

# CSI in the News



**April 2012**

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# ***Arts***

## Arthur Levine talks about his life in art



A plane that flies through spacePhoto credit: Arthur Levine

### Related topics:

**Arthur Levine talked about his life and art**

As an art student there are two ways to learn - by doing and by listening. Arthur Levine spoke at The [College of Staten Island](#) about everything: his love of art, Europe, his wife, his groundbreaking print that was bought by The Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) when he was only 19 years old. Today, the 82 year-old artist and retired Professor at The [College of Staten Island](#), formerly called Richmond College, spoke about his life in art. He was charismatic, charming, articulate, and doing what he does so well - teaching.

Arthur Levine Paintings and Drawings is on view at The [College of Staten Island](#) until the end of this month.

The artist, a painter for 50-plus years now, showed paintings of ships, planes and castles, sea, sky and earth that were modern and alive with acrylic color. His drawings, particularly a dramatic aerial view of Florence, were drawn with the precision only a life-long printmaker could execute.

Levine is represented in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, The Art Institute of Chicago and Walker Art Center.

At the Question and Answer period directly following the formal slide presentation, Arthur Levine opened up about his life and exhibition. He also offered some trade secrets.

Arthur Levine began his career in painting as a cubist painter that was influenced by European painters. He says that one of his first mature paintings began with a photograph. It is a popular opinion that painters should paint from life, instead Levine prefers to draw from nature and paint from photographs. Perhaps this is what gives his paintings such a mature and fully realized historical accuracy. Accuracy is very important to Levine's art. Levine began his career by learning the craft of drawing and printmaking. Unlike painters today who often paint using oil paint, Levine likes fast-drying paints like lapin and acrylic.



**Elena Hart-Cohen,**  
Staten Island Arts  
Examiner

Elena Hart Cohen is an art student at Wagner College in Staten Island, New York. She has written about fashion for The Daily News Record, a trade journal. She has written about lifestyle for The Staten Island Advance newspaper. Elena loves enjoying the arts in her free time.

Levine fell in love with fast-drying acrylic paint because a student was using acrylic at Richmond College. "Acrylic paint has a quality of light, a mixture of cool and warm. I didn't realize what it could do."

### **Artistic themes derived from war and European travel**

Some themes apparent in Levine's work includes a painting he did five years ago of the ship that started the Falklands War, The Mayflower. "I start from photos, sketch them, and then once I start painting I rarely look at the photographs," adds Levine. Other themes include a World War II convoy, pirate ships, empty movie houses, and Fort McHenry, which was painted only 15 years ago. A favorite painting of Levine's is a medieval castle and an English Church, painted only two years ago.

**College of Staten Island (CSI):** Why were there so many paintings of war?

**Arthur Levine:** I am fascinated by growing up during the war in high school. The war ended when I went off to college."

**CSI:** When did you begin to do your art?

**Levine:** I have been drawing since I was four years old.

**CSI:** How did you learn to paint?

**Levine:** I have been expressionistically painting. My education was theoretical and was influenced by art history. My emphasis was on modern art. That is how I learned to paint.

**CSI:** How did European travel influence your paintings?

**Levine:** I went to Europe in 1950. Every summer I traveled and it strengthened my idea of history. I went to Paris and saw the rooftops of Paris and I said no wonder Picasso invented cubism.

**CSI:** Why is there so much darkness in your paintings?

**Levine:** I was not painting early enough. My specialty was printmaking. It strengthened me to see things in black and white. I drew what excited me. I did not draw to look like photographs, more like imagining real things, things that move me. At first acrylics are dull and flat. In the process of getting to that density, this is the way things move in different ways. It's a visual thing. Movement hopes to be balanced by something else.



**CSI:** How much do you paint?

**Levine:** I work at a lot of things at once. I work on 25 things at once.

**CSI:** How did you render Florence so effectively in your drawing of the city?

**Levine:** The paper is important. I use a soft pencil that is sharpened to a point. I draw the space around the structure to create volume before drawing the structure. There is a softness in relaxing the space. The structure takes care of itself.

I would strongly recommend spending an afternoon with the artist Arthur Levine. He shed a lot of light on the intricacy and enjoyment of painting and drawing. I learned a lot from this inspiring and articulate man.



04/26/2012 10:33 PM

## College Of Staten Island Students Show Off Their Talents

By: Aaron Dickens



**NY1 VIDEO:** Hundreds of students from the [College of Staten Island](#) showed their talents at an annual conference held at the university.

## HCHS Choir headed to The Big Apple

Friday, April 27, 2012 2:56 PM CDT

HARLAN -- Harlan Community vocal students are heading to The Big Apple this weekend for a round of choral competition as well as sightseeing and other musical offerings.

Three choral groups -- the HCHS Concert Choir, 9th Grade Treble Clef Choir and Eclectics group will perform Saturday, April 28 at the College of Staten Island in New Jersey.

The groups will compete against other vocal groups from the U.S. HCHS Vocal Instructor Heidi Schwery said it's a great event with outstanding competition.

"Four years ago, the Concert Choir earned first place in their division and Eclectics placed second in their division," said Schwery. "The competition is broad as we are competing against choirs from across the country and even Canada.

"My choirs have been nothing but dedicated and hard-working this year. We have a lot of natural talent and ability in each ensemble, and that talent combined with superb work ethic should equal success for us."

### Second NYC trip

A group of 92 students and 37 adults are going on the trip, which is the second under Schwery's reign. The purpose of the trip is to provide the students with an opportunity to travel to a destination like New York City that has so much to see and do, but also offers a number of educational and musical experiences for the kids.

Students have been fundraising for four years through the Vocally Interested Parents group, with such items as Butterbraid sales, raffles and participation in the Soup and Song Supper.

The trip costs roughly \$1,300 per student.

"When you look at the itinerary and realize just how much we will see and experience, you get a sense of just how affordable the trip really is," said Schwery.

Besides the competition, the students will be treated to everything from a Broadway show and visit to the new World Trade Center Memorial to a tour of NBC Studios and a cruise of New York Harbor.



*It'll be the first time on a plane for these four freshman girls, who are excited for the trip to New York City this weekend, holding plane tickets and sheet music -- L to R -- Liz Schechinger, Shelby Gundy, Hailey Andersen and Danielle Wingert. (Photo by Bob Bjoin)*

“New York City really is the melting pot of America, and students will have experiences and see sights that they will remember the rest of their lives,” said Schwery. “I particularly enjoy seeing the excitement and awe from those students who’ve never been on a plane before or been out of Iowa or Nebraska before.”

### Sightseeing

The high school choir first traveled to NYC in 2008, and this year’s group again will be coordinated through Academic Travel Services. With a group of nearly 130 people traveling together, organization and details are key, and Schwery said this travel group has been very reliable.

The group will head out early Thursday morning, April 26 and return late in the evening Sunday, April 29.

Sightseeing opportunities will include:

- n Broadway shows Phantom of the Opera, The Lion King or Wicked.

- n A visit to the World Trade Center Memorial.

- n Admission to the Top of the Rock observatory.

- n A tour of NBC Studios, including the set of Saturday Night Live.

- n Narrated cruise of New York Harbor, including The Statue of Liberty, Brooklyn Bridge, UN Building, Battery Park and Ellis Island.

- n An introductory tour of Manhattan, including Times Square, Central Park, Harlem, Chinatown, Greenwich Village and Wall Street.

- n Landmarks such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Radio City Music Hall, Grand Central Terminal, the Apollo Theater and Rockefeller Center.

- n Shopping on 5th Avenue and in Times Square.

“Students will be tired at the conclusion of our trip as the itinerary is packed with activities to do and sights to see that will give the students a well-rounded snapshot of the city and its offerings,” said Schwery.

# ***Faculty & Staff***

## ON THE JOB

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### DAN MCCLOSKEY

College of Staten Island

Dan McCloskey was recently awarded an \$800,000 National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development grant for his proposed work on animal social behavior. The NSF CAREER grant is the foundation's most prestigious award in support of junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent education, and the integration of education and research within the context of the mission of their organizations. McCloskey is an assistant professor of psychology at the College of Staten Island, a senior college of The City University of New York.

McCloskey's proposal focuses on creating a research environment that utilizes computational tools for the collection and analysis of data in two complex systems: animal social behavior and hippocampal neuron activity. Both approaches involve studying the naked mole rat, and the grant will help fund the participation of two graduate students and up to four undergraduates on the projects.

## Rep. Turner backs Staten Island's Borelli in Assembly race

Tuesday, April 03, 2012, 5:02 PM



**Tom Wroblewski**  
By

GOP Rep. Bob Turner has endorsed Joseph Borelli's bid for the South Shore Assembly seat.

"Joe's commitment to public service and his community make him a natural choice to serve the people of Staten Island as their assemblyman," Turner said at a City Hall press conference.

Turner, who is running to unseat U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.), said Borelli "has a fresh approach to leadership that we need more of in Albany. He will be a true fighter for New York City's interests and I'm proud to endorse him."



[View full size](#)

Councilman Vin Ignizio, left, South Shore Assembly candidate Joe Borelli, Rep. Bob Turner and Councilman James Oddo gather for Turner's endorsement of Borelli.

Borelli is looking to replace GOP Assemblyman Lou Tobacco, who is not seeking re-election this year and who recently took a job with Staten Island University Hospital.

"I'm enormously grateful to Congressman Turner for his endorsement of my candidacy," said Borelli, chief of staff to City Councilman Vincent Ignizio (R-South Shore). "Bob went to Washington to shake things up and make a difference and I will take that same approach in the Albany."

It was the latest in a string of endorsements for Borelli. He has been backed by Ignizio, Rep. Michael Grimm (R-Staten Island/Brooklyn), Borough President James P. Molinaro, Councilman James Oddo (R-Mid-Island/Brooklyn) and Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis (R-East Shore/Brooklyn).

Said Borelli, "I have spent my career working on behalf of the people of Staten Island and I look forward to continuing that fight as their representative in the Assembly."

A Huguenot resident, Borelli also serves on the city Voter Assistance Advisory Committee and is an adjunct professor of political science at the College of Staten Island.

Republicans will hold a county convention later this month to make endorsements for the fall campaigns, including the Assembly race.

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## Jury selection begins this week in trial of 1 of 5 accused in beating death of Old Bridge man

Apr. 6, 2012

**MIDDLESEX COUNTY** — Alka Sinha said her life, and the life of her family, has been turned “upside down” since her husband was fatally beaten by a group of five teenagers as the family took an evening stroll near their Old Bridge home nearly two years ago.

Jury selection will begin on Tuesday in Superior Court, New Brunswick, in the trial of one of those defendants, Steven K. Contreras, charged with murdering Divyendu Sinha, a 49-year-old computer scientist whose two sons, ages 16 and 12 at the time, also were assaulted.

Contreras, who will turn 19 on April 21, is being tried separately because of statements he made to authorities during the investigation that implicated the other four defendants, who are scheduled to stand trial for murder on July 10.

Prosecutors said Sinha was walking outside his home on Fela Drive, near Route 9, on June 25, 2010, when the group of Old Bridge High School students pulled up in a car and beat him and his sons. Alka was not harmed in the incident, but Sinha died three days later from a head injury suffered during the assault. Authorities said no weapons were used.

“He was a wonderful person to his family, to friends — a wonderful father and actually a mentor to our kids,” Alka said on Friday. “We used to do things together as a family. We used to wait for him come back from work and do different things, whether it was general discussion on current affairs or going to see something with the children. Those things are not there anymore.

“You cannot imagine how it has affected our children.”

The five defendants also are charged with assaulting Anthony Martino, 18, of Old Bridge, a motorist who was attacked minutes before the assault on Sinha and his sons.

The other four defendants in the case are Cash Q. Johnson, 18, Christian M. Tinli, 19, Christopher Conway, 18, and Julian C. Daley, 17. All defendants are residents of Old Bridge and were either 16 or 17 at the time of the assault.

Prosecutors severed Contreras’ trial from the other four defendants because, during the trial, his statements might contain information about the other -defendants who then would have a right to call Contreras as a witness to contradict the statements or cross-examine him. That would be in direct conflict with Contreras’ Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination.

Contreras’ lawyer, Hassen Abdellah, could not immediately be reached for comment.

An earlier Family Court decision allowed the five defendants to be tried as adults, and each faces 30 years to life if convicted of murder.

“I want justice,” Alka said. “We live in a society where we have a justice system that works. I believe in our justice system and I’m looking forward to getting justice. We have gotten a lot of support from all around — in that way I’m blessed. I’m just looking forward to having the similar kind of support for the upcoming days.”

Nikhil Muzumdar said his family was very close with the Sinhas, whose children, he said, were about the same age as his. The families vacationed together.

“We’re close family friends, and this was a real loss for us,” Muzumdar said. “He was a real kind and very caring man, and he always wanted to help others in everything that he did. He helped his students — they have a lot of good things to say about him and have shown a lot of support to Mrs. Sinha.”

Alka said her husband had started teaching computer science at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken and also taught at the College of Staten Island in the City University of New York (CUNY). Divyendu, who was raised in Patna, India, according to [www.divyendusinha.com](http://www.divyendusinha.com), held doctorates in philosophy and computer science.

Authorities said the 11-count grand jury indictment was handed up following an investigation that revealed no evidence that the attack on Martino, the attack on Sinha and his family, or the subsequent plan to assault another victim, was motivated by the victims’ race, color, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin or ethnicity, as required by New Jersey’s Bias Intimidation Law.

In addition to murder, the grand jury charged the five defendants with various counts of aggravated assault and conspiracy to commit aggravated assault. Additionally, the grand jury accused the defendants of riot and a related count of conspiracy, contending they acted as a group to commit crimes.

The five also were charged with two counts of hindering for trying to protect themselves and each other from prosecution by concealing evidence or misrepresenting facts about the attacks.

Along with the assault charges, the grand jury also charged the defendants with criminal mischief for damaging the car that was being driven by Martino.

Judge Bradley J. Ferencz will preside over Contreras’ trial.

“What happened was a real tragedy and I wouldn’t wish it to happen to even our worst enemy,” Muzumdar said. “It really completely destroyed a lot of things here in our day-to-day lives and we miss him a lot.”

Aslo posted on: [Indiawest.com](http://Indiawest.com)

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Language Development



### Language Development

Patricia Brooks ([College of Staten Island](#), City University of New York, USA), [Vera Kempe](#) (University of Abertay, Dundee, UK)

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From the first moment of life, language development occurs in the context of social activities. This book emphasises how language development interacts with social and cognitive development, and shows how these abilities work together to turn children into sophisticated language users—a process that continues well beyond the early years. Covering the breadth of contemporary research on language development, Brooks and Kempe illustrate the methodological variety and multi-disciplinary character of the field, presenting recent findings with reference to major theoretical discussions. Through their clear and accessible style, readers are given an authentic flavour of the complexities of language development research.

With such research advancing at a rapid pace, *Language Development* uncovers new insights into a variety of areas such as the neurophysiological underpinnings of language, the language processing capabilities of newborns, and the role of genes in regulating this amazing human ability.

## Port Authority reforms leave critics skeptical

NEW YORK — At the end of the Port Authority's March meeting, after passing reforms about how public information is shared and trimming nonunion worker compensation and benefits, vice chairman Scott Rechler proclaimed "the days of doing business as usual at the Port Authority are over."

How far future reforms need to go at the [Port Authority of New York and New Jersey](#) is likely to be the topic of a bistate legislative hearing scheduled for April 20 in Staten Island. But some activists and watchdog groups who have dealt with the agency said the days of business as usual aren't over at an authority with a reputation of not being very open with the public.

Critics say the agency's insular culture, disregard of public comment and foot-dragging in honoring requests for public information have resulted in its fiscal and image problems, illustrated by the ongoing redevelopment of the World Trade Center site that has run at least an estimated \$7.7 billion over costs estimated in 2006, according to an [audit by Navigant Consulting](#).

A sweeping policy that includes a one-year trial program of providing free public information, without charging for research or copying, as in the past, and releasing 22,000 pages of documents requested by people under prior Freedom of Information requests, is part of a new transparency program approved by the Port Authority Board on March 29.

Port Authority officials defend the effort, calling it unprecedented in the region and said more reforms are coming in what they call a continuing process.

But among those who have waited for years, seen their requests ignored or been asked to pay thousands of dollars for public information, there is understandable skepticism about reform.

"It's just window dressing. It's not real transparency. It's smoke and mirrors," said Richard Hughes, co-founder of the New York based Twin Towers Alliance.

It took the alliance two years and four Freedom of Information requests to obtain lease contracts for the new towers rising at the World Trade Center site. The information was suddenly released to the alliance after a judge allowed the alliance to join a lawsuit as a "friend of the court" that was filed by AAA to overturn the Sept. 2011 toll hikes.

Had the authority been more open in its decision making and debate, Hughes and alliance co-founder Margaret Donovan contend a pair of environmentally friendly towers would have been built, billions of dollars saved and the most recent toll increases would have been avoided.

"Transparency is the key. If there had been transparency after 9/11, the Port Authority would not be in this fix," Hughes said. "Nothing matters except opening up those meetings and those deliberations."

The alliance has filed dozens of Freedom of Information requests to obtain contracts related to the WTC redevelopment and how the lease of the site with developer Larry Silverstein changed, Hughes and

Donovan said.

“For reasons we don’t understand and have not been explained to us, he was let out of it,” Hughes said of the lease.

The Twin Towers Alliance, which has served as an ad hoc citizens’ watchdog group over the authority since 2005 and sought redevelopment of a set of modern signature twin towers on the site. Despite the reforms, the public still won’t know what’s going on if the board continues to conduct most of its deliberations and debate behind closed doors in executive session, the alliance founders said.

Typically, the reasons invoked by the Port Authority board for discussing topics in executive session are “discussion of contract and lease matters, and matters which could affect the competitive economic position of the Port Authority, the Port District or businesses with which we deal.”

Hughes and Donovan contend that executive session language has become the boiler-plate reason given for denying public access and that too many decisions are discussed and made in executive session.

Donovan, who along with Hughes attends and speaks at almost every authority board meeting, said public comments made at board meetings never become part of the public record. While their attendance is recorded in the minutes, their comments are not. “Transparency means answering questions. (Their) Freedom of Information (policy) doesn’t go far enough. Why can’t the public ask a question and get an answer?” Donovan said.

Port Authority officials said that in addition to providing web feeds of meetings and subcommittee meetings, with public comment, posting employees salaries and 22,000 documents on line, including contracts, board presentations, they also make available information requested under the agency’s Freedom of Information policy and toll hearing transcripts.

“This is believed to be one of the largest, voluntary online posting of government documents in the history of public entities in the region,” said spokesman Ron Marsico. “We have said the reforms are an ongoing process and that we will continue to make efforts to improve transparency.”

Other people who have requested information from the Port Authority have been told that it was available, but for a four-digit price, in some cases. In other cases, they contend the information they received wasn’t what they asked for.

In the case of the Eastern Environmental Law Center, which was trying to gauge the effectiveness of a \$35 million Port Authority and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency program to replace older “drayage” trucks, which haul shipping containers short distances to and from the port, the price tag for public information was \$3,000.

“As far as public record requests, the Port Authority is the most difficult (agency) to deal with,” said William Schulte, a senior attorney with the Newark based EELC, who has also sought records from the state and federal environmental agencies and the state transportation department. “We never did pay the \$3,000. We’re a small nonprofit. We don’t have \$3,000 laying around.”

The EELC, working with the Teamsters and the [Coalition for Healthy Ports](#), were looking for public records to independently assess where the money had gone and what had been accomplished.

"We were looking for the number of applications for grants and the number of trucks replaced," Schulte said. "There was a lot of back and forth. They never met a single deadline."

Ultimately, the authority did provide some of the documents without charge in four of the nine to 10 categories they requested, including some press releases and website links, which Schulte said was already-available information they didn't need.

What was missing was the most up-to-date information on the program's effectiveness, Schulte said. When the Coalition for Healthy Ports put out a news release saying it concluded few trucks were bought through the loan program, the Port Authority countered with a release that said they used outdated information, Schulte said.

"They didn't provide the newest information," he said.

As of April 13, the Truck Replacement Program has taken "209 old, dirty drayage trucks" off the road, replacing them with "newer, cleaner more fuel-efficient trucks" that are committed to serve the port for the next five years, Marsico said. The old trucks are scrapped and so far, a total of 116 loans have been issued, totaling \$4.1 million, with no loan defaults and two paid in full.

"The Port Authority has funds remaining in this program to extend further loans and is actively seeking to replace more of the older, dirtier trucks at our port facilities," Marsico said. "The Truck Replacement Program is ongoing and has been successful."

The Port Authority wanted to charge Jon Peters \$4,000 for E-ZPass data he was seeking to analyze traffic volumes on the authority's bridges. Peters, a finance professor at the College of Staten Island, whose expertise is toll authority financing, said he is still waiting for the 2009 data here requested.

Port Authority officials told him it would require extensive computer programming to sort the E-ZPass by ZIP code, which would cost \$4,000. Peters replied he'd be happy to take the raw data and do the sorting himself.

"Trying to get data is slow and expensive. They charged me \$4,000 and after two years, I didn't have the data," Peters said. "When they released the data, they had changed what I asked for. They only gave me Port Authority E-ZPass transactions. I wanted transaction for all E-Z Passes."

Peters said he understands the need to limit access to sensitive, security data, but he characterized what he sought as "boring and noncontroversial."

"They unilaterally decided not to release it. They can redact information. ... There is no way to get a comprehensive picture of what's going on," Peters said. "Transport of London released more information. I can tell you more about their traffic volume than I can about volume on bridges to New York."

Peters suggested the authority could improve transparency by establishing a repository library at a college or university for the information or put it online for the public.

Public officials don't fare much better. New Jersey Assembly Transportation Committee Chairman John Wisniewski, who also chairs the state Democratic Committee, said he has four Open Public Records

Requests for information pending with the Port Authority since 2010. It was this experience that prompted Wisniewski and Assemblywoman Valerie Huttie, D-Bergen, to seek and get power to subpoena Port Authority records.

“Assemblyman Wisniewski’s pending requests will be reviewed in prompt recently revised FOIA policy, which seeks to make more information available with the goal of increasing the agency’s transparency, Marsico said.

Responding to an inquiry made by the Twin Towers Alliance last year, Robert J. Freeman, executive director of the New York State Committee on Open Government said that the Port Authority, as a bi-state agency, isn’t obligated to comply with the New York Freedom of Information Law.

“It’s unacceptable that the agency sets its own standards on Freedom of Information requests. An agency policing itself is a dangerous thing,” Peters said.

Marsico maintains that the Port Authority has taken significant steps to “increase the agency’s transparency and meet the spirit of state and federal open meetings laws.” That effort is ongoing, he said.

Bills being considered in New Jersey and New York would require the agency to overhaul how it handles requests for public information and adopt the open public records standards process used by either state.

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo have had a united front demanding an audit of the agency and reforms in exchange for signing off on a reduced toll and fare hike package last August.

State legislators, notably Wisniewski and Huttie in New Jersey and state Sens. Andrew Lanza and Charles J. Fuschillo Jr. in New York, have pressed for reforms and proposed legislation that would require passage in both states. Facilities owned by the Port Authority

The Port Authority’s assets have grown far beyond the ports. ( [www.panynj.gov/about/facilities-services.html](http://www.panynj.gov/about/facilities-services.html) )

8: Real estate holdings (World Trade Center, Newark Legal Center, Teleport, Essex County Recovery Center, Industrial Park at Elizabeth, The South Waterfront, Queens West Waterfront, Bathgate Industrial Park)

6: Marine facilities (Port Newark, Elizabeth Port Authority Marine Terminal, Howland Hook Marine Terminal, Auto Marine Terminal, Asi Marine Terminal, Brooklyn Marine Terminal)

5: Port Authority airports (JFK, Newark, LaGuardia, Teterboro, Stewart)

4: Bridges (George Washington, Bayonne, Goethals, Outerbridge)

2: Tunnels (Holland and Lincoln)

2: Bus Terminals (Port Authority and George Washington Bridge)

1: Rapid transit system (PATH)

Source: Port Authority facilities and services

## More Port Authority toll hikes likely?

**NEW YORK** — If the recent toll and PATH fare increases were a kick in commuters' wallets, brace yourselves. Experts predict more increases are likely to come, fueled by the massive debt run up by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey over the past 10 years.

The foreshadowing of toll increases to come and predicted future borrowing problems are contained in the first of two reports by Navigant Consulting Inc. and are the basis for what one expert called a "scary" financial picture of the years to come at the bi-state agency, which once was used as the model for authorities across the country.

"The scariest part is the debt that's outlined in the [Navigant report](#), from \$9.1 billion in 2001 to \$19.5 billion at the end of 2011," said Jonathan Peters, finance professor at the [College of Staten Island](#), who studies toll authority financing. "The other is that they're doing work at the World Trade Center site for other outside groups. That's hundreds of millions of dollars, and they have to recover that money." Authority officials said they're not planning to increase tolls and fares beyond the package approved in August 2011.

"That action included approved increases for tolls that are scheduled to take effect in December each year through 2015 and through 2014 for PATH," said Ron Marsico, authority spokesman. The Navigant report warns that future cash flow from operations will not be enough to cover the authority's ongoing capital projects. Peters said he's concerned about the growing gap between the authority's cash flow and the amount of borrowed money that is funding the capital plan.

"When do the capital markets say, 'Enough. We won't lend you more money?' " Peters asked. Marsico said the agency's rating range from Aa2 from Moody's Investors Services to a AA- rating from Standard and Poor's and Fitch Ratings. Moody's has put a "negative outlook" on the Port Authority, while Standard and Poor's and Fitch have listed the agency as "stable," he said in an email.

Authorities are not allowed by their bond covenants with lenders and investors "to run in the red," meaning that tolls, fares and fees will have to be automatically increased to maintain those payments, to avoid default.

Peters said this means commuters and users of authority facilities "absolutely" will be hit with more toll, fare and other fee increases, beyond the next round scheduled to take effect in 2014.

"The biggest question is: Can they turn it around?" he said of the 91-year-old agency.

Possibly the biggest factor will be when the World Trade Center complex goes from being a cost liability to a money maker, Peters said. Until the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the World Trade Center was among the authority's top money makers, along with bridges, tunnels and terminals and the three metropolitan area airports.

"At what time do they finish (WTC redevelopment) and return to their core missions of transportation,



port commerce and infrastructure? They (those core missions) are waiting for their attention,” Peters said. “My question is: How long before (WTC) costs go off their books? If they take on (more) debt and WTC never takes off on revenues, it’s never off the books.”

Authority officials contend that revenue will return.

“The commercial assets of the WTC site will begin producing substantial cash flow to the PA starting in 2014/2015, when the site is complete and tenants start taking occupancy, though we are currently receiving ground rent from SPI on its land leases,” Marsico said.

The Navigant report is skeptical, mentioning “rent deferrals and rent-free periods” extended by the authority. It also says the agency should freeze the WTC design unless it produces cost reductions and efficiencies.

Marsico said the Port Authority “provided no special discounts or incentives to attract potential 1 WTC tenants and maintained “an arms-length distance” on negotiations on the commercial market terms.

“We brought in Durst (Corporation) to help market the skyscraper and attract tenants,” he said. “While some may argue that Conde Nast received a better square-footage rate as the anchor tenant, such arrangements are not uncommon in commercial real estate deals.”

What should happen to the Port Authority in the future also is a topic for debate. Experts and advocates agree that it has to return to its core function as a bi-state transportation agency and some said it should shed unrelated functions such as real estate and development holding that lose money.

Some of that may be happening now, as the Port Authority “is strategically reviewing options for disposition or repositioning of these non-core assets,” Marsico said. Those include real estate holdings such as the Teleport, an industrial/office park in Staten Island, the Newark Law Center and the Essex County Resource Recovery Center.

“Last month, the Board of Commissioners voted to reduce the authority’s involvement in the Essex County Resource Recovery Facility,” he said. “Other facilities, such as the Newark Legal Center and the Teleport in Staten Island, are now being examined to ensure that the Port Authority is getting the maximum value while maintaining our transportation core mission.”

Critics contend some of the decisions to invest in those properties were driven by political influence on the authority, which contradicts the reason why the agency was formed in 1921 — to insulate it from patronage.

But the World Trade Center redevelopment also has suffered from similar projects deemed either as either unrelated or oversized. Peters said the outside government and entities should pay for the “add ons” they’ve demanded, instead of the Port Authority. The Navigant report identified \$1.57 billion in additional costs at the WTC attributed to “add-ons” projects being built by the authority on behalf of other agencies.

“A performing arts center (as part of the WTC redevelopment) shocks me. Doing work for other people’s entities, no matter how beneficial they are, is problematic,” Peters said. “The transportation hub, the performing arts center, where are the revenue centers (for them)? They have to think about what are

sources of funding and what are reasonable expenses.”

Peters pointed out that the almost \$1.6 billion in additional trade center costs could have financed critical infrastructure projects such as the replacement of the Goethals Bridge or raising the Bayonne Bridge to allow larger “Panamax”-size container ships to sail under it to Port Newark and Port Elizabeth. “That \$1.6 billion (WTC) overrun is more than the \$1 billion replacement cost of Goethals Bridge,” Peters said.

So far, the authority has received \$40 million from Battery Park City Authority, \$2 million from Lower Manhattan Development Council, \$100 million from Durst Corporation for a minority equity interest in Tower 1 Joint venture LLC and a \$2.6 billion federal grant for the WTC Transportation Hub, Marsico said.

Discussions are ongoing to seek reimbursement from the National September 11 Memorial and Museum, the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, the MTA and Westfield America in connection with a WTC Retail joint venture, he said.

“There inevitably will be some uncollectable funds, either because of a dispute on what is owed or because a firm can no longer afford to pay. But we will attempt to recoup every dollar possible,” he said.

## Turmoil roiling the waters at the College of Staten Island

Monday, April 16, 2012, 6:00 AM



**Tom Wroblewski**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The Faculty Senate at the College of Staten Island is preparing to vote a second time on a resolution of no-confidence aimed at CSI president Dr. Tomas Morales and provost Dr. William Fritz.

But the unrest looks to have actually strengthened Dr. Morales' hand with Matthew Goldstein, chancellor of the City University of New York (CUNY).



Staten Island Advance photos

On Thursday, the CSI Faculty Senate will vote on a second "no-confidence" resolution aimed at CSI president Dr. Tomas Morales and provost Dr. William Fritz.

The resolution, a copy of which was obtained by the Advance, charges that Drs. Morales and Fritz "have repeatedly failed to follow the spirit of shared governance."

A faculty source familiar with the situation said that CUNY's controversial "Pathways to Degree Completion" initiative, a general education overhaul and standardization program, is the crux of the discontent.

Pathways looks to make it easier to transfer credits between CUNY schools by creating a "common core" of courses that all students would be required to take.

Among other changes, Pathways has led to a reduction in the number of hours taught in some general education courses.

"The faculty has a lot of bread and butter in that game," the source said.

Critics have also hit Pathways as a one-size-fits-all program that doesn't take each CUNY college's unique course offerings into account. The Professional Staff Congress, which represents CUNY educational workers, has sued to stop Pathways.

The no-confidence resolution said Drs. Morales and Fritz failed to "provide responsible and effective leadership during the Pathways initiative."

Separately, there is discontent over how state budget cuts have resulted in decreased adjunct professor slots and increased class sizes.

The resolution also charges that Drs. Morales and Fritz failed to give substantive responses to the findings of a college governance committee that evaluated administrators; have not provided "acceptable reasons" for rejecting the elected choices of chairs for academic departments, and had interfered in departmental elections.

In a prepared statement, Dr. Morales said that his five-year tenure has "been marked by my commitment to improve the student experience through faculty engagement, administrative transparency and a dedication to shared governance."

He said he is "dedicated to improving the relationship between my office and the members of the Faculty Senate to ensure that their concerns are further addressed."

CSI said that Morales was out of town and unavailable to the Advance for an interview.

The no-confidence resolution was passed during a meeting on March 22, but the vote must be taken again because of a procedural snafu.

Thirty-one of the Faculty Senate's 54 members voted in favor of the resolution. CSI has roughly 1,400 faculty members, with 400 full-timers.

Professor Irving Robbins, a member of the Faculty Senate, said that the March 22 meeting was chaotic, with the no-confidence resolution brought up "literally at the last minute" under the heading of "new business."

'UNETHICAL'

"It was unethical," said Robbins, who supports Dr. Morales. "It should have been put on the agenda so it could be discussed properly. It was a disaster."

Robbins was one of 37 faculty members who later signed onto a letter sent to the Faculty Senate backing Dr. Morales and opposing how the vote on the resolution was conducted.

For many, the March 22 meeting was the first time they were told a no-confidence resolution was being circulated.

"It was a whole coup," Robbins said. "It was literally a sneak attack. The president got a raw deal."

The Faculty Senate is responsible for the principal academic policy decisions of the college, including admissions criteria, academic programs, degree requirements, and graduation requirements.

Recommendations from the Faculty Senate regarding educational matters are forwarded to the College Council for information and to the administration for action.

#### LARGELY SYMBOLIC

The Senate does not have the power to remove Dr. Morales, so some view the no-confidence resolution as largely symbolic.

Robbins and others told the Advance that under parliamentary procedure, Faculty Senate leaders needed a two-thirds vote of those present in order to put the resolution on the floor. But they miscounted, Robbins said, meaning that the subsequent vote on the resolution wasn't valid.

Faculty Senate leaders later realized the error and have slated the resolution for another vote on Thursday.

But even though the initial vote was nullified, it brought Goldstein strongly into the controversy on the side of Dr. Morales.

In a letter to the **CSI** president, Goldstein, the former head of the city Charter Revision Commission, said he was "appalled" to learn of the no-confidence vote.

He called the resolution "flawed and poorly argued" and said he was "amazed by the inaccuracies and highly skewed views that it proposes as reality."

"Not only do I strenuously disagree with those who voted affirmatively," Goldstein wrote, "but I am also amazed that a senate body that prides itself on process would stoop to an action that violates the most basic premise of collegial discourse."

Goldstein wrote that in his mind, the Faculty Senate "has diminished itself considerably by this action."

Addressing one of the resolution's charges, Goldstein wrote that Dr. Morales had approved 95 percent of **CSI** department chair elections, "a pretty good record, I would submit."

#### 'UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT'

Goldstein wrote that Dr. Morales has his "confidence and unconditional support," as well as the support of the voting members of the CUNY board.

"Morales' hand has been strengthened with all this drama," said the faculty source. "He's taking one for the team."

Robbins, who has been at CSI for 43 years and teaches astrophysics, math and engineering, said that Dr. Morales has been "extremely fair" when it came to sharing school governance with the faculty, including the implementation of Pathways.

"A very large group of faculty is happy with this president," he said. "As far as I'm concerned, he's the best president we ever had."

Dr. Jacqueline LeBlanc, a biology professor and chair of the Faculty Senate's executive committee, declined to discuss the no-confidence resolution.

"We have to make sure the process is followed correctly," she told the Advance in a telephone interview.

Until that happens, she said, "I feel I cannot discuss it."

Other members of the Faculty Senate executive committee did not return Advance phone calls seeking comment.

Also posted on: [topix.com](http://topix.com)

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## The search for the right college, near or far

Tuesday, April 17, 2012, 12:52 PM



**Elise G. McIntosh**  
By

Sure, Fiske, the Princeton Review and Barron's can give families sound, practical information about the schools to which high school juniors are thinking of applying.

But before making the final selection, a student should spend time on the college campus getting to know the place he or she might call home for the next four years, said Gina LaGuardia, vice president of content development and social media at The CollegeBound Network.

"College is more than class; it is where you sleep, eat, study and have fun eight months a year. How comfortable you are with those facets of a school can't be learned by looking at statistics," Ms. LaGuardia said, relating what an admissions advisor once had told her.



Staten Island Advance/ Irving Silverstein

When selecting a college, high school students should consider if they'd be happier at a scenic, quiet campus like that of St. John's University, Grymes Hill, or at one that is more urban.

According to Emmanuel Esperance Jr., director of recruitment and admissions at the [College of Staten Island](#), the first step in the college-selection process is for students to sit down with a family member or counselor and figure out what kind of school – small, large, rural, urban, etc. – might suit them best.

Especially if they are undecided about a major, it's important they zero in on schools that not only offer what they might like to study, but also flexibility in changing majors since, Esperance said, most incoming students don't have a clearly defined career path.

Esperance also said teens should consider how far they're willing to travel and what it'd really be like living in another part of the country for most of the year.

Sara Purcell, senior associate director in admissions at St. John's University, Grymes Hill, agreed, noting students should consider if "they feel a connection with that particular area." One student might hate to be

“out in the boondocks,” while a rural atmosphere might be exactly what another is seeking in a college experience.

Before visiting universities, Ms. Purcell said families should discuss their budget and check what scholarships are available.

Bob Herr, dean of admissions and financial aid at Wagner College, suggests rather than visiting during summer, families tour campuses when school is in session.

“This gives them the opportunity to see more students and sit in a class, if the college offers that option,” he explained.

Herr also said some schools allow prospective students to meet with a sports coach, have lunch with a current student or have a one-on-one meeting with an admissions officer.

Ms. Purcell noted that some schools even offer an overnight experience, while Esperance said touring students can get a sense of campus culture by dining at the cafeteria and picking up a student newspaper.

When touring a college, Ms. Purcell said students should try to envision themselves in that environment. Do they think they will fit in with the students and faculty?

She also recommends looking at the posting boards to see what kind of activities and clubs the students are involved in.

Since all tour guides have a “script” to follow, she said it’s important to go beyond the words being said and listen to how passionate the guide seems about the school.

Ms. LaGuardia suggested preparing a list of questions to ask tour guides such as “what they like and dislike about campus, and to describe a typical day.

“As you walk around campus to see the dorms, library, dining hall, student center, etc., ask for personal anecdotes about each place so you can get insight into what it’s really like to be a student at that school,” she added.

Herr said not to be shy about asking current students questions like “What’s the faculty interaction like?” or “What is the campus community like?”

Immediately after a visit, he recommends writing on a postcard from each school or in an e-mail your thoughts on each college to have for review at home, since “after five, six schools, they all start blending together.”



When you get home, Esperance suggests signing up for the college's e-newsletter and setting up Google alerts to receive up-to-date news – good and bad – on their top choices.

When visiting the schools' Web sites, Esperance said not only to check the "admissions" page, but also the "current alumni" section, where you can see what students really are getting up to and which services are available to them.

Finally, if you met with a tour guide or admissions officer, Herr advises writing him or her a thank-you note.

"It may be old-fashioned, but it's a nice touch," he said, observing, "These are the kids admissions folks remember."

*Elise McIntosh, editor of the Staten Island Relationships section, may be reached at [mcintosh@siadvance.com](mailto:mcintosh@siadvance.com).*

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## College of Staten Island faculty avoids no-confidence vote on President Dr. Tomas Morales

Thursday, April 19, 2012, 5:01 PM



**Tom Wrobleski**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- A Faculty Senate meeting at the College of Staten Island today, where a no-confidence resolution aimed at CSI President Dr. Tomas Morales and Provost Dr. William Fritz was to be voted on, has been adjourned with no action taken.

The Faculty Senate voted in favor of the resolution during a March meeting, but a procedural snafu meant that the measure had to be voted on again.



Staten Island Advance photos

On Thursday, the CSI Faculty Senate declined to vote on a "no-confidence" resolution aimed at CSI president Dr. Tomas Morales and provost Dr. William Fritz.

But before the resolution could be taken up, Professor Richard Flanagan, a political science professor at CSI and a Faculty Senate member, moved that since the previous vote was invalid, mention of the vote total should be stricken from the minutes of the meeting.

"It was a black mark," said Flanagan, who backs Dr. Morales. "The vote didn't count. It should be stricken from the record."

Flanagan said that today's meeting, which he described as "intense," then "bogged down" in extended procedural discussions. After about an hour, he said, the meeting was adjourned.

He said the actual no-confidence resolution was not discussed.

Flanagan said that "all this arguing" over the resolution had blocked the Faculty Senate from discussing the curriculum matters it is responsible for.

The resolution said that Drs. Morales and Fritz had failed to follow the spirit of shared school governance and had not provided leadership for implementation of the controversial City University of New York (CUNY) "Pathways to Degree Completion Program."

While 31 members of the 54-member Faculty Senate voted in favor of the resolution, another 37 faculty members later signed a letter slamming how the resolution was handled during the March meeting and backing Dr. Morales.

In a separate letter following the vote, CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein strongly backed Dr. Morales, praising the president and saying Goldstein was "appalled" by the vote.

Flanagan said that the measure would be taken up again at a future Faculty Senate meeting.

There was no immediate comment from Dr. Morales' office.

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## Who was Staten Island's 'Newsmaker of the Week?'

Friday, April 20, 2012, 11:05 AM



**Eddie DAnna / Staten Island Advance**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The top stories in the borough this week ran the gamut of emotions, from triumph to fear, uprising to accusation, turmoil to empathy.

A politician prepared a push for a controversial bill designed to ease the suffering of the sick.



[View full size](#)

From left: State Sen. Diane Savino, [CSI](#) President Tomas Morales, Missy Quest and Michael Novak, and Dylan Vok.

Two borough residents overcame personal strife to lead a healthier lifestyle.

At a Staten Island school, an attempted uprising was quelled.

And a man sought in connection with a crime came forward to refute the charges.

Tell us: Who was Staten Island's "Newsmaker of the Week."

### State Sen. Diane Savino

North Shore Democrat **behind a bill to legalize medical marijuana in New York state**, saying the move would bring relief for the most vulnerable -- those in end-stage cancer or with multiple sclerosis or HIV/AIDS.

### Missy Quest and Michael Novak

Ms. Quest, 29, of West Brighton, and Novak, 28, of Annadale, each conquered personal adversity to **claim the top spots in the Staten Island Slim Down weight-loss competition.**

### Dr. Tomas Morales

With the emphatic backing of CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, the [College of Staten Island](#) president avoided **a no-confidence vote being prepared by the school's Faculty Senate.**

### Dylan Vok

After the NYPD released his photo in connection with a Port Richmond mugging, the 28-year-old, who sports

a distinctive tattoo of a red lighting bolt on his face, reached out to the Advance from Detroit to **profess his innocence**, claiming he's "terrified right now."

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## GothamSchools

### Exit strategy for a closing school's principal: Relocate upstairs

by Rachel Cromidas, at 2:15 pm  
April 20, 2012



Supporters of Washington Irving High School protested its planned closure in December.

Two new schools are coming to the Washington Irving High School campus this fall, but Mayor Bloomberg mentioned only one when he visited the building this week to tout 54 new small schools opening in September.

The principals-to-be of the venture capitalist-backed Academy of Software Engineering and dozens more new schools stood by Bloomberg's side as he touted the city's success at replacing large, dysfunctional high schools with smaller schools.

The other new school, Union Square High School for Health Sciences, will share more than a street address with Washington Irving, which the city is closing due to poor performance. Its focus is a spinoff of one of Irving's programs, and its proposed leader, Bernardo Ascona, has been Irving's principal since 2008.

Ascona says he applied to lead the new school shortly after the city announced that it was considering closing Washington Irving. Now, some students and teachers say they feel slighted that he sought a way out even as they rallied to keep the school open. They also question why, for the second time in four years, the city has offered a plum new job — the same salary for fewer students and a clean slate — to an Irving principal.

"It's unfair, particularly when the management hierarchy always seems to land on their feet," said Gregg Lundahl, Irving's union chapter leader. "The staff at Washington Irving work very, very hard. [Ascona] was only expecting us to do what he had been told to tell us to do, and as we can see it didn't work out so well."

"He failed to make this school successful," said Anna Durante, a junior. "Once you have a game over, you don't get an extra token to restart."

City officials say they are confident in Ascona's leadership, and Ascona said his move will allow him to bring positive changes to the Irving campus faster than if he had stayed on as the flagship school's principal.

When Ascona became principal in 2008, Irving was already suffering from low student performance and graduation rates. City officials hoped he would be able to reverse the school's downward spiral, but the school's progress report grade has yo-yoed from a C to an F since then. In 2010, the state told the city it would have to overhaul Irving, and city officials planned to funnel extra resources to the school through the federal school improvement program called "transformation," meant for low-performing schools that show promise of improving.

But in late 2011, officials changed their minds, and placed Irving on the list of schools to begin closing this year. Shortly after, Ascona interviewed for the position of principal at the health sciences-themed small high school, he told me when we spoke at a March high school fair, where he was promoting the new school.

"When I came to Irving, I think we improved tremendously. I was happy they're letting me stay," he said. "From my perspective, I get to stay with my kids and Washington Irving, and start something new."



Bernardo Ascona in his office. (Via Washington Irving YABC)

He said the new school is already set to improve over Washington Irving by bringing a more robust science program to the building. The school will feature extra advanced science courses and two tracks — for would-be dental assistants and pharmacists — that he said would reach an untapped market of Manhattan families.

Ascona isn't the first Irving principal to move into a different principal's office in the same building. Denise DiCarlo, who preceded him as Irving's principal, left her post to open Gramercy Arts High School in 2008 — after two years of F grades on city progress reports.

At protests and Irving's closure hearing, teachers described DiCarlo's move — which Ascona will mirror — as a first nail in Irving's coffin. Gramercy, they said, was attracting the type of high-performing students who once flocked to Irving's theater program. Without those students, they said, Irving's performance statistics were doomed to fall. In the years since the school opened, students across the Irving campus say they have come to view Gramercy as "the good school" and Irving as "the bad one."

Several students said on a recent afternoon they were unfamiliar with or unmoved by Ascona's plan to leave Irving. But they speculated that the presence of another new school would replicate tensions that already exist between Irving and Gramercy.

"Everyone says that Gramercy is better than Irving. They get more stuff than us. They have better programs than us, they can do more things. We're ... the 'ghetto school,'" said Ashley Adams, a senior at Irving.

But Adams said the characterizations weren't always accurate. "They say Irving is bad, but we have students who graduate from the International Baccalaureate program," she said, referring to a college preparatory program that enrolls a small number of Irving students.

City officials, including deputy chancellor Shael Polakow-Suransky, say Irving's shortcomings are bigger than any one person.

"In a school that is struggling, a culture develops that exists in the school that comes from teachers, students, and administration, where the expectation is that students are not able to achieve," Polakow-Suransky said at the school's closure hearing in January.

David Bloomfield, a CUNY education professor, said principals should not necessarily be held uniquely responsible for a school's low performance. But he said the pattern at Irving raises questions about the city's own accountability credo, which includes an emphasis on principal performance.

"Tweed's record of pointing the finger is questionable," he said. "It just seems odd that they seem to put great stock in the school's leadership, but are pointing out failure."

Asked why Ascona is a good choice to run a new school in a building where he currently runs a closing school, Department of Education officials said they are confident in his leadership. They cited his commitment to student safety, parent outreach, and small learning communities at Irving as evidence that he would be able to shepherd another school to stronger results.

Teachers at the school did not dispute those qualities, but they said Ascona's planned departure had further chipped away at already low morale.

"Mr. Ascona worked very hard to keep us open, and I understand how he needs to look out for himself," said one teacher who asked not to be identified. "But I have children, like Mr. Ascona, and no one is going giving me a new job."

Students said they worried his move would also take teachers and other resources away prematurely. On a March morning, several classes were displaced while workers installed smartboards inside some classrooms, and another teacher who asked not to be named said he was told they were installed in preparation for the opening of the new schools.

Ascona declined to be interviewed for this story, but he did invite me to an open house at Washington Irving for his new school in March. Clad in a white lab coat, he struck an upbeat, forward-looking tone as he led a crowd of 50-some parents and eighth-graders on a tour of the seventh-floor science lab.



With Ayorinde Ayetiwa, an Irving chemistry and physics teacher, by his side, Ascona touted Irving's robotics team, in addition to the new, science-focused programs his school would offer, and partnerships he was building with local colleges. He also held court in the Irving library — shuttered to students this year after Ascona cut the school's librarian in 2011 — alongside two other new schools, including the software-themed school.

"We hope all the schools tonight will offer you some choices," he told families at the conclusion of a presentation. "The important thing is that you do what's best for you."



## MCCE Presents World Premiere of SONIC REAL ESTATE by Andrew Rosciszewski, 4/20

Friday, April 20, 2012; 12:04 AM - by BWW News Desk



Musical Chairs Chamber Ensemble, Inc. (MCCE) presents a commissioned world premiere by MCCE's 2011-12 composer-in-residence Andrew Rosciszewski and works by MCCE's Composer Search Finalist 2011 Enrico Arcaro, Franz Joseph Haydn and Alec Wilder on Friday, April 20, 2012 at 8pm. The evening features MCCE members Tamara Keshecki (flute), Clarice Jensen (cello), Sandra Pace (piano & organ), Vincent Livolsi (percussion), Andrew Rosciszewski

(electric bass) and a guest oboist.

The performance will take place at Holy Child Church, located at 4747 Amboy Road, Staten Island, NY, this Friday, April 20 at 8 p.m. There will be a pre-concert talk at 7 with Andrew Rosciszewski and Enrico Arcaro. The concert will be livestreamed from [www.mcensemble.org](http://www.mcensemble.org) via Justin.TV. Tickets are \$15; \$5 for students (22 and under with ID). For further information, please call 718-907-3488, email [info@mcensemble.org](mailto:info@mcensemble.org) or visit [www.mcensemble.org](http://www.mcensemble.org).

On the Program:

**Sonic Real Estate** by Andrew Rosciszewski, MCCE 2011-12 Composer-in-Residence (commissioned world premiere)

**Transient Tide** by Enrico Arcaro, MCCE 2011 Composer Search Finalist

**Concerto in F Major for Organ, 2 violins and bass** (Hob XVIII:7) by Franz Joseph Haydn

**Flute & Bongos #1 & #2** by Alec Wilder

Andrew Rosciszewski, composer-in-residence, and bassist, is known for his genre-bending compositions that fuse classical with rock in a colorful, eclectic style that reflects his passion and diversity of a wide musical palette. Rosciszewski's music has been performed by the Vermont Philharmonic, under the baton of Music Director Lou Kosma (MET Opera Orchestra), Evening Rhapsody Wind Trio with the commission of "Fantastic Adventure" as well as Musical Chairs Chamber Ensemble, Inc. (MCCE) with whom he has built a long standing relationship. His music has been performed at numerous venues including the Barre Opera House, New York University, Staten Island Museum, Arlene's Grocery, The Bitter End, New Jersey City University and the Philharmonia Orchestra (London) via webstream, amongst others. Rosciszewski is a member of ASCAP and holds a BM from New Jersey City University where he studied composition with Dr. Stelio Dubbiosi.

Enrico Arcaro's musical ventures began in the 1990's hardcore scene in Staten Island, NY. After years composing in his bands, and performing as a sequencer-wielding, electro-acoustic solo artist, he began his music training in 2003, and was composing by 2006. Heavily influenced by the epics of early Metallica, Radiohead and Indie bands such as Sunny Day Real Estate, Mineral, Rollins Band, Lincoln, Shelter, and Quicksand, he has fused these influences with those gained throughout his academic journey, including Beethoven, Bach, Shostakovich, Chopin, and Debussy. Enrico's music is most characterized by its odd meters, rhythmic motives, extended harmonies, Indie rock emotionalism, ostinatos, rawness, and atmospheric grooves. His compositional goals include: Intensity and sincerity, upholding a communicative narrative, and balancing the dichotomous elements of sweetness and brutality.

Enrico obtained his Bachelors of Science in Music from CUNY College of Staten Island, studying guitar, piano, and composition. He graduated with honors, receiving the Ted McIrvine Memorial Award for Academic Excellence, and the CSI Foundation Prize for Outstanding Music by Students. Enrico went on to obtain his Master of Music in Music Theory & Composition at NYU Steinhardt. While studying composition with Justin Dello Joio, he was awarded a string quartet residency, and was named winner of NYU's Takemitsu Project composition contest for his work Fifth Dimension. Enrico has received multiple grants from COAHSI, including an Original Work Grant in 2010 for Impressions of the Human Condition, as well as an Excellence in Art Grant in 2011.

Enrico is currently an adjunct professor at CUNY College of Staten Island, director of instrumental ensemble Audiometry, instructor at Rustic Music and the Staten Island Conservatory, as well as a private instructor of guitar, composition, piano and music theory. As a teacher, Enrico aims to relay the wisdom gained from his diverse musical experiences. Through cultivating technique, theoretical understanding, individual inspirations, and nurturing each student's unique musical voice, he strives to instill awareness of music's communicative power, urging his students to use their musicianship as a vehicle of self-expression.

Tamara Keshecki, flutist, founded the award-winning Musical Chairs Chamber Ensemble, Inc (MCCE) in 2004. As MCCE's Artistic Director she has led the ensemble to receive awards from the National Endowment for the Arts (2010); Chamber Music America (2009); and "Best Classical Music Act" (2007 AWE Reader's Poll.) Ms. Keshecki has performed as a featured soloist for numerous series and festivals including Solar One Music Festival, New Jersey Pops, Messiah Festival of the Arts and the Holy Child Concert Series. She holds a Master of Music degree in flute performance from New Jersey City University and a Bachelor of Music from New York University.

Cellist Clarice Jensen completed her bachelor's and master's degrees at The Juilliard School, as a student of Joel Krosnick. She began studying cello at the age of three and piano when she was five in her hometown of Independence, Missouri. While firmly rooted in classical performance, Ms. Jensen is also an enthusiastic advocate for the performance of new music. She is the artistic director of ACME, the American Contemporary Music Ensemble, a group dedicated to the outstanding performance of contemporary classical music.

In addition to her engagements with ACME, Ms. Jensen is a member of yMusic, and has performed with the New Juilliard Ensemble, Continuum, the Argento New Music Project, Axiom, the International Music Ensemble, the Avian Orchestra, Columbia Composers, and the Wordless Music Orchestra, among others. As a soloist and chamber musician, she has performed in all manner of venues in New York, from

Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium and Zankel Hall, The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Alice Tully Hall, to Joe's Pub, the Brooklyn Lyceum, the Tenri Cultural Center, and the Whitney and Guggenheim Museums. Skilled at improvising and creating original string arrangements, Ms. Jensen has performed with pop and rock musicians including The National, Grizzly Bear, Silversun Pickups, Teddy Thompson, !!!, Owen Pallett, My Brightest Diamond (Shara Worden), Max Richter, Stars of the Lid, DUSTin O'Halloran, Shudder to Think, Jóhann Jóhannsson and Max Richter live in concert as well as on MTV Unplugged, the Oxygen Network, The Late Show with David Letterman, and Late Night with Conan O'Brien. She has recorded with the Arcade Fire, Ratatat, Grizzly Bear, Hole, Tyondai Braxton of Battles, The National, Doveman, Jónsi, !!!, Owen Pallett, electronica duo Matmos, and can also be heard on Nico Muhly's *Speaks Volumes* album. Past roles include production coordinator and assistant to the recording artist Björk.

Sandra M. Pace, Harpsichord/Piano/Organ, is the associate music director at the Church of the Holy Child on Staten Island and teaches organ and piano privately. She has been a rehearsal pianist for The Child Never Sleeps Productions since 2002. She specializes in late Renaissance/early Baroque keyboard music of the Iberian Peninsula. She has held positions as associate organist, rehearsal accompanist and choir director at several churches on Staten Island and in Boston. Sandra received her M.L.S from Pratt Institute where her concentration was in cultural informatics. She received an M.M. in organ performance with an emphasis in music history from the Boston Conservatory of Music where she studied with James David Christie. While living in Boston, she was an adjunct faculty member of the music department at Boston College where she was also the research assistant to the department chair. At Boston College, she also managed three concert series as the concert coordinator. She received a B.A. from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA; where she was the Holy Cross Organ Scholar. Sandra was the organ curator at Mechanics Hall in Worcester, MA where she was responsible for the maintenance of a historic pipe organ.

Vince Livolsi, percussion, hits things - drums to be precise. Sometimes he hits them loud sometimes he hits them soft. But mostly he hits them out of love and money.

Musical Chairs Chamber Ensemble, Inc. is a consortium of primarily young, high-caliber musicians dedicated to the craft of chamber music. With wide-ranging presentations of both classical and contemporary chamber music, combined with consummate artistry, we believe in serving two goals - entertaining audiences and exposing them to the valuable literature that is seldom heard elsewhere. Musical Chairs Chamber Ensemble, Inc. represents the next generation of emerging artists who are reshaping all that you thought you knew about classical music.

MCCE has implemented the creation of multiple commissions and premieres including works by featured composers: Laura Kaminsky, Andrew Stermann, Dr. Mathew Fuerst, Mick Rossi, Octavio Vazquez, Sanchie Bobrow and Andrew Rosciszewski.

MCCE members include Tamara Keshecki – flute, Clarice Jensen – cello, Maria Antonia Garcia – piano, Joseph Kubera – piano, Wen-Yi Lo – piano, J. Brunka – bassist, Ann Cecil-Stermann – flute, Anthony Turner – baritone, Sandra Pace – organ, Elizabeth McCullough – soprano, Lucille Corwin – viola, and Amanda Romano – harp.

## Son of former **College of Staten Island** professor beaten to death breaks down in court

Saturday, April 21, 2012, 10:33 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**

The gangly teenage hesitantly stepped to the witness stand in Superior Court in New Brunswick. Asked if he recalled June 25, 2010, 14-year-old Ravi Sinha quickly said, "That was the worst day of my life. My father was killed."

He calmly described how four young men attacked his family, only once pausing to wipe his eyes. Then the prosecutor played the tape of Sinha's 911 call to get help for his father, Divyendu Sinha -- a former

**College of Staten Island** professor -- and the boy broke down, sobbing into his hands. After Judge Bradley Ferencz sent

the jury for a break, Sinha walked from the witness stand and into his mother's outstretched arms.



John Munson / The Star Ledger

Alka Sinha hugs her son, Ravi, after his testimony against defendant Steven Contreras in Middlesex County Superior Court.

**Read the full Star Ledger story about the trial of Steven Contreras**, one of five former Old Bridge (N.J.) High School students charged with murder in the unprovoked attack on Ravi and his father.

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## Lawsuit Over Canceled Statue

2012-04-25

A U.S. sculptor says the Taiwanese government broke its contract due to pressure from mainland China.



Chen Weiming

An artist's rendering of the proposed Goddess of Democracy statue on Kinmen Island.

A U.S.-based sculptor is suing Taiwan's president, Ma Ying-jeou, and his government over the cancellation of a contract for the construction of a statue of the icon of the Tiananmen Square pro-democracy movement on the Taiwan-controlled island of Kinmen.

Las Vegas-based Chen Weiming said the Taiwanese government had bowed to political pressure from mainland China and breached the terms of a Jan. 18 contract between Kinmen county officials and his company for the design and construction of the statue of the Goddess of Democracy.

"April 30 is their last deadline for replying to us," said Chen, who said officials had ignored repeated attempts to contact them over the contract, which was canceled in an email from Kinmen county officials, warning him to "not proceed."

"It looks as if they don't plan to respond, and if this is the case, then we will be taking legal action."

Chen said Ma himself would be named as a defendant for interfering in the business agreement. "This was originally a contract signed between the Kinmen county government and us, which the Kinmen government wanted to cancel owing to 'concern from certain departments.'"

"According to our understanding, Ma Ying-jeou interfered with the implementation of the agreement, so that's why we will be naming him as a defendant," Chen said.

## Democracy symbol

Sun Ping, a legal adviser to the group that had been working on the statue, said the case had two parts: "One is that we have hired lawyers in Taiwan to sue the Kinmen county cultural bureau for breach of contract, and the other is a civil suit in the state of Nevada, pursuing damages against the Ma government for interfering in the completion of the contract," he said.

Sun said that the cases would go to court in the absence of a reply from Taiwan officials by the end of April.

"In America, that's a pretty serious state of affairs, because the defendant then loses the right to defend themselves in court, and a decision will be made very quickly," he said.

Sun said the plan to build the Goddess of Democracy statue was part of a political statement that Chen's group wished to make to China.

"Of course we had hoped that they would support the Goddess of Democracy, because Taiwan's long-term security depends on there being freedom and democracy in the mainland," he said.

"Now, the administration of Ma Ying-jeou is distancing itself more and more for its support of the pro-democracy movement in mainland China," Sun said. "They are afraid that there will be some negative consequences to such support."

## Mainland pressure?

Kinmen county officials shelved the plan for the statue, which would have been visible from mainland China, shortly after signing the deal with Chen, local media reported at the time.

Officials said they had been unable to find a "suitable location" for the planned 30-meter (100-foot) statue, and denied that they had come under any political pressure.

Taiwan-based 1989 student leader Wu'er Kaixi was quoted as saying that the move, if politically motivated, would show that China was now more than able to exert its influence on life on the democratic island.

Just before the plans were shelved, Professor Xia Ming, a political science teacher at the [College of Staten Island](#) in New York, told a symposium on Taiwan's future that China had now extended its influence into every area of life in Taiwan.

"In Taiwan right now there is nowhere that is not influenced by the mainland," Xia said. "Taiwan's media, academics, and intellectuals are already beginning to show fear of the mainland and we can already see the effects in Taiwan today."

Ma, who cut his teeth as the head of the then Kuomintang (Taiwan's Chinese Nationalist Party) cabinet's Mainland Affairs Council in the 1990s, promised during his election campaign that his presidency would see further rapprochement with Beijing, which regards Taiwan as a breakaway province which it will "reunify" by force if the island ever declares formal independence.

"In the next four years, relations across the Taiwan Strait will be even more harmonious and mutually trusting, with less likelihood of clashes," Ma said in his victory speech.

"I will ensure that Taiwan has a lasting peaceful and stable environment," he said, using two of Beijing's favorite political buzzwords: "stability" and "harmony."

Taiwan has been governed separately from China since Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang forces fled there in 1949 after losing a civil war with Mao Zedong's communists on the mainland.

Official mainland Chinese media welcomed Ma's victory, saying it vindicated the signing of a 1992 cross-straits consensus on the island's future.

*Reported by Xiao Rong for RFA's Mandarin service. Translated and written in English by Luisetta Mudie.*

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## A stealth toll study?

Sunday, April 29, 2012, 12:36 AM



**Staten Island Advance Editorial**  
By

He probably didn't mean to, but Rep. Michael Grimm dropped quite a bombshell at the meeting of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce the other day.

The Congressman, who received an award at the gathering, complained that a consultants' study to assess the economic impact of the Port Authority's recent toll increases on Staten Island businesses is way behind schedule. And he let it be known that Port Authority Executive Director Patrick Foye, with whom Mr. Grimm met on Monday, shares his "disappointment" over the delay.

We daresay most people in the room and on Staten Island might say they were disappointed, too . . . except that, apparently, few people in the room beside Mr. Grimm were aware there was any study ongoing.

But there is indeed a \$70,000 economic impact study being jointly financed by the Port Authority and the New York Container Terminal at Howland Hook, which has been the hardest hit by the toll hike of all Staten Island businesses.

Mr. Grimm praised Mr. Foye's responsiveness and insisted, "He understands the impact of the tolls."

The first-term lawmaker added, "We need to push the consultants to get on with it, so that we can go to the governors of New York and New Jersey with the study and show them the economic impact. I believe this study will show that the tolls will put the container port out of business. That will be devastating for Staten Island and affect regional commerce."

He pledged, "I intend to keep on this. The minute you stop and let things take their course, it falls through the proverbial crack. P.A. tolls are my top priority."

We could not agree more and we certainly applaud the congressman for his determination.

However, we're still stuck on the part that such an thorough analysis has been taking place all along. Consultants, we've heard about, but a formal study?

Even more astonishing is that it's being done by two professors with no apparent connection to Staten Island. One is a professor from SUNY Maritime College in the Bronx and another from the U.S. Merchant

Marine Academy on Long Island.

They were chosen by P.A. and NYCT officials. Meanwhile, Jonathan Peters, a professor of finance at the College of Staten Island, is the regionally renowned expert on transportation and tolls and a tremendous resource on these issues. He surely would have brought far more targeted insights to this endeavor.

That aside, we have to wonder what there is to study. It doesn't take a brain surgeon - or a college professor - to know that hiking tolls as steeply as the P.A. did last fall is going to do significant economic damage to businesses on an Island imprisoned by tolled bridges.

It's simple: The more it costs to ship your products to and from Staten Island locations, the more deeply it cuts into your business' bottom line. Some off-Island trucking firms have already ceased to do business at Howland Hook because of the exorbitant tolls.

Borough President James Molinaro agrees that the connection between sharply higher tolls and increased economic strain on the NYCT and other Staten Island businesses is "obvious."

He continued, "What isn't obvious is what we are going to do about it."

Clearly, Howland Hook officials trust that the professors will clinch their case against sky-high P.A. tolls.

But what about the Port Authority itself? Mr. Foye "gets it," about tolls vis-a-vis Staten Island businesses, according to Mr. Grimm. So might he use the study he's so eager to see completed to justify to his board a substantial rollback on tolls for businesses?

It remains to be seen, but from what we've seen, Mr. Foye is far more receptive to Staten Island's concerns than any of his predecessors.

So, by all means, if that's what it will take to get the P.A. to budge on this, get this study done, "get on with it," as Mr. Grimm urges, even if we all know what it will say. It could pave the way for desperately needed meaningful toll relief for Staten Island's hard-pressed businesses.

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# ***Sports***



## Staten Island college sports roundup: Wagner women's water polo splits two games, Wagner women's lacrosse loses, **CSI** softball postponed

Sunday, April 01, 2012, 11:11 PM



By **Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

The Wagner College women's water polo team split its two home MAAC matches on Sunday with a tough 10-9 loss to Iona followed by an 11-5 victory over Siena.

Lauren French scored three goals in the loss while Sidney Hoshko tallied three times in the victory.

The Seahawks (16-15 overall, 6-1 MAAC) are back in action Saturday when they face St. Francis (N.Y.) and Villanova.

### **WOMEN'S LACROSSE**

#### **Central Connecticut 14, Wagner 7**

The visiting Blue Devils scored the last four goals before halftime and cruised to a NEC victory.

Junior attacker Erika Bulken and sophomore attacker Sam Morin scored two goals apiece to pace the Seahawks, who fell to 6-6 overall and 1-3 in the NEC.

Wagner plays Friday, traveling to Long Island University.

### **SOFTBALL**

#### ****CSI** games postponed**

SCHENECTADY, N.Y. — The scheduled doubleheader between the **College of Staten Island** and Union was postponed due to rainy and snowy conditions.

No new date has been announced.

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## CSI Athletics To Honor Scholars With Student-Athlete Day Festivities

Courtesy of CSI Sports Information



The College of Staten Island Office of Intercollegiate Athletics together with the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee recently doled out 89 citations for its SAAC/Athletic Director Honor Roll, and the recipients will be honored at part of Student-Athlete Day at the College on Thursday at 2pm in the Sports & Recreation Center Gymnasium. Held each year, Student-Athlete Day is done in cooperation with the same national initiative brought forward by the National Consortium of Academics in Sport, which honors those who marry the ideals of achievement both on the field and in the classroom.

CSI held its first-ever Student-Athlete Day last April to rousing success, as CSI Athletic Director Vernon Mummert stood side-by-side with President Dr. Tomas Morales and Vice-President for Student affairs Dr. Ramona Brown, in presenting the awarded with their certificates of achievement in front of their peers, parents, and campus faculty and staff. The same, hour-long, ceremony is expected this year on the gymnasium's main competition floor.

The Honor Roll, unique to the Athletics program at CSI was the brainchild of the CSI Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and Mummert, who both wanted to draw attention to the tremendous academic achievements of its student-athletes at the exclusive commuter campus, as scholar athletes account for over 44% of the overall student-athlete body. The Honor Roll citations are collected by Katie Arcuri, CSI's Assistant Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Services.

"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% of the student-athlete body is being honored, a staggering number. Of the 89 honored, 69 are carrying overall GPA's over a 3.0 (34%), while a select 23 have an overall GPA of over a 3.5 GPA.

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

The College of Staten Island Office of Intercollegiate Athletics does its part in aiding the cause. Working primarily through Arcuri, 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 offer 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 Arcuri. "It is a deserving achievement for them to be honored each semester with the citation, and this is our chance to put those deserving students on display."

Men's Swimming sees the most honorees on the Honor Roll list, boasting 11 student-athletes to the ledger. Cheerleading follows with 10 honorees, followed by 9 each from Men's and Women's Soccer. CSI also awards a Team GPA Award given at its annual awards banquet, won in 2011 by Men's Cross-Country with a 3.43 collective GPA.

Seven special student-athletes boasted perfect 4.0 GPA's last semester, including: 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 complete list of scholar-athletes is available [here](#).



## Staten Island college sports roundup: **CSI** baseball beats John Jay, Wagner College baseball loses in 12 innings

Saturday, April 07, 2012, 8:58 PM



By **Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

The **College of Staten Island** rallied for two runs in the top of the eighth inning to overcome John Jay 5-4 in a CUNY game in Brooklyn on Saturday.

The Dolphins (13-12) trailed 4-3 going into the eighth when James Lewis drove in Will DiFede (single, stolen base) with a single to tie the game, and Sal Todaro knocked in Lewis with a sacrifice fly.

**CSI** led 3-0 after the second inning. The Dolphins scored two in the first on a wild pitch and RBI grounder by DiFede (2 for 4). An infield single by Henry Roman (2 for 4) plated a run in the second.

But John Jay rallied for three in the sixth and one in the seventh off **CSI** starter Mike Gillen. Anthony Storz came in and shut the door for the Dolphins, pitching 2 1/3 innings of hitless relief.

### **FDU 4, Wagner 3**

TEANECK, N.J. — Kyle Weeks' two-out RBI single to center in the bottom of the 12th lifted the Knights to a NEC victory over the visiting Seahawks.

After FDU (10-6 NEC, 14-14-1 overall) scored once in the fourth, Wagner (8-8, 12-21) responded with three runs in the fifth on Ian Miller's RBI ground out to short and Bill Murphy's two-run homer.

That 3-1 advantage was short-lived as the hosts tallied twice in the bottom of the frame to knot the game at 3.

The contest stayed that way until the 12th inning when the Grymes Hill squad almost took the lead. Nick Alfano had a one-out double and Miller followed with a single, but Alfano was cut down at the plate to keep the game at 3-all.

That failed opportunity came to hurt Wagner as FDU put together a single and walk before Weeks ended the game with his single.

Mike Eliassen earned the win as the Knights' senior went the distance on a 12-hitter with six strikeouts on

139 pitches.

Dan Watson (8 IP, 9 H, 3 ER, 2 BB, 2 K) started for Wagner while St. Joseph by-the-Sea graduate Anthony Battaglia had the loss after allowing just that one run in 3 2/3 innings.

## **SOFTBALL**

**CSI 8, York 1**

**CSI 16, York 1**

The Dolphins swept the visiting Cardinals in the CUNYAC doubleheader in Willowbrook.

Danielle Ponsiglione tossed a five-hitter with six strikeouts in 6<sup>0</sup> innings in the opener. Brittany Smith (2 for 3, two runs), Kaitlyn Flynn (2 for 4) and Victoria Procopio (two RBI) led the offense. Smith tied a **CSI** single-game record with four stolen bases.

Winning pitcher Stefanie Solari (three innings, one hit, one unearned run), and Procopio (two innings, one hit) combined on the mound in the nightcap. Smith (4 for 4) and Flynn (3 for 4) each picked up four RBI, and Kristi Dillon went 3 for 4 with three runs scored and two RBI.

**Bryant 6, Wagner 5**

**Bryant 6, Wagner 1**

The Bulldogs won the first game in nine innings as Lauren Guy and Aubrey Mable blasted solo homers in the frame before the host Seahawks tried to rally in the bottom of the inning.

Taylor Rauscher led off with a single and Brittany Huss connected for a RBI single. However, that was all Wagner could muster as the Grymes Hill squad dropped the one-run affair.

In the nightcap, Kelsey Parker collected two hits and drove home Wagner's only run as the Seahawks fell to 3-7 in the NEC and 10-26 overall.

## **WOMEN'S WATER POLO**

**Wagner 15, St. Francis (NY) 8**

**Wagner 18, Villanova 6**

LOUDONVILLE, N.Y. — The Seahawks improved to 8-1 in Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference play after recording two wins at Siena College.

In the first contest, the Seahawks held a narrow 9-8 lead heading into the final quarter, but outscored the



Terriers 6-0 in the final stanza to post the victory.

Wagner took control early and never looked back in the nightcap. The Grymes Hill squad led 7-3 after the first quarter and took a 13-5 halftime advantage as the Seahawks were never challenged the rest of the way.

## **TRACK & FIELD**

### **Wagner athletes shine**

Several Seahawk athletes fared well in the annual Wagner Invite.

St. John Villa product Kelly Dennis started by recording a third-place, personal-best time of 19:36.62 in the 5,000 meter run.

In the 400 hurdles, Morgan Kaisershot was first (1:05.39) followed by Emily Pereira (1:06.82). Saquan Mitchell took second in the 100-meter dash (11.05) and Shanteana Samuels was fourth (12.43).

Curtis alum Tiffany Dawson captured first (15.60) in the 110 high hurdles and Dante Fernandez captured bronze (15.74). Lastly, Michael Baio, a St. Joseph by-the-Sea product, was second in the 800-meter run (1:57.09).

## **MEN'S LACROSSE**

### **Quinnipiac 15, Wagner 5**

HAMDEN, Conn. — Nick DePhillips, Cory Santor, Colin O'Rourke, William Hedges and Mike Hurley tallied for the winless Seahawks (0-2 NEC, 0-10 overall).

## **MEN'S TENNIS**

**CSI** 8, York 1

The Dolphins won two of three doubles matches as the tandems of Nick Zikos/Austin Kapetanakis and Dmitri Vituk/Oscar Wu recorded 8-3 victories.

Singles wins were recorded by Zikos (6-4, 6-1), Dan Ursomanno (6-4, 6-4), Kapetanakis (7-5, 6-1), Vituk (6-0, 6-1) and Vlad Romanov (6-7, 6-1, 6-4).

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## **John Jay's McKenna and Perez Snag Weekly Honors While Lightning Rookie Tavarez Earns His Own**



### **CUNYAC/MCU Baseball Player of the Week**

**BRIAN MCKENNA, John Jay**  
**Catcher/Freshman/New York, NY/Xavier**

Brian McKenna earns his first weekly conference honors putting up impressive stats in the Bloodhounds' 2-2 finish last week. McKenna started the week batting a perfect 2-2 against the Lehman Lightning, hitting two doubles, driving in one run and crossing the plate twice himself. In game one against conference rivals the Staten Island Dolphins, McKenna went 2-3, with a double and a walk, driving in an RBI and tallying one run in the 7-2 victory. The freshman catcher finished the week with a .625 batting average, going 5-8 in four games.

### **CUNYAC/MCU Baseball Pitcher of the Week**

**BRAYLIN PEREZ, John Jay**  
**Pitcher/Sophomore/Santo Domingo, DR/Manhattan Bridges**

Braylin Perez earns his second CUNYAC/MCU Baseball Pitcher of the Week commendation for his dominating 7-inning performance against the College of Staten Island last Friday. In the 7-2 win, Perez finished with only two earned runs, tallying an impressive 9 strikeouts and only four hits in this conference win. With this victory, Perez improves to 4-4 on the season as the Bloodhounds (7-22, 4-4) look to defeat Penn State Abington on Friday, April 13.

**CUNYAC/MCU Baseball Rookie of the Week**

**CHRISTOPHER TAVAREZ, Lehman**

**Infielder/Freshman/Bronx, NY/James Monroe**

Earning his first weekly honors, Christopher Tavaréz, takes home this week's Rookie of the Week award. The freshman infielder was an integral part of the Lightning's two conference wins versus the City College Beavers. In game one, Tavaréz went 3-for-5 at the plate, driving in three RBIs in the 11-10 win. In the following day's doubleheader split, he added another 3 RBI's, two runs and two doubles. In five games, he averaged an impressive .412 batting average, contributing 11 put outs and seven assists at second base.



## Staten Island college sports roundup: **CSI** splits softball doubleheader with Hunter

Tuesday, April 10, 2012, 2:48 AM



By **Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

The **College of Staten Island** handed Hunter College its first CUNYAC loss of the season in a 9-1 setback Monday at Randall's Island.

In the second game of a twinbill, the (11-13, 7-1) Hawks rallied for two runs in the bottom of the ninth to edge the (6-10, 5-1) Dolphins 11-10.

### HONORS FOR DOLPHINS

The CUNYAC/Applebee's Softball Player of the Week award went to the Dolphins' Kaitlyn Flynn.

Meanwhile, earning her first Pitcher of the Week honor this season was Danielle Ponsiglione. She went 2-0 this past week --- posting a decisive 8-3 victory against non-conference opponents, Jersey City; and a dominating 8-1 win against York College.

Not to be outdone, Brittany Smith took home her second Rookie of the Week award after strong performances in four games for the Dolphins.

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## Manhattanville edges College of Staten Island in baseball, 5-4

Wednesday, April 11, 2012, 1:35 AM



By **Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

PURCHASE, N.Y. — Manhattanville sophomore Eli Tsouristakis delivered a game-winning RBI single in the bottom of the ninth Tuesday to carry the Valiants to a 5-4 non-conference baseball victory over the College of Staten Island.

The Dolphins dropped to 13-13 and the Valiants improved to 10-12.

Tsouristakis stepped to the plate with one out and the bases loaded when he poked a 2-2 pitch off Jonathan Aponte into left field for the game-winner.

CSI out-hit Manhattanville 16-15 with senior Sal Todaro leading the way with a 4-for-5 afternoon. The Dolphins also received a quality start from senior right-hander Casey Mulligan, who allowed two earned runs in 6<sup>0</sup> innings.

CSI took a 3-0 lead into the bottom of the seventh, when the hosts scored a pair of runs. The Dolphins went up 4-2 in the eighth, but the Valiants tied it with two runs in the bottom of the frame.

Second baseman Kevin Brady went 4-for-5 in a winning cause.

Also posted on: [topix.com](http://topix.com)

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## CSI honors its top student-athletes

Wednesday, April 11, 2012, 10:44 AM



**Jerry Lee**  
By



Photo Courtesy of Kelly Carnavale

College of Staten Island athletes who posted a 3.0 GPA for the fall 2011 semester were recently honored at a ceremony at the school.

WILLOWBROOK -- The College of Staten Island (CSI) Office of Intercollegiate Athletics, in conjunction with the National Consortium of Academics and Sports (NCAS), held its 2nd annual Student-Athlete Day recently.

CSI officially honored the 89 scholar-athletes, who posated a 3.0 GPA or higher, as of the fall 2011 semester.

The scholar-athlete citations correspond with CSI's Athletic Director Honor Roll, sponsored by the CSI Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). The honorees were announced in February.

NCAS' Athlete Day is celebrated nationwide, commending scholastic achievement by student-athletes. Since 1987, the NCAS has been promoting the achievements of its finest student-athletes.

After a short introduction by CSI Athletic Director Vernon Mummert, participants were greeted by CSI President Dr. Tomas Morales, Provost William Fritz and Vice President for Student-Affairs, Dr. Ramona Brown. Together, they preached of the importance of CSI's continued accomplishments in the classroom, and the commitment of CSI athletes to continue to raise the number. Participants were treated to refreshments at the conclusion of the ceremony.

"This was a great event to honor the achievements of our scholar-athletes, who, together with their peers on the playing field, are the most dynamic students on campus," said Mummert. "Many of our student-athletes balance the rigors of full-time studies along with one and even two full or part-time jobs, family commitments, and of course, their exploits on the field. It's an honor to commemorate them in this way."

CSI honored nearly 44 percent of the student-athlete body, the highest number ever at the college. The

recipients received a certificate issued to them by the NCAS. Assistant Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Services Katie Arcuri, who works and mentors many of the athletes and oversees SACC, was the principal organizer of the event.

Three of the recipients will be honored by the City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) in May as scholar-athletes of the year. They are Olivia Tierno (women's basketball), Lauren Neglia (women's soccer), and Vladislav Romanov (men's swimming).

Also posted on: [topix.com](http://topix.com)

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## Wagner, **College of Staten Island** drop non-conference baseball games

Thursday, April 12, 2012, 2:22 AM



By **Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. — Seton Hall jumped out to an early 6-0 lead and coasted to a 9-1 non-conference baseball victory over Wagner on Wednesday at Owen T. Carroll Field.

Wagner senior shortstop Eddie Brown, a Seton Hall transfer, scored his team's lone run in the fourth inning. He led off with a single and scored on a catcher's error after Jayson Keel's double to left field.

Brown paced the Seahawk attack with two hits, while sophomore Ian Miller stole his 18th and 19th bases.

Giuseppe Papaccio was 4-for-4 with two runs to lead Seton Hall. Southpaw Greg Terhune allowed one unearned run over five innings for the pitching win.

Wagner, which dropped to 12-22, hosts LIU in a key Northeast Conference weekend series beginning Friday afternoon at the Richmond County Bank Ballpark.

Seton Hall is 17-15 overall.

### William Paterson 5, **CSI** 1

The Dolphins threw a scare into the nationally-ranked Pioneers, who exploded for a five-run sixth inning to post the non-conference win at Willowbrook.

**CSI** broke a scoreless pitching duel between Daniel Slevin and William Paterson freshman Ryan Monaghan with a run in the bottom of the fifth. Will Defede reached on an error, stole second and eventually scored on a wild pitch.

Scott Ptaszynski's two-run single capped the visitors' big sixth inning, which also featured Mike Arecchi's two-run double.

Monaghan and senior Dan Alcala (three scoreless innings of relief) combined on a four-hitter.

William Paterson improved to 21-5 overall while **CSI** dropped to 13-14.





## William Paterson sweeps softball pair from College of Staten Island

Friday, April 13, 2012, 2:07 AM



By **Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

William Paterson swept the College of Staten Island on Thursday in a non-conference softball doubleheader, 2-0 and 5-4, in a pair of tightly-contested games at Willowbrook.

Senior pitcher Danielle Ponsiglione tossed a complete-game seven-hitter, allowing one earned run, as the tough-luck loser in the opener, and had two hits and two RBI as the designated hitter in the nightcap.

William Paterson (21-5) broke a scoreless game with two runs in the top of the sixth inning as Samantha Muldering went 3 for 3 in support of Michele Graham's three-hit shutout.

CSI senior third baseman Katelyn Flynn went 3 for 4 with two runs in the nightcap, while Brittany Smith also scored two runs.

The Dolphins (7-13) rallied for two runs in the bottom of the seventh before falling short.

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## **College of Staten Island sweeps, Wagner splits in baseball action**

Saturday, April 14, 2012, 11:56 PM



**Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**  
By

The **College of Staten Island** improved to 7-1 in CUNY Conference baseball with Saturday's 5-4 and 17-9 home sweep of City College.

James Lewis and Frances Torres had two RBI apiece in the opener while winning pitcher Mike Van Pelt needed ninth-inning help from Dominic Casella (save).

The Dolphins (15-14 overall) outhit the Beavers 9-5 with Sal Todaro and Lewis getting two hits apiece.

**CSI** rallied from an early 7-3 deficit in the nightcap as Will Difede and Bryan Moreno drove in four runs apiece and Todaro added three RBI in a 16-hit attack.

Nick Amatucci notched the pitching win in relief.

CCNY dropped to 5-26 overall.

**Wagner 3, LIU 2**

**LIU 16, Wagner 1**

Jason Gordon's bloop single scored Jayson Keel from third base as the Seahawks (10-9, 14-23) took the Northeast Conference opener in 10 innings.

Freshman right-hander Anthony Battaglia (St. Joseph by-the-Sea) earned the win with 3<sup>0</sup> innings of scoreless relief behind starter Ryan Casey. Eddie Brown had a two-run double in the third.

LIU (6-9, 14-22) won the seven-inning second game behind an 18-hit attack led by Mike Garcia, who had three hits, including a home run, and five RBI.

Wagner leads the four-game series 2-1 heading into today's finale at the Richmond County Bank Ballpark.

Also posted on: [topix.com](http://topix.com)



## All-Met honors for CSI men's basketball's Tibbs, Young; Wagner adds to women's basketball staff

Thursday, April 19, 2012, 8:00 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**

The awards keep on coming for the College of Staten Island's Thomas Tibbs and Jordan Young.

Tibbs, the point guard out of St. Peter's HS who guided the Dolphins to a best-ever 26-5 record and a spot in the NCAA Division III Sweet 16, was named to the 2011-12 All-Met Division III first team.

Young, who finished second in career points (1,764), career rebounds (792) and in team scoring (16.6 ppg), earned second-team honors.

Earlier, both Dolphin seniors were selected to the All-District second team by the National Association of Basketball coaches.

Tibbs averaged 15.8 ppg and dished out 183 assists, the second highest in a CSI season.

Young started 105 games in his four-year career.

The Dolphins' magical season included an unbeaten (11-0) CUNY campaign and a 12th league championship.

A.J. Matthews of Farmingdale State was named player of the year, and William Paterson's Jose Rebimbas notched a fourth selection as coach of the year.

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Clark hired

James Clark, an assistant coach at Drexel University the past five seasons, has joined new Wagner coach Lisa Cermignano's staff.

At Drexel, Clark helped guide the Dragons to a school-record four straight postseason tournament appearances over the last four seasons. During his five seasons at Drexel, the Dragons posted a 97-59 record (.621), highlighted by a 24-9 record in 2008-09.

Clark's first coaching stop was as head coach of the women's varsity at his alma mater, Capuchino HS in San Bruno, Calif., during the 2002-03 season. Clark played at Santa Rosa Junior College in California, West

Georgia College in Carrollton, Ga. and Bethany College in Scotts Valley, Calif. Clark also played one year of professional basketball in Australia in 2000 before entering the coaching ranks.

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## **CSI INTRAMURALS SPONSORS CUNY-WIDE WALLBALL/HANDBALL TOURNAMENT**



The College of Staten Island's Intramural/Recreation program will Join WallBall World and CUNY for its first-ever CUNY wide Wall Ball/Handball Tournament hosted by The United States Wallball Association Inc, here at the College of Staten Island's Sports and Recreation Center (1R), Friday, April 27th, 2012.

The United States Wallball Association Inc. is a well-known establishment and will partner with the College of Staten Island's Intramural Program to create a FREE CUNY wide indoor wallball tournament. The day will begin with an exhibition game between Team USA and Team Puerto Rico before match play starts. This will be a FREE doubles ONLY event for all CUNY students, male and female. If there is enough female interest brackets will be divided so that each gender will compete among one another. The tournament will be 32 teams / 64 players, on a first come, first served basis.

Preregistration - email [info@uswallball.org](mailto:info@uswallball.org) (Include your first & last name and school for you AND your partner). Registration is FREE for all CUNY students. You MUST arrive and confirm your spot between 9-10am. If there are spots available we will accept on-site registration between 9am-10am. For more information please click on this link:

<http://wallballworld.com/home/featured/players-of-the-week-3/>

Start time is 11am SHARP (any team that is late will forfeit their match). Students must provide their CUNY I.D. upon sign-in. All participants will receive a FREE t-shirt. Trophies and Medals will be distributed to the winners. First through fourth place winners will receive trophies with medals awarded for fifth through eighth places.



## Staten Island's Jackie Jamaledidine Profiled On Cover of NCAA Champions Magazine (Spring 2012)

*Courtesy of NCAA Champions Magazine*



Photo by: Courtesy of NCAA Champions Magazine  
*Jackie Jamaledidine at the Staten Island Ferry*

### **New York State of Mind**

**By Gary Brown**

Jackie Jamaledidine says her life wouldn't be normal without chaos. "It's practice, work, school, go home, change, go back, school, work, sports, people mad at me, apologizing. It's the story of my life," she says in thick New York poetic meter. "I constantly have a coach texting me saying you owe me this, you didn't do that, you didn't do this, you didn't do blah blah blah. My life is so chaotic that it's normal for me to have all of this going on."

The "all of this" is a full course load at College of Staten Island, two majors (education and dramatic arts), four sports (cross country, swimming, tennis and track), two part-time jobs and a family life with more twists and turns than a New York cab in rush hour.

The second of five children from an Irish mother to whom she was close and a Lebanese father who has been in and out of her life, Jamaledidine (pronounced Jam-ALL-a-deen) has every reason not to be where she is today. After being an honors student in grade school and involved in dozens of activities, an unstable home life in Staten Island drove Jamaledidine to split when she was 16. Suddenly high school graduation was but a mirage.

"I was a punk," Jamaledine says. But she got it together when the mother she respected finally realized her daughter wasn't the model child she remembered.

"She always thought I was that honors student from fifth grade," Jamaledine says. "But one day she came to a school meeting and found out that I was screwing up. She cried; she couldn't believe what she heard."

Wanting to make reparations, Jamaledine considered the GED route but decided that wasn't enough. Having been an honors student earlier, she said, "No way. All right, I'll wake up now."

Sports was part of the awakening. She joined the track team, despite ominous odds.

"I think that coach really saved my life, even though as a teacher he failed me twice. I cursed him out – he suspended me and tried to get me expelled and then accepted me on his track team. This was a school of 5,000 kids, and he cared enough to give me a chance," Jamaledine says.

Attending nearly 12 hours of school a day during her junior and senior years, Jamaledine earned her diploma, but her troubles were only beginning. Two weeks before graduation, her mother, who was in the hospital recovering from swine flu, developed a blood clot and died suddenly. Six weeks later, her mother's brother, who had served as a father figure for Jamaledine and her siblings, was murdered in Florida.

Distraught, Jamaledine abandoned thoughts of college. But once again, she dug deep.

"In my case, you're either a low life or you go to work and school," she says. "And I chose to do sports on top of that. Maybe I'm a little loony for doing so many, but I have fun."

Distance running is her therapy, but she's a pretty good freestyler in the pool, too. Tennis is a more recent acquisition, but she made the spring trip to Florida this year at No. 5 singles. She's thinking about basketball next year.

She helps pay the bills at home. She gets financial aid for school, as do her two brothers. One sister graduates high school in June and the other is completing eighth grade. Her father is back, though not employed full time.

As for the longer term, Jamaledine wants to teach in order to give others the second chances she's been given.

"Because I lost my mom and my uncle so young and the way it happened, I just hope that everything I do gets me somewhere," she says. "I mean I'm always thinking of them. They're the first thing I think about when I wake up and the last thing I think of when I go to bed."

"I just keep doing what I did my whole life – a lot of things. I didn't change who I was, because I don't think they would have wanted it that way, and I know I wouldn't have wanted it that way."



## College of Staten Island splits softball twinbill with Farmingdale State

Friday, April 20, 2012, 1:56 AM



By **Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

Kaitlin Flynn went 4 for 4 and scored the winning run on Danielle Postiglione's game-ending sacrifice fly as the College of Staten Island edged Farmingdale State 4-3 in non-conference softball Thursday at Willowbrook.

Stefanie Solari (complete game) got the win.

Farmingdale State took the second game 10-2 with a eight-run fifth inning.

CSI is 9-16 and Farmingdale State 22-9.

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## College softball roundup: **CSI** sweeps Baruch, Wagner drops pair to LIU

Saturday, April 21, 2012, 11:46 PM



By **Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

The **College of Staten Island** celebrated Senior Day with a 12-4 and 8-0 CUNY Conference softball sweep of Baruch yesterday.

The Dolphins honored seniors Danielle Ponsiglione, Kaitlyn Flynn, Catherine Ebro, Amanda D'Amato and Kristi Dillon in a ceremony between games.

Victoria Procopio, Stefanie Solari and Flynn drove in two runs apiece in the 14-hit opener as **CSI** (9-1 CUNY, 11-16 overall) exploded for an eight-run fourth inning to break the contest open.

Flynn and Solari both homered and Ponsiglione posted the five-inning pitching win.

Procopio pitched a six-hitter in the second game. Brittany Smith and Flynn had two hits apiece.

**LIU 5, Wagner 3**

**LIU 9, Wagner 7**

LIU senior shortstop Sterling Hoham had six hits and eight RBI while playing outstanding defense to lead the visiting Blackbirds (12-4 NEC, 21-30 overall) to the NEC sweep.

Hoham went 2 for 4 with three RBI in the opener, then had four hits and a key three-run homer in the top of the seventh inning of the second game.

Ashley Olsen and MacKenzie Alfaro had two hits apiece for the Seahawks (4-12, 15-31) in the opener. Kristen Matteoni, Kelsey Parker and Carley Nicoletti (grand slam) all homered in a six-run seventh inning in the nightcap.

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## College of Staten Island baseball team goes to bat against cancer

Monday, April 23, 2012, 8:05 AM



**Jim Waggoner**  
By



Staten Island Advance/Hilton Flores

At last year's event, CSI pitching coach Greg Belson and Anthony Hillery bow their heads during a moment to remember the victims of breast cancer.

Tomorrow night's Grace Hillery Breast Cancer Awareness Night at the College of Staten Island is about as personal as it gets for Anthony Hillery.

The 28-year-old schoolteacher and baseball coach lost his mother to the disease at the age of 54 while he was still team captain and playing shortstop at CSI.

The ninth annual event will again pit Drew University against CSI in a NCAA Division III game at 7 p.m. and brings together Hillery's family, friends and a college community that has taken to the benefit game with hearty support.

Admission is free at Dolphin Stadium on the Willowbrook campus.

"I was contacted by (former CSI athletic director and current Drew athletic director) Jason Fein on Facebook the other day,"

said Hillery. "He was telling me how much he was looking forward to the big night and that he couldn't believe it's been nine years since we first sat down to discuss a night in my mother's memory."

Hillery was still wearing a Dolphin uniform the first two years, and has long since settled for a lead role with assistance from CSI's baseball coaching staff and athletic department.

"It's a little nerve-wracking because I can't control a lot of things, like the weather," he said. "I still get nervous hoping that everything goes well. It was a lot easier playing than sitting in the stands."

The game has raised over \$40,000 during the first eight years, with the proceeds currently donated to the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Institute. The Dolphins will be wearing pink jerseys for the game and there will be live entertainment, contests and raffles for memorabilia from New York sports personalities.

The night will start with a pre-game ceremony around 6:30 p.m., featuring the ceremonial first pitch thrown out by New Dorp High School principal Deirdre DeAngelis, a breast cancer survivor.

Hillery coaches the junior varsity baseball team at New Dorp — his alma mater — and teaches social studies for sixth, eighth and ninth graders at Petrides.

"Deirdre was the principal when I went to New Dorp and I know her battle has been a great inspiration to many people," said Hillery. "She had her fight and she pulled through and is doing very well. I'm thrilled that she'll share in this night with us."

New Dorp varsity coach Ray Smith has been front and center with his players at the benefit game for many years.

"They're always there," said Hillery. "So are a lot of people from a lot of schools and a great number of former **CSI** players including my teammates. I can't express how thankful I am for all the support.

"This cause is something I know my mother would be very proud and supportive of. The fight against breast cancer is gaining ground."

For one night early this week at the baseball stadium on **CSI's** campus, that fight continues.

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## **Double Weekly Wins for Baruch as Perez and Izarra Named Dolphins' Roman Earns His First Weekly Award**



### **CUNYAC/MCU Baseball Player of the Week**

**HENRY ROMAN, Staten Island**

**Third Basemen/Senior/Staten Island, NY/Curtis**

Playing in three games this week, Henry Roman batted .583 going 7-for-12 from the plate bringing in four runs scored and an RBI as the Dolphins went 2-1 this week. Roman went 3-for-5 at the start of his week scoring three runs and an RBI in the 9-3 victory over US Merchant Marine. The senior from Staten Island then went on to split the doubleheader against conference opponent Baruch as the Dolphins won the first and lost the second. In the second game, Roman went 3-for-3 with a run scored as the Dolphins fell short to the Bearcats.

### **CUNYAC/MCU Baseball Pitcher of the Week**

**JESUS IZARRA, Baruch**

**Pitcher/Senior/Caracas, Venezuela/ Josefa Irausquin Lopez**

Jesus Izarra earns the pitcher of the week award after his efforts in a conference matchup against the College of Staten Island. Izarra pitched a complete game against the Dolphins, striking out five of their batters as the Bearcats won 4-1 en route to capture the CUNYAC regular season title. The Bearcats will face Farmingdale state next on April 24 before heading into the CUNYAC/MCU Baseball Championships starting Thursday April 26.

### **CUNYAC/MCU Baseball Rookie of the Week**

**PAUL PEREZ, Baruch**

**Pitcher-Infielder/Freshman/Middle Village, NY/St. John Prep**

For the second consecutive week Paul Perez is named rookie of the week after his tremendous efforts on the mound in a tough extra inning loss to the College of Staten Island. The freshman logged 9.0 innings losing a no-hit bid in the seventh inning, giving up no earned runs and striking out three batters as the Dolphins edged out the Bearcats 1-2.



## Rain takes a mighty cut at local baseball, softball schedules

Staten Island Advance, April 24, 2012 12:58 a.m.

Tottenville softball coach Cathy Morano and Susan Wagner mentor Marco Altieri had the date circled on their calendars: April 23.

That was the day their teams would meet for the first time this season. Then again, they knew they would not. They had not played their initial date in three previous years.

Sure enough, Sunday's heavy rains made it four rainouts in a row. But the unbeaten teams will try again Tuesday at the Great Kills LL complex at 4 p.m.

In high school baseball, McKee/SI Tech at New Dorp will go Tuesday at 4.

All of Monday's other high school softball and baseball games — and John Jay at the College of Staten Island softball — were postponed and not immediately rescheduled.

## Top-10 Tech

- MAY/JUNE 2012
- BY MIT NEWS STAFF



*Credit: DSPICS.com (track); Tom Gearty (basketball); MIT Athletics (swimming)*

The MIT men's basketball team capped a record-breaking 29–2 season by reaching the Final Four of the Division III NCAA championships for the first time in Institute history. Ranked third going into the tournament, the team was one of eight from MIT to achieve top-10 status this year, including men's and women's indoor track and field, men's and women's swimming and diving, men's and women's cross-country, and men's volleyball.

Here, Brooke Johnson '13 and Elaine McVay '15, NEWMAC Rookie of the Year, help the Institute win the NEWMAC cross-country championships, finishing second and third. Mitchell Kates '13 and the Engineers blow past the College of Staten Island 83–67 in the third round of the NCAA tournament. And Brendan Deveney '13, six-time All-American and NEWMAC Men's Swimmer of the Year, swims to a first-place finish in the 200-yard butterfly at the NEWMAC championships.



## Ex-Wagner coach Dan Hurley returns to accept coaching award

Wednesday, April 25, 2012, 7:45 AM



**Cormac Gordon**  
By



Staten Island Advance/Derek Alvez

University of Rhode Island coach Dan Hurley returns this week to accept a coaching award following his final season at Wagner.

Dan Hurley is a busy guy.

The new University of Rhode Island coach has spent the last couple of weeks holding meetings, interviewing job applicants, hiring staff and meeting with current players.

And that's just for starters.

Then there's the matter of recruiting (where Curtis High School's Hassan Martin is said to be near the top of the A-10 school's wish list).

And also the necessary work of getting acquainted with alumni and supporters

and local media.

"It's been pretty hectic," acknowledged the former Wagner coach, who has been living out of a Rhode Island hotel room. "We haven't slowed down since we got here."

Hurley gets to take a break from it all tomorrow night.

He's being honored at the annual Met Writers Association Dinner in Westchester as the New York area co-Coach of the Year, in recognition of his guiding the Seahawks to a 25-6 record this season.

Hurley and Manhattan College coach Steve Masiello will share the coaching award, the first time a Seahawk coach has been so honored by the group that since 1936 has presented the Haggerty Award to the area's best college player at its dinner.



"I know the only reason I'm getting an award is because of the quality of the players I had at Wagner," he said Thursday. "They deserve the recognition."

College of Staten Island stars Thomas Tibbs (first team Division III) and Jordan Young (second team) are also being honored at the dinner, as is Wagner athletic director Walt Hameline, who is receiving the MBWA's 2012 Distinguished Service Award. The MBWA's awards presentation is the oldest such program in the country, The DSA goes to individuals who have made significant contributions to college basketball.

The last Wagner player to be recognized by the Met Writers was Tyler Murray, a third-team selection in 2011.

Following the dinner Hurley will head back to URI, where he has several scholarships still available for the coming season.

"We're working on recruiting," he said. "We have a lot to do."

The Rams already received a commitment from former Wagner commit, New Jersey power forward Mike Aaman. And Hurley was able to convince highly-regarded 6-foot-10 Jordan Hare out of Michigan, to honor his original plan to attend URI.

URI also landed Rutgers transfer Gil Biruta, who played for Hurley at Newark's St. Benedict's Prep.

"There are a lot more elements to the job here," the new URI coach said of making the jump from the Northeast Conference to the Atlantic 10. "There are things outside of just coaching that I didn't have much experience with. But it's been great."

Hurley has put together a staff that includes his brother Bobby Hurley as associate head coach, former Rutgers assistant Jim Carr, holdover Preston Murphy, and St. Peter's HS product and former NJIT assistant Kevin Tirone as director of basketball operations.

"We've been going all day every day," he said. "But we believe there's a tremendous amount of potential here."

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## College of Staten Island baseball squad continues the battle against cancer

Wednesday, April 25, 2012, 1:23 AM



**Jim Waggoner**  
By



Photo courtesy Ednita Lorenzo

College of Staten Island players wear pink jerseys on Grace Hillery Breast Cancer Awareness Night. The ninth annual event raised \$7,400 for the fight against breast cancer.

Drew University junior pitcher Cody Cummings had a career night in his homecoming, but he had nothing on cancer survivors Deirdre DeAngelis-D'Alessio and Tami DiCostanzo.

Cummings, a Staten Island Academy product, picked up the win by tossing four innings of shutout relief to lead Drew past the College of Staten Island, 7-5, in the ninth annual Grace Hillery Breast Cancer Awareness Night at Dolphin Stadium in Willowbrook.

DeAngelis-D'Alessio, the principal of New Dorp High School, and DiCostanzo,

president of St. Teresa's Family Guild, each took turns throwing ceremonial first pitches to launch the festivities.

"It means so much to share the night with people who have fought and won their battles with the disease," said 28-year-old Anthony Hillery, who created the annual benefit game while still CSI's shortstop and team captain. "The game started with one small idea and to see what it has grown into is amazing."

The evening was dedicated to the memory of Hillery's mother, who died of breast cancer at the age of 54. A record total of \$7,400 was raised with the proceeds donated to the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Institute. More than \$47,000 has been raised since its debut.

DeAngelis-D'Alessio was in her first year as New Dorp's principal when Hillery was a senior captain. She often sat with Grace Hillery in the stands during games and developed a friendship.

"I'm really proud of what Anthony has done," said DeAngelis-D'Alessio, who was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2009 and following surgery is now cancer-free. "He decided to make a difference and he has certainly done that and more."

DiCostanzo has two young sons and is affiliated with St. Teresa's, the school where **CSI** head coach Mike Mauro's daughter is in class with her oldest son.

She was diagnosed with breast cancer on St. Patrick's Day last year, and following surgery has been given a clean bill of health.

"There's a strong theme of mothers and sons here tonight," said DiCostanzo. "The thought that people take time to come out and support this cause to this extent is a little overwhelming."

The night began with the announcement that One-on-One Physical Therapy was donating \$1,000 to the game. Later, it was made known that Drew's players had donated their meal money — \$333.

As for the game itself, middle reliever Cummings was instrumental in helping Drew erase an early 5-2 deficit and improve to 19-15 on the season. He relieved starter Leo Ruiz in the fourth inning and shut the door on the Dolphins while the Rangers slowly mounted a comeback.

He eventually gave way to submarining closer Pat Rock, who promptly picked off a runner at first base to end the eighth, then earned the save with a scoreless ninth.

"It's special pitching on Staten Island," said Cummings, "and the whole atmosphere was great because it's such a special night for **CSI**."

Drew was aided by a pair of Dolphin errors to score twice in the eighth inning to take a 6-5 lead.

Luis Ortiz, Will Difede and Bryan Moreno each had three hits to pace **CSI's** 14-hit attack, but the Dolphins stranded 11 baserunners.

NOTES: Phyllis Eisenberg of One-On-One Physical Therapy sang a stirring rendition of "Amazing Grace" during the seventh-inning stretch ... **CSI** takes a 18-16 overall record into Thursday's CUNY Conference Tournament. The second-seeded Dolphins (8-2) face third-seeded John Jay (5-5) at 4 p.m. at MCU Park in Coney Island, following the 1 p.m. opener between top-seeded Baruch (9-1) and fourth-seeded Lehman (4-6). The tourney continues Friday and Saturday.

Also posted on: [cunyathletics.com](http://cunyathletics.com)



## SILive.com 'Sports Comment of the Day'

Wednesday, April 25, 2012, 4:15 PM



By **Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**



Photo courtesy Ednita Lorenzo

**College of Staten Island** players wear pink jerseys on Grace Hillery Breast Cancer Awareness Night. The ninth annual event raised \$7,400 for the fight against breast cancer.

Today's "Sports Comment of the Day" was posted by SILive.com user **saldi** to a story about the **College of Staten Island** baseball team, which lent its support to the Grace Hillery Breast Cancer Awareness fund raiser.

Said saldi:

Tami we are proud of the way you have handled this unfortunate event in your life. You are very brave. Wishing you Good health and a long life to spend with Phil and the kids. Sorry we didn't know or we would have been there to lend support.

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## Staten Island college sports roundup: **CSI** sweeps softball doubleheader from John Jay

Thursday, April 26, 2012, 2:02 AM



**Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**  
By

Danielle Ponsiglione tossed a no-hitter, striking out five in the opener of the **College of Staten Island's** 8-0, 10-1 sweep over John Jay.

Samantha Tallarine had two hits and three RBI in the opener.

In the second game, freshmen Right-hander Victoria Procopio scattered seven hits, striking out five and Katie Flynn, Stefani Solari and Taylor Kaplan had two RBI each.

The Dolphins upped their record to 11-1 in the CUNY.

### **HONORS FOR TWO FORMER ALL STARS**

Former Advance All Stars Ashley Corrao (Tottenville) and Dia Cascone (Susan Wagner) were recognized as the Division II Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference announced its regular-season honors prior to the start of today's postseason tournament.

Corrao, the Dominican College catcher, was a first-team, all-conference selection. Cascone, Caldwell College's second baseman, was chosen to the second team.

Dominican entered the CACCC playoffs as the No. 1 seed as conference champs and Caldwell is the No. 2 seed.

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## Four Foes Converge at MCU Park Today For Day 1 of CUNYAC/MCU Baseball Championship



Get Your **FREE TICKETS HERE:** [www.cunyathletics.com/tickets](http://www.cunyathletics.com/tickets)

### 2012 CUNYAC / MCU BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP CENTRAL (for liks, results, directions, stats).

The first pitch of the 2012 CUNY Athletic Conference / Municipal Credit Union Baseball Championship is scheduled for 1:00 pm today, Thursday, April 26, at MCU Park (Brooklyn Cyclones) in Coney Island.

The Baruch College Bearcats, the top seed after finishing the regular season with a 9-1 conference record, will host #4 seeded Lehman College Lightning (4-6 CUNYAC) in the first game today. Game 2 of the double-elimination format will feature the defending champs, the #2 College of Staten Island Dolphins (8-2 CUNYAC) versus the #3 seed John Jay College Bloodhounds.

The Bearcats last won the championship in 2009, and have finished second the past two years, extending the Dolphins to a Game 7 both times. CSI won the 2011 final 1-0 in ten inning, as both Richard Anderson (Tournament MVP) and Baruch's Jesus Izarra (2011 Pitcher of the Year) battled in a legendary pitching duel.

Stay tuned for more fireworks this year with games beginning at 1:00 pm on Friday and at 4:00 pm on Saturday.

For a complete schedule, please read below.

**CUNYAC/MCU Baseball Championship Seeding (Only Top Four Qualify)**

#1 Baruch (9-1)

#2 Staten Island (8-2)

#3 John Jay (5-5)

#4 Lehman (4-6) (Won tie-breaker)

CCNY (4-6)

Yeshiva (0-10)

**2012 CUNYAC / MCU Baseball Championship Schedule**

**Thursday, April 26, 2012 (at MCU Park)**

Game 1, 1pm, #1 Baruch vs. #4 Lehman

Game 2, 4pm, #2 Staten Island vs. #3 John Jay





**#1 Baruch & #3 John Jay Win on Day 1 Behind Mercedes & Perez  
In CUNYAC/MCU Baseball Championship at MCU Park**  
**Puts #2 Staten Island & #4 Lehman in Loser's Bracket on Friday When Play Resumes at 1:00 pm**



**Get Your FREE TICKETS HERE: [www.cunyathletics.com/tickets](http://www.cunyathletics.com/tickets)**

**2012 CUNYAC / MCU BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP CENTRAL (for links, results, directions, stats).**

The first two games of the 2012 CUNY Athletic Conference / Municipal Credit Union Baseball Championship are in the books and the defending champions, the College of Staten Island are in the Loser's Bracket after falling to #3 John Jay, 4-1 on Thursday, April 26, at MCU Park (Brooklyn Cyclones) in



Coney Island. In the first game of the day, Baruch College stopped #4 Lehman 7-3. Day 2 action, a tripleheader, at MCU begins at 1:00 pm.

**GAME 1: #1 BARUCH 7, #4 LEHMAN 3 • [BOX SCORE](#)** (courtesy of Baruch Sports Info.)

Jeffrey Mercedes pitched a complete game with 14 strikeouts and Steve Hession scored three runs to lift the baseball team to a 7-3 victory over Lehman in game one of the CUNYAC / MCU Baseball Championships on Thursday afternoon in Brooklyn, New York.

With the result, the Bearcats raise their overall season record to 19-17. The 19 wins tie the team record previously set in 2009. In addition, they also played in their 36th game of the season, which is a new team record.

"It was a good win. We really did not swing the bats to our capability," said Head Coach Jose Torres. "But, Jeffrey Mercedes pitched a terrific game and played to the potential I know he is capable of."

Mercedes raised his record to 3-0 in a dominant performance allowing only six hits, one earned run and no walks in nine innings. In addition to a intercollegiate career-high 14 strikeouts, Mercedes also gave the bullpen a day off, which will play a positive factor the rest of the tournament.

The Bearcats trailed Lehman early 2-1, but tied the game in the third inning as Hession scored the first of his three runs on a wild pitch. They took a 4-2 lead in the fifth inning on an Alvin Mata RBI single to score Hession, while Mata would come around to score on a wild pitch.

The Bearcats put the game out of Lehman's reach with three runs in the sixth inning. Justin Torres scored first on a fielder's choice, while Hession hit an RBI triple to score Ricky Gerbino. As Hession approached third base with his triple, Lehman committed a fielding error that enabled Hession to trot home untouched to score the seventh and final team run of the game.

Baruch advanced to play in Friday's 2nd game at 4:00 pm game against John Jay.

## GAME 2: #3 JOHN JAY 4, #2 STATEN ISLAND 1 • [BOX SCORE](#)



*John Jay Pitcher Braylin Perez*

John Jay sophomore pitcher [Braylin Perez](#) overcame four John Jay errors, pitched the distance, struck out five and allowed six hits, and limited the [College of Staten Island](#) to just a run as the Bloodhounds defeated the Dolphins 4-1 in the opening round game of the 2012 CUNYAC / MCU baseball championship at MCU Park.

With the win by John Jay, the Bloodhounds, the No. 3 seed in the tournament, advances into the winner's bracket game 4 p.m. on Friday against top seed Baruch College, who defeated Lehman College 7-3 in their opening round game. Meanwhile, [CSI](#), the No. 2 seed, will square off against No. 4 seed Lehman in the first elimination game at 1 p.m.

"It was an intense, well pitched game against a great team with a great coach," said John Jay coach, [Dan Palumbo](#). "Braylin pitched great, he has been an incredible ace for us."

The Bloodhounds capitalized on [CSI](#) in the top of the second inning against Dolphins starting pitcher Daniel Slevin. He walked the first batter in the inning, [Billy Moran](#), then hit the next batter, [Brian McKenna](#), before allowing an infield hit to [Nestor Amarante](#) to load the bases with nobody out. But a couple of errant pitches allowed two John Jay runners to score to put the Bloodhounds ahead 2-0.

John Jay scored again in the third when [Corry Harper](#) lifted a sacrifice fly to score [Yahnny Arias](#), who led off the frame with his second hit of the game.

The Bloodhounds' final run came in the top of the fifth when [Owen Kimmel](#) scored from second on a two out RBI single by McKenna to put the Bloodhounds ahead 4-0.

Meanwhile, Perez coasted along, never allowing a Dolphin to make it to third base from the third through eighth innings.

The dominating performance by Perez kept the Dolphins off the board for the first eight innings. Despite a pair of Bloodhound errors in the second inning, **CSI** failed to capitalize. John Jay committed one error each in the fifth and sixth innings, but **CSI** failed to push a run across.

The defending CUNYAC champions unleashed a mild threat in the ninth and broke up the shutout bid with a run. With one out, **CSI** managed a single and a walk to put a pair of runners on base. But the next batter, Luis Ortiz, ripped what appeared to be a run producing base hit that was snagged on an acrobatic catch by Kimmel in centerfield.

"I saw it coming toward me and I was pretty determined to catch it," said Kimmel. "The win today definitely gives us momentum going into the next round against Baruch."

With two outs in the ninth, Perez gave up his only run of the game as Henry Roman hit a single to centerfield to score pinch runner Ray Gise.

But Perez caught the final batter of the game looking to secure the win for the Bloodhounds who are looking for their first conference championship since 2007.

"It was an exciting game. I made it interesting in the end," said Perez. "We are the underdogs in this championship and we are going to show what the underdog can do."

The loser of the 1 p.m. game on Friday between **CSI** and Lehman is eliminated. The winner of the 1 p.m. contest will play again at 7 p.m. against the loser of Friday's 4 p.m. game between John Jay and Baruch.

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## **2012 CUNYAC / MCU Baseball Championship Schedule**

### **DOUBLE ELIMINATION FORMAT**

#### **Thursday, April 26, 2012 (at MCU Park)**

Game 1, 1pm, **#1 Baruch** def. #4 Lehman, 7-3

Game 2, 4pm, **#3 John Jay** def. #2 Staten Island, 4-1

#### **Friday, April 27, 2012 (at MCU Park)**

Game 3, 1pm, Lehman vs. Staten Island

Game 4, 4pm, Baruch vs. John Jay

Game 5, 7pm Winner Game 3 vs. Loser Game 4

#### **Saturday, April 28, 2012 (at MCU Park)**

Game 6, 4pm, Winner Game 4 vs. Winner Game 5 (If winner of game 4 wins then they are the champions – otherwise move to ...)

Game 7, 7pm, Same as Game 6 (If necessary)



## College of Staten Island drops CUNY tourney opener to John Jay, 4-1

Friday, April 27, 2012, 1:04 AM



**Kevin Flood**  
By

If the College of Staten Island is going to win its third CUNY Conference baseball championship in a row — it's going to be the hard way.

CSI could muster no offense against John Jay pitcher Braylin Perez and dropped a 4-1 decision to the Bloodhounds in miserable playing conditions Thursday afternoon at MCU Park in Brooklyn.

The first-round loss means the Dolphins will have to come out of the losers' bracket in the double-elimination tourney and win four games in a row, starting with a 1 p.m. contest against Lehman (a 7-3 loser to top-seeded Baruch) Friday at MCU.

"We just didn't get it done with the bats," said CSI coach Mike Mauro. "It's been a problem for us all year, and it was again tonight. You have to put the ball in play, especially with men on base. We were very streaky with the bats all season, and tonight we were not on top of our game."

Perez had little trouble with the Dolphins as the right-hander didn't allow a run until the ninth inning despite four fielding errors behind him.

"That's the second time Perez beat us this year, and he beat us twice last year," said Mauro, whose squad finished with 11 baserunners left on board. "There are no surprises. He throws fastball, curveball. That's it. If you are not going to score despite putting four men on base by errors, then you are not going to win the game."

The Bloodhounds took advantage of some control problems by CSI starter Daniel Slevin when they scored two runs in the second inning thanks to a walk, hit batter and two wild pitches.

John Jay played small ball in the third frame to advance runners and added a run on a sacrifice fly to make it a 3-0 contest.

Slevin got in trouble again in the fourth, but reliever Kieran Monaghan induced an inning-ending double play to get out of the jam, but it was not going to make a difference.

Perez scattered six hits in the complete-game gem, and it's No. 3 John Jay heading into the winners' bracket final against No. 1 Baruch as CSI (No. 2) goes against No. 4 Lehman in the win-or-go-home game.

"We'll throw Rich (Anderson) tomorrow against Lehman," Mauro added. "He's been our go-to guy all year, and we need him again if we are going to stay alive."

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## College of Staten Island rallies past Lehman to stay alive in CUNY baseball tourney, 10-7

Friday, April 27, 2012, 5:53 PM



By **Jim Waggoner**



Advance file photo/Hilton Flores

**CSI** junior centerfielder Dan Lynch scored three runs in a 10-7 win over Lehman in the CUNY Conference tournament.

Pat Gale figured the **College of Staten Island** had at least one good option for killing a few hours after the Dolphins staved off early elimination in the CUNY Conference baseball tournament Friday afternoon by rallying for a 10-7 victory over Lehman at MCU Park in Coney Island.

"I think we'll probably stroll over to Nathan's for hot dogs," said the former **CSI** southpaw, two years removed from his NCAA Division III All-American season and finishing his first year as pitching coach.

Gale wasn't smiling earlier, when Lehman chased **CSI** ace Richard Anderson with a seven-run fifth inning to take a 7-1 lead. Anderson, last year's tourney MVP, had been cruising along when he suddenly lost command of the strike zone, hitting three batters including two with the bases

loaded.

Sophomore Chris Matusiewicz saved the day, coming out of the bullpen to throw four scoreless innings while the Dolphins started chipping away at the lead. They eventually passed the error-prone Lightning with a five-run eighth as Will Difede's two-run single to right pulled them even at 7-7.

"It happens to every pitcher and it's just baseball," said Gale, who has signed to play professional ball with the Traverse City (Mich.) Beach Bums of the independent Frontier League this summer. "It's hard to explain.

You can be on top of the world one minute and at the bottom the next. Rich has been solid all season as our No. 1."

Gale was a busy man Friday as **CSI** began its quest of having to win four games in two days to defend the title it won last spring during Gale's senior season.

"I think we have enough pitching," said the 6-2, 225-pounder. "Losing the first game (4-1 to John Jay on Thursday) put us in a hole, and all we can do is take it one step at a time."

Matusiewicz, like Anderson, is a Tottenville HS product. He was razor sharp, allowing one hit while striking out three.

Lehman helped out by making six errors and yielding six walks.

Junior shortstop Bryan Moreno drove in three runs without the benefit of a hit, and junior centerfielder Dan Lynch scored three runs. Lynch opened the decisive eighth inning with a double to right-center and the Dolphins scored the go-ahead run on an infield error with the bases loaded.

**CSI** (19-17 overall) was scheduled to return to the diamond to play John Jay, a 15-4 loser to top-seeded Baruch in a winners' bracket contest. A win there, and the Dolphins would have to turn around and win two more against unbeaten Baruch on Saturday (4 and 7) to claim the CUNY crown.

"We have our work cut out for us," said Gale.

With that, the first-year pitching coach began to head toward Surf Avenue for some lunch.

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## Baruch turns back **College of Staten Island** for CUNY Conference baseball title, 5-3

Saturday, April 28, 2012, 11:05 PM



By **Jim Waggoner**



Staten Island Advance/Bill Lyons

Baruch's Alvin Mata celebrates his three-run homer in the fifth inning.

With one swing of the bat, Baruch right-fielder Alvin Mata decided the CUNY Conference Tournament baseball championship.

Mata's three-run blast over the left-field fence in the bottom of the fifth inning helped power the Bearcats to a 5-3 victory over the **College of Staten Island** yesterday at MCU Park in Coney Island.

Baruch's third CUNY title came with a 3-0 tourney record, while **CSI** missed its chance for a 16th crown and split four games.

The Dolphins (20-18 overall) would have needed two wins over Baruch to claim the championship trophy.

Mata's two-out homer came off **CSI** freshman starter Mike Gillen, who worked out of a first-inning jam trailing 2-0 and settled into a groove with three scoreless innings.

Bryan Moreno's two-run double with two outs in the third brought the Dolphins into a 2-2 deadlock, and that stood up until Gillen hung a changeup over the plate and tourney MVP Mata sent it out of the park.

"Our two freshmen (Gillen and Kieran Monaghan) pitched well enough and we had a couple of opportunities but let them slip away," said **CSI** associate head coach Neil Barbella. "One bad pitch told the story."



Baruch's Jesus Izarra pitched a complete-game seven-hitter, striking out five. He retired 10 consecutive batters in the middle of the game until the Dolphins scratched out an eighth-inning run on Joseph Cassano's run-scoring single to right field.

Baruch (21-17) stands to receive an invitation to the upcoming ECAC NY/NJ Tournament as the CUNY champion, while **CSI** will finish its season with a pair of home games this week against FDU-Florham (Tuesday) and Mount St. Vincent (Saturday).

"We battled," summarized Barbella. "We would have loved to have forced a deciding game, but we came up a little short."

NOTES: Monaghan worked 3 and one-third innings of shutout relief behind Gillen, allowing one hit ... Thomas Daly went 3-for-4 for the Bearcats while senior centerfielder Steve Hession, a McKee/S.I. Tech product, went 1 for 3 with a walk and a run ... Baruch won two of three meetings against **CSI** ... The Dolphins had captured the previous two CUNY titles and three of the past four.

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## **Baruch & Hunter Set For Final Showdown on Thursday Both Win in 2012 CUNYAC/HSS Men's Tennis Semifinals**

**#1 Baruch Beats #4 Staten Island, 5-1 and #3 Hunter Tops #2 John Jay at National Tennis Center on Sunday.**



*Baruch's Christopher Jenkins, the 2011 Player of the Year and Hunter's Luis Quintero, the 2011 Tournament MVP in semifinal action!*

### **2012 CUNYAC / HSS MEN'S TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP CENTRAL (for links, results, stats & more).**

The CUNY Athletic Conference / Hospital For Special Surgery Men's Tennis Championship Final on Thursday, May 3rd at 5:00 pm at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center will be a showdown following Sunday's semifinals. On Sunday, #1 Baruch beat #4 Staten Island, 5-1 and #3 Hunter topped #2 John Jay, 5-2 to set up the matchup of the two East Side rivals for the fourth time in five seasons.

The final will be played, as always, at the site of the U.S. Open and the winner of this year's championship will earn the CUNYAC's coveted automatic berth to the NCAA Division III National Championship Tournament which will begin on Friday, May 11.

### **#1 Baruch 5, #4 Staten Island 1 • [BOXSCORE](#) (Courtesy Baruch Sports Info.)**

Baruch College defeated the College of Staten Island, 5-1, in a CUNYAC/Hospital For Special Surgery Championship semifinal match played on Sunday afternoon at the Billie Jean King USTA National Tennis Center in Queens.

With the result, the Bearcats raise their record to 14-2 overall and advance to play in Thursday's 5:00 pm championship match against rival Hunter College. The winner will earn CUNYAC's coveted berth to the

NCAA Div. III Championship Tournament that will begin on Friday, May 11.

The Bearcats won two of the three doubles and three singles to post the victory. Per postseason rules, the match was halted upon the winning team clinching the fifth point.

## RESULTS:

### DOUBLES (Baruch 2-1)

- #1 Artem Gorbachevskiy & Guy Goren (B) def. Filip Bubalo & Riad Hama (SI), 8-5
- #2 Nicholas Zikos & Daniel Ursomanno (SI) def. Stephan Muller & Christopher Jenkins (B), 8-6
- #3 Philip Bleustein & Joe Laskowski (B) def. Austin Kapetanakis & Dmitry Vituk (SI) 8-0

### SINGLES (Baruch 3-0)

- #1 Artem Gorbachevskiy (B) vs. Nicholas Zikos (SI), 6-0, 2-6, 2-3 (UNF)
- #2 Guy Goren (B) vs. Filip Bubalo (SI), 6-4, 4-1 (UNF)
- #3 Christopher Jenkins (B) def. Filip Bubalo (SI), 6-3, 6-2
- #4 Stephan Muller (B) vs. Daniel Ursomanno (SI), 6-4, 4-2 (UNF)
- #5 Phillip Bleustein (B) def. Austin Kapetanakis (SI), 6-1, 6-0
- #6 Joe Laskowski (B) def. Oscar Wu (SI) 6-0, 6-0 (Forfeit)

### #3 Hunter 5, #2 John Jay 2 • [BOXSCORE](#) (Courtesy Hunter Sports Info.)

The Hunter College men's tennis team topped the John Jay Bloodhounds, 5-2 in the CUNYAC//Hospital For Special Surgery Championship at the USTA National Tennis Center this afternoon to the Championship final.

Hunter (8-6) will take on archrival Baruch College (14-2) on Thursday, May 3rd at 5pm at the USTA National Tennis Center in a battle for the CUNYAC's automatic berth to the NCAA Championships.

The Hawks got off to a 2-1 start after impressive doubles play. [Luis Quintero](#) and [Yevgeny Perepelov](#) dominated at first singles, knocking off Stephen Walz and Erkut Cakmak, 8-1. The Bloodhounds won the second doubles match but [Arthur Kapetanakis](#) and [Robert Frischling-Sosman](#) handled Luis Chirinos and Frantisek Demek, 8-2 to put the Hawks ahead.

"We are happy to be back in the finals, we have a lot of work ahead of us on Thursday," said Head Coach Eric Metzger. "It's a wonderful opportunity to have a shot at a threepeat."

Quintero nabbed the first Hawk victory in singles, defeating Pantaloukas, 6-0, 6-0 at second singles. [Damen Ellingson](#) kept the win streak alive with a victory at third singles as he knocked off Chirinos, 6-2 and 6-0. The Bloodhounds tallied their second victory at fifth singles but [Irving Salazar](#) prevailed in a battle at sixth singles, winning 6-3 and 6-4 over Demek to secure Hunter's 5-2 victory.

## RESULTS:

### Doubles (2-1 Hunter)

- 1. [Luis Quintero](#)/[Yevgeny Perepelov](#) (HUNTER) def. Stephen Walz/Erkut Cakmak (JOHNJAY) 8-1

2. Andreas Pantaloukas/Kelvin Rodriguez (JOHNJAY) def. [Damen Ellingson](#)/[Irving Salazar](#)-Puriz (HUNTER) 8-2
3. [Arthur Kapetanakis](#)/Robert Frischling (HUNTER) def. Luis Chirinos/Frantisek Demek (JOHNJAY) 8-2

**Singles (3-1 Hunter)**

1. [Yevgeny Perepelov](#) (HUNTER) vs. Erkut Cakmak (JOHNJAY) 6-4, 0-6, 1-0, unfinished
2. [Luis Quintero](#) (HUNTER) def. Andreas Pantaloukas (JOHNJAY) 6-0, 6-0
3. [Damen Ellingson](#) (HUNTER) def. Luis Chirinos (JOHNJAY) 6-2, 6-0
4. [Arthur Kapetanakis](#) (HUNTER) vs. Kelvin Rodriguez (JOHNJAY) 4-6, 3-4, unfinished
5. Stephen Walz (JOHNJAY) def. Robert Frischling (HUNTER) 6-0, 6-1
6. [Irving Salazar](#) (HUNTER) def. Frantisek Demek (JOHNJAY) 6-3, 6-4



## College of Staten Island sports roundup: Tennis and softball

Monday, April 30, 2012, 12:27 AM



By **Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

### MEN'S TENNIS

Baruch 5, **CSI** 1

The top-seeded Bearcats improved to 14-2 overall with the CUNY Conference semifinal playoff victory over the fourth-seeded Dolphins at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Queens.

Nicholas Zikos and Daniel Ursomanno scored **CSI's** lone victory in No. 2 doubles, 8-6.

Baruch will face third-seeded Hunter in Thursday's championship match.

### COLLEGE SOFTBALL

FDU-Florham 6, **CSI** 3

**CSI** 5, FDU-Florham 4

Stefanie Solari earned the pitching win and added a key two-run single as the Dolphins (15-18 overall) salvaged a split of the non-conference doubleheader at Willowbrook.

Kaitlyn Flynn had a two-run double in the opener and Kristi Dillon had three hits on the afternoon.

**CSI** hosts the CUNY Conference tourney on Friday and Saturday.

# ***Stories***

## *Speed networking*



JANET DUGO/Business Trends

The Executive Women's Council of the SI Economic Development Corp., working with the Career Development office at the College of Staten Island, presented a speed networking event at the college that allowed students to meet and get career advice from seasoned professionals. On hand were, from left, Juliet Lewis of Con Edison, student Sarah Aponte, CSI Career Development Assistant Nina Long, Joan Galestro of TD Bank and Xiomara Ayala of Marathon Bank.



## CAREER DEVELOPMENT, IN WILLOWBROOK



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/MARK STEIN

The New York State Department of Transportation hosted a workforce development event at the College of Staten Island on April 12 to promote information gathering and networking. Some Staten Island residents found the gathering to be helpful.





## Director of charter school planned for Staten Island promises stellar literacy rates

Monday, April 02, 2012, 11:29 PM



**Jillian Jorgensen**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The director of the proposed Staten Island Green Charter School for Environmental Discovery said her school would aim to top the borough in literacy rates, promising 85 percent of students above grade level within two years.

Dr. Carol B. Reiss spoke about her school at the Community Education Council 31 meeting tonight during a public hearing on its proposed charter, which is being considered by the State University of New York. The K-8 school is slated to open in 2013, if its charter is approved.



Staten island Advance/Jillian Jorgensen

The former St. Mary School in Rosebank -- which has a coal furnace -- is possible home for Staten Island Green Charter School.

The school seeks to meet its goals through "exploratory community-based learning" focused on the environment -- including solar energy -- and aligned to state and Common Core standards, Dr. Reiss said.

Students would tend an urban farm, and the lunch menu will be vegetarian and gluten-free.

The school's goals would include 85 percent of all students in their second year at the school scoring at or above a Level 3 on the English Language Arts exam -- at or above grade level.

"I know some of you are saying, 'Well, that sounds a little ambitious,'" Dr. Reiss said. "But we understand how we're teaching. We've developed a curriculum that actually aligns with these measures for all students."

The school will also look to have a greater percentage of students at grade level than the local school district average, and to have at least 20 percent of students hitting the top level, 4, on state exams.

Some members of the CEC seemed skeptical. Vice President Frank Squicciarini said other charter schools had predicted similar outcomes -- and haven't met them.

"What happens when you don't reach that grade, that number?" Squicciarini asked.

But Dr. Reiss insisted they would meet their goals, and had advantages other schools don't -- like starting with the students from when they are very young, as opposed to schools that start at grade six.

"We have to do it, or we will not stay open," Dr. Reiss said. "If I don't make these metrics, I won't be open in five years."

When asked how the school aimed to perform better than the school district average, Dr. Reiss said they will be able to offer more one-to-one attention to each student.

"We have the opportunity to work more closely with students through the experiential model," she said.

The school doesn't have a physical home yet, Dr. Reiss said, but is considering the former St. Mary School in Rosebank -- a building that would require substantial work to be aligned with the school's green goals, as it is currently coal-powered.

In terms of its environmental goals, one lesson plan for young students featured them planting seeds. The lessons incorporate all the subject areas -- so students learn about plants as a science lesson, and counting seeds as a math lesson.

Dr. Reiss said the aim is to give students a specialized focus in the "green economy" through an environmental program "infused with technology and literacy" and with a central focus on math and science.

The school would seek to target some children before they even enter the school -- they are partnering with the Jewish Community Center to offer a privately funded "developmental kindergarten" in Stapleton, for 4-year-olds. Those students wouldn't necessarily be guaranteed a spot at the charter school, to which students are admitted by lottery.

The school will also partner with Columbia University and the College of Staten Island, among other organizations, Dr. Reiss said.

The school would target students from Stapleton, New Brighton, Rosebank and the greater North Shore area, but all New York City children can apply.



## College of Staten Island (CUNY) – Scientific Computing Support Manager (Computer Systems Manager, Level 4 – Provisional)

Filed in Administrative, Jobs on April 2, 2012

Job Title: Scientific Computing Support Manager (Computer Systems Manager, Level 4 – Provisional)

Job ID: 5573

Location: College of Staten Island

Full/Part Time: Full-Time

Regular/Temporary: Regular

### GENERAL DUTIES

This is a management class of positions consisting of assignments at different levels of responsibility. Employees in this class of positions are responsible for managing and directing and information technology area in a College or the University; or managing and directing all aspects of an Information Systems technology area within the University or a College.

### CONTRACT TITLE

Computer Systems Manager

### FLSA

Exempt

### CAMPUS SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Reporting to the Director, HPCC, the Systems and Applications Manager will direct the following activities:

- Installs systems software including queuing systems, file system software, and data management systems.
- Collaborates with the research community on various research computing projects, organizes joint workshops, colloquia and seminars, and publishes conference proceedings and technical reports.
- Manages the development and installation of HPC parallel applications.
- Advises faculty and researchers on their HPC needs.
- Consults with sophisticated users to optimize their applications for HPC execution.
- Consults with users to optimize their applications for HPC execution.
- Develops and implements new parallel HPC applications.
- Conducts benchmarking activities.
- Conducts independent as well as collaborative research in HPC; stay current with state of the art in the field.
- Collaborates with information technology staff to improve the performance of existing HPC resources and to plan for next generation equipment.
- Provides training courses in Open MPI and CUDA.

- Manages the resolution of problems, notifying others according to department procedure. Explains problem resolution to others, and instructs others in implementing them.
- Demonstrates an understanding of, and adheres to, systems methodologies, quality control and performance standards, and work methods established in unit. Explains these standards to others and administers compliance activities.
- Provides timely and effective service.

#### MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

1. Six (6) years of progressively responsible full-time paid information systems technology experience, at least 18 months of which shall have been in an administrative or managerial capacity in the areas of computer applications programming, systems programming, information systems development, data telecommunications, data base administration or a closely related area.

2. Education at an accredited College or University may be substituted for the general information systems technology experience at the rate of one year of college for 6 months of experience up to a maximum of 4 years of college for 2 years of experience. In addition a Master's degree in computer science or a closely related field from an accredited college or university may be substituted for an additional year of the general information systems technology experience. However, all candidates must possess the 18 months of administrative or managerial experience described above.

#### COMPENSATION

Commensurate with experience.

#### HOW TO APPLY

To apply, please go to <http://www.cuny.edu>; select "Employment", "Search Job Listings", "More Options to Search for CUNY Jobs", then enter the Job ID# in the "Job Opening ID" field.

#### CLOSING DATE

April 28, 2012

## Recalling the horrors of Staten Island's Willowbrook State School

Monday, April 02, 2012, 9:30 AM



**Stephanie Slepian**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- In a darkened room, the boy stares out a frost-covered window.

"I have this plan for what I could do if I could control the weather," he thinks. "I'd grow the tree in the back so high, it'd be 10 times the size of the building. Then the sky would open up and it'd snow, a thick wet snow. I'd take a day of that, maybe two ... I can see it so clear in my mind how beautiful it could be."

Footsteps interrupt his thoughts. His eyes grow wide, his lip trembles. Two orderlies, dressed in white, carry him away. A door slams. Then, darkness.



[Enlarge](#)

**Staten Island Advance**

This screen shot was taken from "Willowbrook," a 16-minute fictional short film based on the events of the Willowbrook State School. The film will make its world premiere this month at the Tribeca Film Festival.

**Willowbrook State School** gallery (6 photos)

**"Willowbrook," a 16-minute fictional short film**, was inspired by the realities of the now-shuttered Willowbrook State School. It has its world premiere this month at the **Tribeca Film Festival**.

"We're absolutely thrilled for a number of reasons, not only because Tribeca is such a prestigious festival, but because Willowbrook in general has more meaning to the East Coast and New York," said director Ross Cohen, 28, a native of Liverpool, England, now completing his master of fine arts degree at the University of Southern California.

The film -- which received \$20,000 from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, a Manhattan nonprofit that awards grants related to science, technology and economic performance -- is among 60 shorts to be screened at

Tribeca.

"What we're looking for, especially in the shorts program, is unique storytelling and storytelling set in a world perhaps we have not seen before," said Sharon Badal, the festival's head of shorts programming.

"[Willowbrook] is a snippet of life from the city we all call home. Most people of a certain age remember Willowbrook and remember what happened there. New York is far bigger than Manhattan. This is a period piece that gives a different dimension to the New York program."

Cohen is also planning a screening on Staten Island.

He first happened upon the story of Willowbrook, now home to the College of Staten Island, while reading a book documenting human experimentation.

"Willowbrook really intrigued me because, one, it was children, and two, because they were disabled children," Cohen said. "I couldn't believe all this stuff was happening in the modern day. There's still a lot hidden about what went on there."

Patients were kept in warehouse-like conditions and were force-fed milkshakes laced with a live hepatitis virus as part of state-sanctioned experiments. The school was closed for good in 1987 after the Advance, and later, Geraldo Rivera, exposed conditions there.

Cohen's research took him to the CSI archives and its collection of papers on Willowbrook. Among the items was an admission slip with a parent's signature.

"They didn't know what they were signing," he said.

Shot in an old state hospital south of Los Angeles, the trailer for "Willowbrook" shows a young pediatrician arriving for the first day of his residency in the fall of 1964. He is led through the building by a lab-coated doctor who pays no mind as he steps over children lying half-dressed on the hallway's black-and-white tiled floor.

Immediately, the younger doctor wrestles with his conscience: Should I stay, should I go, should I tell?

"What's important is the issue and the story and making people aware of it," Cohen said. "If the story is

### World premiere

*"Willowbrook" will have its world premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival.*

- **When:** The film will be screened April 20 at 6 p.m. and April 21 at 11:59 p.m. at the AMC Loews Village 7-1; April 23 at 2:30 p.m. at the AMC Loews Village 7-2, and April 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the Tribeca Cinemas Theater 2.

- **Additional info:** Further details about the "Willowbrook" are also available on **Facebook** and at the film's **Web site**.

strong enough, it will help raise awareness. The more people get to see the movie and talk about what happened there, the better."

Watch the trailer below

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## DOT to host construction jobs networking event on Thursday on Staten Island

Monday, April 09, 2012, 6:31 AM



**Staten Island Advance**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - The New York state Department of Transportation wants to offer you an opportunity to get a foot in the door of the construction industry.

The state DOT is hosting a workforce development event Thursday from 2 to 6 p.m. at the **College of Staten Island**'s Center for the Arts at 2800 Victory Blvd., Willowbrook.

The event is being held in connection with the state DOT's recent project to extend the bus/HOV lane on the Staten Island Expressway, and to assist those interested in changing careers to learn more about the construction business.

The DOT will be joined by the project contractor, CCA Civil; the U.S. Department of Transportation and Commerce; Nontraditional Employment for Women and representatives from Teamsters Local 282, Operating Engineers Locals 14 and 15, Paving Laborers Local 1010 and Excavation Laborers Local 731.

Those who attend can learn more about the construction trade, becoming a trade union member or learn about the disadvantaged, minority and women's business certification, all in connection with the \$110 million bus/HOV lane extension project currently under way on the SIE.

The state DOT hires mostly through the unions, so there may not be immediate job openings for construction laborers, but small business owners who offer support services to the construction industry could make connections at this networking event, the state DOT said.

The project will extend the current bus/HOV lanes from where they end today to the Victory Boulevard exit in both directions.

The Slosson Avenue overpass will be replaced with a wider bridge deck and the Manor Road overpass will be widened westbound to accommodate the new bus/HOV lanes.

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## Night of family fun at CSI

Wednesday, April 11, 2012, 10:01 AM



By Mark D. Stein



Photo Courtesy of Black Heritage Family Day

The Harlem Rockets comedy basketball team will take to the court at the College of Staten Island this Saturday.

WILLOWBROOK -- To raise funds, these organizers are promoting fun.

The Black Heritage Family Day planning committee is hosting a money-maker this Saturday at the College of Staten Island (CSI) Sports and Recreation Center gymnasium to prepare for its annual cultural event scheduled for this September.

This weekend's gathering is entitled "Families Against Bullying — FABulous Night of Family Entertainment" and features the Harlem Rockets comedy basketball team.

Beth L. Coleman-Oliver, fund-raising chairperson, said the event will offer folks an opportunity to come together for a cause — in preparation of the parade in September.

The event also aims to reinforce the negatives of bullying.

"It's a community event. It's all black people on Staten Island coming together

and trying to put a positive spin on anti-bullying," she said.

The evening event, set from 6 to 10 p.m., will include four basketball games for the pee-wee, junior-high school and high-school levels, as well as the grand event that features the Harlem Rockets.

"They're similar to the Harlem Globetrotters. There's a lot of humor to it, but they're all serious. They told us they haven't lost a game," explained the chairperson, who added that the committee is piecing together a team to play the Rockets. Some of the players may be high-school students.

A shooting contest among black ministers may also be on the scorecard, said Ms. Coleman-Oliver.

"It's a chance to bring your family out and have a good day," said Ms. Coleman-Oliver.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. at the CSI gymnasium. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. Children ages 7 and younger will be charged \$7 at the door only. For groups, one ticket is free for every 15 purchased.

For sales and additional information, contact Ms. Coleman-Oliver at 718-300-1370.

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## Assembly panel approves subpoenas for Port Authority



*The Assembly Transportation Committee voted to give itself subpoena power to seek documents from the Port Authority, which operates the Holland Tunnel (above).*

**TRENTON** — Political theater was center stage as the Assembly Transportation Committee voted 6 to 4 along party lines to issue subpoenas to obtain information from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Wednesday morning's vote came as several ranking Assembly Republicans sat in on the hearing and questioned the potential cost and whether the

effort was politically motivated on the part of Transportation Chairman John Wisniewski, D-Middlesex, who also is head of the state Democratic Committee.

The debate ended with a vote in which Wisniewski and Assembly members Linda Stender, Vincent Prieto, Rubin Ramos, Marlene Caride and Upendra Chivukula, all Democrats, voted to issue subpoenas. Voting against were Republican Assembly Minority Leader Jon Bramnick and Assembly members John Amodio, Mary Pat Angelini and David Rible.

Bramnick, R-Morris, said his concern was the potential cost of hiring people to serve the subpoenas and whether consultants or experts would have to be hired to review the documents.

Wisniewski, in turn, guaranteed that all committee members would have access to the documents, which he said would be analyzed by the nonpartisan Office of Legislative Services. Process servers to hand deliver subpoenas to individuals would be the only outside people needed, he said.

Turning to subpoenas was prompted by the Port Authority's failure to respond to four Freedom of Information Requests he filed with the agency starting in 2010, Wisniewski said. "We all agree the problems need to be fixed, the goal in what we're looking for is information, period," Wisniewski said, adding that the committee needs that information as it considers pending legislation that would regulate the Port Authority.

Companion legislation would also have to be approved in New York. Some of those reforms are likely topics for a bistate legislative hearing on April 20 at the College of Staten Island. Wisniewski said that Port Authority officials confirmed they will attend that hearing.

Republicans accused Wisniewski of following a political agenda, a charge he turned around on them by noting that three legislators from the GOP leadership attended instead of regular committee members

who are Republicans.

Bramnick and Angelini asked why the committee couldn't wait until June, when the second phase of the report by Navigant Consulting is issued examining the Port Authority's capital plan. Wisniewski said the assembly committee's subpoena power only has a one-year time span.

Navigant was hired by the Port Authority, not an independent overseer, Wisniewski said. The Port Authority undertook the independent audit being conducted by Navigant as a condition of Gov. Chris Christie and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo signing off on the August toll and fare increases.

"The question is, what's not in the Navigant report?" Wisniewski said afterward, who questioned if a consultant hired by the authority could objectively examine the authority's finances and operations.

This isn't the first time the assembly transportation committee has sought and received subpoena power, Wisniewski said. It used subpoena power in 1990 under a Democratic chairman and while Jim Florio was governor and also used the power when James E. McGreevey was governor, he said.

## Sen. Frank Lautenberg to chair U.S. Senate hearing on interstate tolling

Thursday, April 12, 2012, 7:45 AM



By **Steve Strunsky/The Star-Ledger**



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Tony Kurdzuk/The Star-Ledger

U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg is shown in a 2011 file photo.

U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) will chair a senate hearing in Washington next week on interstate tolling, and has invited the deputy executive director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to testify.

The hearing on Wednesday by the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Surface Transportation will explore the use of tolls on the nation's bridges and tunnels, the need for transparency and accountability by the entities that set toll rates. The committee will also examine the need for equity among commuters, businesses, and

the traveling public who use tolled facilities.

"The public is concerned by rising tolls and the lack of transparency surrounding them," Lautenberg said in a statement. "This hearing will allow us to review how tolling agencies are spending commuters' money and help us make sure toll increases are justified."

While the hearing will address tolling issues nationwide, it comes in the wake of last year's **controversial toll hike at Port Authority bridges and tunnels**, as well as reports from the New York State Comptroller's office and a private consulting firm hired by the Port Authority itself, which were highly critical of agency spending and management practices.

The Port Authority did not say whether Baroni would accept Lautenberg's invitation to testify.

Lautenberg has also been critical of the bi-state agency, and has joined with Staten Island Congressman Michael Grimm (R-NY) in sponsoring federal legislation that would give the U.S. Secretary of Transportation authority to roll back excessive toll hikes by federally funded agencies.

In recent months, Port Authority officials have announced a series of internal reforms they say will boost transparency and efficiency at the \$7 billion agency, including the online posting of all 6,777 employees' pay, salary and benefit cuts to non-union workers, and a streamlining of its freedom of information policy.

Even so, state lawmakers from New York and New Jersey have introduced bills to boost transparency and accountability at the agency.

Two days after Lautenberg's hearing, the chairman of New Jersey's Assembly Transportation, Public Works and Independent Authorities Committee will co-host a bi-state legislative hearing with a Republican New York state Senator at the College of Staten Island.

#### **Related coverage:**

- **Proposed bill would give feds authority to roll back Port Authority toll hikes**
- **N.J. commuters brace for bruising toll hikes set to take effect this weekend**

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## New Island event is all about puppy love

Monday, April 16, 2012, 10:51 AM



**Andrea Boyarsky**  
By

When Alice Marino's father and mother were diagnosed with cancer, she became their co-caregiver. Her helper was a little shih tzu named Mico Monster, who always was there to brighten her parents' days as well as her own.

"He would lay with them in bed and kiss them and just create some extra happiness for them," the Arrochar resident said. "He comforted them and me."

When her parents succumbed to the disease that claims more than 500,000 lives in the United States each year, Mico Monster, who recently passed away at age 16, was by Ms. Marino's side to help her cope with her grief.

To honor him and her parents, the certified master dog trainer and animal behavior specialist is co-chairing Staten Island's first Bark For Life, an American Cancer Society (ACS) fund-raiser that celebrates the contributions of canine caregivers.

The event will take place April 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Wolfe's Pond Park, Prince's Bay. It will feature a short walk, DJ, fashion/costume contest for dogs and the Ruffminster Dog Show, a take on Westminster for Island pups.

All dogs at Bark For Life can participate in the show, which Ms. Marino founded. Ruffminster includes novice and intermediate groups in which pooches can strut their stuff and show off their tricks. Prizes will be awarded to the top dogs in each category as well as for best trick in show.

"It's for amusement and fun," said Ms. Marino, who runs Ruff Love Dog Training on the Island. "We don't do much to honor our dogs and this is a public way of getting together, having some fun, honoring our best friends and celebrating them as part of our family and life."

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Jeannine Marotta, regional vice president for the Island ACS, and Kristina Wertheimer, special events manager, explained that Bark for Life is another way for the organization to reach community members.



[View full size](#)

Staten Island  
Advance Photos/  
Mark Stein

Dog Trainer Alice Marino is co-chairing Bark For Life to honor her late dog, Mico Monster, who was by her side when her parents were diagnosed with cancer.





**View full size**

The event will feature the Ruffinster Dog Show and owners are encouraged to dress up their dogs, like Daisy who was a geisha at last year's dog show.

"People really cherish the relationship they have with their dog," Ms. Wertheimer commented. "This is a way to honor their dogs as part of the community, as well as getting outside and meeting new people."

The event also features information on ACS programs that the fund-raiser helps to support, Ms. Marotta said. Island services include: Patient Navigation, a program that pairs newly-diagnosed patients with survivors; Look Good Feel Better, which helps women cope with appearance-related side effects during treatment; Reach to Recovery for breast cancer patients, and a 24-hour hotline (800-227-2345).

"We want people to know we're here and this is what we do," Ms. Marotta said.

Bark For Life is a component of Relay For Life, an annual event that's celebrating its 10th anniversary on the Island. Held at two locations this year, it aims to honor survivors, remember those lost to cancer and fight back against the disease.

The first Island Relay will take place on June 2 at Wagner College, Grymes Hill; the second will be an overnight event at Henry Kaufmann Campgrounds in Sea View July 14-15. The **College of Staten Island** and St. John's University also will be hosting their own Relay events this year.

"We really want to start expanding so everyone on Staten Island can Relay," Ms. Marotta said. "We hope people will join and participate."

*Andrea Boyarsky is the Health editor for the Advance. She may be reached at [boyarsky@siadvance.com](mailto:boyarsky@siadvance.com).*



Photo Courtesy of American Cancer Society



## Long list of gripes to be aired at Staten Island Port Authority hearing Friday

Tuesday, April 17, 2012, 6:46 PM



**Michael Sedon**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Port Authority bridge tolls soared in 2011. Further increases are set in stone for 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. The agency has been derided in an audit as the epitome of government dysfunction, out-of-control spending and lack of accountability. The agency's new boss, while pledging to turn things around, doesn't dispute the brutal assessment.

Against that backdrop, New York and New Jersey lawmakers will hold a public hearing on the agency's financial mismanagement and lack of accountability Friday at the College of Staten Island's Center for the Arts building at 10:30 a.m.



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Staten Island Advance/Anthony DePrimo

The Bayonne Bridge is one of three Staten Island-to-New Jersey crossings administered by the Port Authority.

The bipartisan hearing will be co-chaired by New York state Sen. Charles J. Fuschillo Jr. (R-Long Island) and New Jersey Assemblyman John Wisniewski (D-Middlesex County).

The public is invited to attend and submit written testimony, but only those invited to speak will be allowed to address the hearing. The proceedings will be streamed live on Fuschillo's official **Senate website**.

The legislators announced the hearing following a September toll hike last year that raised the E-ZPass charge at all of the PA's crossings for on-peak travel from \$8 to \$9.50 -- an increase introduced, voted on and passed in less than three weeks -- and a preliminary audit released in February calling the authority "**challenged and dysfunctional**."

Unlike the PA hearings held in August where not one voting member of agency's board of commissioners attended, this hearing will be attended by the Executive Director Pat Foye and Deputy Executive Director Bill Baroni, according to PA spokesman Steve Coleman.

The lawmakers on each side of the Hudson River cited a nearly 20 percent increase in gross compensation over the last five years, excessive overtime spending that reached \$85 million in 2010, and a \$3.8 billion cost increase for rebuilding the World Trade Center site.

"The Port Authority needs to completely overhaul the way it operates," said Fuschillo, the Senate's Transportation Committee chairman. "It's an authority with a long history of overspending, financial mismanagement and a total lack of accountability and transparency."

Foye, the PA's current executive director inherited these problems, and since the announcement of this public hearing the authority has moved to cut an estimated \$41 million in nonunion bonuses and other benefits, in addition to eliminating free PATH rail passes for staff employees, family members and retirees.

In addition, the authority has also released 22,000 pages of documents on its website, and it will publish all answered Freedom of Information Law requests on its website going forward.

But Foye hasn't **budged on the issue of a toll break for routine Staten Island users** of the agency's three crossings that connect the borough to New Jersey. Instead, Foye continues to push a carpool plan that rewards those who commit to 10 trips a month, although a modest discount starts kicking in with the sixth trip.

The problem with that plan is that riders must commit to 10 trips in 30 days, at \$47.50. They pay that amount whether they take one trip or ten -- with trips beyond number 10 costing \$4.75 each.

Many Staten Islanders who don't work in New Jersey only travel there once or maybe twice a week, so they are reluctant to commit to it -- and therefore get no break.

So far 10,193 E-ZPass customers have signed up for the discount, and of that number, 5,841 of them are Staten Island residents, or 57 percent, Coleman said.



## Calling potential construction workers on Staten Island

Wednesday, April 18, 2012, 8:52 AM



**Mark D. Stein**  
By

WILLOWBROOK -- If you're not in the construction industry, you might not know how to enter.

At the College of Staten Island on April 12, the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) hosted a workforce development event at the college's Center for the Arts. A handful of borough residents took advantage of the opportunity.

The event was held in connection with the state DOT's recent project to extend the bus/HOV lane on the Staten Island Expressway (SIE), and to assist those interested in changing careers to learn more about the construction business. The lane project is estimated to cost \$110 million.

Adam Levine, spokesman for the state agency, said in past events, people have questioned why contractors didn't hire locally.

While the agency can't force contractors to hire locally, Levine said the agency can encourage them to do so.

"What we can do is ask the contractor to see early-on in the job, if there's work that has not yet been dedicated to any workers, laborers or small businesses. They can get that information, and see if there's a good fit," explained Levine.

Attending the event were the project contractor, CCA Civil; the U.S. Department of Transportation and Commerce; Nontraditional Employment for Women and representatives from Teamsters Local 282, Operating Engineers Locals 14 and 15, Paving Laborers Local 1010 and Excavation Laborers Local 731.

Joe Sino of Annadale, an active union member, said finding work has been difficult.

"I'm looking for steady work and employment with the city," Sino explained. He was happy to show up for the four-hour event. "I'm trying to get a good lead. It's hard to get hired by this city."

Another visitor, Jamel Jones of Mariners Harbor said information he gathered at the event couldn't be found elsewhere.

"It's been tough getting work, but I'm grateful I showed up," he said.

For more information, visit [www.dot.ny.gov](http://www.dot.ny.gov).

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## A new vision at CSI

Wednesday, April 18, 2012, 7:45 AM



**Staten Island Advance Editorial**  
By

When Dr. Marlene Springer announced her retirement as president of the College of Staten Island six years ago, we lobbied heavily in this space that the City University of New York should appoint a Staten Islander to lead the school.

After all, we reasoned, Staten Island has many unique characteristics that other communities that host CUNY schools do not share. We felt that the CSI administration then did not relate as well to the community as we thought necessary to make the school part of the fabric of Staten Island, and we thought that someone who knew Staten Islander as only a Staten Islander could would be able to make those changes.

So we were disappointed when a California educator and Bronx native was appointed.

He was Dr. Tomas Morales.

It took us all of six months to discover we were wrong. Very wrong.

Dr. Morales adapted to Staten Island as if he were born here, and quickly introduced himself, and the school, to Staten Islanders of all stripes who had not been near the school in many years.

He made the changes that needed to be made, and proved himself to be a strong, visionary leader who was not afraid to make those changes to bring the school to another level. The school's image began changing on Staten Island, and exploded off Staten Island.

So it should come as a surprise that a group of disgruntled professors will stage a vote on a resolution of no confidence tomorrow aimed at Dr. Morales and Provost Dr. William Fritz, who was recently hired by Dr. Morales. But it doesn't.

Their actions have prompted CUNY Chancellor Mathew Goldstein to issue a strong letter of support for Dr. Morales - a gutsy move, but a good one because he knows how Dr. Morales has adjusted the perception of this Staten Island institution, once referred to as "the College of Last Resort" to a college where students are getting a top-notch education at a very affordable price.

For that perception to change, Dr. Morales had to makes changes, and he had to have vision. Predictably,

some just don't like change.

Just a glimpse of his vision: He wants to add hundreds of thousands of square feet of classrooms and labs to the sprawling 204-acre campus. He intends to build a high-performance computational center for the school's super-computer and to expand the children's-care center, the student center and the recreational center.

He is building residence halls for 440 students and faculty. The dormitories would attract students not only from around the city and country, but could draw scholars from around the world, lending an international flavor to the institution.

The plan appeared dead not long ago because of severe financing problems. But Dr. Morales did not give up, and ground was broken just weeks ago.

Enrollment, the number of full-time students and the number of bachelor's degrees awarded have all spiked. The school recently had its first-ever Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship winner.

The highly sought award, named after the late Arizona senator and presidential candidate, was established 25 years ago to encourage the pursuit of careers and Ph.D.s in the sciences, math, computer science and related fields. Only 300 students nationwide earn the award.

Dr. Morales makes no secret that his core mission is to attract the best faculty and students, to raise the school's profile and to spread the word about the quality of the education to be had at **CSI**.

Increasing numbers of professors are coming to **CSI** after doing postdoctoral work at prestigious universities, such as the Massachusetts Institution of Technology, and are also migrating in from high-level think-tanks and research institutes.

Those professors allow the school to offer undergraduate students learning and research opportunities in areas such as polymer chemistry, breast cancer research, social science research, music theory and art performance that other colleges only provide at the master's and doctoral levels.

These are not the type of educators who come to a school where its leader deserves a vote of no confidence. They are the type who see great things in the school's future and respect the leadership of the president running it.

Dr. Tomas Morales deserves the thanks of every Staten Island high school principal, guidance counselor and parent for taking a school with potential and making it realize that potential.

In this country of staggering tuition in private schools, Dr. Morales and his team of administrators and faculty at the **College of Staten Island** have proven that a terrific education can be had at a public institution

when the faculty cares and when the administration has the guts to lead.

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## Port Authority leaders to take questions from lawmakers at Senate hearing

Wednesday, April 18, 2012, 7:30 AM



By **Steve Strunsky/The Star-Ledger**

Leaders of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey will get a chance to put their testimony where their mouths are this week when they take questions from lawmakers for the first time since promising to make the agency one of the most transparent in the country.

Deputy Executive Director Bill Baroni is the first witness scheduled to testify in Washington this morning at a **Senate hearing** on federally funded tolling agencies. U.S. Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-N.J.) who is chairing the hearing, has introduced a bill giving the federal transportation secretary power to roll back excessive toll hikes by agencies that receive federal funds.

The 10 a.m. hearing will be streamed live by the Commerce Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety, and Security, at <http://commerce.senate.gov/public>.

Baroni and Port Authority Executive Director Patrick Foye have also accepted invitations to testify Friday on Staten Island during a rare joint legislative hearing co-chaired by Assemblyman John Wisniewski (D-Middlesex) and New York Republican state Sen.



[View full size](#)

John Munson/The Star-Ledger

Deputy Executive Director Bill Baroni listens during a monthly public meeting of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey in 2010.



Charles Fuschillo. That hearing, scheduled for 10:30 a.m. at the Williamson Theater on the **College of Staten Island** campus, is open to the public.

Wisniewski, chairman of the Assembly Transportation, Public Works and Independent Authorities Committee and the state Democratic Party, will weigh Friday's testimony before deciding what documents to subpoena from the Port Authority. The committee's Democratic majority voted last week to grant him unilateral subpoena power.

After last year's controversial toll hike, Democratic lawmakers in New Jersey and Republicans in New York have introduced bills they say would enhance transparency and accountability at the Port Authority, an agency jointly controlled by Republican Gov. Chris Christie and New York's Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

A financial review ordered by Christie and Cuomo when they approved the toll hike last summer resulted in a report by Navigant Consulting in February that labeled the agency "dysfunctional." Internal reforms announced by the agency in recent months include online publication of employee compensation, across-the-board pay cuts, and elimination of toll passes for retirees and off-duty workers.

Responding to complaints of excessive secrecy, the Port Authority last month said it would liberalize its freedom of information policy, accompanied by statements that raised eyebrows among those familiar with the agency's traditionally tight grip on documents.

### **Related coverage:**

- **Sen. Frank Lautenberg to chair U.S. Senate hearing on interstate tolling**

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## Staten Island hearing on Port Authority is postponed

Wednesday, April 18, 2012, 5:14 PM



**Tom Wroblewski**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Friday's planned hearing on what lawmakers call the Port Authority's financial mismanagement and lack of accountability has been postponed.

No new date has been set for the hearing.

The hearing, to be held at the College of Staten Island, was set to be co-chaired by state Sen. Charles J. Fuschillo Jr. (R-Long Island), chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, and New Jersey Assemblyman John Wisniewski (D-Middlesex County).

But the lawmakers said a scheduling conflict has caused the hearing to be delayed.

Staten Island and New Jersey lawmakers have teamed up on legislation in both states aimed to make the Port Authority more accountable in the wake of staggering toll increases at authority bridges, and following an audit that called the Port Authority "challenged and dysfunctional."

Key to Islanders' anger was the P.A.'s refusal to give casual borough users a toll break when they traveled the three P.A. spans that connect the Island to New Jersey.

The hearing was to be attended by Port Authority Executive Director Patrick Foye and Deputy Executive Director William Baroni.

That was in stark contrast to P.A. toll hearings held here in August, which not one voting member of the P.A. board of commissioners attended.

Advance Political Editor **Tom Wroblewski** writes the **Polit Bureau blog**.



[View full size](#)

Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel

Port Authority Executive Director Patrick Foye.



## Staten Island life: Ferry, shopping, bridges, school, gym and traffic

Friday, April 20, 2012, 4:05 PM



Ken Paulsen/Staten Island Advance  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Did you ever feel like all we do on Staten Island is drive around, go to school, shop, sit in traffic and go out to eat once in a while? If so, you're right.

That pretty much is all we do, according to an analysis of thousands of social media check-ins.

The **Livehoods Project**, a research project from Carnegie Mellon University, used data from social media applications such as foursquare "to discover the hidden structures of the city ... Our techniques reveal a snap-shot of the dynamic areas the comprise the city, which we call Livehoods."

And it turns out our lives on Staten Island revolve around the usual suspects named above. The borough is divided into three "Livehoods" for the report: One area is the deep South Shore -- an area roughly south of Arden Avenue. The rest of the Island is split in half, very roughly along the corridor divided by Todt Hill Road, which continues on Slosson Avenue.

But those divisions weren't arbitrary: They reflect the corridors where Staten Islanders conduct their business.

"If two venues are nearby one another and many of the same people visit them, our algorithm will score this highly," says Justin Cranshaw, a Ph.D. student at Carnegie Mellon University's School of Computer Science, and part of the team that developed the Livehoods Project. "For example, if the algorithm notices that the



### GUIDE 2012

*Check out our Staten Island 2012 Guide in the Sunday Advance. It's packed with everything you could possibly want to know about Staten Island's parks, schools, government, recreation, culture and more.*

people that visit a local bar are the same people that visit a nearby restaurant, these two places will be more likely to be grouped together."

In the southernmost section of the borough, the five most popular check-in points were the Outerbridge Crossing, Target, the New Jersey Turnpike (yes, we know it's in New Jersey -- go figure), Big Nose Kate's Saloon and Applebee's Grill and Bar. On the northwest section of the Island, the most popular spots were the Staten Island Mall, the College of Staten Island, the Staten Island Expressway, and Best Buy. In the northeast section, the hotspots were the Staten Island Ferry, Silver Lake Park, the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge and Planet Fitness.

In general terms, "Food" out was the most popular check-in activity boroughwide with home & office, and shopping next in line.

Cranshaw noted the limitations of the data. "Given that our source for the data was foursquare, the image of the city that we produce is biased towards the demographic of foursquare users," he said. Those users tend to be young. "We also don't want to over-emphasize the sharp divisions that are an artifact of our visualization. In reality, neighborhoods tend to blend into one another."

Curious about the hotspots in your neighborhood? Visit the **Livehoods Project** website to check them out.

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## Amazing Kids Connection' draws crowd

Saturday, April 21, 2012, 6:14 AM



By **Maura Grunlund**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- About 80 families benefited from the "Amazing Kids Connection" giveaway at Levy Park House in Port Richmond on April 14 as part of Community Days.

Clothing was distributed to some 240 children. Also distributed at the event were toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, bandages and antibiotic cream.

Panera Bread, which has locations in New Springville and Charleston, sent 200 cookies for the children for

the second year in a row and Tommy's Costume Characters in West Brighton provided Dora and Angry Bird characters for the youngsters.

The event, which mainly serves the Mexican community, was hosted by Amazing Grace Interfaith Ministry pastors, the Reverends Mary and Robert Hansen, and the Rev. Gina D'Amario and the Rev. Francine Hillpot, also with the Concord church.

The Amazing Kids Connection was sponsored by Northfield Bank Foundation represented by Susan Lamberti, who also is a member of Olivet Presbyterian Church, the Lois and Richard Nicotra Foundation and the city Parks Department.

Dr. Ram Nair, chairman of Community Days, was among the volunteers from the Staten Island Hindu Temple, as was Ann Marrano and others from St. Clare's R.C. Church, Great Kills. Student helpers included Ian Yanda of Tottenville High School, Alexis Priester of Baruch College and pupils from Susan Wagner High School and the College of Staten Island.

Laura Moro, Director of Food Stamps Outreach of the Single Stop Help Center at Project Hospitality also was on hand and Rachel Ranaldo, director of the YMCA New American Welcome Center, assisted.

Wellness information was provided by representatives of Health Plus and Staten Island University Hospital.

## Wider horizons for seniors at the Joan and Alan Bernikow JCC

Wednesday, April 25, 2012, 11:33 AM



**Mark D. Stein**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - **SEA VIEW** - The effort New York City is making to appeal to the modern needs of its longer-living, more active, increasingly diverse, and growing population of older residents has been apparent every day at the Jewish Community Center (JCC) in Sea View since its Innovative Senior Center came to life in the beginning of March.

The JCC's flagship site, the Joan and Alan Bernikow center on Manor Road, named its senior program the Center for Lifelong Development (CLLD), and is already booming, with membership beyond 1,600.



The JCC's flagship site, the Joan and Alan Bernikow center on Manor Road, boasts more than 1,600 members in its senior program, the Center for Lifelong Development (CLLD). (Staten Island Advance Photo)

People 60 and over can take advantage of opportunities at eight centers throughout the five boroughs (Staten Island's only Innovative Senior Center is within the JCC).

The CLLD is at the end of its initial two-month semester. Starting tomorrow, it will begin registration for its May-June period.

"We've gotten a really great response from the community," said program director **Orit Lender**, as seniors enjoyed a free lunch between noon and 2 p.m.

A daily meal is part of the program, with lunch served each Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Brunch is provided on Tuesdays, and dinner is available on Thursday evenings, along with a bit of entertainment consisting of either films or music.

The 1,600 and rising membership at the JCC is by far the most of the eight centers, said Center spokesman **JR Rich**. "The other centers aren't even close to our population."

The average active adult population participating is between the ages of 65 and 70 years old.

"We're been drawing this whole baby-boomer population for this Innovative Senior Center," she said.

Those involved have an array of options. For instance, the March-April period included 100 free classes for seniors. Some are focused on exercise, while others highlight computer skills. Additionally, history and art classes, as well as lectures, trips and other special events, are all part of the program.

"There's a lot to offer," said Ms. Lender.

Some of the classes are taught by professors who teach at the **College of Staten Island (CSI)** in Willowbrook, she noted.

The CLLD and the other seven Innovative Senior Centers, were made possible by a \$3.5 million grant from the city's Department for the Aging (DFTA). While participation is free, the JCC encourages a recommended contribution (some as low as \$8) to keep each class functioning at a high level.

**Carmela Kuzma**, is in the process of registering for the upcoming semester. The retired teacher is excited.

"I think it's wonderful. It would be great to come and take advantage of a program like this and some of the classes," the Great Kills resident said. "I'm also thinking of becoming a member (of the JCC). It could be the best of both worlds."

Ms. Lender said a CLLD carries an empowerment model.

"The structure we developed here enables participants to be part of the process of developing and planning programs," she explained. "With this age group, they're retired professionals and have a lot of expertise. We want them to feel like they're part of the process."

**Jeffrey Levin**, of Great Kills, said he occasionally teaches chess to program participants. He takes tai chi and yoga classes, and when he's free, plays cards and shoots pool at the JCC.

"I enjoy it, I really do. It's like one big family type of relationship here," Levin said.

New Springville's **Charles Nadel**, a regular member of the JCC, said the program enhanced what he already was involved with at the site.

"It's a great senior program. It's a long time coming, and I'm glad it's here," Nadel said.

Ms. Lender couldn't be any happier with the immediate success of the program.

"I'm extremely proud and it's truly been a team effort from the top down," she said. "We're really excited and we think this is going to be a positive program for Staten Islanders."

For information on registration and programs offered by the CLLD, visit **[clld.sijcc.org](http://clld.sijcc.org)**, or call the JCC at **718-475-5200**.

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## Sri Lankans gather on Staten Island to celebrate New Year

Sunday, April 29, 2012, 7:46 PM



**Jillian Jorgensen**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Staten Island has become home to a growing population of Sri Lankan immigrants, and they were able to connect with their history and homeland today during a Sri Lankan New Year Celebration at the Cricket Field in Ocean Breeze.

"This event, we are hosting because the Sri Lankan Association of New York motto is 'togetherness,'" said association president Vidura Jayasooriya.

"We have the largest Sri Lankan population outside of Sri Lanka on Staten Island," said Sharmila Mohammed, 43, of Port Richmond, who grew up in the South Asian country and is now adviser to the College of Staten Island Sri Lankan Students Association.

The biggest focus of the celebration yesterday was children, who were able to play traditional Sri Lankan games like tug-of-war, or Spotting the Elephant Eye, a game that's a bit like Pin the Tail on the Donkey, but with an elephant.

"We want to promote Sri Lankan culture in New York, and we are focusing on younger kids," Jayasooriya said, because they have been raised here and don't know the ancient customs of Sri Lanka.

Ms. Mohammed was excited for her young son to play the games she grew up playing in Sri Lanka.



Staten Island Advance/Bill Lyons photo

Kiyara Rajapakse, 6, of Graniteville; and Nalin and Tamara Goonellilleke, 7 year old twins from West Hemstead Long Island, participate in the fancy dress contest during the Sri Lankan New Year celebration held at earlier today South Beach Psychiatric Center.

"This gives him a chance to see all the traditional stuff," she said. "It feels like we're back home."

**Crying and laughing contests at Sri Lankan New Year celebration on Staten Island**

Contestants show their spontaneous laughing and crying skills during the Sri Lankan New Year celebration in Ocean Breeze.

In one game, small clay pots are hung from what resembles a clothesline. The person playing is blind-folded and spun around. Then, they have to try to hit the pots -- one of which is full of treats.

"He has to come to hit the right pot to get the candy," said Sashin Aluwihare, president of the CSI Sri Lankan Students Association. His club set-up that game and the one where contestants place the eye on the elephant.

Mauli Adikari, a member of the club, said the gathering yesterday was a chance to show off the traditional games they played as children.

"We just wanted to show up and demonstrate the kind of things we did back there," Adikari said.

There were plenty of traditions on hand -- including poetry, dancing and of course, food. Sharmila Xavier, of Manhattan, was overseeing a table filled with bananas, milk rice, and other dishes made with red chili, dried fish and lentils. Spread about the table were betel leaves, which are offered out of respect and to parents, elders and religious leaders as a token of happiness, love and gratitude.

A clay pot was filled with milk. "Milk, of course, is prosperity," said Leora Fernando.

Normally, the pot of milk would be boiled until it began to spill over -- though it was a bit too windy to do that yesterday. If the milk boils over on every side, it's good luck.

Chaminda Munasinghe of West Brighton set up a table and was selling some home-cooked Sri Lankan New Year specialties.

"This is very traditional food for Sri Lanka," he said of the holiday spread. "These kinds of food you get only once a year."

Among those dignitaries offered betel leaves were Dr. Palitha T. B. Kohona, the ambassador of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, who helped kick off the celebration.

He hoped the games and food would "take our minds back to our home land."

"May this event bring the community back together and make sure we can progress as a community in the future," he said.

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## Senior year slams wallets of Staten Island moms and dads

Sunday, April 29, 2012, 6:05 AM



**Jillian Jorgensen**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Before students are handed a high school diploma, their parents hand over thousands of dollars for everything from yearbooks to a post-prom weekend at the Jersey Shore.

Senior year, it seems, isn't cheap.

From the basic expenses, like senior dues, to add-ons, like Advanced Placement exams, the cost of commencement can add up -- often to well over \$2,500.

Graduation dues vary from school to school, depending on what's included -- cap and gown, renting a space for graduation, yearbooks, T-shirts, and senior events. But on average, just walking the stage, getting a school shirt and taking home a yearbook will cost around \$250, and significantly more at some schools. In a tough economy, that's not easy to pay.



[View full size](#)

Staten Island Advance/Hilton Flores

It's definitely expensive, but the way I see it it's once in a lifetime, and if my father could do it for me on a retired sanitation worker's pension 20 years ago, who am I not to do it for my child," said Annmarie Giammanco. Â

"A lot of kids aren't paying their senior dues -- and that really wasn't an issue three or four years ago," said Kristen Fusaro, coordinator of student activities at Staten Island Tech.

At Port Richmond High School, Neil Noto, coordinator of student activities, said they've kept their senior dues stable for six years.

"We do our best to make sure the payments are staggered throughout the year," Noto said.

And they work to help any student who has a challenge paying for an activity in which they want to participate.

"Every school has the ability to do something for their most needy students," he said.

Getting calls from parents unable to afford special events like prom or trips makes the faculty realize that kids who already seemed great before -- studying hard and doing all their work -- have been dealing with extra challenges behind the scenes, Noto said.

"Every kid deserves to have this passage of time marked, this point in their life marked with a big moment or big celebration," Noto said.

### THOSE OTHER COSTS

Once graduation fees are paid, there are still many costs to come - - and most of them out of a school's control.

Prom ticket prices on Staten Island average at about \$150 per student, depending on which swanky event hall houses the dance. But as any 17-year-old girl would tell you, there's more to prom than just the ticket.

When it comes to finding the perfect ensemble, girls spend \$350 to \$500 on a gown, according to local shops.

Then there's the hair styling (\$65 to \$125), the nails (\$30 to \$50), the shoes (\$50), the purse (\$35), a new strapless bra that will work with the dress (\$40), the makeup (\$65 to \$85, extra for false lashes), an eyebrow wax (\$15), and of course, a nice boutonniere for her date (\$15).

It's a little cheaper for young men. A tux rental is upwards of \$60. Don't forget the corsage, at about \$35.

Getting to prom costs more than a MetroCard or hitching a ride with mom and dad. Most students spring for limos, likely to cost about \$75 a person. And the spending doesn't end when the dance does. After-prom parties beckon revelers to keep celebrating until

### ONE PARENT'S PRICE

*The parent of a Staten Island senior provided this list, but said, "I'm sure there's more I haven't thought of." Some of the prices are approximate. The totals can vary considerably from family to family, but this typical example totals \$2,600. em>*

- \$175 - Graduation fee (cap, gown)
- \$50 -- Yearbook
- \$75 -- Transportation (bus/limo)
- \$50 - Senior breakfast
- \$110 - Senior pictures
- \$150 - Prom ticket (I paid \$300 because she wasn't sure if she was going with a boy from her school) (of course its non-refundable)
- \$250 - Shore house for two nights (including security deposit)
- \$100 - Spending money for shore house
- \$375 - Prom dress
- \$40 - Special bra
- \$50 - Prom shoes
- \$85 - Hair updo
- \$90 - Make-up application
- \$15 - Lip gloss for purse
- \$25 - Earrings
- \$35 - Clutch purse
- \$50 - Manicure/pedicure

the sun rises -- a comedy club will run around \$35 a person, while admission to special post-prom nightclub events costs around \$45. If you want a VIP table, tack on an extra \$110.

The next morning, many students head to the Jersey Shore for a long weekend. Motel rooms in Wildwood and Seaside Heights range from \$50 to \$65 a person, per night, on prom weekends, plus tax and security deposit.

"My kid's a senior and, to make it worse, she's a girl," lamented one mother who passed along a list of money spent this year.

Her final figure was about \$2,600. "I threw away my calculator and I'm updating my resume. Know of anyone who's hiring?" she joked.

- \$30 - leg waxing
- \$15 - Eyebrow waxing
- \$15 - Non-alcoholic champagne
- \$15 - Boutonniere for guys lapel
- \$250 - Five college application fees
- \$550 - College registration/housing fee

## 'ONCE IN A LIFETIME

Another mom, Annmarie Giammanco, said it was pricey but she was willing to pay.

"It's definitely expensive, but the way I see it it's once in a lifetime, and if my father could do it for me on a retired sanitation worker's pension 20 years ago, who am I not to do it for my child," she said.

Earlier in the year, many schools offer an optional senior trip. While most opt for ski trips upstate or to Pennsylvania, costing around \$300, some opt for trips to Disney World in Florida -- costing more than \$1,000.

While looking perfect at prom or spending a few days skiing may seem frivolous, academics can get expensive, too. Some parents reported spending around \$500 on college applications -- though some schools waive the fee if you apply online by a certain deadline, and most offer fee waivers for needy applicants.

But a sampling of nearby schools shows applying to New York University, will set a student back \$70, applying to the College of Staten Island costs \$65, and Wagner College's application fee is \$50.

For students to come to college with credits already under their belt, Advanced Placement classes are a great option. But the exams at the end of the class are pricey -- \$87 a test, and many students take more than one in senior year. Financial aid can lower the cost.

With all the bills facing parents of seniors, school administrators say they work to keep the charges in their control at a minimum.

"What we've been able to do is just kind of keep things where they are for the last two or three years, because we realize it's getting very expensive," said Carolyn Starkey, coordinator of student activities at McKee Career & Vocational Technical High School.

Lisa Murphy, coordinator of student activities at New Dorp High School, said most decisions are made by the Senior Council. The school looks around when planning things like senior trip to make sure they get the most for their money.

"I really put everything into the kids' hands, so that they really take ownership of it," she said.

### **SOME SKIP PROM**

At Staten Island Tech, where many students are taking multiple AP exams and applying to several colleges, fewer students than anticipated opted to take part in prom last year, Ms. Fusaro said, and seem to be cutting back on what they can spend.

"The price is a major factor, especially since we had the major downturn of the economy," she said.

So for next year's senior trip -- this year's was to Disney -- the decision will be put to a vote, based not on the location, but the price bracket. Students will be asked how much they want to spend, she said.

And at Port Richmond, Noto said they are working to make prom affordable to all students, regardless of their parents' wealth. "We're starting a prom boutique, which is something we're very proud of," he said.

About 200 gowns, either new or worn just once, will be available to students at the school who can't afford to splurge on a \$500 gown in a local shop.

A paraprofessional at the school, Mona Miracola, is behind the idea, and formerly worked in the fashion industry, Noto said.

"She felt that there were too many kids who felt like they were financially excluded from the prom, and that every kid deserves one day to look nice, feel special, dress up," Noto said.

Ms. Miracola will also be helping with alterations to the dresses, Noto said, and beauty-school hopefuls are pitching in to do hair and nails.

"It's tough for everybody," Noto said of the costs. "I don't care how much money you have. It's hard for everybody."

Noto said after spending "boatloads" on applications, many students will spend even more on their college education, with no guarantee of a job waiting for them after.

"They're taking a huge risk in this next aspect of their life, and they're putting a lot of money that they don't have into this next moment," he said. "Which makes giving them a big send-off and making it more available to them more important."

*Advance reporter Stephanie Slepian contributed to this report.*

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## Coach Steve Lavin will address Staten Island St. John's grads

Monday, April 30, 2012, 10:41 PM



**Jillian Jorgensen**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Graduating St. John's University students will hear from their school's men's basketball coach, Steve Lavin, at their commencement ceremony May 12.

Lavin will address the class of 2012 at graduation ceremonies held at each campus -- on May 12 on Grymes Hill, and May 13 in Queens. Lavin battled prostate cancer over the last year, but is now cancer free thanks to early diagnosis and treatment at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.

The coach is credited with the resurgence of the St. John's basketball program, with the team returning to the NCAA tournament and a 20-plus win season in 2011.

"Steve Lavin has a great affinity with our student body and is a popular choice for this year's Commencement Ceremonies," said Rev. Donald J. Harrington, president of the university.

More than 400 undergraduate and graduate students will receive degrees at the Staten Island ceremony, and more than 2,000 people will be in attendance.

Other Island schools have also announced commencement plans.



[View full size](#)

Associated Press

"Steve Lavin has a great affinity with our student body and is a popular choice for this year's Commencement Ceremonies," said St. John's president Rev. Donald J. Harrington.

At the [College of Staten Island](#), the May 31 graduation won't feature a commencement speaker, but the alumni speaker will be Dr. Arthur Merola, president of the [CSI](#) Alumni Association. A student speaker will be announced next week.

Among the honorees are the winners of the President's Medal: Denis Hughes, president of the New York State AFL-CIO; Mary O'Donnell, associate professor and chair of the Department of Nursing; and Mrs. Rose Volpe, community activist, founder of the Friends of [CSI](#), and widow of Dr. Edmond L. Volpe, the first President of the [College of Staten Island](#). They were given their medals from [CSI](#) President Dr. Tomas Morales at the third annual Celestial Ball in December, and will be recognized on stage during commencement.

Wagner College announced in March that its commencement speaker will be Elie Wiesel. Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor, is the author of the internationally acclaimed memoir, "Night," which has been translated into more than 30 languages. It tells the story of his time as a prisoner in the Auschwitz, Buna and Buchenwald Nazi concentration camps.

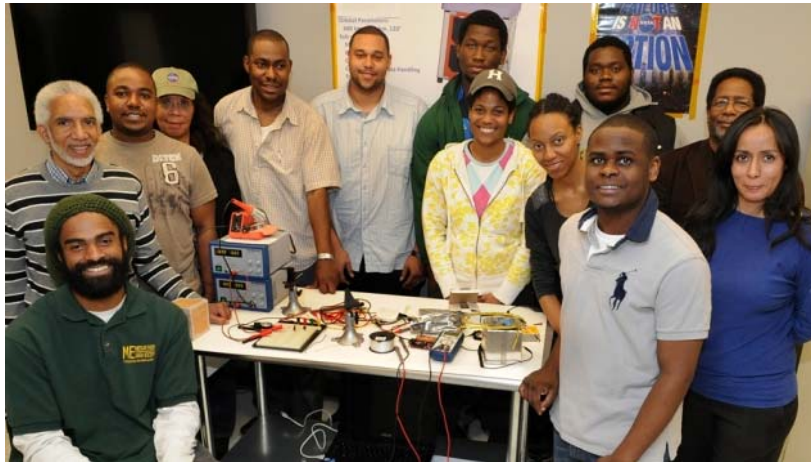
Wiesel is president of the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity, an organization he and his wife, Marion, created to fight indifference, intolerance and injustice. Author of more than 50 books, he is also the Andrew W. Mellon Professor at Boston University. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1986 for his message of "peace, atonement and human dignity."

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## Medgar Evers College students help develop 'CubeSat' for NASA communication satellite

### Eagerly await 'CUNYSAT' lift-off to test 3 year-long science experiment

Monday, April 30, 2012, 4:00 AM



Christie M Farriella for New York

*Medgar Evers College students and professors are excited to be part of a NASA satellite project that will send their CubeSat experiment into space.*

For a little piece of equipment, the 4x4-inch cube tucked in an anti-static bag in a plastic lined clean room at Medgar Evers College is pretty huge.

When it heads into space next year the CubeSat, as it is called, will be the culmination of three years of computer programming, engineering and testing involving more than 60 students — most of them from Medgar — from colleges across the Metro area.

Medgar professor and Project Director Shermane Austin said creating the satellite, dubbed CUNYSAT, allows students to “get experience in what NASA does, and also lets the faculty understand the science involved in these things.

“This not like a puzzle that you just put all the pieces together and see if it works,” she said. “There is a significant amount of work by the students.”

Last week several students, including Elston Alexis, Leston Alexis, Ralph Dumervil, Vinchencia Henderson, Fari Lindo, Kirt St. Louis, and Bridgette Miles joined former students Riguel Fabre, Ernst Etienne and Patrick Dumervil, as well as Austin and physics professor Leon Johnson and computer science professor Laura Zavaka to discuss the project.

Austin said students from Cornell University, City College of New York, Queensborough College, The College of Staten Island, Cooper Union, Brooklyn College and the New Jersey Institute of Technology have contributed to the project.

Basically students were charged with designing mechanical, electrical, communication, data handling, and command systems in the cube which could survive the violent vibrations of a rocket launch and the hostile temperatures of space and still communicate with a ground station manned by students at Medgar.

Although students followed some guidelines already established by National Aeronautics and Space Administration, they were responsible for writing software and repeatedly testing each system.

It is not nearly as simple as it sounds. Patrick Dumervil noted that the electrical system had to be designed to run off a conventional and a solar battery which had to be recharged by solar panels fixed to the cube.

“My job was to make sure the electrical system is balanced,” he said.

“We have to make sure the integrity of the cube is maintained,” said Etienne. “Basically the whole thing is to just maintain the integrity of the Cubesat and make sure it survives.”

The systems are installed in the cub in a clean room — students had to wear gloves, masks and paper clean suits to maintain the sterile environment.

The cube is expected to spend about 120 days in space before falling to earth, Austin said.

The launch date is secret, but Garrett Skrobot, a NASA launch engineer who created the program (formal name Educational Launch of Nanosatellite, or ELaNa) three years ago said he is only awaiting administrative approval to schedule the CUNYSAT for a space flight.

NASA has launched eight cubes so far, and has another 17 awaiting a launch date. Skrobot said he expects that Medgar will design even more sophisticated cubes for future launches. “After all, this is their first one,” he said.

Lindo, part of the ground team writing the communication software, said the team is still hopeful it can include more ambitious experiments in this first cube.

“We’re still trying to see if we can do some ionospheric experiments,” he said.

“Before working on this project I had no idea about these systems,” said Elston Alexis. “Within a few days of coming in I had learned how to track a satellite. This is a great learning experience, and it looks good on a resume.”

Miles said she is so involved in the project that “sometimes late at night I’ll get an idea and sit straight up in the bed. It really is exciting.”

Medgar Evers College website is [mec.cuny.edu](http://mec.cuny.edu).

# ***Students & Alumni***

# ***Students***

## It's not easy being perfect

Wednesday, April 04, 2012, 9:40 AM



**Mark D. Stein**  
By



Photo Courtesy of **CSI**

Ying Yu maintains a 4.0 grade point average at the **College of Staten Island**, Willowbrook, despite living with a physical disability that prevents her from sitting, standing or laying in one position for more than 30 minutes at a time.

WILLOWBROOK -- On the surface, Ying Yu, simply said, is a brilliant, diligent, dedicated student who spends countless hours studying to maintain a perfect, 4.0 grade point average (GPA).

While her work ethic is impeccable, Ms. Yu, 39, faces major challenges that make her academic success that much more spectacular. Three years ago, she experienced a massive back injury. And today, despite performing excellently as a **College of Staten Island (CSI)** student, the Chinese native, who arrived in the United States in 2006, is still learning English.

While working as a nurse's aide at Brooklyn Hospital Center in 2009, Ms. Yu

suffered a major back injury described as spondylolisthesis, a condition in which a vertebra in the lower part of the spine slips out of the proper position onto the bone below it.

The injury prevents Ms. Yu from standing, sitting or laying in one position for more than 30 minutes at a time. Remaining in one position is so painful for this student that she must shift repeatedly during her daily activities; this includes time spent at school.

Naturally, she experiences difficulties sleeping and needs to wake up often to shift her body.

### A MAJOR SWITCH

Ms. Yu has been studying at **CSI** since 2008. She first aspired to work in the medical field and had worked as a patient care associate and operating room technician prior to her injury.

"Bending, walking and lifting. These are all things I couldn't do," she said, after her injury. "I really liked it."

She's since switched her major from biology to math. She expected the transition to be easier on her because of the constant use of numbers, rather than language. As Ms. Yu has progressed, however, math has incorporated the use of logic and abstract components.

When she studies, an electronic dictionary is by her side to help Ms. Yu comprehend what she's reading.

Despite studying, sometimes up to 16 hours a day — Ms. Yu doesn't go to sleep until 1 a.m. on certain days — she visits a chiropractor, neurologist and physical therapist four times a week.

Her doctor recommended surgery to correct her problem, but Ms. Yu said there's a 15 to 20 percent chance it would be unsuccessful, leaving the possibility of paralysis.

"If the surgery is successful, it could last five to 10 years, and then there'd be the same problems," she explained.

Fearful of surgery's potentially negative results, Ms. Yu instead battles sitting — "the worst position," she said — by laying down in class and at home while studying.

## **ASSISTANCE**

CSI's Center for Student Accessibility (CSA) has enabled Ms. Yu to move about the campus, take classes and receive tutoring with more comfort. Additional large chairs are provided for her so that she can shift her body as needed, giving her more flexibility in the classroom, according to a recent article posted by the Willowbrook campus.

Yu is also the recipient of multiple scholarships, including one from STEAM (Science & Technology Expansion via Applied Mathematics), a CSI Student Scholarship, and another from the Rickel Foundation.

She expects to graduate from CSI in the next two years, and hopes to acquire her doctoral degree in the future. Ms. Yu hopes to teach and conduct research. So far, she's applied to the CUNY [City University of New York] Graduate Center, New York University, and Columbia University.

Ms. Yu also looks forward to volunteering her time to help people with disabilities, as well as Chinese people in the community who have trouble transitioning to life in the United States.

"Education is my dream, and at my age, if it was in China, I would never fulfill this dream," she said. "I really want to be a useful person."

Ms. Yu understands the difficulties in front of her, but she is trying to make it in America.



"This is the only way I can," she said. "I want to show people I can still do something, even though I'm disabled. That's why I study all the time, and never stop."

The hard-working student is happy to be helped out by her husband and the CSA. She loves her education and her classmates, who provide her with recorded lectures when she misses class to attend doctor appointments.

"Unfortunately," Ms. Yu said. "I'm disabled. But in another way, I'm still lucky."

Also posted on: [topix.com](http://topix.com)

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## Immigrant students heading on foot to Albany to lobby for tuition support

**Currently, undocumented students cannot apply for state or federal aid**

By Erica Pearson / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Wednesday, April 4, 2012, 1:17 AM



*Dozens of undocumented youth gather in Union Square Park to declare themselves "undocumented, unafraid and unapologetic."*

All spring, immigrant teens and college kids have been trekking by bus from New York City to Albany, urging lawmakers to make it easier for undocumented students to pay for college.

Next week, Woodside, Queens, student Jaqueline Cinto also plans to make the trip — only she's going on foot.

"I think it will be a challenge," she admitted. "It's a lot of miles during the day."

Cinto, 26, and nine other members of the New York State Youth Leadership Council are planning to log 12 miles a day, leaving on April 9 and arriving on the 16th.

“We figured we needed to do something symbolic,” said recent Brooklyn College grad Anayely Gomez, 24, who is organizing the long march.

“I think it’s really important because, in New York City, it’s more of a safe zone for undocumented youth,” she said. “Once you get upstate, it’s completely different. People are more afraid to come out as undocumented because they might get into deportation proceedings if they say something.”

The day after they arrive in Albany, they will lobby lawmakers about the New York State DREAM Act — introduced by Sen. Bill Perkins

(D-Harlem) and Assemblyman Guillermo Linares (D-Washington Heights) — that would open the state Tuition Assistance Program to all students, regardless of immigration status.

Currently, undocumented students cannot apply for state or federal aid.

Assemblyman Francisco Moya has introduced a second bill setting up a fundraising commission to provide private scholarships to all children of immigrants.

Both measures face an uphill battle in the Republican-controlled state Senate.

Mayor Bloomberg, City Council Speaker Christine Quinn and the Board of Regents have all voiced support for a state DREAM Act — proposed after a federal version died in the U.S. Senate.

But Assemblyman Dan Burling (R-Warsaw) and other critics have said the bills wrongly reward people who break the law to come into the country.

Cinto, who is getting her master’s in education at CUNY, said she fulfilled her family’s dream by being the first to graduate from college. But paying for school has been difficult.

“I know the challenges and struggles to find the money, to take semesters off to afford it,” she said. “I am walking because I don’t want high school students who are applying now to go through the same struggles.”

The walk is just the latest bid by immigrant activists to get attention from Albany.

Last month, cops arrested three students for blocking traffic at a New York DREAM Act rally in front of Gov. Cuomo’s Manhattan office. The governor has been mum on the measures so far.

Lehman College student Janet Perez, 20, College of Staten Island student Sara Martinez, 22, and Columbia University student Rosario Quiroz, 23, sat in the middle of Third Ave. and refused to leave. They were later charged with disorderly conduct and released.

“This is a step that we, as undocumented youth, had to take to put more pressure on Gov. Cuomo,” said organizer Daniela Alulema of the New York State Youth Leadership Council.



## Staten Island veterans to host 'Evening of Honor'

Sunday, April 08, 2012, 6:51 AM



**Staten Island Advance**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - The United Staten Island Veterans Organization (USIVO) is having its third "Evening of Honor" dinner fund-raiser on April 18 at the Excelsior Grand, New Dorp, at 7 p.m. The cost of the tickets is \$60 per person; \$550 for a table of 10, please include names with your reservation. For tickets, contact Tony Fanelli at 718-974-2800. RSVP by April 10th. To make a donation to the silent auction tables, contact Camille Hoover at 917-846-3428, or for a journal ad, contact Jimmy Haynes at 718-987-1609.

The evening will include the investiture ceremony of the Staten Island Memorial Day Parade Grand Marshal Anthony "Tony" Fanelli of Rosebank and the 2012 Miss USIVO Laren Encarnacion of Eltingville. Ms. Encarion is a nursing student at the College of Staten Island. Her father is an Iraq war veteran.

Staten Island Project Homefront will be honored at the dinner. The organization collects supplies and sends care packages to military troops deployed all over the world. Proceeds from the dinner will be donated to help defray the cost of the postage and products used by Project Homefront.

Also being honored are Vito Giobbie of Meiers Corners, a Vietnam veteran and executive director of Staten Island Fleet Week; and Joseph Demarco of Prestige Events, Brooklyn, for his fund-raising efforts on behalf of veterans.

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## Staten Island's Muslim Americans to be honored at Wagner College

Thursday, April 12, 2012, 1:54 PM



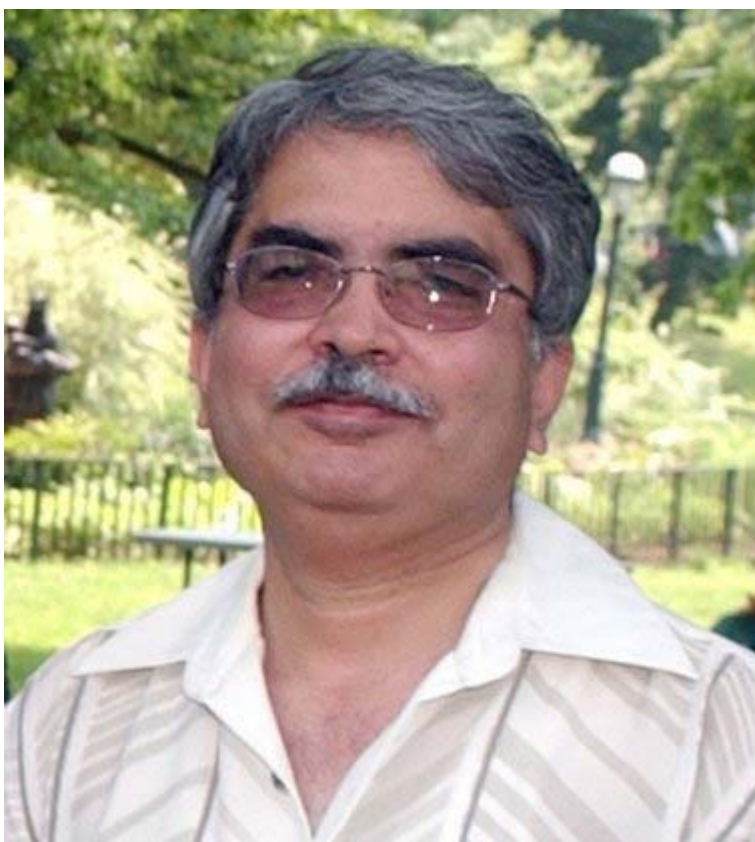
**Tom Wrobleski**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- The borough's Muslim American community on Monday will be feted for its five decades of civic and business involvement here, during a celebration marking Staten Island Immigrant Heritage Week at Wagner College.

The program, "Muslim Americans of Staten Island: Leaders & Neighbors for 50 Years" features an awards ceremony hosted by Borough President James P. Molinaro, a photo exhibit, a panel discussion with Muslim leaders and a song and dance exhibition.

"I really want this exhibit to tell our stories," said Noor Hussein, a student organizer of the event and president of the Wagner College Muslim Student Association, "from our parents or grandparents or great-grandparents migrating to New York to us in college now working to be active and successful members of our respective communities."

The program will open at 5:30 p.m. with a reception in the Horrmann Library's Spotlight Gallery, where a photo exhibit will highlight the story of the borough's diverse Muslim community.



[View full size](#)

Staten Island Advance photo

Dr. Salman Zafar will be honored with the "Outstanding Immigrant Award" by Borough President James Molinaro.

The exhibition combines contemporary images by photographer Willie Chu with family and historic photos highlighting 50 years of Staten Island's Pakistani, Albanian, West African and Palestinian Muslim communities.

"This is a country of immigrants who, once they see opportunities, will not stop working," said Shah Hamim Syed of Pakistan, owner of Turkish Seaside Restaurant, South Beach, one of those photographed for the exhibit.

A musical and dance performance will then be held in Spiro Hall 2, followed by a panel discussion with Muslim business and community leaders, including businessmen Jawaid Syed and Ismet Capric, Dr. Shamim Salman, former Marine Ahmed Kargbo and College of Staten Island student Islam Allen.

The panel will be moderated by Ameena Ghaffar-Kucher, associate director of international education at the University of Pennsylvania and an expert on Muslim youth and education.

The program will conclude at 7:30 p.m., when Molinaro presents awards recognizing exemplary service to the Island's immigrant community. Dr. Salman Zafar will be honored with the "Outstanding Immigrant Award," while Gene Prisco will receive the "Lavelle Award for Immigrant Advocacy."

Staten Island Immigrant Heritage Week is co-sponsored by the Wagner Muslim Student Association; Wagner's history department and Center for Intercultural Development; the Albanian Islamic Cultural Center; the Staten Island Immigrants Council, and the Council on the Arts and Humanities of Staten Island: Folklife.

The program is part of the 9th annual New York City Immigrant Heritage Week.

For more information about the Wagner event, email [LRWeintr@wagner.edu](mailto:LRWeintr@wagner.edu), or call 718-390-3309.

Advance Political Editor **Tom Wroblewski** writes the **Polit Bureau blog**.

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## Project Hospitality of Staten Island will honor those who serve others

Sunday, April 29, 2012, 6:05 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Project Hospitality's 30th anniversary commemorative luncheon will be Thursday, May 10, at 11:30 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn. Luncheon reservations are \$65. For information, contact Anita Yuen at Project Hospitality at 718-448-1544, ext. 163 or email [anyuen@projecthospitality.org](mailto:anyuen@projecthospitality.org).

The Spring Luncheon's honorary chairman is Brian Laline, Editor of the Staten Island Advance. The co-chairs are Brian and Susan Farley, St. Joseph Hill Academy parents; Susan Sappin, president of the Jewish Community Center of Staten Island; Robert Scamardella, Republican Party County Chairman; Rev. James Seawood, president, Staten Island Council of Churches, and Ralph Vogel, director of the Staten Island LGBT Center.

The luncheon will honor those continue to make remarkable contributions to those who struggle daily to survive.

Kathleen Nolan, a retired teacher, will the recipient of the Rabbi Marcus Kramer Humanitarian Award. She is being honored for work connecting St. Joseph Hill Academy students with the mission of Project Hospitality and other Staten Island charities -- making the connection between faith and action for a generation of Hill students.

Reverend Adolf A. Pagliarulo and The Church That Never Closes -- The Reformed Church of Prince Bay -- will receive The Reverend Roland Ratmeyer Founders Award for developing a shelter and feeding ministry on the island's South Shore and a church that is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Beatrice Victor of the Jewish Community Center of Staten Island will receive the Sophie Matthews Memorial Award for serving as a champion volunteer leader, spending a lifetime serving the lives of persons with disabilities, senior citizens, the Jewish community and defending universal human and civil rights. Ms. Victor writes the weekly column, "As We Are," for the Advance.

City Councilman James Oddo (R-Mid-Island/Brooklyn) will receive the Project Hospitality Award for Outstanding Civic Leadership. He has worked to alleviate hunger on Staten Island by supporting and funding

Project Hospitality's Food and Nutrition Services program which include the soup kitchen and food pantry programs.

Ronald Speight Jr., a history major at the College of Staten Island and counselor at Project Reach, will receive the Bishop Patrick Ahern Achievement Award. The award is named after Project Hospitality's co-founder. Mr. Speight will be honored for his commitment to developing youth anti-violence and anti-bias leadership and fighting for a just society.

Project Hospitality provides comprehensive services for men, women and children in need of food, shelter, or social services on Staten Island. Project Hospitality serves more than 26,000 Staten Islanders in need and has served over a 1.4 million nutritious meals in the past year.

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# ***Alumni***



## Former **CSI** pitcher signs with pro team

Wednesday, April 04, 2012, 11:36 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**

WILLOWBROOK -- Former **College of Staten Island (CSI)** southpaw hurler Pat Gale, an American Baseball Coaches Association/Rawlings NCAA All-America, has signed a professional baseball contract with the Traverse City Beach Bums of the Independent Frontier League in Michigan.

Gale, one year removed from his record-setting career at **CSI**, has been serving as the Dolphins' pitching coach. He is expected to join the Beach Bums in May in anticipation of the season opener later in the month.

Gale set career school records for innings pitched (260) and strikeouts with 315, topping the former mark set by Kevin Crombie (1989-92). He is expected to complement the Beach Bums as a relief pitcher in what will ultimately be an 11-man rotation.

"It's exciting," said Gale. "I'm sure I will be a little nervous at the start, but I appreciate this organization giving me a chance to show what I can do. I'm pumped up about it."

While at **CSI**, Gale worked under long-time **CSI** coach Bill Cali and Michael Mauro, the present coach, along with pitching coach and former Major League Baseball hurler Greg Belson.

"I had a blast playing baseball at **CSI** and learning from some of the best and most knowledgeable people in the sport," Gale said. "More than anything, they gave me the confidence and the positive motivation I needed to get better and to this point. I couldn't be more thankful."

Gale's positive influence has been seen even after his playing days, where he also finished his career as the school record holder in at-bats (555) and doubles (50), finishing with a lifetime batting average of .355 with a pitching record of 21-13 and a 3.57 ERA. Gale has taken over Belson's role as **CSI's** new pitching coach, helping to develop a staff that brought in seven new faces. He will continue in this role until he reports to Traverse City.

The Beach Bums finished 51-45 a year ago, landing in third place in the league's East Division. Although they failed to qualify for the playoffs, the Bums appeared in the 2010 championship series, falling to the River City Rascals. A total of 22 players from the Frontier League have been signed by Major League Baseball teams since 1993.

Dave Pizzuto contributed to this report.

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**Kenan Malkic is pictured in this family handout photo soon after coming to north america from Bosnia where he lost 3 limbs in an explosion**

Siege of Sarajevo

## **Canadian connection gave Bosnian war-blast survivor second chance**

jessica hume

Globe and Mail Update

Published Friday, Apr. 06, 2012 6:55PM EDT

Last updated Sunday, Apr. 08, 2012 9:50AM EDT

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For Kenan Malkic, the Bosnian war really began the day a hand grenade blew up in his face.

He was 12 years old playing soccer in a field by his parents' house in Maglaj, Bosnia, when an explosion ripped his body apart and changed his life forever. He lost both arms, his left leg, suffered a lacerated cheek, temporary loss of vision and was in a coma for two weeks at a hospital that was in short supply of just about everything.

"It was a beautiful day," he says. "Soccer was very popular in Bosnia and we always played, even during the war. That day we went out to the usual spot. Unfortunately, I got hurt."

Today, the 28-year-old has three prosthetic limbs and leads a relatively normal life in New York with his girlfriend. He graduated from the College of Staten Island in 2009 with a degree in computer science and works in IT. He fishes in his downtime.

Mr. Malkic will not be commemorating the 20th anniversary of the beginning of the Bosnian war this weekend. Nor does he want to reflect on life there. However, as horrific as the attack against him was, he believes that because of it he has seen opportunities he otherwise wouldn't. The first and perhaps most important came when his mother's plea for help was answered by a cousin in Toronto, whom he had never met.

It would be weeks before Mr. Malkic realized the extent of his injuries.

"I woke up in a hospital bed with bandages over my eyes. No one told me what happened," he said. "It was quite a shock when I realized. I was in disbelief. I cried all the time and felt like 'What's the sense of continuing?' I was only a kid, but to be honest, I became a very mature young man after that."

When the war erupted in April, 1992, his mother, Aida, was pregnant. The baby was born prematurely and died shortly after because there was no electricity to power an incubator.

Desperate to get her only son the treatment Bosnian hospitals couldn't provide, Aida scribbled the phone number of a cousin in Toronto on a piece of paper and gave it to a truck driver heading for Germany, where the phone lines worked, asking him to call it and explain her son needed help. The driver arrived in Germany three days later and phoned Canada.

Safiya Adelman remembers answering the call. The half-Turkish, half-Bosnian was living with her husband and 14-year-old daughter in Toronto, where she ran a successful travel agency.

"He's family. Of course I was going to help," she said.

Through a family connection she was able to speak with a Turkish army commander and asked for assistance extracting the child. "The next day I got a call from Ankara saying they'd found Kenan and that they'd be doing daily visits and examining his wounds until they'd be able to get him out."

In addition to hours co-ordinating between the UN, the Canadian consul for the Balkans in Vienna, International Red Cross and the Canadian Forces, getting Mr. Malkic out safely was also about careful timing.

"It was literally a matter of them saying, 'We can't leave Bosnia now, the area is unstable and helicopters are getting shot down'," she says. "Even getting him out of Zenica was dangerous because it was completely surrounded by Serb territory."

When the moment finally arrived, Mr. Malkic felt equally sad and hopeful.

"It was overwhelming," he said. "I was excited, but I was also leaving my dad behind in a war zone."

He arrived with his mother at the Trenton air force base on Dec. 21, 1994. Immediately he noticed a conspicuous silence outside.

"There was no shooting," he says.

His time in Toronto was some of the happiest in his life, Mr. Malkic says. He was spoiled by Canadian relatives and touched by the compassion of Torontonians, who heard his story through media reports

and sent gifts and letters of support. A favourite memory is throwing the first pitch at a Blue Jays game at the SkyDome, as it was then called.

He underwent facial reconstruction surgery and extremely painful therapy before getting prosthetics. Complicating matters, he was growing rapidly; every time a set of limbs was ready he would have grown and need to be refitted.

Against the calm of Toronto, the magnitude of atrocities in Bosnia began to sink in. He dreaded the quiet moments alone with his thoughts.

“He’d wake up in the middle of the night screaming,” Ms. Adelman says. “Kids cry when they’re hungry, tired, but this was different. Kenan was crying from the inside.”

English came quickly and within two months of getting new limbs, Mr. Malkic walked well. He wanted to help with chores, go fishing, play sports again.

“I loved Toronto because no one cared that I had no hands,” he said. “People were nice to me.”

Returning to Bosnia a year and a half later, he had grown about one foot taller, four shoe sizes, was mobile and dextrous.

“When the war officially ended I had to go back to Bosnia, but by then I was used to life in Toronto. I’m lucky for my time there but it wasn’t easy; not for me and not for my family. When I got back to Bosnia there was destruction everywhere. When you’re present during a war you don’t notice it as much. But to come back to it, oh my God, I couldn’t image how these things could have happened.”

And yet, Mr. Malkic harbours no anger. He admits he could be angry at politicians, but chooses not to be. Nor is he angry at the Serbs; in fact, his best friend is one.

He spends time with children and youth injured in war, through the Global Medical Relief Fund, a charity he has been involved with since 1997. His story had been featured on U.S. television, on *60 Minutes* and CBS.

He says he feels Bosnian but he doesn’t want to live there, not now anyway.

“At this point I’ve been living outside Bosnia more than I was living there,” he says. “People don’t believe me when I say this but I believe I have accomplished more in my life than I would have if none of this would have happened. So no, I have no hard feelings toward anything. I am in a good place now.”

*Special to The Globe and Mail*

### **Sarajevo by the numbers**

11,541 Chairs on a main street in Sarajevo commemorating the 20th anniversary of the start of the Bosnian war.

The chairs represent every man, woman and child killed in the 44-month siege of the city, the longest in modern history.

April 6, 1992 Date when some 40,000 people from all over the country – Muslim Bosnians, Christian Orthodox Serbs and Catholic Croats – poured into the square to demand peace from their quarrelling nationalist politicians.

50% of GDP The cost for the impoverished nation's bureaucracy, which includes five presidents (three rotating at the state level), 13 prime ministers, more than 130 ministers, more than 760 lawmakers and 148 municipalities.

*Associated Press*

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## Area hospital welcomes quality team

April 10, 2012

Williamsport Sun-Gazette

Lock Haven Hospital recently announced the addition of registered nurses Mary Wieland, as risk manager, and Yolanda Lewis, as infection control nurse in the hospital's quality department.

Prior to joining Lock Haven Hospital, Wieland served as a case manager for Horizons Hospice in Harrisburg. Her experience includes director of quality assurance and patient safety officer at Memorial Hospital-York in York and manager at Greenbriar Medical Center in York.

Wieland received a bachelor of science in nursing from Wagner College, Staten Island, N.Y., and spent nine years as the assistant director of risk management and a nurse manager at the Hospital for Special Surgery, New York, N.Y.

Lewis brings 14 years of experience in medical and clinical infectious disease and seven years of program management experience and spent three years working as a public health adviser in overseas settings. Her experience includes stints with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute of Health, the Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, and Johns Hopkins Hospital.

She received master and bachelor degrees in nursing from the College of Staten Island, City University of New York.

"Quality and patient safety are front and center in our day to day focus and the addition of Mary and Yolanda will help us continue improve our processes," said John Zidansek, CEO of Lock Haven Hospital. "They bring extensive, broad-based experiences to their positions and we are excited to tap into their skills to continue our evolution."



## Victoria Cirigliano-Doria: A woman who has others' backs

Wednesday, April 11, 2012, 1:36 PM



**Marjorie Hack**  
By



Advance File  
Photo

Victoria Cirigliano-Doria

DONGAN HILLS, STATEN ISLAND -- When Victoria Cirigliano-Doria was a student at New Dorp High School, she was a booster and cheered at basketball and football games.

These days, she may not be doing cartwheels anymore but she is still cheering — as the president of the Tenants Association at the Charles W. Berry Houses, a development run by the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). She advocates for residents on many fronts — repairs to apartments, finding resources so those in need can buy food, fighting against rent increases, and serving as a point person for people complaining about unauthorized tenants, lack of heat and smoking issues. Many of the tenants are disabled or retired

seniors, though there is a family presence in the apartments.

Ms. Cirigliano-Doria is one of eight women Islandwide who have taken on this responsibility in the NYCHA developments. Cassidy-Coles Senior Center, the eighth NYCHA cluster, currently has no TA president, according to state Sen. Diane Savino's office.

The eight were honored as Women in History last month at a brunch hosted by Sen. Savino (D-North Shore/Brooklyn), state Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis (R-East Shore) and City Councilwoman Debi Rose (D-North Shore).

These jobs may not involve life-and-death situations, but they are not for the faint of heart either, said Ms. Cirigliano-Doria who said she spends about 10 hours a week fielding complaints and directing requests. And that's in addition to her paid position at the city's Department of Social Services, which manages cases involving public assistance, Medicaid and food stamps. She's been with that agency for 25 years, and believes that her on-the-job experience has helped her help those with whom she lives.

"At times, it is extremely frustrating, but I am not a quitter, and myself and the other presidents always come together as a group to present issues. The most rewarding is helping people and seeing how much of a difference you can make in someone else's life," wrote Ms. Cirigliano-Doria.

Volunteering and helping others is in her blood, she said. Her mother volunteered for Light House for the Blind. Ms. Cirigliano-Doria, a native Staten Islander, started by giving her time as a teen to the American Red Cross as a Candy Striper at what is now Bayley-Seton Hospital, Clifton. These days she lends a hand at Historic Richmond Town.

She holds an associate's degree in computer programming from the College of Staten Island, then earned a bachelor of arts degree in sociology/anthropology from the school. She went to school for a master's degree in urban policy.

Ms. Cirigliano-Doria called the Berry Houses a "wonderful place to raise children and for seniors." She said that both populations "feel safe and secure."

Though there are some quality-of-life issues, Ms. Cirigliano-Doria said you find these everywhere. She said the Berry Houses work because "tenants want to keep it that way" and the New York Police Department tries to stay on top of things.

What she hopes doesn't change is the feeling of community that the tenants share. "I hope the comfortable, lovable feeling stays for generations to come," she said.

Ms. Cirigliano-Doria, who is nearing the end of a three-year term, plans to run again next month. "I can only hope that I can serve my tenants successfully for another three years," she wrote.

Marjorie Hack is an assistant managing editor at the Advance and editor of the Shore sections. She can be reached at [hack@siadvance.com](mailto:hack@siadvance.com).

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## Staten Island Advance inducts 11 into its 25-year club

Saturday, April 14, 2012, 9:02 AM



**Diane Lore**  
By

Eleven Staten Island Advance employees were inducted into the newspaper's 25-Year Club during a reception last night in the Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomfield.

Advance publisher Caroline Diamond Harrison presented each new member with a Tiffany gold watch to celebrate the occasion.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the club, which was started by Mrs. Harrison's father, former publisher Richard E. Diamond, who died in 2004.

Each spring the club honors Advance employees from all departments who have completed 25 years of service to the newspaper.

Inducted this year were Carol Ann Benanti, news; Cormac Gordon, Charles DeBiase

Jr., and James Waggoner, sports; Rosemarie Gangemi, ad services; Michele Valenti, classified advertising; Anthony Cistone, pressroom; Dawn Greco, circulation; Michael Pittelli Jr., information technology; Debbie DiSalvo, switchboard, and Myrian Johnson, accounting.

As the Advance Inside Out columnist, Carol Ann Benanti is afforded the opportunity to expand on anecdotal observations, showcase life's more poignant moments, bring local not-for-profits to the forefront and connect and often reunite current and former Staten Island residents.

Earlier in her Advance career, Mrs. Benanti was Word Search columnist, during a time when the feature was originally introduced as a way to commemorate the Advance's 100th anniversary. She also was a lifestyle



### [View full size](#)

Inductees into the Staten Island Advance 25-year club, top row, from left: Carol Ann Benanti, news; Anthony Cistone, pressroom; Charles DeBiase Jr., sports. Bottom row, from left: Debbie DiSalvo, switchboard; Rosemarie Gangemi, ad services; and Cormac Gordon, sports.



**View full size**

Inductees into the Staten Island Advance 25-year club, top row, from left: Dawn Greco, circulation; Myrian Johnson, accounting; Michael Pittelli Jr., information technology. Bottom row: Michele Valenti, classified advertising, and James Waggoner, sports.

reporter, Happenings editor and was the inquiring photographer in a feature called "Just Asking." She also currently authors news features.

A Brooklyn College alumna, Mrs. Benanti has been recognized by a number of local charitable organizations including the Miss Staten Island Scholarship Organization, the Staten Island Friends for Hospice Care, The Emergency Children's Health Organization (E.C.H.O.), New Direction Services and the Pakistani Civic Association, among others.

She is a member of the National Association of Italian-American Women, a board member of the Iron Hills Civic Association and was the recipient of the Fourth Estate Award from the American Legion's National Public Relations Commission for outstanding achievement

in the field of journalism.

She and her husband Anthony reside in Dongan Hills. Together they are the parents of two sons, Joseph and Anthony, and a grandson, Joseph Sebastian.

Native Staten Islander Cormac Gordon joined the Advance as a part-time employee on the sports desk in 1983.

The West Brighton resident, who has covered many World Series, NCAA College Basketball Championships and Triple Crown races, was named a general sports columnist in 1989 and has won several Associated Press and Deadline Club awards in that capacity.

He is a long-time voter on the Associated Press Top 25 men's basketball poll and a selector of the annual AP All-America teams as well as the NIT 2004 Media Award winner. As a more than decade-long member of the Baseball Writers Association of America, Gordon is believed to be the only former NYPD detective who votes in Baseball Hall of Fame balloting.

From 2001 to 2008, Gordon also served as a general news columnist for the Advance.

He is the father of three and grandfather of five.

Charles DeBiase Jr. wears two hats, as a reporter in the sports department and as a delivery driver in the circulation department.

He joined the Advance in 1987 as a "shortage driver" in the circulation department. His job was delivering newspapers to carriers or stores who did not get their correct number of newspapers dropped off by Advance delivery trucks. He also worked in the mailroom. The following year, in 1988, he was hired by the sports department, while continuing as a truck driver in the circulation department.

In the sports department DeBiase started as a reporter covering high school sports. His duties expanded after he earned his bachelor's degree in English from Wagner College in 1993. He is now a senior reporter on all of the Advance's major high school beats, including football, girls and boys' soccer and basketball, baseball and softball.

DeBiase, who grew up in Rosebank, currently lives in Oakwood with his wife, Helen, a teacher in the city public schools, and his four children, Charlie III, 10; Billy, 8; Anne, 8, and Amanda, 3. When he's not at the Advance, DeBiase coaches CYO basketball out of St. Charles R.C. Church. He also coaches the Staten Island Stingrays, a traveling basketball team.

His dad, Charles DeBiase Sr., who worked at the Advance for 42 years as a pressman, joined the 25-Year Club in 1991.

Jim Waggoner has been a sports writer, columnist and copy editor at the Advance since 1987. He has worn several hats within the sports department, with duties ranging from page design to updating the newspaper's website, and has covered a wide range of local sports with an emphasis on college sports and particularly College of Staten Island basketball.

For more than two decades, Waggoner has been the newspaper's in-house football forecaster, authoring the Bag Wags Football Contest column which invites readers to challenge their weekly gridiron knowledge. He also has covered the borough's minor-league baseball team, the Staten Island Yankees, since its inception in 1999.

A native of Spokane, Wash., he earned a bachelor of arts degree in journalism from Eastern Washington University. Waggoner and his wife, Judy, reside in Dongan Hills with their three children: Andrew, 16; Amanda, 15, and Danny, 13.

Rosemarie Gangemi started working at the Advance as a classified ad taker while pursuing her degree at the College of Staten Island. Not long after that, she was recruited to join the newly formed department that would produce advertisements in-house by computer, instead of the ads being done mechanically.

Mrs. Gangemi resides in West Brighton with her husband, Tommy, who was inducted into the 25-Year-Club in 2004, and sons Nicholas, 16, an honors student at Xaverian High School, and Timothy, 12, an honors

student at Our Lady of Good Counsel School, Tompkinsville.

She is involved with Boy Scouts, where Nicholas will soon be an Eagle Scout candidate, and attends basketball and baseball games to watch Timothy play. She enjoys hiking, kayaking, visiting museums and historical places and reading American history.

Michelle Valenti started at the Advance in the summer of 1986; she was hired as a "temp" and later became full time. Her duties included setting up accounts with lines of credit, managing accounts that were past-due and working with the sales staff.

After 19 years in the credit department, she decided to explore a different path. When an opening occurred in the classified advertising department in 2005, she applied and was hired as a classified "advisor." In that capacity she helped readers and businesses word and place classified ads.

Two years later she began selling classified ads and on-line advertising for classified directories and other special sections. In addition to selling ads, she also handles the weekly restaurant listing and dining guide appearing in Thursday's AWE section of the Advance.

A former Oakwood resident, Ms. Valenti is a graduate of New Dorp High School. She now makes her home in Sunnyside with her partner, John, and enjoys her godsons, Anthony and Matthew; nephews Joshua and Jacob, and her niece, Anna-Rose. She also enjoys traveling.

Anthony Cistone has spent the last 25 years making sure the Advance gets printed on time so readers can stay informed about their borough. He also monitors the production quality of the newspaper each day.

He works various shifts, often when most Islanders are asleep, to get the presses prepared and rolling to print the day's paper, and ready the press for the next job. His job was made safer and faster when the Advance installed its sleek new state-of-the-art press designed in Germany. Cistone was one of the pressroom employees who traveled to Germany to be trained on the new press before it was installed.

A Brooklyn native, Cistone grew up in Richmond, where he still lives, and is a 1986 graduate of Susan Wagner High School.

When he's not working he enjoys spending time with his sons, Michael, 14, who is involved in travel hockey, and Thomas, 8, who plays Little League baseball.

Silver Lake resident Dawn Greco started at the Advance in February 1986 in subscriber services, part of the circulation department. In November of 1996 she became a circulation district manager, supervising carriers and store dealers on the East Shore. She is currently a circulation district manager on the West Shore, where she manages more than 120 routes.

A native of Morristown, N.J., her family moved to New Dorp when she was three years old. She graduated from Our Lady Queen of Peace School in New Dorp and St. John Villa Academy, Arrochar. She also holds a bachelor's degree in fashion-buying and merchandising from the Fashion Institute of Technology in Manhattan.

When she's not at the Advance, she enjoys spending time with her husband, James, and three children, Jason, 22; Alexandria, 7, and James, 4.

Michael Pittelli's relationship with the Advance started back in 1978, when he was a 12-year-old carrier who delivered the Advance in South Beach. He started working part-time in the circulation department while a student at St. Peter's Boys High School, and worked part-time while he studied computer science at St. John's University, Grymes Hill.

After earning his bachelor's degree in computer science in 1987, he was hired as a computer technician for NYNEX Business Centers in midtown Manhattan. Two years later, in 1989, he was hired as a computer operator in the Advance's data processing department. In 1991 he transitioned to computer operations supervisor and began to oversee the operations staff and participated in the Advance's move to personal computers and technology.

Over the years his job responsibilities have grown to include information security and tech and operations support. In 2008 Pittelli was named an information technology (IT) systems manager.

Pittelli met Laura, his wife of 20 years, at the Advance, when she worked part-time in the classified call center. They live in New Dorp with their four children, Michael, 17; and 13-year-old triplets Thomas, Brandon and Jenna. Pittelli enjoys spending time at home with his family, watching the Yankees and the Jets, and fishing.

As the administrative receptionist for the main switchboard of the Advance, Debbie DiSalvo is often the first contact for callers to the newspaper, as well as visitors to the Advance building in Grasmere.

She started working for the Advance in 1987, as part of the credit department. She went from making collection calls to the position of credit and collections supervisor. In 2010 she joined the classified sales department to handle advertising and the reception desk. Besides running the main switchboard, she is responsible for handling internal and external mail, customer relation inquiries, and counter sales of the newspaper.

Although she was born on Staten Island, Mrs. DiSalvo grew up in Old Bridge, N.J., and studied nursing at Brookdale Community College in Holmdel. She met her husband, Vincent, on a blind date; they celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary last month. The couple lives in Oakwood and are the parents of three

children, Dawn, Christopher and Vincent Jr., and four grandchildren, Dominique, 11; Georgie, 7, and Dean and Arianna, 2½.

Mrs. DiSalvo is passionate about her needlework projects, along with doing jigsaw puzzles. She also enjoys making trips to Las Vegas with her husband and family.

Myrian Johnson works in the accounting department of the Advance as assistant controller. Prior to joining the Advance, she worked at Paul Scherer and Co., as an auditor for Advance Publications, the parent company of the Advance. She also worked in the accounting department of Conde Nast publications. As assistant controller she prepares monthly financial reports and monitors accounts-payable, production inventories and fixed assets.

She was born and raised in Colombia, South America, where she earned a degree in modern languages with a major in Spanish, from the Universidad Colegio Mayor de Cundinamarca, in Bogata, Colombia.

She moved to New York in 1974, where she earned a bachelor of science degree in accounting from the College of Staten Island, Willowbrook. She is married to Staten Island native Guy Johnson, who works as a high school guidance counselor in New Jersey. The couple, who live in Great Kills, have one son, Guy Alan, who works as an attorney for the federal Department of Education in Washington, D.C.

At home, Ms. Johnson is rarely without a book, magazine, or newspaper. Her other passion is running; she has successfully completed more than 15 marathons, including the New York City Marathon several times.

Members of the Class of 2012 bring the total to 208 employees who have been inducted into the 25-Year Club since its inception in 1972.

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## Staten Islanders in Uniform -- Army Spc. Christina Rullan cited during Afghan tour of duty

Sunday, April 15, 2012, 5:16 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**



U.S. Army Spc. Christine Rullan, right, receives an award recently during ceremonies at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- U.S. Army Spc. Christina Rullan, a native Staten Islander currently deployed in Afghanistan, was named War Fighter of the Month and Soldier of the Month recently.

Spc. Rullan, a 2006 graduate of Tottenville High School and a former **College of Staten Island** student, joined the Army in August of 2010.

She went to basic military training at Fort Jackson, S.C., and followed that with Advanced Individual Training at Fort Gordon, Ga., specializing in the repair of night vision equipment.

Her first duty station was Joint Base Lewis McChord, Wash. She was assigned to the Forward Support Company of the 14th Combat Engineer BN.

She is currently serving at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. Her unit's mission in the Operation Enduring Freedom is Route Clearance.

During her current deployment, Spc. Rullan was promoted from private second

class to private first class to specialist.

She entered and won the War Fighter of the Month and Soldier of the Month contests, articulating the importance of the basics of leadership.

She received two awards, two coins and a plaque from both the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Army for her achievements.

Spc. Rullan is due to redeploy back to the United States in July.

She says she's looking forward to reuniting with my mother (Debbie Sorensen), her brothers (Anthony Sorensen and Joseph Guerra), and her husband (Christopher Rullan) when she goes on leave in August.

### **Airman 1st Class Mikhail Bogopolskiy**

Air Force Airman 1st Class Mikhail Bogopolskiy graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Bogopolskiy is the son of Nataliya Bogopolskaya and Alex Bogopolskiy of Seaview Avenue.

He is a 2007 graduate of Abraham Lincoln High School.

### **Air Force Airman Nicholas Venier**

Air Force Airman Nicholas J. Venier graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Venier is the son of Elizabeth and Donald Venier of Greencroft Lane.

He is a 2011 graduate of New Dorp High School.

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## Staten Island resident making his mark in triathlon circles

Wednesday, April 18, 2012, 8:21 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**



Family Photo

By MARLENY RIVERA

GRASMERE -- 1:36:14. One hour, 36 minutes and 14 seconds.

That is the time in which Marco Cammayo finished a 600-meter swim, 20-mile bike ride and 5-mile run in the Long Branch Sprint Triathlon in New Jersey, a time that placed him first in his age group of 30-34.

Not bad for someone who started to run, and compete professionally, at the age of 29.

For Cammayo that performance earned him an invitation to compete in the 2012

USA Triathlon Age Group National Championships on Aug. 18-19 in Burlington, Vt.

The grueling event includes a 1,500-meter swim, 40-k bike ride and 10-k run. Cammayo will compete in the USA Triathlon Olympic Distance National Championship part of the competition. It is a non-drafting Olympic distance event.

"I can't wait to experience it, and do it for fun," says Cammayo. "It's such a special accomplishment and an honor to have been chosen."

Cammayo was born in the Philippines before relocating to Staten Island when he was 7. He grew up in Westerleigh and was a student at Susan Wagner High School. He works as a graphic designer and marketing specialist at the Nicotra Group.

The College of Staten Island graduate had never been involved in running until four years ago. He was introduced to the world of triathlons by a friend who recruited him to compete in the Staten Island Patanella's Flat as a Pancake Triathlon and Duathlon.

It caught his attention — and his heart — and changed his life.

Cammayo joined the Staten Island Athletic Club (SIAC) and the Fil Am Tri Club (FATC). FATC is a New Jersey -based club and a leader in training in the Filipino Triathlon Community created by Arland Macasieb. Cammayo is constantly working out, and running with his SIAC group.

"I never trained professionally growing up, but working out with SIAC, is like being trained by professionals to me," the Grasmere resident said.

Currently, Cammayo ranks in the top 100 in the USA triathlon circuit. He has competed in the Ironman in Syracuse where he finished with a time of 4:58:34; the 2011 North Face Endurance Challenge; the 2010 New York Marathon; and, the 2011 Staten Island Spartan Super where he finished in 1:20:14 and first in his heat.

Cammayo will compete in the Unite Half Marathon held at Rutgers University on Sunday and the following weekend he'll travel to West Point for a duathlon which helps raise money for injured soldiers.

"If it wasn't for this, I wouldn't be as driven and as positive," said Cammayo. "After accomplishing everything (in each event), I know I can do anything I want. Because just like a triathlon, physically it can be the hardest thing you go through. But when you feel like you can't any more, that's when it becomes all mental and heart, and that's when it becomes easier."

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## Monmouth Real Estate Investment Corporation Announces New Chief Accounting Officer

FREEHOLD, N.J., April 23, 2012 /PRNewswire/ -- Monmouth Real Estate Investment Corporation (NYSE: [MNR](#)) today announced that Kevin S. Miller will be joining the Company serving as Chief Accounting Officer effective May 7, 2012. Mr. Miller, age 42, has been the Assistant Controller and Assistant Vice-President of Forest City Ratner Companies, a wholly-owned subsidiary of a publicly-held company, Forest City Enterprises, Inc., for the past 7 years. Prior to joining Forest City, Mr. Miller was an Audit Manager for 12 years at PKF O'Connor Davies, A Division of O'Connor Davies LLP. Mr. Miller graduated from The City University of New York at The [College of Staten Island](#) with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting, and is a Certified Public Accountant. Ms. Anna Chew will remain as the Company's Interim Chief Financial Officer.

Michael P. Landy, COO, commented, "Kevin brings to Monmouth a wealth of real estate and public accounting experience. He will be an integral member of Monmouth's finance team and an asset to Monmouth's long-term growth plans. We look forward to working with him."

Monmouth Real Estate Investment Corporation, which was organized in 1968, is a publicly owned real estate investment trust specializing in net-leased industrial properties subject to long-term leases primarily to investment grade tenants. The Company's portfolio consists of sixty-nine industrial properties and one shopping center located in twenty-five states. In addition, the Company owns a portfolio of REIT securities.

Also posted on: [citybizlist.com](#) [streetinsider.com](#)

## Steve Hession leads Baruch College into New York Athletic Conference Playoffs

Wednesday, April 25, 2012, 12:57 PM



By **Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

The Baruch College baseball team will enter the City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) playoffs tomorrow as the No. 1 seed after finishing the regular season with a 9-1 record.

And a large part of the reason is the play of Westerleigh's Steve Hession.

Hession is leading the Bearcats in many offensive categories. He is tops in batting average (.391), hits (54), runs scored (41), stolen bases (31 in 35 attempts), walks (18) and on base percentage (.465).

The speedy outfielder spent his first two collegiate years at the [College of Staten Island](#) ([CSI](#)). He was named a first-team, all-conference selection after both seasons and was a big part of [CSI's](#) championship run in 2010.

The former McKee/SI Tech player, who was a dean's list student at [CSI](#), transferred to Baruch last year but chose not to play.



[View full size](#)

Baruch College

After transferring for [CSI](#), Baruch College's Steve Hession carrying a big stick on the field, leading in several batting categories.

\*\*\*



Dominican College captured the regular-season softball championship of the Central Athletic Collegiate Conference (CACC) championship with a 24-2 record.

The Chargers are 33-15 overall and will enter tomorrow's post-season playoffs as the No. 1 seed. Westerleigh's Katrina Pistilli has played a role in the Chargers' success.

The right-handed pitcher from Moore Catholic HS sports a 14-8 record with a 2.80 ERA in 142½ innings pitched.

\*\*\*

Danielle Locke's speed has been a contributor to run production for the Western Connecticut State University softball team.



[View full size](#)

Staten Island Advance/Hilton Flores

Susan Wagner graduate #11 Danielle Locke who just score on the sac fly from Tottenville Samantha Mattsson gets a high five from Tottenville Nicole Palese during an all star game in 2011

The Westerleigh freshman has appeared in 23 games, seeing most of her time as a pinch-runner, has scored 8 runs and has stolen 7 bases in 8 attempts.

The former Advance All Star from Susan Wagner HS is also hitting when she gets the opportunity. The lefty slapper is batting .400 with 4 hits in 10 at-bats with a pair of RBIs.

The Colonials are currently 21-11 with a record of 3-5 in the Little East Conference.

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