

CSI in the News



October 2011

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The poster features a photograph of the College of Staten Island's main building, a large circular structure with a central tower, surrounded by trees with autumn foliage. The text is overlaid on the image in white and orange boxes.

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Arts & Events

The sound of music abounds

Sunday, October 16, 2011, 6:04 AM



Michael J. Fressola
By



Advance File Photo

Stapleton-based pianist Joseph Kubera steps away from the keys Friday at Main Hall.

STATEN ISLAND, NY — The 10 weekends that precede Thanksgiving always have a barrage of concert music options: Everyone wants to schedule a performance or three before the holidays hit.

Still, the upcoming Friday-to-Monday will be the busiest interlude of the season in local venues — a giant sonic buffet.

The feast begins with a new electronic/experimental contribution from renowned pianist/composer Joseph Kubera on Friday at the Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden in Livingston. The following evening, Musical Chairs Chamber Ensemble (MCCE) will launch the 2011-12 season with an all-contemporary composers' showcase in the Staten Island Museum in St. George.

The third day, Sunday, is impossibly over-booked. "Opera Exposures," a multi-singer recital at the Reformed Church in Port Richmond begins at 2 p.m., the exact same time that the Staten Island Philharmonic will let fly the opening notes of "The Mikado," the great favorite of Savoyards — Gilbert & Sullivan fans — in the Music Hall at Snug Harbor.

A little later, various ensembles of Wagner College will celebrate their Viva Italia! Finale Concert at 4 p.m. in the Campus Hall Performance Center.

The Wagner College Choir, Chamber Singers and Treble Chamber Singers will participate, performing sacred works and opera choruses by Italian composers as well as a medley from Adam Guettel's "The Light in the Piazza," (in which Florence, Italy, plays an essential role).

Finally, on Monday, the Chamber Music Collective of the College of Staten Island (CSI) will perform "With Strings Attached," a program of Vivaldi, Mendelssohn, Rachmaninoff and Shostakovich. Performers are CSI music faculty, with special guests, the Tottenville High School String Orchestra.

The following is a more detailed breakdown:

FRIDAY: JOSEPH KUBERA's S.I. SOUNDS

Local fans of pianist Joseph Kubera, a longtime Stapleton resident, have enjoyed his new-music/downtown repertoire (with forays into Scott Joplin) for many years, possibly unaware that he enjoys an international reputation.

He toured with the Merce Cunningham Dance Company in the late 1970s and early 1980s, having become a favorite of the company's music director John Cage.

He has played Cage's challenging, chance-based, post-1950 works, he has recorded all of his Music of Changes as well as the Concert for Piano and Orchestra.

On Friday however, he isn't planning to go near a piano. Instead, he has accessed a type of composition that John Cage pioneered, a recorded series of ambient, random sounds. The piece, called "100 X JOHN 1," is intended to mark Cage's 100th birthday, arriving next year. As of last week, Kubera was depositing local natural sounds, like bird song, in a "sound bank." that he'll access on Friday during "100 X JOHN 1" which will be assembled extemporaneously.

The hour-long concert (8 p.m. in Snug Harbor's Main Hall) is part of a citywide "New York Soundscape" project of the Ear to the Earth Electronic Music Foundation.

SATURDAY: MUSICAL CHAIRS IS PLAYING

Now launching its eighth season, Musical Chairs Chamber Ensemble hardly needs introduction. MCCE typically performs new music by contemporary composers, regularly highlighting a composer in residence.

Audiences are often younger than the typical chamber music crowd, fulfilling MCCE founder Tamara Keshecki contention: If the music is fresh and well-played, anyone can enjoy it.

On Saturday's program: "Four Stories" by Andrew Rosciszewski, the 2011-12 composer in residence; "Tryptych," by 2008 resident composer Mick Rossi; "Inlets," by last season's Laura Kaminsky; and Welshwoman Hilary Tann's "The Gardens of Anna Maria Luisa de Medici."

Concerts are presented in the Staten Island Museum auditorium (at 75 Stuyvesant Pl), set up as a cafe

serving dessert, cheese, wine and coffee. The musicians will be pianist Maria Antonia Garcia, Ms. Keshecki (flute), and Clarice Jensen, cello. Tickets are \$15 and \$12. Visit www.mcensemble.org for details.

SUNDAY: OPERA, 'MIKADO' & VIVA ITALIA

Opera Exposures, the presenting entity founded in 2004 by Edna Greenwich, made its local debut last May at the "Dutch" Reformed Church on Port Richmond Avenue, Port Richmond.

It went so well that Ms. Greenwich, a longtime Island resident, booked the church for another concert, next Sunday at 2 p.m.

It's a recital, with five singers negotiating material they've selected for themselves. Sunday's program is drawn from "La Traviata," "Showboat," and "Il Trittico," (Puccini's evening of one acts, "Il Tabarro," "Suor Angelica" and "Gianna Schicchi," which has the great aria "O mio babbino caro."

The singers are all young-to-mid-career professionals with exceptional educations and resumes that include singing at Covent Garden, Glimmerglass, Carnegie Hall and Houston Grand Opera.

They are sopranos Roza Tulyaganova and Catherine Mazzone, mezzo Roxanne Rowedder, tenor Robert Mack and baritone Kenneth Overton.

Kevin J. Miller, pianist, will accompany the singers. Insider commentary is provided by artistic director Dwight Owsley, a baritone.

Tickets are \$40. Visit www.operaexposures.org for details.

Of the 14 Gilbert and Sullivan operas, none has done the business that "The Mikado" has in the past 126 years. It may be, Wikipedia maintains, the most frequently played English-made musical theater piece of all time.

A comic-opera story of old Japan, the show may have won new fans in 1999 with "Topsy Turvey," a critically lauded film that tracked the gestation of the first production in 1885.

A 30-piece ensemble of the Staten Island Philharmonic will accompany the singers. Two Islanders, Andrea Bargabos (Yum-Yum) and Joan Callaghan (Pitti-Sing) are in the cast. The other performers are Gregg Lauterbach, Mikado; Anthony Tolve, Nanki-Poo; Davis Tillestrand, Ko-ko; Nathan Hull, Pooh-Bah; Isaac Grier Pish-Tush; Jennifer Greene, Peep-Bo and Emily Geller, Katishaw.

The curtain goes up at 2 p.m. next Sunday in the Music Hall at Snug Harbor. Tickets \$30/\$25/\$20 Student and senior discounts available. Call 718-273-3250 or visit sipharmonic@aol.com

For the Viva Italia Contest Finale at Wagner College on Sunday (4 p.m. in the Campus Hall Performance Center) the College Choir, Chamber Singers and Treble Chamber Singers will perform sacred works and opera choruses by Italian composers as well as a medley from Adam Guettel's "The Light in the Piazza," (in which Florence, Italy, plays an essential role).

Music faculty members Alan Dornak, Janet Pranschke, Elizabeth McCullough and James Sergi, who will perform scenes from Mozart's "Don Giovanni" and Verdi's "La Traviata."

MONDAY: CSI CHAMBER MUSIC & ST. ALBAN'S SERIES

College of Staten Island faculty, led by pianist Sylvia Kahan and united under the banner Chamber Music Collective of CSI, will play chamber concertos by Vivaldi, Mendelssohn, Rachmaninoff and Shostakovich, with some special guests, the Tottenville High School String Orchestra.

The 7:30 concert will be given in the Center for the Arts on the Willowbrook campus.

And beyond: The excellent Music at St. Albans series, a bright spot on the musically under-served South Shore, launches its season Oct. 30 at 3:30 p.m. with "A Greek Musical Odyssey" starring soprano Julie Ziavras, pianist Spiro Cardamis and bouzouki player Kostas Psarros. (at St. Albans Episcopal Church in Eltingville. Seats, \$25 and \$20. The same afternoon (3 p.m.), the Serenade Series at Christ Episcopal Church in New Brighton will present Sandro Russo, a pianist prized for his sensitive work on difficult showpiece compositions by Liszt, Chopin and others. Admission is free but donations are accepted.

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Dance teachers will walk the red carpet

Sunday, October 30, 2011, 6:35 AM



Staten Island Advance
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- VizzaV Events presents the second annual Red Carpet Dance School Awards to be held on Sunday, Nov. 13 at 3 p.m. in the Springer Concert Hall on the campus of the **College of Staten Island**, Willowbrook. Tickets must be purchased in advance for \$22 each through the participating dance schools or through VizzaV Events by calling 866-892-3660. Honorees will be presented with the newly designed "VizzaV Lumin Award" signifying how they illuminate the lives of our community through dance.

Former borough president Ralph J. Lamberti will be opening the event and the master of ceremonies will be radio personality Joe Cause.

Emmy award winning choreographer Tyce Diorio will receive the Celebrity Spotlight Award and recording artist Reina will perform her hit, 'If I Close My Eyes.' All participating dance teachers will walk the red carpet greeted by Bette Midler impersonator Donna Maxon.

The unique format is not a competition but presents the award winning choreography of the honorees.

Participating dance schools are: Brandy's Dance Unique, Dongan Hills; Dance Electra, South Beach; Dance Factory, Charleston; Dance Sensations, Great Kills; Great Expectations, Meiers Corners; Gigante Dance Center, Tottenville; Inspirations In Dance, Bulls Head; L.A. Dance, Tottenville; Liv2 Dance Studio, Grant City; Melissa's Dance Workshop, Travis; Miss Caroline's Dance Elite, Annadale; Miss Theresa's Danceland, Westerleigh; One Step Ahead, Great Kills; Reflections in Dance, Eltingville; and Studio Dancers, Richmond.

Conceived and produced by Joan Jeanne Lamberti, the event has been referred to as "The Oscars for the Dance Community." Ms. Lamberti is the former CEO/Director of Staten Island Dance Arts Studios.

VizzaV Event's mission is to "Enrich the Connection between business and community" by creating a show that entertains and highlights the contributions of dance studio owners and the positive effect they have on our youth.

In accordance with the VizzaV mission statement, a portion of the ticket sales is donated to a particular charity. This year's recipients are St. Jude Children's Hospital founded by Danny and Marlo Thomas and the The Actors Fund, a nationwide human services organization that helps all professionals in performing arts and entertainment.

Faculty & Staff



STEVE WHITE/Business Trends

The Pakistani Civic Association of Staten Island celebrated Pakistan's 64th year of Independence at Snug Harbor Cultural Center. It also honored several people for their work to the local community. Pictured are Dr. Tomas Morales, president of the College of Staten Island, and Councilwoman Debbie Rose with the Consul General of Pakistan, Faqir S. A. Hussain.

Monday, October 3, 2011

Another Self-Immolation Protest

2011-10-03

Tensions rise in Tibetan areas amid deteriorating rights situation.



Photo sent by a listener in Tibet

Kirti Monastery in an undated photo.

A young Tibetan monk from a monastery under seige by the Chinese authorities in southwestern Sichuan province set himself alight on Monday, the third such protest in a week and seen as a desperate move to highlight the deteriorating Tibetan rights situation.

The self-immolation came as protests flared at the weekend in the Kardze (in Chinese, Ganzi) Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in the same province after a photo of the Dalai Lama and a huge Tibetan flag were removed from a building and thrown in the street.

The monk, identified only as Kalsang and believed to be 17 or 18 years old from Kirti Monastery in the mountainous Ngaba (in Chinese, Aba) prefecture, set fire to himself near the vegetable market in Ngaba town, according to rights group Free Tibet.

"He was reportedly holding a photograph of the Dalai Lama and shouted: 'There are no religious rights and freedom in Tibet,'" the London-based group said quoting sources in the region.

"The police put out the fire and took him away," Free Tibet said, adding however that his upper body is said to be "very damaged."

Ngaba town is believed to be under police and military control with nobody allowed to enter or exit the town, the group said.

Two young monks, Lobsang Kalsang and Lobsang Konchog, aged between 18-19 years old and also from Kirti monastery, self-immolated on Sept. 26.

Lobsang Kalsang is the brother of Phuntsog, a 21-year-old monk also from Kirti monastery who died after setting himself on fire in March.

The monks waved the banned Tibetan flag and called for religious freedom and shouted Long live the Dalai Lama before they set fire to themselves.

In August, another monk, identified as Tsewang Norbu, 29, from Tawu county's Nyitso monastery in Sichuan province's Kardze (in Chinese, Ganzi) prefecture, set himself on fire and died in protest at Beijing's rule in Tibetan-populated regions.

Rising Tensions

The weekend protest and the self-immolation Monday heightened tensions which looked set to continue in Tibetan regions of China as the ruling Chinese Communist Party marked its 62nd anniversary in power.

Saturday's protests by more than 200 Tibetans flared in the Kardze prefecture's Serthar (in Chinese, Seda) county after a photo of the Dalai Lama and a huge Tibetan flag were removed from a building and thrown in the street, eyewitnesses said.

The protesters called for the return of the Dalai Lama from exile and freedom for Tibet.

Calls to the Serthar county government religious affairs bureau went unanswered during office hours on Monday. China is currently in its "Golden Week" of holidays following National Day celebrations on Saturday.

However, a "religious instruction" official who answered the phone at the county state security police in Serthar denied any protest had taken place.

"No, there was no protest," he said. "Who told you this?"

"I don't know about these things," he said, before hanging up.

Tenzin Tsundue, a high-profile campaigner against China's policies in Tibet, said Sichuan's Tibetan communities had lived through a series of military interventions in recent months.

"These protests were an expression of resistance against military oppression from the Chinese authorities in that district," he said.

Monastery seige

The protests came amid a continuing seige of the Kirti Monastery by Chinese authorities launched after monk Phuntsog's self-immolation death.

Chinese security forces have also taken away more than 300 of the monastery's monks and detained them.

Kardze has also been the scene of repeated Tibetan protests, both by individuals and by small groups, despite the threat of detentions and violent assaults against protesters by Chinese police.

Meanwhile, police in Lhasa had stepped up controls over the city's guesthouses and hotels over the holiday period, local business owners said.

"They are a lot more strict at the moment because of the National Day holiday," said an employee who answered the phone at a family-run guesthouse in Lhasa on Monday.

"Everyone who stays has to register with an ID card ... They might even come and do a spot check at night."

A second guesthouse owner said his business had been closed down by police recently.

"Yes, it was [the police]," the owner said. "We are closed now."

Politics

Professor Xia Ming, a political science teacher at the College of Staten Island in New York, said there is no sign the tension between Tibetans and the Communist Party authorities will ease.

"The Chinese government is clearly using politics to control the entire process of transmission and reincarnation," Xia said. "This is a very painful conflict, and it's a very fundamental one."

Xia said the root of the problem lie with the government's ideological espousal of atheism.

"Based on the Chinese government's current policies, the two sides are going to continue to clash," he said.

He said China's attitudes in Tibet in fact extend to the entire population.

"They are stuck at the material level, with the satisfaction of bodily needs for existence," he said.

"But we must pursue spiritual and ideological meaning and value if we are to be different from animals."

Reported by Righden Dolma for RFAs Tibetan service and Yang Jiadai and Qiao Long for the Mandarin service. Translated by Luisetta Mudie. Written in English by Luisetta Mudie and Parameswaran Ponnudurai.

Also featured on: rfa.org

State's top educator finds city's top school 'very impressive'

Commissioner struck by 'passion' of teachers and staff at Graniteville's Civic Leadership

By JUDY L. RANDALL
STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

The state's No. 1 educator toured the city's No. 1 school yesterday morning, with a stop at The School of Civic Leadership during a daylong visit to Staten Island.

State Education Commissioner John B. King's trip to the Graniteville school was scheduled before it snagged first-place kudos last week for the best numerical grade progress report from the city Department of Education, with a 97.2 out of 100.

Principal Rose Kerr had credited her "fabulous" teachers for the top score, and she let them shine yesterday during a sit-down with King in the school library, where they told him about their team teaching approach and integration of lessons from class to class.

Ms. Kerr told King the three-year-old school's collaborative approach to instruction is key.

King said the "passion" the teachers have was "clear, and clear why that would fuel academic results."

During the visit, King and Board of Regents member Christine Cea of Staten Island sat in on history and English lessons and were serenaded by kindergarten students with a song on leadership.

He called what he saw "very impressive," and said the school was promoting DOE's prime objectives of college and career readiness and attention to quality instruction.

Asked after the tour about his appointment last month of former Assemblywoman Janele Hyer-Spencer to an \$84,000-a-year job as the state Education Department's federal legislative liaison, King said she had applied for the position and was selected based on her understanding of the legislative process.



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE PHOTOS/JAN SOMMA-HAMMEL

Rose Kerr, principal of the School of Civic Leadership, back to the camera, talks with, from left, Assemblyman Michael Cusick; state Education Commissioner John B. King; Regent Christine Cea; Dennis Tompkins, chief of external affairs for the state Education Dept.; Donna Nilsen, assistant principal; Christine Johnson, from City Councilwoman Debi Rose's office; Councilwoman Rose; District 1 Superintendent Erminia Claudio, and Aimee Horowitz, high school superintendent for Brooklyn and Staten Island, at a meeting at the Graniteville school.



Third-grade teachers Elisa O'Hanlon and Nivia Rukonen discuss their teaching strategies with Commissioner John B. King and Board of Regents member Christine Cea.

The two-term assemblywoman was defeated for reelection last fall.

He also addressed a story in yesterday's New York Post regarding reportedly "fraudulent" Regents exams scores from 2004 pumped up by teachers.

King, who was appointed by the state Board of Regents last spring, said he created an internal review panel on test integrity in August and has already set in place certain changes, including not permitting teachers to score their own students' exams.

Among those on hand for King's school visit were Councilwoman Debi Rose (D-North Shore) and Assemblyman Michael Cusick (D-Mid-Island).



College of Staten Island adjunct professor accused of heroin possession is ordered released on his own recognizance

Tuesday, October 04, 2011, 7:02 PM



John M. Annese
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- An adjunct cinema professor at the College of Staten Island is accused of cutting more than just film — police say he had enough heroin in his home to merit a possession-with-intent-to-sell charge.

Detectives raided the Pierpont Place home of Christopher Nuzzi, 46, last night, and found 66 glassine bags of heroin — 50 of them in a black pouch on a kitchen table, another 16 in a metal cigarette box on a living room table — according to court papers.

Nuzzi's home, which is in New Springville, was the target of a search warrant, court papers allege.

He faces charges of third-, fifth- and seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance, said Peter N. Spencer, a spokesman for District Attorney Daniel Donovan.

The top charge includes an allegation of possession with intent to sell, and could carry a maximum one to nine-year prison term if he's convicted.

Nuzzi has worked as an adjunct lecturer in the media culture department at CSI since August 2001, said college spokesman Ken Bach.

"There's no allegation about illegal activity on the college's campus," Bach said. "As this is a personnel matter, I'm not able to comment."

At his arraignment in Stapleton Criminal Court today, Nuzzi requested that he be entered into a drug treatment program, according to a law enforcement source.

He was ordered released on his own recognizance until his next court date.

Nuzzi did not return a message seeking comment tonight.

One member of the media culture department, speaking on condition of anonymity, referred to Nuzzi as personable and friendly.

"That's a shock to me," the department member said.

His classes have received mixed reviews on the Web site **ratemyprofessors.com** since 2005, with several students referring to his class as an easy A.

"So this professor is super easy," one user wrote in January. "All (you) have to do (is) go in and copy the notes. (A)fter he is done with the lecture he leaves the class until the movie is over then comes back and takes (attendance)."

Another wrote on Aug. 2010, "Interesting Professor...While a very down to earth guy, he was not very professional. Came late and unprepared to most classes. But he (definitely) seemed to know his stuff."

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Also Featured on: nypost.com



10/05/2011 10:01 AM

CSI Adjunct Nabbed On Drug Possession Charges

By: NY1 News



NY1 VIDEO: Police arrested an adjunct lecturer from the **College of Staten Island** Monday after they say they found more than 60 bags of heroin in his apartment.

Physicians treating Latinos have high hurdles to jump, study shows

06/10/2011

Experts have written about health care disparities between Latinos and non-Latino whites, mostly from a policy standpoint. They've also looked at the same disparities from the perspective of the patient, in terms of access, use and the quality of their health care.

But how do the physicians feel about the quality of care they provide? What challenges do doctors face in treating Latino patients, compared with physicians whose patients are primarily white and non-Latino?

Research out of UCLA and the City University of New York has found that primary care physicians who treat Latinos are less likely than physicians treating primarily white patients to believe they can provide high-quality care. Among the reasons: inadequate time with patients, patients' ability to afford care, patients not adhering to recommended treatments, and difficulties in communicating.

The study appears in the current edition of the journal Health Affairs.

Researchers used data from the 2008 Community Tracking Physician Survey, a nationally representative sample of U.S. physicians that included demographic information and patient characteristics.

"From this survey, we analyzed physicians' self-reported ability to provide high-quality care to Latinos and compared it to that of physicians treating primarily whites," said Arturo Vargas-Bustamante, an assistant professor of health services at the UCLA School of Public Health and lead author of the study along with Jie Chen, an assistant professor at CUNY's [College of Staten Island](#).

Latinos differ from other minority patients in their socioeconomic and demographic characteristics, as well as their patterns of health care access, use and spending, Vargas-Bustamante said, and these differences are likely to influence physicians' perceptions of the quality of care they deliver.

Latinos represent more than 15 percent of the U.S. population, he noted, and they constitute the largest ethnic minority group in the country. And the Affordable Care Act of 2010, Vargas-Bustamante said, is likely to benefit larger proportions of minority individuals, particularly Latinos, who currently experience the highest uninsurance rate across racial and ethnic groups.

"We wanted to understand the challenges that providers face in delivering high-quality care to underserved populations," he said. "Overcoming such challenges will be critical to ensure that the insurance expansion under the Affordable Care Act will succeed in providing better health for all."

What the researchers found, Vargas-Bustamante said, was disturbing. Physicians who primarily treat Latino patients don't feel they can provide high-quality care. But in addition to the problems specific to

Latinos, these physicians still must contend with all the common problems of providing health care regardless of ethnicity, including insurers' rejection of claim decisions, medical errors, a relative lack of available specialists and the lack of timely transmission of reports among physicians.

Vargas-Bustamante noted that, if implemented, the Affordable Care Act can potentially address some of these quality challenges.

"An increased supply of medical personnel, for example, would allow primary care physicians to allocate more time to patients and improve follow-up," he said. "Also, more cultural competence will come from the strengthening of primary care providers, which would address problems with communicating and in improving treatment compliance."

The researchers received no outside funding for this study.

[The UCLA School of Public Health](#) is dedicated to enhancing the public's health by conducting innovative research; training future leaders and health professionals; translating research into policy and practice; and serving local, national and international communities.

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Your Soap Box: Irwin Goldstein, Arden Heights

Wednesday, October 12, 2011, 10:51 AM



Mark D. Stein
By



View full size

Irwin Goldstein, Arden Heights (Staten Island Advance/Mark Stein)

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - **Irwin Goldstein** has a solution for Social Security.

"It's simple and fair," said the 71-year-old Arden Heights resident and retired New York City teacher.

Goldstein recommends everyone pay Social Security tax on their total income rather than stopping at the base wage of \$106,800.

Goldstein, a longtime Staten Islander, once served as assistant principal of social studies at Curtis High School. He also taught at the College of Staten Island's campuses in Willowbrook and in Sunnyside

before retiring in 2009.

He previously lived in Great Kills and New Springville before settling in his current South Shore neighborhood 12 years ago.

"I like the convenience," he said of his community.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2011

Graniteville Quarry Slowly Being Reclaimed As A Park



Katherine Romanelli and Frank Ojeda, board members of the Mariners Harbor Civic Association, survey the Graniteville Quarry in Staten Island, where a park is finally beginning to take shape. The Parks Department has been slowly acquiring the land from the state which bought it in 1999. (Photo: Kathryn Carse/Staten Island Advance)

Staten Island

When trees and shrubs were being cleared from the nearly five acre lot across from Pep Boys on Forest Avenue, **Katherine Romanelli** got a few phone calls from neighbors, some wondering if a new shopping mall was being developed.

As secretary-treasurer of the Mariners Harbor Civic Association, Mrs. Romanelli was happy to tell the callers that the work was being done to make Graniteville Quarry more visible and less inviting to vagrants, [according to The Staten Island Advance](#).

A Parks Department spokesperson said that the Land Restoration Project removed about 35 trees that were dead or dying. They also mowed, applied weed treatments, seeded for wildflowers, and removed trash and debris.

It's not the first time the Parks Department has spruced up the space. It has been doing seasonal "housecleaning," as it slowly acquired the land from the state which bought it in 1999. For its part, the Mariners Harbor Civic Association is keeping the community aware of the quarry's importance.

"It makes a difference when you get the community involved and when they see what we have and what it can be. Look at it now, it's a waste," said Mrs. Romanelli, surveying the area with board vice-president **Frank Ojeda**, in preparation for a cleanup on Saturday that will include a tour with quarry expert **Dr. Alan Benimoff**, a **College of Staten Island** geology professor.

The ultimate goal is to make the lot, adjacent to Christ United Methodist Church, attractive to the neighborhood and school kids, so they can enjoy it as a park and a geology exhibit.

While enthusiasm for the plan has been expressed for over a decade, there is some evidence that the civic association and Partnership for Parks are finally making some progress.

One development is the formation of a group called the Friends of Graniteville Quarry Park through which grants can be obtained and fund-raising can be done. Mrs. Romanelli hopes to harness some of the resources of the big-box businesses that have become part of Mariners Harbor in the last few years. Coca Cola Bottling Company has already taken an active role, donating refreshments and sending 40 employees to the last cleanup. It plans to be back again on Saturday with refreshments and volunteers.

The day will begin with Benimoff's guided tour. The professor has a long and deep-rooted connection to the quarry and plans for its development. In 1975, he identified a rock formation known as trondhjemite, within the diabase. It's so rare, it is known to be in only two other places – Wales and South Africa. He routinely conducts field trips with his students.

"Professor Benimoff loves to educate people on the rarity of the rock," said Mrs. Romanelli. "Last spring, the kids were so excited to hear that something 200 million years old was in the neighborhood."

The formation in the quarry is not granite, but diabase, a very hard rock that was mistaken for granite, thus the name of the surrounding area. As dirt filled the former quarry, vegetation took root, making it look like just another vacant lot.

Cans, broken glass, fast-food cartons – all indicated that people were quite comfortable hanging out. Stray clothing was not the first time signs of someone camping there has been detected. The quarry

rocks have swaths of paint on them where the Parks Department has painted over graffiti.

There were also mockingbirds and a song sparrow, wildflowers and the trickle of a stream.

"It doesn't look like anything yet," admitted Mrs. Romanelli, but the Parks Department has spoken to the civic association about plans for a passive park, a place where residents can walk and relax, and signage will help explain the geological significance of the rock.

Neighborhood schools – PS 22, PS 44 and the Staten Island School for Civic Leadership – would have a living science lab were the park to be more accessible. In the meantime, some of them fulfill community service projects by helping out at the cleanups.

Now that passersby can see in from Forest Avenue, a grant for a sign identifying the area is an immediate goal.

"It will be beautiful for all of Staten Island. It is something totally different from everything else," said Ojeda.

Graniteville Quarry Park Tour and Cleanup

Meet at the Forest Avenue entrance to the Park, across from Pep Boys.

Tour by Alan Benimoff

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Cleanup hours

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

More information

MarinersHarborCivic@gmail.com.

Also Featured on: silive.com



Urban League will honor community leaders and students

Sunday, October 16, 2011, 6:40 AM



Staten Island Advance
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The New York Urban League-Staten Island Branch will celebrate its 46th Annual Mills G. Skinner Awards Luncheon to be held at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 21 at the Staaten, West Brighton. Tickets are \$65. To reserve a seat call 917-921-0372.

Several individuals and businesses will be honored during the commemoration of these many years of service.

Beryl S. Clark, the recipient of the Education Award, is the vice president for early childhood services of the Staten Island Mental Health Society. Her goals are to bring about equal opportunity, acceptance and success for all young children by promoting and excellence in the preschool environment and by extension in the community at large. Global Medical Relief Fund (GMRF) for Children, Elissa Montanti, founder, will receive the Health and Social Welfare Award. Ms. Montanti founded the nonprofit, nonpartisan organization to aid children who have suffered severe injury, including loss of limbs, due to war, natural disaster or illness.

The Charles Langere Community Service Award will be given to Brothers Care, Frank Sullivan, president. Brothers Care is a nonprofit organization that is dedicated to promoting community pride and awareness in West Brighton and other similar neighborhoods.

The Clarence "Butch" Mangin Award will be given to Delta Academy/Gems, Beth Coleman-Oliver, president. Delta Academy provides the opportunity for local Delta chapters to enrich and enhance the education that young teens receive in public schools.

The Staten Island recipients of the New York Urban League, Whitney M. Young scholarships will receive the Chancellor Richard R. Green Award. The honorees are Curtis High School graduates Victoria Lee, attending Adlephi University, L.I.; Stephanie Tituana, attending Brooklyn College; Cynthia LaBrocco, attending Borough of Manhattan Community College; and Joshua Rodriquez, attending Syracuse (N.Y.) University.

Chairpersons for this event will be Dr. Wilma Jones, chief librarian at the College of Staten Island, and Larry Body, caseworker with PROCEED, a social service agency located in Elizabeth, N.J.



Nurses rose to the challenge during hurricane

Sunday, October 16, 2011, 1:07 AM



Letters to the Editor/Staten Island Advance

By

By **RUTH GALLEGO**

TOMPKINSVILLE

In the event of disasters, we count on hospital health-care professionals on duty (or volunteers) to respond and assist in medical care.

In anticipation of Hurricane Irene, New York City hospitals and nursing homes in low-lying areas were evacuated. In Staten Island, it led to the closing and evacuation of both Staten Island University Hospital locations and South Beach Psychiatric Center (SBPC).

Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC), the only hospital left open, admitted roughly 270 patients.

It is amazing how facilities were able to orchestrate mass patient transfers within a short amount of time. Even more impressive is the work of staff, specifically the nurses.

Being at the front line of care, nurses have to make critical decisions and execute complicated tasks to ensure continuity of care with every transfer.

Considering the amount of admissions that RUMC had received, it seems inevitable that nurses had to work more hours, float to different units, or take higher patient loads.

As expected, these RUMC, SIUH, and SBPC nurses rose up to the occasion. Sadly, most of their hard work and sacrifices are easily overlooked.

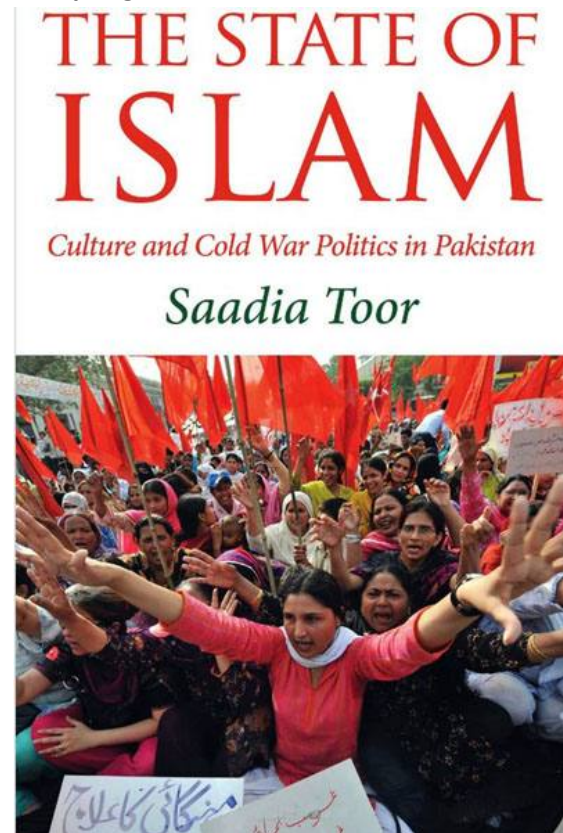
So I would like to acknowledge the great job that nurses have done during Hurricane Irene. It makes me proud to be a nurse.

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THE JORDAN TIMES

Monday, October 17th, 2011

Disrupting the mainstream account



The State of Islam: Culture and Cold War Politics in Pakistan

Saadia Toor

London: Pluto Press, 2011

PP. 252

In the acknowledgements which preface this book, Saadia Toor, Associate Professor of Sociology at the College of Staten Island, City University of New York, thanks her father for teaching her “that the injustices and inequities of this world are not part of the natural order of things, and that all human beings deserve a life of dignity”. (p. xii) This insight provides the overarching theme of “The State of Islam”, which Toor brings down to earth with a detailed analysis of Pakistan’s history in cultural, socio-economic and political terms.

The Pakistan she reveals is a far cry from the mainstream media’s image of a hotbed of violent religious extremism. Instead we see ordinary people - progressive activists, poets, peasants and workers struggling for a life of dignity, but thwarted time after time by the machinations of repressive regimes representing only the rich, and their manipulation of Islam to serve their own interests. “In Pakistan, as in other parts of the Muslim world, the rise of Islamists as a social and political force was engineered

both directly, by inducting them into state institutions as Zia did, and indirectly, by 'cleansing' the political sphere of their only effective nemesis/counter, the Left." (p. 3)

This ruling class strategy for eliminating popular struggle was reinforced by external factors: During the Cold War, the US saw Islam as a bulwark against communism, culminating in America's proxy war in Afghanistan, and all the repercussions this has had for Pakistan ever since. Though US troops are now fighting on the other side, Pakistan remains as an essential ally and recipient of funds that shore up its military to the detriment of the majority of the populace.

Toor's account of Pakistan's foundation is iconoclastic, challenging received wisdom and even the usually stain-free reputation of Gandhi. According to her, Muslim League leader Mohammad Jinnah was a secular democrat who envisioned Muslims' place as being within a united independent India, but was pushed into accepting a separate Muslim state by Gandhi's conflating India with Hinduism, and the Indian National Congress' refusal to share power. Toor convincingly refutes claims that Pakistan can be compared to Israel as a state based on a particular religion. Pakistan, as created in 1947, was diverse in ethnic, cultural and religious terms, and rich in progressive culture. Yet, as a result of both domestic and external contingencies, religion and narrowly defined nationalism came to dominate the state's identity, but this didn't happen without a struggle. In fascinating passages of the book, Toor reviews the conflicts and debates that prefaced this change, citing the views, sometimes expressed in poems, of diverse trends and classes - from rightists to liberals to progressives, especially the Progressive Writers Association until it was banned in the mid-50s.

"The story of how a country which appeared to be on the brink of socialist revolution in 1969 was turned into the purported bastion of 'Islamic terror' is one of the most compelling in modern history." (p. 117) Toor tells the story well, tracing Pakistan's trajectory through successive repressive regimes, each further cementing the all-pervasive control of the military over society and its resources, with the reign of Bhutto's People's Party being an exception only in terms of its rhetoric.

Special attention is accorded "the long shadow of Zia", for, according to Toor, "Every aspect of the Pakistani state, society, politics and culture worth noting today bears the scars of the 11 years of martial law under General Zia ul Haq from 1977 to 1988, Pakistan's longest and most brutal military dictatorship." (p. 117) Yet, this was also the decade when the contemporary women's movement emerged. From the book cover, which shows female workers protesting against rising food prices, one would expect coverage of women's issues throughout, but this is not the case. Apparently, the early progressive movement was heavily male-dominated. But, in the 80s, women became an important component of the opposition, protesting draconian policies which essentially criminalised women's presence in the public sphere, making them vulnerable to unprecedented violence, and depriving them of rights actually accorded them by Islam. Eventually, defenders of these anti-female policies were revealed to be defending patriarchal control, not piety, in a dynamic familiar to women activists elsewhere.

Toor is up-front with her intention "to disrupt the mainstream account of Pakistani history by offering an alternative narrative", one which "aims to highlight resistance and struggle, and to document the important and historical role played by the Pakistani Left in the culture and politics of the country". (p. 5) As such, her book is unique and well worth reading.



The political effects of existential fear

Wednesday, October 19, 2011



9/11 attacks Credit: National Parks Service

Why did the approval ratings of President George W. Bush— who was perceived as indecisive before September 11, 2001—soar over 90 percent after the terrorist attacks? Because Americans were acutely aware of their own deaths. That is one lesson from the psychological literature on "mortality salience" reviewed in a new article called "The Politics of Mortal Terror." The paper, by psychologists Florette Cohen of the City University of New York's [College of Staten Island](#) and Sheldon Solomon of Skidmore College, appears in October's *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, a journal published by the Association for Psychological Science.

The fear people felt after 9/11 was real, but it also made them ripe for psychological manipulation, experts say. "We all know that fear tactics have been used by politicians for years to sway votes," says Cohen. Now psychological research offers insight into the chillingly named "terror management."

The authors cite studies showing that awareness of mortality tends to make people feel more positive toward heroic, charismatic figures and more punitive toward wrongdoers. In one study, Cohen and her colleagues asked participants to think of death and then gave them statements from three fictional political figures. One was charismatic: he appealed to the specialness of the person and the group to which she belonged. One was a technocrat, offering practical solutions to problems. The third stressed

the value of participation in democracy. After thinking about death, support for the charismatic leader shot up eightfold.

Even subliminal suggestions of mortality have similar effects. Subjects who saw the numbers 911 or the letters WTC had higher opinions of a Bush statement about the necessity of invading Iraq. This was true of both liberals and conservatives.

Awareness of danger and death can bias even peaceful people toward war or aggression. Iranian students in a control condition preferred the statement of a person preaching understanding and the value of human life over a jihadist call to suicide bombing. But primed to think about death, they grew more positive toward the bomber. Some even said that they might consider becoming a martyr.

As time goes by and the memory of danger and death grows fainter, however, "morality salience" tends to polarize people politically, leading them to cling to their own beliefs and demonize others who hold opposing beliefs—seeing in them the cause of their own endangerment.

The psychological research should make voters wary of emotional political appeals and even of their own emotions in response, Cohen says. "We encourage all citizens to vote with their heads rather than their hearts. Become an educated voter. Look at the candidate's positions and platforms. Look at who you are voting for and what they stand for."

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Law & Politics Book Review

Sponsored by the Law and Courts Section of the American Political Science Association

EVOLUTION, CREATIONISM, AND THE BATTLE TO CONTROL AMERICA'S CLASSROOMS



by Michael Berkman and Eric Plutzer. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press, 2010. 304pp. Hardback. \$85.00/£50.00. ISBN: 9780521190466. Paperback. \$27.99/£17.99. ISBN: 9780521148863. Adobe eBook. \$22.00. ISBN: 9780511922251.

Reviewed by Michal Paris, Political Science, The College of Staten Island (CUNY). Email: Michael.Paris [at] csi.cuny.edu.

pp. 584-590

“No scientific generalization is more strongly supported by thoroughly tested [evidence] than is that of organic evolution.” So said a resolution of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in the year 1922. Yet, as is well known, shortly thereafter, in 1925, there followed the Scopes Monkey Trial. For decades after that, communities across America banished evolution from high school biology classrooms. Susan Epperson’s successful establishment clause challenge to an Arkansas law that made it unlawful to teach Darwinian evolution did not end the controversy in 1968. Nor did Don Aguillard’s successful attack on a Louisiana law that required “balanced treatment” for “creation science” and “evolution” end it in 1987. Still, in the 1990’s, the national guardians of modern science in public education – for example, the National Academy of Science’s National Research Council – might have reasonably thought that they were pounding nails in the coffin when they pointedly argued that the scientific case for evolution had grown stronger by the decade, and that evolution was scientific fact, pure and simple, and not merely a hunch, an idea, or even “a theory” (Berkman and Plutzer, pp.14-15; 99-101; 145). But anti-evolutionism in America is like the wounded soldier who suffers defeat only to return to the fight with enhanced ardor (p.98, internal citation omitted). And so “scientific creationism” soon morphed into “intelligent design,” and controversies over evolution and state education standards erupted again, most notably in Kansas and Florida. In Dover, Pennsylvania in 2004, there were echoes the Scopes Monkey Trial when the competing sides faced off in federal court in the Kitzmiller case. A conservative judge nominated by George W. Bush dealt the anti-evolutionists yet another stinging legal defeat.

Why is there an ongoing political controversy when, according to an overwhelming scientific consensus based on overwhelming empirical evidence, there should be no controversy? What explains “the amazing durability of this conflict on the American scene” (p.3)? In this book, Berkman and Plutzer set out to unpack this puzzle and illuminate its multiple strands. They succeed. This is a very fine and nicely crafted book. It will be impossible here to do justice to the authors’ social scientific creativity and nuanced argument.

Most readers will approach the creationism/evolution controversy with the sense that this is one

instance of what [*585] Laurence Tribe once said about the abortion issue: What we have here is a “clash of absolutes” that is in large measure impervious to reason and evidence. The secular and scientific consensus on evolution threatens the deeply held religious values of large numbers of people. After that, there really isn’t all that much to say.

Although there is some truth to this common wisdom, Berkman and Plutzer show, the story of evolutionary biology in the classroom is far more complicated and interesting. The authors’ contribution begins, as does much good social science, with some simple, important, and neglected questions: Who should decide what children learn in public schools? Who decides now? How are policies on teaching evolution made in the fifty states? How are they actually implemented (made?) at the point of contact in the classroom? Why do teaching practices take the shape and form that they do? To address these questions, the authors take us on a journey through America’s honeycombed system of educational politics and policymaking. We encounter some surprising facts, which in turn call for explanation, which in turn give rise to new questions, which in turn give rise to the need to dig out more facts. The heart of this book consists of results from a nationwide, six-page survey of 926 high school biology teachers conducted in 2007.

Berkman and Plutzer focus on first response to the question “who should decide?” The democratic answer is that the people should govern. Faith in democracy finds institutional reflection in traditions of federalism and local control in education. In a constitutional democracy, however, the people often don’t rule unproblematically, or without limit. When it comes to teaching evolution, democracy competes with roughly three other important sources of authority: (1) law and courts, (2) science and the views of policy experts, and (3) ideas about the professionalism and autonomy of teachers.

Chapter 1 offers a brief legal and policy history of the evolution conflict, taking us from Scopes to Kitzmiller. Law and courts scholars have often remarked that the implementation of judicial decisions is generally easier when a court says “stop doing x,” as opposed to “do x.” The creationism decisions bear this out. There is a constitutional boundary here. States cannot ban evolution or allow “creation science” or “intelligent design” (ID) to be taught. Lawmakers in state capitals respect this boundary, give or take a few momentary lapses, as do teachers in the nation’s classrooms, give or take a few outliers. At the same time, the authors remind us, the boundary has another, “permissive” side. The space narrowed by the law “still provides significant room” for a wide range of policies and practices (p.25). Do the people govern within this permissive zone?

In Chapter 2, Berkman and Plutzer turn to public opinion on teaching creationism and evolution. Some might find these facts surprising, or even jarring. After canvassing (and in some cases reanalyzing) all relevant polls and surveys over the past three decades, the authors conclude that a substantial majority of Americans endorse teaching both creationism and evolution. Indeed, five administrations of one survey since 1999 reveal that 38% of Americans say [*586] they would like “to replace scientific discussions of human origins with biblically inspired alternatives” (p. 36). Poll results consistently show that teaching evolution only (which is, after all, the official policy in all fifty states) comes in a distant third place to teaching both evolution and creationism or teaching creationism only. Teaching evolution only received as low as 12% support, and never came in at higher than 35% (pp.36-39). These opinions, the authors argue, have little to do with “irrationality” or “ignorance.” Support for creationism is rational in the minimal sense that it flows readily and coherently from broader belief systems. Even among the “scientifically literate,” public opinion still overwhelming favors teaching both (pp.49; 75-79). After this national overview, one might think that when it comes to teaching evolution there is a very large gap between public opinion (the democratic will, if one likes) and public policy. But that view would be

radically incomplete, if not mistaken.

Berkman and Plutzer turn in Chapter 3 to explaining this observed pattern of public opinion. They describe “a nation divided by religion, education and place.” Support for creationism is the product of a century-old split between mainline Protestant denominations and doctrinally conservative ones. The split within Protestantism reflects profound differences in attitudes toward modernity, how to interpret the Bible, ideas about progress, and eschatology (premillennial vs. postmillennial). The authors draw on existing taxonomies of denominations and two surveys matching these denominations with opinions about evolution to uncover a pattern with significant implications for political mobilization. Only among Jews and people with “no religious affiliation” do we find firm opposition to creationism. Opinion within mainline Protestant and Catholic denominations is rather diverse, and often evenly split. Leaders of such religious formations will likely avoid the topic. Only within traditional Protestant churches is support for creationism nearly uniform and deeply felt – perfect conditions for political mobilization, notwithstanding repeated legal defeats (p.72). Levels of education do not have a strong impact on opinion, except for the fact that those with postgraduate degrees tend to strongly favor evolution. As for geography, the authors point out that anti-evolutionism is a national movement, although, as expected, it is strongest in South and the Midwest, where traditional Protestantism is most prevalent.

Chapter 3 also goes on to map public opinion in each of the fifty states. Here, the authors draw on nine studies with 9,533 respondents. Again, we find surprisingly limited support for teaching evolution only. Even in Massachusetts, the state most favorably disposed to evolution, and even taking the evidence in the light most favorable to support for evolution, no more than 47% support the consensus view among professional scientists (p.85). Support for teaching evolution only falls below 30% in about half the states. In each state, the authors conclude, public opinion on teaching evolution is strongly associated with (1) the percentage of the population holding masters or doctoral degrees, and (2) the percentage of the population affiliated with doctrinally conservative churches (p.87). [*587]

Having established what public opinion is, nationally and state-by-state, and discussing why it is what it is, Berkman and Plutzer move on to a stepwise examination of whether it matters, and if so, how? In Chapter 4, they draw on a thorough review of the quality of each state’s science standards as of 2000. They find a considerable range of different formal standards on the permissive side of the constitutional boundary. At one end of the spectrum, we have Kansas’s myopic denial of evolution (since reformed) or Iowa’s vague and meaningless verbiage (“students can understand relationships and concepts in biological science”). At the other end, we have states that fully embrace the rigor and elaboration of the scientific consensus. The best single source for this scientific consensus, a gold standard for science standards, the authors note, is the National Research Council’s “National Science Education Standards” (NSES) (1996) (p.100). What explains this wide variation in quality? Berkman and Plutzer compare the explanatory power of two models, a “technical” one in which science and bureaucratic autonomy determine policy, and a “responsive” one in which public opinion does. Interestingly, they find that the technical model explains variation for subjects in science other than evolution, but the responsive model holds for evolution (p.110). “In states where a majority of the public are hostile toward evolution,” the authors write, “the standards tend to be cursory and vague...” (p.113). So public opinion is related to state standards. But do the state standards determine what happens in the classroom? To answer that question Berkman and Plutzer needed to know what happens in the classroom, and what might explain variation in what happens in the classroom.

In Chapter 5, the authors describe their national survey of biology teachers (with 926 respondents) and report both quantitative and qualitative data from it. They asked teachers to state how much time they

spent each year covering “evolutionary processes,” “human evolution,” and “creationism or intelligent design.” They also asked several questions designed to probe how close teachers’ beliefs and practices were to the scientific consensus’s gold standard, as defined by the National Research Council’s NSES document – questions about whether teachers believed that evolution has the status of scientific fact, believed that one cannot understand biology and several related fields without understanding evolution, and believed that evolution is properly regarded as a unifying theme in science. They found significant variation in time spent on evolution and in teaching content and methods, especially when it comes to “human evolution.” Seventeen percent of their respondents did not cover human evolution at all, while another 35% spent only 1-2 hours on it (p.123). When they combined “evolutionary processes” with “human evolution,” Berkman and Plutzer found that the average teacher spent a total of 14 hours on it, and only 1% of the respondents excluded it entirely. When it comes to how close the content of teaching evolution comes to the scientific consensus, Berkman and Plutzer report that teachers are “divided roughly 50-50 between those who embrace the national organization’s recommended pedagogical approach and those who do not.” However, only 12% “are teaching evolution in a manner [*588] totally consistent with the recommendations of the most prominent national scientific organizations” (p.127).

Many teachers sought to undermine evolution, or to avoid controversy, by confining instruction to “microevolution” (within species changes), by leaving evolution to the end of the course so as to give it short shrift, or by explicitly stating that students need not believe in evolution in order to learn about it as a theory (the authors wonder what would happen if a science teacher told students that he or she did not care whether students actually believed that light simultaneously has the properties of waves and discrete particles) (p.133). Seventy-five percent of the respondents reported spending no time at all on creationism or ID, but 22% reported spending at least some time on them. Berkman and Plutzer estimate that between 14-21% of all teachers are endorsing creationism or ID in some fashion, mainly by presenting it along with evolution as if the two views were akin to competing ideas or theories. Either both are “scientific models,” or both are “religion,” but either way evolution is undermined.

Why is it that some teachers spend over 20 hours on evolution and adhere to the scientific consensus on how to teach it, while others barely mention it? How much of the variation might be explained by different state standards and accountability mechanisms? How much by teachers’ educational backgrounds, training, and professional identities? How much by their personal beliefs? What is the role of local community opinion, or pressure?

Berkman and Plutzer place their discussion of teachers’ beliefs and practices in the broader context of work on street-level bureaucracy (Lipsky, 1980). In Chapter 6, they ask whether differences in state standards (viewed now in 2007 based on their own analysis) explain differences in teaching practices. They find that, for the most part, they do not (p.174). By contrast, teachers’ self-rated expertise correlates well with time spent on evolution and the rigor of instruction (p.171). In Chapter 7, the authors turn to how “the personal becomes pedagogical.” They test various models designed to explore the role of two central personal characteristics: educational background and personal beliefs. They find that the educational backgrounds of high school biology teachers varies a lot – only 51% have earned a bachelor’s degree in science – and it seems to explain a lot of the variance. One interesting finding is that a teacher’s having taken a full college course in evolutionary biology appears to have the largest impact, compared to other measures of educational background and training. This finding and others in this chapter direct our attention to teacher training and certification (p.182). It is possible that changes in training and certification could improve instruction (my thought was that stronger requirements couldn’t hurt), but it is also possible that core religious beliefs and self-selection come before and trump

formal training. Another regression model shows that “not only do personal beliefs influence instruction, they also have a stronger impact than any other factor [the authors] have examined. At the end of the day, beliefs are the most powerful predictor for teachers on both sides of the divide (pp.186, 189). [*589]

Does that mean that teachers are simply and only free agents? Not exactly. In Chapter 8, Berkman and Plutzer conclude their empirical inquiry with a look at the relationship between teachers and their local communities. Using denominational membership data and data on the percentage of the local population holding advanced degrees, they construct a scale of local culture ranging from “traditionalism” to “cosmopolitanism.” They show that teachers’ personal beliefs about evolution are strongly related to school district characteristics. What is at work here is a process akin to “assortive mating” in decisions about whom to marry. Here, what is going on is “assortive hiring and retention.” Teachers tend to look for work within fifteen miles of where they grew up, and districts tend to hire teachers who will “harmonize and fit in with the prevailing local culture” (pp.199-200). Teachers, districts, and local residents share values. Overt community pressure is very rare, because often there is no home/school conflict (pp.202-207). Moreover, even when community opinion is diverse, teachers develop ways of avoiding conflict. For example, they might never say the word “evolution,” preferring instead to say “change over time.”

Berkman and Plutzer began with the question “who decides?” An exhaustive review of public opinion on teaching evolution seemed to reveal that official policy was wildly out of line with public opinion. Law and science seemed to have won the day. However, closer inspection state-by-state opinion, state policies, and classroom practices revealed a fair amount of “bottom-up, democratic control,” produced through “multiple mechanisms” (p.213). Teachers’ views reflect the culture of the communities they serve, and those communities are increasingly divided by religion and education. About 20% of all teachers embrace the scientific consensus and another 20% or so consistently seek to undermine it. That leaves an ambivalent 60% in the middle, groping their way cautiously through the minefield. This controversy, with its “thousands of potential arenas of conflict,” is “distinctly American.” The nature and role of religion and political decentralization in education ensure that the conflict will continue.

One neglected theme in this work is the possible role of race and its relationship to religion and politics (cf: Wadsworth, 2008). The authors note that traditional Protestant black churches are every bit as supportive of creationism as their white counterparts (pp.71-72), but, interestingly, they are not politically mobilized on the evolution issue. The authors surmise that evolution would not be a high priority for traditional black churches, but they leave it at that. They also note that their national sample underrepresents teachers teaching in schools with substantial minority student populations (pp.118-19). Race was not included as a variable in the many regression analyses in this book (or maybe it was but didn’t yield any interesting result, so the results were not reported). In any event, more sustained attention to race might have filled out the picture. To be provocative about this point, I’m wondering whether the strongest proponents of creationism are not also those most ardently devoted to the survival of white supremacy. If so, would that matter? Are evolution and a [*590] sense of white racial victimization part of the same larger complex of underlying beliefs?

This minor quibble aside, this book has many great virtues. Berkman and Plutzer strike exactly the right balance between, on the one hand, revealing their thought processes, describing the operationalization of their variable, explaining their regression models, and the like, and, on the other hand, sustaining a lively, engaging narrative discussion that keeps the reader engaged and thinking and learning along with them. I would think that anyone teaching a methods course, whether at the undergraduate or graduate

level, would want to take a close look at this book to consider it for course adoptions. Scholars of law and courts will like this book as a model of how legal decisions can be placed in broader public opinion and policy environments through careful quantitative analyses. Berkman and Plutzer's argument shows how legal ideas and rules can do real boundary work, and can reframe the terms of conflicts, without tightly determining policies and outcomes. If we read only the law, we won't begin to understand what is really going on. Finally, many people who study education will want to read this book. The authors are constantly framing their analyses in broader bodies of research on what teachers do and why, and, beyond that, research on street-level bureaucracy. Anyone concerned about state education standards, curriculum, and teaching practices is likely to find a plethora of substantive and methodological ideas and insights here.

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Malliotakis, Savino at Manhattan's Unidad Latina Legislative Conference

Friday, October 21, 2011, 7:17 AM



Judy L. Randall
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - Staten Island's two female state lawmakers will participate in the Unidad Latina Legislative Conference in Manhattan today and tomorrow.

Nicole Malliotakis (R-East Shore/Brooklyn) will lead a discussion on college retention rates for Latino students and state Sen. Diane Savino (D-North Shore/Brooklyn) will moderate a panel on Latino suicide rates.

"As a woman of Cuban descent, I am excited to discuss issues of importance to the Hispanic community," said Ms. Malliotakis, which she said include the need to promote minority-owned businesses, jobs creation and educational opportunities.

Ms. Savino said the event will offer participants the chance to explore the "cultural distinctions among this population."

College of Staten Island President Dr. Tomas Morales will be among those honored.

The two-day conference is sponsored by the New York State Senate and the Hispanic Fund and will be held in the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers, 811 Seventh Ave., at 53rd St.

Tickets are \$200.

For further information, contact the Hispanic Federation at 212-233-8955.

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2011 STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE



College of Staten Island President Dr. Tomas Morales, flanked by Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis and State Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, was honored over the weekend at the Unidad Latina Legislative Conference in Manhattan. Staten Island's two female state lawmakers, Ms. Malliotakis and Sen. Diane Savino, participated in the conference on Hispanic issues, which took place Friday and Saturday at the Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers. Ms. Malliotakis (R-East Shore/ Brooklyn) led a discussion on college retention rates for Latino students and Ms. Savino (D-North Shore/Brooklyn) moderated a panel on Latino suicide rates. The two-day conference was sponsored by the New York State Senate and the Hispanic Fund.

The Journey of the Business Use of the Home Office Deduction [CPA Journal, The]

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Source: Proquest LLC

Wordcount: 3557

As work styles have changed throughout the years, more taxpayers have started working from home. With the help of modern technology, having a home office has become more practical and efficient. The concept of working from home affects many facets of an individual's life, such as commuting time, travel expense, and, of course, tax issues. Although the idea of a home office deduction - that is, using a portion of one's home exclusively for business purposes and deducting related expenses when filing taxes - is not new, the criteria have changed over time. Some believe that these criteria have not changed enough.

This article explores the standards related to the home office deduction, serving as a refresher of the history of the issue and giving CPAs an understanding of how the standards have evolved into their current model, as well as an insight into how timeconsuming it can be to effect change.

A Glimpse into the Past

A taxpayer's home has to qualify as his principal place of business in order to be eligible for a home office deduction. But what exactly does "principal place of business" mean? Neither the IRC nor the Treasury Regulations provide an exact definition. It has fallen upon the courts to provide judicial guidance as to what is meant by this phrase.

One case that called out for attention and the need for change in this area of law was *Comm'r v. Soliman* (506 U.S. 168, 1993), which went all the way to the Supreme Court. It should be noted that the year of the tax return in question was 1983. Thus, a decade elapsed before this matter completed its entire journey and a final resolution was reached. The case originated in the U.S. Tax Court, went on to the U.S. Court of Appeals, and obtained its final decision after being heard before the U.S. Supreme Court. A review of *Soliman* provides historical background for the development and understanding of the home office deduction.

Background, Nader Soliman was an anesthesiologist who had a home office for which he sought to take a deduction. Although Soliman's primary work was done on patients in three different hospitals, he also did a great deal of work at his home. Soliman used his office to contact surgeons and patients as well as hospitals to arrange admissions of his patients. He performed all his recordkeeping in the office, maintaining detailed accounts of billing records and patient logs. In addition, he stored patient records, billing records, correspondence with patients, names of surgeons and insurance companies, medical journals, medical texts, collections agency records, and insurance code books in his home office. Believing he was entitled to a home office deduction, he claimed such a deduction on his 1983 tax return.

Although the general rule states that no deduction is permitted with respect to a taxpayer's residence, a taxpayer can find exceptions to this rule in IRC section 280A(c). The full details of the exceptions can be seen in the Exhibit. As an anesthesiologist, Soliman did not store inventory, so he did not look to IRC section 280A(c)(2). He did not utilize a separate structure for his home office, so he did not look to IRC section 280A(c)(1)(C) for his exception. Because he did not meet with patients in his home office, he did not look to IRC section 280A(c)(1)(B)(b), either. Soliman was of the opinion that he had found an exception to the general rule in IRC section 280A(c)(1)(A), because he believed his office satisfied the requirements as his principal place of business. Again, the problem is defining what exactly is meant by this terminology. While Soliman thought that he had satisfied IRC section 280A(c)(1)(A), the IRS did not agree.

This disagreement resulted in the dispute going to the Tax Court (94 T.C. 20, 1990), which decided in

favor of Soliman. The case was appealed to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals (935 F.2D 52, 1991). On appeal, the court again decided in favor of Soliman. It should be noted that both of these victories for the taxpayer were a split decision. The Supreme Court granted certiorari and reversed the decision of the lower courts. The decision of the Supreme Court, like the decision of both other courts, was split.

Court of Appeals. Judge Phillips of the U.S. Court of Appeals did not believe that the new "facts and circumstances" test was appropriate. This test provides that if management or administrative activities are essential to the taxpayer's trade or business and the only available office space is in the taxpayer's home, then the home office can be the taxpayer's principal place of business. But interpretation of this test frequently causes debate. It was Judge Phillips's opinion that a taxpayer can have only one principal place of business, according to IRC section 280A. To determine which location should be considered the principal place of business, a comparison of all places of business would be necessary. Judge Phillips agreed with the dissenting judges of the Tax Court that the facts-and-circumstances test eliminated any need for comparing a taxpayer's use of several business locations. The dissenting judges believed that this comparison was essential in order to determine a taxpayer's one and only principal place of business.

The Supreme Court The Court granted certiorari to resolve the conflict and a reversed decision was the outcome. In determining whether the home office qualified as Soliman's principal place of business, the Court listed two primary considerations:

- * The relative importance of the functions performed at each business location must be analyzed.
- * The decision maker should compare the amount of time spent at home with the amount of time spent in each of the other places where business is transacted.

Based on these two points, the Supreme Court ruled against Soliman. The tasks he performed at his home office were deemed to be less important than those tasks he performed at the hospitals; that is, treating patients at the hospitals weighed more heavily than the administrative duties performed in his home office. With respect to the Court's second criterion - time - the hospital locations won out once again. Soliman spent 30 to 35 hours per week at the hospitals, whereas he only spent 10 to 15 hours per week in his home office. The majority believed, as did the dissenting judges of the lower courts, that it was necessary to perform a comparative analysis of the taxpayer's various business locations in order to determine the principal place of business. In addition, the Supreme Court rejected the Court of Appeals' reliance on the availability of alternative office space as an additional consideration in determining a taxpayer's principal place of business. Justice Thomas, who agreed with the majority, made an interesting point: "We granted certiorari to clarify a recurring question of tax law that has been the subject of considerable disagreement. Unfortunately, this issue is no clearer today than it was before we granted certiorari."

Justice Stevens dissented. He believed that the Court's conclusion deviated from Congress' purpose and unfairly denied an intended benefit to the growing number of self-employed taxpayers who manage their business from a home office. He stated: "In my judgment, the Court's contrary conclusion in this case will breed uncertainty in the law, frustrate a primary purpose of the statute, and unfairly penalize deserving taxpayers. Given the growing importance of home offices, the result is most unfortunate."

This case brought attention to the need for change, and reform did come about, albeit too late for Soliman. While this particular case involved an anesthesiologist, taxpayers in many other industries have been affected, such as musicians, small contractors, and many others.

A General Rule and Exceptions

As a general rule, expenses in connection with one's personal residence are not deductible, with the exceptions of interest, taxes, and casualty losses. IRC section 280A provides this rule, as well as exceptions to the rule. Exceptions can be found in IRC section 280A(c). In addition to use of the business portion of the home on an exclusive and regular basis, many other factors need to be considered.

IRC section 280A(c)(1) states that an exception applies if a portion of the taxpayer's residence is used exclusively for business on a regular basis. But the business portion of the residence cannot serve double duty, meaning that it cannot act as a place to meet clients one day and a place for the family to watch a movie the next.

Bridging the Past and the Present

Prior to the enactment of IRC section 280A, a home office needed to be "appropriate and helpful" in order to qualify as deductible. The test used in Soliman was the facts-and-circumstances test discussed above. With respect to Soliman, the hospitals did not provide him with office space. Soliman managed and coordinated his anesthesiology work in his home office. The Tax Court deemed that Soliman spent substantial time in his home office. In addition, the use of his home office was important to a successful medical practice. Based upon the facts and circumstances presented, Soliman found favor with the Tax Court.

The intention of Congress in enacting IRC section 280A (added by the Tax Reform Act of 1976) was to prevent taxpayers from abusing the home office deduction. Before its adoption, expenses attributable to the business use of a residence were deductible whenever they were appropriate and helpful to the taxpayer's business. Obviously, this standard left room for a great deal of abuse. Throughout the years, various changes have been made with respect to IRC section 280A. In 1998, Congress passed the 1997 Taxpayer Relief Act, which amended IRC section 280A by adding one additional sentence. This one sentence would most likely have yielded a different outcome for Soliman:

For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term "principal place of business" includes a place of business which is used by the taxpayer for the administrative or management activities of any trade or business of the taxpayer if there is no other fixed location of such trade or business where the taxpayer conducts substantial administrative or management activities of such trade or business.

Examples in Other Professions

Taxpayers and the IRS have always battled over the notion of a home office deduction. Below is a sampling of some court cases that explore different issues that may arise.

Music. Some musicians provide music lessons from an area in their homes. Other performers may use the garage or basement to practice. Such was the case in *Valerie Jean Genck v. Comm'r* (T. C. Memo 1998-105). Genck performed as the lead singer in a band with her husband, Matthew Genck. In addition to being the lead singer, she was also the band's manager. She spent about 12 hours per week performing and about 30 hours per week in her home office satisfying her responsibilities as the band's manager, conducting various administrative and managerial activities.

Genck claimed a home office deduction on her 1992 tax return. She possessed well-organized records that she presented to the court, which was satisfied that 50% of her apartment was used both regularly and exclusively in connection with her activities as the band's manager. Once again, the question to be answered was whether her home office could be considered her principal place of business. The court needed to apply the criteria set forth in *Soliman*, namely the relative importance of the work done in the home office and the amount of time spent there.

The court found that the importance of, and the time spent on, the activities performed at the office were sufficient enough to support its treatment as Genck's principal place of business as manager of the band. This case proved to be a plus for many musicians. It should be noted that even though the *Soliman* criteria were used, the taxpayer proved to be victorious. In this particular case, it is the fact that Genck was the band's manager, coupled with her organized records, that worked in her favor.

Medicine. The case of *David J. Edwards v. Comm'r* (T.C. Memo 2002-169) validated the outcome that had been reached in *Soliman*. Edwards was, among other things, a medical doctor who sought to deduct for a home office. But Edwards may have overreached: He sought to deduct two-thirds of the expenses of maintaining his home. Some of the expenses he attempted to deduct included both the principal and the interest portion of his mortgage payment; principal repayment is never deductible. In addition, Edwards deducted taxes, insurance, and utilities. Furthermore, the mortgage interest, as well as the real estate taxes, had already been claimed as an itemized deduction and a taxpayer is not permitted to deduct the same item twice.

Edwards was filed in July 2002 and involved tax years 1996 and 1997. While it was filed nine years after the *Soliman* decision that brought about the need for change, such change had not yet arrived in time for Edwards. Because the tax years in question involved 1996 and 1997, this case was evaluated using the same rules that had been applied in *Soliman*. The court decided that Edwards's most important work was seeing patients and, like *Soliman*, he did not see patients at his home office. Also like *Soliman*, Edwards did not get the home office deduction.

Real estate. *John M. Rodriguez v. Comm'r* (T.C. Memo 2009-22) involved tax returns for tax years 1998-2001. Rodriguez had some success in claiming an office in his home on these tax returns. He was a real estate manager for several real estate developers. In addition, he handled a personal real estate business that he conducted entirely from his home. He had allocated 40% of his home as his home office because he stated that he used two of the five rooms for business.

While the IRS agreed that the space was used regularly and exclusively for business, they disagreed with his percentage because the rooms were not the same size. Rodriguez was only allowed to allocate 28.5% as his home office. Although the two-prong test of *Soliman* was not appropriate in this case because Rodriguez conducted his personal real estate business from only one location, his home, he still needed to battle the issue of proper measurement. The Rodriguez case is from 2009, and is just one indication that the office in home deduction has been in the past, is now, and will continue to be an issue of debate between taxpayers and the IRS.

Rodriguez's battle did not involve principal place of business, which is usually the major battle; rather, his fight was regarding size. This point illustrates that the ability to properly claim a home office deduction, while not impossible, is difficult. Another issue to keep in mind is that while the principal place of business is one of the stickiest points to deal with in connection with the home office deduction, by no means is it the only one.

Looking to the Future

Both the House and the Senate have submitted bills on the matter of home office deduction. In June 2009, Congressman Charles Gonzalez (D-Tex.) introduced the Home Office Tax Deduction Simplification and Improvement Act; simultaneously, Senator Olympia Snowe (R-Maine) introduced the bill in the Senate. The objective of the bill is to basically provide a standard deduction for a home office. In addition, the bill provides for a de minimis amount of personal use when dealing with employees rather than self-employed taxpayers. While the home office would still need to be for the employer's convenience, it would liberalize the criteria exclusively used for business by stating:

A portion of a dwelling unit shall not fail to be deemed as exclusively used for business for purposes of this paragraph solely because a de minimis amount of non-business activity may be carried out in such portion.

Rather than calculate the deduction as it is done presently, which involves a great deal of recordkeeping and computation, a standard rate would be used if the taxpayer chose to do so. This rate would be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury and would be multiplied by the square footage used for the home office. A maximum amount of square footage would also be determined by the Secretary.

In 2009, there had been a desire to bring about change. Unfortunately, some legislation that gets introduced is allowed to die, and change never comes; perhaps change will come with a newer bill introduced in 2010. Congressman John J. Hall (D-N.Y.) sponsored this bill, the Help Small Businesses Start and Grow Act. One provision of this bill related to a standard office deduction. It was suggested this deduction be the lesser of \$2,500 or the gross income derived from the individual's trade or business for which such use occurs. Once again, an attempt is being made to change the status quo, but this bill was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Small Business, and it has not seen movement since.

The concern here is whether there will be a return to the abuse Congress originally tried to avoid when it initially adopted IRC section 280A. This section was adopted to prevent taxpayers from treating what otherwise would be nondeductible living and family expenses as business expenses.

It should be noted that most of the discussion here is related to self-employed individuals. The criteria for a qualifying home office deduction are a little different for those taxpayers who are employees. Their home office must be for the convenience of the employer; this complicates matters further. Many telecommuters today do so for the employee's own convenience. It is not uncommon, however, to find that some taxpayers who work strictly from home are doing so at the employer's request. While this may still be appealing to the employee, it provides a number of benefits to the employer, including the reduction of office space and the associated high cost of commercial space.

Planning Considerations

Many disputes have arisen between taxpayers and the IRS on the home office deduction point in the past. The battles continue in the present and will persist into the future. Sometimes the taxpayer prevails and sometimes not; sometimes the taxpayer may have a partial victory.

With the continued rise of telecommuting, the number of taxpayers seeking a home office deduction will rise as well. With more small sole proprietors working from their homes, the number of taxpayers seeking a home office deduction will continue to rise. While neither telecommuting nor operating a business from one's property guarantees a properly claimed home office deduction, the number of battles to be fought will increase. As such, a detailed understanding of the current criteria and the general rule, as well as all of the exceptions to the general rule, is essential to properly claiming the home office deduction.

Taxpayers and the IRS have always battled over the notion of a home office deduction.

EXHIBIT

IRC Section 280A

(a) General rule

Except as otherwise provided in this section, in the case of a taxpayer who is an individual or an S corporation, no deduction otherwise allowable under this chapter shall be allowed with respect to the use of a dwelling unit which is used by the taxpayer during the taxable year as a residence.

(b) Exception for interest, taxes, casualty losses, etc.

Subsection (a) shall not apply to any deduction allowable to the taxpayer without regard to its connection with his trade or business (or with his income-producing activity).

(c) Exceptions for certain business or rental use; limitation on deductions for such use

(1) Certain business use

Subsection (a) shall not apply to any item to the extent such item is allocable to a portion of the dwelling unit which is exclusively used on a regular basis -

(A) as the principal place of business for any trade or business of the taxpayer,

(B) as a place of business which is used by patients, clients, or customers in meeting or dealing with the taxpayer in the normal course of his trade or business, or

(C) in the case of a separate structure which is not attached to the dwelling unit, in connection with the taxpayer's trade or business. In the case of an employee, the preceding sentence shall apply only if the exclusive use referred to in the preceding sentence is for the convenience of his employer. For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term "principal place of business" includes a place of business which is used by the taxpayer for the administrative or management activities of any trade or business of the taxpayer if there is no other fixed location of such trade or business where the taxpayer conducts substantial administrative or management activities of such trade or business.

(2) Certain storage use

Subsection (a) shall not apply to any item to the extent such item is allocable to space within the dwelling unit which is used on a regular basis as a storage unit for the inventory or product samples of the taxpayer held for use in the taxpayer's trade or business of selling products at retail or wholesale, but only if the dwelling unit is the sole fixed location of such trade or business.

Note: The italicized section was added by the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997.

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Borough Hall Conference Examines Brooklyn Waterfront

by Raanan Geberer (edit@brooklyneagle.net), published online 10-26-2011

Panelists Eye Neighborhoods From Greenpoint to Coney

By Raanan Geberer
Brooklyn Daily Eagle

BROOKLYN — When city planning and policy types speak of the Brooklyn waterfront, they often mean the former industrial waterfront stretching from Greenpoint to Sunset Park.

But the Brooklyn waterfront is a large, varied one, and it includes landscapes as diverse as the Brooklyn Navy Yard, Brooklyn Bridge Park, the Red Hook Container Port, the Coney Island amusement area and Jamaica Bay. All of this was discussed in Wednesday's Borough Hall conference, "The Waterfront: A Brooklyn Model for Preservation and Change," presented by the Steven L. Newman Real Estate Institute, the Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center and the CUNY Institute for Urban Systems.

Among the speakers were Borough President Marty Markowitz; Purnima Kapur, director of the Brooklyn office for the NYC Department of City Planning; Jonathan Peters, professor at the [College of Staten Island](#); Sapna Advani of the Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center; Brooklyn Borough Historian Ron Schwieger; Andrew Kimball, president and CEO of the Brooklyn Navy Yard; and Ellen Ryan, vice president of Brooklyn Bridge Park.

A familiar theme was the decline of the "working waterfront" starting in the 1980s, when containerization of ships became the norm and Brooklyn's old piers were suddenly obsolete. This meant that large parcels of waterfront land became derelict or underused.

Kapur of the Department of City Planning talked about Greenpoint/Williamsburg as an example of waterfront reclamation. Not only waterfront installations but factories that were slightly inland, such as the old Gretsch Guitar Factory, became vacant as industry began moving out of the city. This, however, opened up opportunities for developers.

The city's recent Greenpoint-Williamsburg Waterfront Plan gave condo developers incentives to build waterfront park parcels along with their high-rises. These mini-parks, combined with land that has been reclaimed by the city itself, will eventually result in a "green strip" along the waterfront that will be accessible to residents, she said.

In another old waterfront neighborhood, DUMBO, the buildings were somewhat different, she continued. Because they were basically loft spaces, artists began moving in long before the city finally changed its zoning to accommodate residents. Today, she said, DUMBO is a mix of residential buildings, high-tech companies, art spaces and some small manufacturers.

Peters of the [College of Staten Island](#) talked about the waterfront from the standpoint of jobs. In 1950, he said, 85 percent of the jobs for longshoremen were in Brooklyn. Now, because of containerization, 85

percent of them are in New Jersey.

Bigger and bigger container ships are coming, ships that the small Red Hook Container Port can't possibly handle, he said. He pointed to the Danish Ship Emma Maersk, which can accommodate 11,000 shipping containers and whose tower is as high as a 12-story building.

Although the Sunset Park waterfront could be dredged to accommodate these new ships, he said, doing so would substantially alter the landscape. The better alternative, he said, would be for Brooklyn to concentrate on ship repair for smaller, more typical ships.

Brooklyn, he said, already has dry docks (ship repair facilities) at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and several floating dry docks in other locations. These facilities should be maintained and expanded, he said, to retain and attract jobs. Just recently, he recounted, the contract to repair one of the Staten Island ferries was lost to a dry dock in Virginia, resulting in a loss of jobs.

Advani of the Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center focused on Sunset Park. The goals of most planners, she said, are to expand access to the waterfront, which is now occupied by industrial complexes such as the Bush Terminal, and to unite industrial western Sunset Park with residential eastern Sunset Park.

The two parts of the neighborhood are divided by the huge overhead Gowanus Expressway. Many planners have advocated putting the expressway — which already needs to be repaired or replaced — underground or at street level. On a related matter, she praised the plan for Bush Terminal Piers Park, which will be created out of an inactive storage area for the historic industrial development.

Coney and the Navy Yard

In one of the more nostalgic elements of the conference, Borough Historian Schweiger traced the history of Coney Island, illustrated by slides. Around the turn of the last century, Coney was basically a summer resort, with several hotels, three full-scale amusement parks, and piers for ferries to take tourists to and from Manhattan. The area also had three racetracks.

Eventually, the amusement parks closed, with the last one, Steeplechase Park, shutting down in 1964. The racetracks were an early casualty because the state temporarily banned betting at racetracks in 1910. The hotels shut down after the amusement area's clientele changed from middle-class to working class.

Although there was one bright spot — the opening of Astroland Park in 1962 — the amusement area became a crime- and gang-ridden shell of its former self by the 1970s. The area's rebirth in the 1990s is well known, and Schweiger approvingly displayed slides of MCU Park, home of the Brooklyn Cyclones, and the new Luna Park, operated by the Italian corporation Zamperla.

Another area that has seen a rebirth is the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and Kimball gave its story. Most Brooklynites know that the U.S. Navy left the Navy Yard in 1966, but many don't know that a huge private shipbuilding corporation, Seatrain, began building ships within the former Navy facility in 1967, only to close its doors in the 1980s. In 1987 the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corp. was formed and began to concentrate on attracting smaller industry to the site.

Today, by any stretch of the imagination, the Navy Yard is a success. Most of the buildings have been leased, said Kimball, and the number of jobs has grown from 3,600 in 2001 to 5,800 today. Companies that lease space in the yard vary widely, from Steiner Movie Studios to a company that makes protective vests used by U.S. troops in Afghanistan, from food service companies to the still-active dry docks, and from a furniture workshop to architects' offices.

Asked what the Navy Yard offers these companies, Kimball answered that one of the attractions is a "hassle-free environment." Because the yard is in an enclosed space, it has its own security and its own rules. "No one's going to give your truck five parking tickets," he said.

Sports



CSI women lock up top seed in CUNY soccer tourney

Sunday, October 02, 2011, 9:02 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk
By

The **College of Staten Island** scored four goals in the second half yesterday to defeat visiting John Jay, 5-0, and clinch the top seed for the CUNY women's soccer tournament.

Freshman Gabriela Galeano scored her first goal to give the Dolphins (4-0 CUNY, 7-3 overall) a 1-0 lead at halftime.

Lauren Neglia, Demi-Jean Martorano, Samantha Wysokowski scored in a 12-minute span of the second half and freshman Mateamarie Denoble closed the scoring with her first goal.

Martorano, Wysokowski, Paige Buono and Deena D'Amato had assists. Wysokowski (66 minutes) and Valerie Incontrera shared time in net and made one save apiece.

VOLLEYBALL

The College of Staten Island women's volleyball team (2-9 overall) dropped a 20-25, 25-20, 26-24, 25-21 non-league decision to the Culinary Institute of America.

Vasiliki Stergioula had 10 digs and 10 aces and Gabriele Bradshaw had 12 assists and nine digs.

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Lightning's Thiam Leads Strike for CUNYAC/Applebee's Player of the Week York's Adleson Gets Rookie; Both Teams Go Unbeaten in CUNYAC Last Week



Week 5 CUNYAC Men's Soccer Winners

CUNYAC/Applebee's Men's Soccer Player of the Week

MOMAR THIAM, Lehman
Forward/Sophomore/ New York, NY

Off to an excellent start at 6-4 overall and 4-1 in CUNYAC, the Lightning men's soccer team is starting to fashion itself a contender to possibly make a deep run in the CUNYAC Championships. And one of the main reasons why has been the play of sophomore Momar Thiam, who has been named the CUNYAC/Applebees Men's Soccer Player of the Week.

Over the week that ended October 2, the Lightning toppled three CUNYAC opponents in three tries, including wins over John Jay, College of Staten Island and Brooklyn College with Thiam playing a major role in each. In the Lightning's 1-0 triumph over previously undefeated CSI, Thiam registered the game-winner. Against Brooklyn, he capped the day's scoring with a goal as Lehman won 3-0.

Honor Roll: Vincent Cruz (Baruch), Mario Baez (Hunter), Ahmed El-Ghareib (CSI) Menard Milus (York).

CUNYAC/Applebee's Men's Soccer Rookie of the Week

ANDRE ADELSON, York

Forward/Freshman/ Jackmel, Haiti/Jamaica HS

York's Andre Adelson earns his first CUNYAC/Applebee's Men's soccer rookie of the week selection. As the Cardinals went 2-1 on the week and 2-0 in CUNYAC play against defending champion Hunter, the freshman from Jackmel, Haiti scored the first tally of the game then assisted in on Edner Junior Geffard's goal in the 70th minute to give York the victory. He also provided an assist in a thrilling 3-2 overtime victory over John Jay last weekend. The Cardinals will face off against Lehman on Wednesday and Baruch on Saturday in conference action.

Honor Roll: Nikolaos Orsanis (Hunter), Carlos Ribeiro (Lehman), Zeakiel Daley (Medgar Evers).



Hunter Tandem Take CUNYAC/HSS Women's Tennis Honors Jennifer Kraham & Flavia Guidi Earn Nods



Hunter's Jennifer Kraham & Flavia Guidi Earn Women's Tennis Honors

CUNYAC/Hospital For Special Surgery Women's Tennis Player of the Week

JENNIFER KRAHAM, Hunter

1st Singles/Senior/ East Northport, LI/Commack HS

The CUNY Athletic Conference named Jennifer Kraham CUNYAC/Hospital For Special Surgery Women's Tennis Player of the Week, for the week ending Sunday, October 2nd. It is the second-straight week that Kraham has been honored. The senior from East Northport, NY won all four of her matches this week. Against John Jay she swept first singles and teamed up to sweep first doubles with Gina Yeo. Against CCNY, she won second singles 6-2, 6-0 and teamed up with Amanda Annicaro to win second doubles 9-7.

Honor Roll: Yuliya Orkis (Brooklyn), Johanna Uquillas (CCNY), Tenzin Kunchok (York).

CUNYAC/Hospital For Special Surgery Women's Tennis Rookie of the Week

FLAVIA GUIDI, Hunter

2nd-3rd Singles/Freshman/ Orbetello, Italy/S Guiliana Falconieri

Flavia Guidi has been named CUNYAC/Hospital For Special Surgery Women's Tennis Rookie of the Week. After being named an honorable mention last week for her impressive showing at the USTA/ITA Northeast Regional Championships, Guidi wins her first career CUNYAC accolade this week. The freshman from Orbetello Italy won all four matches this week in impressive fashion. She swept second singles against John Jay and third singles against CCNY. Against John Jay she swept second doubles with Stephanie Ahwireng and teamed up with Sophia Pence to win third doubles 8-1.

Kraham and Guidi have helped Hunter to a 4-0 overall and CUNYAC record so far in the 2011 season, as the Hawks travel across the Verrazano Bridge to face the College of Staten Island tomorrow at 3:30pm.

Honor Roll: Oluwatobi Ojo (CCNY), Nikita Ramsay (York).



Hawks' Mahoney & Dolphins' Huseinbegovic Cited in Women's Cross Country



Photo by: Greg Armstrong

CUNYAC/US Army Women's Cross Country Runner of the Week

LIZZY MAHONEY, Hunter
Junior/Auburn, NY/Auburn

Hunter's Lizzy Mahoney was named CUNYAC/US Army Runner of the Week for the fourth straight, as announced by the conference earlier this afternoon.

Mahoney has consistently won her races for the Hawks and was outstanding in helping her squad to a third place finish at the Mount Saint Mary's Invitational last week. The Auburn, NY native won the race in 20:49, marking her fourth straight victory this season. The junior has now captured the award of four separate occasions this season.

Both the men and women's cross country teams return to action next week when they head to Brach Brook Park in New Jersey to compete in the Highlander Invite on Sunday, October 9th.

CUNYAC/US Army Women's Cross Country Rookie of the Week

AMINA HUSEINBEGOVIC, Staten Island

Freshman/Brooklyn, NY/ Middle Tech (Bosnia)

Freshman Amina Huseinbegovic (23:43.33) came in 28th to lead the **College of Staten Island** to a 7th place finish at the Lehman College Invitational at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx, New York. Huseinbegovic's mark was just three seconds off her best showing as well, showing great consistency this season. As a team, **CSI** had a season-high nine runners cross the line on Sunday in the women's 5k race, including a pair in the Top 50 with the CUNYAC Championships just three weeks away.

Next up for the Dolphins will be their very own invitational, to be held at Clove Lakes Park at 9am and 10am respectively this Sunday, October 9.

No easy flight as Susan Wagner Falcons hit the road during construction project

Thomas J. Harrigan, October 04, 2011 8:35 a.m.



Construction has begun on the field at Susan Wagner, displacing the school's football and soccer teams. - (Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel)

The Susan Wagner High School fall sports teams have a very big extra obstacle to overcome this season.

With the \$7.5 million athletic complex renovation (which will provide the Falcons with a brand new football field and track) in full swing, Susan Wagner's football and soccer teams have had to pack up the equipment and hit the road, not just for away games, but for practices and for games they host.

And while the community has stepped up to aid the Falcons, with the football team using Tottenville High School's field for games and the Greenbelt Recreation Center's for practice, and soccer teams playing at the College of Staten Island, the traveling has caused some difficulties.

"Just some kind of continuity (problems) going from the recreation center back to here," said Susan Wagner football coach Al Paturzo. "Our away games we're packing up our stuff, which is normal, but then, we're doing the same thing to go to home games."

"It's just a constant thing, you're trying to get everything, equipment boxes, medical kits," he added. "Then if you leave them there, you've got to remember to bring them back on Friday, because on Saturday we're going away."

Meanwhile, the girls' soccer team has had to leave school early and take public transportation to get to CSI.

"We take the girls out for away games, they leave school early, but now because of the home games as well, they have to get out early, so they are kind of missing a lot of classes," said Susan Wagner girls' soccer coach Carleen Rago.

Also, with CSI's soccer season running simultaneously, Susan Wagner's team has been relegated to playing on a grass field, whereas all of its other games are played on turf.

As for the football team, the Greenbelt Recreation Center has a turf field, but it doesn't have yardage

lines, hash marks or numbers, causing some frustration when spotting the football.

Playing at Tottenville has also caused there to be some sparse crowds for Susan Wagner's games.

"Our home games at Tottenville, people aren't going out there," Paturzo said. "It's tough enough to get them to go to your games when you're home. Now you've got to go there, so you don't really get the support that you normally would get, that becomes a hassle."

The construction project has been causing problems for Susan Wagner sports teams from its start in late May, as a gaffe by a contractor led to a flatbed truck being stuck in the mud on Susan Wagner's field, prior to the baseball team completing its season.

According to City Councilman James Oddo, the renovation wasn't supposed to get underway until after the conclusion of the baseball season, but numerous rainouts caused the season to be extended. As a result, the baseball team had to move one of its final home games to Petrides.

The project will actually force Susan Wagner's baseball team to be without a home field indefinitely. Oddo has plans for a second phase to the project that involves building a new baseball field on the land adjacent to the old field, but he first has to secure access to that land, which is controlled by the Department of Citywide Administrative Services.

With that in mind, Paturzo said he is content that the football team at least has consistent access to a field until the new one is completed.

He said his longtime friend and fellow coach, Tottenville's Jim Munson, was instrumental in helping to secure the field, and he was grateful to Tottenville's principal, John Tuminaro, for coming to Susan Wagner's aid.

"Coach Munson could want to do everything in the world for me, but the principal, Mr. Tuminaro, wholeheartedly supported us to help us," Paturzo said.

"Getting to play every game there, our five home games on Saturday at 1 p.m. is important," he added. "If I would try to do it at other places, they had a home game, so we couldn't have done it. In that regard, Tottenville was really dynamite, because they play their games on Friday, and it's unbelievable that we are able to play five games in a row there."

With all of the swirling distractions, none of the fall sports teams have gotten off to a good start, as Paturzo's squad is 1-2, boys' soccer is 2-2, and Rago's team is 1-3-2.

Despite this, Rago said her soccer girls aren't dwelling on the negatives of their current situation, but rather looking to what they will eventually have in the future.

"It hasn't been a really big problem for us, because we're excited that we're getting a brand new field, and the girls are just dealing with it until next year, because they're going to get something better out of it," Rago said.

Oddo's office projects the construction to be completed by the 2012-13 academic year, but until that time comes, the Falcons are just going to have to get used to life without a home.

Soccer: CSI women win; Monmouth nips Wagner

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

The College of Staten Island came from behind twice, using a late second-half surge to score a 4-2 non-conference women's soccer win over visiting College of St. Elizabeth yesterday.

Valerie Lasko scored with less than two minutes gone in the second half to make it 2-1 St. Elizabeth.

It took the Dolphins nearly 30 minutes before Paige Buono found the net, followed by goals by Demi-Jean Martorano and Natalie Tombasco in a nine-minute span.

Melissa Gelardi's goal at the 15:12 mark of the first half tied the game.

CSI finished ahead on shots, 20-3 (12-3 on goal) and is now 6-0 at home for the first time. The (8-3 overall) Dolphins travel to SUNY-Maritime on Friday.

Monmouth 2, Wagner 0

WEST LONG BRANCH, N.J. — Sophomores Dana Costello and Monique Plescia scored goals as the Hawks won for the sixth time in their last seven matches.

Monmouth (6-4, 3-0) outshot Wagner 24-3 in the match, including a 17-1 advantage in the second half, while creating 11 corner kick opportunities.

The (7-3-2, 1-2) Seahawks host Fairleigh Dickinson on Friday.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Hunter 5, CSI 4

Unbeaten Hunter took advantage of an injury to No. 1 singles Alena Vedeneeva and edged the host Dolphins in a CUNY match.

SINGLES: Jennifer Kraham (W) def. Sophia Varriano, 6-2, 6-2; Ilona Stoyko, Ilona (CSI) def. Stephanie Ahwiring, 7-5, 6-2; Gina Yeo (H) def. Jean Baak, 6-4, 6-0; Caroline Kaleda (H) def. Faith Avevor, 6-2, 6-0; Maryna Incherchera (CSI) def. Daniella Weitzman, 6-2, 6-1; Lumi Chan (H) def. Katie Masterson, 6-3, 3-6, 10-8.

DOUBLES: Kraham and Ahwiring def. Alena Vedeneeva and Stoyko, 8-6; Varriano and Incherchera def. Yeo and Kaleda, 8-1; Masterson and Baak def. Weitzman and Arielle Zeiff, 8-3.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Old Westbury 3, CSI 2

The Long Island visitors eked out the final two points of the fifth game for a 21-25, 25-23, 25-14, 24-26, 15-13 non-conference victory.

Ma Socorro-Calleja led all players with 18 kills and added 18 digs. Vasiliki Stergioula collected 10 kills with 9 digs and 3 service aces. CSI setters Jennifer Samuel and Gabriele Bradshaw helped with 17 and 13 assists, respectively.

The (2-10) Dolphins travel to Wayne, N.J. tomorrow for another non-conference match with William Paterson.



CUNYAC Photographer/Baruch Student Denis Gostev Wins CUNY Photography Contest With CSI Baseball Shot

Courtesy of the City University of New York



Photo by: Denis Gostev

The City University of New York rewards deserving students who capture touching or astounding images of CUNY through photography each month, and the September winner is Denis Gostev, a philosophy and math major at Baruch College, who hopes to go into sports photography. Gostev's award-winning image, "We Did It," was the face of the College of Staten Island men's baseball championship this past May. CSI defeated Baruch, 1-0, in 10 innings at MCU Ballpark, the home of the Brooklyn Cyclones. Gostev was there with his camera taking multiple images for the CUNY Athletic Conference, and his winning contribution fully captured the jubilation of the thrilling victory.

Besides covering sports, Gostev enjoys making photographs of wildlife, particularly birds. He says in an e-mail that what he likes about this picture is that it captures an "exhilarating moment [with a] single clear point which grabs an eye and depicts the moment [of victory]." He also likes the "completeness of the image (nothing to be added to be understood and no unnecessary distracting elements)." That completeness, he adds, includes "identifiable CUNY outfits."

Gostev's "We Did It" will now be entered into a finalists' competition, with the winner taking home an iPad. Winning images must say something about CUNY students, a CUNY college, a campus activity or the educational experience writ broadly. They must tell a story in and of themselves.

A panel of professional photographers meet to determine winners. The College of Staten Island and the men's baseball program wish to thank Mr. Gostev for his shot. Photography entries for future winners can be submitted via the CUNY website at www.cuny.edu.



TENNIS STUNNER!

Bulldogs Snap Hawks' 103-Match Conference Win Streak; Move Into First Place

Courtesy of Brooklyn Sports Information



Photo by: Damion Reid

Box Score

Brooklyn, NY---The Brooklyn College Women's Tennis Team accomplished what no other CUNYAC team could do in over a decade as they defeated Hunter 6-3 on Thursday afternoon ending the Hawks 103-match winning streak. The streak dates back to the 2000 season, and includes 82 consecutive regular season wins, as Staten Island was the last team to beat Hunter in league play.

With the victory, the Bulldogs leap ahead of Hunter in the CUNYAC standings, improving to 4-0 in league play and 7-2 overall. The Hawks fall to 5-1 in both conference play and in their overall record as they have yet to face a non-conference foe this season.

"This was a huge win for our program," said Head Coach Ahmad Odetalla. "Hunter has been so dominant in conference play and therefore beating them is a huge lift for our confidence. I thought we played exceptionally well."

The win did not come easily as Brooklyn won the third doubles match but Hunter claimed the first doubles match shortly afterward. BC's number two doubles duo of Maria Sanz and Norma Lynn Chabbott trailed Hunter's tandem of Stephanie Ahwireng and Gina Yeo 6-2, but made an amazing run to

come back and tie the match, 8-8. The duo dominated the tiebreaker, winning 7-2 and giving Brooklyn a 2-1 advantage headed into singles.

Brooklyn continued their hot play in singles as Gianna Gelosi, who also won her doubles match, cruised past her #6 singles opponent, Lumi Chan, 6-1, 6-1. With the win, Brooklyn gained an emotional lift, knowing that only two more singles wins were needed to claim the match.

Yuliya Orkis, who has yet to lose this season, continued her dominance in the #1 flight, defeating Hunter's Flavia Guidi 6-1, 6-2, and moving her squad just one match away from the victory.

The Bulldogs would not have to wait much longer for that deciding match as Chabbott, one of the doubles heroes, would wrap up her #5 doubles match just a few minutes later, winning in straight sets, 6-0, 6-4.

Brooklyn would also win the #3 singles match as Janice Shen won in straight sets, 6-4, 7-5.

Up next for the Bulldogs is another conference rival, the College of Staten Island, who will travel to Brooklyn on Tuesday, October 11th for a 4:00 pm start.



CSI takes 3rd in cross country race at Clove Lakes Park

Monday, October 10, 2011, 12:00 PM



Staten Island Advance
By

Aminia Huseinbegovic's top-10 finish (23 minutes, 58 seconds) paced the College of Staten Island women's cross country squad to third place in the CSI Invitational at Clove Lakes Park.

Queens College won the meet and Brooklyn took second.

Joanna Villegas (15th, 24:30), Mallory Baio (26th, 25:30), Bibi Ghafari (25:46) and Jackie Jamaledine (26:00) competed for CSI.

Matt Pfaff (seventh, 30:00) was the first CSI man, followed by Sean Kelly (31:50), Chris Gonzalez (32:20), Shawn Cybulska (32:22) and Andrew Pate (32:43).

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CSI men lose soccer decision to St. Joseph's

Tuesday, October 11, 2011, 11:04 AM



Glenn Nyback
By

PATCHOGUE, L.I. — The Golden Eagles scored two unanswered second-half goals en route to their non-conference win.

St. Joseph's (8-6) ran out to a 2-0 lead before Dolphin Alfonso Castaneda knocked in the first of his two unassisted scores. The hosts made it 3-1 on John Dettori's second goal before Castaneda notched his second goal with less than two minutes to go until halftime.

The (3-7-1) Dolphins, who were outshot 11-5 in the opening half, travel to Baruch College tomorrow for a 6 p.m. CUNY contest.

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CSI sophomore Demi-Jean Martorano masters a two-step

Tuesday, October 11, 2011, 10:14 AM



Danny Colvin
By

Okay, let's get this straight from the start. Demi-Jean Martorano does not walk on water, hang the moon, or leap tall buildings.

Anything else is up for debate.

The **College of Staten Island** women's soccer team will most likely win its seventh CUNY championship in the last nine seasons later this week and, if the Dolphins earn postseason recognition, it will be mostly on Martorano's doing.

If the **CSI** women's tennis team is able to rebound and capture its first CUNY title under coach Paul Ricciardi, it will also be due to Martorano's appearance.

The Dolphin sophomore is not the Willowbrook school's first two-sport star but to do it in the same season takes a special individual with the mindset, passion and skills to succeed.

"I've played soccer for 13 years and that's what I came here for," says Martorano, who shunned Division I offers to stay close to home.

"But tennis is basically new (playing just three years) to me and it's fun. Hey, if I could work in volleyball (played as a soph at New Dorp HS and also staged in the fall season) I would, but I think it'd be a bit too much."



Staten Island Advance/Bill Lyons

CSI's Demi-Jean Martorano plays singles for the Dolphin tennis team -- when she's not leading the soccer team in scoring.



Photo courtesy/Kellie Carnevale of [CSI](#)

Demi-Jean Martorano is ranked eighth in the country in Division III scoring.

Still to maintain her hectic schedule, she must have the metabolism of a hummingbird, going from one challenge to the next.

As a nursing major, she's taking 8 a.m. classes so she can make the afternoon soccer/tennis practices/matches.

"I work in the summer so the money carries over to the school year," Martorano says. "This way I can concentrate on academics and sports."

The opposing schools have studied the

NCAA Division III statistics and as the nation's No. 8 point scorer and also No. 8 goal netter, Martorano is drawing plenty of bull's-eye attention on the field.

"Schools are now double and triple-teaming her," says [CSI](#) coach John Guagliardo, who admits to making Martorano his No. 1 recruit objective in 2010.

"That creates openings elsewhere. She recognizes it and is smart enough to give it up for the team.



Staten Island Advance/Bill Lyons

Demi-Jean Martorano plays singles for the [CSI](#) tennis team.

"Demi can score when she want, she can take over a game (five game-winning goals in last year's CUNY Rookie of the Year season) and that's why she's deservedly marked. She's the real deal."

"I'm not a girly girl. I guess growing up I was a tomboy," admits Martorano, who set the Central Cougars'scoring record.

"Playing soccer I can be aggressive as I want but tennis is a different sport. It's much more mental and you really have to stay focused."

"You can tell Demi is a competitor, I just wish I could see more of her," offers Ricciardi, who sometimes feels like a dog stranded on an ice floe.



Staten Island Advance/Bill Lyons

Demi-Jean Martorano leads the CSI team in scoring.

Soccer is obviously Martorano's top sport and so the arrangement among the coaches and her is the spotted ball gets top priority and has caused Demi, who plays anywhere from No. 3 to No. 5 singles, to miss tennis matches.

"That's the agreement," laments Ricciardi. "Soccer comes first. We have a big stretch of important matches which I hope she'll be available."

Guagliardo is as happy as Friday night. With Martorano (won the CUNY Player of

the Week award the first four weeks) and his best-ever recruiting class this season, he figures the Dolphins are a year away from making big noise.

"It doesn't bother me that she plays two sports; in fact, I encourage it," says Guagliardo. "An athlete is an athlete. Let her go out and play."

Martorano is more than halfway to Fiosa Begai's school record of 59 goals in 1 1/2 seasons, but in her Russell terrier energy lifestyle she barely notices.

"She's an on-the-go fireplug, works hard in practice and is the reason why we are where we are," continued Guagliardo. "If we go anywhere, it's because of her. I'm high on the kid. And she like her coach."

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Dolphins ace FDU-Florham in 8-1 soccer trouncing

Tuesday, October 11, 2011, 11:01 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**

MADISON, N.J. — The **College of Staten Island** women's tennis team won its third match in a row and fourth in its last five with an 8-1 non-conference victory over FDU-Florham yesterday.

The (6-6) Dolphins, who moved to the .500 mark for the first time this season, managed to pull out two of the three doubles despite all matches being tied at 6-6.

At No. 2 doubles, the team of Alena Vedeneeva and Demi-Jean Martorano got on the board first with a 9-7 win over FDU's Marcie Schlanger and Michelle Berkenstock. At No. 3, **CSI** also scratched out a win, as the pair of Sophia Varriano and Katie Masterson won 8-6 over FDU's sister tandem of Kim and Lindsey Martin.

CSI rolled in singles. Ilona Stoyko pulled out a win at No. 1 over Kristen Lefkus, 7-5, 6-0. Vedeneeva also won at No. 2, while Jean Baak (No. 4) and Martorano (No. 5), both only surrendered two games in straight-set victories. In a three-set marathon at No. 3, Varriano earned her way to a 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, win over Schlanger. Masterson topped things off with an 8-7 (7-3) win in the No. 6 spot.

Coach Paul Ricciardi's netters play a key CUNY match today at Brooklyn College.

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Hawks Guerrero Gets CUNYAC/U.S. Army Runner of the Week Medgar Evers' Ferguson Takes Rookie Honors



CUNYAC/US Army Men's Cross Country Runner of the Week

CHRIS GUERRERO, Hunter
Junior/Astoria, NY/Townsend Harris

Hunter College's Chris Guerrero was awarded his second straight CUNY Athletic Conference/US Army Runner of the Week for his performance this past weekend, it was announced today.

Guerrero had an impressive outing at the Highlander Invitational, finishing eighth overall in the 135-man race to pace the Hawk runners. The Astoria, NY native ran the 8K in a personal best time of 26:04.39 to help the men to a seventh place finish overall among the 15 teams competing and earn his second weekly nod.

Hunter College is back in action this Saturday, October 15th when both teams head to Hoboken, NJ to compete in the Collegiate Track Conference Championships hosted by Steven's Institute of Technology.

Honor Roll: Gilbert Marte (Baruch).

CUNYAC/US Army Men's Cross Country Rookie of the Week

WAYNE FERGUSON, Medgar Evers

Freshman/ Brooklyn, NY

Wayne Ferguson, a freshman for the Cougars, garners his first-career CUNYAC/U.S. Army Cross Country Rookie of the Week after running two strong races in four days. First, the Brooklyn resident ran a 21:40 over a 3.35 mile course in Prospect Park to win a Medgar Evers dual meet. Then on Sunday in the College of Staten Island hosted their invitational at nearby Clove Lakes Park, where Ferguson ran a 29:28 over a four-mile course.

Honor Roll: Xi Qing Mui (Baruch).



Mahoney Makes It Four In A Row in Women's Cross Country CSI's Amina Huseinbegovic Notches Top Rookie



CUNYAC/US Army Women's Cross Country Runner of the Week

LIZZY MAHONEY, Hunter
Junior/Auburn, NY/Auburn

For the fourth consecutive week, Hunter College cross country standout Lizzy Mahoney was named CUNYAC/U.S. Army Runner of the Week, as announced by the CUNY Athletic Conference today.

Mahoney, the two-time defending CUNYAC Senior College Individual Champion, turned in a commanding performance last week, claiming fourth place at the New Jersey City University Highlander Invitational with a personal best time of 18:52.28. The junior helped the Hawk women to an eighth place team finish at the 5K event which played hosted to a number of Division I and II competitors.

Hunter College is back in action this Saturday, October 15th when both teams head to Hoboken, NJ to compete in the Collegiate Track Conference Championships hosted by Steven's Institute of Technology.

Honor Roll: Sara Soto (Baruch), Jhanna Moore (CCNY).

CUNYAC/US Army Women's Cross Country Rookie of the Week

AMINA HUSEINBEGOVIC, Staten Island
Freshman/ Brooklyn, NY/Brooklyn Tech

The College of Staten Island Women's Cross Country team took a third place finish last Sunday morning in Clove Lakes Park in Staten Island, NY. CSI's Amina Huseinbegovic timed in her best of the season to lead for the Dolphins at 23.58. Her finish put her in the top 10 of all runners. The Dolphins will travel back to Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx next Sunday, October 16 for a 10 am meet hosted by York College.

Honor Roll: Viktoriya Mikhelzon (Baruch), Devin Cleary (CCNY), Joanna Villegas (Staten Island).

Brooklyn College Earns No. 1 Seed For CUNYAC Tennis Championships

by John Torenli (sports@brooklyneagle.net), published online 10-12-2011

By John Torenli

They're No. 1 ... after all these years.

The Brooklyn College women's tennis team wrapped up the top seed in the upcoming CUNYAC Championships on Tuesday afternoon, rolling to a 6-3 triumph over the College of Staten Island on our borough's Roosevelt Courts.

Freshman phenom Yulika Orkis of Brooklyn's St. Edmund Prep improved to 10-0 on the season in No. 1 flight singles play, earning CUNYAC Player of the Week honors for the second time to go with her earlier Rookie of the Week award.

Orkis also teamed with Liana Rivkin to win first-flight doubles, and Janice Shen and Gianna Gelosi also posted a big doubles victory as the Bulldogs improved to 10-2 overall this year, including a perfect 7-0 in conference play. "I thought we did an outstanding job getting ahead early with the doubles matches," said Bulldogs coach Ahmad Odetalla. "That has been one of the main reasons why we have been successful all year and today was a classic example"

Though the win over S.I. proved to be the clincher, BC actually posted its biggest triumph in program history last Thursday afternoon, knocking off Hunter, 6-3, to end the Hawks' dizzying 103-match winning streak dating back to 2000.

"This was a huge win for our program," Odetalla noted. "Hunter has been so dominant in conference play and therefore beating them is a huge lift for our confidence. I thought we played exceptionally well."

BC will host St. Elizabeth this afternoon before taking on Lehman and the College of New Rochelle over the weekend to close out the regular season. The CUNYAC quarterfinals begin next Wednesday, with the semifinals and championship round to be held at the National Tennis Center in Flushing on Oct. 21 and 22, respectively.

Odetalla, who doubles as a physical education teacher at Bedford Academy High School, is in his third season as the women's head coach and has been leading the men's program for the past two years.

"We have a lot of faith in the newcomers we have this year," he said prior to the season. "We will be a young team, but these players have the talent to make up for a lack of collegiate experience. We are looking to have a solid season this year and contend for the CUNYAC championship."

Thus far, Odetalla's ladies are threatening to do much more than contend.



CSI women lock up top spot in soccer

Wednesday, October 12, 2011, 10:55 AM



Staten Island Advance
By

The College of Staten Island women's soccer team clinched the CUNYAC regular-season title and the conference tournament's top seed yesterday with a 4-0 victory over visiting York.

The Dolphins (5-0 CUNYAC, 10-3 overall) scored less than two minutes in as Demi-Jean Martorano connected off a Lauren Neglia pass.

A minute and a half later, Samantha Wysokowski scored on an assist from Martorano.

The onslaught continued at the 5:59 mark when an unmarked Liana DeNaro tallied off a Gabriela Galeano feed for a three-goal cushion at the intermission.

Valerie Incontrera, who played goalie for CSI in the first half, scored in the 52nd minute off a Martorano assist.

Christina Jacob made her debut in goal for the Dolphins in the second half and stopped York's lone shot on net for the match. CSI outshot York 22-4.

The Dolphins play CCNY Friday to conclude the regular season. Wysokowski, who earned a red card for a rough foul yesterday, will have to sit out the contest.

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CSI loses women's volleyball game to College of St. Elizabeth

Thursday, October 13, 2011, 11:30 AM



Staten Island Advance

By

The College of St. Elizabeth swept the College of Staten Island 25-17, 25-21, 25-21 in women's volleyball yesterday in Willowbrook.

CSI sophomore Vasiliki Stergioula had 11 of the team's 28 kills and led the Dolphins with three service aces. Jean Marie Lewandoski led CSI defensively with a game-high 20 digs.

St. Elizabeth improved to 11-12 while CSI dropped to 2-14.

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Staten Island sports bulletin board -- Friday, Oct. 14, 2011

Friday, October 14, 2011, 9:43 AM



Staten Island Advance

By

CSI-Wagner fall game

The **College of Staten Island** and Wagner College baseball teams will square off tomorrow in a fall baseball game at 11 a.m. at the Richmond County Bank Ballpark in St. George. Admission is free.

Travel baseball tryouts

The Staten Island Orioles will hold tryouts for its 2012 travel baseball season for eighth-graders and freshmen on Nov. 5 and Nov. 12 and for sophomores and juniors on Nov. 6 and Nov. 13. Registration both days is at 9 a.m. at the South Shore Babe Ruth League (637 Page Ave.). For additional information, e-mail siorioles@hotmail.com or go to www.leaguelineup.com/siorioles.

Stingrays tryouts

The Staten Island Stingrays will hold tryouts for 6th, 7th and 8th grade girls tonight at the CYO Center in Port Richmond at 8 p.m. for the 2012 AAU travel girls' basketball season. Call Mike Neely 917-667-8907 or e-mail sistingrays@yahoo.com.

Flag football registration

The United Sports Leagues of America (USLA) Men's Flag Football League is taking registrations for its Monday night league season, which starts Oct. 31, at Cpl. Thompson Field in West Brighton. Call 718-887-4980 or 631-445-5248.

Charity game seeking females

The 9/11 Flag Football League is looking for a few good women and girls to play in its second annual games to fight breast cancer. Girls ages 13 and up are encouraged to call 347- 992- 5755 early to play in one of the four contests Oct. 23 at Tottenville HS. All proceeds go to the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer.

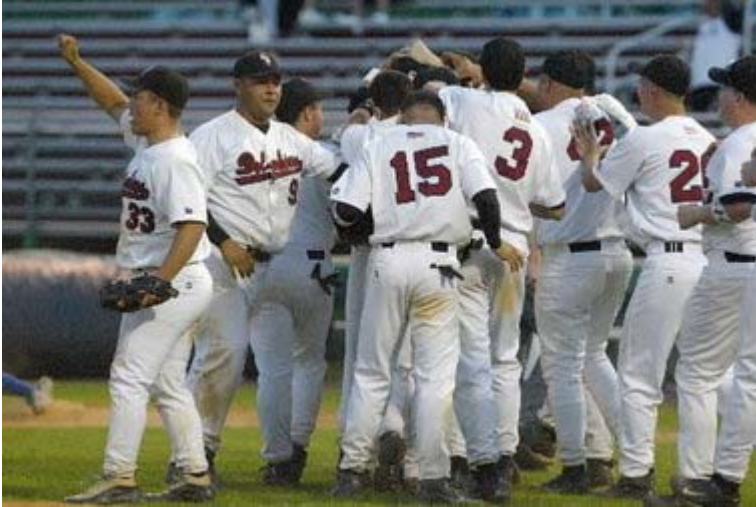
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At long last, CSI in planning stages to launch a Hall of Fame

Saturday, October 15, 2011, 12:55 PM



Jack Minogue
By



Advance file photo

CUNY Conference championship teams have long been a staple at the College of Staten Island.

The College of Staten Island is closing a gaping hole in its athletic program by establishing a Sports Hall of Fame.

Gaping because in the school's 35 years as a four-year institution, its athletes have captured 94 City University of New York (CUNY) Conference championships and 74 CUNY tourney titles and made 24 trips to NCAA Division III tournaments.

Obviously, CSI has had more than its share of outstanding student-athletes. Sadly, they were forgotten almost before they graduated.

That's all going to change as the CSI Sports Hall of Fame is about to become a reality under CSI president Dr. Tomas D. Morales and new athletic director Vernon Mummert.

However, less than a decade ago, a hall of fame was a non-starter.

For a quarter-century, prior to Angelo Aponte's five-year (2003-2008) tenure as Vice President for Finance and Administration, CSI administrations treated intercollegiate athletics as a nuisance. And that's a kind description.

One obvious example was what happened when the Staten Island Yankees left a pristine rebuilt stadium on the CSI campus for their current home in St. George. By the following year, the stadium, and especially the ballfield, resembled a slum — until the Advance took the school's administration to task.

Despite resistance, Aponte changed the mindset and among other accomplishments, rescued a "lost" \$800,000 for soccer and softball fields.

Morales, who became **CSI** president in June 2007, and Mummert, the new AD, have continued treating athletes as students. (This past academic year, 81 of 201 student-athletes — better than 40 percent — had GPAs of 3.0 or better.)

"A sports hall of fame is one of the first things I wanted to see become part of the program," said Mummert, who has spent more than three decades as an athletic administrator, including 18 at Drew University where he started a hall of fame. "Honestly, I couldn't believe **CSI** didn't have one."

That's changed now, although the hall of fame is still a work in progress — but one which will emphasize Staten Island.

Even though there's the daunting task of playing catchup, possible nominations won't rest solely with the college's hall of fame committee.

Associate Athletic Director David Pizzuto already has made it possible for **CSI** followers — for the entire community, really — to be part of the nominating process.

The **CSI** athletics website (www.csidolphins.com) now has a Hall of Fame button which allows anyone to print out and complete a nominating form and then mail it to Pizzuto at the **CSI** Athletics Dept., 2800 Victory Blvd., 1R 204, S.I. 10314.

The community has the opportunity to become part of **CSI's** student-athletes' escape from second-class citizenship to part of the school's history.

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Bulldogs Dynamic Duo of Orkis & Shen Take Weekly Awards As Brooklyn Regular Season Undefeated



CUNYAC/Hospital For Special Surgery Women's Tennis

Standings: <http://cunyathletics.com/standings.aspx?path=wtennis&>

Statistics: <http://cunyathletics.com/custompages/wtennis/2011/confstat.htm?path=wtennis>

CUNYAC/Hospital For Special Surgery Women's Tennis Player of the Week

YULIA ORKIS, Brooklyn

1st Singles/Freshman/Brooklyn, NY/St. Edmund's Prep

For the second consecutive week and third occasion this season, Brooklyn College freshman Yuliya Orkis has been named the CUNY Athletic Conference /Hospital for Special Surgery Women's Tennis Player of the Week.

In a 6-3 victory over conference foe the College of Staten Island on October 11th, Orkis won both of her matches on the day to help keep the Bulldogs perfect on the season in CUNYAC play, while also clinching the number 1 overall seed for Brooklyn in the upcoming CUNYAC/HSS Women's Tennis Championships.

Playing at number 1 doubles, Orkis teamed up with Liana Rivkin to defeat the tandem of Ilona Stoyko and Jean Baak, 8-1, and then later shutdown Alena Vandeneeva in straight sets, 6-0, 6-0 at number 1 singles.

Honor Roll: Natalie DeSabato (CCNY), Jane Selegan (Hunter), Iona Stoyko (CSI).

CUNYAC/Hospital For Special Surgery Women's Tennis Rookie of the Week

JANICE SHEN, Brooklyn

3rd Singles/Senior/Shirley, NY/William Floyd

For the second consecutive week, Brooklyn College senior Janice Shen has been named the CUNY Athletic Conference /Hospital for Special Surgery Women's Tennis Rookie of the Week. Shen had another stellar week for the Bulldogs, going 2-0 in both singles and doubles play.

In the win over CSI, Shen got the better of Sophia Varriano at number 3 singles, 6-1, 6-2, while pairing up with Gianna Gelosi at number 3 doubles to down the team of Katie Masterson and Varriano, 8-3. In BC's 9-0 win over the College of New Rochelle on October 15th, Shen stepped up to number 1 singles to defeat Delnisha Baker 10-2. She would also move up to number 1 doubles with partner Gelosi to get the better of Baker and Nancy Varughese, 8-3.

Honor Roll: Ayanna Reed (CCNY), Maryna Incherera (CSI).



Oct. 18 Mount Saint Mary roundup: Women's tennis beats Staten Island

10/19/11

Women's tennis: Mount Saint Mary College 7, College of Staten Island 2

Mount Saint Mary's doubles teams swept College of Staten Island in a non-conference match in Newburgh.

Jaimee Lubniewski and Annemarie Llewellyn, and Emily Gregory and Jen Gregory each won 8-2, and Alissa Niad and Kristina Swyryt won 8-0 for the Mount (9-1).



Women's Swimmer Alyssa Lubrino is Selected to National NCAA Division III SAAC Committee



Alyssa Lubrino, a junior on the Baruch women's swimming team, has been appointed to the NCAA Division III Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC).

The appointment is prestigious as a Baruch and CUNY Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) student-athlete will be serving on a major national committee that serves the interests of student-athletes that compete on the NCAA Division III level.

The NCAA has paired the CUNYAC with the [University Athletic Association \(UAA\)](#) in their partner conference program when it comes to representation on the committee.

As a result, Alyssa will be charged to represent both conferences in issues related to the national SAAC and all NCAA legislation that has a significant impact on the well-being of student-athletes.

She will also attend all of the NCAA SAAC meetings, including the annual meeting that takes place at the NCAA Convention. The next convention is scheduled for [January 11-14, 2012](#), in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Alyssa will represent the views of the two conferences through communication and contact with each conference SAAC leadership.

"I am thrilled and honored to be a member of such an important committee that will play a significant

role in serving the interests of student-athletes from across the country, including the CUNYAC and UAA conferences,” said Lubrino. “This selection represents a terrific professional development opportunity for me and I am really looking forward to getting started to assist all student-athletes.”

Lubrino, a junior from Staten Island, is currently majoring in accounting. She has played a significant role in leading the Baruch women’s swimming team to back-to-back CUNYAC Championships during the past two seasons.

In addition, she was one of 20 student-athletes from the CUNYAC that traveled to New Orleans, Louisiana (May 25 – June 4) as part of the [2011 CUNY Athletic Conference’s \(CUNYAC\) Goodwill Tour](#).

Mickey Abbatiello (Men’s Basketball) and Naomi Chang (Athletic Trainer) were also a part of the special group that volunteered their time in New Orleans towards rebuilding a home and visiting the communities that to this day are still impacted by the historic Hurricane Katrina.

CUNYAC Schools Represented

Baruch College
Brooklyn College
City College of New York (CCNY)
College of Staten Island
Hunter College
John Jay College of Criminal Justice
Lehman College
Medgar Evers College
York College

UAA Schools Represented

Brandeis University
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Emory University
New York University
University of Chicago
University of Rochester
Washington University of St. Louis



Rain takes toll on Staten Island sports schedule

Thursday, October 20, 2011, 11:16 AM



Staten Island Advance
By

Yesterday's rain wiped out some of the scheduled outdoor action.

All high school girls' soccer matches were postponed. The St. Joseph Hill at Moore Catholic game will be made up today at 4 p.m., while Long Island Lutheran at Staten Island Academy will now be played tomorrow at 4. There is no makeup date yet for the Mary Louis vs. St. John Villa match. The same goes for the boys' soccer meeting between St. Edmund's and host St. Joseph by-the-Sea.

Two high school girls' tennis matches were pushed to today at 4 p.m., with Villa at SIA and Notre Dame Academy at Sea.

The Staten Island PSAL girls' frosh/soph cross country championships at Clove Lakes Park were also washed out and will now be held today at 4:15 p.m.

The women's CUNYAC quarterfinal tennis match between host **College of Staten Island** and CCNY will be played today beginning at 3:30 p.m. There is no makeup date for the **CSI** women's soccer match against visiting Berkeley College.

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Women's tennis: CSI advances to semis

Friday, October 21, 2011, 11:32 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**

The **College of Staten Island** women's tennis team advanced to the CUNY Conference semifinal round with a 5-1 triumph over visiting City College of New York yesterday in Willowbrook.

CSI got singles wins from Jean Baak, Demi-Jean Martorano and Maryna Incherchera and coupled that with a pair of doubles victories for its quarterfinal margin.

The fourth-ranked Dolphins face top-seed Brooklyn College in today's semis at the USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadows, Queens.

SINGLES: Ilona Stoyko (**CSI**) vs. Natalie DeSabato, Natalie (CCNY) 4-2, unfinished; Alena Vedeneeva (**CSI**) vs. Ayanna Reed, Ayanna (CCNY) 5-3, unfinished; Sophia Varriano (**CSI**) vs. Nataliya Machalaba (CCNY) 6-1, 2-0, unfinished; Jean Baak (**CSI**) def. Johanna Uquillas (CCNY) 6-0, 6-0; Demi-Jean Martorano (**CSI**) def. Sherada Bogle (CCNY) 6-0, 6-2; MarynaIncherchera (**CSI**) def. Elena Louie (CCNY) 6-3, 6-0.

DOUBLES: DeSabato and Reed (CCNY) def. Vedeneeva and Varriano (**CSI**) 9-7; Stoyko and Baak (**CSI**) def. Machalaba and Uquillas (CCNY) 8-1; Martorano and Incherchera (**CSI**) def. Oluwatobi Ojo and Cicely Blaise (CCNY) 8-1.

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CSI women's tennis season done with 5-1 loss to Brooklyn College

Saturday, October 22, 2011, 10:17 AM



By **Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

A win by the No. 2 doubles team of Ilona Stoyko and Jean Baak wasn't enough for the **College of Staten Island**, which lost to Brooklyn College, 5-1, in the CUNY Conference tennis semifinals.

Brooklyn advances to face No. 2 Hunter in Saturday's championship. The fourth-seeded Dolphins finish the season at 7-10 overall.

SINGLES: Yuliya Orkis (BC) def. Ilona Stoyko, 6-0, 6-0; Janice Shen (BC) def. Sophia Varriano, 6-2, 6-1; Maria Sanz (BC) def. Jean Baak, 7-5, 7-5.

DOUBLES: Orkis and Liana Rivkin (BC) def. Alena Vedeneeva and Varriano, 8-4; Stoyko and Baak (**CSI**) def. Norma Chabbot and Sanz, 8-6; Shen and Gianna Gelosi (BC) def. Demi-Jean Martorano and Maryna Incherchera, 8-3.

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NYU tops **College of Staten Island** in men's soccer, 6-1

Sunday, October 23, 2011, 8:27 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk
By

New York University scored three times in each half for a 6-1 non-conference men's soccer victory over the host Dolphins on Saturday.

Alfonso Castenada scored in the 75th minute for **CSI** (3-10-1 overall).

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John Jay's Brenda Pitts Seizes CUNYAC/Applebee's Player of the Week CSI's Melissa Gelardi Takes Top Rookie Once Again



JJC's Brenda Pitts & CSI's Melissa Gelardi

For Immediate Release - October 24, 2011

CUNYAC/Applebee's Women's Soccer

Standings: <http://cunyathletics.com/standings.aspx?path=wsoccer&>

Statistics: <http://cunyathletics.com/custompages/wsoccer/WOMEN2011/confstat.htm?path=wsoccer>

CUNYAC/Applebee's Women's Soccer Player of the Week

BRENDA PITTS, John Jay

Defense/Sophomore/Nokesville, VA

John Jay College of Criminal Justice women's soccer player **Brenda Pitts** has been named the City University of New York Athletic Conference / Applebee's Women's Soccer Player of the Week, CUNYAC announced on Monday.

Pitts, a team co-captain, earns the award for the first time this season. She scored the games' lone goal in the Bloodhounds 1-0 win over NYU-Polytechnic University on Saturday to snap an eight match losing

streak. She took three shots in the contest, helping John Jay to outshoot its opponent 14-8 overall in the contest.

A CUNYAC All-Star and sportsmanship award winner last season, Pitts has netted two goals and recorded one assist this season as the Bloodhounds are in full force in quest of the program's first conference championship. The Bloodhounds will play the City College of New York in the semifinal round of the 2011 CUNYAC / Applebee's women's soccer championship on November 2.

Honor Roll: Dzindizi Asmoah-Wade (CCNY).

CUNYAC/Applebee's Women's Soccer Rookie of the Week

MELISSA GELARDI, Staten Island

Forward/Freshman/Staten Island, NY/St. Joseph by the Sea

For the fourth time this season, College of Staten Island women's soccer freshman Melissa Gelardi has been named CUNYAC Rookie of the Week, earned the new citation following her first collegiate game both in the field and between the pipes, in CSI's only game against Drew University.

Gelardi, most noted for her ability to dish the ball to her teammates to the tune of a CSI single-season record 11 assists to date, was a stop-gap against Drew in goal for the Dolphins. After playing in the first half, Gelardi and her unit was down 4-0 at halftime, so Gelardi put on the mitts and headed for the goal. Despite the 5-0 final, Gelardi was exceptional in the second frame, turning back 9 shots in 45 minutes as the Rangers continued to step on the gas.

For the season Gelardi is one of eight Dolphins who has played in every game this season, spreading out a pair of goals next to 11 assists for 15 points, third best on the squad. The 11 assists are an all-time single season high, breaking the former mark of 9 set by both Tina Chechel in 2006 and again by teammate Christina Sgarlato last year.

The CSI women get back underway tomorrow in their regular season home finale against SUNY-Purchase at 4:00 pm.

Honor Roll: Bergelie Louis (John Jay).

CSI honor roll of athletes grew to 89 during spring

Tuesday, October 25, 2011, 11:09 AM



By Jerry Lee



Advance File Photo

Ace pitcher Danielle Ponsiglione is the captain of both the softball and volleyball teams.

WILLOWBROOK - The College of Staten Island (CSI) Office of Intercollegiate Athletics, together with the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, awarded its first Athletic Director Honor Roll citations following the 2010 fall season.

At that time, 78 student-athletes who had achieved a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) or better were recognized.

The Willowbrook school recently announced the honorees for the 2011 spring season and the number of citations has grown to 89.

The students will be honored in a special Student-Athlete Day ceremony in April, in

cooperation with the national initiative brought forward by the National Consortium of Academics in Sport.

The honor roll, unique to the athletics program at CSI, was the brainchild of the CSI student-athlete committee and athletic director Vernon Mummert. Mummert wanted to draw attention to the academic achievements of the school's student-athletes at the institution.

"Many times our student-athletes have to balance part-time and full-time jobs with full academic class loads, varsity team commitments, and family responsibilities at home," Mummert said. "The institutional recognition shows these young men and women that we are taking notice, and it will hopefully inspire them to greater heights of academic achievement and athletic performance."

The 89 total athletes are a cross section of CSI's 13 intercollegiate sports and cheerleading program. CSI boasted 201 total student-athletes in 2010-11, meaning that 44.3 percent of the student-athlete body is being honored. Of the 89 honored, 69 are carrying overall GPA's over a 3.0 (34 percent), while a select 23

have a GPA of over 3.5.

"It speaks volumes about the balance exhibited by our athletes and the tremendous academic support they receive on campus," Mummert said.

The **CSI** Office of Intercollegiate Athletics does its part in aiding the cause. Working primarily through Katie Arcuri, the assistant athletic director for student-athlete services, student-athletes are awarded priority registration, which allows them to manage their class schedule with their rigorous practice, personal workout, and intercollegiate schedule routines, and are offered academic advisement within athletics offices to guide their academic path. Along the way, the office solicits mid-semester checks on student-athletes and offers counseling and peer tutor opportunities for at-risk students.

"The student-athletes continue to excel in the classroom as the number of honor roll students grow each semester," said Ms. Arcuri. "It is a deserving achievement for them to be honored each semester with the citation."

Men's swimming had the most honorees while men's cross country had the highest team GPA — a 3.34.

Seven athletes boasted perfect (4.0) GPAs. They are Ilona Stoyko (swimming/tennis), Lisa LaManna (volleyball/cross-country, graduated), Raechel Strobel (softball, graduated), Qing Li (tennis, graduated), Lauren Neglia (soccer), Olivia Tierno (basketball), and Tomasz Hajbert (swimming).

The student-athletes will be awarded commemorative certificates during the ceremony, which will feature words from **CSI** President Dr. Tomas Morales and Vice-President for Student-Affairs Dr. Ramona Brown.

The complete list of honorees, by sports, is:

Baseball: Nick Tingos, Joe Falcone, Daniel Slevin, Paul Matusiewicz, Mario Peralta, Joe Cassano, Mark Glennerster.

Basketball: Caitlin Johnson, Olivia Tierno, Jaclyn Tocco, Katelyn Hepworth, Christina Sgarlato, David Hughes, Patrick Granata, Chris Maccarone, Jordan Young, Herschel Jenkins.

Cheerleading: Jacquelyn Reddy, Camelo Vanloo, Kristyn Settineri, Victoria Seminara, Nicole Medina, Heather Lananna, Caitlin McKeever, Maria Donofrio, Lisa Conlon, Catherine Bernardo.

Cross country: Shantel Peters, Bibi Ghafari, Dean Kunjravia, Michael Jamaledidine, Matt Greger, Adebola Olasoju, Shawn Cybulska.

Soccer: Stephanie McNichol, Danielle McLaughlin, Lauren Neglia, Michelle Kelley, Karla Pesantes, Nicole Iacona, Natalie Tombasco, Amanda Percaccio, Paige Buono, Christina Sgarlato, Mubaric Ibrahim, Stephen

Caifa, Orsi Bermudez Reyes, Stephen Mattei, Beshouy Askharoun, Adam Birnbaum, Michael Massa, Anthony Brucato, John Tanna.

Softball: Rachel Strobel, Stefanie Solari, Amanda Winant, Kristi Dillon, Jillian Castore, Danielle Ponsiglione.

Swimming: Gabriella Villarruel, Joanna Irizarry-Zaraza, Priscila Alvarez, Vasiliki Stergioula, Jessica Pifalo, Angelica Grant, Elaina Lei, Lauren Overeem, Mitchell Lovell, Jian Wang, Robert Stumpf, Pavel Buyanov, Aleksander Pomeranets, Vladislav Romanov, Tomasz Habert, Louis Algarin, Maciej Hajbert, Danila Novikov, Michael Halkias, Mitchell Lovell, Jian Wang.

Tennis: Gabriella Villarruel, Yelena Rasporskaya, Qing Li, Tara Colao, Justine Kuna, Ilona Stoyko, Daniel Ursomanno, Robert Hargraves, Joseph Taranto, Riad Hamai, Masaru Takaki.

Volleyball: Danielle Ponsiglione, Lisa Lamanna, Sarah Elkhatab, Vasiliki Stergioula.

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Soccer: **College of Staten Island** women win against SUNY-Purchase

Wednesday, October 26, 2011, 11:14 AM



Staten Island Advance
By

The **College of Staten Island** had four different goal scorers yesterday in a 4-0 win over visiting SUNY-Purchase.

The Dolphins, who owned advantages in shots (15-6) and corner kicks (6-1) improved to 12-4 overall.

CSI won't play again until it hosts No. 4 York College in a CUNYAC semifinal on Nov. 2 (3:30 p.m.).

Matea Marie DeNoble, Demi-Jean Martorano, Lauren Neglia and Gabrielle Galeano scored for the Dolphins while Natalie Tombasco, Christina Jacob and Ashley Albanese had assists.

Freshman DeNoble opened the scoring 34 minutes in on a Tombasco feed. The Dolphins scored three in the match's final 21 minutes, including Martorano's 17th of the season.

CSI goalie Samantha Wysokowski made two saves.

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CUNYAC / Applebee's Men's Soccer Semifinals Rescheduled For Wednesday Semifinals Will Be At Aviator in Brooklyn Starting at 3:30 pm



The **CUNYAC / Applebee's Men's Soccer Semifinals** that were postponed on Saturday, will now be held at the Aviator Sports Complex in Brooklyn, NY on Wednesday, November 2 with the first game kicking off at 3:30 pm (#1 Lehman vs. #5 Hunter), followed at 5:30 pm by the #2 York vs. #3 Baruch match.

CHAMPIONSHIP CENTRAL = For more on each quarterfinal game & Championship links

SEMIFINALS @ AVIATOR SPORTS (Brooklyn, NY), Wednesday, November 2

#1 Lehman vs. #5 Hunter - 3:30 pm - [LIVE STATS](#)

#2 York vs. #3 Baruch - 5:30 pm - [LIVE STATS](#)

[FREE TICKET LINK](#)

Fans, get your tickets using the link above. With each registered ticket you are eligible to win a prize in the CUNYAC Championship drawing.

[DIRECTIONS TO AVIATOR](#)

The CUNYAC / Applebee's Men's Soccer Semifinals at the College of Staten Island were CANCELLED on Saturday at halftime of the first game (Hunter was up 1-0 at the half). Since the contest does not become official until the 70th minute, it will be replayed in its' entirety at a date-site-time to be announced.

Staten Island, NY -- The 2011 CUNYAC / Applebee's Men's Soccer Championship semifinals were slated for Saturday, October 29 at the [College of Staten Island](#), before the action was cancelled due to weather. The Championship final, for CUNYAC's automatic berth to the NCAA Championship will be played the following Saturday, November 5 @ 6:00 pm on Randall's Island.

The quarterfinals kicked off on Wednesday, October 26 with four quarterfinal games at the higher seeded teams. #1 Lehman crushed #8 Staten Island, 5-0, while the other three games went down to the final whistle, with #2 York needing two goals and an overtime assist from [Rachidi Amadou](#). #3 Baruch turned a very late 1-0 deficit around to a 2-1 victory via two goals from [Vincent Cruz](#) and #5 Hunter, the defending champions earned a 1-0 win over #4 John Jay on a penalty kick by senior [Danny Vera](#) in the 68th minute.

The four winners will now battle in the semifinals on Saturday, **Tournament Information: Quarterfinals (at higher seed) - Wednesday, October 26, 2011**

#1 Lehman def. #8 [Staten Island](#), 5-0
#2 York def. #7 Medgar Evers, 4-3 (Overtime)
#3 Baruch def. #6 CCNY, 2-1
#5 Hunter def. #4 John Jay, 1-0

FINAL @ RANDALL'S ISLAND, Saturday, November 5 (6:00 pm)
Semifinal winners - [LIVE STATS](#)

Fans can check in and reserve free tickets by visiting, [CUNYAC Championships](#).

Fans that check in at the championships using their online ticket will be eligible for a prize, and fans that attend multiple CUNYAC championship events will be eligible for a drawing at the end of the 2011-12 season to win additional prizes.

Stay tuned to [CUNYAthletics.com](#) for the latest details.

Stories



Thousands of SUNY and CUNY Students to Walk-Out in Protest of Tuition Hikes, Cuts, and Debt

10/04 1:52 pm

From Binghamton NYSR:

In 2011 New York State cut the SUNY/CUNY budget by over \$300 million, passed a 5-year automatic annual tuition hike, and cut the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) by \$31 million. Thousands of students throughout SUNY and CUNY are being mobilized by New York Students Rising (NYSR) to oppose these massive cuts to Public Higher Education alongside tuition hikes, crushing student debt, and rising unemployment. On Wed. Oct. 5 at 1pm, students from across the state will orchestrate a state-wide student walk-out to oppose the drastic austerity measures that continue to undermine New York State's young people. As our economy crumbles and public universities are forced to price out working class students, Governor Andrew Cuomo continues to support efforts to give tax breaks to the wealthy and undermine our public institutions. This event will also coincide with a large march in New York City organized by the Occupy Wall Street group to combat the rise of austerity and income inequality, where many CUNY students will join activists and labor unions in the streets of the financial district.

Across the state, NYSR demands the repeal of NYSUNY 2020 and the related tuition hikes, an increase of state funding to SUNY and CUNY to be financed through the an extended millionaires tax and enforced stock transfer tax, and, instead of cushioning the financial crisis on the backs of students and staff, we ask SUNY and CUNY to "Chop from the Top," reducing top administrator salaries by 2.5 to 5% percent in order to make up budget short falls. At Binghamton, we call on Interim President McGrath to give his \$70,000 salary increase back to the university to help cover the budget cuts. Binghamton's NYSR affiliate Concerned Binghamton Students also organized last year's Rally Against Irresponsible Spending, part the National Day of Action for Public Education on October 7 2010.

WHEN: Wednesday, October 5, 2011 at 12 PM to 3 PM.

WHERE: Walkout beings out side the Library Tower at 12 PM; after marching around campus and rallying in the Cooper Administration Building, there will be a Teach In in Lecture Hall 7 at 2:15.

PARTICIPATING SUNY & CUNY CAMPUSES: University at Albany, Binghamton University, University at Buffalo, Purchase University, New Paltz University, Hunter College, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Brooklyn Community College, College of Staten Island, Bronx Community College, and CUNY Grad Center



Students gather at **College of Staten Island** to protest CUNY tuition hikes

Posted: Wednesday, October 05, 2011, 2:55 PM

By **Jan Somma-Hammel**

Inspired by recent protests on Wall Street, dozens of **College of Staten Island** students gathered today to rally against CUNY tuition hikes.

SUNY/CUNY students protesting tuition hikes, staff cuts

Posted by: Cara Matthews - Posted in Uncategorized on Oct 05, 2011

New York Students Rising is organizing walkouts at roughly 15 State University of New York and City University of New York campuses today, along with a few private universities, to protest tuition hikes and staff cuts. They are also unhappy with “crushing student debt, and rising unemployment,” the group said in a statement.

The state cut the SUNY and CUNY budgets by more than \$300 million this year and increased tuition, according to New York Students Rising, which wants the tuition hikes repealed, student loan forgiveness and “an end to excessive administrative pay.”

SUNY tuition increased from \$4,970 a year to \$5,270 this fall at state-operated campuses. It will go up 30 percent over the five years, for an annual tuition in five years of \$6,470 for in-state undergraduate students. SUNY’s university centers are getting additional revenue of 3 percent by charging a new \$75 fee and hiking tuition for undergraduates from out of state by 10 percent.

SUNY spokesman Morgan Hook noted that the protests are taking place on just six of the university system’s 64 campuses.

There’s obviously going to be dissent on campuses, but the SUNY Student Assembly, whose members are elected by their peers each campus, have backed the tuition hikes for three years, Hook said.

“Part of the reason why the bill got passed was because the students supported it,” he said.

SUNY has made a commitment to reinvest some of the new tuition money to help students who are maxed out for Tuition Assistance Program benefits, he said.

The protests are taking place from noon to 5 p.m. today in Albany, Binghamton, Buffalo, New Paltz, Purchase and New York City. Students in New York City will join demonstrators with the Occupy Wall Street group.

These are the schools that are involved:

- The University at Albany
- Binghamton University
- The University at Buffalo
- Brooklyn College
- The New School
- SUNY Purchase
- SUNY New Paltz
- Hunter College
- Brooklyn Community College

- New York University
- College of Staten Island
- Bronx Community College
- CUNY Graduate Center

- Columbia University
- Fashion Institute of Technology
- John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Also Featured on: examiner.com dailykos.com dissenter.firedoglake.com

CSI's first-ever homecoming gets an enthusiastic reception on campus among organizer

Wednesday, October 05, 2011, 10:25 AM



Mark D. Stein
By



Staten island Advance/Mark Stein

The **College of Staten Island** celebrated its first ever homecoming event this past Saturday, and with that, dyed the water pink as the school held its annual walk to raise money for breast cancer research.

WILLOWBROOK -- The sun briefly poked from overcast skies Saturday morning and shined down on a group of 200 people participating in the **College of Staten Island's (CSI)** Breast Cancer Walkathon. It was unexpected, especially after the rains that pounded New York the night before.

Sponsored by Con Edison, the walk was designed to raise funds for breast cancer research. It was the first of a series of events at the Willowbrook school that celebrated its first ever homecoming this past weekend.

"We laughed. We cried. It was everything," said Dr. Donna Gerstle, director of the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research

Initiative. "And it was a lot of fun. It's a celebration of hope that people can truly come together so we can celebrate friends and family that have been touched by breast cancer."

Like the sunlight early in the day, **CSI** was aglow in pink. All walkers wore pink T-shirts. The two fountains — in front of and behind Building 1P — were dyed pink and lured students and staff members eager to snap a photograph.

"Just to be together for a united cause. It's just special," Dr. Gerstle said.

Gathering with one another, like those who walked to fight breast cancer, was the theme of the day.

"It's a wonderful opportunity for faculty, students and alumni to come together to support our cancer research project, our walkathon," said Dr. Tomas Morales, college president. "But also to reconnect alumni

to the college, to create a sense of community here.”

The day kicked off with the walkathon at 10 a.m. and included a number of events before an alumni dinner at 6 p.m.

Classes ending with “2” and “7” — from 1962 to 2007 —celebrated their reunions and retired faculty members also attended. Many of them were students at the former Staten Island Community and Richmond colleges in Sunnyside and St. George, respectively — the predecessors of CSI.

“The College of Staten Island is a unique institution, given that we’re the only public institution on Staten Island, a municipality that would be the 35th largest city in the United States, with 500,000 people,” noted Morales.

CSI’s president is a member of the Staten Island University Hospital board of directors. When he visits the hospital and other schools across Staten Island, he comes across numerous CSI alumni who earned degrees in nursing and teaching.

“There’s not a day that goes by that I’m out in the community and I don’t meet an alum,” he said. In fact, he said, 22,000 live in the borough.

All told, CSI boasts 55,000 living alumni.

Soccer and volleyball matches, an Oktoberfest-themed luncheon, a band performance to recognize CSI radio station WSIA’s 30th anniversary, and kids’ activities, such as a pumpkin picking patch, were part of the fun.

There was also a networking event between alumni and students set to graduate in 2012.

Thomas Tellefsen, chairman of the school’s business department and a graduate of 1977, said the gathering was a great opportunity for students to chat.

“It’s a wonderful chance for them to talk to people who have gone through the process,” Tellefsen said. “For us alumni, it’s really exciting to see what the new crop looks like and to get a sense of what they’re trying to accomplish. Maybe we can pass on a few ideas along the way.”

Tellefsen explained that the students appear upbeat, yet do have concerns as the economy has yet to bounce back.

“They’re realistic about the job market,” he said. “They see the jobs aren’t coming as quickly as they were five years ago, but they’re upbeat because they realize there are still opportunities. Maybe it takes a little longer, but they could still get there.”

Arthur Merola, president of the board of directors of the alumni association, and a member of the class of 1985, said CSI's homecoming is unique.

"This is the beginning of something, and we hope to continue it. The college has given the diversity to the community, more importantly to the city, and to the world," he said.

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Staten Island resident part of creative team behind new documentary about 'The Tombs'

Wednesday, October 05, 2011, 9:39 AM



Diane Lore
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - PORT RICHMOND - **Vernon (Dyverse) Wooton** knows a thing or two about mean streets.

The one-time rapper-musician, who now makes his home in Port Richmond, is originally from the Bronx, and spent his teen years in a group home at Mount Loretto.

Nowadays, the 37-year-old Wooton serves as a youth mentor and board member of Young Talented and Gifted (YTG), the Graniteville-based non-profit that aims to empower youth and encourage their talents through the arts and education.

When Wooton was approached to be part of the creative team behind an independent film about the infamous Manhattan House of Detention – a.k.a. "The Tombs" – he saw an opportunity to influence and inform young people about the prison system and the effect it has on young black and Latino men.

Wooton signed on as associate executive producer, joining director Jerry Lamothe (who also directed the films "Blackout" and "Amour Infinity") and executive producer **Tami Roman** (from VH1's "Basketball Wives").

"I'm proud of this project because it allows me to educate, entertain and inform young people about the



Vernon (Dyverse) Wooton, at right, of Port Richmond, with Curtis High School student Isaiah Harrison, of Mariners Harbor, at the premiere of 'The Tombs,' an independent film for which Wooton served as associate executive producer. (Photo courtesy Vernon Wooton)

prison system and the effect it has on black and Latino young men," Wooton explained.

The film is described as a "gritty and powerful exploration of the effects of the prison industrial complex on the spirit and psyche of black and Latino men in New York State and across the nation."

"Artfully played out within the context of the flawed and overburdened justice system, 'The Tombs' is a first attempt at using dramatic film as an educational medium for students and the broader public."

The film is registered with this year's Cannes Film Festival, the Venice Film Festival, and the Melbourne (Australia) International Film Festival. It has also been picked up as part of HBO's American Black Film Festival.

"The Tombs" premiered Sept. 17 as part of the day-long Urbanworld Independent Film Festival at the AMC 34th Street Theater in midtown Manhattan.

True to his mission to mentor and educate urban youth, Wooton selected Curtis High School junior **Isaiah Harrison** of Mariners Harbor, to accompany him at the premiere. The two met in January at the 4th Annual Martin Luther King "Step Up, Speak Out Family Summit" at the College of Staten Island. The gathering was sponsored by Young Talented and Gifted. Wooton was one of the workshop facilitators.

Wooton, a towering man who walks with a cane, said he was inspired to mentor and give back to urban teens through his own experiences.

Although he was born and raised in the Bronx in a large family, to keep him off the streets and out of trouble with the law, his parents sent him away to a group home on the grounds of the Mission of the Immaculate Mary at Mount Loretto, in Pleasant Plains.

While a student at Port Richmond High School, he became interested in music and film as a form of expression. Later, he took advantage of workshops and classes offered by Community TV (CTV) and began shooting his own show and music videos.

At about the same time, he became involved as a rapper and musician in the mix-hop, multi-cultural band called Aquavibe; he was known by the name Dyverse. He also tried his hand in retailing, as owner of a hip-hop clothing store in Stapleton. He was introduced to director **Lamothe** when Lamothe was making the film "Blackout" and the director cast him in a bit part.

Just before he headed off to the film festival for the premier of "The Tombs" Wooton appeared in Tappen Park to kick off events for the Staten Island Black Heritage Family Day.

Assemblyman Cusick hails youngsters for their accomplishments and commitment to physical fitness, lauds PS 29

Thursday, October 06, 2011, 7:44 AM



Staten Island Advance
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — Thirty Staten Island youngsters were recognized last night for their commitment to physical fitness during an annual awards ceremony held by Assemblyman Michael Cusick.

Cusick's "Total Fitness Challenge," open to youngsters in grades pre-K through eight, called on kids to read 30 minutes a day during the summer and participate in as many physical activities as possible on a daily basis.

Depending on the number of points they attained, they were awarded first-, second- and third-place medals. All received certificates.

The winning school, PS 29 in Castleton Corners, received a trophy.

"Physical education is an integral element in the development of our children," said Cusick, prior to the ceremony at the College of Staten Island. "According to the city comptroller [John Liu], only 6 percent of schools audited came anywhere near offering the required amount of physical education ... The report [also] stated that 21 percent of children are obese and another 18 percent are overweight."

Noting that childhood obesity is an epidemic in the United States, Cusick (D-Mid-Island) said it leads to the likelihood of adult obesity, which is associated with diabetes, heart disease and cancer.

The Total Fitness Challenge was created by Cusick to encourage children to be more physically active during the summer months and lead a healthier lifestyle.



View full size

Assemblyman Michael Cusick at the Total Fitness Challenge with some of this year's winners.

In all, 35 schools and nearly 600 students participated — an increase of more than 200 children from Cusick's fitness challenge last year.

The Total Fitness Challenge winners are:

Pre-K: 1st, Angela King, YMCA Nursery School.

Kindergarten: 1st, Isabella Policarpo, Gateway Academy; 2nd, Kaylee Kubinski, PS 4; 3rd, Liam McBratney, Our Lady of Good Counsel.

Grade 1: 1st, Justin Colantuono, PS 36; 2nd, Aiswaryah Anantharajah, PS 58; 3rd, Jessica Linder, PS 56.

Grade 2: 1st, Allison Parker, PS 29; 2nd, Jessica Amodeo, PS 56; 3rd, Justin Lonczynski, PS 29.

Grade 3: 1st, Olivia Lombardo, PS 29; 2nd, Ellie Vaserman, PS 29; 3rd, Julianna Verde, PS 3.

Grade 4: 1st, Maria Coelho, PS 56; 2nd, Nicole Amodeo, PS 56; 3rd, Rebecca Rodriguez, PS 56.

Grade 5: 1st, Olivia Becker, PS 29; 2nd, Patrick Parker, PS 29; 3rd, Sabella Vaserman, PS 80.

Grade 6: 1st, Annie Anantharajah, Laurie Intermediate; 2nd, Emma Faherty, Bernstein Intermediate; 3rd, Megan Finnerly, Paulo Intermediate.

Grade 7: 1st, Robert DeForge, Paulo Intermediate; 2nd, Gunnar Garpestad, PS 80; 3rd, Ciaran Farley, St. Rita.

Grade 8: 1st, Nicole Galletta, Academy of St. Dorothy; 2nd, Monica Suggs, Our Lady of Good Counsel; 3rd, Kiara Ortega, Our Lady of Good Counsel.

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College of Staten Island students rally to protest tuition hikes, budget cuts

Thursday, October 06, 2011, 8:50 AM



By Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — Inspired by the ongoing protests on Wall Street, dozens of College of Staten Island students collectively left their classrooms yesterday afternoon and rallied against CUNY tuition hikes.

Prior to a student protest scheduled for 1 p.m., about a dozen students ran through the Willowbrook campus, banging drums and waving signs to urge others to join their protest.

Within minutes, the circular area behind building 1P — between the school's campus center and library — was packed with more than 100 protesters and observers, as well as faculty members.

As viewers took photographs and recorded video, the approximately 40 protesters shouted "Walk out!"

The CSI protesters used whistles and other instruments and carried numerous signs to get other students' attention.

"We're just tired of the bull(expletive)," said sophomore Jay Ax of Great Kills. "Our tuition just got raised and they're cutting financial aid. We're here because we want to make something out of ourselves."



Enlarge

Staten Island Advance

Jesse Franklin, a junior student from St. George, was a leader of the tuition hike protest at the College of Staten Island Wednesday, October 5. (Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel)

[CSI protest 10-06-2011 gallery \(20 photos\)](#)

Students gather at College of Staten Island to protest CUNY tuition hikes

Inspired by recent protests on Wall Street, dozens of College of Staten Island students gathered today to rally against CUNY tuition hikes.

Students also complained about recent cuts in faculty and classes.

Similar actions occurred at other SUNY and CUNY campuses, according to the Associated Press.

Both entities raised tuition by \$300 this fall, and the state legislature approved tuition raises at SUNY and CUNY colleges of up to \$300 each year for the following four years, according to CUNY spokesman Michael Arena.

"I'm not happy about the tuition hikes," said sophomore Jeremy Haire, who was watching the goings-on. "But somebody's got to do something about it."

Several faculty members said they were impressed and proud to see the student body standing up for itself.

One teacher, who chose to remain anonymous, brought his class of 17 students outside to see the protest. He called it a learning experience and asked the class to research the issues involved in the protest for an essay.

Leeor Bronis, editor of CSI's student newspaper, "The Banner," said others usually disregard protest actions.

"They don't really think of the issues at the school ... this has everything to do with them," said Ms. Bronis, adding that freshmen she'd spoken to were unaware of the situation until attending the protest.

"The students at today's rally worked closely with college administration in order to conduct their demonstration in a creative and respectful manner," said Ken Bach, a CSI spokesman. "Their passion was evident, and they exercised their First Amendment rights peacefully."

Ax was thrilled with the large turnout.

"It shows that people know that they have a voice and they're here and they're ready to let their voice be heard," the South Shore 24-year-old said. "Even if they're not letting their voice be heard, just their presence here alone is excellent."

After the rally, which dispersed about 2 p.m., the students marched through the campus before heading to Wall Street to join the demonstration there.

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Also Featured on: examiner.com



CSI gets some blow-back

Wednesday, October 12, 2011, 9:55 AM



Mark D. Stein

By

WILLOWBROOK -- Inspired by the ongoing protests on Wall Street, dozens of College of Staten Island (CSI) students collectively stormed out of their classrooms and gathered last Wednesday afternoon to rally against CUNY tuition hikes.

Prior to a student protest scheduled for 1 p.m., about a dozen pupils ran through the Willowbrook campus banging drums and waving signs to alert others that the time had come to vent.

Within a matter of minutes, the circular area behind building 1P — set in between the school's campus center and library — was packed with more than 100 protesters and observers, as well as faculty members.

As viewers took photographs and recorded video, some 40 protesters shouted "Walk out! CSI." to inform folks on campus that something needs to be done.

John Rojas shouted to the crowd, "We are all victims of this. All of us. Not just you, or you, or you," he said, pointing to individuals. "It's everybody."

Rojas, a sophomore from Richmond, was one of the most visible faces at the protest. He and four others — Jesse Franklin, Ilya Geller, Yaeko Kashimoto and Jay Ax — were instrumental in organizing the protest.

"We're just tired of the bull(expletive)," barked Ax, also a sophomore, from Great Kills. "Our tuition just got raised and they're cutting financial aid. We're here because we want to make something out of ourselves."

Protesters also expressed dissent toward recent cuts in faculty and classes.

Similar actions occurred at other SUNY [State University of New York] and CUNY [City University of New York] universities, reported the Associated Press.

Both entities raised tuition \$300 this fall and the state legislature authorized that SUNY and CUNY can continue to raise tuition up to \$300 each year for the following four years, according to CUNY spokesman Michael Arena.

While students also shouted that for 129 years, CUNY tuition was free, Arena said that luxury was only for

merit-based students, other than from 1970 to 1975, when it indeed was free for all.

In 1976, the policy was changed to cater to students who couldn't attend school, unless it was free.

Protesters at **CSI** used whistles and other instruments. They carried signs that drew attention from scores of passing students.

"I'm not happy about the tuition hikes," said observer, Jeremy Haire, a sophomore. "But somebody's got to do something about it."

Rosebank resident and college senior Liz E. was in agreement.

"We're all for it," she said of the protest. "I don't know why we need to pay for an education."

She and her friend, Lana N., both work full time and said the school's tuition raise further complicates an already difficult situation they're in.

Leeor Bronis, editor of **CSI's** newspaper "The Banner" and a student at the school, said others usually disregard acts like the protest.

"They don't really think of the issues at the school .x.x. this has everything to do with them," said Ms. Bronis, adding that freshman students she'd spoken to were unaware of the hikes until attending the protest.

Faculty members said they were impressed and proud to see the student body standing up for itself.

A teacher, who chose not to give his name, brought his 17 students outside to witness the demonstration. He wanted them to learn from it and research the issues involved in preparation for writing an essay.

Ax was thrilled to see the large turnout.

"It shows that people know that they have a voice and they're here and they're ready to let their voice be heard," the 24-year-old said. "Even if they're not letting their voice be heard, just their presence here alone is excellent."

After the rally, which dispersed about 2 p.m., the students headed to Wall Street to demonstrate.

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At CSI, points of light to dispel the hatred

Wednesday, October 12, 2011, 6:43 AM



Kiawana Rich
By



Staten Island Advance/Hilton Flores

Students turn out for the Gay Straight Alliance of the College of Staten Island's second annual Candlelight Vigil Against Hate outside the Campus Center in Willowbrook.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Notwithstanding their different backgrounds, participants in last night's second annual Candlelight Vigil Against Hate at the College of Staten Island, Willowbrook, proclaimed an identical message: Hate should never be tolerated and it should never define who you are.

Featured speaker Dina Ahmed of Mariners Harbor, an 18-year-old student, told of a life-changing experience that occurred several years ago while she was with her best friend in Brooklyn.

Dressed in traditional Muslim garb, the girls boarded the R train. She heard a teenage boy shout: "Get off the train.

Terrorists are getting on and they are going to bomb us all!"

Miss Ahmed didn't try to hold back tears then -- nor could she hold them back last night. But, she said, unlike so many times before, she did not want "to look back at this moment and regret not doing anything."

She sought to confront the culprit -- now anonymous among 20 high school boys. When he would not step forward, she addressed the group: "He had no right to hate others who are different," and, "Read a damn book so maybe you wouldn't be so ignorant."

"I did something about someone's hatred, I didn't just sit there and take it. And since then, I don't tolerate any hatred from anyone," she said.

Other speakers shared similarly poignant stories with the audience of about 40.

Learning to deal with and overcome such hatred was what the evening was all about, said Jeremiah Jurkiewicz, president of the sponsoring group the Gay Straight Alliance at CSI.

For GSA Vice President Lisa Marie Scollo, her copious freckles were a cross that became almost too much to bear. The Island native said she was teased throughout elementary and high school. "They called me 'Chocolate Chip' and 'Frog' and much more."

"The pain of being bullied made me feel alone and helpless," she added, noting that she often contemplated suicide.

But the comfortable and nurturing environment of CSI has helped her break out of her shell, she said.

CSI Psychology Professor Florette Cohen had the last word: "If we all ban together as one, we can stop the hate."

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Colleges With The Highest Acceptance Rates: U.S. News List

10/17/11

Really don't want to chance it with college admissions next year?

[U.S. News and World Report](#) recently named the top 100 colleges with the highest acceptance rates. 31 colleges had acceptance rates of 100% and several more had rates of 99%. So the next time a high school senior says something like, "I will never get into college!!" you will know what list to show them.

Check out our slide show of 10 colleges it is hard *not* to get into. Then tell us, what do you think of high acceptance rates? Weigh in below!





10/18/2011 10:42 PM

Staten Islanders Join "Occupy Wall Street" Movement

By: Mari Fagel



NY1 VIDEO: A new Quinnipiac poll shows the majority of Staten Islanders support the Occupy Wall Street movement, and tens of College of Staten Island students have joined the ongoing protests.



Staten Island's MTA board member Allen Cappelli calls for toll equity

Monday, October 24, 2011, 2:31 AM



Michael Sedon
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- If you start in Manhattan, you can drive all over the city, except Staten Island, without paying a nickel in tolls. But Staten Islanders can't even think about such a journey without forking over cash to use the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge.

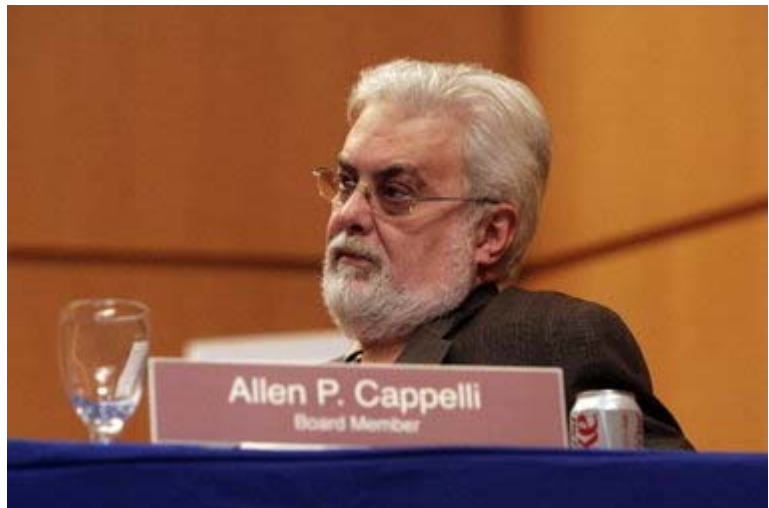
"It's patently an unfair system," says Allen Cappelli, the MTA's lone Island board member.

And to balance the system, he's pressing officials to spread the burden by tolling all currently free river crossings into Manhattan.

Cappelli, the board's sole Staten Islander, says that 12 of New York City's river crossings could generate much needed revenue for public transportation.

"I would not support raising tolls to support capital projects," Cappelli said. "I say that not because I'm opposed to paying for things that are appropriate, but I believe right now the toll policy in this region is insane, that it's geographically discriminatory."

Cappelli will push the idea as he sees his fellow residents baring the brunt of the burden in supporting the regional public transportation system.



Staten Island Advance photo

Allen Cappelli is pressing MTA officials to spread the burden by tolling all currently free river crossings into Manhattan. Cappelli, the board's sole Staten Islander, says that 12 of New York City's river crossings could generate much needed revenue for public transportation.

The seven bridges and two tunnels the MTA is responsible for generate approximately \$1.4 billion annually from tolls, and more than half of that money goes to support public transportation, such as buses, subways and railways, according to the MTA's website.

Toll revenue at the Verrazano in 2010 reached \$313 million, or 22 percent of the \$1.4 billion raised by all of the MTA's crossings.

Cappelli said placing a toll on all of the city's river crossings, such as the four East River crossings and the eight Harlem River crossings, which are currently free, would spread around the cost of subsidizing buses and subways giving Staten Islanders a fair shake.

"If you're making everybody pay a fair fare, so to speak, you can raise, I believe, more money and be able to charge people less," Cappelli said.

The problem with running such a massive, regional transportation system is that some of the routes are profitable but some are not, and combining those costs system-wide requires revenue from other sources.

"Public transportation is always a money-losing proposition and buses are even more so," Cappelli said. "If I could just cherry pick the routes that I would want to run and not have to run service everywhere, then you could, in fact, make money on it."

He also mentioned large undertakings such as running a subway line down second avenue, which he described as an "important project," but it's huge price tag diverts funding from other areas of the system.

"Part of the problem is that these mega projects that we have suck up every dollar in the region," Cappelli said.

The MTA has borrowed vast sums of money through the years to fund some of these projects, which has resulted in a nearly \$2 billion annual bill to service that past debt, and the cost of maintenance for the 100-plus year old subway system further exasperates the budget, he said.

Running a bus through the College of Staten Island campus is an example of a much smaller transportation need in the region that is not being funded because of a lack of money.

The MTA has an "internal rule" that states the agency cannot add costs to bus services, and extending the existing bus route that stops at the college, through the campus would cause enough time loss that additional buses would have to be added to the route to make up the difference, Cappelli said.

"If you're adding on time and you try to maintain a schedule then you end up having to put another bus on," Cappelli said. "That becomes the argument."

Some no-cost solutions have been achieved in extending bus routes into the Teleport Business Park in Bloomfield and the Target Shopping Center in the South Shore.

The North Shore rail line is not a "dead" issue, and Cappelli feels that there will be some improvements to the North Shore transportation corridor in the next few years.

"From my perspective there are two major projects that I would like to see on the board; one is the North Shore rail line and the other is the West Shore light rail system and working with the Port Authority to do that," Cappelli said.

Ultimately, Cappelli would like to see the existing Staten Island railroad connect to a North Shore and West Shore rail system, which would in turn cross the Bayonne Bridge to connect with the rail system in Elizabeth, New Jersey.

With new leaders in the MTA and the Port Authority coming and the discussions of raising the Bayonne Bridge road bed, now might be the perfect time to seriously talk about hooking Staten Island up to a regional rail system, where Islanders could potentially take a train all around the borough and then be able to get to Newark Airport, Manhattan or anywhere else in the system, Cappelli explained.

"The dream was to be part of the regional transportation system," Cappelli said. "That was exactly the objective."

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Walking and hoping for a cure for Juvenile Diabetes

Monday, October 24, 2011, 6:30 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**



Staten island Advance/Derek Alvez

Members of "Caitlyn's Crew" walked for Caitlyn Carr of Huguenot, holding the banner above the sketch of the smiling face.

By KATELYNN RUSNOCK

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- A crowd decked out in colorful T-shirts sauntered through the **College of Staten Island** yesterday morning to raise funds to help find a cure for juvenile diabetes.

More than 2,500 participants came out for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation's (JDRF) Walk To Cure Diabetes, gathered on the Great Lawn of the campus, and enjoyed the sunny

weather that arrived just in time for the start of the trek.

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation hoped to raise \$300,000 at yesterday's event.

The JDRF was founded in 1970 by parents of children with diabetes. Research reports note that up to 3 million Americans may be suffering from Type 1 diabetes, the form of diabetes on which the organization focuses. It is usually diagnosed in children, teenagers, or young adults and those affected must inject multiple doses of insulin into their blood stream daily.

Although yesterday's event was a fundraising effort, Lisa Moore, co-president of the Staten Island branch of the JDRF noted, "It's a very positive event. It's not sad."

The diverse crowd, which ranged in age from youngsters affected by diabetes and their siblings to their grandparents, agreed.

"It was a really nice turnout," said Christina D'Angelis, co-president of the



Enlarge

Derek Alvez

Marie Ciofalo of New Springville holds her one-year old grandson Christopher Consolmagno of Huguenot before walking in the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Staten Island Walk to Cure Diabetes for cousin Jordan Goldstein at the College of Staten Island. - (Staten Island Advance/ DEREK ALVEZ).

JDRF Walk gallery (12 photos)

Staten Island branch of the JDRF.

In addition to walking, groups spent time playing catch on the Great Lawn, listening to music, and eating food donated by various vendors.

Noted Francine Sperantzas of Woodrow, whose 4-year-old daughter, Maria, has juvenile diabetes: "It's kid-friendly and raising money for a great cause." A team of 30 people, who called themselves "MJ's Angels," walked in honor of Maria.

Another group, "Team Ty and Ry," has raised over \$50,000 in the past three years that they have been walking together. The team is named for Tyler Malone and Ryan Kirschner, who met when

Ryan was diagnosed with diabetes and Tyler, who also has diabetes, became his camp counselor and mentor.

Ryan's mom, Jennifer Kirschner, a former New Springville resident, tearfully described the event. "I love the togetherness, that everyone is here to support someone."

"It's an emotional day," added Maria Leconte, a former Eltingville resident and friend of the Kirschner family.

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was moderated by Senator Jim Alesi.

> **Bridge to a Healthier Tomorrow: Addressing Latino Health Disparities** – This workshop focused on the health disparities that imperil the well-being of the Latino population, which is disproportionately impacted by diabetes, asthma, HIV/AIDS, cancer, cardiovascular disease and the lack of health insurance. Panelists discussed successful community-based health care initiatives and public policies that can promote solutions to Latino health care needs.

Participants included: Paloma Hernandez, President of the Urban Health Plan; Wayne Keathley, President and CEO of Mount Sinai; Guillermo Chacon, President of the Latino Commission on AIDS; and Dr. Alvaro Carrascal, Senior Vice President for Cancer Control of the American Cancer Society. The workshop was moderated by Senator Jeff Klein.

> **Las Olvidadas: Confronting the Latina Teen Suicide Crisis** – According to the Centers for Disease Control in New York City, more than one Latina teenager out of every seven has attempted suicide. This workshop focused on how to prevent suicide among Latina adolescents.

Workshop participants included: Dr. Rosa Gil, President of Comunilife; Dr. Leopoldo Cabassa, from the Psychiatric Institute Center of Excellence; Dr. Manny Gonzalez from the Hunter College School of Social Work; and Dr. Maria Oquendo, from the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University. The workshop was moderated by Senator Diane Savino.

> **Our Future Depends on It: Increasing Latino College Success** – While Latino college enrollment rates have been increasing over the last 10 years, Hispanics currently have the lowest college graduation rates of any major population group. This panel helped to identify programs and strategies to support and accelerate Latino college success rates to stimulate long-term community wealth and development.

Workshop participants included: Frank Sanchez, CUNY Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs; Lillian Rodriguez Lopez, President of the Hispanic Federation; Frances Lucerna, Executive Director of El Puente Academy; and Carlos Medina, Associate Provost and Associate Vice Chancellor of the SUNY Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The workshop was moderated by Senator Jack Martins and Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis.

In addition to the workshops, a CUNY youth roundtable discussion was conducted by Senator John Flanagan to discuss career challenges and opportunities. The roundtable included a number of CUNY students, along with Senators Golden and Alesi, Assemblywoman Malliotakis and senior CUNY officials including Senior Vice Chancellor and Secretary to the Board of Trustees Jay Henderson, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Frank Sanchez, Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges Eduardo Marti and CUNY Trustee Rita DiMartino.

Organizations participating in the Unidad Latina Conference included: Adelante of Suffolk County, Alianza Dominicana, the Brooklyn Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Business Council of New York State, Catholic Charities, Circulo de La Hispanidad, the College of Staten Island, the Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, the Community Association of Progressive Dominicans, the Hispanic Brotherhood of Rockville Centre, the Institute for Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly, the Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the New York City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.



Monday, October 24, 2011

2011 CUNY Graduate Programs Fair

When: Thursday, November 3rd, 3 PM-7 PM

Where: Baruch College- Auxiliary Gym

55 Lexington Avenue, Manhattan (entrance 25th street)

From CUNY.edu

Graduate Fair



Pre-register for the **2011 CUNY Graduate Programs Fair** scheduled for **Thursday, November 3th from 3 PM - 7 PM** and learn more about CUNY's 800+ Master's and Doctoral degree programs and over 200 Graduate Certificate programs in 150+ fields. You will also have the opportunity to speak with graduate admissions professionals from the following CUNY colleges and professional schools:

- Baruch College
- Brooklyn College
- The City College of New York
- College of Staten Island
- CUNY School of Law
- The Graduate School & University Center
- The Graduate School of Journalism
- Hunter College
- John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- Lehman College
- Queens College
- School of Professional Studies

Once **pre-registered**, explore our **Graduate Studies site** to learn more about CUNY's many nationally renowned programs.

Directions to the Graduate Fair

A convenient trip from anywhere in the metropolitan area, by bus, subway and from Penn Station and Grand Central Station, Baruch College is located on 25th Street between Lexington and Third Avenues on the east side of Manhattan.

By Subway: Take the 1, 6, F, N or R to 23rd Street Station.

By Bus: Take the M1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 15, 18, 101, or 102 to 23rd Street.

If you have any questions regarding the fair, please call: (646) 660-6750.

We look forward to seeing you at the fair!

The CUNY Graduate Community

NY Graduate Programs Fair scheduled for **Thursday, November 3th from 3 PM - 7 PM** and learn more about CUNY's 800+ Master's and Doctoral degree programs and over 200 Graduate Certificate programs in 150+ fields. You will also have the opportunity to speak with graduate admissions professionals from the following CUNY colleges and professional schools:

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If you have any questions regarding the fair, please call: (646) 660-6750.

We look forward to seeing you at the fair!

The CUNY Graduate Community

Hundreds Attend Unidad Latina Conference Hosted by State Senate and Hispanic Federation

"This conference was an impressive gathering of bright, talented people who came together to discuss how to make the Latino community more prosperous," Senate Majority Leader Dean G. Skelos said. "Every conference room and ballroom was filled with people committed to giving Hispanic-owned entrepreneurs the resources they need to grow and improving the quality of life for Latinos."

Among the bipartisan group of legislators who attended were: state Senators Charles Fuschillo, John Flanagan, Jack Martins, Martin Golden, Jim Alesi, Lee Zeldin, Jeff Klein, Diane Savino and David Carlucci; Assemblymembers Nicole Malliotakis, Guillermo Linares, Naomi Rivera, former Assemblyman Roberto Ramirez and former New York City Councilman Fernando Ferrer.

"I greatly appreciate everyone that attended and participated in Unidad Latina, especially our partners at the Hispanic Federation," Senator Skelos said. "Throughout the weekend people shared their experiences and insights to help others succeed. The information was valuable, the camaraderie was enjoyable, and we look forward to building on this event in the future."

More than 200 people attended a luncheon that featured remarks from Richard Parsons, Chairman of Citigroup and former CEO of Time Warner; as well as a presentation by Jorge Silva-Puras, Regional Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Also speaking at the luncheon was Assemblyman Guillermo Linares of Manhattan. Dr. Linares was the first Dominican-born elected official in the United States and was appointed by President Bill Clinton to Chair the White House Initiative for Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans.

A gala dinner, held Saturday night, began with the national anthem sung by Marybeth Melendez, a visually impaired graduate student at the [College of Staten Island](#). The gala was emceed by Jeanine Ramirez of NY1 News, who has traveled to Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic for special feature reporting assignments.

Featured speakers at the dinner included Lillian Rodríguez López, President of the Hispanic Federation; Monika Mantilla, founder, President and CEO of Altura Management and Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis, whose mother came to the United States from Cuba.

Special awards were presented at the dinner to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Hispanic community.

The Unidad Latina Award for Excellence in Education was presented to Dr. Tomás Morales, the President of the [College of Staten Island](#).

The Unidad Latina Community award was given to Gil Bernardino, the Executive Director of Circulo De La Hispanidad, a non-profit Hispanic community organization in Nassau County.

The Unidad Latina Award for Excellence in Business was presented to Juan Figueroa, an owner of Milestone Mechanical, a heating and cooling company in Manhattan that focuses on energy-efficient buildings. After beginning just three years ago, the company has achieved almost \$2 million in sales.

The Unidad Latino Legacy Award was presented to Rita DiMartino, a member of the CUNY Board of Trustees and former vice President of Congressional Relations for AT&T. Ms. DiMartino also served in leadership roles with UNICEF.

In addition, Senator Lee Zeldin presented an award for Business Person of the Year to Santiago Reyes, a restaurant owner in Suffolk County.

Other speakers at Unidad Latina were: New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg; Irene M. Esteves, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Time Warner Cable Inc.; Dr. John B. King, Commissioner of Education and President of the State University of New York; and former New York City Council Member Fernando Ferrer.

Unidad Latina Conference workshops included the following:

Minding Our Business: Protecting and Supporting Latino Small Businesses – There are almost 100,000 Hispanic-owned small businesses in New York City. This workshop focused on promoting Latino job growth and the unique challenges faced by Latino businessmen through loans, small business development and other measures.

Participants included: Hector Cordero Guzman, a professor at the School of Public Affairs at Baruch College; Paul Quintero, President of ACCON NY; Luis Balzac, former Director of Puerto Rico Industrial Development Corp.; and Das Velez, Executive Director of Minority and Women Business Development for ESDC. The workshop was moderated by Senator Martin Golden.

Got Jobs? Promoting Latino Job Growth – The unemployment rate for Hispanics in New York City has increased from seven percent to more than 12 percent from 2007 to 2010. This discussion focused on what is being done at the government and community levels to help Latinos and others find jobs. It included discussions about job training, adult education and support for small businesses.

Workshop participants included: Alexander Saavedra, Vice President/Director of SEEDCO; Edwin Melendez, Director of Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College; Jorge Martinez, a Trustee in the Village of Freeport; Alfredo Placeres, President of the NYS Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; and Ken Pokalsky, senior Director of Government Affairs for the Business Council of the State of New York. The workshop was moderated by Senator Jim Alesi.

Bridge to a Healthier Tomorrow: Addressing Latino Health Disparities – This workshop focused on the health disparities that imperil the well-being of the Latino population, which is disproportionately impacted by diabetes, asthma, HIV/AIDS, cancer, cardiovascular disease and the lack of health insurance. Panelists discussed successful community-based health care initiatives and public policies that can promote solutions to Latino health care needs.

Participants included: Paloma Hernandez, President of the Urban Health Plan; Wayne Keathley, President and CEO of Mount Sinai; Guillermo Chacon, President of the Latino Commission on AIDS; and

Dr. Alvaro Carrascal, Senior Vice President for Cancer Control of the American Cancer Society. The workshop was moderated by Senator Jeff Klein.

Las Olvidadas: Confronting the Latina Teen Suicide Crisis – According to the Centers for Disease Control in New York City, more than one Latina teenager out of every seven has attempted suicide. This workshop focused on how to prevent suicide among Latina adolescents.

Workshop participants included: Dr. Rosa Gil, President of Comunilife; Dr. Leopoldo Cabassa, from the Psychiatric Institute Center of Excellence; Dr. Manny Gonzalez from the Hunter College School of Social Work; and Dr. Maria Oquendo, from the Department of Psychiatry at Columbia University. The workshop was moderated by Senator Diane Savino.

Our Future Depends on It: Increasing Latino College Success – While Latino college enrollment rates have been increasing over the last 10 years, Hispanics currently have the lowest college graduation rates of any major population group. This panel helped to identify programs and strategies to support and accelerate Latino college success rates to stimulate long-term community wealth and development.

Workshop participants included: Frank Sanchez, CUNY Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs; Lillian Rodriguez Lopez, President of the Hispanic Federation; Frances Lucerna, Executive Director of El Puente Academy; and Carlos Medina, Associate Provost and Associate Vice Chancellor of the SUNY Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The workshop was moderated by Senator Jack Martins and Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis.

In addition to the workshops, a CUNY youth roundtable discussion was conducted by Senator John Flanagan to discuss career challenges and opportunities. The roundtable included a number of CUNY students, along with Senators Golden and Alesi, Assemblywoman Malliotakis and senior CUNY officials including Senior Vice Chancellor and Secretary to the Board of Trustees Jay Henderson, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Frank Sanchez, Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges Eduardo Marti and CUNY Trustee Rita DiMartino.

Organizations participating in the Unidad Latina Conference included: Adelante of Suffolk County, Alianza Dominicana, the Brooklyn Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Business Council of New York State, Catholic Charities, Circulo de La Hispanidad, the College of Staten Island, the Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, the Community Association of Progressive Dominicans, the Hispanic Brotherhood of Rockville Centre, the Institute for Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly, the Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the New York City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Also Featured on: newswire.com nysenate.gov

New York State Senate and the Hispanic Federation to hold Unidad Latina Conference to focus on economic opportunities for the Hispanic community

“We are very excited about this conference, which will promote increased economic opportunities for Latino New Yorkers and discuss other important issues, including health and education,” Senator Skelos said. “We look forward to a productive discussion and exchange of ideas regarding the needs, challenges and aspirations of the Hispanic community so we can move forward together to create jobs and strengthen our economy.”

“As a nonprofit membership organization, the mission of the Hispanic Federation is to advance and empower the Hispanic community,” Lillian Rodriguez Lopez, President of the Hispanic Federation said. “We look forward to a constructive and meaningful dialogue on much needed policies and initiatives that will serve to better educate and meet the needs of the ever- increasing Hispanic communities in the State of New York.”

The conference will feature policy workshops, networking opportunities and presentations featuring speakers of local and national prominence. Scheduled speakers include Cristobal I. Conde, former CEO of SunGard Data Systems, a business with 20,000 employees and \$5 billion in yearly sales.

Additional information about the conference is available at www.SenateUnidad.com.

Also speaking will be: Jorge Silva-Puras, Regional Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration. Previously, Mr. Silva-Puras served as Chief of Staff of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and Secretary of the Puerto Rico Department of Economic Development; Irene M. Esteves, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for Time Warner Cable Inc; Dr. John B. King, Commissioner of Education and President of the State University of New York; and Lillian Rodriguez Lopez, President of the Hispanic Federation.

Senator Skelos and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg will also address attendees at the conference. Other members of the State Senate and Assembly will participate in the events and workshop discussions.

Panelists participating in the workshop discussions will include recognized experts from the Hispanic community in the areas of business, education, health care and government. Unidad Latina Conference workshops include the following:

Minding Our Business: Protecting and Supporting Latino Small Businesses – There are almost 100,000 Hispanic-owned small businesses in New York City. This workshop on promoting Latino job growth will highlight unique challenges faced by Latino businessmen through loans, small business development and other measures

Got Jobs? Promoting Latino Job Growth – The unemployment rate for Hispanics in New York City has increased from seven percent to more than 12 percent from 2007 to 2010. This discussion will focus on

what is being done at the government and community levels to help Latinos and others find jobs, including discussions about job training, adult education and support for small businesses.

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Other organizations participating in the Unidad Latina Conference include: Adelante of Suffolk County, Alianza Dominicana, the Brooklyn Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Business Council of New York State, Catholic Charities, Circulo de La Hispanidad, the College of Staten Island, the Committee for Hispanic Children and Families, the Community Association of Progressive Dominicans, the Hispanic Brotherhood of Rockville Centre, the Institute for Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly, the Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the New York City Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

According to the census, almost half of the entrepreneurs in New York were born in other countries.

“In New York City alone there are about 70,000 foreign-born business owners, many of them Latinos,” Senator Skelos said. “It is critically important that state government recognizes their contributions to our economy and helps them prosper and grow. The Senate’s Unidad Latina conference will help us achieve that goal.”

Also Featured on: newswire.com insurancenewsnet.com

College Admissions

By [Allen Grove](#), About.com Guide

[CUNY](#)¹, the City University of New York, has 480,000 students enrolled in its 23 institutions located throughout the New York City region. It is one of the most diverse and affordable colleges in the country. High achieving students at seven of CUNY's senior colleges should check out the Macaulay Honors College, a program with outstanding perks. All Macaulay students receive

- a full undergraduate tuition scholarship.
- a new laptop.
- up to \$7,500 for global study, internships and service projects.
- a Cultural Passport allowing free or discounted admission to many NYC events.
- professional mentoring and career preparation.
- a housing package for students at City College, Hunter College, and Lehman College.
- a sequence of four honors seminars focused on New York City.

Admission to the Macaulay Honors College is highly selective. The program currently has 1,609 students total from the seven member campuses. Accepted students generally have an 'A' average in high school and a combined SAT critical reading and math score of 1400 (give or take).

To learn more about the seven senior colleges that have a branch of the Macaulay Honors College, check out each school's profile: [Baruch College](#)², [Brooklyn College](#)³, [City College](#)⁴, [Hunter College](#)⁵, [Lehman College](#)⁶, [Queens College](#)⁷, and the [College of Staten Island](#)⁸.

If you'd like to learn more about the Macaulay Honors College and what it takes to apply, visit the official [Macaulay website](#)⁹. If you are familiar with the Macaulay Honors College, please share your experiences below.

I frequently spotlight a great college that might be off the radar of college applicants. If there's a college you'd like to see featured here, please post your ideas in the [College Admissions Forum](#)¹⁰.



CUNY Queens College
Muhammad / Flickr

Students & Alumni

Students

Your Soap Box

Wednesday, October 12, 2011, 8:59 AM



Mark D. Stein
By



Advance File
Photo

Lynn Matteo of Oakwood

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — Lynn Matteo worked on Wall Street for 32 years.

Now 50 years old, the former vice president of operations has decided to return to college to pursue another lifestyle.

Ms. Matteo was laid off by her job about 18 months ago. In that time, her severance package has been exhausted, the Oakwood resident said.

On unemployment, Ms. Matteo said she sold her stock to attend classes at the

College of Staten Island.

With only 14 credits from Pace University many years ago, Ms. Matteo said the experience is fresh.

"It's interesting, because now that everyone got over the fact that I'm not the professor — there was a lot of hush when I walked into the room on the first week — but I go in the day time, which has predominantly kids out of high school coming for their first experience in college," Ms. Matteo said. "In many ways, it's my first experience in college, too."

She's thrilled with the experience, she said, and thinks she aspires to become a historian, but isn't certain.

"It's a lot of work. A lot of reading, a lot of time dedicated to it. I'm hoping that it'll be worth it when I'm in the class of 2015," she said.

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Chris Williams, who lost leg in 2007 shooting, will be back on Fort Hamilton sideline Saturday

BY [Mitch Abramson](#)

DAILY NEWS SPORTS WRITER

Thursday, October 13th 2011, 12:31 PM



Debbie Egan-Chin/News

Former football player Chris Williams at Fort Hamilton High School where he was a sophomore on the football team in 2007 when he was shot while defending his sister.

[Chris Williams](#) admits he may cry. He won't be embarrassed. He's cried before, he says, and sometimes it's unavoidable.

Williams, a former offensive tackle at [Fort Hamilton](#), thinks back to the times when he couldn't help himself.

He cried after he was shot nine times, in 2007, while he was trying to protect his little sister. He cried after he was paralyzed from the knee down in his left leg, his right leg was amputated and the doctor told him he'd never play football again.

"I cried like a newborn baby when I heard that," Williams, now 19, says with a chuckle. "That was rough."

And he will almost certainly lose it when he takes the sideline at Fort Hamilton for Homecoming against [New Utrecht](#) on Saturday.

The Tigers are celebrating a winning streak that's reached 37 regular-season games. The last time they lost was to New Utrecht on Sept. 28, 2007, when Williams was a junior. That double-overtime loss happened to be the last game in which Williams played; a day later, he was shot.

Returning to his former school as his team plays host to his last opponent may be enough to push Williams over the edge.

"It's going to mean a lot going back there," said Williams, who's now a sophomore at the [College of Staten Island](#).

His ties remain strong at the school, where the 6-5, 350-pound Williams made quite an impression.

In his senior year, he was voted Homecoming king and played bass drum in the marching band, thumping away in his wheelchair. He said he'll do a turn with the band during Saturday's game.

"Chris was the man at school," said [Jeff Legree Jr.](#), the quarterback on the 2007-08 team. "When I tell you he was the man - he got all the honeys, he was popular. Chris was a great teammate. He had NFL-type potential, but God had another plan for him."

Williams was on his way home from practice on Sept. 29, 2007 when he got a call from 13-year-old his half-sister. A group of men was harassing her near their home in [Flatbush](#), she told him.

By the time Williams reached her, the men had left, or so he thought. Williams walked the four blocks back to their apartment when he was ambushed in the lobby by one of the assailants, and shot nine times with a .45 caliber automatic.

An arrest was made on Oct. 24, 2007, but the record was sealed by the Brooklyn District Attorney, a spokesman said, adding that he was legally barred from discussing the case.

"I thought I was going to die," Williams said last week. "I didn't know what was going to happen to me. I was really scared, laying there in the hallway. I prayed and everything just happened."

He woke up at [Kings County Hospital](#) 11 days later. His first question: whether or not he would ever play football again. "I was concerned about football before walking," he said. "Football, up to that point, was my life."

Before the incident, Williams' former coach [Vince Laino](#) thought that Williams had a chance to go as far as he wanted. Williams was raw, he said, and a little too docile, but he had great potential. "He'd have

been a guy that we'd be still talking about today," Laino said. "Here was a guy who never played football before high school....He was going to be one of the biggest recruits that [New York City](#) had in a very long time."

Instead, his right leg, riddled with bullets, was amputated. His football career was over. Sitting in the hospital after the shooting, Williams struggled to figure out what to do next. What would he do with his life? Who would he become?

"Sometimes I would wake up and see Coach Laino and his son (Frank) just standing there," Williams said. "Other times I would wake up and see [Coach](#) (Daniel) Perez and other players there. They were always there for support."

In that regard, not much has changed. For the past two summers, coaches and alumni have held "Chris Williams Beach Day," an idea hatched when Williams told Laino that he had yet to set foot on a beach since the shooting.

Wearing a life vest, Williams now swims for hours on end in the waters near Laino's beach front home in the Rockaways.

"If it was up to him, he would swim to [Europe](#)," Laino said.

To this day, Williams wonders why they go out of their way. He may not consider himself a hero, but others do.

Williams volunteers with the Faces [Maimonides](#) Theater Group, a program in which teenagers perform scenes about abusive relationships, bullying and other adolescent issues. He recently wrote and performed a monologue about his experience getting shot.

"He's an incredibly talented actor," said [Susan Montez](#), the group's director. "He's so willing to be vulnerable and real in front of people, and that's such a gift. I've seen him bring people to tears with his performances. He inspires people."



She's giving young immigrants a voice

Saturday, October 29, 2011, 5:37 AM

By **Maura Grunlund**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. — A real job and a driver's license are mere dreams for Port Richmond resident Sara Martinez, 22, and other teens and young adults who were brought to Staten Island from Latin American countries as children.



She is among the many undocumented young people in the borough who are hoping that the government will pass the Development, Relief and Education for Minors (DREAM) Act, which would allow them to obtain driver's licenses, health insurance, work authorization papers and financial aid for college.

While a state DREAM Act wouldn't be a path to citizenship, it would overcome many of the obstacles of an undocumented person unable to obtain a Social Security number.

Ms. Martinez is more fortunate than most undocumented young adults, since she is on track to earn a bachelor's degree in biology from the [College of Staten Island](#). She and her parents worked and sacrificed to raise the tuition, since undocumented students aren't eligible for scholarships and other forms of financial aid.

Ms. Martinez was brought to this country from Mexico when she was about 1½ years old by her mother. Her father already was living on Staten Island. Her two brothers and one sister were born in this country and thus are citizens. The family has moved around a bit but mostly has lived in Port Richmond.

Ms. Martinez attended PS 19 in West Brighton, PS 20 in Port Richmond and Markham Intermediate School in Graniteville prior to graduating from Port Richmond High School in 2006.

Her status started to hit home in high school, when the lack of a Social Security number prevented Ms. Martinez from obtaining a license when most of her friends were driving. She was unable to get work

papers for the same reason.

Applying for college was difficult and her dreams of attending an out-of-state school were squashed, again by her lack of a Social Security number. Because she was ineligible for financial aid, Ms. Martinez worked for two years prior to enrolling at [CSI](#). Fortunately, she is eligible for in-state tuition at [CSI](#) because she met the residency requirements.

After she obtains her degree, Ms. Martinez won't be able to apply for a job in her chosen field, due to the lack of a Social Security number. Leaving the country and applying for residency or citizenship isn't a realistic plan, since the waiting list is very long, at least 10 years, with no guarantee of success.

Besides, as with most teen and young adult undocumented Staten Islanders, this borough is where they have roots and many don't have any memories of their native countries, because they left at such young ages.

"I'm basically stuck, because when I came into the U.S., I didn't enter through a point of entry, such as an airport," said Ms. Martinez.

She bristles at the term "illegal alien."

"We don't use the word 'illegal,' because no human being is illegal," she said.

"I didn't come here because I wanted to, I came because my parents wanted to provide me with a better life."

For information about the state and federal DREAM Acts, visit the web sites [Nysylc.org](#), [Dreamactivist.org](#) and [Nydreamact.org](#).

Alumni

Chef Carol Frazzetta: 40 years sharing stove-top secrets

Wednesday, October 05, 2011, 9:57 AM



Marjorie Hack
By

LOCAL FLAVOR

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - **NORTH SHORE** -

Like most people, chef and cooking instructor **Carol Frazzetta** was not born with a silver spoon in her mouth. As a child of a homemaker and a stone-cutter from Sicily, she remembers eating mushy vegetables that her mother cooked for an hour and a half before serving and pasta was a fact of life.

It wasn't that cooking wasn't important to her mother. "She'd open right to the Daily News on Sunday, to the colored Food section," recalled Ms. Frazzetta. But although she'd worked in a candy store starting when she was just 9 years old, her mother's primary goal as an adult was rooted in the practical: To "fill us up in good times and bad," said her daughter.



Chef Carol Frazzetta is marking 40 years as a cooking instructor on Staten Island; she incorporated as Carol's Cuisine Cooking School in 1972. (Staten Island Advance File Photo)

Ms. Frazzetta is marking 40 years as a cooking instructor on Staten Island. "I think my anniversary was Sept. 13, 1971," she admits, though she officially incorporated as Carol's Cuisine Cooking School in 1972.

She may tell you that her approach to food bears little resemblance to her mother's. "Mussels is my signature dish. My mother hated fish," for instance, she said.

But, ultimately, her goal is not that different. She's just driven to get novice cooks – and those in a time crunch – thinking beyond jarred red sauce and box-mix brownies when it comes to filling up their families.

A CALLING

Ms. Frazzetta moved with her husband and children (eventually, they had three) from Brooklyn to Grasmere 47 years ago. "I hated it here," she admitted. "The worst part was there were no stores. The closest (back then) was Finast, where CVS is now."

Ms. Frazzetta believes she was happy enough as a stay-at-home mom. "I loved being a mother and cooking for my family. I was very involved with my family," she said.

Still, self-described as "independent," she felt something was missing in her life.

Befriended by **Ann McAuliffe**, who taught her to sew, Ms. Frazzetta eventually made her way to the **College of Staten Island**, in search of direction. To pay her tuition, she decided to offer cooking classes in her home. The focus of her first class? A no-brainer: Sicilian pizza.

Rounding up students was tough, at first. "I begged parents at PS 48 (just blocks from her home on Scranton Street) to go to my school," she said. She charged \$8 per class and her recipes were written by hand.

The model was an instant hit. "By the end of nine months, I don't know what happened, but it was packed," she said.

She's keenly aware of her market. "My patron base is the middle-class. I got people in curlers; then, there was a group of gay men," she said.

After three years, she'd saved up enough money to enroll in culinary school.

OFF TO EUROPE

In 1979, she went to Paris – the first of three trips to that city – and learned about nouvelle cuisine. "I loved Paris. I had my first foie gras," she recalled.

She also studied in Bologna, with star chef **Marcella Hazan**, though Ms. Frazzetta said she learned far more from **James Beard** and **Julia Child** over the years. She also holds an advanced certificate from the Cordon Bleu in London and credentials from the Culinary Institute of America, among many others.

Realizing that there was no place for budding cooks to buy top-notch kitchenware on Staten Island in the 1970s, she started selling such from her home.

In 1983, she bought her current building in Dongan Hills at 1571 Richmond Rd., a former glass factory. Thanks to the start of sewer work at that location, which Ms. Frazzetta said nearly tanked her school, she

decided to ditch the retail and get into the restaurant business. She opened Carol's Cafe 19 years ago, on Dec. 3.

She said restaurants "are sometimes the cruelest environment in the world," but she has managed to weather the storms she's encountered over the years. In 2011, Zagat Restaurant Guide listed Carol's Cafe as the top restaurant in the borough, with a 26 rating for food. She said she's been a four-star establishment for 19 years.

The ratings have only spurred her on. She has just opened a pub next door, featuring inventive takes on foods like hot dogs, sliders, chilis and egg creams, among a host of other lower-cost fare.

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

In the meantime, she is still at the front of the class, wielding her pots and pans, her whisks and wooden spoons. She's taught developmentally challenged adults how to make macaroni and cheese, cookies and classic burgers. She's taught parent-child classes and recently, even did one for kids only – though enrollment was on the low side.

On Monday and Tuesday evenings, however, from 7 to 10:30 p.m., you'll find her in her kitchen on Richmond Road, walking adult students through any number of recipes and techniques – everything from making pizza and paella to turning out a memorable Thanksgiving feast.

She's kept her prices low, at \$65 per lesson (though she said she charges \$125 if she teaches in Manhattan), in keeping with her students' budgets.

Her personal favorite to teach is a six-lesson series titled "Techniques and Theory of Cooking." But she is also rolling out nine new one-shot classes this fall – among them "Black Tie Dinner for Couples," "Awesome Mexican Cooking" and "Cooking Under Pressure," the latter focusing on how to use an oft-overlooked piece of kitchen equipment, the pressure cooker, to turn out mouth-watering meals.

Ms. Frazzetta will also customize a special lesson for 10 to 18 people.

KEY MEMORIES

Last year, she cooked for **Mayor Michael Bloomberg** and guests at Gracie Mansion, making by hand 775 appetizers (chicken liver pate wrapped in bacon). Well-known food critic **Florence Fabricant** has called Ms. Frazzetta's French onion soup "the best I've ever tasted in my life."

She's made numerous television appearances, including one on the Bobby Flay Show where she focused on

Sicilian grilling.

But she said one of the most meaningful cooking-related experiences of her life happened not far from home – at PS 52 in Dongan Hills where she once served as Principal for A Day. "The kids had chef hats and opened Cafe 101," she said, smiling.

She's understandably proud of her achievements, which came on the later side of life and were of her own making. "I opened a restaurant when I was 57," she said. Now in her 70s, she's opening a second.

"I'm happy to say I'm on Staten Island. It's a privilege to share my recipes. Creating a new dish is like I just gave birth. I want them (customers) to say 'Wow!' "

But at the end of the day, when she's alone and making dinner for herself, she isn't whipping up shrimp in caramel sauce, one of the dishes she's served at Carol's Cafe; rather, it's a roasted sweet potato and a marinated pork chop with caramelized onions seared in a cast iron pan.

"You diet by cooking well and eating healthy. Everything is color," she said.

Far from humble, she believes she's innately a cut above, even though many view putting a meal on the table as nothing more than a chore. Ms. Frazzetta knows better. "I know I'm an artist. I only want to cook," she said.

For information about Ms. Frazzetta's cooking classes, call **718-979-5600**.

Reunion

Chef Carol Frazzetta will host a gathering of any student who's taken a cooking class with her over the years.

The particulars

The reunion will be Nov. 6, starting at 3 p.m. She needs an idea of who will attend. Please call **718-979-5600** or e-mail **carolscuisine@aol.com**. Please RSVP by Oct. 17.

'Jersey Shore' links: What was Vinny's GPA like during college? Plus other things about Vinny

Published: Thursday, October 13, 2011, 9:37 AM



NJ.com Staff
By

What do you think "Jersey Shore" star Vinny's college GPA was? 1.5? 2.3?

Try 3.9.

He graduated from CUNY [College of Staten Island](#) with a 3.9 GPA in three and a half years. Vinny shared this nugget and 24 others in an entry called, aptly enough, "**25 things you don't know about [Vinny]**."



MTV

Vinny, during his trip to Sicily. Did you know he writes poetry?

Some other interesting facts: He's fascinated by quantum physics, he has his **own blog** (complete with **poetry and all!**), and he has never had a girlfriend. Check out the list of **25 things you didn't know about Vinny**.

More "Jersey Shore" links:

- Speaking of Vinny, he is teaming up with Chas Bono, the stars of ABC's "Pretty Little Liars," Kristin Chenoweth, Amy Poehler, Tori Spelling and others to support Amplify Your Voice, a new anti-gay bullying campaign being launched by GLAAD. **[E! Online]**
- Maybe you already suspected this, but now it's official: New Jersey residents think "Jersey Shore" is bad for the state, according to a Quinnipiac University poll. **[Wall Street Journal]**
- Also from Quinnipiac, N.J. voters polled said they back Governor Chris Christie's veto of 'Jersey Shore'-related tax credit. **[NJ.com]**
- Just in time for Halloween! If you want to look like a "Jersey Shore" star, there's a wig out there that'll give you the greased up spiky hair look, just like DJ Pauly D's. **[Costumecraze.com]**

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October 20, 2011

Joanne S. Calcagno Honored for Excellence in Elementary Education and Writing

-- Joanne Calcagno's first novel, "Raaof," details issues often encountered by foreign students acclimating to American schools --

COLLEGE POINT, NY, October 20, 2011 /**Cambridge Who's Who**/ --
Joanne S. Calcagno, Writer and Retired Teacher, has been recognized by Cambridge Who's Who for showing dedication, leadership and excellence in elementary education and writing.

In March 2010, Ms. Calcagno retired from a rewarding 32-year teaching career. She spent a majority of her career as an elementary school teacher at P.S. 214, where she was able to utilize her expertise in teaching computer education and developing curriculum, as well as working with students on new programs. She taught all elementary grades except grades 3, 5 and 6. The most gratifying aspect of her career, she has previously noted, is seeing her students make progress, become inspired and, in turn, thank her for her work.

In addition to dedicating herself to teaching, Ms. Calcagno has achieved success as a talented writer. In 2007, her first book, "Raaof," was published. The book chronicles the adolescent adventures of a young boy who emigrates from Yemen to Queens, New York. It details issues often encountered by foreign students acclimating to American schools. Today, Ms. Calcagno is in the process of writing "Finally an Answer," which is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2011.

Ms. Calcagno's success has not gone without formal recognition. An honored VIP member of Cambridge Who's Who, she was named a Professional of the Year representing education for the 2008/2009 year. She was also featured in Cambridge Publishing's "Top 101 Industry Experts" book, and selected for inclusion in the Cambridge 2010 calendar series. Ms. Calcagno has been published in a number of teaching magazines in recognition of the creative classrooms that she created. She attributes her success to the support she received from her mother.

Ms. Calcagno received a master's degree in elementary education, plus 45, from Queens College in 1989. The extra credits were earned through various courses at Queens College, Bank Street College of Education, and the College of Staten Island. She is a member of various professional organizations, including the American Association of University Women. An authority in elementary education and curriculum development, Ms. Calcagno is available to speak with the media. She can be contacted at (718) 445-2450.

About Cambridge Who's Who

With over 400,000 members representing every major industry, Cambridge Who's Who is a powerful networking resource that enables professionals to outshine their competition, in part through effective branding and marketing. Cambridge Who's Who employs similar public relations techniques to those utilized by Fortune 500 companies and makes them cost-effective for members who seek to take advantage of its career enhancement and business advancement services. Cambridge is pleased to welcome its new Executive Director of Global Branding and Networking, Donald Trump Jr., who is eager to share his extensive experience in this arena with members.

Cambridge Who's Who membership provides individuals with a valuable third party endorsement of their accomplishments and gives them the tools needed to brand themselves and their businesses effectively. In addition to publishing biographies in print and electronic form, it offers an online networking platform where members can establish new professional relationships.

UFT endorses Donovan in Staten Island DA race

Saturday, October 22, 2011, 4:10 PM



Staten Island Advance
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - The United Federation of Teachers has endorsed District Attorney Daniel Donovan in his campaign for re-election.

UFT president Michael Mulgrew announced the endorsement.

"Donovan has worked closely with city schools to combat bullying and domestic violence, to educate students about the dangers of drugs and alcohol, and to prosecute criminals who prey on children," Mulgrew said.

"I am honored and humbled the UFT places its confidence in me. Nothing is more important than the safety and education of our children," Donovan said.

Mulgrew, a native Staten Islander who graduated from the College of Staten Island in Willowbrook, called Donovan a principled prosecutor who helps keep city schools, children and teachers safe.

"Teachers must be able to work in an environment without fear for their safety," said Donovan. He noted his promise when first taking office that he would not allow anyone who assaulted a teacher to plead to a lesser charge.

The UFT is the largest teachers' union in the country, with 200,000 members in the five boroughs.

Donovan, a Republican who has been in office for eight years, is seeking his third term. He also has the backing of the Independence Party.

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Advance photo

UFT President Michael Mulgrew (left) and Staten Island District Attorney Daniel Donovan

Krasniqi working for ESPN in Tampa

Wednesday, October 26, 2011, 9:00 AM



Michael Anderson
By



Photo Courtesy of Michael Blitch
Photography

Tom Krasniqi, right, and Ronnie Lane, left, co-host Prime Time on ESPN Radio in Tampa (1040 AM).

HUGUENOT -- October 3 may go down as one of the busiest pro sports day in Tampa's history and it's no surprise former Huguenot resident Tom Krasniqi was in the middle of it all.

On that day, the Tampa Bay Rays were home for Game 3 of the American League Division Series against the Texas Rangers in the afternoon while the Tampa Bay Buccaneers hosted the Indianapolis Colts in a Monday Night Football contest at night.

Krasniqi — who works as a sports-talk radio host for ESPN Radio in Tampa (1040

AM) — was busy during both games.

"It felt like a dream come true for any sports fan. We started by going on the air from a sports bar right outside Tropicana Field," said Krasniqi about the baseball contest in St. Petersburg. "The vibe was great. There were so many Rays fans. To be in the middle of all that atmosphere was great."

The 37-year-old said after signing off the air, he went inside to watch the game before leaving after six innings to head to Tampa to work the Buccaneers game at Raymond James Stadium.

"It was great. I was at two different venues with great fans. In the first game, there was Rays pride all over the place," Krasniqi said. "Then you go over and get to the parking lot at Raymond James and there's a new legion of fans out there. People are most passionate about the Buccaneers because football is king down here."

Although the atmosphere was electric, Krasniqi said it was only the second-best sports day he's experienced while in Tampa.

"When the Lightning won the Stanley Cup and being in that locker room for the celebration was just unbelievable," he said.

Although he relocated to Tampa in 2004, Krasniqi got his start in the radio business on Staten Island. A graduate of Tottenville HS and the College of Staten Island, he handled play-by-play and hosted sports-talk shows at WSIA (88.9 FM) from 1993-1997. After interning at WFAN (660 AM) in 1997, he was quickly hired as producer/tape operator for three years.

A year later, Krasniqi then started working for WFAS radio (103.9 FM) in White Plains, N.Y., in different capacities such as a sports reporter, anchor and sports talk show-host and was the play-by-play commentator for high school football and basketball in Westchester County from 1998-2003.

In 2003, Krasniqi returned to the Staten Island airwaves working at Time Warner Cable doing play-by-play for high school baseball, football and basketball, Wagner and College of Staten Island basketball and baseball and the Staten Island Yankees.

"I learned a long time ago that versatility is so important," said Krasniqi. "When I first got to Westchester radio, I wasn't on the air. I was producing and writing stories but little by little I got some on-air opportunities and I took advantage of it."

After his years at WFAS, Krasniqi worked at ESPN Radio in New York (1050 AM) for four months as the call screener/producer for the "Michael Kay Show." He moved to Tampa to take on the role as sports anchor/sports talk show host through Metro Networks for CBS Sports radio (1010 AM) for six years.

Krasniqi then jumped back into television doing sportscasting work for Bright House Sports Network for more than four years as a sports anchor, sports host and play-by-play commentator.

Currently, he is the sports anchor and co-host for the afternoon drive sports show "Prime Time" on ESPN Radio in Tampa Bay, covers Buccaneers' home games nationally for ESPN Radio, and is a fantasy football writer and weekly podcaster for www.fantistics.com.

"My long-term goal is to do TV. I feel I'm a natural for it. It's something I want to pursue more aggressively," said Krasniqi.

While the sportscaster doesn't carry a list of everyone he has interviewed, some of the more memorable people include New York Yankees owner Hank Steinbrenner and Yankee players Alex Rodriguez, Derek Jeter, Jorge Posada, Gary Sheffield (retired), Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers, Tampa Bay Lightning stars Vincent Lecavalier, Steven Stamkos and Martin St. Louis and former Miami Heat great Alonzo Mourning. Also, this past spring Krasniqi and some co-workers attended a charity bowling tournament hosted by Yankee ace CC Sabathia where the burly lefty served as their honorary captain so Krasniqi got

the chance to talk about “baseball and basically life in general.”

“Sometimes I have to pinch myself when I’m standing in the locker room and interviewing someone,” admitted Krasniqi. “I’m very happy with where I’m at. I worked extremely hard and persistence is the key to any business model. I’m blessed to be doing what I’m doing but I always feel like there’s more coming.”

Krasniqi — who is on the air Monday through Friday from 3 to 7 p.m. — can be heard by visiting www.espnflorida.com and clicking on the ESPN 1040 link.

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Patch Elections 2011: County Legislative District 11

Challenger Bob Milone and Incumbent Frank Sparaco

- By [Robin Traum](#) October 27, 2011

Patch has asked your candidates a set of questions. Check back each day for their answers. This week, we're looking at county candidates and next week we'll look at town candidates. Check out this [Patch Article](#) for the line up this week. Today's candidates are: Frank Sparaco and Bob Milone running in District 11 which covers eastern New City, all of Congers and northern Valley Cottage.

Party Lines:

Milone: Democrat

Sparaco: Republican, Conservative, Working Families, Independence

1. What community do you live in?

Milone: Congers

Sparaco: Valley Cottage

2. How long have you lived there?

Milone: Resident of Congers since 2000 but have lived in Clarkstown my entire life.

Sparaco: 33 years

3. How old are you?

Milone: I am 52 years old.

Sparaco: 34

4. Provide family information

Milone: Wife, Lauree, daughter, Maggie, son, Robert A.,

stepdaughter, Danielle Sablich, step-daughter, Gina Sablich

Sparaco: Married with two young daughters, five years old and eight months old

5. What is your education background?

Milone: Labor Certificate from Cornell University/Murphy Institute

Sparaco: Attended ASU and College of Staten Island United States Navy 1994-1998

6. Why do you think you are qualified for this position?

Milone: a. As a resident of Rockland for over 50 years, I know the local issues that our community is facing.

b. I have been active in our community so I understand what it takes to be an effective leader without having been an elected official.

c. I am a working class individual that has seen how union contract negotiations happen firsthand. In a time where government needs to do its job more efficiently, I can bring government union workers to the table to negotiate fair wages that are also fair to the taxpayers without hurting services.

Sparaco: I have served on the legislature since 2008. I am a combat veteran and a small business owner.

7. Why are you running for this elected office?

Milone: I am running for County Legislator because after years of being active in the political process, I wanted to help my community on a very local level. County Legislators represent small districts but can effect change throughout our community and help people at a grassroots level, which I feel I can help be that voice.

Sparaco: I care deeply about my community. I want my children to enjoy growing up in Rockland.

Tough decisions are going to have to be made in the upcoming year and I am committed to making those tough decisions.

8. What are the three issues that most concern you?

Milone: a. Economic Development for District 11 - Rockland County is facing a multi-million dollar deficit and many services have been proposed to be cut. The main priority of the legislature should be to encourage businesses to locate into Rockland County as a long term solution. Poor planning today will result in Rockland County facing deficits for years to come so we need to generate new revenue. As one of the highest taxed areas in the country, taxpayers should not have to carry this additional burden.

b. Public Benefit Corporation - The Rockland County Executive has proposed the sale of Summit Park Hospital to an entity called a Public Benefit Corporation. From my understanding, PBCs in other areas have not been successful. To try and solve our budget problems by selling our hospital will be a one time

fix that is shortsighted. Also, losing control of the Summit Park Hospital may result in job losses and/or reductions in services to our senior residents at a time when it is needed most.

c. County Sales Tax - District 11 is the only one that is wholly within the Town of Clarkstown. Clarkstown has advocated to get a larger percentage of the County Sales Tax because it has large businesses, such as the Palisades Mall, the soon to be redesigned Nanuet Mall, and many others. Since more sales tax generating businesses are located in Clarkstown, as a County Legislator I will advocate to make sure Clarkstown gets more of the revenue for hosting these businesses.

Sparaco: Taxes, Prioritizing spending and cuts, Pointing the County in the right fiscal direction.

9. Explain your proposed approach to managing these issues.

Milone: a. Economic Development for District 11 – The Rockland County Legislature needs to do an evaluation of the various properties that are available for businesses to move into and what purposes they are zoned for. The Rockland Economic Development Corporation works on getting larger corporations to move here and does a Small Business training for those who request it. If each Legislator has lists of properties that are awaiting businesses, the Legislators can act as ambassadors to encourage residents to create businesses in their community. We can also be part of discussions to get larger organizations into each of our districts.

b. Public Benefit Corporation – I plan on voting no on any proposal to sell Summit Park Hospital. An audit needs to be done to evaluate the financials for the hospital. After an audit, we need to evaluate the services and look at creating efficiencies. There is a growing senior population in Rockland and there is a definite need for this type of facility.

c. County Sales Tax – I plan on talking with my colleagues to see if we can come up with a fairer formula for distributing the county sales tax. We need to look at where the revenue is being created and reward communities that are contributing to the county sales tax through attracting businesses to our area.

Sparaco: Prioritizing spending, Eliminating duplicate services, Significant cuts to County Services, Eliminating political patronage jobs.

10. Have you held elected office before?

Milone: I have not held elected office before.

Sparaco: Rockland County Legislator 2008-present

11. What organizations do you belong to?

Milone:

- *Secretary-Treasurer for Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 1107*
- *Member of the Steering Committee of the Rockland County Working Families Party, Member of the Clarkstown Democratic Committee (District 42)*
- *Political Coordinator of CWA 1107 - New City*
- *Congers Civic Association, Valley Cottage Civic Association, Rockland County Central Labor Council*

Sparaco:

- *Valley Cottage Civic Association, Congers Civic Association, Nanuet Civic Association*
- *Board Member BBBS*

12. Election website?

Milone: www.miloneforlegislator.com

Sparaco: www.franksparaco.com