

CSI in the News



July 2012



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Arts & Events

A Wider Spectrum

By Stephen Greco
11 Jul 2012



Alan Gilbert and the New York Philharmonic in Central Park on July 14, 2009
photo by Chris Lee

When the New York Philharmonic plays its Concerts in the Parks, the entire city is invited. Stephen Greco reveals the inspirations and ambitions behind this long-running cultural gift to New York City.

Enjoying open-air music with your neighbors is as old as civilization itself. New York leaders doubtless had this in mind back in the 19th century when, as part of a broader quality-of-life agenda, they endowed their growing metropolis with masses of magnificent public parks. These were places where culture and nature could come together, where urbanites could experience the richest kind of “cultural citizenship.” As such, the parks make a perfect setting for a New York cultural treasure that is, in fact, 15 years older than Central Park itself — the New York Philharmonic, which this July continues its tradition of playing free concerts throughout the boroughs of New York City. “I’ve always wanted the Orchestra to have a meaningful connection to the city,” says Philharmonic Music Director Alan Gilbert, a native New Yorker. “I want it to be a source of civic pride, to be a resource for the city, to be an obvious expression of what is great about the city.”

This year’s return of the Philharmonic’s Concerts in the Parks features five free outdoor concerts, presented in some of the city’s loveliest locales. Gilbert conducts the free performances in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, on Wednesday, July 11, and on Central Park’s Great Lawn on Friday, July 13, leading Respighi’s *Fountains of Rome* and *Pines of Rome*, as well as Tchaikovsky’s *Symphony No. 4*. Russian conductor Andrey Boreyko returns to the series on Thursday, July 12, in Cunningham Park, in Queens; Monday, July 16, in Central Park; and Tuesday, July 17, in Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx. Those concerts feature Wagner’s *Prelude to Act I of Die Meistersinger*; Tchaikovsky’s *Violin Concerto*, with soloist James Ehnes; and Brahms’s *Symphony No. 1*. All performances begin at 8:00 p.m. and are followed by fireworks. In addition, 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.

“I’ve spoken to a lot of people who have only heard the New York Philharmonic in the parks,” says Gilbert, “though I am sure that a lot of people who go to our concerts in Avery Fisher Hall also go to the parks to hear us. We also hope that some of those who get to know the Orchestra first in the parks follow us back to Avery Fisher Hall. It’s just perhaps a wider spectrum, which is fantastic.”

“Cultural citizenship” is a good way of describing what unites parks audience members across this spectrum — and why forces from the private, corporate, and governmental spheres come together to

present the Philharmonic's Concerts in the Parks. Among the most ardent are Didi and Oscar Schafer, whose gift of \$5 million over five years was instrumental in allowing the Orchestra to continue to perform in the parks.

"To us, the concerts are a 'three-fer' — giving back to New York, the Parks, and, of course, the New York Philharmonic," say the Schafers, who always invite a few close friends to spread picnic blankets on the grass with them and enjoy the park concert ambiance alongside others doing the same. "The best part of our gift is seeing thousands of New Yorkers who are happy, enjoying an event that they look forward to every year as they listen to the best orchestra in the world."

The citizenship of corporations also plays a crucial part in presenting a series like this. 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., whose headquarters are at Columbus Circle.

"At Time Warner, we believe in the power of the arts to bring communities together, and we know this is something New Yorkers especially appreciate," says Lisa Garcia Quiroz, Time Warner's chief diversity officer and senior vice president of corporate responsibility. "For this reason, we're committed to funding programs that make the arts more accessible — and that's why we're so honored to help bring the New York Philharmonic's free Concerts in the Parks to all five boroughs."

As Quiroz suggests, undoubtedly one of the nicest aspects of these concerts is what makes New York itself great — its people. "The audience is astonishingly diverse," says Adrian Benepe, commissioner for the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. "They come from all walks of life to enjoy the common bond that only beautiful, live, free music can provide." They are not alone: WQXR is so excited about the series that they will broadcast the concerts on July 13 and 17 (check listings for air date).

Yet the Philharmonic musicians themselves are among those who most enjoy the series. "The Parks Concerts can serve as a lure for people who might just go to picnic but find themselves liking classical music," says Irene Breslaw, the Philharmonic's Assistant Principal Viola. "Many times, the excitement of the public is palpable, and that makes it all worthwhile."

Violinist James Ehnes, who has performed in the parks before, agrees. "I love outdoor concerts in general," he says, "and there is indeed something special about playing for people who might not be that familiar with classical music. It's an honor to present a piece like the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto to them for the first time. I'll always remember the first time I heard it!" Of course, playing outdoors can have its drawbacks, since even nice weather can affect instruments. "Some instruments react pretty badly to changes in temperature or humidity, but my violin does okay," notes Ehnes.

It may strike you right away, when you arrive in the park for a Philharmonic concert and discover an expansive lawn filled with music lovers, or later, after you've been sitting there awhile, enjoying the performance and contemplating the vast and genial crowd. You're reminded of how much you love New York and feel what a pleasure it is to be among those who love it, too. When else do so many of us, from all parts of the spectrum, come together under such pleasant circumstances?

Faculty & Staff

Nicotra Foundation awards ceremony



Special to Business Trends

At its second awards ceremony of the year, The Lois & Richard Nicotra Foundation awarded more than \$16,000 to deserving students and organizations on Staten Island. Pictured, from left, are: (Bottom row) Dan Kenny and Victoria Giordano of NY Firefighters Burn Center; scholarship recipient Michelle Marfa; Sylvia D'Alessandro of Sandy Ground; Nancy Goldhill of Legal Service NYC Staten Island; Denise Ciluffo of St. John's Episcopal Church - Canterbury Activity Center; Richard Nicotra; scholarship recipient Kristie Stapleton; Lois Nicotra; Louise Cottone of Richmond Choral Society; executive director of The Lois & Richard Nicotra Foundation Kristine Garlisi; James Mitchell of Saint Alban's Episcopal Church; and (Top row) Cheryl Shiber of College of Staten Island Foundation, Inc.; scholarship recipient Jessica Lynch; Margaret Annunziata of St. Peter, St. Paul; John Semerad of Staten Island YMCA; Michael Pinto of the Minty Awards; Christina Mantz of Friends of Sequine Mansion; Caroline Pinto of Federated Garden Clubs of NYS, Inc. - The Healing Garden Living Memorial ; Jim Russo of Richmond County Youth Complex; Frankie Alvarez of Safe Horizon. Since inception, the Foundation has made awards totaling \$58,660 to 65 organizations and scholarship recipients.

Adolescent girls who over use internet and social media suffer lower self-esteem and negative body image

NetGirls project findings presented at the 5th Appearance Matters international conference Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 July, 2012, Wills Building, Bristol UK.

01/07/2012 21:53:00

Adolescent girls, who spend long periods each day on the internet, engaging and communicating on social media, are more likely to suffer low self-esteem and negative body image, according to new research to be presented at the Appearance Matters 5 conference in Bristol on Tuesday 3 July.

The NetGirls Project was conducted by Dr Amy Slater and Professor Marika Tiggemann from the School of Psychology at Flinders University, Australia. The report indicates that 40.1% of the 1096 girls, aged between 12 and 16 years, who took part in the survey were dissatisfied with their bodies and one in two were terrified of gaining weight. The study also found that the more girls use the internet and social media, the more likely they are to experience body shame, dissatisfaction with their weight, and lower self-esteem.

These findings are particularly concerning given that the girls reported using the internet for lengthy periods of time each day. The average "screen time" per day was 3.5 hours, with the majority of this time spent on social networking sites, such as Facebook, Twitter and MySpace. Only 34.9% of the girls said that their parents set rules about when and what they can look at on the internet. Of the 96% of girls who had some access to the internet at home, 72.1% upload pictures of themselves to the internet and 12.1% upload videos of themselves.

Dr Amy Slater explains, "We set out to investigate the role of media in adolescent girls' self image. We were interested to find out how adolescent girls were spending their free time and how different activities related to how they felt about themselves and their bodies. Our findings demonstrate a worrying correlation between excessive media use, particularly social media and the internet, and lower self-esteem, body-esteem and sense of identity and higher depression."

Dr Slater will also report on the findings of a second study that analysed the content of over 600 adverts found on 14 of the most popular websites targeting adolescent girls. Although a wide variety of products were featured, advertisements for cosmetics and beauty products were the most frequent. Further, many of the products advertised (eg dating services, weight loss products, gambling games) might be considered inappropriate for the intended teenage audience of these websites.

People who featured in the advertisements were generally female, young, thin, and attractive. Dr Slater explains, "A content analysis of adverts found on sites that appeal to adolescent girls showed likely exposure to those reinforcing the importance of beauty and thinness."

In addition to findings from the NetGirls project, the Appearance Matters 5 conference will feature cutting edge research on visible difference, body image, cosmetic surgery, ethics, education, the media, weight and provision of care.

-ENDS-

Editor's Notes

Appearance Matters 5 The 5th Appearance Matters conference will be held in Bristol, UK on 3 and 4 July 2012 at the Wills Memorial Building, Bristol, UK. Appearance Matters is organised by the Centre for Appearance Research at the University of the West of England.

Appearance Matters 5 is a two day international conference highlighting current research and good practice around appearance-related issues including visible difference, ethics, information provision, education, the media, resilience, identity, weight, provision of care, psychosocial interventions and areas for further research.

Conference keynote speakers include Professor John Lawrence, College of Staten Island, City University of New York, USA, and Professor Sarah Grogan, Staffordshire University, UK. Other international experts in the field of body image and appearance research will be attending from Australia, North America, Asia and Europe.

<http://www.uwe.ac.uk/events/appearancematters/index.shtml>

Centre for Appearance Research

The Centre for Appearance Research (CAR) is based at the University of the West of England (UWE Bristol), Bristol. CAR strives to make a real difference to the lives of the many hundreds of thousands of people with appearance-related concerns both in the United Kingdom and across the world. CAR acts as a focus and centre of excellence for psychological and interdisciplinary research in appearance, disfigurement, body image and related studies. The Centre comprises 30 researchers, many of whom are health psychologists, and is widely recognised as the international centre of excellence for appearance research.

PCC Summer Youth Camp features New York dancer

By [Ben Casey](#)

2012-07-03 22:12:27



Parents searching for a youth camp that is fun and packed with learning experiences should review the schedule for the Summer Youth Camp SYC, at Pamlico Community College beginning the week following July 4th. A broad range of special interests will be embraced by a collection of workshops.

For one of the first scheduled camp workshops, Wendy Osserman brings her famed New York workshop in dance and movement to the college Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. beginning July 11 through Aug. 2. Her workshop in the SYC will particularly help students who are interested in theater.

“Dance is a natural extension of acting,” according to Osserman.

A native of New York City, Osserman and her husband, distinguished architect Ken Laser, are part time residents of Oriental. Wendy Osserman Dance Company is based in NYC and has toured nationally and internationally. She has taught at Rutgers, the [College of Staten Island](#), City University of New York, the New School and in numerous public and private schools.

Dance critic Eva Yaa Asatewaa said, “Wendy Osserman, wiry, heartfelt, dancing at the helm of a group of youngsters is a direct link to great masters of American dance history.”

In time spent in Pamlico County, Osserman has spread her tireless energy and enthusiasm for sharing with others to the Old Theater in Oriental, Heartworks, and contributed to the recent multi-media piece, “Many Voices, One Heart” at Pamlico County High School.

“This is an unbelievable opportunity for local youth to be transformed by someone from the world stage,” said Leigh Younce, director of Cultural Enrichment Programs for PCC. “Not enough can be said about the value of PCC being in a position to invite area youth to this venue.”

The cost for each youth to participate in the movement workshop will be \$45.

Also beginning on July 11 will be the SYC workshop, “Experience the Magic of Theater” with local performer and teacher, John Van Dyke.

Students will explore pantomime, improvisation, vocal and physical characterization, stage movement, scene study, and musical theater rehearsal and performance. This camp is suitable for all levels of experience from beginners to seasoned young actors.

Van Dyke, a native of Miami, began conducting workshops there in 1981. He has facilitated classes with several major theater organizations in Miami and Los Angeles as well as in New Bern with the Serendipity Players and The New Bern Civic Theater.

The theater classes are on Wednesdays and Thursdays, noon to 3 p.m., July 11 to Aug. 3. The cost is \$65 per student.

In addition to the movement and dance for the stage, the SYC will also offer a workshop in movement for exercise. Zumbatomic will be held in two sessions, July 10 to July 24 and July 25 to August 9, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. The cost for the first session is \$35 per student, for the second session, \$40 per student.

Eliza Aaron emphasizes to students the importance of a healthy lifestyle, proper dietary habits and exercise. In addition to learning how to make exercise fun, students will be exposed encouraged to learn to make healthy choices in all aspects of their lives.

Realizing that more and more the popularity of the culinary arts is not confined to adults, the SYC will offer a workshop for youth to discover basic cooking skills that inspire self-sufficiency and self-confidence.

Youth cooking classes are Tuesdays, July 10 to Aug. 7, 10 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$45 per student.

A SYC session in photojournalism is also planned but details are pending about the dates and times.

To learn more details about these enriching opportunities for youth, contact Leigh Younce at PCC, 252-249-1851 Ext. 3033 or lyounce@pamlicocc.edu.

Ben Casey is director of community relations at Pamlico Community College. Email him at bcasey@pamlicocc.edu.

New Dorp High School coach loves to pass along his soccer know-how

Thursday, July 05, 2012, 3:33 PM



Charlie De Biase Jr.
By

When it comes to teaching the finer points of soccer, Nick Kvasic has a gift few can match.

And thankfully, the long-time New Dorp girls' soccer coach still has the desire to pass on his knowledge through a program he started 30 years ago.

Kvasic conducted the annual OLQP (Our Lady Queen of Peace) Soccer Skills Development Program on Thursday and Friday last week for boys and girls between the ages of 6- and 13-years-old.

There was a time when Kvasic ran the program in five-day sessions, but the coach eventually discovered that, in this case, more wasn't necessarily better.

"It just turned out to be a long day for us — and the kids too. Unfortunately, a lot of the hours wind up being baby-sitting," admitted Kvasic of the weekly sessions. "Doing two, four-hour sessions (the way we did last week) has been more productive, I find. But the overall idea remains the same: Show the kids different ways of doing the basic skills."

Once again, the program delivered, offering a steady diet of drills and skills that focused on the basics, such as using the inside of your foot, in-step passing and wedge trapping.



[View full size](#)

Staten Island Advance/Irving Silverstein

Nick Kvasic has conducted his camp for 30 years.

Going over the same basics time and again might eventually bore some, but not Kvasic. In fact, with the help of Ralph Porzio, Joe and Lisa Brancato, Joey Del Re and John Liantonio, he still gets a kick out of teaching the game he loves.

"I still enjoy being with the kids," he said. "I don't get tired of it.

"It's a great feeling and rewarding to see the kids develop and eventually take the college field. Sometimes I'll see someone and say, 'Oh my God, now they're adults.'"



[View full size](#)

Staten Island Advance/Irving Silverstein

Nick Kvasic leads children at the Our Lady Queen Of Peace Soccer Skills Development Program, which celebrated its 30th anniversary.

Kvasic, who is a member of the Staten Island Soccer League Hall of Fame (and also coached at the [College of Staten Island](#)), as well as the Port Richmond and Petrides' boys teams during his career), praised his hard-working staff for making the program what it is today.

"It's a great staff that once again did a great job," said Kvasic, who, in celebration of the 30-year anniversary of the program charged only \$50 per student this year (a 30 percent discount). "We don't use (instructors) we don't know. The biggest thing is they have to be capable of teaching."

Kvasic, meanwhile, said although a lot of things remain the same since he first conducted the program 30 years ago, there is one thing a player must be able to do these days to become a complete player.

"Today, you have to have both feet developed," he said matter-of-factly. "There might have been a time when (you could have got away with not being able to use both feet), but no longer."

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CSI president's legacy will continue on Staten Island

Saturday, July 07, 2012, 4:30 PM



Michael Sedon/Staten Island Advance
By



Staten Island Advance File Photo

The City University New York Board of Trustees approved a resolution on June 25 to rename the current CSI Baseball Complex the President Tomas D. Morales, Ph.D. Baseball Complex.

Although the College of Staten Island's outgoing president will be leaving soon, his name will remain a fixture on campus far into the future.

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Dr. Morales will be heading to the West Coast in August to fill the post of president at California State University, San Bernadino.

Throughout the nearly five years Dr. Morales spent at the helm of CSI he was a "staunch supporter" of athletics, said the college's Board of Trustees as one reason for the honor in its resolution.

"To enhance campus support for intercollegiate and intramural sports, President Morales instituted the CSI Scholar-Athlete Honor Roll and the CSI Future of Athletics Advisory Task Force," according to the resolution. "The College also hosted nine CUNYAC Championships."

Ronald J. Mazzucco, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Staten Island University Hospital, also presented a plaque to Dr. Morales, in recognition of his service on the hospital's Board of Trustees.

A dedication ceremony is currently being planned for later this year.

Dr. Morales took over the CSI presidency in June 2007 from Dr. Marlene Springer. Since then, he presided over a period of growth in full-time students and the number of bachelor's degrees issued.

He also helped to secure funding for residence halls that could house 440 students and faculty in an attempt to attract students from around the world.

Dr. Morales previously served as a mayoral appointee to Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Panel for Educational Policy, and served as university provost and vice president for academic affairs at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

Dr. 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.

With his departure, Dr. William J. Fritz, CSI's current provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, will take over the reigns as interim president.

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Also posted on: topix.com

Staten Island's conservative role in a liberal N.Y.

Sunday, July 08, 2012, 8:00 AM



Tom Wroblewski/Staten Island Advance
By



Advance File Photo

Also an integral part of the Island's history is the closing of the former Fresh Kills landfill. The last barge of trash arrived on March 22, 2001, and the site is to now become a park.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Staten Islanders often refer to their home as "the forgotten borough."

But the new book, "Staten Island: Conservative Bastion In a Liberal City," makes clear that the Island has played a crucial role in city and national politics.

"Staten Island is very much in tune with the rest of the country," said co-author Richard M. Flanagan, a professor of political science at the **College of Staten Island (CSI)**. "Much more so than Manhattan is."

The book, co-written with the late Daniel C. Kramer, a fellow **CSI** professor and widely respected expert on Island politics, traces the big developments that have shaped Island history in recent decades: The opening of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge; the battle over the South Richmond Plan; the secession movement; the closing of the Fresh Kills landfill; how the Island helped elect Republicans Rudolph Giuliani and Michael Bloomberg mayor, and the NASCAR controversy.

And there are also takes on the big political sagas, including Guy Molinari's move from Congress to Borough Hall, and the handing off of his House seat to daughter Susan and then to Vito Fossella; the GOP schism over Assemblyman Robert Straniere and the allegations that he didn't live on the Island; party leadership battles on both sides of the aisle, including the turmoil that followed the death of Assemblyman and Democratic chairman John Lavelle, and the election of James Molinaro as the first Conservative Party borough president in city history.

There are also recountings of some of the biggest scandals to hit the Island, including the Abscam episode that engulfed Democratic Rep. John Murphy, and the love-child imbroglio that toppled Fossella.

"There have been a lot of personal scandals here," said Flanagan. "A lot of blushing."

For Flanagan, two figures stand out above the rest in recent Island history: Molinari and GOP state Sen. John Marchi.

"In the future," he said, "people will talk about two figures: Molinari and Marchi."

The two he said, contributed to "urban conservatism in a big way."

Marchi and Molinari, twin titans of the last 50 years of Island history, represent two sides of the same conservative coin, according to Flanagan. Marchi, the more august and sedate; Molinari the populist "flamethrower."

"The way conservatives like Marchi reacted to urban liberals in the 1970s hit home on Staten Island," Flanagan said.

Molinari, meanwhile, put the Island on the national map by helping Republicans Giuliani and Bloomberg get elected mayor, showing that the borough didn't need to have large numbers of voters in order to flex its muscle.

The book ends with the 2010 midterm elections, when Democrat Michael McMahon became the first Democrat to hold the Island congressional seat in 30 years.

Tracing the sociological roots of Island conservatism, the book details how how New Yorkers fled the other four boroughs and came to the Island for its one- and two-family homes and other suburban amenities, particularly Brooklynites who arrived after the Verrazano opened in 1964.

Leaving behind the crime and overcrowding of more urban settings, many remained registered Democrats even as they more and more voted for Republicans.

"It's allowed me to bring together a lot of things that I've been thinking about," Flanagan said of the book.

Flanagan and Kramer relied on personal interviews and archival research in crafting the book, including tapping the Advance and its political reporters, as well as the sprawling state government archives at CSI and the defunct Staten Island Register weekly newspaper.

Flanagan stepped into the project after Kramer, author of numerous books and articles, fell ill.

"It's his vision," said Flanagan. "He started it. He was a mentor to me. Bringing his final project to fruition was a thrill."

Kramer died in 2010.

</tail>Tom Wroblewski may be reached at wroblewski@siadvance.com. Read his polit.bureau blog at <http://www.silive.com/newslogs/politics/>.

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Staten Island community boards re-elect officers

Sunday, July 08, 2012, 8:15 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Staten Island's three community boards have re-elected their slate of executive officers.

COMMUNITY BOARD 3

Frank Morano was re-elected chairman of Community Board 3 during the full board meeting on June 26 in the CYO/MIV Center, Pleasant Plains.

Morano has been a member of Board 3 since 1987. He was elected the first vice chairman in 1991 and chairman in 2008.

A retired New York City school teacher, Morano taught for 32 years at Markham Intermediate School, Graniteville, and also at the College of Staten Island, Willowbrook.

He holds a degree in aerospace engineering and worked on the F-14 fighter plane. He is president of the Eltingville Civic Association.

Morano also has served as a coach and director of the Great Kills Little League. He is a lector at Holy Child R.C. Church, Eltingville, and has worked with the Marriage Encounter and Engagement Days groups.

Board 3 also re-elected John Donohue, first vice chair; Phyllis Catania, second vice chair; Thomas Barlotta, third vice chair; Maribel Sansone, treasurer, and Frank Contrera, secretary.

Board 1 covers the southern portion of the Island and includes the communities of Annadale, Arden Heights, Bay Terrace, Charleston, Eltingville, Great Kills, Greenridge, Huguenot, a small part of New Dorp, Oakwood, Pleasant Plains, Prince's Bay, Richmond Valley, part of Richmond, Rossville, Tottenville and Woodrow.

COMMUNITY BOARD 2

Dana T. Magee was re-elected chairman during Community Board 2's full board meeting on June 19 at its headquarters in the Lou Caravone Community Service Building on the grounds of Seaview Hospital and Rehabilitation Center.

Magee was unanimously re-elected to his ninth, one-year term as board chairman.

First elected as chairman in 2004, Magee has been a board member for 22 years. He has served as first vice chair and chair of the Youth Services Committee.

He is currently executive director/CEO of Community Resources, which provides services for people with a developmental disability and/or mental health diagnosis; he has been an employee with the agency for 30 years.

Magee is also chair of the Borough President's Committee for People with Disabilities, and a founding board member of the SI Not-for-Profit Association (SINFPA). He has recently been honored with the Friends of Mount Manresa 2012 Exceptional Service to the Handicapped award, and on behalf of Community Resources' the 2011 Job Service Employer Committee's Community Service award, and the 2010 Eger Foundation Community Service award.

Also re-elected were Marie DiResta, first vice chair; Ed Salek, second vice chair, Antoinette Balzano, third vice chair; Camille Boffa, secretary, and Roy Garlisi, treasurer.

Board 2 covers the central portion of the Island, with the Staten Island Expressway as its northern boundary and a line from Oakwood west to Fresh Kills as its southern boundary. It includes the neighborhoods of Arrochar, Bloomfield, Bulls Head, Chelsea, Dongan Hills, Egbertville, Emerson Hill, Grant City, Grasmere, part of Graniteville, Midland Beach, New Dorp, New Springville, Ocean Breeze, part of Richmond, South Beach, Todt Hill, Travis, and parts of Willowbrook.

COMMUNITY BOARD 1

Â Leticia Remauro was re-elected chairwoman during Community Board's 1 full board meeting on June 12 at All Saints Episcopal Church, Willowbrook.

Ms. Remauro has launched her own public relations firm, along with her daughter, Jennifer Remauro, called The Von Agency Inc., based on the Island.

Incorporated in January 2010, the full-service, woman-run, public relations firm focuses on small business, non-profits and artists. Ms. Remauro, serves as president & CEO of the agency; her daughter, director of publicity.

Prior to that, Ms. Remauro served for 12 years as the vice president for Community Relations and Intergovernmental for the Hugh L. Carey Battery Park City Authority, a unique, 92-acre planned community located on Manhattan's Lower West Side across from the former World Trade Center.

Prior to joining the Authority, Ms. Remauro served as a community liaison, first to Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, then Gov. George E. Pataki. Through her work, she has been able to witness historic legislation such as the closing of the Fresh Kills Landfill and the purchase and preservation of environmentally sensitive properties on the Island such as Mount Loretto and St. Francis Friary.

Prior to entering government service, Ms. Remauro was the owner/operator of a small family restaurant in Staten Island.

Mrs. Remauro is on the board of the Staten Island creative community, the advisory board of Alice Austen House and a board member of SI 320.

Her past community service includes membership on the boards of: The American Red Cross of Greater New York, The Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences, the New York State Junior Chamber of Commerce, The Community Resources Training Services Board of South Beach Psychiatric Center and the New York City Increase the Peace Volunteer Corps.

She is a former member of the Borough of Manhattan Community College Fund.

Board 1 also re-elected Anthony Cosentino, first vice chair; Chris Rooney, second vice chair; Friday Ogbewe, third vice chair; Larry Beslow, treasurer, and Nicholas Siclari, secretary.

Board 1 covers the portion of the Island north of the Staten Island Expressway. The area includes the communities of Arlington, Castleton Corners, Clifton, Concord, Elm Park, Fort Wadsworth, part of Graniteville, Grymes Hill, Livingston, Mariners Harbor, Meiers Corners, New Brighton, Port Ivory, Port Richmond, Randall Manor, Rosebank, St. George, Shore Acres, Silver Lake, Stapleton, Sunnyside, Tompkinsville, West Brighton, Westerleigh and parts of Willowbrook.

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CSI baseball complex to be named for departing president

Sunday, July 08, 2012, 7:14 AM



Michael Sedon/Staten Island Advance
By



Advance File
Photo

MORALES: Will become head of California State University, San Bernadino, in August

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Staten Islanders sift a wealth of opinions on tax breaks

Wednesday, July 11, 2012, 6:00 AM



Deborah Young/Staten Island Advance
By



Associated Press

Ice cream cone in hand, President Obama stumps in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- As the war of words escalates over President Obama's proposal to restrict George Bush-era tax cuts to those families making less than \$250,000 a year, another conversation has begun:

Does \$250,000 really constitute "wealthy"?

In a place like Staten Island, with its high cost of living and the attendant expenses of simply raising a family, should Obama have drawn a different line in the sand?

Sen. Charles Schumer recently pitched an increased tax on households that realize more than \$1 million a year, and yesterday, former Democratic Committee Chair Tim Kaine of Virginia asserted that \$500,000 is a more reasonable cut-off.

"We had a discussion about it at our Small Business Committee meeting. I do remember people in the room saying, on the more wealthy Americans, they could see raising taxes, but they weren't talking about \$250,000," said Linda Baran, president and CEO of the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce.

"When you are talking about people investing in their business, a lot of people take personal loans; there are all kinds of things going on with how they manage their money. People are saying they want the rate to be more predictable and not changing every day."

According to the most recent U.S. Census data, 9,188 households on Staten Island make more than \$200,000 (income is not broken down above that amount). That is roughly 7.5 percent of the borough's 122,677 households.

To be sure, for a husband and wife who together bring in \$260,000 a year -- longtime civil servants, for example -- the higher tax rate would apply only to \$10,000 of their income under Obama's proposal.

Everybody in the country would be taxed at the Bush rate of 35 percent up to \$250,000, and only income beyond that amount would be pegged to the Bill Clinton-era rate of 39.6 percent.

"There is a lot of discussion about progressivity and taxation. You have to ask the question, 'What revenue do you need for the government and what mechanism are you going to use to raise the revenue?,' said Jonathan Peters, a professor of finance and demographer at the [College of Staten Island](#).

When the government collects money for "the general fund," he explained, the act constitutes taxation -- and there are many types of taxes, among them "more regressive" sales tax and tolls.

In the case of income tax, the collection mechanism is low-cost because it's built in with the Internal Revenue Service, he said.

"People don't like to pay taxes, but you have a \$15 trillion national debt and you have to be reasonable about how you are going to raise the revenue. Either you're going to cut back on your expenditures or you have to raise revenue, but you probably have to do both," Peters said, adding he would favor an even more elaborately tiered system featuring increasing tax rates for people making above \$500,000, above \$1 million and so on.

"I am much more agitated about tolling, which prevents a moderate-income single mother from getting to her job in Woodbridge, or somebody trying to start a business, paying high tolls to cross the bridge, than I am on a higher rate on high-income individuals. It has less of a disruptive effect to economic decisions," he said.

Joseph Delany, the chair of the Notre Dame Club of Staten Island and the Bread of Life Food Drive, and a retired director at Deloitte & Touche in Manhattan, said a small difference in taxes would not likely affect most behaviors, but cutting away at disposable income could impact charitable giving.

"I would like to see the threshold a little higher and see how we do with letting the Bush tax cuts die after \$1 million," he said. "If you are raising a family of four and you have kids in college and you've got a mortgage and other expenses, it's a good salary to have, but I don't think it's excessive," said Delany, who before he retired would have been targeted for the higher tax rate. "People earning \$250,000 are also very generous people on Staten Island, who make a contribution. After you pay your expenses, you do your charitable deductions and donations and do your part to keep social programs going."

Scientists to protect rare snake in St. Lucia



Photo/Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, Gregory Guida)

Gregory Guida

This undated picture released by Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust on Tuesday, July 10, 2012, shows a Saint Lucia racer snake at an undisclosed location in St. Lucia. At least 11 St. Lucia racers were spotted and tagged by a group of international scientists hunting for the snake that was declared extinct long ago, in the tiny Maria Islands nature reserve just south of the Caribbean island of St. Lucia, according to the British-based Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. (AP

A snake that scientists had declared extinct long ago has been found living in a nature reserve on a tiny isle just off the east Caribbean island of St. Lucia, conservationists said Tuesday.

At least 11 St. Lucia Racer snakes were spotted and tagged by a group of international scientists hunting for the snake in the Maria Islands reserve, which is part of St. Lucia and located about one kilometer (0.6 miles) south of the main island, according to the British-based Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust.

Overall, scientists estimate that 18 snakes live on the reserve, said Matthew Morton, Durrell's Eastern Caribbean program manager.

"In one sense it is a very worrying situation, with such a small population restricted to a single, tiny site," he said. "But in another sense, it's an opportunity ... It means that we still have a chance to save this species."

The non-venomous brown snake was declared extinct in 1936, but somebody later spotted one on the rocky reserve in 1973 and rare sightings have since been reported. Late last year, Durrell, with help from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other groups, launched a search for the snake on the larger of the two Maria Islands.

A team of six scientists and several volunteers spent five months scouring the rocky outcrop where they found some snakes slithering around during the day, looking for lizards and frogs to eat. Once they captured the snakes, they implanted microchips that will transmit data for at least 10 years, including information about their lifespan and other unknown details, Morton said.

Scientists also collected DNA samples, but the results on whether the snakes are genetically diverse won't be known for several months. Diversity is important because it would allow for a more successful breeding program, scientists say.

There's currently a lot of in-breeding on the 12-hectare (30-acre) islet where the snakes live, but scientists did not spot many deformities, which is encouraging, Morton said.

Brian Crother, a U.S.-based expert on Caribbean snakes who was not involved in the project, said he was excited about the finding.

"It provides us with another opportunity to preserve a piece of biodiversity that we thought we had lost forever," he said.

As a result of the scientists' findings, Durrell called the St. Lucia racer the world's rarest snake, but Crother and other scientists disputed the claim.

"I think saying 'rarest' is a good way to bring attention to a desperate situation, but whether it really is the rarest, I don't think you can say for sure," said Crother, interim biology department director at Southeastern Louisiana University.

Scientists are now trying to figure out the best way to save the snake, which is less than three feet (one meter) long and is known for being gentle and comfortable with human beings.

Morton said moving some snakes to St. Lucia's main island isn't an option because the mongoose, its biggest predator, lives there and will destroy the population. He said breeding the reptiles on other offshore islands is a possibility, but scientists have to determine whether there's an adequate food supply.

Frank Burbrink, a biology professor at the College of Staten Island who was not involved in the project, said the snakes should be bred in another place to ensure their future.

"You don't want to put your eggs in one very, very, very small basket," he said.

Morton said the trick is to ensure that people are aware of the snake's plight so they can help with their conservation.

But he acknowledged that could be difficult, noting: "These aren't whales or fluffy little animals that people like."

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Can't get a yellow cab in boros like Brooklyn or Staten Island or Queens? It's because they're taking fares in New Jersey

GPS analysis finds NYC yellow cabs make more than 360,000 trips to Garden State each year

By [Pete Donohue](#) / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS
Thursday, July 12, 2012, 10:24 AM



*Chris Hondros/Getty Images
NEW YORK, NY - MARCH 01:
Two gas-electric hybrid taxi
cabs drive on a street March 1,
2011 in New York City. The U.S.
Supreme Court has decided not
to hear an appeal in a case that
ends New York City Mayor
Mike Bloomberg's four-year
fight to force the yellow-taxi
industry in New York to replace
its 13,000 vehicles with gas-
electric hybrids. (Photo by Chris
Hondros/Getty Images)*

Having trouble hailing a yellow cab in the outer boroughs? Here's one reason why — a surprising number of hacks are busy working in New Jersey.

Yellow cab drivers make hundreds of thousands of pickups and dropoffs in the Garden State each year — even though their services are needed in the five boroughs — an analysis of GPS data revealed.

The numbers crunching by a team of experts found that yellow cabs annually make more than 360,000 trips that start in New Jersey. And nearly 160,000 trips begin and end in Hudson County alone, the researchers told the Daily News.

"New York City taxis are doing a better job serving the needs of Hudson County than Staten Island, or southeast Brooklyn or eastern Queens," said Jonathan Peters, a finance professor at the [College of Staten Island](#).

Peters, former city Taxi and Limousine Commission Chairman Matthew Daus and David King, an assistant professor at Columbia University, analyzed GPS data for 3 million randomly selected taxi trips.

They used it to figure out how much business hacks were doing on the other side of the Hudson in one's year time.

The numbers are a fraction of the 175 million yellow cab trips annually, but it's a significant amount of service that could — and should — be happening in the city, Daus argued. "I do not believe there are enough trips in New Jersey to cause major concern, but it would be nice if our New York City cabbies came home to where their service is needed," he said.

The TLC licenses yellow cab drivers and authorizes them to pick up street hails in the five boroughs. Out-of-state business is not prohibited, however.

But some New Jersey municipalities, including Jersey City and Hoboken, ban fare-poaching on their turf.

Only a cabbie licensed by Jersey City can pick up a hail in Jersey City, and violators can be fined, an official said. "If laws like these were not in place, someone who wanted to operate a taxi business would get licensed in the municipality with the lowest licensing costs and then conduct business wherever they felt it was most profitable," said Jersey City spokeswoman Jennifer Morrill.

Bhairavi Desai, head of the New York Taxi Workers Alliance, said many cabbies live in New Jersey and may be picking up passengers on their way in or back home.

"They can't afford New York rents," she said.

Each year, only 14,000 yellow cab trips start in Staten Island; about 180,000 begin in the Bronx; and 3 million originate in Brooklyn, the researchers said. Approximately 8.1 million taxi rides start in Queens, where two of the region's major airports are located.

pdonohue@nydailynews.com

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Also posted on: news.africanseer.com

Staten Island Supports Our Soldiers aims to help returning veterans

Thursday, July 12, 2012, 5:25 PM



Stephanie Slepian/Staten Island Advance
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- In the days leading up to that precious flight home, the men and women of the military are bombarded with information -- how to obtain discharge papers, apply for benefits and file medical claims.

Typically, they stuff the forms in their duffel bags, more focused on family reunions than what comes after war.

"The big thing is that you come home and you realize life has gone on without you," said Ann Little, 32, a Dongan Hills resident who graduated from basic training two days after Sept. 11, served in the Army in Iraq and now works in the Veterans Center at the College of Staten Island.



Staten Island Advance/Anthony DePrimo

Ann Little and Chris Longo discuss the challenges facing returning veterans during a meeting with Staten Island Supports Our Soldiers, elected officials and community leaders at the Joan and Alan Bernikow Jewish Community Center, Sea View.

"People got married, people died, people were born while we were gone. They're in the middle of their lives, we're just starting ours."

Sometimes a few months pass before they return to those forms, but by then they don't know where to begin or how to translate the skills learned in the military to the civilian world.

RELATED: City pushes jobs for veterans through Helmets to Hardhats program

An effort on Staten Island is now under way to create a single clearinghouse and host a resource fair that would provide information on benefits, employment, resume writing, interviewing skills, educational opportunities and mental health counseling.

"We need to get everybody on board," said Chris DeLisa, founder of Staten Island Supports Our Soldiers, at a planning meeting with elected officials and civic leaders today in the Joan and Alan Bernikow Jewish Community Center, Sea View.

"We need to put all our resources in one bag, to create one-stop shopping."

Assemblyman Michael Cusick (D-Mid-Island) said all the pieces exist, it's just a matter of putting them together.

"Every group on Staten Island wants to help our veterans in one way or another, but it's tough for veterans to figure out what's out there because none of it is one place," said Cusick who sat along side representatives of Nicole Malliotakis (R-East Shore/Brooklyn), state Sen. Andrew Lanza (R-Staten Island) and Councilman James Oddo (R-Mid-Island/Brooklyn) at the meeting.

To get involved, call Ms. DeLisa at 718-351-8307 or e-mail her at sisos.inc@hotmail.com.

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Oren M. Levin-Waldman, Ph.D. Recognized by Worldwide Who's Who for Excellence in Public Policy and Urban Studies Education

Oren Levin-Waldman credits his success to his research and publications

SUFFERN, NJ, July 13, 2012 /**Worldwide Who's Who**/ -- Oren M. Levin-Waldman, Ph.D., Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration for Metropolitan College of New York, has been recognized by Worldwide Who's Who for showing dedication, leadership and excellence in public policy and urban studies education.

Dr. Levin-Waldman has been in education for 26 years. After receiving a Master of Arts in urban studies and affairs in 1985, he attained a Ph.D. in political science in 1988, both from Temple University, and went into academia. He then went to a think tank and back to academia because of the connection he saw between applied policy and the academic world. For a time, he consulted at Bridgepoint Publishing to write a textbook on political science. He always maintained an interest in political theory and the public policy of political science, moving him to teach at various institutions. He has worked as an assistant professor of political science at Seton Hall University, adjunct assistant professor of political science at College of Staten Island, CUNY, a resident scholar and visiting associate professor at Levy Economics Institute or Bard College, labor market consultant at public and private ventures and as the Henry J. Raimondo professor of urban research and public policy at New Jersey City University. Currently, he works as the professor of public policy and public administration at Metropolitan College of New York. In this position, he is responsible for conducting research, writing articles, books and online course shells, developing syllabi, teaching three to four courses including online courses, developing courses that are reviewed by the committee, rolling blended courses and teaching and preparing graduates for their MPA degree. Dr. Levin-Waldman's decades of experience have made him an expert in income inequality, minimum wage studies, labor market demographics, analysis and the urban labor market. In addition to his work at Metropolitan College, he is an adjunct at Marist College's School of Management. Looking ahead, he would like to create an applied urban labor market research center that could potentially be a virtual think tank. All in all, he would like to be involved in the public debate on income inequality and the labor market and have an impact.

Dr. Levin-Waldman is not only an outstanding professor, but also a published author. He has written several books, including "Wage Policy, Income Distribution and Democratic Theory (Routledge 2011), "The Political Economy of the Living Wage: A Study of Four Cities" (M.E. Sharpe 2005), "The Case of the Minimum Wage: Competing Policy Models" (SUNY Press 2001), "Reconceiving Liberalism: Dilemmas of Contemporary Liberal Public Policy" (University of Pittsburgh 1996) and "Plant Closure, Regulation, and Liberalism: The Limits to Liberal Public Philosophy" (University Press of America 1992). He also authored "The American Constitution" (Bridgepoint Education Co. 2011).

Maintaining his professionalism, Dr. Levin-Waldman is affiliated with The American Political Science Association and the Labor and Employment Relations Associations. When he is away from college, he enjoys reading and biking.

About Worldwide Who's Who

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For more information, please visit <http://www.worldwidewhoswho.com>.

Contact:

Ellen Campbell

Director, Media Relations

mediarelations@wwregistry.com



PTP/NYC Holds New England Review Event Tonight, 7/16

by BWW News Desk

PTP/NYC (Potomac Theatre Project) hosts an event for the literary journal New England Review in New York City tonight, July 16, 2012 at 7:30pm at The Atlantic Stage 2, located at 330 West 16th Street between 8th & 9th Avenues. The evening will feature readings from five New England Review and Middlebury College alumni authors, including David Gilbert, Justin Haythe, Cate Marvin, Emily Mitchell and Patrick Phillips. A reception will follow the event.



Admission is free and open to the general public, but seating is limited. Reservations can be made online at <http://www.TicketCentral.com> or by calling (212) 279-4200. Doors open at 7:15pm. For more information visit [http://www.nereview.com/events/potomac-theater-project-ner-tribute-](http://www.nereview.com/events/potomac-theater-project-ner-tribute-event)

event.

NER was founded by poets Sydney Lea and Jay Parini in New Hampshire in 1978. In the fall of 1982 the magazine established an affiliation with Middlebury College, which assumed full sponsorship in 1987. The list of writers whose work has been selected for publication in NER is long and distinguished. Works published in the magazine are chosen every year for prestigious awards, including the Pushcart Prize, O. Henry Prize, and inclusion in the Best American anthologies.

For more information on New England Review visit <http://www.nereview.com>.

David Gilbert has had his short stories published in The New Yorker, Harper's, GQ, Bomb, and other magazines. His short story collection, Remote Feed, was published by Scribner in 1998, and his novel, The Normals, was published by Bloomsbury in 2004. His new novel, & Sons, will be published by Random House in May 2013. His screenplay for Joshua was made into a film starring Sam Rockwell and Vera Farmiga, which Fox Searchlight released in 2007. David lives in New York City.

Justin Haythe was born in London in 1973 and now lives in New York City. His first novel, The Honeymoon, was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize. He wrote the screenplays for The Clearing, starring Robert Redford, Helen Mirren, and Willem Dafoe; Revolutionary Road, for which he was nominated for a BAFTA; and The Lone Ranger, currently in pre-production.

Cate Marvin is the author of two poetry collections, World's Tallest Disaster (2001) and Fragment of the Head of a Queen (2007), both published by Sarabande. Her third book of poems is forthcoming from Norton in 2013. Her poems have recently appeared in New England Review, Virginia Quarterly Review, and Tin House. She teaches creative writing at the College of Staten Island, City University of New York, and in the low-residency M.F.A. program at Lesley University.

Emily Mitchell's first novel, *The Last Summer of the World*, was a finalist for the 2008 New York Public Library Young Lions Award. Her short fiction has appeared in *New England Review*, *Ploughshares*, *TriQuarterly*, and *Indiana Review*, and is forthcoming in *Alaska Quarterly Review*. Her review-essays have been published in *The New York Times* and the *New Statesman*. She received her B.A. from Middlebury College and her M.F.A. from Brooklyn College. Her second novel is forthcoming.

Patrick Phillips is a long-time contributor to *New England Review* and a recent Guggenheim and NEA Fellow. He is the author of the poetry collections *Chattahoochee*, winner of the Kate Tufts Discovery Prize, and *Boy*, and translator of *When We Leave Each Other: Selected Poems of Henrik Nordbrandt*. He lives in Brooklyn and teaches at Drew University.

The space is accessible from the A, C, E, L trains to 14 St./8 Ave. or the #1 train to 18 St.

CSU mulls fiscal woes, pending deficit, but OKs president pay hikes of 10%

July 17, 2012

LOS ANGELES (AP) — California State University leaders on Tuesday wrestled with ways to resolve a grim financial picture as they approved 10 percent pay hikes to two new campus presidents.

Executive Vice Chancellor Ben Quillian told the board that the 23-campus system faces deficits ranging from \$177 million to \$427 million for the 2012-13 fiscal year.

The final amount will depend on whether voters approve tax increase measures in November and whether CSU accepts a "tuition buyout" deal offered by the state Legislature.

If voters reject the tax measures, CSU would lose \$250 million in funding. Meanwhile, if CSU accepts the buyout, it would lose \$132 million in revenue from a 9 percent tuition increase this fall in return for an extra \$125 million in funds for 2013-14.

Chancellor Charles Reed said accepting the deal would create "an administrative nightmare" because about 300,000 of the system's 430,000 students have already paid their fall tuition.

The university could offer tuition credit instead of refunds, if trustees decide to roll back the fee hike, he said.

Reed noted the system stands to immediately gain \$132 million from the tuition increase.

"It's not the greatest deal in the world," he said.

Even without those factors, CSU faces a \$130 million structural deficit caused by \$750 million in funding cuts since 2007-08, as well as \$47 million in increased health and pension costs, Assistant Vice Chancellor Robert Turnage said.

"We still have a \$130 million nut to crack no matter what happens with the tax measures," he said.

Turnage outlined a series of options to close the deficits, including tuition increases, layoffs, enrollment cuts and employee pay reductions.

The board took no action on finances on Tuesday. It is slated to decide on a budget plan at its September meeting.

However, it approved salaries for four new campus presidents, two of whom were given the maximum raises of 10 percent, or \$29,000, over the outgoing presidents' salaries.

Diane Harrison at CSU Northridge will earn \$324,500, and Tomas Morales at CSU San Bernardino will earn \$319,000.

A third president received a 9 percent raise: Leslie Wong will earn \$324,000 to lead San Francisco State.

A fourth new president will see his pay reduced from his predecessor's earnings. Retired Admiral Thomas Cropper will earn \$250,000, 3.5 percent less than the previous president of the California Maritime Academy.

All four will receive a \$1,000 monthly car allowance. Harrison and Cropper receive free campus housing, while Morales and Wong each receive a \$60,000 annual housing allowance.

A series of students and union leaders denounced the pay boosts.

Rich Anderson, president of the union representing 6,000 teaching assistants and tutors, called giving raises while talking about cutting pay and laying off employees "a crass double standard."

"Where's the shared sacrifice in that?" he said.

Reed defended the raises, noting that he was criticized for hiring San Diego State University President Elliot Hirshman last July at a \$400,000 salary, sparking the ongoing criticism.

During the year, Hirshman has raised \$71 million for the campus, \$21 million more than his goal, Reed said.

"Elliot has been criticized. I have been criticized. It is totally wrong," he said. "These are tough jobs. They work 24/7."

Under the compensation policy adopted in May, the board set a raise cap of 10 percent but stipulated that the amount of the raise must be paid for by campus foundations.

Reed stressed that foundations will raise money separately for the pay increases. "No funds from the foundations will be coming from any financial aid or student scholarship money," he said.

The policy was adopted after a firestorm of criticism over boosting presidents' pay during a period of drastic belt-tightening.

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Editorial: CSU trustees who talk tuition hike, but vote executive raises, just don't get it

07/18/2012 04:43:11 AM PDT

How's this for a direct disconnect between students and administration?

The very same day that the California State University Board of Trustees approved a raise for a campus president who is changing campuses, they discussed the possibility of 5 percent tuition hikes next year to deal with ongoing budget problems.

The trustees voted at their meeting at the CSU's Long Beach headquarters to give Dianne Harrison, the new president of Cal State Northridge, a salary about \$54,000 higher than she was making as president of Cal State Monterey Bay -- \$324,500 a year. Plus housing and a car allowance.

That's 20 percent more than she was making at another Cal State campus, and 10 percent more than her well-regarded predecessor, President Jolene Koester. Two other new CSU campus presidents -- **Tomas Morales** in San Bernardino and Leslie Wong in San Francisco -- also were approved for similarly high salaries.

CSU officials have defended executive compensation, noting much of it is paid for by nonprofit university foundations. That's not the point. The contradiction between asking students to pay more and boosting already solid six-figure salaries is appalling.

The decision drew widespread criticism, including a short one from Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom. He wrote a comment on Facebook that "it is not reasonable for CSU Trustees to be voting on compensation hikes when they are also looking at raising tuition and cutting classes."

That's for sure.

Students like Matthew Degaldo from CSUN protested at the meeting.

"It's horrible what (the CSU system) is doing," he told one of our reporters. "I'm paying higher tuition for classes that I can't even get into. So many students are struggling."

This is not to say that Harrison doesn't deserve a raise -- or Morales or Wong, for that matter. But getting one in the midst of class cuts and tuition hikes sends the wrong message to their students, many of whom come from working class families who will only ever dream of a six-figure paycheck.

If Harrison wants to kick off her CSUN tenure with a courageous gesture -- admittedly, a symbolic one -- she will turn down the raise. It would be an amazing display of compassion for her students.

Also posted on: nctimes.com

CSU trustees hit a sour note

07/18/2012 01:33:46 PM PDT

Just because you're smart doesn't mean you can carry a tune.

Cal State University trustees - smart, talented and accomplished people all - have proved once again that, as a group, they're utterly tone-deaf.

The trustees approved big bumps in salary for three more incoming presidents - including new Cal State San Bernardino President Tomas Morales - on Tuesday, the same day that they discussed disaster scenarios in the event that voters reject Gov. Jerry Brown's November tax-hike initiative.

One possibility is yet another tuition increase, this time 5 percent starting next spring, on top of recent hikes that already have added 23 percent to students' tuition. The other possibility is reducing systemwide enrollment by 1.5 percent - even as demand burgeons - turning away about 6,000 students, laying off 750 employees and cutting employee salaries and benefits by 5.25 percent.

Meanwhile, it seemed like a good idea to 10 out of 14 trustees to pay three incoming presidents 9 percent or 10 percent more than their predecessors made.

If God helps those who help themselves, it just might be that taxpayers do the same. Digging a deeper public-relations hole by handing out big raises to top execs is not the way to convince taxpayers that CSU needs their help. Perceptions that the state is still overspending in some areas is the likeliest reason for Brown's tax hike to fail.

After all, how many of those taxpayers have enjoyed a 10 percent pay hike in any recent year?

CSU Chancellor Charles Reed argues that the raises are required to attract top people to the college presidencies, and that the total amount spent on presidents' raises is a drop in the bucket compared to the CSU's money woes in the wake of precipitous declines in state monetary support.

Drop in the bucket, perhaps, but surely academics understand the importance of symbolism. And don't we need top talent in the professorial ranks too?

The trustees in May capped raises for new presidents at 10 percent, and stipulated that hikes must be paid by private campus foundations. But the fact that the CSUSB Philanthropic Foundation is coming up with \$29,000 of Morales' \$319,000 salary doesn't make us feel much better. That foundation's mission should be helping students, not executives.

Nothing we've said is meant to slight Morales, who has demonstrated his abilities as provost at Cal Poly Pomona and as president of the College of Staten Island. We expect him to make a fine president of Cal State San Bernardino. If he's 10 percent better than outgoing President Al Karnig, for whom we have great regard, we'll be surprised - and pleased.

Does a College President Deserve \$325,000 a Year?

July 18, 2012, 4:34 pm • Posted by [Laird Harrison](#)

You can make big money as a campus president at the California State University. More than ever before. On Tuesday the California State University trustees approved [salaries](#) for three new campuses presidents that are 9 or 10 percent higher than their predecessors earned:

- \$324,500 for Diane Harrison at CSU Northridge
- \$324,500 for Leslie Wong at San Francisco State University
- \$319,000 for Tomas Morales at CSU San Bernardino.



San Francisco State University

Struggling with smaller budgets, the trustees have repeatedly raised tuition and cut course offerings.

What were they thinking?

For some insight into the business of hiring college presidents, KQED's Rachael Myrow talked to Jamie Ferrare. Ferrare, a principal of AGB Search, has been hunting for college presidents and the like for more than a decade. He helped bring Wong to SFSU. Before working in executive search, worked in academic himself -- as dean of the school of education at Drake University in Des Moines, IA.

The following is an edited version of their conversation:

RACHAEL MYROW: I imagine being a campus president is a difficult job. But how much of \$325,000 is a matter of proper market remuneration and how much is simply keeping up with the Joneses?

JAMIE FERRARE: States over the last decade or so have reduced the amount of funds going to states institutions. As a result we're asking presidents and senior administrators to generate more income, which means fundraising, grants, and other scholarship work that would attract dollars. That means also increasing tuition. As a result I think the pressure on college presidents is such that it has changed the skill sets that we're looking for. It's not unlike running a business or a city these days. Many college

campuses are larger than many cities in California. You have all the same expectations, you have security issues, you have academic issues, you have students to take care of.

RACHAEL MYROW: Where does the Cal state network rank in terms of how much it pays its presidents?

JAMIE FERRARE: Generally they are on the low side of average. Obviously California State's system is highly regarded nationally and internationally. And I think over the years they have paid quite well. That said, in the last decade or so they have not improved or at least stayed where the national averages are going.

RACHAEL MYROW: I imagine it's hard to find people who are the focal point of all that hatred and dissatisfaction that comes around a system that's in the midst of massive budget cuts.

JAMIE FERRARE: And without any protection. Faculty have tenure. Staff have contracts. But if the board is dissatisfied with presidents' service, the board can fire them. There is very little job security for presidents. The national tenure of a college president is about eight years. So with the risk has to come some remuneration.

RACHAEL MYROW: Where do you go shopping for this kind of executive talent?

JAMIE FERRARE: Well, California had always been an attraction in itself. I mean the weather, the richness and diversity of the population. The resources they had available. The economic impact that the institutions have on communities. The president at San Francisco State had been at Northern Michigan. It's a long winter there. Given the downturn in the economy and what's happening in California, it's much more difficult. So you begin looking within the California state system. Who there appears to be ready? It means we are grooming people to move into the presidency. The other avenue is to go across the country to like institutions in other states and look for talented people who have had success there.

RACHAEL MYROW: These campuses are so huge, is it fair to compare this job to the job of the CEO of a Fortune 500 company?

JAMIE FERRARE: I have to do that. I interact with the CEO's of Fortune 500 companies because many of them they sit on the boards of trustees of colleges and universities. They will say to you readily that the expectations of a college president, with excess of a \$100 million budget, are easily, easily correlated to a CEO's position, with a great deal more public scrutiny.

RACHAEL MYROW: Cal State has replaced nine college presidents in just the last year. Why is there so much turnover right now?

JAMIE FERRARE: One reason, for sure, is that so many baby boomers are retiring. Many of those who were born in the 1940s are retiring now at all colleges and universities. No. 2 is the impact of the job right now. For years now it's been "cut the budget, cut the budget." That means at some point you have to reduce staff, and those are painful decision. You have to raise tuition and those are painful decisions. Some people are saying, "I just can't do that anymore. I need to be in a more positive environment."

Our View: CSU, Citrus boards send wrong message with raises

07/19/2012 03:01:47 PM PDT

DEAR Cal State and Citrus College boards:

The granting of substantial raises to college presidents this week is, to quote a Glendora resident, an act of insanity.

In insider newspaper parlance, the editorial could end there. But there is more to these damaging actions that you need to hear. And from us, big supporters of higher education.

The Cal State University trustees approved about \$85,000 in raises for three campus presidents. Dianne Harrison, president of Cal State Northridge, will get a 10 percent raise and will earn \$324,500. **Tomas Morales** of CSU San Bernardino also gets a 10 percent bump for a \$319,000 salary. San Francisco State's Les Wong will earn \$325,000, a 9 percent raise. Morales' hike is particularly glaring. That campus is in San Bernardino, a city that will be filing for bankruptcy protection. It's hard for the CSU trustees to appear more oblivious to surrounding economical circumstances if they let out a tart quip: "Let them eat cake."

Besides the considerable salary bumps, CSU presidents each get \$1,000 a month for a car and \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year for housing or live in a presidential mansion for free.

The CSU board justifies these expenditures with its latest excuse, that the schools get the money by squeezing donors instead of taxpayers.

If as the CSU trustees say, these managers deserve salary bumps, do they also need help paying for their homes and cars? Can't these folks afford a Ford Fiesta and a home rental in this housing-down market without a handout? Obviously, the answer is yes they can!

But before we say that using donors instead of taxpayers to pay for presidential financial aid doesn't make it right, we must address the Citrus College situation, and make a final point.

As staff writer J.D. Velasco reported, the Citrus board not only granted President Geraldine Perri a 4 percent raise this year, but made it automatic every year through 2016. By then, Perri will be making about \$251,000.

Didn't Joanne Montgomery, Sue Keith and Patricia Rasmussen, the three who voted for the automatic raises, read our editorial on San Bernardino? It was a similar automatic pay system for public employees that helped drive the city toward bankruptcy.

Finally, even if we buy the argument that paying presidents more helps attract better applicants, now is not the time. Not while others are getting laid off, furloughed, are unemployed and while students pay more for classes.

These actions also send the wrong message to voters, whom these boards desperately want to vote yes on Gov. Jerry Brown's tax increase initiative in November. To quote Steve Handy, chief negotiator for the Citrus College classified staff, this Marie Antoinette impersonation "is the kind of issue that does not sit well with the public."

Without a yes vote on the tax, the CSUs will have to cut \$250 million and layoff hundreds. The CCs also will be hurting.

So, if only for political reasons, reverse your actions and start stumping for the tax increase measure. Tell the public that more funding for classes and students means more than rewarding your presidential friends. And while you're at it, fire your political consultant.

Failure to understand

Pay raises for CSU presidents show system has lost touch with reality

July 20, 2012 12:00 AM

Trustees of the 23-campus California State University system on Tuesday boosted the pay of three college presidents. One day earlier came the news that without voter approval of a November tax initiative, either CSU tuition is going up in January or 6,000 fewer students would be enrolled.

If these two things seem incongruent, it's because they are. Bumping pay for top administrators at the same time you're bumping tuition - again - for students shows a callousness that likely won't be lost on voters. It certainly isn't lost on the students and their families.

To be sure, the pay increases - 10 percent more for two college presidents and 9 percent more for another - are not being paid for by taxpayers.

Under a controversial plan trustees adopted in May, the increases can only be paid for by private fundraising or campus foundations.

Technically, that avoids the obvious irritation of paying some more and giving students - and the colleges' faculty and staff - less while allowing the system to compete for the top academic administrators nationwide. Technically.

The reality is that this is irritating, to students, to the CSU faculty and the support staff.

The CSU presidents make substantially more. With the just-approved 10 percent raises, Diane Harrison at CSU Northridge will earn \$324,500, and **Tomas Morales** at CSU San Bernardino will earn \$319,000. Leslie Wong, who got a 9 percent raise, will earn \$324,000 to lead San Francisco State (a tenured, full professor averages \$119,000).

All three get a \$1,000 monthly car allowance. Harrison receives free campus housing while Morales and Wong each receive a \$60,000 annual housing allowance.

Critics properly argue that foundation money and money raised privately being used to supplement the presidents' pay could be used for scholarships or to endow academic chairs - things that actually go toward education.

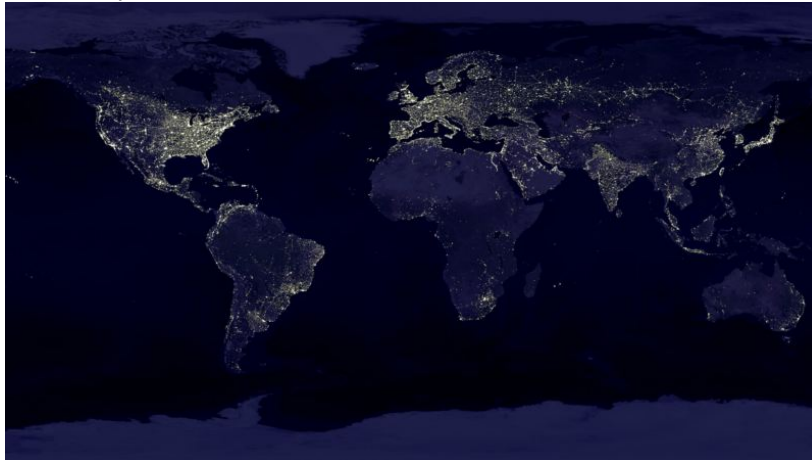
Obviously, the pay bump these three are getting won't change the reality of \$250 million in "trigger cuts" to the CSU system if voters reject Gov. Jerry Brown's tax hike proposal in November. Not giving the raises doesn't mean we'd only have to cut 5,500 students instead of 6,000.

But there is a tone deafness here that's shocking. And that's the problem.

City Lights Outshine Stars, Obscure Night Sky

Friday, 20 July 2012 08:44

Written by Arts & Entertainment - Voice of America



The starry nighttime sky our ancestors knew is disappearing from view for most of the planet's population.

Rampant artificial light in many parts of the world has become another urban pollutant, erasing our view of the night sky, blinding ground-based telescopes and threatening the health of humans and the planetary ecosystem.

The vanishing night sky is the subject of "[The City Dark^{\[1\]}](#)," a documentary written and directed by Ian Cheney.

"The film begins with a very simple question," Cheney says. "What do we lose when we lose the night and the darkness and the night sky?"

That's both a personal and a global question for Cheney, who spent his childhood stargazing on his family's farm in the rural northeastern state of Maine, and came to miss the night sky after moving to New York as a young man.

"Most kids in the world are now growing up without being able to see the Milky Way galaxy, this band of light that represents the hundreds of millions, the billions, of stars in our home galaxy that our sun is one of," Cheney says. "And we will see, as our people evolve, what that means, whether that means we have fewer scientists, or fewer poets or fewer philosophers. But I certainly think there is no end to the inspiration you can gain from a beautiful view of the night sky."

The view of the night sky from the Waldoboro Maine farmhouse where “The City Dark” filmmaker Ian Cheney grew up gazing at the stars (Courtesy Wicked Delicate Films)



The view of the night sky from the Waldoboro Maine farmhouse where “The City Dark” filmmaker Ian Cheney grew up gazing at the stars (Courtesy Wicked Delicate Films)

Along with inspiration, there is scientific knowledge to be gleaned, as astronomers look to space for clues about the origins of the universe.

But direct observation has become nearly impossible in big cities as their light bounces off the dust in the atmosphere and creates a diffuse pinkish glow that can drown out all but a dozen or so of the brightest stars.

“We’re limited to how far deep in space we can go,” [College of Staten Island](#) astronomy professor [Irving Robbins](#)^[2] says in the documentary. “When you look at the sky, it’s like I have a beautiful painting, very nice. But now I come along and erase all of it. I just leave a few spots. That’s what light pollution does.” It’s easy to understand humanity’s love affair with artificial light. For hundreds of thousands of years, all we had was fire and torchlight to help us move about and feel secure at night. In the early 1800s, gaslight was developed to brighten city streets and deter crime. Incandescent light followed late in the century, helping to create an almost perpetually-illuminated urban world.

“If a light isn’t lighting anything useful, but instead it’s shining into your bedroom window at night or spilling up into the sky, that represents a tremendous waste of energy,” Cheney says. “We are burning fossil fuels to create all of this electricity that then is just wasted.”

Cheney believes shielding outdoor lights so they illuminate only the street below is less intrusive and more efficient.

And while city lights help us see where we're going at night, they actually cause many non-human species to lose their way.

For example, migrating birds seem to have a star map encoded in their brains that helps them navigate as they fly north in the spring and south in the fall. When birds fly over cities, they often confuse the artificial lights below with the stars above.

Dead birds which have been collected by the Field Museum of Chicago after their fatal collisions with buildings. Birds often mistake skyscraper lights for the stars they need to navigate. (Courtesy Wicked Delicate Films)



Dead birds which have been collected by the Field Museum of Chicago after their fatal collisions with buildings. Birds often mistake skyscraper lights for the stars they need to navigate. (Courtesy Wicked Delicate Films)

"Since the lights they are looking at are behind glass, they end up, in many cases, running into the glass and they die from a major concussion," says [David Willard](#), a zoologist at the [Field Museum of Chicago](#).

"There are estimates out there that go up to a billion birds a year actually running into windows and dying from those collisions."

Too much light also interferes with human circadian rhythms, which depend on 24-hour cycles of darkness and light.

Epidemiologist Richard Stevens at the University of Connecticut Health Center says there is evidence linking rising rates of [breast cancer](#)^[5] in the industrialising world with the growing number of women working night shifts - under artificial light.

“And in fact the International Agency for Research on Cancer, which is part of the World Health Organization, just a couple years ago has now classified shift work as what they call ‘a probable human carcinogen.’”

Lighting manufacturers are responding to growing demand for bulbs that mimic natural light, and efforts are under way around the world to establish “dark sky preserves,” where light pollution is at a minimum.

“The City Dark” filmmaker Cheney is hopeful the night sky can be saved.

“There is something comforting and esthetically pleasing about our city lights,” he says, “we just have to find a way to have them and our stars, too.”

What would be your No. 1 stop for a friend visiting Staten Island?

Tuesday, July 31, 2012, 2:03 PM



Sarah Buccellato/Staten Island Advance
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- We love seeing what people on Staten Island are tweeting about.

A recent post from Twitter user **@CJ_ScottWSIA**, assistant sports director for WSIA 88.9 FM, the **College of Staten Island**'s radio station, grabbed our attention:

"Some dude came all the way from Texas to visit Staten Island and the first place he goes to is the original Ralph's Famous Italian Ices."

This got us wondering... if you knew someone visiting Staten Island, what's the first place you would tell him or her to go and why?

Share your thoughts in the comments section below.

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Staten Island Advance

A man from Texas visiting Staten Island heads to the original Ralph's Famous Italian Ices in Port Richmond as his first stop in the borough.

Failure to understand

07/31/2012 01:10:23 PM PDT

As a faculty member in Cal Poly Pomona's College of Business Administration for the past 25 years, I have been increasingly appalled at the executive compensation decisions taken by the CSU's Board of Trustees.

At a time when the trustees contemplate balancing the systemwide budget on the backs of students (via fee increases) and employees (via pay cuts), it seems incredible to authorize presidential salary increases as they have done recently.

The soon-to-be-retired Chancellor Reed and the Board of Trustees attempt to justify their actions in three main ways: a) the "drop in the bucket" theory, b) the "exceptional talent" theory and c) the "non-state funds" theory.

Regarding a), the quantitative argument pales in comparison to the qualitative. The late Peter Drucker, considered by many the father of modern management, said: "Rank does not confer privilege or give power. It imposes responsibility." Apparently, CSU leadership views "responsibility" in a rather unique way.

Regarding b), one wonders how "exceptional talent" is measured in any sense. Perhaps the proposed vote of no confidence by the faculty of the College of Staten Island in Tomas Morales is, in the minds of Reed and the trustees, a badge of honor. If so, it's one my degrees in accounting, business education and management have left me ill-equipped to understand.

Regarding c), unless the CSU has suddenly developed the ability to print its own money, foundation funds have to come from some external source. Whether that source is students, who pay higher fees to take courses through continuing education operations, or external donors, who could be solicited for things like student scholarships rather than presidential salary augmentations, the trustees' logic appears disingenuous at best.

I've devoted much of my professional career to the CSU through my faculty position at Cal Poly Pomona. And, while I hope the trustees' proposals will be avoided via the passage of Gov. Brown's ballot proposition, I cannot help but wonder how (indeed, if) Californians will justify a "yes" vote given those compensation decisions and the shaky logic that underlies them.

ROBERT L. HURT
Professor of Accounting, Cal Poly Pomona

Also posted on: sbsun.com

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JULY 2012

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A free solution for Island companies

Island's Business Solutions Center, in partnership with other organizations, provides a free resource for business owners

By **TIM RONALDSON**
Business Trends

Staten Island's Business Solutions Center has been located on the North Shore for the past two years, but Mary Ellen Smyth finds that most businesses in the borough still don't know what it does.

Smyth, who came on board as the Center's director earlier this year, is fully entrenched in changing that situation.

The Center provides services, classes and advice to both existing and start-up businesses, all free of charge. Until last month, Staten Island's office was by-appointment only, but now that staffing issues have been addressed, it will be open and available from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays.

"My mission is to get out there and let folks know who we are, what we do and how we can help them," Smyth said. "We need to service the whole Island. Now that I have a team, those are our marching orders."

The Center offers a wealth of resources including business planning courses, lease and contract reviews, business structure advice, recruitment services and other educational resources. Smyth said most of her clients initially come to the Center looking for financial assistance, but business start-ups must know that if they want to get funded, they'll need to have a strong plan.

One such business was Cutest Cookies, a company that started in a home kitchen and expanded to a storefront on Hylan Boulevard. Smyth said the owner attended a legal clinic, received financial assistance and was put in touch with the city's New Busi-

ness Acceleration Team – helping her to navigate the cumbersome inspection process – all through the Center.

"Most of these people when they come here, they know it's a process," Smyth said. "They're going to devote some time to the education part of it, then they devote some time to the business plan part of it, and then they can look at the financing."

"That's your roadmap to success. It's tough out there. It's better to have the opportunity to sit down now and take a look at all these issues before you open your business."

Smyth attributes the Center's success to the many partnerships it has established on the Island. The West Brighton Community Local Development Corporation refers clients to the Center for courses, and the Center refers clients to the WBCLDC for M/WBE certification, she said. It also has partnerships with local banks, the Northfield LDC, the College of Staten Island and, most recently, the Staten Island Economic Development Corporation.

The Island's Center works primarily with retail stores, professional services companies and other small businesses. What it doesn't specialize in is what the SIEDC does best – advising businesses in the manufacturing, wholesale, construction and industrial sectors, Smyth said.

The SIEDC is a contracted partner with the Department of Small Business Services, providing a set of core services specifically to these sectors. It focuses on the areas of navigating government, complicated financing, recruitment of skill-level employees and training services for companies within the sectors of construction, wholesale, maritime, trucking and manufacturing.

"The SIEDC has always had a hand in serving that sector in past programs, like the state's Empire Zone," said Jay Anderson, the SIEDC's director of projects. "So when they (the Center) were looking to get a contracted partner, we felt like we would be able to help with that."

The partnership between the Center and the SIEDC will help ensure that no business, no matter the size or sector, is left in the cold. If a manufacturing business' first point of contact is with the Center, Smyth will be able to start the process and then hand them off to the SIEDC for specialized help, and vice versa, Anderson said.

"The real purpose is to make sure that each business is served right from the first call, and then, if needed, a hand-off to the proper center," Anderson said. "The city wants the Business Solutions to serve any business at any stage. Even the city recognizes that they don't want certain sectors overlooked or underserved."

From Smyth's perspective, the partnership will allow the Center to focus on its core competency – helping small businesses launch, operate, expand and succeed.

With the Center fully staffed, Smyth said she would love to reach out to, and help, more local businesses.

About 80 percent of the Island's companies are classified as small businesses, which is the Center's bread and butter.

"I think what we do is wonderful work. It's meaningful work. A lot of businesses can benefit from this," Smyth said.

And the best part, according to her, is that all its services are free: "The price is right."

For more information on the Center, visit its website, www.nyc.gov/nycbusiness, or call 311.

A look back, as Staten Island high schools graduate thousands

Monday, July 02, 2012, 4:07 PM



Sarah Buccellato/Staten Island Advance
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Following the 2012 commencement season, Staten Island has sent forth more than 5,000 high school graduates into their futures.

If you missed out on any of this year's commencement exercises, here's one last look back, before the graduates embark on their summers:

College of Staten Island High School for International Studies graduates 137

Concord High School graduates 67

Curtis High School graduates 497

Francis School graduates 46

Gaynor McCown Expeditionary Learning High School graduates 69

Hungerford School graduates 49

McKee Career and Technical Education High School graduates 154

Miraj Islamic School graduates 10

Moore Catholic High School graduates 153

Monsignor Farrell High School graduates 257



[View full size](#)

Staten Island Advance/Anthony DePrimo

New Dorp High School graduates cheer, as faculty is announced on the football field during the 2012 commencement exercise.

New Dorp High School graduates 479

Notre Dame Academy High School graduates 114

Petrides School graduates 126

Port Richmond High School graduates 392

St. John Villa Academy graduates 144

St. Joseph by-the-Sea graduates 335

St. Joseph Hill graduates 113

St. Peter's Boys High School graduates 140

South Richmond High School graduates 23

Staten Island Academy graduates 43

Staten Island Technical High School graduates 224

Susan Wagner High School graduates 680

Tottenville High School graduates 862

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Staten Island vets adviser Lee Covino re-appointed to mayoral panel

Friday, July 06, 2012, 11:25 AM



Tom Wrobleski/Staten Island Advance
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Lee Covino, the Borough Hall veterans and military affairs adviser, has been re-appointed to the city Veterans' Advisory Board.

In a letter to Covino announcing the re-appointment, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said that Covino's work on the nine-member board is "greatly appreciated and is making it possible for the City of New York to more effectively meet the needs of our veterans and their families."

"For some of us, every day is Memorial Day," said Covino. "During my years working with vets, I have met so many unsung heroes, and it is always an honor to help out wherever I can."



Staten Island Advance

"For some of us, every day is Memorial Day," said Lee Covino. "During my years working with vets, I have met so many unsung heroes, and it is always an honor to help out wherever I can."

Board members serve for a term of three years and advise the director of the Mayor's Office of Veterans' Affairs. Covino was originally appointed to the board in 2002.

Borough President James P. Molinaro lauded the re-appointment of Covino, a Vietnam-era veteran "because of his long-term commitment in helping veterans of all ages, both here on Staten Island and indeed, around the city."

In 1990, Covino was appointed to the borough president's cabinet, as director of contract oversight and veterans affairs adviser.

"Covino's interest in veterans affairs centers around obtaining direct services for veterans in need," Molinaro said. "He lives by the credo of the Veterans of Foreign Wars: Honor the dead by helping the living."

Said Covino, "With another wave of vets returning to 'the world' after discharge from active duty, I stand ready to help them meet the challenges of re-integrating into today's difficult economy."

Covino also serves as the borough president's liaison for senior citizens.

In addition to the VFW, Covino is also a member of the American Legion, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Catholic War Veterans, AMVETS, the 369th Veterans Association, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks and the College of Staten Island Alumni Association board of directors.

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The best re-use for former prison? A two-year college

Sunday, July 08, 2012, 12:01 AM



Letters to the Editor/Staten Island Advance
By

By JACK DEITCH
ROSEBANK

RE: The Request For Proposals for Arthur Kill Correctional Facility redevelopment:

The extraordinarily high drop-out rates in Staten Island and the City of New York strongly suggest that our schools are not meeting the needs of their students, many of whom will eventually become a burden on our society. Youth unemployment rates are already hovering around 50 percent. Crime and recidivism rates are at unacceptable levels. Our prisons are overcrowded with little or no suitable education or rehabilitation taking place.

The job market for entry-level trades and occupations is at a low point.

There is a general feeling among consumers of a lack of confidence in the quality and availability of skilled workers in the building and other trades.

About half of our high school graduates have neither the desire, the ability nor the qualifications to attend college or enter any of the recognized professions, dooming them to a lifetime of diminished earnings if not poverty.

Most of those grads as well as drop-outs have the necessary ability but lack the skills and training to succeed in any of dozens of trades and occupations, due in large part to a lack of training facilities.

Returning veterans, especially, need training to transition into the labor market.

Recently terminated workers need retraining and new skills, often in new industries.

The job market is ever-changing due to robotics, outsourcing and computerization. It is conceivable that employers are reluctant to undertake the expense of paying the salaries and training of unqualified employees.

Since the consolidation of our community college with the four-year College of Staten Island 25 years ago, we have been without a two-year college despite the fact that they have been flourishing elsewhere. Absent such a facility, high school grads and dropouts must rely on happenstance to acquire an entry-level job that will provide the necessary training.

All of these things cost us hundreds of millions of dollars every year in unnecessary prison, law enforcement and welfare expenditures, in a loss of tax revenue, in reduced family income and in a poorer, much less efficient society.

Consequently, there is a recognized need to provide a home or a logical next step between graduation or drop-out and the street corner.

We need a two-year community college, dedicated to the trades and the occupations, not serviced by our liberal arts colleges. We need to train the next generation of technicians who man our hospital equipment, who maintain our infrastructure, who build our bridges and install our solar energy equipment.

We need skilled woodworkers, carpenters, electricians and plumbers. We need machinists and computer operators, food workers, hotel management and office staffers. We need pilots to man our ferries, heavy equipment operators and dock workers to operate our robotic equipment.

The Arthur Kill Correctional facility provides a unique opportunity to provide such a community college. It can draw upon an adjacent industrial park, a waterfront, a drydock, a containerport, and major hotels for hands-on support.

We have a new bridge to build to replace the Goethals and one to raise in the Bayonne. We have a North Shore rail line to restore and a seaport to develop. We have 2,500 acres in Fresh Kills to turn into a state-of-the-art park. We have thousands of jobs in the pipeline and thousands of people who could fill them, if only they knew how.

I envision a coalition of the State and City of New York, the Economic Development Council, the Board of Higher Education, local elected officials, the Chamber of Commerce and a host of local businesses and banks to provide the necessary legislation funding, building and staffing of a new two-year community college, dedicated to the industrial arts, open to all and leading to a degree in a specialized field of study.

(The writer, an attorney, is the former Land Use Committee Chairman of Community Board 2 and the former chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Greenbelt.)

A new kind of fencing made from concrete

Wednesday, July 11, 2012, 11:06 AM



By **Paul Liotta/Staten Island Advance**



Oleg Veretelnikov and Kudrat Rakhimoff have partnered to form Concrete Fencing, LLC. (Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel)

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - **ALL SHORES** -

Two Uzbek immigrants with a company on Staten Island have created a small business that follows in the footsteps of some enterprising entrepreneurs in American history.

Their company looks to change the fencing industry in the New York metropolitan area by introducing a product that is both affordable and lasts a lifetime.

Kudrat Rakhimoff, 38, of Oakwood, is a civil engineer with a degree from St.

John's University. He has partnered with

Oleg Veretelnikov, 40, of Brooklyn, who is a former Olympic decathlon competitor. Together, they have formed Fencing Concrete, LLC.

The two met in the United States after Rakhimoff immigrated here in 1997; Veretelnikov came in 2003. Both are from the small Central-Asian country of Uzbekistan which was part of the former Soviet Union.

Their time in the Soviet Union led them to their concrete mixture which was once used to make barricades in the Soviet Union. They have come up with a new use for the mixture: To create fencing that is both decorative and functional.

"The fences are beautiful and come with a lifetime guarantee," Rakhimoff said. "Unlike PVC and wood fences that have to be replaced every few years, these you just install and forget about it."

The business, located at 204 Grandview Ave. in Mariners Harbor, incorporated in January 2011. It distributes its products to local contractors. On Staten Island, the two men work with the Fence Depot, which is located on South Avenue in Bloomfield.

The fences are available for both residential and business purposes, according to the company's website.

After the two men started the company they received help from the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at the College of Staten Island in Willowbrook, a program designed to help small businesses "maneuver around the obstacles to success," according to its website.

"They (SBDC) were very helpful," Rakhimoff said. "Working with them helped us to receive a \$15,000 line of credit."

Veretelnikov represented the Republic of Uzbekistan in the 1996 and 2000 Olympics. He is not only a skilled athlete, but also a concrete tradesman schooled in engineering.

"He is a very hard-working guy, I trust him. We have become like brothers. We both have kids the same age, we are very close," Rakhimoff said.

In the coming months, the two men plan to expand their business even further by building relationships with more contractors throughout the tri-state area.

"We are assigning new contractors every day. We are beginning to go further into New Jersey and Long Island," Rakhimoff said. "The price is right, the product is right and I believe more people will begin to use it."

One of the company's fences can be seen at the corner of Forest Avenue and Harbor Road next to the Hess Station in Mariners Harbor.

Fencing Concrete LLC can be reached by calling **917-742-3848**.

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Immigrant and minority businesses to be discussed at Staten Island forum

Sunday, July 15, 2012, 8:23 PM



Deborah Young/Staten Island Advance
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Staten Island has long been a borough of small businesses. But in recent years, more and more of Staten Island's small firms have been started by immigrant and minority entrepreneurs, reflecting demographic changes that have taken place in a borough where now, more than one in five residents are foreign born.

In neighborhoods from across the borough, immigrant and minority entrepreneurs are boosting the economy. However they often face obstacles as they try to start and grow businesses here, and too few are connected with programs designed to help entrepreneurs.



Staten Island Advance

Immigrant business, such as this Port Richmond deli, are part of the landscape on Staten Island, where one in five residents is foreign born. An upcoming forum seeks to discuss the needs of these new business owners.

To bring visibility to this important issue and develop better resources for assisting immigrant and minority small business owners across the city, the Center for an Urban Future and the Fund for Public Advocacy has hosted a series of forums.

On July 31, at the College of Staten Island's Center for the Arts, immigrant business and minority business owners, their needs and their contributions will be discussed, during a free, and open-to-the-public forum from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Councilwoman Debi Rose (D-North Shore) will be the keynote speaker.

A light breakfast will be served. The event, put on by the Center for an Urban Future and the Fund for Public Advocacy, is being sponsored by the Staten Island Foundation

Space is limited. The deadline to register is July 30. To register, RSVP via e-mail at rsvp@nycfuture.org or by phone at 212-479-3319.

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Business forum slated for Staten Island's CSI's Center for the Arts on July 31

Monday, July 16, 2012, 8:00 AM



Staten Island Advance
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Staten Island has long been a borough of small businesses. In recent years, more and more of the Island's small firms have been started by immigrant and minority entrepreneurs, reflecting demographic changes in which more than one in five residents is foreign-born.

In neighborhoods across the Island, these entrepreneurs are boosting the economy, but they face obstacles as they try to start and grow businesses here, and too few are connected with programs designed to help small business owners.

To bring visibility to this important issue and develop better resources for assisting immigrant and minority small business owners across the city, the Center for an Urban Future and the Fund for Public Advocacy are hosting a series of forums across the city. On July 31, at the College of Staten Island's Center for the Arts, immigrant business and minority business owners, their needs and their contributions will be discussed, during a forum from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. It is free and open to the public, and a light breakfast will be served.

City Councilwoman Debi Rose (D-North Shore) will be the keynote speaker.

The event is being sponsored by the Staten Island Foundation.

Space is limited, and the deadline to register is July 30. To register, contact 212-479-3319 or rsvp@nycfuture.org.

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MTA Pushes Back Fare Hike and Adds Services

By Amelia Pang

July 19, 2012 *Last Updated:* July 20, 2012



Joseph Lhota chairman and CEO of the MTA, holds a press conference at the MTA office in Manhattan on July 19. (Benjamin Chasteen/The Epoch Times)

NEW YORK—Fare increases originally scheduled for January 2013 are now being pushed back to March, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) announced Thursday at a press conference.

Despite tight finances, the MTA said nearly 40 bus, subway, and commuter rail routes will either be added or existing services will be extended.

The fare hike is not connected to renovations, said Joseph Lhota, MTA chairman and CEO. The new price will be discussed at a board meeting next week.

The new service extensions are worth \$29 million. Lhota said the MTA was hoping to heal the wounds caused by \$93 million in cuts made to balance its budget in 2010.

Bus services were cut back the most, Lhota said. To regain some of the lost services, NYC Transit announced that it will add five new bus routes, extend 13 existing bus routes— and add more midday, night, and weekend service to certain bus routes throughout the five boroughs.

Extensions will include routes such as the Q30 to Queensborough Community College on weekdays, and the S93 to the College of Staten Island campus.

Popular subway lines such as the G train extension to Church Avenue in Brooklyn are now permanent, he said.

“This is a very big day at the MTA.... we are committed to making the MTA as responsive to our customers as possible,” Lhota said.

The Metro-North Railroad will add 230 trains a week: 220 additional trains east of the Hudson River, and 10 on the west. The railroad will also invest in new weekend and off-peak trains.

The changes come at an unusual time in the history of transportation, said an MTA official. In the '40s, people went to work six days a week, and the MTA is seeing a return to that type of ridership, despite a very different economy.

The additional services will be phased in over several months. Buses such as the B2 that serves Gravesend and Marine Park will be implemented in October 2012, while others begin throughout 2013

MTA announces some service restorations for Staten Island

Thursday, July 19, 2012, 1:13 PM



Michael Sedon/Staten Island Advance
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Staten Islanders will see some bus services restored and extended, such as the S93 finally servicing the College of Staten Island, as part of the MTA's \$29 million investment in regional transportation improvements.

In a letter sent from the MTA to city Councilman Vincent Ignizio's office today, the agency outlines the proposed restorations and extensions that Islanders will soon see.

In addition to the S93 entering the CSI campus -- it only stops at the entrance now -- the S76 will add a weekend service from Oakwood to the St. George Ferry Terminal via Richmond Road and late night X1 buses will run from Eltingville to Manhattan via Hylan Boulevard offering 24/7 access to that borough for South Shore residents. The X1 will also be servicing points on the East Shore.

Also included is an extended X17 route for off-peak weekdays and evenings from Huguenot Avenue to Tottenville via Rossville Avenue, Bloomingdale Road, Amboy Road and Hylan Boulevard. The X17 will begin a Sunday service, as well.

"The restoration of these service cuts means an easier commute for many on the South Shore," Ignizio (R-South Shore) said. "I am grateful to (MTA) Chairman (Joe) Lhota and President Predergast for ensuring Staten Island is included in these restorations. Certainly, these specific route changes were a high priority for us and will go a long way toward making it a better commute for thousands."

The announcement expected at 3 p.m. today from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's Manhattan headquarters is the first of its kind from the cash-strapped agency after service cuts back in 2010 and four years of belt tightening.



Staten Island Advance

"I couldn't be more pleased," said MTA Board member Allen Cappelli.
"This is a big victory for Staten Island."

"I couldn't be more pleased," said MTA Board member Allen Cappelli. "This is a big victory for Staten Island."

Cappelli has long advocated for the CSI bus extension, as well as service restorations after the 2009/2010 budget balancing cuts.

"We've been getting leaner and leaner the past couple of years administratively," Cappelli continued. "This represents a turning of a corner."

Cappelli acknowledged a promise made by Lhota to review the possibility of service restorations months ago and said the authority's head has made good on his word.

State Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis (R-East Shore/Brooklyn), who has been a vocal critic of the MTA, stood successfully with Cappelli in lobbying the governor to waive the \$50 million bond purchasing fee from the state and asked that the savings be redirected into service restorations.

"One of the main reasons I sought public office was my frustration with how MTA service cuts have unfairly impacted Brooklyn and Staten Island while fares and fees continue to skyrocket," said Ms. Malliotakis.

"These bus restorations are absolutely vital to the quality of life and economic viability of my constituents, who once again showed that by speaking in a persistent, unified voice, we can bring positive change to our community."

She heaped praise on Cappelli for standing with her regarding many MTA issues she has taken up in recent years.

"First and foremost I want to give my praise for Allen Cappelli because he is the strongest transportation advocate for Staten Island that I have ever seen," she continued.

Ms. Malliotakis also thanked the members of Amalgamated Transit Union 726 and Transit Workers Union 100 for taking up the fight for more services and Lhota for listening.

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MTA finds \$29M; funds bus service on CSI campus, late-night Manhattan express runs

Friday, July 20, 2012, 12:15 PM



Michael Sedon/Staten Island Advance
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- An S93 that actually ventures onto the campus of the **College of Staten Island**, instead of leaving students to hike hundreds of yards to and from the gate.

Late-night express bus service from Eltingville to Manhattan so that residents of the bedroom borough can take full advantage of the city that never sleeps.

Staten Islanders will benefit from these services and more, as the MTA announced yesterday that it is pouring \$29 million worth of "found" money into service restoration and improvements.

"I couldn't be more pleased," said Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board member Allen Cappelli. "This is a big victory for Staten Island."

The MTA credited the investments, which will be phased in over several months, to increased ridership and savings from the agency's cost-cutting measures in recent years.

In addition to the S93 change that will gladden the hearts of **CSI** students and the X1 enhancement from Eltingville via Hylan Boulevard with stops on the East Shore, the S76 will add weekend service from Oakwood to the St. George Ferry Terminal and North Shore points via Richmond Road.

"I'm glad to see that the MTA re-examined the cuts to bus services and made restoration or extensions to the S93, S76 and X17 lines, creating an opportunity for under-served communities to have access to much



Staten Island Advance

"I couldn't be more pleased," said MTA Board member Allen Cappelli.
"This is a big victory for Staten Island."

needed bus services," said City Councilwoman Debi Rose (D-North Shore). "This is a good first step and it opens up dialogue with the MTA to discuss restoration to other bus lines that were cut."

EXTENDED X17 ROUTE

Also included is an extended X17 route for off-peak weekdays and evenings from Huguenot Avenue to Tottenville via Rossville Avenue, Bloomingdale Road, Amboy Road and Hylan Boulevard. The X17 will begin a Sunday service, as well and add a stop in Brooklyn.

The X17 restorations could come as early as October, the MTA said.

"The restoration of these service cuts means an easier commute for many on the South Shore," said Councilman Vincent Ignizio (R-South Shore). "I am grateful to [MTA] Chairman [Joseph] Lhota and President [Thomas] Prendergast for ensuring Staten Island is included in these restorations. Certainly, these specific route changes were a high priority for us and will go a long way toward making it a better commute for thousands."

The restoration announcement was the first of its kind from the cash-strapped agency after four years of belt tightening, and service cuts imposed in 2009-10.

"We've been getting leaner and leaner the past couple of years administratively," Cappelli said. "This represents a turning of a corner."

Cappelli acknowledged a promise made by Lhota to review the possibility of service restorations months ago, and said the authority's head has made good on his word.

Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis (R-East Shore/Brooklyn), who has been a vocal critic of the MTA, stood successfully with Cappelli in lobbying the governor to waive the \$50 million bond purchasing fee from the state and asked that the savings be redirected into service restorations.

"My frustration [is] with how MTA service cuts have unfairly impacted Brooklyn and Staten Island while fares and fees continue to skyrocket," said Ms. Malliotakis. "These bus restorations are absolutely vital to the quality of life and economic viability of my constituents."

She heaped praise on Cappelli for standing with her regarding the MTA issues she has taken up.

Ms. Malliotakis also thanked the members of Amalgamated Transit Union 726 and Transit Workers Union 100 for taking up the fight for more services.

Gillibrand aims to standardize student loan debt explanations

Wednesday, July 25, 2012, 8:03 AM



By **Judy L. Randall**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- With student loan debt topping more than \$1 trillion, U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand today unveiled a plan to provide "transparency" for students and their families by standardizing financial aid forms that she said can currently hide the true cost of college in a blizzard of fine print.

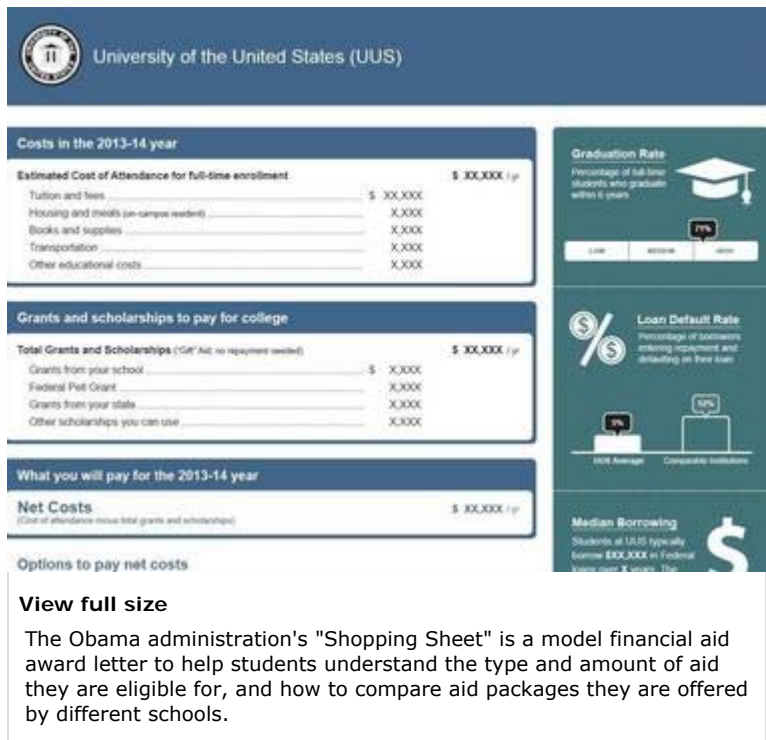
"A college degree should be a ticket to the American Dream, not a ticket to financial ruin," Ms. Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) told reporters during a conference call. "It's time to simplify and standardize student loan forms so students know the cost of their education, understand the terms of their loans and can plan their future with peace of mind."

Statewide, student debt averaged \$26,000 for the 2009-2010 school year, while in New York City it averaged \$24,000, according to College Insight data provided by the senator's office.

Staten Island's two private higher education schools top that for the same period, with the average debt for graduates of Wagner College pegged at \$36,988 and St. John's University at \$32,886.

CUNY's College of Staten Island graduates had an average loan debt of \$7,423.

Ms. Gillibrand's comments came as the U.S. Department of Education and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau were unveiling the Obama administration's "Shopping Sheet," a model financial aid award letter to



help students understand the type and amount of aid they are eligible for, and how to compare aid packages they are offered by different schools.



[View full size](#)

Associated Press

"A college degree should be a ticket to the American Dream, not a ticket to financial ruin," said U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.).

In addition to requiring a uniform financial aid award letter, Ms. Gillibrand's "Understanding the True Cost of College Act" mandates that the DOE work with colleges, consumer groups, students and school guidance counselors to develop standard financial aid terms, along with basic information on the cost of attendance, grant aid and monthly repayment amounts.

The Gillibrand legislation would also require the DOE to establish a process to consumer-test the uniform financial aid award letter.

In addition, it would mandate that colleges and universities that receive federal financial assistance use the form to make any offers of financial aid to students.

Ms. Gillibrand said the form would also list the school's graduation rate, loan default rate and the median amount borrowed "so students can get the full picture."

She said students and their families currently "don't have an easy way to compare what is being offered" by competing schools and called "ballooning" interest rates from year to year the most "egregious examples" of loan misrepresentations.

"This is the only debt that can't be forgiven through bankruptcy," Ms. Gillibrand told reporters, noting that student loan debt tops credit card debt.

"More must be done to make college affordable," she said.

New Staten Island business makes a new kind of fencing made from concrete

Wednesday, July 25, 2012, 7:12 AM



Paul Liotta/Staten Island Advance
By



Staten Island Advance/Jan Somma-Hammel

Oleg Veretelnikov, left, and Kudrat Rakhimoff, of Oakwood, have partnered to form Fencing Concrete, LLC.

By PAUL LIOTTA

EAST SHORE -- Two Uzbek immigrants with a company on Staten Island have created a small business that follows in the footsteps of some enterprising entrepreneurs in American history.

Their company looks to change the fencing industry in the New York metropolitan area by introducing a product that is both affordable and lasts a lifetime.

Kudrat Rakhimoff, 38, of Oakwood, is a civil engineer with a degree from St. John's University. He has partnered with Oleg Veretelnikov, 40, of Brooklyn, who is

a former Olympic decathlon competitor. Together, they have formed Fencing Concrete, LLC.

The two met in the United States after Rakhimoff immigrated here in 1997; Veretelnikov came in 2003. Both are from the small Central-Asian country of Uzbekistan which was part of the former Soviet Union.

Their time in the Soviet Union led them to their concrete mixture which was once used to make barricades in that nation. They have come up with a new use for the mixture: To create fencing that is both decorative and functional.

"The fences are beautiful and come with a lifetime guarantee," Rakhimoff said. "Unlike PVC and wood fences that have to be replaced every few years, these you just install and forget about it."

The business, located at 204 Grandview Ave. in Mariners Harbor, incorporated in January 2011. It distributes its products to local contractors. On Staten Island, the two men work with the Fence Depot, which is located on South Avenue in Bloomfield.

The fences are available for both residential and business purposes, according to the company's website.

After the two men started the company they received help from the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) at the College of Staten Island in Willowbrook, a program designed to help small businesses "maneuver around the obstacles to success," according to its website.

"They (SBDC) were very helpful," Rakhimoff said. "Working with them helped us to receive a \$15,000 line of credit."

Veretelnikov represented the Republic of Uzbekistan in the 1996 and 2000 Olympics. He is not only a skilled athlete, but also a concrete tradesman schooled in engineering.

"He is a very hard-working guy, I trust him. We have become like brothers. We both have kids the same age, we are very close," Rakhimoff said.

In the coming months, the two men plan to expand their business even further by building relationships with more contractors throughout the tri-state area.

"We are assigning new contractors every day. We are beginning to go further into New Jersey and Long Island," Rakhimoff said. "The price is right, the product is right and I believe more people will begin to use it."

One of the company's fences can be seen at the corner of Forest Avenue and Harbor Road next to the Hess Station in Mariners Harbor.

Fencing Concrete LLC can be reached by calling 917-742-3848.

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A new MTA? Unprecedented MTA service restorations on Staten Island in the offing

Wednesday, July 25, 2012, 7:27 AM



Staten Island Advance Editorial
By

It's not often that we New Yorkers have anything good to say about the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, but the much-maligned agency managed to give us reason to praise it last week.

That's because of the announcement that the MTA is allocating nearly \$30 million to restoring service that was cut during its 2009 budget crisis.

On Staten Island, that means the S93 will once again actually go into the campus of the **College of Staten Island**, instead of leaving riders on Victory Boulevard.



Staten Island Advance.file photo

With MTA service into the **College of Staten Island** campus restored, No longer will students have to walk from the distant bus stop on Victory Boulevard.

Late-night X1 express bus service from Eltingville to Manhattan will also return and there will soon be weekend service on the S76 from Oakwood to the St. George Ferry Terminal.

In addition, by October, service on the X17 will be extended to include Sunday and off-peak hours.

The service restorations will not satisfy everyone, especially those who have had to weather bus service cuts that have yet to be restored.

Assemblywoman Nicole Malliotakis spoke for many when she said, "My frustration [is] with how MTA service cuts have unfairly impacted Brooklyn and Staten Island while fares and fees continue to skyrocket. These bus restorations are absolutely vital to the quality of life and economic viability of my constituents."

But the truly amazing thing in all this is that the MTA was able to get itself in a position to restore many of

the service cuts it made two years ago - and, at the same time, postpone a fare hike scheduled for January - something that has never happened in the past.

The old MTA would have allowed the reductions in service to remain in place for decades in order to avoid the cost of restoring them.

But this new MTA, under former Chairman Jay Walder and now, Joseph Lhota, has refocused on its core mission - serving riders - while, at the same time, getting its finances in order to the point where it can actually expand service.

"I couldn't be more pleased," said MTA Board member Allen Cappelli. "This is a big victory for Staten Island. . . . We've been getting leaner and leaner the past couple of years administratively. This represents a turning of a corner."

Mr. Cappelli, it should be noted, has been a particularly strong voice for service restoration. And his outspoken advocacy prodded Gov. Andrew Cuomo to waive the state's fee for issuing MTA bonds. That alone saved the agency \$50 million.

The MTA still has problems, to be sure. State and city aid to mass transit is not what it should be. And the cost reductions Mr. Lhota and his people have accomplished could be offset by the likelihood that the MTA's largest union, the Transport Workers Union, will seek a fat new contract now that its old one has expired.

Still, this new top-down emphasis on service and smart management is a far cry from the MTA of old. Kudos to Mr. Lhota and this dynamic MTA board for setting the bar so high.

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The City University of New York – Cooperating Math Teacher for CUNY Start

Filed in Faculty, Jobs on July 25, 2012

CUNY Start is an intensive program for incoming college students, both high school and GED, who need to increase their academic proficiency in reading, writing and mathematics prior to enrollment in college credit classes. The CUNY Office of Academic Affairs, six of the University's seven community colleges and the College of Staten Island work collaboratively to provide students with an innovative approach to developmental education. CUNY Start is recognized for its carefully designed curriculum and pedagogy, ongoing professional development and a supportive teacher approach.

The Cooperating Math Teacher position is a paid training opportunity to learn and use a successful, student-centered approach and curriculum with CUNY students who have significant remedial math needs. The Cooperating Math Teacher reports to a Lead Math Teacher and is responsible for learning/supporting the work of the Lead Teacher in implementing the CUNY Start Mathematics curriculum.

CUNY Start offers two types of programs: a Monday–Friday daytime program from 9am–3pm and a Monday–Thursday afternoon/evening program from 2pm–9pm. CUNY Start programs are located on 7 CUNY campuses: Borough of Manhattan Community College, Bronx Community College, College of Staten Island, Hostos Community College, Kingsborough Community College, LaGuardia Community College and Queensborough Community College.

Cooperating Math Teachers may be eligible to apply for full-time Core teacher positions at several CUNY campuses in Spring 2013.

Responsibilities:

- Study lesson plans thoroughly in advance of all classes.
- Observe classes and assist the Lead Teacher in working with students.
- Observe and assist in CUNY Start math classes at other CUNY campuses.
- Lead an increasing number of classroom activities over the course of the training semester.
- Tutor students outside of class time at one or more campuses.
- Attend and participate in regular professional development meetings.
- Assist in student conferences, orientation, testing, and recruitment.
- Attend and participate in team meetings with advisors and teachers.
- Other related duties as required.

Requirements:

- Must be open to implementing a set curriculum and pedagogical approach that builds students' conceptual understanding of mathematics beyond their knowledge of procedures.
- Teaching experience in adult education and/or developmental skills preferred.

- Experience working with diverse, urban populations strongly preferred.
- Must be able to receive and incorporate feedback.
- Must be able to travel to multiple CUNY campuses.
- Bachelor's degree minimum, master's degree preferred.

Employment:

- Approximately 25 hours per week.
- \$33.18 per hour and includes family health benefits and optional pension plan.
- Appointment period: August 2012 – January/February 2013 or approximately 6 months from appointment date.

To Apply: Submit the following items

- A copy of a mathematics lesson plan that reveals some element of your teaching and learning values
- A cover letter and resume
- A list of your top 3 choices for campus placement and indicate your willingness to work at all campuses. Also note whether you prefer a day or afternoon/evening program and your willingness to work in either program. Please note that we cannot guarantee an applicant's requested campus or schedule as a placement, but we will try to accommodate an applicant's request whenever possible.
- Send all materials to Rachel Oppenheimer at cunystart@mail.cuny.edu, with "Cooperating Math Teacher" in the subject line of your email.

Additional information about CUNY Start can be found at www.cuny.edu/cunystart.

We are committed to enhancing our diverse academic community by actively encouraging people with disabilities, minorities, veterans, and women to apply. We take pride in our pluralistic community and continue to seek excellence through diversity and inclusion. EO/AA Employer.



College of Staten Island (CUNY) – Vice President for Institutional Advancement & External Affairs

Filed in Administrative, Jobs on July 27, 2012

Job ID: **6120**

CAMPUS SPECIFIC INFORMATION

The Vice President is a critical player within the senior management team at **CSI**. S/he reports directly to the President, is a member of the President's Cabinet, and serves on various other College boards and committees and on University councils. The VP must effectively collaborate with other senior staff to execute advancement goals, manage University resources effectively, build on **CSI's** growing advancement program, and position the institution for the future.

The VP is the primary campaign manager for **CSI's** comprehensive campaign. S/he is expected to prepare a comprehensive Annual Development Plan; provide leadership and direction to solicit and secure funds and resources that enable the College to accomplish its mission and strategic goals; increase major donor support by identifying, cultivating, and soliciting existing and new major donors and capital, annual, and endowment gifts; work collaboratively with the President and senior staff on donor prospect development for major gift solicitation; and oversee the planning, coordination, and execution of special events. The VP will also provide the leadership to develop a campus-wide culture and climate of philanthropy and work with the campus community to address the College's funding needs and opportunities. S/he oversees a marketing/communications program that focuses on consistent messages and identity, publications, advertising, and web/online communication to enhance the College's image for recruitment and fund-raising.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

This position is in CUNY's Executive Compensation Plan. All executive positions require a minimum of a Bachelor's degree and eight years' related experience. Additional qualifications are defined below by the College.

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

The successful candidate will be a senior manager with inspirational leadership qualities, experience, and thorough knowledge of the role of institutional advancement in supporting the complex educational mission of an urban public image. S/he will have a record of achievement in personally cultivating, soliciting, and stewarding major and principal gifts from individuals, foundations, and corporations coupled with experience guiding the development activities of senior staff, developing a strategic plan for advancement and executing a comprehensive campaign. The VP must have an understanding of development-specific technology, the ability to assess and improve systems and processes to further advancement goals, the interpersonal and communication skills to enable him/her to strengthen and lead the alumni and advancement programs to new levels of success at **CSI**, and the skills to conceptualize and execute a communications campaign that reflects an institution's history, traditions and distinctiveness and which inspires and engages its' constituencies.

An advanced degree is strongly preferred; a bachelor's degree and a minimum of 8-10 years' experience as a fund-raising/advancement executive are required. Experience in higher education and a familiarity with the philanthropic landscape of NYC is highly desirable.

COMPENSATION

Commensurate with experience.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, please go to www.cuny.edu; select "Employment"; "Search Job Listings"; "More Options to Search for CUNY Jobs," then enter the Job ID# in the "Job Opening ID" field. Please submit electronically a curriculum vitae, cover letter, and the names, addresses, and phone numbers of at least three references.

CLOSING DATE

Open until filled with the review of resumes to begin on 8/15/12.



Kudos to the MTA for extending the S93 into CSI

Sunday, July 29, 2012, 12:20 AM



Letters to the Editor/Staten Island Advance
By

By RICHARD FLANAGAN
BROOKLYN

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority recently announced a long list of service improvements for Staten Island — among them, a plan to extend the S93 line from the front gate of the **College of Staten Island** into the campus.

This line is traveled by hundreds of students and faculty, and the extension will save 30 minutes from the daily commute.

On behalf of my students and colleagues who ride the line, I thank the borough legislative delegation as well as state Sen. Martin Golden from Bay Ridge and MTA board member Allen Cappelli for their sustained attention to this issue.

Under the leadership of MTA Chairman Joseph Lhota and New York City President Thomas Prendergast, Staten Island has been receiving the attention it needs.

At **CSI**, the riders of the S93 will be getting to campus on time with less hassle with this innovation.

[The writer is Associate Professor of Political Science at the College of Staten Island.]

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Students & Alumni

Students

Staten Island's 'Napoleon' is complex

Sunday, July 01, 2012, 8:59 AM



Michael J. Fressola
By

STATEN ISLAND, NY — A new name quietly slipped into Island history this month. Louis Napoleon (1800-1881) was a black New Yorker who earned his living as an agent on the underground railroad and lived in Sandy Ground before the Civil War.

Napoleon's story is still being excavated, as visitors to "Louis Napoleon: Underground Railroad Agent" newly opened at the Sandy Ground Historical Society will see. Only the barest details — census records, an obituary, a photograph of his house (now gone) on Bloomingdale Road have emerged so far.

Son of a Jewish father and an enslaved woman, Napoleon was born free. (Had he arrived just a few months earlier, it would have been otherwise: New York had decreed only the previous year that all children born in the state were free, no matter their mother's status.)

According to his obit, Napoleon was known for his intelligence and his ties to the abolitionist movement. At one point he was hired as a janitor by the Manhattan-based American Anti-Slavery Society, but the job title is thought to have been a cover for his real occupation — spiriting

INSIDE

CRASHES
OF THE
WORLD
IN THE
HALLS

Project upcycle

SHIPBOARD man Gustave Gerson's got a brand new 'tag' at the Newhouse Center

by MICHAEL J. FRESSOLA

Staten Island's "Project Upcycle" is an art project that's been going on for a while. It's a place where artists can take old objects and turn them into new art. The project is run by Gustave Gerson, a man who has been in the business for a long time. He's a man who has been in the business for a long time. He's a man who has been in the business for a long time.

STATEN ISLAND SUNDAY ADVANCE

ARTS&LEISURE

ESTABLISHING S.I.'S Underground Railroad connection isn't easy, but Sandy Ground's new exhibit is on the right track



A painted depiction of the Sandy Ground home of Louis Napoleon, a stop on the Underground Railroad

'NAPOLEON' COMPLEX

by MICHAEL J. FRESSOLA (Staten Island Advance)

A new name quietly slipped into Island history this month. Louis Napoleon (1800-1881) was a black New Yorker who earned his living as an agent on the underground railroad and lived in Sandy Ground before the Civil War.

Napoleon's story is still being excavated, as visitors to "Louis Napoleon: Underground Railroad Agent" newly opened at the Sandy Ground Historical Society will see. Only the barest details — census records, an obituary, a photograph of his house (now gone) on Bloomingdale Road have emerged so far.

Son of a Jewish father and an enslaved woman, Napoleon was born free. (Had he arrived just a few months earlier, it would have been otherwise: New York had decreed only the previous year that all children born in the state were free, no matter their mother's status.)

According to his obit, Napoleon was known for his intelligence and his ties to the abolitionist movement. At one point he was hired as a janitor by the Manhattan-based American Anti-Slavery Society, but the job title is thought to have been a cover for his real occupation — spiriting



John Blandy, a Sandy Ground resident, is seen in the exhibit. He is a man who has been in the business for a long time. He's a man who has been in the business for a long time. He's a man who has been in the business for a long time.

'Louis Napoleon: Underground Railroad Agent'

Mark its progress while it's on the way to its destination at the Newhouse Center. The exhibit is a place where artists can take old objects and turn them into new art. The project is run by Gustave Gerson, a man who has been in the business for a long time. He's a man who has been in the business for a long time. He's a man who has been in the business for a long time.

slaves into free territories and Canada. He is known to have married several times and to have maintained households in Sandy Ground, a village of free black people established in 1828, as well as in Brooklyn.

[View full size](#)
[AWE in print ...](#)

DESIGNED BY MARY GARRISON

At the museum, "Louis Napoleon: Underground Railroad Agent" consists of text, a flip book of pertinent documentation and two new quilts, small pieced-and-sewn depictions of Napoleon's three-story, wood-frame Sandy Ground House. Quilting has been a tradition at Sandy Ground for nearly 200 years.

Another tradition in the community has been its status as a stop or safe haven on the Underground Railroad. Louis Napoleon's "arrival" helps to confirm what Sandy Ground descendants have believed all along.

Proof has been elusive, though. A fresh trail began surfacing recently when an upstate historian came across a reference that linked the community and Napoleon.

That historian, Don Papson, contacted Sylvia D'Alessandro, executive director of the Sandy Ground Historical Society, and she presented the project to Debbie Paige, a candidate for a master's degree in history at the [College of Staten Island](#).

Ms. Paige unearthed the significant information reproduced in the exhibit. She's reasonably confident about finding more. This summer, she plans to investigate the doings of several prominent Island abolitionists — William Emerson, Sidney Howard Gay and Francis George Shaw — whose papers are kept at Harvard. All might well have had ties to Napoleon and Sandy Ground.

Historically, Sandy Ground was a community of oystermen who worked the shellfish beds of Raritan Bay. They had boats and they knew local waters well. Their knowledge would have been a valuable asset on the Underground Railroad, which often traveled by water.



[View full size](#)

PHOTOS BY BILL LYONS

'Louis Napoleon: Underground Railroad Agent'
A work-in-progress exhibit tracing the lost trail of a recently discovered anti-slavery activist

Where: Sandy Ground Historical Society Museum 1538 Woodrow Road, Woodrow; 718-317-5796

When: Tuesday-Sunday, 1-4 p.m.

How much: Admission is free

In the archive: Search "Sandy Ground" at SILive.com to learn more about first community of freed slaves in North America.

Both Ms. Paige and Ms. D'Alessandro are hoping to discover historical material that ties the oystermen to the underground conduits.

Evidence of such connections is often well-hidden. At Sandy Ground, records might have been lost in 1963, when much of the original community was destroyed by fire. Development, following the opening of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, took much of what remained.

Back in the day, record-keeping would have been dangerous.

"You have to remember," says Ms. D'Alessandro, "the railroad was a covert operation and the penalties for involvement were harsh."

Still, connections do come to light.

Ms. D'Alessandro recalled a visit last year from a staff member of the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, a registry: "She said to me, 'Sylvia, you have all the dots — now all you have to do is connect them.'"

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Foster care takes a toll, says Staten Island teen

Wednesday, July 04, 2012, 4:03 PM



Diane Lore
By



Staten Island Advance

Eighteen-year-old Michael Jacobson, who now lives in Tottenville, got a chance to tell his story of spending his teen years in the foster care system through WNYC's "Radio Rookies" program. The powerful broadcast won him a Youth Voices Aspire Award from the Adobe Foundation.

TOTTENVILLE -- Now that he's 18, Michael Jacobson is out of the foster care system and living on his own, but, as he'll tell you, "Nothing's Ever Permanent in Foster Care."

In fact, that's the title of Jacobson's autobiographical radio documentary that he wrote, taped and edited for WNYC's Radio Rookies. The show recently earned him an Adobe Youth Voices Aspire Award from the Adobe Foundation, a non-profit affiliated with the Adobe systems software company.

The global youth competition showcases digital media created by teens, who "demonstrate creativity and skill using video, print and/or audio to convey perspectives on issues of significance to them." Jacobson's submission was selected

from among more than 800 entries received from around the world.

A majority of social workers agree that teenagers are the most difficult foster children to place in homes, and judges said Jacobson's story "gives listeners a chance to hear first-hand why that's the case."

In the nine-minute audio clip (www.youthvoices.adobe.com), Jacobson narrates his personal journey through the foster-care system. It began when he was 13.

BORN IN BROOKLYN

He explains how he was born and raised in Brooklyn, living in Sheepshead Bay and Flatbush, before moving to Staten Island. The baby-faced, 6-foot tall teen says he “loves to skateboard and do street art” and spends his time at home “researching things for fun.” “My plans are to be either a forensic scientist or a firefighter,” he said, “but I am in foster care so nothing’s permanent.”

When he was 13, Jacobson relates, he was placed in the city’s foster-care system after his father walked out and his mother was unable to care for him and his four siblings in their Great Kills home. Over the next five years, he lived with 10 foster families.

The audio clip was recorded while Jacobson was living with his foster mother, identified only as “Diane” on the South Shore. He candidly tells of how he cut classes at Tottenville High School, earning the disapproval of “Diane” who would play back the recorded messages she consistently received from the school. One day, he was awakened early by yet another foster-care caseworker, who told him to pack his bags. It was time to move on — again.

“That’s foster care, always moving around, all the time,” Jacobson said.

After Jacobson appeared in the 2010 Staten Island Film Festival, in a documentary about graffiti, one of his social workers who spotted him encouraged him to get involved with WNYC’s Radio Rookies program.

WNYC, the city’s municipal radio station, has broadcast Radio Rookies since 1999. The show was created to air first-person documentaries created by New York teens. Their stories are broadcast during WNYC’s Morning Edition. It is heard by high-school and middle-school students in classrooms throughout the country. The show aims to foster discussion among young listeners about topics of importance presented by their peers.

TOLD HIS STORY

“I agreed to do the program because I wanted to get my story out there and take a shot at making a difference; to shine a light and make people more aware of the foster-care system so maybe, just maybe, something will change,” Jacobson said.

“When Michael started the Radio Rookies workshop he said he wanted his story to make people understand what it feels like to be in foster care. He spent the next nine months bravely documenting his life with a digital recorder as he moved into and got kicked out of two foster homes. He learned the basics of radio journalism, from using a digital recorder, to editing audio and script writing, to interviewing his caseworkers, friends and foster parents in order to bring listeners inside his world,” explained WNYC producer Courtney Stein.

Jacobson’s story was produced in cooperation with the Seamen’s Society for Children and Families. Based in St. George, the agency works with the city and court system to place at-risk children in foster care.

Jacobson, who turned 18 since he recorded his story, has “aged out” of the foster-care system. He said his experience in foster care has taught him that he is ultimately responsible for his own life.

He’s now living on his own with one of his siblings on the South Shore. He recently completed his G.E.D. (General Education Diploma) and is working as a bus-boy/waiter at a South Shore diner to support himself. He is hoping to enroll in the College of Staten Island in the near future to study psychology. He said he’d like to be a child psychologist so he might one day “be able to help another kid who grew up like me.”

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Mariners Harbor twins, recent grads of Gaynor McCown Expeditionary, never missed day of classes in 4 years

Thursday, July 05, 2012, 9:46 AM



Diane Lore
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - **MARINERS HARBOR** - Eighteen-year-old twins **Krystal and Kristie Delgado** are a dynamic duo – and they don't do too badly on their own either.

The teens, who graduated on June 25, part of the first class of the Gaynor McCown Expeditionary High School in New Springville, both received awards for perfect attendance during their four years in high school. Krystal, in fact, said she hasn't missed a day of school since second grade.

"I have always loved going to school; I hate to miss anything and I didn't want to fall behind," Krystal explained. "Perfect attendance is very important to me. It shows I am very consistent and responsible."

"They're very outgoing, caring and bright young ladies. They really are a dynamic duo. They set a good example while they were with us, and we're going to miss them," said McCown Principal Tracey Frey.

The twins volunteer with a number of Staten Island organizations and are especially dedicated to the March of Dimes. The two are members of the March of Dimes Staten Island Youth Committee, and have arranged various fundraisers at Gaynor McCown, including bake sales, candy-cane grams during the holidays, and basketball games (which they called Baskets for Babies). They also volunteer for the March of Dimes Walk for Babies, even dressing in costumes to amuse younger kids.

The March of Dimes holds a special place in their hearts, Krystal explained, because she and her sister were born prematurely, and Kristie needed special care as a newborn.



[View full size](#)

Twins Kristie, left, and Krystal Delgado of Mariners Harbor were in the first graduating class at Gaynor McCown Expeditionary High School, New Springville (Photo Courtesy of Delgado family)

Both girls also participate in the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk in honor of their grandmothers, who are both breast-cancer survivors.

"They love working with kids, and knowing they're helping children," said their mom, Ana Delgado.

They credit their mom, and dad, Osbardo Delgado, as their inspiration.

"Our parents are our inspiration. They've always been there for my sister and I," Krystal said. "There were times where I just wanted to give up, and not go to school, but my parents would say 'Don't give up now, after all this time. You can do it.' "

The family lived in Brooklyn, where the girls were born and raised. They moved to Mariners Harbor mid-way through elementary school, and traveled back and forth to Brooklyn, to St. Saviour Elementary School, until they completed eighth-grade.

When they're not volunteering, the girls enjoy dancing and swimming competitively. They have danced competitively for the last 10 years with The Dance Spot in Brooklyn. They have been swimming competitively for about three years with the Wagner College Youth Aquatics team.

The sisters are bound for the College of Staten Island in September. Krystal plans to major in education and hopes to be an elementary-grade teacher. Kristie plans to major in nursing, and hopes to be a pediatric nurse.

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Staten Island College graduates on parade

A roundup of Island students who made the grade in higher education

Sunday, July 08, 2012, 7:45 AM

By Christopher Glancy



Kristin Golat

Kristin Golat of Westerleigh graduated with honors from **College of Staten Island**, earning a bachelor of arts degree in psychology.

Ms. Golat, daughter of Theresa and Ed Golat, is a graduate of the former St. Peter's Girls High School.

She is a member of the Psi Chi Honor Society and in her freshman year she was the president and co-founder of the Young Conservatives Society. Ms. Golat was also a member of the American Sign Language Club and was employed as a peer counselor through the **CSI** Health and Wellness Services, where she often participated in meetings with school administration, including then-President Tomas Morales.

She will pursue a master's degree in special education at **CSI**.



They are the DREAMers and believers, 50 strong on Staten Island

Saturday, July 14, 2012, 6:00 AM



Sarah Buccellato/Staten Island Advance
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- For the 50 children and young adults sitting in a Port Richmond classroom, passage of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act would be a dream come true.

The Youth DREAM Leadership Institute, organized by the Eye Openers Youth Against Violence and El Centro del Inmigrante, held its first conference yesterday at the New World Preparatory Charter School, Port Richmond.

Conference leaders, including the Rev. Terry Troia, Project Hospitality's executive director, conducted sessions throughout the day to teach undocumented immigrant youngsters and their allies basic community leadership and organizational skills -- tools they need to foster political change and help support the DREAM Act. If passed, the legislation would grant permanent residency to certain law-abiding immigrants

As a start to the initiative, conference attendees were presented with video and pictures, demonstrating a timeline of immigration throughout history, and were shown how power is the basis for change in today's society.

"Power is the ability to make something happen," Rev. Troia said. "Today happened; this is powerful."

She described yesterday's conference as the "steppingstone to victory." It marked the start of a five-week program, which will conclude with a graduation ceremony.

As the program progresses, participating children and young adults will develop a plan of action and will take part in hands-on activities, such as communicating with elected officials.

"We need to know the right information. We need to know why people are opposed, so we can help them see the other side," Rev. Troia added. "Act with purpose and believe in the cause, so others will, too."

Sara Martinez, a conference leader and senior at the College of Staten Island, said she wants to encourage the participants to share their stories, so they can make a personal connection to the cause at hand.

"I want to bring my skills to the youth of Staten Island, so they can stand up for themselves and get involved," said Ms. Martinez. Her experiences, such as attending college without being eligible for financial aid, are understood all too well by her contemporaries.

One of them is Pablo Cruz, who graduated from the New York City College of Technology in Brooklyn with a bachelor's degree in architecture. He said his goal is to "have the same freedom as everyone else."

"But it's not just for my own benefit. It's to help others," Cruz said. "I want to help the movement grow."

The Youth DREAM Leadership Institute will continue to meet for the next four Mondays from 4 to 7 p.m. at the New World Preparatory Charter School, Port Richmond.

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37 African American Students Awarded Prestigious UNCF/Merck Science Initiative Scholarships And Fellowships In Biosciences

Philadelphia, PA (PRWEB) July 16, 2012

The [UNCF/Merck Science Initiative](#), a partnership of UNCF (United Negro College Fund), the nations largest and most effective minority education organization, and Merck, a global healthcare leader working to help the world be well, today announced that it would award scholarships and fellowships to 37 African American students of biological science and engineering. In addition to building a pipeline of African American college students in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines, the UNCF/Merck Science Initiative (UMSI) works to leverage the UNCF-Merck partnership and the talent of UNCF Merck Fellows to help support the pipeline of minority students by engaging and attracting them to STEM subjects as early as elementary school.

Now in its seventeenth year, UMSI is a twenty-year partnership that has supported 627 scholarships and fellowships to promising undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral science students pursuing careers in biomedical research. UNCF Merck Fellows have attended 196 schools, some of our nations best private and public colleges and universities including ivy league schools like Princeton University, Yale University and Duke University; flagship universities like University of Georgia and University of California, Berkeley and UNCF Member Institutions like Xavier University, Claflin University and Morehouse College. The UNCF/Merck scholarships and fellowships provide the UMSI scientists and future scientists with financial support, hands-on training, close mentoring and networking relationships, and institutional support. Recipients are chosen through a competitive application process that selects candidates based on their academic achievements and potential in the fields of biomedical research and engineering.

Mercks investment in these promising students and scholars is a significant commitment to building a pipeline of African American students in biosciences and an investment in longer and better lives for millions of people not only in America but around the world, said Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D., UNCF president and CEO. Developing the next generation of researchers, professors, and science and math teachers will also enable our nation to compete in the global economy. I challenge this generation of African American scientists to mentor, advocate and help prepare the next generation of African American scientists, to ensure that younger students get the pre-college education they need to study science in college. It is critical to start introducing our students to science early and it is crucial for these students to have good science and math teachers in their classrooms.

Additionally this year during UNCF/Merck Fellows Day, UMSI will celebrate an award to the undergraduate STEM program of UNCF member institution Xavier University with a \$500,000 grant in conjunction with the UNCF Institute for Capacity Building, for a STEM Capacity Building Program. Over the next four years, Xavier University, the only recipient of this grant, will use the STEM Capacity Building Program to grow the number of students graduating with STEM degrees and pursuing research careers in the biological and chemical sciences.

UMSI aims to increase the number of African American undergraduates studying in STEM disciplines. American undergraduate students tend to select natural science and engineering (NS&E) disciplines as their primary field of study at considerably lower rates than their counterparts in other countries, according to the National Science Board's Science and Engineering Indicators 2012. According to the most recent data, only 16 percent of U.S. undergraduates graduate with an NS&E degree, compared to 24 percent of undergraduates in the European Union, 44 percent in China, and 37 percent in South Korea.

The same trend is reflected among students studying STEM as graduate students and postdoctoral scientists. 33 percent of all U.S. STEM doctoral students in U.S. universities, and 43 percent of the U.S.'s postdoctoral researchers in science, engineering, and health are foreign students.

Merck and UNCF began UMSI in 1995 with a ten-year, \$20 million grant from the Merck Company Foundation and Merck Research Laboratories. The project was extended in 2006 with an additional \$13 million grant and again in 2011 with an additional investment of \$13.3 million over five years.

"In the healthcare industry, innovation leads to the creation of new medicines and vaccines that save and improve people's lives," said Kenneth C. Frazier, chairman and chief executive officer, Merck. "Merck is proud of our longstanding partnership with the UNCF, which helps ensure that highly-talented African-American students can excel both in science and in addressing significant human health issues."

The 2012 UNCF/Merck Fellows receive awards ranging from \$25,000 for undergraduate scholarship recipients to \$92,000 for recipients of postdoctoral fellowships. In addition, the program's alumni have organized the Association of Underrepresented Minority Fellows to facilitate continued professional growth. This network allows UNCF/Merck Fellows to collaborate in academia, government and the private sector to leverage their wealth of scientific, technical and biomedical knowledge and experience.

I am excited to be a part of a program that has contributed so much to increasing the number of African-American scientists and engineers, said Tshaka Cunningham, Ph.D., a biologist who received a Merck Fellowship to pursue new research directions in HIV biology at Rockefeller University. In addition to supporting my research, UMSI supported a research project for a Morehouse College undergraduate who I mentored and who now attends medical school at UCLA. The scientists and industry professionals I have met through UMSI have become my own friends and mentors and have helped me grow in my career.

Support from the UNCF/Merck Science Initiative scholarships targets students entering their final undergraduate year, graduate students in their final two-to-three years of dissertation research, and postdoctoral Fellows continuing their research training. African American students in the life, physical and engineering sciences at American four-year colleges and universities are eligible to apply for the scholarship. In addition to scholarships and fellowships, the UNCF/Merck awards may include funding for the science departments at the colleges and universities they attend. Undergraduate Fellows receive summer research internships at Merck Research Laboratories, where each Fellow is paired with a Merck mentor who provides valuable research assistance, guidance and support. To learn more about the UNCF/Merck Science Initiative, visit <http://umsi.uncf.org/>.

You can also join our Twitter conversation at #UNCF&MRK

About UNCF

UNCF (United Negro College Fund) is the nation's largest and most effective minority education organization. To serve youth, the community and the nation, UNCF supports students' education and development through scholarships and other programs, strengthens its 38 member colleges and universities, and advocates for the importance of minority education and college readiness. Today, UNCF supports more than 60,000 students at over 900 colleges and universities across the country. UNCF administers more than 400 programs, including scholarship, internship and fellowship, mentoring, summer enrichment, and curriculum and faculty development programs. UNCF institutions and other historically black colleges and universities are highly effective, awarding more than 20 percent of African American baccalaureate degrees. The UNCF logo features the UNCF torch of leadership in education and its widely recognized motto, "A mind is a terrible thing to waste."[®] Learn more at <http://www.UNCF.org>.

About Merck

Today's Merck is a global healthcare leader working to help the world be well. Merck is known as MSD outside the United States and Canada. Through our prescription medicines, vaccines, biologic therapies, and consumer care and animal health products, we work with customers and operate in more than 140 countries to deliver innovative health solutions. We also demonstrate our commitment to increasing access to healthcare through far-reaching policies, programs and partnerships. Merck. Be well. For more information, visit <http://www.merck.com>.

About The Merck Company Foundation

The Merck Company Foundation is a U.S.-based, private charitable foundation. Established in 1957 by Merck, a global healthcare leader, the Foundation is funded entirely by the company and is Merck's chief source of funding support to qualified non-profit, charitable organizations. Since its inception, The Merck Company Foundation has contributed more than \$600 million to support important initiatives that address societal needs and are consistent with Merck's overall mission to help the world be well. For more information, visit <http://www.merckcompanyfoundation.org>.

2012 UNCF/MERCK SCIENCE INITIATIVE FELLOWS

Undergraduate Science Research Scholarship Awards (up to \$25,000 each)

Onyemaechi C. Anoruo, Temple University (Philadelphia, PA)

Dara Bobb-Semple, State University of New York at Stony Brook (Stony Brook, NY)

Carmen L. Del Valle, Columbia University (New York, NY)

Piaget J. Francois, University of Pittsburgh at Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, PA)

Kia R. Johnson, University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul (Saint Paul, MN)

Russell J. Ledet, Southern University and A & M College (Baton Rouge, LA)

David Marcelin, Fordham University (Bronx, NY)

Erika M. Moore, John Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD)

Evelyn Okeke, The College of Staten Island of The City University of New York (Staten Island, NY)

Victoria Okuneye, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Cambridge, MA)

Faith Simunyu, Denison University (Granville, OH)

Marisha M. Perkins, University of the Virgin Islands (St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands)

Anthony M. Todd, University of Alabama, Birmingham (Birmingham, AL)

Ashton K. Wheeler, University of Alabama, Birmingham (Birmingham, AL)

Jalissa L. Wynder, Southern University, Baton Rouge (Baton Rouge, LA)

Graduate Science Research Dissertation Fellowships (up to \$53,500 each)

Sarah Ann R. Anderson, Mount Sinai School of Medicine (New York, NY)

Undergraduate Institution: Xavier University of Louisiana

Alicia T. Barr, Medical College of Wisconsin (Wauwatosa, WI)

Undergraduate Institution: Case Western Reserve University

Jamaal L. Benjamin, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (Dallas, TX)

Undergraduate Institution: Morehouse College

April M. Clayton, John Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD)

Undergraduate Institution: Erskine College

Janice M. Dias, University of Miami (Coral Gables, FL)

Undergraduate Institution: University of Miami

Christina N. Garlington, University Of Colorado Health Sciences Center (Denver, CO)

Undergraduate Institution: University of Miami

Uzoma K. Iheagwara, University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, PA)

Undergraduate Institution: University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Kateena L. Johnson, Morehouse School of Medicine (Atlanta, GA)

Undergraduate Institution: Agnes Scott College

Paul Kelley, California Institute of Technology (Pasadena, CA)

Undergraduate Institution: The Catholic University of America

Folami Lamoike, Medical College of Georgia (Augusta, GA)

Undergraduate Institution: Brown University

Elizabeth M. Ransey, Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh, PA)
Undergraduate Institution: Rochester Institute of Technology

Dionna W. Williams, Yeshiva University (New York, NY)
Undergraduate Institution: Hofstra University
Postdoctoral Science research Fellows (up to \$92, 000 each)

Nnenna A Finn, Ph.D., Emory University (Atlanta, GA)
Undergraduate Institution: University of Florida

Keneshia Haenssen, Ph.D., University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (Newark, NJ)
Undergraduate Institution: Randolph-Macon Womans College
Dahlia Haynes, Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh, PA)
Undergraduate Institution: Claflin University
Rashade A.H. Haynes II, Ph.D., University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (Newark, NJ)
Undergraduate Institution: Rutgers University-New Brunswick
Curtis J. Henry, Ph.D., University of Colorado Denver (Aurora, CO)
Undergraduate Institution: Florida A& M University
Jessica Lopes Da Rosa-Spiegler, Ph.D., University of Georgia (Athens, GA)
Undergraduate Institution: Rutgers University
Arion Kennedy, Ph.D., Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN)
Undergraduate Institution: Florida A& M University

Stephanie M. Malone, Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon University (Pittsburgh, PA)
Undergraduate Institution: Princeton University
Troy A. Mceachron, Ph.D., St. Judes Children Research Hospital (Memphis, TN)
Undergraduate Institution: Arizona State University
Hosea M. Nelson, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley (Berkeley, CA)
Undergraduate Institution: University of California at Berkeley

Also posted on: csrwire.com



Jane Lynch Launches the National College Finance Center Website and the "Don't Major in Debt" PSA Campaign

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SOURCE National College Finance Center

New Innovative Website Offers Free Advice to Help Educate Students and Parents

NEW YORK, July 18, 2012 /PRNewswire/ --*Glee* actress **Jane Lynch** yesterday unveiled the **National College Finance Center website (collegefinancecenter.org)** at a news conference in New York City. The National College Finance Center is a free, first-stop, unbiased resource to help educate students, prospective students and families all across the country on how to evaluate their options for financing a college education.

(Photo: <http://photos.prnewswire.com/prnh/20120718/NY42317>)

At the press conference, **Ms. Lynch** explained: "I really jumped at the opportunity to support this initiative because it is something that has affected my family. I have a ten-year-old daughter who will be going to college in eight years as well as nieces and nephews who are dealing with student loans right now."

Julio Basabe, a **student at the College of Staten Island** also provided some personal insight to those at the conference: "This is a resource designed for people like me who need help with the increasingly stressful task of financing a college degree. I came to college in the hopes of majoring and studying neurobiology. I refuse to 'Major in Debt'."

The main principles of the National College Finance Center website are:

- To provide the best resources and ideas for a higher education finance plan
- To take maximum advantage of available grant and scholarship options
- To minimize debt accrued in acquiring a college education
- To understand that all student loans are not created equal
- To understand important repayment strategies that will save money and stress

The interactive, not-for-profit website provides comprehensive, state-specific information about obtaining scholarships and grants and provides guidance on the daunting variety of student loan options available today. Additionally, those who have already accrued student loan debt will receive customized information about the most effective options to pay that debt down.

"If you are going to college, or even thinking about it, make CollegeFinanceCenter.org your first stop. No one there is trying to sell you anything. The website will simply help you to seek free money first, borrow wisely or cope with the process of repaying your loans," adds **Rebecca J. Weber, Executive Director, New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)**.

To help further exemplify the goals of the new National College Finance Center website, Lynch led students, parents, visitors and media through a fully realized and interactive telling of the Don't Major in Debt campaign story with the **Don't Major in Debt Student House** - inspired by the new trend in immersive theatre and to a large degree by the theatre phenomenon ***Sleep No More***. In fact, the installation was produced by members of the creative and production team involved in that very show.

The drama of student life and college debt unfolded as visitors were led from room to room by following clues, watching videos, and witnessing and participating in true-to-life scenes. The arc of this immersive experience led participants from the clutter and confusion of paying for college to the knowledge and clarity offered by the website. Every moment of the experience was crafted to excite, entertain and educate. After a heightened theatrical experience, transitioning from confusion to clarity, disorder to order, daunting debt to a healthy financial future, students and their parents emerged equipped with an understanding of the website and its mission.

This launch event was the culmination of the New York Public Interest Research Group's (NYPIRG) ongoing grassroots awareness campaign entitled Don't Major in Debt that has, over the past several months, established a presence on Facebook, Twitter and college campuses, with users sharing their personal college finance stories.

- www.nypirg.org/DontMajorInDebt
- www.facebook.com/DontMajorInDebt
- www.twitter.com/DontMajorInDebt

The new website was developed and implemented by the New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC). The New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), in collaboration with boutique media agency The Field (Social), directed a dynamic national public service announcement campaign to promote this valuable new resource.

About Jane Lynch:

Jane Lynch cut her theatrical teeth at The Second City, Steppenwolf Theatre and in many church basements all over the greater Chicago-land area helping her become the comedic talent she is today. Jane can currently be seen in the Golden Globe and SAG Award winning Ryan Murphy television series *Glee* on FOX as the one-liner powerhouse coach Sue Sylvester. With her magnificent comedic timing, Jane has earned herself an Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress, a Golden Globe Award for Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role, and a SAG award nomination for her role as Sue Sylvester on *Glee*. With her wit and luminous stage presence, Jane served as the host for the 63rd Annual Primetime Emmy Awards. Some of her other recent television credits include the STARZ series *Party Down*, *Lovespring*, a Lifetime original series, *Desperate Housewives* and *Weeds* as well as the last season of *The L Word* opposite Cybill Shepherd. She has recurring roles on *Two and a Half Men*, where she was nominated for an Emmy for Outstanding Guest Actress, *Criminal Minds* and *The New Adventures of Old Christine*. Jane recently added author to her repertoire. Her memoir, *Happy Accidents*, was released in September 2011 and includes a foreword written by the legendary Carol Burnett. Jane Lynch, with her comedic timing, fantastic look, and remarkable wit makes her an actress to watch.

About NYPIRG:

NYPIRG is New York State's largest student-directed research and advocacy organization, a nonpartisan, not-for-profit group established to empower, train and educate students and community members

through organizing and advocacy efforts in order to solve significant problems affecting residents in New York State and across the country. As a vigilant government watchdog, NYPIRG's principal areas of concern include, among others, consumer rights, accessible, affordable and quality higher education, and voter registration with a particular emphasis on typically under-represented communities. NYPIRG's 20 college campus chapters provide much of our energy, resources and activism. Students at NYPIRG chapters work on projects based upon NYPIRG's community-based, statewide and national agendas.

About HESC:

HESC is New York State's student financial aid agency that helps people pay for college and a national leader in providing need-based grant and scholarship award money to college-going students. At HESC's core are programs like the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP), numerous state scholarships, federal college access grants and a highly successful College Savings program. HESC puts college within the reach of hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers each year through programs like these and through the guidance it provides to students, families and counselors. In 2010-11, HESC helped more than 413,000 students achieve their college dreams by providing \$991 million in grants, scholarships and federal student loan guarantees, including \$855 million awarded through the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP).

About The Field (Social):

A multi-disciplinary, boutique advertising agency, The Field (Social) knows it's all about the story. It's always been about the story, and in today's complex network of digital, broadcast and social media landscapes, The Field (Social) is able to tell strategic and engaging stories for longer, in more detail, to more people and using several voices at once. Founded by Michael Porte, this team of creatives, producers, animators and editors together with talented online, social media, interactive, experimental and PR specialists offers creative solutions to our clients' marketing challenges through exhaustive planning and by executing smart, cross-platform strategies.

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Nicholas Trotta becomes an Eagle Scout

Wednesday, July 18, 2012, 11:39 AM



Diane Lore
By



Boy Scout Nicholas Trotta, along with members of Troop 27, landscaped and reset a sign outside Oakwood Heights Community Church. The project was part of Trotta's community service requirement to earn the rank of Eagle Scout. (Photo Courtesy of Stan Trotta)

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - **OAKWOOD** - The main lawn on the grounds of Oakwood Heights Community Church is looking good these days thanks to the efforts of newly-minted Eagle Scout **Nicholas Trotta** and members of Boy Scout Troop 27.

As part of the process to attain the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest honor in Boy Scouting, Trotta had to complete a community service project.

He decided to replace an older, worn sign used to advertise the church's "nursery school" program. In addition to replacing the sign, the Scouts would add a stone-walled garden bed and plantings to give some added panache to the church's main

lawn.

Trotta said there were several reasons he chose the project. The church sponsors Troop 27, and the nursery school program provides a much-needed community service – that of creating a safe environment for neighborhood toddlers and preschoolers to play and learn.

With that in mind, the young man got approval from the church board of directors, the troop committee, and the Staten Island District Council of Boy Scouting.

Over a period of three days, Trotta worked alongside and supervised fellow Scouts Christopher Rommel, Michael Teichman, John Paul McKeon, and his younger brother, Alex Trotta. They were supervised by adult volunteers, including Trotta's dad, Stan Trotta, who serves as advancement chairman of Troop 27.

Trotta, who just turned 18, has been involved in Scouting with Troop 27 since he was 11-years-old. He graduated from Monsignor Farrell High School last month, will be attending the College of Staten Island in the fall, and hopes to become a physical therapist.

Trotta was presented with the rank of Eagle Scout by his father, who is also an Eagle Scout, during the troop's formal "Eagle Court of Honor" ceremony a few weeks ago in the church hall of Oakwood Heights Community Church. During the school year, Troop 27 meets every Monday evening from 7:30 to 9:30 in the church hall.

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Staten Island researcher finds reptile full of life

Wednesday, July 25, 2012, 7:49 AM



Diane Lore
By



Photo Courtesy of Ken Bach/CSI

City University graduate student Alex McKelvy, who is pursuing a doctorate degree in biology and lectures at the College of Staten Island, Willowbrook, holds up a record-breaking foxsnake he discovered on a wildlife refuge in Michigan.

WILLOWBROOK -- The discovery of a record-breaking snake by a City University (CUNY) graduate student and teaching assistant at the College of Staten Island (CSI) is causing quite a hiss-y fit around the CSI campus.

Alexander D. McKelvy, a CUNY doctoral student in Dr. Frank Burbrink's lab at CSI who is also a graduate teaching assistant in the biology department, discovered the reptile while researching at Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge in Michigan. The snakes thrive in wetland areas near the

Great Lakes.

What makes the snake special, he said, is the size of its clutch, a term for the number of eggs it is carrying, which was tallied at 34. This number beat out the previous record of 29 eggs. It was also the second-longest snake of its type found, almost breaking the record, with a length of 5-feet, 9-inches. The previous record was set in 1961 in Ohio at 5-feet, 10-inches.

"We suspect that this new record is a testament to how little is actually known about snakes in general," McKelvy explained.

Along with his colleagues, McKelvy was working on tracking foxsnakes by implanting them with radio transmitters. They were able to track 29 snakes, recording their movements and habits. The species of snake used to be abundant but is now considered to be endangered. The discovery of the foxsnake's record number of eggs, however, indicates the species might be making a comeback.

McKelvy said the discovery “updates our current knowledge of the species” and will be recorded in future reference material published.

“This discovery by Alex is quite important,” commented Dr. Burbrink. “It allows us to better determine the upper size limit on these snakes and also demonstrates that even the most basic natural history information on animals found in one of the most developed parts of the world is still lacking.”

A native of Michigan, McKelvy claims that his love for snakes was fostered by his parents and the Chippewa Nature Center near where he grew up in Midland, Mich. He began working with the wildlife refuge shortly before he was admitted to The Graduate Center of the City University in Manhattan to pursue his doctorate degree in biology.

“I applied to the CUNY Graduate Center and was allowed this great opportunity— foxsnakes were the first snakes Dr. Burbrink ever caught— being around like-minded snake researchers is like nothing I’ve ever experienced,” McKelvy said.

McKelvy also works as a graduate teaching assistant at **CSI**. He said teaching at **CSI** has been an interesting experience and he tries to bring snakes into each biology lecture that he gives in an attempt to familiarize **CSI** students with “these extraordinary organisms.”

“Most students have little to no interaction with snakes here, and consider them a completely foreign object,” he said.

If McKelvy’s work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is any indication, **CSI** biology students could be in for quite the lesson.

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In the food industry, cogs turn 24 hours

Thursday, July 26, 2012, 12:38 PM



Pamela Silvestri
By

By 3 a.m., Ernesto Perdomo knows it's time to make the donuts — donuts rellenos, that is — at his Colombian bakery and restaurant in Mariners Harbor.

His storefront, Rinconcito Paisa, glows white at this hour as the dining room lights are turned up to their brightest setting. Back in the kitchen, Perdomo stuffs pastry with guava for Pasteles de Guayaba. He finishes proofing bread and sizes the dough for rolls. The goods will be ready when customers trickle into the bakery starting at around 7 a.m.

Around this time further down Forest Avenue near ShopRite in Graniteville, the Brothers Halal Food truck does brisk business with midnight munchers, post-partygoers and passers-by in the mood for Middle Eastern street fare. John Khair tends its sister mobile kitchen in West Brighton, an operation fueled by a generator and propane gas. It's generally parked across the street from Dunkin' Donuts, ironically, another all-night grub affair.

Khair recently left his job at a Dongan Hills gas station to pursue this steady gig.



"I work 12 hours and another guy works 12 hours," Khair says as he washes down the griddle. Fragrant smoke wafts through the open gates of McDonald playground, people-free in the pre-dawn quiet.

Enlarge

Staten Island Advance

Mike Marrone of Richmond Valley scrambles eggs and preps for the Hilton Garden Inn's breakfast. (Staten Island Advance/Pamela Silvestri)

NightCrawlers gallery (6 photos)

The food truck goes dark for three hours daily, from 5 a.m. to 8 a.m. Otherwise, day in and day out, it sees sporadic sales of \$4 falafel sandwiches, chicken wings with fries and pita bread wrapped around shaves of meat from a rotating, juicy lamb gyro.

What kinds of people eat in the middle of the night?

"Drunk ones — all the freaks come out at night," says one server at a 24-hour diner adding, "Big groups of drunk kids — loud and aggressive people ... pill-pushers."

There are nice customers, too. "And people who want to talk to you," offers Corinne Paris, a 20-something server who works overnights at Mike's Unicorn Diner in Bulls Head. One regular — her colleagues refer to him as being part of her "fan club"— insists that she spread jelly on his toast while he watches.

Ms. Paris also mentions early morning snackers, teens who order cheese fries or desserts and colorful crowds that chow down at the diner in the wake of Friday night festivities at the Hilton Garden Inn, Bloomfield.

"People come in with these glitter dresses and outfits like ... " she says, trailing off as she turns to bring a check to a customer.

And then, there are the sleepy people.

"They fall asleep at the counter," the server notes matter-of-factly. "They wake up and act like nothing happened. They ask for the check."

Ms. Paris, a student at College of Staten Island, Willowbrook, just down the block, notes that her middle-of-the-night food service work occasionally derails her academic goals.

But, "I really needed the money," she says of why she agreed to pick up what was an undesirable shift to others, admitting, "I would rather have normal hours."

When she gets off work — that may be at 5 a.m. or 2 a.m. — she'll unwind behind the computer or with a morning run. Sometimes, she says, she can't fall asleep at all.

Sleep deprivation is an issue for nighttime food service workers.

Robert DiGregorio commutes from Charleston to the New Fulton Fish Market in the Bronx. He sets out around 10 p.m. to start cutting fish around midnight in a massive, windowless, refrigerated warehouse. On his trip home in the daylight, he usually pulls over on the New Jersey Turnpike to catch a few winks.

Rob Melone who co-owns Melone Brothers Bakery in Port Richmond and Linden, N.J., chuckles at the mention of sleep. "That's exactly it — there's a lack of sleep." With his family business in motion 24 hours, seven days a week, every moment counts.

"Usually, the mixing part starts at 4 a.m. and then the processing is going on all day until midnight. The actual baking is at 11 a.m. and they bake all the way through to 1 or 2 [the next morning]," Melone explains. "If we don't get that early start we'll never get [the orders filled] on time."

Around 3 a.m. most days, the lone breakfast chef at the Hilton garden Inn, Mike Marrone, cooks off bacon and sausage links, then mixes grits and oatmeal. On Sundays, closer to sunrise, he scramble eggs in a tilt kettle, moving a mixture of heavy cream, butter, salt and pepper fairly continuously with a plastic paddle.

"If you overcook them, then they'll come out like rocks," said a raspy-voiced Marrone.

Despite a couple of porters, a security guy dressed in a suit and a waiter ducking in and out of this scene, the 24-hour-a-day kitchen is a fairly peaceful place to prep a meal.

"It's a weird shift," Marrone says. Yet after three and a-half years working these hours at the hotel, he's used to it. He aims to hit the sack around 9 p.m.

"I try," he says with a smile. "It doesn't always work out that way." When he arrives home around noon, Marrone says he tries to catch a one- to two-hour cat nap.

"I have two boys, 10 and 11, and it isn't easy," he says. Plus, his wife doesn't drivem which makes him the designated chauffer for Costco runs and various household errands.

Then, it's back to work in the wee hours, while ratty-looking cabs scurry over empty roads. That's when bread trucks drop off boxed deliveries at the doorsteps of delis and in the foyers of closed restaurants, milk shipments arrive to businesses and institutions, larger supermarkets restock their shelves and refresh produce bins, and the Staten Island Expressway is populated by tractor trailers hauling food and beverage deliveries to points north and the rest of the city.

While most of Staten Island sleeps, unassuming night time crews around the borough get ready for the next day of food service.

Pamela Silvestri is Food Editor for the Staten Island Advance. She can be reached at silvestri@siadvance.com.



The New Class of UNCF/Merck Science Initiative Scholars

Filed in financial aid, STEM fields on July 27, 2012

A new class of UNCF/Merck Science Initiative Scholars has been announced. The program, a partnership of the United Negro College Fund and Merck Inc., the global pharmaceutical firm, aims to increase the number of Black students pursuing degrees in STEM disciplines. Now in its 17th year, the program has provided scholarships and fellowships to 627 students.

This year 15 undergraduate students will receive scholarships of up to \$25,000 each. Here are the 15 undergraduate fellows and their undergraduate institutions:

- **Onyemaechi C. Anoruo**, Temple University
- **Dara Bobb-Semple**, State University of New York at Stony Brook
- **Carmen L. Del Valle**, Columbia University
- **Piaget J. Francois**, University of Pittsburgh at Pittsburgh
- **Kia R. Johnson**, University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul
- **Russell J. Ledet**, Southern University and A & M College
- **David Marcelin**, Fordham University
- **Erika M. Moore**, John Hopkins University
- **Evelyn Okeke**, The College of Staten Island of The City University of New York
- **Victoria Okuneye**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- **Marisha M. Perkins**, University of the Virgin Islands
- **Faith Simunyu**, Denison University
- **Anthony M. Todd**, University of Alabama, Birmingham
- **Ashton K. Wheeler**, University of Alabama, Birmingham
- **Jalissa L. Wynder**, Southern University, Baton Rouge

In addition, 12 graduate students will receive fellowships of up to \$53,500 each. They are:

- **Sarah Ann R. Anderson**, Mount Sinai School of Medicine (Undergraduate Institution: Xavier University of Louisiana)
- **Alicia T. Barr**, Medical College of Wisconsin (Undergraduate Institution: Case Western Reserve University)
- **Jamaal L. Benjamin**, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (Undergraduate Institution: Morehouse College)
- **April M. Clayton**, John Hopkins University (Undergraduate Institution: Erskine College)
- **Janice M. Dias**, University of Miami (Undergraduate Institution: University of Miami)
- **Christina N. Garlington**, University Of Colorado Health Sciences Center (Undergraduate Institution: University of Miami)
- **Uzoma K. Iheagwara**, University of Pittsburgh (Undergraduate Institution: University of Maryland, Baltimore County)

- **Kateena L. Johnson**, Morehouse School of Medicine (Undergraduate Institution: Agnes Scott College)
- **Paul Kelley**, California Institute of Technology (Undergraduate Institution: The Catholic University of America)
- **Folami Lamoke**, Medical College of Georgia (Undergraduate Institution: Brown University)
- **Elizabeth M. Ransey**, Carnegie Mellon University (Undergraduate Institution: Rochester Institute of Technology)
- **Dionna W. Williams**, Yeshiva University (Undergraduate Institution: Hofstra University)

And 10 postdoctoral students will receive research fellowships of up to \$92,000 each. They are:

- **Nnenna A Finn**, Ph.D., Emory University
- **Keneshia Haenssen**, Ph.D., University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
- **Dahlia Haynes**, Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon University
- **Rashade A.H. Haynes II**, Ph.D., University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
- **Curtis J. Henry**, Ph.D., University of Colorado Denver
- **Jessica Lopes Da Rosa-Spiegler**, Ph.D., University of Georgia
- **Arion Kennedy**, Ph.D., Vanderbilt University
- **Stephanie M. Malone**, Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon University
- **Troy A. Mceachron**, Ph.D., St. Jude's Children Research Hospital
- **Hosea M. Nelson**, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley



College graduates A roundup of Staten Island students who made the grade in higher education

Sunday, July 29, 2012, 5:32 AM



Timothy G. Valles

Timothy G. Valles of West Brighton has graduated from Touro College School of Health Sciences with a bachelor of science degree in health sciences and a master's degree as a physician's assistant.

Valles also attended Binghamton University and the College of Staten Island.

Valles, the son of Nancy and Jerry Valles, is a graduate of Staten Island Technical High School.

He is currently employed as a physician assistant in the Staten Island University Hospital emergency medicine physician assistant residency program.

Alumni

Indoor skate park coming to Stapleton

Thursday, July 05, 2012, 9:42 AM



By Virginia N. Sherry/Staten Island Advance



Nick Gregoreadis, 15, of Woodrow on the South Shore, a BMX enthusiast who starts his junior year at Tottenville High School in September, tried out some of the ramps at the soon-to-be-opened 5050 Skatepark on Front Street in Stapleton. (Staten Island Advance/Virginia N. Sherry)

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - **STAPLETON** - The first indoor skate park in New York City – for skateboarding, BMX (bicycle motorcross), and scooter enthusiasts – is set to open later this month on the Stapleton waterfront, in the spacious ground floor at 354 Front St., a brick industrial building.

Named 5050 Skatepark, the privately owned venture is a collaboration between Prince's Bay residents and partners Ed Pollio – well-known on Staten Island as an impassioned advocate for public facilities for skateboards and BMX – and Angelica Popolano. They met eight years ago, riding BMX at Tysen's Park in New Dorp.

"And we've been together for seven years," Ms. Popolano said last week.

ANTICIPATION

The community of enthusiasts – many of them teenagers at intermediate and high schools from neighborhoods all over Staten Island – are eagerly awaiting the grand opening of the skate park, located a short walk from the Stapleton stop on the Staten Island Railway.

Great Kills resident Tom Nazzaro, 15, who will enter his junior year at St. Peter's Boys High School in the fall, started riding BMX three years ago. "I only ride in skate parks, and the closest place is an hour away, in New Jersey," he said, forcing him to rely on his parents for transportation.

Tom was at the Front Street building last Wednesday evening, trying out some of the ramps on his BMX, along with his friend Nick Gregoreadis, also 15, who lives in Woodrow and will start his junior year at Tottenville High School in September. Since May, both teenagers have helped out with renovation of the Front Street space.

"All we have on Staten Island is street," said Nick, whose BMX passion kicked in two years ago. He patronized the city's Benjamin Soto Skate Park in Midland Beach, but stopped going after it reopened in June 2011 in what former users describe as a dumbed-down version of its former self. "I'm psyched to ride" at the Front Street facility, he added.

OFFERINGS

The indoor skate park will offer three three-hour sessions from Monday to Thursday at a price of \$12 per session. The first session starts at noon, and the last one ends at 9 p.m.

Additional sessions are scheduled for weekends, including Skate Night – for skateboarders only and riders aged 16 and up – on Fridays from 10 p.m. until midnight. Bike Night is set for Saturdays, also from 10 p.m. until midnight.

Scooters-only sessions will be on Sundays, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Money-saving monthly, weekly, and weekend passes will be sold.

"I'm excited. We're hoping to attract riders from the Island and all the other boroughs," said Ms. Popolano, who graduated from the College of Staten Island last year with a bachelor's degree in women's studies. She worked since 2007 at Soto Skate Park as a city Parks Department seasonal playground associate.

"We tried for years (to encourage maintenance and repair at Soto), and finally got fed up and decided to do it ourselves," she said about the new business venture, which is proceeding without any public funds or subsidies.

She also hopes that the business will help educate Staten Islanders about the popular sport and its culture.

"A lot of people don't even know what a skate park is," Ms. Popolano commented. "They ask if it's like a roller rink."

5050 Skatepark

354 Front St.; email: info@5050skatepark.com; website: 5050skatepark.com

Park rules

The rules of 5050 Skatepark include the following:

Mean people will not be tolerated.

No mean looks, growling, or bullying.

No fighting or foul language.

If there is a conflict with another participant, don't force the issue. Find a park manager to resolve it.

Be friendly and courteous.

Take time to show new participants and visitors around.

Know your limits.

Please help maintain the park. If you see a loose board, nail, etc., call it to the manager's attention.

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Staten Island woman is found brutally slain in her home

Friday, July 06, 2012, 2:00 AM



By **Staten Island Advance**



[Enlarge](#)

Anthony DePrimo

Detectives emerge from behind police tape after responding to the fatal stabbing of 29-year-old Simeonette Mapes-Crupi in New Springville. (Staten Island Advance/Anthony DePrimo)

[Police investigate stabbing in Staten Island's New Springville section gallery \(6 photos\)](#)

By **JOHN ANNESE and JILLIAN JORGENSEN**

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- A 29-year-old woman who taught social studies in one of Brooklyn's toughest neighborhoods was found brutally stabbed to death inside her New Springville apartment yesterday afternoon.

Police yesterday arrived at the **1446 Forest Hill Rd.** apartment of Simeonette Mapes-Crupi to find the teacher face down in her apartment, stabbed repeatedly in the back and head.

Her husband, Jonathan Crupi, called police after discovering her body at about 2:30 p.m., police said.

Early reports indicated she might have been slain in a home invasion robbery, though police said their investigation was still ongoing last night.

The apartment was found in a state of disarray, but police weren't sure if anything was taken, an NYPD spokesman said yesterday. Police found no obvious signs of forced entry, the spokesman said.

Her death marks the third murder on Staten Island in five days, and the fourth since the beginning of the year.

Ms. Mapes-Crupi worked for the Department of Education, starting as a social studies teacher in 2006, said Margie Feinberg, a department spokeswoman. She worked in various schools in Brooklyn, until 2009, when

she started teaching at The School for Classics: An Academy of Thinkers, Writers and Performers, across the street from the Cypress Hills Houses development in East New York.

Her husband is an English teacher at the same school, Ms. Feinberg said.

On June 28, she wrote on her Facebook.com wall, "Crupi and I survived a shoot out today...Thank God we are ok, I'm sure over summer school we'll find out what the fighting was about. The Cypress Hill Projects are no joke. To all the wanna be gangstas of Staten Island (who say they are from Brooklyn but really aren't), be grateful you have what you have and stop trying to live a lifestyle you will never understand."

Last month, she received a Master of Science degree in adolescent education from the **College of Staten Island**, according to Advance records.

Officials cordoned off the block as the investigation progressed yesterday.

One woman who works nearby said she left for lunch and came back to find a large crowd and two police cars.

"At first I thought it was a fight," she said. "Then I thought someone was hurt, because they were like hugging and crying, and people were screaming."

The scene eventually grew to include a slew of unmarked police cars. A large crowd of what appeared to friends and family of the victim were still gathered in front of the condominium unit later in the afternoon.

One man, who said the victim was his niece, screamed at the reporters gathered, demanding they turn off their cameras, and had to be calmed down by a police officer.

Detectives, uniformed officers and police in plainclothes converged on the scene, as motorists on busy Forest Hill Road slowed down to shout out their windows and ask what happened.

Later in the afternoon, a woman arrived on the scene and began wailing on the sidewalk, clutching another woman.

Neighbors said the news of a murder was shocking for the quiet area near a well-manicured golf course.

"I've been here like six years, we've never had an accident on the street," said one man who declined to give his name.

He said the street is home to several doctors, a pharmacist and store manager and other professionals.

Gabrielle Blinderman, 19, called the slaying surreal.

"I don't think anything has really happened like that" in the past, she said.

"That's terrible," her friend, Chris Tobias, 18, said.

Linda Tanen said the idea that it could have been a random home invasion was especially frightening.

"Nothing happens here," she said. "You're across the street from a golf course, and all you have is people golfing. Everybody is in their own world."

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Also posted on: mailonsunday.co.uk



Putting kids into foster care only traumatizes them

Saturday, July 07, 2012, 12:28 AM



Letters to the Editor/Staten Island Advance
By

RICHARD WEXLER
ALEXANDRIA, VA.

The problem with caseworkers in Staten Island Community District 1 consigning children to foster care at the highest rate in the city is not that it hurts parents, though of course it does; the problem is that it does enormous harm to children. ["Staten Island leads with children in foster care," Advance, July 2.]

Removal from the home is so inherently traumatic that two major studies of 15,000 typical cases found that even maltreated children left in their own homes with little or no help fared better, on average, than comparably maltreated children placed in foster care. That's partly because typical cases are nothing like the horror stories, often they involve workers confusing poverty with neglect.

All that harm can occur even when the foster home is a good one. The majority are. But study after study has found abuse in one-quarter to one third of foster homes, and the record of group homes and institutions is worse.

The more time caseworkers waste on needless removal of children, the less time they have to find children in real danger, so more such cases are overlooked. The take-the-child-and-run mentality that dominates Staten Island makes all children less safe.

[The writer, a graduate of the former Richmond College (now College of Staten Island), is Executive Director of the National Coalition for Child Protection Reform, www.nccpr.org.]

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Funeral arrangements set for Staten Island stabbing victim

Saturday, July 07, 2012, 1:30 PM



Michael Sedon/Staten Island Advance
By



Simeonette Mapes-Crupi of New Springville was remembered for her devotion to her students and love for her family.

Simeonette Mapes-Crupi of New Springville was remembered earlier today as a giving teacher devoted to making her students' lives brighter both in and outside of the classroom, as her family made preparations for the 29-year-old's funeral.

Arrangements are being handled by the Matthew Funeral Home, Willowbrook, and include a 9:30 a.m. mass on Tuesday in Our Lady of Pity R.C. Church, Bulls Head, followed by burial in Resurrection Cemetery, Pleasant Plains. The wake will be Monday from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. in the funeral home.

Mrs. Mapes-Crupi was found in her Forest Hill Road apartment with stab wounds to her back and head. So far, police have made no arrests and the investigation into her death is ongoing.

The history teacher was born in Albuquerque, N.M., and her father was in the U.S. Air Force, so she moved several times as a child. The family first moved to Oakwood in 1988, before heading to the Fort Hamilton Army Base in Brooklyn. They also lived in Florida before Mrs. Mapes-Crupi settled in New Springville three years ago.

She graduated from Fort Hamilton High School in Brooklyn and earned her bachelor's and master's degrees, both in education, from the College of Staten Island in Willowbrook.

Mrs. Mapes-Crupi taught high school history classes at The School for Classics: An Academy of Thinkers, Writers and Performers in Brooklyn from 2007 until the time of her death.

She was active with the ASPCA and the Leukemia Foundation; ran the Girls Leadership Club at her school, and founded her school's Fairy Godmothers Project, which provides prom dresses for needy girls.

The vivacious young woman enjoyed vacationing to Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla., with her husband of five years, Jonathan Crupi, a fellow teacher at her school. An annual tradition, they would finish teaching summer school and make their annual trek to the theme park, something they were looking forward to doing again this year.

In addition to her passion for teaching and helping her students, Mrs. Mapes-Crupi loved animals and owned two dogs that she treated like her children, her family said, noting that she also enjoyed spending time with loved ones.

"She was just the sweetest angel on earth," said her uncle Anthony Cassarino. "She was just a 29-year-old kid who loved life."

In addition to her husband, surviving Mrs. Mapes-Crupi are her parents John Jr. and Therasa Mapes, and a brother John Mapes III.

Company Announcements: Week of July 9, 2012

Posted by Terri Eyden on Jul 8 2012 0683



For services to her profession, the [California Society of CPAs \(CalCPA\)](#) has presented **Nancy Chandler**, a retired vice president at Kellogg & Andelson Accountancy, with its Distinguished Service Award for 2012.

A Sherman Oaks resident, Chandler served as CalCPA chair from 2002 to 2003. She has been a member of CalCPA's board of directors and of the board of trustees for the Group Insurance Trust, which provides health care plans to CPA firms. She is a former president of CalCPA's Los Angeles Chapter.

The Los Angeles Chapter of the American Women's Society of CPAs named Chandler Woman Business Owner of the Year in 2001, when she ran an accounting firm in Encino. That firm merged with Kellogg & Adelson in 2007.

CalCPA annually presents the Distinguished Service Award to an individual who has provided long and distinguished service or who has performed a singular act resulting in extraordinary contributions to the accounting profession, to CalCPA, or to the community.

For services to his community, CalCPA has presented **Bill Torres**, a Los Angeles CPA and personal financial specialist, with its Public Service Award for 2012.

The managing partner of [Bill Torres & Company](#), Torres has served on the board of managers of the Weingart East Los Angeles YMCA since 1995 and is immediate past chairman of the board. He also has served on several regional committees for the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles. In recognition of his service, the YMCA of Metropolitan Los Angeles inscribed Torres' name in its Golden Book of Distinguished Service in 2011.

CalCPA annually presents the Public Service Award to one of its members with a record of commitment to public service through participation in charitable, governmental, or volunteer work that significantly affects the community, state, or nation.

###

The local CPA and consulting firm of [Day Seckler](#) recently announced that **Michele Foder**, accountant, obtained her QuickBooks ProAdvisor certification.

"This accomplishment demonstrates Michele's commitment to excellence. She is continuously seeking additional skill sets so she is able to deliver significant value to her clients," says Wayne Day, CPA, CIRA, CVA, CGMA, partner at Day Seckler.

Foder joined Day Seckler in 2008. As an accountant, she provides tax and accounting services to the firm's clients. In addition, she offers advanced help with QuickBooks software. Foder received her BS in 1992 from the College of Staten Island.

Candidates of the QuickBooks ProAdvisor program take several available courses and successfully pass each part of a four-section exam. As a certified ProAdvisor, Foder is recognized by QuickBooks for her proficiency in helping clients and businesses customize QuickBooks for their unique needs and help them get the most out of the software.

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Lattimore Black Morgan & Cain, PC (LBMC), is pleased to announce the following promotions for the firm's year beginning June 1, 2012; all are located in the Nashville office.

Joshua P. Brummett, CPA/ABV, CFF has been promoted to a senior manager in the valuation, litigation and business acquisition/disposition division. He specializes in the health care industry with a focus in transaction and compliance-related valuations, such as physician practice acquisitions and compensation valuations. He was previously a manager in the department.

J. Chris Crowder, CPA, CIA, has been promoted to a senior manager in audit. Crowder has been with LBMC for seven years and has diversified experience across a broad spectrum of industries, including health care, manufacturing, automotive, governmental, service industry, and technology in financial audit, Sarbanes-Oxley, and internal audit procedures.

Meredith Douglas, CPA, has been promoted to a senior manager in audit. She has extensive accounting and auditing experience serving as manager on a number of audit engagements, including manufacturing and distributing companies, not-for-profit organizations, health care companies, and various 401(k) and pension plan audits.

Kaitlin Grigsby has been promoted to a human resources representative. Grigsby was previously a human resources coordinator in the department. In her new role, she will be coordinating campus recruiting at nine universities as well as recruiting for entry level and internship positions at LBMC. She will also work closely with professionals to set up midyear, year-end and engagement valuations as well as facilitate internal training and development events. In addition, she will plan internal employee events and track CPE hours for all CPAs within the firm to ensure compliance for certification renewals. Grigsby is a graduate of Belmont University.

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Operation Homefront, the national nonprofit that provides emergency financial and other assistance to the families of service members and "Wounded Warriors," joined the NASDAQ Capital Market in a salute to our military by ringing the closing bell on the stock exchange on July 2.

Alison LaFerlita, the President of Operation Homefront's Tri-State chapter, joined seven-year Marine Corps infantry veteran **Sergeant Adelberto Diaz** and his wife Christine to ring the bell.

"We're pleased to join NASDAQ today in saluting military heroes like Sergeant Diaz," said LaFerlita. "At Operation Homefront, we've found that the American people are eager to help our service members and their families. Even as the United States is drawing down forces in Afghanistan, it's important to remember that military families will continue to need our help."

Founded in 2002 - shortly after 9/11 - Operation Homefront has met over 590,000 needs for military families. Emergency assistance provided by the organization includes food assistance, help with rent and mortgage payments, auto repair and donation, and health care services.

Operation Homefront also provides transitional housing for the families of rehabilitating Wounded Warriors at three Operation Homefront Villages located near major military medical facilities. Its Homes on the Homefront program is set to provide over 100 mortgage-free houses to veteran families over the next year.

Morale programs provided by Operation Homefront include its Homefront Celebrations and Wounded Warrior Wives program for military spouses and its Back-to-School Brigade and Military Child of the Year® Award for military kids.

A four-star rated charity by watchdog Charity Navigator, nationally, 94 percent of total revenue donated to Operation Homefront goes directly to assist service members. The organization also holds an A rating from the American Institute of Philanthropy and is an accredited charity by the Better Business Bureau.

Staten Island man appears to have committed suicide

Saturday, July 14, 2012, 2:43 PM



Michael Sedon/Staten Island Advance
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. --

A Huguenot man appears to have committed suicide by shooting himself in the parking lot of the Village Greens Shopping Center in Arden Heights sometime before 6 a.m., police said.

Jared Gianfortune, 33, was found dead in a black Honda Civic. Police recovered a firearm from the scene.

No criminality is suspected, police said.

Police towed the Civic away from the scene just after noon. There was a small child's seat in the back of the car, which was parked near the front of Villa Monta Pizzeria and Restaurant in the shopping center.



Staten Island Advance file photo

Jared Gianfortune appears to have committed suicide by shooting himself in the parking lot of Village Greens in Arden Heights. He is seen here in an Advance photo taken in 2002, when he owned a Castleton Corners beverage distributor.

Gianfortune, who was originally from Westerleigh and was a graduate of Susan Wagner High School, lived about five minutes away from the shopping center.

An acquaintance of Gianfortune's happened to be picking up some pizzas when he saw the police activity and then found out what had happened.

"He was an outgoing kid," said the acquaintance, who did not wish to be identified. "I'm shocked. This is sad."

Gianfortune had a young child, a wife and a good family, he said.

"I'm shocked. The family, his father, mother [are] perfect and good people," he said. "Nothing that would ever say he would kill himself. Nothing. Him of all people, never."

He said Gianfortune was the kind of person who "always was there when you needed," and he was never a troublemaker.

At his home early this afternoon, family members gathered on the front steps; they declined to speak with an Advance reporter.

Advance records show that Gianfortune married Felicetta Paradiso October 6, 2006, exchanging vows at Our Lady Star of the Sea R.C. Church in Huguenot.

He graduated Susan Wagner High School, where he played football, in 1996 and attended the College of Staten Island, records show.

He was named a Staten Island Advance All Star in football for his defensive prowess at Susan Wagner High School in 1995. He played as a linebacker and lineman but mostly as a strong safety.

Gianfortune was a cement truck driver for Master Mix in Tottenville.

In November 2001, Gianfortune opened S.I. Beverages at 953 Manor Rd. in Castleton Corners. The company specialized in whole sale distribution and retail beer sales.

"Anything the customer wants, I'll try to get," he told the Advance in 2002 when interviewed about his business.

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Temple Sha'arey Shalom in Springfield welcomes new preschool director

Wednesday, July 18, 2012, 11:12 AM

SN By **Suburban News**

Tomorrow's Super Stars, the preschool at Temple Sha'arey Shalom, is proud to welcome Allison Tankel as its new director. Allison replaces Nina Greenman, who retired on June 30.

Allison has more than 20 years of teaching experience in New York and New Jersey public schools and is also certified in Special Education. She has been both an educator and consultant in Early Intervention Services. In addition, she taught Judaic and Hebrew studies for several years at Temple Beth El in Somerville. Allison has a B.A. from the University at Albany-SUNY and an M.S. in Early Education from City University, College of Staten Island.

Allison is an active volunteer in her synagogue and has also served as a PTO president, among other volunteer activities. She resides in Warren with her husband and three sons.



Allison Tankel

"I am so happy to be joining the TSS family," Allison said. "It will be such a privilege to watch both the children and our Tomorrow's Super Stars Preschool program evolve and grow. The staff, the Board of Trustees and the congregants have all been so supportive of my arrival. I feel fortunate to be entering such a loving community."

Cindy Sigl, Temple Sha'arey Shalom's co-president, adds "Allison brings an exuberance and joy to our preschool, as well as fun programming for the little ones to enjoy. Her experience puts her in the wonderful position to bring a sense of home and happiness, learning and love to Tomorrow's Super Stars at Temple Sha'arey Shalom. We welcome her with open arms and know that all the children will flourish under our school's tutelage and her guidance."

Tomorrow's Super Stars Preschool offers preschoolers a nurturing, warm environment where social, emotional and developmental skills are encouraged and enhanced. The curriculum follows the guidelines of the Union for Reform Judaism, which focuses on integrated Jewish learning. The children also enjoy many activities that engage them in creative expression, discovery and play. Classes are made up of 2-, 3- and 4-year-old children.

The preschool will be offering new programs and enrichments this fall:

Mommy & Me, ages 6-18 months--adults can socialize while the babies play. Discussions will be geared to a child's development in a safe, child-friendly environment. Advance registration required.

Little Learners, Transition class for ages 18 months - 2 years--through daily living skills, art, music and sensory enrichment, children have the opportunity to develop physically, socially and emotionally. This class meets three times per week, giving families the opportunity to enroll for one, two or three days. Advance registration required.

Stay and Play, extends a student's day until 3:30 p.m.--an opportunity to have an unstructured play-date in a safe, supervised and familiar setting. Offered daily. Advance registration required.

Daily enrichments will include science, cooking, music, art, reading and Jewish learning.

Visit Tomorrow's Super Stars and meet Allison. Call the temple office and make an appointment at 973-379-5387 or email office@shaarey.org.

Temple Sha'arey Shalom is a mid-size, Reform congregation serving Springfield and the surrounding towns of Union and Essex counties. The synagogue welcomes children, young adults, singles, seniors, and families of all shapes, ages and sizes--including single parents, interfaith families and Gay and Lesbian families.

Shabbat services are creative and varied. There are Family Shabbat services at 7:30 p.m. on the first Friday of each month, Children's Shabbat morning services for K-third grade families on Saturdays at 9 a.m., monthly Tot Shabbat services--perfect for pre-school families at 6 p.m. on the third Friday of each month, and Adult Study minyans on Saturday mornings.

Erev Shabbat services take place from the second through the last Friday of each month at 8 p.m. and all are welcome.



Staten Island's Yolanda Rudich is recipient of Founders Award

Sunday, July 29, 2012, 5:29 AM



Staten Island Advance
By

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- Yolanda Rudich of Todt Hill was the recipient of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York Joan L. Ellenbogen Founders Award.

She is the first Staten Islander to be honored by the association.

Ms. Rudich is currently the chief of the Richmond County District Attorney's Office's Sex Crimes/Special Victims Bureau.

The award is given to a distinguished member of the bar whose acts exemplify the essence of justice and demonstrate the founding principles of WBASNY, for a singular outstanding achievement, long-standing significant involvement or a lifetime in advancing the status of women in society and the law.

Ms. Rudich has spent her entire career as an assistant district attorney in Richmond County, beginning in 1982. She has headed the Sex Crimes/SVU Bureau since 1993.

In her current position, Ms. Rudich is responsible for the investigation and prosecution of sex crimes, child abuse, domestic violence and crimes against seniors.

She also oversees the prosecution of cases in Richmond County's Integrated Domestic Violence Court.

In addition to these duties, Ms. Rudich also oversees a staff of victim advocates who provide victims with referrals for support and protective services.

Ms. Rudich has achieved success both as a trial prosecutor and appellate attorney. In 1998, she successfully argued her first case in the New York State Court of Appeals.

In 2011, she supervised the investigation and indictment of one of the first defendants to be indicted in the state for a sexual assault based upon a DNA profile.

Utilizing New York State's Hate Crimes statute, Ms. Rudich supervised the investigation and indictment of three individuals for a hate crime for the home invasion and robbery of a 93-year-old man, targeted because of his age -- becoming the second county in the state to obtain such an indictment.

In addition, last year, attorneys under Ms. Rudich's supervision obtained the first felony conviction for video voyeurism in the state, under Stephanie's Law.

Ms. Rudich is currently actively involved as either an officer, board member and/or volunteer to several Island community service agencies as well as professional organizations.

She serves on the Mayor's Sexual Assault Task Force, the Criminal Justice Child Abuse Task Force, the New York City Family Court Advisory Council, the New York City Department of Aging Elder Abuse Task Force, and the New York State District Attorneys Association's Sexual Assault & Family Violence Subcommittee.

She has served as a past president of the Staten Island Women's Bar Association and former vice president of the Women's Bar Association of the State of New York. She is a founding member of the Staten Island Child Advocacy Center.

Ms. Rudich has been recognized by former Gov. George Pataki for her contributions regarding both anti-stalking statutes enacted in 1999 as well as the Sexual Assault Reform Act of 2000.

Ms. Rudich has received numerous accolades for her service including the Guardian Angel Award from St. Vincent's Medical Center, the College of Staten Island's Hall of Fame, and the 2005 recipient of the Thomas E. Dewey Award.

Ms. Rudich is a graduate of the College of Staten Island with a bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, and the Rutgers University School of Law - Newark, with a juris doctorate.

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