern-most end of Capodanno Boulevard, near Ocean Avenue. High winds or lightning cancels. Free. **SOUTH BEACH - ZONE 1**, Father Capodanno Boulevard, South Beach. E-mail kayakstatenisland@gmail.com.

Sunday

Childbirth class meets every Sunday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and is led by trained doulas (labor assistants) in various locations. Sessions alternate weekly between "Fearless Childbirth!" which de-mystifies the birth process, and an "Expectant Mamas Social Club." Call or e-mail for locations. **BIRTH RIGHT NOW**, P.O. Box 10150. Phone: **347-500-6038** or **BirthRightNow@gmail.com**.

Monday

Alcoholics Anonymous. AA meetings are held seven days a week at various times and locations throughout the borough. Go online at **statenilandaa.org** or call **212-647-1680** for information. **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS STATEN ISLAND**, P.O. Box 140591.

Willowbrook: Chair and gentle yoga suitable for all physical levels; instructor Melody Harden-Sandhu. Meets every Monday, 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., \$10. **ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**, 2329 Victory Blvd., Willowbrook. Call **718-698-1338**.

East Shore: Free cancer screenings. The Cancer Services Program of Staten Island provides free mammograms, cervical and colorectal cancer screenings to the borough's underinsured and uninsured; services are provided at Staten Island University Hospital, Richmond University Medical Center, Breast Imaging Center, Regional Radiology or the mobile mammography van, and four physicians' offices. **CANCER SERVICES PROGRAM OF STATEN ISLAND**, Staten Island University Hospital, 242 Mason Ave., Ocean Breeze. Call **718-226-6447**.

Willowbrook: Research study of girls playing Wii Fit. The **College of Staten Island's** Physical Therapy doctoral program is conducting an ongoing research study measuring the energy expenditure of girls ages 8 to 13 while performing activities on the Wii Fit. The department needs girls to participate in a one-time testing session commitment which lasts about one hour. Testing will continue throughout the summer. If interested, call **718-982-3153** and ask for Dr. Maureen Becker. **COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND**, 2800 Victory Blvd.

New Springville: Blood drive. Donors must be healthy, at least 16 years old (with a parent's written consent) and must weigh a minimum of 110 pounds. Donors should eat prior to donation and bring photo ID. Hours: Mondays, 12:30 to 7:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. **NEW YORK BLOOD CENTER**, 2791 Richmond Ave. Call **800-933-2566**.

South Shore: Overeaters Anonymous. Meetings are held seven days a week at various times and locations throughout the borough. Go online at **sioa.org** or call **718-605-1393** for information. **SI OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS INTERGROUP**, P.O. Box 120-216, Eltingville.

East Shore: CPR Training Course sponsored by the Staten Island Heart Society, 7 p.m. A variety of specialty courses for medical professionals as well as group classes are available. Additional courses are offered one to two Saturdays a month. Call **718-351-3115** for prices. **STATEN ISLAND HEART SOCIETY**, 3055 Richmond Rd., Richmond.

South Shore: Aphasia & Apraxia Social Club is a group for people living with these and similar language difficulties. For more information, call Pamela Cherian at **718-226-2959**. Group meets on the second Thursday of every month, 6 to 7 p.m in the board room on the mall level of the hospital. **STATEN ISLAND UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL SOUTH**, meeting room in lobby, 375 Seguin Ave., Prince's Bay.

Tuesday

Willowbrook: Zumba. Get fit and have fun every Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.; instructor Dee Kanevsky; \$12 per class or \$100 for 10 classes. **ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**, 2329 Victory Blvd. Call **718-698-1338**.

South Shore: Pills Anonymous is a weekly support group that follows the 12-step traditions; every Tuesday at 6 p.m. **OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA**, 5371 Amboy Rd., Huguenot. Call **718- 984-0593**.

Aug. 17

East Shore: Look Good Feel Better is a free program that helps women undergoing chemotherapy and radiation treatments cope with appearance-related side effects, 11 a.m. This program includes a film, lecture and a free makeover by cosmetology professionals. Open to female cancer patients ages 16 and older. **AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY STATEN ISLAND REGION**, 173 Old Town Rd., Grasmere. Call **718-987-8872**.

Travis: Zumba. Latin-inspired dance exercise with instructor Doris Velez, 7:30 p.m., \$5 per person. **MELISSA'S DANCE WORKSHOP**, 3785 Victory Blvd. (Red Coach Plaza). Call **718-477-1329**.

Willowbrook: Zumba. Latin-inspired dance exercise with instructors Frank Mensah and Dee Kanevsky, 7 to 8 p.m., \$10/person. Baby-sitting available for \$2/child. **ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**, 505 Watchogue Rd. Call **718-981-3151**.

Lifestyles for the Disabled plans to expand to Concord

Published: Wednesday, August 10, 2011, 11:34 AM



Diane Lore
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - **CONCORD** - When word spread that St. Sylvester's School would close its doors at the end of the 2010-2011 school year, many in the parish and community wondered what would become of the school building – set back off Targee Street.

It didn't take long for the space to be repurposed. By the time the new school year gets underway next month, the building will literally have a new lease on life. Lifestyles for the Disabled, the Staten Island-based not-for-profit agency that serves mentally-challenged and disabled adults, has announced that it has leased the building so it can expand its programming to the East Shore and better serve the community.



Lifestyles for the Disabled, the Staten Island-based not-for-profit agency that serves mentally-challenged and disabled adults, will be expanding their program from Willowbrook to the recently closed St. Sylvester School on Targee St. in Concord. (Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel)

The group's main site is on Willowbrook Road, on the campus of the Elizabeth A. Connelly Community Resource Center, adjacent to the College of Staten Island.

St. Sylvester's is one of several Catholic schools on Staten Island that the New York Archdiocese closed in June due to declining enrollment, as part of its master plan to streamline the school system.

Lifestyles executive director **Richard Salinardi** confirmed the non-profit signed a lease with the St. Sylvester's, with approval from the archdiocese, and said programs could get underway as early as next month.

"We are very excited. We think we will be able to do a lot of things with the community, as well as for our consumers," Salinardi said.

The agency is outfitting the former classrooms to suit some of its programs, and Salinardi said he hopes to "reach out to the community" especially seniors, who might need small jobs done around their home, or might be willing to volunteer their time and skills teaching and working with the mentally-challenged adults served by Lifestyles.

The **Rev. Jacob Thuma**, pastor of St. Sylvester's, said when news of the school's closure became final around Easter, he put together a committee of parishioners to consider other uses for the building. He said he expects Lifestyles will be a good fit for his parish, as well as make good use of the former school.

Lifestyles runs a program called SOS, or "Serving Our Seniors." The group's consumers – challenged individuals who are served and trained by the agency – aid seniors at home by doing small household chores such as changing light bulbs, planting flowers, doing light laundry, and other small tasks that a senior might have difficulty completing.

Salinardi envisions a turnkey effort, however, whereby parish seniors can volunteer to work with his consumers. "Our seniors have a lifetime of skills to share. If they have a specific skill they'd like to share, like knitting or crafting or woodworking, for example, we would welcome them," he said. "It's a win-win situation. We feel it's going to be a real good thing all around."

At its Willowbrook site, Lifestyles operates a greenhouse, a cafe, a laundry, and woodshop, where its mentally challenged adults can learn skills related to horticulture and gardening, the food-services industry, carpentry, computers and media, so that they can be productive members of the community.

Adults are either brought to the Lifestyles site by family members or are picked up by van from communities throughout the borough. Salinardi said Lifestyles serves many adult consumers who live on the East Shore, and expects the St. Sylvester's site (which features an ample, fenced-in parking lot) to make it easier on them, as well as their families.

ROOTS

Lifestyles was founded in 1994. Its programs succeed through community outreach and collaborative partnerships with local schools, cultural institutions and small businesses.

The group has partnered with St. John's University and Wagner College; Monsignor Farrell High School, Oakwood, and St. Joseph Hill Academy, Arrochar, whose students volunteer with Lifestyles. Lifestyles also partners with the Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden, Livingston, and the Staten Island Zoo, West Brighton. Consumers in the horticulture program make many of the beautiful floral table arrangements to order for special events around Staten Island

The agency receives grants and corporate funding for its programs from a number of organizations and businesses, including the Richmond County Savings Bank Foundation, Goldman Sachs, and Mitsui.

Many of its consumers are former students from the Hungerford School in Clifton, or PS 37, Great Kills, both of which serve special-needs students until age 21, at which point they become eligible for placement in community-based programs such as Lifestyles.

Once a month, in its Lifestyles Caffé, the agency hosts a dinner for seniors from throughout the borough. The meal is prepared and served by Lifestyle consumers. Salinardi said he announced the partnership with St. Sylvester's at the July 29 dinner, where it was embraced by the 70 or so seniors in attendance.

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100 years ago, Henry Meyer's property covered what is today a golf course and part of College of Staten Island

Published: Wednesday, August 10, 2011, 3:11 PM



By **Mark D. Stein**



Henry Meyer's property would have resembled Rockland Avenue when it was known as Petticoat Lane. (Staten Island Advance File Photo)

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - **NEW**

SPRINGVILLE - In 1903, a German fellow named Henry H. Meyer did something a bit unusual: He made a reverse move, leaving Jersey City bound for Staten Island. And in that year, he purchased the first of a series of tracts in his new home that, over time, grew to total anywhere from 175 to 250 acres.

Long before shoulder-to-shoulder residential developments, busy side streets lined with cars, and endless traffic came to the New Springville area, Meyer used the land in a much different way. He ran a farm that spanned parts of what we now call New Springville and Willowbrook. It produced an abundance of crops.

Meyer's holdings were so vast, historians today refer to him as the "grandfather" of farms on the West Shore. In fact, his property stretched roughly from what is today 915 Rockland Ave., to the campus of

the College of Staten Island, and over most of what is now the La Tourette Golf Course, said his descendants, Emilie C. Harting and Wilbur Meyer, Henry's great-granddaughter and grandson, respectively.

Meyer's initial property was Dissoway Farm; it covered 50 acres. Eventually, Meyer acquired Fisher Farm, a 17-acre vertical strip east of Dissoway, as well as the Arbogast property (21 acres), the Barrett property of 10 acres, and other nearby properties.

According to Mrs. Harting, his holdings extended to other parts of Staten Island as well, including 50 feet of prime waterfront on the Kill van Kull.

Mrs. Harting was born in 1942 and lived on the farm until she was 7. Now, she lives in Philadelphia. But she can still recall the farm's lanes lined with giant chestnut trees, and an orchard filled with apple trees, horses and ponies.

A number of stone walls circumscribed the fields, she said, and rabbits were a common sight. The farm was home to extensive flower gardens, which were nestled against the walls and fences.

MANY HERBS

Mrs. Harting also remembers her grandparents, on their knees, picking mint under a movable shelter. "When you picked the mint, you had to cut it off and put it in water. They were kept in crates in this barn," said Mrs. Harting. "The crates were kept watered, and then you'd put them on a truck and bring them to Manhattan."

Other crops produced on the farm, including tarragon and chervil, were transported to hotels in Manhattan on a daily basis, said Mrs. Harting.

Initially, horses carted the loads; later, motor vehicles were used, she said.

According to "Staten Island and Its People," Meyer took care to use modern irrigation methods and implements. His farm also produced bumper crops of tomatoes, the history book said.

When Meyer started out, his many sons operated different portions of property. Three lived on the land with him, one of them being Wilbur.

Another son operated a warehouse in Manhattan that stored crops delivered from the Island-based property; one of Meyer's other children ran a lumber yard.

The lumber yard was just one of several businesses Meyer got involved in. He also operated a coal business. In addition, he was a director of the State Bank of Richmond County, said Mrs. Harting. He was a member of the once-active Richmond Agricultural Society, the Civic League, the Chamber of Commerce and the Port Richmond Board of Trade.

"He was a really hard-working entrepreneur with a lot of imagination," she said of her great-grandfather.

Unfortunately, the family's success on Staten Island didn't last.

Meyer died in 1926 at his summer cabin in Callicoon, N.Y., and several years later, due in part to the Great Depression, the Meyer family was forced to start selling off parts of its farm.

SO MANY CHANGES

In 1960, the last few acres of the farm were sold off to developers. About a decade earlier, Mrs. Harting, a retired teacher, had moved off Staten Island. Though she occasionally visits the borough where her family once maintained such a significant presence, it's not the same, she said.

"I love this old part of Staten Island, before it was developed," she said. "I love rural areas, and it's just changed so much. The whole world is discolored over with concrete. It makes me feel sort of depressed . . . but places develop."

Mrs. Harting is piecing together a history book to pass down to family members, and has actively researched her great-grandfather and the land he began purchasing more than a century ago.

Though she was very young when she lived on the farm, Mrs. Harting said her childhood there was wonderful because there was so much to explore.

"No one seems to realize what the land is like," she said. "I want people to see what it was like before it was developed."

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Not a waste: CSI takes 6th in 'Recyclemania'

Published: Wednesday, August 17, 2011, 10:26 AM



By **Mark D. Stein**

STATEN ISLAND -- WILLOWBROOK --

The College of Staten Island (CSI) entered a national contest back in January that included more than 600 learning institutions across the country. The goal? To be the best recycling college in the country.

When the smoke cleared, the City University of New York (CUNY) college in Willowbrook topped nearly all of its competitors, placing sixth in the country. The competition was dubbed "Recyclemania," and it was a 10-week competition that encouraged students, faculty and other staff to join other schools to improve resource conservation by expanding recycling volume.

CSI recycled a mind-blowing 260,000 pounds of material between the middle of January and early April. Going into the event, the school had hoped to collect 1,000 pounds per week. At that pace, they would have recycled 10,000 pounds at the contest's conclusion. By the end of Week One, CSI had surpassed 11,000 pounds.

With its large student population, CSI gathered over 58,000 pounds in Weeks Four and Five, totaling about 4.7 pounds per person during that time frame.

"We're happy we reached [10,000]," said **James Pepe**, assistant vice president of the Facilities Management department. "We're ecstatic we surpassed it, and we're ready to take it on next year."

At one point, said Pepe, the school led the competition.



For Recyclemania, CSI recycled a mind-blowing 260,000 pounds of material between the middle of January and early April.

The college competed in the "Competition Division" category, which measured a combination of both "Per Capita Classics" and the "Waste Minimization." The scores were based on their combined results and demonstrate the greatest achievement in both source reduction and recycling, according to the college. Items recycled included paper, cardboard, bottles and cans.

Said **Ken Bach**, school spokesman, "This 10-week program is just a snapshot into the recycling efforts that the college is carrying out on a daily, weekly and monthly basis."

Recycling efforts were supported by the New York City Department of Sanitation, which collected plastic and glass bottles, tin cans, and aluminum, and by Flag Trucking, which accepted paper, cardboard, magazines, catalogues, and mail in green 30-yard containers placed throughout the campus.

Collection bins — each with separate slots for waste, aluminum, glass and plastic bottles, and mixed paper/newspaper — were strategically located in lobbies, café areas, and other high-trafficked spaces in every campus building. Another 46 bins were positioned outdoors.

The competition may be over, but all containers remain in place, said Pepe.

"It's an outstanding campuswide accomplishment that shows the dedication of not only the college president, but every student, faculty and staff member who actively participated in helping **CSI** achieve this national distinction," said Bach.

For more information, visit www.recyclemania.org.

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Salsa parties pack 'em in at the Hilton

Published: Wednesday, August 17, 2011, 11:38 AM



Mark D. Stein
By



Staten Island Advance/Mark Stein

Shortly after 11 p.m. last Friday, the harmonious blend of trumpets, guitar, maracas and keyboard was just what the hundreds of eager Staten Islanders ready to begin a late night and early morning of salsa were waiting for. The band Conjunto Clasico played and dancers partied until at least 3 a.m. Saturday.

BLOOMFIELD

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — When salsa band Conjunto Clasico arrived on stage, the 300-plus people in attendance at Nicotra's Ballroom at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bloomfield applauded in anticipation.

Shortly after 11 p.m. the harmonious blend trumpets, guitars, maracas and keyboard was just what the hundreds of eager Staten Islanders ready to begin a late night — and early morning — of salsa were waiting for.

"Salsa is a feeling. It's a movement," said Patsy Gomez, Doco Entertainment vice president and one of the event coordinators. "It's something you feel in your stomach that you just can't sit

through without moving."

Folks of all ages and nationalities partied until at least 3 a.m. on Saturday.

Though the band didn't arrive until late in the evening, attendees were entertained by a DJ who was booked to warm up the crowd. Finger foods and drinks were part of the party atmosphere.

Ms. Gomez and Daniel Ortiz, president of Doco, have been planning local salsa events for more than 18 months.

"I've been promoting for years in the city, and I wanted to do something here on Staten Island. It's been a nice ride so far," said Ortiz. "We're just starting."

Salsa entertainers have included Hector Tricoche, Tony Vega, Tito Rojas and Tito Nieves, who recently played the pre-Easter gathering earlier this year, an event that drew some 1,200 people.

More than a year ago, Ms. Gomez and Ortiz booked a salsa night at the College of Staten Island in Willowbrook. They also planned an after-party gathering at the Hilton that was well-attended.

Richard Nicotra, owner of the Hilton, noticed the strong following and urged the Doco organizers to book their next salsa event at his hotel.

"The following is huge now," said Ms. Gomez. "This was the first time Staten Island has had anything where Latinos could go and have a good time. The Hilton is the best the Island has to offer."

She credited Nicotra and his staff for their hospitality.

"It's grown our company," she said. "It's a nice night out. It's local people. They [the crowd] love it, and they love that they could be home in 10 or 15 minutes from here."

Ortiz appreciated Nicotra's assistance.

"In every venture, you meet someone that gives you that first chance, and that was him," he said.

The salsa event was sponsored by the recently-formed Staten Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. It is designed to promote networking among attendees, said president Angel Rosario.

But mostly, it's all about having a good time.

Michele Romeo, of Oakwood, was joined by Great Kills resident Marisol Cerrito and South Beach's Angie Aviles.

"The music is good and there's a great crowd. We like the music and we like to dance," said Ms. Romeo.

Ms. Cerrito said the event draws a casual but mature group. She noted that it's nice seeing everyone dressed well.

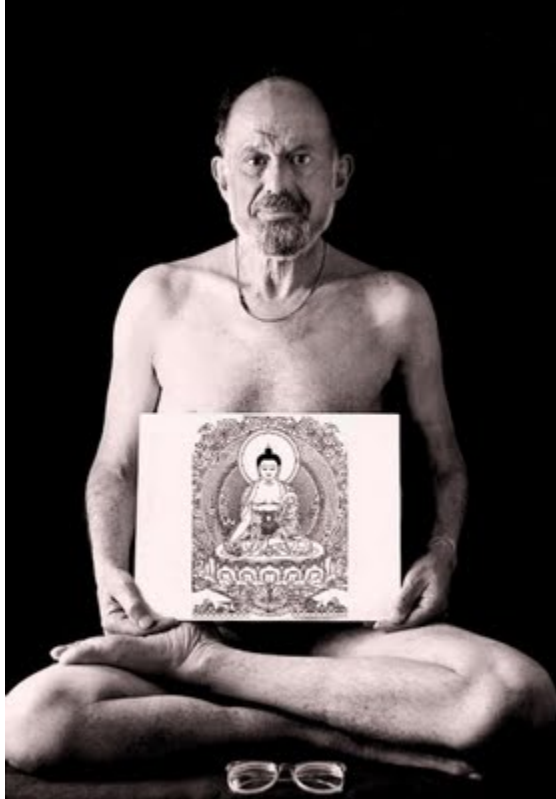
Said Ms. Gomez: "We have a very diverse background in Puerto Rico and other Latino communities, as well. When you hear salsa, it's specific. It's a feeling in your soul that makes you want to get up and dance."

For information on upcoming events, visit www.docolatingroove.com.



Tuesday, August 23, 2011

Louis Bardel Interview



[Allen Ginsberg, Boulder, Colorado, 1994.
Photo c. Steve Miles]

Following on from the [1974 \(Duncan Campbell\) interview](#) with Allen that we published last week, here's another (from the '90's this time) that seems to have somehow slipped under our radar. The interviewer is [Louis Bardel](#) (for [stageandscreenwriters.com](#)). It was taped at the radio station WSIA (located on the campus of the [College of Staten Island](#)). A side-bar provides details on "How I Scored The Allen Ginsberg Interview".



Restore Funding to the Science And Technology Entry Program (STEP) in the College of Staten Island

To: Elected Officials in Staten Island

As parents and concerned citizens, we are deeply concerned about the elimination of funding of The Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP) at the College of Staten Island by the New State Department of Education. STEP of College Staten Island has increased the number of historically underrepresented and economically disadvantaged students prepared to enter college, and improved their participation rate in mathematics, science, technology, health related fields and the licensed professions for over 17 years. It is unreasonable that the children of Staten Island will be deprived of academic enrichment in science and mathematics content areas.

We need your help to save the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP) at the College of Staten Island for our children, living in Staten Island and other Boros in the New York City area.

The College of Staten Island's Science and Technology Entry Program has provided academic support services and enrichment to our children in grades 7-12 for the past 17 years, achieving its goal of encouraging and increasing the presence of historically under-represented and economically disadvantaged students in science, technology, engineering, math (STEM careers) and licensed professions. STEP provided on campus tutoring and a Saturday program which was comprised of academic instruction, graphing calculator workshops, field trips, New York State Math, ELA, Science, and Regents test prep, college level research and SAT preparation. In addition to helping our children, we, parents, are provided with the necessary skills through workshops, speakers, and activities that empower us to help our children achieve their plan of attending college and supporting their efforts to compete in this global community.

The New York State Department of Education did not refund STEP this year and it is not fair!! Again Staten Island seems to get a much needed program taken away. It is the only one of its kind that is here and we need it for our children. It appears that little or no consideration has been given to the many years of top award winning projects at the STATE competition that our children have received under the excellent leadership of Mrs. Debra Evans Greene.

Our children are worth it! We need your help! Please give our children an opportunity to compete in this global community through the preparation provided by STEP of College of Staten Island.

The STEP Parents Advisory Board organized a rally on Saturday, July 30, 2011 and gathered signatures from parents and concerned residents of Staten Island. A news media coverage was provided by the NY1 news. To view the video please go to www.ny1news.com, and on the search area, type Rally Held To Save Academy Program.

We, the undersigned, are concerned citizens urge our elected representatives and leaders to act now to request funding of the Science & Technology Entry Program (STEP) of the College of Staten Island.



Improved use of power in Willowbrook

Published: Wednesday, August 24, 2011, 9:27 AM

Mark D. Stein

By

WILLOWBROOK - A major new energy efficiency project at the College of Staten Island (CSI) has the Willowbrook campus looking at a savings of more than \$900,000 a year in fuel costs, and projects to result in an annual reduction carbon dioxide emissions by 4,110 tons.

The announcement came at the start of the summer by New York Power Authority (NYPA) President and Chief Executive Officer Richard M. Kessel and CSI President Tomas D. Morales.

The \$19.8 million initiative began in September 2009 at the college's Biological Science/Chemical Sciences Building (Building 6S). It involves upgrades to the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems (HVAC), occupancy-sensor installations and new roofing. The location also includes nine teaching laboratories, research facilities and centers for environmental and neuroscience.

"The newly completed project at the College of Staten Island demonstrates that well-designed energy efficiency upgrades are often synonymous with significant utility bill savings, providing strong impetus for investing in the latest technologies," said Kessel.

"The Power Authority is committed to advancing Gov. Cuomo's Power NY agenda," he continued, "including redoubling our efforts to increase energy efficiency throughout the state and thereby helping to reduce energy costs and create jobs and economic growth."

"I want to thank the New York Power Authority for spearheading the energy-efficiency upgrades at our Building 6S laboratory and classroom complex," Morales said. "Along with addressing ventilating and lighting deficiencies, the initiative will make a significant difference in helping us manage the building's energy costs, with the improvements corresponding with what you'd expect at an ultramodern science facility."

The energy efficiency project at CSI will provide an estimated annual electricity savings of more than \$217,000 and annual fuel savings of nearly \$686,000.

Among the key elements of the project were upgrades to the fume and canopy hoods, which are ventilating devices for protecting laboratory personnel from chemical vapors, fumes and other materials. They were retrofitted or replaced with higher performance equipment.

Hot and chilled water pump motors with high-efficiency motors that include variable frequency drives were installed, as were occupancy sensors to reduce electricity use in unoccupied areas. A new, high efficiency roof that reduces energy consumption replaced an older, less effective type of flat roofing system.

The upgrades were among the measures identified in a comprehensive, campus-wide energy plan that NYPA undertook for optimizing CSI's clean energy usage, as well as water management and sustainability practices for other key resources.

The energy-efficiency project at CSI stemmed from the Power Authority's Energy Cost Reduction program, under which NYPA has carried out efficiency upgrades at some 129 City University of New York (CUNY) facilities. NYPA's financing of the completed energy efficiency projects at the City University amounts to nearly \$92 million for annual savings on energy bills of more than \$13 million and lowering of greenhouse gas emissions of nearly 85,000 tons a year.

"The Power Authority and CUNY are effective partners for investing in new clean-energy technologies for lowering electric bills and stemming climate-changing greenhouse gas emissions," said Iris Weinshall, CUNY vice chancellor for facilities planning, construction and management. "The City University is a recognized leader for energy efficiency and clean energy development, and we're dedicated to build upon the momentum of these fiscally sound efforts. The recently completed project at CSI crystallizes the benefits."

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Staten Island service updates in the wake of Hurricane Irene

Published: Sunday, August 28, 2011, 8:51 PM

Staten Island Advance

By

The MTA plans to begin running trains again on the Staten Island Railway at midnight tonight, and plans to resume subway-system service at 6 a.m. tomorrow, with limited exceptions. Limited service already has begun on bus routes.

All MTA bridges and tunnels are open.

The Port Authority said Kennedy and Newark airports would open to arriving flights at 6 a.m. Monday, with departures beginning at noon. LaGuardia was to reopen at 7 a.m.



Staten Island Advance

The Sanitation Department advises those with scheduled Monday pickups to place refuse at the curb, but notes that cleanup duties relating to the storm may hinder trash pickup.

Mayor Bloomberg issued the following:

"Because of yesterday's storm and its lingering effects, all New Yorkers should exercise caution and allow extra time for travel on Monday morning. City government will be open on Monday and City employees are expected to report to work. If mass transit services have not yet been restored in a City employee's neighborhood, and the employee has no other safe and feasible way to travel to work, then the employee should use their judgment and delay their arrival - there will be no penalties for transit-related lateness. If the employee determines that they cannot come to work, they should use annual leave or comp time to stay home. There will be no penalties for transit-related unscheduled leave time. Please check the MTA website at www.mta.info for the latest on mass transit service; and City government workers are advised to check www.nyc.gov and their agency's website for any additional information."

As it struggles to restore everyone to the electric grid, Consolidated Edison is waiting on a delivery of dry ice for distribution to customers. Call the utility at 718-356-2220, ext. 5283, for information about the availability of dry ice.

Meanwhile, the Staten Island Zoo will open at noon tomorrow instead of its usual 10 a.m., to give staff time to clean up the facility. No major damage was sustained and the animals are fine, a spokeswoman reported.

Classes at the **College of Staten Island** are canceled tomorrow and will resume Tuesday. All college staff and support personnel are expected to report to work at the regularly scheduled time; staff who cannot come to work may charge the day to unscheduled leave per University policy, according to a **CSI** spokesman.

The New York Public Library (which includes Staten Island, Manhattan and the Bronx) is planning a delayed opening across its system tomorrow. Most branches will open at noon, but patrons are encouraged to check **nypl.org** or call ahead to check specific opening times for individual branches (there could be some isolated closures or later openings).

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A cookout on campus

Published: Wednesday, August 31, 2011, 9:08 AM

Mark D. Stein

By



Staten Island Advance/Mark Stein

Burgers, hot dogs, Italian ices and a variety of beverages were on the menu at the College of Staten Island's back-to-school barbecue last Friday.

WILLOWBROOK -- The first day of school isn't just about books and pens — it's about getting back into the swing of things, and for the College of Staten Island, that meant welcoming back its dedicated faculty. So, last Friday, on the Willowbrook campus, a traditional barbecue was held for its educators.

Manny Gonzalez, coordinator of special events, said the 10th annual cookout has become a tradition at the CUNY school.

"We're all together here. It gives everyone a chance to see each other," said the Midland Beach resident.

The barbecue, held from noon to 1:30 p.m., had been postponed from Thursday, due to heavy rainfall, unrelated to the recent Hurricane Irene.

A smart move, as Friday, the barbecue took place under beautiful, sunny skies.

Faculty members were able to munch on free hot dogs, hamburgers, flavored Italian ices, a variety of beverages, and more.

Many were seeing each other for the first time since summer break, and were glad to be back.

"It's a nice little get-away, and people enjoy and appreciate it," said Gonzalez, who has been working at the school for 14 years. "It's good for morale. People like this."

As attendees munched on food, and sat outside at circular tables, music played in the background and much conversation was made.

Melissa Lalla, financial aid advisor at CSI, was happy to be outdoors, both for the beautiful weather and the great people.

"We all work together and we're all glad to see each other," she said.

Jennifer Franco, of New Jersey, an employee in the Registrar's office, said the barbecue is "a good way for us to get together before all the craziness starts."

And, the craziness soon began, a little earlier than usual — classes were canceled Saturday, Sunday and Monday due to Hurricane Irene, which caused minimal damage to the college campus, said spokesman Ken Bach.

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Students & Alumni

Students

From deployed to unemployed

ALISON BOWEN/METRO

01 August 2011 09:20

Abbas Malik guarded the Green Zone in Iraq, but he can't get hired as a mall security guard in Staten Island.

After two Iraq tours, Malik, 27, returned to the U.S. in 2009 and applied for overseas security jobs.

"Nothing bit," he said, so he next applied to guard the Guggenheim and Madison Square Garden and finally, even Staten Island Mall for some summer cash.

"I operated machine guns in Baghdad, but I can't have a flashlight at MSG," Malik said.

He speaks fluent Urdu and was an interpreter in Iraq, but here, Malik cannot get a translation job in the U.S. without a degree. And Army training doesn't count – for example, a military medic would have to get re-certified to become an EMT back in the States.

Malik, who is pursuing a political science degree at the College of Staten Island, said he was surprised to sense that his military skills – he was a marksman -- intimidate, not impress, prospective employers.

"They see my resume and they're like, 'Oh you're a designated marksman,' and they just have this face," he said. "They probably assume that I'm unstable."

Like Malik, 13 percent of the 17,000 New York City war veterans are now unemployed. That's higher than the national unemployment rate of 9 percent.

Another soldier, Kevin Kirwan, 35, in Queens, spent 14 years in the Navy, controlling complicated logistics in North Africa, Jerusalem and Italy.

His bachelor's degree in justice administration qualifies him for middle-management jobs that he says are often filled internally. After sending out 200 job applications, many employers tell him he is overqualified for entry-level jobs.

He and his pregnant wife are considering leaving the city when his severance runs out.

"It is very frustrating," he said. "We have a baby on the way. I don't think it's lack of effort."

Malik is considering returning to war just to pay the bills.

"I'm irrationally looking at the military again as an option," he said. "I can't find anything, and times are getting tougher."

Follow Alison Bowen on Twitter [@AlisonatMetro](#).



EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN/METRO

Kevin Kirwan, a Navy veteran, has spent months applying to jobs to no avail. He spends his days searching for work and doing housework with his pregnant wife.

G.O.P. Infighting Goes To Court

08-01-2011

By Paula Katinas
Brooklyn Daily Eagle

BENSONHURST — The race for a district leadership post in the Republican Party in Democratic-dominated Brooklyn is usually a sleepy affair drawing scant attention. But not in Bensonhurst!

A race for the obscure political party post is putting a spotlight on sharp divisions within the Brooklyn Republican Party with an up-and-coming candidate taking on the party's big boss.

Peter Cipriano, a 21-year-old college student from Bensonhurst, is seeking to get his name on the ballot to run for Republican Party district leader in the 49th Assembly District, but Craig Eaton, chairman of the Brooklyn Republican Party, is trying to keep him off the ballot.

Eaton said he would go to court to challenge the legitimacy of the signatures on Cipriano's nominating petitions in an effort to prevent him from getting on the ballot for the Sept. 13 G.O.P. primary.

A candidate for district leader is required to file nominating petitions containing the signatures of at least 450 registered voters who live in the district and who are members of that party in order to gain a spot on the ballot for the party's primary.

Not to be outdone, Cipriano announced that he had filed papers in New York State Supreme Court on July 29 seeking to keep Eaton's hand-picked candidate, Matthew Graves, off the ballot.

"I feel confident that I will win this suit," said Cipriano, a student at the College of Staten Island. Cipriano, who originally planned to represent himself, changed his mind and has hired lawyer Marion Conde da Silveria, an expert in election law, to represent him in court.

Cipriano also charged that Eaton abused his position as party chairman to manipulate the petitioning process to get his candidate on the ballot. "I'm challenging the idea that party bosses have that they can control the outcome of elections," he said.

Eaton vehemently denied Cipriano's charges. "His suit has no merit. I expect that it'll be thrown out of court," Eaton said.

The two parties went to court Monday. The judge did not make a ruling on the case but ordered both sides to return to court Tuesday.

The judge is expected to render a ruling on whether Cipriano's petition signatures are valid today. Cipriano filed 520 signatures, according to sources. But Eaton contended that many of the signatures were invalid because the voters had previously signed the petitions of other candidates for district leader. In cases where there are duplicate signatures, the first petition signed by the voter is the one

that counts.

District leaders, officially known as state committeemen and state committeewomen, are the workhorses of the political party system. They are members of a party's state committee and work at a grassroots level to help select candidates for public office, supervise volunteers in the collection of petition signatures, and to help get voters to the polls on Election Day.

There is a male and female district leader for every political party in every assembly district in New York. In addition to Cipriano, there are other hopefuls seeking to run for district leader in the 49th Assembly District, including John Bennett and Steve Maresca. Marc D'Ottavio, who had been supported by Eaton, declined to accept Eaton's offer to run for the post. After D'Ottavio decided not to run, Eaton threw his support behind Graves, a Bensonhurst resident who works for the New York City Board of Elections.

The bad blood between Eaton and Cipriano comes as a surprise to political observers who pointed out that the party chairman has supported Cipriano in the past.

In 2010, Cipriano ran, with Eaton's support, in the G.O.P. primary against Lucretia Regina-Potter for the party's nomination to run for the assembly seat in the 49th A.D. Cipriano defeated Regina-Potter in the primary and went on to run against incumbent Democrat Peter Abbate in the general election. Abbate won that race.

"Craig really took Peter under his wing and helped him run," said one party official.

Brooklyn Daily Eagle

Fourth Ave. Trees Are Cleaner: Scout's Honor!

by contributor (contributors@brooklyneagle.net), published online 08-03-2011

By Paula Katinas
Brooklyn Daily Eagle

BAY RIDGE — If you notice that the tree beds along Fourth Avenue are looking a lot cleaner these days, thank Richard Urban. You can find the modest 18-year-old this summer working in his dad Fred's restaurant, Schnitzel Haus, on Fifth Avenue in Bay Ridge. But do not let Richard's quiet, unassuming manner fool you. He has the smarts to run a Fortune 500 company.

Richard recently spoke about his newly completed project to improve the environment. The likable teen, who graduated from Xaverian High School in May, plans to attend the College of Staten Island and major in business.

Richard, a Boy Scout who is a member of Troop 23 at Our Lady of Angels Church, organized a project to clean the tree beds along a 20-block stretch of Fourth Avenue from 65th to 85th streets. He and a group of his friends and Cub Scouts cleaned 80 trees, clearing the beds of cigarette butts, coffee cups and other types of debris. After the beds were cleaned, Richard and Co. packed the soil with mulch. "It took about four-and-a-half hours. It took longer to clean than to mulch," he said.

It was all part of his effort to attain the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor in scouting. Once a scout achieves that rank, he is an Eagle Scout for life. Famous Eagle Scouts include Mayor Michael Bloomberg, movie director Steven Spielberg and Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon.

To become an Eagle Scout, a Boy Scout has to organize, plan and carry out a community service project that demonstrates his leadership skills.

Richard decided to focus his project on the environment. The idea of working on the tree beds came to him one day while he was walking his dog on Fourth Avenue.

"I noticed a lot of them were really dirty with a lot of cigarette butts and other stuff," he said.

So, he decided to clean the tree beds for his community service project. After securing approval from the Boy Scouts, he contacted Councilman Vincent Gentile's office for help in getting city approval. He then began planning. He drew a diagram of Fourth Avenue.

"I contacted Lowe's. They agreed to donate the mulch. They told me there would be two spots to go and pick it up from," he said.

His dad agreed to use his truck to transport the mulch, shovels, gloves and trash bags.

Richard planned the cleanup with a military-like precision. When it came to assigning volunteers, "I made sure that the younger kids were paired up with adults, so they would have good supervision," he

said. Starting at 65th Street, the tree bed cleaners went out first. They were followed a few minutes later by the guys who would be doing the mulching.

As Richard and his helpers were working, pedestrians congratulated them on doing a good job.

"Some of them asked me to do the trees in front of their houses," he said.

The successful completion of the project means that Richard will soon be an Eagle Scout. He appeared before a board of review whose members seemed impressed with his work. The induction ceremony will take place in the fall.

"I have to make a speech, but I don't want to think about that right now," he said.

Veterans Fight 12.4 Percent Unemployment Rate



First Posted: 8/5/11 10:17 AM ET Updated: 8/5/11 03:35 PM ET

While the country seethes over the 9.1 percent unemployment rate, post-9/11 veterans contend with one that's jumped to 12.4 percent, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced Friday. As deterring as that statistic is, it's projected to worsen once 10,000 servicemen return from Afghanistan and 46,000 come home from Iraq by year's end, *the L.A. Times* reports.

While those who serve their country are often promised saleable skills and job opportunities they wouldn't have access to otherwise, the reality is that veterans often feel discriminated against and overlooked in the workplace.

The evidence is in the numbers.

From 2008 to 2011, the veteran unemployment rose 5.1 percentage points, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"We returned to the United States in December 2010 and were assured that we were not going to be forgotten," wrote Jeff Hartine, an Afghanistan veteran, in an op-ed piece in the *Baltimore Sun*. "Eight months later, I find myself still applying, still waiting for a job offer. Tragically, I'm not alone in the unemployment lines, and like hundreds of thousands of others, I wait for something to shake loose while feeling forgotten."

The reasons why service members who risk their lives to protect democracy are fending for their economic survival back at home are numerous.

Discrimination

Even when jobseekers look for work in areas that embrace the military, they can still face wary employers. Thomas Jones, 25, served four years in the Marines and now lives in Hampton Roads--home to major Navy, Marine Corps, Army and Coast Guard installations Reuters reports, yet he's still had to settle for a menial, low-paying retail job.

"Jarhead, that's what we're called," Jones told Reuters. "A lot of people are like 'Oh, you're a jarhead, you've got nothing in there. All you know how to do is fight.'"

Abbas Malik, 27, who worked as a marksman in Iraq, guarding the Green Zone, shared a similar sentiment with *Metro*. "They see my resume and they're like, 'Oh you're a designated marksman,' and they just have this face," he said. "They probably assume that I'm unstable."

These veterans likely aren't just paranoid.

Sixty-percent of hiring organizations polled in a June 2010 Society for Human Resource Management survey said that translating military skills to a civilian job experience could pose a challenge in hiring veterans and 46 percent said the same about hiring those who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health issues.

"There is a sense of abandonment," Daniel Nichols, former chief of staff for the Labor Department's Veteran Employment and Training Services, shared with Reuters. He now works as the director of Military to Medicine, which trains veterans and their spouses to get jobs in the healthcare industry.

Red tape

While the Defense Department claims that 88 percent of military jobs have "direct civilian counterparts," Reuters reports, most states require veterans to register for lengthy and burdensome training classes before they can take on comparable positions at home. Malik, for example, has been futilely trying to get a job as a security guard while he pursues a political science degree at the **College of Staten Island**, he lamented to *Metro*.

"I operated machine guns in Baghdad, but I can't have a flashlight at MSG [Madison Square Garden]," Malik said.

Political leaders, such as Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), hope to help veterans to circumvent these extraneous trainings with waivers.

"Agencies also need to find ways to eliminate bureaucratic barriers that prevent veterans who already have relevant skills and technical training learned from the military from landing similar jobs in the civilian workforce," Gillibrand stated in *the Epoch Times*. "For example, a veteran who drove an ambulance in Iraq should be able to come home and be able to drive an ambulance for New York City. Right now there's a lot of paperwork, and you have to be entirely recertified."

Poor communication

While there are a number of job-placement agencies catering to veterans specifically, 60 percent of hiring organizations polled by the Society of Human Resource Management reported that they didn't

know about them. "More communication is needed to get the word out among employers about resources such as the Tip of the Arrow Foundation and the Wounded Warrior Program that can help organizations find qualified job applicants among those returning from military service," said SHRM about its January survey.

So, while the Warriors to Work program, an organization that offers veterans free help with every step of the job search, recently celebrated placing 100 clients, if mainstream organizations don't know where to turn to identify eligible veterans, then they won't be able to help reduce the abysmal unemployment rate.

Looking forward

While the unemployment numbers are bleak, the government continues to pursue programs and legislation that may help veterans get back on their feet.

President Barak Obama is scheduled on Friday to announce his initiative to challenge the private sector to hire 100,000 veterans or their spouses by the end of 2013, ABC reports. He is slated to also propose extending tax credits for wounded warriors and service members returning from war.

Gillibrand recently co-sponsored The Hiring Heroes Act of 2011, which would require service members leaving their posts to take job-search training through the federal government's Transition Assistance Program. The program is currently optional and up to one-third of veterans don't take advantage of it, according to *the Daily News*.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched a website connecting veterans to employers and the Chamber of Commerce established Hiring Our Heroes in March, a year-long program that includes 100 jobs fairs aimed at helping veterans and their spouses, Reuters reports.

These programs may give veterans reason to feel optimistic, but until the Bureau of Labor Statistics releases numbers showing that they're getting jobs, these service members will likely continue to feel slighted by the country for which they served.

"I naively believed that my leadership training and experiences leading soldiers during wartime would translate into a civilian job," Hartine shared with *the Baltimore Sun*. "Americans, by vast majorities, say that they support the troops, and while we appreciate the flags and the yellow ribbon bumper stickers, we echo Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis when she said, 'If you own a business, the best way to thank a veteran is to hire one.'"

Courthouse News Service

Judge Urges Drug Reform in Sentencing of Addicts

Monday, August 08, 2011 Last Update: 11:58 AM PT

By ADAM KLASFELD

BROOKLYN, N.Y. (CN) - A federal judge refused to jail two young drug addicts and passionately urged other courts to choose treatment over incarceration.

"These two sentences raise the profoundly troubling question of how to sentence young defendants whose addiction[s] lead to violation of criminal drug laws," Senior U.S. District Judge Jack Weinstein wrote on Friday.

Although he addressed both cases in the same ruling, Weinstein wrote that their stories were vastly different.

"One of the defendants - Lior Hanuka - fell into addiction after a drug was prescribed lawfully, and with medical justification, for pain caused by injuries in an auto accident. The other - Andrew Ilayayev - used drugs for personal gratification and pleasure, with abuse turning into addiction," Weinstein wrote.

After a serious 2005 car accident, Hanuka was left with a back injury that still gives him a burning sensation when he sits too long. He got hooked on oxycodone painkillers to cope, and he multiplied his prescriptions by visiting more doctors. He eventually dropped out of the College of Staten Island to start selling pills to fund his addiction.

Five years after the accident, Hanuka got arrested for dealing, and he was released to begin his life with his fiancée, "Ms. S," in Florida. He still struggled with oxycodone, but he headed toward recovery even after "S" died in car crash late last year.

Weinstein sentenced Hanuka, now 24, to five years of probation with court-ordered psychiatric, drug and alcohol treatment.

Unlike Hanuka, Ilayayev had no apparent medical cause for his addictions. He dealt and used a long list of narcotics, and showed no signs of recovery at the time of sentencing.

Born in September 1982, he emigrated from Uzbekistan to the United States with his mother, grandmother and siblings after his parents divorced that same year. He never had contact with his biological father, and his family scraped by on public assistance.

Known in graffiti art circles by the tag name "DOTS," Ilayayev jumped between jobs as a club promoter, bike messenger, Macy's salesman and a Brooklyn barber.

He started using ecstasy at 16 and sold 5,000 pills of that drug to an undercover informant years later.

Ilayayev's parole required that he stop taking drugs and start receiving out-patient treatment, but he quickly got caught falling off the wagon four times. Prosecutors wanted him jailed for violating the terms of his release.

To satisfy a mandatory minimum sentence, Weinstein sent him to jail for one day, and stepped up the treatment to an in-patient program.

Judge Weinstein, who was nominated to the bench by President Lyndon Johnson, called the war on drugs "self-defeating" in a 1993 New York Times editorial, and he announced that same year that he would not preside over drug cases in protest to having to follow mandatory-minimum sentencing laws. Defense attorneys reportedly convinced him to reconsider, arguing that he could make more of an impact from the bench than through his absence.

This May, Weinstein again made headlines by visiting a housing project in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn, which was home to eight gang members he had to sentence. The judge seemed remorseful in a 133-page ruling that sentenced those men to minimum sentences of several years, still far shorter than what prosecutors demanded.

His opinion in that case outlined the historical, economic and racial origins of the war on drugs.

Weinstein's most recent opinion gives similar in-depth analysis into oxycodone, focusing on how prescription medications challenge the foundations of drug laws.

Its last page ends with an appeal for courts to opt for the most lenient sentences available, with a focus on rehabilitation:

"Where drug addiction of the defendant is causatively intertwined with a violation of the criminal law, every effort should be made to minimize incarceration in favor of a closely supervised, intensive medical treatment regime outside of prison. Outpatient treatment is preferred, permitting the defendant to be more readily integrated into a drug-free productive lifestyle in the community.

"Where outpatient treatment fails and defendant continues to use drugs, he should be confined to an available non-incarcerative in-patient treatment facility.

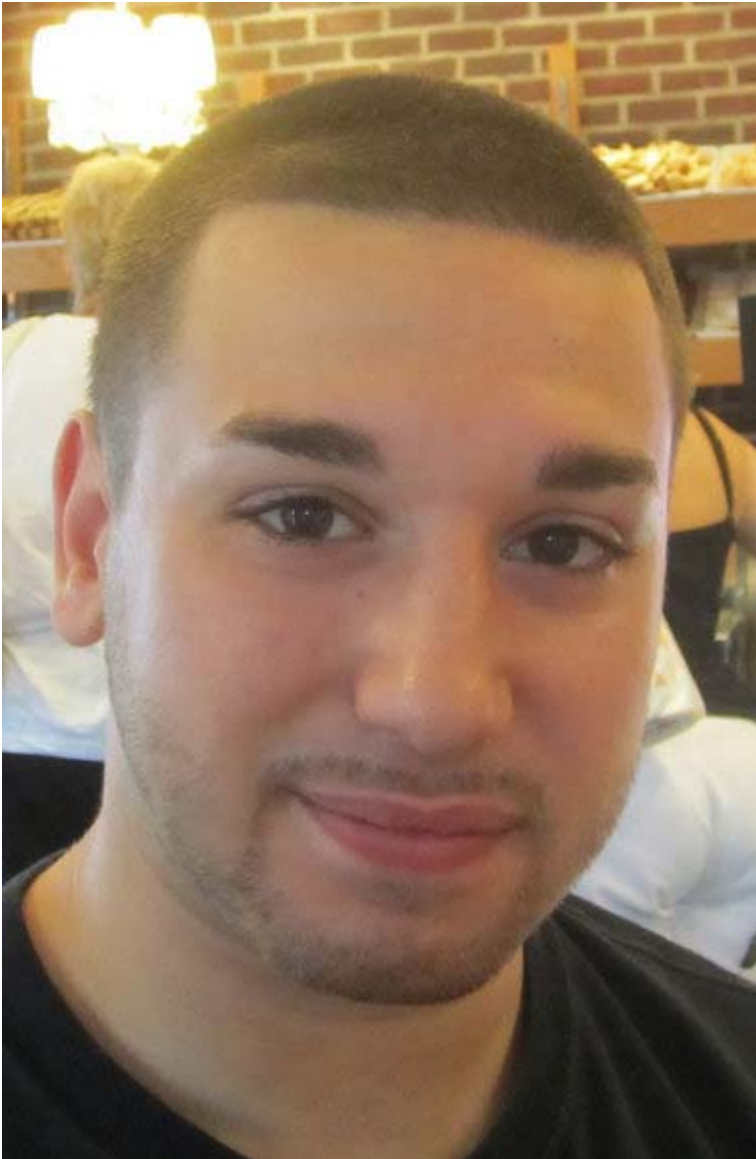
"Every effort should be made to avoid incarceration. According to the experience of the court's probation services and experience of its judges, prison appears to increase the likelihood of: inability to conform to community standards, continued use of drugs to help assuage the pains of failure, ostracism, the risks of complicating psychiatric problems, and the difficulty in obtaining a job."

Your Soap Box: Anthony Zagame, Oakwood

Published: Wednesday, August 10, 2011, 11:03 AM



By **Virginia N. Sherry**



Anthony Zagame, Oakwood

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - We met **Anthony Zagame**, 20, at Dominick's Bakery and Cafe on New Dorp Plaza, and he had more than one thing on his mind.

A hip-hop fan "for my entire life," he proudly reported that he recently got tickets to the Nov. 5 Kanye West concert at Izod Center in East Rutherford, N.J. "I'm going with friends in a limo. The tickets were really hard to get."

In addition to music, he's an NBA fan, and follows the basketball league closely. "I played for two years, as a starting point guard, on the varsity team at Susan Wagner High School," he said.

Zagame is a student at the **College of Staten Island (CSI)**, where he hasn't decided yet on a major. "It may be psychology — my older brother, Joseph, who paved the way for me, just graduated from **CSI** with a psychology degree."

During the summer, "I'm in the pool every day — at home or at friends' houses. And I usually go to Jamaica every year, with family or friends, mostly to Ocho Rios."

What keeps him busy when he visits the Caribbean?

"Jet skiing, swimming, para-sailing, white-water rafting," he said.

Zagame thinks the best time to visit Jamaica is in July or August. "But in January I'm going during (college) break. January is hotter there than the summer, people say."

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The Brownstone Poets Presents Lyrical Poets Matthew Anish and Kathryn M. Fazio on Saturday, September 3 at 2:30 p.m. at Park Plaza Restaurant

PR.com

2011-08-17

Brooklyn, NY, August 17, 2011 --([PR.com](#))-- The Brownstone Poets presents lyrical poets Matthew Anish and Kathryn M. Fazio on Saturday, September 3 at 2:30 p.m. at Park Plaza Restaurant in historic Brooklyn Heights. Enjoy the varied menu at this affordable family-run diner while listening to great poetry. Poetry grows in Brooklyn Heights and there's an open-mic as well.

The Brownstone Poets presents:
Matthew Anish and Kathryn M. Fazio

Saturday, September 3 at 2:30 p.m.

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220 Cadman Plaza West near Clark St. and Pineapple Walk

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Bios:

Matthew Anish

Matthew Anish is a widely published poet/writer. He has published verse in Dinner with the Muse, Aim, Beyond Bree, Minas Tirith Evening Star, Jews in Space and in many other publications. He is a graduate of Brooklyn College and has studied writing and ESL at the New School University. He currently works at BMCC as an ESL instructor and writes a monthly column for Barrs Postcard News.

Kathryn M. Fazio

Kathryn Marie Fazio, whose work has been published internationally, is a poet and fine artist. She was awarded the Ferrara Scholarship from the Performing and Creative Arts Department of the College of Staten Island CUNY, and named its Poet Laureate. Her book, A Taste of Hybrid Vigor: new poems of War, Passion, and Social Significance, contains poems and pictures of her original oil paintings and her poem "War" in the collection, won her the First Ed-Rehberg Prize for poetry, which was translated into French and televised in Haiti by the Education Committee of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce.

Fazio participated in a FUSE event to raise money for the aftermath of Katrina, was a poet for telethon to support public television in Kingston, NY. and has recited on the Brooklyn Waterfront in Red Hook for Creative Arts Therapy Outreach and Awareness. Fazio was coined a Bowery Woman, appearing in the only Bowery Women Anthology ever published.

Fazio credits her close relationship with Robert Dunn for encouraging her to participate in the 5th World Congress of Poets for Poetry Research and Recitation where she represented the U.S., and was awarded the Silla Gold Crown World Peace Literature Prize from Korea. Fazio edited a collection of poems Our World in an Onion and is currently a poet at a Wellness Center in Sunset Park, Brooklyn.

Also Featured on: melodika.net

Aug 21, 2011

Nln exam?

by BM90



Aug 21, 2011 11:56 PM - Hey all,

Im attending a CSI (college of staten island) and want to take the NLN exam this upcoming semester. I'm done with my pre-reqs and did fairly well with the 4 classes needed. A's and B's. So I'm happy with those. But I'm very nervous about the exam. Any tips or strategies? What kind of questions were on the exam?

Anything helps. I also have a one and a half year old boy, and if and when I get accepted into the nursing program, I have a feeling it will be hard with a baby, anyone going through this at the moment? Please share your thoughts and experiences so I know what's to come in the future.

Thank youuuuu :loveya:

Alumni

Sebastian DiBlasi Joins Parsons Brinckerhoff

By Betsy Kraat

LAWRENCEVILLE--Sebastian DiBlasi has been named a Senior Supervising Scheduler in the Lawrenceville office of Parsons Brinckerhoff, a global infrastructure strategic consulting, engineering and program/construction management organization.

In his new position, DiBlasi will be responsible for managing the scheduling process for more than \$250 million in construction costs for the New Jersey Turnpike expansion project. He has over 25 years of experience with large-scale construction projects. Prior to joining Parsons Brinckerhoff, he was a senior scheduler with a New Jersey construction management firm, working on the redevelopment of the World Trade Center in New York City.

DiBlasi received a B.S. degree in economics and an A.A.S in civil engineering from the **College of Staten Island**.

Parsons Brinckerhoff is a leader in developing and operating infrastructure around the world, with 14,000 employees dedicated to meeting the needs of clients and communities in the Americas, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Australia-Pacific regions. The firm offers skills and resources in strategic consulting, planning, engineering, program/construction management, and operations for transportation, power, mining, water/wastewater, and community development projects.

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Tiny Cange's ice palace: At home in Grasmere

Published: Wednesday, August 10, 2011, 11:18 AM



By **Virginia N. Sherry**



Vienna Wiseman, 5, checks out the walk-in freezer at Cange's Italian Ices on Parkinson Avenue in Grasmere. Her mother, Nicole Amitrano, is co-owner of the popular shop. (Staten Island Advance/Virginia N. Sherry)

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - GRASMERE -

Marilyn Velez of South Beach knows that lemon is the most popular of the 29 flavors at Cange's Italian Ices on Parkinson Avenue. That's because she's been scooping it out for customers for the past four summers.

Other top-sellers include vanilla chip, chocolate Oreo, vanilla Oreo, pistachio, and vanilla cookie dough – all of them made on the premises by Grasmere native **Anthony Statile**, who owns the business with his sister, **Nicole Amitrano**.

"Kids like the colorful colors – cherry and rainbow," said Ms. Velez.

The long, narrow corner place – in the family since 1981 – is, quite simply, a labor of love. Thirst-quenching fruit-flavored ices – cantaloupe, honeydew, lemon, orange, peach, pineapple, strawberry and watermelon – "are made with real fruit," Ms. Amitrano said.

Cange's name derives from the **Cangelosi**

family, the original owners.

"My mother and step-father – **Diane and Mark Statile** – lived up the street, and became partners with **Bob Cangelosi**, whose parents started the business," said Ms. Amitrano. "Bob was the ice man. But he left for

Key Largo, Fla., after less than 10 years of working with them," so the Statiles continued on their own. "At one point, they had seven pushcarts, operating with dry ice, in midtown and downtown Manhattan," she said.

"My mom was the personality of the place. Everyone knew her."

Mark Statile died in 2000, "and my mom tried her best, but just didn't have a business head," Ms. Amitrano continued.

Then, two years later, Mrs. Statile passed away.

"My brother and I had to make a decision. We wanted to keep it open," said Ms. Amitrano. "Anthony knew a lot from watching my step-father, and I had the written recipes. Anthony and my boyfriend, **Jon Wiseman** (now her husband), made the ices."

"I live in my childhood home, right up the block," said Ms. Amitrano, who has two children, **Vienna**, 5, and **Vincent**, 3. She graduated from New Dorp High School, earned a master's degree in education from the **College of Staten Island**. She teaches third grade at PS 14 in Stapleton.

"This is our home base, and our customers are people who know us. In one five-hour shift, I saw three of my parents' friends," said Ms. Amitrano last week. "They knew me when I was my daughter's age."

"We're just trying to keep the tradition going."

FLAVORS

Ms. Amitrano knows a lot about her customers.

Some "never deviate from their flavor," she noted. "One family has been coming here since I was a kid, and they always order lemon and chocolate. Another customer always wants a quart that's one-third chocolate Oreo, one-third vanilla, and one-third chocolate – like the Oreo cookie – that's just her thing."

What's Ms. Amitrano's personal favorite?

"Cherry vanilla – vanilla ice with maraschino cherries. How can you beat it?" she said.

Ms. Amitrano introduced Cange's T-shirts two years ago, and giveaway bumper stickers this year. They read: "Follow me to the BEST little Italian ice place on Staten Island."

Cange's offers ices ranging in size from one scoop (\$1) to four (\$3.25), and in to-go pints (\$4.25) and

quarts (\$7.75).

Perfect for parties and barbecues are 2.5 gallon cans – available in all flavors, from banana all the way down the alphabetical list to watermelon – for \$30 each.

"We're not an ice-cream parlor or dessert shop," said Ms. Amitrano. We're Italian ices – this is it!"

Every Wednesday, for every large ice that an adult orders, a small ice is free for an accompanying child.

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Tudou CEO Gary Wang On Online Video, Mobile and Producing Original Content

Forbes By Tomio Geron | Forbes – Thu, Aug 18, 2011

Tudou went public Wednesday, with the stock closing at \$25.56, down 11.86% in its first day of trading. The stock had [priced at the middle of its expected range](#), valuing the company at about \$822 million.

Tudou's founder and CEO Gary Wang, in an interview Wednesday, spoke about the IPO, Tudou's place in the China market, and the differences in the China online video market versus the U.S. market. Wang previously worked at Bertelsmann Group and Hughes Electronics and received degrees from INSEAD, Johns Hopkins and the [College of Staten Island](#).

Considering the market volatility, Wang is happy that investors now understand Tudou's story, he says. "The most important thing is we've gone through the whole road show and had good meetings with a lot of investors," Wang says. "We're pretty happy investors liked the story and that they're with us."

So what is its story? Tudou, like Youku, is somewhat similar to YouTube in China. Tudou had 90.1 million users as of June, or 16.2% of the massive China online video market, second to Youku with 21.5%, according to [Analysis International](#). Youku went [public in December](#), jumping 161% in its first day of trading.

Tudou's main revenue source is online video advertising on its website. Unlike in the U.S., in China online video monetizes roughly the same on user-generated videos and premium licensed videos, Wang says. "In China, brands are more open and want user-generated (content) coverage rather than just trying to place on front premium content," Wang says. "We can monetize very well across the entire library."

In addition to revenue from video ads, Tudou has been diversifying into two other areas—mobile video content and sub-licensing video that it licenses from other providers. With the growth of mobile market in China, Tudou is increasingly focusing on mobile video. Tudou has partnered with carriers such as China Mobile and China Unicom, providing video for those carriers' users.

Tudou has been generating revenue on mobile since January 2010 through subscriptions or on a pay-per-clip basis. Tudou shares revenue with the carriers. On China Mobile alone, there were 15.1 million users as of June. Tudou also works with manufacturers and has its service pre-installed on 15 million devices so far. Tudou also has a popular mobile film festival, which is now in its fifth year, which encourages videomakers to compete for prizes.

Tudou faces competition not only from Youku but also other China Internet companies like Baidu, Tencent, Sina and Shanda. Tudou differentiates itself from its competitors in three areas, Wang says. First in user-generated content, Tudou has grown organically, since it was the first online video site in China, launching in January 2005. That is still Tudou's main focus in providing the best content and user experience, he says.

But a couple years ago Tudou added premium content and it has been showing more and more content licensed from professional producers. "Content producers in China have become more willing to make content available to online video platforms," Wang says. "Premium content has become quite a massive traffic generator."

But premium content has also become somewhat commoditized across online video sites in China. So in November 2010, Tudou released its own produced shows. It has produced two drama series, "That Love Comes," which had 40 million views as of December and another show called "Utopia Office." These series are also licensed to other sites. "In China there are

very few content-exclusive businesses,” Wang says. “Almost none. All content is available across all video platforms. Users cannot distinguish across various sites. For us, original content in a crucial way increases our appeal to users and our brand.”

Wang sees all three types of video—user-generated, premium and in-house produced—as a necessary mix or “total experience” for users.

There have been recent news reports of a number of China-based companies that have not been able to IPO in the U.S. due to accounting problems. Wang says he can’t comment on other companies, but says Tudou has been venture-funded almost from the very beginning and follows international standards. Investors include Singapore-based Crescent Peak, Singapore government-owned Sennett Investments, IDG, Granite Global Ventures, General Catalyst, Jafco, Venrock, Capital Today, and Wang’s personal fund. “Our entire corporate governance system is very much up to global standards,” Wang says. “On the other hand with the team at Tudou we have a lot of international experience.”

As for the main difference between the online video market in China versus the U.S., it’s the availability of content, Wang says. In China, movies or television shows are available online “almost immediately” after they are on television or in movie theaters. That in turn draws more online video audiences. There are no “windows” for exclusive providers like HBO before general DVD release as in the U.S. “Users in China have much greater room of access to new content,” Wang says. “In the U.S. it’s still very much ‘windowing’ restrictions.”

In addition, the content that China viewers watch is much more diverse in terms of country of origin, from the U.S. to China, South Korea and Japan, Wang says. There are no large conglomerates that produce much of the content as there are in the U.S., which benefits companies like Tudou, he says. “There’s various shows, and it’s more fragmented in terms of content owners as a percentage of the overall library,” Wang says. “So there’s greater room to work with content partners to bring content online and you have a good deal more flexibility.”

As for Tudou, the company generated \$17.8 million in its most recent June quarter, up 94.5% from a year ago. But it also had a net loss of \$12.0 million in the June quarter, an increase of 74.5%.

The IPO gives the company cash to scale out even more to take on competitors. Wang says the online video market is growing fast and believes there will be multiple winners. But getting to scale quickly is key, he says. “The winning formula is all about scale... We can invest in content, bandwidth, improving experience and getting more content to the platform,” he says.

Also Featured on: TMCnet.com



Prof's 'Petty' poem soars with a little help from friends

New York City : NY : USA | Aug 18, 2011

Source: Tallahassee

This content and other exclusive local content now require a subscription...Donna Decker wrote the poem "I Have Your Petty Secret" back in the 1980s, while still a creative writing student at the College of Staten Island. The piece is especially strong, almost acidic it ends with the line "I served... FULL ARTICLE AT Tallahassee

Madeline Gervase Appointed Director of Nursing Education at MCCC

Monday, August 22, 2011 1:06 PM EDT

By Brenda Whiteman

West Windsor, N.J. – Madeline Gervase (of Flemington) has been appointed director of Nursing Education at Mercer County Community College (MCCC). She served most recently as Family Nurse Practitioner Track Coordinator at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

"I am very excited about joining MCCC's outstanding nursing program," said Gervase. "I look forward to working with their dynamic faculty. As educators we provide not only textbook knowledge but a solid clinical-based foundation for students to equip them with the critical skills and insights necessary to succeed in all aspects of the nursing profession. It is a life-changing experience."

Over the years, Gervase has garnered a wealth of experience as a nurse practitioner in cardiology, surgery, and critical care. She has also held positions as assistant professor of Nursing at Seton Hall and Union County College, and as a clinical nurse specialist/advanced practice nurse at Somerset Medical Center in the Emergency and Cardiology departments.

She served as a clinical nurse specialist at Maimonides Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY, a nurse practitioner at Saint Vincent Catholic Medical Center of New York, as a clinical instructor and course leader at Rutgers University, and as a senior staff and charge nurse at both Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick, and at Saint Vincent Catholic Medical Center in Staten Island. Gervase holds a B.S. in Nursing from The College of Staten Island and an M.S. in Nursing/ Family Nurse Practitioner from Wagner College. She is pursuing a Ph.D. in Instructional Leadership and Curriculum Design from Northcentral University. She is also a member of several professional associations, community boards and health care collaborative organizations.

MCCC's Nursing program combines coursework with clinical experience in health care facilities under faculty supervision. Graduates are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses. Mercer's concept-based nursing curriculum combines theoretical coursework with experiential learning in a clinical setting.

Investors Savings Bank Appoints New Financial Consultant

Aug 23, 2011 |

Investors Savings Bank has named Edwin Convery to the position of Financial Consultant.

The announcement comes on the heels of the banks launch of its new retail investment program in partnership with Essex National Securities, Inc., an independent/broker dealer. The Bank has retained industry veteran Glenn Brodwater, vice president of Retail Investment Services, to oversee the program, which will operate as Investors Financial Group (the Group). Mr. Brodwater and his team will administer a comprehensive range of product offerings, including mutual funds, fixed and variable annuities, managed money programs, retirement planning, as well as all types of life insurance and long term care.

A resident of Staten Island, New York, Mr. Convery brings 15 years experience in the banking industry to the position. At Investors, Mr. Convery will develop financial solutions for the banks clients throughout numerous communities in South and Central New Jersey, including Red Bank, Middletown, Lakewood, Navesink, Deal, Long Branch, Wall, Brick, and Spring Lake. He holds a bachelors degree in Finance from the College of Staten Island.

Picture this

Published: Wednesday, August 24, 2011, 9:30 AM

Diane Lore

By



Photo Courtesy of John Mullin

Meiers Corners artist Josephine Maisonet works on an oil painting she titled "The Fairy Landscape." She is having an art show next month in the Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomfield.

MEIERS CORNERS - By some accounts, Josephine Maisonet might be considered a "Renaissance woman."

The Meiers Corners artist has gone from serving in the Navy, to teaching high-school math in the city's public schools, to her most recent career, and primary passion — painting, drawing and photography.

She'll host a solo art show Sept. 18 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomfield, with a portion of the proceeds of any sales tagged for donation to the ASPCA for its work in animal care

and control.

The benefit show will feature about 30 pieces of her work, from framed oil-on-canvas to watercolors, digital artwork and photography. Prices ranging from \$3,500 for the larger, framed pieces, to as little as \$125 for a few of the digitally-drawn pieces.

"I feel that it's important to give back to the community. They [the ASPCA] do a lot of good work in animal care and control and deserve support," said Ms. Maisonet.

Animal portraits, particularly cats and dogs, are among the favorites in her portfolio, although she also paints birds and wildlife, as well as seascapes, landscapes, and imaginative "fantasyscapes." She describes her work as "poetic romanticism" and said each medium has its own characteristics that contribute to her artistic vision.

Ms. Maisonet, 52, decided to take up painting 10 years ago. She took classes at Art Lab at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden, Livingston, and studied at the Fashion Institute of Technology in

Manhattan.

She works from home, in a studio she designed with her husband, John Mullin. Mullin, an intermediate school teacher who retired from the city Department of Education in June, also owns Shotokan Karate on Jewett Avenue in Port Richmond. He is his wife's biggest fan and supporter.

"She's always had an interest in art, and when she told me she'd like to give up teaching to pursue her artwork, I told her I would support her 100 percent," he said.

HER ROOTS

Ms. Maisonet was born and raised in Brooklyn. She enlisted in the Navy in 1979, shortly after her high-school graduation. She served four years of active duty assigned to Lakehurst (N.J.) Naval Base, where she learned weather observation and meteorology skills. She also served in the Navy Reserve. She took math classes at Rutgers University, eventually earning a bachelor's degree in math. She taught math at Franklin D. Roosevelt High School, Brooklyn. When the couple moved to Staten Island in 1986, she earned a second bachelor's degree in computer science from the College of Staten Island.

She said her knowledge of math and computer science complements her art work. "Some people might see mathematics and the fine arts as opposite disciplines, but I don't see them that way. Both math and art require analytical thinking and observation. Before you sit down to paint, you analyze and observe your subject, whether it be an animal or nature," she said.

Ms. Maisonet said she and her husband selected the Hilton as the venue for her solo show partly because of its natural setting, in the Bloomfield Conservancy, and because owners Richard and Lois Nicotra, pet lovers themselves, are also known for their appreciation of fine art. Pieces the couple has collected are displayed throughout the hotel and grounds.

"We're quite excited about the show and having it at the Hilton," Ms. Maisonet said. "It's a lovely place and it's for a good cause. It worked out beautifully."

The art show is open to the public and admission is free. For more information about the artist, her works and the show, see her website, www.josephinemaisonet.com or Facebook page.

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Joseph Anthony

- Joseph studied writing style and screen writing, at the New School for Social Research, in New York City, and learned the basics of filmmaking at the College of Staten Island.

He studied the Meisner technique of acting under Joanna Beckson.

- In January of 1990, he stepped onstage at a comedy club in Brooklyn, New York. He immediately found the avenue for all three of his artistic passions – writing, acting and stand up comedy. Today, Joseph is a frequent performer and headliner at the most well known comedy clubs and venues in the Northeast and around the country. In late 2005 he presented his one man, autobiographical stage performance (Joseph Anthony Speaks The Truth™). An honest revealing of his life and his rise to present day successful, yet conflicted entertainer