

# CSI in the News



May 2012

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***ADS***

COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND

GRADUATE STUDIES



CREATING LEADERS, CHANGING LIVES

**MASTER OF ARTS AND SCIENCE**  
**Biology (MS)**  
**Business Management (MS)**  
**Cinema and Media Studies (MA)**  
**Computer Science (MS)**  
**Education (MSEd)**

- Childhood Education
- Adolescence (Biology, English, Mathematics, and Social Studies)
- Special Education

**English (MA)**  
**Environmental Science (MS)**  
**History (MA)**  
**Liberal Studies (MA)**  
**Mental Health Counseling (MA)**  
**Neuroscience, Mental Retardation, and**  
**Developmental Disabilities (MS)**  
**Nursing (MS)**

- Adult Health
- Gerontological

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**Leadership in Education (Post-Master's)**

- School Building Leader
- School District Leader
- School Building Leader and School District Leader (Dual Certificate)

**Nursing (Post-Master's)**



- Adult Health
- Gerontological

**Nursing (Advanced Certificate)**

- Cultural Competence
- Nursing Education

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The College of Staten Island offers Doctoral programs jointly with The CUNY Graduate Center  
**Biochemistry (PhD)**  
**Biology (Specialty in Neuroscience) (PhD)**  
**Computer Science (PhD)**  
**Nursing (DNS)**  
**Physics (PhD)**  
**Polymer Chemistry (PhD)**  
**Clinical Doctorate in Physical Therapy (DPT)**

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# ***Arts & Events***



## New York Philharmonic Revises 2012 CONCERTS IN THE PARKS Schedule

by BWW News Desk



The New York Philharmonic today announced a revised schedule for the 2012 New York Philharmonic Concerts in the Parks, Presented by Didi and Oscar Schafer. The five free outdoor concerts will take place in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, July 11 (as originally scheduled); Cunningham Park, Queens, July 12; The Great Lawn in Central Park, Manhattan, July 13 and 16; and Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx, July 17.

The new schedule will allow the stage in Central Park to be built only once, substantially reducing wear and tear on the Great Lawn. As originally scheduled, the New York Philharmonic Brass will give a Free Indoor Concert at the Center for the Arts, [College of Staten](#)

[Island](#), CUNY, July 15. Major corporate support for the 2012 New York Philharmonic Concerts in the Parks and the Free Indoor Concert has been provided by Time Warner Inc.

As previously announced, Music Director Alan Gilbert, The Yoko Nagae Ceschina Chair, will conduct the free performances in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, on Wednesday, July 11, and in Central Park on Friday, July 13, leading a program that combines Respighi's Fountains of Rome and Pines of Rome with Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4. Andrey Boreyko will conduct the concerts on Thursday, July 12, in Cunningham Park; Monday, July 16, in Central Park; and Tuesday, July 17, in Van Cortlandt Park, leading Wagner's Prelude to Act I of Die Meistersinger; Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto, with James Ehnes (who made his Philharmonic debut in the parks in the summer of 2003) as soloist; and Brahms's Symphony No. 1. All performances begin at 8:00 p.m. and there will be fireworks by Bay Fireworks following the performances in Brooklyn and Manhattan.

The New York Philharmonic Brass will perform a Free Indoor Concert at the Center for the Arts, [College of Staten Island](#), CUNY, on Sunday, July 15, at 3:00 p.m. The New York Philharmonic's free parks concerts have become an iconic New York summer experience since they began in 1965, transforming parks throughout the New York area into a patchwork of picnickers and providing music lovers with an opportunity to hear the best classical music under the stars. More than 14 million listeners have been delighted by the performances since their inception.

Also posted on: [about.com](#) [silive.com](#)



## Great oldies show at CSI the best bargain in town

Saturday, May 05, 2012, 12:49 AM



### Letters to the Editor/Staten Island Advance By

By JOAN PARNES

BULLS HEAD

My husband and I went to [College of Staten Island](#) Center For The Arts on Saturday, April 28, to see a show starring The Platters and The Marvellettes.

We thoroughly enjoyed the show, as we usually do when we go to this particular theater. The shows are affordable by today's standard and a wonderful alternative to going into the city and paying exorbitant prices for the shows, as well as having to pay for parking.

The seats at the [CSI](#) theater are comfortable and at a pitch that you are able to see above the people's heads in front of you, and as an added perk — the parking is free!

We really enjoy the Doo-Wop music and would love to see more shows of this type come to this theater.

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# ***Faculty & Staff***



MAY/JUNE 2012

## DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN EDUCATION 2012

President Tomás Morales, College of Staten Island

*By Joan Baum, Ph.D.*



Now in his fifth year as the third president of the College of Staten Island (CSI), Dr. Tomás D. Morales expresses delight at hearing that an early April preliminary report from the Middle States evaluation team indicated “a very positive outcome” for CSI. Out of 14 assessment areas for “standards of higher education excellence,” the president notes that 12 received “commendations.” “Commendations in 12 out of 14 assessment areas doesn’t just happen,” reflects Morales, “it comes about due to the hard work and dedication of our faculty and staff and their invaluable contributions to the process.” He is especially pleased, he adds, because his “philosophy” about assessment is that it should not be just about what an institution does but also about how it is “transforming itself into a learning organization,” not just for students, but for faculty, administration and staff. The president notes with pride how all college divisions and committees worked together toward meeting the evaluation challenge and how the prospect of evaluation under the new Strategic Plan, “Many Voices, One Vision,” prompted CSI to revise its mission, vision and values statements.

And, of course, he was delighted to note CSI’s importance in the grand CUNY scheme as the home of the university’s Interdisciplinary High Performance Computing Center, the largest academic HPC center in the New York metropolitan area, currently serving 400 users. The consulting firm of Hendrickson, Durham & Richardson was recently selected for professional design and construction-related services for a new 175,000 gross square foot, \$210 million academic computational science research building that will house the CUNY IHPCC on the CSI campus.

What would President Morales say to parents and prospective students about what makes CSI stand out? He pauses for just a second to catch an enthusiastic breath: “CSI is all about transforming lives. We embrace hands-on undergraduate research and scholarship with world-class faculty mentorships in a global classroom, are home to over 300 international students, offer the only student teaching opportunity in the Galapagos as well as many other study abroad opportunities, and recently inducted our second class of faculty, staff and students into the Phi Beta Delta honor society for international scholars. As the only public institution on Staten Island, we are dedicated to our community by offering students a full spectrum of services, whether they are in our two-year programs, opportunity programs, or working towards a graduate degree. Our campus is also home to more than 130 full-time Ph.D. students, and our faculty and staff continue to earn prestigious national awards.”

Reflecting the history of CSI, which grew out of a merger between Staten Island Community College and Richmond College, the college is particularly focused on ensuring that A.A. students “transition successfully” to baccalaureate degree programs. Additionally, since 2007, the school has seen a 66.5 percent increase in baccalaureate freshmen, an 84 percent increase in the total number of baccalaureate students on campus, a

doubling of the baccalaureate-to-associate's freshmen ratio, a tripling of the baccalaureate-to-associate's total student ration, and a 22.5 percent increase in the number of baccalaureate degrees awarded. So far, President Morales says, these accomplishments have raised expectations of excellence, and the college is currently enjoying record enrollment. Data also show a greater overall baccalaureate graduation rate. As for direct entrants from high school, the president points out that during the five years he has been at the helm, SAT scores have risen considerably.

Articulation — the smooth transition from associate's to baccalaureate — is certainly one reason for greater admissions and retention at **CSI**, but the college's various and diverse mentoring programs for all students have certainly made a difference. A two-day mandatory orientation–advisement session for entering students that was piloted last summer has been extremely effective, the president reports. At the end of the program, all students leave with their schedules complete, and thus, no registration anxieties. New academic offerings — “what students want” — have also played a major role in strengthening efforts to attract and retain students. From 2006-2007 and from 2010-2011, the number of **CSI** students studying abroad increased 110 percent. The president also points out that on his watch, there has been a 38 percent increase in **CSI** students participating in the Macaulay Honors College, and his scholarship program has record numbers of valedictorians and salutatorians from high schools in Brooklyn and Staten Island enrolling.

When Education Update caught up with Dr. Morales, he had just returned from the college's 11th annual Undergraduate Conference on Research, Scholarship and Performance and was filled with admiration for what he saw and heard: over 170 poster presentations and performances by more than 300 undergraduates who were doing work more commonly associated with doctoral-level projects. Morales was quick to point out the “hard work and dedication of the college's faculty who mentor our students,” adding that the “faculty play a central role in mentoring and guiding student research.”

He was especially taken with posters describing research regarding the resurgence of turtle populations at the former Fresh Kills Landfill (which will soon be transformed into New York City's largest parkland), anti-Semitism and its relation to attitudes toward Israel, and breast cancer. Underscoring the president's commitment to inclusion was the presentation by the Little Fe Supercomputer Team, comprised of some of **CSI's** best students, technical staff and an exceptionally talented high school students. The diverse, interdisciplinary team has expertise in a broad range of computational science, mathematics and engineering and includes members with physical and developmental challenges. The team built a high performance, parallel processing supercomputer and is currently developing the software to power CUNY's first autonomous vehicle.

President Morales has a B.A. in history (secondary education) from SUNY and a Master's and a Ph.D. in Education Administration and Policy Studies from SUNY Albany. His over 32 years in higher education were in senior executive positions at SUNY, CUNY and the California State system. For sure, he knows the large urban university scene. In fact, he represents CUNY on many national boards and coalitions that focus on urban colleges and universities. He serves on the Executive Committees of AASCU and HACU, and CUMU, and further keeps the University on the national stage by participating on task forces that concern themselves with college readiness and reducing the number of students entering college who need remediation — constant questions for colleges and universities around the country.

He soon paused in the recital of data to note — a heartfelt expression — that he also truly loves Staten Island. #

## *Commissioner John King Visits with NYS Regent Christine Cea in Staten Island*

By DR. POLA ROSEN

A strong group of about 40 leaders in special education in Staten Island gathered for an intimate talk with NYS Commissioner John King and Kevin Smith, Deputy Commissioner, NYS Education Department about building stronger pathways to continuing education and vocational education early in a student's life.

King stated that the focus should be on partnerships. Several principals and superintendents expressed the need to begin transitions as soon as possible, for example, in independent living centers.

King asked the group what was working well and what resources they needed. A principal in District 79 suggested that career technical education be expanded. Another suggestion from Port Richmond High School was for programs to co-exist. Some said that programs have to be connected to jobs. King agreed: programs have to lead to careers.

Some of the programs cited as examples for inclusion were culinary, financial literacy, letter writing and how to get a job. The Hungerford School has been helping special needs students for over 40 years and according to principal, Dr. Mary McNerney "our population is aging and we have to find ways to support them in their older age."

King summarized, "We must set meaningful standards and apply them across grade levels and ability levels."

Kudos to Dr. Christine Cea for bringing educators together with the Commissioners for an informed conversation about special needs students. Conversation and collaboration can only lead to crystallizing goals and implementing change together. All agreed this conversation should take place 3-4 times per year. #



*Dr. Christine Cea & Dr. John King*

## ACT UP Celebrates 25 Years With Wall Street Protest

Wednesday, May 2, 2012 by Shay O'Reilly



SOURCE: AP Photo / Bebeto Matthews

Police prepare to arrest protesters who chained themselves to toilet bowls, sinks and other household items while chanting "housing saves lives," before a demonstration march around the Wall Street financial district to commemorate AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power (ACT UP), on April 25 in New York. The longtime AIDS activists who have been chanting in the streets for a quarter century joined with supporters of the much newer Occupy Wall Street movement Wednesday in a rally and march through lower Manhattan to call for better health services.

What to do with a theoretical "Robin Hood Tax" on financial speculation? Hundreds of activists, both veterans and newly awakened, protested on Wall Street recently to call for increased allocations to fight global AIDS.

Unsurprisingly, Occupy Wall Street co-sponsored the event—but the real focus was on the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP), whose creation 25 years ago introduced a new, confrontational politics to the gay community's grassroots fight against AIDS. It was a homecoming for the group, too: ACT UP's first protest was on Wall Street, where the group hung then-Food and Drug Administration Director Frank Young in effigy.

Co-founded by firebrand playwright Larry Kramer, ACT UP intended to force change in how pharmaceutical companies, the press, the government, and other institutions profited from or failed to address the HIV/AIDS epidemic. While it originally grew out of the New York City gay community, other activists started ACT UP branches in cities across North America and the world. It was a ramshackle organization, free of the hierarchical attributes of the preceding Gay Men's Health Crisis.

"All we had were voices," Kramer recounted to Sarah Schulman, a professor at the [College of Staten Island](#) and co-creator (with Jim Hubbard) of the ACT UP Oral History Project. "All we had were a lot of

very creative people who could make beautiful posters and had big healthy lungs. And because so many people were sick—that gave us our spirit.”

The voices and the spirit proved powerful. ACT UP members plastered posters that read “SILENCE = DEATH” across New York and countless other cities. In their most famous direct action, they interrupted a mass at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in protest over Cardinal John O’Connor’s assertion that condom use was inherently sinful.

The love and rage at the AIDS epidemic’s human heart spurred ACT UP members to scatter the ashes of AIDS patients on the White House Lawn, march on the National Institutes of Health, lock themselves inside offices, and—among other things—present their targets with the faces of the dying, leaning on lovers, standing on their own feet, or rolling in wheelchairs.

As the face of the epidemic shifted and many members died, ACT UP splintered and quieted. After the development of effective treatments, the crushing devastation of the early years of AIDS became alien to younger gay men—particularly middle-class white gay men.

But the legacy of ACT UP’s patchwork organization and intense tactics ran beneath the modern protest landscape. With the resurgence of HIV/AIDS as a disease linked with poverty both domestic and global, and new HIV infections holding steady, younger activists found their way into the fold. “The phoenix has risen!” old-time ACT UP activist Mark Milano told the Huffington Post. ACT UP’s demands grew beyond small battles that the organization could win quickly: At its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the group rallied for universal health care.

Last week, the group rallied for a financial speculation tax and for increasing money to combat global AIDS. Protesters sat on toilets in the street to demand housing for AIDS patients and a restoration of social services; several protesters in Robin Hood hats were arrested for blocking Broadway, as passing stock exchange workers jeered.

Schulman told Campus Progress that ACT UP and Occupy were strange bedfellows—not because of ideological differences, but tactical ones. Still, they shared much in common.

“They’re both theatrical, they use civil disobedience, they don’t kowtow to authority, and also they’re both involved with creating counterculture,” Schulman said. “They also both see the marketplace, Wall Street, as a center of a lot of our social problems.”

ACT UP and Occupy, rowdy movements from two points in history, both broke average people out of their torpor and engendered confrontations with power and wealth. Schulman hopes that the past successes of ACT UP will still inspire young people today.

“I mean, that’s the lesson of ACT UP, isn’t it? People without power have the ability to transform society, but they have to be focused, creative, and they have to constantly evolve new tactics,” Schulman said. “It’s not just gay people who have grown up in a banal period, all Americans have been moving in a very repressive and homogenized period. And we all need to break free of it.”

*Shay O'Reilly is a staff writer with Campus Progress. Follow him on Twitter @shaygabriel.*



## N.J. man cleared of murder, convicted of assault in fatal beating of former **College of Staten Island** professor

Monday, May 07, 2012, 6:37 PM



**Staten Island Advance**  
By

OLD BRIDGE, N.Y. -- A New Jersey man was acquitted of murder, but convicted on lesser charges in the fatal beating of a former **College of Staten Island** professor near the victim's Old Bridge home, according to a report in the **Star Ledger**.

Steven Contreras, 20, was found guilty today on conspiracy charges, three counts of aggravated assault and hindering the apprehension of others in a New Brunswick, N.J. court for his role in the attack of Divyendu Sinha, 49.



Divyendu Sinha taught at **CSI** from 1990 to 1999 as an assistant professor in the computer science department.

Contreras was acquitted of murder and aggravated manslaughter, and a verdict could not be reached on a count of reckless manslaughter.

He told investigators was the driver of the vehicle that brought four other teenagers, Julian Daley, Cash Johnson, Christopher Conway and Christian Tinli, to the intersection of Nathan and Fela drives in Old Bridge on June 25, 2010, the night Sinha was beaten to death while walking with his sons and wife, the Star-Ledger is reporting.

The other suspects are to face trial later this year.

Sinha taught at **CSI** from 1990 to 1999 as an assistant professor in the computer science department.

## Class snapshot: 'American Environmental History and Thought'

May 10, 2012; 12:00 p.m.

by Carol Peters

**Class:** "Topics in Environmental Studies — American Environmental History and Thought"

**Instructors:** Deborah Popper and Frank Popper, who are both visiting professors of civil and environmental engineering and at the Princeton Environmental Institute (PEI) at Princeton University. Deborah teaches geography at the College of Staten Island and the Graduate Center, City University of New York. Frank teaches land-use planning at the Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University. Their research focuses on regional planning, especially in depopulating places like remote rural areas, the Great Plains and shrinking cities.

**Description:** The course examines the many links between environment and development in the United States. The Poppers describe the class as a "great books" course on environmental history and thought, where students read some of the most influential writing on changing landscapes in the United States.

Frank Popper said, "The course introduces students to the best environmental literature we've ever taught; it's fun, and the students respond to it." The Poppers have assigned Henry David Thoreau's "Walden" (1845) as the founding text, and a range of writers, including Walter Prescott Webb's "The Great Plains" (1931), Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" (1962), Joan Didion's "Where I Was From" (2003) and "The Essential William H. Whyte" (2000). Whyte graduated from Princeton in 1939.

The Poppers typically teach side by side and engage the students in lively discussion, often presenting contrasting views. "There are a lot of students in our classes at Princeton who have never seen a married couple teach, so we provide a different teaching example for the students," Frank said. "Some of them visibly enjoy our back-and-forth banter. We tell them right at the beginning of the semester that we don't always agree, but they seem surprised when we deliver on that!"



*The course is taught by Deborah (left) and Frank Popper (second from left at back table), whose research focuses on land use and regional planning. The Poppers are both visiting professors of civil and environmental engineering and the Princeton Environmental Institute.*

**Key areas of focus:** The course centers around the similarities and differences between rural, suburban and urban areas in the United States; the history of the American environmental and conservation movements; and the forces underlying the on-the-ground changes in different regions.

The class focuses on how American thought about the environment has evolved since the 1830s. Students learn how perceived values about different landscapes and land uses have developed and altered the American farming, energy, manufacturing, service and government sectors. The Poppers encourage their students to think of the United States broadly as a place with many different kinds of spaces, while paying particular attention to the splits and overlaps between urban and rural landscapes in an environmental context. They urge them to consider questions such as, What does wilderness mean? What is the difference between a national park and an urban park?

According to the Poppers, the overview helps students understand how political, societal and economic forces in the United States shaped each writer's thoughts about the environment, and in turn, how their writings influenced environmental consciousness in this country.

"We explore the march of the environmental movement across the country as various landscapes turned from one form to another depending on how natural resources are used," Deborah said. "We study the differences between the environmental and conservation movements, and the questions environmental activists began to ask, such as, Have we overused these lands? What are the threats to the environment? How should 'appropriate use' be defined?"



*Senior Chad Wiedmaier presents his final project to the class. The seminar emphasizes a discussion-based environment, with the Poppers offering a team approach in presenting material, often from different viewpoints.*

describes it, had a "major brainstorm about teaching the course as a 'great books' course." Deborah explained, "Frank used a good anthology, but I became frustrated by assigning snippets because they meant that the students were only getting a flavor for the author. They weren't reading the entire books and understanding their time and place. The students were aware of many of the writers — they had all heard of Rachel Carson, for example — but how many students had actually read more than just a little bit of her work?" As a result, the Poppers changed their approach.

**Inspiration:** In 2009, Frank Popper taught the course on his own, but since then it has been taught by the couple. Deborah, as Frank

**Students say:** Senior Clay Blackiston, a philosophy major, said, "I heard great things about the Poppers from some of my friends. I had never taken a course on environmentalism and wanted to learn a little more about what everybody is talking about when they mention 'sustainability.' This is the second history class I've taken at Princeton, so I've benefited a great deal from learning about the different



modes of thought throughout different time periods and from studying various authors and the ways they shaped the American zeitgeist."



*The seminar centers around "great books," allowing students to get a vivid sense of many of the key American writers of environmentalism from the mid-1800s to the present.*

Junior Alexander Katz, a major in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs who is pursuing certificates in environmental studies and East Asian studies, said he took the course because he "wanted the chance to work again with Professors Deborah and Frank Popper. I was fortunate to have taken a previous class with them (ENV 305: 'Topics in Environmental Studies — Building, American Style: Land-Use Policies and Rules') and had an outstanding experience in the class. They have a great dynamic and bring enormous energy and enthusiasm to the subject matter, which is ideal for a seminar. Also, as a candidate for the environmental studies certificate, I wanted a chance to study some of the seminal thinkers and texts of the environmental movement. One of the major goals of the course has been to identify core themes and turning points in the history of environmentalism. I believe that understanding the evolution of this movement is critical in order to examine the best approach for solving future environmental challenges. I think my experience in this class, as well as in ENV 305, has influenced me to take future environmental studies classes and address environmental questions in my independent work."

Senior Alana Tornello, who is majoring in comparative literature and earning a certificate in environmental studies, said, "I took 'American Environmental History and Thought' because I realized that I understood little about the history that had inspired my work in the [environmental] field. I had also heard that taking a class with Professors Frank and Deborah Popper was a fascinating experience. They have collectively stored so much knowledge on the subject and yet it is always funny to see them quarrel and expand on each other's comments. It really gives a fuller and more personal approach to the subject. I think that the greatest impact that the course has had upon me is that its comprehensive approach of American history also includes the environmental study of cities and suburbs. My work has almost predominantly concerned rural areas and local watersheds, but certainly our cities and neighborhoods are also part of our environment and are intricately tied with nature. Studying the development of housing and urban planning as part of environmental history was a fascinating approach."



## **CSI Students React To President's Departure**

05/10/2012 08:23 PM

Bv: NY1 News



**NY1 VIDEO:** Amid tension with faculty members, **College of Staten Island** President Dr. Tomas Morales has accepted a job to head up California State University at San Bernadino.



## IEEP Welcomes Appointment of Dr. Tomás Morales as President of CSUSB

10 May 2012

### ***The Inland Empire Economic Partnership Welcomes the Appointment Of Dr. Tomás Morales as The Fourth President of CSUSB***

The Membership and Board of Directors of the Inland Empire Economic Partnership are extremely pleased by today's announcement by the California State University Board of Trustees that Dr. Tomás Morales will be the fourth President of California State University at San Bernardino.

"I look forward to working with President-Elect Morales and believe that his background and commitment to educational excellence make him an outstanding choice to lead my alma mater; Cal State San Bernardino.", said IEEP President and CEO Paul Granillo who also represented the CSUSB alumni on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee.

IEEP also wishes to extend its thanks and appreciation to Dr. Albert Karnig for his fifteen years of leadership of CSUSB and dedication to the Inland Empire.

The Inland Empire Economic Partnership (IEEP) is the private, non-profit regional economic development organization that serves Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

IEEP's core mission is creating a healthy business climate and quality of life in the Inland Empire.

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

## Today's local news briefs

### SUNY New Paltz sets graduations

NEW PALTZ, N.Y. — SUNY New Paltz will hold its undergraduate commencement ceremony beginning at 10 a.m. on May 20 on the school's Old Main Quadrangle.

The commencement ceremony for graduate students will be held at 6 p.m. May 18 at the same location. College President Donald P. Christian will preside over both ceremonies. There are more than 1,900 undergraduate and 605 graduate degrees being conferred this year.

College of Staten Island President Tomás Morales, a New Paltz graduate, will be the guest speaker at the undergraduate commencement. Danielle Brown of Merrick was selected as valedictorian. Corinna L. Rideway of Port Crane is the salutatorian.

## CSI President Tomas Morales is leaving for Cal State San Bernardino

Thursday, May 10, 2012, 11:25 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- **College of Staten Island** President Dr. Tomas Morales is leaving the school after nearly five years to lead California State University at San Bernardino, the Advance has learned.

Administrators in California will issue a press statement at 1 p.m., according to the office of California State chancellor Charles B. Reed.

Morales confirmed the move and said the decision was made in the last 24 hours after consulting with family, including his wife, Evy. Morales, who has roots in California, will take over a school with 17,000 students located between Los Angeles and the Palm Springs. The college has nationally known business and entrepreneurship programs.

No timetable has been given for his departure from **CSI** or his arrival at Cal State San Bernardino.

At 11:40 a.m., Dr. Morales issued a statement where he said it has been a privilege to be part of the **CSI** community. "After working at numerous universities across the country and visiting countless campuses, I can honestly tell you that we have been privileged to serve the **College of Staten Island** community and work with an exceptional faculty, a dedicated staff and committed student body," he said. "I especially appreciate the extraordinary people of Staten Island who never failed to impress me with their individual and collective dedication to the enhancement of this great borough."



**Enlarge**

**Michael McWeeney**

**CSI's** President Dr. Tomas Morales in front of the college's state of the art library facility on the Willowbrook campus.

**Dr. Tomas Morales** gallery (8 photos)

He also thanked CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein and the system's Board of Trustees for their support. "But more than anything else, Evy and I want to say thank you. It's been an honor."

Dr. Morales took the reins at the **College of Staten Island** from outgoing president Dr. Marlene Springer in August of 2007.

Reared in the South Bronx, and a product of the city and state's public schools and universities, Morales, 53, was appointed **CSI** president the previous June after a sometimes bumpy nine-month national search.

Dr. Morales' secured the financing to **build residence halls for 440 students** and faculty with the possibility of attracting students not only from around the city and country, but could draw scholars from around the world, lending an international flavor to the institution.

For the previous six years, he had been university provost and vice president for academic affairs at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, where he oversaw seven colleges, one professional school and the university library, which together served more than 20,000 graduate and undergraduate students.

Prior to heading west, he had served for seven years as vice president for student affairs and dean of students at the City College of New York.

At **CSI**, his goals at the outset were to boost education standards, help students transition from college into the job market, and bolster ties between the school and the community.

"It's important for the college to be a partner in the economic development and furthering the Island's prosperity in all of its manifestations," he said, adding he plans to reach out to non-profit groups, cultural institutions and businesses here. "As a public institution, this college has an obligation to be responsive to the needs of the community. We transform lives here."

The challenges he faced also included the practical one of lack of parking space and getting the best use out of the grounds of the 204-acre campus.

Today, enrollment, the number of full-time students and the number of bachelor's degrees awarded have all spiked. In addition, 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.

Most recently, however, Morales has been locked in a **contentious battle with college faculty**, which resulted in an unofficial no-confidence vote in March. A second vote last month was postponed.

## FIRST GLANCE AT ADVANCE HEADLINES

Get a jump start on your weekdays with First Glance, a roundup of top Staten Island Advance headlines delivered straight to your inbox. Starting Tuesday, you'll receive it at a new, earlier time -- by 7 a.m. It's **easy to sign up**.



## Cal State San Bernardino president named

May 10, 2012



**Tomas Morales**

SAN BERNARDINO – (INT) – Tomas Morales has been appointed president of Cal State San Bernardino.

The choice of the California State University Board of Trustees was announced Thursday.

Morales, 58, has been an educator for more than 32 years. He comes from City University of New York where he has been President of the College of Staten Island since 2007. Previously, Morales served for six years in various capacities at Cal Poly Pomona.

The trustees praised his strong leadership skills, accomplished academic record and articulated vision for the campus.

Morales succeeds retiring President Al Karnig, who has served as CSUSB president since 1997. He is expected to begin his new position as president later this summer.

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

## Ex-Cal Poly Pomona administrator to be new president at Cal State San Bernardino

[Michel Nolan, The \(San Bernardino County\) Sun](#)

Created: 05/10/2012 09:30:11 AM PDT

Former Cal Poly Pomona administrator Tomas D. Morales on Thursday was named president of Cal State San Bernardino.

"I am really excited to come out there," said Morales, current president at the College of Staten Island, the City University of New York.

"This opportunity presented itself, and I consider the Cal State campus a special place, with such a warm community," Morales said Thursday in a phone interview from New York.

"I am so impressed with the quality of the faculty - they are exceptional."

Morales, 58, succeeds the retiring Al Karnig, CSUSB president since 1997.

Karnig said it is fortuitous that Morales has some experience in both student and academic affairs.

Karnig said the 15 years he has been the university's president is a substantial period of time.

"I have a great deal of ambivalence about retiring," he said.

Karnig has had a transformational impact on the university, according to Morales.

"I feel blessed to follow in his footsteps," Morales said.

Morales has been an educator and administrative leader in higher education for more than 32 years.

From 2001 to 2007, Morales served in various capacities at Cal Poly Pomona, including vice president for student affairs, provost and vice president for academic affairs, professor of education and principal deputy to the president.

Cal Poly Pomona President Michael Ortiz, who worked with Morales for five years, said people in San Bernardino will love him.

"He's very outgoing and makes friends easily," Ortiz said. "He is very focused on students and meeting the needs of students. He's an avid reader and someone you rely on to have innovative vision because of his studies of the best practices in the world."

At Cal Poly Pomona, Morales established a university honors college, realigned the division of academic affairs and played a key role in completing a \$23million expansion of the student center.



"He was quite a baseball player as a younger man," Ortiz said. "He thought golf would be much easier but he found out it's a little more difficult than he thought."

Ortiz said he was looking forward to having Morales close so they could discuss some of the issues Californians are facing.

Morales said he was the proud product of public education, spending his entire career in higher public education.

"Public institutions have to serve the public good," he said.

### About Dr. Tomas D. Morales



**From:** New York | **Age:** 58

**Family:** He and his wife, Evy (Evvie) have three adult children -- two sons and a daughter -- and three granddaughters.

**Residence:** The family already has a home in Claremont

**Education:** B.A. in History from The State University of New York, New Palz, and earned his M.S. and Ph.D. in educational administration and policy studies from SUNY, Albany

**Past experience:** Most recently served as president of the College of Staten Island, The City University of New York. Previously held senior administrative positions at the three largest public university systems in the country: California State University; The State University of New York; and The City University of New York.

**Cal Poly Pomona connection:** From 2001-2007, Morales served in various capacities at Cal Poly Pomona, including vice president for student affairs; provost and vice president for academic affairs; professor of education and principal deputy to the president.

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## SAN BERNARDINO: Cal State's Karnig closes the door

11 May 2012 09:55 PM



DAVID BAUMAN/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

*Albert K. Karnig will be stepping down as Cal State San Bernardino's president.*

During his first week on the job, Cal State San Bernardino President Albert Karnig recalls hearing a commotion outside his office and looking out his window to see what was going on.

Tapie Rohm, a professor of information and decision sciences, had dumped a cartload of books he was transporting and was busy picking them up.

"What would you do if you saw anybody struggling?" Karnig said. "I went out and helped."

The incident, he said, grabbed the attention of faculty and established a tone of congeniality between him and the rest of the campus.

It started a set of perceptions that continued all through the 15 years he has led the university, Karnig said. He will be honored at a retirement gala on campus Saturday evening, May 12, as he prepares to retire. On Thursday, Tomas Morales, president of the College of Staten Island, was named to replace him.

Although the book incident was fortuitous, Karnig said, in itself it was not a big deal. Rohm "probably doesn't even remember," he said.

Not only does Rohm remember, he recalls sending out a mass email to other faculty about the new president.

"I wrote, 'Hey, there really is somebody there,'" Rohm said. "When he came out of his office to help, he's been helping ever since. He's always been there."

"I had a student in my office yesterday who was having problems with bureaucracy," he said. Rohm sent the student to Karnig, and the problem was solved within 24 hours, he said.

Rohm has been at the campus for 33 years and three presidents, including John Pfau and Anthony Evans. He said Evans had some conflicts with the faculty.

"Karnig was a breath of fresh air," he said. "We have lots of winds here, but his winds were kind of calming and soothing and he worked with everybody."

Karnig, 70, has made a habit of being accessible and is known for having regular open meetings for both employees and students at the university.

### **COMMITTED TO Students**

Natalie Dorado, an economics major, was one of about a dozen Cal State students who undertook a hunger strike in an effort to change systemwide policies on tuition raises and executive pay. She said Karnig is committed to the students. At a Cal State board of trustees meeting earlier this week, Dorado said there was a procedural disagreement on whether she would be allowed to speak during the public comments portion of one of the sessions.

"They wouldn't let me talk," Dorado said. "President Karnig happened to be there. He actually spoke up for me, and they allowed me to speak. That was a beautiful moment. He stood up for our student voices. We hope the next president will follow in his footsteps."

Risa Dickson, associate provost for academic personnel, said people on campus have come to expect that kind of support from Karnig.

"Al is just a very kind and generous leader," said Dickson, a 21-year veteran of the university who worked as Karnig's assistant for four years. "I think he really has very genuine affection for the campus." She thinks Karnig will be remembered for steering the campus through a period of growth. "For most of his tenure we've built at least one building a year on campus," she said, and enrollment has increased from 13,000 to just over 17,000 students.

She expects his commitment to quality education will be part of his legacy, too.

"One of the things he's been able to do for us is raise the standard of learning," Dickson said. "You can go to every college here and point out some very high-quality faculty members."

Karnig said his commitment has been to student success.

"I would hope people would think well of what I've tried to contribute to high-quality education and high access," he said.

He's been an outspoken critic of the state's recent cuts to public education and has struggled through several years of reduced budgets. While he has not been willing to sacrifice the quality of instruction, he knows that access to the campus has suffered. Next year the system will reduce its spring enrollment by 16,000 students to save money. Cal State San Bernardino will be one of a few campuses to offer limited spring enrollment.

At the same time, Karnig was one of many Cal State presidents to come under scrutiny in the past year for what many see as excessive salaries. He was one of the highest paid presidents in the system, with a salary of \$290,000 and a home allowance of \$50,000.

### **Work Still To Do**

During his tenure, Karnig made a sustained effort to reach out and work with other agencies in the local community, including school districts. He concentrated on efforts to increase high school graduation and college-going rates and improve students' readiness through completing classes needed for college entrance, referred to as A-G requirements.

"We need to look backwards, to make sure that when students come to us they're prepared," he said.

"One of the most important avenues in which I would not count myself successful would be (increasing college attendance rates). I would have hoped that the high school graduation rates had improved, that the number of students meeting the A-G requirements would have expanded."

He hasn't given up on that. One of the goals he has committed to in his retirement, he said, is working to implement a standardized 11th-grade assessment test that would show which students need remedial work before attending college and encourage them to pursue courses addressing their academic weaknesses during their senior year in high school.

He'll also be doing some work for the Cal State system.

"I've agreed with the chancellor's office to put on some workshops that will focus on transitional leadership," he said.

A member of local boards, including the Children's Fund of San Bernardino County, Inland Action and Community Hospital of San Bernardino Foundation, Karnig said he intends to stay in San Bernardino and remain involved in the community.

"I would hope I'd be a better board member in my retirement," he said.

He admits he'll miss his leadership role at the university.

"Whoever I am is wrapped up, in some sense, with what I do," he said. "I like decision-making. I like problem-solving. I like bringing people together and finding solutions."

"This has been a wonderful university to serve," he added. "It's an institution that makes a difference."



## The Men in Black are back! How does cutting-edge science stack up against the fictional world of Men in Black 3?

Could extraterrestrials be roaming the streets of New York City? Yes, according to the movie Men in Black 3, which lands in theaters this month.

In this installment of the film series, Will Smith's Agent J will battle evil aliens and travel back in time to rescue his partner, Agent K, played by both Tommy Lee Jones and Josh Brolin--all while keeping a lid on the secret that aliens are living undercover here on Earth.

But how close are we to meeting aliens, traveling back in time, or wiping people's memories? Find out how these science-fiction staples stack up against scientific fact.

### ALIENS UNDER WRAPS

In the films, Men in Black is a secret organization charged with keeping the presence of aliens on Earth a secret. Some of these extraterrestrials look just like us, some wear special disguises that conceal extra arms or legs, and other, more-conspicuous aliens hole up in secret hideouts.

Although some people believe that aliens really do walk among us, it's not likely, says Seth Shostak, an astronomer at the SETI Institute in Mountain View, California. SETI stands for Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. SETI researchers use radio telescopes to scan the skies for evidence of technologically advanced alien civilizations. "What you do is point your telescopes at stars that might have planets, and hope to pick up aliens' television, radio, or radar signals," says Shostak.

Many astronomical objects emit radio waves, including planets, stars, and black holes. But these signals are chaotic, much like the static you hear when scanning stations on a car radio. Discovering a signal from intelligent life would be like finding a signal at a spot on your radio dial that plays music. "Such signals would tell you that you'd found some sort of life that can build a powerful radio transmitter, so they must be pretty advanced," says Shostak.

So far, SETI hasn't located intelligent life out there. Astronomers have been hunting for a clear signal since the 1960s and will keep scanning the skies in the hope that one day they'll make contact.

### MODIFYING MEMORIES

Unwitting civilians often stumble upon Agents J and K as the two tackle rogue aliens on the streets of Manhattan. To keep these events secret, the agents use a device--found only in Hollywood--called a neuralyzer. A flash of light from this marker-shaped memory wiper allows the agents to rewrite witnesses' memories of the aliens they've seen.

Memories are stored in a web of connections between brain cells, or neurons. Neurons communicate with each other using electrical impulses and chemicals. A team of neurologists at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in New York has been working to figure out if memories can be erased.

The researchers found that a special form of a protein called PKMzeta is responsible for the formation and storage of memories (see diagram, below). When the team injected rats' brains with a drug that blocks PKMzeta, the rats forgot everything--their fears, their favorite foods, and the location of their favorite hideouts.

Someday, a more finely tuned method of using PKMzeta could erase painful memories or treat diseases like post-traumatic stress disorder, chronic pain, and drug addiction. "It will be a lot like Men in Black--but not with a flash of light. It'll be more like a drug," says Todd Sacktor, the research team's lead neurologist.

## BACK IN TIME

About 20 minutes into the movie, Will Smith wakes up to find that his partner, Agent K, died back in 1969 because an evil alien tampered with time. Agent J must now return to 1969 to save his partner. "Otherwise, not only will present-day Agent K never exist, but the world will be destroyed because Agent K did something in 1969 that saved Earth," says the film's director, Barry Sonnenfeld.

Time is a dimension like length, width, and height. "The difference between time and these other dimensions is that right now we can only go forward in time," says Charles Liu, an astrophysicist at the College of Staten Island in New York. With our current understanding, there's no way to travel back in time without violating the laws of physics.

However, one place where time travel might be possible is at the center of a black hole. No one knows what goes on deep inside these collapsed stars, which have so much gravity that even light can't escape their pull.

"There is no way to communicate with the interior of a black hole--using radio signals or smoke signals or sign language or anything else," says Liu. There's a chance that if you were to travel to the center of a black hole--and if you were to make it out alive--you might pop out in another time.

String theory might also offer an explanation for how Smith travels back to 1969 in Men in Black 3. String theory says that tiny vibrating structures called strings are the smallest things in the universe. These strings are the building blocks of the building blocks of atoms. Strings extend beyond the four dimensions of space and time in our universe. String theory allows for the mathematical possibility of an infinite number of parallel universes existing simultaneously.

A form of time travel might be possible by combining string theory's parallel universes with the many worlds hypothesis, which spawns alternative timelines based on the choices that everyone makes. For example, today you wore jeans to school, but you chose the jeans over khaki pants. According to the many worlds hypothesis, there's another world with another version of you that wore khakis today. Every time you make a decision, there's another world that exists based on the possibility that you made the other choice. According to this method, you wouldn't exactly be time-traveling. It's more like you would be jumping between universes.

"We don't have the technology or overall knowledge of the universe yet to really work it out, or a way to find out whether these theories are true or false," says Liu. But it gives you something to think about as you watch Agent J travel back in time to 1969 to save Agent K--and hopefully the world!

## COULD MEMORIES BE ERASED?

After an event occurs, it is stored in your short-term memory for about an hour before being committed to your long-term memory. "If you recall a memory, it goes back into short-term and then gets converted again into the long-term in a process called reconsolidation," says neurologist Todd Sacktor. Sacktor and his team are wiping rats' memories by combining reconsolidation with a drug that blocks PKMzeta. Here's how it could work in humans.

### [1] MAKE A BAD MEMORY

Long-term memories are very stable once they're made. A protein called PKMzeta ensures that the memory remains stored in the neurons.

### [2] REMEMBER THE EVENT

The act of remembering causes PKMzeta to break down and transfers the memory back to the short-term memory.

### [3] DESTROY THE MEMORY

Doctors administer a drug that blocks the formation of PKMzeta after a patient recalls a bad memory. Without PKMzeta, the memory will not be reconsolidated back into the long-term memory.

### [4] THE BRAIN GETS BACK TO WORK

Only the bad memory is deleted. Everything else in the brain is unchanged.

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you think someday we'll be able to travel back in time? What time period would you travel to?

## STANDARDS

NATIONAL SCIENCE EDUCATION STANDARDS: Grades 5-8: Understandings about science and technology  
Grades 9-12: Understandings about science and technology

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARD: WRITING STANDARD: 3. Write narratives to develop imagined experiences or events.

## OBJECTIVE

Students will learn how the science fiction in a new movie compares with real-life science facts.



## BEFORE READING

- \* What is science fiction? (a genre of fiction based on imagines future, scientific, or technological advances and major social or environmental changes, frequently portraying space or time travel and life on other planets)
- \* How do you think science fiction writers come up with their story ideas?
- \* Do you think that, intelligent alien life exists somewhere in the universe? Why or why not?

## LESSON

1. Have students look at the cover of the magazine. Do they recognize the actor pictured? (Will Smith) Ask the beforereading questions above. Then go to [www.scholastic.com/scienceworld](http://www.scholastic.com/scienceworld). Open the digital edition to page 8, and have students do the same in their magazines. Call on a volunteer to read the headline and the text just beside it.
2. Ask students if they have seen any of the older Men in Black movies. What science fiction elements from the movies do they remember? How are these elements different from real life'?
3. Read the article as a class. Stop at the end of the section "Aliens Under Wraps." Use the highlighter tool to highlight the science fiction element that is discussed in this section. Then ask students to compare the movie elements with the science facts described in the article. Record their answers on a digital sticky note.
4. Continue reading the article, stopping at the end of each section to summarize how the science fiction concept compares with reality. Discuss how different the fictional world is from the real one. Do students think that one day, the two worlds will be more similar? How?

## DISCUSSION

Read the text in the box labeled "What Do You Think?" on page 11. "Do you think that, someday we'll be able to travel back in time? What time period would you travel to?" Many science fiction movies use time travel in their plots. Why do you think science fiction writers find this idea so interesting?

## ASSESSMENT

Learn how scientists are searching for planets outside our solar system with the "Out of This World" work sheet found under the orange "Skills Sheets" button at [www.scholastic.com/scienceworld](http://www.scholastic.com/scienceworld).

## DON'T TEACH EARTH SCIENCE?

Go to [www.scholastic.com/scienceworld](http://www.scholastic.com/scienceworld) and click on the orange Skills Sheets button to download these assessments:

## BIOLOGY: HUNTING FOR ALIENS

The kind of intelligent alien life you see in the movies may be worlds away or only a fantasy. But scientists believe there may be simpler forms of alien life much closer to home. Read this passage to learn about the search for life on Mars.

## COMMON CORE: BE A SCIENCE FICTION WRITER!

Let science ignite your students' imaginations! Use this work sheet to guide students in writing a short science fiction story that is inspired by real science facts.

\* VIDEO EXTRA: Watch this video about time travel: [www.scholastic.com/scienceworld](http://www.scholastic.com/scienceworld).

\* Download activities and other curriculum tools about the search for life in the universe at SETI's educational Web site: [www.seti.org/epo/litu](http://www.seti.org/epo/litu).

\* Can we really travel back in time? Use this lesson plan and short video to learn how Einstein's theory of relativity relates to time travel: [www.teachersdomain.org/resource/nvfc.sci.physics.time](http://www.teachersdomain.org/resource/nvfc.sci.physics.time).

## California State University poaches College of Staten Island President Dr. Tomas Morales

Friday, May 11, 2012, 6:00 AM



Jillian Jorgensen/Staten Island Advance  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. --- After nearly five years of presiding over the College of Staten Island -- and with a legacy that will include both growing the college's size and stature and a sometimes tumultuous relationship with its faculty and students -- Dr. Tomas Morales is leaving the school.

Dr. Morales, CSI's president, will be returning to California this summer.

"Throughout our lives, we remember reaching crossroads -- those times when it was necessary to make a decision that could change everything. I faced that decision in the past 24 hours and have chosen to be guided by family. Today, I will be introduced as the next president of California State University, San Bernardino," Dr. Morales wrote yesterday in an e-mail to the CSI community.

Dr. Morales wrote that he and his wife, Evy, had been "blessed" to work with those at the college.

"After working at numerous universities across the country and visiting countless campuses, I can honestly tell you that we have been privileged to serve the College of Staten Island community and work with an exceptional faculty, a dedicated staff and committed student body," he wrote.

He also thanked the board of trustees and Chancellor Matthew Goldstein -- who staunchly supported him after the Faculty Senate unofficially passed a no-confidence vote aimed at Dr. Morales and Provost Dr. William Fritz.



Staten Island Advance photo

" Throughout our lives, we remember reaching crossroads those times when it was necessary to make a decision that could change everything. I faced that decision in the past 24 hours and have chosen to be guided by family. Today, I will be introduced as the next president of California State University, San Bernardino," Dr. Morales wrote yesterday in an e-mail to the CSI community.

The Faculty Senate passed the resolution at a March meeting, but a procedural error meant it had to be voted on a second time to be effective. Last month, when the Faculty Senate met again, the meeting was adjourned without a vote on the no-confidence measure.



**Enlarge** **Michael McWeeney**  
CSI's President Dr. Thomas Morales in front of the college's state of the art library facility on the Willowbrook campus.  
**Dr. Tomas Morales** gallery (8 photos)

"As you know, our chancellor has spoken out very publicly about the exemplary job that President Morales has been doing at the College of Staten Island, and we remain deeply appreciative of his outstanding work over the past five years," Vice Chancellor for University Relations Jay Hershenson said in a telephone interview.

Hershenson said five years is the national average for time spent at the helm of a college.

"We wish him success," he said. "The good news is that he put together an effective administration which will continue to guide the great work of the College of Staten

Island as the process moves forward."

INTERIM PRESIDENT

It is expected that the City University of New York will appoint an interim president in midsummer, when Dr. Morales formally leaves the college. From there, CUNY guidelines are in place for a national search for his permanent replacement.

Reared in the South Bronx, and a product of city and state public schools and universities, Dr. Morales, 58, was appointed CSI president in June 2007 after a sometimes bumpy nine-month national search. He took the reins from outgoing president Dr. Marlene Springer.

PERIOD OF GROWTH

Dr. Morales presided over the university during a period of growth -- both the number of full-time students and the number of bachelor's degrees awarded have spiked during his tenure. Increasingly, professors are arriving after postdoctoral work at prestigious universities like MIT and from high-level think-tanks and research institutes.

Dr. Morales also secured the financing to build residence halls for 440 students and faculty in an effort to attract students not only from around the city and country but from around the world.

Borough President James Molinaro said his leaving represents for the Island a "tremendous loss ... a person who is so dedicated to the education of children from families of all different means."

Molinaro credited Dr. Morales for facilitating flexible class schedules to benefit students working their way through school, and for making a college education affordable.

Molinaro attributed Dr. Morales' departure in part to the recent turmoil. "After a while, you say, 'Why am I in this pool of people who are just critical of me, when I can be somewhere using my knowledge and the fire in my belly to help different students? ... Sometimes you just move on.'"

Molinaro also credited Dr. Morales with finally being able to get the ball rolling on dormitories, plans that had been around "a long long time" without seeing much movement. He said Dr. Morales was great at cooperating with his office.

"He's going to be tough to replace," he said. "To some, I'm sure anyone is a good replacement for him."

Professor Richard Flanagan was one of Dr. Morales' supporters in the Faculty Senate.

"I'll remember his tenure here for the work he did with community relations, and his interest in quality of life of students -- particularly the great work he did in improving the transportation system in the college," Flanagan said.

Dr. Morales appreciated that faculty needed to balance research, teaching and service to the college, Flanagan said. But he conceded that some other faculty members didn't agree.

He said he hopes the sense of vitality and energy will remain after Dr. Morales leaves but noted the school lost some momentum in recent months with the vote.

"The pace of change was quick under his leadership, maybe at times too quick, and I think that's been some of the friction with the faculty," Flanagan said. "He also governed during an economic downturn and presided over budget cuts."

John Verzani, professor and chair of the College Council, was part of the voting body considering the no-confidence vote but declined to say how he voted. He said there were many reasons the vote was taken -- and many of them won't be replicated in San Bernardino.

"Inside the CUNY system, there are a lot of external pressures that the president of a college gets blamed for," he said.

Verzani said he thought Dr. Morales did many good things for the college, including guiding "enormous surges of enrollment" through a bad economy, bringing a bus route onto the campus to make it easier to access from other boroughs, and lobbying CUNY for increased funds.

Verzani was on the search committee that chose Dr. Morales, and said he hoped to be on the committee seeking the next president. He would hope for someone who can understand all the dimensions of **CSI**, he said -- a school that serves students seeking associate degrees and Ph.D.s.

"We've got a historical image on the Island that we're working to slowly change, which is going to [take] generations, presumably," he said.

In addition to his work at **CSI**, Dr. Morales has also previously served as a mayoral appointee on the Panel for Educational Policy, which oversees Mayor Michael Bloomberg's control of the schools.

Patrick Sullivan, appointed to the PEP by the Manhattan borough president, tweeted yesterday that "as a member of the PEP, [Morales] just sat, never spoke and was often on his e-mail. He set a terrible example as an educator."

At California State University, San Bernardino, Morales will replace retiring President Al Karnig, who has been there since 1997.

In respect of his position, Dr. Morales said, "I am honored to have been selected. ... CSUSB is the foundation of opportunity for students, and I look forward to working with the outstanding, staff, faculty and students as we build on the university's future together."

"Dr. Morales' strong leadership skills, accomplished academic record and articulated vision for the campus make him an excellent choice as the new president to lead Cal State San Bernardino," said CSU Trustee Debra Farar, chair of the presidential search committee.

Morales holds a B.A. in history from SUNY New Paltz, and earned his M.S. and Ph.D. in educational administration and policy studies from SUNY Albany.

For the six years before he came to **CSI** he was university provost and vice president for academic affairs at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Prior to heading west, he had served for seven years as vice president for student affairs and dean of students at CCNY.

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## **Cal State San Bernardino president-elect is ready for the future**

[Michel Nolan, Staff Writer](#)

05/14/2012



*Cal State San Bernardino president-elect Tomas Morales. (Rachel Luna/Staff Photographer)*

SAN BERNARDINO - The incoming president of Cal State San Bernardino, Tomas D. Morales, was on campus Monday, fresh off the university's announcement last week that he's the school's top administrator.

He attended meetings and a reception at the university's San Manuel Student Union events center.

"I have been warmly received here," said Morales, who will receive an honorary degree Sunday at the State University of New York at Newpaltz, his alma mater.

"I will be their commencement speaker, and it's very special to receive an honorary degree from your alma mater, so I'm very excited."

During his visit, Morales, who has been an educator and administrator in higher education for more than 32 years, offered

his take on his career and the job he will take over from retiring President Albert Karnig in late summer.

It'll be a big one. He takes the job at a time when education throughout California is taking hits from state budget cuts.

And the CSU system is not untouched by the state's fiscal issues.



The cuts, at a time of increasing tuition costs, have sparked protests from students.

But Morales is optimistic, ready to lead the university into a new chapter.

**Q. You are walking into a leadership role at Cal State San Bernardino during these troubling times for education. What do you hope to accomplish - and how?**

A. "I want to continue to build on Al Karnig's legacy and the transformative presidency he has had at Cal State San Bernardino.

I really am very impressed with the quality of the university's faculty and the dedication of its staff. We've been working closely with faculty governance of the student government structure and senior administration to weather the budget reductions that we may face this fall. Let's circle the wagons to work together to mitigate the budget reductions and minimize the impact these reductions will have on the academic core.

The college structure is in place. There's a budget council, the faculty senate. We are speaking about the importance of the faculty, students and staff to encourage members of the community to participate in the November vote to support public higher education."

**Q. How can the California State University system fulfill its mission as affordable education when tuition costs are skyrocketing?**

A. "The tuition, of course, has obviously increased in the last few years. We want to do a few things: We want to explore other revenue streams that can generate revenue and raise philanthropic dollars.

The faculty has done an extraordinary job applying for grants and contracts.

The university doing close to \$30 million in sponsored research, so that's a source of income. So we want to continue to expand the revenue streams and explore new revenue streams to mitigate the tax levy reductions.

The CSU system has an obligation in this region to continue to provide access to students' success. I believe we have the faculty and staff committed to students' success. It will take all of us working together to minimize the impact of these budget reductions."

**Q. Do you plan to focus on Dr. Karnig's priorities of increasing the numbers of minorities and financially challenged students on campus?**

A. "Yes. We have to be an institution that's inclusive, that works closely with the K-12 community in San Bernardino and throughout the Inland Empire to improve the graduation rates of high school students, to provide financial aide and other incentives to increase the number of students who come to the university. I'm committed to continuing President Karnig's work in this area."

**Q. What are some of the highlights of your career as a university administrator?**

A. "I have served the City University of New York as the vice president of student affairs and had the privilege of serving California Polytechnic University as vice president of student affairs in 2001; then assumed the position of vice president of academic affairs and provost at Cal Poly Pomona; when I left Cal Poly in 2007, I assumed the presidency of the College of Staten Island, which is the senior college of the City University of New York."

**Q. Do you intend to stay a long time?**

A. "I think so. The pull was hard to resist - to come here and be a part of this very dynamic, exciting university community - to continue to work at improving and having an economic impact on this community."

Public institutions serve the public good and Cal State San Bernardino has so many different programs, initiatives and activities in every college that reach out to the community.

It's so important for faculty, staff and students to carry the message forward that this is a worthwhile investment. It's really about prosperity and all their California State universities. Cal State San Bernardino plays such an important role right here in the Inland Empire. That's the message we have to send out."

Reach Michel [via email](#), call her at 909-386-3859.

## Credit Transfers Are Hardly Academia's Main Problem

May 15, 2012, 6:32 p.m. ET

William Bowen's "How to Keep American Colleges on Top" (op-ed, May 10) presents a grave mischaracterization of the Pathways initiative at the City University of New York. As a department chair and faculty member in the CUNY system, I can assure readers that Pathways is neither "rigorous" nor "faculty-defined," nor did it result from "a collaborative effort of committed faculty members and enlightened administrators."

Pathways reduces the credit hours devoted to English composition, math and science at a time when our students need these subjects the most. It also makes little room for foreign-language instruction, also shown to be tremendously beneficial to cognitive development, but which is now considered a square peg that must be forced into the round holes of the Pathways general-education template.

Pathways was imposed on the faculty of the CUNY colleges by the central administration, and most of our faculty organizations have issued public renunciations of it. Pathways is in direct violation of the spirit of faculty governance and negates all the hard work by the dedicated faculty at the individual CUNY colleges to structure their own general-education programs.

In the end, Pathways is just one more attempt by the central CUNY administration to subvert the autonomy of faculty at the individual campuses. All of us who teach at CUNY, from full professors to adjuncts, want our students to succeed. But difficulties with transferring credits should and can be handled in a way that ensures a smooth road to graduation for our students while guaranteeing them the quality education they deserve.

Mark D. White

Chair, Department of Political Science, Economics and Philosophy

College of Staten Island/CUNY

Staten Island, N.Y.

A Goldwater Institute study of American universities notes that "Between 1993 and 2007, the number of full-time administrators per 100 students at America's leading universities grew by 39%, while the number of employees engaged in teaching, research or service only grew by 18%. Inflation-adjusted spending on administration per student increased by 61% during the same period, while instructional spending per student rose 39%. Arizona State University, for example, increased the number of administrators per 100 students by 94% during this period while actually reducing the number of employees engaged in instruction, research and service by 2%. Nearly half of all full-time employees at Arizona State University are administrators."

The four-year graduation rate at ASU as 32%, according to U.S. News & World Report.

Administrative costs and salaries continue to explode while the number of teaching staff with masters degrees and above continues to shrink. They are being replaced with part-time lecturers and teachers who generally have other full-time jobs away from the university, and they are paid significantly less than professors. The significant shift toward part-time instructors undermines university claims that increased employment in this category is a sign that these institutions are striving to increase quality.

We can put American universities back on top by putting real professors back in the classroom and funding them with the savings from reducing the size and cost of the universities' top, nonteaching management.

Ron Michaels

Tucson, Ariz.

With colleges and universities competing for students who at one time would have been ignored due to their several and severe deficiencies, these institutions of higher education seek to recruit the inept and intellectually lame by increasingly and deliberately promoting entertainment married to low standards and inflated grades in place of rigorous academic standards.

Mr. Bowen's argument here has nothing to do with stagnant educational attainment with which he claims to be concerned, but with the relatively trivial issue of bureaucratic inefficiencies that result in nontransferability of courses, a non sequitur of the first order.

Having taught college undergraduates in the behavioral sciences for 28 years, I assure Mr. Bowen that the absence of skills by students and the absence of standards by the colleges trump questions of transferability.

Wil J. Wellisch

Edgewater, Colo.

*A version of this article appeared May 16, 2012, on page A14 in the U.S. edition of The Wall Street Journal, with the headline: Credit Transfers Are Hardly Academia's Main Problem.*

## 2nd Jersey Shore Wine Festival to be held at FirstEnergy Park in Lakewood

TUESDAY, 15 MAY 2012 09:51



Holmdel, N.J. – The Lakewood BlueClaws will host the 2nd annual Jersey Shore Wine Festival June 2nd and 3rd at FirstEnergy Park, Lakewood. The festival celebrates New Jersey wines and the many varietals produced here. In addition to wine tasting, the festival features live musical entertainment, crafters, vendors, food, and the BlueClaws play area for children. Hours are 12 noon to 5 p.m. daily; admission is \$15 in advance or \$20 at the gate for adults 21 years and older. A two-day ticket option is also available. Those under 21 years of age or designated drivers are free. The Jersey Shore Wine Festival is sponsored by TD Bank, O’Meara Financial Planners, Magic 100.1, New Jersey Monthly, Monmouth Health & Life, and the Asbury Park Press.

The centerpiece of the festival will be wine tasting by 10 New Jersey wineries from around the state; participating wineries include Auburn Road Vineyards, Cava Winery, Cream Ridge Winery, DiMatteo Vineyards, Four Sisters Winery, Plagido’s Winery, Tomasello Winery, Unionville Vineyards, Valenzano Winery, and Wagonhouse Winery. Each paid admission includes a commemorative wine glass to use for the tasting. Advance tickets be purchased by visiting [www.blueclaws.com](http://www.blueclaws.com) and clicking on the FirstEnergy Park page or calling 732-901-7000, option #2. Tickets can also be purchased by calling Allen Consulting at 732-946-2711.

Attendees can sample all the varieties that each winery has available and purchase individual bottles or cases on the spot. Festival goers are also encouraged to bring lawn chairs or a blanket to sit and enjoy the live bands lined up for the event.

The Saturday stage will feature Dave Clive and the Nawlins Funk Band. A veteran of the New York music scene for more than 25 years, Clive has performed and/or recorded with Iguazu, The Impalas, Paquito D’Rivera, Neil Diamond and many others. He is currently on the music faculty at both Wagner College and the College of Staten Island. The band also features veteran singer/guitarist John Putnam, bassist Jeff Philips, pianist Frank Antico and saxophonist Mike Trombeta.

Performing Sunday will be singer/songwriter Eryn Shewell and her five piece band. Shewell is well known on the local club scene, performing regularly throughout the shore and at the Highlands Jazz & Blues festival. She also has two albums and is working on her third. Sunday afternoon will feature the blues/soul sound of The Christopher Dean Band. Both lead singer/guitarist Christopher Dean and his brother, bassist David Foti have spent time touring world-wide with Mississippi blues man Big Jack Johnson and The Oilers. Dean decided to go solo with his own band, and enjoys success touring the East Coast. The Christopher Dean Band has produced three albums which have been well received in the blues community.

New Jersey's wineries have come a long way in recent years, crafting nationally and internationally acclaimed wines, with varieties such as cabernet, chambourcin, sangiovese, Riesling, chardonnay, vidal blanc, and more, including fabulous dessert wines. Many of the wineries have won gold, silver and bronze medals in tasting competitions both in New Jersey and throughout the country.

A portion of the proceeds from the festival will benefit Sylvia's Children, a 501(c)3. Sylvia's Children was founded in 2003 after Sylvia Allen returned from a humanitarian trip to Uganda, Africa. The children at the Mbiriizi Primary School "adopted" her as their honorary grandmother. Allen saw the ravages the AIDS pandemic had on the community and was compelled to help her newly adopted grandchildren. She founded Sylvia's Children to feed, clothe and house orphans in Masaka and provide education for as many children as possible. For more information please visit [www.sylviaschildren.org](http://www.sylviaschildren.org).

For more information on the festival, visit the Jersey Shore Wine Festival page on the Lakewood BlueClaws website, under FirstEnergy Park, "like" the event on Facebook, and use links there to visit the websites of participating wineries. To purchase tickets, call the BlueClaws at 732-901-7000, option 2, or Allen Consulting at 732-946-2711.



## Devote time to local park restoration

Wednesday, May 16, 2012, 9:37 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**

### EAST SHORE

At Tappen Park, Stapleton, volunteers will pitch in on Saturday with a cleanup from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Historic Tappen Park Community Partnership needs volunteers to help rake leaves, pick up litter and plant spring bulbs. Community Service Credit can be awarded, if needed. Contact **Kamillah Hanks** at **917-757-8851**. The park is at the intersection of Bay and Canal streets.

Meanwhile, members of the Natural Resources Protective Association (NRPA) and the SI Sport Divers will clean up New Dorp Beach on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Meet at the bottom of New Dorp Lane, New Dorp. Volunteers will help clean up stormwater debris from recent rainfall, while enjoying the refurbished beach. Gloves, bags and refreshments will be provided. The city Parks Department will assist with supplies. Community Service Hours can be certified. For information contact **Stefanie Gutierrez** at **718-390-8016** or **Jim Scarcella** at NRPA, **718-873-4291**.

### NORTH SHORE

In Mariners Harbor, Friends of Graniteville Quarry Park and the Partnerships for Parks are marking It's My Park Day on Saturday with a guided tour through the quarry with **College of Staten Island** geology professor Alan Benimoff at 10 a.m. and a cleanup from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Refreshments will be supplied by the Coca Cola Bottling Company. Contact **Kathy Romanelli** at **917-805-6322**, or check the website, [www.marinersharborcivic@gmail.com](mailto:www.marinersharborcivic@gmail.com).



Mike Notarfrancesco, right, and Steve Okulewicz, an adjunct professor of geology at the **College of Staten Island**, observe the Graniteville Quarry. (Staten Island Advance/Kathryn Carse)

## WEST SHORE

The day will also be observed by Protectors of Pine Oak Woods with trail maintenance in the Greenbelt. Meet at 10 a.m. on Saturday by the entry road to the Eger Home close to the intersection of Manor Road and Rockland Avenue to survey the English ivy groundcover that volunteers began removing five years ago. Continue along the trails to remove Japanese honeysuckle from saplings. If you don't have your own, Protectors will supply gloves and pruners (and refreshments). After a two-hour work session, a short walk will be taken over nearby trails. Call **Don Recklies** at **718-768-9036** or **Chuck Perry** at **718-667-1393**.

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## College of Staten Island students reflect on departure of Morales

Wednesday, May 16, 2012, 10:30 AM



By **Mark D. Stein/Staten Island Advance**

WILLOWBROOK -- The spring semester is drawing to a close at the College of Staten Island (CSI). And so is the school president's tenure.

Dr. Tomas Morales is leaving the Willowbrook school to return to California, where he will be the next president of California State University in San Bernadino, the official told the campus via email late last week.

"Throughout our lives, we remember reaching crossroads — those times when it was necessary to make a decision that could change everything. I faced that decision in the past 24 hours and have chosen to be guided by family," Morales wrote to CSI students and faculty.

The school president said he and his wife Evy were blessed with the opportunity to work with those at the college. He and Mrs. Morales said it has been an honor, and the campus community will always hold a special place in their hearts.

Under 58-year-old Morales' tenure, which began at CSI in June 2007 after a nine-month national search, the college's number of bachelor's degrees spiked, and professors from prestigious universities such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and high-level research institutes began working at the school.



[Enlarge](#)

**Michael McWeeney**

CSI's President Dr. Thomas Morales in front of the college's state-of-the-art library facility on the Willowbrook campus.

**Dr. Tomas Morales** gallery (8 photos)

He also turned a longtime rumor — **CSI** dorms — into a reality by securing funding to build residence halls for 440 students to attract pupils from around the world.

The Advance asked students at the college for their thoughts on Morales' time at the school and his upcoming departure.

At least a half-dozen admitted they had no idea who the **CSI** president was, including his name.

"I never saw him. I never met the guy," said 22-year-old Rob Sacaccio, a Great Kills senior.

Asked if he's expecting much to change at the school following Morales' exit, Sacaccio said "Not really."

Melissa Thykudam of Castleton Corners said it's not that big of a deal.

"Honestly, people come and go," she said, adding that others probably won't care because most students just come to help themselves.

Brooklyn resident Shawhat Abdulhafez, a senior, wasn't familiar with Morales.

"I just go to school and leave. The president has a lot to do on campus, and I've never had a problem here. So he must've been good," said the student.

Michael Czerny of Eltingville wasn't sure who the school president was, and doesn't expect much to change moving forward.

"The city probably has more to say about here than he did," added Czerny.

One student who chose to only give his first name, Juan, said Morales did good things for the campus.

"It'll be sad to see him leave," he said. "Hopefully, the next one helps out the school. I think he's been a positive influence."

Senior student Daniel Kurzweil of New Springville said he's upset the president is leaving.

"He's always for the students. He goes out of his way to help a student, and he's very proactive," Kurzweil said. "I'll miss him."

### **FIRST GLANCE AT ADVANCE HEADLINES**

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Sarah Cohen, who will graduate in two weeks, said tuition was raised under Morales' reign at the school, and 61 employees of CSI, including herself, were canned last summer.

"It's always a scary thing when administration turns over, because the fate of WSIA [CSI's radio station] can easily change," she said.

Ms. Cohen described Morales as a nice guy.

"However, it's time for CSI to find a president willing to stick around for a while," she said.

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## Staten Island Technical High School student wins prestigious Petrides Award

Wednesday, May 16, 2012, 9:26 PM



**Kiawana Rich**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Borough President James Molinaro recognized the best and the brightest of the borough's math and science high school students during the 17th annual Michael J. Petrides Student Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science.

The prestigious award went to Flora Tan of Staten Island Technical High School at the ceremony hosted earlier this evening in the Petrides Educational Complex, Sunnyside.

First runner-up was Megan Huckemeyer of St. Joseph by-the-Sea High School; second runner-up, Matthew Barouch, Staten Island Academy; third runner-up was Tu Pham, New Dorp High School.

"The borough president is so very proud of the young people of our borough," said Joanne Nuzzo, Borough Hall special events director. "He never ceases to be amazed at their accomplishments and how well-rounded they are, often they are high achievers academically while at the same time making great contributions to the community through school and local clubs and groups as well as charitable organizations."



Staten Island Technical High School student Flora Tan has won the prestigious Petrides Award.

The Michael J. Petrides Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science was established by former Borough President Guy Molinari in honor of the late educator who passed away in 1994. Petrides was a dean/professor of engineering at the College of Staten Island, former chairman of Community School Board 31, and member of the Board of Education. He was dedicated to promoting superiority in math and science and this award is given annually to a graduating student who excels in these disciplines.

Miss Tan took home a \$500 check from the Petrides family, and will have her name inscribed on a marble plaque permanently displayed at the Petrides Complex.

The first, second and third runners-up will receive checks for \$100.

All students who were nominated received a certificate of recognition.

Receiving certificates were: Ariana Zuberovic, Michael J. Petrides Educational Complex; Stephen Walsh, St. Peter's Boys High School; Lisa Torre, St. Joseph Hill Academy; Patrick Smith, South Richmond High School; Nicholas Santaniello, Monsignor Farrell High School; Sarah A. McGarry, Concord High School; Damiano Mastrandrea, McKee High School; Matea Kulusic, CSI High School for International Studies; Emily Kuhn, Curtis High School; Kaitlyn Krebsheuski, Moore Catholic High School; Travis Gonzalez, Susan E. Wagner High School; Jessica Giangrande, Tottenville High School; Laryssa Domingo, St. John Villa Academy; Eileen Diih, Gaynor McCown Expeditionary Learning School; Samantha Cella, Port Richmond High School; Munazza Alam, Notre Dame Academy.

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## Presidential Pay Is Still a Potent Political Target

*One public system struggles to recruit the best amid scrutiny*

*By Jack Stripling and Andrea Fuller*

In a long-simmering national fight over compensation for public-college presidents, the State of California emerged this year as the primary battleground.

More than any other institution in recent memory, California State University has publicly and sometimes bitterly wrestled with a vexing question for higher education: How much does a public university really need to pay its chief executive in order to recruit the best and brightest without squandering scarce resources? The question is one that eludes simple answers, but Cal State's new policy of clearly stated salary caps for incoming leaders will test whether a governing board can rein in presidential pay without deleterious consequences.

Public outcry over presidential pay, which has become a potent political target in these lean economic times, appears to have done little to affect what presidents earn at public research institutions. In 2010-11, median total compensation for public-college presidents was \$421,395, up about 3 percent from the previous year, *The Chronicle's* analysis of 190 institutions and university systems has found.

[E. Gordon Gee](#), president of Ohio State University and a perennial top earner, again leads the list with close to \$2-million in total compensation. He was among three presidents to earn more than \$1-million in the past year. The others were [Michael D. McKinney](#), who was president of the Texas A&M University system, and [Graham B. Spanier](#), whose long career as Pennsylvania State University's president ended in November amid a child-sex-abuse scandal involving a former assistant football coach.

Criticism of presidential pay on Cal State's 23 campuses has increased in tandem with crippling budget cuts and rising tuition, and the state's fiscal situation looks ever more bleak. California's projected budget gap has grown to \$15.7-billion, up from a January estimate of \$9.2-billion.

The outcry over presidential pay at Cal State reached a crescendo last July, when Elliot Hirshman, former provost of the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, was named president of San Diego State University and given a \$400,000 salary, which was 33 percent higher than that of his predecessor.

While still below the median total compensation for public-college presidents included in *The Chronicle's* analysis, Mr. Hirshman's pay was pounced on by critics, including Gov. Jerry Brown, a Democrat, as a symbol of excess at a time of austerity. It did not help that Cal State trustees set Mr. Hirshman's salary on the same day they approved a 12-percent tuition increase, which was the second double-digit percentage increase that year.

Under fire from lawmakers and students, Cal State's board adopted a policy in January that capped the pay of incoming presidents at 10 percent more than their predecessor's compensation. But that decision failed to appease critics, who found fault when the board gave the maximum pay to the next two presidents they hired, at the Fullerton and East Bay campuses. An amended policy, adopted this month, freezes all salaries for incoming presidents at current levels, unless a campus foundation can independently finance an increase of up to 10 percent.

### **A Case Study**

Several states limit the total amount of public dollars that can be used for presidential pay, but Cal State's policy appears unique in its approach to regulating the inflation of compensation from one president to the next. In that sense the university will provide a case study in whether a hard-and-fast limit on pay increases will hurt recruitment.

Raymond D. Cotton, a lawyer in Washington who specializes in presidential contracts, has his doubts about the cap. "I don't think that's going to work in a capitalist society," he said, where a president "can go to Texas or Florida or to private universities where they can pay more."

But Jim Moss, who has worked for 40 years as a consultant on presidential compensation, said a 10-percent cap is not necessarily "out of whack." The reality, he said, is that compensation caps exist for most colleges, even if they are not clearly articulated in policy.

"Although it's a free-market economy, most institutions are constrained by their ability to pay," said Mr. Moss, managing director of PRM Consulting.

While some limits surely exist for any board hiring a new leader, the president of Cal State at Long Beach says he worries the university is handicapping itself as a recruiter of national talent. After reviewing salaries for presidents across the United States, F. King Alexander said he became convinced that, in most cases, Cal State could only hope to recruit new presidents from three states—New York, North Carolina, and Wisconsin—where pay is also relatively constrained at many institutions. Mr. Alexander theorizes that these states, which have strong public-university systems, have kept salaries lower than

states where powerful individual-campus boards tend to one-up each other in a continuing compensation race.

“I’d say we’re in trouble. I know of states we can’t even touch,” said Mr. Alexander. He cited Florida, Michigan, Ohio, Texas, and Virginia as dead ends for recruitment. “The question is, Do our legislators want to be in the national market?”

Several California lawmakers have introduced legislation in recent years aimed at curbing presidential pay, and Mr. Alexander suggests these bills are merely designed to score political points.

“The compensation issue is nothing but a diversion,” said Mr. Alexander, who, in 2006, left the presidency at Murray State in Kentucky for Long Beach, where he earns \$320,000 a year. “It’s a diversion that the State Legislature loves to throw out there to newspapers because they don’t want people to talk about the fact that they have cut us by 33 percent” over four years.

State Sen. Joel Anderson, a Republican, has introduced a bill that would ensure no state employee earns more than the \$174,000 allocated to California’s governor. He said the cap, which would reduce every Cal State president’s salary, would deter only candidates who have the wrong priorities.

“California must attract the best and the brightest to run our universities, without attracting the greediest,” Mr. Anderson wrote in an e-mail. “When you take a public-service job with the State of California, it’s expected that a portion of your pay comes in the form of serving others.”

## **Results Close to Home**

When college trustees defend escalating presidential pay, they often cite the need to be competitive in national searches in which top candidates are courted by multiple institutions across many states. At Cal State, however, a good number of recent searches have ended close to home. Of the seven presidents hired at Cal State since last spring, four already held positions within the university system.

Lou Monville, a Cal State trustee, said he did not view the recent internal hires as an indication that national candidates have been deterred by the system’s talk of reining in presidential compensation. “There’s no doubt we’re competing in a national market.”

Yet the university recruits heavily from within the state.

Once the newly hired presidents are in place, 11 of the university’s 23 campus leaders will have come directly from other California institutions. Most of those came from within Cal State.



Judging the quality of presidential-candidate pools at Cal State, and how they may be changing, is difficult because the university is not required to disclose the names of applicants. University officials say the pools have been strong but would not even discuss how many people applied for recently filled positions.

Jodie B. Ullman, chair of the San Bernardino Faculty Senate, said she saw no evidence that talk of salary caps deterred strong candidates from applying for the presidency there. Tomás D. Morales, president of the [College of Staten Island](#) at the City University of New York, was named San Bernardino's president this month.

"Our pool was deep," said Ms. Ullman, a psychology professor and a member of an advisory committee to the trustees on San Bernardino's presidential search. "Presidents going into public universities are doing it for reasons that are separate from the salary. Presidents and all of us at public universities have a commitment to access."

Controlling the growth of presidential salaries, Ms. Ullman added, is important both symbolically and practically at Cal State, given how stagnant faculty pay has been at the university. The last significant pay increase for faculty came in 2009, when a 2-percent across-the-board raise was approved, according to the California Faculty Association, a union representing more than 23,000 Cal State faculty members, from part-time lecturers to tenured professors.

The disparity between presidential pay and faculty compensation varies across the nation. A typical public-college leader earned three times as much in total compensation as the average full professor on his or her campus in 2010-11, *The Chronicle's* analysis found. The greatest disparity over that period was at Ohio State, where Mr. Gee made 12 times the pay of the average professor on his campus. At San Diego State, which is the only Cal State campus included in *The Chronicle's* analysis, Stephen L. Weber, Mr. Hirshman's predecessor, earned twice as much as the average full professor there in 2010-11.

### **Golden Parachutes**

As is often the case, some of the top earners in *The Chronicle's* compensation survey received large deferred-compensation payouts or bonuses upon resignation. Such was the case with [Mr. McKinney](#), whose nearly \$2-million in total compensation at the Texas A&M University system included a separation agreement worth \$683,000. Mr. McKinney, who provided no specific reasons for his resignation last spring, agreed not to sue the university as part of the arrangement.

For critics of golden parachutes, [Michael F. Adams](#) is a fresh target. The departing president of the University of Georgia secured a deal this month that will pay him \$2.7-million over five years. The payouts do not begin until 2013, so the package is not included in *The Chronicle's* analysis of 2010-11.

The Georgia agreement describes new fund-raising and teaching duties for Mr. Adams, but that has done little to mollify those who see the package as extravagant. Bill Hembree, a Republican state senator, said he was troubled by the deal, even for someone like Mr. Adams, whom he considered an effective president with a 16-year track record of success.

"Higher education has become a game of, How can I get up to that golden perch, so I can leave with great amounts of money?" Mr. Hembree said. "I think it sets a bad example."

Criticism of pay for former administrators has been particularly intense at the University of Minnesota, where a special committee of the Board of Regents is reviewing executive compensation and paid leave for departing executives. The review followed reports that [Robert H. Bruininks](#), who was Minnesota's president until last June, approved \$2.8-million in paid-leave packages for administrators even if they did not return to the university.

Eric W. Kaler, Mr. Bruininks's successor, has said the payouts "hurt the public's trust," and the board is now considering a policy change that would limit payments administrators could receive on leave. While critical of his predecessor's actions, Mr. Kaler said he does not think public-college presidents, by and large, are overpaid.

Mr. Kaler's compensation is not included in *The Chronicle's* analysis because he started his job in the 2012 fiscal year. His contract, which is less lucrative than that of his predecessor, provides \$642,500 in salary and retirement contributions this year. Mr. Bruininks, whose retirement benefits increased over his eight-year tenure as Minnesota's president, earned \$747,955 in 2010-11.

"People think these are easy jobs. What a romantic thing to be a college president," Mr. Kaler said. "These are tough jobs."

"Nobody went into public higher education, at least not me, to get rich."

## Treason Trial for Ex-Police Chief

Political moves point to factional strife ahead of a scheduled leadership change in China.

2012-05-21



IMAGINECHINA

Former Chongqing police chief Wang Lijun attends a meeting of the National People's Congress in Beijing, March 6, 2011.

Authorities in the southwestern Chinese province of Sichuan are preparing to try a former provincial police chief at the heart of a recent political scandal for treason, Hong Kong media reported.

Wang Lijun, whose Feb. 6 flight to the U.S. consulate in Chengdu sparked the biggest political scandal to engulf the communist leadership in decades could face trial on treason charges as early as next month, according to the English-language *South China Morning Post*.

Wang, once the municipal police chief and right-hand-man of Chongqing party boss Bo Xilai, was well-known for orchestrating city-wide anti-mafia campaigns which some have denounced as targeting powerful entrepreneurs with torture and forced confessions simply to confiscate their assets.

Wang could potentially face the death penalty if convicted of treason, but the lack of violence involved suggests a possible jail term instead, experts told the paper.

Bo, a former rising political star who had been widely expected to ascend to the all-powerful nine-member Politburo standing committee later this year, was ousted over a scandal involving alleged murder and corruption.

Bo and Wang are reportedly under investigation for "serious discipline violations" at an unknown

location, while Bo's wife Gu Kailai has been named as a suspect in the alleged murder of British businessman Neil Heywood last November, and is also under investigation.

### **Political rumors**

According to documents purportedly leaked from top-secret government meetings and posted online, Wang is believed to have confronted Bo with information related to the murder before fleeing to the consulate, where he spent several hours before leaving under escort by central Party investigators.

Bo's fall prompted rampant political rumors on the Chinese Internet of a coup involving his highest political backer and top security official Zhou Yongkang.

Experts said on Sunday that Zhou's days in politics are now numbered as he prepares for retirement in the wake of the fall of ousted former Chongqing Party boss Bo Xilai.

Zhou was chosen to represent Communist Party delegates for the northwestern region of Xinjiang on Friday at the forthcoming 18th Party Congress later this year, where a key leadership transition is expected.

Political commentators said that the move was highly unusual and may indicate that Zhou's political star is rapidly waning in the wake of Bo's fall.

"This is very different to the usual procedures followed by the Party," said Xie Jiaye, head of the California-based America-China Association for Science & Technology Exchange. "Previously, Zhou Yongkang has attended the Party Congress as a delegate from Hebei."

### **Factional strife**

Xie said Zhou's selection as Congress delegate for Hebei might have been opposed by local Party members, giving a rare glimpse into factional strife currently besetting China's ruling Communist Party ahead of the expected handover of power to the next generation of leaders.

Zhou will retire at the forthcoming 18th Party Congress, the timing of which is typically announced nearer the date of the meeting, but has now been reported in official media as likely to take place "in the second half of the year."

"As for whether they will pursue him after his retirement, I think that they probably won't," Xie said.

Professor Xia Ming, a political science teacher at the College of Staten Island in New York, said Zhou's selection as delegate for Xinjiang indicates that his political position is now under threat and that his supporters will likely lose favor in the bid for the next set of top jobs.

"It is an open secret in China that what Bo Xilai did meant that he must have the backing of those higher up," Xia said. "It is clear that the relationship between [Bo and Zhou] was very close."

"I think that as soon as they have wrapped up Bo Xilai's case, the next person in line should be Zhou Yongkang."

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

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## Grads glad to grab diplomas

*Seniors scale obstacles, look ahead*

**By James Nani**

Times Herald-Record

2:00 AM - 05/21/12

NEW PALTZ — Kimberly Rivas-Adames needed to walk across that stage.

For most of those graduating during the State University of New York at New Paltz's commencement Sunday, that was the easy part. You throw your tassel to the left and smile wide before bouncing up the small flight of metal steps to grab your degree on stage.

Rivas-Adames wasn't going to miss that chance.

Born with cerebral palsy, Rivas-Adames, 24, of Haverstraw, has used a wheelchair or crutches for most of her life. She graduated Sunday with a major in psychology and now plans to get her masters and go into mental health counseling.

So when it came time to collect the proof of her investment, she grabbed the hand of her educational opportunity program adviser, Jessica Purcell, rose from her wheelchair and, hand-in-hand with Purcell, climbed the steps and took her degree.

"You do what you do when you want to do it," said Rivas-Adames after receiving her diploma.

Out of the 1,291 undergraduates and 231 graduates that made it up to the stage, English major Jeff Battersby, 51, probably was one of the few who got to do what many fathers wish they could: He got to go to college with his 18-year-old daughter.

Though he and his daughter, Kristin Battersby, a theater major who lives on campus, had different schedules, they would still find time to grab lunch and meet, Battersby said.

"We'd make it a point to see each other," he said.

When Battersby, of Beacon, lost his job 21/2 years ago, he said he knew it was time to finish what he started in 1979.

He had been writing professionally for 18 years, as well as taking care of a family and building a home.

Though he continued to work full time as a consultant while going to school, he said teachers were very accommodating in helping him despite his tight schedule. Though he was more a contemporary of the teachers than of the students, that wasn't a problem either.

"I made some very good friends who were my kid's age," he said.

**College of Staten Island** President and SUNY New Paltz alumnus Tomas Morales delivered the commencement speech this year. He reminded students to embrace difficult situations as a chance to grow.

"If you encounter difficulties, remember: They might be the best thing that ever happened to you," said Morales.



*SUNY New Paltz graduate Tina Annn-Marie Cherny waves to her family during commencement Sunday in New Paltz. MICHELE HASKELL/Times Herald-Record*

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

## Staten Island security firm receives two business awards

Thursday, May 24, 2012, 1:59 PM



**Howard W. Siner**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- APB Security Systems of Meiers Corners and its divisions have received a pair of awards that were established to mark the success of small businesses.

Steven J. Coppola, the founder and head of APB, was honored along with his daughter, Pamela Coppola, president of the Statewide Fire Corp. station-monitoring facility, and his son, Steven M. Coppola, president of Statewide Monitoring Corp.

They received the "Family-Owned Business of the Year Award" presented by the New York district office of the Small Business Administration.

Their work was honored previously with the 2012 New York State Small Business Development Center's "Growth Business of the Year Award."

Founded in 1977, APB Security Systems, which is located at 2047 Victory Blvd., is a full-service alarm and home automation company.

"We truly care about protecting the people," said the senior Coppola. "It's not just putting another account on the line, it's about protecting another family."



### View full size

Gathering at the 2012 National Small Business Week Awards Ceremony in Manhattan are, from left, Ed Piszko, senior certified business adviser of the SBDC at the College of Staten Island; Steven M. Coppola, president of Statewide Monitoring Corp.; Steven J. Coppola, president of APB Security Systems; Pamela Coppola Columbia, president of Statewide Fire Corp.; Pravina Raghavan, New York City district director of the Small Business Administration, and Dean L. Balsamini, director of the Small Business Development Center at the College of Staten Island.



APB has provided custom installation, service and monitoring of security and automation systems for over 5,000 residential and commercial customers.

The Coppola companies were honored by the New York district office of the Small Business Administration based on sales and profits; employment opportunities; the potential for long-term economic growth, and voluntary efforts to strengthen local family-owned businesses.

Since its founding, the APB family of businesses has added 18 security firms and retained 70 percent of the employees from those companies.

The Coppola companies were honored by the state Small Business Development Center after they grew in total revenue about 33 percent from 2010 to 2011.

Dean L. Balsamini, director of the Small Business Development Center at the College of Staten Island, had nominated the companies for both awards.

For information on APB, call 718-698-8244, or visit its website at [www.apbsecurity.com](http://www.apbsecurity.com).

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## Who runs CSI?

Friday, May 25, 2012, 6:28 AM



**Staten Island Advance Editorial**  
By

The pending departure of [College of Staten Island](#) President Tomas Morales is a disappointment in many ways. He has done more than just polish the image of the college in the Staten Island community. Under his guidance, [CSI](#) has made remarkable advances.

Full-time enrollment has increased, as have the number of bachelor's degrees awarded and the array of academic programs offered. Residence halls - a first for [CSI](#) - are under construction.

Top-notch students from the Island's high schools, including Staten Island Tech and Staten Island Academy, are now choosing [CSI](#).

That is truly something to cheer about.

But a significant contingent of faculty department chairs was not satisfied with Dr. Morales' direction, or that of his provost, Dr. William J. Fritz. So they launched a "vote of no confidence" campaign against both.

The actual vote was not taken, but the message was sent.

Not long after, Dr. Morales decided his time at [CSI](#) was up and accepted a position heading a university in California.

Despite Dr. Morales' explanation that family concerns were the ultimate reason for his departure, we are sure that the faculty's contempt for Dr. Morales' authority played a very large part in his decision.

That is one reason we are buoyed by the announcement that Dr. Fritz has been named interim president for up to two years - and that a national search will not be undertaken immediately.

We think Dr. Fritz is a perfect choice. Clearly, he has the credentials. And he has shown an understanding of the importance of building relations with the Staten Island community.

He has pledged to continue the Morales' tradition - and do more. He has sent the right message in saying he is committed to "shared governance" and already has had good discussions with faculty.

There's nothing wrong with "shared governance," but there has to be one leader who makes the final call. We also are pleased that City University Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, who supported both Drs. Morales and Fritz, is not backing down in his belief that both educators provided bold leadership for a college that not long ago was in trouble in this community.

This same faculty contingent blocked the appointment of Angelo Aponte, a Staten Islander and another bold leader who this newspaper felt could do exactly what Dr. Morales eventually did. Although disappointed that Mr. Aponte did not get the job, we soon discovered that Dr. Morales was a more-than-able choice.

Unfortunately, that group of disgruntled faculty did not agree.

The basic question one has to ponder is: "Who is really running this college?" It appears this group of faculty members blocked the appointment of one president, and influenced another to leave.

Although we are confident in the ability of Dr. Fritz to take charge, we do fear the student body could be caught in the fallout from a continued battle between the administration and the maverick professors.

It's true that under Dr. Morales, great strides were made in bringing **CSI** back to prominence despite the backbiting. However, a continuation of this power struggle cannot be healthy.

That concern aside, we commend Dr. Fritz for taking on the challenge and we urge him continue on the fine course set by Tom Morales.

One CUNY official said that interim presidents are rarely named to that post full-time and that seems to be accurate. Still, we hope that if Dr. Fritz shows the same management and community style as Dr. Morales, he will be an exception to that rule.

And we commend CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein and his Deputy Chancellor Jay Hershenson for knowing a real leader when they see him in Dr. Fritz.

The **College of Staten Island** deserves it, and Chancellors Goldstein and Hershenson clearly have this important Staten Island institution on their CUNY radar screen.

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## Ticks carrying Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever pose threat on Staten Island

Sunday, May 27, 2012, 9:34 AM



**Deborah Young/Staten Island Advance**  
By



Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel

Frankie Fulbrook of Princes Bay, now recovered from a rare tick-borne illness, with his dog Buddy.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Frankie Fulbrook started to complain about being tired as the summer drew to an end. By Halloween, the Prince's Bay fourth-grader had developed a persistent fever that just wouldn't break -- 101, 102, 103 degrees.

Trips to the pediatrician and a series of specialists came up inconclusive -- it was most likely a virus his mother was told over and over, as the once-robust Frankie languished at home, too sick to go to school, too weak to get out of bed for long spells at a time.

"He was so sick; it wasn't only fever. It was bone pain, joint pain; it was his lungs," said his mother, Erika Fulbrook, describing the ordeal that began in 2010.

His blood work tested negative for Lupus, Lyme and a litany of other conditions, even as his fever persisted and worsened.

Even after getting a "definitive" diagnosis, of juvenile rheumatoid arthritis and starting treatment, his symptoms only worsened. He had debilitating headaches. His mood changed and he grew volatile.

In January, Frankie developed water on the heart, and his prognosis was grim.

That's when the family was directed to a Staten Island pediatric hematologist.

"As she did her physical examination on him, she asked if we left the country, state and what did we do in the previous summer. Did we go away anywhere on vacation? Where does he play? Any outdoor sports activities? This was the first time any doctor asked me any of those questions," said Mrs. Fulbrook

Although Frankie had played only in his backyard, in parks near their home and his grandmothers' South Shore backyards, the doctor had him tested, and he was found positive, for a tick-borne illness more prevalent in other parts of the country but still very much a risk on Staten Island: Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

## **OTHER THREATS**

Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever may be rare in New York City, but its not the only diseases carried by ticks. More well-known and prevalent here is Lyme disease, carried by the deer tick. The animal those insects feed on were once unheard of on Staten Island -- but now, deer are routinely spotted on the South Shore and the West Shore. Some have ventured their way to other, busier parts of the Island, showing up in spots like Bulls Head and Mariners Harbor, where last year a deer was rescued after getting stuck in a fence.

Carol Joline spotted two deer in her Tottenville yard just last week, Thursday morning. Their presence did make her think a bit about ticks, she said.

"You just have to inspect yourself when you come in your house," she said.

And Mrs. Fulbrook has been doing plenty of inspecting for the little insects.

"Now it's summertime again and I'm paranoid about ticks," she said, describing the relief she felt when the cause of Frankie's illness was finally diagnosed, and her gratitude that, with mammoth doses of antibiotic, he eventually recovered.

"I can't live my life in fear of ticks," said Mrs. Fulbrook, who treats her dog with anti-tick medications and sprays the area around the home. "I can't have my child in a bubble. I hope for the best."

So she was unsettled to discover two weeks ago, a blood-sucking tick had latched onto the fur of the family's Yellow Lab, Buddy. The veterinarian determined the tick to be an American Dog Tick -- the transmitter of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever -- and the canine tested positive for the disease. Now Buddy is also on a course of antibiotics.

While far less prevalent than Lyme disease in New York, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever is the most severe tick-borne illness in the United States, and, despite its name, is becoming increasingly common in the eastern part of the country, especially North and South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Georgia, Tennessee and Oklahoma.

Also known as tick-borne typhus, symptoms include fever, headache, confusion, abdominal pain, vomiting and muscle pain. A rash may also develop. If left untreated, it can be fatal.

In Tennessee, the state Health Department earlier this month issued an alert about the disease, noting its incidence had increased by 533 percent this year over last, with 74 confirmed cases in the state in 2012 so far.

Other tick-borne illnesses were also on the rise, according to that state's Health Department -- a phenomenon attributed, in part, to a bumper crop of the insects, who were able to reproduce during the mild winter.

## **MORE ISLAND CASES**

Typically, cases of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever are more prevalent among children than adults, although that hasn't been true in New York City, where adults are more likely to contract the disease, according to the city Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

There were 139 confirmed cases in the city between 2000 and 2010, with a peak of 27 cases reported in 2007 -- nine of them on Staten Island.

That was the highest number of cases in Staten Island in recent years. In most years, the Health Departments sees only a few, if any, confirmed cases in the borough, officials said.

"We know we have cases in New York City," said Sally Slavinski, assistant director of zoonotic influenza and vector born disease unit for the city Health Department, noting there has been at least one fatality associated with Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever in the city, but it was more than a decade ago. "The numbers of cases here are fairly small," she said.

Even so, in many patients, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever may just not be severe enough to be included in the Health Department tally.

"Of the referrals that come into my practice, if I feel they have had exposure, I do check them. Even children who never left the Island," said Dr. Joan Graziano, chief of Pediatric Hematology at Richmond University Medical Center, in practice with the Staten Island Pediatric Oncology Associates, Ocean Breeze -- the only physician who was able to solve the mystery of Frankie Fulbrook's illness.

"We see it all the time. I'm definitely seeing more kids coming up with more positive titers for Rocky Mountain," said Dr. Graziano, estimating this year so far, she had in the range of five patients with symptoms, who also tested positive for antibodies associated with Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. "If they

have protracted unexplained fever, severe fatigue, abnormal blood count, unexplained rashes, it should be considered."

Not everybody bitten by a Rocky Mountain-infected tick will develop symptoms, with variables dependent on the amount of disease in the tick itself, the amount of time the tick is on the body, and a person's innate ability to fight off infection.

## **SPOTTING TROUBLE**

But unlike Lyme disease, transmitted when a deer tick latches onto the skin and swirls its contagion into the blood, Rocky Mountain can be transmitted by a single bite.

"People need to take good care and do good protection against ticks," said Dr. Graziano. "The biggest protection against Lyme is body checks, but Rocky Mountain you have to just get a bite."

The good news is the American Dog Tick is far larger and easier to spot than the type of tick which carries Lyme, said Dr. Shaibal Mitra, a biology professor at the College of Staten Island, whose research includes the ecology Lyme disease.

"The disease (Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever) itself is scary, that's for sure, and in some ways its worse than Lyme Disease," he said. "But the rate is much, much lower." And in regions where the incidence of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever is high, far smaller percentages of ticks are found to be carriers of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, than in Lyme-infested areas, where as much as 40 percent of the tick population could be carriers, he said.

Still he cautioned: "With rare diseases you have to be extra careful, because people are not aware of it, and may not test for it."

Nobody knows that better than Frankie Fulbrook.

"The thing that I was really upset about is when in the hospital the doctors said he didn't know what was wrong with me. I was so aggravated; I said, 'What? Are you crazy? You are medical personnel, you should know what I have,' Frankie, now 10, said.

He said he was miserable "locked up at home" all year, not even able to concentrate with his home school teacher because he felt so sick.

"I woke up in the morning; I just stayed in my room, I could barely get out of bed," said Frankie, who in September returned to school.

## Deaths on Staten Island hit a record low: Traffic strategies saving lives

Thursday, May 31, 2012, 6:00 AM



**John M. Annese/Staten Island Advance**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Pedestrian countdowns, redesigned intersections and roads, and traffic enforcement efforts appear to have turned the tide and made Staten Island a less deadly place to drive.

The streets here may not be getting any more civil, but traffic fatalities have plummeted to their lowest rate in 2011 since the city started keeping borough-specific statistics in 1983.

In all, 11 people died in crashes on Staten Island last year, compared to 26 in 2010. And though the numbers aren't shaping up to be quite as low in 2012, they're progressing along a similar track -- police here have responded to seven fatal crashes since the beginning of the year.

City Department of Transportation officials credit the drop to an array of engineering changes and traffic initiatives, including pedestrian countdown signs and redesigns of dangerous intersections like Hylan Boulevard and Steuben Street.

On Hylan Boulevard, for example, the city has prohibited left turns at many busy intersections. Digital message signs along Richmond Avenue warn motorists when they're breaking the speed limit. And police have rolled out a series of crackdowns in recent years, focusing on Hylan Boulevard in particular.

'NON-STOP CAMPAIGN'



Staten Island Advance/Anthony DePrimo

Pedestrians make their way across Hylan Boulevard at New Dorp Lane amid drivers making turns in New Dorp. The intersection was once notorious for fatal accidents but statistics show fatalities have dropped in recent years. Anthony DePrimo



"In the classroom and on the street, our nonstop campaign to make our streets safer is making a real difference in the everyday lives of New Yorkers," DOT Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan.

"We must continue taking aggressive steps to retain these hard-won safety gains and will continue to work with the borough's communities and elected officials to make our streets even safer for all Staten Islanders here and across the city."

The 2011 deaths stem from 10 separate incidents across the Island.

Three involved pedestrians, of a sort -- a freak accident where a man sledded into traffic; another incident on the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge where two men were struck after getting out of their vehicles; and the suicide of a 15-year-old girl who jumped in front of a city bus.

This year's accidents include four fatal encounters between cars and pedestrians, a hit-and-run that killed a cyclist, a motorcycle crash, and a motor vehicle crash.

Jonathan Peters, a professor of finance and a demographer at the College of Staten Island who closely follows population and traffic trends on the Island, cautions against reading too much into the drop in fatalities.

#### REMAINING CAUTIOUS

"The reality is that there's a random component of it," Peters says, noting that a crash like this past April's van plunge in the Bronx, which resulted in the death of seven people, could double the numbers overnight. "You don't want to ignore these changes, but you don't want to over-analyze them."

"Things like prom season, things like the summer holiday weekends tend to be pretty dangerous," he adds.

With advancements in car safety like air bags, and with many drivers getting behind the wheel of SUVs and other heavier vehicles, he says, data shows fatalities city-wide have skewed more towards pedestrian accidents.

"The pedestrians are not as well protected today," he says. "The better and safer the cars are, the more aggressively people drive."

The numbers aside, motorists here still see the Island's roads as inhospitable, filled with aggressive, inconsiderate and potentially dangerous drivers.

#### Dramatic decline

There were 11 traffic fatalities in 2011, the fewest ever recorded since borough-specific data has been kept, and a 58 percent decline from the 26 fatalities that occurred in 2010.

Year	Traffic fatalities
2000	24
2001	31
2002	22
2003	28
2004	23
2005	21
2006	24
2007	16
2008	18
2009	21
2010	26
2011	11
2012	7

On a recent afternoon, a cacophony of horns blared at the corner of Hylan Boulevard and New Dorp Lane, which routinely ranks among the borough's most accident-prone intersections.

In the span of just a few minutes, more than a dozen drivers blasted their car horns, mainly to express displeasure at someone who didn't take a turn fast enough, or who slowed down to assess whether a group of teens would try to cross illegally.

#### INSTANT RESULTS

Traffic enforcement agents from the NYPD regularly control the flow of cars as the students at nearby New Dorp High School pour out for dismissal.

And sure enough, once the traffic agents arrive, the blare of horns die down, to be replaced by the occasional tweet of a police whistle, or a loud, sharply-worded command to a driver trying to take a turn without permission.

"If they didn't have the traffic people assisting, it would be worse than what it is now," said Laura Delan, of West Brighton, who drives to New Dorp for work every day.

Ms. Delan said she was "shocked," based on what she's seen of the Island's streets, that the fatality numbers dipped so low last year.

"You're just marking the ones where people have fatalities. There are so many accidents that don't have fatalities," she said. "I'm sure a lot of it still has to do with people who are on their cell phones."

Last year, New Dorp Lane and Hylan Boulevard ranked as the third most dangerous intersection on the Island, with 54 crashes, though none fatal.

Still, that's a far cry from the early-to-mid 2000s -- between 2002 and 2004, 13 pedestrians were killed or injured at that intersection, and the summer of 2006 saw three fatalities there.

That spurred city transportation officials and the NYPD to step up its safety efforts at Hylan and New Dorp -- including adding pedestrian fencing, extended medians, signs, more visible crosswalks and a "pedestrian refuge island." And so far, the intersection hasn't seen a fatality since 2006.

Despite the drop in fatalities, Lillian Lagazzo of Grant City says she tries to avoid intersections like Hylan and New Dorp whenever possible.

"I don't trust people's instincts. They try to beat the light," she says.

# ***Sports***

## College of Staten Island's baseball team raises money for breast cancer

Wednesday, May 02, 2012, 9:41 AM



**Jerry Lee**  
By



Photo courtesy of Kelly Carnevale

CSI baseball head coach Mike Mauro, left, and Anthony Hillery pose with breast cancer survivors, Dierdre DeAngelis, left, and Tami DiCostanzo during pre-game ceremonies.

WILLOWBROOK -- The College of Staten Island (CSI) baseball team held the 9th Annual Grace Hillery Breast Cancer Awareness Night last week in conjunction with a non-league game against Drew University.

Drew won the game (7-5) but the real winner was the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative as the Dolphins raised a record \$7,400.

Money was generated in a variety of ways. There were T-shirt sales, raffles, 50/50, concessions, and straight donations, including one of almost \$350 from the Drew team, which donated its meal

money.

The game has been played in honor of Grace Hillery, who lost her battle with cancer during the 2004 season when her son, Anthony was a Dolphin player.

Anthony was on hand for the ceremonies as was CSI President Dr. Tomas Morales, Provost Dr. William Fritz, CSI Athletic Director Vernon Mummert and members of the SIBCRI, led by Executive Director Donna Gerstle.

A \$1,000 donation by title sponsor One-on-One Rehabilitation Services was made by Joe Saraceno and Stephen Barth to start the pre-game ceremonies.

The ceremonial first pitches were made by Dierdre DeAngelis, New Dorp High School principal and Tami Dicostanzo, St. Teresa School Family Guild President.

During the middle of seventh inning, Hillery himself addressed the crowd thanking the many in attendance. His words were followed by an inspired version of "Amazing Grace" sung by Phyllis Eisenberg.

"I am always humbled to return to the College and be a part of this event, seeing so many old and new faces who do this in my mother's memory," said Hillery, during his seventh inning address. "We are all touched by this disease in some way or another, and it's great to see so many selfless people giving their best efforts to make this event come to life each year."

CSI skipper Michael Mauro agreed. "This was a great night. It really is unbelievable how much money was raised tonight. It makes it so much more worthwhile," he said. "Nights like this make us look forward to doing it over and over again. It was a great night no matter what the score."

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**Flint Tosses Perfect Game; Baruch in Final vs. CSI/Brooklyn Winner  
Hunter Out on Day 1 of CUNYAC/Applebee's Softball @ CSI  
Host CSI to Face #4 Brooklyn in Elimination Game at 12 Noon; Winner Has To  
Beat Baruch Twice (2:00 pm Final)**



*Nicole Flint Baruch's Ace on the Mound - Perfection!*

**FREE CHAMPIONSHIP TICKET LINK**

Day 1 of the CUNY Athletic Conference / Applebee's Softball Championship was probably the most exciting first day of the double-elimination tournament in history!

First, #4 Brooklyn upset #1 Staten Island, 5-4 on their home field. Then in Game 2, #3 Baruch topped #2 Hunter, 2-1 in a big pitcher's duel between both team's aces. Then in Game 3, an elimination battle between the top two teams in the regular season, CSI and #2 Hunter, the Dolphins prevailed 4-3, in the bottom of the seventh inning on a Kaitlyn Flynn RBI single. And in the final game of the day, Baruch's Nicole Flint threw a seven inning perfect game to put Brooklyn on the brink...

The first contest on Saturday (12:00 noon first pitch) will feature #1 CSI and #4 Brooklyn once again, with the loser sent packing in third place. The first championship game follows immediately at 2:00 pm (with a possible Game 7 right after) between #2 Baruch and the winner of the previous game, Game 5. For CSI or Brooklyn to win the title, that team will have to win three games in one day, while Baruch, who is undefeated so far, just needs to win once to hoist the trophy for the second time in three seasons.

The winner earns CUNYAC's automatic berth to the NCAA Division III Softball Championship next week. The NCAA selections and site will be announced on Monday.

Also, in a rousing post-game festivity, following the Staten Island-Hunter game, **CSI** commemorated the inauguration of the new softball lights, with a ceremonial first pitch thrown by Councilman James S. Oddo, whose office helped fund and support the project. Oddo was joined by **CSI** President Tomas Morales, Vice-President for Student Affairs Dr. Ramona Brown, Athletic Director Vernon Mummert, and CUNYAC Executive Director Zak Ivkovic.

For links, directions, live stats and much more - check out our [Championship Central Page](#).

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#### **GAME 4: #3 Baruch 2, #4 Brooklyn 0 • BOXSCORE** (Courtesy of Baruch Sports Information)

Nicole Flint pitched a perfect game to lead the Bearcats to a 2-0 record in the first day of the 2012 CUNYAC/Applebee's Championship Tournament on Friday at the **College of Staten Island** softball complex in Staten Island, New York.

With the results, the Bearcats need only one victory to win the championship and NCAA Berth, while either Staten Island or Brooklyn must win three games. For complete results and tomorrow's schedule, please scroll to the bottom of this page. Please note admission to all games at Staten Island is free of charge.

After defeating rival Hunter for the third time this season, the Bearcats lined up to play Brooklyn College, which upset top seeded Staten Island, 5-4.

"Flint has great movement; She's a workhorse and a champion," said Baruch head coach Jose Negroni. "A champion before she came to Baruch and a champion now that she's with us. I don't expect anything less from her, especially during playoffs."

They scored two runs against Brooklyn in the fourth inning on an RBI double by Courtney White to score Maria Vlahopoulos, while Chelsea DeGuzman scored on a fielding error for the 2-0 lead.

That was enough as Nicole Flint dominated on the mound with the perfect game line of seven innings pitched, no hits, no walks and four strikeouts.

"I can't [speak]. After the game, I didn't even know what to say; Everyone was saying it for me," said an extremely humble Flint. "It's a lot of hard work all season. It was my second game of the day and I get better as I go on. It worked out well."

Melanie Pellegrino batted 2-for-3, with a single and double, while Toniann Donde, Megan Ruiz and Regina Cardinale each had a single.

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#### **GAME 3: #1 Staten Island 4, #2 Hunter 3 • BOXSCORE** (Courtesy of **CSI** Sports Information)

Facing elimination, **CSI's** next opponent was No. 2 Hunter College, a 2-1 loser to No. 3 Baruch in their first round game. This time, however, the Dolphins ended up on the positive end of a wild and

sometimes sloppy game.

Both teams got on the board early as Hunter took a 2-1 lead after two frames, with a run in each of the first two innings. A Megan Meehan RBI-single scored Crisette Maxwell in the first frame and then CSI was victimized by error again. An error by Solari at first base on a routine play off of a KaTee Bauer bunt, would score Megan O'Shea from second base. Flynn did the honors for CSI's run, driving home Dillon via an RBI-single in the first.

CSI hurler Ponsiglione then matched Amanda Annicaro stride for stride until the fifth inning. There, CSI flubbed another pair of plays when second baseman Taylor Kaplan failed to handle a ball off of another bunt by Maxwell, and later D'Amato couldn't handle another bunt by Sophia Ponce. With bases loaded and no one out, Meehan then singled in a run. CSI got out of the jam via a base running mistake by Ponce and then a sterling infield double-play turned in by Flynn on the hot corner.

Now down 3-1, CSI had their turn in the fifth and responded with a big inning. With one out, DeCarlo walked, and D'Amato followed with a single as well. Next up was Dillon, who smacked an RBI-double to right-center, scoring DeCarlo. CSI then caught a break when Brittany Smith struck out, but because the ball was in the dirt, she took off for first base, and even though she was called out, D'Amato was able to score. Sensing the defense was out of position, Dillon also tried to score but was gunned out at home, insuring the score remain tied, 3-3, going into the final two frames.

A scoreless sixth then followed, with Hunter getting out of a jam when Angel Iacovetti came in relief if Annicaro, leaving the bases loaded. After the Hawks stranded a runner in the seventh, CSI was up for their last attempt before extra frames. After recording an out, Dillon started the rally with a single, and the senior took second on a wild pitch. Smith then followed with a single, and CSI averted disaster when Smith tried to extend to second base, which she did successfully. With runners at second and third, up stepped Flynn, who to that point was 3-3 in the game and 4-4 on the entire afternoon, having reached base all seven times. Amazingly, with first base open and still only one out, the Hawks decided to pitch to Flynn, and the senior made it hurt, calmly stroking the game winner on a liner to centerfield, easily scoring Dillon for the game winner.

Flynn finished the game 4-4 as CSI out-hit Hunter, 11-9. Ponsiglione won the game yielding three runs (one earned), fanning one. Iacovetti took the loss tossing 1.1 innings in relief. The top three batters in the order for CSI went a combined 9-12 with 3 RBI and two runs scored.

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## **GAME 2: #3 Baruch 2, #2 Hunter 1 • BOXSCORE** (Courtesy of Baruch Sports Information)

Baruch is off to a great start at the 2012 CUNYAC/Applebee's Softball Championship that began today at the College of Staten Island softball complex in Staten Island, New York.

The Bearcats opened play by defeating their rival Hunter College, 2-1, in game two of the tournament. They will return to action this evening at 6:00 pm to play Brooklyn College in the winner's bracket game. Brooklyn upset top seed Staten Island in an exciting first game, 5-4.

"It's never easy topping Hunter," said Baruch head coach Jose Negroni. "It's always a difference of one or two runs. We were fortunate to come out on top today."



Against Hunter, the Bearcats struck first with a run in their first at-bat. Olivia Auman hit an RBI ground out to score Carmen Pagan-Colon from third base.

They scored another run in the third inning as Auman smacked an RBI single to left center to score Melanie Pellegrino for the 2-0 lead.

Hunter scored a run in their bottom half of the third inning to cut the score to 2-1, but that was it the rest of the game as Nicole Flint dominated on the mound with a superb complete game of seven innings pitched, two hits, one earned run and four strikeouts.

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**GAME 1: #4 Brooklyn 5, #1 Staten Island 4 • BOXSCORE** (Courtesy of Brooklyn Sports Information)

The #4 seed Brooklyn College Softball team upset the top seed and host Dolphins of the **College of Staten Island** in the opening game of the 2012 CUNYAC/Applebee's Softball Championship, 5-4.

"I wouldn't really put it that way (an upset)," said second year Brooklyn head coach Bill Dumont. "In the regular season we lost two close contests 3-1 and 4-0. We knew as long as we hung tight we could beat them.."

BC was led by starting pitcher Marie Oneto who picked up the win, tossing a complete game, allowing four runs (two earned) on six hits, while walking seven and striking out one. Her counterpart, Victoria Procopio took the loss, allowing five runs (three earned) on nine hits, while walking two and striking out one over seven innings of work.

Brooklyn's Katharine Fuentes had the key hit of the game for the visitors, with a pinch-hit two-run single in the top of the sixth, which scored both Tara Diesel and Allison Donovan.

Diesel and Norah Marley both had a multi-hit game for the Bulldogs.

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-- [www.cunyathletics.com](http://www.cunyathletics.com) --



## College of Staten Island places trio on CUNY all-star tennis squad

Thursday, May 03, 2012, 1:03 AM



By **Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

The College of Staten Island's placed three players on the 2012 CUNY All-Star teams.

Senior Riad Hamai and sophomore Nick Zikos earned a mark on the first team while sophomore Dan Ursomanno was selected to the second team.

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## Ponsiglione toughs out solid softball season for the College of Staten Island

Thursday, May 03, 2012, 6:45 AM



By **Charlie De Biase Jr.**



CSI photo courtesy of Kellie Carnevale

CSI's Danielle Ponsiglione is 8-3 this season with a 2.26 ERA.

Danielle Ponsiglione had experienced some pain before, but the College of Staten Island pitcher often chalked it up to the years of constant wear and tear on her right shoulder.

Throwing 150 pitches a day, six days a week in-season could certainly cause some discomfort.

Nonetheless, the pain had intensified during winter workouts and prior to a West Coast trip at the start of this season and, admittedly, Ponsiglione was worried.

When Ponsiglione picked up a gallon of milk and dropped it for no apparent reason, enough was enough. The senior was sure something was wrong and eventually had an MRI.

There was indeed a reason for the pain and weakness in her shoulder: She had a torn rotator cuff.

"I had two options," said the 21-year-old Ponsiglione, who will attempt to help the Dolphins capture their second straight CUNY Conference title beginning Friday when they host two games, the first

against the Brooklyn College-Lehman College winner at noon. "I could've had surgery immediately, been redshirted and come back next year or, suck it up and play through the pain.

"And (play through the pain) is what I decided to do because I didn't know how I'd recover (from the surgery)."

Ponsiglione's decision to put off surgery enabled her to play this season, but also means twice-weekly visits to a physical therapist. Fortunately, the St. Joseph by-the-Sea product's PT is Carla Buonviaggio, the former superstar pitcher who is currently Sea's pitching coach.

"Physical therapy definitely helps," said Ponsiglione. "In the beginning, there really weren't any good days — it was killing me. But, on a good day now, it doesn't hurt as much.

"The therapy helps strengthen the muscles (around the rotator cuff) and having Carla as my physical therapist helps because she's able to tell me how much I can throw."

Ponsiglione says she now throws a lot less between starts, about 50 pitches every other day. She said the injury has done a number on her velocity.

"I'm so much slower this year. I don't have my speed at all," said the Rossville resident, whose seven-pitch arsenal used to include a curve, screwball, riser and changeup. "Without a doubt, you can tell the difference. There's a change in velocity.

"There's not as much movement on my pitches and to compensate, I'll throw straight fastballs and really rely on hitting my spots."

Ponsiglione's overall numbers in the regular season might not be what they once were, but they're not bad either. The senior right-hander owns a 8-3 record and 2.26 ERA in 13 appearances. In 72 innings, she's walked six and struck out 44.

Ponsiglione said she's expecting to pitch the second game Friday for the top-seeded Dolphins, who finished 11-1 in the CUNY during the regular season. If they lose their first game, they'll play the loser of the 2 p.m. game (either No. 2 Hunter College, No. 3 Baruch or No. 6 John Jay) at 4 p.m. A win will put them against the 2 p.m. winner at 6 p.m.

There's a strong possibility the Dolphins will meet Hunter, coached by former Moore Catholic mentor Ralph Moroni, in the winner's bracket final Friday. The Hawks handed CSI its lone regular-season CUNY loss.

Ponsiglione said pitching with the injury has done a number on her confidence and that she must be as mentally prepared as she's ever been.

"I've had days where I've thrown the day before a game and I couldn't reach the plate," she said. "Does that affect me when I (go out) for the game the next day? Sure it does. It makes you wonder if you're going to get through the game.

"But I do have a lot of confidence in my team, which has done a good job behind me, helping make up for my mistakes," she said. "Injured or not, a playoff game always gets me nervous, but I'm a senior and these could be my last few games.

"I'm just going to go out and have fun," Ponsiglione concluded. "I'm going to go out and continue doing what I've been doing and hopefully, we get good results."

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## College of Staten Island's DiFede shares CUNY baseball honor

Friday, May 04, 2012, 1:20 AM



By **Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

College of Staten Island sophomore outfielder Will DiFede was named CUNY Conference Co-Rookie of the Year.

DiFede, who led the Dolphins in hitting with a .383 average and 28 RBIs, shared the award with Baruch's Paul Perez.

CSI landed three players on the all-conference first team — first baseman Sal Todaro, pitcher Richie Anderson and second baseman Luis Ortiz. Former CSI outfielder and Island resident Steve Hession (Baruch) also earned first-team honors.

Second team CSI selections included Brian Moreno, Henry Roman, Dan Lynch, James Lewis and Mike Van Pelt.

League champion Baruch swept the Player of the Year (Thomas Daly) and Pitcher of the Year (Jesus Izarra) awards. CCNY's A.J. Mulvey and Baruch's Justin Torres shared the Sportsmanship award.

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## College Of Staten Island Baseball Game Benefits Cancer Research

05/04/2012 10:39 PM

By: Rosemary Shultz



**NY1 VIDEO:** A special night of baseball at the College of Staten Island had everyone seeing pink.



## Flynn lifts **College of Staten Island** past Hunter in CUNY softball tourney, 4-3

Saturday, May 05, 2012, 12:05 PM



By **Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

Kaitlyn Flynn had a good vibe before her final at-bat yesterday.

"I was in a zone and relaxed," said the **College of Staten Island** senior. "I was on today (with my swing) and I just felt confident I was going to come through."

She proved to be correct and because she was, the Dolphins' season is still alive.

Flynn's game-winning, RBI single to center gave **CSI** a 4-3 CUNY loser's bracket victory over visiting Hunter on Friday in Willowbrook.

The top-seeded Dolphins (15-19 overall), who were upset by No. 4 Brooklyn College (5-4) in the winner's bracket semis, will get another crack at the Bridges in the loser's bracket final Saturday at noon at **CSI**.

Saturday's **CSI**-Brooklyn winner will then need to beat Baruch twice, beginning at 2 p.m. The 'if' game is scheduled for 4 p.m.

Baruch advanced to the championship round with a 2-0 triumph over Brooklyn last night.

**CSI** trailed Hunter, coached by former Moore Catholic mentor Ralph Moroni, 3-1 entering the bottom of the fifth.

But Christine DeCarlo (walk) and Amanda D'Amato (single) reached with one out before Kristi Dillon doubled to right center to make it 3-2. Brittany Smith struck out swinging, but the pitch got away from catcher Arielle Zieff.

When Zieff threw to first to nab Smith, D'Amato raced home with the tying run.

In the home seventh, Dillon reached on a one-out, infield single, then moved to second on wild pitch. Smith (three hits) followed with a single to right, putting runners on second and third for Flynn.



Flynn, a Tottenville HS product, smacked an Angel Iacovetti offering to centerfield to plate Dillon and end the game.

"The pitch was around the middle of the plate and I got a good piece of it," said Flynn (4 for 4, two RBI). "It feels really good to come through with a hit and give us another chance to come back tomorrow."

Danielle Ponsiglione notched the victory, allowing one earned run on nine hits, no walks and a strikeout. The senior, who is throwing despite a torn rotator cuff, is expected to face Brooklyn Saturday.

In Friday's first game against the Bridges, **CSI** trailed 5-1 going into the bottom of the sixth when they rallied for three runs thanks in part to Samantha Tallarine's bases-loaded walk and a two-run error.

The Dolphins trailed 5-4 entering the home seventh, put runners on first and second with none out, but couldn't equalize.

Ponsiglione had two hits and Flynn was walked intentionally three times for **CSI** against Brooklyn.

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## Baruch blanks College of Staten Island for CUNY softball title, 5-0

Saturday, May 05, 2012, 10:26 PM



By **Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**

The College of Staten Island came up short in its quest for the CUNY Conference softball crown, losing 5-0 to Baruch in Saturday night's championship round at CSI.

The afternoon started well for CSI, which blanked Brooklyn 10-0 to advance to the finals. But needing to beat Baruch twice, the Dolphins surrendered two runs in the top of the first inning, and the Manhattan school never looked back.

The Dolphins (16-20 overall) got on the board early against Brooklyn College. In the bottom of the first, Brittany Smith delivered a one-out single and came home on Danielle Ponsiglione's sacrifice fly for a quick 1-0 CSI lead.

The Dolphins then put up a five-spot in the third. Singles by Kristi Dillon and Smith and a walk to Kaitlyn Flynn loaded the bases for Stefanie Solari, who followed with a sac fly. A single by Ponsiglione re-loaded the bases, and Victoria Procopio and Christine DeCarlo each belted two-run singles to make it 6-0.

Staten Island broke it open with a four-run fourth. Smith singled for her third hit of the game and stole second. After Flynn walked, Solari smacked a three-run homer to centerfield. One out later, Procopio doubled and was plated on a DeCarlo RBI single.

When Brooklyn (19-19) didn't score in the fifth, the 10-run mercy rule came into effect giving the Dolphins the 10-0 win. Ponsiglione allowed four hits and one walk in five innings, striking out five for the victory.

CSI's momentum did not carry into the championship round against Baruch (17-25). It didn't help that there was also a 5 1/2-hour rain delay in between games.

"It started to downpour in the fifth inning against Brooklyn College, so much so you couldn't see in front of you," said CSI coach Stella Porto. "The umpires did a good job in getting the fifth inning in and that game over. Then we got the girls' uniforms cleaned and got them food. But then it started raining again around 3 o'clock, and we didn't start the Baruch game until 6 because it took time to get the field ready."

Melanie Pellegrino led off the game against **CSI** starter Solari with a walk and scored one out later on Toniann Donde's double to left. Nicole Flint then delivered a two-out double to left for a 2-0 Baruch advantage.

Another clutch hit highlighted the Baruch third, as Donde doubled again and scored on Flint's two-out single to left.

Porto said the Baruch bench was questioning Solari's delivery from the outset -- that it wasn't following the new rules installed this season -- and the umpires warned Porto about it possibly being an illegal delivery.

"That affected Stephanie's concentration, without a doubt," said Porto, who pulled Solari with two outs in the top of the third for concerns over the delivery as much as any ineffectiveness.

The Dolphins' best threat came in the fourth. Dillon led off with a single, was sacrificed over to second by a Smith bunt and moved to third on a Flynn single. But Baruch hurler Flint settled down and stranded the two runners by retiring Solari and Ponsiglione on fly outs.

Samantha Tallarine opened the **CSI** fifth with a single but against the Dolphins couldn't cash in.

Baruch scored two insurance runs in the seventh against a gritty Ponsiglione in relief, as Pellegrino reached on an error and scored on Olivia Auman's homer to left center.

"She was in a lot of pain, but she's showed a lot of guts this whole year," said Porto of Ponsiglione, who not only pitched earlier in the day against the Bridges, but went the distance on Friday to beat Hunter to keep the Dolphins' season alive.

Making it more incredible is the fact that the St. Joseph by-the-Sea HS product has been performing with a torn rotator cuff since it was diagnosed before the team left for its California trip in March.

"Danielle had the right to have the surgery and redshirt this year, but she chose to stick it out," said Porto, noting that she was cleared to pitch both medically and by her own family. "She went undefeated in the CUNY for us ... she's amazing."

Flint sent the Dolphins down in order in the bottom of the frame to end it, finishing with a four-hit shutout.

"(Flint) started us off with rise balls, so I told the girls to adjust to it and hit the top of the ball," said Porto.

"But then (Flint) adjusted and started going inside on our batters. After a while, I think our girls went to the plate thinking too much. We did hit some balls hard, but right at people.

"But I'm very proud of the girls this season."

## Staten Island resident finds a baseball home in Brooklyn

Wednesday, May 09, 2012, 10:15 AM



**Jerry Lee**  
By



Photo Courtesy of St. Joseph's College

Joe Mendez led St. Joseph's College with 18 extra-base hits and 31 RBIs this past season.

TOTTENVILLE -- When Joe Mendez attended Monsignor Farrell High School, he played lacrosse, not baseball.

It's not that he didn't want to, it just didn't work out for the Tottenville resident at the Oakwood school.

He's gotten a chance to play at St. Joseph's College in Brooklyn these past two seasons, and the fledgling Division III program couldn't be happier with the results.

Mendez, a power-hitting righty, helped St. Joseph's to a season-ending four-game winning streak which allowed the fifth-year program to finish at 18-17 — its first .500 or better season.

Mendez played a big role in that success, and not just a 4-for-7 performance which included four RBIs and two doubles in a season-ending sweep of Yeshiva.

The talented outfielder hit .360 and led the Bears with 18 extra-base hits, including 13 doubles and three homers, both team bests. He had 31 RBIs which also led the

team and an impressive .568 slugging percentage.

"He's a good baseball player and we are very happy to have him," said Dongan Hills resident and assistant coach Jerry Sidman.

Mendez came to St. Joseph's through the efforts of former College of Staten island standout Bobby Glennerster, a Bears' assistant at the time. The Great Kills resident was very familiar with Mendez, having coached him in his Dynasty travel baseball program.

Glennerster left St. Joseph's to take the head coaching job at NYU-Polytechnic but Mendez enrolled at St. Joseph's.

"He came in as a first baseman and we played him there early on, but he really is a natural left-fielder," said Sidman. "He finished freshman year there and has become our best outfielder.

"He tracks balls down and catches everything in sight," added Sidman. "He has an above-average arm and runs pretty well for a big guy and, despite us having to move him to right field this season, he continues to do everything we need."

As good as he has been in the outfield, it is with his bat that he makes the most noise.

As a freshman, he led the team with 32 RBIs, hit .319 with a .504 slugging percentage and .371 on-base percentage. He was named to the Association of Division 3 Independents (AD3I) All-Independent first team.

Sidman expects that honor to be duplicated shortly and feels Mendez can even get better.

"The times that he struggled this year he just didn't make the adjustments quick enough," said the coach. "We feel that if he continues to mature as a player, there is no telling what he could do, and what level he could reach."

St. Joseph's, which loses just two players to graduation, is hopeful it can reap the benefits of that improvement next year and continue its upward climb.

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## **Baruch's Daly & Izarra Named Player & Pitcher of the Year For the Second Time Dolphins' Difede Earns Rookie of the Year**



Flushing, N.Y. – The City University of New York Athletic Conference and the Municipal Credit Union have named the 2012 Baseball All Stars. CUNYAC/MCU Champion, Baruch College, saw Seniors Thomas Daly, Jesus Izarra, and Justin Torres snag the Player of the Year, Pitcher of the Year, and Sportsmanship awards, respectively. All of these players made significant contributions during Coach of the Year Jose Torres' second championship run. Championship runner-up, College of Staten Island, had Rookie of the Year Will Defede honored.

Daly had another outstanding season as last year's Player of the Year continued to be amongst the top in the conference. The utility man garnered two CUNYAC/MCU Player of the Week awards. Heading into the championship, he led the conference in triples, RBIs, and total bases. The sensational senior was 7 for 13 with 3 runs, 3 RBIs, and a homerun in Baruch's three games of the CUNY Athletic Conference Championship.

"This season was not only the best in Baruch history, but also the most fun I have had in four years," said Daly. "I am honored to win CUNYAC Player of the Year two years in a row. I have to get lots of credit to my teammates. Without them, this award would not have been possible."

Last year's Pitcher of the Year showed that his stuff hasn't fallen off as he led the league in wins. The two-time CUNYAC/MCU Pitcher of the Week was amongst the league leaders in all of the major pitching



categories. Izarra led his team to the CUNYAC Championship with a complete game victory in the Final against the CSI Dolphins.

“It was a good year and we have improved every game towards winning a championship”, said Izarra. “I thank God for the opportunity, and I want to also thank my teammates and coaches for all their support throughout the year.”

Though CSI fell just short of defending their title, the inspired play of rookie Difede propelled them to the title game against Baruch. Batting .321 with 19 RBI and 20 Runs, the sophomore boasted an impressive slugging percentage of .429, and gave hope to those who want CSI to reclaim the title in 2013

As the sportsmanship winner of the year, Torres made his first appearance in the CUNYAC championship in 2009. It was there the versatile senior showcased his leadership qualities by motivating his team back them. Torres has continued to do that in his senior year as his leadership derived not only from his play but also his competitive yet gracious nature, being courteous to officials and opponents alike.

“Over my three years at Baruch, I tried to lead by example being one of the older guys on the team,” said Torres. “I never take anything in the game for granted and being that this was my senior year to go out with a bang proves good things result from hard work.”

When this year’s coach of the Year, Torres took over the Baruch program in 2006, baseball was dominated by CSI winners of three straight championships. Torres brought a wealth of experience to the job, having played in the minors for years, even being called up to the Detroit Tigers in '94. He soon made an impact, capturing Baruch's second championship ever in 2009. This year overcame his biggest challenge yet, leading his squad to the championship on a tear, besting perennial powerhouses CSI 5-3 in the final.

“Ever since the first day of practice, we have set out to avenge our loss in last year’s final to bring the trophy back to campus,” said Head Coach Torres. “We accomplished that goal with lots of hard work and I am very proud of my players. This award is also a result of good recruiting.”

The CUNYAC/MCU First Team includes seven players from the championship final with four members of the Bearcats and three members of the Dolphins. The first team rounds out with a member from Lehman, three members from John Jay, and two members from CCNY.

### **2012 CUNYAC/MCU Baseball All-Stars**

**Player of the Year:** Thomas Daly, Baruch

**Pitcher of the Year:** Jesus Izarra, Baruch

**Rookie of the Year:** Will Difede, CSI

**Sportsmanship:** Justin Torres, Baruch

**Coach of the Year:** Jose Torres, Baruch

**First Team**

C Mike Smith, CCNY  
1B Sal Todaro, CSI  
2B Luis Ortiz, CSI  
SS Yahnny Arias, JJ  
3B Yancey Taveras, Baruch  
OF Alvin Mata, Baruch  
OF Steve Hession, Baruch  
OF Paul Rojas, CCNY  
DH Brian McKenna, JJ  
UT Edwin Marrero, Lehman  
P Braylin Perez, JJ  
P Richard Anderson, CSI  
P Paul Perez, Baruch

**Second Team**

C Tom DeJesus, Baruch  
1B Stephen Valdes, Lehman  
2B Jake Frankel, Yeshiva  
SS Brian Moreno, CSI  
3B Henry Roman, CSI  
OF Michael Liang, Lehman  
OF John Yuksekol, Baruch  
OF Dan Lynch, CSI  
DH James Lewis, CSI  
UT Chris Lounsbury, CCNY  
P Wilfredo Gonzalez, Lehman  
P Mike Van Pelt, CSI  
P AJ Mulvey, CCNY





## Dolphins' Sweep Softball End of the Year Awards



Flushing, N.Y. – In conclusion to the CUNYAC Softball Season, the 2012 All Stars were recently announced. The CUNYAC/Appleebee's Championship runner up, College of Staten Island swept the top three awards with Kaitlynn Flynn, Danielle Ponsiglione and Brittany Smith named the Player, Pitcher and Rookie of the Year, respectively. Coach of the Year was awarded to Lehman's Claudio Barbieri and Carmen Pagan-Colon from the Bearcats was honored with the Sportsmanship award.

At the start of her collegiate softball career, Flynn was recognized early as she was named Rookie of the Year in her freshman year back in 2009. Now in her senior year she has come full circle as she earns her second player of the year honor, ending her career just how she started it. The three-time CUNYAC/Appleebee's Player of the Week leads the conference in hits with 62 and batting average of .504 as well as registering eight triples.

"It feels amazing to win this award for the second year in a row," said Flynn. "I couldn't be more happy with my career at CSI, I achieved everything I wanted to. It's a great thing to take with me in my final year at CSI."

For the third consecutive year Ponsiglione has been named the pitcher of the year. The senior once again proved herself on the mound as she holds a 12-4 record with a 2.07 earned average run. The two-time CUNYAC/Appleebee's Pitcher of the Week winner earned the Dolphins' 10 wins in the season on their way to become the CUNYAC regular season champions. She also went 2-0 in the CUNYAC/Appleebee's Championship tournament.

"It was a rough season for me with my shoulder but I'm happy that I had a strong team behind me to help," said Ponsiglione. "I gave all I could and glad it paid off and I'm recognized for it."

As a three-time CUNYAC rookie of the week winner, Smith leads the conference with 49 runs scored in the 2012 softball season. The freshman proved to be a huge assist to the Dolphins' this season as she went 3-for-3 from the plate with three runs scored in the 10-0 victory over Brooklyn to give Staten Island the chance to defend the CUNYAC title. Despite falling short against Baruch in the final game, Smith finished her rookie season with a .549 batting average, the third highest in the conference.

"Softball brings out the best in me and I would not have had as successful season if my coaches and team didn't devote their time and skills," said Smith. "I'm happy to achieve such a big award in my first year."

As the recipient of the sportsmanship award, Pagan-Colon has displayed her leadership and motivating qualities all through the 2012 softball season. As the team captain for the Bearcats' the senior helped lead her team to the CUNYAC/Applebee's Championship where they beat out the defending Champions. The 2011 scholar athlete finished her final season for the Bearcats with a .306 batting average.

"I am honored to receive this award," said Colon. "I have always supported our CUNY teams, no matter who they are. I have friends on every team and it is all about softball, playing the sport and enjoying it with your teammates and opponents."

In his second year as the head coach for the Lightning's' softball squad, Barbieri continues his efforts in resurrecting Lehman's program back to the top. Seeded at number five in the CUNYAC/Applebee's Softball Championship Tournament, Barbieri concluded his season with a 12-19 overall record, an improvement from his first year.

"It is a great honor to receive this award, especially since it comes from my peers," said Head Coach Barbieri. "I want to thank my assistant coach, Antonio Iandolo, and my players, because without them this honor would not have been possible."

### **2012 Softball All-Stars**

**Player of the Year:** Kaitlynn Flynn, Staten Island

**Pitcher of the Year:** Danielle Ponsiglione, Staten Island

**Rookie of the Year:** Brittany Smith, Staten Island

**Coach of the Year:** Claudio Barbieri, Lehman

**Sportsmanship:** Carmen Pagan-Colon, Baruch

### **First Team**

Melanie Pellegrino, Baruch

Nicole Flint, Baruch

Toniann Donde, Baruch

Kim Konklewski, Brooklyn

Sophia Ponce, Hunter

Josephine Estevez, Hunter  
Nelly Vega, John Jay  
Janet Ortiz, Lehman  
Kristi Dillon, Staten Island

**Second Team**

Oliva Auman, Baruch  
Carmen Pagan-Colon, Baruch  
Allison Donovan, Brooklyn  
Marie Oneto, Brooklyn  
Crissette Maxwell, Hunter  
Julia Lipovac, Hunter  
Meghan O'Shea, Hunter  
Natalie Martinez, Lehman  
Danielle Dunn, York



## **CSI sweeps top CUNY softball awards**

Friday, May 11, 2012, 2:09 AM



**Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**  
By

The **College of Staten Island** swept the top three awards for the CUNY Conference softball season.

Danielle Ponsiglione, a St. Joseph by-the-Sea product, won Pitcher of the Year for the third straight season. Tottenville HS product Kaitlynn Flynn was named Player of the Year for the second straight season.

In addition, Brittany Smith, a St. John Villa product, was named Rookie of the Year.

Ponsiglione pitched her senior year with a torn rotator cuff and went 12-4 record with a 2.07 earned run average.

Flynn led the CUNY with 62 hits, batted .504 and finished with eight triples.

Smith batted .549, third in the conference and led the CUNY with 49 runs scored.

Also, senior Kristi Dillon (St. Joseph by-the-Sea) was named a first-team All Star.

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## College of Staten Island swimmer Romanov earns CUNY Scholar-Athlete of the Year award

Tuesday, May 15, 2012, 2:27 AM



By **Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**



Photo courtesy of **College of Staten Island**

**CSI's** Vladislav Romanov is considered the best backstroke in the history of the CUNY Conference.

The City University of New York Athletic Conference will celebrate the 2011-12 academic and athletic year with the 26th annual Michael Steuerman Scholar-Athlete Awards Dinner at Queens College Wednesday at 7 p.m.

For the first time since 1999, the **College of Staten Island** picked up the grand prize as four-year national swimming standout Vladislav Romanov was awarded the Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

There are 29 honorable mention scholar-athletes, including the Dolphins' Lauren Neglia (women's soccer) and Olivia Tierno (women's basketball).

Romanov is the first **CSI** student-athlete to be awarded a CUNYAC honor in this category since Fred Marinacchio (men's basketball) took the top male honor in 1991. In 1999, **CSI's** Gabriella Nagy (women's volleyball) took the top prize in the female category.

The best backstroke in the history of the CUNYAC, Romanov never lost a backstroke race against CUNY competition in four years. A business finance major, he also has a 3.67 GPA, and is a two-time CUNYAC/Hospital For Special Surgery Scholar-Athlete of the Month.

Romanov came to New York for college four years ago, having grown up in Moscow, Russia. **CSI** had a Russian-born coach and two national caliber Russian swimmers in Pavel Buyanov and Nikolay Shevchenko, who graduated last year as All-Americans. It was a perfect fit.

"Pavel and Nikolay both influenced me in my sports career and helped me develop my personality," said Romanov. "We are very good friends and co-workers, I actually used to room with Pavel and we lived together for about a year or so. Once Pavel got to know me, we became friends and he was my role model, given that I was 16 when I came to America and he was 24 (and already a national champion and a record holder), I always looked up to him."

Romanov has been named Most Valuable Performer at the CUNYAC Championships three times and has earned nine All-American and honorable mention All-American awards at the NCAA Div. III men's swimming and diving championships. In CUNYAC, he has won 23 gold medals and set and broke three individual backstroke event records each year.

"As an international student, I can't tell you the overwhelming lengths Vlad has had to go through to adjust to not only living in the United States and in the metropolitan area, but to study and navigate its educational system," said David Pizzuto, CSI's associate athletic director. "Vlad is just special; he is one who serves as an example for others."

As a sophomore, he earned his first All-American honor after placing eighth in the 200 backstroke.

In his final season, Romanov and the Dolphins finished 10th at the NAAs. Romanov won the silver in the 200 back.

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## Former Staten Island resident Steve Hession puts topper on stellar season

Wednesday, May 16, 2012, 10:26 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**



Steve Hession

WESTERLEIGH -- It was a banner season for the Baruch College baseball team and senior Steve Hession.

The Bearcats captured their second City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC) in the past four years by defeating the **College of Staten Island**, 5-3.

That victory helped Baruch secure its first East Coast Athletic Conference (ECAC) Metro Tournament bid since 1977.

The sixth-seeded Bearcats knocked off St. Joseph's of Long Island, the No. 3 seed, 6-4 in its opener before being eliminated by No. 2 FDU-Florham Park, 9-3, in the semifinals. FDU won the tournament championship by outlasting Stevens Tech 2-1 in 11 innings.

Baruch finished the season with a 22-20 record — the most wins in school history. And Hession played a big role in that success.

The former McKee/S.I. Tech star, who was 3 for 8 in the ECACs with three runs scored and a double, finished with a .386 batting average, second best on the team.

The Westerleigh resident had a team-leading 52 runs scored, 66 hits (second best) and he was successful on 33 of his 37 stolen base attempts.

Hession was a CUNYAC first-team all-star selection.

St. Joseph's College of Brooklyn Mike Cundari, a catcher/first baseman, was selected a United States Collegiate Athletic Association (CACC) Academic All-American.

Cundari (St. Peter's HS) had a solid season for the 18-17 Bears. The sophomore hit .333 with 11 extra-base hits among his 37 safeties. He also was never thrown out attempting to steal in 13 attempts.





## BEARCATS BRING HOME 3RD STRAIGHT COMMISSIONER'S CUP Win Cup by 58 Point Margin over Hunter & Staten Island



Photo by: Greg Armstrong

*Baruch Accepts the CUNYAC Commissioner's Cup for the 3rd Consecutive Year*

Baruch College captured seven of the last eight CUNY Athletic Conference Tournament Championships the school competed in this year to crush the field and win the Bearcats' third consecutive Commissioner's Cup Trophy. The Bearcats scored 156 points, which is the third highest point total in the award's 15-year history. Baruch finished an astounding 58 points ahead of second place Hunter College. The school was awarded the Cup as part of the 26th Annual Michael Steuerman Awards Dinner at Queens College on Wednesday, May 16, 2012.

This athletic year, Baruch won CUNYAC Tournament Championships in eight sports: Baseball, Women's Basketball, Softball, Women's and Men's Swimming & Diving, Men's Tennis, Men's and Women's Volleyball. Additionally, the Bearcats won 10 points for the Regular Season top spot in all of those sports, except for softball, men's volleyball and women's basketball and volleyball. The Bearcats also raked in second place points in six of the 13 sports the school competes in on the 18 four-year championship slate.

"Winning the Commissioner Cup was a total team effort from the student-athletes to coaches to our administration," said Athletic Director Ray Rankis. "We had a very successful year and are excited to have it back on campus."

Slotting second for the third consecutive season is Hunter College (98 points), which was dominant the fall season winning all three of their CUNYAC Tournament Championships and achieving 50 of 98 total points: Men's & Women's Cross Country, and Women's Tennis. This year, the Hawks also won Regular



Season title in both Men's and Women's Volleyball and scored addition second place points in five women's sports Women's Basketball, Outdoor Track & Field, Softball, Swimming, Tennis and Men's Tennis.

Finishing in third place again was the College of Staten Island (73 points), who won both the Regular Season and Tournament Championships in Men's Basketball and Women's Soccer for over half the school's total. The Dolphins also won the Regular Season title in Softball and earned second place points in Baseball and Women's Basketball.

Lehman College (63 points) jumped up to the fourth spot this year with sweeps in Men's Soccer (Regular Season and Tournament titles) and both Women's Track and Field titles. The Lightning also finished as the runner-up in Men's Swimming in both the Regular Season and Championship meet.

Brooklyn College (38 points) also bumped up this year, to fifth place, winning Regular Season trophies in Women's Basketball and Tennis, while also scoring points in Men's Basketball and Women's Cross Country.

On the backs of CUNYAC titles in Men's Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field the City College of New York (33 points) finished in sixth place.

John Jay College (19), York College (14) and Medgar Evers College (13) round out the rest of the league. The entire breakdown is listed below:

#### 2011-12 Four-Year College Commissioner's Cup Standings

##### 1. Baruch College      156 Points

Baseball – 20 points  
Men's Tennis – 20 points  
Men's Swimming – 20 points  
Women's Swimming – 20 points  
Women's Basketball – 20 points  
Men's Volleyball – 15 points  
Women's Volleyball – 15 points  
Softball – 13 points  
Men's Soccer – 8 points  
Men's Basketball – 5 points

\* Does not include the following 10 points (see rules at bottom): Men's Cross Country – 5 points;  
Women's Cross Country – 5 points

##### 2. Hunter College      98 Points

Women's Tennis – 15 points  
Women's Volleyball – 15 points  
Men's Volleyball – 15 points  
Women's Swimming – 10 points

Men's Cross Country – 10 points  
Women's Cross Country – 10 points  
Men's Tennis – 8 points  
Softball - 5 points  
Women's Basketball – 5 points  
Women's Outdoor Track - 5 points

\* Does not include the following 6 points (see rules at bottom): Men's Indoor Track – 3 points; Women's Indoor Track – 3 points

3. College of Staten Island 73 Points

Men's Basketball – 20 points  
Women's Soccer - 20 points  
Softball - 15 points  
Baseball - 10 points  
Women's Basketball – 5 points  
Men's Swimming – 3 points

4. Lehman College 63 Points

Men's Soccer – 20 points  
Women's Outdoor Track – 10 points  
Men's Basketball – 10 points  
Women's Indoor Track – 10 points  
Men's Swimming – 10 points  
Women's Volleyball – 3 points

5. Brooklyn College 38 Points

Women's Tennis – 15 points  
Women's Basketball – 15 points  
Men's Basketball – 5 points  
Women's Cross Country – 3 points

6. City College of New York 33 Points

Men's Outdoor Track – 10 points  
Men's Indoor Track – 10 points  
Women's Soccer – 5 points  
Women's Indoor Track – 5 points  
Women's Outdoor Track – 3 points

7. John Jay College 19 Points

Men's Tennis – 5 points  
Women's Soccer – 5 points  
Baseball - 3 points  
Women's Swimming – 3 points  
Men's Cross Country – 3 points

8. York College 14 Points

Men's Soccer – 5 points

Men's Outdoor Track - 3 points  
Women's Tennis – 3 points  
Men's Volleyball – 3 points

9. Medgar Evers College      13 Points

Men's Outdoor Track – 5 points  
Men's Basketball – 5 points  
Men's Indoor Track – 3 points



## CUNYAC Honors 29 Graduating Scholar-Athletes At 2012 Michael Steuerman Scholar-Athlete Awards Ceremony



Photo by: Greg Armstrong

*For the 26th Annual Michael Steuerman Scholar-Athlete Awards, held on Wednesday, May 16, at the campus of Queens College, CUNYAC recognized 29 honorable mention scholar-athletes to celebration their incredible accomplishments for the 2011-12 academic and athletic season and their collegiate athletic careers.*

*Here are their stories...*

### Mickey Abbatiello, Baruch • Men's Basketball

A team captain, Mickey Abbatiello, owns a stellar 3.788 GPA with a major in Finance and a minor in Communications. As a member of the Men's Basketball team, he won the ECAC Metro Region Championship in 2010 and played in the NCAA Tournament during 2009. Off the court, he traveled during the summer of 2011 with the CUNYAC Goodwill Tour to New Orleans to help build homes ravaged by Hurricane Katrina. Abbatiello has also begun a career as an entrepreneur, as he and three Baruch alums have created a mobile application called "OneBasketball," which is sold at the Apple App store.

Kristi Dillon, Staten Island • Softball

Wearing #1 and batting leadoff the last three seasons for the Dolphins, Kristi Dillon has helped CSI win two CUNYAC Championships (2009, 2011) and the Regular Season title once again in 2012. A sparkplug and fan favorite, Dillon holds the top CSI single season record for stolen bases in a season, with 24 in 2011 and ranks second in career stolen bases with 56 (three behind as of this printing). A Liberal Arts major, Dillon maintains a 3.225 GPA and plans to continue her studies and become a dental hygienist. In her spare time, she volunteers with various youth softball groups, including St. Joseph's by the Sea, her high school alma mater.

Shirley Falconi, Queensborough CC • Women's Swimming & Diving

Two-time CUNYAC Champion Shirley Falconi, the winner and record holder of both the 50 Yard and 100 Yard Freestyle events at the Conference Championship, was the first Division III student-athlete to cross the finish line at the NJCAA Division I Swimming & Diving Championship in the 50 Yard Freestyle and earned QCC's first-ever All-American honor in the sport. In the 50 Free, Falconi placed 5th with a strong 24.74, her highest placing to date in two years of swimming at the NJCAA Championships. An Education/Physical Education major, Falconi maintains a 3.3 GPA and serves as a team captain. She is also a member of the Lupus Research Institute and the Alliance for Lupus Research.

Frankie Galang, John Jay • Men's Volleyball

A rookie and a senior all in one year, Frankie Galang joined John Jay's newly added Men's Volleyball squad and played in 18 out of 21 games for the Bloodhounds, earning a starting position in 15 games. Galang maintains a stellar 3.98 GPA over his four years at John Jay, planning to graduate this spring with a Criminal Justice degree and a minor in Law. In addition to volleyball, Galang is a member of JJC's Veterans Association.

Keiran Halton, Brooklyn • Men's Basketball/Volleyball

Keiran Halton, a two-year member of both the Brooklyn Men's Basketball and Men's Volleyball teams, sports a 3.85 GPA as an Exercise Science major. This season, Halton averaging 6.9 points per game and 4.7 rebounds per game, helped lead Brooklyn to the final of the 2012 ECAC Men's Basketball Tournament, then he moved to the volleyball court to provide depth, leadership and experience to the young BC squad. Halton has received a Presidential Scholarship at Brooklyn College every semester since 2010, and had a perfect 4.0 GPA last semester

Kevin Hernandez, BMCC • Baseball

Sophomore Kevin Hernandez has been a tremendous leader on and off the diamond for the BMCC Panthers. This season, Hernandez has raised his batting average over one hundred points from last year to .261, as the season is in full swing.. His on field play is only shadowed by his prowess in the classroom. Hernandez has been an academic leader for his team as well, striving to emphasize the importance of

academics to his teammates. Earning a cumulative 3.54 GPA while majoring in Accounting, Hernandez has been selected for the Dean's List every semester at BMCC.

#### Kaili Insalaco, John Jay • Women's Swimming & Diving

Kaili Insalaco, an International Criminal Justice major at John Jay, is known for doing it all. Holding a 3.3 GPA, Insalaco has been a team captain on the Women's Swimming team for three years straight, and two-time school MVP in her sport. She also participated in the CUNY Goodwill Tour this past summer for a service learning trip to New Orleans. Even though she works close to full-time outside of swim season, Insalaco still finds the time to do volunteer work with the John Jay Environmental Club, CUNY SAAC, and homeless shelters in Harlem.

#### Christine Luebcke, Hunter • Women's Volleyball

A relentless and determined volleyball all-star, Christine Luebcke's nickname fittingly was "the Rock." Consistently exceptional in the classroom and in her community, Luebcke maintained her 3.5 GPA while working with Project Sunshine, a nonprofit organization that provides educational, recreational and social services to children with medical problems. For her 2010 volleyball campaign she was stellar, being named a CUNYAC All-Star and the CUNYAC Tournament MVP, as the Hawks won their second consecutive title, making their second subsequent NCAA Championship appearance. In 2011, she garnered honors as a CUNYAC first team All-Star and All-Tournament Selection.

#### Dwight Nangle, Lehman • Men's Basketball

Dwight Nangle has been a mainstay for the Lehman Basketball squad, making his biggest impact in his senior season with 3.7 rebounds per game and averaging .308 shooting from beyond the arc. Majoring in Computer Information Systems, Nangle holds a 3.3 GPA while also participating on SAAC and other community service activities, such as the AIDS walk, Relay for Life, and volunteering in a soup kitchen.

#### Lauren Neglia, Staten Island • Women's Soccer

A two-time CUNYAC Champion and two time CUNYAC All Star, Lauren Neglia holds seven **CSI** records in her four year soccer career as a dominant midfielder and forward. An English major with a concentration in Dramatic Literature, this Dean's List scholar maintains a 3.77 GPA. Neglia has served on numerous organizations at the **College of Staten Island**, including the Contribution to the Mission for **CSI**, the Leadership Committee, SAAC, and the campus clean-up project.

#### Marthies Nunoo, Bronx CC • Men's Soccer/Track & Field

Marthies Nunoo has provided a steady presence for the Bronx Broncos as a two-sport student-athlete on the Men's Soccer and Track & Field teams. Maintaining a 3.33 overall GPA, majoring in Accounting with a minor in Finance, Nunoo is a member of the school's Business Club and serves as a tennis instructor at Harlem Junior Tennis. His leadership and character helped the soccer team reach the NJCAA Region XV semifinals for the first time in school history.

## National honor for **College of Staten Island** softball player Flynn

Friday, May 18, 2012, 9:14 AM



By **Staten Island Advance Sports Desk**



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE **COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND**

CUNY Conference 2012 MVP Kaitlyn Flynn has received All-American recognition from the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

The accolades haven't stopped for **College of Staten Island** senior third baseman Kaitlyn Flynn.

The CUNY Athletic Conference softball MVP this season has earned an All-American citation from the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. It's the second year in a row that Flynn was cited by the NFCA. She is the CUNY's lone selection in the East Region.

Flynn saved her best for last, turning in a senior season in which she batted an even .500 (58-116), scattering 18 extra-base hits (including three home runs) and

35 RBI.

The Tottenville HS product led the Dolphins in nearly every offensive category, including a CUNY-best .767 slugging percentage and a .557 on-base percentage. Starting all 37 games for the Dolphins this season, she was walked 15 times, including six times intentionally during the CUNY Tournament. In the tourney, she batted .875 (7 for 8), reaching base on 13 of 14 trips to the plate.

Flynn posted a .959 fielding percentage on 172 chances, all at third base. Her 113 assists this season were a **CSI** single-season best.

One of **CSI's** most prolific players ever, Flynn's lifetime batting average of .415 ranks fifth all-time at **CSI**. She set school records for at-bats (458), hits (190), RBI (130), home runs (17), and assists (325).

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## College of Staten Island swimmer Romanov wins school's Scholar-Athlete of the Year award

Saturday, May 19, 2012, 2:11 AM



By Jim Waggoner



CSI photo courtesy of Ednita Lorenzo

On hand at the CSI awards banquet Friday night were, from left, assistant athletic director for student-athlete services Katie Arcuri, male athlete of the year Jordan Young (basketball), female athlete of the Year Danielle Ponsiglione (softball) and athletic director Vernon Mummert.

Vladislav Romanov saved his best swimming performance for the final event, and the Russian-born swimmer showed similar flair Friday night in pulling down the curtain on his career at the College of Staten Island.

Romanov walked away with the Scholar-Athlete of the Year award during the school's annual athletics awards banquet at the Sports and Recreation Center in Willowbrook.

It was a fitting conclusion to Romanov's four-year stay at CSI.

Earlier in the week, he captured the CUNY Conference's prestigious Scholar-Athlete of the Year award at a Queens College function — becoming the first CSI student to win the honor since 1999. The three-time CUNY Most Valuable Performer placed second in the 200-yard backstroke at this season's NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championship.

That capped an All-American career that included shattering CSI and CUNY backstroke records each year.

"I always thought I could use my brain to get what I want," the Moscow native and business finance major with a 3.67 grade-point average said earlier this month. "So I took my dreams and set goals and I do what I have to do to achieve them."

Jordan Young, who helped lead CSI's men's basketball team to the NCAA Tournament's Sweet 16 and finished as the program's No. 2 all-time leading scorer, was named Male Athlete of the Year.



Danielle Ponsiglione, who postponed shoulder surgery on her right shoulder to win a third CUNY Conference softball Pitcher of the Year award, was named Female Athlete of the Year.

Lauren Neglia, a senior on the women's soccer team, took home Female Student-Athlete of the Year honors.

## **CSI AWARDS DINNER**

Female Athlete of the Year: Danielle Ponsiglione

Male Athlete of the Year: Jordan Young

Scholar-Athlete of the Year: Vladislav Romanov

Male Student-Athlete of the Year: Romanov

Female Student-Athlete of the Year: Lauren Neglia

Bill Cali/John Scrivani Sportsmanship Award: Kaitlyn Flynn

Distinguished Service Award: Jeff Shelley, Dave Shwalbe, Nick Legakis, Joe Nugent, Tim Gannon

SAAC Inspiration Award: Michael Baybusky

SAAC G.L.O.V.E. Award: Women's basketball team

Team GPA Award: Men's swimming, 3.18

Melvin Baumel Memorial Basketball Award: Chris Maccarone

Men's Soccer

MVP: Alfonso Castaneda

Rookie: Michele Kissi

Coaches Award: Ahmed El-Ghareib

Men's Basketball

No awards: All seniors receive plaques

Men's Swimming

MVP: Vladislav Romanov

Rookie: Timur Rakhimov

Coaches Award: Mitchell Lovell

Women's Swimming

MVP: Vasiliki Stergioula

Rookie: Stephanie Collyer

Coaches Award: Priscila Alvarez

Baseball

Pitcher: Richard Anderson

Co-MVP: Henry Roman, Sal Todaro

Co-Rookie: Luis Ortiz, Will Difiede

Women's Basketball

Rookie: Dominique Fabozzi

Co-Coaches Award: Victoria Donegan, Olivia Tierno

Cheerleading

MVP: Naomi Grey

Rookie: Giana Abbruzzese

Coaches Award: Ashley Isaacs

Women's Volleyball

MVP: Ma Sacorro Calleja

Rookie: JeanMarie Lewandoski

Coaches Award: Vasiliki Stergioula

Softball

MVP: Kaitlyn Flynn

Defensive Player of the Year: Danielle Ponsiglione

Rookie: Brittany Smith

Women's Cross Country

MVP: Amina Huseinbegovic

Rookie: Joanna Villegas

Coaches Award: Goodnews Nkama

Men's Cross Country

MVP: Andrew Pate

Rookie: Matthew Pfaff

Coaches Award: Shawn Cybulska

Track & Field

MVP (Men): Michael Wallace

MVP (Women): Rebecca Jo Liu

Coaches Award (Men): Christopher Galea, Matthew Pfaff, Christopher Gonzalez, Andrew Pate

Coaches Award (Women): Mallory Baio

Women's Soccer

Co-MVP: Demi-Jean Martorano

Co-MVP: Amanda Percaccio

Co-Rookie: Samantha Wysokowski, Melissa GelardiCoaches: Lauren Neglia

Women's Tennis

MVP: Ilona Stoyko

Rookie: Sophia Varriano

Coaches Award: Jacqueline Jamaledine

Men's Tennis

Co-Coaches Award: Nick Zikos, Riad Hamai, Daniel Ursomanno

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# ***Stories***

## **CSI wins the CUNY Productivity Award**

The Center for Student Accessibility at the College of Staten Island was the recipient of the first-ever CUNY Productivity Award for its Communication Real-Time Translation Service program at the 2011 CUNY Financial Management Conference.

The award honors members within the CUNY family for their commitment to providing exceptional contribution to the University in an economical manner. The individual recipients of the award were Christopher Cruz Cullari, director of the Center for Student Accessibility; Maryellen Smolka, CART coordinator and trainer; and Nicole Dory, technology assistant and CART trainer.

The program is the result of a collaboration between the Center for Student Accessibility and the Office of Technology Systems.

The CART program, which is housed in the Center for Student Accessibility's Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students, offers verbatim, real-time transcripts of classroom lectures and discussions for students who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

Trained CART providers either accompany the student to class or remotely access the class via Web conferencing software and the use of an omni-directional microphone that a student attaches to a laptop. The CART provider transcribes all of the words spoken in the classroom using speech-to-text software to the student's laptop screen.

## CUNY Students' CubeSat to be Launched into Space

May 1, 2012 at 11:59 am



1U cubesat structure without outer skin (Photo credit: Wikipedia)

For three years, students and professors at **CUNY's Medger Evers College, Cornell University, Queensborough College, The College of Staten Island, Cooper Union, Brooklyn College, and the New Jersey Institute of Technology** have worked on the 4x4 inch CubeSat, which **NASA** will launch into space (as part of a communications satellite) on a day that has yet to be determined.

According to the *New York Daily News*, over 60 students contributed to programming the mechanical, electrical, communication, data handling, and command systems for the cube. Additionally, it had to be designed to withstand a powerful rocket launch as well as the volatile temperatures of space.

CubeSat will be manned by Medger students upon launch. According to Project Director, **Shermane Austin**, the cube will spend about 120 days in space.

## Historic pages from the archives of the Staten Island Advance: March 7, 1971

Wednesday, May 02, 2012, 12:55 PM



By **Staten Island Advance**

**MARCH 7, 1971**

A story and photos highlighted the work of 564 volunteers from SERVE (Serve and Enrich Retirement through Volunteer Experience) at Willowbrook State School. Nine months later, Staten Island Advance reporter Jane Kurtin would expose squalid conditions and severe overcrowding at the facility for the handicapped. In 1972, WABC-TV reporter Geraldo Rivera called attention to the same neglect in a documentary titled, "Willowbrook: The Last Great Disgrace." Public outcry and a government inquiry led to Willowbrook's closure in 1987. Today the College of Staten Island occupies much of the site.

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## Students gather at **College of Staten Island** for empowerment conference that includes address by Schools Chancellor

Friday, May 04, 2012, 8:48 AM



**Staten Island Advance**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Students from Brooklyn, Manhattan and Staten Island high schools, intermediate and elementary schools are gathering for a student empowerment conference being held today at the **College of Staten Island**.

Some 600 students are expected at the "One Network, One Voice," event which includes seminars on bullying, peer mediation, domestic violence and healthy eating.

"It's a day of leadership and learning for these students. It gives them an opportunity to share their knowledge and skills regarding conflict resolution, social action and anti-bullying," said Jodi Siegel, A Children First Network leader.



Staten Island Advance File Photo

Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott will address students attending the "One Network, One Voice" conference at the **College of Staten Island**.

Twenty-five schools in all will participate, including five Staten Island schools: Susan Wagner, Tottenville and McKee high schools, Markham Intermediate, Graniteville, and PS 54, Willowbrook.

Students have begun arriving and the chancellor is expected at 9:30 a.m.

"This conference lets students know that you can do something positive in your school. You don't have to just sit on the sidelines," said Stephanie Augustin, a senior at Edward R. Murrow High School in Brooklyn.

Debora Kim, a senior at Susan Wagner High School, was equally positive about the influence of the conference.

"It has been an invigorating experience to help organize this event, step by step. We are here to help students learn that they can change their school and that their voices matter," she said.

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

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## Schools Chancellor Walcott leads the way at Staten Island conference

Saturday, May 05, 2012, 9:08 AM



**Judy L. Randall**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Extolling the virtues of thinking outside your "comfort zone," and seeking personal challenges that point to the leadership track, city Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott yesterday headlined a multi-faceted student empowerment conference designed to help young people navigate adolescence and beyond.

"Leadership is sometimes a very lonely job," Walcott told 600 high school and intermediate school students from Staten Island, Brooklyn and Manhattan during a 10-minute talk at the third annual "One Network: One Voice" conference here. "Sometimes, you have to make unpopular decisions ... Being a leader requires you to be out in front of the crowd."

Describing himself as a "loner" growing up, an only child who "never joined a group," Walcott told the students from 25 schools during a keynote address at the College of Staten Island, Willowbrook, that he never would have participated in such an event as a teen.

It was only in college, Walcott revealed, that he thought, "I am going to try something out of my comfort zone," and volunteered to be the master of ceremonies at an event. "I was so nervous, but I prepared and it was the best thing I ever did in my life."

The example was a vivid one, for Walcott told it as he strode around an auditorium in the college's Center for the Arts, holding a hand-held microphone.



[View full size](#)

Staten Island Advance photo

Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott urged students at the "One Network, One Voice" conference to break out of their comfort zones.

Susan Wagner, Tottenville and McKee high schools participated in the five-hour conference, along with Markham Intermediate. Susan Wagner hosted a workshop on breaking the ice and making friends; Tottenville's workshop focused on diversity and tolerance and McKee's was on peer mediation and violence prevention.

Debora Kim, a Susan Wagner senior, called it an "invigorating experience," adding, "We are here to help students learn that they can change their school and that their voices matter."

"Our ice-breaker (seminar) is about not being awkward, not being shy, good speaking skills and presenting yourself with confidence," explained Wagner junior Sophia Weinstock.

"As student leaders," said McKee junior Guadalupe Cortez, "we are supposed to be teaching each other different things. Coming together like this, we are able to get ideas from each other."

"This exposes us to others and makes us stronger by giving us knowledge and new ideas," added McKee junior Ryan Wong.

"It's really important for us to see how others deal with problems through communication," noted Tottenville sophomore Joseph Molinari.

For Kenneth Alphonso, a McKee junior, and Joseph Cali, a sophomore at Edward R. Murrow High School, Brooklyn, the day was all about "networking" and meeting new people.

"This conference lets students know that you can do something positive in your school," added Stephanie Augustin, a Murrow High School senior. "You don't have to just sit on the sidelines."

Affirmed conference coordinator Jodi Siegel: "It's a day of leadership and learning for these students. It gives them an opportunity to share their knowledge and skills regarding conflict resolution, social action and anti-bullying. Students are learning from one another, gaining insight and perspective."

Said Tottenville High School principal John Tuminaro, whose students performed skits on rumors and sexual orientation: "This helps students understand about peer mediation, coming forward when they have a problem and knowing that they have the right to go to school free from harassment."

Other workshops were on healthy eating, appropriate dress, decision-making, and teen pregnancy.

The Susan Wagner Junior ROTC presented the colors, McKee designed the graphics for the event's brochure and the P.S. 54 Chorus was on hand to perform.



## NYPD searching for Staten Island burglary suspect

Monday, May 07, 2012, 2:00 AM



**John M. Annese**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Police this morning were on the lookout for a bandit who broke into a home on the border of Todt Hill-Emerson Hill late last night.

Police responded en masse to the burglary-plagued neighborhoods, after receiving word of a break-in.

The search continued throughout the morning, with police armed with infrared scanners searching wooded areas near the Petrides School, by service roads to the Staten Island Expressway and near the College of Staten Island.



Staten Island Advance/Bill Lyons

Police confer at the corner of Milford Avenue and Ocean Terrace as they canvas the area for a burglar who remains at large early Monday.  
Bill Lyons

According to an NYPD spokesman, a woman living on Coverly Avenue called 911, stating that she left home at about 7 p.m., and when she returned at 11:25 p.m., she discovered the house had been broken into. It wasn't clear what, if anything, was taken.

Early this morning, a police helicopter scanned the rooftops, yards and sheds in a 15-house radius of the break-in, and were investigating reports that a 6-foot man in a stocky build, dressed in black, had emerged from a yard on Douglas Road shortly after 12:15 a.m.

Todt Hill, Emerson Hill and Grymes Hill have been plagued by professional burglaries over the past five years, starting with the so-called "Ninja Burglar" spree of 2007-08 -- a 19-burglary pattern that caught the attention of national media after one victim claimed he had struggled with a man dressed like a ninja in his Dongan Hills home.

This past February, a string of break-ins in the Lighthouse Hill area set residents of that neighborhood on edge.

The NYPD's borough commander here, Asst. Chief Kevin Ward, has sought the creation of an anti-burglary task force on the Island since taking the post at the beginning of the year.

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## College of Staten Island exhibit proves borough is multi-faceted - and beautiful

Wednesday, May 09, 2012, 6:56 AM



By Mark D. Stein/Staten Island Advance



Photo Courtesy of CSI

JARRED SUTTON: Submitted his photo of Sharrots Pond in Charleston.

WILLOWBROOK -- At first glance, the Alice Austen House Museum in Rosebank and an abandoned, run down Port Richmond commercial building may not have much in common.

But for the College of Staten Island (CSI) Archives and Special Collection department, both locations are two of many pieces of the borough to be documented in the Willowbrook-based college's archives.

The two sites were photographed by different students as part of the school's first picture exhibit, "As I See It," held to highlight the many different faces of Staten Island, according to students' perception.

"Staten Island is changing so rapidly and it's difficult for us to build a collection of images that reflect what the Island is like now," said James Kaser, CSI archivist and professor.

Kaser said it's important for students to think about that, and to get out and take photographs. Students were instructed to find something significant about the borough they call home.

"By getting our students to think about that, and to get out and take photographs .x.x. it helps us build a collection of images, that, in the long run, 100 years from now, as Staten Island has changed over time, researchers will find it very useful," added Kaser. "By that time, Staten Island will be dramatically different."

The department received more than 80 pictures, and 45 will be used for an exhibit to be housed in the Volpe Rotunda on the first floor of the CSI library (building 1L).

A preview seen by the Advance reveals the show's variety, and hence Staten Island's. One picture focuses on a close-up shot of the John A. Noble Staten Island Ferry, in Livingston, and specifically highlights the bright orange paint along the boat. Another photo exhibits the beauty of Sharrotts Pond, within Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve in Charleston. One of the students, Courtney Kennemur, captured man-made Moses Mountain in High Rock Park, Sea View.

"It's often the case we'll live our lives in an environment and not really look at it closely or think about it," explained Kaser. "That's why it becomes a student project and a learning opportunity for our students. It's also interesting to see, obviously, the photographs are focusing our attention on a particular part of Staten Island."

Kaser credited the photographers for providing a unique view — be it with lighting, a different angle, or use of color — of something that may otherwise be considered unattractive, such as the abandoned building on Port Richmond Avenue, which was photographed by CSI student Emily Peters.

"Suddenly, that abandoned building is transformed in some way, simply because someone looked at it very closely," he said.

Only 17 participated in the first-year project, but Kaser was pleased with the turnout.

"My hope is that students will see the exhibit this year and get interested in it, and when we do it again next year, we'll have more students," he said.

The "As I See It" exhibit is expected to be up by next Thursday. It will be open to the public until Aug. 17.

If you'd like to take a look and you do not attend CSI, you can secure a visitor pass at the library.

When the physical collection of pictures are put away, the school will make them available on its website, [www.library.csi.cuny.edu/archives](http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/archives). The website also contains additional photo collections and information about the archives and its works.

People who do not attend CSI, but are interested in assisting the archives department, can do so by donating photographs or postcards.

For more information, call 718-982-4128 or email [archives@csi.cuny.edu](mailto:archives@csi.cuny.edu).

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





## Diverse Wildlife Developing at Fresh Kills Landfill

By: Amanda Farinacci

05/10/2012 03:32 PM



The [College of Staten Island](#) is conducting studies on what types of wildlife are living at the site, and Staten Islanders may be surprised to find out that the ecosystem's diversity is increasing. NY1's Amanda Farinacci filed this report.

For years, the only animals that could be found at the Fresh Kills landfill were sea gulls. Now, officials say there is a diverse population at the landfill, which is viewed as a miracle by some.

"This college did a Christmas bird count of the gulls every year and there were large numbers of gulls. I'm happy to say that they are no longer there because they don't have the food to eat," said [College of Staten Island](#) environmental science professor Alfred Levine.

"We have at least 25 deer on site, at least two red foxes. I say 'at least' because we have people counting them but who knows how many are already here, all different kinds of bird species, hundreds of bird species," said Eloise Hirsh, the Fresh Kills park administrator.

Levine has studied Fresh Kills for years. His department is running several studies on the Fresh Kills site. The studies range from the landfill's impact on resident health to its ecosystem and water quality.

This summer, graduate students at the [College of Staten Island](#) will begin another study at Fresh Kills that focuses on turtles.

"Most natural creatures are subject to toxic pollutants at sub-lethal levels. what happens is, it doesn't kill them, but it prevents them from breeding properly. It affects their behavior, it affects their ability to breed. Therefore, when we see an increase in population, that means that the sub-lethal effects are diminishing," Levine said.

That will be good news for the landfill, though it will not tell the entire story about its ecological health.

It will take years of study before the full impacts of the dump are known, even as more animals call it home.

## Cormac Gordon: Snug Harbor and Staten Island Sports Hall of Fame a nice match

Sunday, May 13, 2012, 8:14 AM



**Cormac Gordon**  
By



Staten Island Advance file photo

Committee member Charlie Greinsky and baseball legend Bobby Thomson toured the Staten Island Sports Hall of Fame's Mount Loretto location in 2006. The Hall's continued growth has led its committee to start searching for new home.

The Staten Island Sports Hall of Fame is looking for a home.

The nomadic borough sports gem now resides in the Catholic Youth Organization's building on the Mount Loretto campus, but is running out of space at the Pleasant Plains facility.

That problem is nothing new, of course.

The same issue arose in an earlier time at College of Staten Island.

(The Hall didn't even have the opportunity to feel a squeeze at the new \$70 million Parks Department indoor track building

going up in Ocean Breeze; its proposed area at that site was erased pre-construction due to fiscal constraints.)

"We're victims of our own success," is the way current Hall of Fame chair Lou Bergonzi describes the situation. "We continue growing and collecting, and that's all good news. And Mount Loretto has been wonderful to us. But we need more space for our exhibits."

The Hall has come a long way since its incubation period began more than a half-century ago with old photos, yellowed box scores and ragged uniforms being stacked into a dusty old storage bin by legendary New Dorp High School football coach Sal Somma.

Its inaugural class was inducted in 1995 with the likes of Somma and baseball legend Bobby Thomson, and there are now 109 individuals and four teams enshrined.

The list meanders across more than a century of Island sports history, beginning with names like Mary Outerbridge, who helped bring tennis to America, and Matty McIntyre, outfield mate and personal nemesis to Ty Cobb, on to recent inductees like NFL all-pro Adewale Ogunleye.

There are a wide array of sports represented, from all the obvious to luge, racquetball and speed skating.

The democratic Hall has also always found space for local do-gooders like Fred Mucche, who was famous for running a Castleton Avenue sporting goods store and operating baseball leagues for kids.

That's in keeping with the stated mission of the organization, which is, "to recognize those individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to Staten Island sports history."

What Island fan can't get behind an organization that has room for everyone from golf's Jim Albus and Olympian Bill Jankunis to old-time baseball scouts Chick and George Genovese and West Brighton pharmacist Lou Marli, who did so much for local running?

Maybe because of its broad reach, from the very top rung of the American sports ladder to the street corners of Staten Island, the Hall of Fame has carved out a special space in the minds and hearts of the borough.

You don't have to take my word for that.

Just walk into any saloon or high school gym hereabouts, stop by any baseball field from Little League to the Ballpark at St. George, and ask this simple question: "Who should be in the Staten Island Sports Hall of Fame?"

But be prepared to spend some time.

Everyone has an opinion.

In fact, most people have more than one and they are ready to share.

Or if you are geared up for some really interesting debates, you might want to join a long list of Hall of Fame inductees at the organization's June 28 Golf Classic and Reunion at LaTourette, with dinner back at LiGreci's Staaten.

Albus and Bill Britton, two Hall inductees and legendary good guys, will return home to kick off the golf with a pre-round exhibition and instruction period. People like New York Rangers defenseman Nick Fotiu and New York Yankees catcher Frank Fernandez and high school All-America basketball star John Engles, past honorees all, will be paired with attendees on the golf course.

For an Island sports fan the turnout will be terrific.

And the day will give all those Hall of Fame inductees, along with local movers and shakers, the opportunity to discuss possibilities for a new home.

Like the, "Who deserves to be in?" argument, the "Where should The Hall be housed?" question also gets a pretty good airing around our town.

Talk of room at the Ballpark at St. George years ago proved a mirage, and rumors of an area at Fort Wadsworth have, as yet, not materialized.

This is just one man's opinion, but the grounds of Snug Harbor Cultural Center, maybe this Island's greatest community asset, seem like a perfect fit for the Hall.

I know it's not such a highbrow thing, sports. But it is a huge part of people's everyday lives, meaning as much to many of us as music and theatre and art.

And who says the grace of Olympic gymnast Dominick Minicucci, the skill and power of two-time national champion basketball star Nicky Anosike, or the understated perfection of Thomson's swing aren't all art in the broadest sense of the word?

I can certainly envision a space in one of the landmark Greek revival buildings fronting the Kill Van Kull as an appropriate site for the artifacts and memorabilia and photographs that carry the narrative of games in our town — one that would draw crowds and even increase interest.

Snug Harbor may be the one place in the borough, in fact, with the combination of available space and natural beauty, to do justice to the Sports Hall of Fame.

\*\*\*\*\*

*The June 28th Golf Classic and Reunion at Latourette Golf Course and LiGreci's Staaten carries a cost of \$175 for golf and dinner and \$75 for dinner without golf. Contact John Woodman (718-816-7249), Lorraine Lettieri (917-334-2485), [www.letgorun@yahoo.com](mailto:www.letgorun@yahoo.com) or [www.sisportshalloffame@yahoo.org](mailto:www.sisportshalloffame@yahoo.org) for more information. Â*

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## 2 Staten Islanders hailed as Women of Distinction

Wednesday, May 16, 2012, 5:30 AM



**Jillian Jorgensen/Staten Island Advance**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Two Staten Island women devoted to molding the lives of young people were honored as Women of Distinction in Albany yesterday.

Senators Andrew Lanza and Diane Savino together honored New Dorp High School principal Deirdre A. DeAngelis-D'Alessio and creator of Young Talented and Gifted Serena Brothers-Mohamed as part of the Senate's "Woman of Distinction" program.

The program was created to honor those whose professional achievements or acts of courage, selflessness, integrity or perseverance serve as an example to all New Yorkers.

Their photographs and biographies will be on display in a special public exhibit at the Legislative Office Building.

"There are remarkable women whose lives, work or special accomplishments contribute to making our communities better and making our families stronger," Lanza said in a statement. "The Senate's 'Woman of Distinction' program provides a special opportunity to honor these women for their achievements and to thank them for the special pride they bring to our communities."

"I am proud to honor Deirdre A. DeAngelis-D'Alessio as a Woman of Distinction and prouder still of the recognition she has earned from her neighbors, colleagues and friends for her achievements on behalf of our community," Lanza continued.

Sen. Savino said it was an honor to recognize the work of her friend Ms. Brothers-Mohamed. "Serena deserves this honor for countless reasons; it could be because she is a teacher, a mentor, or her commitment to sending kids to college but most of all it is because of her selflessness," she said. "Through her organization Young Talented and Gifted she has opened new doors for young people with an emphasis on education and culture while asking for nothing in return but the continued success of the children involved."

Mrs. DeAngelis-D'Alessio arrived at New Dorp High School in March 1999, when the register was approximately 1,600 students with a daily attendance of 81.6 percent. This January, that was up to 2,600

students with daily attendance near 90 percent. In the 2011-2012 school year, New Dorp earned an A on the city School Progress Report.

A leader in high school reform, Mrs. DeAngelis-D'Alessio oversaw the creation of "smaller learning communities" at New Dorp, which has increased the school's connection to the community. Each program is career-themed and members of the community help enhance student experiences, plan education activities, financially support special programs, and take part in career days and sponsoring internships.

Born in the Bronx, Mrs. Brother-Mohamed has lived on Staten Island since 1991. She currently teaches Wellness at the John W. Lavelle Preparatory Charter School. Previously, she served the community as case manager for the women's homeless shelter and the Seamen Society, and as an American Sign Language teacher at Markham Intermediate School.

She founded Young Talented and Gifted in 2001, which works to grow youth through encouraging, educating, empowering and building self-esteem through the arts. The program offers mentoring, education support, college planning, help finding scholarships, college tour trips, and more. In 2007, she launched the Martin Luther King Step Up Speak Out Day of Service Family Summit, held annually at the [College of Staten Island](#).

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## Lights shine at College Staten Island softball complex

Wednesday, May 16, 2012, 10:23 AM



**Maureen Donnelly**  
By



Photo Courtesy of Ken Bach

Councilman James S. Oddo, kneeling center, poses with the **CSI** softball team and several school and CUNYAC officials.

WILLOWBROOK -- Mother Nature played havoc with the conclusion of the City University of New York Athletic Conference (CUNYAC)/Applebee's softball championship tournament at the **College of Staten Island** two weekends ago.

But not **CSI's** loss in the title game (5-3 to Baruch), nor the weather, dampened the mood of the **CSI** administration or the Dolphin players and coaching staff about the weekend festivities.

That's because, in a rousing ceremony on Friday, **CSI** "officially" celebrated the

installation of the lights that now surround the Willowbrook complex.

Councilman Jim Oddo (R-Mid-Island/Brooklyn) tossed out the ceremonial first pitch alongside **CSI** president, Dr. Tomas Morales.

Oddo was introduced to the crowd after welcoming words from Vice-President for Student Affairs Dr. Ramona Brown and Morales.

Morales cited Oddo as the motivating force behind the construction, which was completed just days before the CUNYAC tournament, which was played under the lights for the first time since the inception of the tournament in 1982.

"Councilman Oddo is a longtime friend of the college and a major proponent of Staten Island," said Morales. "We are fortunate to be the beneficiary of his advocacy and thank him for his pivotal role in bringing lighting to the **CSI** softball complex. This state-of-the-art system will provide extended field times for our award-



winning Dolphins and offer greater options to our many community groups that enjoy the diverse resources of CSI."

After accepting the game ball from athletic director Vernon Mummert, Oddo tossed a perfect strike to Morales, ushering in the championship round of the tournament.

Oddo was presented an official game ball signed by CSI officials and the softball team.

Dr. Stella Porto, CSI's winningest softball coach, remembers the contribution Oddo's office made to the project in 2007.

"Having the lights, gives us the opportunity to play games into the evening, which limits missed class time, something important for a large team that takes its studies seriously," said Porto, who has been at the helm for 10 years. "It is also a chance for us to welcome our community for camps and clinics which we can run under the lights."

"Having the lights dedicated to our field changes the game and legitimizes our standing as a dynamic NCAA Division III facility," said Mummert. "Our softball program has the tools to flourish ... It's a win-win for everyone, and it would not have happened without Councilman Oddo's support."

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## Staten Island workshops for teens, by teens

Wednesday, May 23, 2012, 11:30 AM



Mark D. Stein/Staten Island Advance  
By



Staten Island Advance/Mark Stein

More than 600 students from schools in Staten Island, Brooklyn and Manhattan attend the Children's First Network (CFN) at the Center of the Arts building on the College of Staten Island campus.

WILLOWBROOK -- For one morning and afternoon, the students ran the show.

The Children's First Network (CFN 405) hosted its Student Empowerment Conference on May 4 at the Willowbrook campus of the College of Staten Island. The event drew more than two dozen schools and hundreds of students, ages 12 to 18, with the intention of letting them share insight through workshops and seminars.

The Center of the Arts building at CSI was transformed into a networking paradise for the third annual "One Network: One Voice" conference.

More than 600 New York City students from 25 schools attended. PS 54 in Willowbrook, Markham Intermediate School in Graniteville, Tottenville High School, Susan E. Wagner High School in Sea View and McKee High School in St. George represented Staten Island. Eight schools from Manhattan and 12 from Brooklyn were also present.

"These are really the best and brightest from our schools, and those that attend were chosen because they're leaders, or have potential to be leaders," conference coordinator Jodi Siegel said of the seventh-through 12th-grade students that participated.

The students ran numerous workshops, such as "You Are What You Eat," by the Food and Finance High School from Manhattan, which enabled students to learn about what's really in the food they eat and understand the myths surrounding fat-free and sugar-free foods.

Additional workshops, titled "Peace Out," about anti-bullying, and "Pick Up Your Pants," a seminar about job interviews and how to dress and act, were also on the agenda. Every participating school hosted a

workshop, with Susan Wagner's being "Break The Ice & Melt It Down," which was about uniting members of a group.

Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott spoke and said leadership is sometimes a very lonely job.

"Sometimes, you have to make unpopular decisions .x.x. Being a leader requires you to be out in front of the crowd," he said.

Mark Stricklin, assistant principal of Fiorello H. LaGuardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts, said the conference offered an amazing experience for the students that attend.

"It was a tremendous opportunity for our kids to present and develop some leadership skills," he said.

LaGuardia focused on Relay for Life, and the students' workshop was geared to encourage other students to want their schools to host a Relay for Life fundraiser to benefit the American Cancer Society.

Susan Wagner High School student Racha Harizi of New Springville said that in her first visit to the conference, she was thrilled.

"It's been a really good day," she said, noting that the workshops provided an abundance of information. "This can help with our futures."

"As student leaders," said McKee junior Guadalupe Cortez, "we are supposed to be teaching each other different things. Coming together like this, we are able to get ideas from each other."

The Susan Wagner Junior ROTC presented the colors, McKee designed the graphics for the event's brochure and the PS 54 Chorus performed.

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## Bedbug issue in College of Staten Island library put to rest

Wednesday, May 23, 2012, 1:52 PM



**Frank Donnelly/Staten Island Advance**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- A bedbug in the library at the College of Staten Island prompted a flurry of worry during exam week, but officials said the problem has been squashed.

Kenneth Bach, the school's spokesman, said there was a report last week of a single bedbug on the first floor of the library.

About a half-dozen anxious parents and students called the Advance, concerned about a possible influx of the pests. Some students were leery of studying in the library for their tests.

Bach said the school community was advised Friday of the "suspected" bedbug, and a licensed exterminator was summoned to the Willowbrook campus.

No other bedbugs were found, said Bach.

The entire first floor of the library was treated by the exterminator, he said.

A follow-up check of monitoring stations, placed by the exterminator throughout the library, found no evidence of additional bedbugs, dead or alive, said Bach.

In a statement, the school said the health and safety of the campus is "of paramount concern," and monitoring will continue.



Staten Island Advance/Irving Silverstein

Students walk toward the library at the College of Staten Island in this January 2010 photo.

## College of Staten Island business students present findings

Thursday, May 24, 2012, 10:00 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- A group of business students from the **College of Staten Island** recently presented the results of a project conducted on behalf of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce.

The **CSI** Synergy Marketing Research team was assigned to provide insight into public perception of the Chamber, as well as other popular consumer-based organizations and websites.

Professor Thomas Tellefsen, chairman of the Business Department at the **College of Staten Island**, outlined steps that could be implemented by the Chamber to take advantage of information contained in the study.

The possibilities include asking opinion leaders to evaluate their experiences with local businesses; offering more Web-based consumer information, and providing an expanded consumer complaint resolution mechanism.

"Our community client-sponsors always come away with useful, and often surprising, quantitative information," said Bill Dubovsky, **CSI** adjunct lecturer in business,

Synergy Marketing Research members Lisa Conlon, Kevin Ng, Stephanie Rizzo, and Victoria Sakkal presented the findings to Chamber President Linda Baran and other members of the business organization.



From left, Bill Dubovsky, adjunct lecturer, Business Department, **College of Staten Island**; Lisa Conlon, Synergy student researcher; Sallyann Bartels, membership director, Staten Island Chamber of Commerce; Ryan Gleason, communications coordinator, SI Chamber; Victoria Sakkal, Synergy student researcher; Tony Mulholland, classified manager, Staten Island Advance, and marketing committee; Stephanie Rizzo, Synergy student researcher; Kevin Ng, Synergy student researcher, and Thomas Tellefsen, chairperson, business department, **College of Staten Island**, gather at a recent results presentation of a project conducted on behalf of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce.



## CSI's Plan For Special LGBTQ Graduation Sparks Controversy

05/24/2012 10:24 PM

By: Amanda Farinacci



A graduation ceremony just for members of the [College of Staten Island's](#) LGBTQ community is not seen as a good idea by some LGBT students at the school. NY1's Amanda Farinacci filed the following report.

The [College of Staten Island](#) campus is relatively quiet. Classes are done, finals are wrapping up and graduation is just around the corner.

But an email blast sent to the entire student body offering a special graduation ceremony just for members of the school's LGBTQ community has some students fired up.

"I thought the only possible reason for having a separate ceremonies would be to keep the families separate, to say that straight families don't have to be near gay families and see that sort of interaction in front of them," said graduate student Heather-Lynn Scheffner. "I really found it very incendiary, just trying to hide this community."

The email from [CSI](#) says it's trying to do just the opposite.

The invitation to the May 31 ceremony, held two days after regular commencement exercises, reads, in part, "This event...provides an opportunity for our community to come together and honor those among us who have worked to make **CSI** a better place for LGBTQ people."

**CSI** says the so-called Lavender graduation is in addition to the May 29 event, not instead of it. They added that the idea came from the campus LGBTQ club. Graduates who participate will get a rainbow tassel and wear purple gowns.

One gay student who didn't want to be identified said the intentions were good but doesn't support the ceremony.

"After five decades of fighting for equality and trying to pass the message that we deserve to be treated the same, to have a separate ceremony is defeatist," the student said.

Lavender graduations have been around since the mid-1990s. Three students attended the first ceremony.

Today, a group that keeps track of them says dozens of them take place all over the country, including for the first time at **CSI**.

"It's something that they should do themselves, with their own money, their own resources," said student Jeremy Haire. "Maybe not so much campus property. That's something that the school the academic setting should not be dealing with."

Still, **CSI** says it is committed to diversity and respect of all its students and future events that celebrate them.



## On the merits

May 26, 2012

New York's young and their parents have long been told that graduating from high school with a Regents diploma signified readiness for college. For too few, was this true. For many others, this was a lie with terrible consequences.

By the tens of thousands, would-be collegians discovered that they were woefully unprepared for higher education.

Those furthest behind have often done remedial studies at City University of New York community colleges, while those on better tracks have had to compete for admission against peers with higher grade-point averages and SAT scores.

The disappointments of achieving less than they were capable of have hit hardest among poor and minority students, too many of whose schools have delivered a pretense of education.

The impacts are seen anew in a study of CUNY admissions by the Community Service Society.

Ever since ending open admissions in 1999, CUNY has gotten steadily more selective, particularly at its five top-tier schools — City, Hunter, Baruch, Queens and Brooklyn. There, from 2001 to 2011, the average SAT scores of incoming freshmen rose healthily from 1027 to 1136.

Over much of that period — from 2001 to 2008 — the student bodies expanded and the schools admitted larger numbers of white, black, Hispanic and Asian students, with Asians growing the most and blacks the least.

Starting in 2009, the profile changed. Perhaps because of the economic downturn, or perhaps because of CUNY's rising quality and affordable price (\$5,430 a year), Asians' applications surged.

So did Asians' enrollments, because Asian students tended to have the highest SAT scores. In 2011, they applied with an average mark of 1168, and 58% were admitted. Meanwhile, black freshmen had an average SAT of 1067, and 17% got in.

As one result, the number of black freshmen fell sharply after 2009, as did the numbers of whites and Hispanics. In 2001, black represented 31% of the student body; in 2011, they accounted for 25%.

The decline in the proportion of blacks is a powerful argument for radical public education reform, including raising standards and holding teachers accountable. It is not, as CSS would have it, grounds for overhauling CUNY's admissions criteria to engineering higher black admissions.

SAT scores and grade-point averages are objective standards that have well served the university and its student body. You make the cut at the top-tier schools or you don't, as thousands of applicants — white, black, Hispanic and Asian — have discovered.



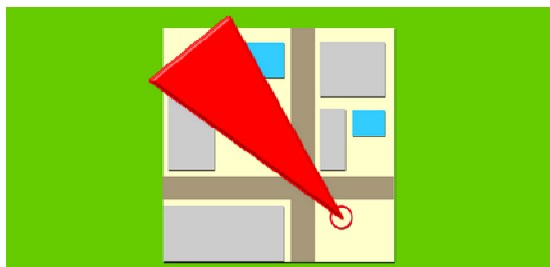
Many go on to attain fine educations at CUNY's next level of schools — Medgar Evers College, the New York City College of Technology, York College, the College of Staten Island, John Jay College of Criminal Justice and Lehman College. Some of these students go on to transfer into the more selective tier after proving themselves. Doing so was the most common route by which blacks won admission last year.

To introduce subjective measures, such as giving boosts to applicants who attended tough high schools, would undermine CUNY's rising status and, worse, stir racial and ethnic discord at institutions that are valuably and evenhandedly serving an extraordinarily diverse student body.



## Campus Maps

May 26, 2012



Track your location and direction on your campus' map.

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Choose from over 80 campuses, and save your five favorites. Check below to see if your campus is supported.

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Campus Maps includes a compass so you can see which direction you are heading. Plus, there is a virtual mode. This lets you explore a campus when you aren't even there.

Uses GPS (best) or wifi. Flash maps not supported.

Below is the list of campus maps we currently support.

Disclaimers: We have done our best to configure each campus map. However, we cannot guarantee accuracy or even guarantee map availability or changes. If you have a problem with a map, send us an email. We'll see what we can do. We are currently not adding any campuses.

Aalborg University - Fredrik Bajers Vej

Academy of Art University - San Francisco

Appalachian State University

Arizona State University - Tempe

Auburn University

Bethel College - North Newton, KS



Brigham Young University - Provo  
Brooklyn College  
Cal Poly - SLO  
Cal State Fullerton  
Cal State Los Angeles  
Chaffey College  
Clark Atlantic University  
**College of Staten Island**  
Colorado College  
Colorado School of Mines  
CSU Bakersfield  
CSU Chico  
CSU Northridge  
College of Charleston  
Colorado State University  
Columbia College  
Columbus State University  
Cornell University  
Creighton University  
Cuesta College  
Diablo Valley College - Pleasant Hill Campus  
Duke University  
Eastern Michigan University  
Florida State University  
Gallaudet University  
Georgetown University  
Georgia State University  
Georgia Tech  
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Kent State University  
London Subway  
Oklahoma State University  
Pasadena City College  
Princeton University

Queen's College  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Rutgers University  
San Diego State University  
Simon Fraser University - Burnaby  
Texas A&M  
Texas State University  
Troy University  
U.C. Berkeley  
U.C. Santa Barbara  
U. of Alabama  
U. of Central Florida  
U. of Colorado Denver  
U. of Florida  
U. of Georgia  
U. of Houston  
U. of Houston - Downtown  
U. of Illinois at Chicago - East  
U. of Illinois at Chicago - West  
U. of Michigan  
U. of Michigan - North Campus  
U. of Michigan - South Campus  
U. of New Mexico  
U. of Pennsylvania  
U. of Southern California  
U. of Southern Maine - Gorham  
U. of Southern Mississippi  
U. of Texas - Austin  
U. of Texas - Arlington  
U. of Texas - Tyler  
U. of Utah  
Utah Valley University  
Wayne State University  
West Virginia University  
Western Michigan University  
Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona  
Xavier University

## Senior year slams wallets of Staten Island moms and dads

By admin | Published: May 27, 2012



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.

"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.

### 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)
- \$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 it's 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
- \$90 – Make-up application
- \$15 – Lip gloss for purse
- \$35 – Clutch purse
- \$50 – Manicure/pedicure
- \$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

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 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.

#### **'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."

# ***Students & Alumni***

# ***Students***

## Survey showing more pot use by teens resonates on Staten Island

Wednesday, May 02, 2012, 8:45 AM



**Staten Island Advance**  
By

By KIAWANA RICH and JOHN ANNESE

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Shooting hoops by himself in the school yard of PS 1 in Tottenville, Jonathan Smalls, a lanky, fresh-faced African-American teenager responded to a reporter's query as to whether he smokes marijuana.

"No," said the precocious 14-year-old, who dreams of playing for Chicago's Bulls. "Why would I want to ruin my life?"

Unfortunately, lots of young people lack Smalls' mature outlook. Nationwide, more teens are smoking dope, with nearly one in 10 lighting up at least 20 or more times a month, according to a **just-released survey** by The Partnership at Drugfree.org.

Told of the statistics, Peter Guastamacchia, 16, of Prince's Bay, registered surprise. "Only 1 in 10?"

Guastamacchia said he doesn't smoke pot or use drugs, but said he sees plenty of kids around him doing so and suspects those in the survey of being daily users. He said the number "is not good."

Neither do the statistics come as a shock to those heading Staten Island's drug counseling programs.

"It's not surprising, not at all," said Luke Nasta, executive director at Camelot Counseling Services. He attributes the increase to a combination of factors: "I think it's apathy; I think it's fear that it can't be beaten -- let's normalize it because we can't beat it. ...



AP photo

A woman smokes marijuana during a demonstration in favor of legalizing marijuana outside the Senate in Mexico City, last month.

"Add to that, the economy of the country, and government is not willing to invest shrinking dollars into anything ... certainly not the amount that would be necessary to take on this out-of-control phenomenon that has been allowed to gain momentum over several decades."

Dr. Kenneth Popler, president and CEO of the Staten Island Mental Health Society, agreed. "It's not a surprising statistic. Staten Island has the highest percentage of teen marijuana use in the city, and one of the highest in the state."

Dr. Popler noted that marijuana is "readily available" here. "When you look at the kids who are smoking three times a day, we have a tremendous amount on Staten Island as well."

The report by The Partnership at Drugfree.org, being released today, also said abuse of prescription medicine may be easing a bit among young people in grades nine through 12, but still remains high.

The Island likely bucks that trend, having the highest rates of prescriptions per capita and the highest overdose rates, according to the city's special narcotics prosecutor. In addition, the city Department of Health found 11.2 percent of Island middle and high school students admitted abusing prescription drugs in 2008.

Partnership President Steve Pasierb says the mind-set among parents is that it's just a little weed or a few pills -- no biggie.

"Parents are talking about cocaine and heroin, things that scare them," said Pasierb. "Parents are not talking about prescription drugs and marijuana. They can't wink and nod. They need to be stressing the message that this behavior is unhealthy."

Use of harder drugs -- cocaine and methamphetamine -- has stabilized in recent years, the group's survey showed. But past-month usage of marijuana grew from 19 percent in 2008 to 27 percent last year. Also alarming, says Pasierb, is the percentage of teens smoking pot 20 or more times a month. That rate went from 5 percent in 2008 to 9 percent last year, or about 1.5 million teens toking up that frequently.

Nineteen-year-old Patrick of Silver Lake, who didn't want his last name used, said he has been smoking weed since age 14, and doesn't see a problem with young people lighting up so often.

"It's great for whenever you have time to kill," said Patrick, a student of business management at the College of Staten Island. "It relaxes you, it calms you down -- everything about it is great."

Nineteen-year-old Valerie of Pleasant Plains, who withheld her surname, described herself as a full-time student who has her life together and enjoys pot. "[It's] a phase everyone goes through" before they acquire commitments, she said.

Dr. Popler said that parents should worry about their offspring's marijuana use and called recent pushes to legalize the drug misguided.

"Regular marijuana use is a gateway to other drugs," he said. "Regular marijuana use impedes the kids' functioning. The amount of drug and alcohol use among Staten Island teens is frightening. And to make it easier? What are we doing?"

Patrick shrugged off the "gateway" connotation. "It's a gateway to the refrigerator," he said archly, referencing the "munchies" that often beset weed smokers.

--- Associated Press material was used in this report.

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## Using art and education to pay it forward

Thursday, May 3, 2012 12:00 am  
By CYRIL JOSH BARKER

Troy Weekes Jr. has his sights set on giving back to the community that gave to him. Weekes wants to educate people about art and culture and help youth.

The Harlem native and freshman at the College of Staten Island (CSI) was recently accepted into the Jeanette K. Watson Fellowship program, which will allow him to experience internships for the next three summers of his college career. Majoring in dramatic arts with a minor in music, Weekes, 25, has aspirations to not only be an entertainer but also be a high school principal. He is also a member of CUNY's Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge Program and maintains a 3.8 grade point average.

The oldest of seven and born in Harlem, Weekes' heritage includes African-American and Puerto Rican. He spent time growing up in both East and West Harlem, getting the best of both cultures. He also spent time in Virginia and Atlanta before retuning to New York and working on becoming an entertainer.

A singer and actor, Weekes wanted to break into show business before deciding to attend college. His journey through life has included becoming a runner-up at the Apollo Theater's Amateur Night in 2005 and taking minor television and film roles.

"I started singing when I was 5 years old," he said. "I've been writing songs since I was 14."

Weekes also graduated from cosmetology school and traveled heavily when he worked as a flight attendant before going to college. Regardless, his heart remained in enhancing the lives of others through the arts.

Throughout his life and various changes, he has always held tightly to his love of music. No matter where he has gone, he has always been a member of a choir or musical group. He's currently a member of the CSI Gospel Choir and was a finalist in CSI's "Got Talent" Competition.

"Art is a way of free expression, and it's an important aspect of life," he said. "There are so many different things art can release. Art is the reason why I am the way I am."

On the path to becoming an educator, Weekes said that he wants to help guide youth in the community by becoming an education administrator. After graduating from CSI, he wants to get a master's and doctoral degree in education.

Some of his past work includes working with teens at the Family and Friend Worship Center in Brownsville, Brooklyn.

"I feel like there is a great need for principals," said Weekes. "For me, I want to look at the bigger picture to turn things around and help our students to become better professionals. Why watch one classroom when I can make an impact on the entire school?"

Next month, Weekes will begin a summer internship at the Studio Museum of Harlem in the education department. There, he will work on programs for adults and children, educating them further about art.

"My ultimate goal is to give back to the community where I'm from," he said. "If I can motivate people to live happily and enjoy life, then I will be successful. I want to motivate as many people as possible."





## Project Hospitality turns 30

Monday, May 07, 2012, 9:02 AM



**Staten Island Advance Editorial**  
By

Three decades ago, Project Hospitality founded the first emergency shelter and soup kitchen program for homeless Staten Islanders.

It has been doing good every since.

The group now serves more than 26,000 Islanders, providing comprehensive services for men, women and children in need of food, shelter, or social support.

Over 1.4 million meals were provided to the hungry in the past year by the non-profit organization, whose executive director is the Rev. Terry Troia.

We congratulate and thank her and Project Hospitality on the occasion of its 30th annual commemorative luncheon. The event will be held on Thursday (May 10) at 11:30 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn in Bloomfield.

Our congratulations and thanks are also extended to those being honored at the Project Hospitality luncheon:

Kathleen Nolan of St. Joseph Hill Academy. She is being honored for connecting student volunteers with the mission of Project Hospitality and other Island charities. Ms. Nolan worked for over 40 years in education on Staten Island, teaching English, French, Latin, Humanities and Religious Studies.

She made the connection between faith and volunteering for a generation of Hill students.

Reverend Adolf A. Pagliarulo and The Church That Never Closes - The Reformed Church of Prince Bay. He worked to develop a shelter and feeding ministry on the Island's South Shore. On July 1, 2007, the Reformed Church of Prince Bay (still its official name) took on the identity of The Church That Never Closes. The front doors were opened so that the sanctuary could be available for prayer 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Beatrice Victor of the Jewish Community Center of Staten Island. She has spent a lifetime serving persons with disabilities and senior citizens, while defending universal human and civil rights. Ms. Victor founded the first community residence for developmentally disabled persons on Staten Island in the 1970s and became

that home's first executive director.

She has been the longtime organizer and chair of the Senior Olympics of Staten Island, now called the Beatrice Victor Senior Olympics. She continues her volunteer work with senior citizens even past her 90th birthday as a computer instructor for the JCC SeniorNet. Ms. Victor also writes the weekly column, "As We Are" for the Advance.

James Oddo, the minority leader of the City Council. The Mid-Island Republican has worked to alleviate hunger on Staten Island by supporting and funding Project Hospitality's Food and Nutrition Services program. Throughout his tenure, Mr. Oddo has allocated more than \$120 million for schools, parks, senior centers and other important projects for the benefit of his district.

Ronald Speight is currently a history major at the College of Staten Island. He joined the Eye Openers Youth Against Violence Organization, a Project Hospitality affiliate, in 2005 and went on to become its leader in 2008. He has worked to develop youth anti-violence and anti-bias leadership and to support social justice.

(For information about attending this year's luncheon or about sponsorship, contact Anita Yuen at Project Hospitality at 718-448-1544, ext. 163 or e-mail [anyuen@projecthospitality.org](mailto:anyuen@projecthospitality.org). Reservations are \$65.)

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## Citywide Council on High Schools hears about Tottenville program

Wednesday, May 09, 2012, 10:33 PM



**Jillian Jorgensen/Staten Island Advance**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- On a rare visit to Staten Island, the Citywide Council on High Schools got a glimpse at one of the borough's hidden gems for students with disabilities.

Staff and students from Tottenville High School gave a presentation on how they help special needs students develop the social life and other skills they need to transition on to college, careers and life beyond high school at the meeting this evening, held at Curtis High School.

Among its programs, Tottenville has a breakfast club that helps students socialize, an alternative lunchroom for those who struggle in the larger crowd, special trips and a class on transitioning out of school.



Staten Island Advance/Hilton Flores

A dance program helps special needs students improve their gait, said Andrea Lella, a Staten Island member of the citywide council. It also allows students to interact with general education peers, including some cheerleaders who joined the dance program, as does a mentoring program at the school.

Asked to sum up his experience in the breakfast club, junior Ryan Purcell only needed a single word. "Friendship," he said.

The club helps students socialize, and work on active listening skills, grow their character, and learn responsibility and respect for others.

"They start owning their stories -- I feel, I need, I want," school counselor Teresa deBoer said. "They start getting in touch with how they feel and how they can communicate better."

"I do a lot of personal things like exchange phone numbers, make plans, just socialize," Ryan said of his

time in the club.

Speech, occupational and physical therapists are also part of the club. Assistant Principal Kathy Driscoll said with a little flexibility, it doesn't cost extra money -- she allows some employees to come in and leave 45 minutes early so they can be part of the breakfast club.

A dance program helps special needs students improve their gait, said Andrea Lella, a Staten Island member of the citywide council. It also allows students to interact with general education peers, including some cheerleaders who joined the dance program, as does a mentoring program at the school.

The club has also taken trips on public transit to restaurants - but Ryan's favorite trip was to Miami. The trip began several years ago, when a student in a wheelchair wasn't able to attend the senior horseback riding trip. After some research, an occupational therapist discovered swimming with dolphins can be therapeutic. From there, the school discovered another program allowing disabled student to enjoy water sports.

"They take our kids with disabilities into the water and, they teach them to kayak, and to fish, and to sail their own individual sailboats that don't tip over," Ms. Driscoll said.

Meagan Imhof, a senior who has been in the club for four years and met her best friend there, told the council swimming with dolphins was her favorite part of the trip. Meagan is going to the [College of Staten Island](#) next year, school counselor and transition coordinator Danielle Pugliese said.

Ms. Pugliese said the school had one fair for students, then another that included their parents. On trips and at fairs, representatives from various college Offices of Accessibility help explain what's available to special needs students.

"To have all of our sophomores and our juniors and seniors to find out what is offered to them at the college, it helps them feel a little more comfortable," she said.

The school also offers an elective transition class, open to all students, that helps them learn everything from consumer awareness to health and nutrition.

Ms. Lella, who has for years served on various parent councils, will no longer be eligible after June, because her oldest child will graduate from the city school system. She was honored at the meeting by the faculty from Tottenville, and was presented with citations from virtually every Island politician as well.



## Staten Island's Project Hospitality celebrates 30 years by applauding contributions of honorees

Friday, May 11, 2012, 9:05 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Project Hospitality, Staten Island's premier provider of social services, celebrated its 30th anniversary by recognizing the contributions of five individuals at its Spring Luncheon yesterday at the Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomfield.

The honorees were: [College of Staten Island](#) student Ronald Speight Jr.; Beatrice Victor, the prime mover behind the borough's Senior Olympics; the Rev. Adolf Pagliarulo of the Church That Never Closes; City Councilman James Oddo, and educator Kathleen Nolan.

Advance Editor Brian Laline served as honorary chairman of the luncheon, which commemorated 30 years of service by Project Hospitality to the community. The co-chairs were Brian and Susan Farley, Susan Sappin, Robert Scamardella, the Rev. James Seawood and Ralph Vogel.

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[Enlarge](#)

**Jan Somma-Hammel**

L-R Rev Terry Troia, honoree Beatrice Victor (Sophie Matthews Award) and Susan Sappin (Co-Chair). Project Hospitality 30th Anniversary Spring Luncheon at The Hilton garden Inn. May 10,2012 (Staten Island Advance/ Jan Somma- Hammel)

**Project Hospitality 30th Anniversary Spring Luncheon** gallery (8 photos)

## Staten Island Church raising funds for pilgrimage to Lourdes

Saturday, May 12, 2012

By Maura Grunlund



*Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel*  
The Semo family of Oakwood Beach, Hayley, 17, Frank Jr., 20, mom Renee and Taylor, 13, will be making the pilgrimage to Lourdes this summer. St. Christopher's R.C. Church annually sponsors a parent and child on the pilgrimage and this year's recipients are Renee and Taylor. The St. Christopher's School eighth-grader was born with Hydronephrosis with reflux. The family is hoping for physical and emotional healing in the wake of the 2010 death of dad Frank Semo.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - A fund-raiser will take place at all masses at St. Christopher's R.C. Church in Grant City next weekend to pay for an annual pilgrimage to Lourdes.

The Rev. Joseph McLafferty, pastor of St. Christopher's, will serve as spiritual director of the pilgrimage, which will take place from June 28-July 7.

This year's tour is unusual in that it will include a visit to Nevers, France, to view St. Bernadette's incorruptible body, prior to sojourning to Lourdes.

St. Christopher's annually sponsors a parent and child on the pilgrimage; this year's recipients are Renee Semo and her daughter, Taylor, 13, of Oakwood Beach.

Taylor, an eighth-grader in St. Christopher's School, was born with Hydronephrosis with reflux, a condition which resulted in her left kidney basically dying. It shrank down to a small remnant and is non-functional, putting her right kidney at risk. Medically removing the left kidney at this point isn't an option.

After numerous rounds of antibiotics, Taylor currently is off medication, but is being closely monitored for infection.

Her illness has restricted her life in that she no longer can take part in contact sports and she's on a strict bathroom schedule, which sometimes interferes with her school schedule. However, Taylor has managed to do well enough in her studies to be accepted to St. Joseph-by-the-Sea High School, where she is expected to start in the fall.

Mrs. Semo will pay for her other two children, Frank Jr., 20, a junior at the College of Staten Island, and Hayley, 17, a senior at St. Joseph-by-the-Sea, to go on the pilgrimage.

## **HOPE FOR HEALING**

The family is hoping for some physical and emotional healing, since Mrs. Semo's husband and the children's father, Frank, died in June 2010.

"I hope we'll all be happy again," said Taylor, recalling that her most joyous times were with her father.

Hayley, who will enter Wagner College in the fall, hopes the pilgrimage will be an answer to her prayers that everybody in the family will be "happy and healthy and well."

Frank Jr. soon will be interning at ICAP North America, a brokerage firm in Jersey City, where his father worked. Saying he questioned his own faith after his father died, the young man said, "I'm hoping for a spiritual rejuvenation."

Five other children with disabilities and their families, all from upstate New York will participate in the pilgrimage. The cost per person is about \$3,000.

Organized by the Knights of Columbus Our Lady of Lourdes Council 5890 in upstate Washingtonville, the group is accompanied by priests and volunteer medical personnel, including paramedics and nurses.

St. Christopher's parishioner Vickie Mariano, of Dongan Hills, and several other volunteers will sell \$1 raffle tickets before and after all masses next weekend: On May 19 at 4:30 p.m. and on the 20th, at the 7:30 a.m. 9a.m., 10:15 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. masses.

## **DONATIONS ACCEPTED**

Volunteers also will be accepting donations, receiving prayer petitions that will be carried to Lourdes and giving out holy water and prayer cards from Lourdes.

After the final blessing at each mass, Mrs. Mariano will address parishioners, talking about the Lourdes Program and recounting her own family's experience in France. She has headed the St. Christopher's fundraisers ever since her daughter, Teresa, now 19, went on the pilgrimage in 2005.

Mrs. Mariano also will introduce Taylor Semo, who will be at each mass with her family, and tell the congregation about the teen's situation.

The winning lottery tickets will be drawn on Sept. 3 at the Knights of Columbus in upstate Washingtonville. The top prize is \$300. Winners not present will receive a phone call from the Knights informing them of their winnings.

To make a donation, send checks made payable to Our Lady of Lourdes Benevolent Association and mail to: Knights of Columbus, Attention Lourdes Program, 18 Hallock Dr., Washingtonville, NY 10992.

St. Christopher's is at 130 Midland Ave. For additional information, contact Mrs. Mariano 718-667-5652.



## Your Soap Box: Jennifer Pompeo, Westerleigh

Wednesday, May 16, 2012, 7:57 AM



By **Mark D. Stein/Staten Island Advance**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Native Staten Islander **Jennifer Pompeo** left the borough more than 13 years ago, but returned last July and was greeted with a larger population.

Other than that, she said, all is well here. Raised in Bay Terrace, Ms. Pompeo returned to the borough for her family. The Westerleigh resident's three children are in neighborhood schools, which she likes.

Ms. Pompeo is also attending classes at the College of Staten Island.



Jennifer Pompeo, Westerleigh

"Everything is pretty central," she said in reference to Westerleigh. "It's easy to get to."

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## Staten Island's college graduates face a summer of reality

Thursday, May 17, 2012, 9:30 AM



Deborah Young/Staten Island Advance  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Elleana Deschamps will spend the summer after graduating from the **College of Staten Island** applying for jobs that draw on her education as a psychology major and communications minor. She'll prepare for an upcoming internship at a borough elementary school and put in a good bit of time researching graduate programs.

"I've spoken with a couple of professors who said if I get a job in the field I would be lucky, even with a master's. You need a PhD to work as a psychologist," said the Rosebank 22-year-old.

But unless she finds a job in corporate communications within the next year, more school is likely in her future.

"My parents are very supportive of school," she said, musing on the years it will take to earn a PhD in psychology, if she wishes to pursue her dream of a career in mental health counseling. "Maybe a couple of years ago, it may have been easier, especially with a master's degree to find a job. It's really scary, that's why you need to better round yourself and have a back up plan. And keep your options open."

### I JUST WANT TO WORK

Kiri Kaszubski, 21, enjoyed the four years she spent at St. John's University. But she has no interest in returning to the quiet life of academia after she graduates.



[Enlarge](#)

Jan Somma-Hammel

Gideon Omagbemi of Port Richmond, 29yrs old will graduate with an Economics BA. **College of Staten Island** graduates discuss future job market. Monday April 23,2012

**2012 Staten Island Graduates hit the job market** gallery (6 photos)

"Hospitality is one of those fields where you can always find a job doing something," said the Westerleigh resident with a hopeful smile.

Still, she is yet to be proven right, as she looks for work.

She has applied for a few jobs on-line without big results, but hopes her luck will change when she steps up her search next month, after graduation.

"It's surreal that graduation is coming," said Ms. Kaszubski, most of whose friends are heading to graduate school in nursing, accounting, teaching and law.

"I don't want to go to graduate school," she said. "I just want to work."

**Staten Island college graduates looking for work**

## **CONTINGENCY PLANS**

Finding intellectually and economically sustaining work with only a high school degree is no easy feat, Gideon Omagbemi, 29, learned as working full-time that ranged from security to home health care to pay for his education at the College of Staten Island.

"You need a degree to begin to survive," said Omagbemi, who will graduate with a bachelor's in economics. "It's really tough out there."

Omagbemi recently moved back into his parents' Port Richmond home to save money -- a choice that makes sense as he saves money for his upcoming marriage and, potentially, also graduate school down the road.

The New Dorp High School graduate said he hopes one day to be a financial planner with a big bank or institution, where he can manage financial portfolios.

He has a similar type of job now -- all commission based, where much of the work, is just finding clients.

"I may end up going back to school for a master's," said Omagbemi, musing about how a MBA would open up opportunities and provide some measure of career stability. "For now, I will see how it goes."

## **A DIFFERENT PATH**

As her friends scramble to figure out what they're going to do after the robes and mortarboard come off, Victoria Felix has it all mapped out: Graduate school.

The 21-year-old Wagner College psychology major is headed to Louisiana Tech University to pursue a PhD in cognitive behavioral therapy in the fall. It will be the first time the Dongan Hills native has lived anywhere outside Staten Island, but the school's program fits her academic interests, she said. And she will not have to pay tuition because she'll be doing clinical and teaching work in exchange for school.

"A lot of my friends are trying to find jobs, or thinking about graduate school but taking a year off," she said. "In psychology if you don't have your PhD it's horrible," said Ms. Felix who started out at Wagner as pre-med, but realized she felt happiest in classes that explored what shapes behavior. "This is exactly what I want to be doing."

## **HUNDREDS OF RESUMES**

Troy Savino views personal finance as a fascinating puzzle, with real world solutions.

"What I like is to take an allotment of money, and through work, research and resourcefulness, figuring out how to make that money grow," said the 22-year-old Wagner student.

Savino's older sister graduated from college with a liberal arts degree about a decade ago, when jobs were out there for the taking, and worked her way into a high-powered job in finance.

With his graduation approaching, the Prince's Bay economics major understands he is entering a different jobs landscape in the industry. He estimates he has already sent out at least 200 resumes, and only gotten a handful of interviews.

"I have a couple of prospects," said Savino, who for now, has a job at a borough bank branch, and hopes an internship may lead to something more permanent.

"There are definitely jobs, but probably entry level jobs and the question is how to get them," said Savino, who hopes to work in the heart of Wall Street and move to Manhattan. "I definitely think the economy is recovering. My friends who graduated a few years ago went right into graduate programs because they couldn't find anything."

## **ASPIRATIONS SCALED BACK**

When she started out as an education major at St. John's University, Joanna Caruselle figured by the time she graduated she would be well on her way toward a solid career in teaching.

But two years of pedagogy classes and working with children gave the 21-year-old from Richmond enough experience to know that teaching was not for her.

"I didn't want to be one of those people who was in a job I didn't like. The kids were great and it wouldn't have been fair to them. I wanted to do something that felt right for me, " she said.

Sociable and interested in fashion, food and service, she discovered hospitality as a major, and began to dream big.

"I would love to be an event planner, wedding, conferences," she said, her eyes growing wide as she described a perfect job planning elegant parties at swank Manhattan or Brooklyn venues.

But after spending months sending out resumes, petitioning family friends in the hospitality business to help her get her foot in the door, and working with counselors at the school's career center, she said she has scaled back her expectations, for now.

She has a part-time job as a receptionist at an Island catering hall, and may notch up her hours after graduation.

"It's not quite a grown up job," she admitted. Still, it is a start, said Ms. Caruselle, who will continue to live in her childhood home until she finds solid, full-time work, or lands a second job as a bartender so she can afford her own place.

"I love my field. I love it I just want a job in it," said Ms. Caruselle.

And, she said, with a smile, there is always Plan B: Culinary school.

**For Staten Island students seeking jobs, finally a flicker of hope**

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## Your Soap Box: Dana Yilmaz, West Brighton

Wednesday, May 30, 2012, 9:37 AM



By **Virginia N. Sherry/Staten Island Advance**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- **Dana Yilmaz** just completed her sophomore year at the College of Staten Island, where she may change her major from business to education. We met her last Thursday morning at Boomerang Toys on Forest Avenue, where she's worked for the past year, and asked about the shop's most popular item.

"Our biggest seller is the three-wheel scooter made by Kickboard USA," she said. The Swiss-designed scooter "works like a skateboard. The kids need to lean in, in order to turn, so it develops balance and motor skills," she explained.



Dana Yilmaz, West Brighton

"And parents love them because it's the safest skateboard on the market."

The skateboards — in chartreuse green, hot pink, azure blue, and other cool colors — come in two sizes. The mini is suitable for children weighing up to 45 pounds; the maxi accommodates a top weight of 50 kilograms.

"I've never seen these skateboards in the big-box stores," she said.

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## At [College of Staten Island](#) graduation, a proud mother and daughter

Thursday, May 31, 2012, 12:05 AM



**Stephanie Slepian/Staten Island Advance**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Elizabeth Van Manen smoothed the creases from her daughter's gown, fastened her cap with bobby pins and arranged her tassel. Then Kathleen Van Manen did the same for her mother.

Different paths led them to this moment, but their journeys are ending very much the same way: Mother and daughter are both graduating from the [College of Staten Island](#) today -- Elizabeth with a bachelor of arts degree in political science; Kathleen with a master of science degree in biology.

"I remember when I got my bachelor's, I said, 'Hey mom, you should go back now and get yours,'" recalled Kathleen, 26, of the 2010 conversation on the day she received her undergraduate degree in biology from [CSI](#).

Elizabeth, 48, acted on the advice and set out to finally earn the degree she started when she graduated from Port Richmond High School in 1983. Back then, she became a nursing student at Union College in New Jersey, but family circumstances interrupted her studies.

"I had to withdraw from all my classes," she said.

In the intervening years, she raised her four children in Mariners Harbor, stressing education -- they were all in pre-K before their fourth birthdays and "Hooked on Phonics" was part of their daily routine.



[Enlarge](#)

Jan Somma-Hammel

Elizabeth Van Manen is graduating with a bachelor of arts degree in political science from the [College of Staten Island](#) today while her daughter, Kathleen, graduates with a bachelor of arts degree in biology. May 29, 2012 (Staten Island Advance/ Jan Somma-Hammel)

**Staten Island mother and daughter graduate together** gallery (5 photos)

She also worked two jobs, one at the Staten Island Developmental Disabilities Service Office and another at the former Pergament home improvement center, all while caring for her husband who died in 2007 and her parents, who both had bouts with cancer.

By the time she decided to go back to school, too much time had passed for her to return to Union College. But after chatting with a professor at **CSI**, she chose political science as her major. Her daughter even played tutor when she took a statistics course.

## FIRST GLANCE AT ADVANCE HEADLINES

Get a head start on your weekdays with First Glance, a roundup of top Staten Island Advance headlines delivered straight to your inbox by 7 a.m. It's **easy to sign up**.

"I really gained a passion for law and what was going on in the world as far as foreign policy," Elizabeth said.

Meanwhile, Kathleen fell in love with both biology and English while she was at Port Richmond High School. She planned a double major when she arrived at **CSI** for her bachelor's degree, but that wasn't an option.

So she majored in biology with a minor in English writing.

In her sophomore year, Kathleen was invited to join a research project studying the effects of different types of yeast in the body and their possible connections to Alzheimer's disease. That research would become the focus of her master's thesis.

"If everything goes well, I hope to have it published," she said.

Next up for the Van Manen women?

Elizabeth hopes she can finally earn her nursing degree.

As for Kathleen, she moved to Easton, Pa., eight months ago with her fiancée, Joseph Brush, who also graduates from **CSI** today with a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy. There, she is interviewing with a number of pharmaceutical companies and labs in the area.

In the meantime, she commutes to **CSI** several days a week to continue her research and to work as a technician in the science labs. Next month, she will begin teaching an introductory biology class.

"I want to show them what biology is, not just the theory behind it," Kathleen said. "I hope I can convey my passion."

Tonight, though, Elizabeth and Kathleen, more like best friends than mother and daughter, will celebrate their accomplishments at a dual graduation party.

"I am proud of her like there's no tomorrow," Elizabeth said of her daughter.





## 2,572 graduates celebrated at College of Staten Island commencement ceremony

Thursday, May 31, 2012, 2:22 PM



**Jillian Jorgensen/Staten Island Advance**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Under sunny skies, 2,572 students -- some of them young, some of them grandmothers, some of them the first in their family to go to college -- were graduated from the College of Staten Island this morning.

"I'm very excited. I'm a mother of four and I work full-time and I went to school full-time and I actually did it," said Nichole Draper, 26, of Port Richmond.

Not only did she earn her associate's degree, but she'll be continuing on in a social work program to pursue her master's degree.

"Hopefully I'm an inspiration to other mothers who feel overwhelmed," she said.

The crowd of graduates was filled with inspiration today. Outgoing college president Dr. Tomas Morales asked students to stand to help him profile the school -- he asked those who had worked full time, those who were parents, those who went to class at night or the weekends, those under 25, to take turns on their feet.



**Enlarge**

**Irving Silverstein**

Lisnika Silva takes a photo of her friend, Seraldi Chauhan, at the 2012 College of Staten Island commencement ceremony. (Staten Island Advance/Irving Silverstein)

[College of Staten Island graduation gallery \(12 photos\)](#)

### College of Staten Island's class of 2012 graduates

Today the students of the Class of 2012 at The College of Staten Island graduated.

Morales called the commencement "bittersweet" -- it will be his last at CSI.



He will become the president of the University of California at San Bernardino in August.

**RELATED STORY: A proud mom and daughter graduate together at [CSI](#).**

He reflected on how the college has grown in the last five years, saying it wasn't just thanks to him. He highlighted increased enrollment, growing numbers of students attaining degrees, associate degree candidates going on for baccalaureate degrees, and the new dormitories, "forever changing the nature" of [CSI](#).

"Our reputation as an outstanding institution has grown considerably and the value of the degree you will receive today has grown along with it," he said.

Students also heard from U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, who said Morales "really put the college on the map." Schumer urged the graduates -- who he said have the advantage of having grown up immersed in technology -- to follow their dreams.

"Think of what your dream is and reach high for it," he said. "My advice to the class of 2012 is very, very simple -- go for it."

The only speaker to earn a standing ovation from his peers, however, was valedictorian Irvin Ibarguen, a 4.0 student who will begin doctoral studies in history at Harvard in the fall. A first-generation Mexican immigrant, Ibarguen spoke about those people he knows who came to this country as children undocumented -- and lack the opportunities he had to better his life and pursue a future.

"Their lives, their ambitions, their futures are all capped," he said.

Those who come to this country to do so for a better life filled with more opportunity, he said.

"Were it not for my mother's incredible courage in migrating to this country 21 years ago, when she was still pregnant with me, I would not be anywhere near this stage," he said.

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Added Kathleen: "I am very happy my mother went back to school. It helped filled a void and it will give her more ground to stand on so she can get back to nursing."

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## Mexican-American **College of Staten Island** valedictorian inspires fellow graduates

Thursday, May 31, 2012, 8:35 PM



**Jillian Jorgensen/Staten Island Advance**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Valedictorian and first-generation Mexican American Irvin Ibarguen thanked this country's immigrant communities -- and his own family -- for making the sacrifices that allowed him to stand before his peers at the **College of Staten Island** commencement today at the top of his class.

"Were it not for my mother's incredible courage in migrating to this country 21 years ago, while still pregnant with me, I would be nowhere near this stage today," Ibarguen told the crowd.

Ibarguen was among 2,572 people to graduate from **CSI** today at its 36th commencement. He earned his degree in history with a perfect 4.0 grade point average -- and was accepted to a prestigious history doctoral program at Harvard University. His speech earned a standing ovation from his fellow graduates.

While he thanked the professors who shepherded him to those great accomplishments, he spent much of his speech speaking on behalf of immigrants, saying his family and the broader community of Mexican immigrants were responsible for his success.

He called immigration "the most beautiful of sacrifices," forcing people to abandon everything familiar to them so future generations can have access to better education, higher wages, and more comfortable



[Enlarge](#)

**Irving Silverstein**

Lisnika Silva takes a photo of her friend, Seraldi Chauhan, at the 2012 **College of Staten Island** commencement ceremony. (Staten Island Advance/Irving Silverstein)

**College of Staten Island** graduation gallery (12 photos)

lifestyles. It's a desire most Americans, with immigrant roots, can relate to, he said, regardless of their opinion on undocumented immigrants.

But undocumented immigrants are denied the opportunities, Ibarguen said, that have long drawn people to the U.S.. Many of them are young people who "did nothing more than honor the sacred bond between parent and child" in coming here with their families, he said.

"Having grown up among them, I can assure you they are potentially every bit as capable and deserving of this stage as I am, but by virtue of their citizenship status these boys and girls cannot dream the way we do," he said.

They cannot dream of becoming teachers, or even attending college, he said.

"Their lives, their ambitions, their futures, are all capped," he said.

He said many of his fellow **CSI** graduates -- who had those opportunities not available to others -- forget the caliber of their professors and education, and don't take enough pride in the institution.

"On behalf of all those immigrants who will never graduate college because they followed their parents across an artificial line; who will never wear this cap, this gown, these markers of success; who will never feel the indescribable joy of taking graduation pictures with their loved ones; and who will never have the kind of opportunities to better themselves," Ibarguen said, "I beg that today you stop you stop to value everything **CSI** gave you and everything you gave **CSI**."

Students also heard from outgoing president, Dr. Tomas Morales, who will lead the University of California at San Bernardino starting in August. He called the commencement "bittersweet" for him.

"As I prepared my remarks for this, my final commencement at **CSI**, I began to reflect upon all that has been accomplished to advance the college over the past five years, not by me, but through the efforts of all of you - by all of us," he said.

**College of Staten Island's class of 2012 graduates**

Today the students of the Class of 2012 at The **College of Staten Island** graduated.

Morales cited significant strides in enrollment and admissions, degree attainment, recruiting a top-notch faculty and exceptional students, and the

construction of dormitories on campus.

"Our reputation as an outstanding institution has grown considerably and the value of the degree you will receive today has grown along with it," Morales said.

He said it's in people's nature to ponder their legacies when they leave something behind.

"Clearly, a great part of my personal legacy, and one for which I am most proud, is sitting right in front of me, the accomplished men and women of the graduating class of 2012," he said.

Sen. Charles Schumer told students as the first generation to grow up immersed with technology, they would have an advantage after graduation.

"Think of what your dream is and reach high for it," he said. "My advice to the class of 2012 is very, very simple - go for it!"

Jay Hershenson, vice chancellor of the City University of New York, also offered students some advice.

"There are only two kinds of people in this world -- those that cannot remember where they came from and those who cannot forget," Hershenson said. He urged them not to forget CSI.

In the crowd, there were plenty of success stories, from traditional students to those who decided to earn degrees later in life.

"I'm very excited. I'm a mother of four and I work full-time and I went to school full-time and I actually did it," said Nichole Draper, 26, of Port Richmond.

Not only did she earn her associate's degree, but she'll be continuing on in a social work program to pursue her master's degree. "Hopefully I'm an inspiration to other mothers who feel overwhelmed," she said.

Maureen Parese, 53, of Rosebank, a grandmother, earned her bachelor's degree in business management after deciding to go to college at age 46.

"I worked all these years and I don't really have much to show for it," she said when asked why she decided to go back to school. "I want to set an example for my kids."

She said her family was strong and supportive, allowing her to return to studies. It was wonderful, she said, to be exposed to new ideas, different people and cultures.

"I learned so much," she said.

There were plenty of family connections in the crowd, too.

Mazal Bronis of New Springville, was graduating today along with her daughter, Leeor Bronis, making it an extra special day.

"I've worked very hard all my life, so it's kind of my leisure time," she said. "I've always loved school."

Identical twins Ariel and Jaclyn Tropiano, 21, of Oakwood, were earning identical degrees.

"We're exactly the same," Jaclyn Tropiano joked.

Their cousin Michael Passaro, 22, of Oakwood, was also graduating.

"I feel like we've achieved a goal in our life and we're moving forward," he said. "We're just looking for jobs trying to get out there in the real world."

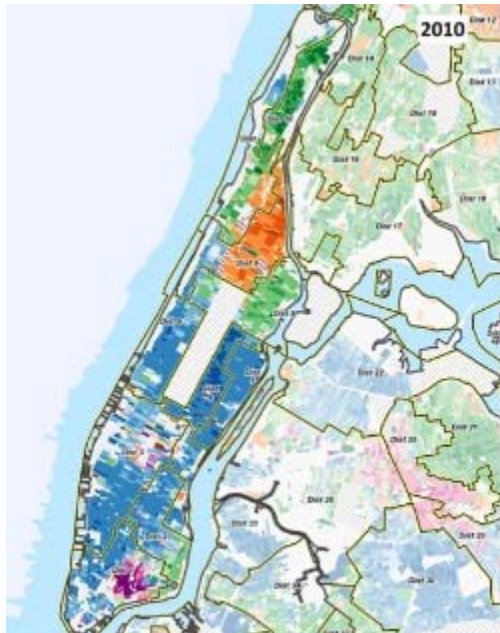
# ***Alumni***

## Redistricting Round Two: City Council Pushes Forward With New Commission

### Picks

**By Sam Levin**

May 3 2012 @ 11:33AM



CUNY Center for Urban Research

The City Council today announced the key figures who will be charged with dividing up the city into new districts based on Census data.

It's the next redistricting frontier!

The announcement of the Council's appointments comes on the same day that important news broke in the statewide redistricting battle: The Senate Democrats' lawsuit attempting to throw out the Republicans' plan was blocked this morning by the highest court in the state, the New York Court of Appeals. The Senate Dems were going after the Republicans' addition of a 63rd State Senate Seat, arguing that the addition is unconstitutional, but today the court upheld a lower court's ruling and unanimously agreed that the methods of the Legislature don't amount to a "gross and deliberate violation of the plain intent of the Constitution."

At the more local level, the City Council this morning unveiled the names of those who will serve on an independent commission charged with redrawing lines for the city's 51 City Council districts, based on Census data collected in 2010. Redistricting advocates have been anticipating the picks for the commission, which is made up of 15 members -- eight appointed by the City Council and seven by the mayor's office.



Five appointments come from the Council's Democratic Caucus, the majority, and three come from the minority caucus, the Council said in a release sent out today. As *City & State* noted this morning, the process is closer to the bipartisan efforts that some had hoped would happen in Albany, where the redistricting process remained *highly* partisan.

The commission must include at least one resident from each borough, and a spokesperson told us earlier this year that the Council is committed to choosing members that reflect the geographic, ideological, and ethnic diversity in the city.

The appointees, from the Council press release:

The Council Democratic Caucus appointments are:

**Jamila Ponton Bragg**

Ms. Bragg is an Educational Outreach Manager at Sesame Workshop, the non-profit organization behind Sesame Street. Ms. Bragg serves as a commissioner on the New York City Lobbying Commission. Since 2004, Ms. Bragg has taught Sunday school to 9th and 10th grade students at the Abyssinian Baptist Church. Ms. Bragg earned a Masters' degree at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education and a Bachelor of Science degree at Duke University. Ms. Bragg is a resident of Morningside Heights.

**Linda Lin**

Ms. Lin is a senior attorney with Liberty International Underwriters and a former Associate of the law firm of Willkie Farr & Gallagher. Ms. Lin is the President of the Asian American Bar Association of New York. She is the former law clerk for U.S. District Judge Dora L. Irizarry. She is a graduate of Brooklyn Law School and Binghamton University. She resides in Forest Hills, Queens.

**John Robert**

For twenty eight years, Mr. Robert served as a Community Board Member and District Manager of Community Board #2 in the Bronx. He was an administrator at Harlem Hospital and the South Bronx Mental Health Council. Mr. Robert earned a Masters' Degree from Polytechnic Institute of New York; he is a graduate of the City University of New York. Mr. Robert resides in the Pelham section of the Bronx.

**Roxanne J. Persaud**

Ms. Persaud is the Registrar at St. Francis College in Brooklyn. Prior to her current position, she was an administrator at Pace University. Ms. Persaud is a member of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers. She earned a Bachelors and a Master's degree at Pace University. She lives in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn.

**Robert W. Hart**

Mr. Hart works in digital media publishing and is a former journalist. As a reporter for the Staten Island Advance, Mr. Hart covered local breaking news, crime, and national assignments. Mr. Hart was appointed to Albany Bureau Chief, directing the Advance's state government coverage. Mr. Hart is a graduate of SUNY Purchase; he resides in the West Brighton section of Staten Island.

The Council Minority Caucus appointments are:

**Kamillah M. Hanks**

Ms. Hanks is the former Executive Director of the Downtown Staten Island Council and led the organization's effort to drive the economic development and commercial revitalization of the Downtown Staten Island Business District. She has served as a marketing and public relations consultant for the Staten Island Museum and the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation. Ms. Hanks is a graduate of the College of Staten Island. She resides on Staten Island.

**Thomas V. Ognibene**

Mr. Ognibene is a former Council Member and Council Minority Leader. During his tenure at the Council Mr. Ognibene chaired the Select Committee on Veteran's Affairs and served as a member of the Council's Finance, Housing and Buildings, General Welfare, and Aging Committees. He formerly served on the New York City Lobbying Commission. Mr. Ognibene has extensive experience practicing civil and criminal law. He is a graduate of Brooklyn Law School and C.W. Post College. He is a Queens resident.

**Marc Wurzel**

Mr. Wurzel is the General Counsel and Assistant Secretary of the Grand Central Partnership. He served as a Commissioner on the NYC Districting Commission in 2002-2003. Mr. Wurzel earned a B.A. degree from George Washington University and a J.D. from Hofstra University School of Law. He resides in Manhattan.

[SamTLevin / @SamTLevin]

*Go to Runnin' Scared for all our latest news coverage.*

## Syracuse elementary school teacher Jesse Goodglass earns national certification

Thursday, May 10, 2012, 6:00 AM



**The Post-Standard**  
By

Editorial assistant Nariman Jiries interviewed Jesse Goodglass, a fifth-grade consultant teacher at Percy Elementary School who earned a prestigious national certification.

**Name:** Jesse Goodglass, 33, lives in Syracuse.



Jim Commentucci / The Post-Standard

Jesse Goodglass is a teacher at Percy Hughes Magnet School in Syracuse

**Tell me about your family:** I am happily married to Caitlin Steeves, a soon-to-be physical therapist who was hugely supportive of the certification process, which demanded much of my time at home. We have the cutest daughter in the world, Edylene, who will be 2 this summer.

**Educational background:** I graduated from Ramapo College of New Jersey in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in sociology. In 2004, I joined the NYC Teaching Fellows program which places professionals from fields outside of education into hard-to-

staff schools. I began taking my graduate courses that year as well and graduated with my masters of science in special education from the City University of New York **College of Staten Island** in 2006.

**What grade level do you teach?** I currently teach fifth grade. My title is consultant teacher, which means that I modify the general education curriculum to the extent that students with disabilities can more easily access the content. I have taught as both a general and special education teacher from first through fifth grades.

**What do you enjoy most about teaching?** The thing that I love most about teaching is that every day is

different. It doesn't matter that you have taught the same material four or five times in previous years; the students will always be different. Teachers don't teach content; teachers teach students. Which means that we have to really get to know our kids. And, because every year we have different kids, every year will be full of new surprises, new joys, new challenges and new perspectives from which to see the content we teach.

**Can you tell me about the National Board Certification Process?** The NBC process was hugely challenging. It consists of two main segments: the portfolio and the content tests. The portfolio, which consists of 60 percent of the points toward certifying, was by far the most time-consuming. I had to videotape lessons, discuss my planning, analyze and reflect on my videos, as well as include samples of student work as it evolved over the course of a unit. The last component of the portfolio was evidence of my role as a learner, a collaborator and a leader in the school. There were six content tests which were specific to my certification area — Middle Childhood Generalist — and I had to respond to a writing prompt in 30 minutes on each.

**Why do you think you were selected?** I think I was selected because, although my videos and samples of student work were good, I spent a lot of time on my written analysis and reflection. The process was more about self-reflection and asking myself "How could this have gone better? What can I do differently next time?"

**What was the best part about being recognized by the board?** We had the entire staff at my school last year go through the process of Take One!, the first part of the NBC process. Just being a part of the ongoing conversation at my school about what is quality teaching has been a great experience. I definitely feel more confident in my assessment of student learning throughout lessons and units due to the NBC process.

**What have you found to be challenging with teaching?** Engaging students actively in lessons continues to be a challenge. In the city, we teach students with a wide range of learning styles and they require a wide range of learning opportunities that meets their needs. This requires teachers to plan activities that interests as many students as possible. We can't just stand at the front of the classroom and lecture; it doesn't work. Kids aren't engaged with the content in that kind of instructional delivery. So we have to be creative in our instructional decisions. But this is a good challenge; it places a demand on me that many other professions wouldn't.

**Do you have a proudest moment?** It may sound minor, but my proudest moment is getting a group of third-grade students to write five paragraph essays from not being able to construct a single paragraph at

the beginning of the year. We worked through lunches, before and after school, and came to a very solid understanding of the structure of lengthy pieces of writing.

**Describe your personality:** I can see many different perspectives, so I tend to be a very good listener. I'm very adaptable to different environments and to different groups of people. Despite enjoying time with others, I often need time to myself to regroup and re-center.

**What is your key philosophy in life?** Learn as much as you can. Keep your eyes open and see the world with a fresh vision. There is so much that is fantastic, interesting, unusual and cool about the world that we will never cease to learn something new each day if we approach it with an open mind.

**What is the one thing that you hope your students will always remember about your class?** I would hope that students would take away from my class that it is more important to care about one another than it is to knock someone else down. We constantly stress to our kids that working with others well is the most important skill they can develop.

**What advice do you have for your students about their education?** Keep learning as much as you can. Stay in school and work hard. Go to college. Success in life can be measured in many different ways, but you will have greater personal freedom and a greater ability to determine your own future with more education.

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## Staten Island residents on Port Authority's team win title

Wednesday, May 16, 2012, 10:33 AM



**Danny Colvin**  
By



Photo Courtesy of Joe O'Leary

The Port Authority's tournament champs Bus Terminal A team is all smiles after finishing first. The team, from left, is Tim Bellotti, Jose Rodriguez, Brian Fink, William Finnie, Eric Gonzalez, Mark Montero, John Giordano and Anthony Young.

RICHMOND VALLEY -- The police from the Port Authority's (PA) Bus Terminal (BT) command cracked the case.

For the past three years, the Bus Terminal has fielded two teams in the annual Port Authority Police Department (PAPD) Madness Basketball Tournament held at Fastbreak Basketball Center, Richmond Valley. Its A team had come close in years past — it finished third in 2011 and was runnerup to Staten Island Bridges in the inaugural event in 2010.

This season, BT took home the title, going 5-0 on the day behind great play from

officers Brian Fink, a former Manhattanville College guard, and Jose Rodriguez defeating Lincoln Tunnel, which was led by former York College standout <CM+RTStanley O'Neil-RT>and officer Joe Platero in the championship game.

Bus Terminal A beat a Staten Island B team led by police officers John Cali, Joe O'Leary — both former College of Staten Island (CSI) players — and crafty left-hander and PBA president Paul Nunziato in the final 4.

Lincoln Tunnel made its first Final Four appearance, advancing by defeating JFK Airport and officers Kevin Leiter, Duran Lawrence and Sean Dale.

The final was competitive for the first half, before BT pulled away behind 26 points from Fink and 17 pts from Rodriguez.

The tournament featured 13 teams. Along with the two BT teams, Newark Airport and JFK each had two squads. Teams from LaGuardia Airport, the Holland Tunnel, PATH, the World Trade Center, and Emergency Services Unit rounded out the field.

The command's B team may have stolen the show, despite being a little short on scorers. Wearing high socks, 1970s-style shorts, headbands and wristbands, the Bus Terminal's second team were the clown princes of the tourney.

"The second team from the BT really made the day," said O'Leary, the tournament coordinator. "That's what it's all about. The fun of it."

During the title contest between Bus Terminal A and Lincoln Tunnel, the BT Bs cheered on their own, with one member donning a "Blueman" jumpsuit and touting himself as the official mascot.

"We have some great players on the job," said O'Leary. "And it gets competitive at the end, but it's really not about the winning. It's about coming together and building camaraderie on our job."

The tourney raised money for the 2012 Police Unity tour, chapter 37 and the PAPD hoops team. The PAPD Honor Guard and pipe band, with officer Ray Corbo sang the national anthem and superintendent Fedorko addressed the members during opening ceremonies.

O'Leary was also thankful for all the volunteers and sponsors: the PAPD PBA, officer Brian Ahearn, retired officer John Verdi, officers Jerome Crimi, Mike Kline and Ceasar Morales, B&L Towing and Pete Santos, Tottenville Bagels, Crown Trophy, tournament commissioner Dan O'Leary and Joe O'Toole and Lori Ceciliani at Fastbreak.

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## New principal for Staten Island's Notre Dame Academy Elementary School

Wednesday, May 23, 2012, 6:22 PM



**Claire M. Regan**  
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Rebecca Signorelli of West Brighton, an educator with 15 years of classroom experience in math, social studies and language arts, has been named principal of Notre Dame Academy Elementary School, her alma mater, where she is currently teaching eighth grade.

Announcement of the appointment, which followed a national search, was made by Sister Patricia Corley, president of the Grymes Hill school.

Mrs. Signorelli, 38, studied engineering at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, N.J., then earned an associate's degree in architecture and a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from the **College of Staten Island**. She also holds a master's degree in school leadership from Villanova (Pa.) University.

A native Staten Islander, the former Rebecca Giaccio grew up in Grant City and graduated from St. Joseph Hill Academy High School.

She is the first lay principal of Notre Dame Elementary in the school's 110-year history. The position became available in January when Sister Rose Galligan, who had served as principal for 25 years, died unexpectedly at the age of 72.

"Rebecca understands the mission of Notre Dame and will be a catalyst for great change," Sister Patricia said in announcing the appointment.

Mrs. Signorelli begins her new role on July 1.



[View full size](#)

Staten Island Advance/Anthony DePrimo

Starting July 1, Rebecca Signorelli will be the first lay principal in the 110-year history of Notre Dame Academy Elementary School.



## Candidates: U.S. Congress District 7

With incumbent believed unbeatable by all but opponent, campaigns by two conservatives touch on keystone issues like healthcare reform

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By Lisa Zambito, **May 30, 2012**

In 2008, the Cook Political Report ranked the 7th Congressional District among the nation's most competitive House races.

But that was a year when the seat was open -- Michael Ferguson, who had won re-election in 2006 by less than 3,000 votes, chose not to seek re-election.

This year, the race isn't even on the national radar, with incumbent U.S. Rep. Leonard Lance considered virtually unbeatable by all but his opponent, David Larsen of Tewksbury.

Lance, who lives in Clinton, took 56 percent of the votes two years ago, beating Larsen and two other Republicans. The 7th has been revamped a bit but Lance is still considered the front-runner and has done three mailings to try to ensure his supporters go to the polls June 5.

A state senator for the 23rd Legislative District, Lance joined the upper house in 2002 and served as minority leader between 2004 and 2008. He was first elected to state office in 1991 as an assemblyman and he served for a time as chairman of the Assembly's budget committee. He is also a lawyer.

Seeking his third term, Lance served from 2009 through 2011 on the House Financial Services Committee. He currently sits on the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Lance's Chief of Staff Todd Mitchell stated that Lance will "carry to Washington" Gov. Chris Christie's "job of bringing down property taxes, setting budget caps, and lowering the spending levels of debts."

Several of Lance's mailers to date have pointed to the congressman's votes against the national healthcare program currently before the U.S. Supreme Court and his support of repealing the law.



Rep. Leonard Lance

Economic issues are also key priorities for Lance and his constituents.

“People are concerned about the high cost of gas, oil, and electricity and feel that Obama’s part of the problem,” Mitchell said. “People are wondering, Will businesses be in jeopardy? ... Lance is trying to bring back certainty by renewing Bush tax cuts, and opposing raising taxes to businesses and individuals.”

Lance is also in favor of “stopping frivolous lawsuits to reduce the cost of doing business, such as reducing malpractice insurance.”

In April, he voted against raising student loans.

Jerry Cantrell, president of New Jersey Taxpayers Alliance, lauded the incumbent for his votes on fiscal issues. “While not positioned at the extreme, Lance serves his constituency well by providing the voice of reason and just good old, common sense, when it comes to the peoples’ moneys,” he said.

Environmentalists, though, are unhappy with Lance’s votes, such as his support of a bill to bar the federal Environmental Protection Agency from regulating green house gases.

“When Leonard was in the state assembly and a state senator, he was a friend of the environment and had a good record with open space, the environment and water quality,” said Bill Kibbler of the Raritan Headwaters Association. “He was part of a group of Republicans who considered the environment to be important. However, Lance is now a victim of the National Republican party who don’t see that environmental issues are important.”

Larsen boasts of being a conservative Republican, receiving endorsements of two large Tea Party organizations and New Jersey Right-to-Life. He has never held political office.

He is chairman of the conservative advocacy organization RightDirection.com and has held leadership positions within Americans for Prosperity. He has also been involved with the Heritage Foundation and the Conservative Leadership Caucus.



David Larsen

An alumnus of the College of Staten Island, Larsen is the owner of Larsen Windows and Doors, which he took over from his father. He also founded a construction and home improvement company.

Larsen is staunchly pro-life and supports liberal gun ownership laws. He said he is seeking to limit the powers of government to those written in the Constitution and backs deep budget cuts.

He is not in favor of same sex marriages. In 2007, while in the state Legislature, Lance was quoted as being opposed to same sex marriage.

Larsen also opposes the national healthcare reform. He said it “takes away a person’s right to make his or her own decisions.” If elected, Larsen said his first priority in office would be to make healthcare reform friendlier toward businesses because “Obamacare has shut down businesses with taxes.”

One of this candidate’s favorite quotes is, “A nation of sheep breeds a government of wolves ... don’t be sheepful.” To him, it means, “Do not vote to send the same people to Washington, because that prevents changes from being made.”

At a recent fundraiser, Larsen declared, “The clubhouse politics in Washington have dug us into a hole ... Political establishment is the problem in this country. As national debt crept up, freedom got swept away.”

Larsen said his parents were among those who left their native Norway during World War II to flee from a government with too much power. They came to the U.S., where power was derived from individuals. But Larsen fears that is changing. “Citizens’ rights were taken away and businesses were told what to produce,” he said. “There’s a bitter price paid when people lose freedom.”

Commenting on his three-and-a-half decades of running successful businesses, Larsen said, “The joy of labor is very real to me. It seems these days that people have an entitlement attitude. They don’t want to work hard ... Today in Congress, we either borrow from China or rob from you to pursue promises insiders in Washington make.” If elected, Larsen promised to support a balanced budget in the same way as he has successfully handled his own businesses’ finances.

He said he would also work to “eliminate agencies that gobble up money and constrain innovation and business.” These agencies include the departments of education and energy.

Both candidates have similar stands on how to handle illegal immigration. Lance is opposed to amnesty for illegal immigrants and stresses border security. Larsen said that “America must be willing to do whatever it takes to secure our borders,” including ... manning borders with troops if necessary.

The candidates have somewhat different views on abortion, however.

Lance supports a woman’s right to have an abortion only in limited circumstances. Larsen, on the other hand, supports overturning the Roe v. Wade decision with no exceptions.

During his fundraiser, Larsen criticized Lance for cutting deals and not speaking up enough for conservative values, choosing instead to become a “Washington insider.” Mitchell responded that “Lance has only been in DC since 2008. Four short years in office doesn’t make anyone an insider.”

Mitchell said numerous Republicans, including Christie, have endorsed Lance “in order to send a consistent conservative back to Washington.”

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